

SUNDAY
May 9, 2010

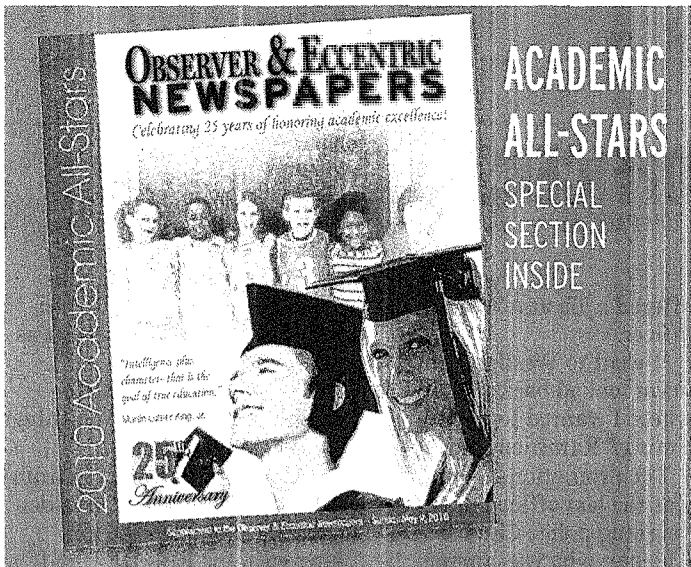
The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 45
Number 100

\$1.00

WESTLAND
OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



AROUND TOWN

Stuff a Van

The Westland Jaycees are sponsoring Stuff a Van event noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 15, at the Petco store at 32725 Warren Road, west of Wayne Road, for the benefit of the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland.

The Jaycees hope to collect items on the center's wish list which include such things as nonclumping cat litters, carrot top greens, fresh leaf lettuce and parsley for rabbits, dog treats and rawhide chews, fleece fabric, paper towels, peanut butter, wooden rodent houses and rodent toys and treats, Kaytee natural Timothy hay for rabbits and small animals and clean, used towels and small blankets.

The Jaycees will have a copy of the wish list available at Stuff a Van. A complete list also can be found online at www.michiganhumane.org.

For more information, call the Jaycee hotline at (734) 226-0400.

Offer congrats

The *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* is proud to announce our 25th year of Academic All-Stars. Each year, we select the best and brightest high school students from our coverage area and honor them in a special publication.

Family, friends and teachers can offer their congratulations on our Facebook page. In addition, hundreds of All-Stars have been chosen over the years and we would like to find out what they are up to these days.

If you were an All-Star or know one, feel free to get in touch with us. Tell us what you've been doing since your All-Star recognition. And offer your words of wisdom to this year's team.

Post an update to our Facebook page or e-mail Web Editor Larry Ruehlen: lruehlen@hometownlife.com.

Senior driving

The Southeast Westland Homeowners Association and the American Association of Retired Persons is hosting a Drive To Stay Alive program for senior citizens 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, May 11-12. The program, \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members, will be held at Our Savior Manor, on Middlebelt at Annopolis.

For information or to register, contact Reasther Everett at (734) 595-4533.

Council, mayor differ on cuts to contractors

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland council members weren't happy with the results of what Mayor William Wild calls hardball negotiations with contractors, including the Westland Youth Assistance Program and WLND cable television.

For his part, Wild wasn't happy about the council's position.

"I sat down with both contractors to negotiate with the contracts," said

Wild, during a recent council budget study session. "If we do anything, I feel we will be negotiating against ourselves. There were tough negotiations with the others (employee bargaining units). Then I can't put on kid gloves to deal with contractors."

Youth Assistance Director Paul Motz and WLND Director Craig Welkenbach have existing contracts which were approved by the council, noted Council President James Godbout. Unlike the city department

heads, the contractors are not mayoral appointees and do not have the same type of salary or benefit packages.

"The mayor didn't want to extend these contracts but he extended the employee union contracts (as part of concessions). If the contractors had the cojones, they could tell the mayor to pound sand," Godbout said.

Agreeing that the city had tough negotiations with the American Federation of State, County and

Municipal Employees union, Godbout said that negotiating didn't appear to have taken place with the contractors, including the Municipal Services Bureau which operates the municipal golf course and Mike Modano Arena.

"My understanding, and I got it from all three parties, was that they (the contractors) came in for their budget and were told 'Here is your

Please see **CONTRACTORS, A2**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD



Don Ratchgeber (left) congratulates son-in-law Alan Ramsden on being promoted to Westland police chief.

Police department gets new command officers

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Early retirements to help the city's budget resulted in 14 promotions for Westland police officers last week, including swearing in of a new police chief.

A member of the department since 1991, Alan Ramsden had been deputy chief for more than three years before receiving the department's highest rank. Promoted to fill the deputy chief slot was Dan Karrick, who also has more than 19 years experience with the department, most recently as Detective Bureau lieutenant.

During the ceremony, three sergeants — Scott Murray, Steve Bachand and Chris Benson — were promoted to lieutenant. The nine officers promoted to the rank of sergeant were Thomas Lessnau, David Hochstein, Randy Thivierge,



Westland's new Deputy Police Chief Dan Karrick.

me a ticket before I was mayor. I deserved it," Mayor William Wild said during the promotion ceremony.

Wild recalled that Ramsden was one of the first Westland police officers he met after starting his political career. Ramsden was serving on a Political Action Committee

for a police union and interviewing candidates.

"He asked me straight out if I'd support him for chief. I said absolutely," Wild said, drawing laughs from the packed audience at the Bailey Recreation Center.

Ramsden is the first Westland police chief to have been born and raised in Westland, Wild said. A 1980 Livonia Franklin High School graduate, Ramsden, 47, earned a teaching degree from Western Michigan University and taught social studies in the Dearborn School District before putting himself through the Washtenaw County police academy.

After working part time as an officer with the Northville Police Department, Ramsden was hired by the Redford Police Department. Three months later, Ramsden was

Please see **OFFICERS, A2**

Williams balks at plea deal in death of wife

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Scheduled to enter a guilty plea on a charge that he murdered his wife, George Williams had changed his mind when he stood before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Craig Strong.

That means Williams, 33, will be back in court Monday when he is scheduled to stand trial on a charge of first-degree murder in the Sept. 27 death of his wife, Sarah, outside Chatters Bar and Grill.

The plea bargain called for a sentence of 22 to 30 years in prison rather than the mandatory life in prison with no chance of parole that would come with a first-degree murder conviction.

A barmaid at Chatters, Sarah Williams, 28, had been strangled but also suffered severe blunt force trauma including severe head injuries and a large abrasion on her back consistent with being dragged.

The couple, married just over one year, was reported to have been arguing and were considering a split.

Members of Sarah Williams' family, including her uncle, newly sworn in Westland Police Chief Alan Ramsden, went to court to the hearing.

"I think the sentence is too light as a family member," said Ramsden. "My family chose to live in Wayne County."

Ramsden plans to attend the trial Monday when it's possible that Williams may actually enter a plea.

"If he takes a plea, he has to admit guilt to the court, I want to hear it," said Ramsden. "He'll have to say what he did. My niece (Sarah's younger sister) wants to be there, and I want to be there for my niece also."

Williams' former wife, with whom he has two children, had testified earlier that Williams called her and told her he had killed Sarah Williams. The former wife went to Chatters and found the fatally injured Sarah Williams, who was survived by a daughter. The former wife called 9-1-1. George Williams had fled and later was arrested in Toledo.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

Index

- APARTMENTS ... C3
- AUTOMOTIVE ... C5
- CAREER BUILDER ... C1
- CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... C2
- EDUCATION ... A4
- HEALTH ... B10
- NEIGHBORS ... B5-6
- OBITUARIES ... B9
- REAL ESTATE ... C2
- SPORTS ... B1

Home Delivery: (866) 887-2737
Return Address: 41304 Concept Drive Plymouth MI 48170



W-W supports county tax proposal

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland school officials have decided to support a proposal by the Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency to seek voter approval of 1.9-mill tax levy.

The school board voted 6-1 with Trustee John Goci voting no, to back the tax request that could raise \$4.7 million in much needed revenue for the district.

"This is the only opportunity we have to increase our revenue," Superintendent Greg Baracy told the school board. "We have to let the county pursue a county-wide enhancement millage, if we want to help ourselves. This would give our constituents a say, if they want to do something to sustain education."

According to Baracy, the tax

levy, if approved, would cost residents with a \$100,000 home about \$95 a year. In Wayne-Westland, it would generate \$4.9 million of which \$4.7 million would come back to the district based on the number of students.

"It's almost a wash, an even-stein," said Baracy. "We're not considered a giving district. If it passes, we will receive additional revenue. If it doesn't, we stay where we are at and wait for the state."

Under Proposal A, only intermediate districts are permitted to make tax requests. RESA will need the approval from districts representing 51 percent of the county's students to get the proposal on the Aug. 3 primary ballot.

Several weeks ago, RESA officials indicated they needed support from at least two of three

large districts — Plymouth-Canton, Livonia or Dearborn — to give the measure a shot. Livonia recently voted not to support it, while Dearborn board members disliked the idea and didn't vote on it. Plymouth-Canton has delayed its decision until it can hear what residents have to say.

"I ask what you want to do," Baracy said. "This would raise a modest amount to get us through the next few years which we know could be more devastating."

The district has closed six elementary schools, reconfigured its elementary program and is seeking pay freezes and increased contributions from employees from the superintendent on down to trim at least

Please see **PROPOSAL, A2**

28340 Ford Road, E. of Middlebelt • 734-425-2360
New Hours Open 7 Days 7 am-Midnight

TOAST Family Dining
Formerly Garden City Big Boy

Join us for a **Scrumptious Mother's Day Brunch**

Brunch includes: broasted chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, mostaccioli, meatballs and kielbasa, in addition to the delicious breakfast buffet with its assortment of soups, salads & fresh fruit.

7-11am Breakfast Buffet \$7.99
11am-2pm Brunch \$8.99

Double Decker Hamburger \$2.99
With Fries & Pop...\$5.99

Super Jimmy (Sandwich only) \$3.99
With Fries & Pop...\$6.99

Fish & Chips \$6.99
Spaghetti Dinner \$5.99

Add Soup or Salad Bar to any Combo...+\$1.49

OFFICERS

FROM PAGE A1

offered a job as a Westland officer.

"I went to Westland and never looked back. I knew where I wanted to be. It is timing," Ramsden said.

The promotional ceremony was the last official duty for outgoing police Chief James Ridener, who was among those taking the early retirement package.

"You can certainly say that Jim Ridener left at a time of severe changes in manpower. Those changes are being forced upon me," Ramsden

said.

"We have 15 less officers — that's 20 percent of the department. That will be the big challenge, to get us through tough times so citizens can see as little effect as possible.

"We're going to have to think of new ways to do things and be more efficient."

Along with his degree from Western Michigan, Ramsden also has completed training with the FBI, DEA and staff and command school at Eastern Michigan University. He and his wife Julie have two daughters, Haley, 13, and Clare, 11.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

CONTRACTORS

FROM PAGE A1

number. Have a nice day," said Godbout. "That was the negotiation. We don't have revised contracts for Youth Assistance or cable — just a letter. Council approves those contracts."

Wild had cut the \$229,000 Youth Assistance budget by \$30,000, adding he didn't want the program to rely on the city's general fund.

"Youth Assistance is an incredible program, Paul does an incredible job," said Wild. "We need to have that program to have incentives to get grants and pull in money. With our lobbyist, I feel the \$30,000 is a reachable goal."

Youth Assistance, which has a deputy director and office manager in addition to Motz, receives \$69,000 from the city's general fund — the rest of their funding comes through grants and from Wayne County.

"We shouldn't be cutting this program. I don't think this will be an incentive," said Councilwoman Christine Bryant. "They have huge incentives — they love our kids. They work above and beyond now."

As a Westland Youth Assistance board member, Councilman Michael Kehrer said that he wanted council to know that Motz and his staff aren't paid very well without the benefits package provided to city staff.

What mayor has proposed for contractors

Here are changes that were proposed with three city contractors:

- The Westland Youth Assistance budget of \$229,000 had a proposed cut of \$30,000. That could result in the program — which had a director, deputy director and office manager — losing one employee.

- About \$69,000 of the Youth Assistance budget comes from the city's general fund. The balance come from Wayne County, grants and other sources.

- The WLND/Communications Department budget is cut from more than \$500,000 to \$266,000 in the proposed budget. A printer who worked for the city in the department has retired and that work will be contracted. Including director Craig

Welkenbach, the department started the fiscal year with six employees. One producer has been laid off and two additional layoffs would be expected under the proposed budget. Former Miss Michigan Ashlee Baracy was recently hired as a communications coordinator.

By no longer having a separate cable budget and making it part of the general fund budget, unspent franchise fees would be additional revenue for the general fund.

- The Westland Municipal Golf Course and Mike Modano Arena are operated by the Municipal Services Bureau, which is headed by an appointed board. The council approves a contract with MSB, whose employees are not city employees. Under Mayor William

Wild's proposed budget, the contracts for the arena and golf course were reduced \$146,000. Longtime golf course director Brian Gabbart was laid off, something the MSB board was told after the fact.

The position of Construction and Maintenance Superintendent in the Department of Public Works was being eliminated. Wild had initially planned to create a new position of assistant parks and recreation director to oversee the arena and golf course.

After discussions with council, Wild decided not to create the new position and moved the former superintendent Brian Harnos to supervise the golf course and arena as an MSB employee.

PROPOSAL

FROM PAGE A1

\$12 million from its budget to make it through the next few years without cutting programs.

Goci, however, told his colleagues that more needs to be done.

"We have to start showing fiscal responsibility," said Goci. "I have a hard time asking voters for more money, unless we cut salaries. Your (Baracy) salary is up there with the governor's, your deputies are up there, too. I understand what people are going through, I have had some financial setbacks myself."

It was the second time dur-

ing last week's meeting that Goci brought up Baracy's wages. The first time related to Baracy's evaluation, which Goci also opposed.

"This is supporting a Wayne County initiative and, as superintendent, I would be remiss not to give the opportunity to our constituents to decide," Baracy told Goci. "This would be a huge help to our children and our school district."

Wayne RESA has indicated it needs the decision of school districts in the county by May 18 to place it on the August ballot. If that happens and it is approved by a majority of voters in the county, it would be levied from 2010 through 2014.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

"They have a very cheap bare bones medical insurance, no optical, no dental, no retirement or 401k," Kehrer said. "A lot of their grants are based on three employees and the number of intakes. If you reduce their budget to the point of layoffs, there will be less intakes, less grants."

In the case of WLND, the operation is funded through cable franchise fees and had a budget of more than

\$500,000. By folding that separate cable budget into the general fund, any unspent revenue would remain in the general fund.

That budget would be cut to \$266,000. Wild noted that WLND's role had included supervision of a printer, who has retired, along with the discontinuation of the city calendar.

"I just don't think it is fair to negotiate one-on-one. It is very uncomfortable," said

Bryant, after asking if there were attorneys or other representatives involved in the negotiations with the contractors.

Going back to further negotiate with the contractors would set a bad precedent, Wild said.

The council will likely have another budget study session before it is adopted, according to Godbout.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

First Choice Windows

Spring Sales Event!

Call US for a quote BEFORE you buy!

Quality Workmanship — Fast Service

- Windows • Glass Block
- Doors • Glass Repair
- Siding • FREE ESTIMATES

Featuring Energy Efficient Low E Argon Window by Alside® We can walk you thru the Energy Tax Credits!

www.firstchoicewindowsanddoors.com

1470 Inkster Road • Inkster (Just North of Michigan Avenue) 313-359-2120

Complete Healthcare FOR THE BODY, MIND & SPIRIT

Westland

NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER

Providing EXCELLENCE in Short Term Rehabilitation:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Respiratory Therapy

Call Today to Arrange a Personal Tour:

<p>Dearborn Heights</p> <p>Imperial</p> <p>Imperialhealthcarecentre.com (313) 291-6200</p>	<p>Taylor</p> <p>Regency</p> <p>RegencyHCC.com (734) 287-4710</p>	<p>Hamtramck</p> <p>St. Joseph's</p> <p>StJosephsHealthcare.com (313) 874-4500</p>	<p>Westland</p> <p>Westland</p> <p>WestlandCC.com (734) 728-6100</p>
---	--	---	---

OLYMPIA GROUP

Parkside Credit Union to award four \$500 High School Scholarships!

This scholarship is intended to assist high school seniors in financing their education following graduation.

Criteria:
Parkside Credit Union seeks to recognize and reward those students who demonstrate the following:

- Has achieved a grade point of at least a 2.0
- Has been accepted into a college or vocational training center
- Has described in a 500 word essay why further education is important to them

For application and official rules visit www.parksidecu.com
(under Youth/Young Adult tab)

Deadline is May 15th, 2010

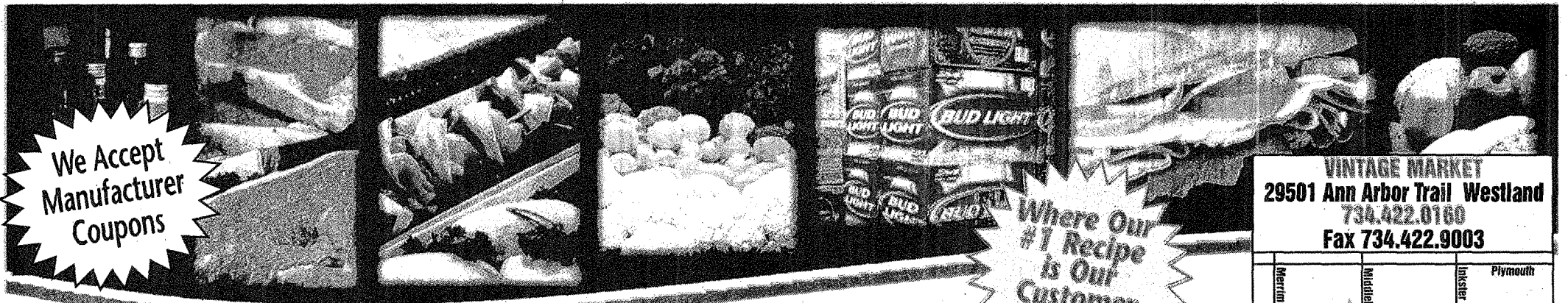
Family Heating, Cooling & Electrical

Family isn't just the name of our company, it's the way we do business.

Free Estimates on All Our Services! Prompt Work! For Fair Prices, Call One of Our Convenient Locations Today...

WEST: 774.422.8080 • NORTH WOODWARD: 248.548.9565 • EAST: 586.274.1155 • DETROIT: 313.792.0770 • DOWNRIVER: 734.281.3024

<h2>AIR CONDITIONING</h2> <p>Get Ready For Summer!</p> <p>SALES • SERVICE • REPAIR</p> <p>We Sell, Install, Service & Repair All Brands & Models!</p> <p>Quality Products, Dependable, Fast Service You Can Trust!</p>	<h2>HOT WATER TANK Specialists!</h2> <p>SALES • SERVICE • REPAIR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install with the Same Quality Products • Dependable, Fast Service • Reasonable Prices You Have Come to Trust 	<h2>GENERATORS</h2> <p>Finally Affordable for Everyone</p> <p>SALES • INSTALLATION • SERVICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Gas Powered • Fully Automatic • Whole House • Stand By 	<h2>ELECTRICAL SERVICE</h2> <p>By Full Service Master Electricians</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Changes & Upgrades • Rewiring • Outlets Added • Ground Fault Interrupt Outlets • Edison's Low Rate Meter • Breakers Installed • Install Ceiling Fans, Light Fixtures, Stove Hoods • Violations Corrected • Wiring Furnaces, Hot Water Heaters, Air Conditioning, Hot Tubs & Appliances
--	---	--	---



**We Accept
Manufacturer
Coupons**

**Where Our
#1 Recipe
is Our
Customer
Service!**

VINTAGE MARKET
29501 Ann Arbor Trail Westland
734.422.0160
Fax 734.422.9003

Warren	Ann Arbor Trail	Plymouth
--------	-----------------	----------

MARIA'S ITALIAN MARKET
8675 N. Newburgh Rd. Westland
734.455.0780
Fax 734.455.4982

Warren	Newburgh	Highland
		Joy Road

The Vintage Market & Maria's

ITALIAN MARKET & BAKERY

Prices Effective Through May 23, 2010

WE ACCEPT EBT/BRIDGE CARDS
Please Note That Marias Has Closed Their Meat Department Until Further Notice



<p>USDA Select Filet Mignon \$4.99 lb.</p>	<p>USDA Select New York Strip Steaks \$4.49 lb.</p>	<p>Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast \$1.99 lb.</p>
--	---	--

<p>Boneless Pork Chops \$1.99 lb.</p>	<p>Ground Chuck \$1.69 lb.</p>	<p>3-PACK ONLY! Baby Back Ribs \$3.49 lb.</p>
---	--	---

Maria's & Vintage Cold Cut Meats & Deli

<p>Dairy Fresh Swiss Cheese \$3.99 lb.</p>	<p>Hard Salami \$3.49 lb.</p>	<p>Imported Krakus Polish Ham \$3.99 lb.</p>	<p>Dairy Fresh American Cheese \$2.99 lb.</p>
--	---	--	---

Maria's & Vintage Homemade Deli Salads

<p>Potato Salad \$1.99 lb.</p>	<p>Cole Slaw Salad \$1.69 lb.</p>	<p>Tuna Noodle Salad \$4.99 lb.</p>
--	---	---

Maria's & Vintage Produce

<p>5 lb. Bag Michigan Potatoes 99¢ bag</p>	<p>On-the Vine Tomatoes \$1.79 lb.</p>	<p>Iceberg Lettuce 99¢ head</p>
--	--	---

Maria's & Vintage Liquor & Wine Specials Mix & Match Your Own Specialty 6 Pack Beer Dairy • Bakery Hot food & Pizza

Assorted Barefoot Wines
\$5.99 Bottle

All 2 Liter Coke Products
2 for \$2.50 + deposit
1 for \$1.99

Budweiser & Bud Light
24 Pack Cans
\$15.99 + tax + deposit

Bareman's
1-Gallon Milk
\$1.99 Limit 2

Hot to Go!
16" Large Round Pizza with 1 topping
\$5.00

Sutter Home Sweet Red, Merlot or Zinfandel
\$7.99

Graduations, Weddings, and All Special Occasion Catering

Feeds 80 People!

- 100-Piece Broasted Chicken
- 2 Full Size Mostaccioli Pastas
- 100 Bread Sticks
- 2 Full Size Tossed Salads with Salad Dressing
- One 18" Fruit Tray
- One 18" Veggie Tray
- Eight 2-Liters of Pop
- 100 Party Wings

All This For \$480
WOW! \$6.00 That's Only Per Person!

We Appreciate a 48 Hour Notice on All Orders!

Broasted Chicken Family Pack

- 12 pc. Chicken
- 2 lbs. Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- 1 Coke 2-liter
- 2 lbs. Cole Slaw

\$18.99

U-Bake Pizzas 1 Topping
2/\$11.99
(Bake at 400° for 15-20 Minutes) With Coupon Only

Wonder Bread White
\$1.00 ea.
With Coupon Only • Expires 5/23/10

Expires 5/23/10 • Limit 2 Bundles Per Family, Per Visit

Vintage's Meat Bundle

- 5 lbs. Ground Chuck
- 3 lbs. New York Strip
- 5 lbs. Pork Chops
- 3 lbs. Boneless & Skinless Chicken Breast
- 3 lbs. Chicken Parts
- 2 lbs. Fresh Sliced Bacon
- 3 lbs. Italian Sausage

Total 24 lbs. for Only.....\$70.00

1 1/2 Dozen Eggs Grade AA
\$1.88 ea.
Limit 2 per customer With Coupon Only • Expires 5/23/10

\$5.00 Meat Bundle Raffle!

Name: _____
Phone: _____

Expires 5/23/10 • Limit 2 Bundles Per Family, Per Visit

Vintage's Meat Bundle

- 3 lbs. Ground Chuck
- 3 lbs. New York Strip
- 3 lbs. Spare Ribs
- 3 lbs. Boneless & Skinless Chicken Breast
- 3 lbs. Chicken Parts
- 2 lbs. Fresh Sliced Bacon
- 2 lbs. Italian Sausage

Total 16 lbs. for Only.....\$60.00

EDUCATION

Right and wrong

Law Day allows students to experience judicial process

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland's 18th District Court made a house call, so to speak, when the judges, attorneys and defendants took a bus ride to Adams Middle School for the court's annual Law Day Program last week.

Geared for eighth-graders, the two-hour program let students see what happens when laws are broken.

"The judges and their staff do a well-rounded job in picking the cases," said Chief Probation Officer Chris Raymond. "It gives the kids a realistic view of the court system."

The program was held at Adams Middle School and included drunken driving, retail fraud, drug possession, assault and battery, trespassing and domestic violence cases. The court used the Westland Youth Assistance and Parks and Recreation buses to transport attorneys and their clients to the school, where they met with prosecuting attorneys before appearing before either Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli or Mark McConnell.

"It's actually the best way to provide security for the schools," Raymond said of the bus service.

The courtroom was set up in the school cafeteria, and each judge handled 15 cases.

"It's a great learning opportunity for students to learn about Michigan law and also see firsthand the penalties and consequences for violating those laws," said Cicirelli.

According to Raymond, the program is kept to two hours to keep students focused on what's happening. A preteaching guide is provided to inform students about the court process and how it works.

"I think it's important for the public to see the legal process in action and it's even more important for the youth of the community to see the serious consequences of violating the law," McConnell said.

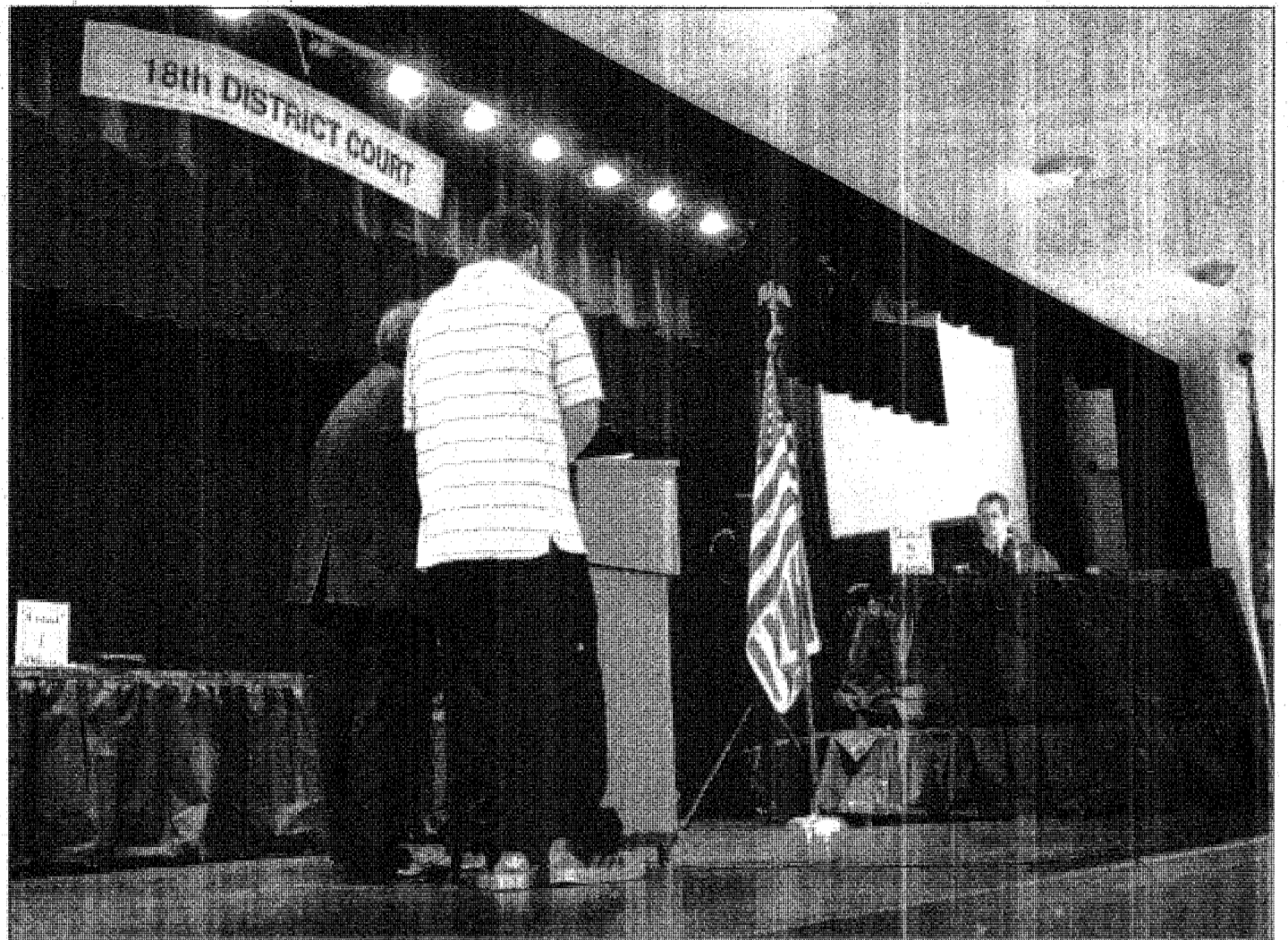
Law Day was started by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958 as a celebration of individual human rights in response to the Russian May Day, a celebration of communism.

Former District Court Judge Thomas Smith brought the program to Westland in 1979 as an essay contest in which the winners were recognized at a special breakfast.

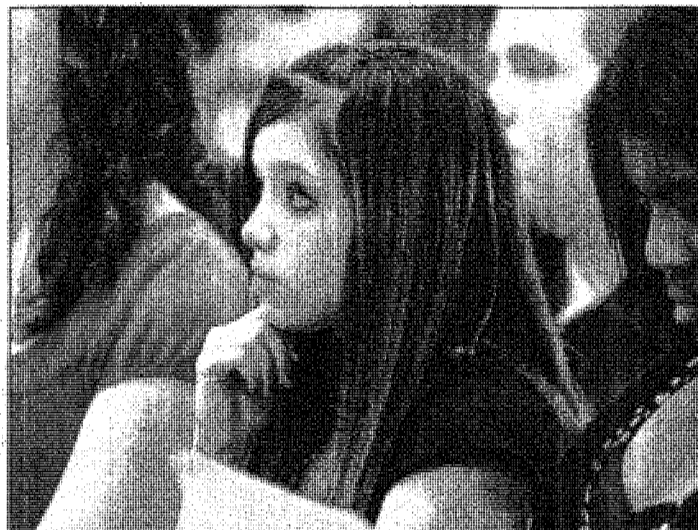
The format of having students hear real cases involving the 18th and Wayne's 29th District courts started in 1988 and was held for high school students at John Glenn High School. In 1994, the junior highs were added, but the focus shifted completely to middle school in 2002.

"We focus on eighth-graders because it's a pivotal time in their lives," Raymond said. "They're being exposed to a lot more in society and are making decisions. We want to educate them on what happens when they make poor decisions and everything that goes with that decision."

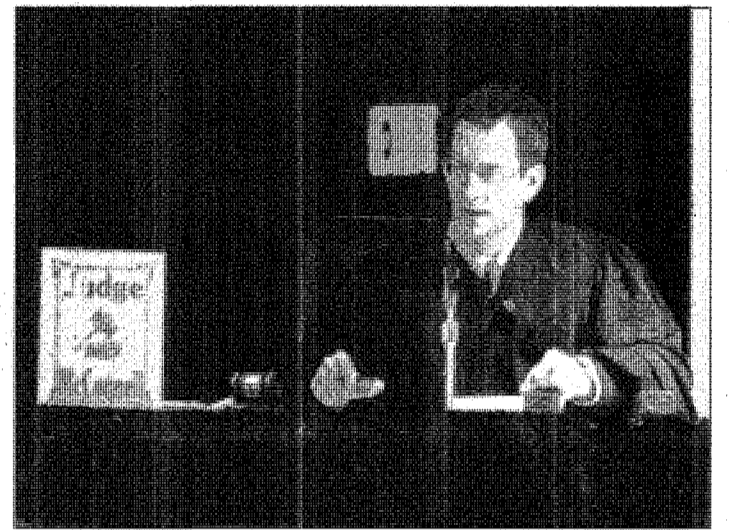
smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751



A defendant and his attorney appear before Judge Mark McConnell as part of Westland's 18th District Court's annual Law Day program, held at Adams Middle School.



Eighth-grader Sarah Wilson listens to what is happening during the court proceedings.

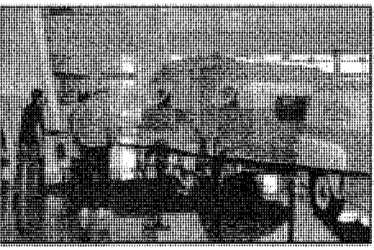


District Court Judge Mark McConnell addresses attorneys during a case heard during the Law Day program.

Novi ANTIQUES MARKET
May 22 & 23, 2010

APPRAISE

- Are your jewels a real gem? On-site Jewelry appraisals
- Fishing tackle, rod & reel appraisals



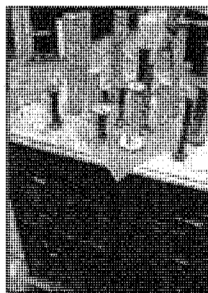
SAT 11-6, SUN 10-4
100+ Antique Dealers
\$8 Weekend Pass, Children Free

Exclusive discounts & free gifts for early buyers (Sat 9-11)
Gifts, Home Furnishings, Vintage Sporting & Jewelry



CLASSIC CARS INVITED

- Classic cars receive preferred parking
- View a rare 1954 camping trailer



REPAIR

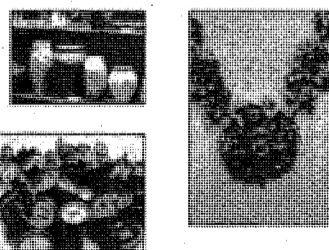
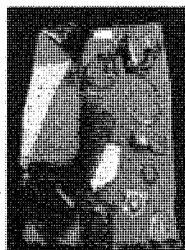
- Crystal & china repair "while you wait"
- Caning, rush weaving, & wicker repair
- Sterling flatware polishing & restoration
- Jewelry repair, ring & watch sizing



Rock financial SHOWPLACE

46100 Grand River Ave.
Novi, MI 48734

Easy access off I-96
Exit 162 Novi Road
Between Novi & Beck Rds



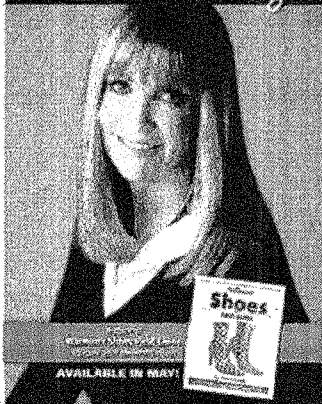
www.NoviAntiquesMarket.com



\$2 Off
One General Admission Ticket
Limit One Coupon Per Person
May 22 & 23, 2010
Sat 11-6, Sun 10-4

Please Print Clearly * Must Be Completed for Coupon to Be Valid
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____
Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi, MI 48734

Meet Caroline Ashleigh



BIG OR BIGGER?

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

1.30%
APY*
15-MONTH

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

2.00%
APY*
30-MONTH

THE CHOICE IS YOURS. Whether it's a short- or long-term CD, you're maximizing your returns with these high-yield rates. If you're saving with Citizens Bank, you already have made a wise decision.

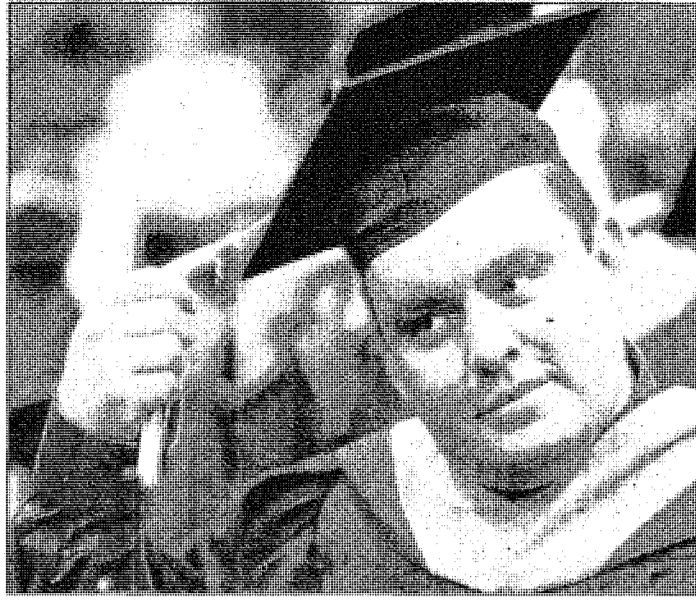
TO OPEN A CD ONLINE OR FIND THE LOCATION NEAREST YOU, VISIT CITIZENSBANKING.COM OR CALL 800-444-6989.

* The Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is valid as of 5/2/10. \$1,000 minimum deposit required to open either account. Offer valid only on new accounts. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. May not be combined with any other certificate of deposit offer. Offer available to individuals only and is subject to change at any time.





Business grad April Sawyer receives her diploma from Board Chair Michael Obloy. April lives in Canton.



Jesus Ramirez, of Livonia, switches the tassel on his mortarboard from right to left, to signify that he is now a graduate.



Leslie Banks celebrates receiving her diploma. She is from Redford.

Madonna celebrates 63rd commencement

Look for more photos at hometownlife.com

Madonna University conferred degrees upon 958 graduates May 2 in a commencement ceremony at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

Nearly 765 students received bachelor's or associate's degrees, with the remainder earning a master's degree.

Honorary doctorate degrees were awarded to C. David Campbell, president of the McGregor Fund, and Lu Hongjun, president of Shanghai Institute of International Finance. The Distinguished Alumna Award was presented to Sister Marie Ann Stamm, professor of religious studies.

Presiding over the 63rd commencement ceremony was Madonna University Provost and Vice President for Academic Administration Ernest I. Nolan.

As part of commencement, all graduates and their families were invited to a Graduation Mass April 29, at the Felician Chapel, in Livonia where Archbishop Allen Vigneron, Archdiocese of Detroit, served as celebrant. A reception hosted by Sister Rose Marie Kujawa was held in the University Center dining room immediately following the Mass.

Madonna University is an independent, coeducational, Catholic liberal arts university sponsored by the Felician Sisters of Livonia.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sarah Tupacz and Victoria Giesler of Canton help Heather Lacaria of Livonia, get ready for the processional.

Discover Nature's Splendor at Schwartz's Greenhouse!

Our Specialty is Spectacular Hanging Baskets!

Bedding Plants • Roses
Vegetable Plants
Perennials • Herbs
Proven Winner Plants
Garden Ornaments

Over 12 Acres of Greenhouse and 2 Acres of Shopping!

Open May
Mon. - Sat. 9AM - 8 PM
Sun 9AM - 6 PM
June—Call for hours

Enter to win a complimentary \$100.00 Gift Certificate!
online at www.schwartzgreenhouse.com or instore

30705 Sibley, Romulus
(734) 753-9269

All Flats (48 plants) \$8.99

KC CONSTRUCTION, INC.
BUILDERS - CONTRACTORS - DEVELOPERS

Serving S.E. Michigan for Over 28 Years

Stop in during our **OPEN HOUSE**
Sat., June 12 10-4 pm
Manufacturer reps on hand to answer questions.
Refreshments! Prizes!

4 Free Tiger Tickets With Every Qualifying Purchase! \$165 Value!

New Construction Remodeling

Licensed and Insured
Reliable • Competitively Priced Quality Workmanship

3 months, 6 months, 12 months
SAME AS CASH available.
Visa, MC, Discover accepted

28826 Ford Road • Garden City, MI 48135
(734) 425-6272
Fax (734) 425-2787
www.kcconstructioninc.net

- Additions
- Roofing
- Siding/Trim
- Windows
- Doors-Interior/Exterior
- Insulation
- Garages
- Barns/Pole Buildings
- Gutters/Gutter Protection
- Decks • Porches
- Copper Work
- Shutters
- Algae Removal

Members in good standing of: National Association of Home Builders
• Michigan Association of Home Builders • Building Industry Association of Michigan • NFIB

'Finally': Habitat women help build her first home

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Each time Michele Story and her family moved into a different rental home, she recalls a request from her young daughter to paint the walls.

Story will be able to paint and decorate however she likes after her newly constructed home is ready in July. Her home is the first of three new construction homes on Donnelly that are being constructed by Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County.

"The most exciting thing is that I will finally be a homeowner. I thought I would always be Section 8 (federal housing assistance)," said Story. "We were always moving due to the landlords wanting too much money or not doing what they were supposed to do. I'm a homeowner, finally."

On Thursday, Story was on hand for the ceremonial ground-breaking for her new four-bedroom home and to help raise the walls along with the largely female contingent on hand for Habitat Women Build Week.

Along with making a down payment on their Habitat home, buyers in the program have to put in 250 hours of sweat equity although not necessarily on their own homes. Before the walls went up on her home, Story had already worked 100 hours on homes for others.

"When I first went and painted, it was the first time. One of the crew leaders had to show me what to do. It was a rebuild," said Story, a single mother of five children and night shift cleaner at The Henry Ford for 10 years.

Among the women volunteering at the Donnelly house were sisters Sherri and Laurie Karol of Canton. This was the first Habitat home Sherri Karol had worked on, joining her sister who is a veteran volunteer.

"My aim is to bring as many people as I can to help. My sister is with me," said Laurie Karol, who works at a substitute teacher in school districts including Wayne-Westland.

The sisters were donating their time in honor of their late father Rodney Karol, a mechanic who had been mov-



Alice Dent, executive director Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne, introduced Michele Storey, who will be the owner of the new home on Donnelly.

ing into construction. Sherri Karol got emotional talking about the Habitat for Humanity program.

"I wanted to do something with my sister. We'd built a couple of homes with our father. This is a tribute to him using a skill he taught us for good," said Sherri Karol. "It's been great. It makes me want to cry thinking of people who need homes and things that we take for granted. It's really humbling."

Habitat for Humanity began more than 30 years ago as a

faith-based organizations committed to eliminating poverty housing, said Alice Dent, executive director of the western Wayne organization.

Under an agreement with Westland, Habitat will rehabilitate or newly construct seven homes. On Donnelly, the city acquired a foreclosed blighted home which was demolished and its large lot divided into three new building sites.

"We're continuing this wonderful partnership. We're not only celebrating Women Build



Volunteers including Westland Mayor William Wild lift the first wall at new construction home being built by Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne home on Donnelly.

Week but also affordable housing in Westland," said Mayor William Wild. "One of my first questions with the (federal) Neighborhood Stabilization Program was if we could use it with Habitat for Humanity. That was our first contract under NSP."

Noting one of the goals of Women Build was to encourage women to take an interest in the construction trades, Wild said he was sure women of Westland would not disappoint.

A sponsor of the program, Lowe's has committed \$20 million of support to Habitat for Humanity over five years, Dent said.

"People have a misconception

— we don't give houses away. We give hand up, not a hand out," said Dent, noting Habitat provides a 20-year interest free mortgage to the applicants who meet the home ownership criteria. "There were \$6.5 million in property taxes paid on Habitat homes in the last year in Michigan."

Once Women Build Week is over today, volunteers will continue working on the home under the supervision of crew leader mainly on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity, call (734) 414-0324.

GABRIELS SERVING YPSILANTI SINCE 1959 NOW IN WESTLAND

Cheese Steak Hoagie

FREE Medium Drink & Chips
With purchase of any Hoagie
With coupon a \$1.90 value • Limit 4 per coupon
Coupon good at Westland location only

Open Mon - Sat 10-9 Sun 11-9
www.gabrielshoagies.com
734-722-4224
1919 Wayne Road • Just South of Ford Westland

GONEY ISLAND ALEX FAMILY DINING

All-You-Can-Eat Fish & Chips \$6.99
Includes soup or salad or cole slaw

Lunch Specials \$4.99
Coupon Only • Expires 6/5/10

Breakfast Special \$2.75
7:30 - 11 am Every Day
2 eggs, hash browns, bacon, sausage or ham, toast & jelly

Buy 1 Dinner Get 1 Dinner 1/2 Off
Coupon Only • Expires 6/5/10

YOUR SATISFACTION IS OUR GOAL!
465 Inkster Road • Garden City
1 Block N. of Cherry Hill
Open Mon. - Sat. 7:30-9:30pm • Sun. 7:30-3:30
(734) 367-2000 (734) 367-2033

OPEN 7 DAYS! HOURS: MON-FRI 9:30-7 PM SAT 9:30-5 PM SUN 12-5 PM

A-QUALITY CARE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

LOW COST VACCINE CLINIC EVERY WEDNESDAY 1-5 PM
Get your pet vaccinated with **Vaccination Packages** Starting at \$29.00 (No office fee)

Free Office Visit (\$29.00 Value) New Clients Only
With Coupon

Heartworm Test \$19 with 12 mo. or \$24 with 6 mo. purchase of heartworm preventative
With Coupon

11655 Farmington Rd. (Just N. of Plymouth Rd.) Livonia
734.421.PETS (7387)
www.aqualitycarevet.com

Drive into Spring with a New Vehicle!

Get a \$50 VISA® Gift Card!

New & Used Auto, Boat & RV Loans
No payments for 60 days!

Finance your loan for \$5,000 or more now through June 30, 2010 and we'll give you a \$50 VISA gift card.

- Apply online at communityalliancecu.org
- Call our 24/7 Loan Center at 866.398.6660
- Call or stop by the Credit Union - Full service in Livonia 7 days a week at 734.464.8079

Receive a 1/4 % loan rate discount when you Show Your AAA Membership Card!

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE CREDIT UNION
EST. 1966
Your Guide To Financial Success
communityalliancecu.org

Dearborn Office
(Located just inside North entrance of AAA Headquarters Bldg.)
1 Auto Club Drive
Dearborn, MI 48126
313.336.1534
800.287.0046

Livonia Branch
(At Newburgh)
37401 Plymouth Road
Livonia, MI 48150
734.464.8079

Open 7 Days in Livonia Full Service

Serving Most of Wayne County

NCUA MEMBER

*This loan cannot be used to refinance existing loans at Community Alliance Credit Union. Offer subject to credit approval. Interest on this loan begins to accrue from the date the loan is disbursed. Offer available until June 30, 2010. You'll receive a \$50 VISA gift card when the loan is disbursed.

Wayne-Westland accepts schools of choice requests

Wayne-Westland Community Schools will begin accepting applications Monday, May 10, from non-resident families for Intra-County Schools of Choice for kindergarten through the fourth-grade for 2010-2011 school year.

Applications will be accepted through Aug. 23, at the district's Administrative Offices at 36745 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, in Westland. Applications are available to download by clicking on the district website at www.wwcsd.net/intra-county-schools-of-choice/ and clicking

on Intra-County Schools of Choice application link under Resources. There also is a Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on the same page.

The district will have 11 K-4 schools for the 2010-2011 school year, providing up-to-date technology and resource centers. It also is offering all-day kindergarten in every K-4 school which have achieved Adequate Yearly Progress under the U.S. Department of Education's No Child Left Behind Act.

For more information, call the school district at (734) 419-2083.

Library closed

Westland's William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, will be closed on today (Sunday) in observance of Mother's Day. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, May 10.

Plant exchange

On Saturday, May 15, the Westland Garden Club will host their Spring Plant Exchange 9 a.m. to noon at the park. Club members maintain the plantings at the Historic Village Park, located at 857 N. Wayne Road.

For information about the plant exchange, call Jo at (734) 522-3918 or Maureen at (734) 728-1232.

Used book sale

The Friends of the William P. Faust Library of Westland will hold a used book sale

Thursday-Sunday, May 13-15, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford, Westland.

Thursday will feature a preview for friends members from 3- to 7 p.m. People can join the group to take advantage of the early shopping.

The sale will open to the public on Friday, May 14. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Saturday will feature a Go Green \$6 Bag Sale, \$6.00. Shoppers must bring their own brown paper grocery bag or comparable-sized reusable bag to participate. Sunday will feature a Bag Day Sale for \$4. Regular prices are \$1 for hard-cover books, DVDs and CDs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, 25 cents for small paperbacks, videos, cassettes and records

and 10 cents for magazines. A green reusable Friends bag also will be available for \$2.

Money raised from the sale helps fund programs at the library for all ages.

Coffee Hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, May 10, at the at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Citizens are welcome to visit with LeBlanc and discuss issues and/or concerns. The local coffee hour takes place on the second Monday of each month.

LeBlanc also invites residents to join him and Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt for refreshments and an informal fireside chat 6-8 p.m. Monday, May 10, at the library.

Residents who have any comments or concerns, can also contact LeBlanc toll-free at (888) 737-5325 or at (517)-373-2576 or send an e-mail to richardleblanc@house.mi.gov.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will hold local coffee hours in Westland and Redford on Monday, April 12. Anderson will be at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland 9-10 a.m. and at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

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

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Memorial Day

The annual Memorial Day ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday, May 31. The ceremony will take place on the front lawn of Garden City Hall.

This year's guest speaker is LTC David Hayes of the U.S. Army's 177th Military Police Brigade. Pastor Bob McDonald from Fair Haven Baptist Church will conduct the invocation and benediction.

Lunch will be served at the American Legion Hall on Middlebelt, north of Warren Road, after the ceremony.

Any organization that wants

to present a wreath should contact Margo Ciecierski (734) 793-1660.

Blood pressure check

Senior citizens can get their blood pressure checked free of charge at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 19, the Maplewood Community Center, located on Maplewood, just west of Merriman.

The staff of Garden City Hospital's Community Services offers blood pressure testing, free of charge, on a bi-weekly basis to senior citizens at the center. For more information, call (734) 458-4330.

Blood Drive

Garden City Middle School is holding an American Red Cross Blood Drive 2-6 p.m. Thursday, May 20, in the gymnasium. To sign up for a blood donation appointment, go online to www.redcrossblood.org and use the code GCBulldogs.

For more information, call Assistant Principal Larry Conn at (734) 762-8400.

Book donations

The Friends of the Garden City Library are accepting books, videos, CDs, DVDs and cassettes in good condition for

their upcoming Slightly Used Book Sale. Materials can be dropped off at the library inside the Maplewood Community Center during open hours.

Residents who have heavy boxes can go in the library and ask for a book cart. Receipts also are available for tax purposes. A partial state income tax credit is allowed for donations to a public library.

The Friends of the Garden City Public Library is a non-profit organization that gives financial support to the library and its programs. Membership starts at \$5 and applications are available at the library.

Hours: MON.-SAT. 9-9 SUN. 9-7

Mike's Marketplace

38000 Ann Arbor Rd. Livonia
 (734) 464-0330

Your Meat & Deli Supermarket

FANTASTIC SAVINGS

SALE VALID MAY 10 - MAY 16

- Fresh Ground Beef GROUND CHUCK Family Pack \$2.49 lb.**
- Boneless BEEF TENDERLOIN FILET MIGNON 4 Steak Value Pack \$7.99 lb.**
- Bone-In CENTER CUT PORK CHOPS \$2.99 lb.**
- Great on the Grill BBQ HALF FRYER CHICKEN \$1.39 lb.**
- Fresh Ground Beef GROUND SIRLOIN Family Pack \$2.99 lb.**
- Boneless CUBE STEAK \$3.49 lb.**
- Boneless DEL MONICO PORK ROAST \$3.19 lb.**
- Boneless SIRLOIN TIP ROAST \$3.49 lb.**
- Eckrich MEAT FRANKS 2/\$3.00 lb. Reg or Bun Size 1 lb. Pkg.**
- FRESH SLICED FROM THE DELI**
- Lipari Lean ROAST BEEF \$5.99 lb.**
- Lipari MUENSTER CHEESE \$3.99 lb.**

Check our website for additional specials! mikes-marketplace.com

THINKING ABOUT...

A NEW A/C or FURNACE?

LENNOX

Receive up to a... **\$1,400⁰⁰ Rebate***

Offer expires 6-30-10 *See dealer for details

Plus Up to a **\$1,500** Federal tax credit

Plus Up to a **\$500** Utility company rebate

FREE ESTIMATES
 Visit Our Showroom!
 Our 36th Year!

UNITED TEMPERATURE
 8919 MIDDLEBELT • LIVONIA
(734) 525-1930
www.unitedtemperatureservices.com

MERCEDES-BENZ OF NOVI

YOUR LOCAL MERCEDES-BENZ DEALER

2010 C300 4MATIC \$349*

36 MO. LEASE + tax

\$349 First monthly payment
 \$2,999 Capitalized cost reduction
 \$795 Acquisition fee
\$4,143 Total cash due at signing

SPECIAL FINANCING RATES NOW AVAILABLE

GRAND RIVER & HAGGERTY
 Come Visit Our Heated 18 Car Showroom

NEW & CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED RATES
 Certified Pre-Owned Mercedes-Benz
 STARTING AS LOW AS **1.9%** APR

Mercedes-Benz of Novi Open Saturday 10-3
888.863.6342
 Relax and enjoy our piano music
www.mercedesbenzofnovi.com

Specializing in Residential & Commercial Restoration & Custom Brick Work

Dan's Custom Brickwork

882 York St. • Plymouth, MI 48170

Chimneys & Porches Repaired and Rebuilt

Tuck Pointing & All Other Brick Work

Natural & Cultured Stone Installation

1.734.416.5425
 Free Estimates
 Licensed and Insured

Jones Pool Service

Family Owned & Operated for Over 25 Years

Jones Pool Service Specializes in Pool Renovation Including...

Tile, Coping & Marcite Replacement

We also offer in-ground custom liner replacements, pumps, filters, heaters, spa repairs, solar & winter covers.

FREE ESTIMATES

Seasonal Opening & Closing Specials Until May 24, 2010.
 To Schedule an Appointment, Call **734-379-5791**

Canton Animal Hospital

Our mission is to keep your pet happy, healthy, and pain-free at affordable prices.

- Full Service Pet Hospital
- State of the Art Facility
- Medical, Surgical & Dental
- Emergency Care
- Orthopedic Specialist Available (fractures, cruciate repair, bone plating, etc.)
- Grooming, Boarding & Day Care

50% Off Our Already Low Examination Fee

25% Off Spay/Neuter & Dental Procedures

\$10.00 Per Vaccine! Expires June 30, 2010

Complimentary Nail Trim

Open 7 Days:
 M-F 8am-Midnight
 Sat-Sun 9am-9pm

Extended hours at no additional cost

WALK-INS WELCOME
 43439 Michigan Ave.
 Canton, MI 48188
734-397-7779
www.CantonVets.com

WANTED HOMES THAT NEED ROOFING™

A select number of homeowners in Wayne County and the surrounding areas will be given the opportunity to have a lifetime Erie Metal Roofing System installed on their home at a reasonable cost.

Qualified homeowners will receive attractive pricing and have access to our special low interest unsecured bank financing.

An Erie Metal Roof will keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

An Erie Metal Roofing System will provide your home with unsurpassed "Beauty and Lasting Protection"!

INQUIRE TODAY TO SEE IF YOUR HOME QUALIFIES!
www.ErieMetalRoofs.com
1-877-650-6464
 email: roofing@eriemetalroofs.com

Saying goodbye to Ernie

Westland man is first to bid adieu to 'an incredible man'

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For 54-year-old Bud Somerville, the trip to Comerica Park Thursday was to say goodbye to a baseball icon ... and a friend.

The Westland resident had met Ernie Harwell so many times over the years, that the late Harwell called him by his first name.

"He was an incredible man," said Somerville. "When he was at the stadium, he was there walking around, coming up to people and talking to them like they were his neighbors and friends. If the whole world acted like Ernie Harwell, there would be no problems."

Somerville was among thousands of Detroit Tiger fans who filed past Harwell's casket while he was in state at the ballpark just a few feet from a life-sized statue of the Hall of Fame broadcaster. Harwell died Tuesday of cancer at age 92.

Somerville had headed to the stadium Wednesday night and expected to see a crowd when he



Among Bud Somerville's favorite photos is this autographed snapshot of himself and his son David, who was seven years old, and Ernie Harwell.

arrived around 11:30 p.m. Instead, Somerville became somewhat of a celebrity among the news media. He was the first person to line up and wait for gates to open at 7 a.m. Thursday.

"I wanted to make sure I would be able to see him, I wanted to be there," he said. "It was important to me. There was no way I could not go."

He spent the wee hours of the morning sharing stories with other fans who showed up as well as being interviewed by members of the Detroit print and television

media as well as journalists from such cities as Grand Rapids, Flint, Saginaw, Toledo and even Boston.

"I started to tell everyone I never wanted to be first again," Somerville said of his newfound notoriety.

Somerville first met up with Harwell in the 1960s at the old Tiger Stadium. He shook his hand and got an autograph. After about



Bud Somerville had a smile for Channel 4 report Paula Tutman, but the smiles turned to tears when he saw the Ernie Harwell's casket brought into Comerica Park Thursday.

the 15th time of meeting him, Harwell started calling him by name.

His fondest memory is getting the opportunity to sit in Harwell's chair in the broadcast booth. Somerville and his family were invited by the Tigers to the game just before his son, Ryan,

who was in the Air Force, left for Saudi Arabia. They were on the field during warm-ups, meeting the team when Harwell and fellow Tigers broadcaster Jim Price walked out of the dugout and onto the field to talk to the family.

"Ernie and Jim told us, 'When you're done, come up to the press

box,'" Somerville recalled. "We couldn't wait for batting practice to be over."

The family went to the press box to see Harwell's view of the stadium. Somerville told the veteran broadcaster that he was right, he did have "the greatest seat in baseball."

"Ernie said, 'But you're not sitting in it,'" Somerville said. "I sat in it and held the microphone. It was incredible. He did have the greatest seat in baseball."

Somerville also recalls being at the Tigers tribute to Ernie Harwell in September and hearing his farewell speech. He calls Harwell's brief statement a "modern day version of Lou Gehrig's speech."

Somerville has a portion of his basement "man cave" devoted to Ernie Harwell, with many of his pictures of him and with him framed and ready to hang on the wall. He admits he will miss the man.

"I'm glad I went," he said. "The Tigers outdid themselves for Ernie. They did a tremendous job."

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE
legal medical marijuana
Doctors serving SE Michigan
facebook
call for info and appointments
248-990-1234
email: marijuanaforalicense@gmail.com

WESTLAND LAWN & SNOW
HUSTLER TURF EQUIPMENT
SPORT
The Ultimate Zero Turn
Made in the USA!
\$3099
2.9% Financing Available
48 months = approximate \$75 per month payment
Lawn Mower Tune-Up Special
Includes:
• Oil Change
• Change Spark Plug
• Sharpen & Balance Blade
• Clean or Replace Air Filter
• Install In-line Fuel Filter
• Check Engine Compression
• Check Ignition System
• Clean Fuel System
• Lube & Adjust Moving Parts
• Power Wash Top of Mower
Reg. \$69.95
NOW ONLY \$46.95
Plus Parts
With Coupon Expires 5/31/10
• 17.5 HP OHV Briggs & Stratton® engine
• 42" Fabricated deck
• Hydrostatic transmissions for true zero-degree turning maneuverability
• Commercial duty
• Toughest frame, front forks and deck in the industry
• Simplest maintenance in the industry
• 2 year warranty
27427 Joy Road • Westland
Just West of Inkster Road **734-261-1250**

Petland
PETLAND PETS MAKE LIFE BETTER!
We have an adorable selection of puppies and kittens waiting for adoption.
OUR Puppies Come With:
• 60 Day health warranty
• Free spay/neuter
• 3 Free vet visits
• Free training DVD
25% OFF ANY PUPPY
Valid only on regularly-priced merchandise. May not be combined with any other coupon or discount. This coupon is not redeemable for aquariums, kits, dog or cat food, or cash. Cannot be used for gift certificates or for previously purchased merchandise. Coupon may only be used once. Limit 1 per customer. Expires 5-16-10.
34610 Warren • Westland
Corner of Wayne & Warren • Westland Crossing
www.petlandwestland.com
734.367.9906
Open Mon-Thurs 11-8; Fri-Sat 11-9; Sun 12-6

LEAN, MEAN APP MACHINES.
Get an impressive deal on our most powerful, app-friendly smartphones.

NEW! DROID INCREDIBLE by HTC
Introducing the next chapter in the Droid saga
• Android™ 2.1 and HTC Sense 2.0
• 1 GHz Snapdragon™ processor
• Professional 8 MP camera with auto-focus
\$199.99
\$299.99 2-yr. price - \$100 mail-in rebate debit card. Requires new 2-yr. activation on a voice plan with data pak \$29.99 or higher.

DROID by Motorola
• 16 GB microSD™ card pre-installed
• Brilliant 3.7" touch screen with full slide-out keyboard
• Android™ OS with Google™ Experience
BUY 1 GET 1 FREE \$199.99
\$299.99 2-yr. price - \$100 mail-in rebate debit card. Add'l phone: \$100 2-yr. price - \$100 mail-in rebate debit card. Requires new 2-yr. activation on a voice plan with data pak \$29.99 or higher per phone.

verizon | Google
1.800.2JOIN.IN | www.droiddoes.com/incredible

Activation fee/line: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan® lines w/ 2-yr. Agmts). IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Cust Agmt, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$350 early termination fee & other charges. Device capabilities: Add'l charges & conditions apply. Offers & coverage, varying by svc, not available everywhere. Network details & coverage maps at vzw.com. Rebate debit card takes up to 6 wks & expires in 12 months. While supplies last. Shipping charges may apply. All company names, trademarks, logos and copyrights not the property of Verizon Wireless are the property of their respective owners. DROID is a trademark of Lucasfilm Ltd. and its related companies. Used under license. Google and the Google logo are trademarks of Google, Inc. Incredible by HTC is a trademark of HTC Corporation. ©2010 Verizon Wireless. INCR

Antonio's
CUCINA ITALIANA

Roman Village
CUCINA ITALIANA

The Rugiero Family Presents...

MICHIGAN
OPERA
THEATRE
David DiChiera, General Director

Opera Day at Antonio's Cucina Italiana
Thursday, May 13, 2010

DETROIT
OPERA
HOUSE
Home of Michigan Opera Theatre
David DiChiera, General Director

A portion of the proceeds from lunch and dinner on this special day will be donated to Michigan Opera Theatre!

Dine at any one of these Antonio's locations on Thursday, May 13th and receive a voucher to save 25% off Tickets for any performance of Puccini's Masterpiece, "Tosca" at the Detroit Opera House!

2220 North Canton Center Road
Canton, Michigan
734-981-9800

37646 West 12 Mile Road
Farmington Hills, Michigan
248-994-4000

26356 Ford Road
Dearborn Heights, Michigan
313-278-6000

9924 Dix Avenue
Dearborn, Michigan
313-842-2100

ADDED BONUS!

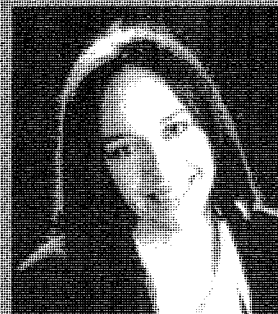
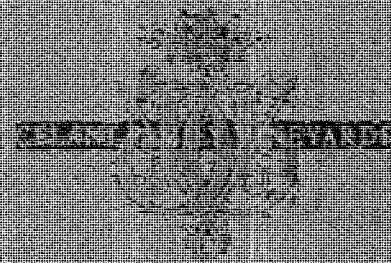
If you attend the Wednesday, May 19th performance of "TOSCA", please join us for a complimentary reception following the production to meet Italian opera stars

TIZIANA CARUSO
and
ANTONELLO PALOMBI

hosted by Antonio Rugiero and Dr. David DiChiera.

Salute!

Featured wines by Celani



Tiziana Caruso,
Tosca
May 19, 21 and 23
performances



Antonello Palombi,
Cavaradossi
May 15, 19, 22
performances

Visit our new website
www.antoniosrestaurants.com

SUNDAY
May 9,
2010

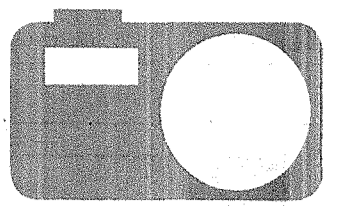
Follow Madonna baseball-softball in the WHAC playoffs, visit hometownlife.com

SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

SECTION B
(WL)

Brad Emons, editor, (313) 222-6851
demons@hometownlife.com

HOMETOWN LIFE



Find your photo
in our galleries
Online at hometownlife.com

No pushovers

State runner-up Blazers off to 11-2 softball start

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Ladywood, last year's state finalist in Division 2 girls softball, has only two blemishes on its record so far this season — both courtesy of the Catholic League's Central Division.

The Blazers are off to an 11-2 start overall and are 6-2 in the Central, but find themselves a game out of first place behind 7-1 Farmington Hills Mercy after splitting a double-header on Tuesday against visiting Birmingham Marian.

Ladywood sophomore All-State pitcher Briana Combs racked up 30 strikeouts on the day and allowed just one hit over 14 innings, but Marian came away with a split by winning the nightcap, 1-0, after losing 9-0 in the opener.

Marian scored an unearned run in the sixth after two runners reached base on strikeouts followed by a passed ball.

Rachel Burtka, who got the start in Game Two, allowed just two hits to pick up the victory.

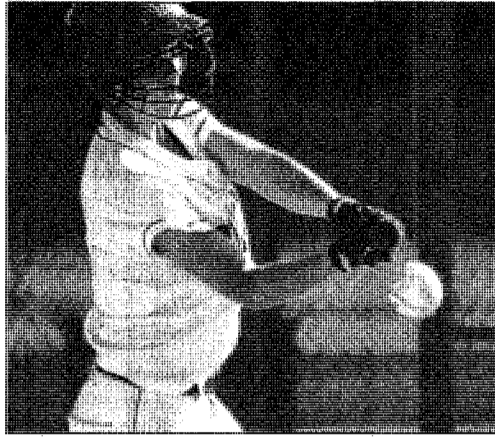
"We hit four balls right in front of the fence — we probably have the biggest park around — bigger than most college fields," Ladywood coach Scott Combs said.

In the opener, Ladywood had a total of 17 hits with Jenny Rohn, Aysa Gietl and Julie Bushart each collecting three and driving in two runs apiece. Gina Sykes added two hits in the win.

Combs, a right-hander, tossed her 10th no-hitter of her career, missing a perfect game after hitting a Marian batter in the first inning. She had a total of 17 strikeouts.

Last weekend, the Blazers got in only two games at the Michigan Stars Tournament in Sterling Heights at Liberty Park because of rain. They won their pool by defeating Walled Lake Central, 2-1, in 10 innings, and St. Clair Shores Lakeview, 3-0.

On April 30, Combs and Mercy ace Casey Nieto matched pitch-for-pitch in a Central Division double-header. Both threw for Scott Combs on his



Ladywood's Christina Butkiewicz puts her bat on the ball during last week's double-header against Bloomfield Hills Marian.

Compuware summer league team.

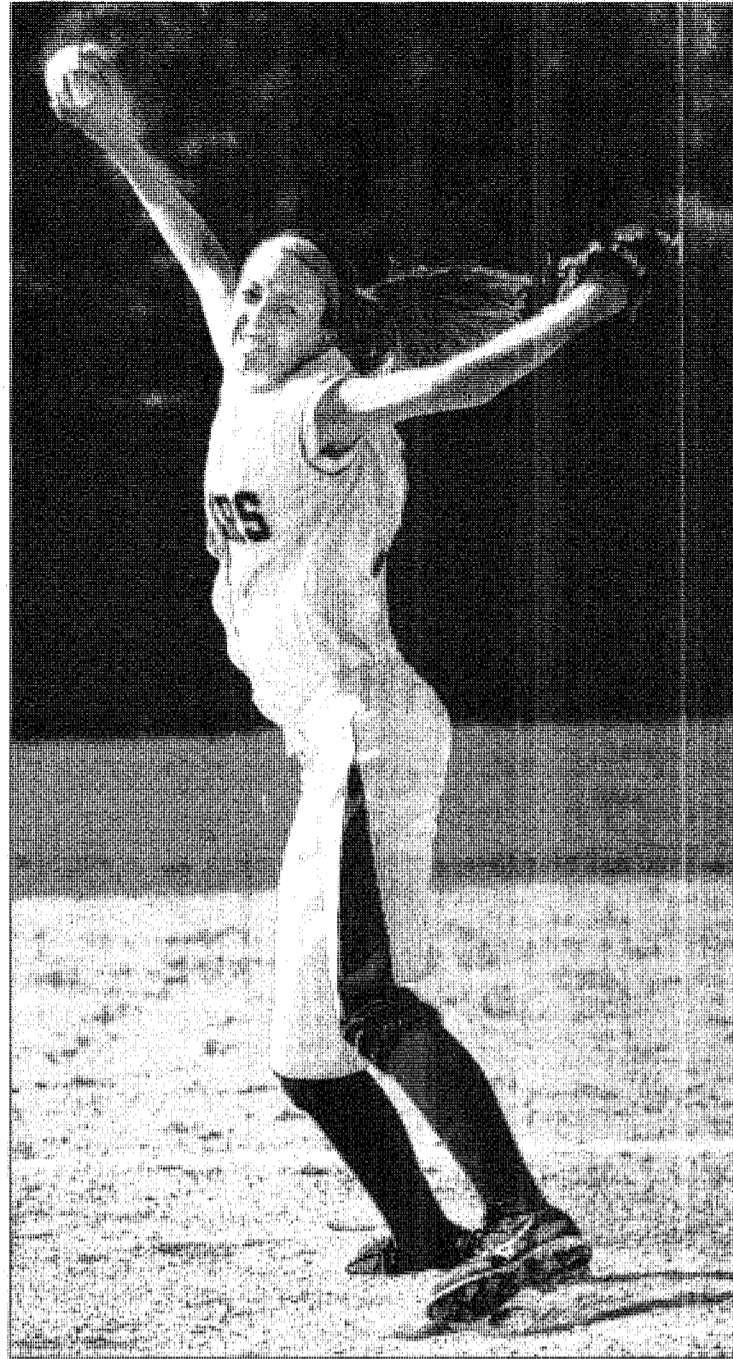
Nieto, a sophomore, struck out 15 and allowed just two hits as the Marlins scored twice in the top of the eighth to take the opener, 2-0.

Combs fanned 13 in the loss, but responded to her first loss of the year 3-hit shutout to go along with eight Ks in the nightcap as Ladywood earned a 3-0 victory.

"People are coming after us and we'll be seeing all the number one pitchers," Scott Combs said. "But we're where we want to be playing a tough schedule because it can only help us when we get to the state tourney."

Ladywood, however, got in only one game because of rain in the Mattawan Tournament (April 24). The Blazers defeated Niles Brandywine, but never got the chance to take on the host Wildcats, ranked No. 2 in Division 1.

"We've had nine games rained out so far," Scott Combs said. "Right now we're just trying to any find teams to play because we're hitting the heavy part of our schedule."



Ladywood sophomore pitcher Briana Combs racked up 30 total strikeouts, allowed just one hit and hit another batter over 14 innings, but the Blazers settled for a split last week with Marian.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SIDELINES

Haeger adds pair

Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger announced the signing of two players for next season including Ryan Lech, a middle infielder from L'Anse Creuse North, and Paul Lobur, an infielder-catcher from Madison Heights Lamphere.

"We are fortunate in that we only lose five seniors from this year's team and unlike in past seasons where we may have had to go out and get a ton of kids, we can be selective with this year's class and bring in kids that will make an impact for us quickly," Haeger said.

As a junior, Lech batted .400 with 23 RBI and 12 doubles. He also won five games on the mound with a 1.64 earned run average en route to All-District honors. He is a two-time All-Academic selection and helped his Anchor Bay Angels capture the 16-and-under USSSA state title in 2008.

Lobur is a four-year varsity player and two-time All-Macomb Area Conference Gold Division pick.

Shoulder surgery limited Lobur to just 15 games as a junior, but a .471 average and 14 RBI earned him All-District honors. This past fall Lobur earned second-team All-MAC honors in football. He is also a member of the nationally ranked South Oakland A's travel program.

Blazers burn Irish

Junior Alexa Burns had five goals and four assists, while senior Gaby Meyer added three goals and three assists Wednesday as Livonia Ladywood rolled to a Catholic League girls lacrosse victory at Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard.

The Blazers improved to 6-4 overall, while Gabriel Richard falls to 1-8.

Sophomore Rana Freij and junior Lauren Perugi faced a total of 16 shots and combined for 10 saves in net for the victorious Blazers.

WYAA Pony reunion

The Westland Youth Athletic Association will stage its opening day ceremonies at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 15, at Marshall Middle School. The WYAA plans to honor the members of the 1990 Pony State Championship team during those ceremonies.

If you were a team member or coach of that team, visit www.wyaa.org or call Keith DeMolay at (734) 516-9269.

Patriot golf outing

The ninth annual Patriot Club Golf Outing, a four-person scramble to support Livonia Franklin High athletics, will be Sunday, May 16, at Tanglewood Golf Club, 53503 10 Mile Road, South Lyon.

The cost is \$100 per golfer (\$30 for dinner only).

Registration starts at noon (free range balls available) followed by a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

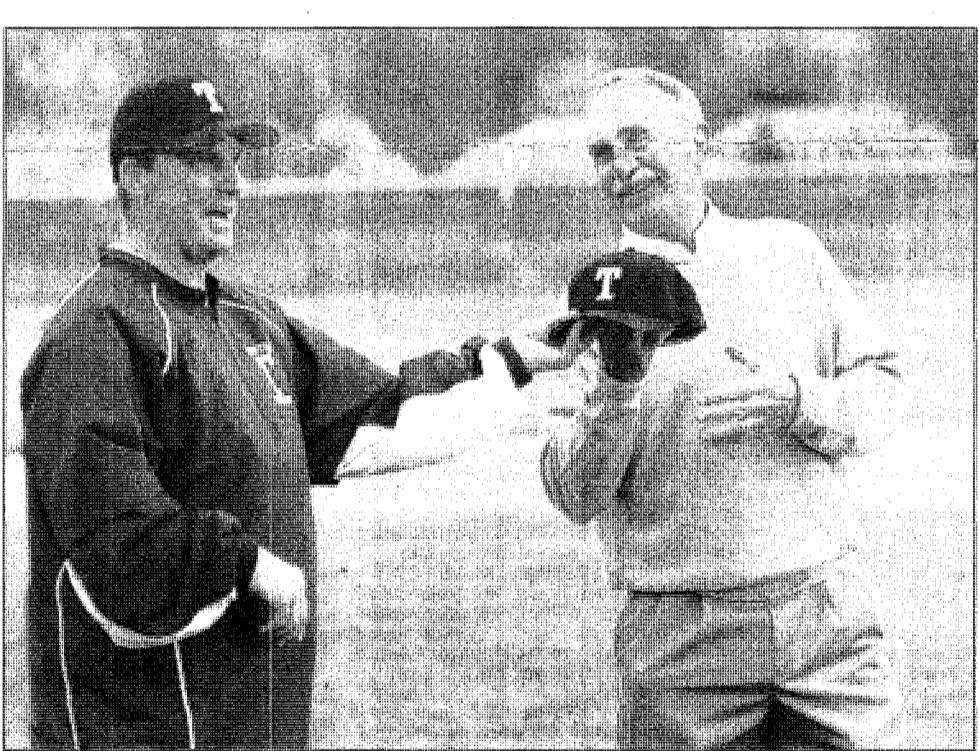
Included in the cost is 18 holes (with cart), steak dinner, door prizes, numerous contests, along with sponsor prizes.

For more information, call Ron Hammye at (734) 744-2655.

April Fools Ace

This was no April Fools joke.

On April 1, Livonian Donald Lynch, 59, used a 9-iron to ace the 129-yard, No. 4 hole at Mystic Creek (Meadows Course) in Milford.



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Hats off to Emil

Current baseball coach Bob Snell (left) gives Emil Majeski a Thurston baseball cap during Friday's field dedication. The retired coach and longtime Livonia resident guided the Eagles to the state Class B baseball championship in 1984. See story on B4 or visit www.hometownlife.com

Minch homer propels MU in WHAC tourney

Down to its final strike of the game, the No. 23-ranked Madonna University softball team got a dramatic 2-run homer from sophomore Hallie Minch in the top of the seventh inning to rally from a 5-0 deficit to claim a 6-5 win over second-seed Davenport University on Thursday night in Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference playoffs at Bailey Park.

The Crusaders, who beat Indiana Tech earlier in the day, 5-1, advance to Monday's championship game in Battle Creek. They will await the winner between Davenport and University of Michigan-Dearborn. (Game time is 2 p.m. at Bailey Park with a second game, if necessary, immediately following.)

Against Davenport (45-15), MU trailed 5-0 after four innings before mounting a

comeback with one run in the fifth, three more in the sixth and two in the seventh.

Minch and Arielle Cox each collected two hits in the victory. Brittney Scero, Ashley Shay, Kelly Lesko and Cox also drove in runs.

Winning pitcher Jess Irwin (27-4) overcame a sluggish start to pick up the win. She struck out 12, walked four and allowed five earned runs on six hits.

Heather Brusokas went 2-for-3 with a pair of homers, her 11th and 12th of the year, to go along with five RBI for the Panthers.

In the first game, Irwin went all seven innings, allowing eight hits and one walk in the victory over Indiana Tech (35-22).

Tara LaMilza, who homered, and Shay each had two hits and two RBI in the victory.

Rally caps: Hawks soar to comeback win over PCA



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A five-run seventh inning Thursday gave Huron Valley Lutheran an 11-7 win over host Plymouth Christian Academy to pretty much clinch the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division baseball title.

But PCA coach Joe Bottorff said the way the Hawks have rallied to defeat his team in the late innings for the second time in a week will only crank up the motivation dial if the teams meet in the postseason.

"Unfortunately it probably means the conference for them (Hawks) since they're undefeated and we have two losses," said Bottorff following the contest. "We still have second place to play for. ... We still have the districts."

"These guys are in our district and we might get another shot at 'em and if we can do it then that would be pretty sweet."

The winning rally, fueled by back-to-back RBI singles by Bryan Gruenewald (4-for-5, 2 RBI) and Shawn Schaffer (2-for-4, 3 RBI),

started with a leadoff walk to Tyler Waganan.

But the key play was a pop up in foul territory that PCA catcher Dan Slater lost in the sky and couldn't track.

Had Slater squeezed the foul, there would have been two outs and three on base. Instead, Alex Harris walked to score the first run of the frame, making it 7-7. "Our catcher didn't get a lot of communication from his pitcher (on the pop up)," Bottorff said. "He was saying 'Where is it?' but no one was telling him. Hey, Ethan (Walker) almost made another great play from first base, he almost got it."

As it was, Walker had a superb game, doubling off the fence for two runs in the first and hammering a homer over the centerfield fence in the fifth to give PCA a 7-6 edge. It was Walker's first fence-clearing blast of the season.

"Ethan had a great game," Bottorff said. "As an individual effort you can't ask for more."

Walker also started the game on the mound, but needed to be

relieved in the fourth after a single by Gruenewald knotted the score at 5-5.

According to Hawks coach Matt Schaeve, whose team improved to 8-1 overall and 7-0 in the MIAC Red, it is gratifying to see how his team never gives up in any game.

"The last couple games we've had to play from behind and we just stuck with it," Schaeve said. "They've done a real good job."

About the leadoff walk jump-starting the deciding seventh, the coach noted that his team seems to have the mindset needed for comeback victories.

"I think they're thankful they have a second chance and they try to make the most of it," Schaeve said.

PCA (4-8, 4-2) got off to a quick, 3-0 lead thanks to a string of four hits in the first against Hawks starting pitcher Schaffer.

Dan Slater singled and stole second and scored on a ground-rule double by Matt Dodson — who went 4-for-4 on the day.

Please see **BASEBALL, B4**

Huron Valley Lutheran's Alex Harris makes contact in Thursday's MIAC Red Division victory over Plymouth Christian Academy.

GIRLS TENNIS RESULTS

WHITE LAKE LAKELAND 5 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 4
No. 1 singles: Paige Fallu (LC) defeated Rachel Adriansen...

GRAND BLANC 9 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 0
No. 1 singles: Sabrina Dass (GB) defeated Paige Fallu...

WESTLAK JOHN GLENN 4 GARDEN CITY 4
No. 1 singles: Jessica Gemeund (GC) defeated Latina Yacks...

LIVONIA STEVENSON 5 WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 4
No. 1 singles: Rena Molnar (WLC) defeated Laura Gumpfer...

WESTLAK JOHN GLENN 2 HOWELL 7
No. 1 singles: Taylor Oglesby (H) defeated Sabrina Lawrence...

WESTLAK JOHN GLENN 2 HOWELL 7
No. 1 singles: Taylor Oglesby (H) defeated Sabrina Lawrence...

BASEBALL FROM PAGE B1

Following with a single was Jon Slater and Walker bashed a two-run double off the fence in left to make it 3-0.

ing the fourth and fifth, as the Eagles held serve. In the fourth, Dodson doubled to left-center to score a run and make it 6-5.

bottom of the seventh, leadoff hitter Walker tried to stoke a PCA rally with a shot to the gap in left-center.

Majeski entered the South Redford School District as a teacher at Thurston High in 1963. Through is tenure, which concluded 36 years later, Majeski taught business, coached football, golf and, most notably, baseball.

players, but was always so easy to work with that it was almost as if working independently. Majeski, who resides in Livonia, said his love for baseball began at a very early age.

"When we had class with him and, as soon as we got in, if we brought up baseball we were free all day," Arthur continued.

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

5000-5980 Employment Classifieds
APPOINTMENT SETTERS \$10-\$12/Hour
We're seeking bright, enthusiastic people to tell others about our terrific service...

BAKER
Daytime Baker for Plymouth Location, 5 Mile/Haggerty.
Apply within: 15455 Haggerty, Plymouth. 734-420-5555

DRIVERS: CDL-A, 2 yrs exp. Part-Time. Must be able to load/unload freight. Taylor, MI. 800-831-4892
FOREMAN
Hands-on for concrete products plant. Supervise employees, do production scheduling, do job take offs.

SERVICE DEPT TRAINEE
Entry level position requires basic mechanical skills, good driving record and reliability. Will train the right individual. Apply in person: TAYLOR FREEZER of Michigan 13341 Stark Rd. Livonia, MI 48150 734-525-2535

TEACHER for PRESCHOOL in Redford, with associates degree (or working towards it) & sense of humor. Must have 1 yr. exp. teaching. Hrs. needed btwn. 8-6pm. 313 541-5887
The Path to a Full Life is Caring. We provide hospice care to seriously ill patients and their families throughout southeastern Michigan.

BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT
Wright Griffin Davis, an Ann Arbor CPA, firm is seeking an experienced bookkeeper to join their Small Business Group.
Must have full-charge bookkeeper exp. Responsibilities include providing clients with the following services: Prepare interim financial statements, G/L, A/R, A/P, Bank Reconciliations, Payroll Processing, Payroll Tax Filings, Assist with Accounting Software

GROUP HOME MANAGER
Must have minimum 2 yrs Group Home Management experience. Previous experience in Traumatic Brain Injury a plus. Excellent wage/benefits package.
P.O. Box 3460 Farmington Hills, MI 48333 Or fax: 248-442-1180

MEDICAL RECORDS ASSISTANT
West Bloomfield Nursing Center, an affiliate of Beaumont Hospital, has a part time position available in our Medical Records department. This position is three days a week, flex time available. Great position for a homemaker who wants to work. Experience in Medical Records/healthcare desired.
Fax resume: 248-661-2276 or email to: r.kuzmanovich@beaumonthospital.com

LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER PATH?
Look no further! Join MI fastest growing home improvement co., & get on the fast track to success! We're looking for 2 people to join our sales team, reps earn bwn \$40K-\$80K/yr. We offer pd training, a generous comp. pkg., & oppy for rapid advancement. No exp nec, just a will to learn & a drive to succeed. Call today/interview tomorrow. 1.888.GutterGrate Opt 3.
ONE CALL CLOSERS!!! Meat Sales - Cash Daily Make \$500-\$700/wk Comm. We will train. 313-417-5243

hometownlife.com
AUTO RESTORATION
Collision facility seeking exp. auto body & paint tech's. Full or part time. 313-402-0840 313-359-4289

DRIVERS NEEDED DTR
Tanker Work. Awesome Pay & Benefits!! CDL-A w/X 866-339-0072, 419-865-7077

MECHANIC Certified, master. Mackinaw City, resort area. FT, permanent position. Call Jerry M-F 9-5pm 231-436-5295

Just a quick call away... 1-800-579-5888

When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

Observer & Eccentric Classifieds! A word to the wise, when looking for a great deal check the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

ITS ALL AT YOUR FINGERTIPS! The best local classifieds! 1-800-579-7355

CUSTOMER SERVICE/SALES
Royal Oak insurance agency seeks a motivated individual for customer service and sales support. Must have P & C insurance background. FT. Salary plus commissions. Email resume to: carolyntack@allstate.com or fax resume 248-583-4770

Smart smart SMART twice each week, your hometown classifieds bring together thousands of smart buyers and sellers just like you. You can rely on your Observer & Eccentric classifieds to earn money! Smart

NEIGHBORS

Not bugged by acting: Seniors prove they've 'still got it' on stage

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Joanna McKay hadn't performed since high school when she joined a community theater troupe a few years ago.

But at 73, the Canton woman, like the other actors in Still Got It Players, possessed life experience, a plus when developing characters for the stage.

"You're never too old. Whatever dreams you have, as long as you have the fortitude to move around, you can do anything you want," said McKay, now 76.

That enthusiasm and life experience sets senior actors apart from the pack, says Debbie Lannen, who directs Still Got It Players, a performance group for age 50 and up.

"They're a unique group to direct. What's nice is they do have experiences that are totally different from kids. They've been through it," Lannen said. "When one of the characters says he enlisted in the army in 1965 and another (mentions) Vietnam, of course these guys remember that. They lived through it."

Lannen, former performing arts coordinator for Novi and a seasoned director, convinced Spotlight Players in Canton to take the Still Got It Players under its wing last year. The troupe's first show was in August 2009. It's gearing up for its second production, a set of four one-act plays, Wednesday-Saturday, May 12-15 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill,



"Dinner Plans" features Pat Watson, (left) Madeline Carpenter, Bella Glenn, and Caroline Zamarka.

Canton. Show times are 1 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, 19-59; \$13 for seniors, 60 and up and students under 19; and \$12 per ticket for groups of 15 or more. They're available by phone at (734) 394-5460, online at www.canton-mi.org/village theater, or at the door.

The one-act plays are *How to Marry the Minister*, *Dinner Plans*, *The Committee* and *At Half Time*.

"They are hilarious," Lannen

said. She selects plays that both an older audience and senior cast will enjoy.

"Choosing a play can be hard — just the actual logistics of being on stage. The last time around we had them on a platform, but they were used to working on a flat floor. We had one lady in her 80s, we had to make sure we had a stage hand there to help her down."

Working with elderly actors requires some adjustment in staging, as well as the performance material. Lannen prefers shorter plays because the

material is easier to memorize.

"The first one we did last year went off very well. The seniors who auditioned and were involved loved it. Most came back and re-auditioned this time."

"It's a new concept. Whenever there's a senior group in the area, they seem to do musical revues and the senior might only be in one or two numbers in a two-hour show. We went with acting. This way, they have more to do in an actual production. We might do a full length play at



Lanna Collins, (left) Lee Thomas and Robin Hoover rehearse "How To Marry the Minister."

some time, but if we do we'll stick to a farce."

McKay, who plays a "grouchy" member of a senior women's basketball league in *At Half Time*, said she loves keeping active and is involved in everything from playing cards to Wii bowling to the Red Hat Society. Family and friends will watch her perform this week, like they did last year. She also performed with the now defunct senior troupe at the Summit in Canton for a few seasons.

She said "the thrill of being on stage and having a big family so a lot of people are there" compels her to continue acting. She loves hearing grandchildren say "Do it again, Grandma."

Tom Strock, 70, also of Canton, worked with the Summit senior players for a few years before joining both Still Got It Players and the Spotlight

Players. Before that he'd acted in high school plays.

"I thought it was nice to portray different characters when I was in high school so long ago. I always thought, watching films on TV, it's kind of neat being an actor. They are able to play different characters and remember lines. I thought it's a wonderful profession," said Strock, who worked in the insurance industry for 31 years.

He portrays a man eager to join a senior housing complex in *The Committee* this week and plans to continue acting.

"It's enjoyable to take on a new role and meet up with people you've known from other productions."

To learn more about auditioning for a Still Got It Players show, visit www.spotlightplayersmi.org and click on Still Got It.

Livonia actors perform reader's theater

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Patti Wachtel promises that "everyone will recognize themselves" in the humorous readings her cast of senior actors will perform Friday, May 14 in Livonia.

Diva and Drama Queens, the Livonia Civic Park Senior drama group, will read three short comedies, including "Ladies at Lunch" which offers a mix of recognizable characters from "the whiner" to the perfectionist.

The free Reader's Theater performance starts at 1 p.m. and runs about a half hour at the senior center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Reserve a spot by calling (734) 466-2555.

Wachtel, a recreation director at the center, selected reader's theater scripts that are written specifically for a senior cast and audience.

"I was new to the center last year and wanted to add programs. I added creative writing and I threw it (reader's theater) out there to see if they'd jump at

it. And they did," said Wachtel, who has experience in community theater.

The cast, which ranges in age from "late 50s" to 91, is costumed and uses props.

"We carry the script and have action," Wachtel explained. "I have two men and six women. One man came to bring his friend for the play and he was going to sit and read while she

practiced, but he read twice and he was hooked.

"It's really neat because they are bonding as a group. They practice one day a week for about an hour and a half. It's different from community theatre where you're practicing every night."

As of last week, 50 friends and family members had signed up to see the show.

Wachtel said the group will take the summer off and tackle new reader's scripts in September for a fall performance.

Activities, including Diva and Drama Queens, at the Civic Park Senior Center are open to all seniors. There are no residency requirements. Center hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Fisher Funeral Home

Celebrating 55 Years of Service to Our Community

Michael J. Fisher, Owner and licensed Funeral Director

Traditional Service with Burial
\$2895 includes metal casket, outer burial container, viewing & service

Basic Cremation
\$695 inclusive of all fees & services
*\$200 additional for Memorial Services

Traditional Service with Cremation
\$2195 includes Casket facade, viewing & service

Affordable funerals tailored for any budget

24501 Five Mile Road • Redford
313-535-3030
www.fisherfuneral.net

NOW PERFORMING

STAINMASTER carpet Great Performance Sweepstakes

YOU COULD WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME*

ENTER TODAY AT STAINMASTER.COM

\$25 INSTALLATION
We'll install your new carpet in one room or your entire home for only \$25. Hurry! Sale ends May 31st.

BUY 70 SQ. YDS. OR MORE OF STAINMASTER CARPET AND GET A \$50 GREAT PERFORMANCE MOVIE VOUCHER

©2010 INVISTA. All Rights Reserved. STAINMASTER is a registered trademark of INVISTA. No Purchase Necessary. Sweepstakes start on April 1, 2010 and end on May 31, 2010 at 11:59 PM EST. Sweepstakes is open to legal residents of the 50 U.S. and D.C. or Canada (excluding Quebec) who are 21 years of age or older. Void where prohibited. See STAINMASTER.com for complete details and official rules. *Restrictions apply. INVISTA CARPET CARE (PAINMASTERS) carpet protection for complete details and official rules. C0210

INDEPENDENT **CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME**

The ONE store for your perfect floor.®

1400 N. WAYNE ROAD • WESTLAND
734-729-6200

(On Wayne Road Just South of Ford Road)

STORE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 8PM
SATURDAY 9AM - 6PM • SUNDAY NOON - 4PM

the Beautiful GUARANTEE

Carpet One Floor & Home promises you'll love the way your new floor looks, or we'll replace it - free!

www.carpetonewestland.com

Arthritis Today

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

CURRENT TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Doctors treating rheumatoid arthritis have an usually large number of therapeutic choices. Over fourteen drugs fit into the class called Disease Modifying Anti Rheumatic Drugs (DMARDs) that is, medications with the ability to halt the arthritis.

Experience shows that two medications - methotrexate and a drug from the Anti-TNF group - form the combination most likely to stop rheumatoid related inflammation.

The problems with using methotrexate + an Anti-TNF are twofold. One is the possible side effects. They include susceptibility to tuberculosis, gastritis, possible increase in the risk of cancer, particularly lymphoma, hepatitis, rash, mouth sores, and an increased change of developing spinal cord conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis.

The second problem is the cost. Methotrexate is inexpensive, a three month supply of the injectable form is \$34. Unfortunately, the Anti-TNF runs between \$1500-\$2200 a month, or nearly \$24,000 a year. Patient assistance programs exist to help patients with inadequate funds and/or health insurance policies insufficient to carry the expense. However, these assistance programs have limits on what they offer.

Furthermore, the physician must monitor the methotrexate and Anti-TNF combination by laboratory tests on a four week basis. This surveillance brings added expense. Finally, the requirement that the patient see the doctor on a monthly basis carries a cost that cannot be ignored even if it cannot be calculated.

Until medical science develops good therapy that also includes low cost with less risk, doctors must direct treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in a narrow line between side effects and expense.

NOVI VEIN

We bring legs back to life

Treatment in under an hour with the latest technology.
No downtime, no stripping.

Eliminate leg pain and fatigue

46325 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 135, Novi • West of Novi Road, near I-96
248.344.9110 • www.NoviVein.com

You may have a medical condition covered by insurance known as Venous insufficiency if you experience any of these leg symptoms:

- Pain/Aching/Throbbing of Legs
- Heaviness of legs/achiness
- Restless Legs
- Night cramps
- Itchy veins
- Varicose veins
- Non-healing ulcers

NEW TREATMENT
Only provider of Venwave™ in the state of Michigan, a new safe and effective treatment of rosacea and facial veins.

Before **After**

DR. JEFFREY H. MILLER, MD
Board Certified Dermatologist

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

Art – the road to a brighter future, panelists say

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Could art be a catalyst for change? The answer was an overwhelming yes as leaders of the arts community and state Sen. Hansen Clarke, D-Detroit, took part in a lively discussion on Wednesday at Daimler Financial Services Americas Headquarters in Farmington Hills.

This is the second year Daimler hosted the evening to promote the arts as a road to a brighter future. Lora Viranda, Daimler Diversity and Communications manager, said part of a successful business is continuing to be innovative.

"The goal at Daimler is we want to see positive change in the community," said Viranda of Berkley. "It's a challenging economic time in Michigan. We need to have creative solutions. The arts can inspire these new ideas. We have to think about business, the economy in a different way. It's critical that the arts community continue to have a strong presence."

The consensus was the arts inspire creative thinking. Franz Reiner, CEO and president of Daimler Financial Services, opened the discussion: "Art is something special that drives diversity, innovation and creativity."

'CATALYST FOR CHANGE'

"Art can be a catalyst for change," said Reed Kroloff, director of Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills. "I came from New Orleans and saw art and designers take a city smashed by nature and revitalize it."

It was Jurgen Walker, then Daimler Financial Services chairman, who approached Cranbrook with an interest in forming a partnership in 2001 to display contemporary art. Today, a number of programs benefit students and Daimler. A yearlong exhibit of 60 works allows graduate students to show paintings, prints, and mixed media while providing a creative



Reed Kroloff, director of Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills, makes a point at last week's panel on the arts.

environment for employees.

"As a company we're part of the community and thought how can we use our facility here to discover what the role of art can be, to see what can come out of it," said James Ryan, director of communications and corporate marketing, and discussion moderator. "We want to inspire in a creative way, use art as a platform."

Panel members agreed that education in music, visual arts and theater develops future leaders. Among those in the audience was Pamela Good, founder of Beyond Basics which brings art and tutoring to students at Thirkell Elementary in Detroit. She is grateful for Daimler funding.

"Daimler is committed to education, literacy and the arts," said Good of Birmingham. "I found Beyond Basics after realizing the vast difference in public education. These children are mostly behind in school because they can't read. Art is essential to breaking down that aversion to reading."

Carol Hofgartner believes equally in the value of art. In 2004, she founded Art Road, a nonprofit that



Carol and Stephen Hofgartner, founders of Art Road. The Hofgartners are Livonia residents.

introduces clay and various media to 400 children at Edison Elementary School in Detroit every week. Daimler is a corporate sponsor for Art Road and several programs in Metro Detroit. Hofgartner estimates only half of Detroit schools have art and music.

"Art gave me my start in life," said Hofgartner, a Livonia resident with a master's degree in architecture. "Art is intrinsic to our beings."

HANDS-ON EFFORT

Next week, 50 Daimler employees are going to Art Road to help create five Art Dogs that can be taken out into the community to illustrate program benefits. A couple of years ago, 40 employees renovated the art room and greenhouse and created an art gallery.

The large-than-life Art Dog on display was created by 125 of the elementary students. It stood next to

seating for the panel of Reed Kroloff, Clarke, Rick Sperling, founder of Mosaic Youth Theatre, Aaron Dworkin, founder of the Sphinx Organization, and Terry Blackhawk, founder of InsideOut Literary Arts Project that sends poets into Detroit Public Schools. Andrew Barnhill, a University of Detroit Jesuit High School senior who works with DPS elementary students as part of InsideOut, preceded the discussion by reciting a poem inspired by the experience.

"The publication of the children's work, the beauty of their ideas brings everybody together," said Blackhawk during the discussion.

Sperling proudly spoke of the fact that 95 percent of children in Mosaic Youth Theatre go on to college. He founded the nonprofit in 1992 to provide performing arts training for youth. Students have gone on to perform on Broadway as well as to

practice law.

"Arts are the window to those opportunities," said Sperling. "Whether they go into the arts or not that experience changes them. It's really important now that arts have got to make the case everyday why art is important to students, to everybody. It's about creating great people."

Dworkin believes that engaging in the arts is essential to students becoming "well-rounded" adults. Sphinx offers music programming and an annual competition for African American and Latino youth.

"We need to prove the value of the arts to academic testing," said Dworkin, who received bachelor's and master's of music degrees in violin performance from the University of Michigan. "Funding for the arts for the entire country is equal to the city of Berlin."

Blackhawk urged the audience to "become involved in their schools and communities, to be an ambassador for the arts."

Clarke learned firsthand the importance of self-expression. He was the first person in his family to go to college because of an arts scholarship. He earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from Cornell University before receiving a law degree from Georgetown University.

Growing up, his east side neighborhood was decimated by heroin and a myriad of problems. He thinks the answer is "to transform cities through the arts."

"We have to change the mindset," said Clarke. "Knowledge is overrated. Artistic expression is the direct path to being enlightened."

Sphinx laureate John Sanderson closed the program with a performance of two violin pieces including Bach Fugue in G Minor, rivaling the inspiration of Clarke's final words.

"Contact your elected officials. Consider running for office. Change the system. Get elected and vote for (arts) funding."

Make your renovated home a television star for Home & Garden

Home & Garden Television's *Bang For Your Buck* is looking for fun and enthusiastic homeowners in or around Detroit to be a part of the show's fifth season.

This episode will tour three

full house renovations (at least three spaces) completed for a similar price tag (\$40,000-\$15,000) in the greater Detroit area. Renovations must have been completed within the last 2-3 years.

The show will bring in its HGTV celebrity designer and a local real estate expert to determine how the renovation impacts the value of each home. It also will give viewers advice on prod-

uct and material choices, answers on renovation values and inspiring ideas for design.

The show's crew will film June 21-24.

To be considered for the

program, e-mail before/after photos and the final cost of the renovation, no later than Thursday, May 13, to ctiz@highnoontv.com. Or call Cyndi at (303) 712-3177.

Watch show clips and read

a show description at: www.hgtv.com/bang

Bang For Your Buck is produced for HGTV by High Noon Entertainment in Denver, Colo. It airs Friday nights at 9:30 p.m.

A CD THAT'S GUARANTEED TO GO UP?

Yes, please.

24-MONTH STEPPED-RATE CD.
Offer available for 3 DAYS ONLY! MAY 10-12.

1-6 MONTHS 1.60%	7-12 MONTHS 1.75%	13-18 MONTHS 2.18%	19-24 MONTHS 2.40%
---------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

\$1,000 minimum balance to open.

24-MONTH BLENDED ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD
2.00%* APY

Enjoy the flexibility and growth of a Stepped-Rate CD, with guaranteed interest rate increases over time. If market rates go down, your rate still goes up – three times during the term. If you want to move your money into another product, Huntington lets you move it penalty-free after 12 months. How's that for better? **Talk to a Huntington Banker by May 12th.**

*Minimum balance to open and obtain Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for Huntington Certificate of Deposit is \$1,000. APY is accurate as of date of publication and subject to change without notice. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal for the first 12 months. For personal accounts of less than \$100,000. Not valid with any other offer. FDIC insured up to applicable limits.
Member FDIC. and Huntington are federally registered service marks of Huntington Bancshares Incorporated. ©2010 Huntington Bancshares Incorporated.

Enter for a Chance to Win a FREE Wedding!

High School Students: Visit College Row Win a Wii Sport!

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL

DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY

Presents:

Livonia Business Expo

Thursday, May 13 – Burton Manor

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Celebrating Livonia Business from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Exhibit Floor Open:
10 a.m.-noon; 1:30-4 p.m.
Features 85 exhibitors
Admission is FREE
Periodic giveaways

Expo Luncheon: Noon-1:30 p.m.
Speaker: Great Impressions with Greg Jones & Laurie Brown
Tickets are \$15 per person

Taste of the Town: 5-8 p.m.
Features 16 area restaurants, caterers
Tickets are \$10 per person

Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

YOUR FINANCIAL POLICE

Schoolcraft College

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS
HOMETOWN WEEKLIES
www.hometownlife.com

bright house NETWORKS

For more information contact the Chamber at (734) 427-2122.
Please visit www.Livonia.org for a complete listing of all the Exhibitors.

MILESTONES



Helen Slivka is surrounded by her great-grandchildren. Jordyn Barnes of Plymouth is pictured left and Brook Dolkowski of Canton, right. Gathered behind her are Alexys Kraus (left), Courtney Dolkowski, Brittany Dolkowski, Justin Dolkowski, Aaron Dolkowski, holding Jake Barnes of Plymouth, and Troy Dolkowski, all of Canton.

CELEBRATING WITH FAMILY

Helen Slivka of Dearborn Heights celebrated her 95th birthday, Dec. 25, 2009, with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her daughters are Patricia Kraus and Nancy Dolkowski, both of Canton. "She considers herself very lucky and loves them all," Dolkowski said, adding that the nine great-grandchildren range in age from 21 to 2 1/2.

JUNE WEDDING PLANNED

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Horton of Plymouth are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer, to Michael Maurer, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Maurer of Plymouth. Both Jennifer and Michael are Plymouth-Canton Educational Park graduates. Jennifer graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in special education and teaches at Tonda Elementary School in Canton. Michael also graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in business

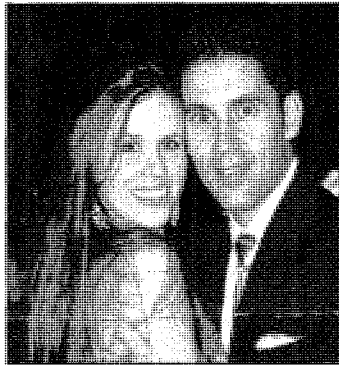


Horton-Maurer

hospitality and works for US Foodservice. A June 2011 wedding is planned.

OCTOBER WEDDING PLANNED

Alison Barney and Eric Sadi announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of John and Karen Barney of Farmington Hills, is a Harrison High School graduate. She attended Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I., and earned a bachelor's degree in fashion merchandising from Laboratory Institute of Merchandising in New York City, N.Y. She currently is product development manager at Jones Apparel Group in New York City. Her fiancé, son of Michael and Meg Sadi of Greenwich, Conn., earned a bachelor's



Barney-Sadi

degree in communications and is working on his MBA at University of Connecticut. He is assistant vice president of leasing at Simon Property Group in New York City. An October 2010 wedding is planned in Monroe, Conn.

COLIN DAVID SARNS

Colin David Sarns was born March 16, 2010, at University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. Proud parents are David and Bianca Sarns of Westland. Grandparents are Ron and Maryann Baase of Willis Township and Russ and Judy Sarns of Livonia. Mariam Mackinder of Novi is Colin's great-grandmother.



Colin David Sarns

GARDEN & NATURE

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

NATIVE PLANTS

Carol Clements, Nankin Mills naturalist, will point out native Michigan plants, including those that have a special attraction for butterflies, during the next meeting of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, 7 p.m., May 19, at Nankin Mills, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Wear appropriate clothing. Parking on Hines Drive. and Ann Arbor Trail. \$3.00 for non-members. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com.

GARDEN WALK

Visit six gardens with soothing waterfalls and ponds, unique art and ornamentation, and a diverse array of magnificent plants, trees, and shrubs at the Ann Arbor Garden Walk, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., June 12. Tickets for the 20th annual event are on sale at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, among other locations. They cost \$12 for adults, and \$3 for students K-12. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the Walk at any of the gardens, at a cost of \$15 per adult, and for \$3 students K-12. The ticket includes a map of the garden locations; participants can visit the gardens in any order and at their own pace. Descriptions of the featured gardens, and additional pictures, are online at www.annarbortourandgarden.org/events/garden-walk.

In Loving Memory This Special Mother's Day!

Genaldine "Gennie" Ministrelli
May 30, 1927 - Feb. 12, 2010
You will always be our shining star. We love you and miss you every minute of everyday. Your unconditional love, hugs, kisses, laughter, beautiful smile, loving spirit and gentleness will be in our hearts and lives forever. Love, Hugs and Kisses, Your Loving Family XXXX
OE0899939

Jennie Christine Sandell
June 8, 1938 - November 15, 2009
Your family misses you greatly this Mother's Day along with each and every day that passes.
- Diane, Dennis, Ed, Joni and your loving husband, Bill.
OE0899912

Kay "Marrena" Dowd
Oct 26, 1948-Mar 15, 2005
We can't believe it has been 5 yrs since our Mom, Gram Gram and friend has been gone. We are forever saddened by the milestones she has missed & will continue to be absent from in this life. It hasn't been the same without you! We love & miss you MOM!! Love, Brenda, Jack, Angie, Stacy, Mike, Danielle, Nate, Caden & Abby
OE0899910

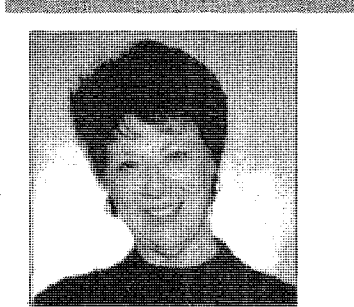
Betty Sobkowiak
Aug. 29, 1935 - Aug. 31, 1995
You are in our hearts and memories everyday.
We Love and Miss You.
Your Loving husband John and children Deborah, Susan, Nancy, Judith, Robert, Patricia and Catherine
OE0899914

GWYNETH PLETZKE
Aug. 8th, 2009
Happy Mother's Day Mom!
We miss you everyday!
Love Always,
Your Family
OE0899918

Passages
Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances
1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968
email: oeobits@hometownlife.com
View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

DELOS F. (FRED) HAMLIN, JR.
82, of Pentwater, died unexpectedly in Venice, Florida on April 26, 2010. Fred was born on March 21, 1928 in Farmington, Michigan to Delos F. Hamlin, Sr. and Mildred E. (Hartz) Hamlin. After graduating from Farmington High School in 1945, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy for two years where he spent one year in office training at Colgate University in New York. He then attended and graduated from Michigan State University with a business degree in 1950. At the start of the Korean War, Fred enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as a First Lieutenant, was Squadron Adjutant with the 376th Bombardment Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, and graduated from flight school in 1952. On June 22, 1952, Fred married Patricia A. McCarthy in Fort Worth, Texas. He was then stationed in Japan where he flew B-24's during the Korean War. At the end of the war, Fred and Pat moved back to Farmington where he worked as a sporting goods salesman for a couple of years. In 1957, Fred took over the bowling business established by his father known as Farmington Lanes. For many years, Fred was instrumental in the growth and development of youth bowling when he established an after-school program where he taught thousands of elementary school children the sport of bowling. In 1969, Fred was named Proprietor of the Year in recognition for having the most sanctioned youth bowlers in the State of Michigan. It was also in 1969 that he, Pat and his five children discovered Pentwater during a family camping trip, purchased a cottage on Pentwater Lake and made it their summer home. In 1972, they joined the Pentwater Yacht Club and for several years Fred was head of their junior sailing program. Fred was also a member of the Pentwater Men's Service Club. In 1984, Fred retired from Farmington Lanes and made Pentwater his permanent home. Not one to sit idle, in 1987 he purchased another bowling center in Whitehall, Michigan until 1994. After 39 years together, Pat preceded Fred in death on November 22, 1991. He then married Mildred (Millie) Petersen on December 4, 1992. Fred took great pride in overseeing and managing the family's 1,900 acre deer camp, also established by his father, in Clare, Michigan. He was a passionate proponent of land, forest and wildlife management and conservation, and so that it would remain in its natural state in perpetuity, he placed the property with the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy. In recognition of his other conservation efforts, he was named Conservationist of the Year. He also enjoyed gardening, cooking, playing Bridge and reading. Fred will be greatly missed by his wife Millie; children Barbara (John) Manak of Hart, Robert (Cathy) Hamlin of Muskegon, James (Donna) Hamlin of Fowlerville, Linda Harris of Hartland, and Steven Hamlin of Muskegon; sisters Ruth (David) Clark of Muskegon and Jane (Tony) Byers of Catonsville, MD; grandchildren Michael and Amber Hamlin, Troy, Alex and Tricia Harris, Mark Wite and Miesha (Brian) Landers; great-grandchildren Christopher Hamlin, Allena Wite and Jackson and Sophia Landers; step-grandchildren Kristen Walter and Corey and Collin Bradford; stepsons Mike (Val) Petersen, Mark (Connie) Petersen and Marty Petersen; step great-grandchildren Mira Lee, Layne Brooks and Estella Petersen, and many other family members and friends. A memorial service for Fred will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. at the Centenary United Methodist Church in Pentwater with Father Sam Morrison officiating. Burial will take place at a later date in Clare.

CATHERINE M. ANDERSON (nee. RODRIGUEZ)
May 16, 1927-May 1, 2010 following a multiple year battle with brain cancer. A resident of Bloomfield Hills, Catherine was born and raised in New York City and was the first in her family to earn a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Queens College in New York. Shortly after graduation, Catherine pursued a career in actuarial services, working for a large insurance company in New York before relocating to Michigan with her husband, Robert Anderson. Shortly after their arrival in the Detroit area, Catherine focused her attention on the fashion industry, becoming a widely recognized runway model and commentator for more than four decades with credits in industrial and commercial films as well as broadcast media where she was regularly featured on a variety of programs. She was an accomplished swimmer and demonstrated interests and athletic abilities in a number of sports, including skiing, golf, flying and equestrian activities, which she shared and enjoyed with her family and friends. A classically trained dancer, singer and performance artist, Catherine continuously held a deep appreciation for the arts. She was a member of several arts organizations throughout Michigan and frequently volunteered her services at local and community theatres. She was also a member of the Red Hat Society. Wife of the late Robert S. Dear mother of Elise Anderson, Stephanie Clugston (William) and the late Patrice Retzlaff. Grandmother of William and Matthew Clugston. Services will be held privately. Family suggests memorial tributes to the American Cancer Society, A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



CATHERINE M. ANDERSON (nee. RODRIGUEZ)



ISABEL ISHERWOOD

Age 95, Passed away May 3, 2010 at home in Garden City. She was preceded in death by loving husband, Edward. Beloved mother of May Rourke, James and Robert. Dear grandmother of Dennis & Kathy, and great-grandmother of Ashley & Bailey. The family would like to thank the caring staff of Angela Hospice. Private funeral services were held, with burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West. Please share a memory on the on-line guestbook at www.rgrharris.com.

LOIS MARTENS
Age 73, of Fulton and Gun Lake died January 27. From 1970-81, she resided in Livonia and was a member of Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church. She was graduated from Schoolcraft College in 1975 and the University of Michigan in 1980. Lois practiced as a registered nurse at Grace Northwest Hospital from 1975-81. Her survivors include her husband of 52 years, Ron, and three children, Alan Martens, Camille Subject and Nathan Martens. Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 23 at the First Presbyterian Church of Richland. Please visit: www.avincememorial.com for a complete obituary, share a memory or send condolences.

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends



NATHAN LAMONICA

Age 39. Passed away suddenly on May 5, 2010. Beloved son of Samuel Jr (Debra) & Margaret. Dear brother to Samuel III (Theresa) & Lance (Maria) & step-sister Melanie. Proud uncle to Samuel IV (Wendy) & Daniel (Maggie). Special friend to Erin. Family will receive friends at Fred Wood Funeral Home, 36100 5 Mile Rd. Livonia, Monday 2-9pm. Funeral Service at Funeral Home Tuesday 11am. The family would appreciate donations to Michigan Humane Society or Rescue Group of choice. Please visit online guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com



STEPHEN R. MATHERS

Age 60, passed away April 4, 2010 at his home in St. Petersburg Florida. Loving Father of Stephanie, Kimberly and Benjamin Mathers. Beloved son of Robert and Shirley Mathers. Dearest brother of Michael Mathers (Annette), Cindy Smith (Brian) and Jeffrey Mathers (Allyson). Dear uncle to one niece, three nephews and 6 great nieces and nephews. Dear friend of Pamela. Mr. Mathers, a longtime resident of the Detroit area, was a graduate of Michigan State University where he received a degree in mechanical engineering. Family will be receiving friends Saturday May 22, 2010 1-4pm with a Celebration of Life Service at 2pm, Walnut Creek Country Club, South Lyon, MI. Arrangements entrusted to Girbach-Krasun Funeral Home (Southgate Chapel) 15748 Fort St.



MARJORIE A. HOAG

A long time resident of Redford Township and Livonia, passed away on March 24, 2010 in Boise Idaho. She was born September 21, 1928 in Detroit. She grew up mostly in Flint, Michigan and graduated from Flint Junior College. She went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in English from Wayne State University and a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Michigan. She worked for 25 years in Detroit area libraries and was the head librarian in Dearborn Heights and Redford Township. She was preceded in death by her son David. She is survived by son Steve, daughter in law Lisa, sisters Susan Hammond and Carol Vargo, and brothers Herb Shubick and Bill Shubick. A memorial service will be held on May 15 at 1PM at Holy Cross Lutheran Church at 30650 Six Mile Road in Livonia. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, make donations to the Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society.

ELIZABETH J. HULL

Age 86, of Redford Twp., passed away May 6, 2010. Visitation Tuesday, May 11 from 4-7pm with a memorial service at 7pm at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. 122 W. Dunlap, Northville.

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



BARBARA ELLEN TERBERG

Age 81 of Plymouth, May 4, 2010. Beloved wife of Edwin. Dear mother of Paulette (Thomas) Duggin, Raynette (Timothy) Blome, Jeffrey, Richard (Karen), Robert (Julie), and Scott. Also leaves sister-in-law Nancy (Roger) Sutliff. She was preceded in death by infant daughter Barbette. Proud grandmother of eleven, and great-grandmother of twenty. Family and friends will gather Saturday May 15, from 10 AM until the 11 AM memorial service at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth MI 48170. Memorial contributions to the church would be appreciated by the family. To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

Community unites to fight rare disease

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Judy Nissan hopes to raise \$50,000 in less than three months.

That's a lofty goal for most people, but the Canton wife and mother of three is driven by a passion to save her loved ones' lives.

Her husband, Clay, and oldest daughter, Sydney, 10, have been diagnosed with a rare disease called hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT), also known as Osler-Weber-Rendu syndrome. Her youngest child, Jared, 7, is showing symptoms and only time will tell if her youngest daughter, Sierra, 9, will display signs of the hereditary disease.

"Emotionally, financially and physically, it's devastating when it comes into your family," Nissan said. "The hard part is knowing that there is a cure out there, but when you're only raising pennies every year ... it could take forever before we see anything. There's no federal funding for it."

Described as "the silent killer" HHT affects about 50,000-70,000 individuals in the United States and 1.2 million worldwide, according to the HHT Foundation International. The multi-system blood vessel disorder results in death or disability for 20 percent of the affected population. Half of the children with a parent afflicted by the disease inherit the gene.

According to the foundation, an individual with HHT forms blood vessels that lack the capillaries, which connect arteries and veins. That means arterial blood under high pressure flows directly into a vein without first having to squeeze through the very small capillaries. As a result, the place where an artery is connected directly to a vein tends to be a fragile site that can rupture and result in bleeding. The abnormal site is called a telangiectasia if it involves small blood vessels. It's called an arteriovenous malformation (AVM) if it involves larger blood vessels.

Telangiectases tend to occur on the skin and the mucous membrane that lines the nose. AVMs usually occur in the



The Nissan children of Canton

HHT FUND-RAISERS

- **Saturday, May 15:** Party from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Cherry Martini, 50296 Cherry Hill, Canton to raise funds for the HHT Foundation. Donations accepted at the door with a \$5 minimum cover charge. The night will feature drink specials, 50/50 raffle, a prize raffle, DJ, and dancing. RSVP by calling (734) 306-0342 or via e-mail at avanbrussel@me.com
- **Friday, May 21:** Pay \$25 for three games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and pop at Wayne Bowl, 36900 Michigan Ave., Wayne. Call Joe Wallen at (248) 824-0797 or Scott Gilbert at (734) 718-5916 for registration information
- **Wednesday, June 16:** Eat at Buffalo Wild Wings, 41980 Ford Road, in Canton and 20 percent of your bill will be donated to HHT Foundation
- **Monday, June 21:** Golf at Bello Woods Golf Course, 23650 23 Mile, Macomb to raise funds for the foundation. Registration is at 9 a.m., with a shotgun start at 10 a.m.; cost is \$100 per golfer or \$400 per team. The day includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch, dinner, drink tickets, door prizes and raffle. Register by June 1. Call Jeff Babisz at (586) 738-6408 or Jeff Paquette at (734) 558-543 or e-mail to jbabisz@comcast.net or gogolf@comcast.net
- **Saturday, Aug. 7:** Participate in the Walk-A-Thon for HHT. The event begins at 9 a.m., in Heritage Park, Canton and includes opening ceremonies, the walk, performances by Central City Dance, entertainment and food and T-shirt sales. Learn more at www.ourhopeholdsthecure.org

internal organs, such as the intestines, stomach, lungs, liver and brain and can cause hemorrhage, stroke and death.

Nissan's husband has AVMs from the disease in his intestines, esophagus, mouth, nose and liver. He has had multiple surgeries to try and control the progression of this disease and receives regular infusions

to counteract the blood loss. Sydney suffers from nose bleeds and shows evidence of the disease in her lungs.

"You can't get an MRI scan every day, but if you have one (AVM) growing it can be fatal," Nissan noted. "I look at my kids every day and Clay every day and they look healthy, but if one of those rupture ..."

The family initially didn't realize the disease was hereditary. Clay's mother died at age 57 from HHT "but I truly believe she didn't know the extent of it," Nissan said. "My husband became sick in '04 and was hospitalized. That's when he was officially diagnosed.

"For me, a lot of it is that you feel hopeless, because it's in your whole family."

To battle those feelings of despair, Nissan started a new fund-raiser, "Hope Holds the Cure," a walk-a-thon to benefit the HHT Foundation. She enlisted the help of friends, like Amy VanBrussel, also of Canton, to make the walk on Aug. 7 a success.

VanBrussel and others plan several "grassroots" fund-raisers this month and in June to make Nissan's \$50,000 goal a reality before the walk even begins.

"The walk-a-thon will be a celebration by that time. We will have all the money raised," VanBrussel said. "We're hoping to increase awareness and a part of our mission is to look outside our group and enlist support from the community. It's nice to see how generous people can be."

Donations also are accepted on the group's Web site at www.ourhopeholdsthecure.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

MAY

Stroke program

Learn about prevention, diagnosis and treatment of strokes, 10:30-11:30 a.m., May 11, in the auditorium at Providence Hospital, 16001 W. 9 Mile, Southfield. An optional tour will follow the lecture of the Bi-Plane Interventional Suite showing the latest technology in diagnostic imaging. The presenter will be Dr. Matthew Holtzman, neurologist on staff at Providence Hospital and Providence Park Hospital. To reserve your seat, call St. John SeniorLink at (888) 751-5465.

Fibromyalgia support

The Metro Fibromyalgia & CFS Support Group will hold its Fibromyalgia Awareness Day luncheon 1-3 p.m., Thursday, May 13, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. The luncheon is open to anyone with fibromyalgia, chronic pain or individuals seeking a support group to help them deal with fibromyalgia. For more information, visit www.MetroFibroGroup.com

Asthma screening

Laurel Park Place in partnership with the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and specialists from the University of Michigan Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, present a free asthma screening day 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 15, at Laurel Park Place, 37700 6 Mile, in Livonia. Visitors will have the opportunity to take a simple breathing test and fill out a short questionnaire in order to assess whether they have asthma or not, and to discuss the results with U-M asthma specialists. For more information call (734) 232-2154.

Botsford Commons

The senior living community will present "Living the Fullness of Life," 7-8 p.m., Thursday, May 20, in the Town Commons Dining Room, 21300 Archwood Circle, between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Road, north of Eight Mile, in Farmington Hills. Margaret K. Lightner, president of Botsford Commons Senior Community, kicks off the session with comments on living to life's fullest in a continuum of care retirement community. Her presentation is followed by: "Healthy Aging" with Dr. Annette Carron, geriatrician and medical director of the Botsford Senior Assessment Center; "Brain Fitness" with Diane M. Zide, executive director of senior living services at Botsford Commons; and "Getting Your Documents in Order; Community Resources" with Dawn Doyle, supervi-

sor, social services. Dessert and beverages also will be served. For more information, call (248) 426-6951.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital

Julie Ader will present "Women and Stress: Healthy Responses to Life's Demands" from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, May 20 in the hospital auditorium. She'll focus on healthy alternatives to dealing with positive and negative stress that women encounter. The presentation also includes bone density, blood pressure and massages from 5:30-7 p.m. A \$5 goodwill donation is requested to benefit the Marian Women's Center Programs. To register, call (734) 655-1182. Or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

JUNE

Hemophilia Foundation

The Foundation's "Swinging for Smile" Charity Golf Outing, runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., June 7, at Fox Hills Golf Club of Plymouth. Proceeds go to HFM's Camp Bold Eagle and Eagle Outpost, for children with bleeding disorders. The event costs \$50 for dinner only per person, \$190 for golf and dinner per person or \$750 for a golf and dinner package for four. Contact Dawn at (800) 482-3041 for more information.

ONGOING

Fitness classes

Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions infuse Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail jeanieweaver@charter.net.

Overeaters Anonymous

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



Independence Village

Independence Village Features Services and Amenities at Half the Price of an Assisted Living Community



Apartments starting at \$1750 per month!

Plymouth's Premier Retirement Community



14707 Northville Road
Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 453-2600

INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE
OF PLYMOUTH
ENHANCED SERVICE WITH THE
ACCENT ON "SERVICE"



www.seniorvillages.com • A Senior Village Managed Community

