

WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Travels with Rosie Neighbors, B6

AROUND TOWN

Surplus food

The June distribution of surplus food to Westland residents has been scheduled.

Westland residents who live south of Michigan Avenue can pick up food from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the second Monday of each month, including Monday, June 8, at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. Call (734) 729-1737. All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, June 18, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, between Palmer and Glenwood.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers can collect their food at Taylor Towers and must contact their building manager for their day of distribution. Greenwood Villa residents also must pick up their food items at Greenwood Villa.

This program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services. For more information, call the Dorsey Center surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Show time

Autism Society and AMC Entertainment are hosting special showing of Up at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 13, as part of their Sensory Friendly Films series.

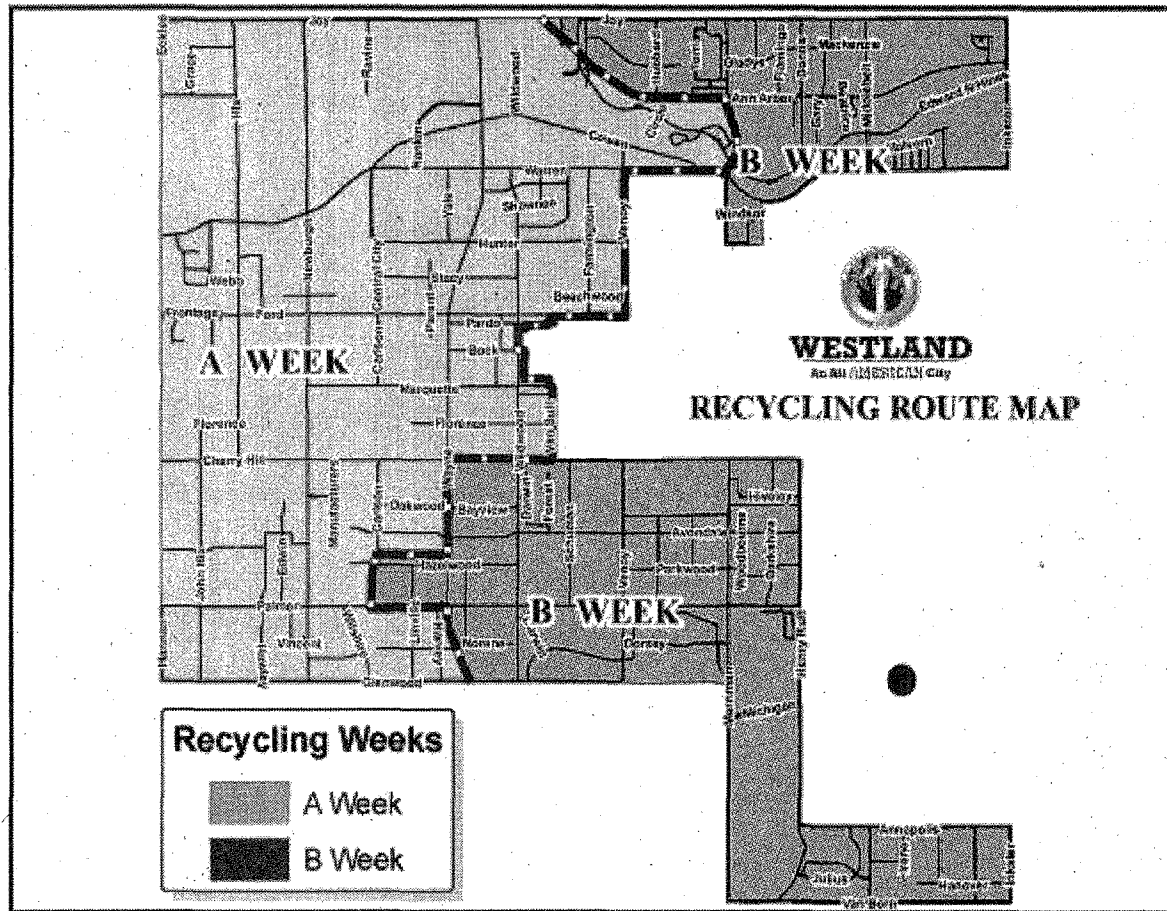
AMC and the Autism Society have been offering the film series since 2008 to give families affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis.

In order to provide a more accepting and comfortable setting for children with autism or other special needs, AMC movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie.

Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing — in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned. Tickets are only \$4.75 at the 10 a.m. The film will be shown at the AMC Taylor 10, 22265 Eureka, Taylor.

Driver cited

A 44-year-old DeWitt man has been cited for failure to stop in a clear and assured distance after the Pepsi tractor and trailer he was driving hit a Wayne-Westland school bus last Wednesday morning. The accident occurred at 6:45 a.m. on Van Born east of Heyer Road in Romulus. According to Romulus police traffic Sgt. Donald Smith, the driver was distracted and when he looked up he saw the bus, stopped with its lights flashing.



Getting the 'blues'

City begins delivering recycling carts

BY LEANNE ROGERS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The big blue recycling carts have started to appear on driveways of Westland homes but there is no reason to panic.

"The carts started being delivered Wednesday but there was a letter that was supposed to go with it. The contractor dropped the ball and didn't leave the letter," said Deputy Mayor Jade Smith. "People have been calling. They thought there was a charge — the carts are free."

The 94-gallon wheeled carts are being provided to each Westland household for a curbside recycling program that will begin Monday,

June 29. The recycling would be picked up every other week on regular trash days. Residents will soon be notified of their collection schedule. The list of items that can be recycled is listed on a sticker attached to the cart lid. The cart should be placed four feet from the curb, vehicles or other items, with the handle of the facing the house.

The city has purchased 25,800 of the recycling bins at a cost of just over \$1 million. The first cart deliveries began Wednesday in the area between Palmer and Glenwood, Wayne and Merriman. Republic Waste Services is handling the recycling program while Midwest Sanitation will continue

trash collection on a contract that continues through 2010.

"They will leave behind Cart 101 literature and a piece on the Great Lakes Recycling facility and what can be recycled," said Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford.

The carts are specially coded to the address as part of an innovative program called RecycleBank which allows participants to save money on groceries, pharmacy needs, restaurants and clothes. Westland is the second city in Michigan to participate in RecycleBank.

Please see CARTS, A2

New ordinance sets water restrictions

BY LEANNE ROGERS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As an 11.84 percent increase in water rates is being considered, the Westland council has approved an ordinance aimed at getting a handle on future rate hikes through better water management.

The ordinance establishes water sprinkling restrictions — property with odd number addresses could water on odd number days, even number addresses can water on even number days. Additionally, all sprinkling is prohibited 6-9 a.m. and 4-8 p.m. daily. Under emer-

gency conditions, which would be determined by the mayor, all sprinkling and other non-essential water use could be banned.

"Basically, we're not going to go out and be the water police. This is something that we had to put into an agreement with DWSD (Detroit Water and Sewerage Department) to get our contract rate," said Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford.

DWSD has to build a water system that can provide the peak demand amount of water, so it charges accordingly as part of its rate model.

"We'll be good stewards of the community on water. We'll educate people. It's better for the grass to water at night — the sun burns the grass when you water during the day," said Buford.

In setting a municipal water rate, DWSD looks at the hour in summer day when water use is at its peak. That peak use has a large impact in setting the local community's water rate increase, so reducing that spike will help keep the rate lower.

"We have not pushed it in the

Please see WATER, A2

W-W prepares for new budget

BY SUE MASON OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With the end of the current fiscal year just weeks off, Wayne-Westland school officials are still wondering what's what when it comes to revenue.

Unknown is if the district will receive the \$6 million in enhanced school aid that Gov. Jennifer Granholm stripped from her 2009-10 State School Aid proposal or if chatter about prorations of aid payments this year and cuts next year will come true.

"We've heard there probably won't be a school aid bill until September," Supt. Greg Baracy said. "We're being forced to adopt a budget not knowing what will happen with that \$6 million. It's still at risk."

The state's worsening economy has left the its general fund and School Aid Fund tattered and even using economic stimulus money from the federal government still isn't enough to plug the holes.

According to Baracy, the "chatter around Lansing" has been a possible \$250 proration this year and a \$400 in the per-pupil payment next year. By law, school districts must have a new budget in place by July 1, but the state's budget year runs through Sept. 30, so if a proration took place between now and then, the district would have to figure out how to recoup \$3.2 million that's already been spent.

Likewise, a \$400 cut would represent a loss of \$5.2 million. Coupled with a loss of the enhancement money, it would

face a \$12 million deficit for 2009-10.

Even its modest fund equity isn't enough to cover the losses. The district would find itself in deficit.

"It would be a total disaster," Baracy said.

Richard Wilson, executive director of the School Equity Caucus, in a May 15 letter, noted that the foundation allowance will not be reduced for next year, however, there will be no increase and the base categorical funding will be reduced. And continued economic conditions will make increases unlikely for 2010-11.

"This is the worst economic picture presented since the beginning of the revenue con-

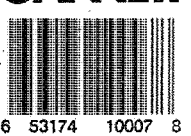
Please see BUDGET, A2

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**SALE**

FROM PAGE A1

\$500,000. It's restricted — we can only use it for refuse. We can't use it to buy a fire truck."

The 2009-10 fiscal year budget adopted by the CWCSA board Thursday caps the hours for its remaining part-time employees. Wild expects that downsizing to continue noting the authority's lease on an office in Wayne will expire in November 2010.

"When that is up, we will probably be down to one employee so that we don't trigger a huge payment to MERS (Municipal Employee Retirement System)," said Wild. "One of the member communities will host the meetings. We will continue to downsize. We can move the day-to-day operations to a city. We'll probably need a part-time clerical person. The board will have to decide between now and then."

Noting the 20-year agreement with Waste Management, Wild said he doesn't see the authority dissolving. As communities increase recycling and reduce the amount of trash sent to Woodland Meadows, higher fees to Waste Management can be triggered.

"We can drop (trash ton-

**AUTHORITY AT A GLANCE**

- In 1964, the Central Wayne County Sanitation Authority began burning solid waste from its five-member communities at an incinerator on Inkster Road in Dearborn Heights as a means of reducing the volume of trash that needed to be placed in a landfill. The resulting ash was placed in a monofill.

- The incinerator was reconstructed in 1998 into a waste-to-energy plant that would produce electricity from the burning of solid waste. A private partnership, the Central Wayne Energy Recovery Limited Partnership handled the reconstruction.

- The waste-to-energy plant closed in September 2003 and the limited partnership filed for bankruptcy in December 2003. The CWCSA communities then had trash transported to Woodland Meadows, a landfill operated by Waste Management, originally on a temporary basis.

- Waste Management eventually purchased the waste-to-energy plant assets from CWCSA and the partnership in June 2004. The CWCSA received a \$4 million payment from Waste Management as part of a 20-year agreement. Part of that money was used to demolish the plant, including the smoke stack and offices, after salvageable assets, such as equipment, were sold off. As a result of the sale, tipping fee rates were substantially reduced for the member communities.

- The monofill was no longer needed since ash was no longer being generated. It has been capped and closed but requires maintenance and monitoring for a minimum of 30 years. There was no debt on the Inkster Road property and the monofill debt was paid off by the CWCSA in 2007.

- The CWCSA has a leased office in Wayne. The remaining employees are part-time Executive Director Steven Aynes, part-time bookkeeper Patricia Noel and a third part-time worker who conducts legally required monitoring at the monofill. The authority also has expenses for past employees who retired after working for the authority.

nage) as much as 10 percent over three years. We had the first one of those fees this year but even with the fee we saved money with less tonnage," said Wild.

Due to the July 4 holiday, the CWCSA board will hold their July meeting June 25 when the land sale is expected to have been completed and the proceeds are to be distributed.



**Livonia teacher honored by Arc**

Nancy Newman of Livonia (third from left) was awarded the 2009 Outstanding Educator award May 13 by Arc of Northwest Wayne County. The award honors individuals who have helped improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Newman is a special education teacher at the Western Wayne Skill Center in Westland. She prepares students for jobs as child care assistants. To enhance the students' learning experience, Newman's child development classes are held within the Jackson Center Preschool in Livonia. Pictured with Newman (left to right) are Chris Lerchen, executive director of ARC Northwest Wayne County; Susan Erpamer, board president; Roxanne Riggio, student; and Patty and Ron Riggio, parents.

**CARTS**

FROM PAGE A1

A personal activation mailer, including an activation code,

will arrive in the mail shortly. Accounts must be activated at [www.RecycleBank.com](http://www.RecycleBank.com) or by calling (888) 727-2978. Once a resident has activated a RecycleBank account, points are earned based on the weight

of the community's recyclables. RecycleBank points can be used at hundreds of local and national businesses including Bath, Bed and Beyond, Dick's Sporting Goods, Westland Shopping Center, Marvaso's, Heartland Marketplace and Nankin Hardware.

"Westland is ready to take the proper steps to protect our environment through single-stream curbside recycling," said Mayor William Wild. "By filling your recycling cart every two weeks you will be doing your part to help ensure a cleaner, greener Westland for future generations and RecycleBank will reward you and your family for doing so."

For people who may find the 94-gallon recycling cart too large, DPS does have a smaller version available upon request. Call DPS (734) 728-1770 for information or visit the city's Web site at [www.cityofwestland.com](http://www.cityofwestland.com).

**WATER**

FROM PAGE A1

past but we have asked people to voluntarily not water on ozone action days and to alternate days," said Buford. "This is the first time we've really promoted it."

Reducing the peak water demand also lessens the strain

on water mains and results in better water pressure, he said.

The council is expected to consider the water rate increase at their Monday, June 15, meeting. Westland received a 9.9 percent increase in water rates from DWSD and expects a 7 percent increase in sewer rates from Wayne County — that number hasn't yet been finalized, said Finance Director Steven Smith.

Using a rate model projecting water-sewer fund expenses, the combined rate increase for water and sewer will be 4.6 percent. In addition, there will be 3 percent added for local capital outlay, 1.3 percent for bond costs and 3 percent to repay a loan from the general fund, according to Smith.

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**BUDGET**

FROM PAGE A1

ference in 1992," he wrote. "Reductions are the key words for the state and for operational costs for 2009-10."

In the past, school officials have urged residents to write their lawmakers to urge them not to cut school funding, but there's no point to doing so this time. The federal stimulus money that's coming to the state is being pumped into the budget. The stimulus wish list that school dis-

**'All the things we had in the hopper and researched, all our lists were for naught. All the hype about the money helping maintain jobs was extremely misleading. It will not help schools the way the public was led to believe.'**

GREG BARACY, W-W superintendent

tricts and municipalities created "was a waste of time."

"All the things we had in the

hopper and researched, all our lists were for naught," Baracy said. "All the hype about the money helping maintain jobs was extremely misleading. It will not help schools the way the public was led to believe."

Baracy, however, admits what the state is doing had to be done to prevent cuts in all venues.

"It makes the challenge of reconfiguring the district all the more difficult," he said. "Whatever has to be done, we have to do it ourselves."

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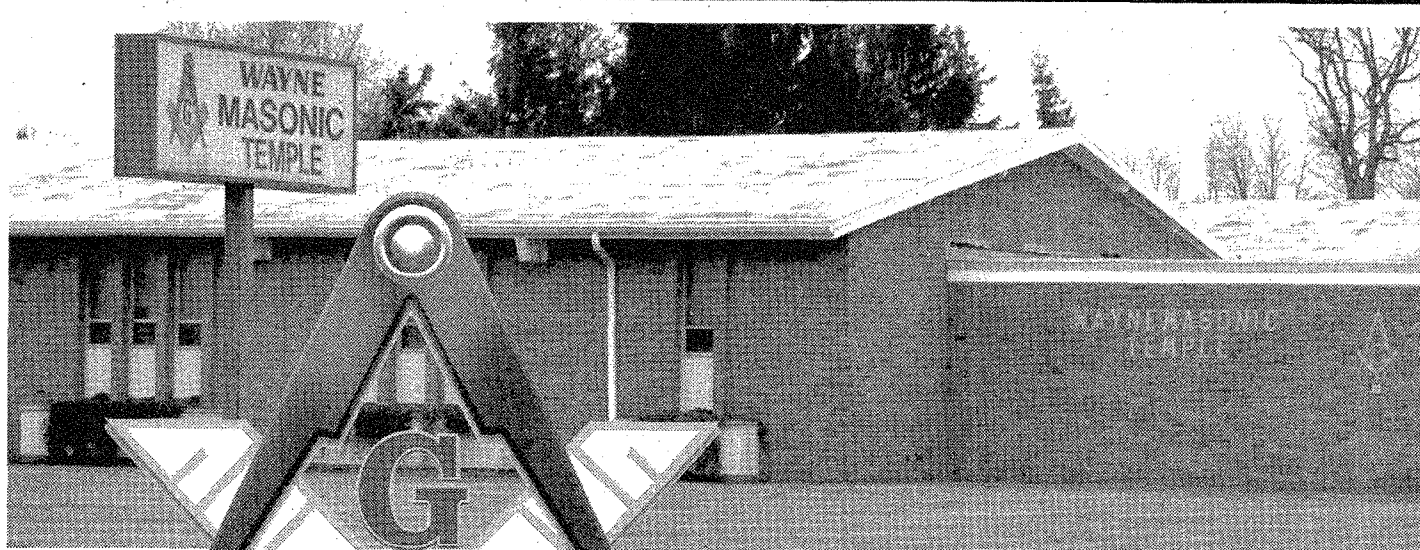
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AROUND WESTLAND

Wrestling camp

The Glenn Wrestling Program will hold its annual "Rocket Camp" 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 20-24 in Gym 4 of John Glenn High School. The camp is open to middle school and high school students. The cost is \$50 and includes a T-shirt. Registration is 9:30 a.m. Monday, July 20. Registration forms are available during Road Rockets 5:30-7 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, which is held in Gym 4 or online at glennwrestling.com. For questions, contact Coach Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595.

Used book sale

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County will hold their used book sale Friday-Saturday, June 26-28, at the Westland Shopping Center Wayne and Warren roads, Westland. There will be a preview 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25, and cost \$3. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. June 26-27 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 28. Most books and magazines will be priced at \$1 or less; videos, CDs and DVDs will be individually priced. To donate, call (734) 421-4420.

Coffee Hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, June 8, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Citizens are welcome to visit with LeBlanc and discuss issues and/or concerns. The local coffee hour takes place on the second Monday of each month. LeBlanc also invites residents to join him for refreshments and an informal fireside chat 6-8 p.m. Monday, June 8, also at the William P. Faust Public Library.

Residents who have any comments or concerns, can also contact LeBlanc toll-free at (888) 737-5325 or at (617)-373-2576 or send an e-mail to richardleblanc@house.mi.gov.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also will hold local coffee hours in Westland and Redford on Monday, June 8. He will be at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, 9-10 a.m., then move to Redford for a 10:30-11:30 a.m. coffee hour at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48933; by phone toll-free at (866) 262-7306; or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Inspire Theatre

There's sure to be laughter

as the wish for a simple wedding turns into a big affair when the Inspire Theatre presents *Father of the Bride* Friday-Saturday, June 12-13, inside The Warren Road Light and Life Church, 33445 Warren Road, west of Venoy, in Westland. Show time is 7:30 p.m., and tickets are \$12 each. For more information, call (734) 751-7057 or go online to www.inspiretheatre.com.

Golf outing

The John Glenn High School Wrestling Program will hold its 12th Annual Golf Outing Fund-raiser Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Warren Valley Golf Course. The cost is \$85 for golf, cart, lunch at the turn and dinner. Dinner only guests are welcome, cost is \$25. Contact Coach Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595 for more information or to make reservations. More information also is available online at glennwrestling.com. Hole sponsorship and donations are being accepted. All donations are welcome!

Hazardous waste

The Wayne County Department of Environment has announced a Household Hazardous Waste Collection day in the City of Westland.

The Westland event is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, in the lot behind JC Penney at the Westland Shopping Center, Warren Road and Nankin Boulevard. Household generated waste will be collected from any Wayne County resident.

For further information contact the Wayne County Department of Environment at (734) 326-3936.

Another event has been scheduled for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at the Northville Public Works, 650 Doheny, just north of 7 Mile Road and east of South Main. It, too, is for Wayne County residents.

Pool opens

The Bailey Recreation Center's outdoor pool is open 3-6 p.m. weekdays and noon to 3 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. weekends now through Friday, June 12. The regular season starts Saturday, June 13, and will feature an array of "theme" nights for the entire family, including "Two for Tuesday," "Wacky Wednesday," "Family Night Thursday" and "Flotation Friday."

The Bailey Center is at 36651 Ford Road, behind Westland City Hall. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

Closing celebration

St. Dunstan Catholic School is inviting all former school staff, students and families to attend the closing Liturgy at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 14. The

school is closing after 45 years. People who would like to contribute as a minister in the liturgy, singer or instrumentalist, should call the Parish Office at (734) 425-6720.

An open house and reception will follow.

Be a star

The Westland Stars Cheerleading and Dance Team is offering a summer program. Children ages 10-14 years or in the fifth-eighth-grades from Westland and the surrounding area can join the team for the first summer practice 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 18, in the multipurpose room of the Westland Bailey Center, 36651 Ford in the civic center complex. Dress to work out and bring a water bottle. This summer we will be working on dances, cheers and be attending camp. Join in the fun this summer. For more information, call the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7620.

Preschool sign-ups

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.

Glow Skate

Grab your skates and head for the Mike Modano Arena on Friday nights for Glow Skate. Cruise around the rink with blacklight illumination from 7:30-9 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Skate rentals are \$2.50. The arena is at 6210 Wildwood at Hunter, east of Wayne Road. For more information, call (734) 729-4560.

Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December) at the Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill. For information, call Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918.

Prison families

Do you have a family member currently in prison? Do you feel alone? Do you wish you had a support group that you could turn to? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then this support group is for you. Contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237 or by e-mail at hope4healing@rocketmail.com. This support group is to provide adult family members with support and a place to talk with others that have experienced similar pain. Meetings are free and held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month at the Kirk of Our Savior, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, in Westland.



PHOTOS BY DAVID L. MALHALAB, M-NEWS SERVICE | MNS PHOTO

Remembering D-Day

More than 500 veterans of World War II from throughout Michigan recently gathered at Willow Run Airport with family, friends, the Yankee Air Museum and Visionalist Entertainment Products for a group photograph to honor those who fought in the war and to remember D-Day, June 6, 1944. Most are in their 80s and a few in their 90s. Called 'The Greatest Generation,' the veterans are holding their wartime photos.



The back of Victor Pegg's vintage aviator jacket is decorated with a bomber dropping bombs on the Nazi swastika. The Livonia resident wore his jacket at the gathering at Willow Run Airport. It's the same jacket he wore as a tail gunner on a B-24 during 25 bombing missions over Germany.



Victor Pegg of Livonia.

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# EDUCATION



Showing off the PMA Educational Institution Award are William D. Ford Career Technical Center CAMM instructor Kevin Ryzka (back row, from left), David Hunter, Aaron Romeo, Travis Stress, John Soltis, Stephen Bloetscher, Assistant Principal Steven Kay (center row, from left), Maxwell Hershey, Mark Thompson, PMA President Bill Gaskin, Ryan Przybla, Kathy Aznavoorian and Sandy Miley of Clips and Clamps, Edward Robson (front row, from left) and Kevin Budnick.

## Center's CAMM program wins award

Bill Gaskin President of the Precision Metalforming Association and Kathy Aznavoorian and Sandy Miley of Clips and Clamps in Plymouth recently presented the CAMM program at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center with the PMA Educational Institution Award.

Companies in the metal-

forming industry have increasing challenges in the area of employee training. Many, either individually or partnering with other metal forming companies, are working cooperatively with institutions which provide necessary training.

The award recognizes an educational institution, either public or private, that provides

exemplary training and education services to companies in the metalforming industry. It includes a check for \$1,500 for use in the program.

The winning institution must provide coursework that directly enhances skills and knowledge of current and future manufacturing personnel within the metalforming industry.

## Perfect!

Glenn graduate doesn't miss one day of high school

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kathryn Harris has gone where not too many high schoolers have gone ... to school every day. The Westland resident is leaving high school with a perfect attendance record.

Yep, that's right. She didn't miss one day of school during her four years at John Glenn High School and all the way back to Wildwood Elementary.

"I made myself go because I wanted to go to school, I motivated myself to go," said Harris, who graduated Saturday. "Sometimes it was hard because it was the morning and I didn't want to go. It would have been easier to stay home, but I didn't."

Harris started amassing honors for perfect attendance when she was in the third grade and kept on getting them through three years at Marshall Middle School. She also was recognized each year of high school, but it wasn't until now that school officials noticed what she had done.

"I don't think they realized how long I had perfect attendance," said Harris, who received a "little paper that said perfect attendance."

Harris graduated with a 3.9 grade point average. While at Glenn, she took Advanced Placement political science in her junior year and AP chemistry and Spanish her senior year. She also has a varsity letter in every sport she was in at Glenn — swimming, diving, gymnastics, bowling and tennis. She admits she had a full school day, especially with swimming and diving when practices started at 5:30 a.m. and practices for other sports going into the evening.

"I didn't sleep at all during



Kathryn Harris of Westland completed her career at John Glenn High School with perfect attendance for all four years.

swim season," she said.

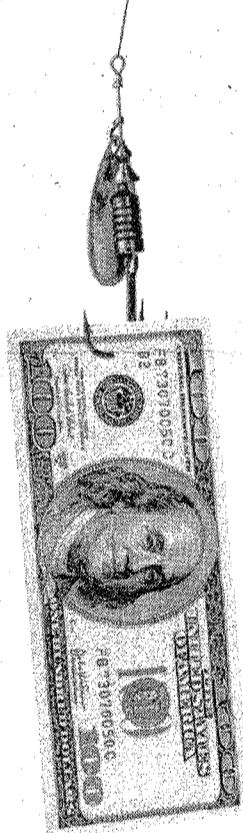
The daughter of Sally Harris and Jerome and Wendy Harris, the teen is moving on to Central Michigan University where she plans to study education to become a teacher. She's well aware of the opportunities to skip classes, but plans to bring her perfect ways to the Mount Pleasant campus.

"I'm going to try and do it at Central, I don't want to get behind on my studies because if you do, you really can't get

back up to speed," she said. "I always told my boyfriend he should go to school and he didn't, especially with the classes he had."

Harris says keeping herself motivated is what helped her achieve perfect attendance and she has a word of advice to students contemplating staying in bed rather than going to school.

"You don't want to let your grades slip," she said. "It's hard to go back to school, if you're already doing bad."

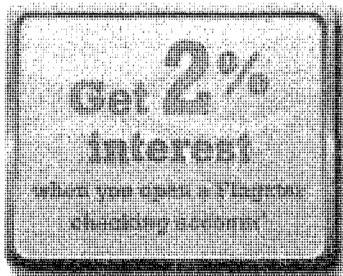


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# Laws are changing for Roth IRAs - do your homework

**Q:** Dear Rick: I'm in my early 70s and I know this year I do not have to take an IRA distribution. However, if I decided to do a Roth IRA conversion, I would have to pay the taxes on that money this year. I was told that next year Roth IRA conversion rules are changing.



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

**A:** Next year you will be able to convert money from your traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. However, unless Congress and the president decide to waive mandatory distributions for 2010, you would not be able to convert your required minimum distribution. You can, however, convert anything above and beyond. Required minimum distributions are not eligible to be converted into Roth IRAs. However, in 2009, the required minimum distributions have been waived, thus allowing many seniors to take advantage of Roth conversions.

There is some confusion as to what is happening to the tax laws next year with regard to Roth conversions. In order to convert money from a tradi-

tional IRA into a Roth, the rules have been that your modified adjusted gross income, whether you are single or married, had to be less than \$100,000. Modified adjusted gross income is basically your gross income with some minor adjustments. It is the less than \$100,000 qualification that is disappearing in 2010. What that means is in 2010, anyone will be able to take advantage of a Roth conversion.

This year when you convert money into a Roth IRA, you must pay the taxes on that conversion in the same year. This rule is changing next year. In 2010, you can pay your taxes on your 2011 and 2012 tax return. By spreading the money out, it could prevent you from being thrown into a

higher bracket.

In reviewing Roth conversions, the first issue is why would anyone want to convert? What are the advantages? The main advantage is the money would now grow tax-free vs. tax-deferred.

In a Roth IRA, all your contributions and all the income can be withdrawn tax-free. When you withdraw money from a traditional IRA, you are taxed on the total withdrawal at your ordinary tax bracket. Therefore, the main advantage of converting is to be able to allow money to grow tax-free vs. tax-deferred.

Another advantage of a Roth is it is not subject to required minimum distributions. When someone turns 70½, with the exception of this year, he/she is required to take mandatory distributions from a traditional IRA. Money in a Roth IRA is not subject to mandatory distributions. If you do not cash out your Roth IRA and it goes to your beneficiary upon death, they also have

not working and do not have earned income, the only way to invest money into a Roth IRA is through a Roth conversion. If you have a part-time job and are reporting earned income (income reported to you on a W-2 Form), then you are eligible for a Roth IRA.

In many cases, people will have the option of investing in a traditional IRA vs. a Roth IRA. The advantage of investing in a traditional IRA is that you can deduct your contribution off your tax return. The downside is you eventually pay tax on that money. In a Roth IRA, you cannot write off your

contribution, however, when you withdraw the money, it is all income tax-free.

I generally recommend the Roth IRA. The benefits are tremendous. One last note, if you decide to convert money into a Roth IRA, do not wait until the end of the year. The transaction must be completed before Dec. 31.

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Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [money-matters@hometownlife.com](mailto:money-matters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

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# Experiment with something new at Mad Science

Scientific experiments that turn youthful curiosity into exuberance are the focus of a new Livonia company that brings science to life in classrooms, youth group meetings and birthday parties.

Mad Science of Detroit opened in Livonia earlier this year, giving the Detroit area its second franchise and the Canadian-based company some 160 franchises in 19 countries.

Mad Science trains adult technicians in safe and interesting lessons that involve rocket launching, chemical reactions, laser-light shows, periscope building and hovercraft rides. The company provides a series of 30- to 60-minute programs designed to fit various age groups from ages 3-12.

"The oohs and aahs are fun to hear and watch," said Rosalind Peck, president of the Livonia Mad Science franchise, which focuses on the Wayne County market.

"I watched my daughter teach a Mad Science program when she was in college and now she's a high school science teacher," Peck added. "It's fabulous for kids and many teachers and parents get into the programs as much as the children."

Peck is starting to penetrate the local market by providing after-school programs for Livonia Community Education and the Van Buren school system. She has many community partnership summer camps scheduled throughout Wayne County, as well as her own Mad Science camps at programs to begin in the fall.

"Our focus now is to get the word out about our programs," Peck said. "We are trying to reach schools, youth groups, families wanting quality birthday party entertainment, Scout groups and even companies. This is a great program for



Mad Scientists Rosalind Peck (right), owner of the business, and Dr. Stacy Gates, Ph.D., teach and entertain adults and children.

a company that coordinates a bring-your-child-to-work day or a summer party that includes children."

Mad Science was founded by a duo of teenage brothers in Montreal who impressed their friends and neighbors with their laser-light shows in the late 1980s. A local YMCA hired Ariel and Ron Shlien to conduct these laser-light shows and other scientific programs that grabbed the attention of thousands of Montreal children within a few years.

By 1990, the Shlien brothers turned their curiosity into a company. Within six

years, they opened 28 Mad Science franchises across North America. Mad Science has grown into a worldwide company and expanded its programs to include publishing books and tobacco awareness and sun safety programs.

Peck said children are hooked on these programs once they experience them.

"I love sitting on the floor with them as I lead these experiments, because the kids are quiet, amazed and focused on what I am doing," she said. "That is the best part of what we do."

Livonia Chamber of

Commerce President Dan West said this is a company that provides a unique service and is situated in a perfect location.

"There are some 20,000 elementary and secondary students who live in Livonia, and they are involved in a number of clubs, groups and recreational programs outside of school," West said. "I imagine there will be a lot of opportunities for children in and out of Livonia to take advantage of Mad Science's interesting programs."

Along with Peck at Mad Science of Detroit is Dr. Stacy Gates, a recent University of



Pop goes the cork. Dr. Stacy Gates uses pressure from carbon dioxide to blow the cork from the beaker.



It's science and showmanship. Dr. Stacy Gates demonstrates flash paper.

Toledo graduate who earned a Ph.D. in chemistry. Both Peck and Gates are available to answer questions about the company's various programs. Parties can be held just about anywhere, and if a child is interested in checking out a Mad Science program parents can call the office or go online

to get more information or to enroll in an upcoming program.

For more information, call Peck or Gates at (734) 266-9444, or e-mail the Stark Road office at madsciencedetroit@um.att.com. The Web site is www.madscience.org/detroit.

## Be Creative: Summer Reading Program 2009

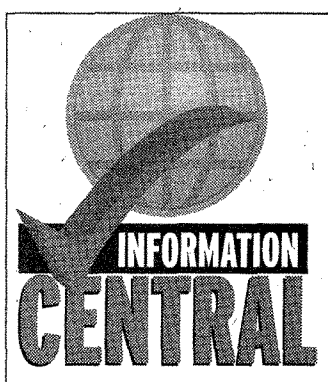
Children of all ages are encouraged to register for the Summer Reading Program at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland. This year's theme, Be Creative @ Your Library, promotes a fun and imaginative reading program open to children ages 0-12. Registration begins at the Kick-Off Event 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 13, where children will receive their Summer Reading material, sign up for upcoming programs and make a craft.

The program lasts for seven weeks, ending at 5 p.m. Aug. 1. Children who complete the program will receive a free paperback book, an entry into the grand prize drawing, and an invitation to a finale celebration starring magician Jason Abbott.

All activities at the library are free of charge. Through the generosity of the Friends of the Library, Target Stores and many other amazing community benefactors, children who participate in the program will profit from a uniquely designed program. They will have a chance to explore the imaginative world of art through professional presenters, story times, creative learning workshops and the ever-inspiring world of books.

Come in and learn about the variety of creative programs offered. Music, dance, collage, drawing and painting are all featured on our summer calendar. T-shirt painting, Rhythm and Rhyme Story Times, Readers' Theater, Mother and Daughter Book Club, artist's workshops, Sidewalk Chalk, and Jazz It Up Dance Class are a sampling of the creative activities planned. Fun Guessing Jars, raffles and prize coupons are reserved for all children participating in the program.

The library collection of fiction and nonfiction books is outstanding, an amazing resource for budding artists. Both children and adults enjoy visually stunning picture books, exemplified by the many books available on our shelves. The work of illustrators Eric Carle, Jane Dyer, Wendell Minor and Jerry Pinkney will inspire and motivate



you to explore art with your child. Let us help you locate material for pleasure and instruction. Whether your child is an independent reader or enjoys listening to stories by your side, the Summer Reading Program encourages literacy in a fun and supportive way.

The program runs from June 13 through Aug. 1. You can register anytime during library hours, beginning June 13. You do not have to be a Westland resident to participate. Call the Children's Department at (734-326-6123) for more information.

Teen and Adult Summer Reading Programs start June 13, too. Join us at the Pavilion behind the library for a Kick-off Extravaganza and view a chainsaw carving demonstration. Watch an ordinary log turn into a bear right before your eyes. Demonstration will begin at 11 a.m. and go through the afternoon.

### Highlighted Activities

District Coffee Hour: 9 a.m. June 8, Faust Area.

Join State Senator Glenn Anderson with State Rep. Richard LeBlanc for their monthly district coffee hour. Both will be available for you to ask questions and share your concerns with your local government officials.

"Fireside Chat": 6 p.m. June 8, Faust Area.

Join State Rep. Richard LeBlanc and Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt for an informal "Fireside Chat." They invite all Westland residents to join them in the Faust Area where you can express your concerns about issues that matter most to you. They will update you with news from the state and the county.

20s/30s Book Club: 7-8 p.m. June 10 at Biggy Coffee, 37644 Ford, west of Newburgh.

Join us as we discuss Chip Kidd's "The Cheese Monkeys." It tells the story of one boy's discovery of graphic design in college and his talented and cruel professor. Copies are available at the Reference Desk.

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

Information Central was compiled by children's associate Bernadette Dewyer. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

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# Safeguard home against contaminants

As you read this, you are doing it: Without even being aware of it, you are breathing in and out. And you may not know that with every breath you take, you are inhaling a mixture of particles and contaminants that can potentially be harmful to your health.

Fortunately, when it comes to your home – the place you spend the most time – there are steps that can be taken to help you breathe easier. In honor of National Home Safety Week this week, SERVPRO of Westland is offering tips to help residents improve the condition of the air in their homes.

“People simply assume the air in their homes is pure, but all too often that is far from the case,” said Gary Gasser, owner of SERVPRO of Westland. “Dirty air ducts can circulate odors, contaminants such as mold and irritating dust throughout homes, resulting in a variety of health conditions ranging from mild to severe.”

According to Gasser, there are some contaminants, such as certain types of mold, which occur naturally in the environment and are actually harmless in small concentrations. Other pollutants, however, can and should be avoided. Gasser recommends the following tips for safeguarding homes against dangerous airborne contaminants:

- Control moisture. Mold is more likely to spread when an environment has been subject

to moisture for a long period of time. Take steps to correct any water leaks or standing water, including water under cooling coils of air handling units. If humidifiers are used, make sure they are properly maintained.

- Clean and replace filters. It is recommended that air conditioning filters be cleaned or replaced as frequently as every month. Some filters can easily be hosed off or rinsed in the sink.

Fiberglass filters, however, can't be reused but can be purchased at most home improvement stores.

- Inspect ducts. If necessary, hire a professional to assess the condition of your home's duct work, the airways that transfer the hot and cold air throughout your house. Ducts can be brushed and vacuumed and air can be filtered through a HEPA filtration system in order to help

ensure optimum decontamination.

“In certain circumstances, such as after fire, smoke or suspected mold growth, duct cleaning may be an important step to restoring the air to a clean condition,” added Gasser. “In these cases, a professional should be employed to restore the HVAC system and duct work to pre-loss condition.”

The National Safety Council

(NSC) reports that, on average, people spend about 90 percent of their time indoors, with 65 percent of this time being spent at home. Unfortunately, the ones who are home the most – children, pregnant women, the elderly and those with chronic illnesses – are often the most susceptible to indoor air pollution.

The Environmental Protection Agency notes pos-

sible health effects from indoor air pollution include irritation of the eyes, nose or throat and also result in headaches or dizziness.

Founded in 1967, the SERVPRO franchise system is a national leader and provider of fire and water cleanup and restoration services and mold mitigation and remediation. For more information about SERVPRO of Westland, call Gasser at (734) 721-5699.

## Credit union holds food drive

Co-op Services Credit Union is hosting its second annual food drive to benefit the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Metro Detroit.

Now through June 27, collection boxes are available at the credit union's six branch locations, including its offices at 35050 Ford Road, east of Wayne Road, to accept non-perishable donations of canned goods, diapers, baby formula, toiletries and other items.

The credit union's goal is to collect more than 1,000 pounds of food to help feed the hungry. The collection drive will end with a food rally during the 2009 “Cruisin’ Downriver” event at the credit union's Southgate branch at 16225 Fort St.

“Our goal is to collect more than 1,000 pounds,” said Bryan Feldpausch, marketing coordinator of Co-op Services Credit Union. “With our tough economy, more people are seeking help from food pantries year-round, so we're encouraging our members, staff and others in the community to help with this effort.”

Credit union staff helped launch the drive by donating approximately 150 pounds of food items during a recent casual day.

For more information about Co-op Services, visit the credit union web site at www.cscu.org or call (800) 321-8570.

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SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

SECTION B  
(WL)

HOMETOWN LIFE

Brad Emons, editor (313) 222-6951  
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Painful tourney exit: Chargers ousted in shootout

SIDELINES

Charger All-Stars

**BY BRAD EMONS**  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

PKs ultimately decided who would move on in the Division 1 girls soccer state tournament Friday night at Saline.

After battling to a scoreless draw for 80 minutes in regulation and a pair of 15-minute overtime periods for the regional championship, penalty kicks saved defending state champion Ann Arbor Huron.

Meanwhile, Livonia Churchill headed home needing pain killers as the Chargers were eliminated in the shootout, 3-1.

Churchill, making its first regional appearance since 1999, missed three-of-four attempts after nearly winning the game with 4:10 left in the second sudden victory OT when Hannah Otto's cross to Alyssa Mira just missed the mark.

Churchill bows with a 17-3-3 overall

GIRLS SOCCER

record, while Huron, 17-2-2, moves on to the state semifinals to take on top-ranked Portage Central.

"I was trying to keep our girls fresh — both teams were fatigued — but we should have won it in overtime," said Churchill coach Dave Hebestreit, who made substitutions on nearly every stoppage of play during the 30 minutes of OT. "It was a good game, an even game. I expected it to be tight. We had our chances on a couple of free-flowing plays. We just did not finish the few opportunities we had, but you can't take anything away from Huron."

Offensive chances were limited as Churchill held a 5-4 edge in shots on goal during regulation.

Churchill goalkeeper Stefanie Turner made three key saves during the first 80

minutes, including a sprawling save on a River Rat breakaway with only 29 seconds left. She also leaped high to tip the ball over the crossbar with 5:20 remaining in the first half on a shot by Beth Boyer and denied Ainsley McCallister in a similar fashion during the 44th minute.

"She (Turner) came up with the saves we needed," Hebestreit said. "We played well enough, we've just never been in a game with PKs as a team in my 10 years."

Turner, ironically, took the first PK for the Chargers and it caromed off the right post.

"She's good on them, she's our best shooter," the Churchill coach said. "I had the five names (shooters). We were going in the order they wanted. I let them set it up."

Bailey Brandon, Churchill's leading goal scorer, tallied the lone PK score for the Chargers, while Mira's low drive was gobbled up by Huron goalkeeper Emily

Brunschwiler and Darcy DeRoo's attempt sailed high and wide to the right.

Meanwhile, Huron got PK tallies from Lisa Masini, Boyer and McCallister (the game-winner).

"We've been working on PKs since half-way through the season," Huron coach Todd Pfeiffer said. "I know the five shooters and they know the order. It's a routine."

"We're not as deep as we were last year, but we still have the talent. At the end we had to play smart and play slow, let the ball do the work. It really comes down to who wants it more and you have to leave it all out on the field."

The regional final marked the end of the careers for six Churchill seniors who have played on the varsity since their freshman year — Turner, Brandon, Mira, Otto, Kayla Johnston and Tessa Allen — who compiled an impressive record of 56-13-12.

Livonia Churchill will be well represented in the 2008-09 Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association Senior Volleyball Classic Friday, July 31 at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

The two semifinal matches will be at 5:30 p.m. followed by the consolation and finals at 7:30 p.m.

Among the participants for the Chargers' state Class A semifinal team will be first-team All-Stater Lindsey Graciak, second-teamer Kristen Nalez and honorable mention selection Katie Matz.

Churchill coach Mark Grenier will also be a participant in the Classic, which also includes an awards luncheon at 1 p.m.

Bean selected

Livonia Clarenceville's Alexa Bean was recently selected to serve on the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council for the 2009-10 school year.

The SAC will meet five times each school year.

In addition to assisting in the promotion of the educational value of interscholastic athletics, the council will discuss issues dealing with the 4 S's of educational athletics: scholarship, sportsmanship, safety (including health and nutrition), and the sensible scope of athletic programs.

There will also be a fifth S discussed by the group — student leadership.

Glenn All-Academic

Both the Westland John Glenn girls and boys swim teams were recognized recently by the Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Academic All-State teams in Division 1.

The Glenn girls, coached by Randy Ferguson, ranked eighth with a cumulative team grade-point average of 3.57.

The Rocket boys, coached by Bob Harding, ranked 18th.

Run Drugs Out 5K

The 3rd annual 5- and 10-kilometer Run Drugs Out Of Town event, sponsored by the Livonia Police Department, will be Saturday, June 13, in Hines Park at Nankin Mills.

The event supports the Save Our Youth Task Force.

Included in the entry is a run T-shirt (before June 1 and while supplies last), food and entertainment for all ages.

You can register as a team to show your support or honor a loved one.

The event will feature the return support of Ken Wagner Agency and Circus Amoungus.

TV weatherman Chris Edmonds will serve as master of ceremonies. Also offered will be Chronotrack Timing on the USA Track and Field certified course. Awards will also go to top placers in each age group.

For more information, or to register, visit [www.justsay-run.com](http://www.justsay-run.com).

C'ville tabs Johnson as new varsity coach

**BY BRAD EMONS**  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If Justin Johnson needs any help during his first season as Livonia Clarenceville boys basketball coach, he can rely on the advice of his younger brother Trevor.

"He'll be my assistant on the varsity," said Justin, who was recently hired as the Trojans' head coach after the departure in April of Corey McKendry.

"He was very impressive in his interview. He comes with a good pedigree," Clarenceville Athletic Director Kevin Murphy said of the 32-year-old Justin Johnson. "He's big on discipline and he'll work hard."

Trevor Johnson, 29, is Clarenceville's boys and girls varsity soccer coach who also served as an assistant basketball coach under McKendry.

"And if he's anything like Trevor, he'll do an awesome job," Murphy said of Justin.

McKendry, a Clarenceville grad and former player, went 39-26 in his three seasons as varsity coach. He guided the Trojans to back-to-back Metro Conference titles, including an 18-3 record in 2007-08 when he earned Observer Coach of the Year honors.

Justin Johnson, meanwhile, spent the past three seasons as the freshman boys coach at Waterford Kettering High School and currently serves as a seventh-grade middle school teacher in same district.

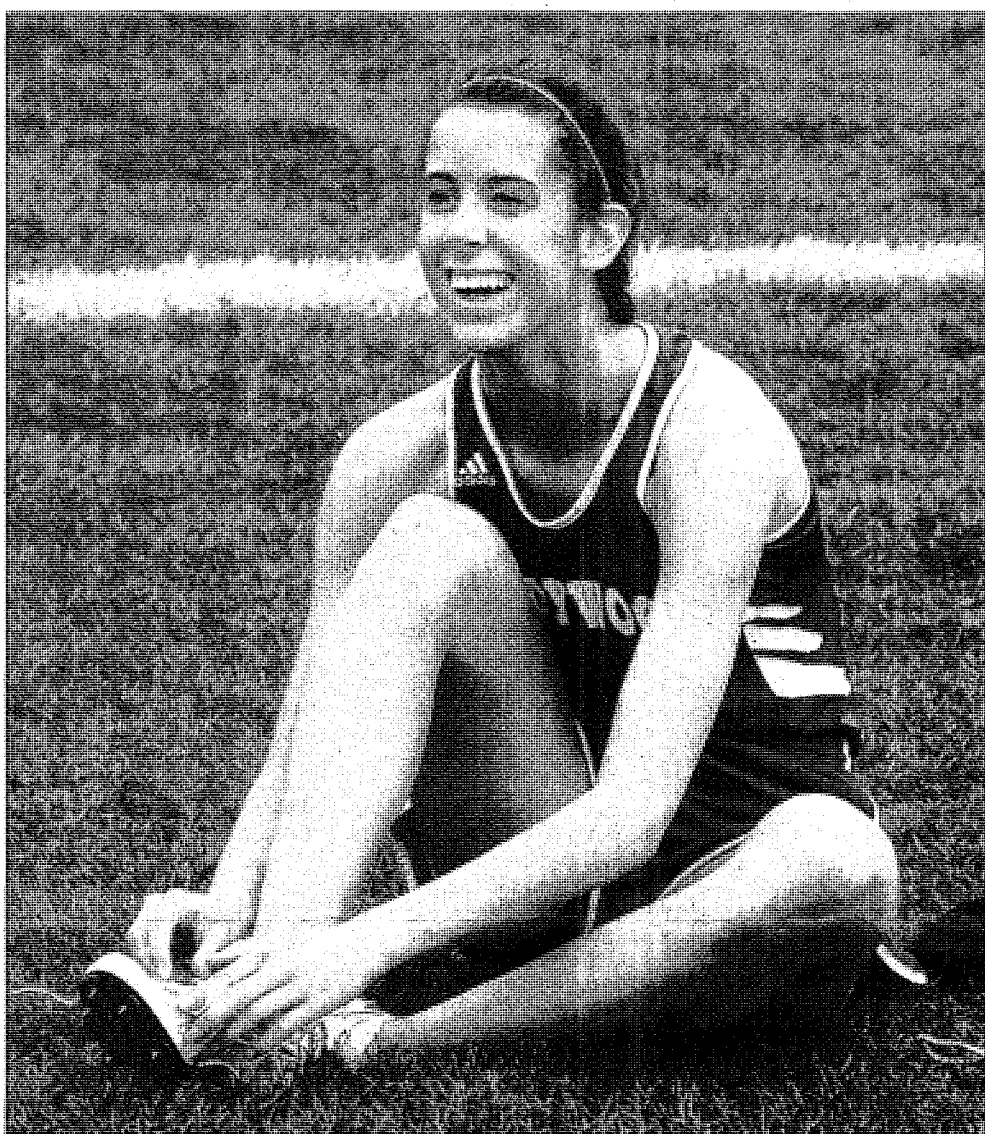
Johnson is a graduate of Michigan State University who played soccer, basketball and baseball at Walled Lake Western High.

"I want to change the identity a little," Johnson said. "Obviously we'll try to win games, but I'll also focus in on the classroom. I want to make sure they go to class. And hopefully they'll get into college if they do the right things. I'll focus on more than just basketball."

Johnson is currently in the get-acquainted stage with his team. The Trojans lose several key players to graduation off last year's 15-8 squad, including All-Stater Jamie Stewart and the team's second-leading scorer Nathan Clark.

"I like up-tempo, in-your-face type defense," Johnson said. "We want to push the ball and get quick baskets. I haven't seen them play yet and what kind of depth we have. It depends on the type of athletes as far as what we'd like to do."

"We'll try and get a few more games in for the summer and have some open gyms. Then I should have a better idea what we're going forward with."



OBSERVER FILE PHOTO

2009 All-Area Girls Track

Ladywood's Megan Vitale is a member of the first-team All-Observer girls track team in the 4 x 400-meter

Wayne hurdler eyes Midwest Meet of Champions

**BY BRAD EMONS**  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne Memorial's Renaldo Powell hopes to put his name on a Midwest Meet of Champions 110-meter hurdles list that also includes current NFL wide receiver Ted Ginn Jr. and former NFL standout safety Rod Woodson.

Powell, the Division 1 state champ in the 110 highs (14.13), will be among a select company of the best track and field seniors from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois for the Midwest meet, which will be held Saturday, June 13, at Jackson's Withington Stadium.

"I'm real excited. I know I'll run my fast-



Powell

est time and I think I can win both events," said Powell, who was also third in the Division 1 state finals in the 300 hurdles (38.73).

Also expected to compete are Division 1 boys pole vault state runner-up Derik Peterman of Livonia Churchill and Division 1 girls 1,600 state second-place finisher Courtney Calka of Livonia Stevenson.

Powell, meanwhile, has come along way since his junior year, when he reached the semifinal round of the 110 highs and finished eighth.

He credits part of his success to winter training with the Michigan Accelerators Club.

"I did a lot of hurdle work and drills that I had not done before," said Powell, who also played cornerback for the Zebras' football team last fall. "It was the first time

being on a (track) team other than Wayne. I also did a lot of sprint work. I was on the 4 by 400 and 4 by 200 indoor state champs."

Powell, who also long jumps, has earned a track and field scholarship to Central Michigan University, where he will study pre-dentistry with hopes someday of becoming an orthodontist.

Sixth-year coach Lee Grizzell calls Powell "the best captain I have had at Wayne."

"Renaldo led by example and he kept practice fun for the underclassmen, and he did a great job of recruiting," Grizzell said. "He performed so well this year because he has an excellent work ethic. Renaldo is such a good hurdler because he has really powerful legs and his technique is very good."

And while Powell always had the athletic talent, he had to acquire a taste for the academic side of life. He participated in

Wayne's Upper Bound program, a government-funded program that helps prepare and exposes students to college.

"My first year of high school was not good, but the last two years I've been on the honor roll," Powell said. "The first two years, I was just being lazy."

Powell graduated Saturday from Wayne and will continue to train with the Accelerators throughout the summer, with hopes of going to either the USATF Junior or Nike Outdoor nationals.

Following his victory in the 110 hurdle state finals, Powell admitted he deviated a bit from his strict training regimen.

"I ate cheesecake," the 18-year-old said. "I hadn't had it for almost a year. I have to monitor my diet. You have to be disciplined. It's hard."

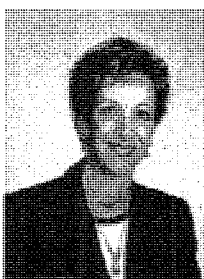
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# NEIGHBORS

## Travels with Rosie

Pet owner, vet offer common-sense travel tips

BY JULIE BROWN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Steve Bernstein, a lawyer practicing in Farmington Hills, has taken his dog, Rosie, as far as Prince Edward Island in eastern Canada.

"As far as you can go. You have to stop a little more often. I find that's true if you're traveling with a woman, too," he said. Rosie, a 9-year-old miniature dachshund, is a great travel companion.

"I would highly encourage it," Bernstein said of travel with a dog. "It's a lot of fun. Lots and lots of people travel with their dogs."

He reels off states Rosie's traveled to, including Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, New York, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine.

"Probably others," said Bernstein, a Keego Harbor resident. "A fair estimate is 15 states and five provinces."

He says good travel with a dog starts in puppy days. He took Rosie to the park for her first car trip — not to the veterinarian. "She immediately gets the idea car travel is fun."

### CROSSING THE BORDER

Bernstein noted for crossings to Canada you need papers that show your dog's current on shots. One time at the Canadian-U.S. border, he was asked if he'd bought dog food in Canada. He had not and the dog food was from Kroger, but he suspects

**Bernstein has never flown with Rosie. He has a client who spends winters in Arizona who says her dog does fine flying. Bernstein doesn't want his pet in a baggage compartment.**

he would have had to leave it behind if it had been bought in Canada.

"You need to know to bring water and snacks." For car trips, Bernstein uses a kennel cage with a pillow in the bottom so that Rosie has enough room to stretch safely.

"You stop at rest stops a lot." He noted the freeway route from Detroit to Chicago has no dog-friendly stops from the Indiana line to Chicago.

"You have to kind of plan more. The same goes with hotels." Travelers with dogs need to know in advance about pet policies. AAA has a guidebook on pet travel, he said, which includes that information and also emergency vet facilities.

"It changes the nature of the travel." On trips, Bernstein tries to find out if a hotel has room service or restaurants that deliver.

He recommends asking hotels about areas to walk dogs. In Duluth, Minn., he was told about Canal Park. "The area to take the dog was basically a traffic island."

You need rest stops along the way, as well as pet-friendly hotels and nearby parks for



walking. "It's pretty easy to scope that stuff out." Web sites like Expedia tell whether a hotel is pet-friendly. But he once booked room listed that way and found pets weren't allowed.

"I had to go somewhere else. That was in Mackinaw City." He likes to follow up on Internet information, to be sure. "The key is just a little extra planning."

An alternative to hotels is cabin rental. He said many are available in northern Michigan or other less-populated regions.

### TRAVEL BUDDIES

Bernstein's enjoyed travels with Rosie: "Oh, I love it. It's a wonderful experience. The dog is a great companion."

Bernstein remembered being at Tahquamenon Falls in northern Michigan, with Rosie smiling and wagging her tail. "My dog loves it," he said.

At least once, Rosie seemed to pick up cues from his trip preparations.

"She knew we were going on vacation. She started jumping around."

He echoed vets' urgings not

to leave dogs in cars in hot weather. "You have to be conscious of the dog's well-being. It's like traveling with a child, I suppose."

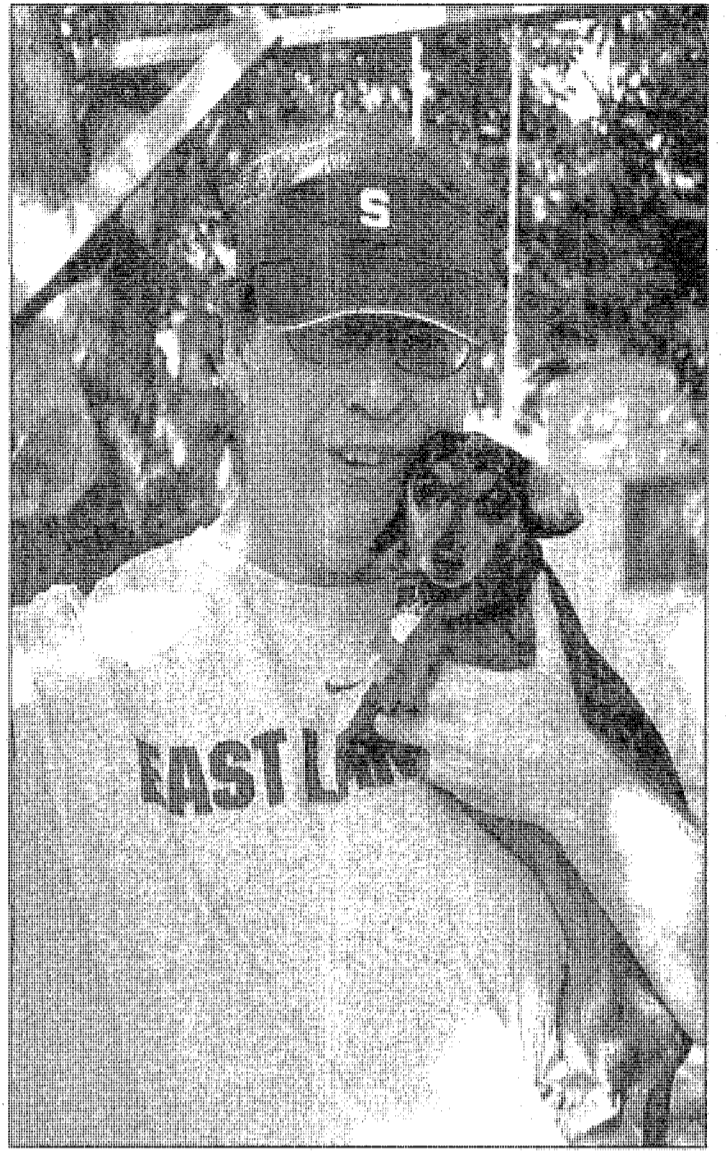
Bernstein has never flown with Rosie. He has a client who spends winters in Arizona who says her dog does fine flying. Bernstein doesn't want his pet in a baggage compartment.

He also finds restaurants, including some in metro Detroit, that will let you sit outside and eat if the pet's well-behaved.

Veterinarian Dr. Brad Davis, of VCA Veterinary Hospital in Garden City, added some tips for pet travel.

"You have to check with the airlines ahead of time," Davis said of flying with a pet. If your pet's in the hold, you can't monitor the situation. If the animal's with you, there may be incessant barking. "If you have a problem, you can't do anything about it," Davis said.

If the temperature's over a certain level, airlines won't fly animals. That can be a problem with a return trip from, for example, Phoenix, if the temperature climbs. "So there's a lot of inherent prob-



Farmington Hills lawyer Steve Bernstein and his dog, Rosie, are veterans of car trips, having traveled as far as Prince Edward Island in eastern Canada.

lems with trying to fly your critter," the veterinarian said.

### STRESS MEDICATION

With car trips, you can pull over and distances traveled usually aren't as far. "You can find a vet in just about any city you stop in," Davis said.

There's a medication, Cerenia by Pfizer, to make dogs have an easier time riding.

"It basically takes away the stress." Dogs on Cerenia while traveling are less likely to vomit. "Generally, they're calmer," Davis said.

Please see TRAVELS, B7

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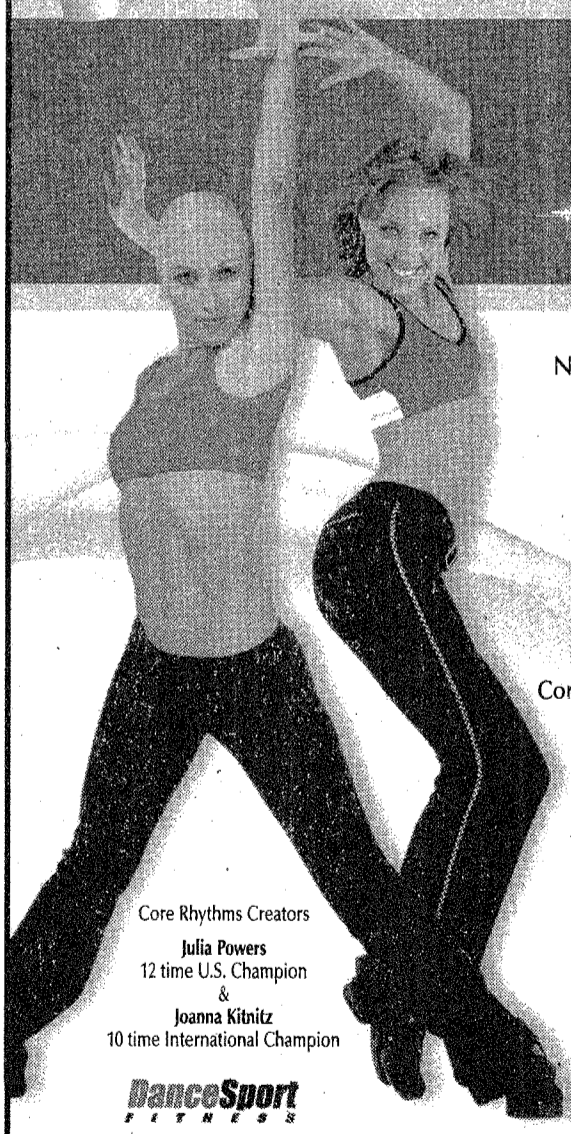

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# Books and much more

## Salvation Army media center to open soon

BY JULIE BROWN  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Kids attending summer day camp at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army this year will have a great time. That's nothing new, but what is new is the corps' media center at its Venoy location, thanks to a \$25,000 donation from the Target Corp.

Salvation Army officials have been busy in recent months, including buying \$10,000 in computer equipment and a security system. They aim to have the center functional by June 22 other than the 1,000 or so books, which will follow shortly.

"They can get on the Internet," corps commander Capt. Derek Rose said of users. "We're working with MichiganWorks!" That state agency helps with job opportunities, a particular need in

the Norwayne neighborhood where the Salvation Army facility is located.

"Right now, we're mainly focusing on the youth books," Rose said, adding there will also be titles for adults. He's working with staffers from the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, and plans to involve the Wayne library as well.

Wayne-Westland educators are excited about the new resource. "We stress reading for early ages," said Laura Beckman, principal of the nearby Jefferson-Barns Elementary School. She's pleased the media center will be available to her students.

"We're really happy to have the library right down the street from us," Beckman said.

"At Jefferson-Barns, we encourage parents to read to their children from birth throughout their elementary years. To have easy access to books and other resources will truly help our community do this. We appreciate the efforts of the city and organizations who have made this possible," Beckman added.

Painting was being finished

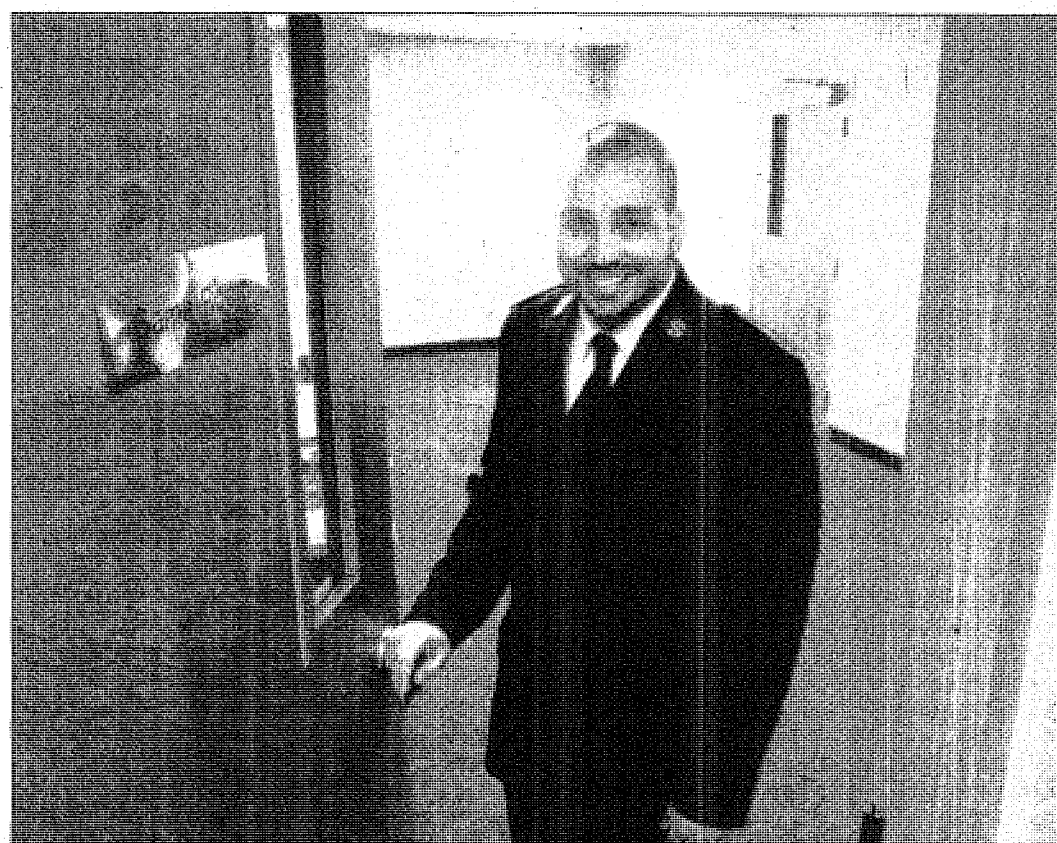
up the last week of May. A "soft opening" for the media center will be held in June and include day camp families and those who worship at the center on Venoy south of Palmer. A larger grand opening is set for the second week of September.

Beginning in the fall, the facility will be open to community adults 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays. It will also be open 3-7 p.m. weekdays for students in the Salvation Army after-school program.

The corps bought a filter for the Web to block inappropriate content "but still give you the ability to search, which is good," Rose said. He hopes nearby residents will say "Hey, this is a resource in your community now."

Additional information is available from Rose or his wife and fellow corps commander, Capt. Joanna Rose, at (734) 722-3660. The media center will need volunteers for staffing during those hours, and you're encouraged to call if interested.

jbrown@hometownlife.com



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Work continues on the former game room. According to Salvation Army Capt. Derek Rose, the new computer lab will help adults with job searches and students with school assignments.



Rosie, Steve Bernstein's dachshund, does well in the car traveling, with enough room to stretch.

## TRAVELS

FROM PAGE B6

You'll need a rabies certificate for crossing to Canada. "Your vet should be able to print one up for you," he said. Those usually are not required for domestic flights.

Rules on international flights depend on where you're flying. In the United Kingdom, there's a six-month hold on dogs coming into the country. "Different countries have different rules," Davis said.

One positive right now is businesses giving their all to draw customers. "The hotel

chains are trying everything they can," including pet-friendly policies. If you plan ahead, travel with a pet will work out just fine in most cases, Davis said.

His family usually flies on trips, but has camped with pets. "It's neat to be out doing something with your critter."

He recommends no sedation for a flight, because it's basically like getting a pet drunk. Davis agreed you need to be alert to cars being too hot.

"We've already had a heat-stroke and it was 80 degrees. You've got to be very careful about leaving a critter in the car."



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Aching when you are older is not just aging and something you have to live with.

For a person over age 70, the most common cause for stiffness and pain in the morning or when arising from a chair, is arthritis of the hips or knees. Over time, the resulting strain on the shoulders and back causes discomfort to spread to these joints; you ache all over and blame it on old age.

You don't have to live this way. If you bring your pain to your doctor's attention, he can investigate the cause. Usually an examination, including x-rays of the joints most likely involved, will give an answer. If the reason is a bad knee or hip, then treatment is possible; you should not delay in looking in to it.

A replacement knee or hip is the therapy of choice.

A new joint will do more than resolve the ache and pain. Treatment of the underlying arthritis will allow you to return to an active personal life, and will remove the chance of an unexpected fall and the serious effect of such an accident.

Do not accept pain and limitation as an inevitable accompaniment of old age, bring your problem to your doctor. Allow a medical evaluation to decide if you are experiencing decline or having a problem that medical care can resolve.

Old age is no barrier to undertaking surgery. Improvement of care for the elderly has substantially decreased the risk of post operative infection, blood clots, heart failure or pneumonia. An operation, if indicated, is less a hazard to your health than doing nothing.

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## PASS THE POPCORN

Keep your Kinyarwanda dictionary at hand — or just relax and read the English subtitles — at this month's Film Movement screening at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

The Rwandan film *Munyurangabo* runs 97 minutes and will be shown at 6:30 p.m., Monday, June 15 in the library auditorium, 32777 Five Mile.

The film tells the story of two boys from different ethnic groups. Munyurangabo wants justice for his parents who were killed in the genocide, and his friend, Sangwa, wants to visit the home he deserted years ago. They visit Sangwa's home, but their friendship is tested when Sangwa's wary parents disapprove of Munyurangabo, warning that "Hutus and Tutsis are supposed to be enemies."

The film opened last month in New York. Film Movement releases a new independent or foreign film, such as *Munyurangabo*, on DVD every month to its subscribers, while the film is simultaneously shown in theaters. Livonia Civic Center Library will add the film to its permanent collection soon after the screening.

"We've been doing it for about a year and a half," said librarian Carol Guerriero, describing the Livonia library's participation in Film

Movement. "It's handled through a library supply company. Film Movement is a subsidiary. The subscription service tries to get films that were recently released and are award winning, from around the world.

"It's year-round. And the DVD ends up in our collection."

Patrons can see a new film every third Monday of the month. Admission is free. Learn more about the Film Movement program at [www.filmmovement.com](http://www.filmmovement.com). For more information about the library's showings, call (734) 466-2197 or visit <http://livonia.lib.mi.us/movementseries>.

Next film up on July 20: *The Window from Argentina*.

## TENNIS, ANYONE?

Plymouth-Canton Community Education is offering a tennis skills camp for youngsters and teens. Registration has begun for classes that will run from June 23-July 9.

The Camp will emphasize fundamentals, basic techniques, rules, and scoring. It's designed to be fun while helping students get fit, develop and improve techniques for ground strokes, serve and volley, along with footwork and coordination. Drills, games, competition, and fun activities will be used. A fun mini-tournament and party will be held at the end of the series.

Each player will receive a certificate of completion. Cost is \$75. Class times are 1:30-2:30 p.m., for beginners, age 10-12; 2:30-3:30 p.m., for beginners, age 12-14; and 3:30-4:30 p.m., for intermediate and advanced players, age 12 and up. Classes meet Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday on the Plymouth High School tennis courts.

An introduction to tennis series, designed by the United States Professional Tennis Association, offers instruction in fundamentals, including tennis concepts, terminology and skills. The six-class session incorporates games like "Zoo," "Four Corner Relay," "Silly Tennis," "Rallyball," and

more. Tennis are racquets provided for those who do not have their own. Participants should wear comfortable clothing, tennis shoes, sunscreen and bring a water bottle to lessons. Cost is \$75. Two sessions, for children age 6-10, are available: June 22, 24, 29 and July 1, 6 and 8 or July 13, 15, 20, 22, 27 and 29. They meet 10-11 a.m., Mondays and Wednesdays at Discovery Middle School. To register, call Plymouth-Canton Community Education at (734) 416-2937 or visit [www.pccs.k12.mi.us/communityed.asp](http://www.pccs.k12.mi.us/communityed.asp).

— Compiled by Sharon Dargay

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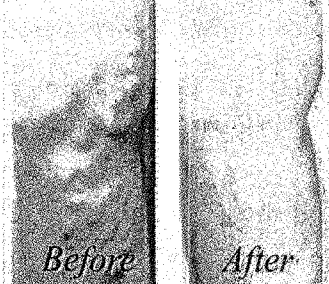
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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JUNE 8-14

**Fatigue**  
6 p.m. Wednesday, June 10, learn what causes you to feel fatigue and how to get your energy back during a lecture at Noble Library, 32901 Plymouth Rd., Livonia. Limited to 30 guests. For reservations, call (734) 756-6904. Presented by Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, chiropractor and holistic physician.

**Fund-raiser**  
The National Multiple Sclerosis Society and Matt Prentice Restaurant Group team up to present a charity fund-raiser during the 2009 finals of the Air Race World Championship, Sunday, June 14, on the Detroit River. Ticket-holders can view the race from atop the seven-story Beaubien Garage. The party will include barbecue food stations with a wide selection of food and beverages catered by the Matt Prentice Restaurant Group. The complimentary bar will include wines, beers, juices and soft drinks. A special drink station will feature Dragon Bleu Vodka. Limited outdoor seating and a family game area. Tickets are \$150 per person and will benefit the MS Society. Buy online at [www.nationalmssociety.org/mig](http://www.nationalmssociety.org/mig) or call (248) 351-2190, Ext. 225.

**Childbirth education**  
St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers a one-day workshop, "Let's Get Ready to Have a Baby," 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, June 13. Learn what to expect during pregnancy, labor and delivery and make the entire experience more rewarding. Call (734) 655-1162, or register online visit [stmarmymercy.org](http://stmarmymercy.org) and click on classes & events. The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

JUNE 15-21

**Educational seminar**  
Coronary Artery Disease: Advances in Treatment, a free educational seminar presented by St. Mary Hospital at the Livonia Community Recreation Center 10-11 a.m. Monday, June 15. The speaker is Ed Motley, Manager Heart and Vascular Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital. Registration required. Call (734) 655-8950.

**Fibromyalgia and chronic Pain**  
Health class takes place 7 p.m. Thursday, June 18, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile. No charge but limited to 15 guests. Reservations requested. Call (734) 756-6904. Presented by Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, chiropractor and holistic

physician.  
**ALS of Michigan fund-raiser**  
Join ALS of Michigan (Lou Gehrig's Disease) for its 4th Annual Lou Gehrig Day at Comerica Park 4:05 p.m. Saturday, June 20. A limited number of tickets are still available for this nationally televised game between our Detroit Tigers and the Milwaukee Brewers. Proceeds will enable the nonprofit to provide Michigan programs and services to benefit people with ALS and their families. It also helps support research into the cause, treatment and cure of this devastating disease.

Two ticket packages are available at \$50 and \$100 per person, and include a ticket and a commemorative Lou Gehrig Day T-shirt. The \$100 package includes a baseball buffet luncheon and silent auction at Hockeytown Café from 1:30 p.m. to game time, with several retired Detroit Tigers on hand for a special meet-and-greet. For information and to order tickets, call (800) 882-5764, Ext. 225, or visit [www.alsofmichigan.org](http://www.alsofmichigan.org). ALS attacks the motor neurons in the brain and spinal cord that control the ability to move, speak, swallow and eventually breathe, while the mind stays fully aware. Gehrig, the legendary New York Yankee, succumb to the disease.

JUNE 22-28

**The key to health**  
7 p.m. Tuesday, June 23, at Whole Foods, 7350 Orchard Lake Rd., West Bloomfield. The key to health is a fully functioning digestive system. The key to restoring health naturally will be discussed along with simple solutions. Limited to 20 guests. For reservations, call (734) 756-6904. Presented by Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, chiropractor and holistic physician, No charge.

ONGOING

**Fitness classes**  
Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions infuse Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail [jeanieweaver@charter.net](mailto:jeanieweaver@charter.net).

**Overeaters Anonymous**

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia; and 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marjion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information call (248) 559-7722 or visit [www.oa.org](http://www.oa.org).

**Breast cancer support group**  
Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit [www.stmarmymercy.org](http://www.stmarmymercy.org).

**Caregivers support group**  
St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for more information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

**Wayne metro caregiver support**  
Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to their loved ones. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Ave., Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month; the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

**Parkinson Support**  
Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For information, call (248) 433-1011.

**CPR classes**  
Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at [www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar](http://www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar) or call (248) 937-3314.

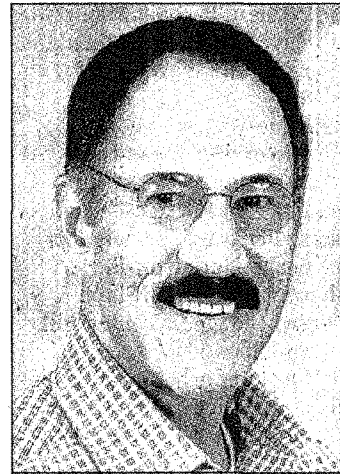
# WSU researcher studies 3-prong approach to treating mental health disorders

For people suffering with both severe mental health and substance use disorder, the best treatment could be a combination of patient-centered therapies, according to a Wayne State researcher.

Eugene P. Schoener, who holds a Ph.D. and is a professor of pharmacology and psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences in WSU's School of Medicine, received a \$250,000 grant from the Flinn Foundation to determine the effectiveness of combined Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and substance abuse treatment on the recovery of patients with severe mental illness and substance abuse problems.

The study will take place at Kadima, a non-profit mental health services agency with Jewish roots based in Southfield.

"MI and CBT are complementary approaches based on the notion that patients have to own and resolve their own problems," stated Schoener, a Farmington Hills resident. "MI helps the individual appreciate the nature of their problem and develop the motivation to change their behavior, and CBT provides a comprehensive set of tools to do it. We're hoping that these two elements, along with the knowledge and skills of treating substance abuse will help to promote not just clinician skill levels, but actually change the way Kadima delivers services."



Schoener

Previous studies strongly suggest that both MI and CBT are highly effective for a wide range of mental illnesses including substance abuse. However, most studies were conducted in laboratory settings and addressed the problems separately. Schoener's study offers the opportunity to observe the influence of MI and CBT when treating mental illness and substance abuse concurrently in a real-life setting.

"About 60 percent of patients with severe mental illness have a co-occurring substance abuse problem," Schoener stated. "If you don't deal with both problems concurrently, one disorder can sabotage progress made with the other. Our combined therapy approach is designed to address the reality of all these problems together, the way they occur in the real world."

MOTIVATING THE PATIENT

MI is a non-judgmental, non-confrontational method of engaging patient motivation to change their thoughts and behavior. Past studies have shown that MI builds a greater sense of trust and a stronger overall alliance between therapist and client and redefines the patient as having a more active role in their recovery. "This isn't the clinician giving the patient a pep talk; in fact it's just the opposite," Schoener said. "It's eliciting the motivation within that person. The therapist is no longer there to 'fix' somebody, but rather to facilitate and assist the client in achieving their best."

CBT is a goal-oriented, systematic approach in which patients work to identify the underlying causes for dysfunctional thoughts, feelings or behaviors then restructure their thoughts to be healthier and more productive. Shown to be effective in the treatment of mood disorders, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, substance abuse disorders, and psychotic disorders, CBT requires focused and deliberate participation of the patient. "It's not simply meeting every week to chat. There is homework involved, and patients really have to work at it. The reward for all their hard work, however, is being far better equipped to maintain wellness, undertake new challenges and achieve more in their lives."

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