

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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AROUND TOWN

Blood drive

The Westland Police and Fire Departments are out for blood — and for a very good reason. On Monday, June 22, residents will have a chance to save lives while supporting their favorite public servant during the city's fifth annual "Battle of the Badges" blood drive.

The blood drive will be 2-8 p.m. at the Bailey Recreation Center in the civic center complex on Ford west of Wayne Road. Residents can help by making a blood donation appointment online at www.givelife.org or by calling (734) 467-3261.

The Red Cross is projecting a 3,500-pint shortfall in blood donations this year due to the economy.

4-H workshop

Michigan State University's 4-H Extension in Wayne County is reaching out to youngsters interested in a craft workshop, hosted at the Wayne County Fair, 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, June 30.

The 4-H program is trying to involve kids in the local fair by entering projects they have worked on. The workshop will have three crafts for each child to complete. They also will be given information on 4-H and how to enter those projects into the 2009 Wayne County Fair.

A fee of \$2 will cover these crafts and snacks for youngsters age 5 and up who may be interested. There are only 30 spots available so sending the money in ahead of time will ensure reservation. Send payment to Laurie Rivetto, Wayne County 4-H Extension, 5454 Venoy, Wayne, MI 48184. For more information, call Rivetto at (734) 727-7236.

Get e-news

Readers can stay plugged in to their hometown news with a free electronic newsletter. The *Garden City Observer* offers Today's Headlines — an e-mail newsletter that will automatically send the latest news via e-mail to anyone who signs up at hometownlife.com.

To sign up, click on the e-newsletters tab on Hometownlife.com (top left of the home page). E-newsletters for all *Observer & Eccentric* and *Hometown* publications will be available, as well as special editions for entertainment and local business news.

Getting the newsletter is easy. The first thing you have to do is become a member of our Web site by going to Hometownlife.com and clicking on the link Become a member, which is just above the main carousel of stories. Once you are a member, click on the E-newsletters tab at the top left of the homepage to sign up.

The *Observer Newspaper* editions will offer e-newsletters Thursday and Sunday. Local business and local entertainment newsletters will come out once a week.

E-newsletter subscribers will be entered into weekly drawings for Emagine Theatre movie passes, concert tickets at The Palace and DTE Energy Music Theatre and gift certificates for dinner at restaurants throughout western Wayne and Oakland counties.

Nankin Mills Village plan gets extension

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A one-year extension on a site plan for a controversial mixed use development along Joy has been approved by the council.

Developer Glenn Shaw requested the extension for the proposed Nankin Mills Village located on the south side of Joy, just west of Wayne

Road near the Hellenic Cultural Center.

"As you are aware, we ran into problems with financing. I'm working on a joint venture with a company that does this type of project," said Shaw. "We're looking at all the options and what is best for the entire parcel. Before it was me (working) alone. This company does senior housing with dining, etc."

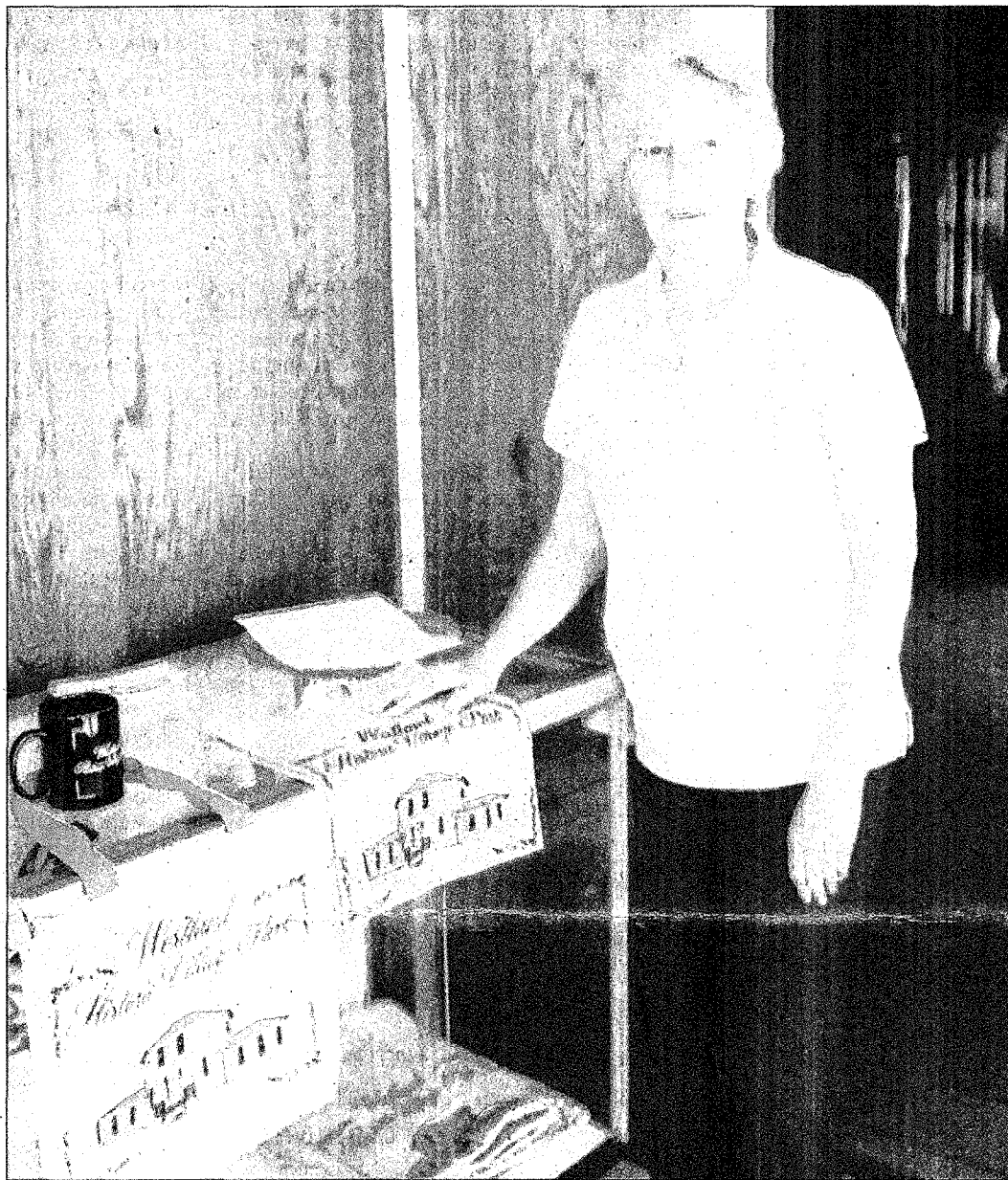
As proposed, Nankin Mills Village included detached and duplex condominiums and a three-story independent living facility on land that had been zoned for single family residential use. Adjoining homeowners were unhappy with the project, citing concerns about the size of the project, the density, traffic flow and impact on property values.

"We've put the apartments next to

the church and houses next to houses. The duplexes are now single family homes," said Shaw, adding he'd had two meetings with neighboring homeowners.

Voting against the site plan extension were council members Cheryl Graunstadt and Robert Stottlemeyer, both of whom had also voted against

Please see **EXTENSION, A2**



Westland Historical Commission member Georgia Becker shows off items available at the gift shop inside the Octagon House, which open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except holidays.

Historic Village Park gets gift shop

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Fans of Westland Historic Village Park can show their support with shirts, mugs and other items at the new gift shop inside the Octagon House.

The commemorative items are all contained in a glass display case but it's a start and only part of the efforts at the park on Wayne Road which has six buildings on site.

There are T-shirts, sweat shirts and polo shirts, tote bags, post cards, mugs and a book on Eloise, later the Wayne County General Hospital. All have the Westland Historic Village Park logo, except for the book.

"We can order the shirts and tote bags in any color and the shirt sizes go up to XXX," said

Georgia Becker, a Westland Historical Society member. "And the book, it's great. It has information under all of the photos."

The gift shop is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except holidays, when the Westland Historical Museum is open.

"Once we get the (historic) houses done, we would like to expand the shop and sell things to promote us," said Westland Historical Commission member Jo Johnson.

Constructed in 1870-80, the Octagon House was originally located on Newburgh south of Warren where the Clyde Smith produce market was located. The house was built by a Smith relative.

The home was later moved to Warren Road

Please see **GIFT SHOP, A2**

Fire service offers citizens academy

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Those procrastinators who wanted to participate in the Westland Fire Department Citizen Fire Academy have extra time to get their applications submitted.

That's because the dates for the Citizen Fire Academy, the first time the Westland Fire Department has offered the program, have been pushed back to July 31, Aug. 1-2 and Aug. 7-9. The new application deadline is July 15.

"We had a couple of problems finding the original dates conflicted with schedules," said Assistant Fire Chief Scott Neal. "There is graduation and parties with students. The instructors wanted it after July and before school starts, so that's why we have the new dates."

The 32-hour academy is open to anyone over age 18 who lives or works in Westland. It is designed for adults to learn more about the fire department organization and operations. Up to 17 participants will be accepted. Part of the application process is submitting an essay about their purpose for attending the academy.

"It's not to weed people out, it helps me determine what the applicants want from the academy and the agenda topics," said Neal. "Some of the applicants have some interest in the fire service as a career, others want to know as part of the community. We want to share both sides."

While the Westland Police Department has offered a citizen academy, this is a first for the fire department although Neal said he'd like to see it become an annual offering. The Van Buren Township Fire Department has provided a model for the citizen academy in the area, he said.

Along with increasing awareness about fire department operations, Neal said the academy also will give the participants practical safety information.

Some of the topics to be covered by firefighter instructors will include apparatus, bunker gear demonstration, breathing apparatus demonstration, vehicle extrication/vehicle fires, home safety, CPR and Technical Rescue Team Demonstration/HAZMAT.

"If someone wants to go into the fire service as a career path, I'll meet with them one-on-one," said Neal. "Some of the applicants are high school kids. It's up to them but part of the interest on my end is to groom people for the fire department."

Applications are available at the city Web site at www.cityofwestland.com or by calling (734) 467-3182 for more information.

lroggers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

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Tony Award winner credits W-W schools with his success

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Greg Jbara, a former Westland resident, recently won a Tony Award for his role in *Billy Elliott*, and on his Web site he thanks the Wayne-Westland schools that prepared him early on.

Playing the role of Jackie Elliot, the dad, Jbara won best performance of a featured actor in a musical.

"I would not be a working actor today were it not for the amazing opportunities the Wayne-Westland Community Schools provided in the arts and academics," Jbara said in an e-mail interview. "Every

possible discipline from fine arts to performance in speech, instrumental and vocal music was available for me to experience kindergarten through 12th grade."

"The grade school gifted programs, junior high and high school sports programs, All-City Vocal and Instrumental Music Programs and, of course, all the teachers and faculty challenged and inspired me on a day to day basis," he added. "I am grateful to have grown up a student in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools."

His experience is wide ranging and includes film, television, Broadway, Off Broadway and recordings. They vary from being a Mel Gibson look-alike to guest starring on *Monk*, *All My Children*, *Without a Trace*, *West Wing* and enough other appearances to fill a few pages.

He was born Sept. 28, 1961, at Annapolis Hospital in Wayne and grew up in his parent's Westland home. He went on to the University of Michigan School of Music and finally to the Juilliard Theater Center in New York.

The training opened doors to appearances in a number of movies like *Crocodile Dundee* and allowed him to work shoulder-to-shoulder with stars the likes of Kevin Kline. His resume lists his special skills as being able to master all dialects, tap, jazz, all brass, flute, bass, percussion, carpentry and stagecraft.

He credits a lot of his success to local mentors.

HIS MENTORS

"I can honestly say that

Please see **JBARA, A3**



Jbara

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PHOTO BY DAVID SCHEINMANN

Gregory Jbara (left) won a Tony Award for his performance as Jackie Elliott in the Broadway musical, "Billy Elliott." Playing Billy is David Alvarez (right).

JBARA FROM PAGE A1

every teacher I had from kindergarten at Kettering Elementary, my first- through sixth-grade teachers and faculty at Tinkham Elementary, the teachers and faculty at Marshall Junior High and Wayne Memorial High School all had a profound influence in my life," he said.



Jbara as a senior at Wayne Memorial High School.

There were also the All-City music programs — band and choir from fifth grade on up — that provided the opportunity to meet and perform with faculty and students from the other schools in the district, and Jbara is "reticent to list teachers specifically because I don't want to leave anyone out."

His favorite television gig was a recurring of Dan O'Keefe on Grounded for Life and the Web series, The Other Hef, which was on sharenow.com

"It's humbling, I want to share it with the entire cast," Jbara said backstage after he accepted his Tony. "I really couldn't have done it alone. That's why I brought my wife (Julie) up on stage."

HUMBLE AND KIND

Laurie Robinson, a longtime family friend, who lived near the Jbara family, praises the actor for being humble and kind, even as a youngster.

"Greg is the nicest person with a wonderful family," Robinson said. "He was a lot of fun and had a great sense of humor. He was always thinking of other people."

Puppet shows held in the garage were a big part of his early play writing/performing experiences.

"The Muppets were a huge influence during my childhood," he added.

On playbill.com, Jbara said his first stage kiss was with Dawn Cooper in the 1979 Wayne Memorial High School

production of Brigadoon. "Dawn was Fiona and I was Tommy Albright," he said.

Thinking back to when her children were growing up with Greg and his siblings, Robinson said, "Who could have known that Greg would become a big Broadway star, not to mention movies and television?"

Robinson and her husband, Ralph, saw Jbara in Billy Elliott last November in New York.

"After the show, we met Greg onstage for a chance to chat and take pictures," she said. "This was our second opportunity to see Greg on Broadway as we had seen him in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels a few years ago. It was fun to see someone you know on Broadway."

Jbara will miss three performances of the hit July 8, 9 and 10 because the curtain conflicts with shooting for the film Remember Me. Shooting began last Thursday for the film which stars Robert Pattinson, Pierce Brosnan, Lena Olin, Emilie de Ravin, Chris Cooper and "of course, myself. I play Les Hirsch, husband of Lena Olin and stepfather to Robert Pattinson, the film is directed by Alan Coulter."

Advertisement for Crystal Creek Assisted Living, featuring services like 24-hour professional staffing, private/semi-private barrier-free rooms, and home-cooked meals. Contact: (734) 453-3203.

Sign up for Salvation Army summer camp

BY JULIE BROWN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Summer day camp at the Salvation Army starts this week, running June 22 through July 31 at the Wayne-Westland corps on Venoy south of Palmer in Westland.

"A whole lot of fun activities," is being promised Andrew Barylski, director of

community and youth ministries. Camp is for children ages 6-12, and costs \$40 a week for those families earning under \$30,000 a year. It's \$50 a week for families with higher incomes.

Barylski said campers will visit the beach at Kensington Metropark five times this summer, a trek popular with campers in years past. There will

be a Detroit Tigers game at Comerica Park, bowling, roller and ice skating, canoeing, fishing and hiking, along with a trip to the Westland Bailey Center pool.

"We have a lot of activities here," he said of the corps center. Those include gym use, arts and crafts, spiritual development/Bible time, music classes and kids'

board games.

The aim is to minister to kids in an affordable way "in order to further the gospel of Jesus Christ," Barylski said.

Camp starts this Monday, but you can still register in person the first week. For information on registration, call (734) 722-3660. Thirty-five children have registered for the camp.

Parents must resubscribe for school e-mails

Westland parents who want to continue receiving e-mails from Livonia Public Schools will need to subscribe through the district's new E-News option on its redesigned Web site.

The E-News option will replace the current MAILOUT

system July 1.

ALL current MAILOUT subscribers need to subscribe through E-News. Go to www.livoniapublicschools.org and click on "Sign-up for E-News" under Quick Links on the left of the page. Then select the requested school buildings

from which you wish to receive E-News. You will receive a verification e-mail that will ask you to confirm your subscription.

The new E-News system also includes a text feature for emergency notifications. If you select this option, you will receive text messages in addition to receiving an e-mail message. The district will only send messages deemed to require immediate notification such as a building or district closure due to weather conditions.

For questions, call the Livonia Public Schools Communications Office at (734) 744-2522.

Large Hobby Lobby advertisement featuring a grid of various craft supplies and discounts. Key items include: Flip Flops, Dollhouse Furniture, Me & My Bag Canvas, Hobby Knives, Youth & Adult Short Sleeved T-Shirt Sale, All Craft Glitter & Glitter Glue, Crafting 50% Off, Select Group Of Home Accents 80% Off, Unfinished Wood, All 'Carnival Craft' Products, VBS & Summer Crafts 40% Off, EVA Foam Visors, Can Huggies, Dried Naturals, Flowering & Greenery Bushes, Ribbons, Bridal Event! 50% Off, Floral Arrangements, Photo Storage Boxes, Scrapbooking 50% Off, Scrapbook Albums & Refill Pages, Entire Stock of Xyron Products, Self-Sealing Storage Bags, Jewelry Making 50% Off, Traditions Beads, Acrylic Gems, Omega LaEspiga Nylon Crochet Thread, All Fillings & Stuffings 20% Off, Needleart, All Needleart Readers, Magnifiers & Book Lights 30% Off, 54" Home Dec Fabric Prints, Solids & Sheers 30% Off, Denim 4.99, McCall's Patterns 99c, Ribbon & Trim By The Yard 30% Off, Polyester Suede 30% Off, Broadcloth & Batiste 1.87. Includes store hours and contact info for Canton location.

Small promotional coupon for Hobby Lobby: 40% OFF Any One Regular Priced Item. Valid only June 22-June 27, 2009.

EDUCATION

ACHIEVERS

The Comcast Foundation has recognized the outstanding community service and academic achievements of senior **Callie Goodin** of John Glenn High School with a \$1,000 college scholarship.

The 2009 Comcast "Leaders and Achievers" Scholarship Program, one of the Comcast Foundation's signature community investment programs, honors students who have demonstrated leadership skills, academic achievement and a commitment to community service.

"This year's Leaders and Achievers scholarship recipients here in Michigan include a wide array of incredibly talented and driven individuals," said Tom Coughlin, senior vice-president, Comcast Michigan Region. "These young people are true leaders in their schools and in

their communities. They share Comcast's commitment to giving back to the Michigan communities in which we live and work and we are proud to support them as they take the next step in their education."

A resident of Westland, Goodin plans to attend Schoolcraft College and is among 122 young people from across the state to be honored this year by the Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program.

Junior **Keely Mog** of Westland was among 35 students inducted into Delta Mu Delta National Honor Society for Business Administration at Northwood University. Students must have a 3.45 grade point average, accomplished 90 credits and be approved by the

academic dean and dean of students to join the society.

Anna Rowe of Wayne received her bachelor of social work degree during commencement ceremonies May 2 at Adrian College.

Seven CADD students from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland won awards at the 2009 MITES (Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society). The students entered their drawings in six different categories and won first, second and third in three categories.

The state award winners were:

- **James Dutchak** - first place, CAD Photo - Realistic Rendering / IVD Car, and second place, CAD Promotional Product Image/IVD Car.

- **Andrew Larson**, first place, CAD Rendering - Manual/ Mustang.

- **Kevin Sample**, first place, CAD Promotional Product Image/Workshop, and second place, CAD Photo-Realistic Rendering/Workshop

- **Shane Trantham**, second place, CAD Rendering - Manual/RC Car, and third place, CAD Pictorial Assembly Drawing/RC Car.

- **Andrew Janos**, third place, CAD Exploded Pictorial Assembly Drawing/Stirling Engine.

- **Anthony Toth**, third place CAD Photo-Realistic Rendering/Typewriter, and third place, CAD Promotional Product Image/Typewriter.

- **Cody Hubbert**, third place, CAD Rendering - Manual/ Engine.



Moms Sherry Wells and Rita Garrett, holding posters and rattling noise makers, show support for the student readers.

Readers' reward: A grand parade

It was a parade the likes of which certain sports heroes in Detroit didn't get to experience this year. People holding up signs and cheering as their "heroes" paraded by.

Welcome to P.D. Graham Elementary's very own victory parade, a celebration of students' achievement in the accelerated reader program.

Accelerated reader is a computer-based program in which youngsters read selected books and then answer questions, checking on their

reading level and comprehension. The number of correct answers earns them points toward their goal.

The parade came at the end of the school year. Students paraded through the Westland school's halls as teachers, staff and parents cheered them and waved banners recognizing the number of points students earned throughout the year. No amount was too small to recognize and all were worthy of applause and the rattling of noise makers.



The Detroit Red Wings many not have gotten their victory parade this year, but they were at P.D. Graham in spirit with students like Quinn Arbour wearing their jersey for the Accelerated Reader parade.



Olivia Gatto wears her reading hat for the parade.

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A: S.M.A.R.T.

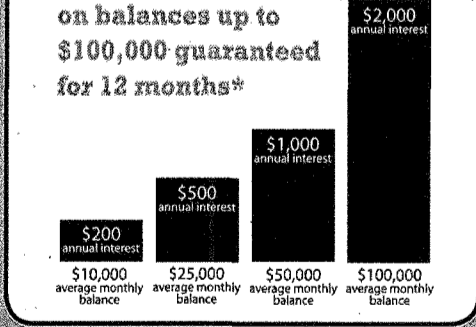
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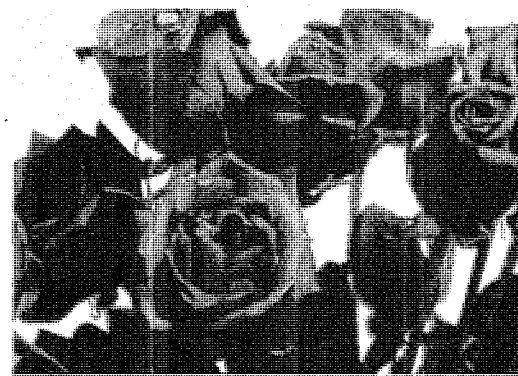
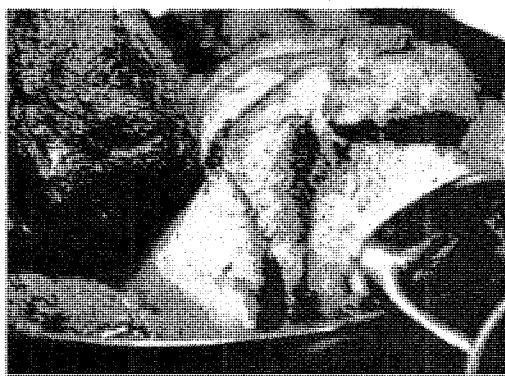
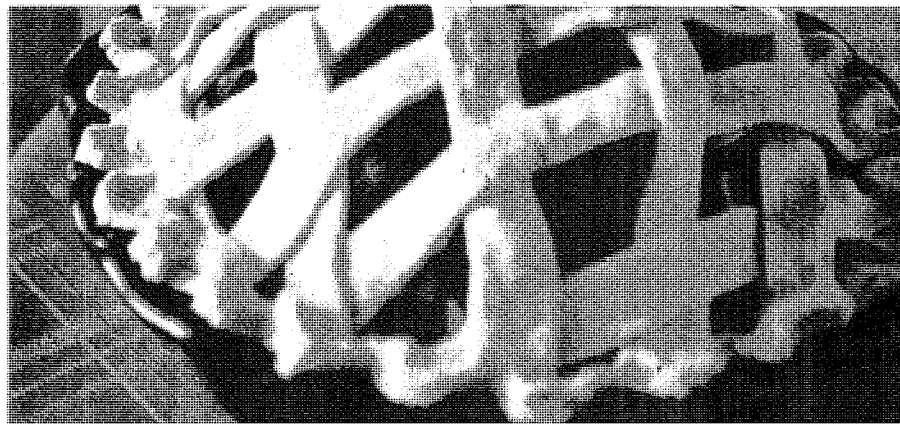
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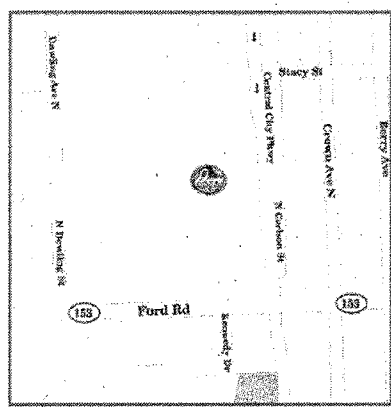
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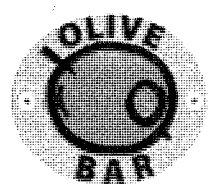
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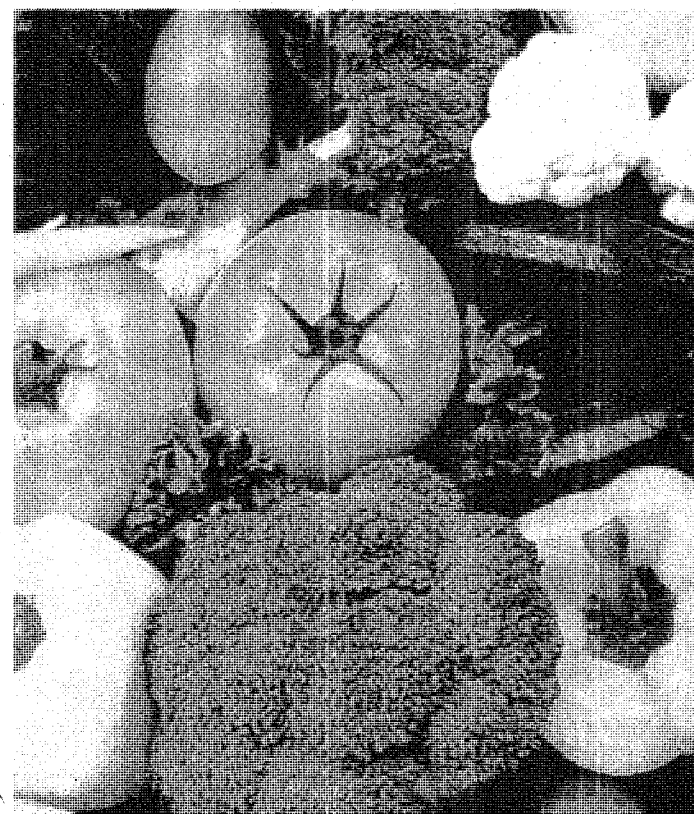
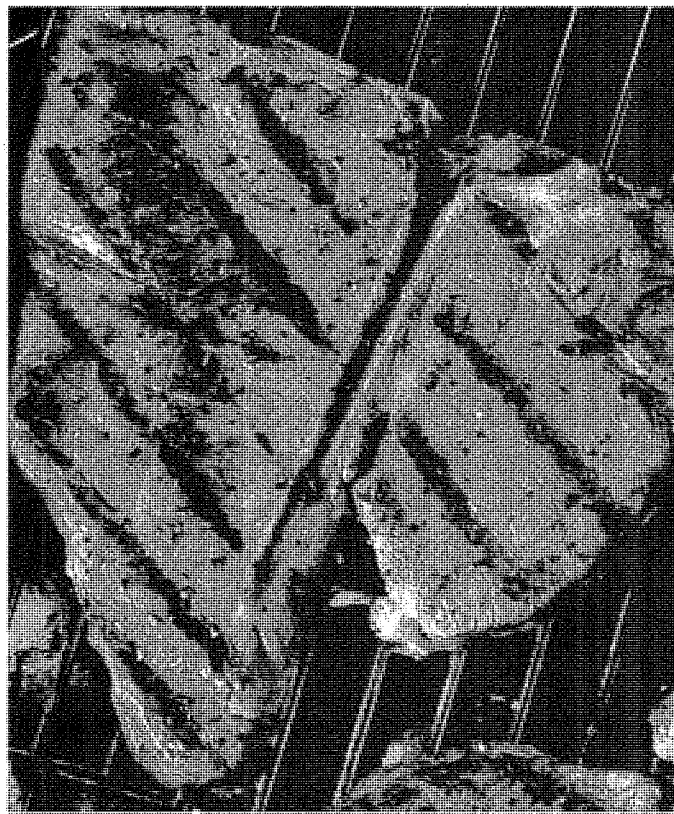
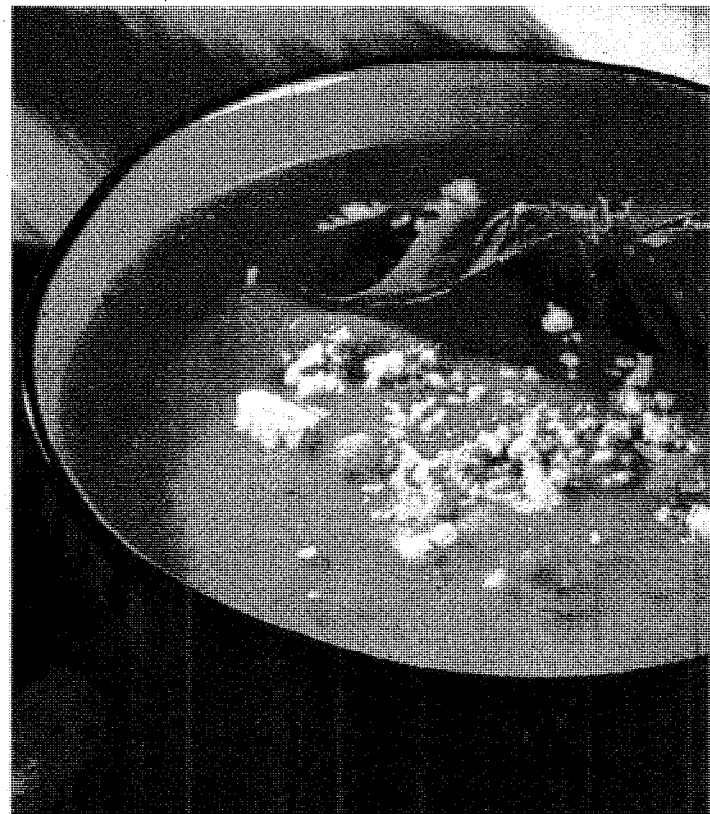
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Let the sun shine

The summer solstice officially begins at 1:45 am EDT June 21. On this day in the Northern Hemisphere, the sun rises and sets farthest north on the horizon which results in the maximum amount of daylight for the year.

With the warmer weather and longer days, many people prefer to spend the majority of their time outside soaking up the sun's rays. According to the American Cancer Society, most of the more than 1 million cases of non-melanoma skin cancer diagnosed yearly in the United States are considered to be sun-related. Sunshine is great for the mind and the body, but caution should be exercised in the amount of sun exposure.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov) offers these sun safety action steps:

- Do not burn.
- Avoid sun tanning and tanning beds.
- Generously apply sunscreen.
- Wear protective clothing.
- Seek shade.
- Use extra caution near water, snow and sand.
- Watch for the UV index.
- Get vitamin D safely.

You can also get healthy sun tips from the medical research databases, such as Health and Wellness Center and Medline, on the William P. Faust Public Library Web site (www.westlandlibrary.org). All databases can be accessed at the library or at home.

If you're interested in the physical properties, like sunspots, of the sun the

library has an assortment of titles in the astronomy section. Some titles you might want to consider include Steele Hill's "The Sun," Pam Spence's "Sun Observer's Guide," Tom Folley's "The Book of the Sun," Rudolf Kippenhahn's "Discovering the Secrets of the Sun," Mark Littmann's "Totality: Eclipses of the Sun" and Gary Mechler's "The Sun and the Moon."

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday. The library is closed Sundays during the summer.

Highlighted Activities

Introduction to eBay: 8:30 p.m. June 23

Have you heard about eBay but don't really understand what it's used for? Or maybe you know how it works but still aren't exactly sure how to go about earning money from things you may no longer need. Carol Kamm, owner of the eBay consignment store iSold It, will talk about eBay, what it is, how it works, and how it can work for you.

Documentary Movie Night: "The 11th Hour," 7 p.m. June 23

Join us for the documentary film, "The 11th Hour," which focuses on the myriad of sins perpetrated against the environment (pollution deforestation over-mining resources) the reasons behind it, and concludes with a spirited discussion of solutions offered by a crack team of scientists, designers and thinkers. All are welcome (children age 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult). No registration is required.

Memoir Writing for Older Adults: 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, Westland senior Friendship Center.

Have you ever wanted to write your

stories down but never had a chance? The Library and the Westland Friendship Center are offering a free eight-week session at the Friendship Center to jumpstart your writing, strengthen memories, and build friendships. This class will meet weekly at the same day and time and ends Aug. 12th. Sign up at the Friendship Center or the Reference Desk. Space is limited.

Science Fiction Book Club: 7 p.m. June 24

Join us for a discussion of Kim Stanley Robinson's "Red Mars." The first installment in Robinson's award winning trilogy is an action-packed and thoughtful tale of the exploration and settlement of Mars - driven by both personal and ideological conflicts - in the early 21st century. Copies of the book are available at the Reference Desk.

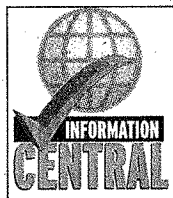
Open Mic: 6:30-8 p.m. June 25, teens and adults.

Need a spot to let your muse run wild, coffee shop-style? Join other local artists as they read, rap, sing, act, dance, and soliloquy for the betterment of your senses. Poets, writers, musicians, and performers encouraged to show us what you've got! Singer-songwriter Dave Boutette emcees. All audience members welcome.

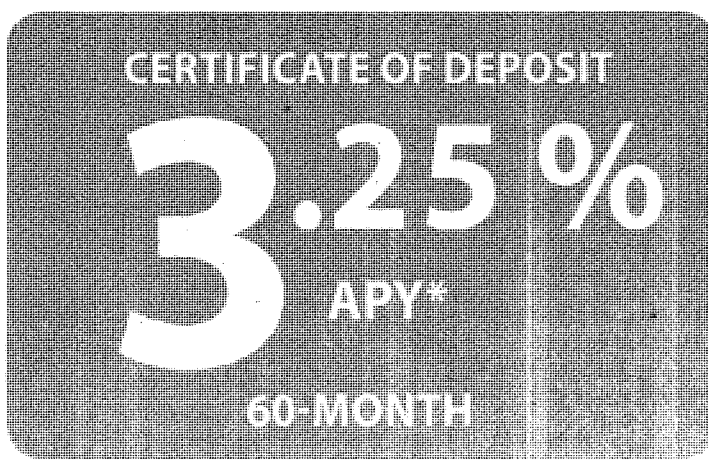
Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the library: Every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Join the Library's Adult Summer Reading Program, "DIY @ Your Library." Programs, prizes, and reading!

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



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Symposium looks at children's mental health

A rare public appearance by Michigan State Board of Education President Kathleen Straus is just one feature of this year's Children's Mental Health Symposium being held on in Redford Monday, June 22.

Straus will be joined at the 2009 rendition of the annual symposium by a slate of speakers that includes renowned children's mental health authors Ross Szabo and Wendy Byard and Detroit Public School's director for school social work services, Arezell Brown.

This year's symposium will take place in the auditorium of Thurston High School

in Redford and is entitled "Reducing the Stigma: Opening the Door to Communication and Services to Kids in School."

The symposium will run from 9 a.m. to noon, with registration beginning at 8:45 a.m.

Phil Cavanagh, the former Wayne County Commissioner, is once again the coordinator of the event and will be on hand to facilitate.

"The stigma associated with being a child with a mental illness is something I'm very passionate about combating," Cavanagh said. "Both children and parents need to be aware of the signs of mental illness,

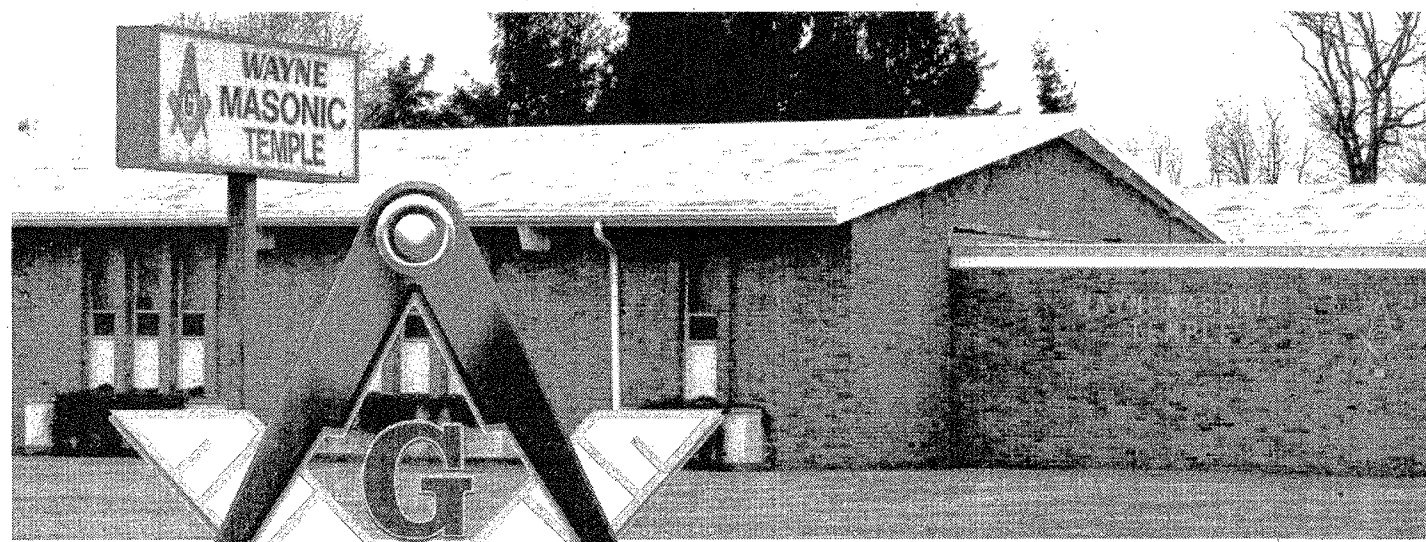
but they also need to be aware that steps can be made to assist them, if an illness is detected or diagnosed."

Other speakers and panelists include Carrie Banks Patterson from the Detroit-Wayne County Children's Mental Health Agency, and Kim Hunt and Ninoska Neives, both of whom represent the Southwest Detroit Association for Children's Mental Health and the Wayne County System of Care.

The symposium is free of charge. To reserve a seat, call (313) 286-3325 or by e-mail at symposiumsrsvp@yahoo.com.

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Hiring attorney is essential when filing for bankruptcy

Q: Dear Rick: I read your column about bankruptcy. After doing some soul searching I've decided that it would be the best course of action for me. I have talked to a couple of attorneys regarding bankruptcy and they have quoted me a fee that appears to be the going rate. A friend of mine told me about an Internet site where you can do your own bankruptcy and at a fraction of the cost. What are your thoughts on someone filing their own bankruptcy?



Money Matters

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

A: I think it is a lousy idea for people to handle their own bankruptcy.

Bankruptcy is a federal procedure which is administered by the federal courts. When you file for bankruptcy you are dealing with federal rules and procedures that are complex and sometimes difficult to navigate. If you fail to dot all of the "i"s and cross all of the "t"s, you may find you did not get the results you desire and that could lead to problems. After all, your creditors, whether they are a charge card company or a bank, are going to have lawyers represent them. You are at a severe disadvantage if they have an attorney and you don't.

I realize that hiring a bankruptcy attorney is expensive but it is essential. It would be nice if bankruptcy was simply a matter of filling out a few forms. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Particularly, when it comes to sheltering assets from creditors, there are a variety of options you can choose from. A good bankruptcy attorney helps you make the right choices. In addition, when you go to court you want someone who is experienced in that forum and who will represent only you. That is exactly what a good bankruptcy attorney should do.

I recognize that bankruptcy attorneys do not come cheap. However, there are ways to reduce your costs. I recommend contacting your local bar association if you are having trouble paying for an attorney. Generally, the local bar association can assist in finding a qualified attorney at a reduced cost.

I recently read an article regarding individuals who were representing themselves in a variety of court matters.

Unfortunately, the end result for the majority of those people was less than favorable. Too many people believe that the judge will help an individual who appears without an attorney. Although, on the whole judges do try to assist individuals who appear on their own, there is only so much they can do. After all, in any procedure the judge

is required to be impartial. Therefore, any assistance is limited. Every judge that I have ever spoken with always agrees that it is a mistake for an individual to represent themselves. In fact, there is an old saying in the legal business which is, "an attorney who represents himself has a fool for a client." I think it is great that you

talked to the attorney about fees and that you received some competitive prices. You have every right to know when you hire an attorney how he/she will charge you. In many cases the attorney should be able to provide you with a flat fee or a good faith estimate as to the total fees you will be required to pay. I know sometimes it is

uncomfortable to discuss fees. However, every good attorney I know never hesitates to talk fees with their clients. If your attorney does not want to talk about fees and costs and makes you feel uncomfortable about the conversation then it probably means that you're dealing with the wrong attorney. I would like to wish all

fathers a Happy Father's Day, particularly my dad, Mitch, the greatest father a son could have.

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

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SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

SECTION B

HOMETOWN LIFE

Jim Toth, editor (313) 222-6785
jtoth@hometownlife.com

Marcos, Bell receive Raider Cup awards

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Erica Marcos and Brandon Bell are the 2009 recipients of the Raider Cup awards, recognizing them as the top female and male athletes in the North Farmington High School senior class.

The awards are also based on the athletes' overall school and community involvement.

Both participated in three sports and were active in extracurricular activities throughout the school year.

Marcos competed in diving, gymnastics and track and field, earning a total of 11 varsity letters. She was a state qualifier in all three sports and a team captain in two.

She was a two-time state qualifier in diving, and she sometimes swam a relay for the Raiders, too.

Marcos was an all-around gymnast, meaning she competed in all four events. She quali-



Erica Marcos



Brandon Bell



Erica Marcos, who earned 11 varsity letters at North Farmington, is the winner of the Raider Cup among senior female athletes.

fied for the regional every year and the state meet once.

In track and field, Marcos owns the school record and was a three-time state qualifier in the pole vault. She also competed in the long jump, high jump and hurdles.

While maintaining a 3.8 GPA, Marcos participated in the Summer in the City clean-up program, was a member of the NFHS Captain's Club and played the flute and piccolo in the school's symphony band.

Marcos will attend the University of Michigan, majoring in biology and science. She

will be a preferred walk-on with the track team, joining her sister, Andrea, the 2006 winner of the girls Raider Cup Award.

Bell competed in football, basketball and baseball. He will attend Western Michigan University and will be a preferred walk-on with the football team.

"It's a great honor, because there

were a lot of great candidates this year," Bell said of his selection for the Raider Cup. "As I look back, I'm glad I stuck with three sports, because at times I was thinking about dropping one. But I'm glad I stuck with all three."

Bell earned eight varsity letters — half of them in baseball in which he was the starting

center fielder on the varsity team throughout his high school career.

He was a two-way starter in football, carrying the ball many times from the tailback position and playing inside linebacker on defense.

In eight games, Bell led the Raiders in all-purpose yards and scoring. He averaged 4.5 yards per carry and nearly 27 per kick return. An All-OAA White Division player, Bell was North's leading tackler with 66, including four for loss.

In basketball, Bell's athleticism fit well with North's aggressive, trapping, scrambling style of defense. His dribbling and shooting abilities were assets offensively.

Bell was a leader in Dunckel Middle School's Boys Only Leadership Development Program, and he served on the diversity committee at North and the African-American Student Network.

SIDELINES

Bucks edge Fever

Kenny Uzoigwe's bicycle kick goal in the 78th minute proved to be the difference Thursday as the host Michigan Bucks edged the Fort Wayne (Ind.) Fever, 2-1, in a Premier Development League soccer victory at Ultimate Sports Arenas in Pontiac.

The Bucks led 1-0 in the first half on Jake Stacy's second goal of the year off an assist from Piotr Nowak.

The Fever, which had ousted the Bucks in the US Open Cup last month, evened the score at 1-1 in the 58th minute on a goal by Keith Detel off a one-time cross from Chas Perry.

The high energy of the Bucks' fresh legs then paid off in the 78th minute when Uzoigwe scored another one of his patented high profile goals for what would turn out to be the game-winner.

Tony Walls found Uzoigwe with his back to goal at the top of the 18. With two defenders on his back, Uzoigwe chested the incoming pass, headed it one time to set up the acrobatic, overhead kick.

The second-place Bucks, 6-2-1 (19 points) in the PDL's Great Lakes Division, return to action 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Ultimate Soccer Arenas vs. the Forest City London (Ontario), 3-0-3 (13 points).

Football camp

The Plymouth Wildcats football team is holding its Youth Camp June 22-24 at the PCEP Turf Stadium for players interesting in honing their linemen or passing skills.

There will be two sessions of the camp, being run by coach Mike Sawchuk. For those going into grades 5-9, sessions will be 5-7 p.m. each day; players entering grades 10-12 go 7-9 p.m.

Please go to www.plymouthwildcats.com for camp brochures and more information. Sawchuk can be reached at (734) 582-5696.

Learn to skate

The Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton is offering eight weeks of learn-to-skate sessions, beginning Tuesday, June 23.

Classes are 30 minutes each with 15 minutes of free time and are grouped by age and ability.

Parents can register children at the Arctic Edge, 46615 Michigan Avenue, or call (734) 487-7777 for more information.

New CAHA site

The Canton Amateur Hockey Association recently unveiled a new and improved Web site for the 2009-10 season.

The site has all the information anyone might need about CAHA teams, leagues and coaches for next year as well as brand new online registration.

Check it out at www.cantonhockey.org.

Bulldogs put bite on diamond opposition

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

No deficit is too large, no lead too small — they're the Motor City Bulldogs and they beat them all. Well, nearly all.

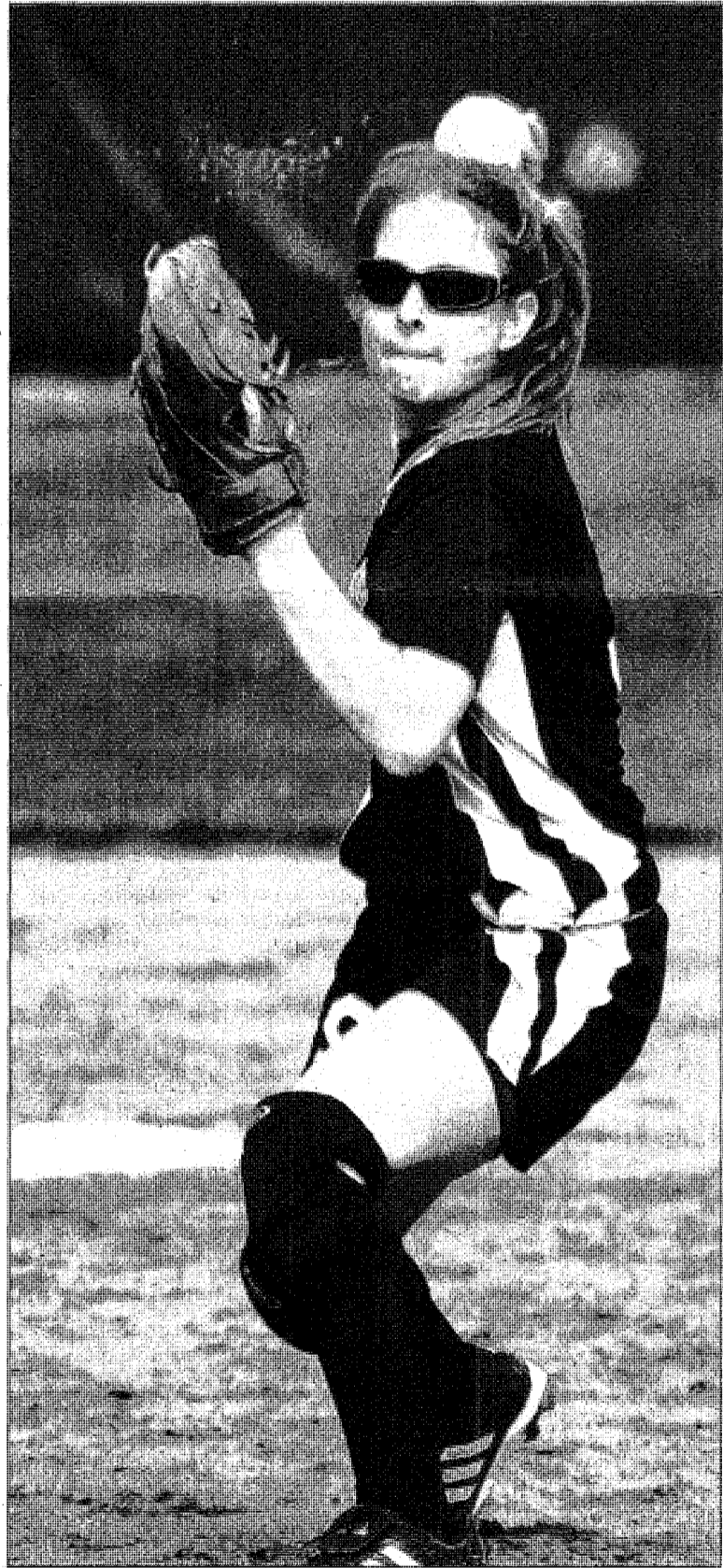
The Garden City-based U11 boys baseball team has compiled quite a season to date, winning 22 of 24 games (a loss to the Livingston Storm and tie with the Detroit Bees being the only blemishes) and already solidifying a berth in next month's Baseball Player's Association World Series to be held in Warsaw, Ind.

"We're having quite a year," voiced Bulldogs assistant coach Ken Montroy. "The kids get along, the parents get along - we just have a nice nucleus going for us and that certainly has a lot to do with our success."

The Bulldogs, the core of which has been together the past three seasons, were granted a spot in the July 21-26 World Series following their recent sweep of four games at the BPA Gold Cup Qualifier held in Jackson, MI. The tournament championship was one of two this season for the Bulldogs - the other coming at Saline Summer Slam.

The Bulldogs, first-year members of the Northwest Suburban League, opened play at the BPA Qualifier with a resounding 12-0 triumph over Dansville, and followed that up with a lopsided 13-1 decision over Adrian. Their stiffest test came in game three where Grand Rapids-based Around the Horn Stampede Black opened up a quick 6-0 lead after one inning, only to see the determined Bulldogs bounce back and bite their opponents, 10-9, to gain a shot at the tourney title.

Please see **BULLDOGS, B3**



All-Area softball team

Plymouth infielder Beth Heldmeyer, one of the area's top players again this season, was a sparkplug for the Wildcats, who won a district title. See page B2 for the All-Observer softball team.

Please see **SHOOTERS, B3**

Rapid fire frenzy

Area trio to join region's top shooters on state range

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Some say it's like golf — only with different targets, different equipment, different obstacles and a different degree of adrenaline.

It's the competitiveness among individuals that likens the little-known sport of practical shooting with the popular game of golf, and three area sharpshooters will be deeply involved this weekend in one of the sport's most prestigious events.

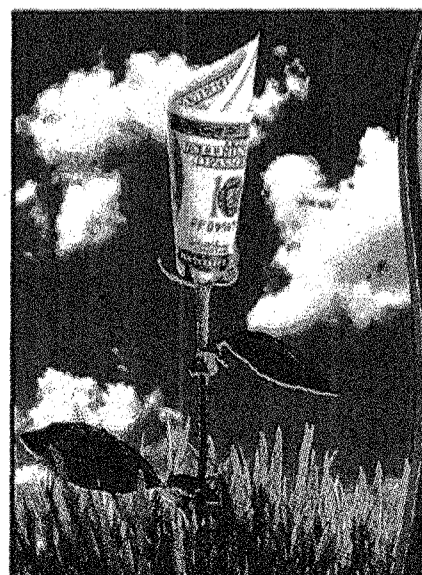
The Area 5 Championship, presented by the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) and sponsored by Infinity Firearms, is being contested at the South Kent Sportsman's Club in Dorr, MI, through Sunday. Nearly 280 shooters are slated to display their marksmanship over 12 challenging stages and sending more than 50,000 rounds downrange.

"This is the biggest competition I'll see," expressed Garden City native Rob Gaffney, who along with Roy Neal of Plymouth and Dave Maurice of Canton, have their sights set directly on knocking down enough targets in a limited span of time. "For an area match around here to have so many big dogs then, yes, this is a prestigious event."

Practical shooting measures the ability to shoot accurately and rapidly with a full-power handgun, rifle and/or shotgun. Speed, accuracy and power form the three sides of the triangle and each match measures a shooter's ability in all three areas.

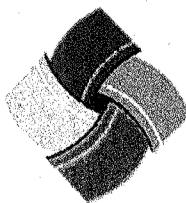
Shooting stages, called courses, are obstacle-laden and require as many as 30 shots to complete. Scoring measures points registered per second and weighs the score to compensate for the number of shots fired. Points are deducted for misses, thus lower-

Please see **SHOOTERS, B3**



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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Get creative

The Livonia Public Library and the Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) are offering a Teen Art Camp for students 12 years and older.

Two sessions will be held at the Civic Center Library: 7-8:30 p.m., Monday, July 20 and 2-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 22.

Local artist Lin Baum will teach the class, with a focus on an introduction to representational drawing in pencil. VAAL will provide the art supplies. There is no charge for the class.

Students entering seventh grade and up can sign up for the Sandburg Teen Summer Art Camp offered at the Sandburg Library in Livonia.

This class is taught by Julie Cooper, fine artist and teacher. The cost is \$45.

The sessions run one week, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday, Aug. 10-14. Students will create a large canvas acrylic painting.

There is no residency requirement for either program. To make a reservation to attend either program, contact Patti Goonis at (248) 893-4010.

Divorce support

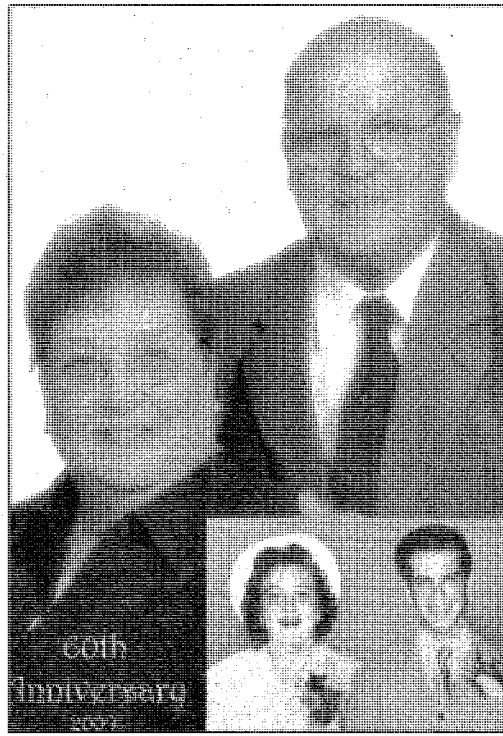
Attorney James J. Harrington III will discuss divorce proceedings with emphasis on pre and post custody issues at the next meeting of the Divorce Support Group at Schoolcraft College's Transition Center. The group will meet from 7-9 p.m., in room 225 at the McDowell Center, Tuesday, June 23.

The Divorce Support Group is open to anyone contemplating, in the process of or having difficulty adjusting to divorce. There is no fee to attend the group and registration is not required.

A certified divorce financial planner from Divorce Solutions is available for consultation from 5-7 p.m., the first Monday of the month at the Transitions Center. Clients are served on a first come first served basis. Sign in begins at 4:30 p.m. The service is free.

Attorney Laure Reyes Kopack from the firm of Creighton, McLean & Shea, is available for free consultation from 5-7 p.m., the second Monday of the month and attorney Marie Pulte is on hand the third Monday of the month. Sign in beginning at 4:30 p.m.

For more information about the Divorce Support Group call the Transitions Center at (734) 462-4443.



Jerry Young and Lyla Young

60TH ANNIVERSARY

Jerry Young and Lyla (Hall) Young, of Farmington Hills, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 25.

The couple was married June 25, 1949 in Detroit. Jerry is retired from General Motors and Lyla worked for Farmington Public Schools. Their children are Cindy Primer, Jerry Young, Jr., Pam Schultes, Judy Chimner, Craig Young, Todd Young, Lou (Bunny) Hozeska, Jennifer Young. They have 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The couple will celebrate with a family picnic in the park.

MILESTONES



Marilyn Joyce and Donald Siebert on their wedding day in 1959.



Marilyn Joyce and Donald A. Siebert

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Donald A. and Marilyn Joyce (Head) Siebert of Gwinn, formerly of Livonia, marked their 50th wedding anniversary Feb. 14. The couple married in 1959 at Dunning Park Bible Chapel in Redford. Donald is a 1949 graduate of Highland Park High School and worked for Chrysler in various jobs over 35 years, retiring from the Chrysler Engine Plant in Trenton.

Marilyn is a 1955 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School. A Cleary Business College graduate, she worked for Bower-Freeman and Bower in Ypsilanti.

After marrying, the couple lived in Wayne for three years before moving to Livonia, where they raised three children. After 34 years in Livonia, they moved to Gwinn, where Donald drove a school bus for eight years and Marilyn ran her own day care business. They are now retired.

The couple is active at Lake Superior Christian Church and has been involved with Upper Peninsula Bible Camp and Little Lake Gospel Chapel. Marilyn enjoys crafts, piano, singing in choir, Bible studies and is a member of a study club in Gwinn. Donald is a member of an amateur radio

club. They enjoy supporting Gospel causes together.

Their children are Craig (Cathie) Siebert of Plymouth, Davis Siebert of Dearborn Heights, the late Amy Siebert, Dona Joyce (David) Dillon of Fort Worth, Texas. They have nine grandchildren.

They celebrated with family and friends at Tailwinds, on the old Sawyer Air Base in Gwinn. Cheryl (Young) Mounsey of Gladstone, who served as the flower girl in their wedding, and her husband, Dennis, also took them to dinner in celebration of their milestone anniversary.

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NEIGHBORS

Pursuing her passion

Redford woman turns job loss into opportunity

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

When Beverly Moody of Redford was laid off from work few months ago, she knew she'd never find another job quite like the one she had.

An animal-lover since childhood, Moody had gotten used to bringing Oliver the pit bull mix, one of her four dogs, to the office with her. As the public relations director for Leader Dogs for the Blind, she had been surrounded by canines at work, both those of other employees and the dogs in training.

"It was heavenly. I was so happy, but I had set the bar so high at job satisfaction, I knew if I left and worked for a PR agency or in hospital PR, I knew I'd never be that happy again."

In spite of the poor economy and the fact that her husband had been laid off from his job as an events planner the previous month, Moody took the plunge into entrepreneurship and started her own pet-sitting, dog-walking and obedience business called Sit, Stay, Play!

She is based at home but travels throughout Western Wayne and South Oakland counties, meeting clients where they live.

"I didn't know anything about business, but there was this wonderful alignment of coincidences," said Moody, an East Lansing-area native who has worked for a variety of nonprofit organizations in metro Detroit since graduating from college.

A coworker had given her husband a gift to use the services of Right Management, a national leader in job outplacement, career coaching and leadership development. They also offered advice on self-employment and starting new businesses.

"I was able to do a two-day seminar and learn about creating a business plan," Moody said. "I knew I'd do pet sitting, dog walking and obedience."

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Moody has competed with two of her dogs in obedience. One has participated in agility and two have worked as therapy dogs. All four mixed breed dogs were rescues. She also adopted three cats.

"I've always loved all animals ever since I was little. I grew up with a white dog, Taffy, and she never left my side. I was always glued to her. We had a cat when I was little. I went to horseback riding camp. I'd see strays in the street and say, 'we need to get them and bring them home.' My father told me 'one day when you grow up and get your own house you can have as many dogs and cats as you want.' I guess I've done that."

As a pet sitter, Moody visits and cares for animals in their homes while their owners are gone on vacation or even simply working late.

A standard visit runs 20 minutes, although that can be lengthened or other services, such as dog walking, obedience lessons or extra play time can be added. Moody describes her obedience technique as "positive, motivational training."

SPECIAL SERVICES

"Since I had a cat with kidney failure I learned to administer sub-Q fluids. I am offering to do that for free," she said. The process entails placing a needle, attached to a drip line and fluid bag, under the cat's skin. Cats with advanced kidney disease sometimes require hydration by this method.

"I'm also offering muscle conditioning exercises. That's wonderful for larger dogs, to build up muscles in the back. They do that by learning spins, weaving in and out of your legs, jumping up and touching your hand."

"My goal when I leave the house is that the pet will be tired and happy."

Moody also offers Sit, Stay Play parties designed for three or more individuals who want to train their dogs in a group setting.

"It's a casual, fun atmosphere. If there are more than four dogs, I'll have another instructor with me."

Moody is certified by the American Red Cross in pet first aid and CPR. She's also insured and bonded. To learn more about her services and fees, visit www.sitstayplaywithbev.com.



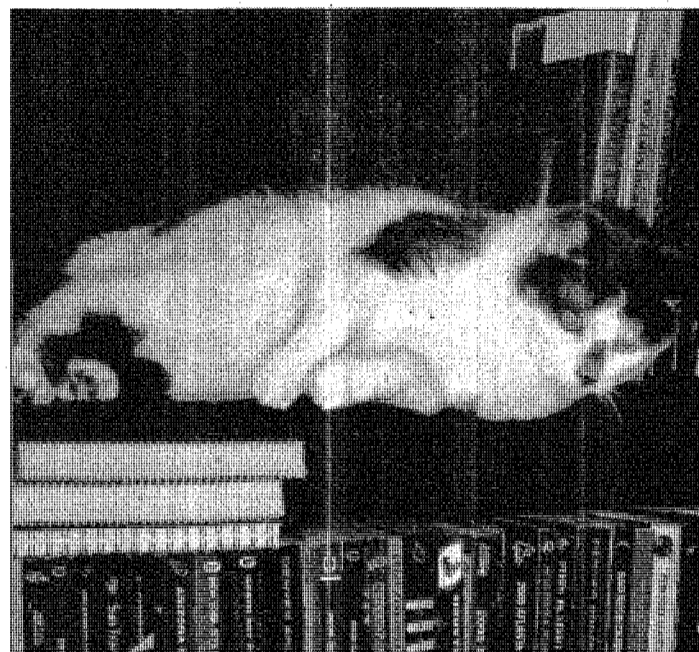
Beverly Moody of Redford and her dog, Giuseppe, compete in obedience. He earned his first obedience title at his first trial.



PET PROJECTS

Pet Projects is a series of occasional stories about animals.

If you've got a story idea about an upcoming pet-related event, an animal welfare issue, volunteer opportunity, rescue organization, play group, trend or business, we'd love to know about it. Send to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail to 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226



One of Beverly Moody's cats, Peter, lounges on a bookcase. Clients who are apprehensive about administering sub-Q fluids to their own cats will get help from Moody. She'll do it for free in honor of Peter.

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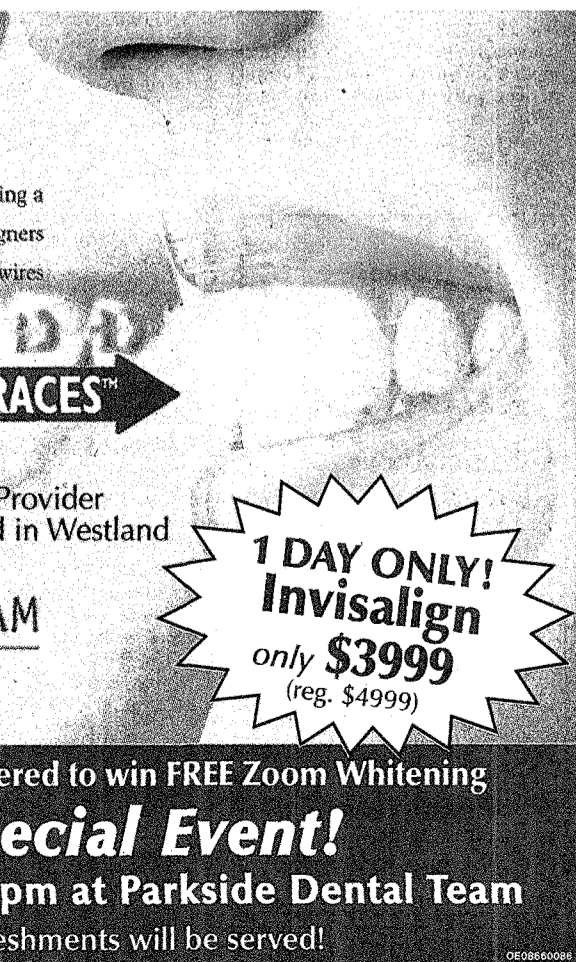
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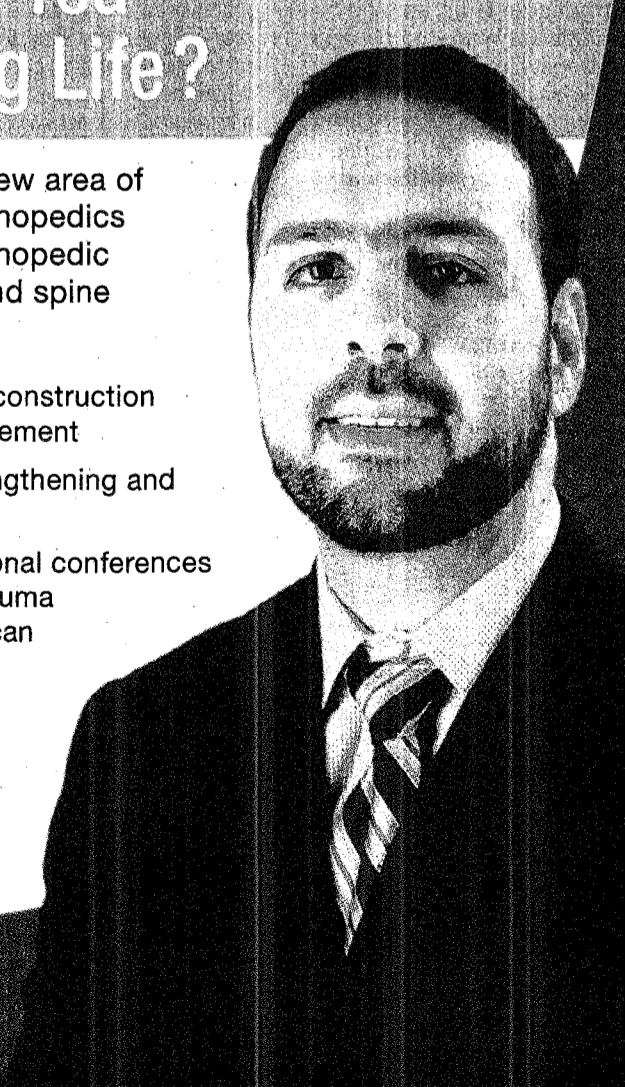
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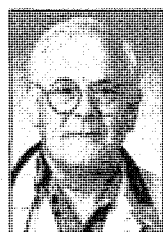
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Education, awareness can help save lives

On May 19, 2009, a lawsuit was filed against the General Electric Company and Samsung Electronics, Inc., in connection with GE-branded microwave ovens. The lawsuit seeks certification of a nationwide class on behalf of persons who have owned a GE-branded microwave oven manufactured on or after



Appliance Doctor
Joe Gagnon

Jan. 1, 2000. According to plaintiff's counsel, Hassan Zavareei, "the lawsuit alleges that GE and Samsung were responsible for the design, manufacturing, branding, marketing, and sale of microwave ovens that contained a defect that made the microwave ovens unreasonably dangerous. Because of the defect, the microwave ovens are susceptible to activating on their own, leading to smoke and

potentially extensive fire damage. We also allege in the complaint the defendants were aware of the defect no later than 2002 but failed to take the necessary corrective measures or to warn consumers."

The lead plaintiff, Timothy Hennigan, purchased a GE-branded microwave oven in February 2001. In June 2008, Hennigan's microwave began running completely on its own, causing the emission of sparks and smoke. As a result, his home suffered smoke-related damage, and his microwave oven could no longer be used. Through their investigations, lawyers for the putative class have uncovered dozens of reports of similar incidents across the country, including incidents that led to hundreds of thousands of dollars in property damage and pet fatalities.

The complaint seeks, among other things, compensatory damages, restitution, and a permanent injunction.

The lawsuit is captioned Hennigan, V General Electric Co. & Samsung Electronics

America, Inc., and was filed in federal court in the Eastern District of Michigan. Plaintiff is represented by the Washington, D.C. law firm of Tycko & Zavareei LLP, and the Miller Law Firm of Rochester. A copy of the complaint can be downloaded from the Tycko & Zavareei LLP Web site, www.tzlegal.com.

Upon reading the above, a trigger goes off in my head and causes all sorts of reserved emotions. I picture the woman who approached me some years ago to tell me her 21-year-old daughter had died in her apartment which had caught fire. She came home from work and took a cat nap and never woke up again. The fire department blamed the microwave oven and the insurance company said that the young lady was cooking something and went to sleep. The woman told me her daughter would never do anything like that and she couldn't even get

anyone to inspect the microwave oven. Oh, how I remember her tears as she spoke with me.

Just before I wrote this column I went to the Google search engine and looked up recalls on Samsung Microwave Ovens. Jumping out at me are the recalls on microwaves installed in RV and camper trailers. It's now summertime in Michigan and think of all the little ones that are going to be traveling with their parents. I pray that everyone installs a smoke detector in their kitchen as well as their campers and travel homes. The way they're making products overseas these days a little awareness can go a long way. Stay tuned.

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

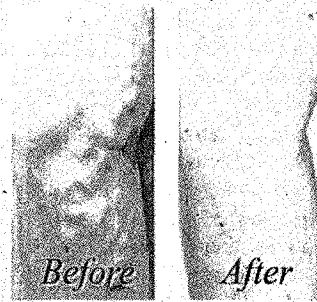
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MORE ON LOW BACK PAIN

Over a lifetime, most people will experience one or more episodes of low back pain. Over 90% of these episodes are self-limiting. That is, over time, the body will repair the damage that occurred, and the individual can return to the posture, pace, and way of life that was his or her custom before the back pain came on.

The catch phrase in this scenario is "over time." In the case of low back pain, the discomfort can last for months. In particular, the problem of extreme stiffness in the morning, lasting for hours, and of prolonged discomfort after arising from a chair or getting out of a car after a long drive, are back disabilities that are the first to come and the last to leave.

Thus, when back pain lingers, and ordinary walking and arising becomes an annoying, even an alarming chore, the obvious step is to see the doctor and get a prescription, a month or more of physical therapy or sophisticated treatment such as back injections.

The alternative is to wait as long as six weeks since in most instances the pain will resolve. Exceptions to waiting include pain that travels down the leg, pain not relieved by resting on the back or side, low back pain accompanied by fever, and intense low back pain that exerts a crippling effect.

Patients seeing their doctor early in their episode of back pain, often are disappointed. The doctor usually does not take x-rays and sends the patient home on small doses of Vicodin. However, that approach represents good medical care. The person receives what is needed for pain but the option for more investigation remains open if the discomfort does not resolve as expected.

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SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR DENTAL HEALTH

Presented by **Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.**

SMOKELESS NOT HARMLESS

A recent study shows that use of snuff and chewing tobacco by adolescent boys in this country has surged over the past few years. According to a report from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, there has been a 30 percent increase in the rate of smokeless tobacco use among boys aged 12-17 years over a recent five-year period. This finding is worrying on at least two important fronts: First, smokeless tobacco is as addictive as cigarettes and does not assist in weaning oneself from smoking. Second, using smokeless tobacco products increases the risk of oral cancer. Because dentists are usually the first to see signs of oral cancer, they have a stake in preventing it.

Breaking the smokeless tobacco or cigarette smoking habit now can greatly reduce your risk of developing oral cancer in the future. One of the most important things we can provide you with is education. Teaching you good oral hygiene, however, is only the first part. The rest is up to you. We'll help you keep an eye on your dental health beginning with a thorough oral exam. Call us at 734-453-9413 for an appointment here at 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth. We are located one block east of Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. New patients are always welcome.

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Hospital 'Healing Garden' boon for cancer patients

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Gerry Kruse used to watch cars and people go by as he underwent chemotherapy at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. But these days the Plymouth Township man has another option — looking out the windows at a scenic park-like setting with a fountain, pond and plants.

"It makes it its own pleasant environment, something to look it while you're getting your medicine. It is an improvement," said cancer patient Kruse, who likes that visitors now have a place outside with benches.

The "Healing Garden" was donated by George F. Riley as an enhancement to the Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, which has been open about three years. Farmington Hills resident Riley is a local businessman and philanthropist.

"His family has had care here," said Sara Stauffer, director of major gifts and special events at St. Mary Mercy. "His children were born here. He was raised on the Felician property." Riley's father was the electrician on the Felician Sisters' mother-house grounds in Livonia.

"He believes in the mission of St. Mary Mercy," she said. Riley said in a statement:

"We are pleased to be able to make this gift available to an institution that is so vital to our community, and to help make a difference to families in need of support." Additional information on Riley's foundation can be found at www.therileyfoundation.org.

In 1998, George, 77, and his wife, Dolores, founded the Riley Foundation, a Farmington Hills-based charitable organization that focuses on making children's lives better.

The Rileys first reached out to benefit children and families at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church and School, the family's home parish. Funds helped build the Family and Early Childhood Center and improved facilities in the school, as well as the church building. A sculpture of Jesus with children is on the school grounds, in memory of the Rileys' son who died in a car accident at age 15.

The St. Mary Mercy garden, named for Riley, was dedicated June 11 and is part of the capital campaign to advance cancer care and treatment at the center.

"Because healing and peace can be found in nature it was a way he could give back to our patients and families," Stauffer said.

Family members and friends visiting patients receiving chemotherapy can enjoy the gazebo, fountain and benches outdoors. Patients can also go outside, depending on their course of care. Stauffer noted some patients are there two-four hours, making the outdoor setting particularly welcome.

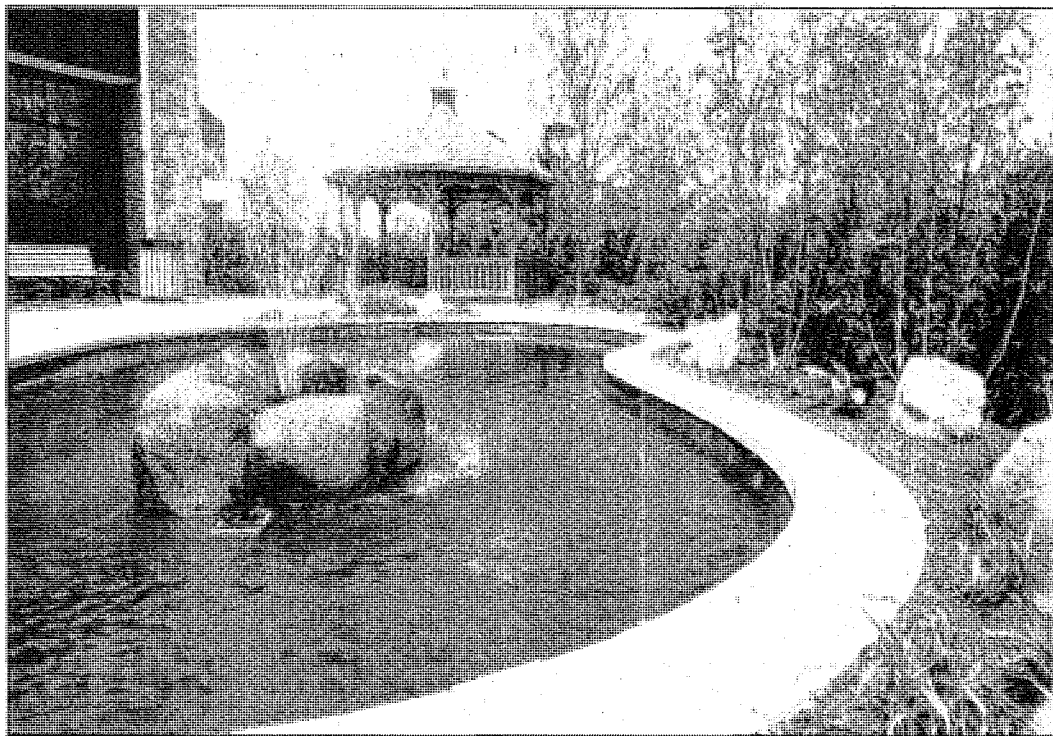
"People love it," she said of the garden, dedicated during a cancer survivor session. "People are excited to be able to share this. Family members are thankful. We're very blessed to have his generous philanthropy."

Registered nurse Michelle Zolotarevsky of the Our Lady of Hope center watched the progress as the garden went in.

"It's awesome," she said. "For it to come to life now, it's beautiful."

Even in the short time the garden has been open, Zolotarevsky has seen patient stress levels drop.

"It brings a smile to their face because it's beautiful scenery," she said. "It takes

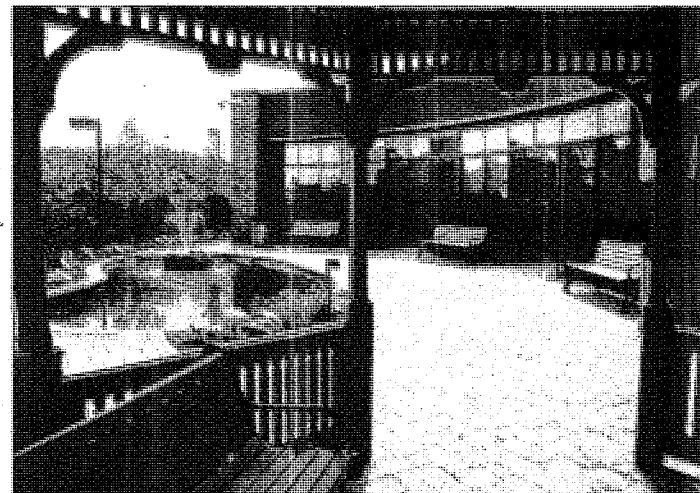


PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The new pond and gazebo are visible from the cancer center.

away their stress." Being able to go outdoors when not getting treatment, for lunch or to read, also helps.

"We have the gazebo they can sit under if it's a hot day," Zolotarevsky said. She's already noticed patients are less likely to pull their window shades down.



The pond as seen from the gazebo. Patients receiving chemotherapy sit in the area behind the glass.

Get in shape at Cardio Concert Club

If you're a fan of old time rock 'n' roll and like to walk and stroll, register for the Cardio Concert Club offered by Canton Leisure Services during the summer Thursday concert series.

Participants will complete 30 minutes of cardio exercise during the live performances, which start at 7:30 p.m. and run to 9 p.m., at the amphitheater in Heritage Park, located just west of the Canton Administrative Office at 1150 S. Canton Center, Canton. All attendees will be entered into a weekly drawing for music-themed gifts and incentives. Cardio

Club members who make it to at least seven concerts will be entered into a grand prize drawing at the end of the summer.

The walking program started Thursday, June 18, and continues through Aug. 6.

All fitness levels and ages may attend. The registration fees are \$10 for Canton residents and \$12 for all non-residents.

"We hope that people who already join us for the Thursday Night Concert Series will be encouraged to walk a few laps while they enjoy the music, and that walkers who

haven't experienced our popular weekly music experience yet will like what they hear," stated Jennifer Provenzano, a Canton Leisure Services Recreation specialist.

The Thursday Night Concert Series will feature many bands, including The Backbeats on June 25, Export on July 2 and Jump Street Swing Band on July 9.

For more information on the Cardio Concert Club, the Thursday Night Concert Series and for many more ways you can stay active all summer long, visit cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JUNE 22-28

The key to health

7 p.m. Tuesday, June 23, at Whole Foods, 7350 Orchard Lake Road., West Bloomfield. The key to restoring health naturally will be discussed. Limited to 20. For reservations, call (734) 756-6904. Presented by Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, chiropractor/holistic physician.

Lumbar Spinal Stenosis

Learn about getting relief from this medical condition that is caused by gradual narrowing of the spinal canal, at an educational event, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 24, at Botsford Hospital's Administration Building, Community Room, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. This is an opportunity for

patients with spinal stenosis to meet with an expert and learn more about management and treatment. (877) 477-DOC1

Melanoma Forum

Free forum, 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, at ComfortSuites-Wixom, 28049 S. Wixom Road, Wixom. Discussion will include: identifying melanoma, differences between melanoma and skin cancer, melanoma stages, treatment options and more. Organized by Kim's Klub, an organization created in honor of a 39-year-old wife, mother and Canton resident who died after a seven-month battle with melanoma. Register at www.kimsklub.com or call Leslie Garoufalas at (248) 953-0884.

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