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2010

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Newspapers

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AROUND TOWN

Relay kick-off

The 2010 Westland Relay for Life will kick off officially Tuesday, Feb. 23 at the Wayne Recreation Center, 4635 Howe, Wayne.

Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. with the program starting at 7 p.m. Returning teams are invited to attend, and newcomers are welcome to come and learn about the 24-hour fund-raising event for the American Cancer Society which will be held May 22-23 in Jaycee Park.

There will be video presentations and talks from participants including survivors. No advance registration is needed.

Westland Dems

The Westland Democratic Club annual meeting and elections are scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, between Palmer and Michigan. There will be election of officers, and membership must be paid before the meeting begins to be eligible to vote.

Membership is \$12 and \$6 seniors and students. For more information, contact treasurer Mike Short at (734) 788-1550 or by e-mail at WestlandDemClub@robinwood.com.

Library exhibit

There is still time to catch a special display on the Harlem Renaissance at Westland's William P. Faust Public Library. The exhibit is in honor of Black History Month and can be viewed during library hours - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday - through Feb. 26.

Medal mania

Bring your youngsters and have a great time cheering them on to victory as they "compete" in the 13th annual Nursery School Olympics 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 6, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford.

Toddlers ages 18 months to 5 years will "compete" in such events as the Big Wheel Grande Prix, the Marshmallow Shot Put and the I-Did-A-Rod Hurdles. The course takes about 30-45 minutes, and every child will receive a certificate of participation.

Pre-registration encouraged, however, children can be registered up to 11:30 a.m. the day of the event. The cost is \$4 per child/athlete, parents/spectators are free. For more information call, (734) 722-7620.

The Nursery School Olympics is sponsored by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department, Westland Civitan Club, Wayne Masonic Lodge, Dads' Athletic Club of Westland and Westland Jaycees.

Tax credits benefit 3 apartment complexes

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A resolution continuing a potential tax break to help with improvements at three Westland apartment complexes has been approved by the council.

Schwartz Bradley has applied for Low Income Housing Tax Credits through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to finance redevelopment of the Westland Woods, Country Court and Country Woods apartments. The three com-

plexes, with a total of 229 units, are located on or off North Wildwood.

Part of the agreement is that if Schwartz Bradley received a federal or state aided mortgage, Westland would be paid a statutory service charge for services in lieu of taxes or what is known as PILOT payments. The payment would equal 4 percent of rent at the apartments for 40 years, with audits to verify the payment amount.

"This is so they can upgrade their facilities. In these last three cases, the property is greatly in need of repair,"

said Westland Assessor James Elrod, whose office processes the PILOT request. "This program is there to bring up the condition of the property and make it like new."

The resolution regarding the PILOT program for the three complexes had been approved in 2008, but the time had elapsed when Schwartz Bradley was unable to obtain financing, Elrod said. The firm has now been able to get financing.

Schwartz Bradley couldn't be reached for comment about plans for the apartment buildings. An employ-

ee at the management company for the apartments refused to comment on any plans for the three complexes and insisted that her company's name not be used.

"Some people will say there is a loss in city tax dollars. There is a short-term loss, but a long-term gain," Eldrod said. "This will be a real good project. It's improving housing stock and providing a clean, safe environment for people, which is a major goal of Mayor (William) Wild."

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William D. Ford Career Technical Center Principal Ginny Kowalski welcomes guests to the recent open house where a work station and photographs were on display to promote the center's new alternative energy class.

The power of the wind

State grant brings renewable energy instruction to W-W

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

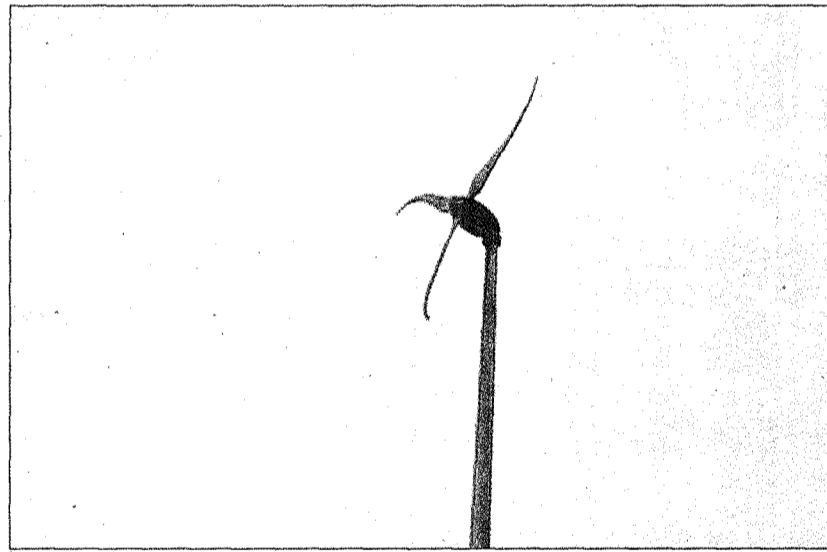
The spring thaw can't come too soon for Ginny Kowalski, principal of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. That's when work will begin on installing what quite likely is the first wind turbine in Wayne County.

The center is one of 15 schools chosen to share a \$1 million Renewable Energy Education Grant offered through the state of Michigan.

"We're waiting for the tower to arrive and for the thaw," Kowalski said.

Wayne-Westland was the only district in Wayne County to receive the grant, which will provide the center with three types of wind turbines, a solar array, biofuel equipment, biomass converter and weather station, that will be used in its new alternative energy technology program.

The 30-foot tall Skystream will be erected near the gazebo between the center and the district's administrative offices. The Cascade Swift



A Skystream wind turbine will be erected near the gazebo between the career technical center and the district's administrative offices.

will be mounted on the south side of the building near the auto technology, while the Bergey turbine, which is four feet tall, will be used in the classroom.

Teacher Zachary MacLean will switch gears from teach-

ing electronics at the center to the new alternative energy class. According to Kowalski, MacLean wants to integrate the program so that a lot of students are involved.

Please see **WIND, A4**

Defendant faces 22 new charges in gun theft case

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Already facing charges that he had received guns stolen during a robbery in which a Westland family was terrorized, a Detroit man has been ordered to stand trial on 22 additional charges, including armed robbery and home invasion.

A preliminary examination for Robert Kirby, who turned 25 Friday, was held Thursday in Westland 18th District Court. One of his co-defendants identified Kirby as one of the gunmen - something the victims hadn't been able to do.

Westland residents Robert Duzak and his son Robert Duzak Jr., 14, again testified about armed men who entered their home late on Sept. 26, threatening the family which also included Donna Duzak, wife of Robert and mother of Robert Jr. The gunmen reportedly took 50 guns collected by the senior Duzak, along with jewelry, cash, televisions, video games and other items, including a vehicle which was later found burned in Detroit. The family reportedly had been threatened with being murdered and left bound with duct tape and gagged when the intruders left after about two hours.

Adam Mastaw, 25, of Westland and Detroit resident Gerand Raymond Austin, 22, have been ordered to stand trial on 22 felony charges apiece, including home invasion, unlawful imprisonment, receiving and concealing stolen property and a host of gun charges. Kirby is now facing the same charges. All three are convicted felons, and Kirby was on parole for his second adult conviction for home invasion at the time of the incident.

As part of a plea bargain,

Please see **CHARGES, A2**

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Westland Youth Assistance puts out call for volunteers

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Whether you have a little time to volunteer or can make a bigger commitment, Westland Youth Assistance may have an opening for you.

Paul Motz, the program director, is looking for volunteers to serve on the Community Team as well as mentors to be matched with local youths. The shorter time commitment is the Community Team, which meets monthly with youths who are on probation or have been removed from their homes for inappropriate behaviors, such as drug abuse and theft - some are still in placement.

"We're asking people to help kids in the community; it's worthwhile," Motz said. "The kids are asked to explain what happened for them to be in custody or placement and what they need to work on to change that. Kids are very important residents - VIRs - but they've

made some poor choices and had some hard knocks."

By meeting with the Community Team, Motz said the youths learn that the Westland community cares about them and won't accept bad behavior from them.

"They also learn that we care about the city and won't tolerate behavior like drug abuse and property damage in our community," Motz said. "Those behaviors harm the community as a whole. We take this seriously and (they) will be held accountable."

The Community Team currently includes Motz, Westland police Youth Officer Dan Serrano, Tinkham Alternative High School Principal Joe Orban and Marsha Bianconi, executive director of the Conference of Western Wayne.

"We're looking for people from the community. You don't need to be a professor or an attorney," Motz said.

During remarks at Westland's Martin

Luther King ceremony last month, Motz recalled that Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford shared a story about his father not giving up on him. The Community Team helps show Westland isn't giving up on youths who have made mistakes, Motz said.

The Community Team meets 3-5 p.m. the third Monday of each month.

When it comes to mentors, Motz said Youth Assistance actually has what would have been a good number of mentors in past years. The problem is not actually a bad thing - the mentors and youths are spending longer times together.

"One of the things we are finding is that previously there would be four six-month matches. Now there are eight 10-month matches," Motz said. "Being a mentor is much more of a commitment. We need more volunteers - there are 17 kids waiting to be matched with a mentor."

After completing an interview, back-

ground check, including fingerprinting, and 15 hours of training with ongoing training, mentors agree to meet one to two hours weekly with a youth with whom they've been matched.

"We're not in desperation - we've got a great bunch of people. This is a chance to give back to the city," Motz said.

Residents should get involved with Youth Assistance, particularly with the poor economy, Councilwoman Christine Bryant Cicirelli said.

"People often don't realize how the economy impacts kids. They hear their parents talking and it affects them," she said. "It's really important and I appreciate Youth Assistance. If you have time for mentoring or the Community Team, it's important that the kids see support and that they are accountable."

Anyone interested in getting involved with Westland Youth Assistance can call Motz at (734) 467-7904.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Animal licenses

Dog and cat owners have until March 1 to get their annual animal licenses without penalty. Stop at the Westland Clerk's Office during regular business hours. The cost is \$12 per animal or \$6 if the animal is spayed or neutered. City ordinance also limits pet ownership to three animals per household or a kennel license is required.

Child Safety

So many children are reported missing each day in the U.S. Police officials say that time is critical in the recovery of missing children. One major problem that costs precious time is

gathering current photographs, fingerprints, and statistical information to assist law enforcement agencies.

Helping communities eliminate this problem is S.I.P. (Safety in Prints) Kids which will be at Jack Demmer Ford, Newburgh at Michigan Avenue in Wayne, 2-6 p.m. Friday, March 26, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 27, to provide free digital fingerprinting and photos for all children. There also will be face painting and balloons.

S.I.P. Kids will take a child's picture and fingerprints, using a digital inkless fingerprint capture device, and include them as part of the child's file, which will be provided to the

parent. The parents can use the copy they receive to turn directly over to authorities anywhere in the world to instantly aid in an investigation.

The event is free of charge and also includes face painting and balloons. For more information, call Jack Demmer Ford at (734) 721-2600.

Census jobs

If you are out of work or looking for some part-time employment, the 2010 Census may be your answer. Contact their office currently located in Livonia at (734) 437-4120 to set up an appointment for a basic skills test required to apply for a Census Taker Position.

TOPS open house

Time for a change, time to take off pounds sensibly. TOPS, a nonprofit low cost program,

is holding an open house 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at the Adams Community Center, 2011 Kaaley, Westland. Everyone's welcome. Call Brenda at (734) 729-3833 for more information.

Trivia for Tatas

Help raise money for the annual Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk and show off your smarts at Trivia for Tatas Sunday, Feb. 28, at Buffalo Wild Wings, 6677 N. Wayne Road. The cost is \$15 if paid by Feb. 14 and \$20 at the door. Registration begins at noon with the games beginning at 1 p.m.

All ages are welcome and there will be cash prizes with bonus questions to earn more prizes. Bring your own team or come on in and join a team. Buffalo Wild Wings will also donate 20 percent of all food and drink sales with event flyer

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Breast Cancer 3-Day.

For more information, contact Dawn Downer at (734) 502-4277 or by e-mail a downt@doubledexpress.net.

CFL bulb recycling

Westland residents can recycle CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Bulbs) or other fluorescent bulbs for free at Home Depot at 39875 Ford, east of I-275, and IKEA at 41640 Ford, west of I-275. For more information, call Home Depot at (734) 844-7300 and IKEA at (734) 981-6300.

Open House

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool in Westland will be hosting an Open House 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 16. Parents will have an opportunity to meet the teachers,

tour the school, learn about its educational programs, and have refreshments. Parents are available for parent-tots, young 3's, 3- and 4-year-olds and enrichment for 4-year-olds. Willow Creek is located at 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-0078.

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

The center also has pinochle and euchre games at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and pinochle is played at 1 p.m. Fridays.

The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 419-2020.

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CHARGES

FROM PAGE A1

Leonard Hren, 48, of Detroit testified that Kirby and Mastaw wanted to make some money and were looking for someone with a lot of money at their home whom they could rob. Although he didn't know someone like that, Hren said that he told the pair about the Duzak home with its gun collection and other valuables.

"I said the Duzaks were some sort of relatives — Bob had been married to my wife and now was married to my cousin," said Hren. "I had been to the home numerous times, the last time three or four years ago."

At the time, Hren was living at a home on Braille in Detroit with Kirby and his girlfriend, an arrangement that lasted about three months. He said Mastaw also lived at the home for about a month.

"I knew Rob Kirby, I was introduced to him by my son. They were business associates — they dealt drugs together," said Hren, who added he tried to talk Kirby and Mastaw out

of robbing the Duzaks. "I said I didn't like Bob but they were still family."

However, Hren testified that he later drove with Kirby, his girlfriend and Mastaw past the Duzak home on Huff and pointed it out to them. Kirby and Mastaw decided to rob the home that night, Hren said, despite not being able to tell whether anyone was home.

Since he wasn't going into the home with Kirby and Mastaw, Hren said he was dropped off at a bar and called a friend to meet him. He and his friend went to a second bar before Hren said he called Kirby on a cell phone to ask for a ride.

Kirby told him he was busy getting rid of a vehicle, Hren said, so he called a cab which took his friend home before taking him to the home on Braille.

"There were guns all over the living room. Austin — I knew him as G — was taking guns out the side door," said Hren. "The guns were being sorted. Kirby was re-enacting the events of the night and Mastaw was adding details."

Kirby had commented that he was surprised to find a door

had been left open at the Duzak home in light of the gun collection inside, Hren said.

"He said he had a sawed-off shotgun and told them they wouldn't get hurt, that they just wanted the guns," said Hren. "Kirby thought Robby (Duzak) had called 9-1-1. He checked his cell phone and his last call was to his dad. I told him to get rid of the phone, he didn't know they could track it with GPS."

In their statements to police, Hren and Austin had both identified Kirby as the third gunman. Hren eventually made four statements to police, the day before Kirby's preliminary examination.

Hren, whose Inkster storage locker contained 38 guns identified as stolen from the Duzak home, had been ordered to stand trial on charges of home invasion, 38 counts of receiving and concealing firearms, felony firearm and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

As part of his plea bargain, Hren entered a guilty plea to home invasion which would carry a sentence of 2 1/2 to 20 years in prison and felony firearm, which has a two-year mandatory sentence which

must be served prior to another prison term. As a result, Hren could be out of prison in 4 1/2 years.

All four defendants have been jailed in lieu of bond since their arrests. Held in lieu of a \$2 million and as a parole violator, Kirby arrived in court with belly chains instead of standard handcuffs and with facial contusions, both the result of a reported attempt to escape custody the previous day.

Kirby was one of several prisoners being transported Wednesday by sheriff's deputies. As a prisoner was being transferred in Inkster, Kirby reportedly managed to get out of handcuff that connected him with a second prisoner. He reportedly then ran from the prisoner vehicle and was pursued on foot by deputies. Kirby reportedly slipped on some ice, receiving the injuries, and was taken back into custody.

That reported escape attempt resulted in additional security at the preliminary examination. Kirby is scheduled for Wayne County Circuit Court arraignment on Feb. 25.

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James North acknowledges the recognition the Garden City Rotary bestowed on him for his 49 years with the service organization.

Rotary honors North for years of service

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

At a young 79, Garden City Rotarian James North would rather keep skiing in Utah than spending time in Florida.

"There are a lot of young people here," he said. "There's a lot of old people in Florida."

North, who enjoys Utah during the winter months, was recently honored for his many years of service to the Garden City Rotary. North, who achieved 49 years of service in January, said that it's the people and the projects have kept him active in Rotary over the years.

When he received his service award, he quipped, "Don't you think that I am going to make it to 50 years?"

North added that although he has served the longest, he is not the oldest member in the local Rotary.

"Jim is our longest serving Rotarian," said president Peggy Sexton. "Our club was chartered on Nov. 4, 1940. Jim served as club president in the early 1970s."

North is the patriarch of the North Brothers Ford dealership on Ford in Westland.

"His sons run the businesses these days because Jim is retired," Sexton said. "He has always been very generous

donating money to the Rotary Foundation of which he is a Paul Harris Fellow. He also has donated his company trucks in the past to help with our annual Flower Sale on Easter weekend as well as working shifts to help us sell them. These are just a few of the ways he has benefited the club."

North joined the Rotary when his dealership had a location in Garden City. He joined two years after his father dropped out.

"This was a luncheon club, a group of men who got together," North said.

He served as president from 1973-74.

The dealership has been honored by the Ford Motor Co. for their charitable efforts and for distinguished corporate citizenship. Brothers Doug and Tom North, owners of North Brothers Ford in Westland, and North Brothers Lincoln-Mercury in Troy, earned Ford's Salute To Dealers Award in 2008.

Through donations, fund raising and volunteer service, the two men have helped provide summer camp scholarships, shelter and other support for families in need and youth recreation facilities.

The brothers are guided by similar values, which Tom North has said is "a business

philosophy we learned from our father."

James North also participated in and supported many other charitable causes when he ran the family business.

His sons expand that legacy by underwriting scholarships for dozens of area youngsters to attend YMCA and Salvation Army summer day camps each year, supporting a mentoring program for at-risk youths in Westland and helping construct a local library, playground and skate park and improve a baseball diamond.

"Young people face the greatest risks and greatest challenges," said Doug North in explaining that the dealerships also support schools in Troy and Westland, the Wayne County Family Shelter and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America.

Doug North said that it was an absolute honor to see his Dad recognized by the Rotary.

Doug and Tom North, who joined the dealership in 1987 and 1990, respectively, explored a new route to uphold the spirit of responsibility their father instilled. They have established a charitable foundation to attract more matching grants for programs they support.

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Son faces trial in assault of elderly father

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When paramedics brought an unconscious Rayburnell Neighbors to the hospital on Oct. 2, the 80-year-old Westland man had injuries from head to toe.

Garden City Hospital Emergency Room physician Dr. Gary March testified in 18th District Court Thursday about a litany of injuries the elderly man had sustained, including a broken jaw, missing teeth, a lacerated lip, broken ribs, lacerations to his arms and legs and numerous bruises. There was even bruising on Neighbors' scrotum, said March, testifying in the preliminary examination of Michael Neighbors, 50, who is accused to beating his father into unconsciousness.

"There are small circular bruises on the chest wall to the lower pelvic wall. They are the same size and would have come from direct blows or contact with objects that protrude," said March.

Under defense questioning, March said he couldn't rule out that the elder Neighbors may have sustained some injuries from falls but noted the high number of injuries and the acuteness — how recently the injuries had occurred — led him to conclude there had been an assault.

"There are too many bruises in too many places. There are the same shaped bruises in multiple places," said March, who spoke with police about his concerns.

At the emergency room, March said the elder Neighbors received a breathing tube due to concerns about broken teeth and internal bleeding blocking his airway. There also were additional concerns about his breathing due to the broken ribs and a possible neck injury. He also received two pints of blood after his blood pressure dropped.

Due to extent and seriousness of his injuries, Neighbors was transported to the Oakwood Hospital trauma center about two hours later. Neighbors, who suffers from dementia and was being cared for by his son, remains hospitalized and unresponsive.

Westland Fire Rescue had been dispatched to the home shared by the Neighbors on Knolson. Michael Neighbors called 9-1-1 to request CPR assistance for his father.

Arriving at the home, paramedic Brian James testified that Rayburnell Neighbors was found unconscious and bloody in the bathroom of the home leaning against the shower. Michael Neighbors told paramedics that his father had fallen, James testified.

"We asked why his father was wet and cold. He (Michael Neighbors) said he saw on TV that some person was revived with a cold shower," said James. "He (Rayburnell Neighbors) was unconscious, wet and cold to the touch. His injuries weren't consistent with a fall — there was multiple bruising and swelling. I've never had a fall patient with that extent of injuries."

Executing a search warrant at the home on Knolson, Sgt. David Zucchetto testified to finding blood on a recliner in the living room with splatters on the wall on each side of the chair.

"There was a large amount of blood in the living room floor that appeared to be wet. We swabbed the blood and cut out a piece of the carpeting as evidence," Zucchetto said.

There was blood and carpet fibers on the floor consistent with someone having been dragged down the hallway to the bathroom, he said, with blood splatters also found in Rayburnell Neighbors' bedroom. Under the search warrant, officers confiscated a Taser from a desk drawer and a collapsible baton from Michael Neighbors' vehicle.

"It appeared to me that something bad had happened in the house," said Zucchetto. "Based on the blood splatters, it make me think there had been an assault."

Michael Neighbors earlier was found competent. His defense attorney, William Montgomery, questioned witnesses about likely accidental causes for the victim's injuries — Rayburnell Neighbors' diabetes and age making him more susceptible to bruising, repeated falls and efforts to restrain an agitated dementia

patient.

There was no evidence that Michael Neighbors had assaulted his father with intent to kill him as charged, Montgomery argued, nor to support the two charges of abusing a vulnerable adult.

"These are specific intent crimes. The evidence here is boot-strapped up with the totality of injuries. Where is the evidence of an assault?" he said. "It could have been a fall or a beating. There was no furniture strewn around and no evidence whose blood it was. My client called 9-1-1 and the tape of the call showed he was upset."

The totality of the injuries suffered by Rayburnell Neighbors, most of which had occurred 12-24 hours prior to the 9-1-1 call based on March's testimony, did support the charges, said Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Jaimie Powell.

"The question is did Rayburnell Neighbors, an 80-year-old man, get himself up and flail about to do this to himself or did Michael Neighbors do it? They were the only two people in the house," said Powell. "The defendant had a right swollen hand — no other injuries. The victim was struck many times. You have time to reflect on the danger of what you are doing."

Ordering Neighbors bound over for trial as charged with assault with intent to murder and the two abuse charges, Judge Mark McConnell also noted the taped interview police conducted with Neighbors after he was taken into custody.

"I listened to about half an hour. I listened to the defendant's version — it seemed he was effectively evading Sgt. (Steve) Borisch's questions but had endless stories that weren't relevant," said McConnell. "That indicates a certain amount of guilt. His version just was not credible."

A \$500,000 cash bond was continued for Neighbors, who has been in custody since his arrest on Oct. 2. He is scheduled for circuit court arraignment on Feb. 25.

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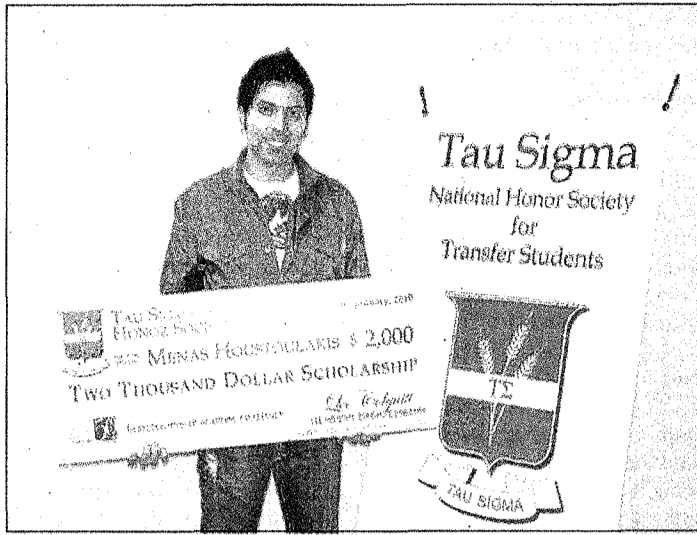
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EDUCATION



Menas Houstoulakis, a junior studying criminal justice at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, has been selected as a recipient of a \$2,000 national scholarship offered by the Tau Sigma National Honor Society.

Westland student wins national scholarship

A Westland resident has awarded a national scholarship offered by a national honor society.

Menas Houstoulakis, a junior studying criminal justice at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, has been selected as a recipient of a \$2,000 national scholarship offered by the Tau Sigma National Honor Society, an academic society that recognizes and promotes the academic excellence and involvement of transfer students.

U-M-Dearborn established a campus chapter of Tau Sigma National Honor Society last June, making it the first school in Michigan to form a chapter. Houstoulakis received the second largest scholarship offered nationwide — one of 28 scholars to be awarded scholarships totaling \$27,250.

Houstoulakis was inducted into Tau Sigma in June after transferring to U-M-Dearborn

from Schoolcraft College and currently serves as vice president of the U-M-Dearborn chapter of Tau Sigma.

Selection for the scholarship is based on several criteria: involvement in and service to the chapter, involvement in and service to the university, service to the community and academic achievement. Houstoulakis was selected by a five-member committee comprised of Tau Sigma advisers.

"This scholarship bestowed to Houstoulakis says volumes about the quality of our students. For Houstoulakis to be awarded a national scholarship in our first year of existence sets the standard," said Christopher Tremblay, director of admissions and orientation at U-M-Dearborn and chapter advisor, who selected Houstoulakis' scholarship application to forward to the national office for consideration.

WIND

FROM PAGE A1

Construction technology students will build a 12-foot by 16-foot green building as part of a competition between the 15 grant recipients, while HVAC students will be involved in the installation of the solar panels.

Information about the grant surfaced in January 2009, and came at a perfect time. With interest in electronics dropping off, the center was looking for something new. With the governor's push to put Michigan on the map in alternative energy and the center's experience with alternative fuels through the Innovative Vehicle Design competition, it seemed like a perfect fit.

"In 2002 we got on the renewable energy bandwagon. It was one reason we were chosen," Kowalski said. "Renewable energy was one of the programs we were hoping to bring to here."

She added that the district had several things in the application process that caught the state's attention, including a commitment to renewable energy not seen in other districts, a center that's state of the art, innovative and supported by the district and the support of Supt. Greg Baracy.

Students will be able to monitor the operation of the wind turbine on the Internet and the weather station also is Web-based. They'll also be able to tilt the wind mast to see the mechanism.

The grant requires a two-year commitment and the hope is that it will produce 15 different ideas that will be blended into a final program that will be shared throughout the state, Kowalski added.



William D. Ford Career Technical Center Assistant Principal Steve Kay (left) and grant facilitator Brion Dickinson take delivery of Wayne-Westland's Bergery wind turbine.

The center is also working with Mike Stzykowski and Hal Aronson of Solar Way Forward in California in developing the solar teaching stations in MacLean's classroom. The company also loaned a teaching station to show off at the center's recent open house.

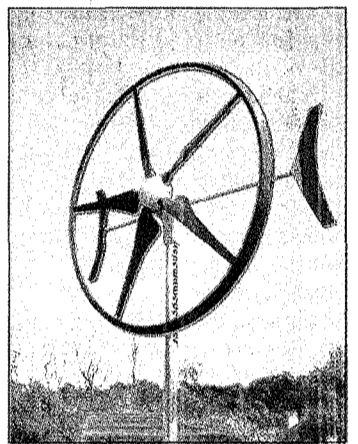
"They came to see the center," Kowalski said. "We showed them the station we were looking at and they're now helping develop two stations for the classroom."

The new class is one of three the center will offer next fall. The other classes are in game

design and programming and vehicle design technology. While the alternative energy technology class didn't elicit the excitement the game design class did during visits to the high schools to promote the center, Kowalski is confident this is a growing job sector in the state.

"I think in 15 years, you'll see a lot of people working in wind technology," she said. "Another career is photovoltaic technician. It's the person who installs and fixes solar panels."

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A Cascade Swift turbine will be mounted on the center near auto technology instruction area.

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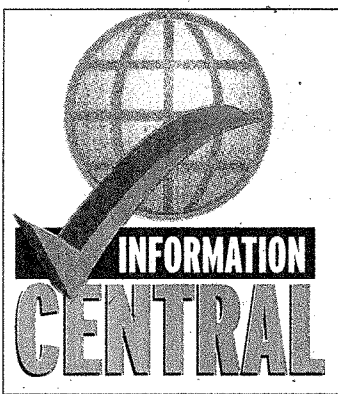
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The complexity of the String Theory

Physicists have long tried to pin down what are the fundamental elements of nature. Aristotle saw the world being composed of fire, water, earth, air and quintessence, the divine substance that makes up the stars and planets. We now understand that there are 117 known elements which are composed of atoms and each atom is made of protons, electrons and neutrons with Hydrogen having only one of each. We also know that there are four fundamental forces that affect matter: gravity, electromagnetic force, the weak force and the strong force.

Scientists have been trying for a long time to "unify" or reconcile these forces with each other. A popular and somewhat controversial theory in physics is String Theory. The String Theory (also called M-Theory) holds that the universe is composed of vibrating filaments (called strings) and membranes (called branes) of energy. It predicts a number of unusual and very interesting ways to look at the universe, including extra and unobservable dimensions and parallel universes.

The String Theory is very mathematically complex; however, there are a number of books out there that explain the elegance of this theory to the lay reader. Here at the



Westland Public Library, we have several of those titles. You can take a look at "String Theory for Dummies" by Andrew Zimmerman Jones, "The Elegant Universe: Superstrings, Hidden Dimensions and the Quest for the Ultimate Theory" by Brian Greene and "Parallel Worlds: a Journey through Creation, Higher Dimensions and the Future of the Cosmos" by Michio Kaku.

If string theory has got you (twining for more, then stop by the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. or visit us on the Web anytime at www.westlandlibrary.org

Highlighted Activities

Everyone's Reading: Feb. 15-April 28, Book Selection: Scott Turow's "Presumed Innocent."

Stop by the library to pick up a copy of the book and find when book discussions and many other programs are scheduled, or visit westlandlibrary.org or everyonesreadinginfo.org for more information. Enter our drawing to win tickets for the Scott Turow author appearance on April 14.

NEW! Adult Urban Fiction Book Club: 7 p.m. Feb. 22

Join us as we discuss Sister Souljah's classic street novel, "The Coldest Winter Ever." Ghetto-born, Winter is the young, wealthy daughter of a prominent Brooklyn drug-dealing family. Quick-witted and business-minded, she knows and loves the streets. But when a cold winter wind blows her life in a direction she doesn't want to go, her street smarts and seductive skills are put to the test of a lifetime. Unwilling to lose, this ghetto girl will do anything to stay on top. Copies will be available at the Reference Desk.

Fiction Writing Group: 7 p.m. Feb. 23, age 18 and up

If you would like help developing your fiction or enjoy reading new and exciting fiction, please join us for one of our sessions. Two new stories will

be covered each month by the group. Check with the Reference Desk for this month's stories or e-mail: andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org

Crime Scene Investigation & the Science Behind It: 7 p.m. Feb. 23

Have you ever wondered what really goes on behind the scenes at a crime lab? Guy Nutter, forensic scientist and crime scene investigator at the Michigan State Police Northville Forensic Science Laboratory will talk about the science of investigation. This is an Everyone's Reading Program.

PC Troubleshooting 101: 2-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24

In part 1 of a 2-part lecture series, you will learn how to plan and prepare for Windows PC maintenance/troubleshooting, create backup plans and back up your system, and discover various software/hardware used for maintenance. Keep your Windows Registry clean and your system up to date and learn about temporary files and system fragmentation. IMPORTANT: Some Windows proficiency will be required. Course does not cover Mac OS or Linux. PC Troubleshooting 101 is part 1 of a 2-part series. Since both parts cover different topics, it is NOT required to attend both sessions. For more information, or to reserve your seat, contact the

Reference Desk.

Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club: 7 p.m. Feb. 24

Join us for a discussion of Daniel Keyes's Flowers for Algernon. Following his doctor's instructions, engaging Charlie Gordon tells his own story in semi-literate "progris reports." He wants to better himself, but with an IQ of 68 can't even beat the laboratory mouse Algernon at maze-solving. Copies are available at the library.

February Friday Night Movie Extravaganza: 7 p.m. Feb. 26

Stop by the library every Friday evening in February for a screening of Golden Globe nominated movies. This week's movie is "Inglourious Basterds." It is rated R. Everyone 18 years and older is welcome. No registration is required. THIS IS AN AFTERHOURS PROGRAM. Library doors open at 6:30 pm.

Job Seekers Lab: Every Tuesday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday 5-8 p.m. and Friday 1-4 p.m.

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job related activity? Stop by the library where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. (This week

only, no Job Seekers Lab on Wednesday, Feb. 17.)

Brown Bag-It Book Discussion: noon-1 p.m. Feb. 26

Stop by the library at lunchtime to discuss this year's Everyone's Reading pick, Scott Turow's "Presumed Innocent." Hot beverages will be served, and be sure to bring your lunch! Copies of the book are available at the reference desk.

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

Demo: Crochet for Knitters. Materials Provided. Knitters will meet Wednesday, Feb. 17, at Starbuck's at Central City Parkway and Warren Road.

Chess Night: Every Thursday evening at 7-8:45 p.m. and Saturday at 1-4 p.m.

Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess masters are all welcome. No sign-up required.

Information Central was compiled by Kristy Cooper, reference librarian. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

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'They can see their hope'

Growth Works recognizes clients' success

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Pam Yagiela says she's rarely at a loss for words.

But she was Thursday night, overcome with emotion as she stood at the podium at Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center to offer thanks for the gift she had received.

Yagiela teaches yoga Fridays to troubled young women at Vassar House, where the Plymouth-based Growth Works Inc. has programs to help them with their problems and return them safely to society. At Thursday's Growth Works awards dinner, Yagiela was given a framed photograph taken during a yoga class, personally inscribed by each of the girls.

"I am the one who gets to see the hope," said Yagiela, whose husband, Dale Yagiela, is the Growth Works executive

director. "Sometimes when I'm with them, I know they can see their hope."

The owner of a hair salon, Yagiela said she doesn't look forward to teaching after a spending the day at work — and the trip to Vassar, Mich., takes about two hours. The girls, emotions stirred up by counseling sessions, give her a hard time.

But when class is done, she said, she knows she's reached them. She calls her husband.

"He knows I'm moved usually to tears," she said. "It's so amazing."

Yagiela's surprise award was among the 10 awards bestowed Thursday by Growth Works, a nonprofit human services agency. Professionals were honored for their service to the agency and former clients were honored for their successes in staying sober and drug-free, or for continuing

their education.

"We're working to save people's lives," Dale Yagiela said. "We're working on saving people's lives and bringing communities back where there's been dysfunction."

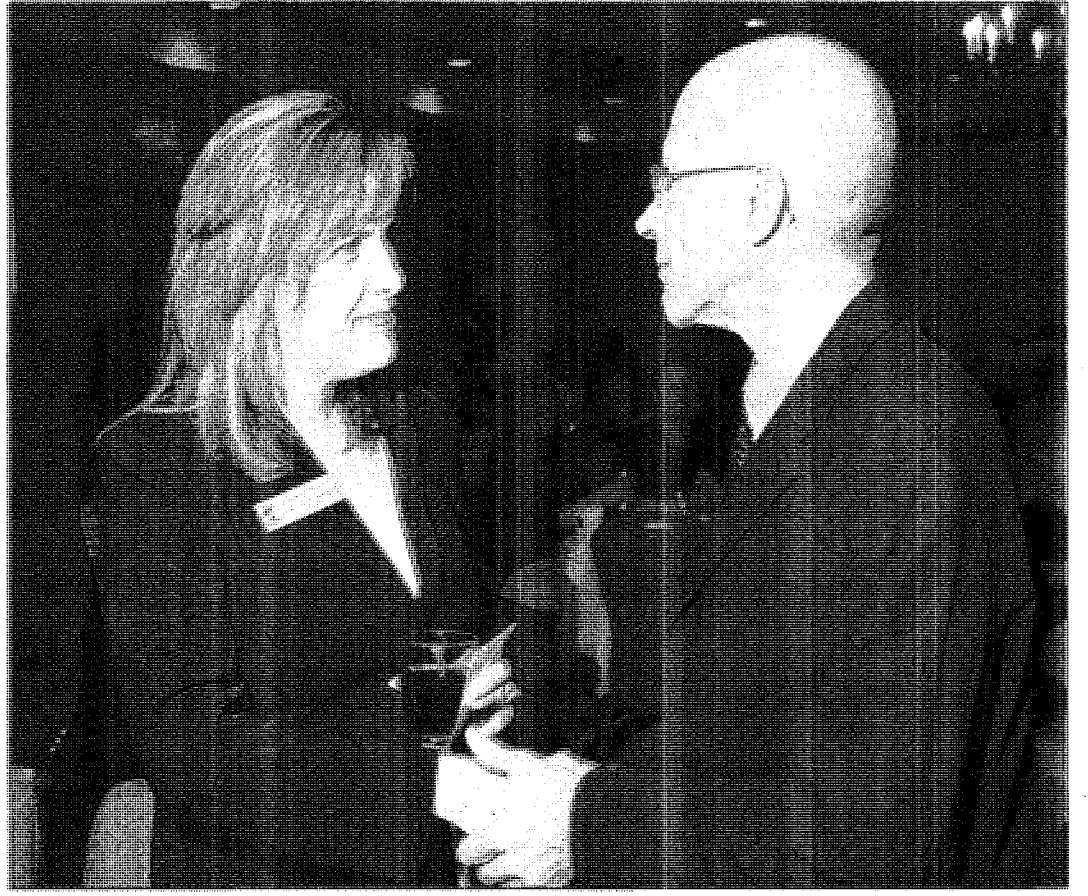
"You're doing things that many people don't even know exist, and it's wonderful to be a part of it," said Dr. David Logan, a psychiatrist, who won a community service award.

Growth Works' clients include young people who've had scrapes with the law and are in Wayne County's juvenile justice system.

Amanda Johnson, who won a community intervention and treatment program award, said the Growth Works experience turned her life around.

"It's weird to think, if I hadn't gotten in trouble, who would I be?" she told the crowd. "It's scary."

"I kind of can't believe I'm



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

County Commissioner Diane Webb and Dale Yagiela of Growthworks.

here right now," said Brandon Murray, who also won a community intervention and treatment award. "I didn't think I would stick with it."

Brandon's father, Scott Murray, credited counselors Erin Ennis and Jokena Islam for their work. "I just can't state enough the admiration

we have for the help that we've gotten," he said.

After computer difficulties cut short a video presentation, Dale Yagiela ended the program on a somber note.

Tight state and Wayne County budgets, Yagiela said, threaten the juvenile justice program. He said changes to

the program may be on the way, and urged attendees to lobby for continued funding.

"It's conceivable that we might not be here next year unless we find solutions to this," he said.

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Prom fashions, accessories take center stage at show

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Young or old, students in school or who have graduated are invited to the Prom Fashion Show at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at Garden City High School's O'Leary Auditorium.

The fashion show is being organized by Project Graduation 2010, which is planning the all-night party for seniors following the graduation ceremony in June.

"Everything for a prom can be found in one place," according to organizers. Many members of the Class of 2010 will be involved with the show, including serving as master of ceremonies. The dresses are being provided by Eva's Bridal in Garden City. The tuxedos are from President Tuxedo in Westland.

Paul Mitchell Beauty School is donating its time to do the models' hair and makeup.

Those three will have vendor tables at the fashion show, along with The Tanning Spa, Hawaiian Tanning, Wild Iris Floral Boutique, Lea Sophia Jewelry, Gold Canyon Skin Care and Candles, Lasting

Impression Hair Salon, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Cookie Lee Jewelry, Avon, Premier Design Jewelry and Entertainment Express Limousine.

All of the companies will be raffling off one item worth at least \$25.

There will also be a bake sale.

Tickets are \$3. Each ticket comes with five raffle tickets. Additional raffle tickets can also be purchased. Each vendor will have a basket and guests can put their tickets in whichever basket they want a chance to win.

Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. The senior class will be selling tickets in school and during lunches. Tickets also are available by calling Pam Tesarz at (734) 421-0126.

Helping with the show are teachers Richard Waronek, Mike Nitzkowski and Denise Shimskey. Waronek will do the stage and lighting, Nitzkowski printed all the fliers and tickets for no charge and Shimskey secured use of the auditorium.

The Garden City High School senior prom will be May 8 at the Fairlane Club in Dearborn.

sbuck@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2249

Long-term care not a good investment

Q: Dear Rick: I am in my mid-40s and I've been approached about buying long-term care. I think I am too young for it, however, the agent told me that if I buy it now, it's much cheaper. What do you think? Should I consider buying it now or just walk away?



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

A: Walk away.

I believe someone in their 40s is too young to purchase long-term care. If you are going to consider long-term care, do so in your 50s or early 60s. Someone in their 40s is just too young.

I hear from a lot of people that insurance salespeople tell them if they buy long-term care now, even though they really wouldn't need it for at least 10 to 15 years, it's much cheaper. This doesn't make sense. If you had a 5-year-old child, you wouldn't buy them a car today even though they'll need one in the future. The

same theory applies to long-term care.

I am frequently asked about long-term care and my answer has always been that it is need-based. Not everyone needs long-term care despite what many salespeople say.

All insurance is need-based. The issue is if the event occurs, will there be a financial loss that you do not have the resources to cover? If the answer is yes, consider purchasing insurance.

Long-term care is probably the most oversold insurance coverage there is. Many of the salespeople prey on seniors and scare them into purchasing a policy. If you are dealing with an insurance salesperson who uses aggressive tactics and tries to scare you, walk away and deal with someone else.

Good luck!

Q: Dear Rick: I'm in the process of doing my tax return and my wife and I have a question about whether we should take a deduction. I think we are entitled to it, my wife does not. What is

your general view as to being aggressive on tax returns?

A: Most people believe when it comes to doing tax returns, things are black and white. Unfortunately, that is not the case. There are many gray areas and you must decide how aggressive you wish to be.

Generally, I tell people as long as you have justification, you should take the deduction for your benefit. Recognize, however, there is a possibility your return will be scrutinized. And it is possible the IRS will disallow the deduction and assess you interest and penalties. If you have justification for the deduction, there's a possibility any penalties may be waived.

When it comes to taking deductions, taxpayers need to look at themselves. If you're an individual that does not want any IRS scrutiny, gray areas probably should not be taken to your benefit. On the other hand, if you don't mind dealing with the IRS, you should take gray areas to your benefit.

The IRS has a lousy reputation. However, to be fair, over

the last decade the IRS has become easier to deal with and taxpayers have a better opportunity to resolve their difficulties than at any time in the past.

Taxpayers should not be afraid of the IRS. That doesn't mean that someone should be overly aggressive on his/her tax return. However, they shouldn't be afraid of taking deductions or taking aggressive tax positions if they have the justification.

When it comes to taxes, always remember that you are responsible for your tax return. If you use a professional tax preparer and if he/she takes aggressive positions, you should be informed. After all, you're signing the return and you're ultimately the one who is responsible for any additional taxes, interest and penalties.

Good luck!

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

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Hero's welcome planned for fallen Marine

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Marine Cpl. Jacob H. Turbett, killed last weekend while fighting in the Afghanistan war, will get a hero's welcome Monday when the military brings his body from Willow Run Airport to L.J. Griffin Funeral Home in Canton.

Local leaders are asking people to bring flags and line Ford Road from Sheldon Road east to the funeral home, located at 42600 Ford, where visitation and services will occur before the 21-year-old Turbett is laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Canton leaders have asked crowds to line the stretch of Ford Road from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Monday, when a large procession escorted by Canton police is expected to make its way to the funeral home.

"He's a hero, and he laid his life on the line for all of us that are here," Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "So, at the very least, we can just try to demonstrate our appreciation for all he did for us. It's a way to show our appreciation and respect."

Turbett's body is expected to arrive around 8 a.m. at Willow Run Airport. A procession will travel north on Belleville Road and north on Canton Center to Ford, where it will head east to L.J. Griffin Funeral Home and pass by the welcoming crowd, said Deb Zevalkink, the supervisor's assistant.

"We're asking people, if they have a flag, to bring it," she said.

Local leaders hope the gesture will, in some small way, bring comfort to Turbett's family and honor his memory.

Officer Eric Kolke of the Canton Police Department's Special Enforcement Unit said township officers will escort the procession from the airport to the funeral home, with assistance from Van Buren police as the line of cars moves through the

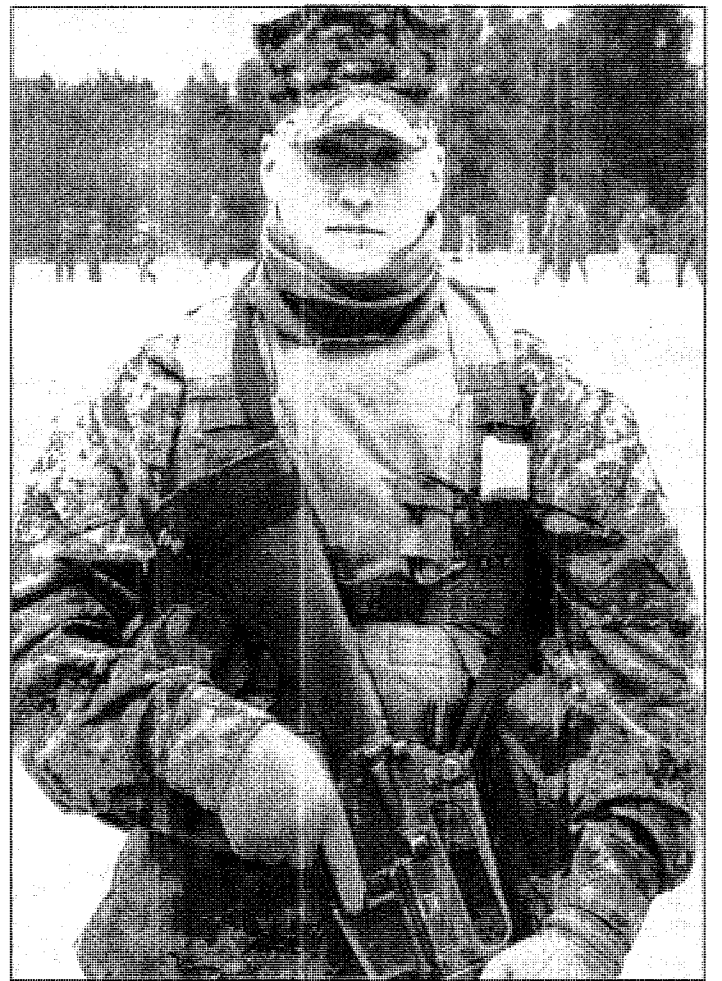


PHOTO COURTESY MYSAPAC

Marine Cpl. Jacob Turbett, a 2007 graduate of Canton High School, joined many family members in serving in the U.S. military.

neighboring township.

"We will have police cars shutting down intersections as we pass through," Kolke said.

Jana Porter, administrative assistant for the Canton Chamber of Commerce, said efforts were being made Friday to alert some 750 chamber members by e-mail, in an effort to draw a crowd to the stretch of Ford Road on Monday morning.

"I'm sending out a mass e-mail to all our members," she said.

Turbett, a 2007 Canton High School graduate who entered the Marines right out of high school, was killed Feb. 13. His mother, Sheila Turbett of Redford Township, has said her son "was actually looking forward to going" to Afghanistan because of his "honor, courage, commit-

ment."

Turbett's visitation will be from noon to 9 p.m. Monday and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, with the funeral at 1 p.m. Tuesday. He will be buried March 9 at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

Survivors also include his wife, Crystal; father, Richard; sister, Jaime Turbett; stepbrother, Joseph Marsh; grandparents, aunts and uncles. One of his cousins, Sgt. David Ratliff of the U.S. Marine Corps, is expected to help escort Turbett's body.

Turbett also was the nephew of Rosie and Odell Ratliff; son-in-law of Elizabeth Bouffard and Daniel Mielke; and brother-in-law of Joe Mielke.

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SUNDAY

February 21, 2010

SECTION B (WL)

Brad Emmons, editor (313) 222-6851
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Lady Ocelots roll to Eastern title - B2

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Rockets rule regional, eye return trip to Elite 8

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Bill Polk wouldn't quite dub it "The Great Escape." But there was brief moment during Wednesday's Division 1 team wrestling regional at Southgate Anderson when Westland John Glenn coach wondered if his squad's return trip to the state finals next weekend in Battle Creek was in jeopardy.

"There was a little bit of doubt, a little bit of panic," Polk admitted. "My blood pressure definitely went up." But for the Rockets, it was mission accomplished as they edged Monroe in a tense semifinal, 29-26, and followed by clinching an Elite Eight spot for the second straight year with a 33-30 triumph over the host Titans in the regional final. "Monroe had us on the ropes, they wrestled well," said Polk, whose team heads to Kellogg Arena with a 32-7 dual match

PREP WRESTLING
record. "Monroe did a good job of bumping people around. They had a good game plan. "But I think our depth helped us out a bit in both matches." Things got dicey for Glenn when two state placers from a year ago, seniors Dustin Gajowiak (285 pounds) and Anthony Pavlich (130), both lost. Gajowiak was edged in

overtime by David Pope, while Pavlich was pinned by Derek Davison. "Anthony hasn't been pinned since his freshman year and was 52-2," Polk said. "The Monroe kid (Davison) is a top four placer at state. Anthony just got caught - it happens. But after that we had no room for error. From there everything had to go our way." After Mark Thompson lost a close decision at 135, Glenn trailed 21-16 with five matches

remaining. But the Rockets roared back for the victory getting wins from Travis Mann (140), Mike Johnson (145), Zach Redden (160) and Kameron Jones (171), the latter whom was the match clincher. Also earning victories for Glenn were Gerald Powell (215), Kyle Gillies (103), Steve Wakeford (112) and Josh Austin (125).
Please see **WRESTLING, B3**

GAME WRAPS

Girls basketball Catholic League

GRAND RAPIDS CC 66, LADYWOOD 21: The trip to the west side of the state was certainly proved to be eye opener Wednesday night as Livonia Ladywood (10-8) as the Blazers were bounced by Grand Rapids Catholic Central (16-1). Ladywood coach Pat Cannon came away impressed with the Cougars, ranked No. 2 in Class B. "They're the real deal," he said. "They're the best high school girls basketball team I've ever seen. They tore us apart. They anticipate every pass. They're athletic, fast, big and strong. They're very complete." Grand Rapids CC's Annalise Pickrel, a 6-foot-2 senior, got Cannon's vote for Miss Basketball after scorching the Blazers for 18 points. Sophomore Tiesha Stokes added 14, while senior Brittany Berry added 12 as the Cougars shot 50 percent from the floor. Ladywood found itself down 21-7 after one quarter, 40-17 at halftime and 58-18 after three quarters. Christina Butkiewicz tallied a team-high eight points for the Blazers, who now have to prepare for Sunday's Catholic League A-B Division championship for another top ten team in Birmingham Marian (16-1), ranked No. 5 in Class A. "This (Grand Rapids CC) game can turn into a positive because the girls now understand how we need to play and what we need to do in the Catholic League championship," Cannon said. Game time is 3 p.m. at the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall.

Metro Conference

CLARENCEVILLE 52, KINGSWOOD 40: The trio of Kristen Jolly, Jenna Burgess and Ashley Devon proved lethal Friday night as Livonia Clarenceville (7-10, 6-3) bounced Bloomfield Hills Kingswood (6-13, 4-5) in the opening round of the Metro Conference playoffs. Jolly poured in a game-high 24 points, while Burgess contributed 14 points and 13 rebounds. Devon chipped in seven points, including a perfect 4-for-4 performance at the free-throw line. "The girls played a complete game and rebounded very well against Cranbrook's height," said Clarenceville Brady Gustafson, whose team travels Tuesday to Macomb Lutheran North for a semi-final game (7 p.m. start).

MIAC Blue
OAK, CHRISTIAN 55, LUTH. WESTLAND 29: On Friday, host Lutheran High Westland (4-13, 2-10) ran into a buzzsaw against Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division leader Auburn Hills Oakland Christian (16-2, 13-0). Emilie Freeman led a balanced Warriors' scoring attack with six points.

Stevenson nips Rocks, earns title

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Stevenson picked up some additional hardware Wednesday night when it defeated upset-minded Salem, 3-2, for the Kensington Conference boys hockey championship at the Plymouth Rink Center.

The state-ranked Spartans needed a third-period goal from Tim Pruchnik, his 15th of the season, with only 3:31 remaining to earn the victory.

Salem netminder Steven Manser, who stopped 36 pucks on the night, made the initial right pad save on Andrew Palushaj's shot, but Pruchnik pounced on the rebound and popped home the game-winner.

With the win, Stevenson improves to 18-3-2 overall and earns a spot in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association title matchup. The game will be either next Thursday or Friday on the road against the winner of the Lakes Conference final between Howell and Waterford Kettering.

"For some of our seniors, who have been here two or three years, this was the first time, and a chance to play for something," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "It's our first conference championship in awhile and it's a heck of an accomplishment. I'm so happy for the guys to experience something like this because 10 years from now they can go back to Stevenson High School and see

Please see **HOCKEY, B2**



TONY RANDALL

Former Livonia Stevenson standout Michael Voran (16), now with the Sioux Falls (S.D.) Stampede of the U.S. Hockey League, recently committed to play at Notre Dame.

Irish eyes smiling on ex-Spartan Voran

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Since his days as an All-State hockey player at Livonia Stevenson, Michael Voran always knew he wanted to play at the collegiate level.

But how to get to that destination would take some tricky navigation.

The 19-year-old, who recently committed to Notre Dame, currently finds himself planted in Sioux City, S.D., with the Stampede of the Tier I U.S. Hockey League.

That comes after the forward spent



Voran

ACT.

But few schools came calling despite that fact that he earned first-team All-State honors while scoring 17 goals and

a season in the North American Hockey League with the Tier I Wenatchee (Wash.) Wild.

Voran graduated in 2008 from Stevenson High with solid academic credentials finishing with a 3.7 grade-point average and a 22 on his

adding 25 assists in 26 games with the Spartans.

"They (Wenatchee) contacted me for a tryout, it was a last-minute thing," Voran said. "I made the team, but it was pretty much my last hurrah. I didn't know where it would take me. Everyone has doubts about making it. If I hadn't gone to Wenatchee, I'd probably be playing club hockey at UM-Dearborn where my brother (Marcus) played."

Voran's trademarks are that of being a leader and a goal-scoring sniper.

Please see **VORAN, B2**

Cooks delivers as Churchill nips rival Spartans again

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

D'Juan Cooks missed three games and two weeks of practice with injury, but the 6-foot-5 senior forward from Livonia Churchill was anything but rusty in Friday's Kensington Conference boys basketball playoff opener.

The long-armed Cooks scored 16 of his 18 in the second half as the host Chargers upended KLA Central Division champion Livonia Stevenson for the

third time this season, 52-49.

The win puts the Chargers, now 9-7 overall, into the conference semifinal beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Canton, while Stevenson, 13-4 overall, drops down to the consolation bracket Tuesday at home to face Canton.

Afterwards, Churchill coach Jim Solak was at a loss on why his team now has three straight wins over a quality crosstown rival.

"I can't explain it, I don't want to explain it, but we'll take

BOYS HOOPS

it," Solak said. Cooks, who went down with an ankle injury prior to the Wayne Memorial game (Feb. 9), gave the Spartans fits on both ends of the floor.

"He did what he had to do to get back on the floor," Solak said. "He stepped up and played through the pain like a senior should."

After trailing 18-14 after one quarter and 29-22 at halftime, Churchill crept back and took

the lead for keeps, 34-32, on Stephen Foster's three-pointer from the corner with only one second left in the third period.

The Chargers then stretched their lead to as many as eight, 40-32, with 4:03 to go on a basket by 6-6 senior center Adam Bedell, who finished with eight points and nine rebounds.

Stevenson, however, refused to fold and scored nine points during the final 1:35 and got within one, 50-49, with only 6.8 seconds left on a rebound

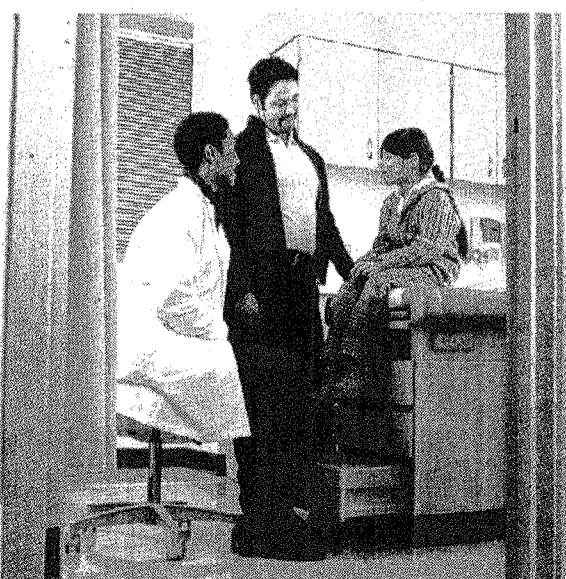
basket by Jordan El-Sabeh.

Senior guard Anthony Frezzell answered with a pair of free throws with 6.2 seconds remaining to put the Chargers back on top by three.

Stevenson went the length of the floor on the final play and got off a three-point attempt before the buzzer sounded, but CJ Mwila's shot grazed the right side of the rim with the 6-6 Bedell getting a hand in his face.

Please see **CHURCHILL, B3**

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VORAN

FROM PAGE B1

In 68 games with the Wild, Voran tallied 33 goals and added 45 assists.

The team captain elevated those numbers during the 2009 postseason, leading Wenatchee to the NAHL's Robertson Cup finals where he tallied playoff-best 22 points in 13 games.

Along the way Voran earned All-Tournament honors, first-team All-Rookie and first-team All-Western Division. He was also a member of the NAHL's Top Prospects Tournament.

"I got great coaching from Paul Baxter," Voran said. "He played NHL for Calgary, Pittsburgh, Quebec. He understands the game. He was an NHL assistant (coach). He helped me progress as far as working on the little things. I give him a lot of credit. He taught me a lot about the game — like how to protect the puck and get your body in the way. I'm playing the two-way game, blocking shots, playing sound defense. That's what they look for."

The 6-foot, 195-pound forward had planned to return to Wenatchee for a second season, but he was snapped up in the first round (sixth overall) of the USHL Draft by the Stampedes.

"I was debating whether to go back to Wenatchee, but I figured the USHL is great league and they gave me a shot," Voran said. "And if I played well, I'd get a lot of exposure from schools. I started playing well and it was one of the best decisions I made."

What made it attractive for Voran to move back east was that the USHL also boasts 112 National Hockey League alums and 197 college commitments.

And 11 current USHL players have committed to Notre Dame, while 13 former league alums are currently on the Fighting Irish roster.

"Overall the depth of skill is better," Voran said. "It's younger talent and more top-end players."

Through the Stampedes' first 43 games, Voran has not disappointed. He currently leads the team with 55 points on 18 goals and 37 assists.

Needless to say, Voran quickly became the object of college recruiters.

"I talked to quite a few schools, but I narrowed it to Michigan State, Notre Dame and UMass," said Voran, who wants

to major in either business or sports management. "The package at Notre Dame was great. It's a great school with great hockey and the educational aspect was a plus. When I visited the campus I fell in love with it. It was special."

Growing up, Voran had only one strong allegiance.

"I guess I grew up a U-M fan, but I didn't dislike Notre Dame," he said. "It just wasn't my favorite."

Voran said he has adjusted from being away from home and has enjoyed his two-year journey.

"Wenatchee is beautiful, a little town in the mountains, two hours from Seattle in the middle of the state," he said. "It's a town of about 30,000 (population) and they get 3,000 (fans) per game."

"Sioux Falls is a bigger town — around 150,000 — with a small-town atmosphere. It's cold and it's windy. We also get a good following. They treat us like pros. It's really cool to see them wear jerseys with your name on them."

He lives with a local family in Sioux Falls — Mark and Jeanne Buchholz. They have three grown children (all out of the house), but now turn their attention to a 3-year-old grandson.

"It's like their new baby," said Voran, who fills the role as a big brother and baby-sitter.

Voran, meanwhile, tries to stay busy while he's away from the rink.

"Basically I'm a full-time hockey player, but I work eight hours a week as a stock boy for Macy's," he said. "In my free time I just hang out with the guys, watching NHL games or going to movies."

The Stampedes, who stand 23-10-10 and are in third place in the USHL's West Division, started the season by playing 20 of their first 30 games at home.

But now the long bus rides have become the norm. His family has only been out to Sioux Falls once, but now can see him play in USHL cities like Chicago, Indianapolis, Youngstown and Ann Arbor (March 6-7 at the Ice Cube vs. Team USA).

But his next stop, South Bend, seems to be a reasonably close and perfect fit.

"My parents (Mark and Paola) have been supportive of my college hockey dreams," Michael said. "They've put in a lot of hours and time and now that's it happened, they're really excited."

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Woynick's four goals lifts Chargers

Livonia Churchill is picking up steam heading in the state boys hockey playoffs.

Senior Mike Woynick racked up four goals as the Chargers upended the state's No. 2 ranked team, Novi, for the second time this season, 6-4, Friday night at Edgar Arena.

Churchill, now 15-7-1 overall, also got goals from Mike Kutek and Drew Carlson (on a power-play), while Scott Hamill chipped in with three assists.

Other Churchill assists went to Steve Klisz, Jake Otto, Ben

Proben, Christo Papaioannou, Yanni Kefallinos and Justin Mikitaroff.

It was 2-all after one period as Brock Krygier and Joey Ferriss scored for the Wildcats, who slipped to 17-4-2 overall.

But Churchill took control with three unanswered goals in the second period for a 5-2 advantage.

Novi mounted a third-period comeback on Tyler Perpich's short-handed goal followed by Zach Mohr's tally at the 9-minute mark to cut the deficit to 5-4.

Woynick then scored an insur-

ance goal with just under two minutes to play to seal the victory.

"We started out really well, then got lazy and complacent," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "Novi fought back, but we kept our composure. I like the way we're playing right now."

Churchill outshot the Wildcats, 24-14.

Aaron Crouse went all the way in goal for the Chargers, while Novi's Michael Pesendorfer gave up five goals over the first two periods for the Wildcats before giving way to Spencer Peterson.

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

that trophy in the trophy case."

After a scoreless opening period, Stevenson broke the ice on Justin Shureb's 19th goal of the season on a four-on-four situation from Cole Rochowiak and Kyle Gabrielson at 3:38 of the second.

The Spartans made it 2-0 at 6:23 of the same period taking advantage of a five-on-three advantage after the Rocks were assessed a pair coincidental minor penalties. Defenseman Jake Poynter tallied the power-play goal from John Strauch and Shureb.

Salem, despite being outshot 9-6 in the opening period and 19-6 in the second, clawed its way back when Steve Haburne, who was ejected late in the game after getting a game disqualification and a 5-minute minor, tallied a power-play goal from Ryan Quigley at 11:32 of the second period to cut the deficit to 2-1.

Mark McGee then tied it a 2-all with only 4:05 remaining in regulation on a quick wrist shot off an assist from Mario Macari.

"That's kind been our trademark this year," Salem coach Ryan Ossemmacher said. "We have tendency to get off to slow starts. I'm not really sure what that is. In game like this you can't afford to have mental lapses, you can't afford to start slow because Stevenson is a good team."

"It's hard enough to battle uphill against an average team, but when you're playing really a good team, and constantly fighting an uphill battle, most of the time it's going to end up like it did."

The loss dropped Salem to 12-7-3 overall.

"It's a game for the conference championship and Salem did a heck of a job," Mitchell said. "They won their (South) division and earned the right to be in this."

"Give them all the credit in the world, they didn't quit and they didn't back down when we got a couple goals, they just kept coming. They bounced right back and tied it. They gave us everything we could handle. Hats off to them for an outstanding game tonight."

The Rocks, beaten by Stevenson 6-1 in December, put together their best period in the third,

which resulted in the tying goal by McGee.

"The last time we were just disappointed because we felt we got outworked," Ossemmacher said. "This game, our commitment to working hard was a little bit better. But at the same time you just got to be smarter — too many mental mistakes for this late in the season. But to our credit, we battled back and tied it up. But as soon as we tied it up, we had a mental breakdown and they scored. That's kind of the way the game went. Stevenson is a good team and they earned the victory."

Meanwhile, Stevenson goaltender Danny Sager was solid throughout, stopping 19-of-21 shots.

"We just really never established any flow or got pucks to net early," said Mitchell, whose third-ranked team in Division 1 was coming off a loss Saturday to No. 4 University of Detroit-Jesuit. "The first period wasn't we wanted, but again, it was still a 0-0 hockey game and we couldn't be too disappointed with that."

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NEIGHBORS

Plastic fast

Church members receive ashes, relinquish credit cards

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BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

The Rev. Steven Schafer, pastor of Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia, expects to save a few dollars during Lent.

Noreen Panizzoli of Garden City, says she'll think twice before she makes a purchase.

And Lynn Rife, a Southfield resident, suspects she'll will live within her means.

They and a handful of other Mt. Hope members are "fasting" financially until Easter Sunday, April 4. After receiving ashes last Wednesday at a service marking the start of Lent, the period of penance and fasting that recalls Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness, a handful of congregants sealed their credit cards in envelopes and stashed them in the church safe.

"We had about 50 people at Ash Wednesday service. Five turned in cards. So, it was not an overwhelming response," said Schafer, who suggested

the idea in an article he wrote for the church bulletin a few weeks ago. "We've told them that this may not be for everyone and that is OK and that they may not even feel comfortable turning over their cards to the church safe. If they want they can keep them at home if they want to participate."

They'll also have another chance to submit cards to the church safe at today's regular Sunday worship service.

Schafer said the idea for "plastic fast" came to him while listening to an interview on National Public Radio that challenged audience members to try buying only essentials for 30 days.

"I realized Lent was just around the corner and only 46 days — at bit longer than 30 days — but a natural time on the calendar for Christians, and credit cards would be a good sacrifice," he said. "The idea probably came from my own credit card bills. I always pay them off every month,

never have a service or late fee, but I've been surprised by the number of times those cards are used in the course of a month. The amount charged, for me, was not as significant as the number of times it was used — and the fact that we seldom realize how much we are spending because they are so convenient."

ONLY CASH

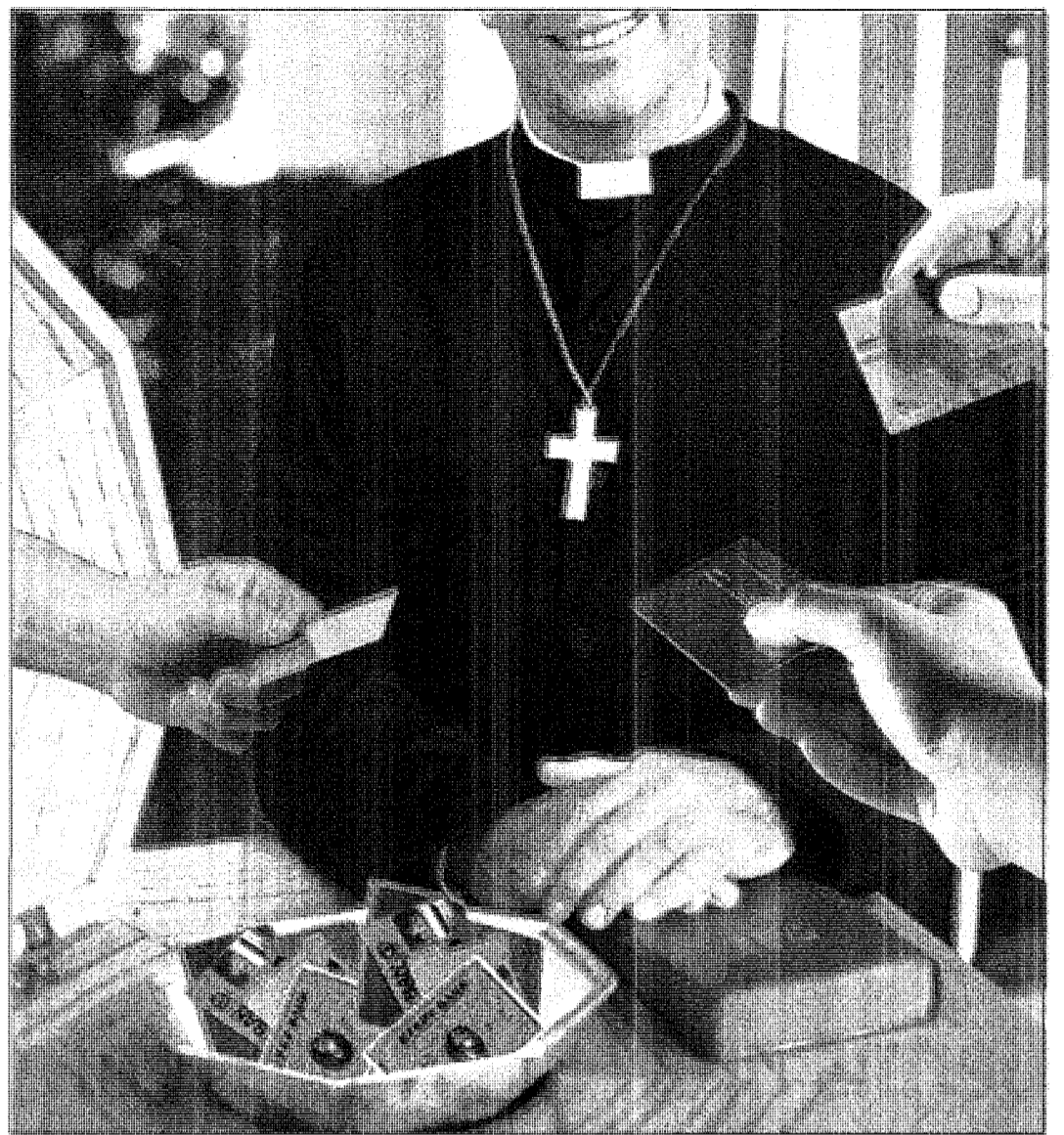
Panizzoli, church secretary, said she's going without debit cards, too.

"I'd just like to try using cash. I think I'll spend differently when I have to hand over my greenbacks," she said.

Rife, a nurse midwife at Henry Ford Hospital, West Bloomfield, said she initially thought giving up credit cards for Lent was a good idea, although not for her.

"But when I thought about it more, I thought I'd just do it from home."

At the Ash Wednesday service, however, she took



the plunge, turning in a bank card and a store credit card and keeping one at home "for emergencies."

"One of them was a Kohl's card. I'll feel the impact," she said, anticipating the card user discounts she'll miss on pre-Easter sales.

But Rife also said the sacrifice will make her think about potential purchases, challenge her to live within her means and pay down her credit card debt.

She also gave up vanilla-flavored chai for Lent and will

donate the money she saves toward a Haiti relief fund.

TRADITIONAL SACRIFICE

Giving up food and sweets is along the lines of a typical Lenten fast, Schafer said.

"The plastic fast helps us to look closely at what we spend our money on and how much, and what kind of priorities we have," he said. "We've become so addicted to credit cards that giving them up really does constitute a real sacrifice and personal reflection."

What does the Bible say

about credit and lending?

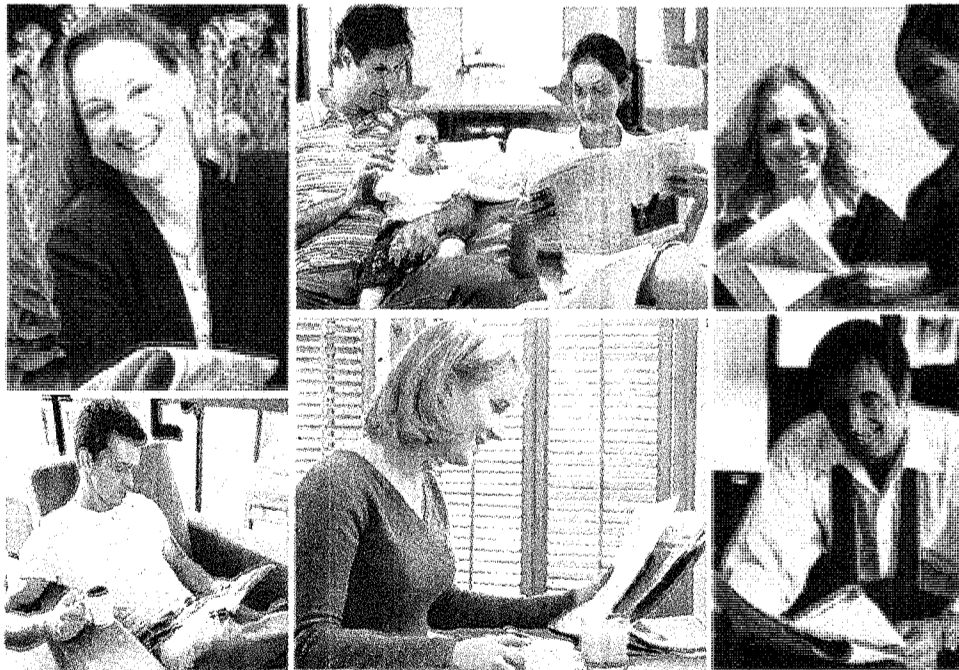
Schafer referred to passages in the Old Testament, including Exodus 22:25, which prohibits usury, and to Levitical laws commanding that loans be made to the poor without interest.

"For those in debt, the year of Jubilee, every 50th year, was important because debts were canceled. Psalm 112:5 suggests that those who lend freely and are generous will be blessed," he noted. "Probably doesn't apply to credit card companies."

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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

GET READY TO WALK

A "getting started" meeting for anyone interested in participating in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure walk, will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4, at New Balance, 37606 12 Mile, Farmington Hills and 10:30 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Feb. 27, in the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth.

Register at a meeting and you will receive your registration kit, including legacy pin and milestone tracker, on the spot. If you are already registered, this meeting is for you, too. Organizers will talk about training and fund-raising, and answer questions. For more information call (800) 996-3Day.

MHS TELETHON

Michigan Humane Society's Valentine's Telethon, which aired on WXYZ-TV Channel 7, raised enough support to provide care for more than 2,700 animals in need. Although the thousands of homeless animals who arrive at the Michigan Humane Society each year need varying levels of care, on average it costs the organization \$120 to transform the life of one animal in need.



This 3-month-old Boxer mix was found wandering the streets, covered in bite marks and with a deep, painful wound on her stomach, injuries consistent with being used as a bait dog for dog-fighting. "Alice" underwent surgery at Michigan Humane Society (MHS) Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland, recovered in foster care and soon will be settling into her own home. She's among thousands of homeless animals who arrive at MHS every year.

mal in need.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support of the community, whose compassionate contributions allow the organization to continue its lifesaving work," stated Cal Morgan, MHS president and CEO.

The Michigan Humane Society runs shelters in Westland, Detroit and Rochester Hills.

To make a donation in support of the MHS Valentine's

Telethon, visit www.michiganhumane.org or call (866) MHUMANE from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

SAVE THE DATE

Schoolcraft College's annual Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow starts with a 5:30 p.m. wine glow, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and a brief program at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 9 in the DiPonio Room of the VisTaTech Center on

the college's main campus, on Haggerty between Six and Seven Mile Roads, in Livonia.

The Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow is sponsored by Schoolcraft College Transition Center and Advisory Board. The Transition Center incorporates the services of the Women's Resource Center, Adult Student Services, Family Resources and Student Engagement Programs. Proceeds from the event benefit scholarships for students and the Transitions Center at Schoolcraft College.

Tickets, sponsorships and advertising space in the program are available. Tickets are \$30; sponsorships for \$75 include two dinner tickets and listing in the program. Advertisements are available in varying sizes and cost \$20-\$100. For more information call (734) 462-4443.

PENNY WARS

Seventh- and eighth-graders at St. Matthew Lutheran School in Westland recently raised just under \$1,000 for the AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center in Livonia. The classes collected coins in baby bottles and "sabotaged" each other by placing silver coins and paper money in each other's bottles



Nick Garber (left) and Holly Sayger, both seventh-graders, count pennies.

during the on-going "penny war." Coins also were used in math lessons. In the end, the sixth grade won the competition.

HEART AND SOUL

Metropolitan Church and School in Plymouth offers heart healthy activities this spring, starting with a vegetarian dinner club, with meetings one Monday night a month. Participants will bring a vegetarian dish to pass, share nutrition ideas and discuss health topics. Call (734) 591-0018 for more information.

- Cholesterol blood screening, 9 a.m., March 14.
- Plant-based diet seminar, 2:30 p.m., March 28
- Biblical perspectives on health, 2:30 p.m., April 25
- Health Camp 2010 at Camp Ausable, Grayling, May 9-16
- Ongoing strength, core, and balance work in exercise classes; call (248) 446-9176

For screening, seminar, Biblical perspectives and camp information or registration, call (248) 349-5683.

The church and school are located at 15585 N. Haggerty.

Germs grow in refrigerator drain pan

Anne writes: "I started reading your column after becoming a first-time homeowner a couple of years ago and it quickly became the item I looked for first in my *Observer*. I now clean my washer seal and dryer exhaust line regularly, would never consider a front-loading washing machine, and conserve my well-functioning older appliances so that I don't have to take my chances with new ones.



Appliance Doctor
Joe Gagnon

"There's something more personal that makes me grateful for this column. Ever since she was a puppy, my Shih Tzu had terrible asthma attacks, especially in the mornings. One day the *Observer* ran your piece about the importance of cleaning your refrigerator pan, which I did. My dog hasn't had an asthma attack since. We both appreciate your advice very much."

Thank you Anne for the kind words and I'm pleased that the advice has helped

make your little dog even more enjoyable. I'm sorry to say that when you have to purchase a new refrigerator you may not be able to clean the defrost drain pan underneath the newer model. Most of the drain pans are not removable today and if I had my way, I would put a stop on all refrigerator production until they went back to the old system.

Up until five or six years ago the homeowner could reach under the refrigerator after removing the bottom kick plate and take out the plastic drain pan, wash it with hot water and detergent, sprinkle a little peroxide in it and replace it in a matter of minutes.

A doctor in Garden City told me in 1993 of the health problems associated with the refrigerator drain pan. I quote, "The drain pan is the worst place in the kitchen as far as bacteria is concerned. It is a hot house and a definite health hazard." The doctor was good enough to check out a drain pan I had removed from a used refrigerator and if I wanted to do the same thing today I would have to bring him the whole refrigerator. Most of these drain pans are welded

underneath and can't be removed by the typical homeowner. If the good doctor were still alive today I know he would do a house call with me to verify the facts he once professed.

KITCHEN SMELLS

I remember the days when I would walk into a consumer's house and I knew exactly what the odor was in that person's kitchen. I would take out the drain pan, and before I would clean it I made sure that the customer had a good look at it. I would actually scare them into cleaning it a few times a year. Many times a few days later that person would call me to inform me that the kitchen smells so much better after the drain pan was cleaned.

Let me explain the defrost system so you can better understand the necessity for a drain pan. The refrigerator goes into defrost two or three in a 24-hour period. A heater comes on and melts the snow accumulated on the evaporator coil inside the freezer. The melted snow runs down a tube underneath the refrigerator and into the drain pan. Along the way it may pick up any food particle or food spillage and puts it right

into the drain pan.

Under every refrigerator we have a very warm dirty condition and bacteria will multiply very quickly. In most cases we have a fan motor that is blowing air across the drain pan right into the air into the kitchen. Your furnace motor will take care of blowing that serious health hazard throughout the rest of your house. Is this as serious a problem as I make it out to be? Medical fact and my own common sense tell you it is.

In days gone by the instruction book with your refrigerator told you to remove and clean the drain pan. I wonder how many millions of people have suffered sickness or even death from a dirty drain pan. Why do refrigerator manufacturers care so little for the health of their customers? If a clean drain pan can turn the tide for a little dog's health, it should be able to do the trick for humans. Stay tuned.

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

Gilda's Club teams with Botsford Center on cancer support

Gilda's Club Metro Detroit and Botsford Cancer Center have partnered to provide free emotional and social support to people touched by cancer.

Beginning March 2, Gilda's Club will be offering new support programs at the center every Tuesday night.

Groups offered include:

- Life After Treatment Group - a bi-weekly support group for adult cancer survivors who are finished with treatment. Held the first and third Tuesdays. 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Breast Cancer Networking Group - a bi-weekly support group for adults touched by breast cancer. Held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Wellness Group - a weekly support group for adult men and women living with any type of cancer.

There is no charge to attend these program activities.

5:30-7:30 p.m.

- Yoga Workshop - a weekly yoga class. Anyone is welcome. The facilitator can modify the movements for varying physical capabilities. 4:30-5:30 p.m.

There is no charge to attend these program activities. Participants do not have to be a patient at Botsford Hospital to attend any of the groups. For more information about Gilda's Club support programs at Botsford contact Gilda's Club at (248) 577-0800 or Botsford Cancer Center Information at (248) 442-0482.

Botsford Cancer Center is located 27900 Grand River Ave. in Farmington Hills.

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Phone: (248) 478-7860

ARM PAIN

How do you know if a pain you feel in your arm, is a passing problem that time will heal, or is the beginning of a condition that requires a doctor's attention?

First, did the arm pain come out of nowhere or did it follow a specific activity such as lifting books, or taking down a suitcase from an overhead bin? If the arm pain came after a specific activity then the cause is likely a muscle or tendon strain and likely will resolve in time.

Next, does the pain stay in one place or does it spread down the arm or up the shoulder? Does it come and go, or is constant or at least present, most of the time? An inconsistent pain reflects healing of an injury; persistent pain requires medical attention.

Does the arm pain disrupt your sleep? If so, that is sufficient reason to visit your doctor on the matter.

What worsens the pain and what relieves it? If any arm movement causes you to hurt, then seeing a physician promptly is in order. If the pain lessens considerably with heat or improves with movement, then using heat and waiting out the pain is a reasonable course.

What is the nature of the pain? Is it sharp, tingling, electric or burning in nature? Burning and tingling pains are in keeping with nerve damage and should initiate a doctor's appointment. You may consider pain tolerable for a while, particularly if over several days it lessens in intensity.

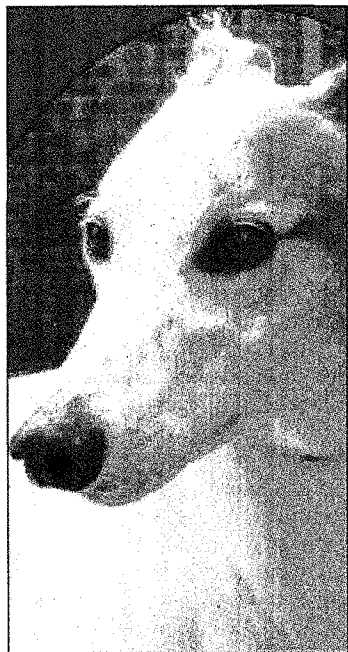
If you decide you should see a doctor, take note of the nature of the pain, what makes it worse, and what medication, if any helps. This information assists the doctor in making a diagnosis.

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Lucky, 6, loves to romp and cuddle.

ADOPTABLE GREYHOUND

Lucky is the featured dog from Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption this week. He's one of six new arrivals from a Florida race track. "These dogs came in thin and in much need of some TLC which their foster families lavish on them," says Jackie Bowen, public relations coordinator for the group.

At his foster home, Lucky likes to romp in the snow and then settle down to a nice, fluffy bed. He's age 6, loves to cuddle and is an easy going dog.

To meet Lucky, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739. Check out the group's Web site at www.greyheart.org.

Adoptable greyhounds will be on hand at three Hiller's Markets today, Sunday, Feb. 21. Meet them from noon to 3 p.m., at 3010 Union Lake Road, Commerce; from noon to 2 p.m., at 15455 Haggerty, at Five Mile, Plymouth; and from noon to 3 p.m., at 425 North Center St., Northville.

Hillers is donating all profits from the sale of its Greytful Meat Lasagna, available in its prepared foods department, to Greyheart this month.

REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Dearborn Heights Haston High - Class of 1965

45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., July 24; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail to her at patkopczyk@aol.com.

Detroit Cooley High School - Class of 1960

50th Reunion May 1 at Crown Plaza-Metro Airport. Call (248) 625-4598 or (734) 464-1692 for more information.

Detroit Mackenzie - Class of 1962

Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. Mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

Detroit Pershing - Class of 1960

50th reunion festivities in September will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

Farmington High School - Class of 1970

Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the group on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion. Or e-mail Carla Campbell Lehn at dblehn@aol.com.

Garden City High School - Class of 1960

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Garden City West - Class of 1970

40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Dinner and DJ included for \$50 per person. Classmates from the classes of 1968-1972 also invited to attend. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

Oak Park High School - Class of 1980

30th reunion, July 2-4; for information e-mail to ophighschool1980@yahoo.com

Redford Union - Class of 1960

50-year reunion, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 14. For more information contact Mike and Carol (Geroge) Pontius (248) 446-9948 or e-mail to mikecarol91500@att.net. Or call Tena (Fear) Keith at (248) 437-6827.

Warren Fitzgerald - Class of 1974

35-year reunion, 6 a.m.-midnight, March 20, at Crank's Enchantment Banquet Center, 46915 Hayes, at 21 Mile, in Shelby Township. Tickets are \$30. Call Louise DeLuca at (248) 496-8916 or Lisa Zientek, (586) 291-7998.

West Bloomfield High School - Class of 1980

Planning for a 30th reunion is underway. The main event will be held July 17 at Hotel Baronette in Novi. More events are being planned for the same weekend. For more information e-mail the reunion co-chairs, Lori (Hess) Conklin at lconklin@conklinsystems.com or Jill (Butts) Beaulac at jibeau@cox.net. A Facebook group for the WBHS Class of 1980 has also been formed and can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=48471044685&ref=ts> (search Facebook West Bloomfield High School Class of 1980). The Reunion Committee is publishing monthly newsletters to help classmates reconnect, share memories, and locate missing classmates. Those not registered who would like to receive a copy of the newsletter should contact Lori (Hess) Conklin at lconklin@conklinsystems.com.

Westland John Glenn - Class of 1985

Planning 25th Reunion for 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the event on Facebook by searching "John Glenn Class of 1985 25 Year Reunion" or join the group "John Glenn High School Class of 1985 and other years - Westland Michigan." Or e-mail Tracy Dunsmore at tracy1420@wideopenwest.com.

GARDEN & NATURE

Visit hometownlife.com to view the Garden Calendar in its entirety.

Livonia Garden Club

Margo McCormack, member and Advanced Master Gardener, will describe how to prepare lawns and prune shrubs this spring for summer-long beauty at the club's next meeting, 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 2, at the Livonia Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington Road.

At English Gardens

Learn about fresh flower arranging at 1 p.m., Feb. 27. A Make It & Take It Workshop: Spring Bouquet will be held at 2:30 p.m., Feb. 27. It costs \$19.99 and will include everything participants need to design a fresh flower arrange-

ment to take home.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

Cactus & Succulent Society

More than 100 colorful cacti in flower will be shown in a free slide program by the Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society, 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, at Goldner-Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. Contact (248) 790-9089 or e-mail to CuzenLouie37@yahoo.com.

Bowling benefit Feb. 28 in Westland

Changing Choices Foundation will hold its first annual "Bowling For Changing Choices" Event from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, at Westland Bowl in Westland.

Ticket donation is \$25 and will be available at noon at Westland Bowl on the day of the event or they can be purchased in advance at the office of WMUZ at 12300 Radio Place, Detroit, MI 48228. The station phone number is (313) 272-3434. Tickets can also be purchased by calling Barbara Jean at (734) 239-2752.

The event, which benefits the Changing Choices Foundation radio show and its "Speaking to Youth" program, will include prizes, raffle prizes, a silent auction and live DJ music by Jimmy Barrios. Among the items are a \$100 Savings Bond and a "Silver" Detroit Lions

Autographed Football including players Charles Johnson and Matthew Stafford.

Bowlers will get three games, shoes, pizza and a free ticket for continued chance raffle drawings throughout the event. Plus, meet Scott Harris, Certified Life Coach, Founder of the Changing Choices

Foundation and Member of WMUZ's Team of Experts & Host of Changing Choices Radio Show.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available to local businesses and organizations. For information regarding sponsorships, contact Barbara Jean at (734) 239-2752.

**CITY OF WESTLAND
2010 BOARD OF REVIEW
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL**

Monday, March 8	9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon	1:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 10	9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon	1:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 11	1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Friday, March 12	9:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon	1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

CALL (734) 467-3160 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT
Written Appeals Must Be Received by 2:00 P.M. on Friday, March 12, 2010

Board of Review Meetings will be held at Westland City Hall
2nd Floor - Council Chambers
36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185
www.cityofwestland.com

Publish: February 18 & 21, 2010

**CITY OF GARDEN CITY
BOARD OF REVIEW DATES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on the following date and time to examine the assessment roll for the current year:

Tuesday	March 2, 2010	9:00 a.m.
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The Board of Review will meet in session on the following days and times to hear appeals on the assessment roll:

NOTE: Meetings located in THE GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM with late night appointments on Tuesday & Wednesday

Monday	March 08, 2010	9:00am -5:00pm
Tuesday	March 09, 2010	1:00pm- 9:00pm
Wednesday	March 10, 2010	1:00pm- 9:00pm
Thursday	March 11, 2010	9:00am -5:00pm
Friday	March 12, 2010	9:00am -5:00pm

APPEALS BY APPOINTMENT or WRITE-IN. Write-ins must be received by Monday, March 08, 2010.

Tentative ratios for the 2010 tax year are:

CLASS	PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RATIO	PROJECTED EQUALIZATION FACTOR
Commercial	61.82%	0.8088
Industrial	57.34%	0.8720
Residential	58.22%	0.8588
Personal Property	50.00%	

Taxes are paid on **TAXABLE VALUE**, which is the lesser of the calculated Assessed and Capped value, unless there is a property transfer. The capped value is based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index), which is .997% for 2010. As a result, all Taxable Values will decrease .003% unless there has been a transfer of ownership or an addition to the property.

The 2010 Assessment Roll will be open for inspection from March 2, 2010 through March 5, 2010 in the assessment office from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. And 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m..

ALLYSON BETTIS
TREASURER-CLERK

Publish: February 21, 25 & 28, 2010

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hometown life woman

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hometown life inspire

Hometown Life Inspire includes features on DIY projects, gardening, regional entertainment, food and wine, fitness, travel and more.

Look for Hometown Life Woman on March 4, 2010 and Hometown Life Inspire on March 18, 2010

Both sections will publish in the Farmington Observer, Livonia Observer, Canton Observer, Plymouth Observer, Garden City Observer, Westland Observer, Milford Times, Northville Record, Novi News and South Lyon Herald.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS HOMETOWN WEEKLIES
www.hometownlife.com

Smokers likely to see HPV-positive head, neck cancer return

Patients with head and neck cancer linked to high risk human papillomavirus, or HPV, have worse outcomes if they are current or former tobacco users, according to a new study from researchers at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center.

High-risk HPVs are the same viruses that are associated with cancers of the uterine cervix.

The research suggests that current or former tobacco users may need a more aggressive treatment regimen than patients who have never used tobacco.

Past research shows that HPV-positive head and neck cancers tend to be more responsive to current treatments and these patients overall tend to have better outcomes

than patients with HPV-negative tumors. However, the new study found that current tobacco users with HPV-positive tumors were five times more likely to have their cancer recur. Even former smokers had an increased risk of recurrence.

"Because the effect of HPV is so strong in giving a very good prognostic picture, we were surprised to find that smoking remained a huge issue, and it actually affected the outcome in patients who smoked," said senior study author Thomas Carey, professor of otolaryngology and pharmacology, and co-director of the Head and Neck Oncology Program at the U-M Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The study looked at 124 patients with advanced oropharyngeal can-

cer, which is cancer of the tonsils or the base of the tongue. Most of these patients had HPV DNA in their tumors, which is consistent with HPV being a major factor in oropharyngeal cancer development. All 22 of the HPV-negative patients were tobacco users, and about two-thirds of the 102 HPV-positive patients were current or former tobacco users.

Of the HPV-positive patients who had never used tobacco, 6 percent had a recurrence of their cancer. Meanwhile, 19 percent of former tobacco users and 35 percent of current tobacco users had a recurrence. Still, the outcomes were better than the HPV-negative patients, all of whom were smokers, and among whom half recurred.

REDUCING TREATMENT

Tobacco users have traditionally been more likely than non-users to develop head and neck cancers. But a recent rise in these cancers linked to HPV has meant more non-smokers are being diagnosed with the disease. HPV-positive head and neck cancers tend to be more responsive to chemotherapy and radiation treatments, which has made researchers wonder if these highly toxic treatments could be reduced in this group of patients.

"The side effects of these treatments affect critical functions such as eating and swallowing. Since the HPV-positive tumors respond so well to treatment, our research team has been asking, could we potentially spare patients some of these side effects while maintaining good out-

comes if we reduce the doses given? If we decide to reduce intensity of treatment, our study shows we will want to take tobacco use into account. Any smoking or tobacco use increases the risk of recurrence or a second primary cancer," Carey said.

Researchers from U-M's multidisciplinary head and neck oncology program are planning a clinical trial to look at reducing treatment intensity for low-risk patients — those whose tumors express certain markers, including HPV, and who are not tobacco users. The trial is expected to begin this spring.

According to the American Cancer Society, 35,720 Americans will be diagnosed with head and neck cancers this year and 7,600 will die from the disease.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

FEBRUARY

St. Mary Mercy Hospital

• Cardiologist Roy Misirliyan will discuss heart health issues specific to women and include symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and prevention, at "Ladies Night Out," Wednesday, Feb. 24, in the auditorium at the hospital. Bone density screening, blood pressure screening and massage will be offered from 5:30-7 p.m. Registration is required. There is no charge, but a \$5 goodwill donation is requested to benefit Marian Women's Center Programs. Call the Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1182 to register, or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events." The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

MARCH

St. Mary Mercy

Prostate Screening and Men's Health Fair, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, March 6, will include a prostate exam by a physician, blood test for prostate-specific antigen, cholesterol check, blood pressure screening, skin cancer check and information related to healthy living. These screenings are free, but registration is required. Call (734) 655-8940.

Hydrocephalus Association

Dr. Steven Ham, Chief of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Children's Hospital of Michigan is the guest speaker at a support group meeting, 6:20-8:30

p.m., Friday, March 19, at Orchard Hills Baptist Church, 23455 Novi Road, Novi. RSVP to Jennifer Bechard by Friday March 12 at (734) 890-2665 or e-mail to p-jenniferb@hydroassoc.org

Teens and drugs

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti, offers a two-part program, "Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do," 7:30-9 p.m., March 2 and 9. The first session will provide information on understanding and recognizing teen substance abuse problems. The second session will provide information on what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified. It will include a recovering teen speaker. The programs are free and open to the public. Free literature about alcohol/other drugs and teens is provided. (734) 973-7892, e-mail teensusingdrugs@gmail.com or visit <http://www.teensusingdrugs.org>.

ONGOING

Fitness classes

Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions infuse Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248)

446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail jeanieweaver@charter.net.

Overeaters Anonymous

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

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Caregivers support group

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

Metro Fibromyalgia

Meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 2055 Merriman, Garden City. For more infor-

mation call Lucy at (734) 462-1768.

Wayne metro caregiver support

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

Parkinson Support

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

CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org.

org/hvsh/calendar or call (248) 937-3314.

Arthritis support group

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

Tai Chi classes

At 165 E. Square Lake, Bloomfield Hills (7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday), and 38121 Ann Arbor Road (11 a.m. Wednesday, and 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Presented by nonprofit Michigan Tai Chi Association in Livonia. For details, call (734) 591-3530.

Recovery, Inc.

The support group meets at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at Prince of Peace Church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc. is an international, non-profit, self-help, community-based organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail marthapaul@sbglobal.net. Self-help meetings in Livonia run 7:30 p.m. Mondays, St. Matthew's Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile; 1:15 p.m. Thursdays, Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft; and 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard. Call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org. No charge, contributions collected.

Low vision support group

Meets 1-3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. For information, call Ellen Stross at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 232.

Arthritis Foundation programs

Winter classes begin for warm-water and land-based exercise programs, Tai Chi, and a six-week series that offers keys to successful arthritis self-management, in Canton, Redford and Westland. Call (800) 968-3030 or visit www.arthritis.org.

Health enhancement classes

Classes for exercise (including yoga), CPR and childbirth, and support groups for cardiac, cancer, stroke and diabetes patients; eating disorders; Alzheimer's caregivers; and the hard of hearing. The classes are part of an array of offerings at Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center. For more information, call (734) 458-3242. Blood pressure (free) and cholesterol (\$5) testing are also available noon to 2 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month in Garden City Hospital lobby. No registration required. The hospital also offers free blood pressure testing for senior citizens every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center. For information, call (734) 458-4330. Free mask fitting clinic. For CPAP and BiPAP users, most insurances cover new supplies every year, try a new style of mask and learn how to get one 5-6 p.m. every Wednesday, at the Garden City Hospital Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. No appointment needed. For information, call (734) 458-4330.

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