

SUNDAY
March 14,
2010

The Observer & Eccentric
 Newspapers

Volume 45
 Number 84

75 CENTS

Teachers put drama into silent reading - Education, A4

WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



AROUND TOWN



Hilda Dugas

Happy 100th

Hilda Dugas, a resident of the Westland Convalescent Center, will celebrate her 100th birthday on Thursday, March 18.

Dugas and her husband, Milton Sr., who died in 1987, were married for 60 years. She has four children, 23 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Described as having lived a patient life, Dugas generously offered a helping hand to her church and friends. Her greatest pride was her devotion to her family and her Catholic faith. Dugas was an active member of Madonna Parish in Detroit for more than 30 years. As a volunteer with the Madonna Altar Society, she faithfully cared for the altar linens and vestments, and she proudly organized and cooked for the Society's charity events.

Dugas said her greatest joy was the simple pleasure of gathering with friends and relatives for a meal or spending time with her grandchildren.

Help needed

Calling all volunteers. The Action for Earth Program being sponsored by Mission: Green is in need of people to work on Saturday, March 20.

Volunteers are needed for just a couple of hours at the Bailey Recreation Center in the civic center complex to help kids plant seeds for the Community Garden at the DTE property in Westland.

Contact Andy Schuck at the William P. Faust Public Library at andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org for more information.

Party time

The Westland Community Foundation is hosting a Post St. Paddy's Day Party Wednesday, March 24, at Marvaso's Italian Grill and Electric Stick, 6569 Wayne Road.

Beginning at 7 p.m. there will be hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, followed by dining and entertainment at 8 p.m. There will also be a charity poker game at 4 p.m. with a separate optional buy-in.

The cost is \$40 per person. Reserve a spot by calling (734) 595-7727.

Neighborhood stabilization plan expanded

BY LEANNE ROGERS
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Reflecting the ongoing problem with foreclosures, blighted and vacant homes in a larger part of Westland will now be eligible for a federally-funded rehabilitation program.

The council has approved an amendment to the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, adding three

additional areas to its areas of greatest need under federal Department of Housing and Urban Development criteria.

"The recommendation came from the two developers working on the program (for Westland)," Community Development Director Joanne Inglis said. "The areas are viable for Neighborhood Stabilization. A foreclosed home hurts property values on the street."

Three parts of Westland were added to the NSP area of greatest need: an area east of Newburgh to Venoy between Warren and Palmer; between Venoy and Middlebelt, Warren and Joy; and an area south of Cherry Hill between Merriman and Henry Ruff.

Initially, the targeted areas were primarily in the south end of the city, including Annapolis Park and the Carver subdivision along with

an area between Merriman and Henry Ruff north of Van Born; a section between Glenwood and Palmer, Merriman and Newburgh that includes Norwayne and extends north to Cherry Hill between Venoy and Merriman.

The initial greatest need designation also included one area in the northeast part of the city — the

Please see **PROGRAM, A2**

Toddlers prove they're 'golden' at Olympics



Asia Washington laughs after beating the pirate in the Pirate Tug of War at the Nursery School Olympics.



Look out Jeff Gordon, Leonard Sabala has the groove to win the Big Wheel Grand Prix.

The dream of Olympic "gold" was too good to miss for toddlers who showed their athletic skills at the annual Nursery School Olympics.

The young athletes tested their "motoring" skills on the Big Wheel Grand Prix track and proved they were up to the challenge of the I-DiD-A-Rod hurdles. They wiggled their way through an obstacle course, and chased balloons with butterfly nets in the Butterfly Safari.

A noncompetitive event, the athletic events were held at the Bailey Recreation Center and came with

a gold medal ceremony. Youngsters received stickers for each activity they did, and when done received the coveted gold medal. There was no limit on how many events they had to compete in, and every child was a winner.

The Nursery School Olympics was started by the Westland Civitan Club and the Westland Parks and Recreation Department more than eight years. A variety of volunteers helped with the event.



Spencer Nadolski does his best on the I-DiD-a-Rod Hurdles.

Effective: Program cleans up blighted property

BY LEANNE ROGERS
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Ask Building Director Roger Shifflett if participation in Wayne County's Nuisance Abatement Program has been beneficial to Westland, his answer is succinct.

"Absolutely. It's an effective tool and a good partnership with the county," Shifflett said.

The council recently approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with Wayne County continuing the partner-

ship, in effect since 2007, for another year.

The Nuisance Abatement Program is aimed at cleaning up and revitalizing neighborhoods by getting blighted and deteriorated buildings rehabilitated or, in some cases, demolished. It's a countywide program so, unlike the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, it isn't limited to particular areas within a participating community.

"Nuisance abatement could be anything.

Please see **NUISANCE, A2**

ABATEMENT CASES 2007-09

This is a summary of the Westland Nuisance Abatement Docket for 2007-09:

- Total cases filed - 28
- Remaining open cases - 3
- Cases to be refiled - 1
- Westland nuisance property abated:
- Properties renovated - 8

- Properties demolished - 4
- Properties cleaned/boarded and sold - 6
- Properties deeded to Westland - 4 (includes one property that has been demolished)
- Court orders for demolition - 1
- Agreements for rehabilitation still active/pending - 2

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Library reading program highlights the work of Innocence Project

BY LEANNE ROGERS
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wrongful conviction is a theme in *Presumed Innocent*, the Everyone's Reading program selection, and the focus of the Innocence Project.

Westland's Faust Library is hosting the Innocence Project with Kenneth Wyniemko, who spent 10 years in prison before being exonerated, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 23.

"We went online and researched the Innocence



Wyniemko

Project. We were familiar with the program — we found someone living in the area, in Macomb County," said Marilyn Kwik, department head of adult services. "We contacted him by e-mail and he was very willing to speak."

The program isn't limited only to those who have been reading the 1987 Scott Turow novel. Wyniemko will be accompanied by attorneys from the Innocence Project, which has Michigan offices at the Thomas M. Cooley Innocence Project in Lansing and the Michigan Innocence Clinic in Ann Arbor.

"I think it's always nice to have someone who represents the Innocence Project — a profes-

sor or a lawyer," Kwik said. "But this is a rare opportunity to hear the person who was exonerated. It will be great to hear from his words exactly how this group helped him regain his freedom."

Running from mid-February through mid-April, the Everyone's Reading program has a selected book for readers and offers programs, such as book discussions.

"What I loved about it was *Presumed Innocent* was really the first book to start the legal thriller genre," Library Director Cheryl Napsha said. "We have a committee of reference librarians — they were very creative."

Please see **INNOCENCE, A3**

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PROGRAM

FROM PAGE A1

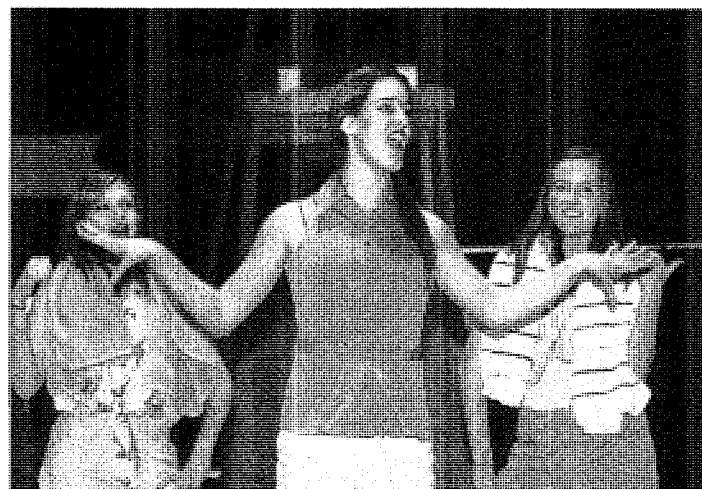
area between Middlebelt and Inkster Road, Warren and Joy. "HUD determined the original need with the number of foreclosures and subprime mortgages in the summer of 2008," Inglis said. "Things have gotten a lot worse." Other than Norwayne, Inglis said Westland doesn't seem to have areas with large concen-

trations of abandoned homes; other neighborhoods have scattered problem homes. Part of the city's goal with NSP is demolishing poor-quality housing stock in Norwayne and reducing the high density. In other areas, where vacant homes are in better condition, rehabilitation and resale of the homes is the goal. "Our goal in Norwayne is to remove undesirable housing stock. There are too many homes and high-density development. We're trying to change

that," Building Director Roger Shifflett said. "The ultimate goal is to clean up and rejuvenate the homes." The two NSP contractors, Guy Construction and Home Renewal Systems, were each awarded a \$400,000 contract to establish and manage the rehabilitation/resale component of NSP. Each firm will be expected to sell 20 rehabilitated homes during the 15 months of the project. "We can't take care of all of the foreclosures in the city. In

Norwayne, I estimate we will have a 10-percent impact," Inglis said. "It will probably be the same for the rest of the city — 10 percent is significant. If you are eliminating blight, it has a rolling effect." A home recently demolished on a court in Norwayne made a tremendous improvement for the neighborhood, she said. "I know it sounds silly, but it was like there was more sunlight on the court," Inglis said.

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nellie Forbush (Erin Roulier) is "Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of my (her) Hair" with chorus members Cassie Paddock and Kelly Walblay.

NUISANCE

FROM PAGE A1

Typically, it would be a property where we've had a hard time finding the owner and we've left warnings that the property has to be fixed up," Shifflett said. "Rehabilitation of the property is the primary focus." Once a nuisance property has been identified by the Westland Building Department, a written report is submitted to the county nuisance abatement program, which conducts a title search and public record investigation to identify the owner. "They send notices that they

are taking court action. They try to enter an agreement for repairs with the owner," Shifflett said. "If the owner still doesn't want to comply or can't, the county takes them to court. The circuit court judge has the authority to take action up to taking ownership of the home." Approximately 70 percent of all owners whose properties are filed against as a nuisance enter into a legal agreement with the county to rehabilitate their properties. "Mostly the homes are repaired through the three years of the Nuisance Abatement Program. Typically, there is demolition in extreme cases," Shifflett said.

If there is not a response to the lawsuit or if a defendant unsuccessfully challenges the lawsuit, Wayne County asks the court for title to the property as a remedy to abate the nuisance. The county will then title the property to the city of Westland through the Wayne County Land Bank so the city can complete the demolition of the property. The definition of nuisance for this program is fairly broad. "It might be blighted or maybe it (the building) isn't too bad, but there is garbage piled up," Shifflett said. "Or the building might be in disrepair outside. The whole point is that we as a city have to prove the house has become a nuisance." Part of making the case of a nuisance property can be an

excessive number of police runs to the home, he said. "Drug activity at a home can be part of it. Typically, that would be a house that is not well kept up," Shifflett said. "It all goes into a property being a nuisance." For handling 28 nuisance abatement cases over three years, the program has cost Westland \$5,120. "This is another great partnership between Wayne County and the city of Westland working together to improve the quality of our neighborhoods," Mayor William Wild said. "This partnership makes it easier and more cost-effective for the city to use resources that improve the quality of life for our residents."

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Franklin presents 'South Pacific'

The Franklin High School Players will present Rodger's and Hammerstein's *South Pacific* as their all-school musical Thursday through Sunday, March 18-21. *South Pacific* is the story of a young American Navy nurse who falls in love with a French planter during World War II. Leading roles are played by seniors Erin Roulier (Nellie Forbush), Justin White (Emile de Becque), Angelena Siciliano (Bloody Mary), Aaron York (Lt. Joe Cable) and David Roberts (Luther Billis). The student director is Katie Parisi; Erin Roulier and Nick Colling serve as business managers. Show times are 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. World War II veterans are invited to attend the Sunday performance at no charge. Franklin High School is at 31000 Joy Road in Livonia. To purchase tickets or for more information, call (734) 762-5186.

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Saying a prayer

An invitation from State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, led the Rev. Bob McDonald (left) to Lansing March 3 where he offered the invocation for the opening of the State Senate Session. Several times a year, each Senator has the responsibility to cover session's opening invocation themselves or invite a guest from their district to offer the invocation. McDonald is the pastor at Fair Haven Baptist Church in Westland where he has served his congregation since 1991. McDonald and his wife live in Garden City and have three adult children.

Hearing waived; drunken driving suspect headed to circuit court

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Westland podiatrist charged with seriously injuring a Canton Township woman while driving drunk in Plymouth Township waived his preliminary examination Friday morning in 35th District Court.

Meanwhile, the prosecution charged Jason N. Choos with an additional felony, related to injuries to the young son of Dawn Hengesbaugh, 40, who remains hospitalized in a coma.

Choos, who also lives in Canton, now faces two counts of causing a serious injury while driving drunk, one count of marijuana possession and one count of illegally possessing a pistol. District Judge Mike Gerou sent the case to Wayne County Circuit Court; Choos is to be arraigned there on Friday, March 26.

Choos, a member of a Westland podiatry practice, is accused of driving a Lincoln MKX into the rear of a Chevrolet Trailblazer driven by Hengesbaugh on the eve-

ning of Jan. 29.

Hengesbaugh's husband, Larry, and two children, a boy and a girl, were also in the Trailblazer. The crash occurred on Ann Arbor Road near I-275.

Police said Choos did not have a permit for the semi-automatic pistol found in the Lincoln. He is free on bond and required to submit to alcohol testing several times a day.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Hazardous waste event

A Household Hazardous Waste Event will be held 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 27, at the Redford Township Public Service Yard, 12200 Beech Daly, south of I-96.

Operated by Wayne County, the event is open to only residents of Wayne County and only household waste will be accepted. Proof of residency will be required.

For more information go to www.ci.livonia.mi.us.

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.

Baby Shower

The Wayne-Westland Corps of the Salvation Army is holding a Community Baby Shower

and Workshop for expectant or new moms 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, April 30, at the Salvation Army Center, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.

There will be food, prizes and gifts for all as well as a learning experience for moms and moms-to-be. To reserve a seat, call (734) 722-3660.

Pancake Breakfast

Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church is holding a Spring Fling Pancake Breakfast 8-11 a.m. Saturday, March 20, at the church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. The cost is \$5 per person.

Nominations sought for annual awards

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Winter hasn't officially ended, but it's time to start thinking about those people who go above and beyond in their business or volunteer in Westland.

Nominations are being taken for Westland's 2010 First Citizen, co-sponsored by the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and the Westland Chamber of Commerce, and Business Person of the Year, sponsored by the chamber.

The recipients, selected by a committee that includes the previous winner, will be honored at the Spring Awards Ceremony, which will be held Thursday, April 22, at Joy Manor.

Presented annually since 1986, First Citizen honors an individual for outstanding local volunteer community service. Nominees don't have to be Westland residents, just local volunteers. Those currently holding or seeking public office are ineligible for the award. Last year's recipient was Meriem Kadi, who was elected to the Westland council last year.

The Business Person of the Year, who must be a chamber member in good standing, must demonstrate excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession, have a history of staying power, innovation or positive response to adversity and participation in activities which promote economic development and/or

the general interest of the community.

The 2009 Business Person of the Year was Jeff Jueneman of the Jueneman Insurance Agency.

"We're looking for nominees and the awards ceremony is a great opportunity for networking," said Brookellen Swope, chamber president and CEO. "We do member recognition there, too."

The Spring Awards will be held 6-8:30 p.m. at Joy Manor. The cost is \$20 per person for open bar and appetizers. Nomination forms are available in the chamber newsletter or online at www.westland-chamber.com. Call (734) 326-7222 for more information.

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EDUCATION

Teachers put drama into silent reading

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In most cases, live drama has its basis in books, but it was the former that introduced ninth-grade students at John Glenn and Wayne Memorial high schools to the concept of sustained silent reading.

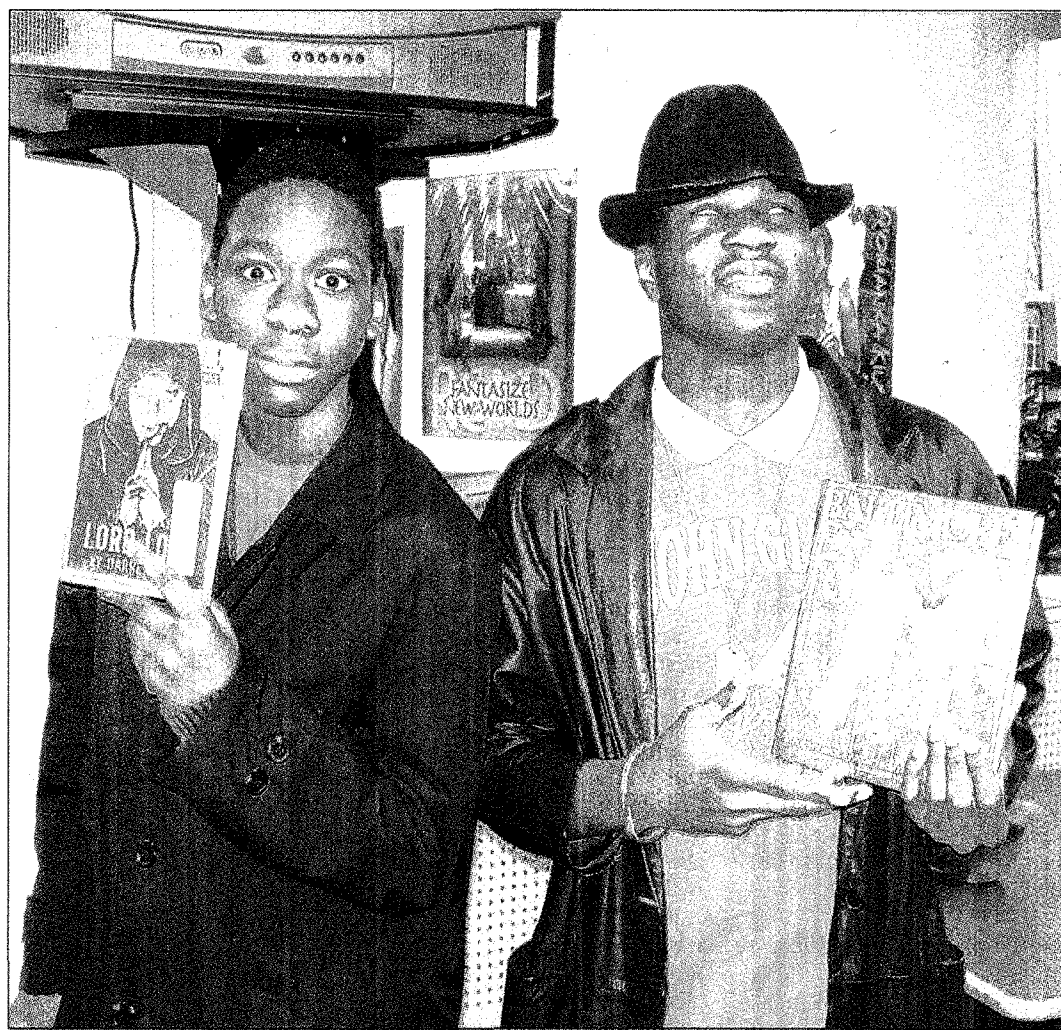
English teachers, media specialists and drama teachers at the two high schools worked together to provide the students with a visual introduction to 13 different genres of books available in the school libraries.

"We knew we had to get them motivated to read, we had to have mentors," said English teacher Wendy Grimm, who came up with the idea of providing skits about the different genres. "We thought it would be wonderful to bring in students to talk about their favorite genres."

Drama teachers Sheri Grove at John Glenn and Katie Sullivan at Wayne Memorial tapped the talent of their students to do the skits. The drama students' performances illustrated each genre, ranging from Harry Potter sharing his magical skills and Pippi Longstocking telling about classics to mystery men in black trench coats talking about the horror genre. There was even one about how to enjoy magazines.

Media specialists Pam Grabowski at Glenn and Catherine Diefenbacher at Wayne and their support staffs pulled hundreds of books based on a reading survey given to ninth-graders so "there were plenty of their favorite books to discuss," said Candy Lee, an English literacy consultant that worked with the teachers on the project.

According to Lee, Grimm



John Glenn mentors Adewali Dramala (left) and Daryl Shahid spooked ninth-graders into choosing some horror novels at the sustained silent reading kick-off..

came up with the kickoff idea and approached Vanessa Stafford, who headed up the program and served as kick-off coordinator, "and away it went."

"This awesome kickoff program took flight," she said. "We were concerned about how to get the kids into this. I think by modeling it to them, the kids hopped on board readily. The ninth-graders were engaged all hour and most left with a book in hand."

"We had more than 200 books checked out. It definitely was the best day ever for the library," Grimm said.

According to Lee, reading has "lost its way" with test preparations taking priority. However, studies have shown that students in a classroom with sustained silent reading score higher on standardized testing. A 2007 report, "To Read or Not to Read," by the National Endowment for the Arts, found that students who

read around 20 minutes a day scored around 70 percent on standardized tests. Those averaging 40 minutes scored 90 percent.

At Glenn, the program is called REAP (Read, Engage, Add Power). In Grimm's class, students silent read Wednesdays and Fridays.

"On Fridays, it's very calming, it's a nice wrapup, something to look forward to," she said. "I have students whip out their sports book, and if they



Angela Altimus, the lead mentor for Glenn's 12th-grade mentors, and Najib Aljumari do a little dance to encourage ninth-graders to read magazines.



Dressed as super heroes for the Wayne Memorial sustained reading kick-off are Cory Sheldon and Sheila Tanner.



Wayne Memorial student Jeremy Eccols strikes a familiar pose as Hamlet.

read something exciting, they pass it on."

Students also are blogging about their books on a site maintained and monitored by the media specialists.

"It's a very exciting program, and this was a great way to kick it off," she said. "It got them to buy in to it."

According to Lee, 10th-grade students think sustained silent

reading is great and some of the classes now do it for 30 minutes a week.

"Our jobs as coaches is to present programs to the teachers and have them take ownership and use them in their classrooms," Lee said. "They totally took over this and went for it."

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Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 27th

12:30 p.m. Sharp – Ages 3 & Under and Ages 4-6

12:45 p.m. – Ages 7-9 and Ages 10-12

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NCUA 2/10

Wright as rain: He carves out niche with PBS

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One of the most important lessons Alexander Wright has learned working as a free-lancer in the TV business is this: "You're only as good as your last job."

But Wright is pretty happy with the job he has now, working as an independent contractor producing a show called *Think Squad* for PBS.

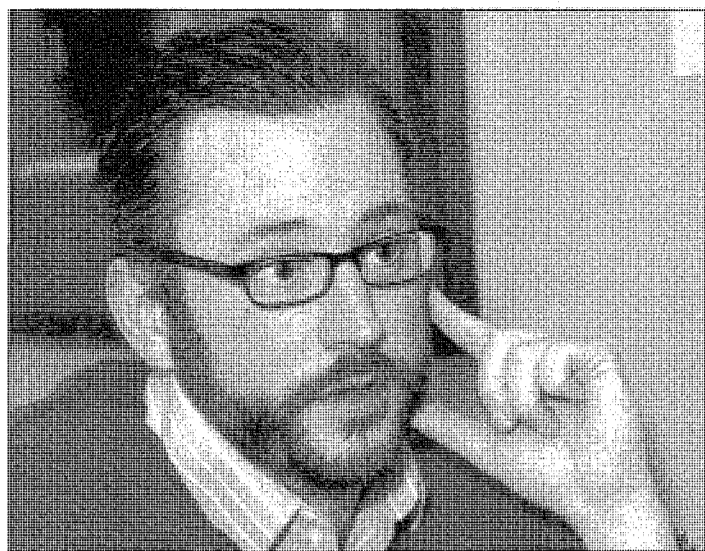
It's the latest stop in a career that started in film school at the University of Michigan and has included a variety of projects including a historical perspective on U-M football that led to a job with Fox Sports Detroit.

"Obviously, it feels good to see your name in the credits," said Wright, who graduated U-M with a degree in film and video and a second major in Italian language.

Wright, the son of Nancy and Mike Wright of Plymouth, got his start locally. As a youngster, he ushered at the Penn Theatre. At the University of Michigan, he studied under Plymouth screenwriter Jim Burnstein, the coordinator of the screenwriting program at U-M's Department of Screen Arts and Cultures. In fact, Wright was on duty at the Penn when the theater showed *Renaissance Man*, the feature film starring Danny DeVito for which Burnstein penned the screenplay.

Burnstein, according to Wright, "passed me around to be a gopher" for a variety of TV producers, allowing Wright to learn the ropes. Burnstein chuckles at that characterization, since one of the "gopher jobs" he helped Wright get was with Academy Award-winning filmmaker Sue Marx.

"(Wright) is a super smart guy, very creative and he's got this easy-going manner that



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alexander Wright, a 1994 graduate of Canton High School, is producing a science show, "Think Squad," for Detroit Public Television.



"Think Squad" actors Kelley Donnelly and Alexis Ackridge run through a scene.

allows him to really do anything behind the camera," Burnstein recalled. "He can produce, he can shoot, he can work with actors. He's got a very low-key persona that just makes you feel comfortable. You could see that even when he was doing college films."

Wright ended up at Detroit Public TV, where he produced largely documentaries, including the U-M football documentary, *Michigan Football*

Memories, the project Wright said "got me in the door" at Fox Sports Detroit. There, he worked on shows such as *Tigers Weekly* and *CCHA Access*, which detailed stories involving the Central Collegiate Hockey Association.

Think Squad, co-produced by Oliver Thornton (another Burnstein prodigy), whom Wright says writes all the scripts and does all the edits — "He's taught us everything

we know about the business, mostly the stuff you don't learn at school," Wright said with a smile — came across someone's desk at Detroit Public TV two years ago "waiting for the right champion."

Wright and Thornton watched PBS shows growing up. One they remembered was *The Bloodhound Gang*, a segment from the PBS show *3-2-1 Contact* about three young people who solved crimes, largely with the help of their knowledge of science. When *Think Squad* came along, Wright remembered that show.

"Detroit Public TV wanted to find a program that gets kids interested in science," Wright said. "We've been able to script a show that engages young people."

Think Squad is a diverse group of young people "committed to solving the science-based riddles plaguing their peers." The group works together to solve mysteries using scientific methods.

Wright, who grew up in Plymouth and now lives in Detroit, also wanted to use local talent for the show, grabbing Detroit-area actors to use in front of and behind the camera, rather than holding any sort of "cattle call."

"It's important for us to show kids you don't have to go to Los Angeles to find a job in science," Wright said. "They're doing really cool things right here."

Kelley Donnelly of Canton benefited from Wright's desire to cast local talent. The 14-year-old actress, who has worked with local groups the Spotlight Players and Forever After Productions, among others, saw an announcement on TV for the show, and went down to try out.

Donnelly, a Plymouth High School freshman who landed a

speaking role in Rob Reiner's *Flipped*, which premieres in September, earned one of the roles.

"Working with everyone was a ton of fun, and working in front of the camera was a fun experience," said Kelley, the daughter of Patrick and Marybeth Donnelly. "(Wright) was really nice. My character had to wear glasses, so I had to wear his, so there we were and neither of us could see. It was funny."

Wright found funding for *Think Squad* from the American Honda Association and AT&T. The first season

is on sort of hiatus right now because of the station's pledge drive. It returns March 26 and airs Fridays at 4:30 p.m. and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (completed episodes are available online at thinksquad.org). Soon, producers will turn their attention to finding funding for a second season.

"We're looking for partners who want to tell a story like this, a hometown story where we're employing local talent on both sides of the camera," Wright said. "We don't want all this hard work to go to waste."

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Web portal aims to reduce area's foreclosure rate

Western Wayne County homeowners facing foreclosure can find help through a new online Web portal designed to increase the number of people seeking assistance and reduce the number of foreclosures in southeast Michigan.

The new online web portal provides homeowners with one trusted source to turn to for help.

In 2009, there were more than 65,000 foreclosures in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Washtenaw counties.

Statistics show only about half of homeowners sought foreclosure prevention assistance.

Previously, many homeowners were unsure where to turn for help. Now, Southeast Michigan residents can go online to a source they can trust and start the process to obtain critical foreclosure prevention assistance. Homeowners also have the option to dial 2-1-1, a service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to start the process.

The efficient, online regional system, developed based on technology created by Wayne County, creates a simple process that will enable more homeowners to be served in a shorter period of time. It has the ability to track homeown-

2009 FORECLOSURE FACT SHEET

Foreclosure across the nation:

- There were more than 2.8 million foreclosure filings in the United States.
- Foreclosure filings increased 21 percent over 2008 and 120 percent over 2007.

Foreclosure Statewide:

- Michigan's 2009 foreclosure rate ranks eighth in the nation, with 118,302 foreclosure filings.
- 1 in every 38 housing units received a foreclosure filing.
- In 2009, foreclosure filings

increased 12 percent over 2008 and 36 percent over 2007.

- Michigan had the fifth highest foreclosure total.

Foreclosure in southeastern Michigan:

- There were 65,000 foreclosure filings in 2009, an increase of 40 percent over 2008.
- 1 in every 27 housing units in southeast Michigan received a foreclosure filing.
- Southeast Michigan accounted 55 percent of Michigan's 118,302

foreclosure filings.

- Homeowners saw their property value decline nearly 18 percent.

Foreclosure in Wayne County:

- Wayne County had the highest foreclosure rate in the state.
- 1 in every 26 housing units received a foreclosure filing.
- Wayne County led the state in total foreclosures, reporting 32,366 properties with foreclosure filings.

Source: RealtyTrac.com

ers through each stage of the process to ensure that people do not fall through the cracks. Additionally, it provides an easy way for homeowners to seek assistance, and creates a standardized approach to the delivery of foreclosure prevention assistance in the region.

The Web portal is the result of the work of The Southeast Michigan Regional Intervention and Neighborhood

Stabilization Collaborative, a regional collaboration of non-profits, government agencies

and attorneys. The group, convened and coordinated by United Way for Southeastern Michigan, was formed in 2008 and charged with developing a comprehensive, regional solution to the foreclosure crisis.

Residents who are at risk of foreclosure should go to www.fightmortgageforeclosurefinsc.org or dial 2-1-1 to obtain assistance.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.fightmortgageforeclosurefinsc.org.

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Book club a meeting of friends

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

They come looking for conversation. They love books and Redford Recreational Readers encourages sharing.

Redford Township District librarian Linda Pride selects a variety of memoirs and fiction with conflict to make sure discussions stay lively. Pride started the club in 2007 after taking part in a similar group at the Plymouth District Library where she was then working. She serves as moderator of the discussion.

Last Wednesday it was as if a group of friends had gathered to socialize. The conversation and cushy seating in the staff room felt comfortable, as if the meeting were held in Pride's home.

"I thought every library should have a book club," said Pride. "We have fun. I've read books I might not have otherwise and they've turned out to be good books. It's good to widen your horizons. I like books where you learn about different countries and cultures."

Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay was heavier reading than usual. The book is based on fact and takes place on the 60th anniversary of the 1942 roundup of Jews by French police in Paris. American journalist Julia Jarmond is researching and writing an article on this dark episode of World War II when she uncovers family secrets and the trials of young Sarah who was caught up in the raid.

One by one the avid readers wandered in. Elin Nygord, 84, was in a book club for 50 years until the location changed to Birmingham. She still plays bridge with some of the members at the Redford Community Center. Nygord's read 20 to 25 books in the last few months since stopping her piano lessons.

"I read a lot," said Nygord of Redford. "You can live different lives vicariously that are so different from your own."

Diane Hanks, a retired social worker from Detroit said, "the club forces me to read a book every month and I like knowing others opinions about it."

Redford Recreational Readers attracts primarily women of various ages and backgrounds. Kathleen Morgan of Redford is a registered nurse at Henry Ford Health System



Joan Elmouchi, Southfield; Megan Callaghan, Troy; and Kathleen Morgan, Redford, discuss literature at the Redford Library.

in Taylor. This was her third time. She also belongs to a downriver library book club.

"Redford is usually a good turnout and the discussion thoughtful. Linda's well prepared," said Morgan. "It's an eclectic choice of books. *Sarah's Key* is kind of a sad book about some of the tragedies during the Holocaust. We tend to forget. We need not forget."

Pride began the discussion by talking about the author. It is her first novel written in English. When she was growing up in France, de Rosnay had not heard about the roundup.

Irene Cavanaugh, a retired Detroit Public Schools teacher, "knew of the roundups in Europe."

Hanks, "never thought of France as being part of that." Nygord was surprised it was the French police. She thought it would be the Germans. Morgan's words ended this particular discussion. "They were under German occupation. It was kill or be killed."

The intensity of the evening proceeded with talk of a rotting corpse. Sobering, tragic, compelling, riveting were words used to describe the book at the end.

Megan Callaghan of Troy, one of the younger women at age 31, vowed to come again. This was her first time. She learned about the club from



Linda Pride of Oak Park moderates the discussion.

Hanks. The two formerly worked in foster care together in Redford.

"I read a lot and found the discussion interesting," said Callaghan.

Joan Elmouchi, a Southfield librarian, brought her friend Judy St. Armand for the first time about a year ago. Several of the participants knew each other.

"I've run groups and have been coming about a year," said Elmouchi. "I really enjoy it. It's social. No one

person dominates the discussion."

St. Armand of Farmington Hills liked "that chapters were short and stimulate thought."

"It's a good book club. The moderator is very prepared all the time," said St. Armand, a real estate appraiser.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening as they listened and participated in the discussion. Yvonne Cameron thought "the author accomplished her goal if the story was to create awareness. Cameron manages two elementary libraries in Wayne-Westland schools.

"I'm about books," said Cameron, who began coming last year after a friend told her about the book club. "I love it. There was less conflict about this book. Everyone seems to share the horror."

Grant Hayes of Redford was still reading the book so he didn't contribute to the discussion, but afterwards was anxious to finish. The retired machine operator likes to read.

"It's like traveling to different places," said Hayes. "You meet people you'd never meet in real life."

Redford Recreational Readers meet 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at the Redford Township District Library, 25320 W. Six Mile. For information, call Linda Pride at (313) 531-5960.

Easter activities planned for kids

Get your kids in mood for Easter with some very bunny activities being offered in Westland.

• Westland Civitan Bunny Brunch, sponsored by the Westland Civitan Club and Westland Parks and Recreation, will be held 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 27, at the Bailey Recreation Center.

The cost is \$3 for children 1-12 years and \$5 for ages 13 and older. All ages are welcome, but all children must have adult supervision.

Included is all-you-can-eat homemade, hot off the griddle pancakes with butter, syrup, breakfast sausage, juice, coffee, tea and milk. Besides the wonderful brunch, there will be a special visit by the Easter Bunny. Children are encouraged to make and wear an Easter bonnet or hat for their picture with the Easter Bunny. Bring your own camera to take photos.

For more information, call Donna Jensen at (734) 729-8075.

• The Westland Jaycees Easter Egg Scramble, co-sponsored by the Jaycees and Westland Parks and Recreation Department, is scheduled for 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 27, in Jaycee Park, at Wildwood and Hunter. The event is open to youngsters age 14 and younger.

For more information contact the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7620 or the Westland Jaycee Hotline at (734) 226-0400.

• Easter Delight Night at the Bailey Recreation Center 4:30-6 p.m. Monday, March 2, will give kids a chance to make Easter eggs and their very own Easter basket. Youngsters will decorate a basket and then make different types of Easter eggs. All supplies are included. The program is open to children 3-12 years old; children under 6 must be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$25 per child - \$5 payable to the City of Westland and \$20 payable to the teacher at the class.

The Westland Civitan Club has arranged for the Easter Bunny to visit briefly on his way to decorate his own eggs. Parents are encouraged to bring a camera, if you would like pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Pre-register by March 25 at the Bailey Center is required. Supplies for your projects will not be available, if you do not pre-register.

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March 14 or is that 3.14159...?

We've all heard that nothing in life is constant. Except change, it's inevitable. But millions of mathematicians would disagree. Pi, the fundamental mathematical constant proves that change isn't all it's cracked up to be. So pull out your slide rule and join in the 22nd annual celebration of National Pi Day on March 14, (3.14), of course.

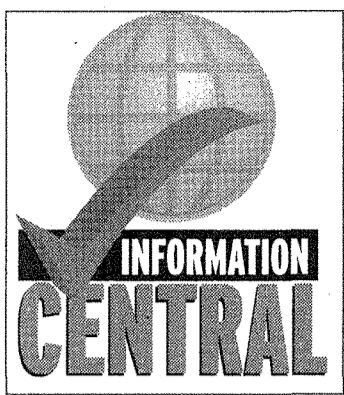
Created by physicist Larry Shaw in 1988, the first Pi Day was held at San Francisco's Exploratorium. Today, celebrations extend around the world with people of all ages celebrating Pi and its role in the world.

Webster's Dictionary defines Pi as "the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter." Pi is always the same number, no matter which circle you use to compute it.

Pi is a very old number. According to mathematical historians, the Egyptians and the Babylonians knew about the existence of the constant ratio Pi, although the exact number, with all of its decimals, was out of reach. They had figured out that it was a little bigger than 3, with the Babylonians approximating it at 3 1/8 (3.125), and the Egyptians a little higher at 4*(8/9)^2 (about 3.160484).

Pi is an infinite decimal unlike 3, 9.876, and 4.5, which have a finite numbers to the right of the decimal point. Some infinite decimals do have patterns - for instance, the infinite decimal .333333... has all 3's to the right of the decimal point, and in the number .123456789 123456789123456789... the sequence 123456789 is repeated.

However, although many mathemati-



cians have tried to find it, no repeating pattern for Pi has been discovered. In fact, in 1768 Johann Lambert proved that there cannot be any such repeating pattern.

Pi's non-repetitive sequence of numbers lends itself to a lot of fun for Pi enthusiasts. The North American record holder for memorizing a list of Pi non-repetitive numbers is Marc Umile. Mr. Umile holds the title after memorizing Pi to 15,214 decimal places on July 21, 2007, in just 3 hours and 14 minutes.

If all this talk about constants interests you, why not pick up a copy of Petr Beckmann's "A History of Pi" or David Blatner's "The Joy of [pi]." And for that budding mathematician in the family, Cindy Neuschwander's "Sir Cumference and the Dragon of Pi: A Math Adventure" and Johnny Ball's "Why Pi?" may answer some questions.

So for all of you who would appreciate if things stayed the same for even just one day, it's your time to celebrate and enjoy a little Pi (or pie). Oh, on another

note, March 14, is also the birthday of Albert Einstein, perhaps the name is familiar?

If it's getting to late to stop off at your local card shop to pick up something for your favorite someone in celebration of the day, no problem. Send a free Pi e-card. Visit www.piday.org/ecards and select from several styles. And there's no doubt that your someone will be happy you remembered.

For more information about Pi or any of an infinite number of topics, visit the Public Library of Westland or call the Reference Desk at (734) 326-6123. You can also reach us online at www.westlandlibrary.org or become our fan on Facebook.

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 www.westlandlibrary.org or www.everyonesreadinginfo.org for more information. Enter our drawing to win tickets for the Scott Turow Author Appearance on April 14.

Adult Book Discussion Group: 7 p.m. March 16

Join us as we discuss Diane Ackerman's "The Zookeeper's Wife."

When Germany invaded Poland, Stuka bombers devastated Warsaw and the city's zoo along with it. With most of their animals dead, zookeepers Jan and Antonina Zabinski began smuggling Jews into empty cages. Another dozen "guests" hid inside the Zabinskis' villa, emerging after dark for dinner and socializing. Jan, active in the Polish resistance, kept ammunition buried in the elephant enclosure and stashed explosives in the animal hospital. Meanwhile, Antonina kept her unusual household afloat, caring for both its human and its animal inhabitants - otters, a badger, hyena pups, lynxes. Copies will be available at the Reference Desk. All are welcome.

Documentary Movie Viewing: "Capitalism: A Love Story" at 6:30 p.m. (earlier time) March 17

Join us for a viewing of the documentary film "Capitalism: A Love Story." This film examines the disastrous impact of corporate dominance on the everyday lives of Americans (and by default, the rest of the world). From middle America, to the halls of power in Washington, to the global financial epicenter in Manhattan, Michael Moore takes us into the homes of ordinary people whose lives have been turned upside-down by corporate greed and the politicians who allowed it to happen. With humor and

outrage, this film explores uncharted territory to answer the question he's posed throughout his filmmaking career: Where's our money? Everyone's welcome.

Open Mic: 7-8:30 p.m. March 18, teens and adults

Open Mic continues rolling through the winter months with its mix of singers, singer-songwriters, poets, storytellers, and performers. All types of artists are welcome. Singer-songwriter John Latini emcees.

Friday Night Movie Madness: 7 p.m. March 19

This week's selection is a "A Serious Man." This is a black comedy centered on Larry Gopnik, a Midwestern professor who watches his life unravel when his wife prepares to leave him because his inept brother won't move out of the house. No registration is required. Rated R. This is an after-hours program. Library doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Bagels and Book Discussion: 10 a.m. March 20

Stop by the library for a bagel and discuss Scott Turow's "Presumed Innocent." Copies of the book are available at the reference desk. This is an Everyone's Reading program.

New!! Urban Fiction Book Club: 7 p.m. March 22

This month's selection to be dis-

cussed is "The Cartel" by Ashley and JaQuavis. Copies will be available at the Reference Desk.

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.

Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the Library: Every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m., Everyone welcome. Demo: Cable Cast On. Materials provided. Crocheters are welcome, too.

Chess Group: 7-8:45 p.m. every Thursday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday 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 Marilyn Kwik, 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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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Crafting at the Kirk
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 3

Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Are you someone who enjoys crafting but find it hard to set aside the time? Feel free to join other crafters at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church the first Saturday of each month to work on your projects.

YMCA Mom-2-Mom Sale
Time/Date: 2-5 p.m., Sunday, March 21. Early bird admission is at 1 p.m.
Location: Livonia YMCA, 14255 Stark Rd., just north of I-96 in Livonia
Details: Admission is \$1 and early bird admission is \$2. Large item room; gently used children's clothing. Event proceeds to benefit the YMCA Strong Kids program.

12-hour Crop event
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday, March 20
Location: Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt, north of Ford, Garden City
Details: Garden City High School Project Graduation is sponsoring the cropping fund-raiser. The cost is \$30 per person and includes food and drinks.

Toastmasters
Location: Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club meets every Thursday at 6:45 P.M. in the lower level of the Bailey Recreation Center, located behind the Westland City Hall on Ford between Wayne Road and Newburgh.
Details: Toastmasters provides

a supportive environment where members can overcome the fear of speaking in public. The membership is a diverse group from different walks of life.

Contact: For information, call Bill at (734) 306-3980 or Curt at (734) 525-8445.

Open House
Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 16,

Location: Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Come meet the teachers, tour the school, learn about the educational programs, and have refreshments. Programs available include Parent-Tots, young 3's, 3- and 4-year-olds, and enrichment for 4-year-olds.

Contact: (734) 326-0078

Trainorama Extra 2010
Time/Date: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday, March 21

Location: Costick Activities Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Sponsored by the Redford Model Railroad Club. A special flea market for train buffs of all ages featuring scale model railroad equipment and supplies (new and used), toy trains (new and antique), plus a wide variety of railroad oriented antiques and collectibles (lanterns, dining car china and silverware, signs, paintings, station clocks, locomotive builder's plates, old train schedules, old railroad stock certificates, etc.) Admission \$5; children under 12 free with paid adult admission.

Contact: (313) 565-1027 or (734) 953-2546

Fish Dial-A-Ride
Location: Garden City, Livonia and Westland

Details: Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive.

Contact: Call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Earth Angels
Details: Earth Angels, a children's



Wish You Were Here

Diana Ronewicz (from left), Marco Salinas, reservations manager, and Linda Bodnovits pose with their Garden City Observer for a photograph, taken by Linda's husband Steve, while they vacationing in Cancun, Mexico for midwinter break. "We enjoyed the sun, even though it wasn't out very much, it was just great to get away," said Linda Bodnovits. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226 or by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

entertainment/performance nonprofit group composed of kids ages 9 - 16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There's opening for girls ages 9 - 11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys, ages 9 - 12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare.
Contact: www.earthangelsontour.org or by e-mail to eangel1986@comcast.net

TOPS 869 meetings
Time/date: Mondays, weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m.
Location: Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.
Details: The group is for people age 18 and older.
Contact: The group which meets on Mondays is for people age 18 and older.

American Legion Post 251
Time/date: 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month

Location: 1217 Merriman Road, between Avondale and Palmer, Westland.
Details: All veterans, male and female with a honorable discharge are welcome to join.
Contact: www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607

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

ORGANIZATIONS

Friends of Eloise
Time/date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December)
Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.
Contact: Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918

Writing Group

Time/date: 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month
Location: Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne
Details: The Story Circle Network is made up of women who want to explore their lives and souls through life-writing, writing that focuses on personal experience through memoirs and autobiographies, in diaries, journals and personal essays. Participants should bring a notebook or laptop computer to each meeting to spend some time writing, and for those who are comfortable doing so, sharing their writing. Membership in Story Circle's National Network is optional. Participation in the group is free.
Contact: www.storycircle.org or send an e-mail to sheptry@yahoo.com

TOPS M128
Time/date: 7 p.m. Mondays
Location: Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, at Hunter, Westland
Contact: Pat Strong at (734) 326-3539 or Mary Lowe at (734) 729-6879

TOPS 869
Time/date: Mondays, weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting

at 6:15 p.m.
Location: Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.
Details: The group is for people age 18 and older.
Contact: The group which meets on Mondays is for people age 18 and older.

Garden City Democratic Club
Time/date: 7 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (September through June)
Location: Room 5 of the Maplewood Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City
Contact: Billy Pate at (734) 427-2344

Citizens for Peace
Time/date: 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month
Location: Unity of Livonia Church on Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia
Details: The group is dedicated to working for creation of a U.S. Department of Peace. All are welcome.
Contact: Colleen Mills at (734) 425-0079

In Harmony
Time/date: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays
Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland
Details: For men interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting
Contact: call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal

Veteran's Haven
Location: Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne.
Details: Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays.

Silver Strings Dulcimer
Time/date: 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month
Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Details: Musicians and listeners are welcome to stop by and visit a traditional music jam. Acoustic instruments include hammered and mountain dulcimer, guitar, banjo, fiddle, harmonica, concertina, autoharp, recorder, pennywhistle, ukulele and upright bass.

Contact: (734) 482-2902, http://geocities.com/ssdsociety

Academy of Westland 2010-2011 Open Enrollment
April 12-April 27, 2010
Applications available at, and must be submitted to, Academy of Westland 300 Henry Ruff Rd. Westland, MI 48186
Lottery, if necessary, May 3, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at Academy of Westland at above address

Academy of Inkster 2010-2011 Open Enrollment
April 12-April 27, 2010
Applications available at, and must be submitted to, Academy of Inkster 28612 Avondale Inkster, MI 48141
Lottery, if necessary, May 3, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at Academy of Inkster at above address

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 3/30/2010 at 1:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of:
1372 Amanda Pittman boxes, tv, sofa
1402 Raul Unzueta boxes, totes, lawn mower
1462 Rhonda Davis boxes, bags, totes
2056 Jane Hawkins boxes, pictures, lamp
2062 Ronald Francis bags, totes, pictures
2214 Lisa Ouellette grill, stove, refrigerator
2336 Layne Williams boxes, totes, toys

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48183 (734)479-5442 3/30/2010 at 10:00 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of:
014 Willie Hopson GMC 250 VIN 1GDEG25KOK7506943
128 Mark Fairall boxes, mattress, box-spring
130 John Cairns boxes, totes, shelves
143 Justin Ebaugh monitor, computer, boxes
313 Christina Koliba bags, totes, dresser
404 Steven Niebizdowski boxes, bike, tv
513 Brandiss Taylor boxes, chairs
538 Salime Werdene boxes, bags, dresser
715 James Hipshire sofa, dresser, tv
958 Jason Faraj boxes, bags, totes
1115 Brian Kenney sofa, mattress, box-spring

Abandoned vehicle auction: 03/20/2010 10am Sparks Auto and Towing, 31797 Block Street Garden City MI
1. 1997 Oldsmobile 1G3NL52T1VG321904
2. 2000 Hyundai KMHC35G7YU032461
3. 1993 Nissan 1N4GB32H7PC770076
4. 2001 Pontiac 1G2WK52J01F146781
5. 2003 Pontiac 1G2NW52E53M687892
6. 1985 Oldsmobile 1G3GK47A8FR329659
7. 1995 Cadillac 1G6KY5291SV817888
8. 2000 Dodge 2B7KB31Y21K502128

CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
REGULAR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 17, 2010
The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting scheduled for March 17, 2010 has been cancelled due to the lack of agenda items
The next regularly scheduled Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be held on April 21, 2010 in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI at 5:30 p.m.

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelham Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 (313) 292-9730 3/30/2010 at 11:00 am Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of:
1008 Bobby Revis boxes, TV, dresser
2009 Danny Tittle Jr bags, dresser, TV
3031 Christina Cooper boxes, bags, dresser
3042 Erma Austin boxes, dresser, chair
3050 John F Zacchi boxes, bags, sofa
3064 Andrew Jones boxes, bags, washer
4001 Sharon Shaw boxes, TV, dresser
4053 Jennifer Ireland boxes, filing cabinet, tires
5002 Hope Popour boxes, totes, chairs
5003 Edwin Omei dresser, boxes, snow blower
5106 George Bojarski boxes, totes, chairs
6009 David Baldwin boxes, bags, desk
6080 Donald Daigle boxes, totes, TV
6097 Breanne Evans boxes, bags, vacuum
7064 Marcel Hunt boxes, dresser, TV
9078 Terrance Vassarwest stove, exercise equipment
9090 Felicia Bachman boxes, bags, table

Cherry Hill School of Performing Arts 2010-2011 Open Enrollment
April 12-April 27, 2010
Applications available at, and must be submitted to, Cherry Hill School of Performing Arts 28500 Avondale Inkster, MI 48141
Lottery, if necessary, May 3, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at Cherry Hill School of Performing Arts at above address

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc. will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 3650 Enterprise Dr. Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 441-3117 3/30/2010 at 12:00pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of:
B065 Patrick Spangler boxes, totes, microwave
B104 Rhonda Houston bags, totes, washer
B128 Dwain Puryear bags, boxes, totes
B152 Trina Moore boxes, tools, totes
B185 Tabita Latham boxes, dresser, totes
B273 Rene Scott boxes, totes, table
B369 LaMarr Holley bags
D045 Jacqueline Roberts boxes, totes, chairs
E016 Minnie Monson boxes, bags, dresser
F014 Sturge Moreland boxes, bags, bike
F047 Monica Garcia boxes, bags, sofa

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID
Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland, 36601 Ford Rd., Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before April 1, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. for the following (no exceptions will be made for late filings):
Overband Crack Sealing
Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, 48185, or at www.cityofwestland.com. Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Kevin Buford, DPS Director at (734) 467-7906. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.
William Gabriel
Controller



Hey, kids! Win Tigers tickets

Are you a young person who goes above and beyond to make your neighborhood, school, community or family better?

If this is you, tell us your story in 500 words or less and you could win four tickets to an upcoming Tigers baseball game.

The *Observer & Eccentric* and *Hometown Newspapers* will select one winning essay a month during the regular baseball season (April-September). The winner will receive four game tickets, one Hot & Ready Little Caesars pizza and an autographed Detroit Tigers item. In addition, your name will be announced in pre-game festivities at Comerica Park.

E-mail your essay to: cbjordan@hometownlife.com with the subject line: PAWS for

Applause. Or mail it to:

Attn: Choya Jordan
Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers/Hometown
Weeklies

615 W. Lafayette Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226

Game tickets to be awarded to essay winners include: Sunday, April 11 (Detroit vs. Cleveland); Sunday, May 2 (Detroit vs. Los Angeles Angels); Sunday, June 13 (Detroit vs. Pittsburgh); Sunday, July 11 (Detroit vs. Minnesota); Sunday, Aug. 22 (Detroit vs. Cleveland) and Sunday, Sept. 12 (Detroit vs. Baltimore).

The winning essays along with a photo of the winner will be published in the *Observer & Eccentric* and *Hometown Newspapers*.

Be cautious on reporting ex-spouse to IRS

Q: Dear Rick: I recently read if you turn someone into the IRS for failing to pay their taxes you could get a reward. My ex-spouse hid some money from the IRS and didn't report it on our tax return. We have been divorced for about a year. I wouldn't mind turning him in and collecting on the reward. Is anything that I should be concerned with and can you tell me what I have to do to collect the reward?

A: The IRS has a program that allows informants to receive up to 15 percent of the amount of the tax that has been underpaid.

In order to begin the process, you need to contact the IRS through the Web site at www.irs.gov or the fraud hotline (800) 829-0433.

In order to prevent someone from arbitrarily contacting the IRS with bogus claims, you must provide a variety of information when you contact the hotline or when you complete the form online. The informa-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

tion includes details about the fraud and the individuals involved.

Although the information — as to the name of the informant — is kept private, there may be some issues that you have to take into consideration before you decide to contact the IRS. You mentioned that you and your ex-husband filed joint tax returns. If you signed those tax returns you could have some liability to the IRS if they assess taxes and penalties. You need to be cautious. If you think you may have some liability you may want to seek the assistance of an attorney before you contact the IRS.

I recommend that people file honest and fair tax returns. I have no problem with people turning in tax cheats because when people aren't paying their fair share, it costs you and me

more. However, there is a big difference between someone who makes an honest mistake on their tax returns and someone who is cheating. Because consequences of falsely accusing someone of cheating on their tax returns can come back to haunt you, be sure to proceed with caution.

Q: Dear Rick: For the long-term growth investor making their first investment, do you like the T. Rowe Price Spectrum Growth Fund? I know you have liked this fund in the past and am curious if you still do?

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Good luck!

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

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SECTION B
(WL)

Brad Emmons, editor, (313) 222-6851
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Crusaders return from desert 9-0, B2

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Patriots celebrate 1st district title in 34 years

Stun Stevenson in overtime, 60-57



Franklin's Nate Coleman, who had 15 points and 12 rebounds, is all smiles following the Patriots' 60-57 overtime win over host Stevenson in the Class A district final.

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Nate Coleman is known for his exploits on the football field, but Friday night the Livonia Franklin senior had the basketball game of his life.

The 6-foot-3, 300-pound senior center scored 15 points and grabbed 12 rebounds as the Patriots ended a 34-year drought by winning the Class A district title over host Livonia Stevenson, 60-57, in overtime.

The Patriots, 10-13 overall, move into Monday's regional semifinal at Detroit Cass Tech to face Detroit Denby. (Game time is 6 p.m.)

"I'm completely elated," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "We wanted it so bad and I realize

Please see PATRIOTS, B3



Franklin players and coach Jeremy Rheault hoist their first Class A district trophy in over 34 years. It was the fourth title in school history following Friday's dramatic 60-57 overtime win over host Stevenson.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SIDELINES

Whitfield invite

The 19th Whitfield Invitational men's gymnastics meet will be Saturday-Sunday, March 20-21, at the University of Michigan's Cliff Keen Arena.

The invitational is in memory of Jason Whitfield, a former Olympic-bound gymnast from Westland who

died in a motorcycle accident in September 1991 in Iowa City, Iowa.

After his death, the Whitfield Foundation was set up to award scholarships to male gymnasts who are pursuing similar dreams.

The foundation has awarded \$168,500 to 63 male gymnasts. Among this year's recipients, each receiving \$3,000, are Jake Bateman (Colorado), Chris Brooks (Oklahoma), Tim McNeill (California) and Wasef Burbar (Illinois).

There will be two competition sessions Saturday — Level 7, 8:50 a.m.; and levels 8-10, 12:45 p.m.

Action resumes Sunday with three more sessions — Level 4, 8:50 a.m.; Level 5, 12:20 p.m.; and Level 6, 4:20 p.m.

Admission is \$7 (for adults and seniors) and \$5 (students ages 6-18). Children under 5 will be admitted free.

Eldridge mat champ

Livonia native Doug Eldridge, a senior captain and wrestler for Novi-Detroit Catholic Central High, captured the state championship at 145 pounds with a 6-5 decision over Andrew Morse of Lowell in the MHSAA Division I individual finals held March 6 at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Eldridge reached the final with a 9-4 decision over Steve Sattler of New Baltimore Anchor Bay and a 7-2 quarterfinal victory over Augie Mata of Holland West Ottawa. In the first round, Eldridge won by technical fall (15-0) over Chad Hughes of Port Huron Northern.

Eldridge also helped the Shamrocks earn the Division I team title, Feb. 26-27, at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena, by capturing all three of his matches. He finished the year with a 51-8 overall record.

Ocelots fourth seed

The 31-1 Schoolcraft College women's basketball team will be the fourth seed and open the NJCAA Division II Women's Basketball Championships at 5 p.m. Thursday in East Peoria, Ill., against the winner of Wednesday's first-round game between Bismarck State (N.D.) College, 25-6, and Pima (Ariz.) Community College, 25-7.

The top seed is defending champion Kirkwood (Iowa), 34-1 overall.



Franklin's Chelsea Williams, playing against Detroit Cody in Tuesday's Class A regional semifinal, had a team-high 16 points in Thursday's regional final against Detroit Pershing. The Patriots fell, 74-52.

Tourney ride ends

Lightning-quick Doughgirls oust Franklin, 74-52

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Speed kills.

Just ask the Livonia Franklin girls basketball team following Thursday's 74-52 Class A regional championship setback to Detroit Pershing in a game played at Livonia Ladywood.

The Patriots, making their third straight regional appearance, fell victim to an 18-0 Doughgirl run during the final 4:59 of the opening half and couldn't recover.

Franklin, last year's state Class A runner-up, ends its season at 18-6 overall.

Pershing, the Public School League runner-up, improved to 20-2 overall and moves on to the state quarterfinals beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday against Inkster at the University of Detroit's Calihan Hall.

Franklin, which lost top rebounder and second leading scorer Sennecca Scott to an ankle injury late in the first quarter, managed to open up a 20-13 lead with 5:14 remaining in the half on a basket by Amanda Nixon.

But the cat-quick Doughgirls then came out of a Franklin timeout and went on an 18-0 run to take a 31-20 halftime lead.

"I just told them we had to pick up the intensity," Pershing coach Shawn Hill said. "We were playing laid-back. We were playing like we didn't want to be here. I told them to pick it up and my guards responded. We have a few girls hurt. We're banged up a little bit, but they pulled it out.

"We're going to play Doughgirl basketball. That's what we call it. We got up and down the floor and that's what we want. We wanted to have a track meet."

Turnovers were a big problem for the Patriots throughout the game. They committed a total of 34.

"I think my girls thought they had a lead and they just expected this team (Pershing) to stop because they had the lead," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "And all they did was punch us in the nose. We went down and we didn't get up. Sennecca turned her ankle and we just couldn't get it back together to get in the game."

Franklin had trouble answering the bell in the third quarter as Pershing went on a 23-11 spurt to open up a 54-31 advantage.

"That press was tenacious and we just couldn't handle the pressure," McCall said. "We didn't get rid of the ball before

they set the trap. It wasn't our best performance, but they're a good team. They're fast, they're strong. They're a good team."

Marliss Braxton led the Doughgirls and all scorers with 24 points. Dorina Barrett added 19, while Saneer Shearer contributed 17.

Two juniors led the Patriots in scoring, with point guard Chelsea Williams notching 16 and forward Amanda Borieo adding 13.

After getting her ankle taped, Scott came back in second half, but had limited mobility. She finished with four points.

Senior forward Brittany Milican added eight points, while senior guard Nicole Emery exited with five fouls and five points in the final quarter.

"We had to get them in a half-court game," said McCall, who has guided the Patriots to 59-15 record in three seasons. "We didn't want to get into a full-court game. We couldn't match up outside. They just forced us to pick the ball up high. We were picking up our dribble at the half court. They did a good job of keeping us off our game."

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Stevenson snaps Chargers' season-long stranglehold

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The third time didn't prove to be a charm, but the fourth finally did.

Livonia Stevenson broke its season-long boys basketball hex against rival Livonia Churchill with a convincing 64-45 triumph in Wednesday's Class A district semifinal.

The Spartans, who improved to 16-6 overall, returned Friday on their

BOYS HOOPS

same home floor to face 9-13 Livonia Franklin. (See related story).

Senior guard Bobby Naubert scored a game-high 29 points as Stevenson cooled off one of the area's hottest teams.

Churchill, fresh from its conquest of winning four straight playoff games and earning its first-ever KLA

championship, shot just 30.1 percent from the floor (19-of-63) against the Spartans' suffocating zone defense.

Stevenson also contained Churchill's leading scorer Adam Bedell, limiting the 6-foot-6 senior center to 17 points.

"After losing the first three to Churchill we had to do something differently," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "Last year in the district we came out and played a zone. I felt like that was our best chance to win tonight and

hopefully they wouldn't beat us from the outside. Fortunately they didn't shoot the ball very well and we were able to hold Bedell down to the best of our ability."

Both teams got off to a slow start as Stevenson led 9-6 after one quarter, but one early indicator was that Bedell went scoreless.

"He's such a tough player," Allie said.

Please see SEMIFINAL, B2

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SEMIFINAL FROM PAGE B1

"For us to hold him to zero in the first quarter is a testament to the work ethic of our kids. We tried to stay within the game plan, and for the most part we did. But when he (Bedell) catches the ball in the post, he's tough to stop."

Stevenson led 26-21 at half-time as junior guard CJ. Mwila capped the second quarter with a three-pointer with only seven seconds left.

Naubert, a 5-10 senior, then took over in the third period as Stevenson gained command with a 20-10 spurt. He tallied nine of his points during that stretch as Stevenson increased its lead to 46-31.

"I don't think Bobby is going to let us lose on our home floor," Allie said. "He's not going to end his career at Stevenson. I'm proud of him and proud of the entire team. Bobby really stepped it up tonight and showed why he's the best guard in this league."

Mwila chipped in with 15 points, while senior Kyle Bambach added 11 for the Spartans, who shot 58 percent from the field (18-of-31) and 67.4 percent from the foul stripe (21-of-31).

"We're known for shooting the ball well," Allie said. "The past couple weeks we haven't done that, but tonight we were getting contributions from different guys from the three-point line (seven total) and it was a factor in the game. It really helped separate us and it made the game easier to coach."

"CJ was phenomenal in terms of playing his role for the team tonight. I thought he was a great team player. What people don't realize is that he's an excellent rebounder and he can really break pressure well and find the open man. He did an excellent job tonight."

Senior forward D'Juan Cooks contributed 10 for the

Chargers, while junior guard Raynord Allen contributed nine.

But it wasn't the Chargers' night all the way around.

"They were collapsing on Adam, so we needed some guys to step up and make some shots," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "The numbers say it all - 1-for-18 (from three-point range). They contested every shot and we just didn't knock'em down."

"We were ready. We knew he (Allie) was going to throw something at us. We worked on their 1-2-2 (zone defense). We know what that defense does. They just executed their defense better than we executed our offense. It was one of those nights where we couldn't do anything right offensively."

Churchill, the Kensington Conference and overall KLAAs champion, ends its most successful season since 1976 with a 12-9 overall record.

"We were 5-0 against the city during the regular season," Solak said. "We won two championships that have never been won. They're champions. That's the bottom line. They (Stevenson) got us tonight. They deserved it and played better than us. But we can't forget the fact that for two weeks there that we did some incredible things here. These kids deserve to remember that they're champions. No one can take that away from them."

Stevenson, meanwhile, will be the favorite on Friday, but Allie isn't buying it despite the fact that the Spartans defeated Franklin earlier this season by a 72-56 count.

"We played Franklin in December and they're a completely different team," Allie said. "Coach (Jeremy) Rheault has them playing good basketball at the right time. We have to make sure to come out, stay focused and play tough for 32 minutes."

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National champs

The newly-formed Allegro! synchronized masters team recently captured a gold medal at the U.S. National Synchronized Skating Championships held recently in Minneapolis, Minn. Team members include (top row, from left): Kathy MacMillan, Farmington Hills; Lindsey Hale, Trenton; Jeannine Smith, South Lyon; Pam Weber, Ann Arbor; Lucy French, Plymouth; Diane Neafsey, Northville; Christopher Klaff, Farmington Hills; Liz Mace, Brighton; Kim Asbury, Ann Arbor; Elise Metric, Trenton; Carolyn Crabtree, Rochester; assistant coach Nikki LaBelle, South Lyon; (bottom row, from left) head coach Carrie Brown, Livonia; Mary Moss, Allen Park, Karen Caicco, New Hudson, Kim Hayes, Northville; Marjorie Bryen, Farmington Hills; Paige Perry, Farmington; Amanda Vidusic, Brownstown Township; and Erin MacDonald-Behrend, Trenton.

Franklin swoops past Eagles, gain 1st district final since '82

BY BRAD EMONS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

BOYS HOOPS

You have go all the way back to the Bicentennial year - 1976 - to document the last time Livonia Franklin won Class A district boys basketball title.

Although 34 years removed, the Patriots put themselves in position Wednesday night to end the drought with a convincing 50-34 semifinal victory over Redford Thurston in the Livonia Stevenson district.

The Patriots, who improved to 9-13 overall, got a game-high 19 points and four rebounds from senior guard Andy McCaffery.

Senior guard Mike Gadsby added 14 points and six assists as Franklin moved into Friday's championship game against host Stevenson. (See related story.) It was the first time the Patriots have played for a district championships since 1982.

Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault credited his team's win to "execution."

"The guys were focused," he said. "The passing and catching was better, along with the ball movement. We were able to move it, get into the gaps and get to the rim."

Gadsby nailed three of his four triples on the night during the opening quarter as Franklin jumped out to a 17-6 advantage.

"We gave up some 'threes,'" Thurston coach Brian Bates said. "He (Gadsby) made some when he was open, and he made some with a hand in his face. I thought Franklin played well tonight."

The Patriots increased their lead to 28-12 at halftime and pushed it up to 20 during the third

period before coasting home.

Sophomore forward Max Shamus and senior center Nate Coleman combined for 13 rebounds. "We wanted to defend the drive," Rheault said. "We wanted to stop them from getting second attempts, but we didn't do a very good job early. And I was pretty irritated about that. But then I really think the rebounding improved a ton. We took a timeout, we discussed it, and it really changed the game offensively for us. We started getting second chances, and then we stopped them from getting second opportunities. I thought that was an early big key that pushed us ahead."

Thurston made only 12-of-45 shots from the floor (26.6 percent) and just 5-of-13 from the foul line (38.4 percent). The Eagles committed 16 turnovers.

"Obviously we didn't shoot the ball very well," Thurston coach Brian Bates said. "It all starts with shooting. If we make some 'threes,' they have to come out a little bit. We didn't make them, so they didn't have to come out of that zone (defense). It was hard for us to penetrate it."

Seniors Michael Berrien and Troy Bell tallied nine and eight points, respectively for the Eagles, who entered the district play winning five of their last six. Austin Miller added seven points.

"We'll start preparing for next year," said Bates, whose team finished 8-13 overall.

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Westside Christian nips Warriors, 67-66

The chances were there, but like too many times this season, the Lutheran High Westland boys basketball team had a difficult time taking advantage.

The Warriors watched their second-half rally fall agonizingly short in falling 67-66 to Detroit Westside Christian Academy in a Class D district semifinal played at Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

Robert Davis topped Westside with a game-high 32 points, while Micah Saunders added 14.

Gage Flanery topped Lutheran Westland with 27 points, while Austin Baglow and Marc Rosin added 12 and 11, respectively.

"This was a tough loss, obviously, because we had our chances to win at the end, but just came up a bit short," said Lutheran Westland coach Doug Haller, whose team finished 11-10 overall. "Turnovers and transition baskets really hurt us in the end. It was a great season for us and the boys played extremely hard in the final game and all season long."

The Warriors trailed 16-14 margin after one quarter, but

DISTRICT WRAP

saw that grow to seven at half-time as Westside posted a 25-20 scoring edge in the second period.

Haller's team came storming back during the third quarter and made a game of it as they outscored Westside 20-15 to trail by only two at 56-54 with eight minutes remaining.

Unfortunately, the Warriors never did sustain the upper hand in the final frame and fell by one at the end.

Westside Christian, which advanced to face host Inter-City for the district crown on Friday, improved to 11-10 overall.

INTER-CITY 69, HURON VALLEY 41: In the Class D district semifinals Wednesday, host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (12-9) got a game-high 27 points from Tyler Barber to oust Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (9-10).

Daniel Gozalka and John VanHouten, who finished with 15 and 10 points, respectively, for the victorious Chargers, who led 33-23 at halftime.

Bryan Gruenewald scored 16 points for Huron Valley.

Crusaders beat rain, stop St. Joseph, 6-0

COLLEGE BASEBALL

The No. 21-ranked Madonna University baseball team dodged the rain long enough to get five innings in against Calumet College of St. Joseph (Ind.) for a 6-0 win Thursday at Chain of Lakes Park in Winter Haven, Fla.

MU's second game of the day against Mount Marty (S.D.) was called due to the heavy thunderstorms plaguing most of central Florida.

The Crusaders, who improved to 14-3 overall, collected eight hits with Spencer Sarel and Matt Kay (Canton) each going 2-for-3 with two RBI.

Winning pitcher Kyle Bolton

went all five innings, allowing just two hits and fanning seven to raise his season record to 2-0.

Nick Bolda took the loss for St. Joseph (1-12).

Meanwhile, Friday's scheduled spilt double-headers in Haines City, Fla. against Bethel College (Ten.) and Purdue-North Central were wiped out by more heavy rains and thunderstorms.

MU wrapped up its spring trip Saturday against Mount Marty at Southeastern University in Lakeland.

MADONNA 10, EVANGEL (MO.) 5: Out-hit 13-7, Madonna University (13-3) dropped its first game on its Florida trip Wednesday to Evangel University of Missouri (4-7) in a nine-inning played at Lake Myrtle Park in Auburndale.

Andy Leingang went 2-for-4 with a homer and three RBI for Evangel, which improved to 4-7 overall.

Zach Johnson added two hits and four RBI, while Storm Bailey went 2-for-4 with a solo homer to snap the Crusaders' six-game Florida winning streak.

MU starting pitcher John Ballarin (1-1), who struck out eight in six innings, took the loss. He allowed six runs (only one earned) on eight hits.

Billy Hardin III went 2-for-3 with two RBI, while Jeff Bultinck went 2-for-4 with an RBI.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Crusaders return from desert 9-0

The No. 14-ranked Madonna University women's softball team ended its spring trip Friday to Arizona a perfect 9-0 after sweeping Iowa Wesleyan, 7-1, and Black Hills State (S.D.), 7-0, at Tucson's Lincoln Park.

The Crusaders also won on Thursday against Judson (Ill.), 12-11, but got rained out against Robert Morris (Ill.) College.

On Wednesday, MU needed eight innings under the international tiebreaker rule to beat Viterbo University (Wis.), 7-6, and then blanked University of Great Falls (Mont.), 6-0, to improve to 6-0 on the season.

Cat Sidor (Livonia Churchill) came through with the game-winning single scoring Brittney Scero (Canton) in the bottom of the eighth.

MU trailed 6-4 going into the bottom of the seventh, but rallied to tie it at 6-all on Rachael Kethe's RBI single coupled with a costly Viterbo outfield error which could have ended game.

The Crusaders had a total of 15 hits with Kelly Lesko, Tara LaMilza, Landess, Ashley Shay and Sidor collecting two apiece.

Sophomore pitcher Hallie Minch (Garden City) picked up the win to improve to 3-0 overall.

The loss dropped Viterbo to 2-3 overall.

In the second game, MU's All-American pitcher Jess Irwin (3-0) pitched a complete-game two-hitter, striking out nine while walking only two.

Arielle Cox went 2-for-4 with one RBI, while Minch drove in a pair of runs.

Great Falls dropped to 3-5 overall.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Spartan softball clinics

The Livonia Stevenson softball program will offer a pair of baseball clinics (grades 4-8) on Saturday, March 20 at the high school fieldhouse including:

Defensive skills - 9-11 a.m. (cost is \$25 if postmarked by March 5; or \$35 at the door); and offensive skills - noon to 2 p.m. (cost is \$25 if postmarked by March 5; or \$35 at the door). Group rates are available.

For more information, e-mail Stevenson girls softball coach Rob Witherspoon at rwithers@livoniapublicschools.org. (Checks can be made payable to Stevenson High School.)

Spartan baseball clinics

The Livonia Stevenson baseball program will offer a pair of baseball clinics (grades 3-8) on Saturday, March 20 at the high school fieldhouse including:

Pitching - 10 a.m. to noon (cost \$33); and hitting and fielding - 1-3 p.m. (cost \$33).

For more information, call Stevenson baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623; or e-mail Berry3724@aol.com (Checks can be made payable to Stevenson High School.)

Girls pom pon clinic

Livonia Pom will stage a clinic for girls in grades 3-8 from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27 at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

The cost is \$20 (includes a clinic T-shirt). For more information, or to download the registration form, go to www.livoniapom.com.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL CLASS A REGIONAL TOURNAMENT Monday, March 15: Livonia Franklin vs. Detroit Denby, 6 p.m.; Detroit Southeastern Detroit Pershing, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 17: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the state quarterfinals 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 23 at the University of Detroit Mercy's Callahan Hall vs. Gibraltar Carlson regional champion.)

MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL Sunday, March 14 Madonna vs. Ripon (Wis.) at Auburndale Fla., 12:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL (all double-headers) Thursday, March 18 Madonna at Rio Grande (Ohio), 2 p.m.

Friday, March 19 Madonna at Shawnee St. (Ohio), 4 p.m. Saturday, March 20 Madonna at Shawnee St. (Ohio), 2 p.m. Sunday, March 21 Madonna at Ohio Dominican, noon.

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Grand Ledge 3-peats; Livonia Blue gets 7th Girls Gymnastics Shores, ninth, 138.600; and the host Rams, 137.00. Livonia Blue's best event was the vault (35.90) followed by floor exercise (35.400), balance beam (34.050) and uneven bars (33.775).



Skaters at nationals

The newly-formed Allegro! synchronized adult team recently placed fifth at the U.S. National Synchronized Skating Championships held recently in Minneapolis, Minn. Team members include: Jenn Ayan, Macomb Township; Cynthia Baran, Plymouth; Amanda Goetz, Howell; Erica Grunwald, Chesterfield Township; Kim Hayes, Northville; Ashley Jewell, Farmington Hills; Christopher Klaff, Farmington Hills; Daniel Kovacevich, Royal Oak; Lauren Lippert, Canton; Diane Neafsey, Northville; Renee Perry, Findlay (Ohio); Maria Russo, Twinsburg (Ohio); and Gina Sommariviva, Plymouth. Carrie Brown (Livonia) is the head coach assisted by Nikki LaBelle (South Lyon).

Spartan quartet signs soccer letters with SC

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Schoolcraft women's soccer coach Deepak Shivraman knows just how lucky he is to be in charge of a program embedded smack in the middle of a hotbed for high school talent.

That's why Shivraman has been chomping at the bit for the new season to begin after recharging his Lady Ocelots roster by signing a host of talented youngsters who call Livonia home.

Renee Boudreau, Shannon Merritt, Ashley Welch and Samantha Gutkowski, all seniors at Livonia Stevenson, recently signed on with Schoolcraft College to attend classes and compete on Shivraman's women's team next fall.

"We're excited to have them because all four are quality players, and more importantly, all four are quality kids," said Shivraman, who will begin his fourth season at the helm of the Schoolcraft program. "I know other schools were trying to lure them their way, so

COLLEGE SOCCER

we're very lucky to have them coming here to Schoolcraft. It's sure to be a good fit."

In Boudreau, Shivraman points to speed and size as the combination making the Spartan forward a dangerous player on the front line.

"Boudreau is extremely fast and has good size and can really play anywhere on the field," Shivraman said. "She will be very helpful to us up front."

An outside-midfield position should suit Merritt very nicely, according to Shivraman, as speed and leadership skills will make her a force to contend with.

Welch just may be the best decision-maker of the group, Shivraman said, and thus hold down duties somewhere in the midfield.

"She is a very composed player under pressure," Shivraman said. "She is intelligent and just doesn't make many mistakes with her decision-making."

Gutkowski, meanwhile, will

look to follow in the footsteps of her sister Stephanie, who proved instrumental last year in helping the Lady Ocelots to 17 victories and a berth in the NJCAA National Tournament.

"I coached Stephanie the last two years and Samantha seems to have many of the same instincts and skills," Shivraman said. "She has good vision of the field and also makes good decisions."

With the loss of 13 players from last year's squad, Shivraman knows the quicker these recruits adapt to the speed and physical nature of the college game, the better chance the Lady Ocelots have of maintaining their national prominence.

"They are stepping into a good situation and will be a good fit for us," Shivraman said. "I have always enjoyed working with players from Livonia because it is a hot spot for quality players and they work hard. The consistent thing about these girls is they all work extremely hard. I'm really excited to get going."

jtth@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6785

PATRIOTS

FROM PAGE B1

everybody else did, too. We've mentioned the district every day since we started the first day of practice. The guys were extremely focused. They played physical and tough and really wanted it. Nate showed tremendous leadership."

Coleman, a two-way line-man headed to Howard University on a football scholarship, wasn't the only hero for the Patriots.

Senior guard Andy McCaffery, who connected on four straight shots in the final quarter, finished with a team-high 21 points. His running mate, Mike Gadsby, helped the Patriots get out to a 26-21 halftime lead and finished with 13.

"It's a rivalry game, a district is at stake, we wanted to peak at the right moment, and we did," Coleman said. "I was very tired, but you've got to work through it. We've been in that position so many times... we already knew what to do. It was the 'let's just do it' mentality. We hit shots at the key moments."

Free throws also played a pivotal role in the final outcome.

Franklin made 15-of-23 on the night (65.2 percent), while Stevenson was 16-of-28 (57.1 percent).

The Patriots milked the clock to take the final shot in regulation, but came up short twice with two good attempts in the waning seconds with the teams deadlocked at 50-50.

Stevenson junior guard CJ Mwila, who finished with 20 points, then answered quickly in the four-minute OT, nailing a triple and getting a duece with 2:52 left to put the Spartans back up, 55-50.

Franklin, however, refused to fold as McCaffery connected on a triple followed by a Blake Lukas free throw and a rebound put-back by Coleman to make it 56-55 with 1:10 remaining, a lead they would never relinquish.

Franklin then made 4-of-6 free throws in the final 45 seconds, none bigger than Tom Percin going two-for-two at the line with 13.8 left to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Mike Gadsby (22) goes to the basket with his left hand over Stevenson defenders Nick Marzec (right) and Bobby Naubert (left) during Friday's Class A district final.

push the margin back to three, 59-56.

Stevenson, meanwhile, missed 4-of-6 during the final 1:02 of regulation and in OT.

"Franklin played very well," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "They were patient on offense and contested shots on defense. They brought their 'A' game tonight. Coleman was fantastic. His offensive rebounding was the determining factor in this game."

"It is disheartening that we didn't make some free throws down the stretch, which would have sealed the victory. But that's high school basketball. It happens."

Senior guard Bobby Naubert ended his stellar career and led the Spartans with a game-high 22 points.

Stevenson's best quarter was the third when they went on a 19-13 run to take a 41-38 advantage.

"The half-court trap definitely got us back in the game and picked up our spirits,"

Allie said. "But again, when you're missing free throws and some layups, it's tough to keep your spirits up that long."

McCaffery's play was clutch, but he deflected the praise.

"We had a good fourth quarter as a team," the senior said. "We hit just hit key shots. Our team played with a lot of energy and we just pulled it out at the end."

"Coleman played really good. He pulled down many rebounds. He scored. He was all over the place."

Stevenson, the KLA Central Division champ, ends its season at 16-7 overall.

"My seniors have worked so hard, just not this year, but for four years," Allie said. "They've made my life as a coach at such an early age much easier. They're great players, but more so, they're great people with great families that have been very supportive. I'll miss every single one of them."

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NEIGHBORS

Shop for a new spring look at First Step's fund-raiser

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Look for ruffles, daytime sequins, tie dye and other spring fashion trends on the runway at a special fashion show of Karen Kane clothing designs during the 16th annual Steppin' Out in Style, March 21, at Parisian at Laurel Park Place, in Livonia.

"We are the number two Karen Kane retailer in sales in the U.S. She is one of our most fashion forward trendy sportswear vendors," said Parisian events coordinator, Jill Engel. "Karen Kane wanted to come out and do an event with us. They were available this spring. It (Steppin' Out in Style) seemed like the perfect opportunity."

For the first time in years, Steppin' Out in Style patrons will have an opportunity to watch a full fashion show, in addition to informal modeling during the private shopping event that raises funds for First Step, Wayne County's agency on domestic and sexual violence.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door and include after hours shopping, with a 20 percent discount on most items, entertainment, fashion, signature food from local restaurants and caterers, and a raffle with prizes including \$500 cash. All proceeds from ticket and raffle sales will be used to help victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault.

"We always try to add a fashion piece to the event so we can benefit this wonderful cause," Engel noted. "We also have a fashion piece to see what the spring trends are."

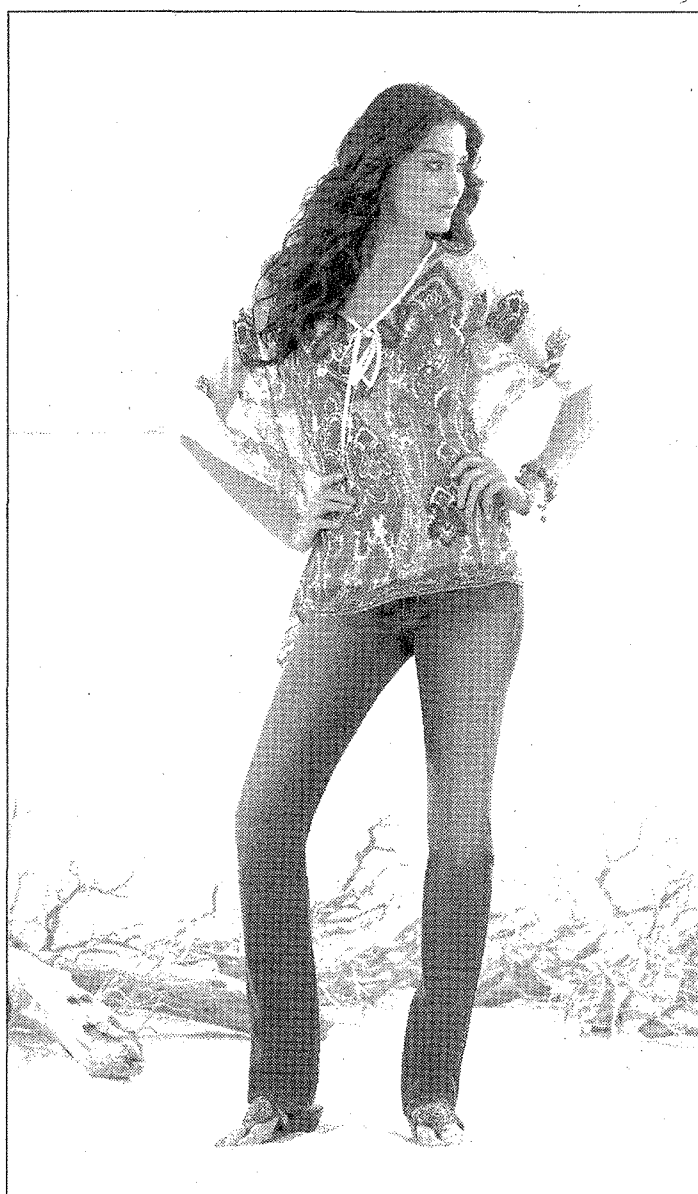


The Karen Kane spring collection will be on the runway at Parisian, during the annual Steppin' Out in Style fund-raiser for First Step.

NEW LOOKS

Katie Szurpicki, assistant national fashion merchandising director for Karen Kane will be on hand at the event. She said that in addition to tiers of ruffles on dresses and cascading ruffles on blouses, tie dye and daytime sequins, shoppers will see neckline detailing, such as hand-beading and lace; leggings, twin prints — two prints that complement each other — and dresses that can transition from daytime to night with a simple change of shoes and accessories.

"The most exciting thing is that we're shipping our April collection. Everything we'll show will be available for purchase," Szurpicki said, in a telephone interview last week. Steppin' Out in Style is one of two private shopping events Parisian co-sponsors annually for charity. The store is involved in other community outreach activities and has



Luxury, longevity and comfort are Karen Kane fashion standards,

partnered with Goodwill, Gleaners, the Livonia Jaycees, among others.

"I think that makes us different," Engel said, adding that some store employees request to work at the Sunday evening

event every year. "Our associates know what it's all about."

FOR THE CAUSE

The Zonta Club of Farmington/Novi dedicates all of its charitable funds, as

STEPPIN' OUT IN STYLE

What: A fund-raiser for First Step, Wayne County's agency on domestic and sexual violence

When: 6:30-9:30 p.m., Sunday, March 21

Where: Parisian, Laurel Park Place, 377006 Six Mile, Livonia

Tickets: \$20 in advance, available at Parisian; \$25 at the door

Details: Fashion show, informal modeling, after-hours shopping with 20 percent discount on most items, entertainment, raffles, food tastings.

Presented by Zonta Club of Farmington/Novi Area and Parisian Participating restaurants: Carlson Catering, Papa Romano's, Genitti's, Jeff Zak Catering, Mary Dennings Cake Shoppe, Buffalo Wild Wings, P. F. Changs, Embassy Suites, Max & Erma's, Romano's Macaroni Grill, Martino's, Coffee Beanery, and Main Street Catering

well as volunteer time and effort to First Step. Members have given Halloween parties for children living at First Step's temporary shelter. They've donated Christmas gifts, painted shelter rooms, and compiled birthday party kits for moms, in addition to planning and volunteering at Steppin' Out in Style.

Judith Lombardo, a member from Novi, said the group's focus on First Step goes hand in hand with the Zonta mission — to enhance the status of women.

"I grew up in the '50s and my mother was a victim of domestic violence," she added. "There were no resources at the time, no where my mother could go to and she had five children."

Lombardo said some other Zonta members have been drawn to First Step's cause because of a personal connection with a victim of domestic violence.

Zonta Club's interest in First Step is a "natural pairing," said Theresa Bizoe, associate director for the agency.

"Zonta Club's mission is the

betterment of women and girls and — not always — but those who come to us the most are women and girls," Bizoe said.

First Step served 7,162 individuals in the last fiscal year. Assistance ranges from counseling and support groups, to temporary shelter, to educational programs.

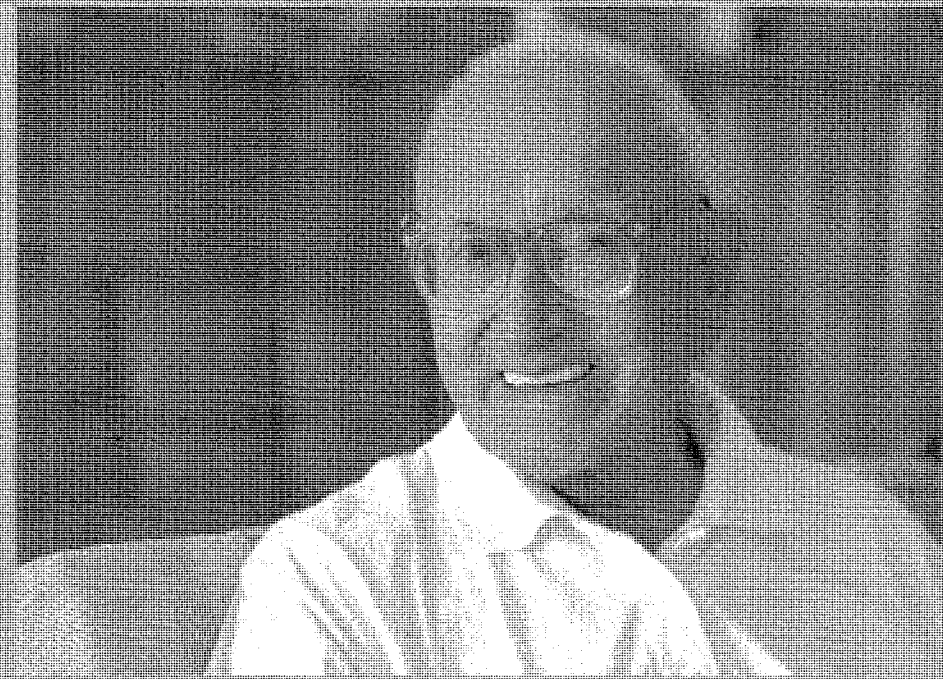
"We've been in business for 25 years and we hope the community values First Step as a part of the safety net of the community."

She said fund-raisers such as Steppin' Out in Style are essential to help "fill in the holes" in First Step's budget, especially now that corporate donations have decreased.

"We're up to about \$30,000 at this event. Almost all the sponsorship and ticket sales come back to First Step. The more people we can get to the fund-raiser, the better it is for us," Bizoe said. "It's an easy sell once we get people there because they come back every year."

Trained counselors are available 24 hours a day through First Step's helpline. Call (888) 453-5900 or (734) 722-6800.

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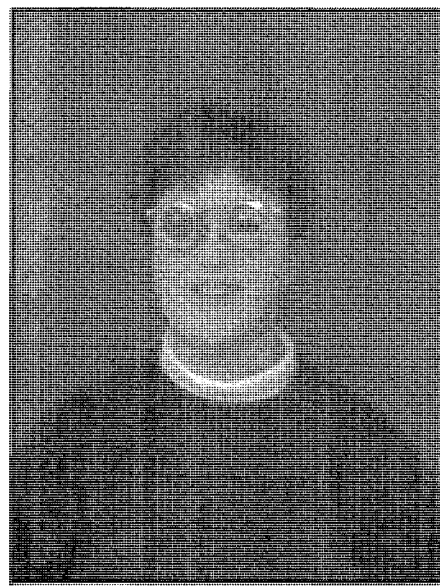
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"I really like them. The reading glasses work good, the telescopic glasses work good. I really like them, they work really good for TV, the computer and reading is great. They are better than I thought they were going to be. I see better than I ever thought I'd see again." Marsha's advice? "If you're thinking about doing it, do it. Don't wait."



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Dance and music celebrate Irish culture at event

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Jeff and Deidre Dolowy's children typically start their St. Patrick's Day celebration by searching for the candy leprechauns hid around their Plymouth home.

Deidre, whose family has Irish roots — Jeff's is Polish — sometimes makes corned beef and cabbage for the occasion.

But the family always top off the day with a visit to the annual Irish Fest at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland.

"We always attend this party because it's such a great thing to do for families," Deidre Dolowy said. "It's a great place to bring the whole family. There's such a variety of music that day — musicians, singers, dancers — it's really fun."

This year their daughters, Bridget, 12, and Ella, 10, will dance at the festival in addition to joining their brothers,

Duggan, 13 and Dermot, 6, in playing Irish fiddle, while their parents and two younger siblings cheer them on.

The girls take lessons at O'Hare School of Irish Dance in Plymouth, where their mother also learned to dance as a youngster.

"Having girls, I was excited for them to participate. Their cousins also dance. It's kind of a common bond between them," she said. Dolowy is one of 11 siblings and is expecting her seventh child in a few weeks.

Although both daughters have performed for audiences and Bridget won a trophy in competitive Irish dance, they'll find a more relaxed setting at the St. Patrick's Day Irish Fest.

"You just go out and have fun dancing," Bridget said.

"It's not as much of a performance at this particular event," her mother added. "But the girls will be playing their fiddles with their brothers."

They take fiddle lessons with Mick Gavin of Redford, a long-time musician who offers both fiddle and accordion instruction in his students' homes. He teaches them to "get their ear in tune" by playing without music at first.

"I teach them to love their fiddle and play from their hearts and listen to the romantic and emotional part of Irish music," Gavin explained. "It's a slow process. I have to bond with the child in the home. Sometimes the parents are all excited and there's too much stress."

Gavin strives to make the sessions fun and enriching.

"I also teach the kids in the Gaelic language — just little things. I might teach the 'Our Father' in Irish or 'How old are you.' They think it's funny."

Dolowy likes the added cultural lessons.

"I know there are times he'll teach them and say, 'now this song was written by somebody in a county your great-

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY IRISH FEST

What: A family-friendly celebration of Irish culture
When: 3 p.m., Wednesday, March 17
Where: The Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, Westland
Admission: \$10, kids free
Contact: (313) 537-3489



Bridget Dolowy, 12, of Plymouth (left) and sister, Ella, 10, Irish dance and fiddle. They'll do both at the St. Patrick's Day Irish Fest in Westland.

Dolowy occasionally joins her daughters in an Irish jig or two at home.

"It's great to have a house full of music and dancing," she added.

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Positive attitude, strong communication skills, good computer skills & team player a must. Fax resume to: Attn: T. Harris, 248-352-1806</p> <p>CONCRETE FINISHER Must have exp. & CDL for small crew. Wixom area 248 684-2500 Fax: 684-5331 dcaminc@comcast.net</p> <p>Drivers</p> <p>GET ON THE ROAD TO SUCCESS!</p> <p>McLane, one of the nations leading supply chain services company, is seeking DOT qualified drivers to deliver food service products to your favorite quick service restaurants. Great opportunities available for service oriented drivers who can build strong customer relationships and exceed customer expectations.</p> <p>Job Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CDL Class A •25,000 Verifiable Miles •No more than 2 traffic violations or accidents within the past 3 years •No alcohol related driving offenses in the last 5 years •Ability to lift up to 50 lbs. on a consistent basis •Ability to work nights and weekends •High school Diploma or GED <p>Attractive benefits package includes: competitive pay, medical, dental, vision, life insurance, STD/LTD 401 (k) tuitions reimbursement and paid vacations and holidays.</p> <p>14835 Pilot Dr. Plymouth, MI 48170</p> <p>Or apply online at www.mclaneco.com click on Careers-Foodservice-Plymouth.</p> <p>Please NO PHONE CALLS.</p> <p>GOLF COURSE ROUGE PARK PT Seasonal Available. All Positions. 313-837-5900</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>GRAND RE-OPENING Gutter Grate, Mid-Mich.'s fastest growing home improv. co is gearing up for spring. We are hiring for multiple positions all w/paid training. We are having a ONE DAY EVENT on Monday 3/15 to fill all the positions we have avail. Come to: 11731 Levan Rd. Livonia 48150 at 11am & 2pm only! No exp req'd, will train the right indiv.</p> <p>IT'S ALL AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!</p> <p>Look no further for the best local classifieds!</p> <p>TO PLACE YOUR AD: 1-800-579-7355</p> <p>GROUND MAINTENANCE Knollwood Memorial Park is looking to hire PT & FT employees to maintain the grounds. Email: salvatore@knollwoodcemetery.com</p> <p>HANDYMAN (M/F) PT reliable. Must have own tools. For small commercial bldg. in Franklin. Fax resume: 480-922-9811</p> <p>LOOKING FOR A CAREER (not a job) REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT (Special pricing for Pre-licensing only \$79)</p> <p>With home buyer tax credits we are very busy!!</p> <p>This is the time to buy homes in Michigan, be the one to sell the House. Change your life personally & financially register today.</p> <p>CALL ED BOWLIN at 734-591-5940 x107</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>MACHINE OPERATOR A Seeking an experienced Manual and CNC mill Programmer/Setup/ and Operator with 3 years minimum experience. Must have high school diploma or equivalent.</p> <p>Applicant must be self sufficient and have knowledge of Fanuc controls in "G and M" code programming and machine setup. Responsible for the entire process from reading and interpreting blue prints, full set up including tool selection and trouble-shooting to the completed part. Parts range from very simple to extremely complex. Reads complex inspection equipment and determines the appropriate go/no go gages, ring gages, height gages, plug gages micrometers veneer gages to use on a job. Sets up/changes over and operates various production mills. Knowledge of ISO quality standards.</p> <p>Pay range \$12.00 to \$16.00 depending on experience.</p> <p>Company offers paid vacation, benefits, 401k.</p> <p>Full time M-F, 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Located near 10 Mile and Grand River</p> <p>Resumes will be accepted until 5 pm, Monday, 03/22/10. EOE</p> <p>FAX: 248-426-5631 E-mail: hr@acecontrols.com</p> <p>PARKING LOT ATTENDANT Mature person preferred. Retirees welcomed. Apply in person: 112 Peabody St., Birmingham. 9am-4 pm.</p>	<p>Help Wanted-General 5000</p> <p>RESIDENT MGR COUPLE For 79 unit apt building in Plymouth. Some exp needed. Fax resume to: (734) 728-4110 or email: agcmgllc@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355)</p> <p>Retail Sales</p> <p>HAWTHORNE Appliances & Electronics NOW HIRING AT OUR BIRMINGHAM LOCATION Immediate Positions for "MAJOR APPLIANCE SALES" "AUDIO/VIDEO SALES" "KITCHEN GLAMOR SALES" Hourly Draw. Highest Commissions 401k. Profit sharing, Employee Discount Full Training, Medical Benefits and more! Grow with a leader.</p> <p>Hawthorne Appliance/Kitchen Glamor Apply in person. Monday and Tuesday 10am-7pm Ask for Store Manager 33278 Woodward • Birmingham, MI 48009 E.O.E</p> <p>SKILLED IRON MELTER Exp'd in melting of iron. Call: 734-946-7738</p> <p>VETERINARY TECHNICIAN 2 Positions - 1 full and 1 part time vet tech needed for 24 hr emergency and critical care clinic in Ann Arbor. Emergency exp required, LVT preferred. Must be available evenings, midnights and weekends. Please fax or email resume: (734) 971-1783, Attn. Sue aecannarbor@gmail.com</p> <p>WAIT STAFF Apply at: Starting Gate 135 N. Center St., Northville</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Dental 5040</p> <p>DENTAL - FRONT DESK Friendly Livonia office seeks PT employee to join our team. Responsibilities incl. greeting patients, answering telephones, scheduling/confirming patient appts, & assisting patients w/payments, insurance, & billing information. 25-30 hrs/wk incl. eves & Sat. Dental office experience and dental software knowledge highly preferred. Please fax resume to: 248-777-8717</p> <p>FRONT DESK COORDINATOR For Southfield dental office. Full time, math skills a must, experience preferred, will train. Fax resume to: 248-304-1387</p> <p>Pictures Can Make A Difference!</p> <p>1-800-579-SELL (7355) OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS</p> <p>FRONT DESK COORDINATOR Outstanding person needed to join our Livonia dental team. We are seeking a mature, experienced front desk coordinator. Duties to include patient contact & scheduling. Computer experience a must. Pay and benefits flexible and dependent on applicant's abilities. If you want to make a difference, please forward your resume and tell us a little something about yourself via fax at 734-427-9874 or e-mail us at info@mikuladental.com!</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Medical 5060</p> <p>ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT Responsibilities include planning recreation & individualized activities corresponding to clients life interests; daily contact w/patients/ residents & documentation. Hrs require flexibility & dependability. A wonderful opportunity for an experienced, creative, compassionate, fun & energetic person to join the prestigious environment of Westland Convalescent & Rehab Center. Please apply online at: www.westlandcc.com fax: 734-728-9741 Attn: Betty Pierrard Or mail to: 36137 W Warren Rd Westland MI 48185</p> <p>Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355)</p> <p>CERTIFIED CODER All levels, needed for large primary care practice performing audits and physician training. Medical record knowledge and RHIT a plus. Must have outpatient E/M procedure coding, ICD9 and CPT experience. Limited travel, excellent salary and benefits. Call 877-324-0323 or submit your resume: mdurley@visitingphysicians.com or fax (800) 507-0770.</p> <p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT Part-Time in top Dermatology office in Farmington Hills. Exp. a must. 248-553-2900</p> <p>MEDICAL ASSISTANT, PT for OB-GYN office located in W. Bloomfield. Approx 12-15 hrs/wk. Exp. req. Email: mwhi01@gmail.com</p> <p>MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST, FT 2 yrs. of Phlebotomy exp. for busy West Bloomfield office. References. (248) 855-5620</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Medical 5080</p> <p>PHYSICIANS WANTED Excellent opportunity! No call or weekends. Internal medicine, family practice, & geriatric needed. Practice located in Southfield. Call 877-324-0323</p> <p>TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL... 1-800-579-SELL (7355) OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC</p> <p>RESIDENT ASSISTANT Immediate Opening. All Shifts. Apply in person: Plymouth Inn Assisted Living 205 Haggerty Rd., Plymouth 734-451-0700</p> <p>Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080</p> <p>TRAY-LINE COOK PART-TIME A 100 bed LTC facility is looking for an exp healthcare cook, adept in therapeutic diets, altered-consistencies, sanitation and customer service (ServSafe preferred). The ideal candidate will have 1-2 years experience in a Long-term care or Acute Care facility. Ability to interact favorably with a diverse patient and staff population a must. Must have two (2) verifiable professional references. Fax resume to Ellen: (248) 395-9734 EOE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIZZA MAKER • DELIVERY PEOPLE • SERVICE STAFF <p>Part time & full time. Days 11:30am-8:30pm. Apply within, Mon. btwn 3pm-5pm at: Extreme Pizza & Meals 38760 Plymouth Rd, Livonia</p>	<p>Help Wanted-Sales 5120</p> <p>Auto Sales - Used Cars Needed immediately. Auto sales exp. required. Great pay plan, benefits & 401k. If you are looking for a dealership that provides a great atmosphere, a place to build clientele and grow, we are that place. See Al Denomme or Tom Morgan at Gordon Chevrolet or call: (734) 427-6200</p> <p>RECEPTIONIST Knollwood Memorial Park is looking to hire a part or full time receptionist. Call Sam: (734) 495-0400</p> <p>SALES Knollwood Memorial Park - Family owned cemetery in Canton. Looking to make a career change? If you are compassionate, motivated & a people person, I would like to talk to you! Call Chris: (734) 495-0400</p> <p>Childcare Needed 5380</p> <p>NANNY, FULL or PART TIME Experience & references required. Birmingham. Email resume to Carolyn at: wardmail@yahoo.com</p> <p>From furniture to auto's...</p> <p>Classified Advertising Works! OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS</p> <p>For all the best Classifieds in your area. 1-800-579-SELL</p>
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Laugh, make chili for canine causes

Friends of Canton's Dog Park and Canton Leisure Services are teaming up to present an evening of laughter to benefit the Canton Dog Park, 8 p.m., Thursday, April 1, at Kickers All-Star Grill, 46555 W. Michigan Avenue, Canton.

Tickets for a night of comedy with local comedians are \$15. They're available in the parks office located in the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road. Call (734) 482-1600 for ticket information.

Patrons also will receive 25 percent off of their meal or half off a pizza during the evening. A \$5 minimum drink or food purchase is required. The show is for age 21 years and older.

Fund-raising efforts are underway to raise \$65,000 needed to create a six-acre, outdoor, fenced dog park in Canton. Designs for the park



include two separate areas, one for large dog above 20 pounds, and a small dog section. This and other specific guidelines will allow all dogs to enjoy a safe and positive experience socializing off leash.

For more information on the dog park fund-raiser, call (734) 482-1600 or visit Cantonfun.org.

CHILI LOVERS NEEDED

Tail Waggers USA is looking for participants for its first "Chili, Hoops & Hounds Chili Cook-off on Sunday, March 28.

For a \$25 entry fee, all Chili Cook-Off participants will receive a signature apron and have a chance to win the People's Choice award of a Char-Broil Commercial Series 3-Burner Quantum LP Grill valued at \$399. Other prizes will be awarded in the categories of red meat, white meat (turkey or chicken) and vegetarian.

Interested participants should contact Marilu Reznik at tailwaggersusa@aol.com or (248) 231-2842 to register.

The cook-off will run from 1-5 p.m., at UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road, Livonia. The public may taste samples for \$1 each or buy an all-you-can-eat ticket for \$15. Other activities will include an interactive basketball challenge and face painting.

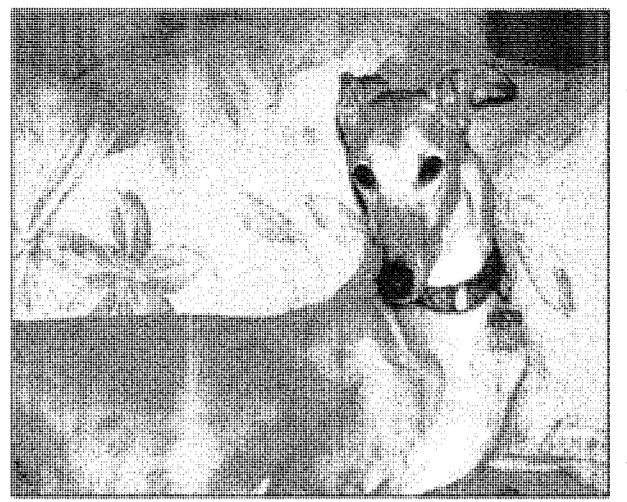
Jed is Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption's featured dog this week.

He was returned to the organization by a family that could no longer keep him.

"How unfortunate that his beloved family had to give him up at 10 years old," said Jackie Bowen, public relations coordinator for the group. "Jed is very thin and has some dental issues that are being addressed by Greyheart. Any and all expenses are always paid by Greyheart if and when a greyhound must be returned."

Jed is a light fawn color and is "really laid back," according to Bowen. He likes car rides and taking walks.

If you're interested in meeting Jed, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739. Check out its Web site at www.greyheart.org.



Jed is searching for a new home after being returned to Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption, at age 10, after his family no longer could keep him.

ADOPTABLE GREYHOUND

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW PLYMOUTH?

Put your hometown knowledge to work and sign up for the Plymouth Newcomers and Neighbors' annual Plymouth Road Rally. It's a car race, scavenger hunt, trivia contest and party all in one.

Road Rally teams work together to solve clues, find community landmarks, and perform tasks as they race to the finish line. At their final destination, teams will gather for food and drinks, and prizes will be awarded to the top teams.

Anyone age 18 or over can participate.

The race starts at 4 p.m., Saturday, April 24. The starting location will be revealed in a clue sent to participants.

Advance registration is a must. The cost is \$20 per person before or on March 27 and \$22 after the date. The price includes dinner.

Teams that register by March 27 will receive 10 bonus points. All entries must be received by April 10. E-mail Melissa Travers at roadrally@plymouthnewcomers.com.

ANTIQUÉ APPRAISAL

Douglas Dalton will appraise antiques at the next meeting of the Livonia

Historical Society, 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 16, in the Blue House at Historical Greenmead, 8 Mile and Newburgh. Guest may bring up to two items each for appraisal. Cost is \$5 and includes refreshments. For more information call Gene Kramer at (248) 349-5999.

LIFE IN JAPAN

Northville residents Leah and Meryl Waldo will present 30 minutes of pictures, video clips, stories and information about their year-long adventure abroad, 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 16, at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia.

They'll explain how other college students can make their plans to study abroad a reality. A short question and answer session will follow the presentation. (734) 462-4400

GOT MEATBALLS?

Ikea in Canton is accepting recipes for its "Ikea Meatball Chef Contest," through Wednesday, March 17 online at www.IKEA-USA.com/Canton or at the store, located on Ford Road, at Haggerty.

Participants submit their own meatball plate recipe using IKEA Swedish meatballs as the main ingredient. Store representatives will contact the authors of the top 10 entries on March 20. Winners

will pick up a complimentary bag of Swedish meatballs and present their dish to the judges on March 27.

The top prize is a refrigerator of the winner's choice valued between \$699-\$999. The winning recipe also will be prepared as the daily lunch special in the IKEA Restaurant and Café from April 3-30 and will be posted on the IKEA Canton Web site. The winning "chef" also will serve the first plate to customers on April 3 in the IKEA Restaurant. There will be prizes for second and third place winners.

The meatball contest is in conjunction with the grand re-opening celebration, March 27, of the store's 10 remodeled display kitchens. The showroom will open at 9:30 a.m. that day.

The first 200 families entering the kitchen and dining department that day will receive a gift and a chance to win a refrigerator valued up to \$699. *Observer* columnist, Joe Gagnon, will broadcast his radio show live, from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the store. Starting at 11 a.m., the Eastern Michigan Improv Troupe, Upside Down Frown Productions will perform in the redesigned kitchens. Visitors also will get a chance to sample Swedish food throughout the day.

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

Cactus & Succulents

Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society will hold a discussion and workshop on raising cactus and succulents from seed 1 p.m., Sunday, March 14, at U. of M's Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dąbora, Ann Arbor. For more information call (248) 790-9089 or e-mail to CuzenLouie37@yahoo.com

At English Gardens

Learn how to bring color and texture to your garden year after year at "Perennial Gardening 101." The free in-store presentation starts at 1 p.m., Saturday, March 20, at all locations.

Nancy Szerlag tells you how to grow your best garden ever at 10 a.m. at the West Bloomfield store and 4 p.m., in Dearborn Heights. Both sessions are Saturday, March 27.

Ashton Ritchie, Scotts Company, will share 40 years of lawn care tips and tricks and answer all your questions about weeds, bare spots, shade and other lawn problems, 10 a.m., Saturday, March 27 at the Dearborn Heights store and 3 p.m., Sunday, March 28, in West Bloomfield.

Faith Savage, of Goldsmith Seeds will talk about the emotions colors evoke and the "feel" of your garden as you bring color to life, 1 p.m., Saturday, March 27, at the West Bloomfield store.

Learn how to grow beautiful roses at a free in-store presentation, 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 31, at all locations.

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.

Butterflies

Chad Hughson, owner of Hidden Savanna Nurseries, will explain how to attract butterflies to your yard using the right plants, during the next meeting of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, at Nankin Mills, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Parking on Hines Drive and Ann Arbor Trail. \$3.00 for non-members. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com.

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

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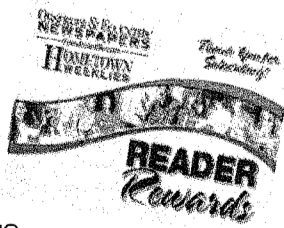


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Are you a kid – or do you know one – who goes above and beyond to make your neighborhood, community, or family better?

Tell us your story in 500 words or less. One winning essay will be chosen each month to receive:

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- Pre-Game recognition at a Detroit Tigers Game



Email your essay to:

cbjordan@hometownlife.com

Subject line: "PAWS FOR APPLAUSE"

or mail it to:

Attn: Choya Jordan

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615 W. Lafayette Blvd, Detroit, MI 48226

Please include the child's name, age, phone number and address.

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Contest is open to kids up to 18 years old.

Driving Sales

When it comes to cars, nothing has more horsepower than newspaper advertising to ignite consumers. Auto shoppers absorb a great deal of information from a cornucopia of sources but rely on newspapers to help them make a sound choice.



#1: National dealership entry and exit polls conducted by CNW Research asked consumers for the reason for visiting a dealership on a particular day. Newspaper (print and online) was the number one reason. At 56.8%, more consumers cite newspapers than all other media combined.

Primary: Local newspaper advertising (print and online) is The Primary Source of information for consumers during the critical last stages of the decision making process. 16.59% rely on newspaper advertising as the main source during the last two weeks before buying. More than any other information source.

Pricing information: 96% of new car buyers agree that newspapers are most helpful as a source for pricing information.

Where to buy: 97% of new car buyers agree that newspapers are most helpful as a source of information on where to buy.

Local selection: 97% of new car buyers agree that newspapers are most helpful as a source of information on local selections.

61% of used car buyers selected newspapers (print and online) as their primary information source, more than all other media combined.

3/4 of all U.S. Adults read a newspaper, print or online in the past week. 170 million adults rely on newspapers.

CNW Research 2009 and Scarborough Research 2008

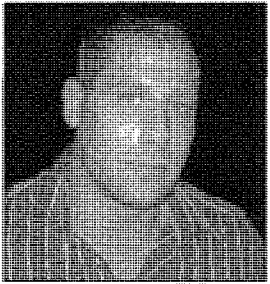
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HAPPY 29th BIRTHDAY BRIAN

March 16, 1981
We love and miss you very much.
Love your family

JUAN DIAZ

Age 90 of Redford. Beloved husband of the late Pelagia. Loving Papa of Remedios (Roger) Encinares, Alfredo (Daisy), Ramon (Marilou), Gloria (Frank) Canilao, Antonio (Maria Leslie), Elizabeth (Todd) Robertson & John. Proud grandpa of 13 & great-grandpa of two. Dearest brother of Rosing. Also survived by many other loving family & friends. Visitation will be held at the Fred Wood Funeral Home (Rice Chapel) 36100 5 Mile Rd. (E. of Levan) Friday 5-9pm, Saturday & Sunday 1-9pm. Friday & Saturday there will be evening prayers at 7pm & Saturday Scripture 6:30pm & then a Sunday 7pm prayer service. Funeral service will be Monday at St. Edith Catholic Church 15089 Newburgh Rd. Instate 10am Mass 10:30am. Please visit online guestbook: fredwoodfuneralhome.com.

STANLEY JOHN DOWN

Age 82, passed away peacefully Wednesday, March 3, 2010, surrounded by family at Select Specialty Hospital-St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. His death resulted from complications caused by a fall inside his home. Beloved husband of the late Barbara, he was the dear father of Pamela Down (Charles Pfeffer), Jacqueline Mines, Deborah Belz-Rubis (Roger), and Candice Koda (Philip), proud and loving grandfather of Andrew Belz (Sabrina), Jennifer Koda, Kimberly Koda, and adoring great-grandfather of Juliana Belz. He is also survived by sisters, Marion Dohring and Patricia McCormick, a sister-in-law, Donna Jean Nagel and many nieces and nephews. He will be fondly remembered by his friends who enjoyed his sense of humor and love of life. A devoted cat owner and an avid animal lover, he will be missed by his neighbors' pets who enjoyed his treats or a day of pet-sitting. In accordance with his wishes, a private observance was held. Arrangements entrusted to Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Downtown Farmington. www.thayer-rock.com



JOHN A. FERGUSSON

March 6, 2010 Age 49 of Birmingham, formerly of Grosse Pointe and Anchorville. Beloved husband of Lisa. Son of Mary Ellen Hartsig (William) and the late John Fergusson. Step-father of Chloe and Maddy Rae Hajjar. Brother of Kimberly Fraley (Thomas Mines) and Lorie Plegue. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. A memorial Mass was held Thursday at Holy Name Church, Birmingham. Memorial tributes to Houston's Ronald McDonald House, 1907 Holcomb Blvd., Houston, TX 77030. A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500



EDITH HAMILTON SESTOK

Age 94, March 5, 2010 of Birmingham, MI. Beloved mother of Charles III (Nancy), Robert and Mary. Grandmother of Charles IV, Evan and Erika. Memorial Service Saturday April 10, 2010 at 11am Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304.



In Memory of Rayland Jarosz "PAPA BEAR"

We thought of you with love today
But that is nothing new
We thought about you yesterday
And days before that too.

Your memory is our keepsake
With which we'll never part
God has you in his keeping
We have you in our heart.

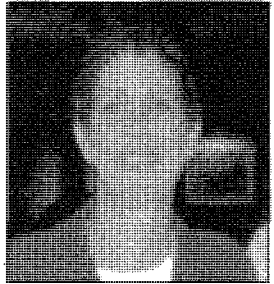
Your Loving Family,
Pat, Heather, Kim and Bill

THOMAS W. SMITH

Age 65, of Farmington Hills. Passed away March 10, 2010. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.

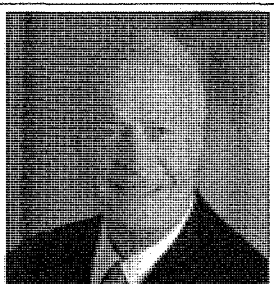
CATHERINE HOWELL

Died March 10, 2010 at the age of 89. Livonia resident since 1959 and former member of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. Beloved wife of the late Carl. Dear mother of Carl, Fred (Cindy), and the late Marilyn. Grandmother of Justin and Lauren. Services were held at White Chapel Cemetery on Saturday March 13th. Share a condolence or memory at www.mannsfuneralhome.com



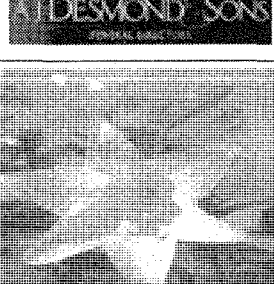
ERIN M. KURTZ

Passed away March 10, 2010 at the age of 48. Beloved wife of Scott A. Dearest mother of Andrew (Nikki) Kurtz, Christopher Kurtz, Nicholas Kurtz and Lauren Kurtz. Dear daughter of Duane and Diane Lucas. Dear sister of Bridget (Bruce) Gerish, Michael Lucas and Kelly (Tom) Haar. Dear daughter-in-law of Donald M. Kurtz. Erin loved child care, family gatherings and taking care of her family. She always enjoyed watching her children participate in all types of sport activities. She graduated from Salem High School (class of 1979) where she was a student athlete. Her sport was Track and Field, excelling in running hurdles and the high jump. She also ran in the 1/4 mile. Erin generously gave of herself in many ways, even after death she donated her corneas so that others may see. Funeral services were held Saturday, March 13, 2010, at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, Canton. Memorials may be given to a foundation to be set up in Erin's name in conjunction with the National Institute of Health. Checks may be made to Diane Lucas. To share a special thought or memory www.schrader-howell.com



ROBERT C. LARSON

March 11, 2010 surrounded by his loving family. Age 75 of Bloomfield Hills, MI. Commercial real estate and community leader. Adored husband of Bonnie A. (nee, Borgeson). Loving father of Elizabeth Larson Willoughby (Michael), Eric B. Larson (Kathy), Kathryn W. Larson and stepchildren, Amy Cunningham (Jason), Todd Blanding (Kimberly) and Scott Blanding (Leesa). Grandfather of Daniel, Sarah, Paige, Makenzie, Ty, Abigail, Jordan, Brady, Lydia, Ruby and Ethan. Brother of David Larson (Emily) and the late John Larson (Linda). Memorial service in celebration of his life will be held Friday, March 19th 2pm, at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500.

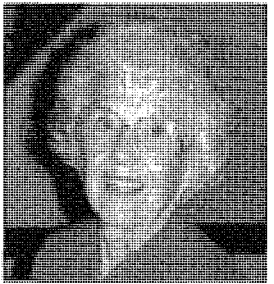


DORIS V. MEADOWS

Age 87, passed away March 10, 2010. She was born on September 14, 1922, in Canada, to the late Russell & Agnes (Rolls) Bell. Doris is survived by her loving children: June (Donald) Gregory, Roy (Karen) Meadows, Rick Meadows, Darryl Meadows; six grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and her siblings Bernice (Dick) LeMaitre and Carl (Judy) Bell. She was preceded in death by her husband James Meadows in 2008. Visitation will be held on March 13th, Saturday, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and Sunday from 10:00am to 4:00 pm. A Funeral Service will be held on March 14th, Sunday, at 4:00pm at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 West Lake Street (Ten Mile), South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to American Holistic Medical Association, 23366 Commerce Park, Suite 101B, Beechwood, OH 44122. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

JOHN M. THOMAS

Age 62, formerly of Farmington, passed away March 6, 2010. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK Funeral Home, Farmington.



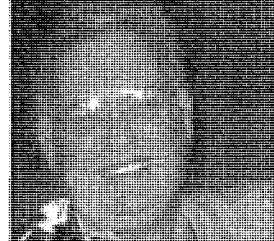
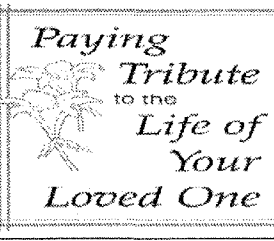
EILEEN WORDEN

March 9, 2010
Age 98. Beloved mother of the late Buff Whelan and David Whelan. Loving grandmother of Amy (Clark) Shuler, Mandy (Andrew) Hoar, Kerry (Greg) Thieleke, Kevin (Stacey) Whelan, Garrett Whelan and Sean (Erin) Whelan and great-grandmother of Katie, Hannah, Maddie, Molly, Nicholas, Julia, Brooke, Haley and Robbie. Services were held by the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River. Donations can be made to the Detroit Zoo or Michigan Humane Society. On line sympathy message www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com



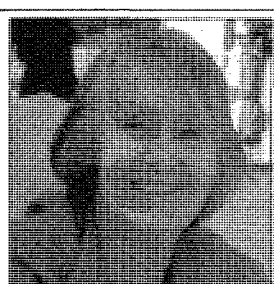
WILLIAM R. MCBRIDE

March 10, 2010, age 74, of Ortonville, MI. He was born May 17, 1935 in Detroit, MI. Mr. McBride graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder, CO. as a mechanical engineer where he was a member of the gymnastics team. He worked at Ebbert Engineering in Troy, MI until the 70's and joined his family business as a third generation family member. The business was established in 1910 as Russell Hardware Company with two locations, Bloomfield Hills, MI and Harbor Springs, MI. He loved flying, he restored and owned several airplanes presently housed at his property in Ortonville. He loved animals especially his German Shepherd, "Winnie". He was an avid snowboarder at Harbor Springs. He is survived by his wife, Judith Schaffer whom he married October 14, 1988. Children, Lincoln J. (Claire Pairaud) McBride of Belmont, CA, Jane (Mark Wilson) McBride of Royal Oak, MI, Morgan S. McBride of Ortonville, and Mackenzie A. McBride of Ortonville. Grandfather of Clare, Henry, Max and Leo. Brother of Jack (Linda) McBride of Maui, Hawaii. Memorial Service will be held Sunday, March 14, 2:00 p.m. at ADJ Aerodynamics, Inc. 6544 Highland Rd., Waterford, MI 48327, Hanger #1. Memorials suggested to Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Church Street Station, P.O. Box 780, New York, NY 10008-0780. Grand Traverse Conservancy - Benzie Co. 3860 N. Long Lake Rd. Suite D, Traverse City, MI 49684 or MI Humane Society, Memorial Dept. 30300 Telegraph Rd. Suite 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4507. Arrangements by Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, Utica, MI. (586) 731-2411



JOSEPH A. TOCCO

Canton, MI, age 64, passed away Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at home surrounded by his loving family. He was born February 13, 1946 in Detroit, MI, the son of Joseph and Nellie (Eusebio) Tocco. On July 12, 1968, he married Sharon McKay in Allen Park and she survives. Joseph worked for Detroit Edison for 40 years before retiring January 7, 2007. Joseph enjoyed eating good foods, especially the sweet foods from all the various bakeries he loved and he enjoyed his coffee. He especially enjoyed being a grandfather where he was affectionately known as "papa" and "grandpa" by his four grandchildren. In addition to his loving wife Sharon of 41 years, survivors include: two sons, Scott (Michelle) Tocco of Belleville and Paul (Debi) Tocco of Canton; four grandchildren, Alyssa, Olyvia, Justin and Hailey Tocco; one brother, James (Antoinette) Tocco of Brownstown Township; and seven nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. The funeral service will be 11 am Monday, March 15 at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main Street, Plymouth with Pastor Gordon Moore officiating. Burial will follow in MI Memorial Park, Flat Rock. The family will receive friends at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 1-9 pm Sunday. Arrangements handled through Stark Funeral Service. Please sign his guest book at: www.starkfuneral.com



ROBERTA VOLINSKI

Age 86 of Plymouth, formerly of Wayne, March 8, 2010. Loving mother of Geri (Harold) Galfano, Diana O'Brien, Suzette McCord and Bridget Volinski (Alexander Petniunas). Dear sister of Thomas (Josie) Bebeau. Proud grandma of 8, and great-grandma of one. Roberta was proud of her 40 years with Ford Motor Company and U of M Hospital as a Data Entry Person. She was involved in the early years of computer technology at Ford Motor. Private cremation services were held at the Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Road (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. To share memories please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

HERBERT C. SEEGERT

Age 74 of Plymouth, March 8, 2010. Husband of Lois. Father of Scott (Margaret) and Jeff (Beth). Brother of Esther Eichstaedt. Grandfather of Brad, Shannon, Jason, Corson, Kieman and Libella. Son of the late Fred and Lillian. Visitation was Wednesday 2-9PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In state was Thursday 10:30AM until 11:00AM funeral service at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Rd, Plymouth MI 48170. Interment Riverside Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the church. To share memories visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

MILESTONES

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



Walker-Mileo

AUGUST WEDDING PLANNED

Mr. and Mrs. Brady A. Walker of Livonia, announce the engagement of their daughter, Rachel Leah, to Jesse Keenan Mileo, son of Aleta and George Lappman and Vincent and Phyllis Mileo, both of the Bay area in California.

Rachel is a 1999 graduate of Ladywood High School and a 2003 graduate of Madonna University, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

Jesse is a 1994 graduate from Carlmont High School in Belmont, Calif. He is a 2009 graduate of Michigan Theological Seminary, where he earned a master's of divinity degree.

An August wedding is planned.



Donald and Patricia Priehs on their wedding day

Donald and Patricia (Bruske) Priehs of Garden City celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Feb. 27 with a dinner at Angelo Brothers Restaurant in Westland.

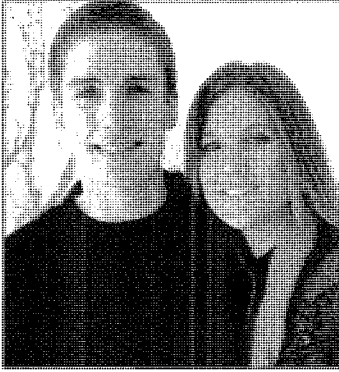
The couple wed in 1960 in Detroit.

Donald retired in 1985 from Western Electric in Plymouth.

The couple has been involved at St. Matthew Church since 1962. They enjoy vacationing in Florida and spending time with their children and two grandchildren.

Their children are Deborah Hall (Gary) of Westland; Denise Bourdeau (Dan) of Westland; and Douglas Priehs (Tonya) of Garden City. Their grandchildren are Kevin Hall, 10, and Hannah Bourdeau, 8.

STEVENS-BOOMS



Stevens-Booms

Brian and Carolyn Booms of Canton announce the engagement of their son, Jason Booms to Samantha Stevens, daughter of Danny and Georgia Stevens of Denny Payne, Ala.

The bride-to-be is a 2005 graduate of Fort Payne High School, and will graduate in May 2010 from the University of Alabama Huntsville, with a degree in elementary education.

The groom-elect is a 2005 graduate of Salem High School in Canton, and a 2009 graduate of the University of Alabama Huntsville with a degree in mechanical aero-

space engineering. Jason is employed with Lockheed Martin as a systems engineer in Huntsville, Ala.

A June 2010 wedding is planned in Fort Payne, Ala.



Anders-Gruber

ANDERS-GRUBER

Mark and Esther Anders of Westland, announce the engagement of their daughter, Erin Marie Anders, to Jonathan Richard Gruber, son of John and Mary Gruber, of Monroe.

The bride-to-be is a 2003 graduate of Thomas Edison State College with a bachelor's degree in music and a 2007 graduate of Michigan State University with a master's degree in piano pedagogy. She teaches piano in her own studio in Westland, at Schoolcraft College, and the Ward School of Fine Arts.

Her fiancé is a 2004 graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in economics. He is employed at Tenneco Automotive in Monroe as a credit analyst.

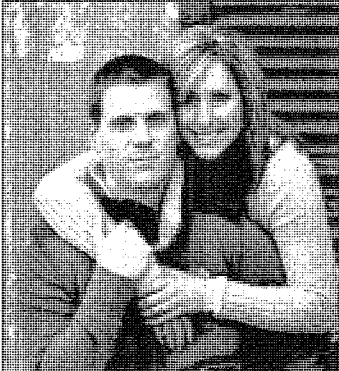
A July 2010 wedding is planned at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, in Livonia.

JULY WEDDING PLANNED

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Kavanaugh of Addison Township, formerly of Livonia, announce the engagement of their daughter, Darcel Marie, to Ryan James McBroom, son of Mr. and Mrs. James McBroom of Livonia.

Darcel is a graduate from Western Michigan University and is currently completing the accelerated nursing program at the University of Detroit Mercy. Ryan attends Wayne State University and is an automotive components engineer.

A July wedding is planned.



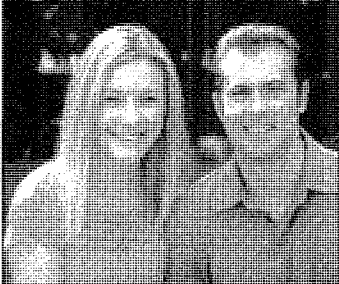
Kavanaugh-McBroom

MAY WEDDING PLANNED

Charis Anne Fischer and Adam Michael Ralko announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Steve and Linda Fischer of Short Hills, N.J., earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science in 2009 from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. She currently works for the Show-Me Institute, a free market think tank in Clayton, Mo.

Her fiancé, son of Greg and Mary Anne Ralko of Livonia, graduated from Detroit Catholic Central High School in 2002 and from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., in 2006. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in biology and



Fischer-Ralko

expects to graduate in May from Washington University School of Medicine. He is applying for a medical residency in internal medicine with plans to specialize in cardiology.

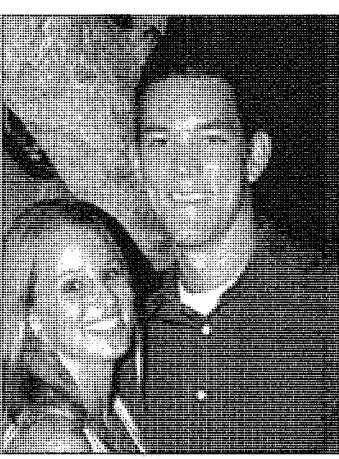
A May wedding is planned in Short Hills, N.J.

JUNE WEDDING PLANNED

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Thompson of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Marie, to Eric Michael Finn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Finn of Longwood, Fla.

The bride-to-be is a 2004 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 2008 graduate of Florida Atlantic University, in Boca Raton, Fla. She received a degree in exceptional student education and teaches autistic children in elementary school, in Boca Raton, Fla.

Her fiancé is a 2004 graduate of Lake Mary High School in Lake Mary, Fla., and is a 2008 graduate of Florida Atlantic University. He



Thompson-Finn

received a degree in business marketing and owns a commercial fishing business in south Florida.

A June wedding is planned.

SEPTEMBER WEDDING

Ciara G. Thomas and Nicholas M. Washington, both of Farmington Hills, announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Thomas, of Youngstown, Ohio, graduated with a bachelor's degree in communication in 2007 from The University of Cincinnati. She is employed as a financial counselor for GreenPath Inc.

Her fiancé, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Melvin and Melvin Washington, all of Detroit, graduated in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in graphic design from Eastern Michigan University. He also received a master's degree in information systems in 2009 from the University of Phoenix. He is employed as a team leader for Party City.

A September wedding is planned in Youngstown, Ohio.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Walkathon registration, training under way

Lace up those walking shoes and get ready to step out for charity, starting with the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure training kick-off on March 20, at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44175 12 Mile, Novi.

Anyone who has signed up for the 60-mile walk, which runs Aug. 13-15 in Southeastern Michigan, or anyone interested in participating, can attend the training kick-off at the New Balance store at Fountain Walk. The event will run from 9 a.m.-noon and will include a footwear seminar and fashion show of apparel that is appropriate for a three-day walk.

Registration is still open for the 2010 Michigan 3-Day for the Cure. For more information, visit The3day.org, Michigan.

ARTHRITIS FUND-RAISER

Walk one, two or four miles in support of the Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter, on May 1 at the Detroit Zoo.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the Arthritis Walk is set to start at 8:30 a.m. All participants may visit



zoo exhibits free of charge, after the walk. Children's activities, free massages, and a health fair also are planned. The health fair is an opportunity to learn more about the 100-plus forms of arthritis and related diseases, as well as available treatments.

Funds raised during the 2010 Arthritis Walk support critical research, advocacy efforts, and local programs and services aimed at the prevention, treatment and cure of arthritis.

The Detroit Zoo is located 8450 West 10 Mile, in Royal Oak. For more information or to sign up for the walk, call Laurie Rupp at (248) 649-2891, Ext. 230, or e-mail lrupp@arthritis.org. For more information about the arthritis walks throughout Michigan and the Arthritis Foundation, visit www.arthritis.org.

WALK FOR WISHES

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan plans its fund-raising, non-competitive, two-mile walk May 8 through the Detroit Zoo. Participants will check in beginning at 7:30 a.m., witness the opening ceremony at 8:45 a.m. and begin walking at 9 a.m. Lunch and other activities will run from 10 a.m. to noon.

Walkers set a fund-raising goal and obtain donations from friends, family, and co-workers. All funds raised will go towards the granting of wishes to local Michigan children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Children 13 and under may register for free. Adults who register by April 1 pay \$15; after April 1, \$20; and on walk day, \$25.

For more information and online registration visit www.wishmich.org/walkforwishes.

U-M C.S. MOTT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The 3rd Annual Walled Lake Passion for Life 5k Run/Walk benefits medical research at U-M C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and current and past "Inspirational Families" at the hospital. It is scheduled for Saturday, March 27 starting in downtown Walled Lake. This year there are two scenic options — a 5k Run/Walk and a 5 mile "Run around the Lake." Organizers hope to draw more than 750 participants.

Registration and packet pick-up runs from 8-10 a.m., at Bayside Sports Grille and Bar, 142 East Walled Lake Drive, Walled Lake. Walks and runs begin at 10 a.m. Race entry fees are \$15 for children and \$30 for adults, if registered online before March 26; \$20 for children and \$35 for adults on race day. The fee includes a long sleeve T-shirt.

For more information on Passion for Life or to register, visit passion5k.com.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

MARCH

Help Multiple Sclerosis chapter

In support of MS Awareness Week, the Grand Tavern restaurant in Farmington will donate 20 percent of patrons' bills to the MS Society Michigan Chapter on Sunday, March 14. Visit the restaurant from 4 p.m.-2 a.m. and tell your server you are there to support the MS Society. Grand Tavern is located at 35450 Grand River Ave. (248) 476-5700 or visit www.grand-tavern.com/.

Day of health

Life-saving Luau, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, March 18, at Brackney Chiropractic Health Centers, 8524 Canton Center Road, Canton offers food, fun games, prizes and more. The practice also will accept new patients at this event. Receive a complete spinal check up including exam, consultation, x-rays if necessary, for \$30. Exam proceeds will go to Relieving Orphan Suffering Everywhere for its Haitian and Russian Orphan Fund. Call (734) 455-4444 to schedule an appointment.

Memory, sleep classes

Wellness coach Sandy Baumann will teach you how to recharge your memory with foods, beverages, fun physical activity and simple lifestyle changes, 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 20 and 27, at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Get tips for common memory challenges. Cost is \$39. Register for CPS1246 by March 17 by calling (734) 432-5804 12:30-4:30 p.m. weekdays. Or go online with a credit card to <http://cms.madonna.edu/pages/academics/continuing-education/registration>. Baumann also will teach a class called "Desperately Seeking Snoozing: Sleep Well Naturally," 6-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 23, at Farmington Community School, 30415 Shiawassee, Farmington. Learn about common sleep robbers and ways to create a sleep-promoting bedroom. Cost is \$25. Farmington residents age 60 or better may be eligible for a \$15 discount. Register by March 18 by calling (248) 489-3333, or go to https://www.farmington.k12.mi.us/district/ace/online_registration/adult_register.php to enroll.

Physicians group offers tips for good sleep

Many people lose much more than just an hour of sleep per night on a regular basis because of poor sleep habits.

"Sleep hygiene is an important part of making sure you and your family get all the sleep needed," said Dr. David T. Walsworth, president of the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP). The MAFP suggests these 10 tips to help make getting to sleep

— and staying — asleep easier:

1. Maintain a bedtime and "awake time" schedule. Try to go to bed around the same time every night and wake up about the same time every morning.
2. Establish a regular, relaxing bedtime routine. For example, take a warm bath or shower, or use aroma therapy, reading, or listening to soothing music.

3. Sleep in a room that is dark, quiet, comfortable, and cool; sleep on a comfortable mattress with comfortable pillows.
4. Use your bedroom only for sleep.
5. Finish eating at least 2-3 hours before your regular bedtime.
6. Avoid caffeine within six hours — and alcohol and smoking within two hours

— of bedtime.

7. Exercise regularly but finish a few hours before bedtime.
8. Avoid naps.
9. Go to bed only when sleepy. Get in bed only for sleeping, not for work or watching television.
10. After 10-15 minutes of not being able to get to sleep, go to another room to read until you do feel sleepy.

Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
18829 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (248) 478-7860

STOPPING MEDICATION THEN STARTING IT AGAIN

These difficult economic times have meant that a number of people on medicines for arthritis, lost their jobs. As a result they could no longer afford medication and dropped their therapy. In some instances the individual again found work and between the employer's health plan and the return of income, the person could afford to take the medication again.

The question arises concerning the effect on the arthritis of stopping arthritis medication and later starting it again?

For most arthritis medications re-starting is straightforward: go back to the dosage and scheduling used previously. If a patient was on Enbrel 50 mg one time a week and can now afford to take the drug again, his doctor would prescribe 50 mg one time a week. The same holds for methotrexate: if the person previously took 15 mg/week, then restart the medication at 15 mg/week.

The doctor likely would inform the patient that it could take weeks or months to return to the level of improvement the patient achieved previously. The medication must both reverse the damage done during the absence of therapy and rebuild a therapeutic level.

If the patient was on prednisone and discontinued this medication, the doctor may take a different approach. The patient may begin at a lower dose than in the past as the doctor in an effort to decrease side effects, seeks to use the least amount possible.

The idea that starting and stopping a medication makes the body immune to a drug is just hearsay not back by any scientific evidence.

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The Senior Alliance.
Area Agency on Aging 1-C

The Senior Alliance will host a Public Hearing Session for input regarding the FY 2011 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for services to persons age 60 and older in Western and Southern Wayne County. Input and comments will also be accepted at this hearing regarding *Community Focal Point designation*.

Monday, April 12, 2010
2:00 p.m.
Community Living Services, Inc.
35425 West Michigan Avenue
Wayne, MI 48184

The AIP draft will be available online March 26, 2010 at www.TheSeniorAlliance.org where information regarding Community Focal Point designation will also be made available.

Written comments accepted until April 30, 2010.
Please send written comments to:
The Senior Alliance, AAA1C
Attn: Planning
3850 Second Street, Suite 201
Wayne, MI 48184

For more information, call 734.727.2031

Publish: March 14, 2010 06E089302F 2X4.5

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After

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Board Certified Interventional Radiologist
Board Certified Phlebologist

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Alternative Energy Summit

Pathways to Green Jobs

presented by

Henry Ford Community College

Friday, March 19, 2010

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Administrative Services and Conference Center
5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn

Join us as we explore energy solutions
for our region and nation.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- Robert Ficano - Wayne County Executive
- Peter Sinclair - Greenman Studio
- Matt Rousch - WWJ News Radio
- Beth Sommers - State of Michigan

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

- CRESIT Energy - Renewable Solutions
- DTE Energy - Energy Optimizations Program
- Lumasmart - LED Lighting
- Newman Consultants - Sustainable Building
- DELEG - Wind Projects in Michigan
- WARM - Home Solutions
- Behler-Young Company - Geothermal and Hybrid Heating
- Michigan State University - Bio Fuels
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