

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Loss of foot
doesn't
discourage
instructor
Local News, A3

AROUND TOWN

Meet the candidates

The Westland Monitors will be hosting a Meet the Candidates event for the four positions to be filled on the Westland city council at 7 p.m. Wednesday. The meeting will be held at Joy Baptist Church, 37055 Joy between Wayne Road and Newburgh.

Nine candidates are seeking to fill the four council seats and one will be eliminated on the Tuesday, Aug. 4 ballot. The remaining eight candidates will move on to the Nov. 3 ballot.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, call (734) 721-4142 or (734) 525-8788.

Tigers outing

Tiger fans have until Wednesday to get tickets to join members of five area chambers of commerce — Westland, Garden City, Dearborn Heights, Wayne and Redford — in watching the home team take on the Minnesota Twins on Friday, Aug. 7.

Tickets are \$20 per person and must be reserved by Wednesday.

Call (734) 326-7222 to make a reservation.

Police golf outing

The Westland Police Department will hold their 19th annual golf outing Wednesday, Aug. 12 at Hickory Creek Golf Club in Superior Township. The proceeds benefit the Westland Police Honor Guard and the D.A.R.E. Program.

The cost is \$125 per golfer including golf, lunch at the turn, beverages on the course, buffet dinner, contests, prizes and goody bags.

It's \$30 per person for a buffet dinner only at the Greentide Tavern. There are various other packages offered for businesses.

Registration is at 7 a.m. with an 8 a.m. shotgun start.

For more information, call the police department at (734) 467-3226.

LA Fitness won't occupy Westland property

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

LA Fitness won't be replacing the boarded up former Quo Vadis movie theater — a victim of the difficulty in getting credit.

"We had our financing through Citizens Bank and it fell through. We got an extension on our site plan but we weren't able to get the money," said Ernie D'Ascenzo of the Michigan Property Group, the project developers.

The firm no longer has an option on the property, located on the east side of Wayne Road just north of Warren, which is owned by National

Amusement.

"The project is done — the bank pretty much shut us down. That was 450 construction jobs and 50 permanent jobs at LA Fitness," said D'Ascenzo. "There is no value for the (strip) center except the existing tax base. It's a crazy time."

Several months ago, the council had approved a one-year extension on the project site plan for the approximately \$10 million project. D'Ascenzo had only positive things to say about Westland Economic Development Director Lori Fodale and Mayor William Wild.

"Lori and Bill were a pleasure to deal with — they helped us with Wayne County," D'Ascenzo said. "The only prob-

lem was the funding. Ten days before we were ready to go, the bank pulled the funding — we were that close — two years of work."

A lot of businesses are running into problems getting financing, said Fodale.

"It's unfortunate that they are not going forward. We're going to aggressively market the property for a new user," said Fodale. "Everybody spent a lot of time on this project, so it's unfortunate that it won't come to fruition."

Due to the poor condition and unsightly appearance of the Quo Vadis building, D'Ascenzo said that demolition of the building would benefit the entire strip center on the northeast corner of

the intersection.

"We have not discussed demolition with the property owners at this point," said Fodale.

Despite the end of this project, Fodale said she continues to see new businesses locating in Westland and reinvestment by existing businesses.

"I have just visited seven new businesses. Kroger spent \$5.8 million for a complete interior and exterior remodel," she said. "Buffalo Wild Wings just reopened after being closed for two weeks and did an interior and exterior remodel."

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



Linda Klebba (left) of Garden City and Westland resident Chelcie Munson formed a lasting relationship after being paired in the Westland Youth Assistance Program mentoring program.

'Big heart' of mentor helps teen get back on track

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

By her own description, Chelcie Munson was a bad kid when she was referred the Westland Youth Assistance Program in 2007.

"I got in a fight with a 17-year-old girl at my best friend's 16th birthday party," said Munson, 16. "When I came to the program, I had a really bad attitude. I would smoke weed a lot, I drank (alcohol) when I could — my grade point average was 1.6."

Munson finished her junior year at Wayne Memorial High School having maintained over a 3.0 grade point average which earned her a place on the honor roll throughout the school year. She's also a member of the school Army ROTC program and has earned certification as a preschool teacher assistant at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center.

"I plan to graduate with honors and after high school, I plan to join the Navy for MP (military police) training," said Munson, a Westland resident.

It was the Youth Assistance

Program and particularly a relationship with volunteer mentor Linda Klebba, a Garden City resident, that Munson credits with helping her change her attitude and life.

"I dreaded coming here (to Youth Assistance) every Tuesday. I used to have a really bad relationship with my mom — we were at each other's neck every day," said Munson. "Linda had her own opinions but they weren't my mom's opinions. Linda let me make my own decisions — I usually did what she said."

Initially, Munson also wasn't that keen on Youth Assistance Director Paul Motz.

"I used to think Paul was a mean guy who wanted me to have no fun. I realized he wanted the best for me," she said. "I don't know where I would be without this program."

Not that Munson had a choice about participating in Youth Assistance — she said her parents wouldn't allow her to take the alternative of going to court and paying a

Please see **MENTOR, A2**

Annapolis Park to unveil marker, celebrate its history

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Everyone, including President Barack Obama, is invited to the Saturday, July 25, celebration as the Annapolis Park historical marker is unveiled.

"We invited the president, the

governor, the Wayne County executive — everyone we know," said Reasther Everett, Southeast Westland Homeowners Association president.

Located in southeast Westland off Middlebelt between Van Born and Annapolis, the 366 homes in the Annapolis Park subdivision were developed in the early 1950s.

"It was one of the first communities in America built for what they called 'colored GIs' — all the veterans," said Everett.

Efforts to get an historical designation for Annapolis Park began in the 1990s.

"We got serious in 2006 and got the designation then. Now we are finally

getting the marker," said Everett.

The state and federal historical designation is just that — a designation and doesn't include the marker itself which in this case carried a more than \$5,000 price tag covered through donations.

Please see **MARKER, A2**

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Review of Central City Park clean-up plans continue

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Now that they've received an extensive list of changes from the state, Westland and Wayne County officials are trying to assess the financial and engineering impact to proposed plans for cleaning up part of lead contaminated Central City Park.

"It's hard to say. They gave us so much stuff. It's technical and a lot of it is boilerplate," Mayor William Wild said. "Our attorneys are going to look at it over the weekend. We need to look at the additional dollars and engineering (that may be required)."

City and county officials met with Department of Environmental Quality staff Thursday to go over changes being sought to the more than 200-page proposal.

"We received an extensive

list of changes in the proposed clean-up and maintenance plan," Wayne County Assistant CEO Alan Helmkamp said. "We need to analyze and digest the additional changes, testing and the costs. We've agreed to analyze it and come up with a list of questions to which they didn't have answers."

Once attorneys for the city and county have reviewed the proposed changes, Helmkamp and Wild are hoping to have a meeting early in the week.

"I'd like to get a response from them (the DEQ) by the end of the week," Helmkamp said. "I can't really be too specific — there was so much to analyze."

A DEQ staff person had earlier described the plan as good but there were a few items that needed to be corrected. However, Wayne County owns the property which is leased to the city and the

estimated \$1.2 million first phase project would be on the county's dime. The county is hopeful the project would qualify for stimulus funding.

The first phase would address environmental problems on the 12 acres at the east end of the park and install new soccer fields, pavilions and concession stands.

The plan calls for installation of a geo-textile membrane, 12 inches of fresh soil and other landscaping to prevent park users from coming into contact with contaminated soil. Other areas would be covered by asphalt or concrete.

Outside the 12 acres, the remainder of the park would remain fenced off until additional phases of remediation are completed. The county's plan also includes several measures to address findings of methane gas from the former landfill.

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Losing foot doesn't discourage dance instructor

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Barb Duka was firing up her line dancing class on a recent Thursday.

Duka leads a group of about 35 people at the Livonia Senior Center, wearing a blue smock embroidered with flowers and ladybugs, reflective of the spring-like weather outside and the spring in her step.

"Heel, heel, toe, toe, step together, quarter turn, heel, heel, toe, toe, e step together, angle up," Duka chants, keeping the group in rhythm. She stops, then turns to one of the dancers following along with each step and teasingly says: "Show-off!"

It's a far cry from last fall when the pain in Duka's right foot wouldn't go away.

The Westland resident, a dance instructor at the Livonia Senior Center and at the Maplewood Center in Garden City, was told by a chiropractor last year that her pain was probably caused by a circulation problem.

Eventually she went to a doctor who ran tests to check her circulation. Tests showed a blockage in her aorta, which required surgery. Then she had a second surgery to place two stents in her legs.

But her infected foot couldn't be saved. Her lower leg had to be amputated.

Duka never lost her indomitable spirit. Her jokes and laughter inspire the seniors who take her line dancing classes, the ones who are older than Duka's 59 years and call her "Mom."

"I was never the type to be depressed," Duka said. "I wanted to know 'what's next, when am I coming back.' They made me a leg, and I just took off like a bat out of hell."

Duka's recovery took time, but it was on her calendar, on her terms. Duka was in the hospital for two weeks after the Jan. 15 operation.

REACHING GOALS

Doctors and nurses wanted her to walk right away and tried to get her into a nearby rehabilitation center. But she wasn't ready and eventually was sent home.

She used a wheelchair at first. "I set goals," Duka said. "The first thing I wanted to do is make breakfast." She got on her one foot and did just that, then the same with dinner.

At first she had an occupational therapist assist her with exercises, then a physical therapist. Soon members of her line dancing classes helped, even ironing her clothes.

Duka had a walker and a roller, a walker with wheels, but she preferred to walk on her own two feet. Eventually she returned to her class in May, all fired up and ready to go.

The line dancers gathered on her return in mid-May for Duka's birthday. For now, she teaches one day a week, for two hours a class.

During this interview several students say hello and hug her. One greets her by saying: "Look at you, you look so snazzy." Then she hugs Duka and says: "You are so brave."

"It's so exciting to see them together talking," Duka said. "They all get together here. I could care less if they do one dance."

Arlene Holladay took a class taught by Duka in 1999. She's become a close friend. "I've just tried to be there for her," Holladay said. "She's a great person. She's a great inspiration. She's been a good friend. When I have a problem, we talk."

"I was just helping her out."



Barb Duka (with microphone) calls out instruction to the 35 dancers at the Livonia Senior Center.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

All these people depend on her."

On her recovery, Holladay said: "She's ahead, She's ahead of everything. Her physical therapist said, 'I don't know what to do, she's so far ahead.'"

"(The class members) just can't get over it. She's an inspiration. She's doing great."

'KIND AND PATIENT'

Elaine Farquhar of Livonia met Duka several years ago when both took a dance class offered at John Glenn High School. The instructor noticed Duka would "catch on real

quick," which led to Duka's start as a dance instructor, Farquhar said.

"She is just so kind and patient," Farquhar said. "She will repeat the dance and insist that you have fun. It's a fun thing, and she enjoys it."

Farquhar remembers talking to Duka the day she got home from the hospital. "She was so upbeat," Farquhar said. "Every time I called her, she was just so upbeat."

Duka is like that all the time, Farquhar said. "For me, it makes me feel upbeat."

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Carol Moros of Livonia is another of Duka's students. "It's astronomical," Moros said of Duka's recovery and return. "Most people would have gone into a deep depression, but she's always been an encourager. We're like family. It's not a normal dance class."

"A big part of her is being a positive person. She would not let her (condition) get her down," Moros said.

When she returned, "we all cried," Moros said. "Everybody was crying with happiness. She was determined to get to this point."

Moros believes Duka gets in return what she gives. "(She is) getting love because she gives so much love. You just can't say enough about the lady."

Today Duka wears a metal bar for support hidden by a flesh-colored material and shaped like a leg. Even from just a few feet away, you can't distinguish the difference.

Duka does not express regret that she lost her lower leg and foot, nor is her conversation sprayed with "what ifs."

"To be able to stand up there, it's a second time around," Duka said. "It gives me a chance to do it again."

"A lot of people tell me that I'm their role model. I just want to be able to smile and if I can make them laugh, then I feel blessed."

CAREGIVERS GREAT

Duka appreciates caregivers whether they are spouses, relatives or friends, too. Her husband, George, drove her to Wyandotte for her surgery and would spend the weeknights and weekends at the hospital. Holladay fielded the questions from the class on Duka's recovery, and would type up a letter on her progress for her dancing students.

And how does her leg feel? "All right," Duka said. "It feels like I'm wearing a brace."

"I never think that my leg is amputated. I just thought of it as broke. I never looked at it as gone. You can't."

"You look at a group like this, how could you not get better?"

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'I'll never forget'

Car-train collision claims 5 young lives

BY DARRELL CLEM
AND BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITERS

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy stepped away from the wreckage of Thursday's car-train accident that took five young lives and, with a sad turn of his head, summed up what many of the rescue workers, EMTs and police/fire officials were likely feeling. "I'll never forget what I just saw," LaJoy said.

What he saw was the carnage that occurred when the driver of a Ford Fusion tried to beat an oncoming, 530-ton Amtrak train traveling nearly 70 mph at the Canton Township railroad crossing at Hannan. Video footage obtained by a local company showed the driver trying to get around another car and then the crossing gate and being struck shortly after noon, police said.

The impact was such that the train ended up pushing the car nearly a mile.

The victims — four males and one female — ranged in age from 14 to 21. The five, all pronounced dead at the scene, included Jessica Sadler, 14, of Wayne; Eddie Gross, 18 of Taylor; Sean Harris, 19, of the Detroit area; his

brother, Terrence Harris of Stafford, Va.; and Daniel Broughton, 19, of Woodhaven.

Broughton, the driver, had a suspended license for various traffic issues.

The train was traveling with nearly 170 passengers headed for Chicago. It had left the Dearborn station and likely had reached nearly 70 mph when the collision occurred, Amtrak officials said.

According to Canton Police spokesman Sgt. Mark Gajeski, witnesses had indicated — and the video footage from the local company later confirmed — the driver of the Fusion had tried to get around the crossing gates, which were down, with the crossing lights also working.

Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari said it didn't appear the train crew could have done anything to avoid hitting the car as it was crossing the tracks.

"It's very tragic, certainly for the family and friends of the people in the vehicle, but also for our crew," Chicago-based Magliari said. "It appears that there were no reports of any malfunctions on the part of the train. There's nothing they can do to stop vehicles



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Paramedics and rescue workers clear the scene. Five people died in the collision.

from disregarding warnings about an approaching train."

Bodies of the victims remained in the car for some five hours while accident

investigators went about their investigation. After some four hours, the passenger cars of the train were detached from the engine and taken back to

Dearborn, where they boarded another train.

"Obviously, this is a tremendous tragedy," LaJoy said.

Deadly collision energizes talks about safeguards

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The train-car collision that killed five people in Canton on Thursday afternoon has rekindled talks over making railroad crossing barriers more difficult for drivers to ignore.

Michigan became the first state in the nation to install a new barricade system that, when a train is approaching, triggers vertical devices that rise out of the road, both in front of drivers and in the median, said Michigan Department of Transportation spokeswoman Janet Foran.

"It comes up in the center line and in front of you in an 'L

shape," she said Friday.

MDOT has installed the barricade system on one Denton Road crossing in Van Buren Township, but it isn't currently working properly and has delayed efforts to expand the scope of the project, she said.

"We're having some mechanical and electrical issues at this point," Foran said, "so the study is being delayed at this point. We don't have plans at any other crossings at this time."

The barricades, when working, further discourage motorists from driving around lowered crossing gates — a maneuver blamed for a horrific crash that claimed the lives of

five young people on Hannan Road near Michigan Avenue.

Ideally, the vertical devices, or delineators, would rise across all lanes of traffic and for a few car lengths along the median. They are housed in self-contained, modular cartridges recessed in the ground, and MDOT officials say they are easy to install.

The project stems from a safety test by MDOT, the Federal Railroad Administration and Norfolk Southern Railway.

Foran's remarks came on the same day that Canton Public Safety Director John Santomauro said he couldn't recall in recent times a single

accident in Canton that involved as many deaths as Thursday's crash — and certainly not one that involved a train.

Santomauro stressed the importance of obeying railroad crossing regulations and other traffic safety laws.

"From a simple traffic safety standpoint, we emphasize over and over and over again the importance of traffic safety," he said. "This is an unfortunate and horrific reminder to people that you have to obey traffic laws, and there are immediate consequences if you don't do that."

Santomauro called Thursday's accident "another

tragedy" involving people who disregard railroad crossing gates.

"You're not going to beat the train," he said, and in more cases than not, "it will be fatal."

Canton police Sgt. Mark Gajeski said Friday afternoon that authorities were awaiting conclusive toxicology results, and authorities didn't know whether alcohol — or simply poor judgment — may have been a factor in the crash.

Moreover, a video camera from a business near the scene revealed that the railroad crossing gates were working properly, Gajeski said, and the Amtrak train was traveling

within the legal speed.


Marc Magliari, a Chicago-based Amtrak spokesman, said Illinois also has initiated efforts to improve railroad crossing safety, partly by using four crossing gate arms rather than two in some places. He also said that state has installed some median barriers in certain places, although Foran said the specific system in Van Buren Township was the first in the nation.

Officials concede that no barricade system is perfect, but they said efforts will continue to try to improve railroad crossing safety.

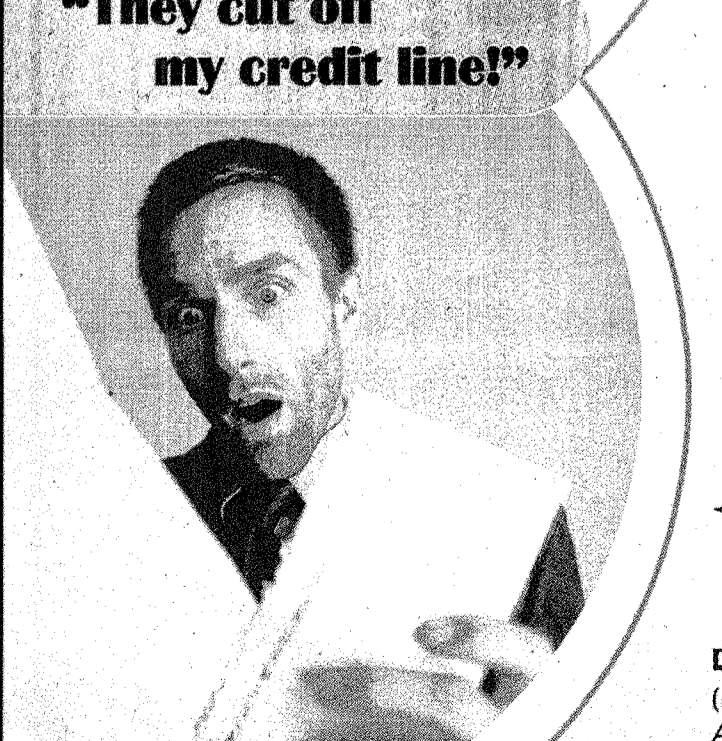
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Couple's eatery captures nostalgic feeling

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Tim & Sally's Awesome Eats, one of Canton's newest restaurants, is a warm, friendly place where patrons of all ages can recapture a sense of childhood nostalgia.

Cartoonish artwork adorns a front window and depicts signature characters Tim and Sally walking past their restaurant patio on their way to work. Step inside, and a colorful mural on one wall shows the couple enjoying a day with their smiling customers.

A sign outside — all deep purple, bright yellow and burnt red — gives way to the same color scheme inside that brightens the mood even before a tempting menu arrives touting juicy Angus burgers, a Philly-style cheesesteak sandwich, New York-inspired hotdogs shipped from the East Coast, and homemade milkshakes served with the mixing cup.

Tim & Sally's Awesome Eats, located next to the Rite Aid store on Canton Center Road south of Geddes, is the brainchild of Canton residents Janice Brooks and Doug Hartleib, a married couple who also own Livonia-based Custom Edge Construction, which specializes in interior remodeling.

"We wanted to do something a little more personal," Brooks said, standing inside the restaurant on a day Hartleib was away.

The couple decided to use catchy names Tim and Sally, partly as a nod to actor Tim Allen's character who always had a new project on the TV sitcom *Home Improvement*. The name Sally just seemed to fit, especially with menu items such as the Steamed Sally burger — actually steamed — a Beefy Tim brisket sandwich, a barbecue chicken Wrapped Sally in a spinach tortilla, or a BLTim.

They brought in area artist Lindsay Bochenek, whose restaurant artwork can be seen on her Web site, www.LZdesignz.com. Tim & Sally's Awesome Eats opened in mid-June, but Brooks and Hartleib are planning a celebratory

grand opening July 24-26, with Saturday children's activities including face-painting, balloon animals and the eatery's fresh popcorn.

The restaurant, with 45 seats inside and 24 on the patio, marks the couple's first eatery, but Brooks acknowledged they wouldn't mind someday having a franchise-based business. They even splurged on an Alto-Shaam

smoker to cook savory pork, beef brisket and chicken.

Canton's arts coordinator, Jennifer Tobin, stopped in for lunch one day with township Leisure Services employees Mary Kahanec, Marianne Stewart, Patty Dunn and Mary Falzon. Collectively, they tried the Pulled Tim pork sandwich, corn fritters, a turkey reuben, a grilled chicken salad, a Tuna Sally

sandwich and a grilled, half-pound Tim Burger.

Their verdict was as unanimous as their lunchtime laughter — Tim & Sally's Awesome Eats was, well, awesome.

"Two thumbs up," Tobin said, summing up the crowd's sentiment.

And that's just what Brooks and Hartleib want to hear about their restaurant.



Janice Brooks and her husband Doug Hartleib opened Tim and Sally's Awesome Eats.

"We've been working so hard to get it open," Brooks said. "It has been a little fran-

tic, but it's pretty cool. It's a fun, happy place, and we're proud of it."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com.

traffic, obtain donor information and help lift items out of vehicles.

11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Potty training is not required.

tacting Paula at gchsl989reunion@hotmail.com.

third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. Call (734) 362-8825.

Counterpoint Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Recycling event Wayne County Department of Environment and Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit are partnering once again to bring the Dell RECONNECT electronic waste collection program to Dearborn 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 18.

Hearing test Garden City Hospital's Audiology department is offering free hearing screenings for adults on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Preschool sign-up Garden City Co-Op Preschool at 1841 Middlebelt, Garden City, has openings available in all classes - 18 months, 3 years and 4 years.

Fish Dial-A-Ride Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation.

Substance abuse support A SAFE PLACE meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program.

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

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

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

Academic Pathways Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool, at 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia, will host open houses 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, July 14, 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, and Thursday, Sept. 3. The preschool has a three-year-old program that runs 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday and a four-year-old program that runs 9:30-

Class reunion Members of Garden City High School's Class of 1989 need to buy their tickets now for 20th class reunion 6 p.m. to midnight Aug. 29 at Joy Manor in Westland. Tickets are \$75 and include dinner, premium open bar, DJ, door prizes, picture CD and other gifts. Grads also have until July 15 to submit information for the memory book. Tickets are available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or by con-

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

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Advocacy group The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and

HOBBY LOBBY advertisement featuring various craft supplies, furniture, and home accents with 50% off sale.

Mike's Marketplace advertisement featuring fresh meats, seafood, and deli items with prices and store hours.

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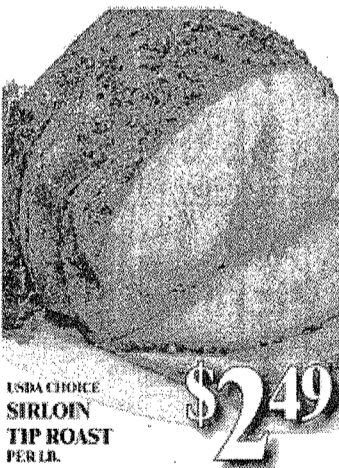
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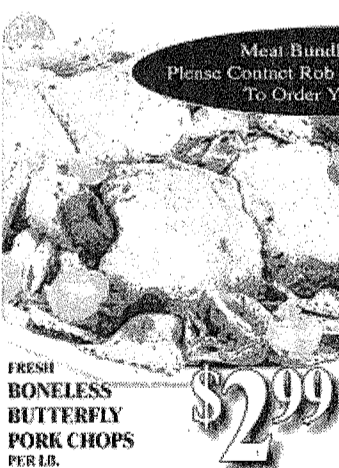
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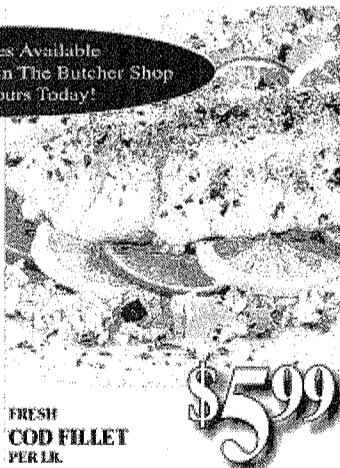
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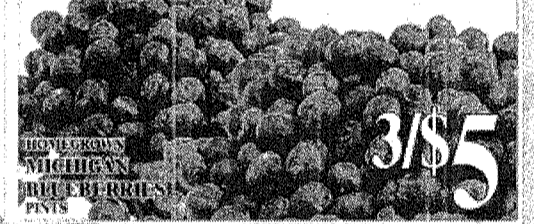
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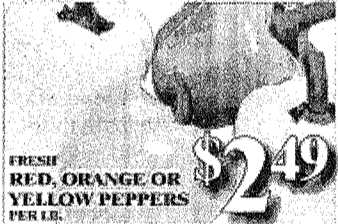
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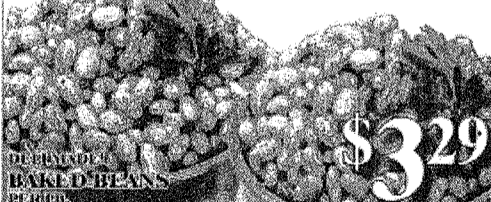
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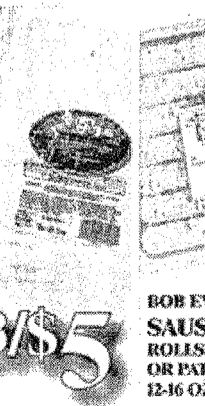
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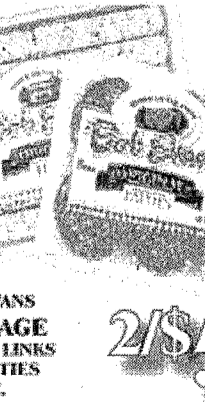
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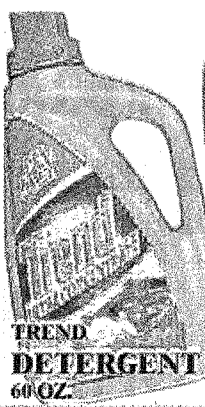
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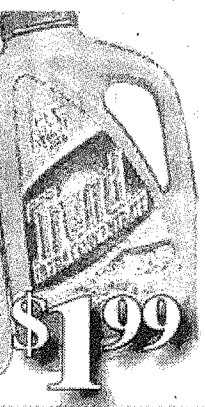
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Dan O'Meara, editor, (313) 222-2323
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Olympian to Rome

Canton's Schmitt rules 400 free, qualifies for Worlds

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton High grad Allison Schmitt wasted little time in earning a spot on USA Swimming's 2009 World Championship Team.

The incoming sophomore at the University of Georgia and bronze medalist at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games captured the women's 400-meter freestyle in Tuesday night's opening session of the ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships held in Indianapolis, Ind.

The race featured four U.S. Olympians with Schmitt, representing Club Wolverine in Ann Arbor, earning the title with a first-place time of 4:06.77.

Open water Olympian Chloe Sutton (Mission Viejo, Calif.), who specializes in races that are more than six miles long, sprinted to the front of the pack during the first 300 meters. But over the final 100 meters, Schmitt rallied and took the lead for good to cement a berth, July 22-Aug. 2, in Rome, Italy, at the World Championships.

"It feels amazing, I'm really happy," Schmitt told swimnet.com webcast interviewer Summer Sanders on the pool deck following the event.

Sutton joined Schmitt on the podium as the silver medalist with a time of 4:07.20, while Olympian Caroline Burckle (Louisville, Ky.) placed third in 4:09.61.

American and U.S. Championships record holder Katie Hoff, who was a silver medalist at the Beijing Games,

slipped to fifth in 4:12.34, well off her personal best of 4:02.20 set back in Feb. of 2008 in Columbia, Mo.

On Wednesday, Schmitt finished runner-up in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:57.25 to qualify for the 2009 World Championship team along with the winner, Dana Vollmer of Grandbury, Tex., who hit the wall fist in 1:56.20.

Both Vollmer and Schmitt will also be members of the 800 freestyle relay team in Rome.

The 19-year-old Schmitt, who earned a bronze in Beijing in the 4 x 200 freestyle relay and qualified but did not medal in the 200 freestyle, is coming off an All-America season with the Georgia Bulldogs after cap-

Please see **SCHMITT, B2**



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Allison Schmitt will compete in the 200- and 400-meter freestyles at the 2009 World Championships.

GAME WRAPS

All-Star softball

The Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association All-Star softball game will have a distinct Livonia Franklin flavor to it Wednesday, July 22 at Lansing's Ranney Park.

The Division 1 White Team will feature the Patriots' Taylor twins, Brianna, a shortstop, and Brittany, a catcher, along with coach Linda Jimenez, who guided Franklin to a 32-6 record and a KLASA South Division title.

Outfielder Hannah Atkinson of Farmington Hills Mercy will also play for the White team.

The Division 1 Red-White game starts at 11:30 a.m.

The Division 2 All-Star game, beginning at 9:30 a.m., will feature Madonna University recruit Erica Landess, a third baseman who batted .381 this spring for Carleton Airport.

Academic All-America

Kim Baughman of Farmington, an All-America swimmer at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, has received another prestigious honor. Baughman has been named an Academic All-America by the College Sports Information Directors of America, too.

She maintained a 3.55 grade point and adds the academic award to the All-America status she achieved at the NCAA swim finals at the University of Houston in March.

Baughman will begin her junior year at Grand Valley where she attained both All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and All-America recognition in multiple events her freshman and sophomore years.

A 2007 graduate of Farmington High School where she was an all-area swimmer, Baughman is majoring in public relations and event planning.

Ace in the hole

Matthew Cusumano, of Plymouth, wasted no time in experiencing one of golf's exciting moments. Swinging a 7-iron, the 10-year-old recently aced the 66-yard 10th hole at Fox Hills' Strategic Fox Course.

Motor City Junior Golf

The Motor City Junior Golf Championship, sponsored by Caddyshack and Top Flite Golf, will be Wednesday, July 29 at Whispering Willows Golf Course, located at Eight Mile and Newburgh roads, in Livonia. The event is open to boys and girls ages 12-17.

Included in the \$49 entry fee is 18 holes, practice rounds (prior to the event), driving range balls (day of the event), lunch ticket and gift pack.

All entries are due by Friday, July 24. (Checks should be made payable to T.J.W., Inc.)

For more information and tee times, call (248) 476-4493.

Harrison girls have new hoops coach

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

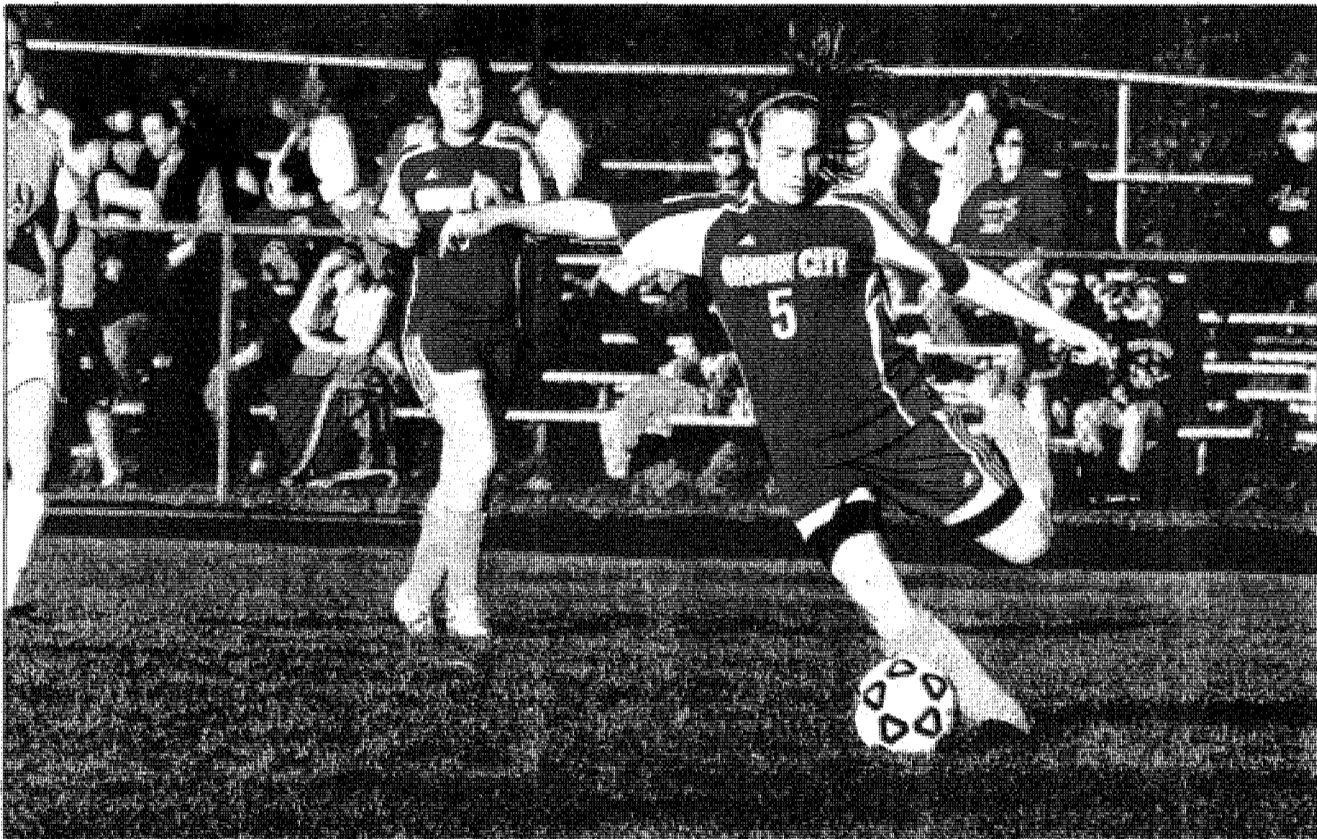
Tim Micklash is eager and ready to run his own basketball program, and the need for a girls varsity coach at Farmington Harrison is that opportunity.

The 29-year-old Micklash, who has taught physical education and health at Dunckel Middle School for six years, replaces Chris Grzegorzczak.

"We've already started this summer, trying to put a system in place," Micklash said. "It's been going great. The girls have been picking things up well. I can't wait to get started for the season."

Micklash has coached eighth-grade girls since he began teaching in the district. He also spent one season as a boys varsity assistant at Farmington High.

For the past three years, he has been the North Farmington fresh-



Karlee Derrick, a four-year letter winner for the Cougars of Garden City, recently signed on with Marygrove College where she will be a part of the initial class for women's soccer.

Ex-Cougar Derrick to help kick start Mustangs

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Many athletes cherish the opportunity to lay the groundwork toward building a winning program. And what better way to accomplish that feat than by being a part of an inaugural class of prized athletes.

Garden City High graduate Karlee Derrick certainly finds herself in that

category these days as the prep soccer star recently signed a letter of intent to attend Marygrove College and participate in the school's initial season of women's soccer.

"It's the first team ever there and it's something I want to be a part of," Derrick said. "Coach (Tony Williams) called me a couple of times and just said that this is going to be a new program and I just want you girls to have

fun and grow together as a team. He had his heart in it when he said that, and I really enjoyed hearing that."

Up until a couple of weeks ago, Karlee had Siena Heights on her priority list. But a disagreement in funding allowed her to explore other options and that is when Williams came a calling.

Please see **DERRICK, B2**

New-look Rams thrill 85-year-old sponsor

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Michigan Rams broke out their new blue and gold jerseys Friday night at Bicentennial Park.

And 85-year-old team sponsor Amy Black, who donated \$1,900 for the new threads, couldn't help but like the way the Rams looked in posting a 7-0 Livonia Collegiate Baseball League win over Concealed Security.

Black, from Westland, is the mother of Rams scorekeeper June Berryman and the mother-in-law of Rams manager Rick Berryman. She is considered the Rams' number one fan. In her honor, the initials

'AB' are stitched on one sleeve.

"She comes to the games with her friend Bill, they're the ones who have the clappers and pom poms, they just love her," Rick Berryman said. "She puts in about four grand (\$4,000) a year, including the (wooden) bats, and we kick in the rest so the kids don't have to really pay anything. She's been with us to Johnston (Pa.) for the Nationals three times. She's been to Zanesville (for the AAABA regionals). She just loves baseball."

The 20-and-under Rams, who improved to 13-8 in the LCBL, jumped on Concealed starter Chris Gazley, formerly of Redford Union High, for three runs in the first inning and two more in the fifth to build a 5-0 advantage.

Catcher Brett Mazmanian also returned to the lineup for the first time since early in the season after suffering a shoulder injury on a slide. The Kaskaskia (Ill.) Community College product, who served as the designated hitter, went 2-for-3 with a double and RBI.

"We're glad to see him back," Berryman said. "Having him back is a thrill because he can catch and play the infield. He's the classic number two hitter. He hates to lose and he gives us a big lift."

Jason Forster also collected two hits, including a double, and two RBI to pace the Rams' nine-hit attack. Catcher Jake Rhodes also contributed two hits and an RBI, while Madonna University's Nick Plinka (Livonia

Stevenson) also knocked in a first-inning run.

That gave Rams left-handed starter Matt Broder, a red-shirt from the University of Michigan, all the cushion he needed to pick up the win.

In five innings, the Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook grad allowed just three hits, walked only two and struck out five. James Bertakis (Edgewood College, Wis.) pitched the final two scoreless innings to preserve the shutout.

"Every outing James just gets better and better," Berryman said. "He threw real well. His mechanics are better from where he started, to where he is today. And he puts in the work to get better."

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DERRICK FROM PAGE B1

"To have a coach call me two to three times a day was special," Derrick said.

A defender much of the time during her four years of play with the Cougars, Derrick — who recently garnered All-Observer First Team honors — said she expects to hold down similar duties with the Mustangs.

"I think I love the rush of stopping the other team," Derrick said when asked if she had a preference focusing on offense or defense.

"Karlee is a highly skilled player that will give us a huge presence on the field," said

Williams, who knows a thing or two about initiating collegiate programs after setting in place the men's soccer team at St. Mary's College in 1997.

"A player like Karlee instantly makes us a better team from the moment she signed," Williams went on.

Derrick said her experience of playing four years of varsity soccer at Garden City, including three as a starter, against some of the premier prep programs in the state really "toughened" her up mentally and physically for the grind that goes along with being a student-athlete in college.

by competing throughout the indoor and outdoor seasons for premier and select soccer programs.

"The game has always been a lot of fun for me," said Derrick, who in 2008 was voted Most Improved Player by the Cougars and in 2009 selected as the team's Most Valuable Player.

"This is going to be a new challenge and I think I'm ready for it," Derrick went on.

Derrick's initial trip onto the soccer field with her new Marygrove teammates will occur Sept. 1 at Olivet College.

COACH FROM PAGE B1

man boys coach and a varsity assistant under longtime coach Tom Negoshian, whom he credits with preparing him for his new job.

"If it wasn't for the past three years, I don't think I'd be as confident as I am with what I'm doing, taking over the program at Harrison," Micklash said.

"The girls have been learning the press, and they've been picking it up well. They've been very receptive to it and seem very excited about it, too."

"I've been around the game and a lot of different coaches. In my senior year of high school, my varsity coach got me into coaching and helping out with the middle school kids."

Micklash will employ the same aggressive, defensive style of play with the Harrison girls that he learned from Negoshian.

"That's what I feel comfortable doing and coaching," he said.

"It's been working well this summer. We've had some success with it. That's the style we're going to play. Defensively, we're going to be all over the court for 32 minutes.

Micklash, who attended Central Michigan University, was an all-league point guard at Cass City High School and led the Thumb Area in free throw shooting (90 percent) as a senior.

"We've already been working a lot on free throws," Micklash said. "It's going to be very important. In tight games, especially in the fourth quarter, a lot of times

free throws can put you over the top."

Micklash will have a veteran team and a good talent pool with which to work at Harrison, which had only two seniors last season.

The Hawks will have one of the best senior combinations in the area in Chelsea Gaddis and Bianca Vasovski around which to build a team.

"There are some good girls coming back," Micklash said. "The senior class is pretty good. I'm fortunate to come into a situation with the leadership of (Vasovski and Gaddis) and solid seniors like them.

"There are some good, young kids coming up, too. I've talked to the girls at Warner (Middle School) who will be coming to Harrison, because we want to build a program. The summer is a good time to see who wants to be a part of things and who's showing up."



Class A champions

The Plymouth Canton Pride Elite Blue recently captured the 16-and-under state Class A fastpitch girls softball championship held at Powers Park in Novi.



Little League Champs

The White Sox are the South Farmington Pinto League's under-8 champions after winning 17 of 18 games this season.

SCHMITT FROM PAGE B1

turing the 500 freestyle at the NCAA Championships in March. She also earned All-America honors in the 200 freestyle (third), 800 freestyle relay

(second) and 400 freestyle relay (fourth).

The Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year also holds Georgia program marks in the 200 and 500 freestyles, along with the 400 and 800 relays.

Fox 49th in 400 IM Livonia native Megan Fox,

17, swam the preliminary heat of the 400 individual medley Thursday and placed 49th overall with a time of 4:56.88.

The Stevenson High student and member of the Oakland Live Yers came in with a qualifying entry time of 4:54.56.

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CAMPS/CLINICS

Football

Westland John Glenn High School will stage its annual varsity football Camp for grades 11-12 beginning at 6 p.m. Monday, July 13 and Wednesday-Thursday, July 15-16, at the high school.

The cost is \$5. For signup information, call coach Tim Hardin at (734) 620-0063.

North Farmington High School will have a football skills camp 8 a.m. to noon July 27-30 for any football player entering the ninth through 12th grade in the 2009-10 school year.

The cost is \$75. The camp will be conducted by the North coaching staff. Each player will need football cleats, gym shoes, workout clothes and helmet with mouth guard.

To register contact coach Todd Schultz at either Todd.schultz@farmington.k12.mi.us or 248-888-6263.

The Popp QB Tutor summer camps will be making stops in the area including: Plymouth/Canton Area QB-WR - 1-2:30 p.m., July 27-30, at Heritage Park (grades 3-12).

For more information, visit poppsqbtutor.com; or e-mail Richard Popp at: theqbtutor@yahoo.com.

All sports

Schoolcraft College will offer a series of summer sports camps for ages 10-18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, including:

Boys and girls soccer - July 13-16, 20-23, 27-30 (cost \$150); boys and girls basketball - July 20-23 (cost \$150); girls volleyball - July 27-30 (cost \$150).

For more information, call the Schoolcraft College Athletic Department at (734) 462-4804, Ext. 3; or e-mail athletic director Sid Fox at sfox@schoolcraft.edu.

The Plymouth Family YMCA is offering a variety of summer sports programs and several clinics. The summer programs (from July 13 through Aug. 17) will focus on fun, exercise and social interaction through instruction and include "Kickers and Shooters"

soccer, preschool and youth basketball, preschool soccer class, preschool and youth baseball.

Morning and evening classes are available; ages vary by program but there is something for children between ages 3-9. Programs are open to YMCA members and community members.

Three sports clinics also are on tap through Plymouth Family YMCA.

Those include baseball (July 21-25, for ages 9-11), soccer (July 28 through Aug. 1, ages 6-9) and basketball (Aug. 4-8, ages 6-9).

Call (734) 453-2904; or visit www.ymcadetroit.org for information.

Soccer

Midwest Soccer Academy, one of the most respected and experienced soccer training organizations in the United States, will be conducting soccer training camps for boys and girls July 20-24. Hosted by Our Lady of the Good Counsel in Plymouth, the week-long camp will feature members of the MSA staff working with youngsters in improving their overall skills.

Cost is \$125 per camper. Sessions for girls will be held 9 a.m.-noon daily, while the boys will run from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

More information can be obtained by contacting Midwest Soccer Academy at 1-800 714-5575 or toll free at 1-877-714-5575, or by email at info@midwestsoccer.net, or by signing up online at www.midwestsoccer.net.

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer three different sessions of soccer camps the weeks of July 13-17 and 20-24, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center.

The base camp will be from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. (\$160 for residents; \$175 for non-residents). The full-day camp runs from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (\$210 for residents; \$220 for non-residents).

All three sessions also include Camp Swoosh A.M. Extender care from 7:30-9 a.m. (\$15 LCRC pass holders; \$17 residents; \$20 non-residents).

For more information, call (734) 466-2900.

Basketball

Madonna University will be staging its 35th annual All-Star camp for boys (ages 8-15) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 27-31.

The cost is \$175 per player. For more information, visit madonnacrusaders.com.

Cross country

Madonna University will stage its summer 2009 base cross country camp from 8-9:45 a.m., Monday through Friday, July 27-31, at cost of \$70.

MU will also stage long runs from 7:30-9 a.m. each Saturday, July 11, 18, 25; Aug. 1 and 8; at Cass Benton Park (\$2 for each session).

For more information, call MU cross country coach Pat Daugherty evenings at (734) 658-0226 (cell); or (734) 432-5634 (office). You can also e-mail pdaugherty@madonna.edu.

For more information, call (734) 642-6664.

Lacrosse

The University of Detroit-Mercy will host a summer lacrosse skills camp for all high school students from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, July 20-22.

The fee is \$150 with a free gift provided. To register, visit the Titan website at www.detroittitans.com.

For more information, call U-D assistant coach Chris Kolon at (313) 585-8430.

Volleyball

Westland John Glenn will stage an Asics Performance camp for high school girls (grades 9-12), Monday through Wednesday, July 20-22.

The camp features collegiate trainers from the Premier Volleyball Academy based in Maumee, Ohio.

Sessions will cover skills and drills on all aspects of competitive volleyball. The cost of the camp is \$100 (includes T-shirt).

For registration information, call Glenn coach Julian Wargo at (248) 295-7245.

Advertisement for GAM/USGA with headline 'PLAY MORE GOLF FOR LESS' and a list of benefits for a \$35 membership.



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- 19 **TOBY KEITH** w/TRACE ADKINS
- 20 **YES** w/ASIA
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- 22 **THE MARSHALL TUCKER BAND**
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- 23 **SMOKEY ROBINSON**
- 25 **BIG & RICH WITH COWBOY TROY**
w/CRAIG MORGAN
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- 26 **INCUBUS** w/THE DUKE SPIRIT
89X 18TH BIRTHDAY BASH
- 29 **KENNY ROGERS** w/SAVANNAH JACK
- 31 **ANITA BAKER**

AUGUST

- 1 **TRAVIS TRITT** w/RANDY HOUSER
- 2 **MARILYN MANSON / SLAYER**
w/KILLSWITCH ENGAGE, MUSHROOMHEAD, TRIVIUM, CANNIBAL CORPSE and MORE **ROCKSTAR ENERGY DRINK MAYHEM FESTIVAL**

- 6 **THE TEMPTATIONS / THE FOUR TOPS**
- 7 **NEWSBOYS**
w/SUPERCHICK and SEVENGLORY
- 9 **THE MOODY BLUES**
- 11 **NICKELBACK** w/HINDER, PAPA ROACH and SAVING ABEL
- 14 **MC HAMMER**
w/COOLIO and TONE LOC
- 15 **MÖTLEY CRÜE** w/GODSMACK, THEORY OF A DEADMAN, DROWNING POOL and CHARM CITY DEVILS - **CRÜE FEST 2**
- 16 **RANDY TRAVIS**
w/KEITH ANDERSON
- 18 **DEMI LOVATO**
w/DAVID ARCHULETA and JORDAN PRUITT
- 19 **B.B. KING**
w/THE ROBERT CRAY BAND

- 20 **THE B-52'S**
- 21 **JEFF FOXWORTHY**
Comedian
- 23 **KENNY G**
- 25 **CREED**
- 27 **SOUL ASYLUM**
w/SEVEN MARY THREE, SPONGE and DAYS OF THE NEW
- 28 **DENNIS DeYOUNG: THE MUSIC OF STYX WITH ROCK SYMPHONY**
- 29 **EDDIE MONEY**
w/THE KNACK

SEPTEMBER

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- 5 **TESLA**

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- 17 **LYLE LOVETT AND HIS LARGE BAND**
- 18 **100 YEARS OF BROADWAY**
- 19 **CHRIS ISAAK** w/MICHELLE BRANCH
- 22 **IF YOU GIVE A PIG A PANCAKE (2PM & 7PM)** Children's Program
- 23 **GORDON LIGHTFOOT**
- 24 **LAUGH-A-PALOOZA 2009** Comedians featuring MIKE GREEN, DAVID LANDAU, GEECHY GUY and MICHAEL McDANIEL
- 25 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
Tchaikovsky Spectacular
Leonard Slatkin, Conductor

- 26 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
Gershwin Galore
Leonard Slatkin, Conductor
- 27 **JACKSON BROWNE**
- 31 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
Big Band Bash
Thomas Wilkins, Conductor

AUGUST

- 1 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
All Beethoven
Thomas Wilkins, Conductor
- 2 **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
Musical Magic
Children's Matinee (4PM)
Thomas Wilkins, Conductor
- 7 **JIM GAFFIGAN** Comedian
- 16 **GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS / JONNY LANG**

- 21 **HEAVEN & HELL**
w/COHEED AND CAMBRIA
- 22 **PETER DINKlage**
- 26 **JOHNNY & THE SPRITES (2PM & 7PM)**
Children's Program

- 29-30 **WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL**
- 29 **GET BACK! THE CAST OF BEATLEMANIA**

SEPTEMBER

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- 5 **HIGHLAND HEARTBEAT**
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- 11-12 **THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW**
- 19 **MMA CAGE FIGHT FESTIVAL**



JULY

- 14 **GREEN DAY** w/THE BRAVERY

AUGUST

- 14 **THE WIGGLES GO BANANAS!**
(2:30 & 6:30PM)

- 16 **AC/DC**

SEPTEMBER

- 8 **THE CIRCUS**
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- 16 **AEROSMITH** w/ZZ TOP

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NEIGHBORS

Detroit-born author's family story focuses on Eloise site

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Eloise, the county mental hospital in what's now Westland, had a reputation in its heyday "perpetuating the myth of mental illness as something spooky," said author Steve Luxenberg.

Luxenberg, an associate editor at the *Washington Post*, wrote of Eloise in his new book, *Annie's Ghosts* (Hyperion, 2009), which tells of his late aunt, Annie, a patient there from 1940 to 1971.

Luxenberg, who spoke July 6 at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, grew up between Seven Mile and Eight Mile, Lahser and Telegraph, graduating from Henry Ford High School and Harvard University.

He emphasized that his book is a personal story and not a history of Eloise, which operated from 1839 to the early 1980s on Michigan Avenue, not only as a mental hospital but also a general hospital and poorhouse at

varying times.

"It hired the best and the brightest from Michigan colleges," he said, pointing out that each generation believes it has improved treatment for mental illness. That was true of Eloise when Annie was involuntarily committed.

Annie was born with a severe physical deformity and slight mental retardation. Luxenberg and his sister learned of her from a psychiatrist treating his mother late in her life. His mother for years had said she was an only child.

"I believed what my mother said, I had no reason not to believe it."

The family was stunned to learn the mother wasn't really named Beth and had a sister close in age, Annie.

Luxenberg's mother died in 1999, and he never spoke to her about Annie, in part because it seemed to be a betrayal. After her death, the family received a letter asking about cemetery flowers.

"Instead of listing two graves, it listed three. The



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Author Steve Luxenberg speaks at the Westland library.

secret finally had a name, Annie."

Luxenberg did call a Lansing official to see what he could learn, but informa-

tion was limited. "I wasn't daunted by those kinds of obstacles," the journalist said.

He contacted Jo Johnson

of Westland, chair of the Westland Historical Commission, in 2002 and went to work. Johnson helped him through the Friends of Eloise group.

"I want to stress to you this is not a book of judgment," Luxenberg said. "I am not angry with my mother."

He said the large asylum was the norm in 1940, expanding to the point that state and county governments couldn't afford such care. In 1955, there were 558,000 U.S. psychiatric patients. The number began to drop as medication developed and more could be cared for at home.

"My family did not know quite what to do with her," he said of Annie, who lacked job skills. There were no group homes then, and job opportunities for women were more limited. She remained as a "custodial patient," and died at the Northville state hospital.

"The book is about identity," he said. "My mom basically changed her identity."

Annie's identity was lost with her institutionalization. Fewer patients

The pendulum today has swung to the rights of patients to refuse psychiatric care, he said, and there are only 50,000 U.S. psychiatric patients now. He believes we'll look back at today's mental health care in 50 years and question it.

He added that Eloise was named for the postmaster general's daughter, a portrait of whom hangs in the Kay Beard Building.

Luxenberg never found his aunt's photo, despite persistent searching, so the publisher created a cover image for the book. Luxenberg's grateful to all who helped him research his book, and to his hometown of Detroit.

"Detroit is much more conscious of its history, I think, than a lot of cities. History is something that is truly celebrated here."

You can learn more about Luxenberg's book at www.steveluxenberg.com.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Listeners learn about the book, 'Annie's Ghosts' by Steve Luxenberg during the authors presentation Monday evening.

Local historians contribute to book's research

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Author Steve Luxenberg has ample praise for local historian Jo Johnson of Westland.

"She's really the memory keeper of Eloise," said Luxenberg, a *Washington Post* staffer and author of *Annie's Ghosts*.

He spoke July 6 at the Westland library about his new book, telling of his aunt's years of institutionalization at the county mental hospital.

Jo and her late husband, Ernie, who recently died,

compiled records on Eloise. Ernie had just finished reading Luxenberg's book before his death.

"I feel very honored that was one of his last activities," the author and Detroit native said.

Eloise wasn't only a mental hospital. In the 1930s, it housed many homeless people. They became known as "pogies" — poor old guys in Eloise.

Jo Johnson, chair of the Westland Historical Commission, said friend Betty Zimmerman's dad was on staff at Eloise. Zimmerman was

among staffers' children who lived there.

"The kids would go up on the wards and have cake and ice cream," Johnson said. "It was a normal life to them."

Eloise had an annual Christmas tree lighting. In its use as a hospital, it provided the first X-ray.

Zimmerman went to Michigan State University for music therapy, a field that had its roots at Eloise.

"They used to have music in a huge auditorium. We had huge picnics. It was like family," said Zimmerman, who

spoke briefly July 6 at the library.

She and Johnson spoke together about Eloise, about a year and a half ago and their talk is available on DVD at the Westland library, on Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren.

Author Luxenberg praised libraries during his visit, noting wife Mary Jo is a school librarian. The couple has two children.

The author was peppered with questions from an audi-

Please see **BOOK, B7**

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Learn about rabbit lifestyles, donate to Golden Retrievers

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

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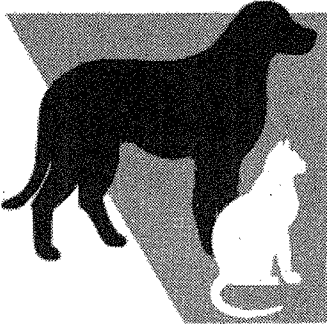
Consider adopting a rabbit.

But first, learn what bunnies like and dislike, get tips for their care and find out if a rabbit would be a good "fit" for you and your family, by attending the Michigan Humane Society's (MHS) rabbit adoption and information event 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, July 18 at its Berman Center for Animal Care, 900 N. Newburgh, in Westland.

MHS adoption counselors and rabbit experts will be on-hand to help create great matches between families and the bunnies available for adoption. Detailed information about rabbit care will also be available.

The event is part of an MHS effort to increase awareness of these wonderful, yet sometimes forgotten, companion animals.

"Bunnies can be wonderful companions, and we enjoy promoting this at the adoption events," said Linda Reider, MHS director of animal welfare. "The events are

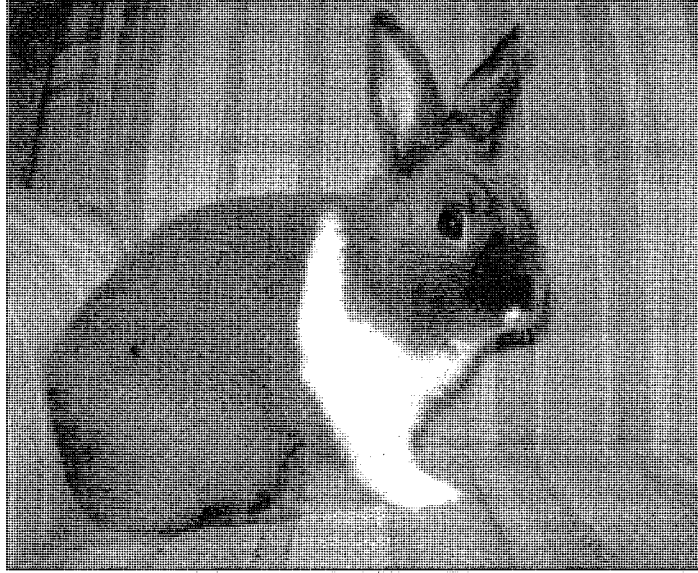


PET PROJECTS

a fun experience where families can socialize with several available bunnies and select one whose unique personality will best fit their lifestyle."

Jennifer Robertson, MHS public relations coordinator, noted that rabbits have an average lifespan of 7-10 years, making them less of a long-term, lifetime commitment than some other companion animals.

"Some people may be under the impression that rabbits should stay in a cage all their lives, but to the contrary, they actually thrive with plenty of time outside of their cage, socializing with their families," Robertson noted. "They



Learn about rabbits July 18 at the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland.

are entertaining and enlightening to watch, and are curious, intelligent and loving companions.

"They also make wonderful companions for children. Bunnies don't like to be carried, so it can be a great opportunity for kids to sit on the floor with them, socialize, and learn to treat them gently. Like other companion animals, bunnies have unique

personalities— some may be quieter and gentle, while others are active and fun-loving."

Families interested in adopting a rabbit can view adoptable bunnies and access information about rabbit care online at www.michiganhumane.org/rabbit. MHS rabbit adoption fees are \$30, and include the sterilization of rabbits ages six months and older, a medical exam, and

behavior assessment.

If you can't adopt at this time but still want to help rabbits in need, can donate dark, leafy vegetables, such as romaine lettuce, cabbage, carrot tops and parsley to the Berman Center.

For more information, call (866) MHUMANE or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

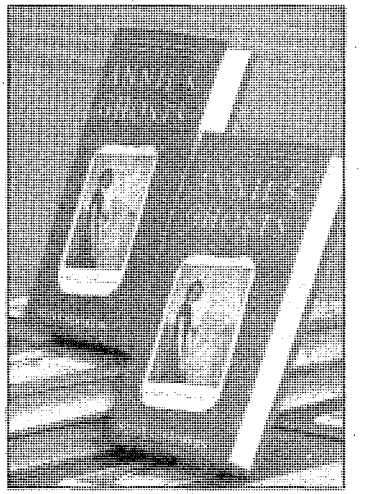
HELPING GOLDENS

Doggie Days of Summer mixes fashion and fund-raising noon to 3 p.m., July 16-18 at Pendleton in downtown Northville.

The store will donate 10 percent of your purchase price to Golden Retriever Rescue of Michigan (GRRoM) and a rescue representative will be on hand with foster dogs to answer questions

Bring your own dog for a photo with Sir Wooliam, Pendleton's sheep mascot when you make a donation to GRRoM, and register to win a \$25 gift card.

Refreshments will be served. Pendleton is located at 117 N. Center. Call (248) 596-9820 for additional information.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'Annie's Ghosts' tells the story of a woman institutionalized at Eloise in what is now Westland.

BOOK

FROM PAGE B6

ence of about 75, including Thomas Jankowski of Canton, associate director for research and training at Wayne State University's Institute of Gerontology.

"It's a terrific book," Jankowski said of *Annie's Ghosts*. "I haven't quite finished it. It's written in a very compelling way."

Jankowski is researching older Detroiters of the Great Depression, and often read in case files of fears of going to Eloise. "There's not a whole lot available," he said. He was able to glean information from Luxenberg's research.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Concert

Schoolcraft College's Jazz & Wind Ensembles will present "Summer Concert in the Courtyard," 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 15, in the courtyard between the Forum Building and Bradner Library, on the campus, located on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, in Livonia. www.schoolcraft.edu.

Poker run and dinner

Ride your motorcycle or drive your car in this on-the-road competition for the best poker hand on July 19. Then head to AMVETS Post 171 in Westland for spaghetti dinner.

It's all for a good cause — helping Kristin Bartlett's family pay for medical costs after the 24-year-old suffered a closed-head injury last October.

"She is in the National Guard and was hurt while off-duty," said Matt McMichael of Westland, her step-father. McMichael said that although the federal government pays for some treatment as well as Kristin's stay in a nursing home, more intensive

therapies aren't covered. A recent series of hyperbaric oxygen treatments cost \$5,000, for example.

"We try to take her home all we can, but most of the time she sits in a nursing home looking out the window," McMichael noted.

Proceeds from the poker run and dinner will ease the cost of continuing treatment. Tickets are \$10 for a single rider, \$15 for a double, and \$5 for the dinner only. Registration for the ride is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the AMVETS post, 1217 Merriman. Dinner will start at 5:30 p.m. The post will be open during the ride and dinner. Donations will be accepted and refreshments will be served. Prizes will be awarded for best poker hands and a raffle will be held.

"We had a dinner in April that was really successful. We raised \$6,000 in three hours," McMichael noted.

The Jokers Motorcycle Club of Belleville is helping to coordinate the poker run.

For more information, call McMichael at (734) 522-5026 or John Wilson at AMVETS at (734) 729-

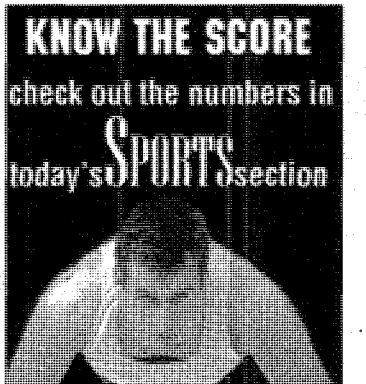
8930.

Garage sale

Presbyterian Village of Westland plans a garage sale Saturday, July 25, to raise money for employee and resident picnics.

The facility is a part of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, a nonprofit organization that serves senior citizens of all faiths. The Village of Westland offers one- and two-bedroom apartments with services, Assisted Living & Alzheimer/Memory Care cottages, along with Respite Care for short term stays. It also provides home-cooked meals, activities, transportation to shopping and banking, personal emergency response buttons, a Wellness Center with exercise equipment, and gardening. It's located at 32001 Cherry Hill, in Westland. Call (734) 762-8954 for more information.

—By Sharon Dargay



BELLE TIRE CONCERT SERIES

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REUNIONS

FROM PAGE B8

Drive. Tickets \$55 (cash bar); checks payable to FHS Class of 1989...

Classes 1965-2000

All school reunion, including teachers, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., Friday, Aug. 14...

Milford High School Class of 1978

Planning a 30th reunion. Class members should contact the reunion committee...

Milford/Lakeland Class of 1989

The two high schools team for a 20-year reunion, Saturday, July 25...

Mother Of Our Savior All class reunion

Aug. 15, 2009 at Monahan's K of C in Livonia. For more information...

Northville High School Class of 1979

30-year reunion 7 p.m. Aug. 15, at Genitti's in Northville. Tickets and more information...

Plymouth Canton & Salem Class of 1979

30-year reunion Saturday, Aug. 1, 2009, at Hyatt Regency Dearborn. 6:30 p.m. to midnight...

Plymouth High School Class of 1969

40th class reunion 6 p.m. to midnight, Saturday Sept. 19, at the Plymouth Elks Club...

Redford Thurston High School Class of 1969

A 40-year "casual" get together, Saturday, Sept. 5, Labor Day weekend...

20300 Farmington Road, Livonia, \$10 at door. Discounted bar and a band will play...

Rochester Adams Class of 1989

Announces its 20-year reunion Saturday, July 18, 2009. For details and more information...

Romulus High School Class of 1979

Reunion (77-81 invited) Thursday-Sunday, Aug. 20-23. Activities include a reception...

The Annual Pontiac St. Frederick Mass and all class reunion will start with Mass at 11 a.m. on Sept. 13...

St. Frederick High School All school

The Annual Pontiac St. Frederick Mass and all class reunion will start with Mass at 11 a.m. on Sept. 13...

St. Mary of Redford Class of 1969

40-year reunion, Saturday Nov. 14, 2009 at the Monaghan Knights of Columbus in Livonia...

Troy High Palooza Classes of 1982-86

Troy High School Alumni from 1982-1986 meet Aug. 1, 2009 at the Centerpoint Marriott in Auburn Hills...

Visitation High School Class of 1959

50-year reunion party Sept. 12. Call Charleen at (248) 652-6817.

Westland John Glenn Class of 1969

40th Reunion Weekend, Friday-Saturday, Oct. 9-10. Friday activities: 6:45 p.m. football game JGHS vs. WMHS...

BBB warns about complaints on SAT, ACT pitch directed at college-bound



Tim Burns

Parents of high school students who are planning to take the SAT and ACT college admissions tests are being misled by a Texas-based test preparation service...

Complaints allege that telephone sales for The SAT and ACT Prep Center misrepresented to parents that their son or daughter had asked to get test preparation software...

Reliability Report with the Better Business Bureau for free at www.bbb.org to see if they have a pattern of consumer complaints.

In Michigan, a mother reported to the BBB: "My husband was contacted by phone from The College Prep Center and told that our daughter had requested information from them.

An Ohio parent complained: "We received a call that our daughter expressed interest in the high school that she would like getting her ACT, SAT, and PSAT scores up.

Another parent in Nebraska

stated: "I went to their Web site trying to contact them with the information they provided me and none of it works.

The SAT and ACT Prep Center has a BBB rating of "F". The reasons for the F rating include:

- Number of complaints filed against the business; -Failure to respond to complaints filed against the business; -BBB does not have sufficient background information on the business.

Due to a failure to respond to complaints and inquires from the Better Business Bureau, all complaints and information received by the BBB is being forwarded to the Texas Attorney General's Office.

ties in obtaining cancellations or refunds.

"Everyone wants the best for their children and unfortunately there are scams that take advantage of people's sense of parental responsibility," said Tim Burns, public affairs director for the Better Business Bureau...

AT KENSINGTON METROPARK

For additional information or to register for programs at the Kensington Metropark Nature Center...

Fee: \$2 per person. Pre-registration required. "Paddlin' Amongst the Lotus," Saturday, Aug. 8...

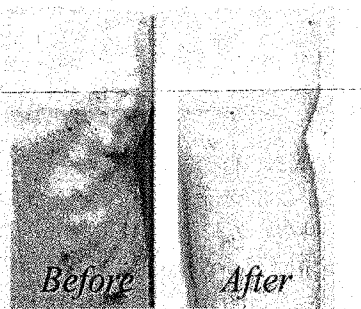
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Two lemurs born at zoo

What's black and white and cute all over? Two black-and-white ruffed lemurs born June 2 at the Detroit Zoo. The twins join mother, Fleur, and father, Goodall, doubling the zoo's ruffed lemur population.

Black-and-white ruffed lemurs are a critically endangered species from one of the most at-risk habitats on earth. These babies are a welcome addition to a small population of captive lemurs that could help keep this species from extinction.

There are approximately 215 black-and-white ruffed lemurs in North American zoos.

The black-and-white ruffed lemur (Varecia variegata), a tree-dwelling primate native

to eastern Madagascar, is the largest of all lemur species. A mature ruffed lemur can weigh 8-10 pounds and reach 4 feet in length, including a 2-foot tail which it uses for balance.

Visitors can see the black-and-white ruffed lemurs in their outdoor habitat between the snow monkeys and white rhinos.

The Detroit Zoological Society operates the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo. The Detroit Zoo is located at the intersection of 10 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, just off I-696, in Royal Oak.

The Detroit Zoo is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through October (open at 9 a.m. May 1 through Labor Day) - with extended hours until 8 p.m. Wednesdays during July and August - and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March.

Advertisement for Belle Tire Concert Series featuring DYE Energy. Includes details for a performance on Monday, July 20, 7:30 PM.

Advertisement for Howe military school. Includes a photo of students, the school crest, and contact information for an informational reception on Thursday, July 16, 2009.

Advertisement for Keith J. Pierce, MD's free weight loss program. Features a cartoon rabbit and contact information for the clinic in Livonia, MI.

Fitzsimons is advocate for families with dying children

Farmington Hills resident Ann Fitzsimons is the voice of families with dying children.

"Our goal is to make sure that every seriously-ill or dying child, whether 18 days or 18 years of age, is competently and compassionately cared for in the health care system," said Fitzsimons, co-founder of Compassionate Passages Inc. (www.compassionatepassages.org). "We help educate medical professionals and community members on how to better meet the physical, emotional and spiritual end-of-life needs of children, and to support their families."

Fitzsimons, who holds a master's in business administration, launched Compassionate Passages Inc. in 2001 with good friend Beth Seyda, of Chapel Hill, N.C., after a couple of life-altering experiences in child-loss. Seyda's two-week-old son died and Fitzsimons helped her through that difficult time.

A few years later, Fitzsimons' niece died shortly after a premature birth. Fitzsimons and Seyda provided guidance, support and advice to Fitzsimons' sister about making memories during her daughter's short life that would have to last a lifetime, based on what they had learned from the death of Seyda's son.

"That's when we had our 'Ah ha!' moment," Fitzsimons recalled. "Once we saw how our knowledge and experience with child-loss helped my

sister, we knew we could help other families as well."

The pair began reaching out to health care professionals who treated seriously-ill and dying children. They shared information about how to provide better supportive care for the child and family, using their own experiences, and those of other families who had shared with them their child-loss stories.

"We became the 'family voice' to create change in a system that trains its professionals to 'save lives,' not help 'savor and celebrate them' when the only option is death," said Fitzsimons.

LOCAL STUDIES

In 2004, Fitzsimons returned to school to earn a post master's certificate in bereavement, through Madonna University's hospice and palliative studies program.

"Ann has dedicated her life's work to improving end-of-life care for children and assisting grieving families," said Kelly Rhodes, chair of Madonna's hospice and palliative studies program. "She is committed to giving back to her community in ways that personify Madonna University's mission and values."

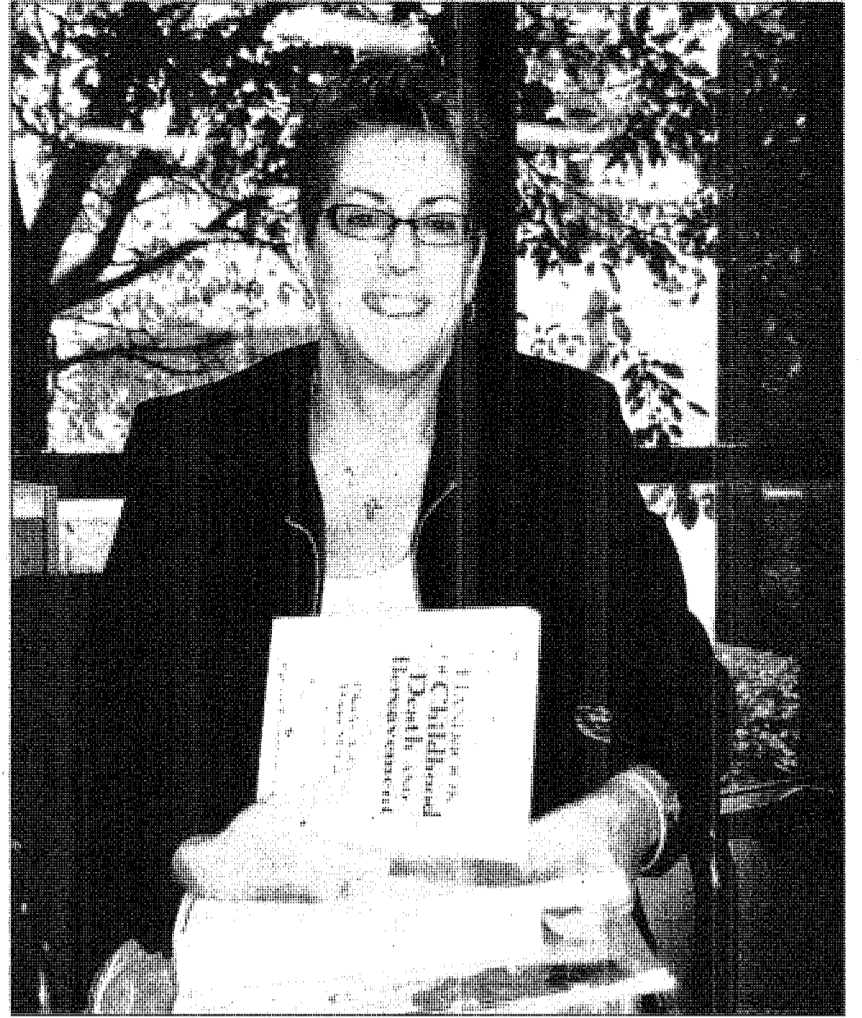
SHARING THEIR KNOWLEDGE

Through workshops, videos, national and local speaking engagements, and publications, Fitzsimons

and Seyda educate and inspire. By sharing the stories and lessons of families whose children have died, the two are able to put a face to the issues these families struggle with and make family-centered suggestions for supportive care a reality.

Fitzsimons co-wrote a link about parents advocating and caring for their children with life-limiting illnesses for the Web site www.mihospice.org, and is a contributing author in a widely-used hospice and palliative studies textbook. She will make three different presentations about caring for dying children and their families at the Children's Hospice International's 20th World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa this September.

Madonna University's Department of Hospice and Palliative Studies offers the only university-based hospice program of its kind in the nation. Concentrated degree programs are available in the areas of bereavement, pastoral ministry, business, education, and nursing. The department follows the Hospice Philosophy as defined by the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. Its purpose is to prepare individuals to serve diverse populations during the terminal phase of life, and to enhance the quality of life by focusing on the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs of the hospice patient and family.



Ann Fitzsimons of Farmington Hills cares about families coping with children dying.

Register now for cancer, ALS walks taking place on Sunday, Sept. 13



Support two causes — St. Mary Mercy Hospital's cancer services and ALS of Michigan — by registering now for their walk/run events on Sunday, Sept. 13.

St. Mary Mercy's 3rd 5K run/walk for Cancer starts at 9 a.m., on the hospital grounds, 36475 Five Mile, at Levan, in Livonia.

On-site registration for the ALS of Michigan's ninth annual "Walk 'n Roll" starts at 10 a.m., with the 3-mile walk starting at 11 a.m., at Kensington Metropark in Milford and Stony Creek Metropark in Shelby Township.

The St. Mary's event, which drew more than 400 participants last year, is designed as a celebration of life for cancer survivors and patients. It's also an opportunity for family members and friends to honor or remember a loved one. Proceeds from the event go toward St. Mary Mercy's cancer services to assist patients in need.

The ALS walk will raise funds and awareness of disease — amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. More than 1,000 people in Michigan have been diagnosed with the progressive motor neuron disease. Another 200 are diagnosed each year.

Participants can register online at www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1758010.

Volunteers also are needed for the 5K event. Call Kevin Moore at (734) 655-2419 to volunteer. A meeting will be held for 5K volunteers before the event for details and specifics.

Awards will be given to the first, second and third place overall male and female winners in each age division. All participants will be entered into a post-race drawing for prizes.

Following the 5K, the hospital's Community Open House 50th Anniversary Celebration will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the hospital grounds. The event offers fun, music, games, food, health information and screenings, and a variety of activities for everyone.

For more information, visit www.stmary-mercy.org and click on "classes & events" or call (734) 655-8670.

The ALS walk will raise funds and awareness of disease — amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. More than 1,000 people in Michigan have been diagnosed with the progressive motor neuron disease. Another 200 are diagnosed each year.

To register for the walk, visit www.alsformichigan.org. For more information, call the organization at (800) 882-5764, Ext. 225.

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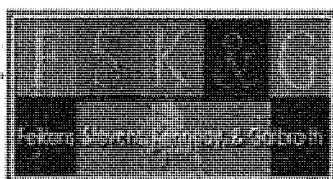
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