

SUNDAY

March 7,
2010

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

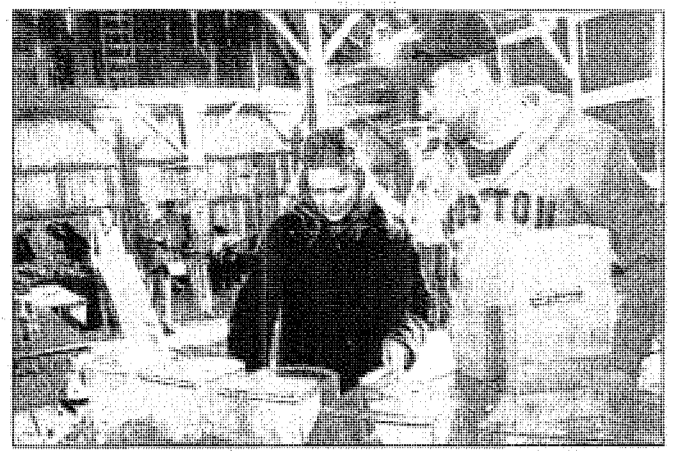
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Westland sets surplus food distribution dates, A5

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Get the jump on summer with a visit to
Canton Winter Market – Neighbors, B4

AROUND TOWN

Happy 100th

Amy Zemmin, born March 24, 1910, will celebrate her 100th birthday Tuesday, March 9, at the Presbyterian Village of Westland, where she has resided since 1995.



Amy Zemmin

Born in Preston, England, Zemmin moved to the United States with her mother, father and sister shortly after birth. Once in the U.S.,

Zemmin's parents had two more children, both sons.

She married Robert Zemmin in 1936 and worked as an executive secretary until the arrival of their twin sons in 1941. The couple welcomed a third son in 1951. In addition to her three sons, Zemmin has six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The Zemmins moved to Westland in 1995 and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June 1996. Robert Zemmin passed away in November 1996.

Zemmin is a huge sports fan — she loves to listen to every Detroit Tigers and Detroit Red Wings game. She is also a very loyal to Michigan State University.

Appointment

Retired attorney Richard McKnight has been reappointed to Westland's Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a three-year term through Feb. 18, 2013.

School days

Students attending Wayne Memorial and John Glenn high schools will have a different school day while 11th-grade students take the Michigan Merit Examination this week.

Testing days for the MME will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 9-11. Eleventh-graders should report to school at the regular start time of 7:20 a.m. each day. Dismissal times will be noon Tuesday and 2:10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

The school day also is changed for ninth-, 10th- and 12th-graders during the testing period.

There will be no school Tuesday — only 11th-graders are to report — and the start time will be 11:15 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday. Normal morning bus pickups also will be delayed by three hours, 55 minutes.

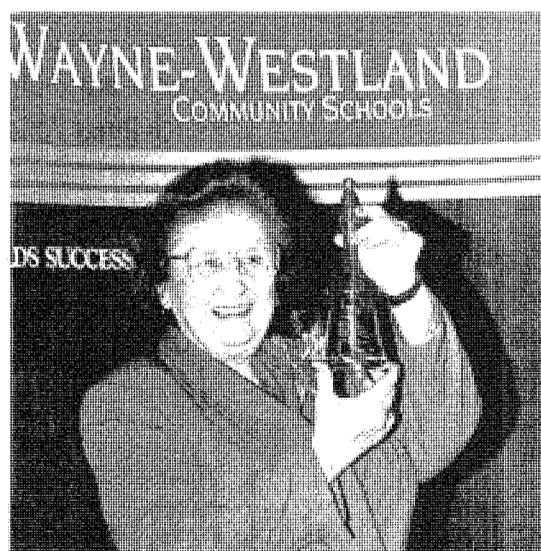
The high school state assessments for 11th-grade students is a graduation requirement in the district.

Water rates face 16.2-percent hike



Justine Barns is being remembered as person who cared about people and cared about her community in a career that spanned 40 years and included serving on the Westland City Council and as a state representative.

Family, friends remember Justine Barns as kind and caring



Justine Barns show off a school bell award she received from the Wayne-Westland Community Schools for her work for the benefit of the district and public education as a whole.

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Justine Barns — a trailblazer who rose from a school activist to become a state representative — is being remembered by her friends and family as a problem solver, a woman with a sympathetic ear and a veteran politician who was true to her word.

The veteran Westland politician died Thursday in Rochester Hills. She had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease and was in a nursing home, recovering from a fall suffered two weeks ago, at the time of her death. She was 85.

"She was a great lady. She was very kind, she had a kind heart. She was very generous, very giving and very caring," said longtime friend Sharon Scott. "She also was a tough old broad who would stand her ground."

Mrs. Barns' activism started in the 1950s when she decided students attending Jefferson School

Please see **JAY BARNES, A4**

'The water fund has taken some hits. The amount of water we sell has decreased and that makes it harder to make up the overhead.'

STEVE SMITH, finance director

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For a combination of reasons, including a history of the water fund being subsidized and a recent downgrading of the city's bond rating, Westland water customers could be looking at a rate hike of 16.2 percent in their water bills.

Finance Director Steve Smith and representatives from Plante Moran, the city auditors, made a presentation to council explaining the need for the increase of 11 percent plus a \$5 administrative fee added to each water bill. The total means water customers would pay a total of 16.2 percent higher.

"The water fund has taken some hits. The amount of water we sell has decreased and that makes it harder to make up the overhead," Smith said.

Please see **WATER RATES, A2**

School closings force change in polling sites

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Five elementary school closings are resulting in Westland voting precincts being relocated prior to the Aug. 3 primary election.

Kettering, Jefferson-Barnes, Lincoln, Madison and Patchin elementary schools, all in the Wayne-Westland School District, will be closed in June at the end of the school year. As a result, the buildings will no longer be available to host voting precincts.

• Precincts 2 and 32 at Kettering will be moved to Elliott Elementary School, 30800 Bennington. The school also houses precincts 11 and 23.

• Voters from Jefferson-Barnes and Lincoln, precincts 9 and 10 respectively, will now vote in at Adams Middle School with Precinct 6.

• Madison's precincts 1 and 19 will move to Schweitzer Elementary School, which has precincts 13 and 18.

• Precincts 4 and 8 will move from Patchin Elementary to the Bailey Recreation Center.

The only change is the location where votes are cast. Clerk Eileen DeHart said that boundaries for all the affected precincts will remain the same and each precinct will be autonomous.

"There will be no other changes. This was required due to the buildings closing," DeHart said. "We will send out new voter registration cards after the May (school) election. We don't want people confused. After that, they will have the cards."

The annual school election will be Tuesday, May 4. In the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, incumbent John Goci of Westland is seeking his first four-year term on the school board. He is being challenged by Karen M. Wilkie of Wayne.

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Study spotlights Ford Road traffic problems

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Driving along Ford Road on a regular basis gives one view. The impression is a bit different when you stop and watch a particular area for a while.

Officials from Westland, Garden City, Dearborn Heights and Dearborn got a closer look at traffic issues along the busy thoroughfare on a recent bus tour as part of the Ford Road Access Management Study. The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and the Michigan Department of Transportation also are participating in the study.

"It was interesting. It's easier to see the issues once you drove it," City Manager David Harvey of Garden City said. "We sat and

observed traffic for a few minutes. It didn't take long to see the problems."

The access management study will look at the Ford Road corridor from Detroit heading west through Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City and Westland.

"Right now we're just looking at it and we'll talk to the planners. If something isn't changed, the traffic congestion and traffic flow will get worse," Westland Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford said.

Getting control of the number of driveways is a particular way to help improve traffic flow and reduce traffic accidents that the study will consider.

"As a police officer, I wrote accident reports, but I hadn't done it in a long time. It didn't

take a long time to see the issues. Even for me, it was an education," Harvey said. "People will find a way in or out. You have to look at angle driveways or offsetting driveways."

For example, the Garden City Downtown Development Authority and planning consultants McKenna Associates had already been talking to Kmart, on Ford just west of Middlebelt, about eliminating one of the existing two driveways accessing Ford.

In less than a quarter of a mile along the north side of Ford, Harvey said Kmart has two driveways — one designated as right turn only — and there is a third driveway before Brandt for the former Cottage Inn Pizza.

Please see **FORD ROAD, A3**

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WATER RATES

FROM PAGE A1

Reasons cited for the recommended rate increase include:

- Water consumption in 2010 fiscal year is projected to be 19 percent less than in the 2008 fiscal year, which means fewer billed units over which to spread increased administration and debt service costs.

"Our water bills used to average 20 units of water consumption and the new average is 14 units," Smith said.

Municipalities across the metro area are facing the same problem of higher costs from DWSD and lower water consumption through conservation to save money and also homes that are vacant, either from being on the market longer or in foreclosure, said Brian Camiller of Plante Moran.

Peak water usage is a factor in rates which led communities, including Westland, to adopt voluntary efforts to reduce peak usage, such as odd-even day outside watering restrictions.

"We want to make sure we relay to people that it's not water conservation, it's water management," Westland Water and Sewer Supervisor Don Rohraff said, adding an example of operating sprinklers between midnight and 6 a.m. in non-peak water use hours. "It's using water off-peak hours that keeps the rate down."

The \$5 monthly administrative fee will generate \$810,000 annually, which will cover the new fixed cost charge assessed to municipal water customers by DWSD.

- A 15-percent cost increase from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, with annual 12-percent increases in future years.

- Ten-percent annual increases expected for Wayne County sewers.

- A \$500,000 annual repayment for the next five years to Westland's general fund, which has loaned \$2.5 million to water and sewer fund.

"The \$2.5 million from the general fund subsidized the water rates. It's unfortunate that we have to do this to catch up," Council President James Godbout said. "We didn't even cover our costs."

The city, specifically the water fund, has to cover its costs, Mayor William Wild said.

"We can't subsidize the water fund from the general fund," he said.

- New debt service of \$800,000 and \$3 million in state revolving funds for water and sewer fund improvements to the city's aging infrastructure.

The \$5 monthly administrative fee will generate \$810,000 annually, which will

cover the new fixed cost charge assessed to municipal water customers by DWSD. This year, that will be \$600,000 for Westland, regardless of the amount of water used.

"Now they have our water rate and a fixed costs, which is new this year," Smith said. "We proposed the \$5 per water bill to help make up that overhead and our overhead."

A lot of communities already have been adding the administrative to their water bills, Godbout said.

Last year, the city's bond rating was reduced from A3, which is investment grade, to BA1 due to several factors, including the condition of the water fund. The lower rating could result in significantly higher borrowing costs for city projects.

Along with operating the water fund and an enterprise fund which is designed to be self-supporting, without subsidy, the city would also review water rates twice a year instead of the current practice of annual rate setting.

"We need to show something aggressive to the bond company. We are an aging community and we will need to bond for projects," Wild said. "The last thing we want is for the water-sewer fund bond rating to drag down the general bond rating."

Council will consider the rate increase at its March 15 meeting.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Monthly breakfast

Pancake anyone? The Westland Senior Resource Department will host its monthly all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast 8:30-11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, for only \$4 per person. Stop by the Friendship Center at 1119 N. Newburgh. For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

Gymnastics

Kids can learn to tumble, somersault and cartwheel at the next session of gymnastic classes at the Bailey Recreation Center beginning next week. Kids will learn progressive skills that will encourage self-confidence and coordination. These classes provide fun in a friendly environment where children can learn to do gymnastic stunts safely.

The weekly classes range from toddlers with no experience who need a parent to accompany them to intermediate level youngsters. The cut-off age for the classes is 12.

For the cost and full schedule of the classes, call (734) 722-7620.

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. Classes 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.

Craft Show

Wayne AMVETS Post 171 will present a "Think Spring Craft Show" from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at the AMVETS Memorial Hall, 1217 Merriman, Westland. The hall is south of Cherry Hill, north of Palmer.

Vendor tables are \$20. Contact John at (734) 729-8930. There will be holiday-themed crafts, homemade collectibles and a bake sale. Hot dogs and Polish sausage will be served.

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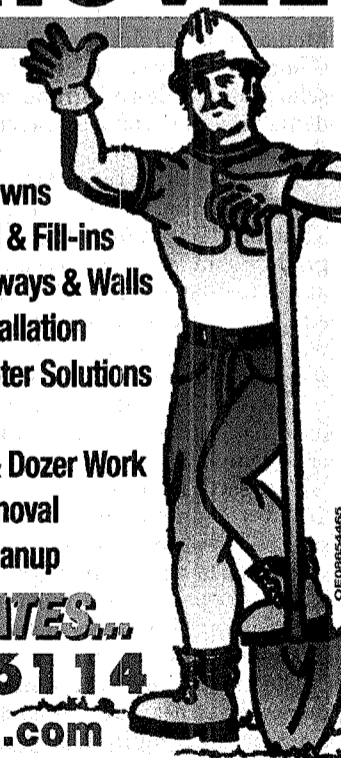
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Staffers Dorthy Meyers, Carlos Garcia and Debbie Dudek have welcoming smiles for customers at the JSA Coney in Garden City's Town Center plaza.

Restaurant focuses on fresh food, good service

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Chinsuk Lafrance is living out her dream of being a businesswoman with her new restaurant in the Town Center plaza at Ford and Middlebelt.

With her husband, Andy, she is trying to get the word out that a new restaurant is in town — JSA Coney, which opened in December.

"She has been wanting to open a business for quite a while," Andy said. "With the economy the way it is, we put it off for three years. We thought that we could do a little bit at a time."

They chose Garden City because it emulates classic mid-America, "the backbone of the country," Andy said. "This is the perfect midwestern area. These are decent, hardworking people."

Cheap, fresh and clean are the buzzwords at JSA. The menu offers a variety of breakfast, lunch and dinner items, including a list of different types of sliders. The all-beef sliders are just the beginning. There's also smokehouse, mushroom Swiss, deluxe, a JSA special, chicken and BBQ chicken sliders.

The couple prides themselves at providing lean, high-quality meat and are conscious of the health care needs of

AT A GLANCE

What: JSA Coney
Where: 5912 Middlebelt, north of Ford, Garden City
When: Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday
Phone: (734) 266-1364

many customers.

"We use healthy things. No cholesterol and no trans fat," Andy said.

Soups, including chili, are made from scratch right in the restaurant.

"We don't add salt and sodium," Andy said.

Besides the classic coney dog, there's a rip dog, which is laced in crisp bacon and covered with a special sauce made from chopped pickles, vinegar, green pepper and onions.

"That's a deep fried hot dog that came out of Chicago," Andy said. "Because it is deep fried, it rips when you eat it."

Their onion rings are hand-battered. "They are made here," he said. "We don't buy them frozen."

The Farmington Hills couple already have regular patrons and are looking for more walk-in traffic.

"We have no visibility out on the street," Andy said.

Lillian Schultz, a Garden City resident, has come to eat every day since it opened.

"It is clean and the owners are great and make you feel at home," Schultz said. "My favorite is their chicken soup. They also have a coney breakfast on a coney bun with scrambled eggs, cheese and a sauce that goes over it."

It was the first time for Jeri Des of Westland.

"This is great. I am filling up," she said, munching on chili fries and a loose burger.

The LaFrances have already become involved with the community. They help sponsor the high school play and placed ads in the school newspaper. With the Moose Lodge, they support the Karmanos Cancer Foundation.

They are developing a children's menu, but will accommodate and customize to fit the unique tastes of the little ones.

Andy said his wife is the heart of the restaurant.

"She treats everyone who comes in here like family," he said.

In her "spare time," Chinsuk also helps the elderly.

"I have a lot of old friends and I enjoy visiting them," she said.

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FORD ROAD

FROM PAGE A1

"There are a lot of ways out, but people still try to come out and make a left there. In the 1980s when I was a patrol officer, people were continually making prohibited left turns there," Harvey said. "Rear-end accidents happen as people slow to turn into driveways. If we limited Kmart to one driveway, we would decrease rear-end accidents by 25 percent."

The ideal situation would have an access road serving several adjoining businesses with direct access to Ford Road being limited. That type

of access road was built in front of businesses located on Orchard Lake Road between 14 Mile and Maple in West Bloomfield.

For developed communities, such as those along the Ford Road corridor, Buford said it could take 30-40 years for a redevelopment that would provide that type of business access.

"We can't force businesses to do it — only if they are changing the development on their property," Buford said. "We need to show them how it works. The easier it is to get into a business, you'll do more business."

Other possible solutions can include acceleration/deceleration lanes and right turn only lanes. Canton requested a similar study several years ago and is currently working to implement the recommendations — something that involves planning and property ownership issues.

The access management study is expected to be completed within a couple of months and then SEMCOG will work with the communities to get it implemented.

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JAY BARNES

FROM PAGE A1

should see different color paint than the government-issued peach that was on the walls of homes in the Norway Subdivision. Through the PTA, she got the walls of the school painted white.

By the time she left office in the 1990s, she had represented Westland at the local, county and state levels. Along the way, she earned the reputation for being a good listener and problem solver, a woman who "lived a long, full life" and open doors for other women.

WHAT SHE 'LIVED FOR'

"That was what she lived for," said her son, Scott. "Every time she thought things were fine and she backed off, something would happen and she'd get fired up. My dad would push her hard to get involved in a cause."

Born in Wilkes Barre, Pa., on Feb. 2, 1925, she moved to Detroit with her family when she was 2. She met her late husband, Jonathan, at age 16. He was in the service and stationed in Gulf Port, Miss., when they married two years later.

When he was transferred to Detroit to serve at the Willow Run Bomber Plant, they moved into the government housing on Alpena Court in Norway in 1945. When the government put the housing up for sale, the couple bought their unit and lived there until 1972.

In addition to the paint issue at Jefferson School, which has since been renamed to Jefferson-Barnes in her honor, Mrs. Barnes also led an effort with the late Thomas Brown to get the streets in Norway paved and with then-township Trustee Bill Anderson battled against the federal government's urban renewal plan for the area, said Scott Barnes.

She was appointed to the township Planning Commission by the late William Faust and joined him in the fight to create the city of Westland to prevent Livonia from annexing Westland Shopping Center. She became the only woman elected to the



Justine Barnes spent more than 40 years working for the residents of Westland, including 12 years as a state representative.

Remembering Jay

"Justine Barnes was a remarkable state representative, councilwoman, philanthropist, leader and friend. The City of Westland is a better place because of her countless contributions.

"Ms. Barnes served on the original Charter Committee when Nankin Township was converted to the City of Westland. She dedicated many years to the City as a Councilwoman before going on to serve in the House of Representatives. After spending 12-years at the capital, she served another four years on Westland City Council before retiring.

"Ms. Barnes is a true historian of the City; Jefferson-Barnes Elementary School was proudly named after her."

Westland Mayor William Wild

"If there is such a thing as a Founding Matriarch, Justine Barnes was such a person.

Her lists of first is nearly endless. First woman on the City Council, member of the first elected City Council, first woman elected locally to the State House of Representatives, the first woman President of the City Council, on and on.

"As she knew her people and responded to their needs for more than 40 years, the community will respond with an outpouring of affection for Justine Barnes in the coming days. She was Westland at its best."

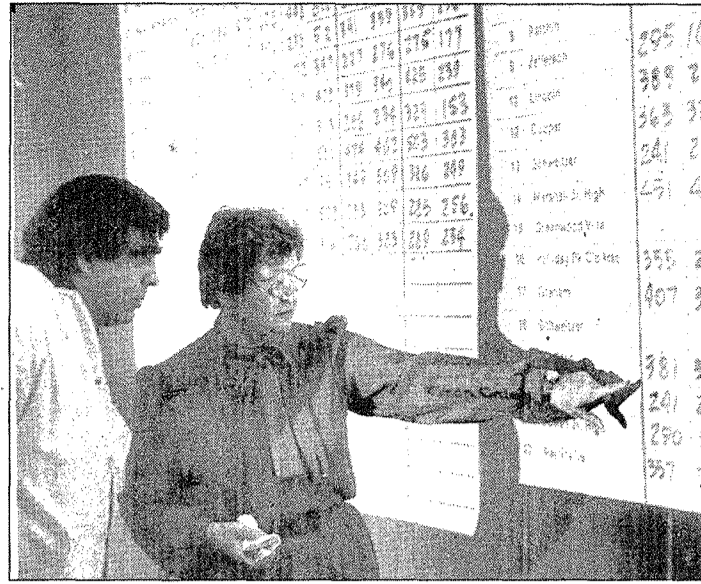
Gail and Richard McKnight

city charter commission and was the first woman elected to the Westland City Council. She became the council's first female president in 1976 and also was the first woman to serve as acting mayor in 1974.

Glenn Shaw Jr. who served with her on the City Council, said Mrs. Barnes "was always right on her game."

"She worked full time at her job," Shaw said. "She was always trying to do what she thought was right for Westland. She always cared about her community."

Shaw remembered the 1975 City Council election in which he got more votes than in any other election that a male ran in, but still finished second to



Justine Barnes looks at results with Fred Klus during one of her many election campaigns.

Mrs. Barnes. She bested him by some 2,000 votes.

"Everyone knew Justine, she was always all over town," he said. "My mother voted for Justine Barnes before me. She had a way with people. She was always in touch with people."

'OF THE PEOPLE'

In a statement released Friday, retired Westland District Judge Gail McKnight described her former council colleague as "an apron-clad housewife" who "enjoyed the intrigue and repartee of politics."

"She wasn't in it for the gain or the glory, she always had another issue to raise or a project to accomplish," McKnight stated. "While she was no great orator, she knew how to pin back the ears of a political opponent ... She was successful because she was 'of the people.' She knew how to work successfully as a legislator, standing for her principles but willing to compromise when her community stood to benefit."

While a council member she also served as the vice president of the Wayne County Charter Commission from 1980 to 1982. And in 1983, she decided to run for state representative.

"She felt Westland was at a point where it was stable and, knowing that, she was looking for a new challenge," said Scott Barnes. "She also wanted to have an influence on what was happening in the schools."

Westland Clerk Eileen

DeHart, who met Mrs. Barnes during her first council reelection campaign in 1967, described her as "a mentor, teacher and friend."

"I truly feel a part of Westland has died," added DeHart, who served as Mrs. Barnes' aide during her 12 years as a state representative. "She was down to earth, she could relate to people because she had lived through the hard times and the good times. She had a compassion for people and a comprehension of what was going on in her community. She knew what people in her city wanted."

According to DeHart, Barnes didn't let her political affiliation get in the way of her work in Lansing. A staunch Democrat, she was good to her word and would support legislation she felt would benefit her community no matter who introduced it.

"Justine taught me the difference between a politician and a public servant," said DeHart. "A public servant doesn't change after being elected, a politician does. She was a public servant, she never changed."

Mrs. Barnes left the state House after 12 years at a time when Thomas Brown and William Faust, a state senator, were also retiring. According to Scott Barnes, the three-some decided it was time for a change, that it was time to hand Westland over to the next generation.

Mrs. Barnes, didn't stay retired for long. A year later, she successfully campaigned for a seat on the City Council and when she finally did leave elective office in 1994, then-Mayor Robert Thomas appointed her to the city's Planning Commission.

"Justine had a really good trait, she was a wonderful listener," said DeHart. "If you had a problem, she would sit there and listen, but she wouldn't give advice. She'd only give advice, if you asked for it."

"She should have gone into counseling or social work," added son Scott. "I think that would have been her calling, if she hadn't gone into politics. She wanted to solve problems for people."

It was the push for cityhood where Scott connected with Mrs. Barnes. They became close friends and worked closely together when Scott was on the Wayne-Westland school board and Mrs. Barnes was in Lansing.

"She was like my sister and she was my mentor," said Scott, who also served on the Westland City Council. "She was a personal friend, a political ally and a big supporter of me and women she thought were qualified to serve."

Scott added that she and Mrs. Barnes found away to get along because "she trusted me and I trusted her."

"A lot of Westland history died with Jay," she added. "I'm definitely going to miss her."

Mrs. Barnes is survived by her sons, Duane (Barbara) and Scott; granddaughters Christine (Don) Howden, Kathleen (Scott) Sundheim; great-granddaughters Elizabeth Howden, Allison Howden, Megan Sundheim; and great-grandson Ryan Sundheim. She is preceded in death by her husband, Jonathan.

Services for Mrs. Barnes were Saturday at St. John Episcopal Church in Westland. Interment was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Westland. Arrangements were by Uht Funeral Home.

Memorials can be made to the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland or the Westland Community Foundation.

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'Biggby Bob' serves up business acumen

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Bob Fish opened his coffee shop to what he describes as a "resounding thud."

He served four customers an hour. When a coffee shop owner collects only \$16 an hour, he can't pay the rent.

Fish said he employed "guerrilla tactics" to market his coffee shop and, in 18 months, he made \$1 million. Today that company now has 112 coffee shops in five states, including one in Westland.

The founder of Biggby Coffee, known on the company's Web site as Biggby Bob, shared the story of his success with members of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce.

Fresh out of Michigan State University's hospitality business program, Fish worked and then bought the Flapjack Shack, owned it for two years, then sold it in December 1993, to take a year off and develop a business plan.

He travelled the United States and ended up in Seattle to learn about specialty coffee. He opened his first Beaner's Cuppaccino in an old Arby's restaurant next to Crunchy's in Lansing. The name was



Bob Fish a.k.a. Biggby Bob

changed two years ago because Beaner's is considered a racially derogatory term. Fish chose the original name for the coffee bean, and changed it to Biggby because "it was the right thing to do," he said.

After his initial struggles with the shop, Fish said he ran "buy one, get one free" specials. He realized that the larger chains did not cater to the average consumer. "One specialty coffee is a pretty good investment," Fish said.

He also worked to connect with his customers and the community. He stamped his business cards with "one free beverage" and personally distributed them to customers. Coupons redeemed for

coffee required a name and address so that he could input those names onto his computer and personally print out coupons and mail them. He gathered up a database of businesses and potential customers within three miles of his shop and loaded that into his computer as well, a predecessor to his e-words link on the Biggby Coffee Web site.

Soon he opened other shops in the Lansing area. The growth of the shops continued. In 2000, the company expanded to seven. By 2009, it had 111 with 33 locations in metro Detroit.

Fish believes the economy is turning around. Sales have increased 5 percent at his shops in January and February, he said. His shops have created 1,600 jobs and 78 new small business owners. Biggby totals \$40 million in sales.

Fish highlighted "PERC," an acronym to highlight some of Fish's business mantras, which are perception by the customer, every customer leaves the store in a better mood, recognize each customer as an individual, and consistently provide a high-quality beverage.

Fish also emphasizes a simple system: focus on the "top line" of revenue; energy, excitement and enthusiasm; and always have faith, confidence and courage.

"You have to have faith to be an entrepreneur," Fish said, recalling the eight loan rejections before the ninth bank approved him. "The last guy I got to, he finally said, 'I don't understand any of this stuff, but I believe you can do it.'"

Steven Swaggerty, a senior financial adviser at Ameriprise Financial, enjoyed Fish's presentation. "He's living his mission statement," Swaggerty said. "He's giving out to the community and, in the process, he's building his business. That's a life lesson."

Swaggerty liked Fish's definition of courage, "doing something you are afraid of anyway." Paul Daniels, operations manager of Correct Mechanical, said it is no surprise that Fish is a success. "He's knowledgeable and full of life," Daniels said. "There is no way a guy like that can't succeed. He does all the right things."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com

Westland sets surplus food distribution dates

Westland has scheduled federal surplus food distribution for March.

Westland residents living south of Michigan Avenue should pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, March 8, or the second Monday of each month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. The church's phone number is (734) 729-1737.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers will pick up their food at Taylor Towers and must call their building manager for their day of distribution. Greenwood Villa residents must

pick up their food items at Greenwood Villa.

For the month of March, the distribution will include applesauce, corn, UHT milk, peaches, canned pork, vegetable soup, frozen ham and possible additional items.

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

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Book 'em: Everyone's Reading 'Presumed Innocent'



Scott Turow

This is a case where peer pressure is a good thing.

You know, "everyone else is doing it," so you should, too. It's the annual Everyone's Reading program, a community-wide reading program sponsored by public libraries all around Metro Detroit, including Farmington, Southfield, West Bloomfield, Berkley, Royal Oak, Canton, Plymouth and Westland.

Now in its ninth year, Everyone's Reading promotes community dialogue through the shared experience of reading and discussing the same book. Additional programs, related to issues and topics in the selected book, are offered to enhance the reading experience.

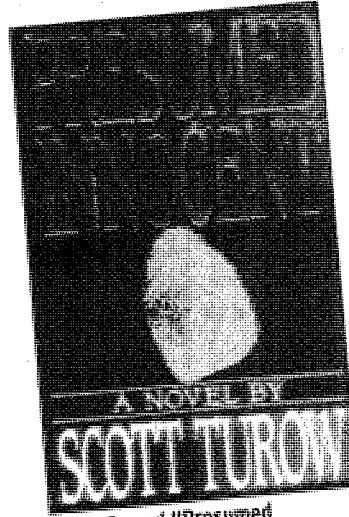
This year's Everyone's Reading selection is *Presumed*

Innocent by Scott Turow.

With the publication of *Presumed Innocent* in 1987, Scott Turow ushered in the age of the legal thriller. Despite many other skilled writers who followed — including John Grisham, Richard North Patterson, Lisa Scottoline and John Lescroart — Turow's work remains unique: critically acclaimed psychological studies that appeal to a wide audience. Character, rather than courtroom pyrotechnics, dominates his elegantly written novels, which also raise questions of morality, truth and justice.

ABOUT TUROW

After earning his undergraduate degree, he graduated from the Creative Writing Center at Stanford and then



Scott Turow's "Presumed Innocent" is this year's Everyone's Reading selection. The program goes through April 28.

taught there for several years. He graduated with honors

from Harvard Law School in 1978. Turow's credentials are unique among his peers. He is a practicing attorney and author of seven best-selling novels. As an attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago and in private practice, Turow has had intimate experiences with the criminal justice system and capital punishment.

In 2003, he won the Heartland Prize for *Reversible Errors* and in 2004 received the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award for *Ultimate Punishment*. His books have been translated into more than two dozen languages and sold more than 25 million copies. *Presumed Innocent* was adapted into a full-length film.

Turow is a partner at Sonnenschein Nath &

Rosenthal in Chicago and concentrates on white collar criminal defense. He devotes significant time to pro bono work, including a 1995 case that resulted in the release of Alejandro Hernandez who had spent 12 years in prison, including five on death row, for a murder he did not commit.

Turow was born in Chicago in 1949 and lives in the Chicago area.

GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to participate in this year's Everyone's Reading program.

- Check out *Presumed Innocent* from a participating library.

- Discuss the book and participate in the various programs.

- Use the Reader's Guide to lead your own book discussion group.

- Attend one of the special Everyone's Reading events.

- Hear Scott Turow at one of the author appearances.

FROM THE AUTHOR

"I want to thank everybody who's participating in the 2010 Everyone's Reading event. *Presumed Innocent* was the first novel I published (although hardly the first one I wrote)," stated Turow. "Its success shocked me and permanently altered my life. But the book arose from much of the turmoil I felt as a young lawyer, trying to make sense of a life so divided by my loyalty to my young family and a prosecutor's consuming duty to do right. I have been living with the novel again for much of the last five years, since I have just finished a sequel, *Innocent*, about Rusty Sabich 21 years later. I imagine I'll talk a bit about the new book and the old one when I get to Michigan."

Turow's other books are: *The Burden of Proof* (1990), *Pleading Guilty* (1993), *The Laws of Our Fathers* (1996), *Personal Injuries* (1999), *Reversible Errors* (2002) and *Ordinary Heroes* (2005).



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Make sure conversion to Roth IRA makes sense

Q: Dear Rick: I am over 70 and do not receive any wages/W-2s. How much am I able to convert from a Traditional IRA into a Roth IRA? After reading IRS form 8606 about conversions it looks like there isn't any limit. My Taxcut program told me it was a concern. Please advise.

A: You are correct. There is no IRS limitation on the amount of money you can convert from a Traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. However, there are times when it does not make sense economically to convert.

In order to make a Roth conversion economically viable there are a few rules to follow. First, you must have the money to pay the tax on the conversion without touching the money converted. Second, converting the money would not put you into a higher tax bracket. If it does put you in a higher bracket, you probably don't want to do the conversion. Lastly, in order to make a Roth conversion legal, you cannot touch the money you are converting for at least five years. That is the IRS rule.

To make a Roth conversion economically sound you have to plan on leaving it in the Roth IRA longer than five years. I believe

Roth IRAs are an excellent investment vehicle, and I wish more people used them. Whether you convert an existing retirement account into a Roth IRA or you are eligible to make new contributions, it is something that more people should explore. After all, the benefits of tax-free growth versus tax-deferred growth are substantial.

Many people seem to think that once you reach a certain age Roth conversions are no longer economically viable. Nothing can be further from the truth. Yes, the younger you are the more advantageous a Roth IRA is. However, seniors should recognize that no matter what their age, a Roth IRA conversion can be an economic windfall. Good luck!

Q: Dear Rick: My wife and I are in our mid 30s and just had our first child. We have some money to invest but not much. We are debating whether it should be invested in a Roth IRA for our retirement or into a 529 for our child's college education. At this point, we have not yet begun to save for retirement.

A: Congratulations on the birth of your child. I think it is great that you want to begin a college saving program for your child and I encourage that. However, in your situation if resources are limited, I recommend saving for retirement first and then your child's college education.

My answer has nothing to do with the importance of a child's college education because I believe it is imperative. However, when it comes to financing a child's college education there are additional options available you do not have in retirement. For example, there are typically a variety of loan programs. In addition, your child can potentially find a job to help offset the cost of an education. Unfortunately, you may not have those same opportunities with regards to retirement. After all, in our society it is a reality that as you get older it gets harder to find and maintain employment. That is why I believe that saving for your retirement takes priority. In addition, if things improve in the future, you can always use retirement money to pay for college.

In today's tough economic times many people have to make difficult choices when it comes to their finances. In making those choices it is important that we never forget how expensive our retirements are and the limited options that we have available to us. Therefore, I encourage everyone to make saving for their retirement one of their top priorities. 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.

Friends of the Rouge hook up with Facebook

Friends of the Rouge has launched their first ever online fund-raising campaign via Facebook Causes.

Facebook Causes allows designated non-profit organizations to raise money through a secure donation process online, similar to Pay Pal, reaching thousands of members in the Facebook community. Members can join a cause, donate to or promote a cause to their friends, all just by clicking a button.

Friends of the Rouge has been promoting the restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River since 1986 and offers many important programs like their annual Frog and Toad survey, Rouge Rescue, and Rouge Education Project.

"We started this fund-raiser because we are trying to raise \$1,000 towards technological upgrades critical to our organizations operations. Our current technology is outdated resulting in computer crashes and an inability to produce or manage documents," said Emily Hughes, staff member at the Friends of the Rouge. "Our work protecting the river begins in our office and our technology is what allows us to provide our programs to our volunteers. Any help would be greatly appreciated; even a dollar would go a long way towards helping us reach our goal."

People who have a Facebook account can visit the/apps.facebook.com/causes/454386 or visit the application and search for Friends of the Rouge. The cause is also linked on the group's Facebook fan page.

For those folks who do not partake of the world of social networking, but would still like to help, contact the Friends of the Rouge office at (313) 792-9626 for information.

For more information about Friends of the Rouge's work and its programs visit www.therouge.org.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Redford welcomes Village Place Coney & Grill

Restaurant features authentic menu, quality food and unbeatable prices

BY ALISON BERGSIEKER
ADVERTORIAL WRITER

Redford's newest family restaurant has it all — quality food, great prices and a friendly atmosphere.

Village Place Coney & Grill opened Feb. 1 on Plymouth Road between Inkster and Beech Daly and is already a popular location for family and friends to enjoy delicious meals.

Victor Berisaj and his three brothers own and operate the new restaurant, along with their Westland location, Village Place Coney Island, on Wayne Road that opened in 2004.

"We offer breakfast, lunch and dinner, with prices and quality that are unbeatable," Berisaj said. "We enjoy providing hospitality, we enjoy cooking. We want our guests to be comfortable and to feel like our family members."

Comfortable booth seating, full service bar seating and stackable tables for larger parties make up the recently renovated dining room.

Redford residents of 36 years Jim and Kathleen Teece said Village Place Coney is the best restaurant to come to the area in years. The couple visits the restaurant at least once a day, sometimes twice for breakfast and dinner.

"I can't say enough about the staff," Jim Teece said. "Even the bus boys are very pleasant. When we go to pay our bill, even the cooks wave hello."

Authentic and homemade dishes

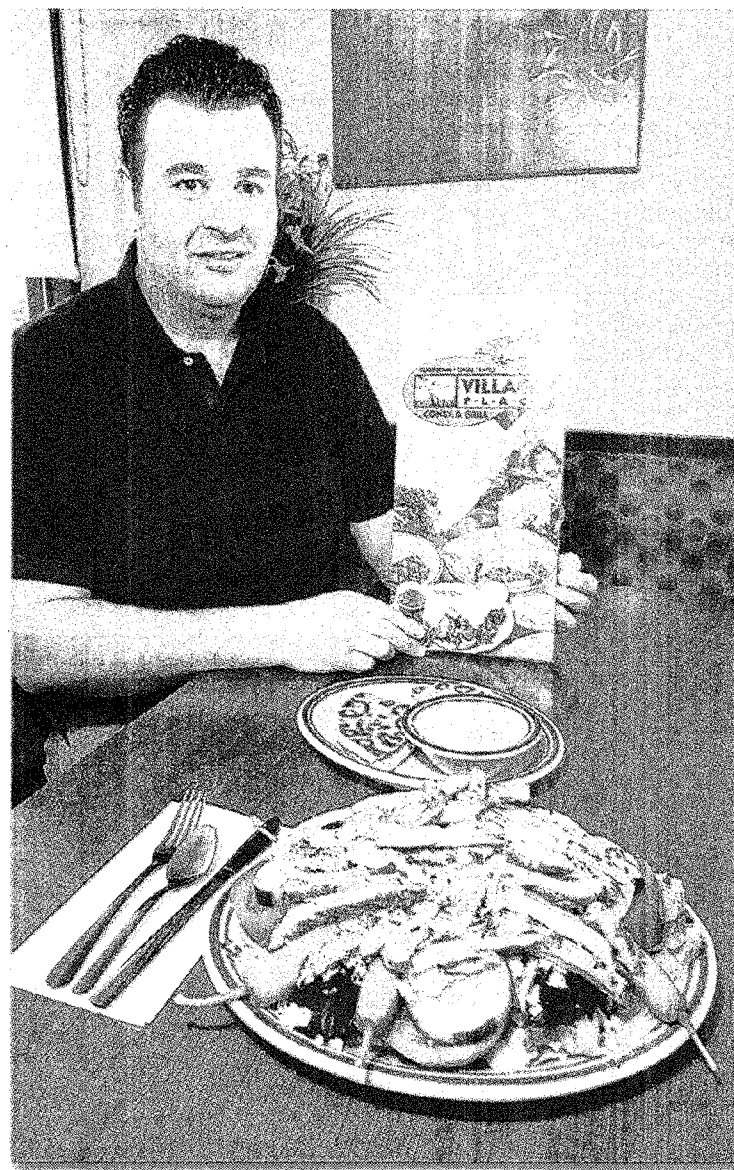
The full dine-in restaurant offers breakfast options all day, rotating daily specials and an assortment of homemade items made from secret family recipes.

Guests can choose from 13 egg platters, 20 omelettes, waffles, French toast, pancakes, sandwiches and more off the breakfast menu. Try the Redford's Delight omelette stuffed with ham, green pepper and onion topped with chili.

"My favorite breakfast is The Village Favorite with scrambled eggs, cream cheese and chives," Kathleen Teece said. "I've tried almost everything on the menu. You can get everything here."

Village Place Coney also serves up mouth-watering coney, tender baby back ribs and a delicious selection of salads.

"Our Greek Chicken Salads are our most popular salad," Berisaj said. "When combined with our homemade pink dressing, customers can never get enough. People are begging us



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Owner Victor Berisaj shows off a Greek Chicken Salad with homemade dressing, a popular menu item at Village Place Coney & Grill.

to bottle and sell the dressing."

Chicken lemon rice soup served every day and rice pudding are also family recipes made from scratch.

Greek, Italian and American favorites make up a giant dinner menu with something for everyone.

Homemade spinach pie is always popular, along with bbq ribs at an extremely reasonable price. Chicken or Veal Parmesan, 12 oz. T-Bone Steaks and lots of dinner choices come with a choice of soup, coleslaw or salad plus dinner roll and choice of fries, mashed potatoes or rice.

For those customer's practicing Lent, Village Place Coney offers a delectable Seafood Lover's Combo Platter with golden shrimp, deep-fried cod fillet, a tumble of smelt, sweet clams and flash-fried scallops for a discounted price on Fridays.

Veggie pitas, wraps and stir-fries are also available as vegetarian options.

For dessert, Village Place Coney features Blazo's Pie Shoppe pies, along with yummy cheesecakes and milkshakes.

"Our German chocolate torte is awesome," Berisaj said. "You have to see it to believe it."

Family friendly

An extremely friendly staff is always making personable connections with customers.

Both Village Place restaurants are family owned and operated. Unlike a chain, the staff can develop personal bonds with their customers.

"Since the first day we opened, we are getting repeat customers at least twice a day, some for breakfast, lunch and dinner," Berisaj said.

Some customers know what they want before they even come in — a downloadable menu is available at www.villageplaceredford.com, along with directions and photos of menu items.

"The prices are so reasonable and the food is so good that it's not even worth cooking yourself," Kathleen Teece said. "I can't say enough about the place."

Kids age 10 and younger eat free with purchase of an adult meal (see advertisement below for details).

Visit Village Place Coney & Grill for your next meal, a quick bite or just some coffee and friendly conversation!

Specials

Breakfast

M-F 6 a.m. - 11 a.m. • Sa-Su 6 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Village Breakfast Special

Your choice of bacon, sausage patties, sausage links or ham with two eggs, hashbrowns and toast. **\$1.99**

The Village Favorite

Three country fresh eggs scrambled with cream cheese and chives, served with hashbrowns and toast. **\$3.95**

Half Order Country Scramble

Ham, bacon and sausage scrambled with three eggs, onions, hashbrowns and American cheese and topped with sausage gravy. **\$4.65**

Lunch

Greek Chicken Salad

Tomato wedges, cucumbers, onions, olives, feta cheese and beets with slices of grilled chicken breast. **\$5.95 sm. \$6.95 lrg.**

Philly Steak & Cheese Hoagie

A belt-buster of lots of thin sliced steak stuffed into a hoagie roll with sautéed green peppers and onions. Finished with melted Swiss. **\$6.65**

The Coney Combo

Two delicious coney, a pile of French fries and soft drink. **\$4.95**

Dinner

Half slab BBQ Ribs

Tender baby back ribs lavished in BBQ sauce. **\$5.95**

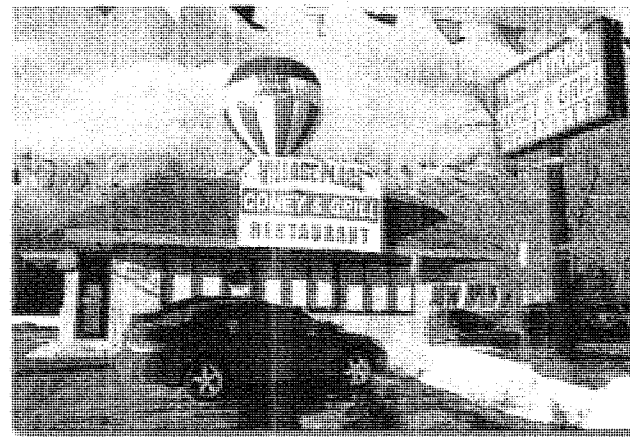
Seafood Lover's Combo Platter

This platter's got it all: golden shrimp, deep-fried cod fillet, a tumble of smelt, sweet clams and flash-fried scallops. Present with lemon and seafood sauces. Your ship has come in! **\$7.95**

Fridays: \$6.95

T-Bone Steak (12 oz.)

Get your knife and fork for this one. Comes with choice of soup, coleslaw or salad plus dinner roll and choice of fries, mashed potatoes or rice. **Mondays & Thursdays: \$6.95**



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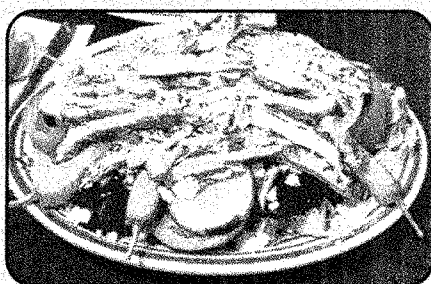
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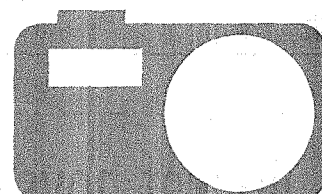
SECTION B
(WL)

Brad Emmons, editor, (313) 222-6851
bemmons@hometownlife.com

Regional hockey final: Stevenson vs. Catholic Central, visit hometownlife.com

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Lightning in a bottle: Chargers KLAAs champs

Bedell's 25 sinks Mott

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When the Kensington Lakes Activities Association playoffs started two weeks ago, an 8-7 Livonia Churchill boys basketball team seemed like an afterthought.

But the fourth-seeded Chargers completed their incredible four-game sweep Thursday night by upending host Waterford Mott, 55-53, for the KLAAs championship.

Churchill, now 12-7 overall, upset three different KLAAs divisional champions along the way to stand above all 24 schools in the first year of the Association-wide tournament.

"You got to be ready to play," said Churchill coach Jim Solak, who guided Churchill to its first league, division or conference crown since 1983. "We're a great example. Every game is tough, but you've got to be ready to go. It doesn't matter what division you're in or the



TOM BEDELL

Livonia Churchill celebrates its Kensington Lakes Activities Association boys basketball championship after a thrilling 55-53 win Thursday night at Waterford Mott.

Please see **CHARGERS, B2**

SIDELINES

Lady Ocelots roll

Antania Shepherd scored 19 points as the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team opened NJCAA Division II District H tournament play with a 97-64 quarterfinal triumph Friday over Cuyahoga (Ohio) Community College in a game played at Owens Technical CC in Toledo.

The Lady Ocelots, who improved to 29-1 overall, went on a 16-5 run to lead 48-34 at halftime.

Other contributions for Schoolcraft came from Angie Burrell (16 points); Emelda Chew (14 points); Jasmine Brown (14 points); Amber Avery (10 points, 16 rebounds); and Kimberly Bee (12 points, 10 rebounds).

Maquel Jones led Cuyahoga (5-16) with 17 points.

The Lady Ocelots, last year's NJCAA Division II runner-up move into the District H semifinals against Oakland CC (18-9). The winner faces either Owens (25-5) or St. Clair County (21-7) in Sunday's final in Toledo. Game time is 1 p.m.

Maceratini champ

Grand Valley State University recently claimed its 11th straight Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference women's indoor track and field championship as junior Megan Maceratini (Livonia Churchill) captured the 3,000-meter run in 10:00.77.

MU baseball 7-2

The Madonna University baseball team is off to a 3-0 start on its Florida trip.

The Crusaders, ranked No. 21 in the latest NAIA poll, swept a doubleheader Friday from Williams Penn (Iowa), 7-6 (in eight innings) and 3-2, at Lake Myrtle Field in Auburndale, Fla.

MU, 7-2 overall, rallied from five runs down to win the opener as Andy Omillian got the victory with two innings of scoreless relief.

Billy Hardin III and Ted Toune each collected three hits, while Brad Lineberry added two RBI.

In the nightcap, Jeremy Gooding improved to 2-0 with a complete-game four-hitter while fanning seven.

Matt Kay drove in a pair of runs. The loss drops William Penn to 5-6 overall.

On Thursday, Drew Fry belted a three-run homer in the first inning and pitcher Jeff Mann struck out a career-high 10 batters over five innings as the MU posted a 13-1 victory over State University New York-Canton at Lake Myrtle Park.

The Crusaders racked up 15 hits with Alex Charles, Billy Hardin III, Matt Kay and Mike Gansser collecting two each.

Kay and Hardin also added two RBI apiece.

Mann (1-1) allowed one earned run, did not allow a walk and scattered three hits, while relievers Chris Skalski and Tom Hansen each pitched a scoreless inning in the sixth and seventh to drop SUNY-Canton to 0-3 overall.

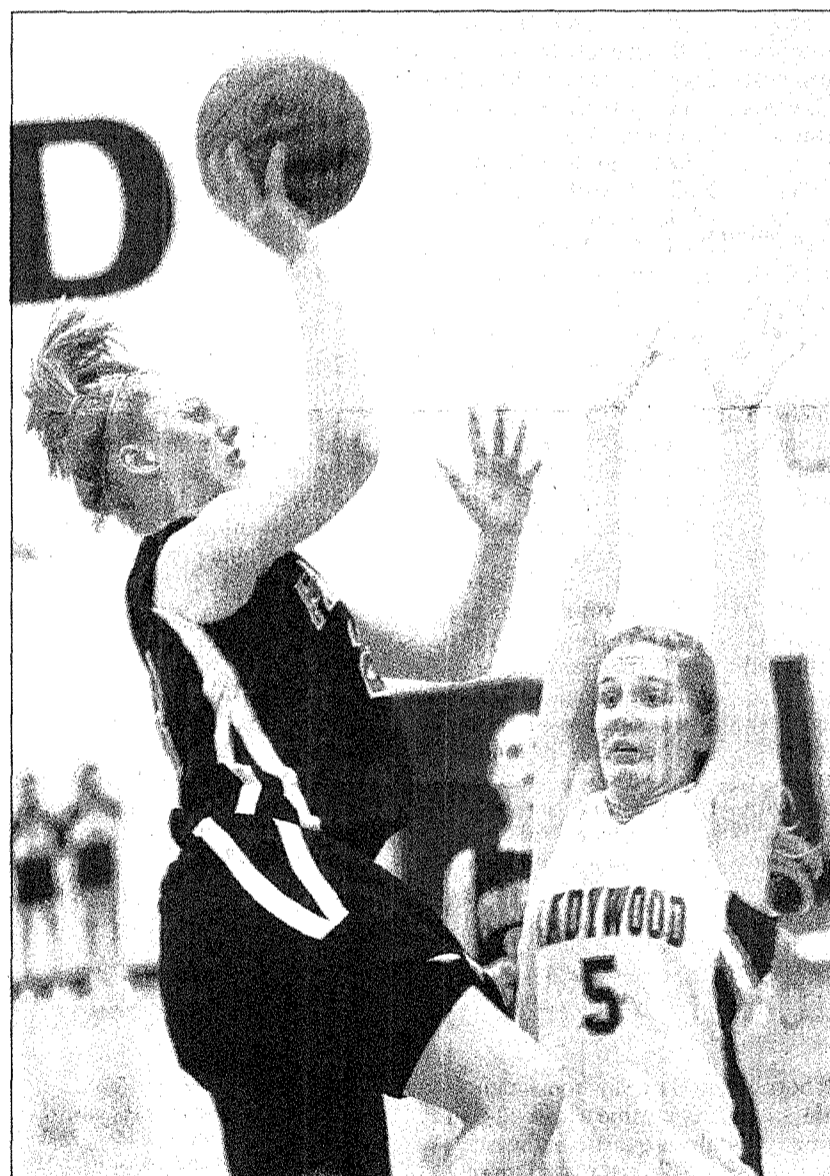
Spring girls volleyball

Tryouts for the AAU sanctioned TVO competitive volleyball spring session for girls ages 10-18 from beginner to elite level will be March 8-12 at both the Mt. Hope Activity Center and Riley Upper Middle School in Livonia.

The \$25 tryout fee will apply towards the \$425 program fee.

The season runs March 15 through June 7.

For more information on tryout times, call Gary Smart, TVO coordinator, at (734) 432-5959; or e-mail tvovolleyball@sbcbglobal.net.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Amanda Borieo (23) rises up over Ladywood defender Teresa Wojnarowski for a basket during Friday's Class A district championship.

Patriot Missiles

Franklin zone defense yields district title

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The patented matchup zone defense that propelled Livonia Franklin all the way to the Class A state championship game a year ago continues to wreak havoc.

It was no more evident than Friday night when the Patriots claimed their third consecutive district crown with a convincing 55-42 victory over host Livonia Ladywood.

Franklin, now 17-5 overall, moves into the regional semifinals Tuesday to face the winner of the Detroit Central district. Game time is 6 p.m. at Ladywood.

"Once again I think we're sneaking underneath the radar," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "We're a better team than people give us credit for. I'm very proud of the effort. We work hard, we get them in shape and they leave it all on the floor."

Once again it was senior center Senneca Scott doing her best Ben Wallace impression. Although undersized in the post at 5 feet, 8 inches, the springy Scott was relentless, scoring 12 points to go along with 15 rebounds, five blocks and three steals.

"Last game she was unbelievable and she followed it up with another great game," McCall said. "She's turned the corner in her career and she's playing the way with the potential she's shown all year. She's just a focused athlete."

Scott was coming off a 21-point, 17-rebound outing against Garden City.

"I'm really just trying to be a leader and just go all-out my senior year," said Scott,

who would like to continue to play in college. "I'm just trying to play to my potential and I know I can play as good as I am now."

Junior point-guard Chelsea Williams, Franklin's leading scorer, bounced back from Wednesday's two-point district semifinal performance by also adding 12 points.

"Chelsea wasn't feeling well the other night and not getting any sleep," McCall said. "She had only gotten six hours of sleep in two days. You could see it in her play on the floor - her lack of energy, her lack of emotion. She's gotten some sleep and she's gotten better. Her parents are making sure she's gotten better and she's on her way back."

Senior guard Amanda Nixon also gave the Patriots a lift off the bench by contributing 12, while junior forward Amanda Borieo finished with nine.

And 5-foot-1 senior guard Nicole Emery helped relieve the full-court pressure with a steady floor game for the Pats.

Ladywood, the Catholic League A-B Division runner-up, turned the ball over 22 times and shot only 11-of-36 from the floor (30.5 percent).

"I think there were times when I think we just got outthrustled," Ladywood coach Pat Cannon said. "They outrebounded us. They had us 22-9 on the boards at halftime. They were knocking down shots and that little trapping zone took us out of our game. We were trying to get on the back

Please see **FRANKLIN, B3**

Warriors garner district title

The Lutheran High Westland girls basketball team endured some hardships during the regular season, but the Warriors made it all go away Friday night by turning back host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist, 43-37, for the Class D district title.

Emilie Freeman, a 6-foot-3 senior center, poured in a game-high 21 points, while Nicole Zehel added 11 as the Warriors won for just the sixth time in 20 tries overall.

The Warriors jumped out to a 9-5 lead after one quarter, increased the margin to 19-9 at halftime and held on despite being outscored 28-24 over the final two quarters.

Korryne Claypool tallied 16 points to pace Inter-City Baptist.

Lutheran Westland advances to the regional semifinals Tuesday at Auburn Hills Oakland Christian. It will face the Marine City Cardinal Mooney district champion

GIRLS HOOPS

beginning at 6 p.m.
BELLEVILLE 45, JOHN GLENN 37: Jessica Green scored nine of her game-high 18 points in the final quarter Wednesday to lead the Tigers (10-11) past Westland John Glenn (6-15) in the Class A district semifinals at Wayne Memorial.

"They ran her off a few screens, let her go one-on-one and she took over the game," Glenn coach Mark Anderson said of Green. "The sped up the game in the fourth quarter. The ball pressure got to us and we turned it over."

Diaja Ruffin and Brianna Coleman each tallied eight points for the Tigers, who outscored Glenn 14-9 in the final quarter.

Senior forward Michelle Vanover led the Rockets with 15 points. Aubrie Scott added seven.

Glenn was only 5-of-12

from the foul line, while Belleville hit 13-of-32.

LUTH. WESTLAND 58, WESTSIDE 15: Emilie Freeman scored 15 points and Amanda Terranella added 12 as Lutheran High Westland (5-14) rolled to an easy win Wednesday over Detroit Westside Christian in Class D opener at Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

Rachel Storck chipped in with eight points for the Warriors, who advanced to Friday's championship game against the host Chargers.

CHERRY HILL 59, CLARENCEVILLE 50: Dominique Cummings had 26 points Monday as Inkster Cherry Hill of the Performing Arts downed host Livonia Clarenceville (8-12) in the Class B district opener.

Jenny Burgess led the Trojans with 20 points and 16 rebounds, while Kristen Jolly added 15 points. Ashley Devon added seven points.

Spartan goalie 'on' in pre-regional win

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

PREP HOCKEY

Wednesday's board-rattling Division 1 pre-regional boys hockey game between Plymouth and Livonia Stevenson featured more hard-edged hits than the Rolling Stones.

But perfect goalkeeping and a couple nifty individual offensive efforts proved the difference in a 2-0 Stevenson victory. The reward for the 21-3-2 Spartans: playing defending Division I state champion Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Novi Ice Arena.

"Goal scorers Justin Shureb and Timmy Pruchnik both got the pucks to the net," said Spartans head coach David Mitchell. "And give all the credit it the world to their goaltender, Michael Justus, he stood on his head.

"He stopped almost everything

we threw at him and had a great night, but so did our goalie Danny Sager."

Stevenson went up 1-0 with about four minutes left in the first when Shureb collected a bouncing puck at the Spartans' blue line, raced down the ice and cut in on the junior Plymouth goalie before slipping the puck between the wickets.

Plymouth head coach Paul Fassbender said his D-man jumped up at the line to glove the puck, but dropped it. The Stevenson junior forward "found it and took off."

That's how the intense, physical and sometimes nasty (a Stevenson player was whistled for kneeing, a Wildcat drew two minutes for a

Please see **HOCKEY, B3**

Crusaders' ace Irwin leads talented squad

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Expectations remain high this spring with the return of nine letter winners, including two All-Americans and two All-Conference picks, for the Madonna University women's softball team.



Irwin

The 2010 Crusaders, who opened their season Saturday in Tucson, Ariz., are ranked No. 14 in the NAIA Coaches preseason poll

after going 53-11 overall and earning a berth in the NAIA Nationals.

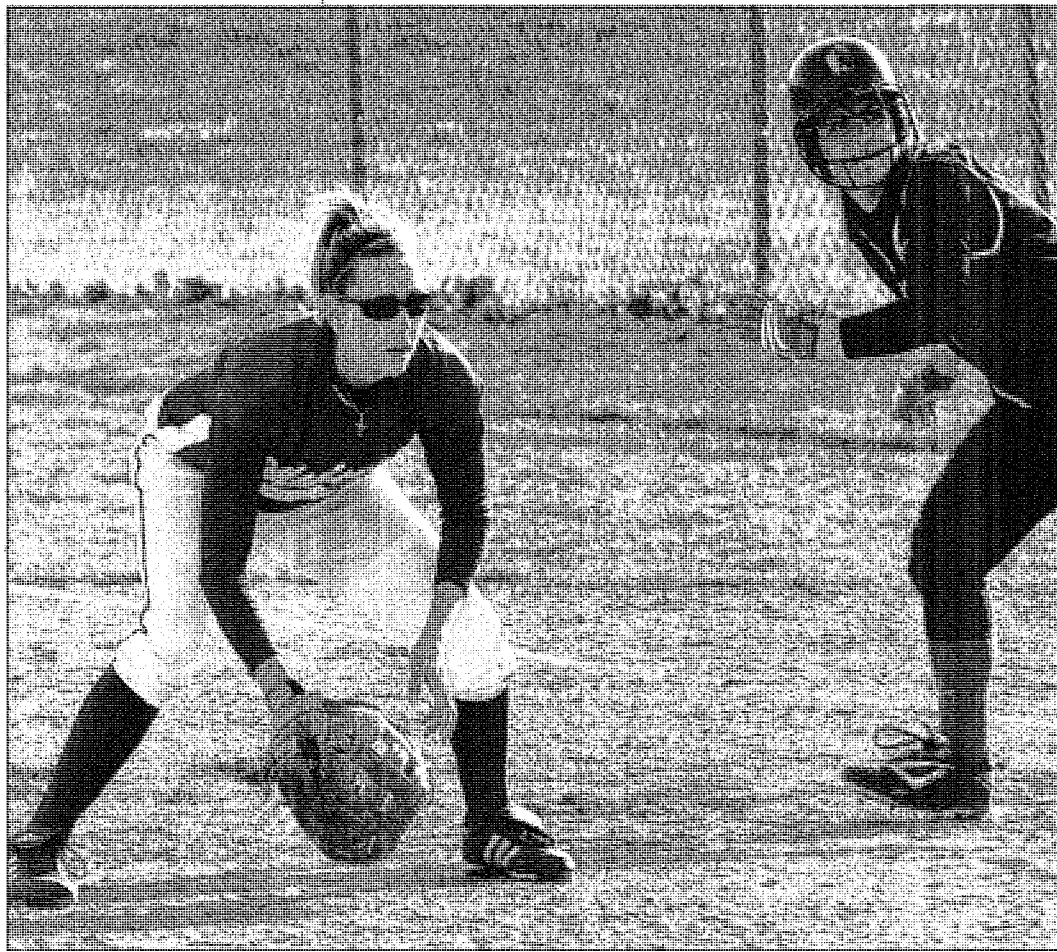
MU captured the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season title (25-3 record) and postseason tourney in 2009 under coach Al White.

Junior right-hander Jess Irwin will toe the mound once again for the Crusaders after going 33-9 with a 1.62 earned run average. The Monroe native fanned 423 batters in 256.1 innings a year ago en route to NAIA All-American honors.

Irwin has a capable back-up in sophomore right-hander Hallie Minch, a Garden City grad who finished 20-2 with a 2.29 ERA.

Senior second baseman Brittney Scero (Canton), another All-American, leads the infield after hitting a team-best .383 a year ago.

Also back is All-WHAC first baseman Cat Sidor, a senior from Livonia Churchill who hit .315 with a team-high 48 RBI.



Senior Cat Sidor (left) of Livonia Churchill, an All-WHAC selection, returns at first base for the Crusaders.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Junior Kelly Lesko (.297) also returns to the infield as does sophomore Amanda Straub.

All-WHAC outfielder Ashley Shay (Garden City/Dearborn Divine Child) will also see duty behind the plate after batting .350 a year ago.

The outfield returnees also include junior Tara LaMilza (.353) and senior Rachael

Kethe. White recruited seven newcomers - including six freshmen.

Amber Rafko (Monroe) will split time between infield and catcher, while Arielle Cox (Monroe Jefferson), Erica Landess (Carleton Airport) and Katelyn Hamann (Westland/Divine Child) will vie for infield time.

Shoring up the outfield will be sophomore Kiley Thornton (Ida), a transfer from Owens

Technical Community College (Ohio); Krista Messer (Taylor Kennedy), Ali Robinson (Farmington High) and Katie Rankin (Farmington High).

Livonia Franklin's Natalie Sanborn and Messer will add depth on the mound.

MU doesn't play its season opener until Saturday, April 17 against Siena Heights.

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HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

head shot), game continued during the second stanza.

Stevenson came close to a second goal when Shureb banged a shot off the inside of the post and Justus (24 saves) denied an attempt from junior forward Andrew Palushaj, both with about 10 minutes remaining.

The hitting picked up and a subsequent Plymouth penalty led to the power play goal by Pruchnik at 7:59.

Pruchnik stripped the puck from a Wildcat along the goal line in the left corner and spun toward the bottom rim of the circle before sending a backhand inside the far post.

The biggest thorn in the Wildcats' collective side was Sager, who stopped all 20 shots he faced - including a barrage of five during a string of Plymouth power plays late in the middle frame.

"We had our chances, we had a 5-on-3," said Fassbender, standing in the Eddie Edgar Arena corridor behind his bench. "It's a great hockey team down there (in a nearby lockerroom). They're so fast, they're big and strong and we couldn't match it."

"But we played our hearts out, we had a great season, the best season in school history for sure."

The Wildcats finished 19-6-1 and earned a share of the KLAA South Division championship with Salem and Livonia Churchill.

During the crucial sequence, Sager flagged down a snap shot by junior forward Ryan Brown and rejected back-to-back bids by sophomore forward Zach

Gambrell to protect a slim, 2-0 lead.

According to Sager, he just kept his composure during the three-minute barrage, which quickly doubled the shots he faced in the second period from five to 10.

"I just tried to stay calm," Sager explained. "My defense was playing great in front of me and I just tried to make the saves when called upon."

"I could see every shot from the blue line. I always tell my defense to clear them out and I'll stop the shot if I can see it."

Mitchell said Sager's superb game followed a season-long trend.

"Danny Sager's been huge for us all year, he's a senior, I couldn't be happier for the kid," Mitchell said. "He works as hard as anybody I've ever coached and he's just a quality, quality individual."

Scary moment

The Eddie Edgar bleachers - including standing-room-only student sections for each team - fell silent about four minutes into the second period.

Stevenson sophomore defenseman Joseph MacDonald was checked into the boards in the Spartans' end and lay motionless for a couple minutes before finally being revived.

The woozy MacDonald was helped off the ice. He later returned to Stevenson's bench to watch the rest of the game.

Mitchell said the player would undergo tests Thursday to determine how soon he might be able to play.

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FRANKLIN

FROM PAGE A1

side of their zone defense. We'd get it in, and they'd collapse on it. And they did a very good job of it. We didn't have a counter for it."

Molly Gacloch, a 5-10 senior forward, finished with a team-high 13 points for the Blazers, while junior forward Terea Wojnarowski added eight.

Ladywood led 11-9 after one quarter, but it was all Franklin the rest of the way as the Patriots took command with a 19-4 run in the second quarter to take a 28-15 half-time advantage.

The Blazers never got closer than eight the rest of the way as Franklin opened up a 21-point advantage, 46-25, with 6:02 to go in the final period on a basket by Borieo.

"The key was working weak

side against them," McCall said of his zone. "We were baiting them, dropping back and flashing up on them, and taking away that skip pass from them to set up their outside game. They have good outside shooters. We wanted to make them beat us from inside. And we felt we could match up better with them inside and it just worked out in our favor."

Ladywood, which beat

Franklin in the season opener, 50-46, ends its season at 12-11 overall.

"It was a good ride, a fun time," Cannon said. "We're a better team than we were beginning of the year. Some nights you've got it, some nights you don't. I'm very proud of them. All year long we did better than what people thought we would do."

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NEIGHBORS

Michigan products

Get the jump on summer with a visit to Canton Winter Market

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Shop the Canton Winter Market and you're likely to meet the person behind the product you purchase.

You'll find vendors like Dorothy Rehm of Gibraltar, who hand crafts about 3,000 dog treats a week.

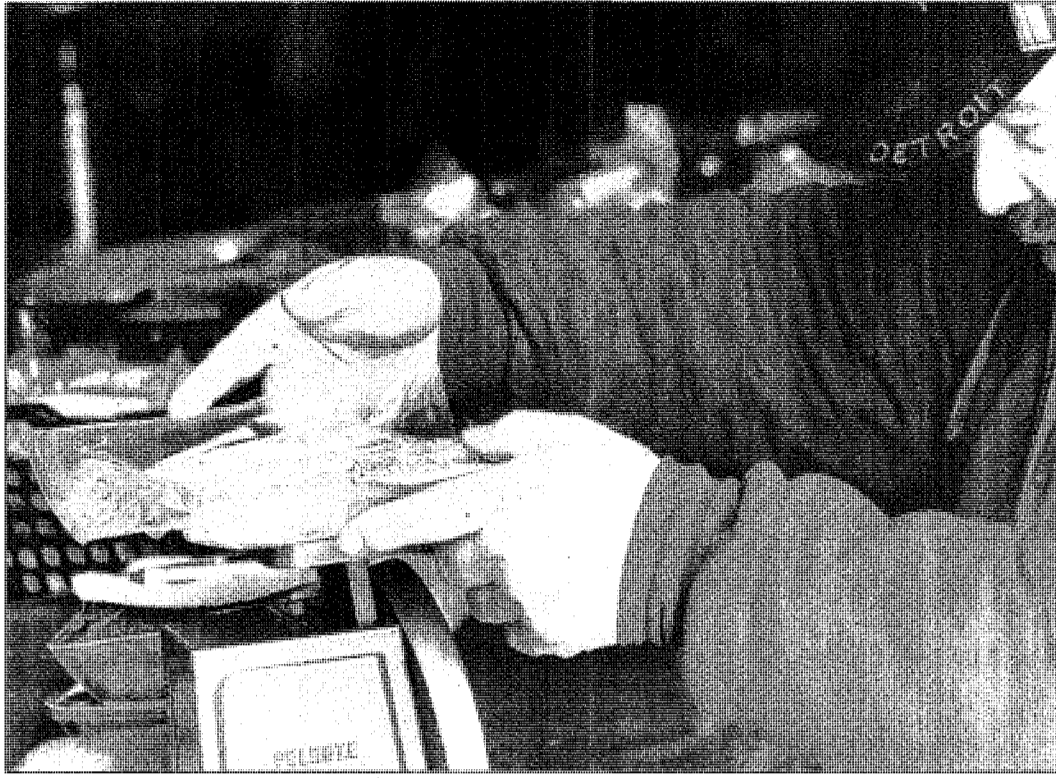
And Joe Sansonetti of Holly, will who makes the "flavors of Michigan" come alive in his homemade sauces and mustards.

Scott Robertello will urge you to try the cider made from apples grown at his Kapnick Orchards in Britton.

And honey-seller, Bob Jastrzebski of Canton, will tell you about the 130 bee hives his father, also named Bob, tends throughout western Wayne and Oakland counties.

They and other vendors who were on hand Sunday, Feb. 28, at the historic Cady-Boyer Barn in Preservation Park all sell locally-made foods and attracted more than 400 shoppers to the first of three monthly winter markets.

"There aren't many winter markets for these vendors to showcase their products," said Tina Lloyd, market manager. "We thought it would be a great opportunity with this historic 1800s barn to be able to showcase vendors and offer the opportunity for the community to have locally-



Gary Kuneman from Natural Local Food Express weighs some fish fillets for a customer.



Bob the Bee Guy is Bob Jastrzebski of Canton.

produced food, so they know where it's coming from. "You've got grass-fed meats here, we have healthy foods

and we have some treats, too."

Additional winter markets will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., March 28 and April 25. The regular market season will start May 9, with vendors selling outdoors and entertainment staged in the barn.

"Our third season was last year. We're a newer market and we're really expanding. When I first started there were 15 vendors out there. Now we have about 30. I'm expecting this season to really pull in the traffic," she said, staying toasty under one of two portable heaters placed inside the barn. "We've got about a dozen today. People are coming and going. It's a winter market, so you're not going to get all the people at one time. They're going to come in, get their stuff and get out because it's cold. I mean,

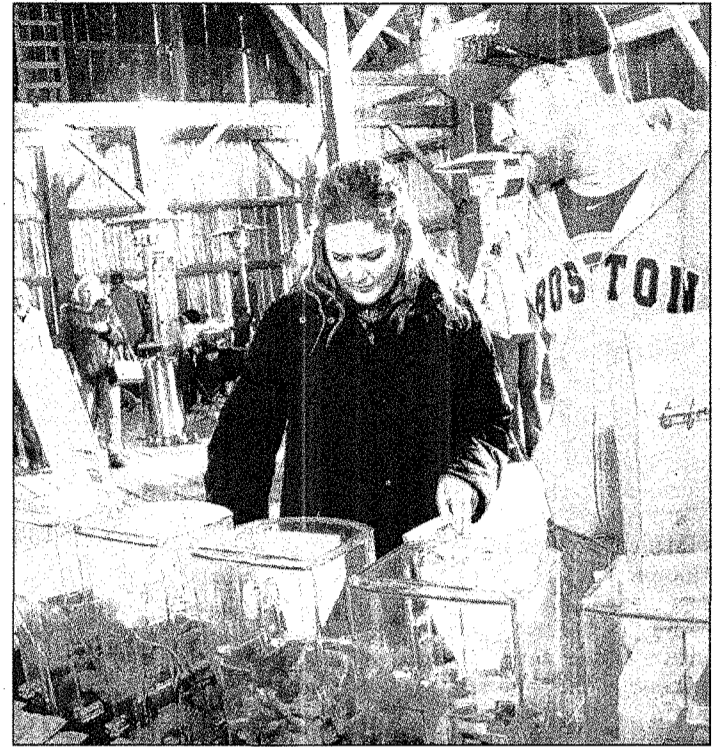
look at the barn, it's ventilated very well."

BROWSING AND BUYING

Shopper Michael Goodsell of Canton was happy the barn included a few heaters and his wife, Cynthia, noted that the couple didn't have to drive "downtown" to Detroit's Eastern Market, one of few year-round indoor farmer's markets in Southeastern Michigan.

About 100 customers, including Jeff and Sue Engle of Canton, walked through the market during its first hour Sunday.

"Supporting the local businesses is a cool idea," said Jeff, as the couple's yellow Lab, Roxie, stretched out at his feet. "It's something to do in the wintertime."



Phil and Cassie Cowles of Canton pick up some doggy treats for their Labrador at home.

"We come in the summer," added Sue. "It's a good place to walk her and we've also seen the dog treats."

HEALTHFUL INGREDIENTS

Rehm, whose business, Sunbears Just Bones is named after her Alaskan Malamute, makes the treats with fresh apples, carrots and sweet potatoes, which she dehydrates and mixes with other ingredients before cutting them into shapes and baking them. Chicken livers and real hot dogs flavor some of her most popular meaty biscuits.

Rehm, 62, started the company in November 2008 after losing her job with Wyandotte City Hall. She sells her creations mostly at farmer's markets.

"The beautiful part about the farmer's market is that I establish a clientele. They come back every week. It's fun. It's very fun," she said. "The most fun is when people tell me how their dog reacted."

She said some dogs follow their nose to her booth. Their owners simply drop the leash when Rehm beckons them.



Livonia resident Michelle Thomas chooses a loaf of bread from Kapnick Orchards at Canton's winter farmer's market.

Canton Winter Market sells eggs, apples, cider, honey, meats, cheeses, sauces, salsa, jerky, summer sausage, fish, pierogi, pasties, coffee, baked goods, dog and bird treats. The Cady Boyer Barn is located at 500 N. Ridge Road. For more information, e-mail Lloyd at cantonfarmersmarket@canton-mi.org.



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Advertising Feature

Weddings 2010

Brides and grooms all over Oakland and Wayne counties are planning their dream weddings with local vendors that provide everything from flowers and cakes to salsa dancing and Hummer limos.

Need some inspiration?

Check out these local vendors to help create a memorable wedding.

Have it catered



Having your event catered is a great way to customize your special day.

Joe's Produce Gourmet Market offers exquisite catering services, the freshest produce in town and the renowned reputation of Executive Chef Reva Bell-Constantine.

Joe's Outdoor Wedding Package offers an exceptional menu of fresh fruit and crudite appetizer table, dinner buffet and cupcake tree.

Equipment includes a tent with chandelier light and French window siding, tables and white wood padded wedding chairs, white or ivory tablecloths and napkins, 12x16 dance floor, rollaway bar, tables for gifts, buffet and cake/dessert, china, silverware, glassware and more.

Floral centerpieces, buffet arrangement and accent flowers are also included.

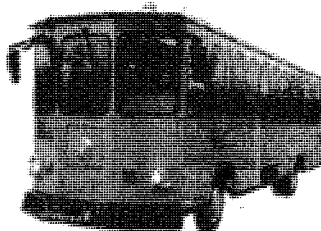
Joe's Produce Gourmet Market is located at 33152 W. Seven Mile in Livonia. Visit www.joesgourmetcatering.com or call 248-477-4333 for more information.

Ride in style

Whether you are looking to transport an intimate party of four in a classic 1957 Chevy or limo trolley that accommodate up to 40 passengers, Entertainment Express in Dearborn can suite any event with selections ranging from Hummer Limos to Lincoln Town Cars.

Wedding packages include two bottles of champagne, red carpet, "Just Married" sign, ice, pop, water and glasses.

Entertainment Express is located 6986 Telegraph Road in Dearborn Heights. Visit www.entertainmentexpress.com or call 313-277-5000 for more information.



Get glamorous



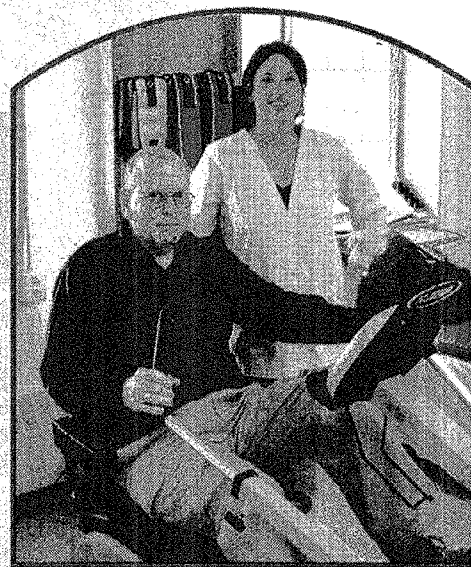
Brides in 2010 are taking a nod from the "glam look" sported at recent celebrity events - walking down the aisle with sleek hairstyles that are a modern take on classic looks.

"The style today is returning to a more glamorous look reminiscent of the 1940s, with big waves and a more polished look," said Jackie Bruce, manager of Coifer Salon in Livonia, owned by Ann Martinuzzi.

Should a bride wear her hair in an up-do or cascading down her shoulders? "Of course it's all up to the bride, because it's her day," said Bruce. "But if it's an off-the-shoulder gown, we like to suggest at least a partial up-do."

The bride and her party should make hair appointments about six to eight weeks before her wedding, giving the salon plenty of time to schedule the day around the event, as well as providing a window of opportunity for a "practice run" of the bride's hairstyle.

Coifer Salon is located at 37657 Five Mile Road in Livonia. Visit www.coifersalon.com or call 734-464-3340 for more information.



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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

MARCH

St. Mary Mercy

Gayle Young, Sleep Center coordinator at St. Mary Mercy's Sleep Disorders Center, will speak at a presentation on sleep problems, 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 10, in the hospital auditorium. She will discuss sleep apnea and treatment, insomnia, good sleep hygiene as well as how sleep problems can affect your overall health. She'll have CPAP machines and supplies on hand. This is a St. Mary Mercy Hospital Diabetes Support Group presentation, but the program is open to the public. A new topic is presented on the second Wednesday of each month for adults with diabetes and family members. There is no charge, and pre-registration is not required. Call Community Outreach at (734) 655-8950 for more information.

"Parenting with Love and Logic" for parents with elementary age children, 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 24 in Classrooms 1 & 2. The program uses a common sense approach, teaching parents skills that cultivate confidence and good decision-making in children by offering them choices, empathy, and respect while adults avoid anger, threats, warnings, or lectures. The fee is \$10 per person, and registration is required. Call (734) 655-1162 for more information or to register. Or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

Evening of Hope

Leukemia, Research, Life (LRL) presents its Evening of Hope fundraiser 6:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, March 13, at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Tickets prices start at \$85, includes dinner, dancing, auction. Call (313) 884-0931 or visit www.lrlinc.org. The evening raises money for pediatric cancer research at Children's Hospital of Michigan and honors Dr. Jeffrey Taub.

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 9. This second of two sessions 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.

Balance your hormones

Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, presents a workshop on A Holistic Approach to Balancing Your Hormones Naturally, 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, March 10, at the Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, Livonia. This workshop will educate the audience about natural alternatives to address problems related to hormone imbalances and menopause. Limited to 15 guests. Reservations required. Call (734) 756-6904.

APRIL

St. Mary Mercy

"Heartsaver" Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation class (CPR), 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, in the Community Outreach Department, Classroom 10. The class is being offered through a partnership with

the American Heart Association. Learn CPR and choking techniques for children and adults. To register, call the Community Outreach Department at (734) 655.8950, or register online at stmarymercy.org.

Dawn Farm

Ed Conlin, addiction counselor for Detroit Capuchin Service System, will present, "Spirituality and Recovery from Addiction, 7:30-9 p.m., April 20 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium (ground floor.) 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. This program will describe how spirituality relates to recovery from chemical dependency, explore personal spiritual needs and life choices, and discuss the Twelve Steps as a spiritual program which can benefit anyone.

Dr. Patrick Gibbons, adjunct clinical instructor in psychiatry at the University of Michigan will discuss "Psychiatric Disorders in Chemically Dependent Individuals: Diagnostic and Treatment Considerations" at 7:30 p.m. April 27, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. The program will provide an overview of co-occurring addiction and psychiatric illness, including standard diagnostic criteria, individual considerations for determining the appropriate course of treatment, available treatment interventions, and the perspectives of both the addict and the treatment provider on addiction. Admission to the programs are free. A certificate to document attendance can be provided on request. The series is organized by Dawn Farm, a non-profit organization that provides a continuum of programs for treatment of chemical dependency. (734) 485-8725.

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.oa.org.

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan 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 information, call Lucy at (734) 462-1768.

Award honors compassionate cancer survivor

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute is accepting nominations for the Patricia Milner Sachs Heart of a Survivor Award.

The award is named in honor of Patricia Milner Sachs, a former Karmanos employee who continued to help cancer survivors as she fought her own 11-year battle with melanoma, which ended in June of 2006. Through her dedication to the Karmanos Cancer Institute and its Department of Community Education, Sachs developed several community programs including Survivorship University, a program to help survivors and their caregivers navigate through the complexities of cancer survivorship; "N'Siah," a support group designed to help cancer patients on their journey using spirituality as a foundation and support; and S.H.I.E.L.D., a sun safety and skin cancer awareness program for children and adults.

Nominations are open to all cancer survivors, even those who have been nominated in the past. Judging will be based on nominees who demonstrate compassion, commitment and dedication to helping other cancer survivors through education and awareness-building, a commitment to cancer advocacy, and by showing courage in their own battle with cancer while helping other cancer survivors thrive.

Most of all, Sachs is remembered for her courage and fighting spirit, as well as her passion for helping others in their fight against cancer. Nominations are due Friday, April 16. The award winner and nominees will be recognized at the Karmanos Cancer Institute's Survivorship Celebration honoring cancer survivors, on June 17, in Southfield.

Nominations are open to all cancer survivors, even those who have been nominated in the past. Judging will be based on nominees who demonstrate compassion, commitment and dedication to helping other cancer survivors through education and awareness-building, a commitment to cancer advocacy, and by showing courage in their own battle with cancer while helping other cancer survivors thrive.

For a nomination form call Shaa-Ista Wilcox at (313) 576-9282. Nominations should be typed or printed. E-mail nominations to simmons@karmanos.org or fax to (313) 576-9285.

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LOSING YOUR GRIP

A problem that people in their seventies and beyond often face is a loss in the ability to turn doorknobs and twist off caps. For some people the loss of hand function extends to difficulty gripping a car's steering wheel or tying their shoes.

These hand problems occur because more than one impairment is at work. Osteoarthritis of the fingers and knuckles may limit a person's ability to close the fingers over a knob. If at the same time, hand wrist coordination is limited because the wrist is weak the person will find that he or she cannot pick up a cup, hold a glass, open a book or button a coat without effort and strain.

Hand arthritis may be deceptive because both wrist and thumb can lose function. The individual usually focuses on the part of the joint that gives the most pain. A doctor focusing on the patient's major pain may miss the point that another joint in the hand is contributing to the problem.

Hand pain calls for an x-ray examination both to assess the extent of arthritis and to uncover other areas - usually the base of the thumb - contributing to the patient's impairment.

Often the hand problem is worse than arthritis alone would indicate. Thus, when examining the hands, the doctor will check for muscle weakness associated with carpal tunnel syndrome. As carpal tunnel syndrome is readily treated, identifying its presence is important.

In sum, the onset of difficulty grasping and holding objects is not just the result of aging. Bringing the hand problem to the doctor's attention is the first step in restoring hand function and grip strength.

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