

STUDENTS HONE EMT SKILLS – EDUCATION, A4



Dolls come to life at convention – Neighbors, B5

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AROUND TOWN

Golf begins

Local duffers can start hitting the links now that the Westland Municipal Golf Course has opened for the season.

The nine-hole course, located at 500 S. Merriman, is a great place to golf whether you are a beginner or an experienced golfer. The Westland Municipal Golf Course is a family friendly course.

Daily rates for Westland residents is \$12 for nine holes or \$20 for 18. For non-residents, the cost is \$16 for nine holes and \$26 for 18. Seniors, age 62 and over, can golf at a discounted rate.

For more information, call (734) 721-6660.

Coffee hour

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc (D-Westland) will hold a coffee hour to meet with residents 9-10:30 a.m. Monday at the William Faust Library, 6123 Central City Parkway. LeBlanc holds the local coffee hour on the second Monday of the month except in July and December.

If you can't make it to the morning session, LeBlanc will hold a Fireside Chat 6-8 p.m. also at the library. The chat is also held the second Monday of each month except in July and December.

For more information, call LeBlanc toll free at (888) 737-5325 or (517) 373-2576.

Mothers and daughters: Send us your photos

Hometown Life Woman, a monthly special section inside your *Westland Observer*, will celebrate "Mothers and Daughters" in the May edition.

E-mail a favorite photo of you and your mom, you and your daughter, or the aunt, grandmom, stepmom or woman who was/is that special mom-like person in your life. Remember — favorite means old or new! E-mail your photo (jpg format please) to woman@hometownlife.com and make sure you identify everyone in the photo. Tell us about the photo in a sentence or two and be sure to include a phone number or e-mail address where we can contact you for more information. Then look for your photo in the Thursday, May 6, edition of Hometown Life Woman.



John Feliks plays with the students in his guitar class at the Bailey Recreation Center.

Rock solid

Students learn new riffs in guitar class

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Three weeks, three classes, learn three great rock riffs.

That was the hook for a guitar class offered at the Bailey Recreation Center and teacher John Feliks delivered. At the final class, the students were working their way through ZZTop's *La Grange*, Green Day's *When I Come Around* and what Feliks described as the most challenging song, the Beatles' *Here Comes the Sun*.

"These songs have great guitar riffs and a variety of riffs," said Feliks. "Everyone in class has different skill levels. These songs have well-known chords, so you can strum along or do the more difficult parts. They're well-known songs but challenging."

Several of the students had taken classes

with Feliks, a self-taught musician, previously. An earlier class Feliks taught at the Bailey Center focused on 12-bar blues.

"You learn something new — it's kind of like a refresher course. He always gives me sometime to practice," said Brian Boyle, a Farmington Hills resident who had taken a class with Feliks at Schoolcraft College.

Westland resident Becky Thomason had also taken an earlier class with Feliks. "I like that he teaches at multiple skill levels — that's what appeals to me," said Thomason. "After the very first class you can play song that is recognizable."

For Thomason, who said she has played guitar on and off since childhood, that first song she learned was Deep Purple's *Smoke on the Water*.

Please see **CLASS, A2**

Less funding means lots of changes for city departments

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With revenues about \$5 million less than the previous year, nearly all of Westland's municipal departments would see changes under the proposed budget the council has started to study.

"My budget letter is a little lengthier than last year. There are new council members and a lot more changes in the budget than last year," said Mayor William Wild.

A starting point for developing two years balanced budgets was a five-year financial forecast put together by city auditors Plante Moran and city staff late in 2008. The forecast was presented to the council at two daylong strategic planning sessions in February 2009.

"This forecast put on paper the reality of how big the challenges were going to be for the next five years," said Wild in his budget letter. "The changes this five-year forecast indicated were essential have led to an in-depth review of all departments and municipal

operations." That meant a phrase heard often in the private sector in recent years — rightsizing, along with reorganization, collaboration and innovation in the delivery of city services. Part of that process has been eliminating 60 staff positions through a combination of negotiated early retirements, lay-offs and attrition.

Concessions from employee bargaining units delaying raises, lower starting pay, health care and pensions changes for new hires are helping balance the two-year budgets and reduce city spending going forward.

Other budget changes include: •The Water Fund will have 2.5 fewer funded positions as the water rates have been increased 16 percent and a \$5 per bill administrative fee had been added to water bills to cover newly implemented fix costs fees from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Board and Wayne County, which handles sewage treatment.

Please see **BUDGET, A2**

Other proposed changes

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Other proposed changes in the 2010-11 budget include:

•The clerk's budget was combined with budgets controlled by that department including elections, police and fire Civil Service and the Zoning Board of Appeals. As part of the reorganization, two clerical positions were removed from the clerk's budget.

•One clerical employee, transferred from the Building Department, would be returned to the Assessing Department budget.

"We hope to free up time for the assessor and appraiser — we are planning a residential property canvas. That has been beneficial in other communities," said Mayor William Wild.

•Due to the current economy and lack of building activity, the Building Department would be reorganized again animal control duties transferred to the police department. Commercial inspections would be handled by the fire department. Existing Building Department inspectors would handle code enforcement.

A currently vacant secretarial position would remain unfilled and a full-time plumbing inspector position would be eliminated. A contractor who currently does mechanical and rental inspections would take over the plumbing inspections.

•In the Department of Public Services, the construction and maintenance superintendent position will be eliminated and those duties will be picked

Please see **PROPOSED, A2**

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Donations benefit local family and charity

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two charitable donations, including one to assist with the family of two Westland boys killed in a fire, were officially presented on behalf of the Wayne Ford Civic League at a recent council meeting.

The league board had agreed to cover the costs for a luncheon attended by about 300 people following the funeral for Xavier Williams, 13, and his brother, Blake, 11, who were killed in an apartment fire late Feb. 26.

"It was a tragedy in the community when two young boys were lost in a fire," said Vic Barra, the league president who presented a check for \$490. "Their mother was left with little or nothing."

The boys' mother, Tasha Williams, was a single parent

and full-time student and unable to pay for the funerals. Westland firefighters donated \$1,000 and police officers contributed \$750. Other donations were made for the mortuary services, burial vaults, caskets, cemetery plots and other related items.

"It was a horrible tragedy. So many people stepped up it was astounding and it really touched me," said Deputy Chief Bruce Tenniswood, who accepted the donation. "We had collected over \$20,000. It was truly heart-warming. It was just tragedy. We try so hard to avoid it — it just happens."

The donation was appreciated by Councilman Dewey Reeves. "I want to say thanks to Vic Barra and the civic league. They didn't have to pay for the funeral meal. It shows community spirit and that's what it is all about," said Reeves.

The second donation from the league was made to Linda Walker, a three-year breast cancer survivor, and her daughter, Holly, who are doing the 60-mile Breast Cancer 3-Day walk as the Boobie Walkers. Nearly \$3,000 was donated for the breast cancer fund-raiser which will be held Aug. 13-15.

Over 30 days, nearly \$1,500 was raised by bingo players, Barra said, with the league board agreeing to match whatever was raised through bingo.

Another fund-raiser Barra noted was collection of recyclable paper in the league parking lot to benefit Special Olympics. "We have a recycling Dumpster in the parking lot. I hope we're not in trouble with the council for not getting approval. They're doing pretty well with it," he said.

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CLASS
FROM PAGE A1

"I play for myself. All my friends are in band and play. I'm amazed by their talent," said Thomason. "I'll never be like them. I just want to learn more."

With a smaller class — four or five students — Feliks is able to give each of the students personal attention and help them with specific questions about technique or focus on particular problem they're having with a song. Collectively, the class played along with Feliks initially at a slow pace and gradually increasing the tempo.

The students were playing acoustic guitars but pitch pipes or tuning forks these days. Each of the students came with their own electronic



Teacher John Feliks (second from left) reviews playing techniques with students Matt Fye (left), Mick LaBelle, Brian Boyle and Becky Thomason during class at the Bailey Recreation Center.

tuning devices. Thomason loads the songs onto her computer so that she can play along for practice.

"My parents were in from Florida, so I couldn't practice,"

said Thomason, who Feliks encouraged to play what she could of the song as the class played together.

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BUDGET
FROM PAGE A1

The average cost per residential bill is estimated at \$15.50.

•Millage rates would remain unchanged except for the police and fire millage which pays for the retirement fund. That is proposed to increase from 3.35 mills to 4.50 mills — the first time the millage would have been increased in six years. A resident whose

home has a taxable valued of \$50,000 would see a \$58 annual property tax increase.

The increase would offset lower investment earnings and decrease taxable values. The increase, which is subject only to council approval, would also help defray costs associated with the police and fire early retirement program.

•The only capital improvement budgeted for 2010-11 is \$250,000 for improvements to Central City Park, which is expected to undergo a \$1.5

million remediation funded through Wayne County, which owns the park. That would be combined with money earmarked in the current fiscal year for a total of \$500,000.

The City Council is scheduled to hold a second budget study session 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in the council chambers. Adoption of the budget would be scheduled for June prior to the July 1 start of the fiscal year.

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PROPOSED
FROM PAGE A1

up by existing DPS administrators. The Highway and Maintenance Department has been reorganized with the majority of savings coming from nine staff members expected to participate in the early retirement program.

The former superintendent will transfer to a new position as an assistant parks and

recreation director overseeing the golf course and ice arena. A deputy parks and recreation director position, vacant due to a retirement, will be left vacant.

The Sanitation Department will have a three-quarter reduction in personnel. Each city department is now responsible for getting their recyclables to the curb each week.

•Phase 2 of the city's curb-side recycling program will get under way at budgeted

cost of \$500,000. That will expand the program to multifamily residences such as apartments, condominiums and mobile home parks.

The city no longer pays for recycled materials to be taken to Great Lakes Recycling and less than a year into the program receives a monthly payment for the recycled materials — something the city hadn't expected until the third year of the program.

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Brandon talks 'change' at Economic Club

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

David Brandon says he's all about change in business.

When the former CEO of Domino's got research that said the company, a leader in the pizza industry for 50 years, wasn't growing at the pace it could be — "People said Domino's was 'OK' but not great," he recalled — he decided a change was needed. The company developed a marketing concept where they admitted their pizza could be better, listened to customers about changes that could be made, and then made changes.

And it worked. "It was bold," Brandon told a gathering at the Canton Economic Club Wednesday. "It's hard after 50 years at the top to feature people (in commercials) telling you your product is terrible. It was a big risk, but we felt it had a great reward."

"I would characterize what happened to us as transformational," he added. "And it was all about change."

That's the message he most wanted to deliver at the Economic Club lunch — that business has to be willing to change, and not just for change's sake, but to grow. It's an attitude he's had at all his jobs, whether it was at Valassis Communications, at Domino's or in the athletic department at the University of Michigan, where he is now the athletic director.

He made change at Valassis where, he said, he had to develop a leadership team that was all on the same page. He made change at Domino's, and now he's made changes in himself, by taking the U-M job.

He said he's been getting the same question a lot — "Why take this job that pays a little less?" he said, drawing laughs — since moving to U-M.

"They ask, 'Why would you do that?'" Brandon said. "Anyone who asks me that doesn't know me very well. It's all about 'change to grow.'"

Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy, a former state representative in the Michigan House, loved what he heard.

"I thought it was terrific," LaJoy said. "He's looking for ways to be better at what you're doing. He talked about hard work and how you have to keep

finding different ways of doing things. I thought it was a great message."

The message also resonated with the audience. Bennie Hayden is getting ready to start a small business related to "going green," and he thought Brandon's speech was right on target, not only for business but to rally the state's economy.

"I think that's where our state is at, as well," Hayden said. "We need to change the way we do things to change our economy."

Brandon's latest change comes largely as a result of his passion for the university that has affected his life so much. Consider:

- He went to U-M on an athletic scholarship, proceeded to be a part of three Big Ten football championships and earned an education that cost him all of \$5 — "There was some lab kit that for some reason wasn't covered" by the scholarship, he said.

- When his twin sons were born very ill, they were taken to Mott Children's Hospital at U-M, where he said doctors saved their lives.

"We were in a situation where we were going to lose those boys," Brandon remembered. "But we didn't, because a guy at Mott knew what to do."

- When he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, he said he traveled the world trying to find the right doctor to treat it. He said all of the advice he got wherever he traveled led back to one doctor: a U-M doctor.

"I traveled the world and found out the best doctor to treat me was three miles from my front door," he said. "That's the University of Michigan. It's a special place."

He said he's always been an unconventional candidate for most of the jobs he's taken. He didn't know much about Valassis when he took over, nor did he know much about the pizza business. But he was successful in both.

That's why he shrugs off the fact he knew little of running an athletic department when he agreed to replace Bill Martin as U-M's athletic director.

"People said, 'What does he know about athletic administration?'" Brandon said. "Well, we'll figure it out."

Brandon said change-to-

grow is coming to U-M, too. For instance:

- In December, Michigan and Michigan State will play the first outdoor hockey game in Michigan Stadium history. Brandon figures the national attendance record for a hockey game — more than 70,000 — could fall at The Big House.

- In September 2011, Notre Dame travels to the Big House for the first night game in stadium history.

Brandon, whose original career goals would have led him into education, took the business path instead, being guided by, among other things, advice given him by Bo Schembechler, the legendary football coach. Now, he's as close to that educational goal as ever.

"I never got to be a teacher or a coach, like I wanted to," said Brandon, a football and basketball player himself in high school. "But I'm close now."

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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

David Brandon's message about "change to grow" in business was well-received by audience members at the Canton Economic Club lunch Wednesday.

Men steal 12-pack of beer

Two men worked together to steal a 12-pack of beer from the 7-Eleven on Ford at Gilman store about 4 a.m. April 7.

One man entered the store and went directly to the back of the store where the coolers are located, the clerk told police. The other man tried to distract the clerk by talking to the employee and asking if there was a drinking fountain inside the store.

Both men fled from the store into a waiting vehicle near Gilman.

Minor in possession

Garden City police arrested a 17-year-old Garden City man after they found that he had open intoxicants and had consumed alcohol about 1:30 p.m. April 7 in the area of Cambridge and Middlebelt.

The police were responding to a call about some teens breaking into cars. The police report didn't indicate that any cars were tampered with when they arrived on the scene.

No license

Police arrested a 34-year-old Detroit man in the area of Middlebelt and Garden about 3 p.m. after he was stopped for having a cracked windshield. The officer found that he only had an Illinois state prison identification and had a failure

to appear warrant from the 72nd District Court in Port Huron. He also had a suspended license.

Damaged vehicle

A vehicle that was parked in the 31900 block of Harrison sustained damage when an unknown vehicle pushed it 20 yards into a stop sign. When the owner returned to her car at 5:30 a.m. April 7, she realized that it wasn't parked in the same location where she parked it.

Stolen prescription

A resident in the 31400 block of James told police April 6 that she suspected that her cousin who has been staying with her had stolen some prescription medicine from her house. The cousin stays with her two days a week because he has no home, she said.

When she returned to her home, she found that she only had one quarter of a 90-day supply of pills left. She told police that her cousin knows where she keeps her medication.

Fraud

A Monroe man said that an unknown person used his Michigan unemployment Visa card to make a purchase he hadn't authorized April 7 at Kmart, 29600 Ford.

—Compiled by Sue Buck

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EDUCATION

Clinicals, practicals: Students hone EMT skills

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Stephanie Gertsen is matter-of-fact about why she's sitting in a classroom at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center learning about back boards and neck braces.

"I want to go into the medical field when I'm older," the John Glenn High School student said.

Gertsen is among a group of Wayne-Westland high school students who have signed on for the inaugural year of the new Emergency Medical Technician class being offered at the center. Taught by Westland fire Capt. Brian Craft, the class gives the students hands-on training that will send them out the door after graduation with the skills to get a job in a fast-growing field.

"If they pass the class, if they take the state test and pass that, they can become a licensed EMT in the state," said Craft. "It's one of the fields showing job growth in Michigan. They're putting EMTs in ERs, the casinos, the movie studios in Allen Park, sleep apnea clinics. There's a lot of jobs for these kids."

According to Principal Ginny Kowalski, enrollment in the center's medical fields was increasing to the point where there wasn't enough room. Westland Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lucas offered up the idea of an EMT class and the district agreed.

"We knew we needed another health care class," said Kowalski. "We decided to start with 45 students and we're very pleased. For the first year, it's been great. It's definitely a success."

Kowalski believes the high-school based EMT class — only seniors can enroll in the class — may be one of a kind in western Wayne County. The class gives students a leg up in testing for positions on fire departments which require at least an EMT certification, said Craft and it also opens the door for them to go on to be paramedics or even enter the



During the new EMT class at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, Samantha Winters, Shenieka Beattie and Carleton Green practice doing back boarding.

medical field like Green wants to do.

"I know a doctor who started as an EMT and is now an ER doctor," he said.

In Craft's class, student get the practical knowledge, but they also get hands-on real experience at hospitals like Oakwood Annapolis in Wayne and Garden City Hospital.

"We teach the book stuff and we use graphic videos as teaching tools. You can sit and learn 24/7, but unless you have the real experience of helping people, you don't learn," said Craft.

Melissa Deyo, a Glenn student, admits she expected class to be a lot easier, but finds it rewarding.

"You definitely have to study," she said. "Some days the learning is dry but today we're learning about chest wounds. After I get out of this class, I feel like I can help someone."

Austin Baker said the EMT class the "hardest class I've taken in high school."

"You actually get to do something in this class. It's like chemistry, but it's far from boring," he said.

Craft told the students from the get-go that they would be treated as adults, not students. He explained that they had to study.

"I think it helped them in school," he said. "I'm impressed with this class, it's a good group of kids."

Carleton Green's mother was diagnosed with Type II diabetes because he was able to tell before she went to see the doctor that she needed to be tested for it.

"I was able to tell her to get the test done because of what I learned and she was able to get her pills," said the Glenn student. "We now know how quickly a situation can change."

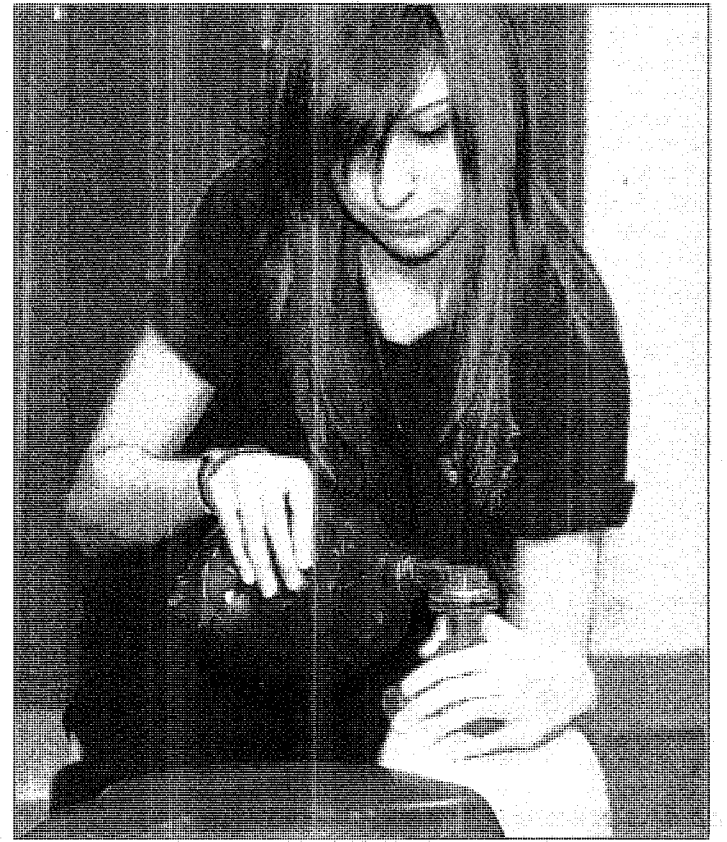
"The basis of the program is that you don't diagnose, you know the signs and symptoms and how much you can help someone," Craft added. Being the first such EMT class, students have had no one to talk to about what they're getting into. After sitting in the classroom, they're now watching medical shows on TV in a different way. What shown on TV is nothing like what happens in the real world, they said.



Thursday is uniform day for the EMT students who wear blue shirts and blue slacks like instructor Brian Craft (back row on left).



Student Melissa Deyo practices using a Combitube during a practical experience portion of the EMT class.



Nicole Mari works on CPR during the EMT class.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smaison@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Battle of the Bands

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 17
Location: Community Baptist Church, 28237 W. Warren Road, Garden City
Details: Local bands will compete in a free concert to help raise money for a local organization that provides those in need of home repairs with volunteers ready to help. The Michigan Missions Third Annual Battle of the Bands will feature more 15 bands playing all genres of music along with face painting and other entertainment. Proceeds from concession and T-shirt sales will help modify a trailer into a mobile

shower station for volunteers. The organization also welcomes donations of time, knowledge, and supplies from individuals and companies in all trades. Michigan Missions is a nonprofit organization that brings youth, host churches and homeowners together to serve God by serving unemployed, disabled, elderly and low-income persons with home repairs at no cost to them.

Grief Support

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15
Location: Compassionate Care Hospice office at 5820 N. Lilley, Suite 1, Canton
Details: Compassionate Care Hospice is offering a seven-week grief support series, "Understanding Your Grief," beginning Thursday, April 15. The group is for any adult who has experienced the death of a loved one and will provide support and education on

the grieving process. There is no charge.

Contact: For information or to register, contact Ann Christensen, Compassionate Care Hospice Bereavement Coordinator at 734-983-9050.

Tribute Show

Time/Date: 5:30-11:30 p.m. Saturday, May 8
Location: Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale, Westland
Details: The Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 and Westland Moose Lodge 2143 are sponsoring the Ultimate Tribute Show, an evening of dinner, drinks and entertainment, featuring celebrity impersonators Barry Manilow, Patsy Kline and Rod Stewart. Tickets are \$30 per person and include the dinner, open bar and show at 7:30 p.m.

Contact: Larry Mosier at (734) 728-7643, VFW Post at (734) 721-9876 or Moose Lodge at (734) 722-3410

Book-A-Thon

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Saturday, May 8
Location: Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, west of Merriman, Garden City
Details: Ten Michigan authors who are self-published or traditionally published have partnered for a book exhibit to meet people and showcase their work. Their books will be available for sale and autograph. The authors are Corinne E. Frontiero, Sandra N. Cunningham, Cornell R. Amerson, Johnnie Sue Bridges, Cherry Scott Jones, Carla M. Thompson, Christina Reyes, Dione Johnson, C.L. Rossman and Velonda Thompson.

Contact: Sandra Cunningham at (734) 478-7942

Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 22

Location: Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, just east of Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Enjoy a day of lace making demonstrations, try-its to learn the basics of bobbin lace and tatting, or bring your own project to work on. Lace making supplies will be available for purchase. Free and open to the public.

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.

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

Earth Angels

Details: Earth Angels, a children's 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

VOLUNTEERS

First Step

Details: First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program.

Contact: (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223

Drivers Needed

Details: Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. The meetings take place 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center, Farmington Road south of Five Mile. Drivers may be offered a stipend. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others may attend the meetings.

Contact: (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208

VNA Hospice

Details: Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required.

Contact: (248) 967-8361, www.vna.org




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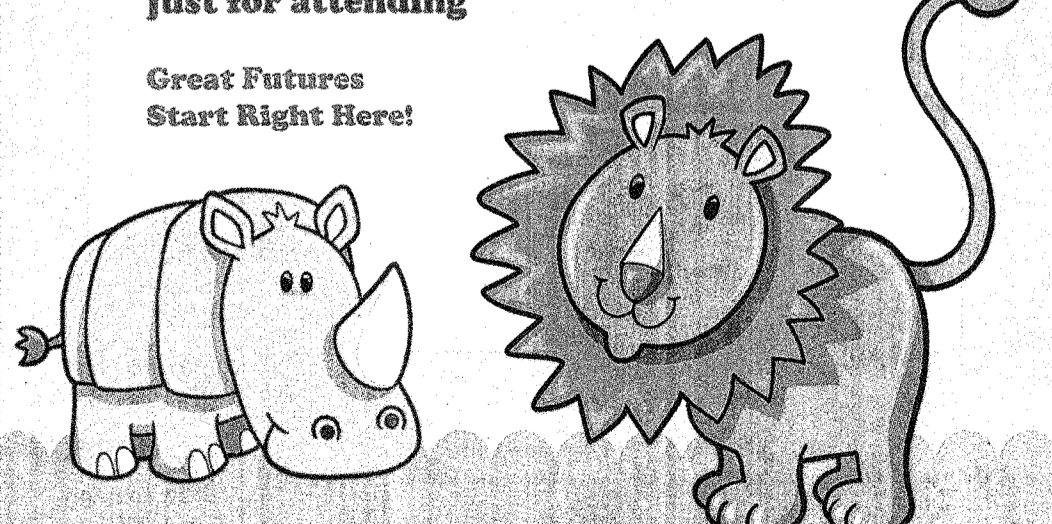
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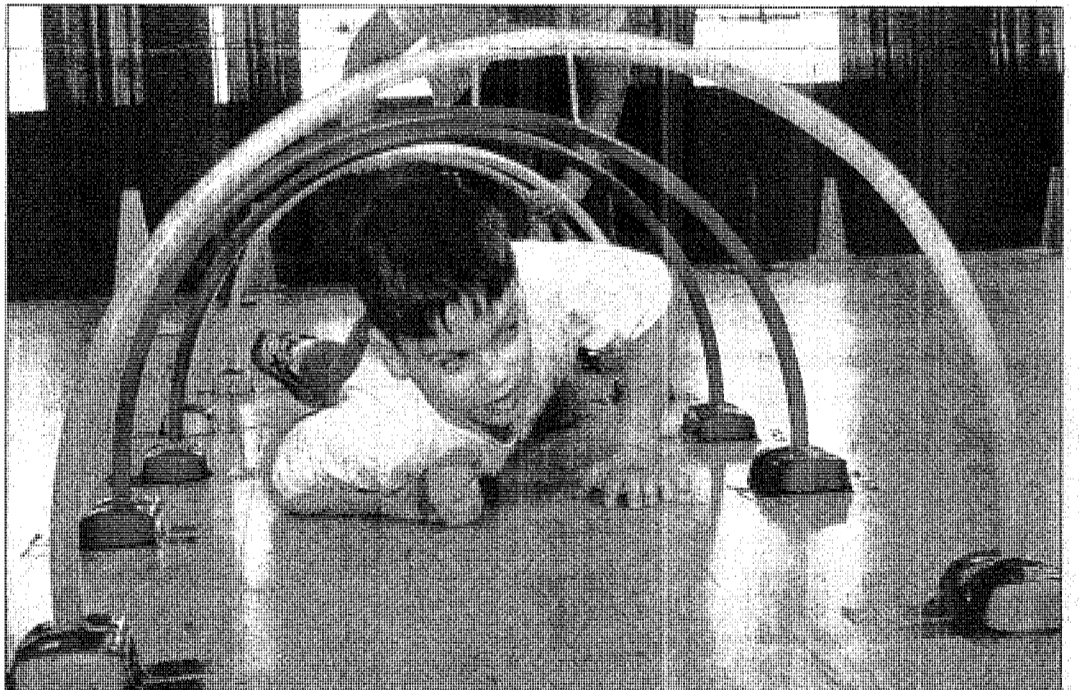
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Jack Espinoza works his way through the jungle obstacle course during Safari Day at the Maplewood Community Center.

Youngsters take spring break safari

BY SUE BUCK
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

About 80 children spent their spring break on an African safari at the Maplewood Community Center.

The safari fun began when children arrived. They received a passport to Africa which was stamped as they entered into each adventure room — the animal craft room, an obstacle course over crocodiles, sand digging to find insects and toe fishing.

Little binoculars were provided to each child to search for animals in the Jungle Room. Pizza, salad and jungle cake was served in the Zebra Cantina. Children ages 4-9 came with parents, grandparents and others.

"It's cool," said Shiori Wojtas, 8, "I came to see the 'animals.'" She also researched information about creatures which live in Africa, like tree snakes, before coming to the event.

Olivia Harrison, 5, a Garden City resident, who takes cheerleading at the center, brought her father, Charlie. She wanted to see the elephants.

Nathaniel Smelewski, 5, of Westland hoped to see tigers.

The women who usually volunteer in the center's thrift store switched gears and vol-



Jenna Wiebe laughs after being scared by a gorilla during an African safari at the Maplewood Community Center.

unteered their time to serve food to the youngsters.

It took about three days to decorate the rooms for the safari, a first time event, according to center Supervisor Cheryl Stepanian.

In one room, the children

colored a photo frame and made bead bracelets.

Julianna Tomosi, 6, immediately enjoyed this activity. "I like making the bracelets," Julianna said.

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

Author drafts blueprint for finding a job

BY JAY GROSSMAN
ECCENTRIC STAFF WRITER

It's a difficult time, if not downright impossible, trying to find work today.

Therese Boldt wants to make it a little easier for you.

The professional career coach is the author of *Yes! You Can Land a Job (Even) in a Crummy Economy*, a comprehensive guide toward getting a leg up on the competition in this ultra-competitive job market.

The book illustrates the importance of networking,

resumes, personal appearance, phone manners and finding opportunity in a stressful situation. An entire chapter is devoted to communication skills.

"There's a funny thing happening with the Gen Y group," said Boldt, 48. "They believe they can build relationships through e-mail when it comes to careers. What they're finding is you can't replace that face-to-face or ear-to-ear communication."

Reading the book won't land someone a specific job. It can help in trying to figure out a suitable career. Boldt believes

most people become their own biggest obstacle when forced to switch professions.

"What typically happens to person who finds themselves without a job is they go into a reactive mode," she said. "They look for any job ... but what they don't do is take the time to figure out what they're good at and what they're not good at. It's no different for the facilities engineer at Ford or the accountant who worked for a mid-sized auto supplier. It's the same dynamic: How do you change the mindset?"

Boldt is president of the alumni association for Wayne State University's business school. She's also the WJBK-TV FOX2 morning news career coach. She said the book, which is self-published, is her way of giving back.

"I never had a burning desire to write a book," she said. "I had a burning desire to help all the people who I couldn't place as a recruiter, to help them find a job."

The book challenges readers to conduct a thorough self-evaluation of their skill sets and goals. It forces the reader to consider what they want to do for a living, versus "what they're good at."

Most of all, the book urges readers to take action.

"I have a list of probably 90 churches that have career ministries — and that's not a complete list," she said. "If you can't



Career coach Therese Boldt offers tips on how to prepare for the job market.

find the resources, you're not looking for them. And if you not looking it's because you don't believe you'll succeed.

"My entire platform is here in Michigan, we have the opportunity to really show the rest of the nation how it can be done under the worst possible case scenario. If we can draw

together and share resources among one another, then we can move forward out of this rut we're in."

Boldt laughed when told it seems her book takes a "tough love" approach toward helping people find work.

"I'm the youngest of eight kids," she said. "We grew up in

an 850-square-foot house with one bathroom in Ferndale ... we put our dining room table in the basement because we didn't have enough space upstairs. I get what it means to work hard."

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Spaghetti lunch

A spaghetti luncheon will be offered following worship at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, noon to 2:30 p.m. today (Sunday). The cost is \$5 per person. All are welcome.

Coffee hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson (D-Westland) will hold district coffee hours on Monday, April 12 in Westland and Redford.

AROUND WESTLAND

No appointment is necessary. From 9-10 a.m., Anderson will be at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. At 10:30-11:30 a.m., Anderson will be at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with the senator but are unable to attend may contact him by mail: P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933; Phone: Toll-free (866) 262-7306; or e-mail: SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Bug hunters wanted

Volunteers are still needed for Friends of the Rouge's annual Spring Bug Hunt on Saturday, April 24. Interested volunteers must pre-register by Monday, April 12. Children are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult.

The event begins at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan Dearborn's Environmental Interpretive Center. Volunteers are assigned to teams of four to eight people that each travel to two sites where they look for living things in samples collected from the river. The number and type of bugs found is used to assess each site and data are submitted to the MDNRE and Rouge communities.

The Spring Bug Hunt is part of a long-term monitoring program that was created in 1998 to train local residents to collect information about the health of Rouge streams. It is coordinated by Friends of the Rouge and supported by the Alliance of Rouge Communities.

For more information or to sign up, visit www.therouge.org.

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Jazz Appreciation Month

Sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, Jazz Appreciation Month (or JAM for short) seeks to extend awareness of and interest in this music, which is arguably America's most unique contribution to world arts.

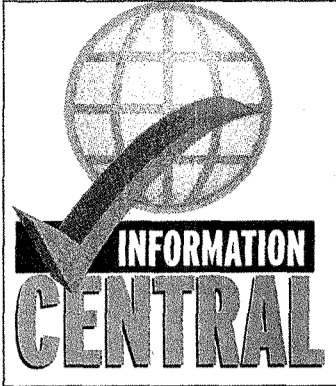
Jazz music is mainly an instrumental music which derives from many African-American influences, including church-like call and responses, blues-style improvisations and an African emphasis on percussion and rhythm. Though purely an African-American invention, it has appealed to a wide variety of musicians with its lively group interplay and the individualized act of improvisation.

Jazz first gained notoriety in the 1920s as Louis Armstrong's early bands began making records. Jazz reached its heyday in the 1940s and 1950s with such big-name acts as Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker and Benny Goodman selling out clubs and halls. Beat Generation writers like Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg cite bebop-style jazz as a primary influence in their writing.

Jazz has also been called America's "classical music," although it is still going strong today — witness the 750,000 people who descend on Detroit during the Labor Day Jazz Festival. While jazz also has been a primary influence on many types of music, including rock 'n' roll, which took its cues from the blues, rap, R&B, techno and country, it also remains an incredibly elastic music, with artists such as John Scofield and Joshua Redman incorporating these and more genres into jazz's unique chords and time structures.

The Westland Public Library has a nice collection of jazz CDs for the purist and the person who wants to hear new jazz. We also have definitive biographies of many of the above-mentioned musicians, as well as books which discuss the history of jazz. Look, or listen, for jazz concerts at the library this summer, too.

If you have any questions,



please come to the Reference Desk at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway, (734) 326-6123 or visit westlandlibrary.org.

— Andy Schuck

Highlighted activities

•Congratulations to the 28 winners of tickets to hear Scott Turow, author of *Presumed Innocent*, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 14, at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, in Canton. Thank you to all who entered the raffle and everyone who participated in our library's Everyone's Reading programs and book discussions.

•Flowering Vines to Love (and Avoid), 7 p.m. Monday, April 12. Join Advanced Master Gardener Cheryl English for tips on how to add vertical dimension to your garden with flowering vines. Learn basics and specifics about plant selection, care and culture, as well as help with identifying and avoiding proven and potential thugs. This program is hosted by the Westland Garden Club. Call or visit the library to reserve your seat. (734) 326-6123.

•Fiction Writing Group, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 13. Participants must be 18 and older. This is an added date. If you would like help developing your fiction or enjoy reading new and exciting fiction, please join us for one of our sessions. For this month's stories, e-mail: andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org or call (734) 326-6123.

•Open Mic, 7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, open to teens and adults. Open Mic jumps into the spring months with its mix of singers, singer-

songwriters, poets, storytellers and performers. All types of artists are welcome. Singer-songwriter Dave Boutette emcees. See Boutette's MySpace page for additional information.

•Friday Night Movie Madness: *Men Who Stare at Goats*, 7 p.m. Friday, April 16. A reporter in Iraq might just have the story of a lifetime when he meets Lyn Cassady, a guy who claims to be a former member of the U.S. Army's New Earth Army, a unit that employs paranormal powers in its missions. Rated R. Everyone 18 and over is invited. No registration is required. This is an after-hours program. The library doors open at 6:30 p.m.

•Developing Stronger Interviewing Skills, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 17. Not sure what to expect during a job interview? Make sure you're prepared so that you can put your best face forward. Preston Banks, president of Resume Solutions, LLC, will guide you throughout the workshop to help you move ahead in your job search. Stop in or call to reserve your seat. (734) 326-6123

•Job Seekers Lab, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays; 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays; and 1-4 p.m. Fridays. 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, 7 p.m. every Wednesday. Everyone welcome, including crocheters. Special Demo: Crocheted Sit-Upon. You will need to bring a Roving, Large Crochet Hook (K or larger).

•Chess Group, 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays. 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.

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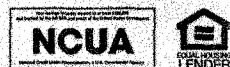
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Stabenow: Bill would level playing field

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In 17 years at Atlas Tube, one of the country's largest manufacturers of hollow steel tubing products, plant manager Jeff Cole has seen sales drop and employees laid off because of uneven pricing that allows overseas competitors to sell products and services cheaper. If legislation being pushed by U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, aimed at the way the Chinese value their currency, can do something about it, Cole is all for it.

Stabenow was at Atlas Tube's Plymouth plant Tuesday, stumping for support for her Currency Exchange Rate and Oversight Reform Act, which would penalize countries like China, she says, which undervalues its currency to artificially discount its foreign products.

Stabenow contends some countries undervalue their currency to give themselves a competitive advantage in the global economy. One of those, Stabenow said, is China, which she says undervalues its cur-

rency by as much as 40 percent.

"I have been focused on making sure, in a global economy, the rules are fair," said Stabenow, who is preparing for a trip to Beijing. "It needs to be a level playing field. It's not OK for countries to cheat."

According to Stabenow, China has undervalued its currency since its 2001 admission to the World Trade Organization, which provides a formula for how member countries are to value their money. Stabenow said the Chinese haven't ever followed those rules; consequently, she said, the Chinese "dump their products" into the U.S. at much cheaper rates than companies like Atlas Tube.

Atlas Tube, located on Eckles in Plymouth Township, has a production capacity of some 180,000 tons and employs more than 50 workers. It's a division of John Maneely Co., which Atlas president Dave Seeger said has lost some 500 jobs because of tactics such as those he says the Chinese use.

Stabenow believes the job loss due to such practices numbered more than 2 million between 2001-08.

"When you undervalue your currency, it gives you a huge unfair advantage," Seeger said. "Congress has been reluctant to address it. I'm sure it's complicated politically ... to get tough with China on trade. I think (that reluctance) comes at the cost of thousands of manufacturing jobs across the country."

The legislation would:

- Require the Department of Treasury to act when it sees that a currency is being undervalued as a result of clear government policies that interfere with the currency market.
- Require the Department of Commerce to act when an American company complains that Chinese products get a subsidy or because manipulated currency results in prices that are artificially low.
- Provide the Department of Commerce with formulas to impose penalties for dumping or subsidies so manufacturers and businesses do not have to wait for action by the Treasury

Department.

If it works, it'll cut down on the competitive advantage for overseas countries.

"I don't deal with (jobs), I deal with our volume," said Cole, Atlas' plant manager. "Over the past couple of years, we've seen our volumes drop. Our customers are buying overseas because they can get it cheaper. They've had anti-dumping laws, but with their price manipulation, Chinese get around them. It's time someone did something about it."

Stabenow said the legislation, and the attitude that comes with it, is as important as the bill itself.

"We're going to commit ourselves to American manufacturing and American jobs," she said. "We've had a decade of 'being in a global economy.' But that doesn't work if the other countries aren't following the rules. This isn't about closing borders. It's about making everyone follow the rules."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-8899

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Sweet time

The Friends of the Straight Farmhouse are hosting Cloud Nine Desserts with Bev at 7 p.m. Friday, April 23, at the Straight Farmhouse, 6221 Merriman, north of Ford, Garden City.

Bev England will demonstrate how meringues are the perfect base for a wide variety of delectable desserts. There will be plenty of taste testing. England learned cake decorating at the Snyder School of Cake Decorating. She has taken classes with the chefs at The Grand Hotel, Williamsburg, Va., The New Orleans Cooking School, Belgium and France.

Tickets cost \$7 and are available at the farmhouse. For more information, call (734) 838-0650 or go online to www.sfhonline.org.

Saturday Night Light

This month's installment of Garden City Presbyterian Church's Saturday Night Light on April 17 will feature the Jake Body Band.

The group isn't just a band, it's a ministry that tells the

story of how God saved their lives over and over. Their music is a crossover from country to Christian to pop and even gospel.

Saturday Night Light will be at 7 p.m. at the church, 1841 Middlebelt south of Ford. Admission is free. For more information, call 7421-7620 or go online to www.gardencity-presbyterian.org.

Relay for Life

The Save the TaTas Relay for Life team will host a Fish Fry 2-6 p.m. Sunday, May 2 1341 Ralph, Garden City. The cost is \$10 per person which includes a Fish Fry, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, rolls and cake. If interested in attending, call Pam at (734) 612-3505.

Save the Ta Ta's will also have a garage sale at 30017 Maplewood, Garden City Thursday and Friday, May 6-7. Save the Ta Ta's also have "I Support the Ta Ta's" T-shirts for sale. The cost is \$20 per shirt.

To purchase one, call team captain Margo Ciecierski at (734) 634-4218 or e-mail margoc@gardencitymi.org.



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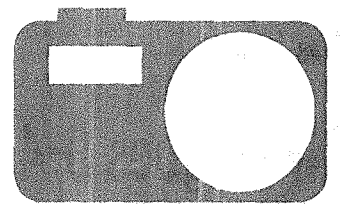
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Starting blocks

Area boys track teams eye openers

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For area coaches, there are more questions than answers to the start of the 2010 boys track and field season.

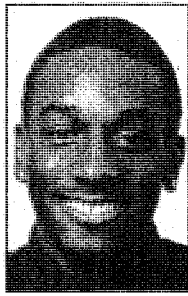
With spring break out of the way, the dual meet season gets under way Tuesday. And what to expect this season is anyone's guess.

Livonia Stevenson is coming off a banner 2009 season in which the Spartans captured the KLAAs Central Division and Kensington Conference titles, along with a runner-up finish at the Division 1 regional.

But the defending Livonia City champs were hard hit by graduation losses, including first-team All-Observer sprinter Nick Anagnostou, who went 10.7 in the 100-meter dash, along with the area's top long jumper in David Simor (21 feet, 11.75 inches).

Middle distance runner Nate Sergison will also be missed, along with all four members of Stevenson's first-team All-Area 800 relay team.

"It's kind of a rebuilding season, but I think we'll fare pretty well,"



Tony Frezzell Churchill



Scott Coppola Churchill

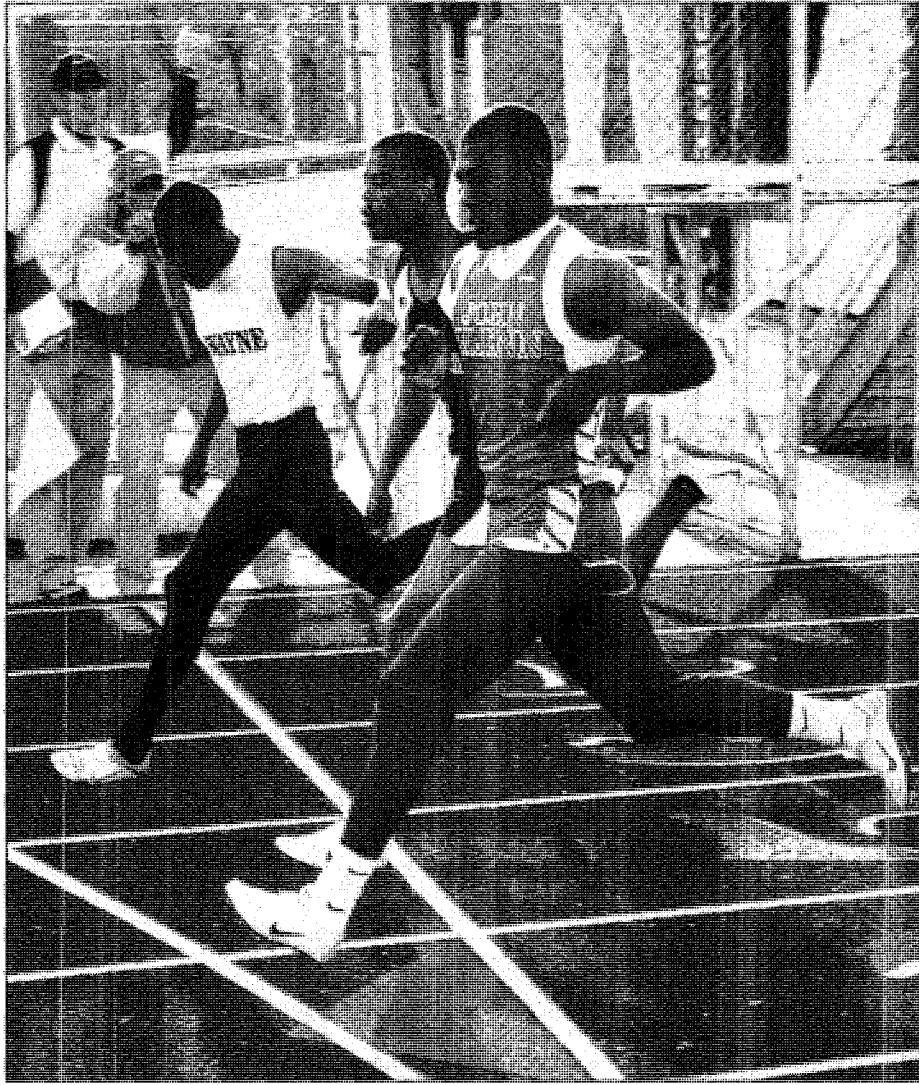
Stevenson coach Scott Shaw said. "We have a young team, but not as fast as we have been in the past."

Livonia Franklin went 5-0 to win the KLAAs South Division's dual meet title last spring. The Patriots also lost some key performers, but return two of their top sprinters in Mike Baumgardner and Richard Duncan.

Franklin's shot put trio of Nate Coleman (48-0), Sean McAuliffe (46-9.5) and Jay Woolfork (46-9) also returns.

"We have a more versatile group this year with many young men look-

Please see **TRACK, B2**



Westland John Glenn senior Jeremy Langford returns after going 10.9 last year in the 100-meter dash.

SIDELINES

Sidor spurs sweep

It was a virtual hit parade Friday as Madonna University swept a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference women's softball double-header in Grand Rapids, 9-2 and 14-1 (five-inning mercy).

MU, which improved to 19-6 overall and 3-1 in the WHAC, completed the sweep by winning the nightcap behind a 15-hit attack led by Cat Sidor (Livonia Churchill), who went 3-for-4 with five RBI.

Other hitting stars included winning pitcher Hallie Minch (3-for-4; three RBI); Brittney Scero (3-for-4; one RBI); Erica Landess (2-for-3; one RBI) and Tara LaMilza (2-for-3).

Minch (8-4) tossed a four-hitter, did not allow a walk and struck out three.

Jess Irwin (11-2) threw a two-hitter and struck out 14 in the first game.

Sidor went 3-for-5 to pace a 13-hit MU attack.

Ashley Shay, Landess and Rachael Kethe each added two hits and two RBI. Amber Rafko also had two hits.

Cornerstone falls to 6-19 and 3-3.

MU baseball falls

The No. 18-ranked Madonna University baseball team took a pounding Friday in Battle Creek.

St. Xavier (Ill.) collected 16 hits in a 16-2 triumph over the Crusaders at Nichols Field.

The loss drop MU to 22-6 overall, while St. Xavier improves to 20-21-1.

Matt Erickson and Jim Pipolo each had two hits and three RBI for the victorious Cougars. Anthony Maziur, Tony Testin and Mark Siefert contributed two hits and two RBI each. One of Maziur's hits was a homer.

Spencer Sarel went 3-for-4 with two RBI for the Crusaders, who committed five errors. Jeff Bultinck added two hits.

Winning pitcher Ken Hurta (7-1) scattered six hits, walked two and struck out five in six innings.

MU used seven different pitchers with Trent Pohl (1-1) suffering the loss. In 2.1 innings he gave up six earned runs on seven hits and five walks.

New Crusader

Madonna University women's basketball coach Carl Graves added his second recruit for the 2010-11 season by signing Ida's Carrie Kloster to an NAIA letter-of-intent on Wednesday.

Kloster averaged 13.8 points this season and helped the Bluestreaks to back-to-back undefeated regular seasons and an overall record of 78-12 in four years. She was also a two-time Lenawee County Athletic Association selection as a junior and senior and led Ida to LCAA titles. She also lettered in three other sports.

"When people and fans at MU meet her, they will know right away that this kid is for real," Graves said. "Her size and athleticism are fun to watch, and she has the work ethic on and off the court as good as any I've ever seen at her age."

Kloster, an honor roll student, joins Kayleigh McCollum (Muskegon Catholic Central) as part of the 2010-11 recruiting class.

Thunderbirds stop Rockets in DH

Westland John Glenn's baseball team got left out in the cold during Thursday's doubleheader against host Dearborn Edsel Ford.

Playing under frigid and windy conditions, the Rockets fell to 0-3 on the season after being swept by the Thunderbirds, 9-3 and 14-4.

Winning pitcher Pat Broderick helped his own cause by going 2-for-4 with a pair of RBI as Edsel overcame an early 3-0 deficit to win the opener.

Broderick went the first five innings, allowing five hits and three walks. He struck out nine.

Caleb Clenney went 2-for-4 and scored a pair of runs for the Rockets.

Losing pitcher Rob Schurig, the Glenn starter, worked the first four innings, allowing eight runs on six hits and five walks. He fanned five.

In the nightcap, Glenn trailed 5-4 after scoring a run in the top of the fifth, but Edsel Ford invoked the 10-run mercy rule by scoring nine times in the bottom half of the inning.

Bruce Tebelman, the T-Birds' ninth hitter, went 3-for-3, including a three-run triple to end the game.

Broderick also went 2-for-3 with three RBI as Edsel improved to 5-1 overall.

Ryan Gilbert was the winning pitcher. In five innings he struck out three, walked four and scat-

PREP BASEBALL

tered five hits.

Andrew McGrath, the Rockets' starter, took the loss. In four innings he allowed seven hits, walked two and struck out two.

Schurig went 2-for-2 with a sacrifice and two RBI. McGrath also knocked in a run.

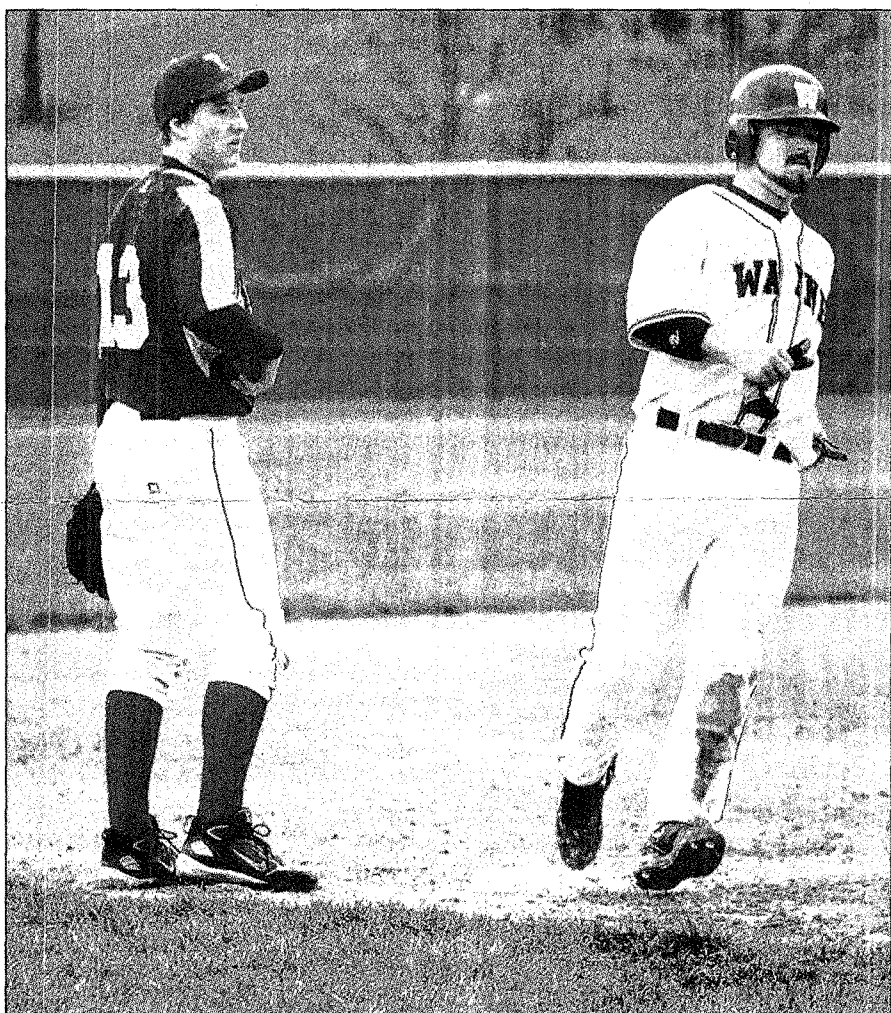
Glenn will try to break into the win column Monday when it travels to face defending KLAAs Kensington Conference champion Northville. The crossover game starts at 4 p.m.

CRANBROOK 7, JOHN GLENN 1: Westland John Glenn (0-1) could muster only three hits Tuesday, dropping its 2010 season opener to visiting Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (1-0).

Jacob Chapman led the victorious Cranes with a pair of doubles and three RBI.

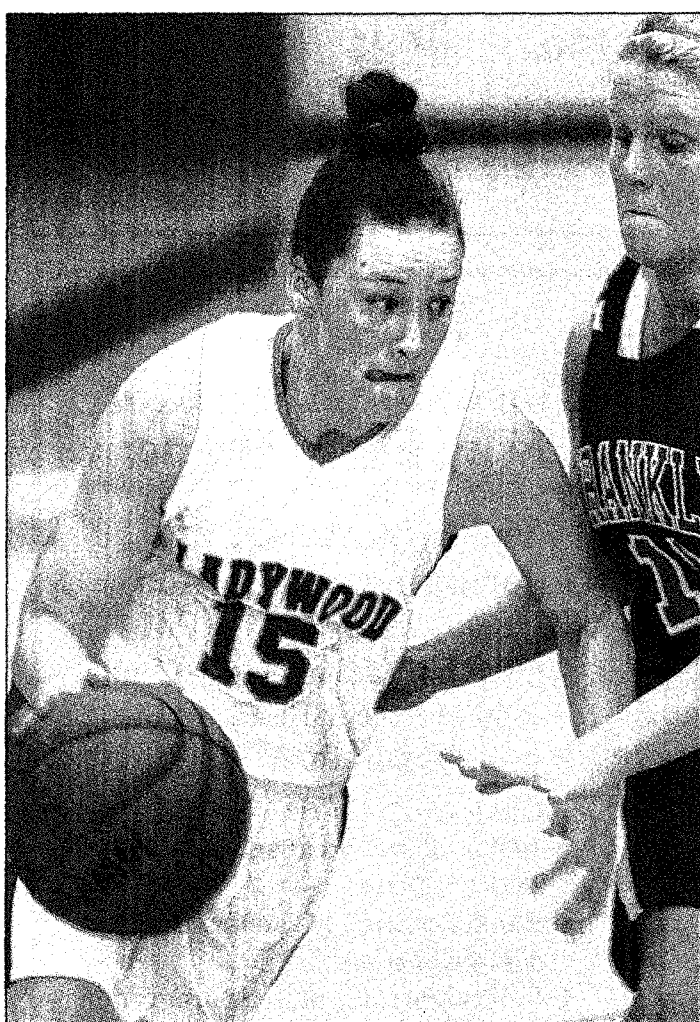
Winning pitcher Nick Cassell went the first three innings and allowed a run in the second inning when Spencer Dowd singled home Caleb Clenney, who finished with two of Glenn's three hits.

Dowd, who started and worked the first 2½ innings, took the loss on the mound for the Rockets. Reliever Rob Schurig came on and pitched scoreless 3½ innings, allowing just an infield single and no walks while striking out four.



Weather permitting

Wayne's Shane Kommer (20) rounds third base during Wednesday's home opener against Ypsilanti. The first game of a double-header was called after four innings because of rain with Wayne leading 9-0. The Zebras' Jake White had a 2-run homer and pitched four scoreless innings with four strikeouts. Shane Wilson and Dominik Corredino also collected two hits apiece. Wayne outlit the Phoenix, 9-2.



BILL BRÉSLEK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Basketball has been one of Ladywood's most successful sports over the years. Jennifer Kelley (left) played her senior year for the Blazers, who reached the Catholic League A-B Division and Class A district title games.

Long legacy

Athletics play pivotal role at Ladywood

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Although Livonia Ladywood High is marking its 60-year anniversary April 25 with a special Mass, there's been 34 years of celebration since the Blazers became a member school of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Numerous championship banners adorn the walls inside the gymnasium, a \$2.1 million structure that was dedicated Feb. 2, 1992.

The all-girls Catholic school has enjoyed its share of success at the state level and offers one of the most comprehensive athletic programs in the state.

Ladywood currently fields 33 various teams at the varsity, JV and freshman levels. Approximately 73 percent of Ladywood's student body participates in at least one sport.

By next season it will be a total of 20 sports as pom pon arrives on the scene.

Among the MHSAA sports Ladywood offers are volleyball, golf, cross country and swimming in the fall; basketball, competitive cheer, bowling and skiing in the winter; track and field, softball, tennis and lacrosse in the spring.

Please see **LADYWOOD, B3**

LADYWOOD SPORTS HISTORY

Basketball: State champions (1983, 1985); state runner-up (1980, 1984); regional titles (7); district titles (24); Catholic League champs (5).

Volleyball: State champions (1988, 1989); state runner-up (1990); Final Fours (1995, 2009); regional titles (11); district titles (18); Catholic League champs (11).

Softball: State runner-up (2009); regional titles (4); district titles (8); Catholic League champs (2).

Track and field: State runner-up (1981); regional titles (2); Catholic League champs (4).

Cross country: State champion (1980); regional titles (3); Catholic League champs (3).

Golf: State runner-up (2007); regional titles (3); Catholic League champs (3).

Soccer: District titles (4); regional titles (1).

Tennis: Regional titles (2).

Lacrosse: State champions (2003, 2004); Catholic League champs (5).

Competitive cheer: Regional champs (2); Catholic League champs (1).

Ice hockey: State runner-up (2000); league champs (6).

Field hockey: League champs (4); state finals appearances (1).

Figure skating: State finals appearances (4).

C'ville goes 0-4 in Spring Break Tournament

It turned out to be a tough week for the Livonia Clarenceville baseball team in the Oakland County Spring Break Tournament hosted by Rochester High School.

The Trojans lost their first four games in Pool 1 of the seven-team bracket to fall to 2-5 on the season.

In an 8-5 setback Wednesday against Milford, Eric Trotter suffered the loss despite limiting the Mavericks to just four hits on the afternoon.

The Trojans, meanwhile, collected nine hits against Milford pitching with Zac Rosen, Mike Schiffman, Garett Hintzman and Chris Diaz paving the way with two apiece.

Rosen also had two RBI, while Schiffman and Diaz knocked in one each.

In an 11-2 loss to New Baltimore Anchor Bay, Clarenceville was out-hit 9-2 with Rosen collecting two RBI.

Starter Ben Gehan suffered the loss.

On Monday, the Trojans fell first on Monday to Ortonville Brandon, 11-1, and then to host Falcons, 9-0.

In the defeat to Rochester, Schiffman took the loss as Falcon bats pounded out 11 hits.

Damien Quarles had the only two hits off Rochester starter Chris Saber.

Against Brandon, Clarenceville's offense was held in check again, collecting just five hits in the five-inning mercy-shortened affair.

John James had a single and run scored and Gehan chipped in with an RBI to lead Clarenceville.

Quarles struck out six in his pitching performance.

Recycle this newspaper

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Rick Austin, 16th year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's finish: Conference (fourth place); Division (second); Division 1 regional (fourth); Livonia City Meet (second).

Notable losses to graduation: Derik Peterman (first-team All-Area); Travis Tomey (first-team All-Area); Devon Easterling (first-team All-Area); Mark Waterbury (third-team All-Area); Nathan Wise (third-team All-Area); Michael Schmidt (third-team All-Area).

Leading returnees: Anthony Frezzell, Sr., sprints (first-team All-Area 400 relay); Scott Coppola, Sr., sprints (first-team All-Area 400 relay); Deon Clemons, Sr., shot put (third-team All-Area); Bryan Bartig, Soph., throws; Joseph Marlow, Sr., pole vault; Quinn Osgood, Sr., distance; Stephen Charnley, Jr., distance; Thomas Windle, Jr., middle distance; Jacob Kobylarz, Sr., sprints; Ian Guerin, Sr., hurdles; Marshall Fry, Sr., hurdles (third-team All-Area 3,200 relay); Ryan Keeling, Sr., middle distance; Carl Rayford, Jr., pole vault; Alex Ryktarsik, Jr., pole vault; Michael Greer, Sr., pole vault.

Promising newcomers: Jacob Humphreys, Fr., sprints; Robert Foster, Fr., sprints; Ben Yates, Fr., distance; Scott Hamill, Sr., sprints; Jaylin Freeman, Soph., sprints; Raynord Allen, Sr., sprints; Jaylin Ewing, Jr., sprints.

Austin's 2010 outlook: "We look solid once again in the pole vault and sprints. That will be our strength again this year as we combine some promising newcomers with returners from last year's state finalist 4 x 100 relay team. Our distance group looks pretty strong as does our field events. Our hurdle group will have to mature and score for us this season. The kids have set their goals high. Even though our division will be very competitive, I think that we have great potential to compete for the South Division title."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Pat Koelzer, second year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's finish: Division (first); Conference (fifth); Division 1 regional (seventh).

Notable losses to graduation: Isaac Cadet (second-team All-Area); Paul Voegelé (second-team All-Area); Kevin Beadle (third-team All-Area); David Fortin, Cameron Wludyka, Pete Walblay, Dylan Taylor.

Leading returnees: Mike Baumgardner, Sr., sprints (second-team All-Area 400 relay); Richard Duncan, Sr., sprints (second-team All-Area 400 relay); Nate Coleman, Sr., throws; Sean McAuliffe, Sr., throws (third-team All-Area discus); Mike Beasley, Sr., middle distance; Nik Gherardini, Sr., distance; Mike Kaplan, Sr., pole vault; Ryan Hurt, Jr., middle distance; Austin Jones, Jr., distance; Ryan Tarhanich, Jr., middle distance; Brandon

TRACK

FROM PAGE B1

ing to step into the roles left open from our departures," Franklin second-year coach Pat Koelzer said.

Livonia Churchill hopes to make up for the loss of Division 1 state pole vault runner-up Derik Peterman (15-8), who is now at Michigan State.

The Chargers have a solid sprint corps led by seniors Anthony Frezzell and Scott

Tower, Jr., sprints; Bobby Wilson, Jr., distance; Jay Woolfork, Jr., throws; Andrew Crechiolo, Soph., middle distance; Jake Pinard, Soph., sprints; Adam Clay, Soph., throws.

Promising newcomers: Joe Steckel, Sr., distance; Kade Johnson, Jr., hurdles; Hunter Sterling, Soph., middle distance; Brian Johnson, Fr., hurdles; Joe McRobb, Fr., sprints; Mike Witt, Fr., distance.

Koelzer's 2010 outlook: "We lost some valuable athletes from last year's squad, but we also return a lot of talent. Our throwers will once again lead the way and our distance and middle distance crews should be much improved. Our hurdlers and jumpers will be thin at first, but should grow stronger. The sprinters that returned should put up some points while the younger ones gain experience. Once again, I expect us to be competitive in our strong division and conference this year."

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Scott Shaw, seventh year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (Central Division).

Last year's finish: Conference (first), Division (first); Division 1 regional (second); Livonia City champs.

Notable losses to graduation: Nick Anagnostou (first-team All-Area); Nate Sergison (second-team All-Area); David Simor (first-team All-Area); Jacob Gudeman (first-team All-Area); Shawn Howse (second-team All-Area); Austin White.

Leading returnees: Jon Gudeman, Sr., sprints-pole vault (third-team All-Area); Stephen Pollard, Sr., 400-relays-high jump (third-team All-Area 1,600 relay); Matt Williams, Jr., middle distance (third-team All-Area 1,600 relay); Will Burek, Sr., hurdles-long jump; Travis Gosselin, Sr., middle distance; John Pauley, Sr., sprints; Joe Urso, Jr., distance; John Aneed, Jr., throws; Alex Law, Sr., sprints; Adam Dabkowski, Sr., middle distance; Adam Chludzinski, Jr., middle distance.

Promising newcomers: Scott Brewer, Jr., 400. **Shaw's 2010 outlook:** "We'll be competitive in the 100 and 200, but both Anagnostou and Sergison were big losses. It will be hard to replace those guys. We don't have any dominating sprinter. In the field events were looking for people to fill varsity spots. We have a need in the throws. Everybody else is inexperienced. It's the same in the long jump except with Burek coming back."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Jess Shough, 24th year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's finish: Division (fifth); Conference (eighth); Division 1 regional (eighth).

Notable losses to graduation: T.J. Arancibia (first-team All-Area); Kyren Boyd, Anthony Davenport, Kevin Farrar, Julian Johnson, Sergio Pavan, Jerome Scales, Trevor Smith, Ryan Vichinsky.

Leading returnees: Jeremy Langford, Sr., sprints

surprise after finishing eighth in the Kensington Conference and eighth in the regional.

The Rockets will miss first-team All-Area discus thrower T.J. Arancibia, but one of the top sprinters in the area, Michigan State football signee Jeremy Lankford (10.9 in the 100 and 22.6 in the 200), returns for his season season.

"We should be strong in our sprinting events this season and much improved in our middle distance," said Glenn coach Jess Shough, who is entering his 24th season.

"But our depth in some of the remaining events will determine our success in our dual

meet season."

Wayne Memorial is rebuilding as seventh-year coach Lee Grizzell tries to replace first-team All-Area selections Renaldo Powell (now at Central Michigan University) and Parish Clayborn.

Lutheran High Westland, meanwhile, is switching conferences. The Warriors have moved out of the Metro and will compete this spring in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Spencer Lyle, who went 1:59.16 in the 800, will be hard to replace. But 23rd-year coach Mike Unger will lean on Josh Andrzejewski in the 300

hurdles.

Livonia Clarenceville will remain in the Metro as Brady Gustafson takes over for Dean Bergeron as head coach.

The Trojans, who lost first-team All-Area high jumper Jamie Stewart (6-7) to graduation, are coming off a successful 7-3 dual-meet campaign with runner-up finishes in both the conference and Division 3 regional meets.

Seniors Levonté Brooks, Ben Watts and Leonard Hogan will lead the way, along with sophomore Kassius Kelly for Clarenceville.

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BOYS TRACK & FIELD CAPSULE OUTLOOK

(second-team All-Area 100); William Ayler, Sr., sprints; Greg Gaskin, Sr., throws; Nicholas Isby, Sr., throws; Keenan Johnson, Sr., sprint; Umberto Kenle, Sr., middle distance; Nelson Kenne, Sr., middle distance; Dominique Moore, Sr., middle distance; Khari Stargell, Sr., middle distance; Steve Shak, Sr., distance; Stefan Anthony, Jr., sprints; Tyler Bozigan, Jr., throws; Donnell Brewer, Jr., middle distance; Dane Foster, Jr., middle distance; Anthony Johnson, Jr., high jump; Ruben Maya, Soph., distance; Jason Suarez, Soph., distance.

Promising newcomers: Marcus Beeman, Fr., sprints; B.J. Bonner, Jr., middle distance; Anthony Blair, Jr., jumps; Patrick Cahill, Jr., throws; Rico Cole, Jr., sprints-hurdles; Kelly Maxwell, Jr., hurdles; Shavar Oliver, Jr., hurdles; Madalin, Pop, Jr., middle distance; Aaron Smith, Sr., throws; Jevarius Snowden, Sr., long jump; Keven Wacker, Soph., distance.

Shough's 2010 outlook: "We have a good number of returning letter winners who have been working hard this season to get better. We have had a nice turnout of new members who are still trying to find their niche on the team. We are pleased to add to our coaching staff this season assistant Andre Williams."

WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head coach: Lee Grizzell, seventh year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).

Last year's finish: Division 1 regional and Conference (10th); Division (sixth).

Notable losses to graduation: Renaldo Powell (first-team All-Area); Parish Clayborn (first-team All-Area); Richard Haley, Matt Mills.

Leading returnees: Kyle Michael, Sr., middle distance; Alex Balli, Sr., hurdles-high jump; Kyle Janes, Sr., throws; Dante Senters, Jr., sprints; Quinton Davis, Soph., sprints; Josh Bradford, Sr., sprints; Tyler Gendron, Jr., distance; Matt Hansen, Jr., throws; Connor Dailey, Sr., pole vault.

Promising newcomers: Erloy Bell, Soph., sprints; Chorye Stewart, Jr., high jump-sprints; Marcus Jordan, Fr., middle distance; Chris Bowie, Sr., throws.

Grizzell's 2010 outlook: "Powell is going to Central Michigan. He was fourth in the Mid-American Conference Indoor Championships in the 60-meter hurdles. He's a big loss, good leader, good kid and worked really hard. We have a good bunch of kids that work well together. Alex Balli and Josh Bradford have become our leaders. They're good kids. We're going to go out there and compete every meet. The kids will work hard to improve their distances, heights and times. That's what we're going to do."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Head coach: Brady Gustafson, first year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.

Last year's finish: Conference (second); Division 2 regional (second); 7-3 dual meet record.

Notable losses to graduation: Jamie Stewart (first-

team All-Area); Joe Happala, Taylor Hall, Andrew Jasmir, Tony Lawson, Todd McCullar.

Leading returnees: Levonté Brooks, Sr., sprints-relays; Ben Watts, Sr., hurdles-relays; Leonard Hogan, Sr., middle distance; Kassius Kelly, Soph., sprints-relays; Moses Hobson, Jr., sprints-long jump; Ardit Dushkaj, Jr., middle distance-relays; Phil Strachan, Sr., middle distance.

Promising newcomers: De'Andre Hogan, Jr., throws; Shawn Cummings, Soph., throws; Chavis Cooley, Jr., middle distance; Mattius Hoffman, distance; Ian Bunker, distance; David Gibson, middle distance; Anthony Giordano, throws.

Gustafson's 2010 outlook: "The boys are looking to return to conference and regional success shooting for number one instead of two this year. We return three members - Brooks, Kelly, and Hobson - off of a 4 x 200 relay team that placed at 'states.' Although we lost the top three throwers in our league to graduation, Cummings, De'Andre Hogan, and Giordano show signs of matching that showing. Strachan, Dushkaj and Leonard Hogan look to anchor our middle distance while our newcomers Ian Bunker, David Gibson, and Mattius Hoffman hope to improve every meet."

LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND
Head coach: Mike Unger, 23rd year.
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Last year's finish: Division 1 regional (first); Conference (third); 3-2 dual meet record.

Notable losses to graduation: Spencer Lyle (second-team All-Area); Zech Robinson, Alex Kemp, Bob Schwartz, Garrett Wilson, Brad LaRose, Charles Kelly, Joe Krueger, Drew Maynard.

Leading returnees: Josh Andrzejewski, Sr., 300 hurdles; Zach Musial, Jr., 110 hurdles; Ethan Haller, Sr., long jump-sprint relays; Dave Moldenhauer, Sr., 800-1,600; Derrick Mozham, Jr., sprints-relays; Nolan Edwards, Soph., high jump; Caleb Kempf, Soph., high jump; Micah Kempf, Jr., hurdles; Jacob Fairbairn, Soph., high jump-300 hurdles-relays.

Promising newcomers: Travis Doney, Jr., throws; Dawson Davenport, Soph., throws.

Unger's 2010 outlook: "The team is very young having only a total of 10 juniors and seniors out of 32, so it's a little difficult to make predictions about the team. Being in a new conference, it's also hard to determine where we stack up against the other teams in the conference. I think the leading teams will be Southfield Christian, (Birmingham) Roeper, (Rochester Hills) Lutheran Northwest and (Auburn Hills) Oakland Christian. We believe the juniors and seniors will do their part, but to have team success we are going to need key contributions from the sophomores and freshmen, and right now it's too early to tell where those contributions may develop."

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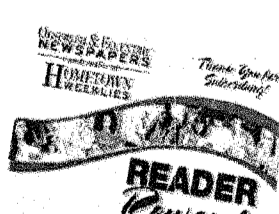


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BOYS GOLF CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Paul Worley, sixth year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Home course: Whispering Willows (Livonia).
Last year's dual match record: 6-4 (South Division).
Last year's finish: Conference (third place); Division 1 district (eighth); Division 1 regional (10th).
Notable losses to graduation: Kevin Robinson (first-team All-Area); Dan Bostick, Matt Charnley, Erik Newman.
Leading returnees: Adam Yarber, Sr. (captain; All-Conference); Chris Theile, Jr.; Ryan Carpenter, Jr.; Cory Dare, Soph.; Eric Hill, Soph.; Dominic D'Lisa, Soph.; Ben Proben, Soph.; Nick Proben, Soph.
Promising newcomers: Evan Fargo, Jr.; Andrew Ioanou, Soph.; Will Minito, Soph.; Nick Kurczynski, Soph.; Alex Estes, Soph.; Brian Sexton, Fr.; Doug Simpson, Fr.
Worley's 2010 outlook: "This year's squad is very young overall, so there will be some growing pains. However, the competitiveness of the team in practices so far should pay dividends in the long run. I'm looking forward to a challenging and rewarding season."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Brian McCalister, third year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Home course: Idyl Wyld (Livonia).
Last year's dual match record: 5-5 (South Division).
Last year's finish: Conference (eighth place); Division 1 district (eighth).
Notable losses to graduation: Jordan Chisholm (second-team All-Area);
Leading returnees: Jimmy Johnson, Sr.; Chris Grund, Sr. (regional qualifier); Jacob Wirgau, Sr. (captain); Doug Nagy, Jr.; Tyler Miller, Sr.; Collin Chisholm, Soph.; Zach DeFoe, Sr.; Drake Herrmann, Jr.; Jon Holmes, Jr.; Brandon Kozyn, Jr.; Pat Stephenson, Jr.; Frank Wilson, Jr.; Brian Bekkala, Soph.; Brian Roulier, Soph.; Tommy Smith, Soph.
Promising newcomers: Danny Donahue, Soph.; Alex Alger, Fr.; Daniel Butler, Fr.
McCalister's 2010 outlook: "We are returning nine letter winners and a competitive group of young players. This will make settling the lineup very difficult. They will have to work hard in practice and the classroom to earn the playing time. So far the early returns from competitive practices is promising.
 We have some goals this year and a big one is to get back to the regional tournament. I look forward to getting the season started. It will be exciting."

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Jim Omietanski, third year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (Central Division).
Home course: Fox Creek (Livonia).
Last year's dual match record: 8-2 (Central Division).
Last year's finish: Conference (sixth place); Division 1 district (second); regional (ninth).
Titles won last year: Western Wayne Invitational and Livonia City Champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Dan Dufour, Tim Misk, Jimmy Vayis, Joe Attard.
Leading returnees: Drew Mossioan, Sr. (tri-captain; second-team All-Area); Christian DeBay, Sr. (tri-captain; All-Conference, All-district); Tom Cullum, Sr. (tri-captain); Phillip Desantis, Sr.; Adam LaPorte, Sr.; Adam Giordano, Jr.; Cooper Christie, Jr.; Nick Collins, Jr.; Dante Cicchelli, Soph.; Nick Marsh, Soph.; Nick Barr, Soph.; Cameron Tetrault, Soph.
Promising newcomers: Tyler Jarosz, Jr.; Ryan Linn, Soph.; Ryan Zahn, Soph.; Marco Yaquinto, Soph.; Danny Vayis, Fr.; Austin Harris, Fr.; Conner Humitz, Fr.

Mossoian
Ometanski's 2010 outlook: "The 2010 team will consist of four of the six returning starting varsity players. The team has a lot of varsity experience returning this year. I have a very strong core of seniors with hopes that my juniors and sophomores, coupled with a quality group of freshman, can fill out the final varsity spots. I have a great group of kids with great attitudes combined with desire to win."
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Steve Pilon, sixth year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Home course: The Woodlands (Van Buren).
Last year's dual match record: 1-9 (South Division).
Last year's finish: Conference (10th place); Division 1 district (11th).
Notable losses to graduation: Andy Myers (second-team All-Area), Tim Boes, Travis Josefczak.
Leading returnees: Josh DuPrie, Jr.; Connor Monroe, Jr.; Tim Moran, Soph.; Austin Valentine, Soph.; Mitch Dean, Soph.; Joey Wakeford, Soph.
Promising newcomers: Kyle Hamlin, Sr.; John Cleavenger, Soph.; Josh Wakeford, Fr.; Steven White, Soph.; Travis Sharp, Fr.; Austin Sharp, Jr.
Pilon's 2010 outlook: "The veterans will show a lot of promise along with the

quarterfinal level in volleyball, basketball, track and field, competitive cheer and baseball-softball (in conjunction with Madonna University).
 Malek said he would like one day to add tennis courts to the campus.
 "That would probably be next thing if we could raise the money," he said. "But I don't know if we'd ever get a swimming pool."
 Since 1976, Ladywood has captured seven state titles, including two in basketball (Class B 1983 and 1985), two in volleyball (Class A 1988, 1989), one in cross country (Class B 1980) and two in lacrosse (Class C 2003, 2004).
 The Blazers have also been runners-up seven times in state championships, the most recent coming last June when they took second to Niles in the 2009 softball Division 2 finals.
 Among the Blazers' most noteworthy athletes are state cross country and track champions Kelly Champagne and Jennifer Rioux (early 1980s), 1984 Miss Basketball Emily Wagner, 2004 Class B singles bowling champ Sarah Jaeger and 2007 Miss Hockey Laura Szwed.
 "My 18 years here have been phenomenal," Malek said. "There's nothing more exciting than watching high school athletics."

new players. We're 2-1 right now. We beat Taylor Truman and Redford Thurston and lost to New Boston Huron. So far so good."
WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head coach: Dennis Chall, 30th year.
League affiliation: KLA A Kensington Conference (South Division).
Home course: The Woodlands (Van Buren).
Last year's dual match record: 1-9 (South Division).
Last year's finish: Conference (12th place); Division 1 district (12th).
Notable losses to graduation: Jacob Smith, Kevin Sample.
Leading returnees: Gary Neill, Sr.; Corey Robbins, Jr.; Shane Schooley, Jr.; Andy Thorne, Jr.; Jarret Williamson, Soph.; Zachary Williamson, Soph.
Promising newcomers: Dylan Dotter, Soph.; Christopher Schmidt, Soph.; Antonio Heberling, Fr.; Austin St. Peter, Fr.
Chall's 2010 outlook: "Gary Neill has been with the program since his sophomore year and demonstrates by example, a great work ethic and strong leadership. All of our players are committed to maximizing improvement and contributing to our success as a team. One of the cornerstones of my program is to develop a 'team of teachers.' By this I mean, older more experienced players that have been part of the program share their knowledge with players new to the game. I'm very impressed with the level of commitment from this team. Personal goals for each player are measured by their overall improvement over the course of the season or in the case of older players from when they began the program."

HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN
Head coach: Larry Thompson, second year.
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.
Home course: Idyl Wyld (Livonia).
Last year's dual match record: 2-5.
Notable losses to graduation: Andy Falk, Chad Fieles.
Leading returnees: Jake Thompson, Sr. (captain; MVP); Matt Kempainen, Sr.; Justin Ross, Sr.
Promising newcomers: Brandon Hanley, Sr.; Adam Ross, Fr.; Alex Thompson, Fr.
Thompson's 2010 outlook: "We won first match of the season against Macomb Christian on March 30 at our new home course (Idyl Wyld). If the seniors play to their potential, and the younger players get some experience, we should be improved over last season and continue to build for a bright future of Hawks golf. We also have a JV squad of two sophomores and two freshmen who will gain valuable experience for the future."



Mat champion

Jordan Atienza (top), an eighth-grader at Livonia's Holmes Middle School, captured the 114-pound division for ages 13-15 at the Mid-Michigan Wrestling Association state championships held March 21 at Howell High School. Atienza competes for Team Shamrock out of Novi-Detroit Central Catholic H.S.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

WYAA football-cheer

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association 2010 football and cheerleading will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, beginning March 31, and from 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays, starting April 3, at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road). Both units, the Westland Comets and Westland Meteors, offer four squads each including Junior Freshman (ages 7-8), Freshman (8-9-10), Junior Varsity (11-12) and varsity (11-12-13-14). Age and weight restrictions apply. The age cut-off date is Sept. 1.
 A cheerleading unit for each age level is also offered.
 For more information, visit www.wyaa.org, call (734) 421-0640.

Spartan 5K Fun Run
 The Spartan 5-kilometer and 1-mile run-walk will be at 9 a.m. Sunday, May 23 at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile Road, Livonia.
 The cost is \$20 for the 5K (if pre-registered by May 8) or \$10 for the 1-mile (if pre-registered by May 8).
 All proceeds will go to the Stevenson Booster Club.
 A T-shirt is guaranteed to all those pre-registered. Packet pick-up and on-site registration begins at 8 a.m. on the day of the event. For more information, call Lori at (248) 442-9234; or Jeff at (734) 748-4909.
 You can also visit www.livoniapublicschools.org/stevenson for a course map or to download a registration form.

WYAA baseball-softball
 Registration continues for the Westland Youth Athletic Association baseball and softball programs, 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays, at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of

Ford Road).
 Age groups for baseball include T-Ball (5-6), Coach-Pitch (7-8), Mustang (9-10), Bronco (11-12), Pony (13-14), Colt (15-16) and Palomino (17-18).
 Softball includes both slow- and fast-pitch (ages 8-18).
 For more information, visit www.wyaa.org, call (734) 421-0640.

Check-up 5K Run
 The Spring "Check-up" 5-kilometer run-walk will be at 11 a.m. Sunday, April 11, at the Belle Isle Remick Music Shell in Detroit.
 The event will raise awareness for Detroit's uninsured and the importance of primary care for all.
 It will benefit The Robert R. Frank Student Run Free Clinic and the Wayne State University School of Medicine Chapter of the AMA.
 Race day registration begins at 10 a.m. Food and music will be provided after the race. The cost is \$20 (includes T-shirt if pre-registered by April 5).
 For more information, e-mail springcheckup5K@gmail.com; or to download a registration form visit www.springcheckup5K.org.

Youth summer hoops
 Parents, it's that time again to register your fifth-, sixth-, seventh- or eighth-graders for summer basketball.
 To register, visit www.michigan dragons.com. Registration ends April 16.

Football combine
 A pair of football combines for high school players will be 4:30-6 p.m. (linemen) and 6-7:30 p.m. (combine training) for eight sessions beginning Sunday, April 18, at the Auburn Hills Sports Dome.
 To register, visit www.coachjacksonspeed.com; or for

more information call Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

Women's golf league
 The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation is offering a 20-week, 18-hole women's golf league beginning at 8 a.m. Thursdays, April 29, at Whispering Willows Golf Course.
 The fee is \$26 per week (includes greens fees and cart). Non-residents are encouraged to join.
 For more information, call Alethea Van Gorp at (734) 604-9020; or e-mail aavg@juno.com.

T-Ball, Coach-Pitch
 Open registration for the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation 2010 co-ed instructional T-Ball (ages 5-6) and Coach-Pitch (ages 15-16) is underway.
 Registration is open to only those residing in the Livonia or Clarenceville public school district.
 The season runs May through July. T-Ball scrimmages will be Monday evenings, while Coach-Pitch scrimmages are Thursday evenings.
 Registration forms are available at all schools or at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, which is located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).
 Open registration fees are \$40 (residents) and \$50 (non-residents).
 Non-resident late registration continues at the Parks and Recreation office. That registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis through April 23.
 Late registration fees are \$50 (residents) and \$60 (non-residents).
 For more information, call (734) 466-2410 (option No. 2).

LADYWOOD

FROM PAGE B1

Additionally, the Blazers also field teams in field hockey, ice hockey, figure skating, equestrian and even snowboarding.
 "The biggest challenge is to keep up with what kids like as far as what we offer," Ladywood Athletic Director Sal Malek said. "What happens in the Olympics usually comes to us two years later."
 "The other big challenge is finding coaches and finding people who are dedicated and have the time to coach."
 Malek juggles many balls while overseeing all the different sports. He receives ample help from his athletic secretary Janet Horal and his assistant A.D. Bill Williams.
 Many of Ladywood's teams play off-campus, including bowling (Woodland Lanes and Oak Lanes), cross country (Cass Benton Park), swimming (Livonia Community Rec Center), tennis (Schoolcraft College), equestrian (Wayne County Fairgrounds), golf (St. John's in Plymouth), skiing (Alpine Valley), figure skating (Westland's Modano Arena) and ice hockey (Arctic Pond and Arctic Edge).
 "We have a lot of great arrangements," Malek said. "The people we have been deal-

ing with have been wonderful." The year 1996 also marked an important step in the overall development of Ladywood's outdoor sports programs with the construction of the Michael Polsinelli Athletic Complex, which now features soccer-lacrosse, softball and field hockey fields, along with a 400-meter track and bleachers. There is also a concession stand adjacent to the track and school.
 "At the time, we had nothing," Malek said about prior to 1996. "Our track team practiced in the parking lot. We played softball at Bicentennial Park (in Livonia). We had a soccer field, but we had man-hole covers that came into play. We only played soccer when we didn't get a flood."
 Polsinelli was a building contractor and a vice president at the time for Schostak Brothers. He was also a classmate of Malek during their days at the University of Detroit Jesuit H.S.
 "Michael had the vision and he was going to find a way to get an athletic complex," Malek said. "He was on our board and his daughter ran track and cross country for us. He was a good fit for us."
 Ladywood annually hosts several Catholic League championships, including track and field. The school also has hosted MHSAA tournaments at the district, regional and

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The Livonia Public Schools, Board of Education, is accepting sealed bids ONLY, for the above referenced homes. Minimum starting bid is \$199,000.00, each location.

Livonia Public Schools, Career Technical Center- Residential Construction Class, completed construction on these homes in 2009.

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All bids must be marked "SEALED BID" LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS - CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER HOMES". Please list specific address of home on envelope. Bids will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on the 22nd Day of April, 2010, at the Livonia Public Schools, Board of Education office located at 15125 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan, 48150. ATTN: Ray Raymond, Jr. NO bid will be accepted after the above mentioned time and date.

All bids will be publicly opened and read at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, April 22, 2010, in the Board of Education building.

The Terms are Cash, Conventional Mortgage, FHA and VA. You must have a current pre-approval letter from your Mortgage Company or proof of funds, if cash offer.

All Bids will be considered, however, The Livonia Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids, either in whole or in part; to award to other than the high bidders; to waive any irregularities and/or informalities; and in general to make awards in any manner deemed to be in the best interest of the District, including awarding by line item, with rationale to support such a decision.

This information will be available at the open house. Or viewed at www.livoniapublicschools.org. Any questions, please contact Ray Raymond, Jr. at 734.744.2511 or <mailto:raymond@livoniapublicschools.org>.

Please Note: The Livonia Public Schools will NOT be paying commission to brokers/realtors on the sale of these homes.

Ray Raymond, Jr.
 Administrator of Operations

Publish: April 11 and 15, 2010



Promising bowler

Ashley Kent, a fourth-grader at Livonia's Roosevelt Elementary School, recently placed first in the Tri-County City Tournament in Female Singles Handicap C Division at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights. The 9-year-old rolled a 541 series on games of 238, 155 and 148. She carries a 124 average and is a member of the Metro Detroit USBC Bowling Association. Kent bowls in house league out of Livonia's Wonderland Lanes.

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

MU men's basketball

The Madonna University men's basketball program will be offering three summer camp sessions for its All-Star camps (ages 8-15) from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, June 21-25 (at the Livonia Community Recreation Center); July 26-30; and Aug. 2-6 (both at the MU Activities Center).

The cost for each session is \$200 (includes camp T-shirt, trophies and prizes). To register, visit www.madonnacrusaders.com. For more information, call coach Noel Emehiser

at (734) 432-5610; or e-mail nemenhiser@madonna.edu.

Churchill girls hoops

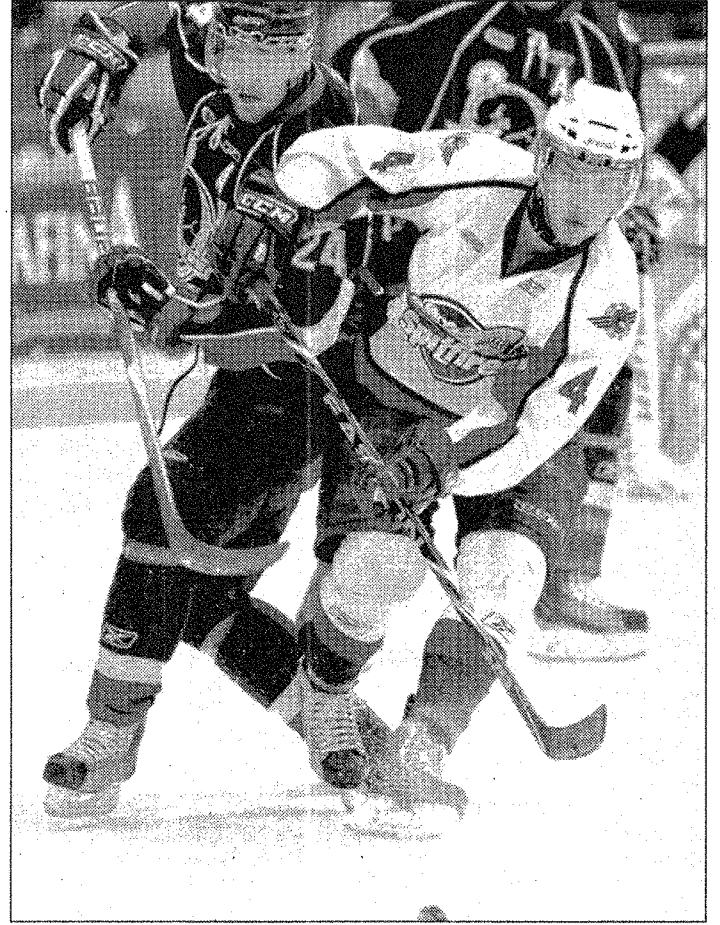
The Livonia Churchill Girls Summer Basketball Camp (incoming grades 5-10) will be from 9 a.m. until noon, Monday through Thursday, July 12-15.

The fee is \$60 (if registered by June 15); or \$65. Included in the cost is camp T-shirt and awards.

For more information, call Churchill varsity coach Chad Jenkins at (734) 347-1267; or e-mail cjenkins@livoniapublicschools.org.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Monday, April 12
 Churchill at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at S. Lyon East, 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at Northville, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Novi, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 13
 Garden City at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Cranbrook, 4:30 p.m.
 Liggett at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
 Ply. Christian at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 14
 John Glenn at Churchill (2), 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Plymouth (2), 4 p.m.
 Northville at Stevenson (2), 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Canton (2), 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 15
 Summit Academy at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Luth. South, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Oak. Christian, 5 p.m.
Friday, April 16
 Churchill at W.L. Central, 4 p.m.
 Allen Park at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 17 (all double-headers)
 Thurston at Clarenceville, 10 a.m.
 Luth. Westland at Annapolis, 11 a.m.
 Redford Union at Churchill, 11 a.m.
 Lathrup at Stevenson, 11 a.m.
 Garden City at Wayne, 11 a.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL
Monday, April 12
 Churchill at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at S. Lyon East, 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at Northville, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Novi, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, April 13
 Garden City at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Dexter (2), 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Cranbrook, 4:30 p.m.
 Ply. Christian at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 14
 John Glenn at Churchill (2), 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Plymouth (2), 4 p.m.
 Northville at Stevenson (2), 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Canton (2), 4 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Harper Woods, 5 p.m.
Thursday, April 15
 Ladywood at Divine Child (2), 4 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 16
 Churchill at W.L. Central, 4 p.m.
 S.H. Parkway at Huron Valley, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 17 (all double-headers unless noted)
 Mercy Invitational, 8 a.m.
 Thurston at Clarenceville, 10 a.m.
 Luth. Westland at Annapolis, 11 a.m.
 Redford Union at Churchill, 11 a.m.
 John Glenn at W.L. Northern, TBA.
GIRLS SOCCER
Tuesday, April 13
 Luth. Westland at Luth. N.West, 5 p.m.
 Ladywood at Divine Child, 5:30 p.m.
 Wayne at Ypsi Lincoln, 5:30 p.m.
 Churchill at Salem (CEP), 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 14
 Luth. Westland at Clarenceville, 5 p.m.
 John Glenn at Waterford Mott, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 15
 Bishop Foley at Ladywood, 5:30 p.m.
 Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Friday, April 16
 S. Lyon East at Clarenceville, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Crestwood, 7 p.m.
 John Glenn at Belleville, 7 p.m.
Wayne at Garden City, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 17
 Ladywood at Warren Regina, 1:45 p.m.
BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
Tuesday, April 13
 Wayne at Franklin, 3:30 p.m.
 Churchill at John Glenn, 3:45 p.m.
 Stevenson at Salem, 4 p.m.
 Warren Regina at Ladywood, 4 p.m.
 C'ville at Lamphere Tri-Meet, 4:30 p.m.
 Harper Woods, Pontiac Academy at Lutheran Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 15
 Annapolis at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 16
 Mansfield (Ohio) Mehoek Relays, 11 a.m.
Saturday, April 17
 Birm. Groves Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Airport Athletics Inv., 9:30 a.m.
 Ypsilanti Invitational, 10 a.m.
 Mansfield (Ohio) Mehoek Relays, 10 a.m.
 Dearborn Elks Tennis, 10 a.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Tuesday, April 13
 Churchill at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at South Lyon, 4 p.m.
 Canton at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Trenton vs. Ladywood at Schoolcraft, 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 15
 Franklin at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at Northville, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Ladywood at Mercy, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 16
 Churchill at Harrison, 4 p.m.
 Taylor Kennedy at Wayne, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 17
 Monroe Olson Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
 Stevenson Quad, 9 a.m.
BOYS GOLF
Tuesday, April 13
 Wayne vs. Garden City at Westland Municipal, 3 p.m.
 Huron Valley vs. Ply. Christian at Idyl Wyld, 3 p.m.
Thursday, April 15
 Huron Valley vs. Oakland Christian at Idyl Wyld, 3 p.m.
Friday, April 16
 John Glenn vs. Carleton Airport at Carleton Glenn, 3 p.m.
GIRLS LACROSSE
Monday, April 12
 Warren Regina at Ladywood, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, April 14
 Ladywood at Notre Dame Prep, 7:30 p.m.
COLLEGE BASEBALL (all double-headers)
Sunday, April 11
 Madonna at Davenport, 1 p.m.
Friday, April 16
 Madonna at Concordia, 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 17
 Concordia at Madonna, 1 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL (all double-headers)
Wednesday, April 14
 Madonna at Concordia, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 16
 Madonna vs. Rochester College at Oakland University, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 17
 Siena Heights at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 18
 Madonna at UM-Dearborn, 1 p.m.



WALT DMOCH

Standout Windsor winger Taylor Hall (right) gets a leg up on Plymouth center Joe Gaynor during recent Ontario Hockey League series playoff game. The Spitfires took out the Whalers four straight in the second-round series.

Whalers spit out in 4 straight

The second round Ontario Hockey League playoff series between the Plymouth Whalers and Windsor failed to live up to the hype of the top-2 prospects in the upcoming NHL draft going head to head.

The Spitfires' Taylor Hall was part of an offensive machine that steamrolled over Plymouth in four straight games - including Wednesday's 3-2 overtime clincher at Compuware Arena before 3,412.

Only the unbelievable performance of Plymouth fill-in goalie Scott Wedgewood (70 saves) enabled the Whalers to have a chance to extend the series. Wedgewood was bril-

liant throughout, blanking Windsor until early in the third and helping the Whalers stay in front until 19:41 of regulation.

Goals by the Adam Henrique (4:10 of the third) and Greg Nemisz forced OT and the final dagger as far as the Whalers were concerned came at 6:50 of the extra session when Scott Timmins scored to end the game and series.

Wedgewood, who was forced into duty because regular starter Matt Hackett was suspended in Monday's 5-0 loss in Windsor, stopped all 39 shots he faced in the first two frames and then was pelted with 27 shots in the third as the Spitfires turned up the heat.

Guide to Employment

CHECK OUT THESE EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES! For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

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 Local Import Dealer seeks an exp & proven Advisor. Reynolds & Reynolds exp preferred. Competitive pay plan w/ benefits incl medical, dental, 401k & MORE!
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 Fax: 269-423-6737

Help Wanted-General 5000
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SUPERINTENDENT'S & SCHOOL BOARDS' SECRETARY:
 FT responsible for providing required support services to the Superintendent of Covenant House Academies and the three School Boards. Performs a full range of executive secretarial and related duties using considerable independent judgment in making decisions. HS diploma, 3+ yrs exec sec exp & MS Office proficiency required. \$35-40k + excellent benefits.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER-DIRECT MAIL/DATABASE:
 FT responsible for planning, developing, implementing & evaluating the direct mail solicitation program to strengthen & support the fund-raising goals & objectives of CHM. Re-sponsible for maintaining Raiser's Edge database of donors & potential donors. Bachelor's degree, 2+ yrs exp & MS Office proficiency req'd. Raiser's Edge exp desired. \$28-38K + exc benefits.

Please send resume to:
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 Detroit, MI 48208.
 Fax: 313-463-2222.
 Email: chrdonon@covenanthouse.org
 No phone calls please.
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 24725 Greenfield Road
 Southfield, MI 48075
 Reference Job 2954

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 241 Madison, Security Office, Mon-Fri, 9-5PM.
 FAX: 313-963-5995 Email: humanresources@thedac.com

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LEGAL SECRETARY
 Farmington Hills law firm is searching for an experienced insurance defense legal secretary. 30-35 hours per week. Qualified candidates should have a minimum of 5 yrs. litigation experience and detailed knowledge of court rules and procedures. Strong organizational abilities and good communication skills are also required. Please tax resume and salary requirements to:
 (248) 851-4243

Secretary/Receptionist 30 hrs/wk.
 Mental Health Clinic in Bloomfield Hills. Need excellent phone etiquette, book-keeping and computer skills. \$11.50/hr. Email resume and letter of intent to:
adenamoy@aol.com

Help Wanted-Medical 5060
CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANT
 Duties include clerical work, some billing, taking patients to rooms and learning x-rays. Requires good communication skills, friendly & outgoing personality. Must be mature & responsible & have computer skills. 20 hrs/wk.
 Mon-Wed-Fri: 8:45-12:30pm.
 Tue. & Sat. 8:45am-1:30pm.
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 734-522-5501

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GCMCPC@aol.com

MEDICAL BILLER
 Billing Asst for Southfield medical practice. Computer/networking exp preferred. Ref. Box 1799 in subject & email to: oeresume@hometownlife.com

Medical Billing/Demographic Specialist
 2+ yrs exp. Dependable. Proficient in CPT & ICD-9 coding, A-4, Tiger, EMR. Fast paced billing service. Full-Time. Benefits. Email: tblincoe@pbs.net

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NEIGHBORS

Dolls come to life at convention

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

The pretty painted eyes almost seem to wink as visitors enter the upstairs room devoted to Janie Hunt's dolls and sewing projects.

Hunt's grandson used to wait for the dolls to move when he was a toddler. It's his sister Emily's turn to stare at the shelves lining both walls from top to bottom in the Canton home.

The dolls of Hunt and Pam Kletzka, a Livonia collector, seem ready to spring to life in time for the Grant-A-Wish Fund Convention, Friday-Sunday, April 16-18, at the Livonia Marriott. The convention part of the weekend is sold out, but the sales room is open to the public Saturday and Sunday.

Proceeds from the auction of collectibles Friday benefit the 32nd Detroit Masonic Learning Center for Dyslexic Children, Salvation Army and Leader Dogs for the Blind. The Friday event is open only to members of the Great Lakes Fashion Doll Club that is hosting the weekend activities, including luncheon speakers Bill Greening, Mattel's leading Barbie designer, and Lauren Doucette, marketing coordinator for Barbie Collectibles.

"We'll have dolls of all kinds for sale and accessories, including vintage," said Debra Forde, a doll club member from White Lake. "Dealers come in from Toronto, Chicago. One woman does jewelry for dolls. Other club members sell clothes for dolls. You name it, we've got it there for the dolls."

Mattel donates dolls for the charity auction. Forde designed the jewelry and members provided the outfits.

"Over the years we've donated \$320,000 to charities



Janie Hunt holds a 1960 play Barbie, at right. At left is the 2009 50th Anniversary collectors version made of silkstone instead of vinyl.

and produce a souvenir doll for those who come to the weekend event," Forde said. "We've had people from Taiwan and this year from Australia. We're the second largest convention and have more than 70 members. Some members have thousands and thousands of dolls. I collect because I enjoy it and like to sew for the dolls."

CHILDHOOD TREASURES

Hunt loves to sew for the dolls as well. One wall in her home holds dozens of spools of colorful threads. Some were used to make clothes for 30 centerpiece dolls for the luncheon.

It's obvious Hunt loves dolls. She still has 30 from when she was a little girl.

"I don't count them," said Hunt, who has been collecting since 1989. "I always loved my dolls. At age 14, I got Barbie. I loved sewing clothes for the dolls."

Fashion dolls are her favorites. Hunt has sewn many of the outfits for them.

"Dolls are the next most collectible item in the world after coins and stamps," Hunt said. "I

wanted it so that I could dress and play with them. Mine are not in boxes. Mine are played with."

Souvenir dolls will be given to all convention attendees. It's up to each individual if they want to play with them.

"Barbie is a big doll to collect because she's affordable. The (souvenir) doll from two years ago that Mattel gave us we repainted and redressed them and today they sell for \$400 on eBay," Hunt said. "There were only 250 dolls, so they're limited. We take all of the paint off and repaint. Most dolls have stenciled on eyes. They don't have the spark from a portrait artist. Portrait artists give them life."

INCREASED VALUE

Hunt holds an original Barbie from 1960, purchased at a hardware store for \$2.95 and worth \$600 today. The striped sun suit-attired doll stands next to the 50th anniversary replica made of Silkstone. Hunt is a wealth of information as she talks about the dolls.

"Vinyl dolls were for play. The Silkstone (version) feels like

porcelain," said Hunt, who's especially proud of her Gene dolls modeled after actress Gene Tierney. Designed by Mel Odom for Ashton Drake Galleries, the dolls started the 15-inch trend of fashion dolls.

Pam Kletzka's collection is 98 percent Barbie dolls that stand 12 inches tall. She started thinking about buying a Barbie in 1989, when they first came out for the holiday.

"I found out about the Barbie club in 1995-96 and attended the first convention, and made outfits for the souvenir doll," Kletzka said. "Conventions are a lot of fun and we're always looking for new club members."

Mattel came out with its first Holiday Barbie in 1988, when her daughter was born. At the time Kletzka couldn't afford the \$30 to \$35 to purchase the doll.

"You dream about having all those outfits. Some vintage outfits are more expensive than the dolls," said Kletzka, who estimates she owns a couple of hundred dolls.

Tucked inside the master bedroom closet are boxes and boxes of unopened Holiday Barbies. Kletzka's vintage dolls, including ones from around the world, are showcased in two large curio cabinets in the living room. It's obvious, like Hunt, she loves the dolls and the convention.

SHARING BIRTHDAYS

"Barbie is 51 today. My daughter's birthday is on the same day as Barbie's, March 9. Last year our convention celebrated Barbie's 50th birthday," Kletzka said. "A lot of people just look, come and have fun. We have dolls from \$5 to thousands of dollars."

Kletzka picks up a Twist and Turn Barbie with moveable waist. Earrings on the older dolls can leave green ears. She uses Clearasil to remove the stains.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pam Kletzka holds two doll from her collection. At right is a 1961 "Bubble Cut" Barbie, so named for the doll's hairstyle. At left is a "Twist and Turn" Barbie from the mid to late 1960s.

"I've run out of room and keep an overflow of dolls," Kletzka said.

On the shelves, one Barbie from 1961 is dressed in lime green, another doll in a hippie era outfit. Even Kletzka is wearing Barbie. Her shirt was on auction at one of the conventions and spotlights the fashion doll loved by millions.

The sales showroom is open to the public 7:30-9 p.m. Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10 Saturday and includes Sunday, or \$5 Sunday only. Girl Scouts in uniforms get in free to the show at the Livonia Marriott (Laurel Park), 37700 W. Six Mile. For information, contact Debra Forde at (248) 421-1140 or damforde@earthlink.net.

Arthritis Today

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

THE INTERPLAY OF DIABETES AND ARTHRITIS

When a doctor cares for a patient with arthritis, the doctor invariably asks the patient if he or she has diabetes. If the doctor wants to treat the patient's arthritis with a steroid injection, then the patient's diabetic status becomes important. Cortisone causes a rise in blood sugar. If the patient is not a diabetic, this increase will be slight and the body will handle the blood sugar elevation with no difficulty. If the patient is a diabetic, then a steroid injection can raise the blood sugar very high, and the elevation may continue for 2-3 days. The doctor will need to instruct the patient on how to temporarily increase the diabetic medication and/or insulin to counter the steroid effect.

If the patient's arthritis brings up a question of daily steroids by mouth, then the doctor will usually look for an alternative medicine rather than have the patient remain at risk for ongoing high blood sugar and poor diabetic control.

Diabetes also causes a number of arthritis problems including thickening of the hands that interfere with the ability of the fingers to move freely, loss of shoulder mobility known as adhesive capsulitis, loss of nerve ending feeling that can cause a fracture in the foot, and susceptibility to infection in joints such as the knee and ankle.

On the other hand, arthritis and diabetes share several goals of treatment. In both conditions weight control and daily exercise are vital to the success of therapy.

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Observer & Eccentric Newspapers /Hometown Weeklies
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Please include the child's name, age, phone number and address.

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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

SEEDLINGS FUND-RAISER

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is encouraging supporters to sign up for the Kroger Rewards Program as a means of raising funds for the organization. Kroger donated nearly \$4,000 to Seedlings through the shopper program last year.

Supporters sign up online for a card and then use it every time they shop at Kroger.

A portion of the total will be donated to Seedlings, a Livonia-based organization dedicated to increasing the availability of braille books, promoting literacy skills and a love of reading.

April is the month for enrolling or re-enrolling at www.krogercommunityrewards.com.

SHE SEES GHOSTS

Paranormal events have captivated Kristy Robinett since birth. The psychic medium uses her abilities to help paranormal investigation teams deal with the psychological side of ghosts.

She'll talk about her experiences from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 17, at the Farmington Civic Theatre, 3332 Grand River Ave., Farmington. Participants will learn about local spirits and enjoy a gallery reading which will entail Kristy touching into the spirits and guides of those in the audience.

Cost is \$25 or \$35, which includes a copy of her *Ghosts of Southeast Michigan* now available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Borders. Visit www.tangledwishes.com to buy tickets.

Replace old appliances, get a rebate

An appliance rebate for consumers who want to buy a new refrigerator, washer or dishwasher went into effect on Feb. 10, but I don't believe that it is going all that well.

This rebate program was designed to remove old energy-guzzling models, give homeowners an incentive to get rid of the old and introduce new energy-saving products and stimulate appliance sales in Michigan. This slowly is being accomplished in our area but not nearly as fast as in some other states. The reason is that the rebates offered in other states are much larger than in Michigan. We get \$50 or \$100 dollars when buying a refrigerator whereas you could get as much as \$300-\$700 dollars in some other parts of the country. We started out with some \$6.5 million allocated for appliances and two months later we still have more than \$5 million dollars to dish out to Michigan residents.

We really can't complain because something is always better than nothing. You can make arrangements for getting a rebate by going to MIREbates.com or calling (866)-621-8782.

In a big push to save water a new washing machine is being designed for use in commercial laundries as early as next year. This new washer made by Xeros will use eight gallons of water instead of 80 to wash a 45 pound load. A home-style washer is expected for the home market in 2013 that will use 90 percent less water than current washers. The principal of operation is using small plastic beads made of the same material (nylon) used in carpets. The properties that make nylon easy to stain also make it a great scrubber. Its polarized molecules attract soil, and in the humidity created by a little water, the polymer chains separate slightly to absorb grime and lock it into the beads' cores. I do hope this new concept works but it surely brings a lot of questions into my mind.

The police department placed GPS devices in the appliances of some vacant homes and even placed a huge green sticker announcing this fact on the houses. Apparently the crooks didn't notice the sticker and are in jail as a result.

Speaking of crooks and appliances, let me give you a personal story. I recently replaced our 11-year-old hot water heater. I asked my darling Valorie what to do with the old one and she told me to place it on the street where it would be picked up and we would get a bill from the city for doing so. The same day I received a fax on our machine from a company that buys used metal anything. I called them and was told they would give me \$50 for the old heater. I put it by the garage door and felt pretty smart by possibly making a few dollars. For seven straight days I kept calling this company who sent me the fax and they told me they would get to it and call me. They had my address and all that and yet they never showed up. I began to wonder if this company was just getting addresses to scout out the neighborhood and do some hauling away on their own. Be careful who you deal with because there are times when things are not the same as they seem. Stay tuned.

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

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All dinners include **ONE** side choice: Salad, Slaw, Soup, Spaghetti, Potato, or Vegetable

1 pc. Broiled Haddock.....	\$9.95
3 pc. Perch.....	\$9.95
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1/2 Order Lasagna.....	\$9.95
Italian Sausage Sub	
(with peppers & Onions).....	\$7.95
Chicken Wings.....	\$7.95
2 pc. Chicken (Leg and Thigh).....	\$7.95
9 oz. Beefsteak.....	\$7.95
1/2 Order Spaghetti or Mostaccioli	\$7.95
With 1 meat ball or mushrooms.....	\$7.95
Personal Pizza w/cheese.....	
1 Pork Chop.....	\$7.45
3 Shrimp.....	\$7.45
4 pc. Ribs.....	\$7.45
2 Meatball Sandwich	\$7.45
With cheese.....	\$7.45

HOURS:
Mon-Thurs 4-10
Fri & Sat 4-11
Sun 12:30-8:30

\$200 OFF
Any \$100.00 Purchase

\$500 OFF
Any \$25.00 Purchase

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May not be combined with other offers. Good on regular priced entrees only. Can be used every day except holidays. Expires 5-24-10

\$10⁰⁰ OFF

WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY 2 REGULAR PRICED ENTREES AND 2 BEVERAGES

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COMPLETE DINNER
Includes Salad or Cole Slaw, Rolls and Butter, Choice of Spaghetti, Potatoes or Vegetable.

\$17⁹⁵

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Abandoned vehicle auction: 04/17/2010 10 am
Sparks Auto and Towing, 31797 Block Street, Garden City, MI

1. 2000 Dodge	2B7KB31Y21K502128
2. 1997 Mercury	1MELM6532VK606336
3. 2003 Dodge	1B3ES26C13D239553
4. XXX Trailer	NO VIN - 2PLACE

Publish: April 11, 2010

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 4/27/2010 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:

157	Wendy Batchelor	boxes, sofa, totes
312	Rosalind Steward	boxes, bags, safe
313	Christina Koliba	bags, totes, dresser
345	Don Smith	sofa, chair, grill
508	John Cook	box, pool sticks, pool balls
526	Roneld Henderson	boxes, bags, dresser
619	Mathew Bruce	boxes, totes, sofa

Publish: April 11 and 18, 2010

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 4/27/2010 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:

1194	Rhonda Major	boxes, totes, sofa
1325	Wilson Stanley	boxes, bags, suitcase
2100	Bob Costa	boxes, bags, suitcase
2158	Ellen Neely	boxes, totes
2240	Charlotte Scott	boxes, bags, totes
2488	Shinika Harris	totes, lamp, fridge

Publish: April 11 and 18, 2010

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 4/27/2010 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:

1014	Jamie Wolf	boxes, bags, toys
3023	Laura White	boxes,, bags, totes
3042	Erma Austin	sofa, boxes, dresser
5102	Freda Dumas	boxes, bags, bike
6040	Lisa Arnold	boxes, bags, dresser
6085	Ron Bemby	bags
6131	Richard McNamee	boxes, totes, dresser
7048	Shelia Ross	sofa, dresser, television
7115	Chris Shupe	boxes, bags, bike

Publish: April 11 and 18, 2010

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 4/27/2010 at: 12:00 pm. 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:

B064	Clestine Young	dresser, mattress, sofa
B185	Tabita Latham	boxes, dresser, totes
B188	Petite Murphy	bike, boxes, totes
B202	Jeffrey Hawley	bags, boxes, golf clubs
B223	Leon Scott	bags, boxes, totes
B264	Ometress Schuman	boxes, bags
B406	Duane Clark	boxes, bags, totes
E016	Minnie Monson	boxes, bags, dresser
E042	Tehesia Davis	boxes, bags, dresser
E044	Alicia Simmons	table, TV, desk
F006	Jennifer Collier	bags, totes, television

Publish: April 11 and 18, 2010

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50% Off Our Already Low Examination Fee
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\$10.00 Per Vaccine!
Expires May 31, 2010

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Open 7 Days:
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Extended hours at no additional cost

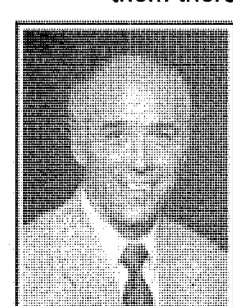
WHY BE CATHOLIC?

An exciting new monthly series of personal stories and testimonies to answer the questions: what attracts people to the Catholic faith, what holds them there, what brings them back?

Series continues Wednesday, April 14th at 7 PM

with Archdiocesan Coordinator of Evangelization, author, speaker, and orthodox Episcopalian convert, **Paco Gavrilides**.

No charge, no reservations, no pressure. All are welcome.



Paco Gavrilides

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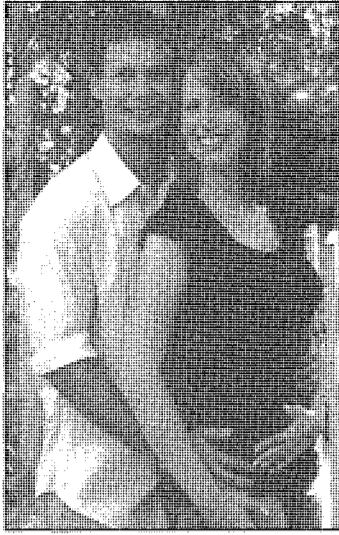
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MILESTONES

OCTOBER WEDDING PLANNED

Laura Christine Geverink and Lee Henry Miller announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Todd and Diane Geverink of Livonia, is a 2003 graduate of Stevenson High School. She graduated from Central Michigan University in 2007 and earned a master's degree in speech language pathology from Central in 2010. Her fiancé, son of Kim Miller of Lansing and Paul Kennon of Holt, is a 2003 J.W. Sexton High School graduate. He graduated in 2008 from Central Michigan University and is employed with Lansing Parks and Recreation. An October wedding is



Geverink-Miller

planned at St. John's Chapel in Plymouth.

MAY WEDDING PLANNED

Joanna Margaret Chudzinski and Thomas Joseph Danowski, Jr. announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Andrew and Phyllis Chudzinski of Livonia, graduated in 2007 from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, with a bachelor of science degree in engineering-mechanical Engineering. Her fiancé, son of Thomas and Margaret Danowski of New Boston, graduated in 2008 from the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a bachelor's of science degree in engineering-mechanical engi-



Chudzinski-Danowski

neering. A May wedding is planned at St. Genevieve Catholic Church.

JULY WEDDING PLANNED

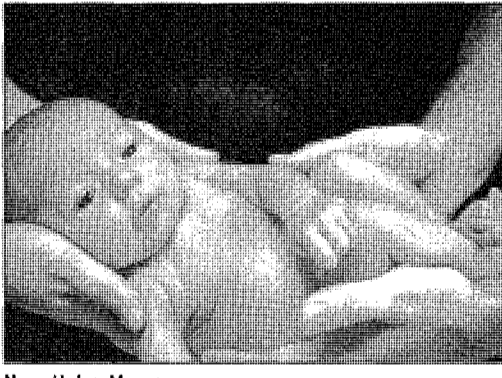
Emily Lewalski of Commerce Township and Eric Edoff of Farmington Hills, announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Dan and Karen Lewalski of Commerce Township, is a 2004 graduate of Lakeland High School and a 2008 graduate of Michigan State University. She teaches fifth grade in the Holly School District. Her fiancé, son of Bill and Pat Edoff of The Villages, Fla., is a 2002 graduate of Catholic Central. He currently is completing a degree in education at Oakland University. A July wedding is planned at Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington.



Lewalski-Edoff

NORA HELEN MASON

Nora Helen Mason was born March 2, 2010, at Providence Hospital, Southfield. Proud parents are Jesse and Leslie Mason of Livonia. Grandparents are Jeffrey and Linda Douglass of Westland and Joseph and Sharon Mason of Saline. Great-grandparents are Helen Wendland and Ray Disney of Livonia, Evelyn and Henry Romans of Saline, and Dorothee Brasseur of Caseville. Kelly Mason of Ypsilanti, Kenneth Douglass and Jeffrey Douglass, both of Westland, are Nora's uncles.



Nora Helen Mason

REUNION CALENDAR

Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Dearborn Heights Haston High Class of 1965

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

Detroit Cass Tech

Cass Tech Alumni Association
Pancake breakfast, 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 17, at the school, 2501 2nd Avenue, Detroit. Tickets are \$20 at the door and \$15 in advance. Call (313) 963-9988 and leave your name, phone number and e-mail address. Tickets will be held at Will Call at the door for pick-up at the breakfast. Students pay \$10 and kids under 6 pay \$5. Cass Tech music students will entertain from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fellowship, school news and building tours included.

Detroit Cooley High School Class of 1960

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

Detroit Mackenzie Class of 1962

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

Class of 1960

50th reunion will be held Oct. 16 at The Marriott in Livonia. For more information contact: Tim Yarde at (248) 573-7147 or Russ and Judy (Mackinder) Sarns at (734) 464-1166

Detroit Pershing Class of 1960

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

Farmington High School Class of 1970

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

Garden City High School Class of 1960

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

Garden City East Class of 1964

Picnic, Aug. 21, in Garden City Park. For more information e-mail Karen Berry at karber@comcast.net or Teri Friedman at sweet12001@yahoo.com

Garden City West Class of 1970

40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Dinner and DJ for \$50 per person. Classmates from 1968-72 also invited. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

Livonia Stevenson Class of 1975

35th reunion, 6 p.m. Saturday, July 24, at Fellows Creek Golf Club, 2936 Lotz, Canton, includes buffet, cash bar and DJ. Attire is dressy/casual. Cost is \$30 per person through PayPal or by check in advance or \$40 at the door. Send checks to Stevenson Class Reunion, 115 Continental Road, Cornwall, N.Y. 12518. Send PayPal payments to payments@institutional-markets.com Send e-mail correspondence to stevensonclassof75@yahoo.com. (845) 534-2228

Oak Park High School Class of 1980

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

Passages
Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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email: oeobits@hometownlife.com

View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com



JEAN P. ANDERSON

April 3, 2010, age 64. Beloved wife of Robert for 35 years. Also survived by her sister Ann Purman, as well as many loving friends.

"OUR HEARTS ARE BROKEN."

Memorial Service Saturday, May 22 at 9:30 AM at White Chapel Cemetery. Memorial Tributes to PAAW (Pet Adoption Alternative of Warren). View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



KSENIA BZDEL

Age 91, of Farmington Hills, passed away April 1, 2010. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, Farmington, MI

BETTY JEAN MARIE GERICH

Age 78. March 31, 2010. Beloved wife of the late John Gerich. Loving mother of Michael Gerich and Susan (Ray) Rogal. Grandmother of Michael, Heather, Caroline, Lauren, and Rachel. Great-grandmother of Mikayla and Mikenzie. Will also be missed by a long list of loving family members and friends. Visitation was held on Monday at Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia. Funeral Service was Tuesday, at Grace Lutheran Church, Redford. Interment Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia. Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Lutheran Church in Betty's honor.



JOHN K. MARIKIS

March 31, 2010 age 82. Beloved husband of the late Eleni. Loving father of Sandy (Curt) Hamilton, Bessie (Kevin) Bone, and Dina (Robert) DeMerrell. Dearest grandfather of eight. Survived by his siblings Dimitri, Christoforos, Paraskevi and George. Memorials to church or Alzheimer's Assoc. www.neely-turowski.com.

Let others know...

When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"...a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

Observer & Eccentric

Call 1-800-579-7355

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:

Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson 313-496-4968

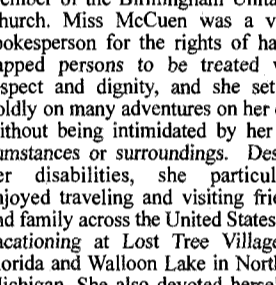
For more information call: Char Wilson 586-826-7082 or Liz Keiser 586-977-7538 or toll free 800-579-7355 ask for Char or Liz

OE08658429



NANCY ELLIOTT MCCUEN

Miss McCuen, age 66, of Nottingham Village Nursing Center, Northumberland, Pennsylvania, passed away early Thursday morning, March 11, 2010. She was born in Detroit, Michigan, on September 8, 1943, daughter of the late Newell Hoyt McCuen and Amy Jose McCuen. Miss McCuen attended Bloomfield Country Day School in Michigan and was a resident of Birmingham, Michigan for almost 65 years before moving to Graysonview Manor in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania in July 2008. Miss McCuen lived a very challenging life from an early age. At age 7, she was hit by a truck while crossing the street with a green light going to buy her younger sister a birthday present. Despite being seriously injured in that accident, which left the right side of her body paralyzed for life, Miss McCuen pursued her education through high school and then worked for a company that employed handicapped persons to assemble parts for the automobile industry. In the 1970s, she became an unpaid volunteer for the public television station in Detroit where she assisted the station staff in organizing its fund raising efforts. For her voluntary efforts, Miss McCuen was presented in 1974 with the "Heart of Gold" Award of the United Way of Greater Detroit. She was a lifetime member of the Birmingham Unitarian Church. Miss McCuen was a vocal spokesperson for the rights of handicapped persons to be treated with respect and dignity, and she set off boldly on many adventures on her own without being intimidated by her circumstances or surroundings. Despite her disabilities, she particularly enjoyed traveling and visiting friends and family across the United States and vacationing at Lost Tree Village in Florida and Walloon Lake in Northern Michigan. She also devoted herself to corresponding with friends and spent many happy hours doing weavings, needlepoint and decorations for friends and family. Miss McCuen is survived by two siblings, Marcia L. (Husband Lee) McDonnell of Goodyear, AZ and Charles M. (Wife Sharon) McCuen of Selinsgrove, PA; three nieces and nephews, Lauren Kristen Roberts, Heather Marise McCuen and Graham Scott McCuen; and three great nieces and nephews, Kiera Christine Roberts, Aidan Christopher Roberts, and Luca Francis Andino. A memorial service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Nancy Elliott McCuen will take place at the Birmingham Unitarian Church on Saturday, May 8, 2010 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to: DPTV Channel 56, Riley Broadcasting Center, 1 Clover Court, Wixom, MI 48393



DARWIN B. SCHLESING

82, husband of Dorothy Headrick Schlesing, died Friday, April 2, 2010 at Self Regional Medical Center. Born in St. Louis, MO, he was the son of the late George and Louise Schlesing. Surviving is his wife, Dorothy; a daughter, Nancy Stock and her husband, Mark; a son, Bill Schlesing and his wife, Michelle; two sisters, Audrey Johanson and her husband, Sam, and Doris Hartman and her husband, Bill; a brother, Orville Schlesing and his wife, Betty Lou; loving sister-in-law, Marie Headrick; grandchildren, Erin Schlesing, Elyse Schlesing, Janet Stock and Elliot Stock. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at Wesley Commons, Asbury Hall, with the Rev. Carol Peppers-Wray officiating. It is respectfully requested that flowers be omitted and memorials be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 1741, Greenwood, SC 29648 or to the American Diabetes Association, Greenville-Spartanburg NC-SC Office, 16-A Brozzini Court, Greenville, SC 29615. Harley Funeral Home and Crematory, Greenwood, SC, is in charge of arrangements. Messages may be sent to the family by visiting www.harleyfuneralhome.com



TOM E. SCROGGS, JR.

"The Troll"
Age 51, April 4, 2010, of Livonia. Beloved husband of Victoria. Loving father of Joseph and Anthony. Dear son of Wilma. Brother of Virginia (Tom) Chambers, Cheryl (Paul) Wyndendorf, Tammie, Robin (Jim) Roberts, and Fred. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation was held Thursday at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Please sign Tom's online guestbook at www.rgrharris.com.

LAWRENCE AVON SETTER

Age 98, passed away Thursday, April 1, 2010 in the comfort and presence of his family. Larry was born and grew up in Sanilac County, Michigan; later moving to Detroit to work as a welder and raise his family. The son of Alonzo and Annie Setter, he married the late Alberta Hephfinger on September 3, 1935. He is survived by his loving daughters Marie (Bill), LaVonne (Doug), and Cindy (Mark), his brother Charles Setter of Brown City, nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Larry enjoyed life, travel and the company of his friends and loved ones. His life included a long history with the Lola Valley Masonic Lodge 583 as a Lifetime Member and Master Mason where he served as Worshipful Master in 1970. He was also named Lola Valley Lodge Mason of the Year. Larry was also a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Later in life, Larry married the late Lillian Lannom. He also was a long time companion to the late Bessie Barber. Visitation was held at Fisher Funeral Home (24501 5 Mile, Redford Twp). The family has requested that all donations be directed to the Lola Valley Lodge 583 F.&A.M. or the charity of your choice.

JOAN B. WEIGLE

Age 78, Bradenton, formerly of Redford Twp., passed away April 7, 2010. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Survivors include four sons & one daughter; four sisters & nine grandchildren.

MARY ESTHER WILLIAMS

See VanGuten
Suddenly. Devoted wife of the late Harry. Loving Mother of Mary (late Wendell) Clark, Dale and Robin (William) Ward. "Bestest" Grandma to Lauren (Chris), Justin and Kathryn. Great Grandma to Caleb. Sister of John E. VanGuten, Jr. Preceded in death by brothers Paul VanGuten and Walter VanGuten and Sister Nancy Vogelsong. Survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation Sun. 2-8pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 6 Mile, Livonia, Funeral Service Mon. 11am at St. Paul's Lutheran Church 20805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com



ELSIE E. OSMAK (HENDRICKSON)

Age 90, passed away April 2, 2010. Survived by husband Anton (Tony), daughter Beverly (Brian) Barna and brother Melvin Hendrickson. Also survived by Pete, Paul, Irene (late Joe) Osmak and many nieces, nephews and cousins. Preceded in death by her parents and brothers Hugo, Elden and Gordon.

In Loving Memory
...this Mother's Day

Remember the mother you have lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute.

The Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Weekly Newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for Mother's Day 2010. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of your beloved mother who holds a special place in your heart.

Prices start at **\$15.00** for a photo "In Remembrance" ad

Publication Dates:
Sunday, May 9th...in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
Thursday, May 6th...in the Hometown Weekly Newspapers

Deadline for both issues: Friday, April 30th

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Parkinson's support important for survival

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Ruth Ann Butler wants patients with Parkinson's disease to know they're not alone. Even though she is slowing down at 85, Butler continues to facilitate the Livonia (Western Wayne) Support Group with the hope of helping patients and their families.

The monthly meetings provide the latest information about the progressive neurodegenerative disorder that causes tremors, rigidity and stiffness, slowness of movement, and difficulty with balance.

A retired R.N., Butler brings in neurologists, pharmacists and various speakers to talk not only about the disorder and side effects of medication, but benefits of exercise and movement.

Butler continues to learn as well. Information was unavailable when her husband Pierce was diagnosed with Parkinson's at age 36. Dopamine-producing cells in the brain allow the muscles to move smoothly. In Parkinson's patients, 80 percent or more of these cells are damaged, dead or degenerated.

"The tremors weren't evident to me and he had gone to the doctor without me knowing," said Butler of Westland. "We had four children and were expecting the fifth child when he noticed stiffness in his writing and it became very small."

"As years passed he had problems with shuffling, balance ... later on, problems speaking and throwing out his voice. Parkinson's affects the speech and patients have hallucinations often brought on by the drugs. Eventually he could not speak or swallow, had to have a stomach tube put in. He was bed-ridden 18 months before dying in 2001 at age 77."

As his caregiver, Butler struggled as well until the founding of the Michigan Parkinson Foundation in 1983 and the Livonia support group 26 years ago. Today, she serves on the Professional Advisory Board of MPF.

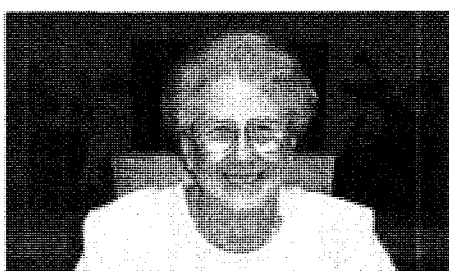
"They did not know as much about Parkinson's then. He lost his job. He was a proud man and supported his family. He couldn't work, so I went back to work," Butler said. "It was humiliating for him and yet he never complained. Back then you were overworking and misdiagnosed. We've come a long way. We didn't talk about it. Many people think it's an old person's disease. It's not. I've seen a boy 12 years old with Parkinson. It can hit anybody."

UNIFIED

Today, a total of 55 support groups in Michigan offer valuable information in addition to social interaction. Frustration is prevalent among Parkinson's patients, their caregivers and families. The groups allow



Runners show their support for the Michigan Parkinson Foundation during its annual walk/run fundraiser last year.



Ruth Butler of Westland facilitates a support group for individuals with Parkinson's disease.

individuals in similar situations to share their thoughts.

"The support group provides unity for those having the same disease. We want them to understand there are others out there," Butler said.

"We have a picnic, Christmas party, because that's also therapy. We have singing, someone playing an instrument, dancing afterward at the meetings. On St. Patrick's Day, we get the Irish dancers to come and show Parkinsonians how they can move a little bit. One gentleman with Parkinson always brought his harmonica. He said, he played it in the evening and his breathing was much better and he could sleep at night."

It's Deborah Orloff's job as CEO of the Michigan Parkinson Foundation to let patients and their families know about the latest information. According to Orloff, MPF estimates that 30,000 Michigan residents have Parkinson's. The average age at diagnosis is 58, with 2 percent of the population over 60, 10 percent under 40. As yet, there is no diagnostic test and treatments vary among individuals.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

"We're getting so many more calls from the newly diagnosed. People are hearing more that there are resources available for them. There's more publicity for Parkinson," Orloff said from her Southfield MPF office. "I'm excited about the walk-a-thons, a new Living with Parkinson's series at St.

John's Hospital, and new support groups in West Bloomfield, Hillsdale, Monroe and Dearborn. The important thing is getting the word out. We want people to know we're here for Parkinson's patients and their families."

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed a proclamation making April Awareness Month for Parkinson. U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan took it to the national level to spread the word in time for the annual fund-raisers for MPF.

This year the nonprofit is providing demonstrations of BIG Therapy at the I Gave My Sole for Parkinson's Walk-a-thon and 5K Run, May 22 in St. Clair Shores and May 23 in Northville. BIG retrains the brains of Parkinson's patients.

"We'll have DMC rehab and physical therapists from St. John to demonstrate a new therapy to get people to move better, walk better and speak louder," Orloff said. "They'll be showing how to make movements big to counter the tremor and slowness of movement."

Last year, MPF raised more than \$75,000 and had 1,200 walkers at the two sites. The money goes to programs for referral and information, and educational programs for patients and their families.

"People bring their dogs and dress them up in the T-shirts," Orloff said. "What's exciting to me is that people that don't generally move around were walking. Exercise is very important. It might be a protective. That's why the walks are important, too, for people to get out and walk. If anyone wants to volunteer, we have openings."

To volunteer or for information about Parkinson's or the walk, call (248) 433-1011, visit www.parkinsonsmi.org or the Facebook page for the Michigan Parkinson Foundation.

The Livonia area Parkinson's Support Group meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month at the Senior Citizens Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. For information, call Ruth Ann Butler at (734) 421-4208.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Memory lecture

CareLink of St. John Providence Health System presents "Memory concerns: Is it Normal Aging or Alzheimer's," 10:30-11:30 a.m., April 13, at Providence Park Hospital, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi. Learn about diagnosis and treatment for memory issues. There will be an optional tour of the neurology unit following the lecture. The scheduled presenter is Norman Burns, M.D., neurologist on staff at Providence and Providence Park Hospitals. To reserve a seat, contact St. John SeniorLink at (888)

751-5465

Mature driver workshop

The workshop, scheduled for April 21-23, at the Beaumont Health Center, 4949 Coolidge Highway, north of 14 Mile in Royal Oak, will assess and improve driving strategies for older adults. The goal is to help them continue to drive for as long and as safely as possible. The workshop runs 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each day. \$35 per person. To register, call Beaumont's Physician Referral Service toll-free at (800) 633-7377.

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