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AROUND TOWN

Armed Services Day celebration

The Westland Historic Commission will present its second annual Armed Services Day celebration from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

The event will feature re-enactors from five different wars, a weapons demonstration and a PowerPoint presentation titled "Marines on the Great Lakes."

The public is invited.

Mayoral luncheon

Westland Mayor William Wild will collaborate with the Westland Chamber of Commerce for a mayoral business luncheon at noon Tuesday inside the atrium of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

A formal presentation will follow inside the facility's auditorium.

The luncheon comes on the heels of the mayor's recent announcement that phase one of Westland's "trash-into-cash" curbside recycling program is set to begin in mid-June. He will give an overview of the program, the first of its kind in Wayne County.

Tickets for the event are \$15 per person and will be available at the door. The luncheon is open to the public.

The career technical center is located on Marquette between Newburgh and Wayne roads.

For information on becoming a Westland chamber member, call (734) 326-7222 or visit www.westlandchamber.com.

Ticket amnesty

Westland 18th District Court is continuing a ticket amnesty program through the end of April. For those who have overdue balances on citations, the court will waive the \$35 default late fee, the \$50 warrant cost and the 20 percent late fee on eligible cases.

Payments must be made in full. The court's business hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The building is located behind the Westland police station on Ford Road between Newburgh and Wayne.

Credit card payments may be made by phone or over the Internet.

For more information, call the court at (734) 595-8720. The court's Web site is www.18thdistrictcourt.com.

'Most giving person'



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland's 2009 First Citizen Meriem Kadi has a simple philosophy for volunteering. She just wants to help her city improve and make it a place where people are proud to live.

Meriem Kadi named Westland's First Citizen

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Community volunteer Meriem Kadi has worked tirelessly for more than a decade to make Westland a better place by lending a helping hand to charitable organizations, the public library, the local planning commission and, lately, the city's environmentally conscious Mission Green program.

"I just want to see our city grow in the right direction and be a part of making it a place where people are proud to live," she said.

Kadi's efforts have earned her the 2009 First Citizen of the Year award in a contest sponsored by the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

"I'm still a little shocked and very blessed," she said, admitting that she's not accustomed to all the attention she is receiving. "I feel very honored and humbled and thankful."

"I do things because I love doing them, but I guess it's great to get an award for it, too."

Kadi, 49, will be honored as First Citizen during an event scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at the American Legion Post No. 32 on Newburgh north of Joy in Livonia. Tickets for the dinner are \$35 per person and are available by calling the Westland chamber at (734) 326-7222, President Brookellen Swope said.

Kadi, a real estate agent and part-time employee for W.C.A. Assessing in Westland, has

given her time for charitable golf outings for organizations as diverse as the Westland chamber, the Rotary Club, and the city's police and fire departments.

She has helped the Westland Community Foundation with its charitable Christmas events, and she has volunteered for the Friends of the Library since the city opened the beloved facility in 1996, also serving as the fund-raising group's president.

"It's definitely a passion of mine," she said. "I enjoy the ladies I sit on the board with, and we help raise funds for whatever the library can't pay for. It's just been a very enjoyable experience."

Kadi has served on the planning commission nearly six years, helping to evaluate new development proposals that ultimately get decided by the Westland City Council.

"It's right up my alley with real estate," she said.

Kadi also helps with Mayor William Wild's "Wild About Youth" effort that raises money through bowling outings and other events to benefit programs for the city's youngsters.

Moreover, she said she has been pleased to serve as a member of Wild's Mission Green team, aimed at making the city more environmentally friendly. To that end, she is excited that Westland will soon benefit from a new curbside

Please see **KADI, A2**

Man convicted of assault, ruled mentally ill

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A transient man accused of stabbing and robbing a woman outside a Westland gas station is facing sentencing May 11 after he was convicted by a Wayne County Circuit Court judge.

Myron Terrell Boone, 27, was found guilty of armed robbery and assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder — but mentally ill — in a verdict decided Monday by Judge Richard Skutt.

Boone could face penalties ranging up to life in prison, but it's possible he also could spend additional time in a psychiatric facility.

"We're happy that we got a guilty verdict, but the issue of mental health is out of our control," Westland police Lt. Dan Karrick said. "Either way, it looks like he's going to be held accountable for some of his actions."

Skutt's decision came more than two years after Boone was implicated in an incident that happened around 6:15 a.m. Jan. 15, 2007, when the victim stopped for cigarettes at the Marathon gas station on the southwest corner of Joy and Newburgh roads.

The victim in court had identified Boone as the man who robbed her and slashed her across the stomach with what was described as a box cutter blade, but the issue of his mental competency had long delayed his trial.

The woman was treated and released at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

The victim initially singled out Boone in a photo lineup after he was arrested in Roseville for an unrelated shoplifting charge, Westland Police Chief James Ridener said at the time.

Boone had been ordered to stand trial in 2007 after the woman identified him as her assailant during a preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court.

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Summer Festival a go for July 1-5

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Some communities have had to scale back their festivals, but organizers of the July 1-5 Westland Summer Festival are looking forward to a strong event.

"We're in pretty good shape, planning wise," said Matthew Shelton, vice chair for the event held each summer by City Hall, on Ford between Wayne and Newburgh roads. "We're going to change up the entertainment a little bit."

The parade will be around 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, followed by music from Justine Blazer, also a Downtown Hoedown performer. Each evening's entertainment will run from 8 p.m. to around midnight.

Shelton and other organizers are working to "give some local acts a chance to get up on stage." The festival fireworks will be at dusk the final

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Suspects sought in coin theft at Petland

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland police are seeking two suspects accused of a brazen, afternoon theft inside the Petland store on Warren Road east of Wayne.

The incident happened about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday when one suspect went into an unlocked office while the manager was out, took a bag containing \$200 to \$300 in coins and fled the store after he was spotted by an employee, police Sgt. David Zucchetto said.

The man, described as a black male with a light to medium complexion, was seen on a surveillance video used by police to release his picture to the public.

A store owner told police that the male suspect is believed to have had a female accomplice who also was captured on the



surveillance video.

"The video shows both suspects on their cell phones during the entire incident, and it



Westland police are looking for two suspects they believe were involved in a daytime theft at the Petland store on Warren Road.

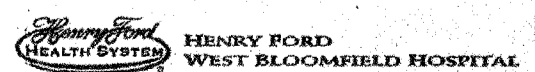
appears the female acted as a lookout," according to a state-

Please see **SUSPECTS, A3**



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Pair charged in apartment break-in

BY DARRELL CLEM OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Southfield pair, accused of trying to recoup money for a marijuana debt, has been charged with a home invasion at a Westland apartment complex, police said.

Delmartiana Roberts, 21, and Deon Elmore, 35, are facing a preliminary hearing Thursday in Westland

18th District Court on felony charges of first-degree home invasion, unarmed robbery and larceny in a building, along with misdemeanor assault and battery.

The pair was arraigned Wednesday in Westland for an incident that police Sgt. Kevin Wojcik said happened about 10 a.m. April 8 at Birch Hill Apartments, on Cherry Hill east of Venoy.

Roberts and Elmore are accused of trying to collect a marijuana debt from relatives of a man who wasn't there but who allegedly owed them money, Wojcik said. Charges against them stem from allegations they forced their way in when the door was open.

"They couldn't get any money," the sergeant said, so they are accused of taking a video gaming system, a cell

phone and other items. Two residents, including a man and woman in their early 20s, were inside the Birch Hill residence at the time. No guns were involved, and a minor assault occurred but didn't result in serious injury, police said.

The man that the pair was looking for had gone into hiding, Wojcik said, so his relatives were sought out. An investigation led police to Southfield, where Roberts and Elmore were arrested Monday.

Roberts and Elmore were arraigned Wednesday by visiting 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos, who set a \$50,000 cash bond, entered not-guilty pleas and scheduled an April 23 preliminary hearing that will determine whether the pair should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

If convicted, they could face penalties ranging up to 20 years in prison.

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KADI FROM PAGE A1

recycling program. "It has been a long time coming, and everybody has worked so hard on it," she said. Kadi's mother, Nina, also lives in Westland, and her brother, Eddie Emin Kadi, is an area fashion photographer. She also has two sisters who live out of state. Her late father, Agif Kadi, died 10 years ago after battling cancer, and her mother is a breast cancer survivor. That explains her involvement in the city's Relay for Life, a fundraiser to aid the American Cancer Society.

"Every year I try to have a team," Kadi said, adding that, "My father is still with me every day. He's still a very big part of my life." She has been long active in the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors, a group that years ago helped build a play structure at Westland's Jefferson-Barns Elementary School. She also has been active in churches, including Bible studies at a Wayne church called Crosspoint, formerly First Baptist Church.

Kadi was nominated for her First Citizen award by Lori Fodale, Westland's economic development director. "I've known Meriem for 10 years, and I've never known her not to make herself available as a volunteer," Fodale said. "She is the most giving person of her time that I've ever come across, and she is very deserving of this award."

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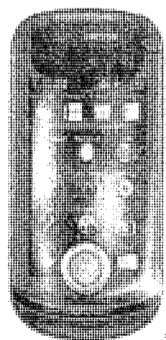
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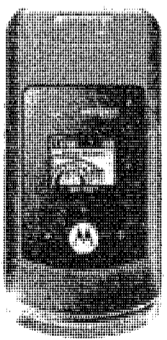
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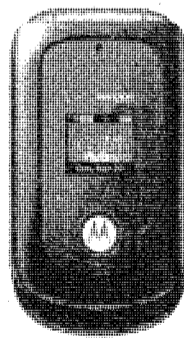
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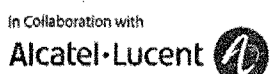
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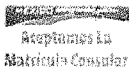
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Police dogs track down robbery suspect

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With help from a Garden City police dog, Westland officers early Thursday captured a suspect accused of a robbery and an attempted robbery before harming himself with a box cutter.

The first incident happened about 3 a.m. Thursday at the 7-Eleven at Merriman and Palmer.

"A fellow walked in, concealed his identity with some-

thing over his face and implied he had a gun," police Sgt. Kevin Wojcik said.

The clerk used a broom handle to scare off the suspect, Wojcik said.

About an hour later, the same suspect is accused of going to the Speedway gas station at Merriman and Van Eorn road, where he implied he had a weapon, demanded money and then fled the scene, Wojcik said.

In between the two Westland incidents, the same man is

believed to have been involved in a similar incident in Wayne.

After the Speedway incident, a Garden City police dog was brought to the scene and led officers to the suspect, who started using a box cutter to injure himself, Wojcik said.

On Friday, the suspect was in a psychiatric facility, but Wojcik said the man will be facing criminal charges. A warrant already had been issued for at least one of the incidents.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Plant exchange

The Westland Garden Club will sponsor a plant exchange and garden item sale 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill. The public is invited.

For more information, call Maureen Davidson at (734) 728-1232 or Jo Johnson at (734) 522-3918.

Showing support

Skateland West is hosting a special roller skating session to support union families in southeastern Michigan from 6-9 p.m. Saturday April 18. Show your union card and everyone in your party skates for \$1 each. Admission without union card is \$6. Skate rental is \$1.50, inline rental \$5.

In an effort to reach out and help the struggling union families of Michigan, Skateland West is offering an evening of entertainment and family fun at a premium discount. Any and all union cards will be accepted. All ages are welcomed and many games and activities are

ON THE WEB

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planned for the special session.

For more information, call (734) 326-2801 or visit www.skatelandwest.com. Skateland West is at 37550 Cherry Hill, just west of Newburgh in Westland.

Spring Awards

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will hold its Spring Awards Celebration at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 23, at American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh, west of Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. The celebration will honor the 2009 First Citizen and Business Person of the Year as well as its long-time members.

The cost is \$35 per person which includes a dinner buffet and open bar. Sponsors for the event include *The Westland Observer*, Parkside Credit Union and TDS Metrocom. For

more information or to reserve tickets, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222 or visit www.westlandchamber.com.

Preschool signups

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

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.

SUSPECTS

FROM PAGE A1

ment released by Zucchetto.

It is believed, though not certain, that a getaway car

may have been an older model, medium blue, four-door, large car that was seen leaving the parking lot and heading north on Wayne Road.

The female suspect was seen leaving the store separate from the male.

Anyone who has information about the incident is asked to contact Sgt. Zucchetto at (734) 467-3248 or the main Westland Police Department line at (734) 722-9600.

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Hoops-Cossey: Focus on better education for students

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Why are you seeking a position on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education?

I am currently a teacher at Huron Valley Catholic School, a private school in Ypsilanti, but have taught in public and charter schools as well. I hope to, in the near future, serve in the administration aspects of a school. My decision to run for the school board comes from a personal interest in school government, a desire to put children first and provide quality education for all, and to ensure that the fine arts remain a part of the curriculum.



Hoops-Cossey

2. What qualities or skills do you believe you would bring to the board, if elected?

The qualities and skills that, I feel, suit me well for this position are: (1) my chosen career and the knowledge I have acquired from teaching in public, charter, and private schools; (2) my attention to details, organization, and ability to listen, communicate, and provide constructive feedback; and (3) my supportive, yet achievement-oriented, style of leadership.

3. What do you see as the issues facing the school district at this time?

The top three issues that I feel we are faced with are: (1) the budget crisis, (2) the loss of students, and (3) class size.

4. How would you address those issues?

The budget crisis affects all other areas of school management, and I would take action on this issue by carefully monitoring our revenues and reviewing the amounts allocated to certain projects and categories. I would expect that, with hard economic times, we would need to keep our visionary goals in mind and

ANGELA HOOPS-COSSEY

Who: Angela Hoops-Cossey, 29, of Wayne
Employment: Band/music teacher at Huron Valley Catholic School in Ypsilanti.
Family: Married with a six-month-old daughter
Education: 1997 graduate of John Glenn High School; bachelor's degree in music education, 2001, Western Michigan University; master of science degree in educational leadership, 2007, Madonna University
Community Involvement: Centers on her teaching profession

make decisions for increased student achievement. I would also encourage district residents and school officials alike to write our legislators about our funding before even more cuts are made under Gov. Granholm's recent school aid proposal. With regard to the loss of students, I would propose that we conduct an exit survey to determine the reasons families are leaving so we have some kind of data for analysis and decision making purposes.

Class size is an expensive issue to discuss, but I do feel that smaller class sizes can be afforded through a strategic budget plan that sets it as a top priority and there is substantial research that shows a relationship between class size and standardized test scores.

5. Are you seeking the endorsement of organizations or individuals in your bid for a seat on the board? If so, who?

As of now, I have not pursued endorsements.

6. What do you want voters to know about you?

I am a qualified, organized, and hard-working candidate who has experience in education. My focus is on the betterment of education for students and the community.

1. Why are you seeking a position on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education?

I am committed to seeing our children reach their full potential. Giving back to the community means everything to me. My extensive business experiences give me insights into the financial and administrative sides of the school district. I will bring to the school board strong leadership skills, dedication, and the ability to solve problems effectively.



Goci

2. What qualities or skills do you believe you would bring to the board, if elected?

I will bring a business sense to the district and the community. My tireless work ethic with strong leadership, dedication and effective problem solving are skills I have developed and can offer as a school board member. I am the parent of middle school and elementary students, I understand the challenges facing our students.

3. What do you see as the issues facing the school district at this time?

1. Active parental involvement is critical for children to succeed in school and achieve high academic standards. 2. As a business owner, I understand the importance of building partnerships in the community. Partnerships provide greater opportunities for students and greater resources for schools. 3. Funding. We need to make sure that teachers have adequate facilities, educational materials and the necessary resources from the administration. Funding should also be directed to individual student needs, including children with special needs.

4. How would you address those issues?

1. The school board must take the lead to encourage active parental involvement and reach

JOHN GOCI

Who: John Goci, 39, of Westland
Employment: Owner of the US 12 American Grill
Family: Married with four children
Education: 1988 graduate of John Glenn High School, attended Schoolcraft Community College and Henry Ford Community College 1989-92
Community Involvement: Patchin Elementary PTA, Wayne Chamber of Commerce, Westland Chamber of Commerce, Wayne Lions Club.

out to parents who feel less connected.

2. We need to build partnerships with our local community businesses and organizations. We must not overlook the value of small organizations and individual volunteers who can enrich children's education.

3. I would work with the school administration and elected representatives to restore the millions they recently cut out of our budget. I would like to pursue other sources of funding, such as charitable gaming.

5. Are you seeking the endorsement of organizations or individuals in your bid for a seat on the board? If so, who?

I have interviewed with the Wayne-Westland Education Association for their endorsement, but the most important endorsement to me is the one that is given by the people that live in our community.

6. What do you want voters to know about you?

I have lived and worked in Wayne Westland area for 30 years. I was raised and educated and have chosen to raise and educate my family here. I have a huge stake in our schools and our community as a citizen, parent and employer. I will always put our kids first and I will make sure that our teachers have the necessary material and facilities to give our kids the best education.

1. Why are you seeking a position on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education?

I believe that my five years on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education - four of which I have served as Treasurer - gives me the experience and knowledge to best serve the people of our district. The critical financial dilemma facing public schools today demands experienced people familiar with school funding to lead their districts forward. I believe that I have that experience and knowledge. We must keep our district and our money well managed while providing a first class education for our children.



Becher

2. What qualities or skills do you believe you would bring to the board, if elected?

I believe my unique qualities bring knowledge and experiences that no other candidate brings to the board. My wife and I are both retired teachers from the Wayne-Westland Community School district. We both taught elementary as well as middle school. Both my children attended Wayne-Westland schools from kindergarten through graduation from John Glenn. I also served a three-year term as president of the teacher's union.

3. What do you see as the issues facing the school district at this time?

The major issues facing the school district are adequate funding, especially for the districts like Wayne-Westland with declining enrollment, preparing our students for the new state high school graduation requirements and repairing the trust between the district and some members of the community regarding the unpleasantness of the strike and recall movement.

4. How would you address those issues?

The board must be willing to lobby our state representatives to ensure that fair and equitable funding be given to Wayne-Westland. We must provide all assistance necessary to ensure that all our students are

STEVE BECHER

Name: Steve Becher, 63, Wayne
Employment: Retired teacher from Wayne-Westland (30 years)
Family: Married with two children
Education: Graduated from high school in 1964, received a bachelor of science degree in 1969, master of arts degree in 1972 and educational specialist degree in 1984, all from Eastern Michigan University, Levels 1, 2, 3 Michigan Association of School Boards Board Certifications, 2004-2005

Community involvement: Chairman of the Food Distribution Program, City of Wayne, 5 years; Member of the Wayne Zoning Board of Appeals, 17 years; member of the City of Wayne Local Officers Compensation Committee, 6 years; Treasurer of the Wayne-Westland Board of Education, 4 years; member of the Wayne-Westland Board of Education, 5 years; treasurer of the Metro Wayne Democratic Club, 6 years, and former member of the Wayne Kiwanis Club.

able to pass the new rigorous demands of the state high school requirements. We must be visible in the community reminding our citizens of ALL our successes and what a great district we are.

5. Are you seeking the endorsement of organizations or individuals in your bid for a seat on the board? If so, who?

I am seeking endorsements of all registered voters in our district. I believe that I have been a valuable member of the board for the past five years and I hope the voters will agree.

6. What do you want voters to know about you?

I am a doer. I have lobbied our state legislators for more money for our district. I have attended nearly 100 activities on behalf of the board during this past year, promoting our district. I believe that I am fair and open to new ideas and thoughts about improving our district. I am always available to answer questions from my constituents. I believe that my record speaks for itself and I am asking for your support.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

These are the profiles of the three candidates who are vying for the one-year term on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education in the May 5 school election. The candidates are incumbent Steve Becher and challengers Angela Hoops-Cossey and John Goci.

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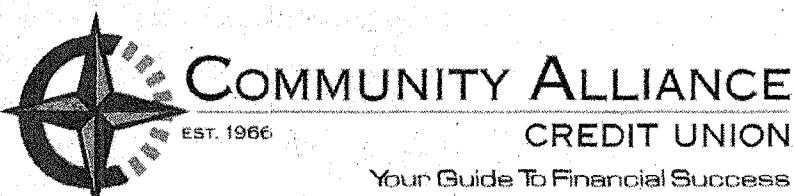
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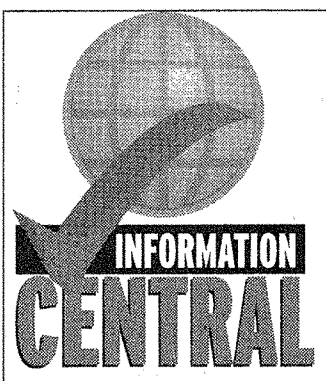
communityalliancecu.org



Cupcakes are chic dessert with rich history

Cupcakes are no new fad; although it's probable that colonists weren't scrambling to find the most shiny, colorful paper liners, the earlier versions of the modern cupcake were integral to 19th century entertaining culture. Before they called to mind images of childhood, stickiness, and frosting overdoes, early cupcakes, or "measure cakes," were a staple at fashionable tea parties.

In addition to an accessory to fun and games, cupcakes have also become a very serious form of dessert; oftentimes, the end result is much closer to a work of art than a mere after-dinner enjoyment. They have morphed from a conveniently small sugary dessert popular at children's birthday parties into elaborate



displays at weddings in place of a traditional wedding cake or an award-winning exhibit in cake decorating contests.

Variations of the modern cupcake are endless, not only in terms of flavors but appearances as well. Marvel over your

own advanced baking and frosting abilities by learning from Karen Tack and Alan Richardson's *Hello Cupcake!*, an amazing book full of elaborate designs and step-by-step instructions. Gail Wagman's *Cupcakes Galore* is bursting with beautiful creations and inventive flavors (Piña Colada cupcakes!) that you may have never before thought to combine. Who wouldn't want to add a little flair to their dinner party? *Cupcake Magic* by Kate Shirazi has seasonal cupcake recipes for every occasion.

Stop by the library and check out a few cupcake books so that you can wow your friends when it's your turn to bring the dessert at your next get together. If these words do little to con-

vince you, one browse through some of those cupcake photographs is sure to make you a believer.

Highlighted Activities

The Second City Improv Workshop, 7 p.m. Monday, April 20. Adults Only Let performers from The Second City show how fundamental improvisation techniques can build listening, team building, and physical and verbal communication skills. Audience participation will be encouraged. Space is limited. Call to reserve your seat. 734-326-6123

Adult Book Discussion Group, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 21. Join us as we discuss *The Dew*

Breaker by Edwidge Danticat. Several narrators tell this story of a man feared and hated by some and loved by others. In Haiti in the 1960s, he was a "dew breaker," one of the men who came in the mornings and "broke the dew" on the grass as they took their victims away to be tortured and killed. Please read the book before the meeting. Copies are available at the Reference Desk. All are welcome.

Teen Poetry Slam and All Ages Open Mic, 6:30-9 p.m. Friday, April 24. Teens (slam) and teens/adults (mic). Poetry Slam: Teens compete to see

who is the best spoken word poet. Come to participate or watch. Emceed by national slam poet, Versiz. Prizes and refreshments.

Open Mic: Anybody who has something to say, something to play, something to sing or rap or read is welcomed at this Friday evening version of Open Mic. Emceed by Versiz, with performance. Refreshments. This is an "After-Hours" program.

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

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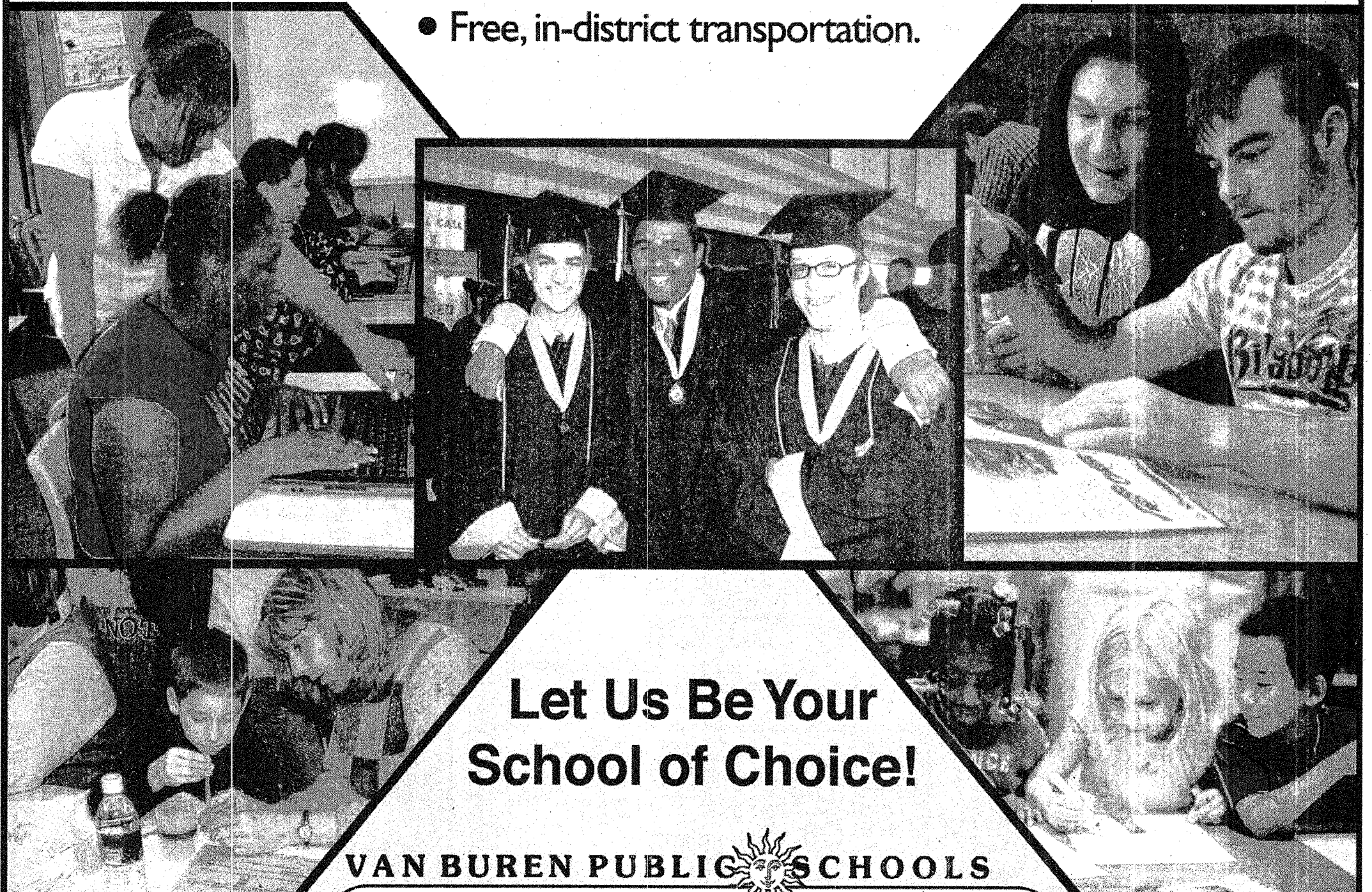
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PHOTOS BY BILL GRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Matt Landes of Plymouth gets a little coaching for his first solo from Michael Gross, who will conduct the BeckRidge Chorale in its annual spring concert April 25-26.

Love stories

Chorale brings 'upbeat' program to life

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Matt Landes' initial reaction to being asked whether he's nervous about his upcoming solo performance in the BeckRidge Chorale's concert, Love Stories, was to shake his head and say, "Maybe a little." Then he smiled. "OK, a lot," the Plymouth resident said, laughing.

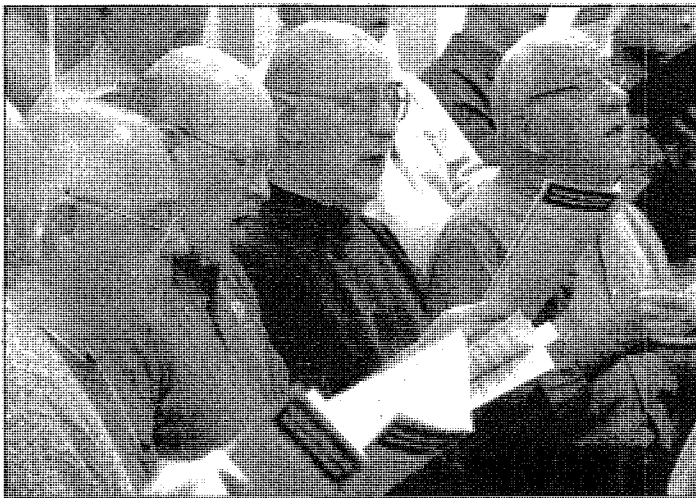
Landes will take on Stephen Sondheim's *Marry Me A Little* when the chorale takes the stage at Northville High School for its annual spring spectacular April 24-25. It's the first time Landes has even auditioned for a solo, much less sung one, but the song choice brought out the volunteer in him.

"It's a song I've always liked ... a pretty song," Landes said. "It goes well with the theme of the show. I wanted it in the show, whether I sang it or not."

The theme of the show is Love Stories, though choral director Michael Gross is quick to point out they're not the "sad, lamenting" love songs.

In fact Gross, for some 30 years the choir's musical director/conductor, said the concert will be an uplifting one that will continue a string of upbeat performances the group has put in lately.

Gross chose the playlist from among music he likes. The concert features



Norm Kindred, Tom Schwartz, Bill Kondoff and Stan Kovacheff rehearse for the BeckRidge Chorale's spring concert.

Sondheim, Henry Mancini, Cole Porter and others.

"It's all just based on music I like," said Gross, who assumed his position in 1978. "These aren't sad love songs, they're fun songs. All of our concerts have been upbeat this year."

The upbeat tempo of the show appeals to choir members, as well. Kathy Norred of Livonia has been a choir member for some seven years, and she likes the fact the chorale "does something different every time."

"I love this one ... it's a very jazzy type of program," said Norred, who now sits on the BeckRidge Board of Directors. "It's growing on all of us — the songs, the melodies. It has some old classic tunes mixed in with some new."

The BeckRidge Chorale

was founded in 1973 as the Plymouth Community Chorus. The group has been a silver medalist in Johnny Mann's Great American Choral Festival, twice toured Washington, D.C., with invitational performances at Washington's National Cathedral and has been invited to perform at the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City.

The troupe has also performed with the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and the Birmingham/Bloomfield Symphony. Its community service concerts include benefit performances for Children's Hospital of Detroit, Angela Hospice, The Salvation Army and the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute. In 2006, the Plymouth



Nancy Whitecar accompanies the BeckRidge Chorale as members get ready for their annual spring concert.

Community Chorus became the BeckRidge Chorale in order to recognize the organization's regional outreach in serving all of southeast Michigan and specifically the communities of Plymouth, Canton and Northville. The name "BeckRidge Chorale"

reflects this regional emphasis by combining "Beck" and "Ridge" — two major roads passing through all three communities.

The group's 110-voice choir will tackle Love Stories, up some 15 percent in membership, according to Gross.

"People are getting back to things in their community and things they enjoy doing," he said. "Instead of getting caught up in the (bad) news, they're going out and having fun."

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Hundreds protest at Tax Day Tea Party

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Several hundred people protested government spending Wednesday in Livonia as one of several local gatherings in Michigan for a Tax Day Tea Party.

The party is a movement aimed at restoring the free-market principles the United States was built on, according to the group's Web site.

Picketers carried signs protesting government spending for about two hours, occupying the sidewalk along the east side of Haggerty between Seven and Eight Mile roads.

Many drivers on Haggerty honked in support. A passenger in one car held out tea bags as the vehicle drove north on Haggerty, which drew cheers from the protesters.

Kevin Kieliszewski of Canton carried a sign that read: "Give me liberty — no debt."

"We wanted to have our voices heard since Congress hasn't been listening," Kieliszewski said. "They keep hiking taxes and hiking spending and they don't ever reduce it."

Peggy Paulson of Plymouth also protested govern-

ment spending, which she described as "out of control." Paulson believes that the U.S. government is "mortgaging our future."

"I don't believe government is the answer; the answer lies in the hands of the people," Paulson said.

Her sign read: "Wake up America before your liberty is gone."

Paulson and her friend and neighbor Judy Draplin of Plymouth brought their children to the event. Draplin said she was concerned about their future and that it was important to teach them about freedom of speech.

"I think it's important that we show them the need to speak up for what we believe in and that we can do it in a civil manner," Draplin said.

Paulson added: "They need to understand that they work for us, and they have it backwards."

Tom Wozniak of Livonia carried a flag that read "Don't Tread on Me." Numerous picketers greeted him, and numerous motorists honked at him in support.

"Government is spending money too fast and printing it too fast so it will be devalued," Wozniak said. "We can't borrow our way to



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dale Reese, of Plymouth Township, protests on tax day. A crowd of several hundred gathered along Haggerty between Seven and Eight Mile Roads.

prospérité." Wozniak was critical of President Obama and former President George W. Bush. "It was foolish to give us the stimulus package a year ago; they were foolish with the TARP (Troubled Asset Relief Program) money," Wozniak said. "We'd like the politicians to spend the money like it was their own, which means very carefully." Jay and Kim Quint of

Livonia also stood on the sidewalk. "I just felt I had to do something," Jay said. "I felt I had to do my part, even if it was a small part."

"I think they've gone all out with the massive spending, and I think they have to show restraint. With that amount of money, someone will have to pay for it."

Kim added that "big government was getting bigger by the day."



Carlos DelaFuentes brought tea bags to the tea party. He's from South Lyon.

far left (President Barack Obama) would go. The amount of spending doesn't make sense, and there are no economic models that show that spending will get us out of debt.

Perreca's sign read: "Irresponsible Reckless Spending."

Perreca learned about the gathering by searching on the Web. Originally he was going to go to Lansing until he found about the Livonia and Troy gatherings that day. "This is what is called a 'smart mob,'" which is now a part of our nomenclature," Perreca said. "The Internet allows people to organize large groups quickly."

"I'm here to protest that government spending is out of control," said Peter Perreca of Royal Oak.

"People didn't realize how

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Lisa Cannon	2146	totes, bags, tv
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Dwight Davis	2286	boxes, bags, toys
Nadia El-rawas	2352	tool box, bags
Faustine Amara	2386	boxes, bags, totes
Zilpha Reed	2492	boxes, chairs
Marilyn Ashriem	5005	vehicle - Car Lincoln Mark III VIN 9Y89A836977
Tyrone Johnson	5012	vehicle - Truck Ford F150 VIN 1FTBF15Y2TLC14113

Publish: April 12 and 19, 2009

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 3650 Enterprise Dr. Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-3117 4/27/2009 at 12:00pm. 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:

Cheryl A Calvilla	B042	boxes, bags, totes
Victor Garcia	B054	boxes, bags, table
Nakia Mathis	B091	chairs, sofa, mattress
Rhonda Houston	B104	washer, dryer, ac unit
Madinah Heard	B117	boxes, totes, dresser
Annette Hawkins	B132	boxes, bags, totes
Petrice Johnson	B257	boxes, bags, totes
Rodney Ursery	B261	piano
Sheldon Turley	B330	boxes, dresser, picture
Donald Schwartz	B373	fish tank, monitor, tote
Connie Volpe	C009	restaurant equipment
Lola Yonko	C025	boxes, lamp, table
Carol Lyons	E023	boxes, bags, grill
Sturge Moreland	F014	boxes, bike, dresser

Publish: April 12 and 19, 2009

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48183 (734)479-5442 4/27/2009 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:

Steven Dale Trimble	105	dresser, boxes, tv
David Kaminski	136	bags, totes
Pro Line Building	143	boxes, bags, saw
John Charles Allen Hutchinson	215	boxes, bags, totes
Jamie LaGrow	221	boxes, chairs, vacuum
Norris Taylor	337	boxes, bags, picture
Chaquita McCroy	527	boxes, bags, totes
Adam Fockler	533	bags, totes, bike
Kristy Bradburn	642	boxes, bags, totes
Rick Carlson	653	car - TEMPO-LIC-UNL Z85
Mark Turchan	826	boxes, bags, totes
June Francisco	833	boxes, bags, totes
George Anderson	903	sofa, cabinet, chairs
James K Smith	941	desk, boxes, bags
Bianca Jordan	1118	boxes, bags, sofa
Gordon Tonero	1119	chairs, bags, dresser
Shane Haase	1129	boxes, bags, tv

Publish: April 12 and 19, 2009

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelham Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 (313) 292-9730 4/27/2009 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:

Robert Howell	2055	tv, boxes, totes
Nancyanne Hill	3009	tv, boxes, totes
Erna Austin	3042	boxes, dresser, chair
Andrew Jones	3064	boxes, bags, washer
Sarah Phelan	3073	dresser, boxes, totes
Justin Proch	4027	car parts
Jennifer Cooper	5001	boxes, bags, totes
Wayne King	5005	boxes, bags, dresser
Jason Benner	5085	sofa, dresser, bags
Ron Bemby	6085	boxes, bags
Steven Williams	6107	boxes, bags, mattress
Douglas White	6129	tv, chair, dresser
Richard McNamee	6131	boxes, bags, totes
Doug Reed	7022	bikes, bags, totes
Michael Pac	7045	boxes, tv, toys
Jerry Brazier	7058	tv, totes, sofa
Jeffrey Stonecipher	7082	totes, dresser, boxes
Larry Maddox	9078	boxes, bags, totes

Publish: April 12 and 19, 2009

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Architect will receive sealed bids for:

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF:
GARDEN CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CAMBRIDGE CENTER REROOFING - PHASE III

Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bid proposals will be conducted by the Owner in public:

Date: April 29, 2009
Time: 1:30 p.m. EST

Place: Board of Education
Garden City Public Schools
1333 Radcliff Street
Garden City, MI 48135

Attn: Sheryl Quinn, Business Manager

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after April 13, 2009.

Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ASSOCIATES, INC., Architects - Engineers - Planners, 1191 West Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; the McGraw-Hill Construction Dodge Plan Room, Livonia, Michigan; or the Construction Association of Michigan, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Office of the Architect, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications.

Return Bidding Documents to the Architect within ten (10) days after opening receipt of proposals. Documents are to be complete, in clean and usable condition and free of marks or other defacement.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. A board shall not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

Bid Proposals shall be on forms furnished by the Architect, accompanied by a satisfactory Bid Bond or Certified Check for five percent (5%) of the Base Bid Sum maximum possible proposal amount.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of sixty (60) days after date for receipt of bids.

Accepted Bidder shall be required to furnish satisfactory Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

The right to reject any or all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein is reserved by the Owner.

This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

****END OF SECTION****

Publish: April 19, 2009

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Architect will receive sealed bids for:

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION OF:
GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL
PARTIAL FLOORING REPLACEMENT

Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bid proposals will be conducted by the Owner in public:

Date: April 29, 2009
Time: 1:30 p.m. EST

Place: Board of Education
Garden City Public Schools
1333 Radcliff Street
Garden City, MI 48135

Attn: Sheryl Quinn, Business Manager

Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on or after April 13, 2009.

Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ASSOCIATES, INC., Architects - Engineers - Planners, 1191 West Square Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302; the McGraw-Hill Construction Dodge Plan Room, Livonia, Michigan; or the Construction Association of Michigan, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

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This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

****END OF SECTION****

Publish: April 19, 2009

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smaison@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

Relay for Life benefits
Doo Wop for a Cause is coming to the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City on Saturday, May 16. Local entertainers will be putting on a Doo Wop and Oldies Show filled with music of the 1950s and 1960s. Come in your best 195-1960 era duds. Prizes for costumes that stand out. The show will be 6-10 p.m., and tickets are \$8 per person. They can be bought at Maplewood Center office. The event is being sponsored by Team "What About a Cure for Cancer" and the Garden City Relay for Life. The team also is sponsoring a Cutest Baby Contest during the Garden City Relay for Life at Garden City Junior High track May 30. Winners will be announced at 2 p.m. There's a \$5 registry fee with photo. Be sure to put the contact info - name, age, address and phone - on the back of the photo. Checks must be written to American Cancer Society and sent to the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City, MI 48135, attention Cheryl & Kelly. The deadline for registering is May 27.

Soldier benefit
The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund will host their fourth annual dinner May 2, at the Laurel Manor in Livonia. All proceeds go to veterans or families of fallen soldiers that are in need. The keynote speaker at the event will be Marcus Luttrell, a Navy SEAL and author of New York Times best-selling book "Lone Survivor," the harrowing story of four Navy SEALs who journeyed into the mountainous border of Afghanistan and Pakistan on Operation Redwing. A motivational story of survival, the book is also a moving tribute to the friends and teammates who did not make it off the mountain. A powerful testament

to the courage, integrity, patriotism, and community that forged these American heroes, "Lone Survivor" is an incredible account of teamwork, fortitude, and modern warfare. For more information or to purchase tickets contact Ann Cornelius at (248) 346-5976 or visit www.fwsf.org

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.

Free workshops
Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, a holistic physician, wellness consultant and clinical nutritionist, will guide you through a workshop on Take Charge of Your Health 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at Noble Library, 32901 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Learn how to take an active role in achieving better health and well being. There is no charge for the workshop, however, seating is limited to the first 30 guests. Fischer will also present Tummy Trouble 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, 2009, Wednesday, at the Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. Are you suffering with Acid Reflux, Stress, Ulcers, Indigestion, Irritable Bowel Syndrome? Learn the hidden reasons behind these health concerns and the safe, natural, effective alternatives to naturally help yourself. Seating is limited to the first 15 guests. Reservations are required. Call (734) 756-6904 or go online to www.TLHolisticWellness.com.

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 gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com.

Fish Dial-A-Ride
Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive. For 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 SENIORS

Friendship Center
The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site www.ci.westland.mi.us offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

Dyer Center
The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m., bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.

Senior fitness
Seniors can get in shape through some programs offered at the

Maplewood Center. The Senior Fitness Room is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Annual membership is \$50 per year or \$1 for a daily pass. Aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

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 Thursday 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

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.

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

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

VOLUNTEERS

Karmanos Institute
The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute needs volunteers to transport cancer patients to mammogram and doctor appointments in metro-

politan Detroit. Drivers are needed for Macomb and Oakland counties, Dearborn, and Detroit. Volunteers must be at least 18. Mileage reimbursement is provided. Call (800) KARMANOS to volunteer.

First Step
First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program. Call (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223.

Drivers
Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. The meetings take place 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center, Farmington Road south of Five Mile. Drivers may be offered a stipend. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others may attend the meetings. Call (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208.

VNA Hospice
Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required. (248) 967-8361 or visit www.vna.org.

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If you are eating a diet that is low in carbohydrates to lose weight, you may have a problem with bad breath. It is estimated that nearly 63% of people on low-carb diets suffer from halitosis. The reason for this rests with the fact that a certain amount of carbohydrates is necessary for the body to effectively burn fat. Without these needed carbs, the body must modify the way it burns fat by producing ketones which are the chemicals that impart a bad odor to breath. If you are a fan of diets such as the South Beach Diet or the Atkins Diet, you may want to brush more often, drink more water, and chew more sugarless gum.

If you are bothered by this condition, don't be shy about discussing bad breath with your dentist. Professional care is always the best course to pursue when unusual symptoms occur. We're here to offer our patients comprehensive, gentle, family dentistry, including dietary advice, routine maintenance care, restorative work, and cosmetic approaches to enhance any smile. All our staff members are exceptional in their care of every patient who comes through our doors at **496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth**. Please call us at **734-453-9413** for an appointment. We are located one block east of Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth.

P.S. Another effective way to fight halitosis is to scrape the tongue daily, from back to front.

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Catwalk: Feline follows owner on nightly excursions

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Many Livonia residents walk their dogs.

But Lisa McLeod walks her cat — without a leash.

The black and white-spotted feline follows McLeod all around their Hix-Schoolcraft neighborhood. If a dog being walked on a leash is about to pass by on the sidewalk, McLeod warns Kiewie and she lies down on a driveway, out of the dog's reach.

"People cannot believe I'm walking my cat," she said of the looks she gets from neighbors and passersby.

Next-door neighbor Dave Thomas said he and his wife, Sue, get a kick out of watching Kiewie follow McLeod. "It's pretty funny," Thomas said.

Thomas said the cat looks both ways before crossing the street, turning her head left and right. "It's really something," he said.

Kiewie also protects McLeod's younger cat, Tiger, from cars. One day Tiger got too close to the road and Kiewie ran after her and chased her back to the house, McLeod said.

McLeod's sister, Jackie Schwalm of Milford, e-mailed the *Observer* about Kiewie.

She said the cat seems to understand what her sister is saying.

"Once a family was leaving their house in their car and the mother asked my sister, 'Are you walking your cat?'" she said. "My sister said yes. Then her children in the car started barking and my sister looked at her cat and said, 'It's OK. They are only joking,' and the cat looked at my sister and proceeded to walk by the car."

McLeod said the cat, a 9- or 10-year-old stray they took in years ago while living in Redford, started walking with her last summer.

McLeod had stopped smoking and started walking. The cat began to follow her and



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lisa McLeod doesn't need a leash to walk Kiewie through her neighborhood because the cat stays with her wherever she goes.

each time, she would take it a couple houses farther.

"Now she walks anywhere I go," she said.

ksmith@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2098

Filing tax return electronically gets an earlier return

Q: Dear Rick: I filed my federal tax return over a month ago and I still have not received my refund. I read that you should get your refund back within two to three weeks. What should I do?

A: According to the Internal Revenue Service, if you file a return using the traditional paper method, it takes approximately six weeks to receive your refund. If you file electronically, it typically takes half that time to get a refund. Therefore, the first question is how did you file your return? If you filed by paper in mid-March you can expect your refund by the end of April. On the other hand, if you filed electronically, you should have received your refund by now and it is time to be proactive.

The IRS has an excellent Web site in regards to taxes. Not only can you obtain all necessary forms, but also instruction books and other important information with regards to taxes. In addition, the IRS Web site offers access to the status of your refund. Go to www.irs.gov



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

gov and click on "my refund."

If the IRS has already sent you your refund and you have not received it, then you could have a problem. It is possible that your refund, if it was mailed to you, got lost in the mail or worse, someone got to the mailbox before you. In those situations, call the IRS.

The IRS has become easier to deal with and is taxpayer-friendly.

Q: Dear Rick: Every time I open my bank statement I am hit with new fees. In addition, I'm receiving very little interest on the money I have in the bank. Recently, a friend of mine opened an account at a credit union. Do you recommend credit unions and are they as safe as banks?

A: I have no problem with credit unions. I believe that many people should consider

using them. The first thing to understand about credit unions is they are nonprofits and operate in the best interest of their members. If you have an account at a credit union, you are a member, in effect, you are part owner. Because members are part owners, credit unions tend to have lower fees and pay higher interest rates on deposits than a traditional bank.

Furthermore, when you need a loan — mortgage, home equity line of credit, new car loan or personal loan — credit unions tend to be more competitive than your traditional bank.

Just as a bank insures your account to \$250,000, the same applies to credit unions. The only difference is the money in a bank is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) while money in a credit union is insured by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). Both of these agencies are quasi-government agencies and backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. Your money is safe.

One myth about credit

unions is they are difficult to join. Although in the past that may have been the case, it is no longer true. Virtually, anyone can join a credit union. There are many credit unions in southeast Michigan and, although, you may not be eligible to join every one, as some do restrict membership, it should not be difficult to find a credit union.

Visit the National Association of Credit Unions Web site — www.joinacu.org — to search for credit unions that you are eligible to join.

Credit unions offer virtually the same services that banks do including ATMs.

In today's difficult economic times where people are attempting to get better rates of return on their money while keeping their fees low, credit unions are an option to consider.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. *Observer & Eccentric* readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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HOMETOWN LIFE

U-M's St. Clair makes contact

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

She's been a mainstay behind the plate for the University of Michigan softball team for three years, starting a total 131 games.

And Wednesday night, catcher Roya St. Clair got a much-deserved rest — penciled in only as the designated player with one at-bat — as the Wolverines improved to 30-9 overall with a 9-0 mercy victory at home over Washtenaw County rival Eastern Michigan University.

St. Clair's defensive skills have never been questioned, but now opposing pitchers have to be a little bit more careful how they pitch to the Livonia Stevenson grad.

After hitting .214 as a freshman followed by a .211 campaign in 2008, St. Clair's improved offensive production this season has raised eyebrows around the Big Ten.

Going into the Wolverines'

weekend series at Illinois, St. Clair was batting .288 overall with seven doubles, five homers and 20 RBI. She has a slugging percentage of .500 and has struck out only 14 times in 104 at-bats.

Her Big Ten numbers are even better, with a .375 batting average and .708 slugging mark.

"It's confidence," St. Clair said. "It was a learning curve coming into college. I had to figure out how things worked out at this level."

"I'm taking more pitches than usual. I'm seeing the ball better."

Coming out of Stevenson, St. Clair was one of the area's all-time feared prep hitters. As a senior, she batted .522 with six homers, 11 doubles and 34 RBI en route to first-team Division I All-State honors.

This spring, she has learned to become more patient at the plate.

"Before I was a first-pitch hitter," St. Clair said. "It's a whole lot different from high school to this level and often it doesn't translate. Offensively I struggled the first two years,

Please see **ST. CLAIR, B2**



MIKE OLIVELLA

Livonia Stevenson grad Roya St. Clair has become an integral part of the Wolverines' offensive attack this season.

GAME WRAPS

Prep baseball

CRANBROOK 4, JOHN GLENN 1: Pitcher Nick Cassell went all seven innings, allowing just five hits, to power Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood (3-3) to the non-conference triumph Friday over visiting Westland John Glenn (5-5).

Cassell struck out three and walked only one. He also helped his own cause with an RBI sacrifice fly.

The Cranes scored one run in the second, one in the third and two in the fourth off Glenn starter Steve Hickson, who went all six innings, allowing just four hits.

Hickson fanned three and did not allow a walk.

Glenn tallied its only run in the top of the fourth, when Vince Creighton singled and came home on Hickson's RBI double.

Andrew Deluca went 2-for-3 for the Rockets.

Each team committed two errors.

JOHN GLENN 7-4, EDESEL FORD 1-2: The two Jakes did it again Thursday as host Westland John Glenn (5-4) swept a non-league doubleheader from Dearborn Edsel Ford (2-4).

Jake Campbell pitched a complete-game, five-hitter in the opener as the Rockets earned a 7-1 triumph. Campbell struck out three and did not allow a walk. He also helped his own cause with an RBI sacrifice fly in the second inning.

Nate Bovia also had a big day at the plate, going 3-for-3 with three RBI, while Derrick Ammons added two hits, two RBI and scored two runs.

In the nightcap, Jake Sperry scattered six hits and walked only one as the Rockets downed the Thunderbirds, 4-2. Sperry struck out three in going the distance.

Andrew DeLuca went 3-for-4 with two RBI for Glenn, while third baseman Steve Hickson sparkled in the field and went 2-for-2 with an RBI.

Edsel Ford's Joe Carty doubled three times in the loss.

FARMINGTON 10, JOHN GLENN 6: Joel Fisher went 3-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored Wednesday to lead the host Falcons (3-4) to the non-league win over Westland John Glenn (3-4).

Derek Mohr added a pair of walks, a single and scored three times for Farmington, which scored four times in the third innings, two more in the fourth and four in the bottom of the sixth to put it away.

Farmington starter Matt Gutknecht, who went the first six innings, allowing six runs on seven hits and two walks, got the victory.

Riley Smith (two outs) and Alex Schmitt (final out) came on for the save.

Glenn starter Andrew DeLuca took the loss.

Steve Hickson went 2-for-4 with two RBI, while Derrick Ammons added two hits for the Rockets.

Girls soccer

CLARENCEVILLE 8, CHAVEZ 0: Teresa Parent and Jerrica Clements scored two goals apiece Wednesday, propelling Livonia Clarenceville (1-2) to a non-conference win over Detroit Cesar Chavez.

Samantha Giordano, Mariah McClain, Jordan Fyffe and Britney Olds each added a goal for the Trojans, who led 4-0 at halftime and ended it on an eight-goal mercy with 15 minutes to go. Goalkeeper Kristen Jolly made six saves to post her first shutout of the year.

Walk in the park: C'ville girls stroll past Southfield

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Laying down a bunt during Thursday's win over Southfield is Clarenceville's Megan McLaughlin.

Bases on balls fueled the softball merry-go-round Thursday for Livonia Clarenceville.

The Trojans, recipients of 15 walks, rolled to a 14-3 five-inning rout of visiting Southfield in a non-conference tilt shortened due to the 10-run mercy rule.

It was 4-0 after the first and 9-0 after two, with six of those runs scoring on bases-loaded walks issued by Southfield pitcher Amanda Love and two more scoring on hit batsmen.

"I told the girls these are games you can lose easy if you don't concentrate and have focus," Clarenceville coach Joe DeCaire said. "That's true (because) especially when you see a pitcher that's wild, you can lose total concentration at the plate."

"You've got to adjust to whatever. We did what we had to do to get the win."

Earning the victory for Clarenceville (2-2) was junior Val Sochacki, who struck out 10 while giving up just two hits and three walks. All of the runs scored by the Bluejays (0-2) were unearned.

Southfield's acting head coach, Alisha Love, said her team is very young and still learning how to play the game.

"They're great athletes," she said. "They just don't know the game like they should yet. But that's coming, it's a process."

Even losing a blowout can have a beneficial impact, Love added.

"They can be more attentive in practice in terms of learning the game instead of just being an athlete and catching the ball and throwing it," she said.

The Trojans collected six hits, including three by senior Lisa Wilson (3-for-4, 2 runs, 3 RBI), who smoked a line-drive triple to left with two outs in the bottom of the fifth.

Please see **C'VILLE, B2**

Crusader sets strikeout mark

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Jess Irwin bettered her own single-season strikeout record Friday as the Madonna University softball team improved to 17-1 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference with a pair of wins at Siena Heights University.

Irwin struck out 11, raising her season total to 227, and allowed just two hits and two walks in six innings as MU captured the opener, 8-0.

The sophomore from Monroe is now 21-5 overall.

Offensively, Cat Sidor (Livonia Churchill) went 2-for-4 with two RBI, while Tori Turner added two hits for MU.

Rachael Kethe, Kathleen Smiley and Kelly Lesko also knocked in runs for the 17th-ranked Crusaders. In the nightcap, Ashley Shay

went 2-for-2 with a homer, while Tedi Johnston went 2-for-4 with an RBI as MU downed the Saints, 5-2. Sidor and Lesko also knocked in runs for the Crusaders, who improved to 39-7 overall.

Winning pitcher Hallie Minch (18-2) allowed just three hits, walked one and struck out eight.

The loss drops Siena Heights to 11-31 overall and 1-13 in the WHAC.

MADONNA 8-8, UM-DEARBORN 0-3: Pitcher Jess Irwin recorded both wins as the Crusaders (37-7, 15-1) team swept both ends of a WHAC doubleheader Wednesday at home against University of Michigan-Dearborn (11-12, 8-6).

Irwin tossed a one-hitter in the opener as the Crusaders downed the Wolves in a five-inning mercy, 8-0. Irwin struck

out 10 and allowed four walks. Offensively, Cat Sidor went 2-for-3 with three RBI, while Kathleen Smiley went 2-for-3 with two RBI. Kelly Lesko also added two hits and an RBI.

Irwin came to the rescue in relief of starter Hallie Minch as the Crusaders rallied from a 2-0 deficit after three innings to beat UM-Dearborn, 8-3.

Minch, the freshman from Garden City, was roughed up for two earned runs on six hits in 3¹/₃ innings.

Irwin (20-5) came on and worked the final 3¹/₃, allowing one earned run on three hits. She struck out seven and walked two.

Sidor and Brittney Scero (Canton) each went 3-for-5 with two RBI apiece.

Smiley clubbed a two-run homer in the fourth inning and Ashley Shay contributed a solo shot in the fifth. Tedi Johnston also had two hits for MU.

Danielle Stabnau went 3-for-4 with an RBI for UM-Dearborn.

Saints' hurler handcuffs MU

Livonia Franklin High grad Chris Boertje played the spoiler role Thursday as the No. 12-ranked Madonna University baseball team settled for another doubleheader split with Siena Heights.

The junior right-hander from Westland threw a five-hitter as Siena Heights earned a 2-1 victory over the Crusaders in the opener.

Boertje used a mix of fastballs and curveballs to improve to 3-4 to keep MU off balance. He struck out four and walked three.

MU starter Trent Pohl (2-2) who went six innings, allowed just three hits. He walked four and struck out three.

Mark Pauwels had an RBI groundout in the first and Kevin Harrington added an RBI single in the fourth to account for both of the Saints' runs.

Ryan Morrow's RBI groundout in the fifth cut the deficit to 2-1.

MU unloaded for 15 hits in the nightcap en route

Please see **MADONNA, B2**

SPORTS ROUNDUP

THE WEEK AHEAD

Free running clinic

The Northville Road Runners, along with Running Fit, will stage a free running clinic beginning at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22 at the Running Fit store, located at 17783 Haggerty (just north of Six Mile), in Northville Township.

Beginning and current runners are welcomed to learn how to stay motivated and run safely without injury. (Be prepared to run a mile or two.)

For more information, call Erin Parris at (248) 212-8089.

Youth football clinic

Stevenson High School will stage its annual youth football clinic from 9 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. Saturday, May 16.

The clinic is free of charge and is open to all students currently enrolled in the grades 2-6. Instruction focuses on football fundamentals and will be provided by the Stevenson varsity football staff and players.

Students must have a signed waiver form to participate.

Registration forms are available in the Stevenson Athletic Office, or online by visiting www.livonia.k12.mi.us/schools/high/stevenson/athletics/camps/camps.html.

Same-day registration is also permitted, and starts at 8:30 am in the school's north cafeteria.

For more information, e-mail Tim Gabel at tgabel@livonia12.mi.us.

Stevenson pom clinic

The Livonia Stevenson varsity pom squad will stage a spring workshop for grades 5-11 from 6-8 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, April 20-22, at the high school fieldhouse.

The cost is \$45 (includes music CD and T-shirt).

For more information, call call Anne Turner at (734) 905-0060; or e-mail: anneturner@twmi.rr.com.

Spartan 5K Fun Run

The Livonia Stevenson High Booster Club will stage its 5-kilometer and 1-mile run Spartan Fun Run beginning on Sunday, May 31.

The 1-miler starts at 9 a.m. followed by the 5K at 9:30 a.m. The event begins and ends at Stevenson High.

Pre-registration entry fees for the 5K are \$20 for adults and \$10 for the 1-mile fun run. Pre-registered runners will be guaranteed a T-shirt. Fees (after May 16) are \$25 and \$15, respectively.

For more information, including a course map and registration form, visit www.livonia.k12.mi.us/schools/high/stevenson.

Girls fastpitch softball

The Livonia Wild is seeking fast-pitch 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.

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) on Saturdays 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.

Pitch, Hit & Run

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation pitch, hit and run competition will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 10 at Ford Field (Diamond No. 2).

Boys and girls will compete together in the following age divisions: 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, call (734) 466-2411.

Adult softball leagues

The Livonia Parks and Recreation Department is offering a variety of adult softball leagues including men's slow-pitch, 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.

Football combine

The Nike Combine Training for high school football players to prepare for the 2009 season and preparation for SPARQ and NATS testing protocols is heading to Auburn Hills.

Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine. This training session will be on Sundays beginning April 19 at the Auburn Hills Sports Dome.

To register go to www.coachjacksonspeed.com.

For more information, call coach Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

PREP BASEBALL

Monday, April 20
 South Lyon at Churchill (2), 4 p.m.
 Lincoln Park at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 W. Bloomfield at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Harper Woods, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Luth. North, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. South at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21
 Stevenson at Wayne (2), 4 p.m.
 Franklin Road at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22
 John Glenn at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 S.L. East at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 23
 Huron Valley at Macomb Christian, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 24
 Churchill at Salem (2), 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Novi (2), 4 p.m.
 Canton at Stevenson (2), 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at S. Lyon (2), 4 p.m.
 Wayne at S.L. East (2), 4 p.m.
 Luth. North at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Univ.-Liggett, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 25
 (all double-headers unless noted)
 Renaissance at Clarenceville 10 a.m.
 Det. Western at John Glenn, 11 a.m.
 Wayne at Trenton, 11 a.m.
 Annapolis vs. Luth. Westland, 11 a.m.
 Stevenson at W.L. Central, noon.

GIRLS SOFTBALL
Monday, April 20
 South Lyon at Churchill (2), 4 p.m.
 Wayne at W. Bloomfield, 4 p.m.
 Regina at Ladywood (2), 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Harper Woods, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Luth. North, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21
 Stevenson at Wayne (2), 4 p.m.
 Franklin Road at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22
 John Glenn at Churchill (2), 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 S.L. East at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Marian at Ladywood (2), 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 23
 Huron Valley at Macomb Christian, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 24
 Churchill at Salem (2), 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Novi (2), 4 p.m.
 Canton at Stevenson (2), 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at S. Lyon (2), 4 p.m.
 Wayne at S.L. East (2), 4 p.m.
 Ladywood at Mercy (2), 4 p.m.
 Luth. North at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Univ.-Liggett, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 25
 (all double-headers)
 Renaissance at Clarenceville, 10 a.m.
 Parkway at Luth. Westland, 11 a.m.

GIRLS SOCCER
Monday, April 20
 Luth. Westland at Luth. North, 4:30 p.m.
 John Glenn at Churchill, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21
 Ladywood at Warren Regina, 5:30 p.m.
 Wayne at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 S.L. East at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22
 Clarenceville at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 23
 Franklin at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Mercy at Ladywood, 5:30 p.m.
 Plymouth at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Novi, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Canton, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 24
 Hartland at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Univ.-Liggett, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. North at Clarenceville, 5 p.m.
 Dearborn at Churchill, 5 p.m.
 Crestwood at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 John Glenn at Garden City, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 25
 Ladywood at N.D. Prep, 12:30 p.m.

BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

Tuesday, April 21
 Plymouth at Churchill, 3:30 p.m.
 Franklin at John Glenn, 3:30 p.m.
 Wayne at Canton, 3:45 p.m.
 Stevenson at Northville, 4 p.m.
 Ladywood at Divine Child, 4 p.m.
 Tri-Meet at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
 Harper Woods, Cranbrook, Luth. South at Lutheran Westland, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 23
 Liv. Boys City Meet at Stevenson, 4:30 p.m.
 Public Schools of Livonia Inv. Girls Meet at Franklin, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 24
 Raider Relays at N. Farmington, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 25
 Charger Inv. at Crestwood, 9 a.m.
 W. Bloomfield Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
 Shumake Relays at Renaissance, TBA.

GIRLS TENNIS
Monday, April 20
 Churchill at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at Novi, 4 p.m.
 Divine Child at Clarenceville, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21
 Churchill at Ladywood, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at Wayne, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22
 Franklin at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Northville at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Canton at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Plymouth, 4 p.m.

Thursday, April 23
 Cabrini at Ladywood, 4 p.m.
 Canton at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 24
 Churchill at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 South Lyon at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at Plymouth, 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 25
 Monroe Invitational, 8 a.m.
 Howell Invitational, 8:30 a.m.

BOYS GOLF
Monday, April 20
 Brighton Inv. at Oak Pointe, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 21
 Farmington Invitational at Huron Meadows, 8:30 a.m.
 Huron Valley vs. PCA, 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, April 23
 Huron Valley at Macomb Christian, 3:30 p.m.
 John Glenn vs. Churchill at The Woodlands, 3 p.m.

Friday, April 24
 Churchill vs. Wayne at Whispering Willows, 3 p.m.
 Franklin vs. Canton at Idyl Wyld, 3 p.m.
 Stevenson vs. South Lyon at Fox Creek, 3 p.m.
 Franklin vs. Plymouth at The Woodlands, 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 25
 Mason Invitational, 9 a.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE
Monday, April 20
 Ladywood at N.D. Prep, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22
 Riv. Richard at Ladywood, 5 p.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL
Sunday, April 19
 Concordia at Madonna, 1 p.m.

Friday, April 24
 Madonna at Aquinas, 1 p.m.

Saturday, April 25
 Aquinas at Madonna, 1 p.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
 (all double-headers)
Sunday, April 19
 Davenport at Madonna, 1 p.m.

Thursday, April 23
 Siena Heights at Madonna, 4 p.m.

Friday, April 24
 Cornerstone at Madonna, 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 25
 Aquinas at Madonna, 1 p.m.

SPORTS BRIEFS

MSU honors Montgomery

The Michigan State University Black Alumni and Western Metro Detroit MSU alumni clubs will honor Spartans men's basketball associate coach Mark Montgomery on Wednesday, April 22, at Dearborn Hills Golf Course, located at 1300 S. Telegraph Road, Dearborn.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with speakers, including MSU athletic director Mark Hollis, slated at 6:30 p.m. The event concludes at 8 p.m.

The \$5 cover charge at the door includes appetizers, cash bar and door prizes. (Bring your camera and get your photo taken with Sparty.)

RSVPs are appreciated by e-mailing Rich Whipple at REKJwhipple@yahoo.com.

Graves gets cager

Madonna University women's basketball coach Carl Graves announced Tuesday that Kristie Porada (Gibraltar Carlson) has signed an NAIA letter-of-intent for this fall.

Porada, cousin of current MU volleyball red-shirt freshman Amanda Koszela, is the second signee for Graves, joining Kayleigh Burden (New Boston Huron) who signed with the Crusaders last week.

The Rockwood native earned three letters in basketball to go along with a pair each in cross country and track at Carlson. As a senior she averaged 10.1

points and 5.2 assists per game on her way to a second straight selection to the All-Mega Conference team as well as a selection to the All-Downriver team.

"Kristie is such a versatile player," Graves said. "She does so many things well and we are looking to utilize her in several ways. Kristie has a stellar grade-point average which will fit nicely with the MU philosophy. She has the ability to handle the ball exceptionally well, has a decent shot, good speed and shows the desire and will to win and want to improve."

A two-year captain on the hardwood, Porada was also an All-Mega honoree last fall in cross country and earned the Coaches Award in track as a sophomore.



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Brighton Day Camp	June 15-19	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Romeo Spark Plugs Camp	June 15-19	9:00 am - 11:00 am
Romeo Evening Camp	June 15-19	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Adrian Day Camp	June 22-26	9:00 am - 12:00 or 3:00 pm
Warren Day Camp	June 22-26	9:00 am - 12:00 or 3:00 pm
Canton Spark Plugs Camp	June 22-26	9:00 am - 11:00 am
Huron Valley Day Camp	July 6-10	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Canton Day Camp	July 6-10	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Plymouth Day Camp	July 13-17	9:00 am - 12:00 or 3:00 pm
Chelsea Day Camp	July 13-17	9:00 am - 12:00 or 3:00 pm
Hartland Day Camp	July 20-24	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Redford Day Camp	July 27-31	9:00 am - 12:00 or 3:00 pm
Port Huron Evening Camp	July 27-31	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Macomb Day Camp	Aug. 3-7	9:00 am - 12:00 or 3:00 pm
Huron Valley Day Camp	Aug. 3-7	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Huron Valley Spark Plugs	Aug. 3-7	9:00 am - 11:00 am

To register or for more information, visit www.detroitignition.com or call **888.436.GOAL**





Stamp show highlights educational hobby to stick with

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

A little bit of history will come to town soon in the form of the Plymouth stamp show.

"You get somebody who's got a real interest in history," club member Ed Dubin of Belleville said. He enjoys postal history of the World War I era, things like American troops in France, and the Polar Bear forces in Russia.

Other collectors focus on space or the postal history of their town; one local collector focuses on Plymouth, which was once the BB gun capital of the world. "It's really an urge to own part of history," Dubin said. "That's what stamps and covers are."

This is the 40th year for the Plymouth Show put on by the West Suburban Stamp Club, and it's going strong.

Show dates are Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26, at Central Middle School, Main and Church streets in Plymouth. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission and parking are free.

Dubin, who's handling



Showgoers look at the various world class exhibits on display at last year's show. This year's event will be Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26, at Central Middle School in Plymouth.

publicity for the show, noted the popularity of "Stamps in Your Closet" with expanded hours this year. Experienced collectors and dealers can give you an idea of the value of a collection and how to sell it. Often, that's useful when people inherit a collection.

"They get all these stamp albums and they don't know what to do with them," said Dubin, a Ford Motor Co. retiree. The service is first-come, first-served, and he said people last year were

patient.

The show will feature 2,400 pages of exhibits, 40 dealers from the U.S. and Canada, U.S. U.N. and Nordica Post Offices, seminars and society meetings. There will be a Saturday cachet bourse (exchange), and youth program. The Plymouth event is a qualifying show for the American Philatelic Society's annual Champion of Champions competition.

CHILDHOOD HOBBY

Dubin started collecting stamps at age 9. "Oh, my gosh, that's 50-plus years ago." Many collectors get an album as a child "and just kind of grew from there."

Collecting often drops off when people are in high school or college, but they pick it up again later. The West Suburban Stamp Club has a number of women, Dubin said,

as well as some junior stamp collectors of middle school or high school age.

Another local collector is Sandy Strzalkowski of Redford, who's handling show chair duties this year, a job that's traded off. She joined the club about 10 years ago after her husband got his childhood stamp collection back and took their son to the Plymouth show.

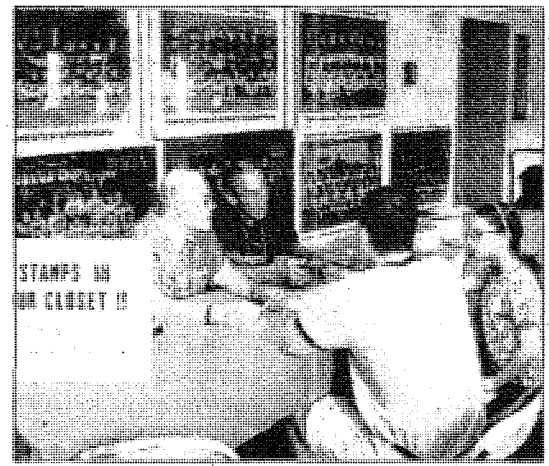
"Before that, I did not collect at all," said Strzalkowski, a financial adviser. She began going to shows and "started getting the courage to talk to dealers about this and that."

She now collects covers, canceled items showing British postal history. Strzalkowski finds quite a bit in that category, because we're so close to Canada and there are ties between Canada and Great Britain.

She noted it's more unusual for a family to collect stamps. The couple's son, now 23, is in the Army and will travel from California for the Plymouth show. "He is taking a long weekend just for the show," his mom said.

COLLECTOR TO CURATOR

One local former junior collector, who was a stamp dealer at a young age, went to Georgetown University. "He has stayed with the hobby," Dubin said of Alex Haimann, now a curator for the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., and active in the American Philatelic Society. Haimann will be the banquet speaker for the club in Plymouth the show weekend. The society is promoting



Club members Andrew Mazzara and Bill Chase at the 'Stamps in Your Closet' table offer advice on collections.

a fellowship for young stamp collectors, to which the WSSC recently donated \$1,000.

"Alex kind of grew up in our club," Strzalkowski said. She's pleased Haimann advocates so much for younger collectors, as the hobby needs that.

"It can be a very relaxing hobby, I think," she said. "I've learned a lot as people talk about their collections." She appreciates learning about history and cultures she wouldn't otherwise know. "It's a great learning opportunity, especially for youth," Strzalkowski said.

In addition to the Plymouth Show, the club meets the first and third Friday of the month at the Plymouth Historical Museum at Main and Church streets in Plymouth. Doors open at 7 p.m. and meetings include social time, a program and stamp auction. "You get to talk with people who have the same passion you do, which is fun," Dubin said.

Strzalkowski said the show will draw 600-800 people, especially from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, on

Saturday. Sunday attendance drops a bit. The show has been held at the same location each year.

In conjunction with the show, the club is offering for sale a colored cachet cover celebrating the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Each cover will have one of the recently issued four Lincoln commemorative 42 cent stamps, with a special show cancel picturing Lincoln's likeness.

Collectors can purchase the covers at the show or by mail for \$2 each, or \$5 for a cover with all four Lincoln commemoratives. To order by mail, send a check or money order plus a No. 10 SASE to WSSC, c/o Diane Gorney, Box 700049, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Call (734) 699-1026 for additional show information. Advance registration available at the club Web site: <http://www.plymouthshow.com>. The event is the only Michigan-qualified American Philatelic Society national show in the 30-show "World Series of Philately" circuit.

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THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS TODAY

Over the past five years, physician thinking on the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis has undergone a great change. For years the motto was "go low, go slow," meaning that since medications used in rheumatoid arthritis were potentially dangerous to the liver and immune system, a physician should use these drugs with caution. Starting with a small dose and increasing the amount only after months of use on the previous level was the standard practice.

Investigations of this approach revealed that patients' rheumatoid arthritis continued to progress despite therapy. Other studies showed that a more vigorous response with quicker use of newer drugs at high doses gave much better results.

These newer drugs included the Anti-TNFs, Rituxan, and Orelia. Furthermore, when these drugs were combined with methotrexate, the resolution of joint swelling and pain often was prompt and persistent.

At present, the consensus in the medical community is that physicians should treat rheumatoid arthritis as soon as the diagnosis is strongly suspected or reasonably confirmed. This approach is particularly important early in the onset of the disease. The stronger the therapy and the earlier it is begun, the more likely the physician will be able to control the arthritis.

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NEIGHBORS

Students earn designation as a Michigan green school

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OSE STAFF WRITER

The lunchroom at Our Lady of Good Counsel School probably won't be any less noisy than it was before Easter break, but it sure promises to be greener.

Starting Monday, students will measure and weigh the waste from their lunches. There should be less because for weeks they've been learning about reducing, reusing and recycling. That not's a new concept for the 624 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The junior high has been recycling paper since 2001. The effort is one of a dozen reasons Our Lady of Good Counsel recently earned a Michigan Green School designation, a state program which began with Gov. Jennifer Granholm signing the Michigan Green Schools Act in May 2006. Private and public schools must achieve at least 10 of 20 energy-saving and environmental tasks.

Throughout the school, students have been busy conducting energy audits of classrooms. In Marcia O'Malley's first-grade class, groups of students were quietly working on posters instead of playing during indoor recess.

GETTING INVOLVED

"The kids have been very involved," said Kay Reilly, principal of the school in Plymouth Township. "We have two teachers, Marcie O'Malley and Kaelah Lesnau, who are especially involved with kids to reduce their trash and understand their impact on landfills. We planted a native Michigan garden last year and hope for it to be in full bloom soon. We also adopted a polar bear, an endangered species, and hosted an ecology speaker



School volunteer Laurie Catanzaro gathers lunchroom trash at Our Lady of Good Counsel School. The school hopes to reduce lunchroom waste during its Eco-Friendly Lunch Week April 20-24.

who spoke about wild woodlands and brought a possum. We are committed to this. It's part and parcel of what we do every year."

This year the school hopes to reduce waste even further during its Eco-Friendly Lunch Week April 20-24, in recognition of Earth Day Wednesday, April 22.

Will Taylor always brings a sandwich in a plastic bag for lunch but is switching to a recyclable container. He and Robert Barnes and Brendan West were proudly displaying their poster in the school library. The images of endangered animals such as tigers, elephants and bears were recycled from magazines. Will wishes people would stop hunting these species.

Cara Forfinski and Regan Thorp were just as concerned about endangered animals. They were showing off their Save the Earth poster made for Pat Rossow's third-grade class. Flipping through magazines they found a photograph of gorillas.

"The whole week is to create a focus for kids to be more aware of what they can do to become eco-friendly," said Reilly. "They're encouraged to bring lunches in Tupperware

and reusable materials. We're also going to integrate math projects, religion, social studies and science with protecting God's creation. If we change kids' attitudes, we're going to change the next generation. We're big into being good stewards of God's creation. If we can make kids aware of being good global citizens, we realize that's the key to getting people to change their behaviors."

Reilly hadn't thought about lunchroom waste until O'Malley brought her concerns about the Styrofoam trays to the principal's attention.

CAN-DO ATTITUDE

"She told me the trays were filling up landfills. I started looking and found recycled cardboard trays which are a little more expensive but the reduced costs of a new pizza vendor nearly offset the expense. We did not have to raise the prices of lunch," said Reilly. "I told the teachers 'We can do this.'"

O'Malley's class actually did an experiment to see if the recycled trays break down. The first-grade teacher is always looking for ways to introduce lessons about saving the environment whenever possible. The 28-year-old-

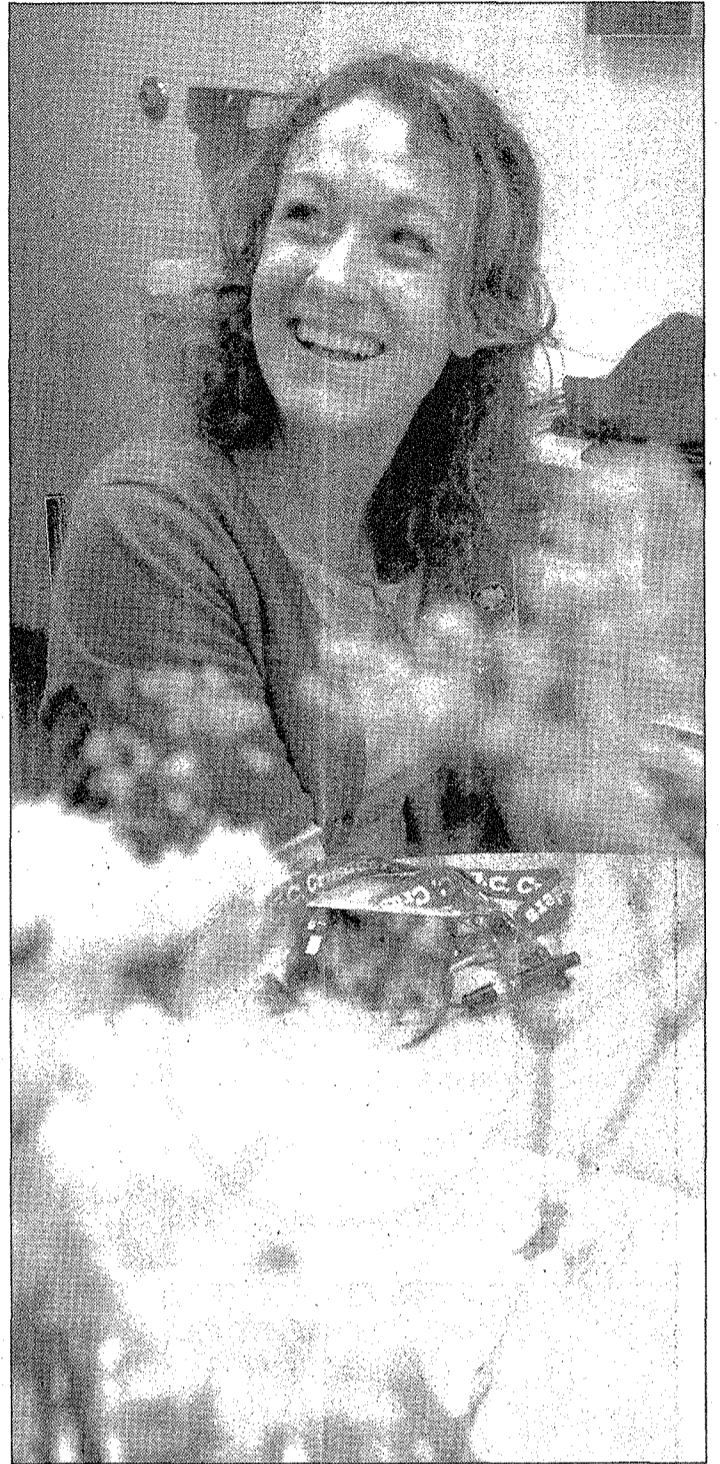
Canton woman is going for a master's degree in ecological teaching at Lesley University in Massachusetts. As part of the graduate program, she spent three weeks in Maine studying habitats. It was a life-changing experience that she brought back to the 6- and 7-year olds to inspire them. On the floor in one corner of the room friends Rebecca Espinoza, Gabby Price and Amberley Schmude were putting the finishing touches on a poster. They were learning water bottles were bad for the environment. A bin of crayons sat nearby.

"We need to start forming habits early, to start small to get as close to zero waste as possible," said O'Malley before Easter break. "Today I opened lunch boxes and found lots of plastic bags with pretzels, yogurt cups, plastic utensils. The plan is to weigh the waste before and after to notice the difference. We're going to take the food scraps out to Maybury Farms, banana peels, for the pigs. These kids are going to be our leaders and need to work on problem solving. We want to get them excited about nature and where they live with science demonstrations, projects like hiking. Last October, we picked up trash along Tonquish Creek and found more than half (of the trash) could be recycled."

Dylan Snyder recycled the plastic bags and candy wrappers he found into a poster.

"This is what you don't want if you want to keep the earth healthy," said Dylan, 6, as he held up the trash-filled poster on saving the earth.

For more information about the Michigan Green Schools designation, visit www.michigangreenschools.us.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

First-grade teacher Marcie O'Malley is leading the green revolution at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Plymouth Township.

Mother's Day Brunch

in the Townsend Grand Ballroom
10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. seating times

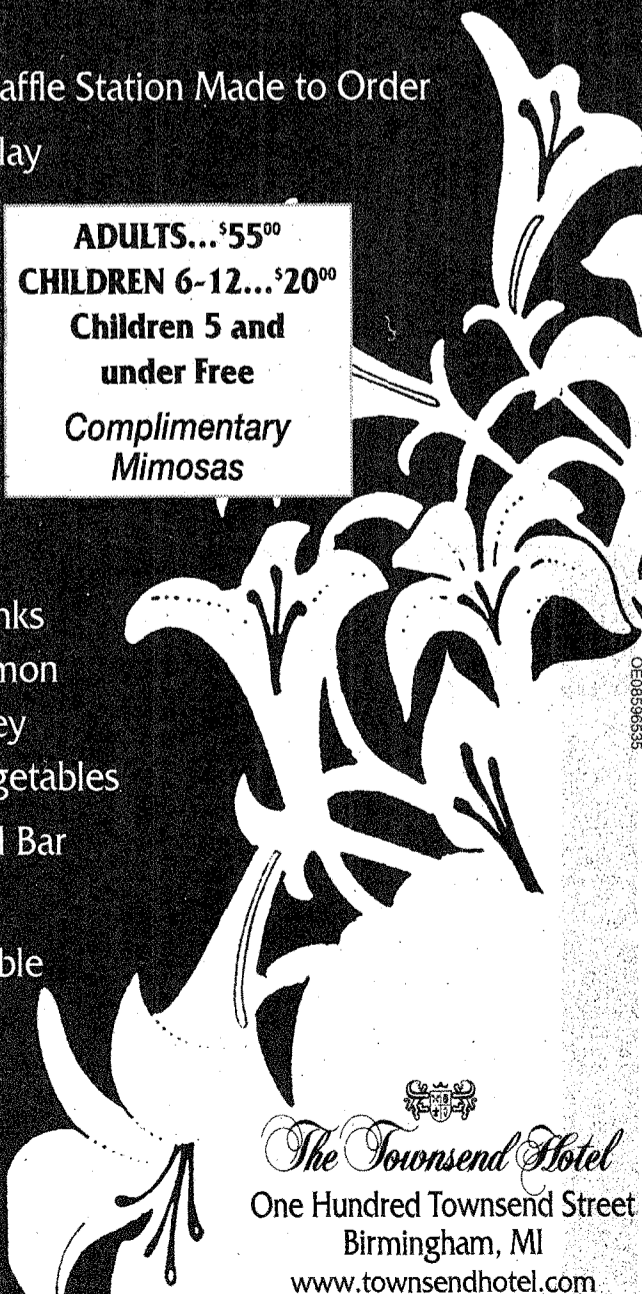
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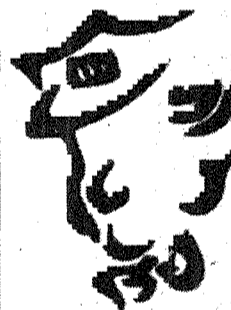
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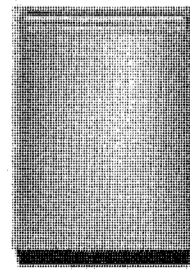
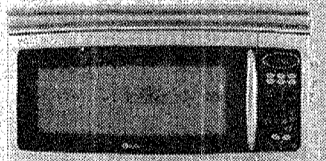
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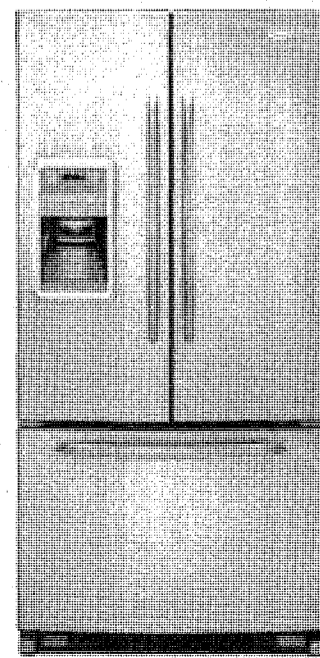
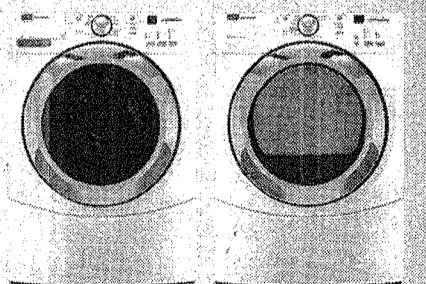
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MILESTONES



Ursum-Brady

The Rev. Kimberly Ursum and Floyd Brady announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, formerly from Livonia, attended Bentley High School and graduated from Churchill High School. She attended Michigan State University.

Her fiancé, from Flint, received his G.E.D. from Carmen-Ainsworth Adult Education.

They met at Family Worship Center in Swartz Creek. The Rev. Ursum is youth pastor and her husband-to-be is worship leader there.

The couple will wed in July 2009 in the Flint area.



Van Bynen-Estheimer

Nicole Christine Van Bynen and Timothy O. Estheimer announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Randy and Ellen Van Bynen of Canton. She attended Salem High and Eastern Michigan University, and is a branch manager for Chase Bank.

Her fiancé, son of Donald and Charlotte Estheimer of Southgate, attended Melvindale High and Napa Valley College. He owns Primo's Pizza in Allen Park.

A May 2009 wedding is planned at North Congregational Church, Farmington Hills.

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.

HELP AVAILABLE

Food is available for those in need during this economic crisis. Trinity Church in Plymouth is once again offering a food pantry in April. Deadline is Thursday, April 23, for the Trinity Church Food Pantry on Saturday, April 25. Recipients must reserve a pick-up time in advance by calling (734) 459-9557 Monday-Thursday, April 20-23. Trinity Church is at 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road, west of Beck, Plymouth.

A weekly drop-in Food Cupboard (non-perishable items) is available 10 a.m. to noon Saturday mornings at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 16360 Hubbard, Livonia.

SOCCER BENEFITS

Garden City High School soccer is hosting a no limit Texas Hold 'em tournament Saturdays, April 25 and May 2, at Bumpers Bar and Grill on Newburgh in Westland. The tournament will be a fund-raiser to help support the soccer teams at Garden City High School. It costs \$30 to buy in with one \$20 rebuy. Dealers will be provided. The cash payout will be determined by the participation. The event starts at 1 p.m. with check in from noon to 12:45 p.m. For more information, contact Coach Torni at gevsoccer@aol.com or (734) 522-4094.

BARBERSHOP CONCERT

The Renaissance Chorus holds its spring show 7 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at Sacred Heart Byzantine Church on Six Mile, east of Middlebelt, Livonia. Tickets are \$15, \$14 for seniors, and available by calling Frank Adams at (248) 477-2782.

This year's show features a retrospective of songs the chapter sang over the years including *Under The Boardwalk*, *Dream A Little Dream*, *Lida Rose*, *America the Beautiful*, and *Are You Lonesome Tonight*. Additionally, the show spotlights a step-out quartet and the guest quartet, Chordiology, the 2007 district champions. Past members also will be recognized.

The chapter always is looking for new members who enjoy singing. It will hold a guest night 7:30 p.m. Tuesday May 19, at Kirk of our Saviour Church on Cherry Hill, west of Newburgh in Westland. It welcomes all men — even those who simply enjoy singing along with the radio or who like the harmony of different voices. Prospective members do not need to be a music major or know how to read music.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Gus is looking for his 'forever home.'

DOG OF THE WEEK

Gus is the featured dog at Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption this week. He's 3 1/2 years old and is very affectionate. To learn more about adopting Gus, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or visit www.greyheart.org.

Adoption days are scheduled noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at Pet Supplies Plus, 29493 W. 7 Mile, Livonia, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 3, at Canton Pet-Co, 43435 Ford Road.

Adoptable greyhounds also will be on hand at Pets & Bets, a fund-raiser for no-kill rescue groups 1 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 25, at Bentley's Restaurant, 5586 Drake, south of Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

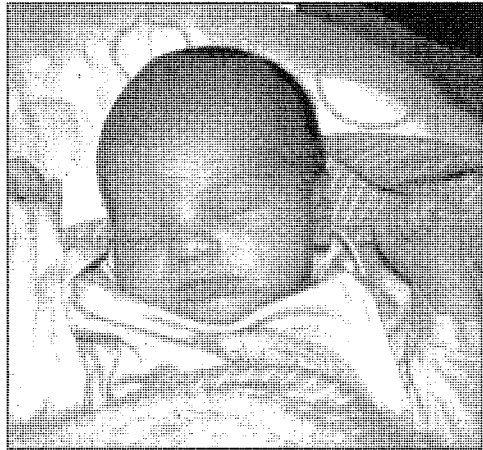
Admission is free from 1-6 p.m., and pets are welcome. Tickets for the evening activities are \$20 for casino only, \$30 dinner only, \$50 for both. They're available in advance. For details, call (248) 636-PETS or visit <http://PETSandBETS.org>.

BIRTHS

Michael Donat Deschaw was born Oct. 13, 2008, at University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor.

His parents are Genevieve Leclair and Ryan Deschaw of Plymouth.

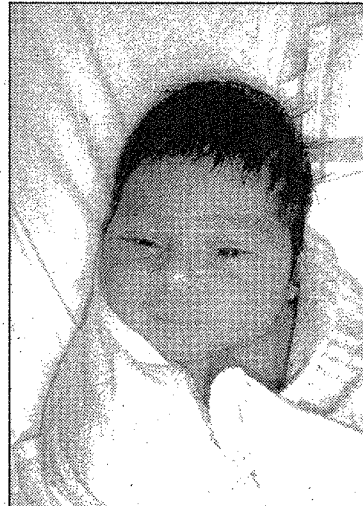
Proud grandparents are Diane Leclair of Plymouth, Teresa Deschaw of Plymouth, Don (Barb) Leclair of Plymouth and Larry (Wanda) Deschaw of Plymouth. Great-grandparents are June and Herb Lazarus of Venice, Fla., Chris and Mary Seward Whitmore Lake, Barb and Don Leclair of Knoxville, Tenn., and Gus and Thelma Deschaw of Lincoln Park.



Michael Donat Deschaw

Alyson Giuliana Masters was born March 10, 2009 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia.

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Alyson Giuliana Masters

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate
Estate of David J. Meuleman, Deceased.
Date of birth: February 14, 1954.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

The decedent, David J. Meuleman, who lived at 41630 Haggerty Woods Court, Canton, Michigan, died March 10, 2009.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Ann Jendryk, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1305 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, 2 Woodward, Detroit, MI and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Personal Representative: Ann Jendryk, 1928 Nottingham Ln., Wheaton, IL 60189.

Attorney: Steven M. Hyder, Attorney P69875, P.O. Box 373, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189. Telephone: (734) 474-1195.

Publish: April 19, 2009

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Parkinson's series informs patients

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

When Harry Knitter was diagnosed with Parkinson's 18 years ago he and his wife Nancy knew nothing about the disease. He had been walking the dog and noticed the left side of his body felt weaker. It took a while to rule out possible causes but eventually he learned he had the disease which causes the loss of dopamine-producing cells in the brain. The news came when he was 55-years old. At a loss to understand what was happening to him, Knitter and his wife Nancy sought help from the Michigan Parkinson Foundation. They attended a series of lectures on living with the disease and found hope. Beginning April 28, patients and their families can learn about the chronic, progressive neurological disorder during educational programs held on five consecutive Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. at the Livonia Senior Center.

"At first the medication seemed to help," said Nancy Knitter of Rochester Hills. "We thought he could do okay then he started to require more medication and began having some of the side effects."

By 2001 Harry Knitter decided on deep brain stimulus surgery and ended up writing the book, *Never Give Up: New Hope for Parkinson's Patients*. Nancy co-founded the Rochester Parkinson's support group with Pat Yarnold who was diagnosed at age 21 after becoming involved with the Michigan Parkinson's Foundation. She scheduled the speakers and facilitates the Livonia series.

"When Harry was diagnosed there wasn't much out there," said Knitter. "We went and learned a lot. These days people are coming forward shortly after being diagnosed. We want to give people good and



Dr. George

accurate information and to know they're not alone in this disease. There are places they can go for support, groups, the foundation to direct you to different doctors. Everyone is different. My husband never had a tremor, always rigidity. Today he's doing well. He still can get himself dressed and showered."

Parkinson's patients need to stay positive and informed.

"Doctors work with you as an individual looking at your symptoms and try to address those and over the years as those change," said Knitter. "Progression varies from person to person. Some stay at one stage for the rest of their life. Others progress at varying rates but there is help. At the Foundation we like to say, You may have Parkinson's disease but it doesn't have you. You still might be able to enjoy golf if you play."

Dr. Edwin George has seen the advances in Parkinson's treatment over the years which have improved quality of life. He saw his first patient as a resident in 1987. Today the neurologist serves on the faculty of the Wayne State School of Medicine and treats patients in the university's health center which is part of the DMC. A movement disorder specialist, George also has a PhD in pharmacology so stays up to date on the latest medications. He'll present an overview of Parkinson's Disease which can cause rigidity and slowness or difficulty in movement.

"Parkinson hinders the brain's ability to send messages and make movements happen," said George of Bloomfield Twp. "I'm going to talk about the loss of neurons and why some people

lose those neurons. We all lose some as we age, but people with Parkinson lose half of them. There could be a genetic cause and family history. We don't totally understand what those genes do. The other 9 out of 10 (patients) don't have those genes. There probably are some other genes not identified that make people susceptible."

Even though research on the cause is still ongoing physicians today have many more medications to treat the disease.

"People do very well for many years and years longer than they used to because of medications and surgery. We have maybe more than 3 times as many medications now," said George. "All medications have side effects in somebody. One patient may tolerate side effects, some not so now we have other medications which do the same thing, and we have a number of medications to control side effects."

"The other big advance is in surgical treatment. Before CAT and MRI scanners we were unable to access deep parts of the brain. We can now implant very fine wires and provide stimulation in areas to control the motor system. Other areas are still emerging and still experimental. In medications we'd like to find something to stop the loss of the neurons to slow or modulate the progression of the disease. Encouraging is the surgical area where people are trying to implant cells to take the place of lost neurons. Stem cell is thought to be very useful but not established yet. There's also research going on to genetically modify the supporting cells around the dopaminergic neurons."

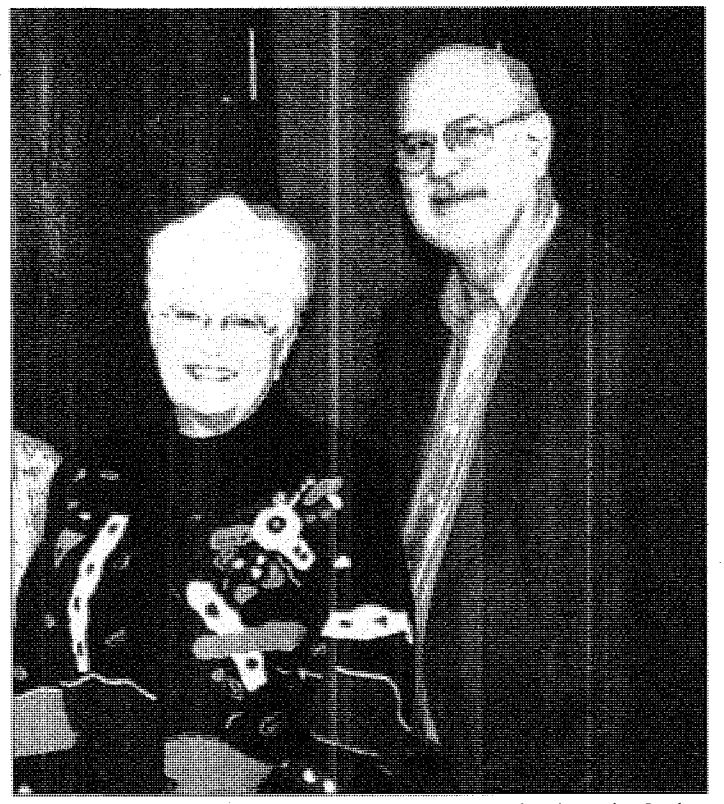
Physicians have learned a great deal over the years about the complexities of the disease by treating patients.

"There are other things affected like blood pressure,

the gastrointestinal system. We have ways to manage these non motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease," said George who also sees patients at the John Dingell Veterans Administration Hospital. "There's a greater incidence of depression and memory problems. A lot of benefit can be obtained from physical, occupational and speech therapy, and lifestyle changes. How much difference it makes to get exercise. Patients can benefit from regular activity for constipation and blood regulation, and drinking plenty of fluids. With some medications they need to pay attention to protein intake. Some types of protein interfere with medication getting to the brain."

The Michigan Parkinson Foundation was founded in 1983 to support patients trying to decipher the myriad of information surrounding the disease. The nonprofit organization was actually an outgrowth of the Living with Parkinson's Disease series starting April 28 in Livonia.

"The series was first presented in 1982 when there was nothing for people with Parkinson in Michigan at this time. Patients were saying we want a support group, an organization and we ended up developing the foundation. We now have over 50 support groups in Michigan. The program helps to provide



Nancy Knitter facilitates a series on Parkinson's at the Livonia Senior Center beginning April 28. Her husband, Harry, was diagnosed with the neurological disorder 18 years ago at age 55. The Rochester Hills couple are strong supporters of the Michigan Parkinson Foundation.

people with good information to get them started in understanding the complexity of the disease. Everybody's course is different. It's very frustrating to have because you don't know what's going to happen from day to day."

Pre-registration is required for the Living with Parkinson's Disease series. There is a fee. Call (800) 852-9781

For information about the Rochester support group, call Nancy Knitter at (248) 852-

8464 or Pat Yarnold at (248) 652-4620. Ruth Butler facilitates the Livonia group and can be reached at (734) 421-4208.

The Michigan Parkinson Foundation is based in Bingham Farms and can be reached at (248) 433-1011. The organization holds a walkathon and 5k run May 17, at Northville High School to raise funds. For more information, visit www.parkinsonsmi.org.

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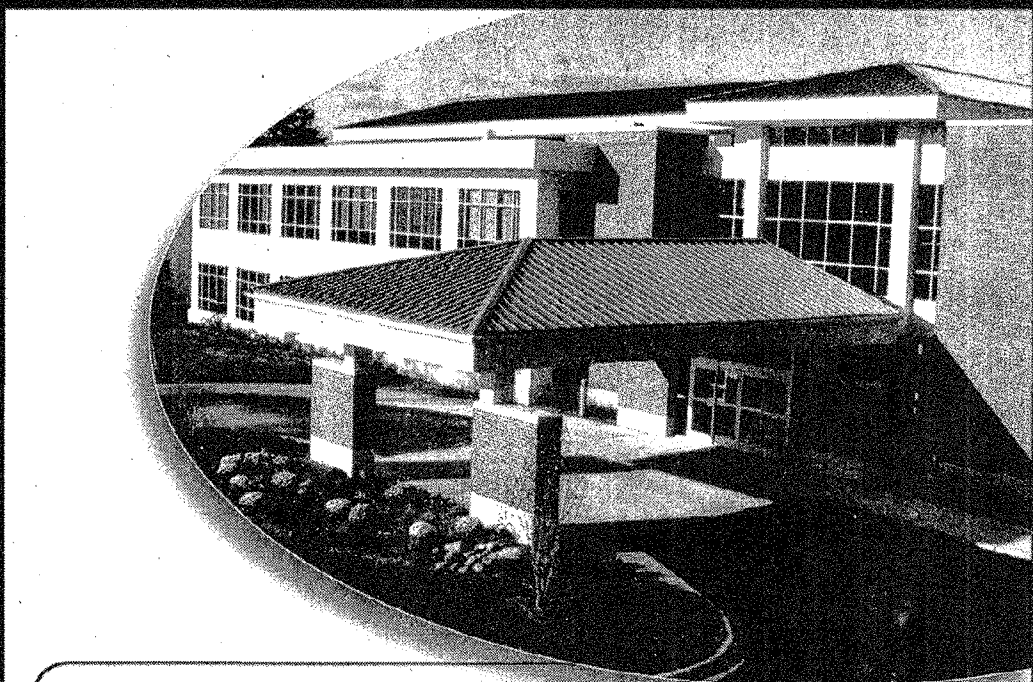
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BOTSFORD CANCER CENTER



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Saturday, April 25, 2009 • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Botsford Cancer Center physicians will be offering presentations throughout the day to the public. The times and subjects of each presentation are:

- 10:30 AM** – Craig Gordon, D.O., F.A.C.O.I., Clinical Oncology Associates, will present **New Ideas in Breast Care**.
- 11:30 AM** – Ted Tenenbaum, Cancer Center Administrator and the Radiation Oncology physicians, will present an overview of the **Radiation Oncology Services**.
- 12:30 PM** – Richard Zekman, D.O., The Oakland Medical Group will present **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**.
- 1:30 PM** – Michael Berkovic, D.O., F.A.C.O.I., The Oakland Medical Group, will be providing an update on **Lung Cancer**.

Each presentation will allow time for questions from the audience.

27900 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills
On the campus of Botsford Hospital, Grand River at 8 Mile.
For additional information, call 248.442.7986.

2009 Caregiving Conferences

If you are caring for an aging parent or spouse or if you are a member of the sandwich generation-this event is for you!

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- Saturday, April 18, 2009 - 9:30am to 1:00pm**
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
5780 Evergreen
Detroit MI 48228
- Wednesday, April 22, 2009 - 5:30pm to 9:00pm**
Redford Community Center
12121 Hemmingway
Redford MI 48239
- Saturday, April 25, 2009 - 9:30am to 1:00pm**
Wayne County Community College
21000 Northline Road
Taylor MI 48180
- Monday, May 4, 2009 - 5:30pm to 9:00pm**
Summit on the Park
46000 Summit Parkway
Canton MI 48188



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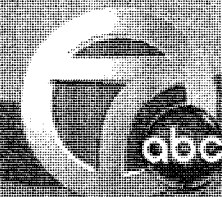
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