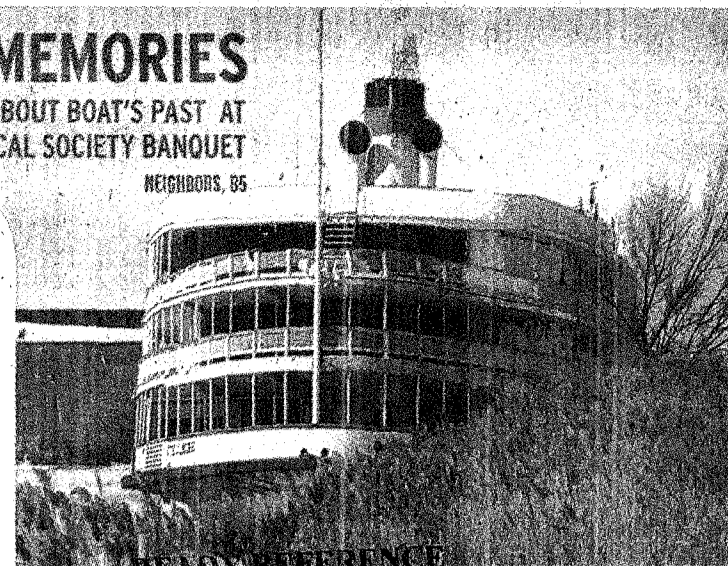


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Volume 45 Number 102

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AROUND TOWN

Countdown

The countdown is on to the opening of Westland's outdoor pool at the Bailey Recreation Center in the civic center complex at Ford and Carlson, west of Wayne Road.

The pool will officially open for the season on Saturday, May 29. Open swim sessions will be noon to 3 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. daily, weather permitting.

The H2O Zone Spray Park located in neighboring Tattan Park will be open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

For more information about the pool, the spray park, or swimming lessons, visit the city's website at www.cityofwestland.com.

Dinner time

The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, May 21. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

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

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

Teen help

The William P. Faust Public Library is looking for teen volunteers to help with the 2010 Summer Reading Program, Make a Splash-READ!

Volunteers will help in the Children's Department and assist at many of its summer events. Volunteering will offer teens the opportunity to gain experience and service hours for their school or community organization.

Volunteers should currently be in the eighth grade or above. Applications are available at the library and also can be downloaded from the library's website, www.westlandlibrary.org. They should be submitted by May 22.

All volunteers are asked to attend one of three training sessions scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, Thursday, May 27, or Tuesday, June 1. For more information, send an e-mail to Claire.mueller@westlandlibrary.org.

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Senior home worker charged with theft

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Holder

An Westland American House Senior Living Facility employee was arrested for allegedly stealing jewelry from residents, who reportedly hadn't noticed the items missing until they were contacted by police.

Michele Lee Holder, 39, was charged with six counts of larceny and one count of possessing narcotics paraphernalia, a crack pipe.

The investigation began after Detective Bureau Secretary Sharon Konfara was reviewing transaction records submitted by local pawn shops and reportedly noticed several pawn transactions by Holder involv-

ing expensive jewelry since April 2.

Konfara noticed a Dearborn Fordson High School Class of 1946 ring had been pawned - the woman who pawned it was born in 1971, police said.

The school was contacted by Lt. Greg Angelosanto, who was able to get the owner's name using the initials on the ring. Finding that Holder was employed in housekeeping at American House, Angelosanto reportedly was able to locate the ring's owner, an 81-year-old woman who lives at the facility.

The woman didn't know that the class ring had been stolen until she was contacted by police, police said.

Sgt. Steve Borisch went to the Barber Shop Exchange, 1916 Venoy, where the ring had been pawned to retrieve it. While Borisch was in the pawn shop, Holder arrived to pawn more jewelry, he said. When confronted, Borisch said Holder initially told him someone had given her the class ring to pawn.

Holder subsequently told police she was addicted to crack cocaine and had been stealing to get money for drugs, Borisch said. Officers recovered a large amount of jewelry that Holder had in her possession and she agreed to tell the officers where

she had taken the items from so they could be returned, police said.

Six victims were identified. The jewelry recovered from Holder was returned, police said.

In addition to the class ring, police also recovered a pinwheel bracelet and a mother's ring belonging to that woman which had been stolen and pawned along with four other rings and three chains which hadn't been pawned, police said.

The number of charges brought against Holder were limited, Borisch said, because items pawned earlier had already been melted down and couldn't be identified.

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Ex-Tiger McLain big draw at poker benefit

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



A recent poker benefit for the Westland Chamber of Commerce featuring sports celebrities was billed as Pros versus Joes. That was really the case as Joe Bobby (left), a Westland police officer, played a couple hands with former Detroit Tigers great Denny McLain.

Local card players got to test their skills against former professional athletes at Joes vs. Pros poker tournament that kicked off a four-night fund-raiser for the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

On hand at the Texas Hold 'Em tournament were former Detroit Tigers Denny McLain and Pat Sheridan, and former Detroit Red Wing John Ogronick. Also from the NHL were Chris Tamer and Dave Roberts and former NFL player Rob Spicer.

"The pros signed autographs and posed for pictures. Denny McLain is one of the bigger draws, people are glad to see him," said Jeffery Kavanaugh, a chamber board member and Westland police officer whose company, Crazy Kopz, runs the charity games at Vision Lanes.

About 75 people turned out for the Joes vs. Pros. The chamber earned about \$1,800 over the four nights - the nonprofit group is guaranteed 50 percent of the proceeds from the events. This was the chamber's second fund-raiser with Crazy Kopz.

"This is the first time we've had it with Joes vs. Pros, it went well. The

Please see **POKER, A2**

Westland looks for more homes to do drain work

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland is still seeking homeowners who want their footing drain removed and a sump pump installed at no charge.

"We sent letters out a month ago looking for volunteers. We have 60-65 percent of the number we need so we need to add more homes," Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford said. "It helps eliminate the chance of sewer backup.

Most of the people who signed up have had sewer backups."

The city is looking for volunteers in specific areas of Westland - between Merriman and Middlebelt, Joy and Warren Road, Merriman to Henry Ruff between Chery Hill and Palmer, and Henry Ruff to Middlebelt between Annapolis and Van Born.

Most homes constructed before 1980 didn't have sump pumps unless they were added later. The problem with the footing drains is that they are connected to the sanitary sewer which

can be overloaded during heavy rains and increase the amount of sanitary sewage that the city pays to be treated.

"You can never guarantee there will be no sewer backup. When you take flow out of the system, you reduce the chance of backup," Buford said.

City engineers OHM are working on the project along with Bidigare Contractors Inc., whose employees will make appointments with residents and do the actual work.

Reducing the possibility of sewage backing up into homes due to heavy

rains is the small picture in the \$3.5 million sewer rehabilitation project recently approved by the council. The bigger picture is to reduce the amount of sewage the city discharges for treatment and as a result eliminate or drastically limit Westland's participation in a mandated regional sewer storage facility.

"We are trying to be a very small part of the \$200 million regional project, if we have to part of it," Buford

Please see **DRAINS, A2**

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Woman pleads no contest to embezzlement

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman has entered no contest pleas to felony charges that she embezzled an estimated \$300,000 from Westland Convalescent Center.

Michaelene Meek, 46, entered the pleas Wednesday before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Craig Strong. She is scheduled to be sentenced June 16. While not an admission of guilt, a no contest plea is treated the same as a guilty plea.

Meek was originally charged with the 20-year felony of embezzling more than \$100,000 that was stolen from Westland Convalescent Center from March 2008 through August 2009.

A second warrant charging Meek with embezzlement

under \$100,000, a 15-year felony, is expected to be issued shortly. That warrant relates to money missing from Westland Convalescent Center over a period dating back to 2005.

Employed by Westland Convalescent Center since the 1980s, Meek worked in the business office where her duties included handling accounts payable.

Westland police investigated and found that when clients would pay in cash, Meek would not deposit the money and would keep it.

The amounts of money not deposited varied a great deal, police said, from \$55 to \$1,000. The largest sum was \$20,000 missing in one month for a total \$170,000 missing in a 17-month period.

Clients were issued receipts

for their payments, police said, so the money was actually stolen from Westland Convalescent Center, not the clients.

In fact, the embezzlement came to light after a nursing home resident died and a family member tried to contact Meek about paying any outstanding balances at Westland Convalescent Center.

When Meek failed to return calls, the family member contacted the center's chief financial officer. A large discrepancy on what was owed on the account triggered the investigation.

Meek, who was fired from her position at Westland Convalescent Center, remains free on bond.

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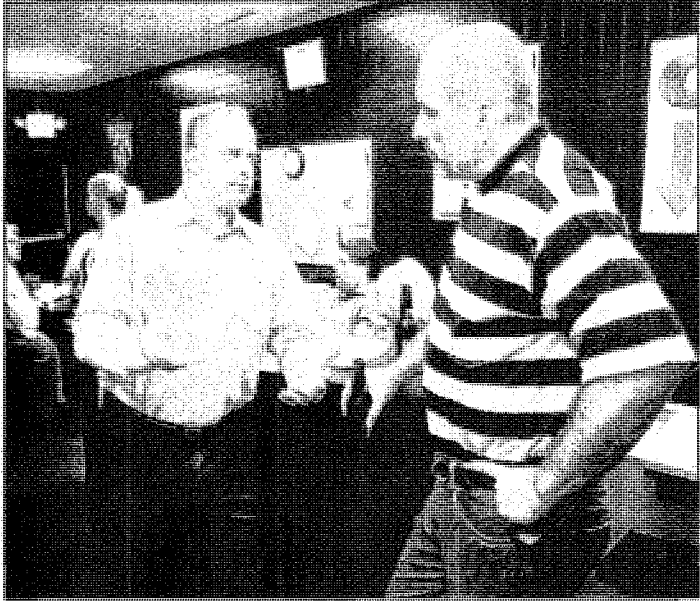


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05/08/2008



Jeff Kavanaugh of Krazy Kopz (left) which runs charity gambling events, chats with former Detroit Red Wing John Ogrodnick.

POKER
FROM PAGE A1

feedback has been very positive," said chamber President and CEO Brookellen Swope. "Everyone liked it. It was a fun event."

Krazy Kopz, which operates charity events at Vision Lanes seven days a week, rents the group the equipment and provides the dealers. State law allows a charity to hold the gambling fund-raisers for four days. It's a

fund-raiser that isn't labor-intensive for the nonprofit group.

Kavanaugh noted the Westland Youth Athletic Association raised \$3,500 during their four-day event. "They would have had to sold thousands of candy bars to raise that," he added.

The chamber's next big event will their 30th annual golf outing on Tuesday, June 15, at Idyl Wyld Golf Course on Five Mile east of Levan in Livonia. It's a four-golfer scramble with a shotgun start. The cost is \$520 for a



Former Detroit Tiger Pat Sheridan, who attended Wayne Memorial High School, checks his cards during the Joes versus Pros Texas Hold 'Em to benefit the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

foursome or \$130 for a single golfer, including 18 holes with cart, continental breakfast, drink tickets, lunch at the turn, a buffet dinner, contests, prizes and goodie bags.

Various sponsorships are

available including an early bird foursome with hole sponsorship for \$570, if paid before June 1. For more information, call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

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Incumbents face challenges in bid for re-election

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A former Wayne-Westland school board member has joined the race to challenge incumbent 12th District Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt.

"Joan is a nice lady but we've got to do something better for our district," said David James, who also served a year on the Westland council before being removed by a recall. "As I look at what is happening in our area with declining home values and loss of jobs, there must be something we can do."

Running as a Republican, James will face Michael Case, also a Westland resident, in the Aug. 3 primary election. Case couldn't be reached for comment. The winner will move to the primary election to run against Gebhardt, a Livonia Democrat seeking her second term on the commission, representing the 12th District, which includes Westland, Inkster and a portion of southern Livonia.

Gebhardt became commissioner in the 12th District in January 2009.

Gebhardt serves on the Committee on Government Operations, Committee on Ways & Means and the Committee on Public Services. She was recently named to the newly created Task Force on Wayne County Jail Population. In addition, Gebhardt is vice president to the executive committee of SEMCOG, serves on the board of directors for the Head Start Collaborative, and is a trustee for Schoolcraft College.

Gebhardt has led an effort to reduce the commission's budget by \$1.6 million and enacted a 10-percent pay cut for commissioners that took effect in October.

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will have no primary race. In November, LeBlanc will be challenged by Republican Floyd S. Collins, also of Westland. Collins couldn't be reached for comment.

Two Livonia council members, former state senator Laura

Toy and former state representative John Pastor, will vie for the Republican nomination for the 6th District state senate seat. The winner of the Aug. 3 primary will face incumbent Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, who defeated Toy in her 2006 re-election bid. The 6th Senate District includes Livonia, Redford Township, Westland and Garden City.

"I am running for the state Senate to give our community its voice back in Lansing," Toy said. "While our municipalities, schools and citizens struggle, unfortunately we have seen more finger pointing than solutions out of our state government."

Pastor, a former state representative elected to three terms, said he believes he has the background to serve in the Senate.

"I've been in business, and we need someone who knows about tough times and knows how to get out of tough times," Pastor said. Pastor believes the 6th District needs a change in Lansing.

Anderson said in his re-election announcement recently that he was honored to serve the 6th District.

"I will continue my fight to promote job growth, strengthen education, help struggling families and ensure state government is reformed to better address Michigan's needs during these difficult times," Anderson said. "Our communities have seen some major investments in growing job sectors, and I will continue to focus on developing policies to bring more industries like these to our area while supporting our traditional automotive and manufacturing jobs."

County Executive Robert Ficano, a Livonia Democrat, is running for re-election unopposed.

In the congressional race, U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, is running unopposed on the Republican side of the ticket in the 11th District. Natalie Mosher faces no opposition from other Democrats.

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DRAINS
FROM PAGE A1

said. "There are plans but they are not 100 percent in place."

Under the agreement worked out with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Wayne County and local communities, a large tunnel would be constructed in Dearborn Heights to hold storm water runoff during heavy rains. That would allow the runoff to be released later and avoid overflows, including untreated sewage being released into the Rouge River.

The \$3.5 million project includes the replacement, relining or repair of various sanitary sewer lines, also the removal of footing drains and the installation of sump pumps in residen-

tial homes in five subdistricts of the city.

The financing for the project comes through a loan from the State Revolving Fund and a 40 percent debt forgiveness grant through the stimulus program.

"The improvements of the city's 286 miles of sanitary sewer lines and 6,744 sanitary sewer manholes is imperative to ensure consistent services to our residents," Mayor William Wild said. "This cost-effective avenue will reduce the sewage disposal costs imposed by Wayne County while taking advantage of capital fund improvements."

Homeowners interested in participating in the sump pump program can call the Department of Public Service at (734) 728-1770.

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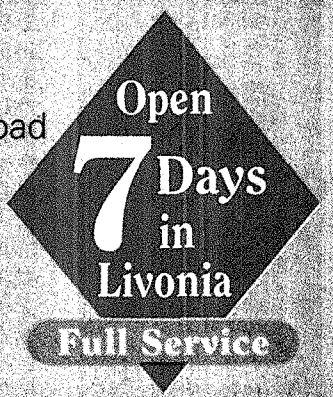


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EDUCATION

Lincoln students turn bowls for Bright event

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When the families of youngsters involved in the Bright Futures program at Lincoln Elementary gather May 26, it will be the last family night held at the school. It also will be an opportunity for the youngsters to reach out and help the residents of Haiti.

The students have spent the last month making and decorating clay bowls that will be sold at a modest price at the May 26 Empty Bowls benefit to help raise money for the earthquake-ravaged country. Site coordinator Sara Bliss hopes that money along with what the Bright Futures students collect in loose change at lunchtime will bring in some \$200 for Haiti.

"We decided to do a service learning project and go beyond reach out to others," said Bliss. "It's a nice hurrah, a nice send-off."

The youngsters worked with art teacher Paul Chisholm, who kept reminding them not to paint the bottom of their bowls. According to Chisholm, the Bright Futures Empty Bowls is an offshoot of a similar fund-raiser that was done in the district about five years ago to raise money for the Wayne-Westland Food Bank.

Rovin Ceramics in Taylor donated the clay used to make the bowls, about 60 in all, according to Bliss.

"Paul handled it all, it's his brainchild," she said. "We had them sign the bottom of the paper bowls they used as molds, then Mr. Chisholm



Bright Futures site manager Sara Bliss gathers painted bowls that will sold at the Empty Bowls benefit.

signed the bottom."

The color selection ranged from blue and red to green and kiwi. Youngsters used their imaginations in decorating the bowls, heeding Chisholm's reminder not to paint the bottoms. He's using kilns at Adams Middle School, and Lincoln and his kiln at Roosevelt-McGrath to fire the bowls after glazing them.

"It'll be exciting to see how they turn out," he said. "Some potters say when you open the kiln it's like Christmas. You never know what you're going to get."

"We have a lot of gifted artists here," he added.

In addition to the bowls, the

students also decorated sheets of paper that will be made into placemats. The decorations urge people to help Haiti. They're also writing letters to give to the Red Cross to distribute among the people of Haiti.

"This is awesome. Sometimes with the process, it's hard to see the end result," Bliss said.

Fifth-grader Zaria Johnson decorated the inside of her bowl with a sun, because she wanted it to be "cheerful," while Kelcie Charron painted the inside of her bowl red, the outside green and trimmed the rim in green.

Kelcie, a fifth-grader, has

been in Bright Futures since its inception three years ago. While the program offers different clubs, her favorite is the homework club, even though she gets straight A's and is on the honor roll.

"I think my mom, brother and sister will come to the party," she said. "They'll probably say it's a good thing that I did and that I did a good job on my bowl."

Third-grader Brenden Booth was busy making placemats. When why he was putting Remember Haiti on them, his answer was like a news report.

"Because Haiti had an earthquake and the people are very poor," he said. "All of their



Keaton Booth works on decorating paper that will be made into a placemat for the May 26 event.

buildings were knocked down and they really need our help."

While the Bright Futures program is ending at Lincoln — it's one of six Wayne-Westland schools that will close in June — it will continue in the fall. According to Lynn Malinoff, director of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers in the Institute for the Study of Children, Families and Communities at Eastern Michigan University, the school district has agreed to bus the Norwayne Bright Futures students from their new schools to Adams Upper Elementary, where the program will be offered, "so we can continue to service the families of Norwayne," said Malinoff.

"My focus has always been on service learning," she said. "We spend a huge chunk of time working with the staff to help them engage students and give them a voice. They see that they're not only recipients, they can be givers."

The program has been in

the school district for three years and is funded through a five-year 21st Century Community Learning Center grant through the Michigan Department of Education. Malinoff said the program is also looking for other resources to expand services and partnerships to serve more children.

"Hopefully when the last two years of the grant are up, we will be able to apply for more money," she said.

People who have been involved and worked with the Bright Futures are being invited back for the Empty Bowls program. While Bliss hasn't decided what will be on the menu, she knows there will be a lot of excitement among the children who will want to buy their bowls.

That's what Kelcie has planned and she knows what she'll do with her bowl.

"I will probably put it away as a keepsake," she said.

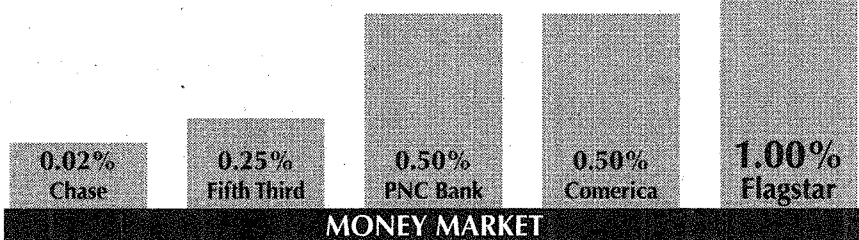
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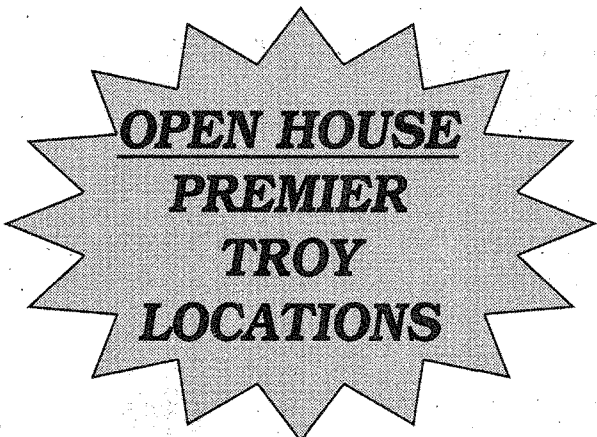
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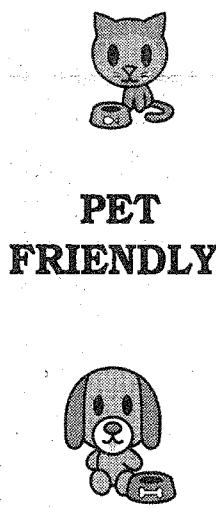
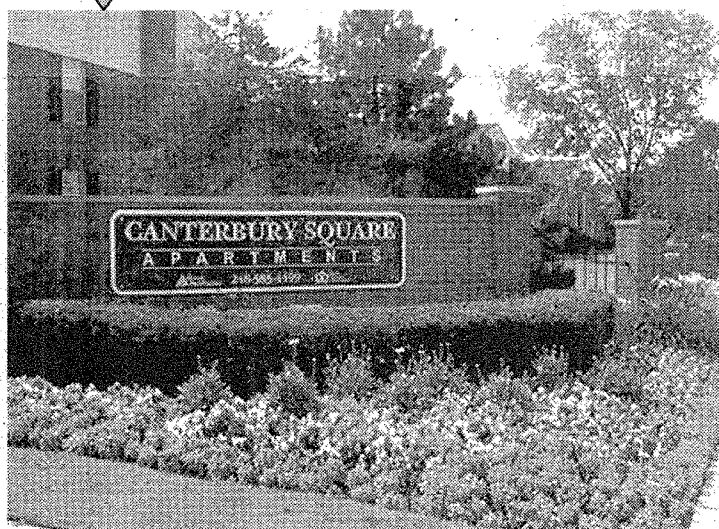
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4000
Apartments/Unfurnished

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LIVONIA - 5 Mile/Farmington. Lower luxury flat. 1 bdrm, all utilities incl, fully furnished. \$795/mo. (313) 538-2819

LIVONIA \$700.00 Spacious 2 bdrm. Free Washer/Dryer. No Application Fee Private Entrance, Patio & Pool Immediate Move In. Call Today: 734-464-4100

LIVONIA Mid 5/Middlebelt. 2 bdrm with laundry room in unit. 50% off first 2 months with approved credit. \$725/mo. Call: (248) 521-1978

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PLYMOUTH - 1 bdrm, \$600; 2 bdrm \$670. Walk in closets, heat/water included. Call: (734) 455-1215

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Apartments/Unfurnished

PLYMOUTH: 1 bdrm, near I275. Well maintained, air and extra storage area. No pets, rent incl heat/water. \$565/mo. Call 8am-8pm: 734-522-6705

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PLYMOUTH 1 Bedroom Private entry, patio Washer/dryer available \$300* Deposit! 1st Month Free! Too much to list! Call today! 734-458-6640 EHO www.cormorantco.com *call for details

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PLYMOUTH: Park Manor Apts. 444 Plymouth Rd. New tenants only. 1 bdrm \$480. Non-smoking. Incl heat & water. No pets. 1 parking space per apt. 248-661-9227

Plymouth Rent Starting at \$489 FREE HEAT 1 & 2 Bedroom Apt's. Plymouth Manor Plymouth House 734-455-3880 www.yorkcommunities.com

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4000
Apartments/Unfurnished

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PLYMOUTH - 2 bdrm, 950 sq. ft., all appl, washer/dryer, C/A, balcony, fireplace, carport, private entrance. Rent incl utilities & condo fee. Mo to no lease, pets okay. \$900/mo. (313) 531-4363

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4000
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Condos/Townhouses 4020
PLYMOUTH - 2 bdrm, 950 sq. ft., all appl, washer/dryer, C/A, balcony, fireplace, carport, private entrance. Rent incl utilities & condo fee. Mo to no lease, pets okay. \$900/mo. (313) 531-4363

PLYMOUTH - 3 bdrm 2 bath ranch, 1st floor laundry, C/A, wood floors. Handicapped. \$1000/mo. 734-904-9712

WAYNE: On Swanson. Nice 2 bdrm, big fenced yard, garage, stove & fridge. No pets. \$575/mo. 248-763-1294

4040
Flats

LIVONIA - 5 Mile/Farmington. Lower luxury flat. 1 bdrm, all utilities incl, fully furnished. \$795/mo. (313) 538-2819

WESTLAND: Nice, furnished 1 bdrm, incl heat, internet & cable/utilities. Non smoker/no pets. \$525/mo. 734-634-0542

Homes For Rent 4050
Farmington Hills - Updated kitchen & bath. 2 bdrm ranch, fenced, gar, sidewalks, appli. \$750/mo. 248-449-6263

GARDEN CITY - 29031 Elmwood. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, fireplace, shed, \$695/mo. Showing Wed & Sun at 6:45p. 248-563-8315, 313-920-5966

GARDEN CITY - 7011 Cardwell. 3 bdrm, 1 bath, all appl., a/c. garage. Avail. 6/1/10 \$950 + 1 mo sec. 734-395-3696

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NORTHVILLE - Quiet neighborhood, 6 Mile & I-275. Newly renovated 2 bdrm, 2 bath, w/d no pets. \$775. 877-722-5448

PLYMOUTH - 3 bdrm 2 bath ranch, 1st floor laundry, C/A, wood floors. Handicapped. \$1000/mo. 734-904-9712

4050
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WESTLAND: 2 bdrm, fresh paint, new carpet, appliances, C/A Avail. Immed. \$600/mo. (586) 978-9172

WESTLAND - 2 bdrm ranch, freshly painted, C/A, \$625. Wayne Duplex - 3 bdrm, C/A, bsmt, \$725. (734) 837-7355

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<p>7600-7780 Merchandise</p> <p>Antiques/Collectibles 7020</p> <p>DOLL SHOW May 16 - \$5. UFCW, 876 Horace Brown, Madison Heights, 48071. 10-4pm. S off 13 Mile. E of I-75. \$1 off w/ad. Appraisals. 204 tables. 586-731-3072</p>	<p>Garage Sales 7110</p> <p>BIRMINGHAM GARAGE/YARD SALES Pembroke neighborhood, N of Maple, W of Coolidge. Thurs-Sat, May 20-22, 9am. Yorkshire, Dorchester, Buckingham, Winchmere, Manchester, Pembroke, Derby.</p>	<p>Garage Sales 7110</p> <p>LIVONIA - 8843 Norman, 1 blk W of Hix/off Joy. Thurs-Sat, May 20-22, 9-5. Bdrm set, toys, books, household, collectibles, video games & more!</p>	<p>Garage Sales 7110</p> <p>PLYMOUTH - Garage Sale, Thursday, May 20 & Friday, May 21, 9am-4pm. 11664 Chandler Dr., Plymouth: Hockey equipment, collectibles (Longaberger Basket, Precious Moments), Lawn Mower, books, clothes and household items.</p>	<p>Household Goods 7160</p> <p>DINING RM SET - Country french; queen bdrm set; double vintage mahogany bdrm set; 5 pc. sectional sofa; petite country french bombay w/ mirror; ladies secretary. Excel cond. Fri-Sun, May 21-23, 10am-4pm. 248-642-1846</p>	<p>Appliances 7180</p> <p>WASHER/DRYER Kenmore Energy Efficient White Front-Loading Washer and Gas Dryer-Like New-16mos old-Moving-Must Sell!! \$1,600. 248-765-6863</p>	<p>Miscellaneous For Sale 7500</p> <p>PINBALL MACHINES (4) Old fashioned, large. 248-613-2003 POOL TABLE BRUNSWICK Large. Pool furniture also available. 248-613-2003</p>	<p>Musical Instruments 7510</p> <p>ORGAN & PIANO LOWREY ROYALE ORGAN and KAWAI WHITE PIANO Pristine, one owner. Bench included. BEST OFFER!! 734-464-7927 or 239-877-7700</p>	<p>Cats 7830</p> <p>KITTEN: Female, medium hair, 10 wks. Happy & Energetic. Call: (313) 581-1142 KITTENS: 5 Calico's, 1 black & white male. To a good home. 248-446-1676</p>
<p>Auction Sales 7060</p> <p>TOTAL RESOURCE AUCTIONS Detroit Public Sale: Sat. May 22nd. Doors Open 8:30A.M. **Non-Auto Auction @10A.M. Featuring Appliances, Bdrm Sets, Power Tools, TV's, Furniture, Dixie Chopper, Generators, Bikes, kids toys and much more. *Auto Auction @ 12P.M. Featuring up to 75 cars. We would also like to announce that the Van Buren Township Police Dept. will have a Police Auction at our facility for abandoned/unclaimed vehicles. Preview Sale Items 48hrs before sale @ www.protecauction.com 13000 Haggerty, Belleville, MI 48111 (800-497-7900)</p>	<p>BLOOMFIELD HILLS - 2 homes, 1810 & 1910 Cedar Hill Dr., N off 14, WE of Lahser. Great stuff, too much to mention! 5/21-5/22 9-3pm.</p>	<p>LIVONIA: Furniture, collectibles, antiques, 70's Tonka Truck, S Gage Train, clothes, household items. 20045 Whitby. Thurs-Sat. Open 8am.</p>	<p>PLYMOUTH - Lake Pointe Village Sub. Fri-Sun, May 21-23, btwn 5 Mile Rd & Wilcox, W of Haggerty & Bradner. Stop by and browse for the best stuff around!</p>	<p>DINING SET with China Cabinet, Credenza, blonde. (248) 613-2003</p>	<p>Appliances 7500</p> <p>APPLIANCES AIR COND. - BLACK FRIDGE - DJ EQUIP. - 3 Air cond w/remotes. New Black fridge. DJ equip w/remotes of records. 248-760-1150</p>	<p>Musical Instruments 7510</p> <p>CASH FOR GUITARS/ MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS Any Condition. Will Pick Up. 313-424-9212</p>	<p>Tools 7625</p> <p>TOOL MAKER Machine Building Tools for sale. 313-978-0900</p>	<p>Dogs 7840</p> <p>GERMAN SHEPHERDS AKC: black/tan, 1 male & 1 female, 6 months old, House broken, Crate trained. Great with kids. Perfect family pet. \$500 each. 248-763-4524</p>
<p>Rummage Sale/ Flea Market 7080</p> <p>Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Vendor, Rummage & Bake Sale. 42690 Cherry Hill Rd, Canton. 2 bks W of Lilley, N of Cherry Hill. Sat. May 22, 10-4pm. 734-981-0286</p>	<p>CANTON Forest Trails Sub Sale-Thurs-Sat, May 20-22, 9am-5pm. West of Sheldon, btwn Warren & Joy Rd.</p>	<p>MILFORD River Oaks Sub Sale - Thurs-Sat, May 20-22, 9-4pm. River Oaks is E. off Milford Rd., N. of Commerce, S. of M-59.</p>	<p>PLYMOUTH - Moving sale! Lots of great items! Bikes, furniture & more! May 20-22nd, 9-4pm. 11799 Deer Creek Run, W of Beck, N of Powell.</p>	<p>DINING TUB - Cape Hayes Golf Coast Spa 2002. Seats 6 w/1 longer. 81"x81"x35" (high). Self diagnostics, ozone oxidation system, 5 hp performance & pump sys., silent air blower injections sys, vortex water mgmt sys, hydro therapy massage (29 jets). Exc. cond. New cover & new stained wood. Electrical incl. \$3699. 734-697-8485</p>	<p>Miscellaneous For Sale 7500</p> <p>COKE MACHINES (2) Old, excellent condition. Working coke bottle dispenser. 248-613-2003</p>	<p>Musical Instruments 7510</p> <p>ESTEBAN - Midnight Legacy Electric Guitar with amplifier, instructional DVD, 2 strings, 2 picks (package never opened). Paid \$219, used 3X, new cond, asking \$150. Westland: 734-467-6352</p>	<p>Wanted to Buy 7540</p> <p>CASH PAID FOR RECORD COLLECTIONS 45's & LP's. Rock, Soul, Jazz & More. Call Justin: 734-578-3479</p>	<p>GERMAN SPITZ 1 yr. old, male, 14 lb, black & white. \$200/best. 734-772-4845</p>
<p>BIRMINGHAM Estate Sale Wed, May 19th - Sun, May 23rd, 9am-4pm. 455 Aspen Rd., S/ Maple, W Southfield. Fabulous gently worn designer clothes, shoes, purses, sunglasses & jewelry. From labels like: Galliano, Chanel, Chloé, Stella McCartney, Gucci, YSL, Jil Sander, Fendi, Giorgio Armani, Alaia, Dior, Dolce and Gabbana and more! Also available gently worn fabulous children's & men's clothing & housewares. If you missed our sale last year, you won't want to miss this one! You only live once, die like a Diva!</p>	<p>BIRMINGHAM SUB-WIDE GARAGE SALE Pickwick Village N. of Ford, E. of Lilley May 20-22, 9am-?</p>	<p>CANTON - Orchard Ridge Estates Annual Sub. Garage Sale! 10 Mile Rd. 1/2 Mile W. of Northville Rd. May 20-22, 9-4pm.</p>	<p>REDFORD - Multi-Family Sale, 9127 Nathalie, S of W, Chicago, btwn Inkster & Beech Daly. 5/20-5/22, 9am-4pm. Lots of misc.</p>	<p>SECTIONAL - 3 pc, paid \$2800, asking \$1700, built in tinted glass on each end. Gorgeous! Purchased at Englers 3 months ago. Call: (734) 367-0556</p>	<p>Appliances 7180</p> <p>WASHER/DRYER Kenmore Energy Efficient Super Capacity White Front-Loading Washer and Gas Dryer-18mos old- Like New- Moving-Need to sell!! \$1600. 248-765-6863</p>	<p>Musical Instruments 7510</p> <p>WANTED TO BUY: Older Motorcycles & Snowmobiles Running & Non-Running Condition - 810-394-2577</p>	<p>Wanted to Buy 7540</p> <p>CASH PAID FOR RECORD COLLECTIONS 45's & LP's. Rock, Soul, Jazz & More. Call Justin: 734-578-3479</p>	<p>GOLDEN RETRIEVERS - AKC Calm, beautiful puppies, vet checked, micro-chipped, 1st shots. Call: (248) 202-1033</p>

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\$379 per month*
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Community Night puts emphasis on family, safety

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Juanita Francis is the epitome of making lemonade when life gives you lemons. When troubling times hit the Westland resident, she channels her energies into doing good for someone else.

The loss of her father and sister last year and a miscarriage spurred her to put even more effort into the second annual Keep It Safe Community Night at Taft-Galloway Elementary School

in Wayne. The three-hour event, slated for Wednesday, May 19, is the result of a partnership between her JFL Diversified Business Network the Wayne-Westland school. It will be held at the school, 4035 Gloria, Wayne.

"Whenever I am going through difficult times in my life, I know something great is coming soon," she said. "I prayed and asked God to give me a vision what to do for a community project that would help me to heal by serving others. What came to me was

Keep It Safe."

The event will start with dinner from 5-6 p.m. — pizza, chips and pop provided Uncle Joe's Market, Toarmina's Pizza-Cherry Hill and Kroger — followed by an open house from 6-7 p.m. for Taft-Galloway families to welcome students and families from Vandenberg who will transfer there when their school closes in June.

There will be presentations by various officials including Westland Mayor William Wild and Wayne Mayor Al Hadeous

and displays by both Wayne and Westland police and fire departments, the Michigan State Police and the Mason who will be providing their Michigan Child Identification Program.

"Yes, we are partying with a purpose," Francis said. "Safe is providing imperative information (police, fire, and state police), karate demonstration (protection), community child ID preparation, having clean fun and great fellowship. We expect to exceed the 450 patrons from last year

and looking forward to setting a standard of excellence that many would look to follow."

There also will be plenty of things for youngsters to do. Zorro's Mexican Restaurant is sponsoring the Arts and Scraps, which will let children create treasures out of industrial scraps, and Rumors on the River is sponsoring the Video Game Mobile, filled with 30 PlayStation 2's and Xbox 360s. PKSA Karate also will do demonstrations. The first 200 guests who walk through the door will receive

goodie bags.

"My living room is filled with boxes," Francis said. "It's going to take six hours to fill those bags."

Last year's event focused on safety from a broad spectrum, but this year "we are taking it to another level, even grander."

The event is free to the community and "is great for the whole family."

"Come out and enjoy an informative night of fun, food and entertainment," she added.

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May is Arthritis Awareness Month

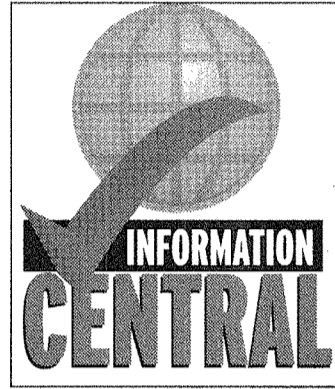
According to the Center for Disease Control, arthritis is the most common cause of disability in the United States, affecting an estimated 46 million adults. Although the most common form of arthritis, osteoarthritis, is typified by painful swelling and stiffness in the joints, is a fact of life for many older men and women, a majority of arthritis sufferers are under the age 65.

Arthritis encompasses more than 100 different conditions and diseases, including fibromyalgia, lupus and tendonitis ("tennis elbow") and is caused by a variety of factors, from autoimmune reaction to injury and age. Maintaining an active lifestyle is challenging for arthritis sufferers, but extremely important. Exercise "feeds" joint cartilage and research shows that arthritis sufferers who exercise regularly often increase flexibility and decrease stiffness and joint pain.

If you have been diagnosed with arthritis, the library has a number of books written by medical professionals that may help you to stay active and healthy, such as "The Everything Health Guide to Arthritis: Professional Advice on Managing Pain, Choosing the Right Treatment and Leading an Active Lifestyle" by Carol Eustice and "Arthritis: An American Yoga Association Wellness Guide" by Alice Christensen.

The library subscribes to "Arthritis Today," a bimonthly publication of the Arthritis Foundation, which features information on conditions and symptoms along with available treatments, important tips for nutrition and exercise and other articles on daily living for arthritis sufferers.

You can also access a wealth of research databases through the



library's website, www.westlandlibrary.org, by clicking Research, Subject, Health and logging in with your library card number (click on the "home access" link, if you are working from home). The Infotrac Health and Wellness Resource Center and Magill's Medical Guide Online databases provide consumer-friendly information on a range of health issues, including arthritis such as osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, or gout.

For more information about health research in the library give us a call (734) 326-6123 or stop by the reference desk to learn more about arthritis resources in the library.

Highlighted Activities

Adult Book Discussion Group: 7 p.m. May 18

Join us as we discuss "The Leisure Seeker" by Michael Zadoorian. John and Ella Robina, a couple married 50 plus years - she has stopped her cancer treatments, he has Alzheimer's - kidnap themselves from the adult children and the doctors who seem to run their lives,

and steal off on a forbidden vacation determined to prove that, when it comes to life, you can go back for seconds and sneak a little extra time. Copies will be available at the Reference Desk. All are welcome.

Documentary Movie Night: "Disarm" at 7 p.m. May 19

Join us for a viewing of the documentary film "Disarm." This film spans a dozen countries to look at how, despite a global ban, millions of antipersonnel mines continue to claim victims daily in countries around the world. "Disarm" features striking footage smuggled out of the isolated nation of Burma, scenes from a war-ravaged community in Colombia, footage from minefields in Iraq, and exclusive scenes shot by Afghan and Bosnian deminers. Defined as a conventional weapon, antipersonnel mines inflict destruction upon civilian populations for decades after the initial conflict has ended. No sign-up is required.

Open Mic Performers' Concert: 7 p.m., May 20, teens and adults, at the Library Pavilion.

The Open Mic season is over but we're celebrating the event by hosting two established performers of this freewheeling series - Bill Fragell, a country and folk singer from Westland, who draws influence from great singer-songwriters like Kris Kristofferson and Johnny Cash, and Tom Kozma, a folk singer from Novi, whose witty, self-effacing lyrics bring smiles and tenderness. Join us outside in the library pavilion for this special event.

Friday Night Movie: "Precious," 7 p.m. May 21

This week's movie is "Precious." The scene is Harlem, New York, in 1987.

Teenager Clarisse Precious Jones is dirt poor, morbidly obese, semiliterate, and pregnant for the second time - both courtesy of her own father (the first baby was born with Down syndrome). Her home life is several levels below Hell, as her bitter, vengeful welfare mother, Mary, abuses her both physically and otherwise. Yet somehow, the young woman still has hopes and dreams. Rated R. No registration is required. This is an after hours program. Library doors open at 6:30 p.m.

More times scheduled - Fight Foreclosure One-on-One Counseling Session: 5-8 p.m. May 24

Homeowners can schedule a private, 30-minute, one-on-one meeting with a foreclosure counselor, from the Wayne County Fight Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program Call (734) 326-6123 or stop by the library to schedule your appointment. Space is limited. The Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program is a no fee, Wayne County program providing you an expansive network of certified counselors who will help you avoid or manage a mortgage foreclosure.

Video Game Open Play: 6-8 p.m. May 24, ages 15-29

Come and play games like Super Smash Bros. Brawl, Mario Kart, and maybe even something old school. Also at this event, you can sign up for our summer video game tournament. No sign up required for Open Play.

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

Police offer tips on online buying, selling

The Westland Police Department is offering some important tips regarding the buying/selling of items online via craigslist.

The overwhelming majority of craigslist users are trustworthy and well-intentioned, and with billions of human interactions facili-

tated through craigslist, the incidence of violent crime has been extremely low.

However, police say it's important to take the same common sense precautions online as you would offline.

When meeting someone for the first time, remember to:

- Insist on a public meeting place like a cafe or the police station.
 - Do not meet in a secluded place, or invite strangers into your home.
 - Be especially careful when buying/selling high value items.
 - Tell a friend or family member where you're going.
 - Take your cell phone along if you have one.
 - Consider having a friend accompany you
 - Trust your instincts.
- For more information about personal safety online, check out getsafeonline.org and wiredsafety.org.

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WHY BE CATHOLIC?

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

Series continues
Thursday, May 20th 7 PM
with Mrs. Jackie Gordon, who, along with her parents, husband, and four children, left NorthRidge to embrace Catholicism.

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Citizens for Peace sponsor regional conference

A regional Peace Conference bringing together representative from as many as six Midwest states will be hosted by Citizens for Peace May 14-16 at Madonna University in Livonia.

The purpose of the event is to exchange ideas and strategies to create a worldwide "Culture of Peace." Legislative bills in Congress to establish a Department of Peace and a Youth Promise Act for young adults will be explained and discussed.

Keynote speaker is Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, Michigan's noted human rights and peace activist. He will close the three-day event with his words of peace on Sunday.

Colleen Mills, president of Livonia-based Citizens for Peace, will present "The Power of Peace," an overview of the two bills. Karen Johnson, national communication coordinator of the Peace Alliance, will present the Strategic Plan: Legislative Advocacy: Community Peacebuilding: Mainstreaming in the Media: Building the Grassroots Network: and Ensuring Financial Sustainability.

A variety of interactive methods will enable participants to learn various nonviolent and peaceful techniques. Robert Koehler, a Chicago-based editor at Tribune Media Services and nationally syndicated writer, will guide attendees in discovering their writing talents. Koehler considers himself a peace journalist and has won many awards for his writing.

Participants will connect with their own inner peace under the guidance of Kathy Henning as she takes the mystery out of meditation. Rosemary Doyle and Jerry Mehler will offer opportunities to practice peace as they demonstrate the power of the Peace Circle in Restorative Practices, a technique

embraced by a growing number of school systems in Michigan.

Kevin "Mr. Peace" Szawala will energize the audience with his motivational talk "Students Empowering Students." Working together to create a world without borders will be a hands-on experience as groups work together assembling "Global Peace Puzzles" created by Sue Belanger. Her company, "Puzzles with a Purpose," is dedicated to creative tools for positive change.

Spearheading endorsements for the Department of Peace, Dennis Mazurek will show how it's done, as the number of city endorsements nationwide now exceeds 38. Polly Anna Burnette-Egan, president of the Schoolcraft College Peace Alliance, recognized as the most active in the nation, will report on the National Peace Alliance Conference held in Austin, Texas, last month.

Reservations for the conference are \$50, (\$25 for students) and include Saturday lunch, two continental breakfasts and light snacks and refreshments Friday night. The conference begins at 7 p.m. Friday and concludes midday Sunday. Participants can register for all or part of the conference. Saturday night there will be a "Readers Theater" presentation of the original play by Stacey Martino *The Gift of Peace*.

"This is the brainstorming time for each of us to share our work, ideas and potential for creating the peaceful world we all desire," said Mills, co-founder and president of Citizens for Peace. The non-partisan, non-secular, non-profit grassroots group has been working since 2003 for the creation of a Department of Peace.

More information can be found at www.citizensforpeace1.blogspot.com. Call or e-mail Mills at (734) 425-0079 or cmills0079@yahoo.com.

Do your homework on long-term care policy

Q: Dear Rick: I'm buying a long-term care policy and I've done what you have suggested by checking out the company. How long of an elimination period do you recommend? My options are 30, 90 or 180 days.

A: It is important to understand the elimination period is the time when you are self-insured. Once the elimination period has passed you are eligible to collect your benefits.

The elimination period is similar to an auto insurance deductible.

If you may have a \$500 deductible in your auto policy and you are in an accident and have \$600 worth of damage, the first \$500 is your responsibility. The remaining \$100 is what the insurance company pays.

As with auto insurance, the larger the deductible, the less expensive the premiums.

In most situations, I recommend a 180-day waiting period because Medicare generally covers the first 90 days of long-term care coverage. I always recommend that investors have a minimum 90-day emergency fund. Therefore, if someone needed to collect on a long-term policy he/



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

she can have a 180-day waiting period without causing financial distress.

Questions regarding long-term care — including at what age should one consider purchasing a policy — come up constantly at my free seminars.

The question was recently asked by a woman in her late 30s who had been approached about buying long-term care. My advice was that she was too young to consider long-term care and that it is more appropriate for someone who is in their late 50s or early 60s.

When you buy a long-term care policy in your 40s the premiums are substantially less than if you are in your 50s or early 60s. However, in the majority of situations regarding someone in their 40s, because they would not begin to collect term care until they're in their 60s or 70s they are consequently paying premiums for a much longer period of time

than if they would have waited to purchase a policy. In addition, when you buy a policy that you know you won't collect on for many years, you are also assuming the risk that the insurance company will still be in business.

Many insurance companies that used to sell long-term care have gotten out of that business. Therefore, you may find that although you've paid on a policy for many years, suddenly, the company decides it is no longer profitable to be in that business.

Over the years, long-term care policies have gotten better. A policy today is generally better than one 15 years ago. In addition, we don't know if there will be a long-term care option with Medicare in the future. Because there are so many ifs, ands, and buts with regards to long-term care, I think in the great majority of situations it doesn't pay to purchase the policy in your 30s or 40s. Wait until you are in your 50s or 60s.

There is a risk of waiting too long. Long-term care is expensive and if you wait until your late 60s or 70s, it may be too expensive to purchase. Therefore, there is a small window of time in which I believe it makes sense to consider

purchasing a long-term care policy and that is late 50s, early 60s.

For those interested in long-term care, don't forget to shop around and make sure to deal with a qualified agent. Too many people involved in the long-term care industry have no clue what they're doing and don't understand the nuances within policies. Deal with someone who will make sure you get a policy best suited for your individual situation.

One issue regarding long-term care is whether the new health care bill will have some provisions for long-term care. Just because legislation has passed doesn't mean it will be implemented in the way that it was designed.

Therefore, if you need a long-term care policy, it's probably a good idea to start doing your homework, deal with a good agent and do not wait for something to come out of Washington. Good luck!

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Health talk
Time/Date: 6 p.m. Monday, May 17,
Location: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty, Plymouth
Details: The Sarah Ann Cochrane Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will have Dr. Robert E. Potter Jr. of the Canton Center Chiropractic Clinic talk about balancing hormones naturally and other tips for better health including using muscle testing. Dessert will be included.
Contact: For more information, call (734) 459-4764.

Love of Lace XVI
Time/Date: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 22
Location: Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, just east of Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Enjoy a day of lace making demonstrations, try-its to learn the basics of bobbin lace and tatting, or bring your own project to work on. Lace making supplies will be available for purchase. Free and open to the public.

Toastmasters
Location: Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club meets every Thursday at 6:45 P.M. in the lower level of the Bailey Recreation Center, located behind the Westland City Hall on Ford between Wayne Road and Newburgh.
Details: Toastmasters provides a supportive environment where members can overcome the fear of speaking in public. The membership is a diverse group from different walks of life.
Contact: For information, call Bill at (734) 306-3980 or Curt at (734) 525-8445.

Fish Dial-A-Ride
Location: Garden City, Livonia and Westland
Details: Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who

are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive.
Contact: Call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Earth Angels
Details: Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/ performance nonprofit group composed of kids ages 9 - 16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There's opening for girls ages 9 - 11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys, ages 9 - 12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare.
Contact: www.earthangelsontour.org or by e-mail to eangell1986@comcast.net

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

American Legion Post 251
Time/date: 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month
Location: 1217 Merriman Road, between Avondale and Palmer, Westland.
Details: All veterans, male and female with a honorable discharge are welcome to join.
Contact: www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607

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

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center
Location: 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland
Details: The Senior Resources

Department (Friendship Center) offers a variety of programs for older adults.
Contact: (734) 722-7632, www.ci.westland.mi.us

Dyer Center
Location: 36745 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Marquette, Westland
Details: Offers activities Monday-Friday at the center.
Contact: (734) 419-2020

Senior Fitness
Location: Maplewood Senior Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City
Details: The Senior Fitness Room is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Annual membership is \$50 per year or \$1 for a daily pass. Aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.
Contact: (734) 793-1870

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Safe Place
Time/date: 7 p.m. Thursdays
Location: Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City.
Details: A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program.
Contact: Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995

Adult Day Services
Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays
Location: 570 S Main St., Plymouth MI

Detail: A structured weekday alternative for adults in need of supervision. Program provides activities and discussions to meet social, recreational and personal needs unique to dependent individuals
Contact: Laurie Krause at laurie.lifecareads@gmail.com and (734) 956-2600

Metro Fibromyalgia
Time/date: 1-3 p.m. Second and fourth Thursday of each month
Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, just west of Ford in Garden City
Details: The first meeting has a speaker, the second meeting is open to discuss living with our fibromyalgia.
Contact: Lucy at (734) 462-1768, www.MetroFibroGroup.com

Menopause & More
Time/date: 7-9 p.m. the first

Wednesday of the month
Location: Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: A support group for women, no registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge.
Contact: (734) 655-1100

Counterpoint
Details: Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families.
Contact: (734) 563-5005

Toughlove
Time/date: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays
Location: Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington, Livonia.
Details: Support group, newcomers welcome.
Contact: (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748

LifeCare
Time/Date: 7-9:15 p.m. Thursday
Location: 570 S. Main St., Plymouth
Details: LifeCare is a care/support/recovery groups for everyone facing life's challenges.
Contact: Lillian Easterly-Smith at info.lifecarecc@gmail.com or (734) 956-2109.

EDUCATION

Willow Creek
Location: 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland
Details: Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool offers a Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs.
Contact: (734) 326-0078

St. Damian
Location: 29891 Joy, Westland
Details: St. Damian Catholic School offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8.
Contact: (734) 427-1680, www.stdamian.com.

YWCA Preschool
Details: The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department offers quality preschool programs to children aged 2-5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available.
Contact: (313) 561-4110, Ext. 10

Tail Waggers put a laugh in fund-raising

Calling all animal lovers! Tail Waggers USA is inviting the community to join in the laughter at Comedy for a Cause at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 22, at Joey's Comedy inside the Kicker's at 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

The event will be hosted by emcee Ed Buehner, who was featured on NBC's Last Comic Standing, and feature comedian Johnny Beehner and headliner Erin Jackson who garnered national attention with performances on The Ellen DeGeneres Show and Comedy Central's Live at Gotham.

Tickets are \$20 per person with \$15 of the ticket price going directly to benefit the many programs of Tail Waggers USA - Pet Food Assistance, Spay/Neuter Programs, Low-Cost Vaccinations, Emergency Assistance and Cruelty Investigation and Rescue.

Tickets can be purchased in advance on-line at www.tailwaggersusa.org or by contacting gogodogs@ameritech.net. Tickets will also be available at the door, however, seating will be guaranteed for those guests who pre-purchased tickets in advance.

A second Tail Waggers' event

is the T.G.I. Friday's FLAIR show at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 18, at Friday's at 720 Town Center Dr. on the grounds of Fairlane Town Center.

Bartenders have been conducting Flair shows since the early 1980s and now have turned these shows into charity fund-raisers. Get up close and personal with bartenders who have competed in the Friday's Bartending Olympics and have gone on to compete on a regional level.

Flair bartending is the practice of bartenders entertaining guests with the manipulation of bar tools like cocktail shakers and liquor bottles. Used occasionally in cocktail bars, the action requires skills commonly associated with jugglers.

Tail Waggers USA will also be accepting pet food donations to supplement their Pet Food Assistance Program. For community members that have fallen on tough times, the Pet Food Assistance program provides food for a family pet until the family is able to do it on their own.

Friday's also will be giving away a free appetizer coupon (up to an \$8 value) for any pet food donation brought in the night of the show.

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Freed at last

Wrongly convicted man devotes time to helping others

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Asked what he would say to the police officers who withheld evidence that would have kept him from being wrongly convicted of rape and imprisoned for nearly a decade, Kenneth Wynmienko's response is succinct.



Wynmienko

"I told you I was innocent. That's what I would say," said Wynmienko, 58, who was released from prison in 2003 after being exonerated by DNA testing, thanks to the efforts of the Innocence Project at Cooley Law School.

Since his release, Wynmienko has been on mission to help others who have been wrongfully imprisoned. Joined by the Innocence Project director and Cooley law professor Norman Fell, Wynmienko recently spoke at Westland's William P. Faust Public Library.

Wynmienko has estimated about 12 percent of the nation's prison population are wrongfully convicted — a number that falls into the 10-15 percent estimated by federal studies.

"I have traveled all over the country," said Wynmienko, who continues his work in memory of his father, who died while he was in prison, and another exonerated man, Eddie Joe Lloyd, who served more than 17 years in prison and died less than two years after his release. "I get choked up when I see my dad and Eddie Joe Lloyd — he was such a good-hearted guy."

Hearing Wynmienko's story, it seems inconceivable that he was convicted of the 1994 sexual assault of a Clinton Township woman.

But when Fell and Wynmienko talk about the reasons for wrongful convictions — police and prosecutorial misconduct, court-appointed

attorneys not able to provide adequate representation, testimony from jailhouse snitches, lack of DNA testing and most commonly misidentification by witnesses — all were a part of Wynmienko's case.

The Cooley Law Innocence Project — a clinic staffed by law students supervised by professors — only reviews cases in which a prisoner has exhausted all appeals and in which there is DNA evidence. Nationwide, 254 wrongfully convicted prisoners have been released due to the efforts of the Innocence Project. Wynmienko was the second to be exonerated and released in Michigan.

"They were not released on a legal technicality or a Constitutional issue," said Fell. "Ninety-eight percent of DNA for us is exactly the same. But the 2 percent called junk DNA, no one except identical twins have that same 2 percent DNA."

Used in court since 1989, DNA is the first time a tool can be used with 100 percent certainty to determine if the accused is the perpetrator, Fell said.

"I think on paper, we have the finest criminal justice system in the world. We have the protections of our rights and of due process," said Fell. "The problem is the machinery is run by people. People have baggage, faults, prejudices and arrogance. Because of that mistakes are made."

There are steps that can be put into place to help avoid wrongful convictions, Fell said, along with maintaining DNA evidence for appeal purposes. Another issue is lack of funding for court-appointed attorneys for indigent defendants.

"The police have unlimited resources. They can go to the state police or the FBI," said Fell. "A court-appointed attorney paid \$500 doesn't have the money to hire investigators."

In Wynmienko's case, his court-appointed was allowed only a weekend to prepare for his trial.

"When it comes to personal freedom and liberty, it's costly," said Fell. "What if you are right 99 percent of the time? That's pretty good. But two million people are doing hard time for felonies — 1 percent would be 20,000 people. The number is much higher."

Unlike most exonerated prisoners who don't receive any compensation for the time they spent wrongfully incarcerated, Wynmienko received a more than \$3.7 million out-of-court settlement to settle a federal lawsuit against Clinton Township.

The difference was the allegations of misconduct by the Clinton Township police detectives who handled the case against Wynmienko. The township admitted no wrongdoing as part of the settlement.

For more on the Innocence Project, visit its website at www.innocenceproject.org.

rogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

His true story sounds like work of fiction

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If it weren't a true story, Kenneth Wynmienko's story would sound like an implausible work of fiction.

Wynmienko was the manager of two bowling centers on April 30, 1994, when a 28-year-old Clinton Township woman was repeatedly sexually assaulted by a stranger who had broken into her home.

Initially, the victim told police she couldn't describe her assailant because he was wearing a mask and covered her eyes. Yet later, police released a composite sketch of the suspect and received an anonymous tip that the drawing looked like Wynmienko.

The suspect was described at about 6-foot-2 and about 220 pounds, 30 years old. Wynmienko, then 43, was 5-foot-10 and weighed much less. The victim later identified Wynmienko as her assailant in a lineup and in court.

There was no physical evidence tying Wynmienko to the sexual assault. In fact, test-

ing of the semen showed the assailant and Wynmienko had different blood types.

Law students from the Innocence Project later found four pieces of evidence that the detective in charge of the case had written a note asking that the Michigan State Police lab not conduct tests on those items. DNA testing on the items later ruled out Wynmienko as the perpetrator.

The prosecutor who handled the case made a deal with Wynmienko's cellmate for testimony in exchange for a reduction of a life in prison sentence. The cellmate later recanted his testimony.

It was later learned that the prosecutor placed the victim, the cellmate and Wynmienko's former girlfriend, who was living with him at the time of his arrest, together in a room with the case file, Wynmienko said.

Additionally, Wynmienko said it was learned that the jurors were voting 10 to two for acquittal until the trial judge visited the jury room

and expressed his opinion that Wynmienko was guilty. That same judge later exceeded guidelines when sentencing Wynmienko, citing his lack of remorse.

Along with knowing he was wrongfully convicted and imprisoned, Wynmienko said during his incarceration he also knew that the real rapist was free and likely committing more crimes.

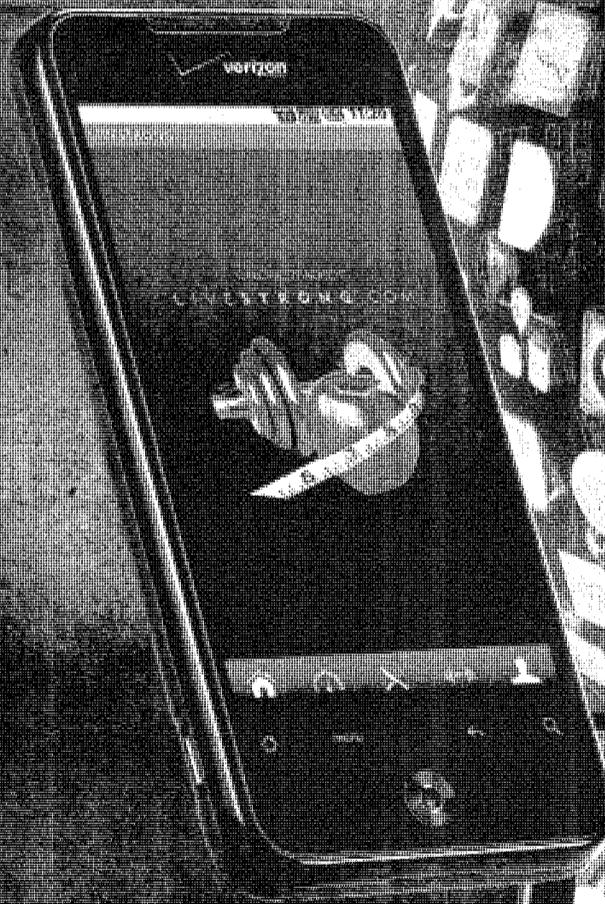
In April, Wynmienko was allowed to speak at the sentencing of Craig Gonser, whose DNA identified him as the assailant in the case for which Wynmienko had been convicted and incarcerated.

The statute of limitations had expired and didn't allow Gonser to be tried for the 1994 sexual assault and break-in. Gonser, 42, was sentenced to 10-25 years for an unrelated sex crime. Despite the DNA evidence, at his sentencing Gonser denied the 1994 rape, as well as recent indecent exposure convictions.

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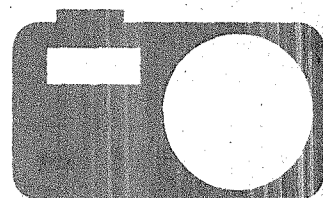
SECTION B
(WL)

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

Support group offers tips to fight weight-loss plateau, B10

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Despite 4-3 WHAC setback, MU California-bound

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was a tough pill to swallow Thursday for the Madonna University baseball team following 4-3 loss to Indiana Tech in the finals of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference baseball tournament.

But the 46-9 Crusaders can still get prescribed the right

medication when they move on to next week's five-team NAA region tourney as an at-large pick and the second seed, May 18-21, at California Baptist. They will face College of Idaho in the first round on Tuesday.

MU, ranked No. 11 nationally, played five WHAC playoff games in three days - not counting Tuesday's rainout - and came up a run short.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

(See related story on www.hometownlife.com)

"I think we'll be fine," MU coach Greg Haeger said. "It was an interesting day yesterday (Wednesday) when you had to play 27 innings in a day. I liked the way they regrouped to play that third game (a 4-1

win over Tech). It's a tough loss here, but they'll regroup. They've been a pretty resilient team all year long."

Indiana Tech (33-26) also gained an automatic bid into the 45-team field next week by winning its second straight WHAC playoff title over the No. 1-seeded Crusaders.

Two of MU's three runs came on homers - fifth-inning

blast over the left field fence by Ted Toune, his 10th of the year, and a solo shot by Spencer Sarel over the right field wall in top of the eighth to knot the count at 3-all.

Tech, however, answered with the game-winning run in the bottom of the eighth when reliever Jeremy Gooding

Please see MADONNA, B2

SIDELINES

Blazers stop Irish

Livonia Ladywood used a balanced scoring attack Wednesday to beat visiting Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard, 10-5, in a Catholic League girls lacrosse semifinal match.

Juniors Alexa Burns and Niki Jacobs each finished with two goals and one assist. Senior Gaby Meyer also added two goals as the top-seeded Blazers improved to 7-4 overall after going 6-1 in the league play.

Goalie Rana Freij, a sophomore, made 16 saves as the Blazers advance to the Catholic League finals 1 p.m. Saturday at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep.

Elaire LeBel had a hat trick for the Fighting Irish (2-8), while goalie Frannie Ciolek faced a total of 49 shots.

"The girls did not have their best game tonight, but they picked it up in the second half and found a way to win," Ladywood coach Kris Sanders said.

Moccia All-Academic

Western Michigan University junior Amanda Moccia (Livonia Stevenson) was one of two players for the Broncos to be named Thursday to the Academic All-Mid-American Conference Women's Tennis Team.

Moccia holds a 3.90 grade-point average majoring in Biomedical Sciences after playing at No. 2 and 3 singles, along with No. 2 doubles for the third-place Broncos (16-11).

She finished with a 15-10 dual match mark in doubles, including 6-2 in the MAC, while also winning her singles flight last fall at the Wolverine Invitational.

She is joined on the Academic All-MAC Team by teammate Emily Dudzick (Gowen, Mich.), a senior who carries at 3.31 in Exercise Science.

Hole-in-one club

On May 3, 65-year-old Eric Corner, of Livonia, used a 7-iron to ace the 139-yard, No. 8 hole on the West Course at Raisin River Golf Club in Monroe.

Corner, who shot an 83 for 18 holes, was playing with Al Leskun, Leonard Richter and Dick Orgeck.

Free football clinic

Livonia Stevenson High School will be hosting its annual youth football clinic for those currently in grades 2-6 from 9 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. Saturday, May 22.

The clinic is free and instruction will be provided by the Stevenson varsity football team and staff.

Walkup registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Stevenson North Cafeteria.

To pre-register, visit the Stevenson High School Athletic Department website for a registration form at www.livonia.k12.mi.us/schools/high/stevenson/athletics/athletics.html.

For more information, e-mail Tim Gabel at tgabel@livoniapublicschools.org.

Stevenson frosh gets clutch GW

Jake Semak made his first varsity hit count in a big way on Friday.

The freshman, brought up May 5 from the JV squad, delivered the game-winning RBI single scoring Matt Shain in the bottom of the seventh inning to give Livonia Stevenson an 11-10 baseball win at Novi.

The game was suspended from May 5 with the state-

KLAA BASEBALL

ranked teams tied at 10-all and now puts Stevenson, 20-4 overall, in a three-way tie for first place in the KLAA Central at 12-3 with both Northville and Novi.

Stevenson pitcher Troy Bodtke, who went the final 1.2 innings, got the victory.

Mike Vomastek and Josh DeYonker each had two hits in the victory.

Nick Regnier had a homer and three RBI for Novi, which slipped to 20-5 overall. Mike Kruse and Kevin Zack added two hits apiece.

CANTON 2-3, CHURCHILL 0-2: The Chiefs (18-3, 13-2) only needed a split of its double-header Wednesday at Livonia Churchill (13-12, 8-7) to clinch the KLAA South Division title.

And the state-ranked Chiefs did a

Please see BASEBALL, B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior standout Sara Kroll, figured in three firsts to help Livonia Churchill win the Kensington Conference girls track title Friday at Novi.

Chargers impress, seize conference

See complete results, B4

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

All the pieces of the puzzle came together Friday for the Livonia Churchill girls track squad, which captured the KLAA Kensington Conference title Friday at wind-swept Novi High School.

The Chargers, led by senior standout Sara Kroll, scored a team-high 134 points to earn its first crown under third-year coach Pat Daugherty.

The host Wildcats were runner-up with 109 in the 12-school field followed by Northville, 103.5, Livonia Franklin, 71.5; Westland John Glenn, 64.

"I thought if everything went according to plan, we would win, but I'm surprised how much we won by," Daugherty said. "We scored in every event but three."

Churchill's distance crew, led by Kroll, sophomore Bethany Pilat and freshman Kerrigan Riley, came through with 23 points in the 1,600-meter run and 21 more in the 800. They also teamed up with freshman Michelle Azar to win the 4 x 800 relay.

Kroll, headed to Michigan State, took individual firsts in the 800 (2:16.06) and 1,600 (5:04.33).

"Sara (Kroll) was involved in or part of 36 points," Daugherty said. "Riley and Pilat each ran four races today. It's the first time they've ever done it. That scored a bunch of points for us. We also scored high in all relays, which was huge."

Churchill also made a stellar showing in the field events as Taylor Byron defended her shot put title (34 feet, 8.5 inches) and added a third in the discus.

Churchill also went second and third in the high jump with Senclair McDonnell and Ashley Cochran each clearing 5-2. The Chargers also took a third, a fifth and a seventh in the discus.

"We scored over 20 points in those events," Daugherty said. "Megan Kelly was sick all week. She was in the hospital Wednesday night and came back to take a fourth in the 400 and was on our 4 x 200 relay team that took fifth."

Westland John Glenn's Aubrie Scott was a double winner taking the long jump (16-9) and 100 dash. She also anchored the first-place 800 relay, which set a meet record (1:48.26).

Stevenson's Becky Adamcheck took the 300 hurdles (46.87), while Franklin's Megan McPherson captured the 3,200 (11:34.34).

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Rocks solid at Wayne County

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Maybe Salem should move all their golf matches over to Dearborn Country Club.

For the second time in two weeks, coach Ryan Nimmerguth's squad emerged victorious on the traditional par-72 DCC layout by taking top honors in Friday's Wayne County Invitational Boys Golf Championships.

Led by the efforts of senior Patrick Doty and Aaron Thompson the Rocks recorded a team-low 317 to finish three strokes better than runner-up Northville among the 13 Division I team competing.

Grosse Pointe South claimed third place with 329, U-D Jesuit placed one stroke back with 330 and Livonia Stevenson rounded out the top five with a 336 showing.

Other Observer-area included Livonia Churchill sixth (345), Livonia Franklin, eighth (349); Garden City, ninth (351); Canton 12th (397); and Wayne, 13th (402).

BOYS GOLF

"Two weeks ago at the Dearborn Elite Invitational we shot 316 and won, and today we shot 317 and won," Nimmerguth said. "We're definitely getting to know the course."

"This was our fourth 18-hole tournament and, in each of the previous three, we shot 316. Today we shot 317 and I had a hunch it might be good enough to do it. With all the rain we had the course was playing long, but our kids were consistent again and played real well."

Doty's 3-over-par 75 was good enough to not only lead all Rocks scorers, but earn runner-up honors overall behind Dearborn High's Evan Bowser. The Pioneer sophomore carded a sterling 73.

Thompson followed Doty in the Salem scorebook with a 79 and brothers Eric Duprey and Brandon Duprey rounded out the team total with 81 and 82, respectively.

Meanwhile, for coach Jim

Omiotanski's Stevenson team, the 336 was a few strokes higher than he had hoped, but considering the wet and windy conditions, pretty close to what he envisioned on a day where the course was playing longer than normal.

"Wind became a factor and you got little roll out there so it was tough," he said. "It was tough across the board. To only have seven players shoot in the 70s gives you a pretty good indication."

Drew Mossoian turned in the best round of golf for the Spartans by carding an 81. Teammates Christian DeBay and Adam Giordano both followed closely behind with 84s and Dante Cicchelli added an 87.

Ben Proben's 81 led Churchill followed by Dominic DiLisi (86), Eric Hill (88) and Adam Yarber (90).

Jimmy Johnson and John Holmes each carded 88s for Franklin. Drake Hermann and Brandon Kozyn added 87 and 90,

Please see GOLF, B4

Crusaders await tough NAA draw

The NAA office recently announced the pools for the 2010 Softball National Championship and the Madonna University women's team finds itself among elite company in Pool H for the national summit slated for May 20-26 at the Wilson Morgan Softball Complex in Decatur, Ala.

The No. 23-ranked Crusaders, 42-10 overall, will be making their second straight appearance in the championship and third overall.

They are grouped with No. 8-ranked Concordia University (Calif.), No. 9-ranked Oklahoma City University (Okla.) and Minot State (N.D.).

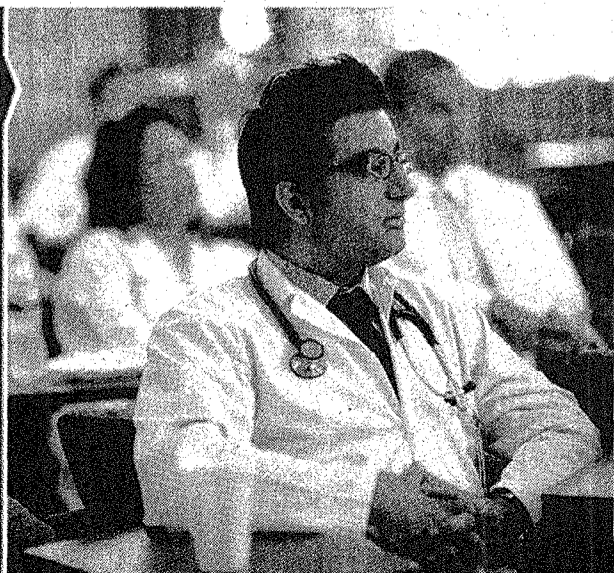
MU opens play at noon (EDT) Thursday against Concordia before facing off with Oklahoma City at 12:30 p.m. on Friday. The Crusaders close pool play 9:30 a.m. Saturday against Minot State.

The winner of each pool advances to a double-elimination championship series, May 24-26, in Decatur.

Please see SOFTBALL, B3

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BASEBALL

FROM PAGE B1

little better.

Behind the 4-hit pitching of Kevin Delapaz, the Chiefs captured Game One, 2-0, before completing the sweep in Game Two with a 3-2 triumph.

Delapaz struck out eight and walked only two in going all seven innings to outduel Churchill starter Troy Bogenschutz, who allowed seven hits and a walk over six innings.

Garrett Bryden went 2-for-3 with an RBI, while Joe Galanty also added two hits for the victorious Chiefs.

In the nightcap, Canton rallied from a 2-1 deficit with a run in the bottom of the fifth and added the go-ahead run in the sixth (scoring on a wild pitch) to pull out the win.

Andrew Tidwell, throwing four innings of scoreless relief after taking over starter Ben Staley, picked up the victory. Tidwell allowed three walks, walked two and struck out three.

Bernabe Salinas and Seth Tschetter each collected two hits for the Chiefs, while Drew Louden had a pair of hits and an RBI for the Chargers.

W.L. WESTERN 3, JOHN GLENN 2: Blake Amhowitz doubled twice, including the game-winning run in the top of the seventh inning Friday to lead Walled Lake Western (7-20) past host Westland John Glenn (2-17) in a KLA A crossover.

Glenn took a 2-1 lead into the seventh after scoring twice in the six on a Derrick Ammons RBI single followed by Caleb Clenney's steal of home.

Winning pitcher Jason Gamble went all seven innings, allowing six hits and a pair of walks while striking out 10.

Andrew McGrath took the loss in relief of starter Spencer Dowd, who worked the first five innings.

STEVENSON 6-6, S.L. EAST 5-3: Dan Lopez was the hero in both games Wednesday as host Livonia Stevenson (19-4, 10-3) stayed in the KLA A Central Division hunt by sweeping South Lyon East (6-12, 3-10) in a double-header.

The Spartans took the opener, 6-5, as Lopez homered in the bottom of the sixth to provide the final margin of victory.

Lopez then belted a grand slam in the third inning of the nightcap as Stevenson earned a 6-3 win. He went 2-for-3 with five RBI.

Tyler Lynch, meanwhile, went 3-for-4 with an RBI, while Troy Bodtke added two hits for Stevenson in the opener.

Other RBI went to Evan Piechota, Jeff Sorenson and winning pitcher Mark Wagner.

Wagner threw 4.1 innings before Chris McDonald came on in the fifth to pick up the save. The two combined for 10 strikeouts and scattered nine hits.

Ryan Ferguson and Nolan Nunez each had two hits and an RBI for the Cougars, while reliever Justin Ulrich took the loss.

Matt Shain and Sorenson each had two hits in the first game.

Piechota pitched four innings to earn the victory. He gave up one run on three hits and a walk while fanning six.

Steven Kopek was the losing pitcher, while Nunez had two hits and an RBI for East.

FRANKLIN 5-4, JOHN GLENN 1-0: In a KLA A South Division twinbill Wednesday, host Livonia Franklin (9-13, 5-10) and Westland John Glenn (2-16, 2-13) settled for a split.

Franklin took the opener, 5-1, as sophomore pitcher Joel Trudell went six strong innings, allowing just two hits and four walks. He struck out six before reliever Nick Hopson came on to close out the game in the seventh.

Andrew Crechiolo had a 2-run

single, while Dan Muller and Travis Barnes each contributed an RBI double for the Patriots.

Derrick Ammons went 2-for-3 with the lone RBI for Glenn.

Losing pitcher Rob Schurig went six innings, allowing six hits and two walks while striking out nine.

In the second game, Glenn posted a 10-4 triumph as reliever Andrew McGrath pitched three scoreless innings in relief of starter Colton Lipinski to pick up the win.

McGrath allowed three hits, walked none and fanned two.

Caleb Clenney paced Glenn's 11-hit attack going 2-for-2, including a 2-run homer in the third inning and three runs score. Andrew Benyo also added two hits and scored twice.

Losing pitcher Jack Chinavare went 5.1 innings, allowing five runs on seven hits and three walks. He belted a 2-run homer in the first inning to stake the Pats to a 2-0 lead.

Justin Dean added two hits, while Barnes and Will Cramer also knocked in runs.

PLYMOUTH 5, WAYNE 4: Ben Wohl's 2-out infield single scored the game-winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning Wednesday to give the host Wildcats (10-10, 5-9) the KLA A South Division triumph over Wayne Memorial (6-12, 5-9).

Starting pitchers Zach Lloyd (Wayne) and Mike Nadratowski (Plymouth) both went seven innings with the game tied at 4-4.

Jake White collected two hits, including the game-tying 3-run homer in the top of the seventh.

Mike Grandowicz and Lance Gentry also added two hits apiece.

Matt Priebe went 3-for-4, including a single that made him the all-time hits leader for Plymouth.

The second game of the scheduled twinbill will be made up Tuesday, May 18 at Plymouth. Game time is 4 p.m.

Division clincher

Canton sweeps Chargers to wrap up KLA A South

KLA A SOFTBALL

Wednesday, host Livonia Franklin (17-11, 4-6) earned the sweep over Westland John Glenn (2-13, 2-8).

Juniors Chelsea Williams and Jessica Emery each went 3-for-4 as the Patriots prevailed in the opener, 8-2.

Williams had a triple and scored three runs, while Emery added an RBI along with junior Mariah Barcus and freshman Afton DeWys and Maggie Leins. Freshman Katelynn Devers also doubled and scored a run.

Winning pitcher Tiffany Lamble (12-9) scattered six hits and a walk over seven innings. She struck out six.

Claire Truskowski, who gave up 12 hits over seven innings, took the loss.

Rachel Romanek had two singles for the Rockets.

In the nightcap, Franklin sophomore hurler Nicole Williamson (5-2) threw a 3-hitter, walked one and struck out three in a 10-0 six-inning mercy win over the Rockets.

Top offensive performers for the Patriots included Devers and Williams, two hits and two RBI each; Barcus (RBI), Leins (two runs); and Audrey Geraghty (RBI single, run).

Glenn pitchers combined for 12 walks and allowed eight hits as Brandi Holbrook suffered the loss.

STEVENSON 9-3, S.L. EAST 0-1: On Wednesday, Livonia Stevenson (17-10, 6-4) swept a double-header from South Lyon East (10-14, 2-8).

Stevenson unloaded for 15 hits in the opener en route to a 9-0 victory as Shelby Wilson and winning pitcher Jacqueline Johnson each had three hits, while Morgan Copperstone and Allie Koestering added two each.

Copperstone doubled twice and had two RBI.

Johnson allowed nine hits without a walk and struck out seven in seven innings.

Losing pitcher Olivia Nelson was the Cougars' top hitter going 3-for-3. Melissa Erickson added two hits.

"Jackie did a fine job today of mixing her pitches up and hitting her spots," Stevenson coach Rob Witherspoon said. "I am very excited about how we came together as a team today as our younger players came through both offensively and defensively."

In the second game, Copperstone took to the mound and earned the victory with a 7-hitter. She walked only one and struck out two in seven innings.

Top hitters for the Spartans included Becca Zarras (3-for-3, RBI); Nina Bonanno (2-for-3, RBI); and Anna Plumley (2-for-4, two runs).

Nelson was the losing pitcher, while Olivia Richalsky collected two hits.

"Our seniors did a great job today of showing leadership and leading our team to two wins," Witherspoon said. "Morgan was very composed in the circle, and combined with solid defensive play, we were able to get out of some key situations."

Warriors roll in MIAC Blue tuneup

Lutheran High Westland tuned up for its MIAC Blue Division baseball showdown with Southfield Christian with a convincing 15-3 mercy-rule victory Friday at Willow Run.

The Warriors, who improved to 12-4 overall with the non-conference win, unloaded for 12 hits led by Gage Flanery's 4-for-5 effort, including a pair of doubles, a triple, three RBI and three runs scored.

Other offensive standouts for Lutheran Westland included Austin Baglow, who went 3-for-

PREP BASEBALL

4 with three doubles, four RBI and four runs; Tony Cipolla, 3-for-5, two RBI; and Marc Rosin, 2-for-4, including two double and two RBI.

Winning pitcher Thomas Handschumacher went the first five innings, allowing three runs on six hits and two walks. He struck out three. Rosin came on in the sixth to strike out the side.

Both the Warriors and

Southfield Christian are tied at 7-1 each in the MIAC Blue.

Game time is 4:30 p.m. Monday at Southfield Christian.

CRANBROOK 14, CLARENCEVILLE 0: In a Metro Conference playoff game Wednesday, host Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook wasted little time jumping on Livonia Clarenceville (12-11), striking for four runs in the opening inning, six more in the third and four in the fourth en route to a five-inning, mercy-rule victory.

The Trojans could muster only two hits off Cranes starter Nick Cassel.

Eric Trotter, the losing pitcher, and Mike Schiffman collected the lone hits for the Trojans.

MADONNA

FROM PAGE B1

came on during a tough spot with the bases loaded for Andy Omilian and walked Justin Medeiros to force in the go-ahead run.

"The funny thing was we had seven walks and two hit batters today, but we still stranded 13 of their runners," Haeger said. "I thought the guys did a great job. But the last inning I think the walks caught us there. But throughout the (playoffs) five games we played here, we pitched well. I think we were a 2.00 ERA (earned run average). We've got to make a few more plays in the field. We missed

a few opportunities to make plays. All in all, the walks were tough today, but making plays is part of the game."

Gary King went 3-for-4 with an RBI, while Medeiros reached base safely five times going 2-for-2 with three walks and two RBI to pace the victorious Warriors. Shortstop Chad Geier also went 2-for-2 with an RBI.

MU scored its first run in the opening inning when Billy Hardin III doubled and scored on Zach Flavin's single.

Starter Kyle Bolton kept Indiana Tech off the board for the first four innings before the Warriors struck for three runs in the top of the fifth to take a 3-2 lead.

Sam Haldane came on and pitched the next 1.2 innings before giving way to Omilian (2-1), who suffered the loss.

Despite the setback, Haeger is confident his team can make a bid to reach the NAIA Nationals in Lewiston, Idaho.

"We have incredible depth

on the mound," he said. "We have seven or eight guys we can run out there that we hope are pretty good. All year long the pitchers have responded. And most of the year offensively we've responded. It's a team that doesn't like to lose. I know that and I can see by the reaction now. We don't like to lose and usually we find a way. With our pitching and defense, we usually get it done."

Meanwhile, a few days off to get recharged and refueled may be just what the doctor has in order for the Crusaders.

"Those were tough circumstances today - 36 innings in 24 hours or so," Haeger said. "They were taxed. We look forward to getting refreshed and going on to the opening round."

MU will learn its fate later today (5 CST) when the NAIA Region sites and pairings are announced in Kansas City, Mo.

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Spartans pull out last-minute win

Talk about a flair for the dramatic.

Renee Boudreau's header off a corner kick from Shannon Merritt with only 19 seconds remaining enabled Livonia Stevenson to come away with a 2-1 girls soccer victory Friday night at South Lyon.

The win pushes the Spartans' overall record to 6-4-2 and 3-4 in the KLAAs Central Division.

Kayla Kimble scored Stevenson's first goal in the seventh minute from Molly McConnell, but the Lions (5-7-3, 0-5-2) answered five minutes later on a goal.

"It was a good effort and three points that we absolutely needed because we're in a battle right now for third place with Salem," Stevenson first-year coach Chris Grodzicki said. "Without that win we're not in the equation. That makes Tuesday's game (7 p.m. at home) all the more to play for."

CHURCHILL 2, FARMINGTON 1: Kelsey Rothermel's penalty kick in the 65th minute was the difference Friday as host Livonia Churchill (6-6-1) downed the Falcons (6-4-4) in a non-conference encounter.

Farmington's Katie Evans and Churchill sophomore Lauren Favazza each scored a goal in the first half to make it 1-1.

GIRLS SOCCER

The Chargers got outstanding play from outside midfielder Rachel Blackney and defender Megan McDonald.

LAKELAND 2, JOHN GLENN 0: On Friday, goals by Jillian Braheim and Julianna Corvell, both in the final 10 minutes, carried White Lakeland (4-7-2) past host Westland John Glenn (3-9-2) in a KLAAs crossover.

Standouts for the Rockets included goalkeeper Andee Samborski and defender Ashley Bailey.

CHURCHILL 8, WAYNE 0: Rachel Staff, Alexa Vakratsis and Lauren Favazza scored two goals apiece Thursday, leading Livonia Churchill (5-6-1, 5-2-1) to a KLAAs South Division mercy rule win at Wayne Memorial (3-9-1, 1-6-1).

Churchill, also got a goal and assist from Kayla Szado and a free kick from 30 yards out from Darcy DeRoo.

Other assists went to Kayla Munroe, Rachel Blackney and Kaylie Secord.

The Chargers scored three goals in the first eight minutes and ended the game at the 56-minute mark.

"Finally my team came out of the gate with intensity and desire," Churchill coach Dave Hebestreit said. "We didn't play to the level of our opponent for the first time, but directed the situation from the start."

"We have been talking about starting strong, as so far this season we have only been playing well in the second half. Hopefully this will be a permanent change."

On Tuesday, host Wayne lost to Plymouth, 8-0.

CANTON 8, FRANKLIN 0: Allyson Krause and Jessika McClenden each tallied two goals Thursday as the Chiefs (10-1-3, 7-0-1), the KLAAs South Division leaders, blanked visiting Livonia Franklin (0-13-1, 0-7-1).

The Chiefs led 4-0 at halftime and ended the game with 15 minutes remaining due to the eight goal mercy rule. They unloaded for a barrage of shots on Franklin goalkeeper Alexis Smith, who finished with 18 saves.

PLYMOUTH 4, JOHN GLENN 0: On Thursday, the visiting Wildcats (9-1-4, 6-0-2) pulled away during the second half for the KLAAs South Division win over Westland John Glenn (3-8-2, 1-5-2).

Center defenders Ashley Bailey and Jenna Williams stood out for the Rockets, who gave up only one first-half goal (on a penalty kick).

"I'm happy with the results and proud of the way we played," Glenn coach Jimmy Mortada said. "We showed we can play and did not let them (Plymouth) control the play. Our goalie Andee Samborski also played very well."

LUTHERAN SOUTH 4, LUTH. WESTLAND 0: April Broska notched a hat trick Wednesday as host Newport Lutheran South improved to 3-4 in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Red Division with a shut-out of Lutheran High Westland (2-5-2, 2-4-1).

Savannah Diroff also scored for the victorious Saints.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Monday, May 17
 Northville at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 Novi at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Salem at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Luth. North, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at S'field Christian, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 18
 Wayne at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Hazel Park, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. N'west at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Birm. Roeper, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 20
 N. Farmington at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Franklin Road, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, May 21
 Churchill at W.L. Western, 4 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at S.H. Parkway, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 22
(all double-headers unless noted)
 Clarenceville at Annapolis, 10 a.m.
 Franklin at Milford, 11 a.m.
 W.L. Central at Stevenson, 11 a.m.

GIRLS SOFTBALL
Monday, May 17
 Northville at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 Novi at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Salem at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Luth. North, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Macomb Christ, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 18
 Ply. Christian at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 19
 Clarenceville at Hazel Park, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 20
 Wayne vs. Gab. Richard at EMU, 4 p.m.

BOYS GOLF
Monday, May 17
 Churchill vs. Canton at Hilltop G.C., 3 p.m.
 Franklin vs. Plymouth at Fox Hills G.C., 3 p.m.
 Stevenson vs. Salem at Fox Creek G.C., 3 p.m.
 John Glenn vs. Wayne at The Woodlands, 3 p.m.
Tuesday, May 18
 Livonia City Invitational at Whispering Willows, 3:15 p.m.
Wednesday, May 19
 Churchill vs. John Glenn at the Woodlands, 3 p.m.
 Franklin vs. Wayne at Idyl Wyld G.C., 3 p.m.
 Stevenson vs. S.L. East at Links of Novi, 3 p.m.
Thursday, May 20
 Huron Valley vs. Birm. Roeper at Idyl Wyld G.C., 3:30 p.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Tuesday, May 18
 Ladywood at A. Gab. Richard, 4 p.m.
Thursday-Saturday, May 20-22
 Division 1 Regional at Novi, TBA.
 Division 2 Regional Woodhaven, TBA.
 Division 2 at Regional Country Day, TBA.
GIRLS LACROSSE
Monday, May 17
 Marian at Ladywood, 6 p.m.
Friday, May 21
 Ladywood at South Lyon, 7 p.m.
 TBA - time to be announced.

SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

MU sweeps honors

The Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season and playoff champions placed three on the All-Conference squad led by junior pitcher Jess Irwin, who is 28-4 overall; senior first

baseman Cat Sidor (Livonia Churchill), who is hitting .376; and junior Kelly Lesko, hitting .347.

Earning honorable mention was sophomore pitcher-designated player Hallie Minch (Garden City) and freshman third baseman Erica Landess.

Sidor was a repeat selection to both the WHAC's Champions of Character team - which goes to the student-

athlete who best exemplifies the five core values of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship - along with the WHAC All-Academic team.

Also named to the All-Academic team, which requires a 3.25 grade-point average or better, was Rachael Kethe, Tara LaMilza and Ashley Shay (Garden City/Dearborn Divine Child).

C'ville rallies for 7-6 softball win

Livonia Clarenceville got off to a good start Wednesday in the opening round play of the Metro Conference girls softball tournament with a 7-6 win at Harper Woods.

Junior Joanna Burling went 3-for-4, including a key 2-run double in the fifth inning that closed the deficit for the

Trojans. Senior Megan McLaughlin stroked three singles, including the go-ahead 2-run shot in the sixth that gave the Trojans the lead for good.

Junior Stephanie Bishop also went 2-for-4, while sophomore Rachel Grefke scored twice as the Trojans evened their overall

mark at 7-7.

The victory went to senior Val Sochacki, who survived some tense moments in the seventh to run her season record to 4-6.

Sochacki scattered nine hits, struck out four and didn't walk a batter in the complete-game outing.

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BOYS TRACK RESULTS

BOYS DUAL MEET RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 98 WAYNE MEMORIAL 29 May 12 at Wayne Shot put: 1. Kyle James (WM), 40 feet...

11:56.2 400 relay: 1. John Glenn (Cole, Luciano Kenle, Anthony, Johnson), 45:19; 2. Wayne...

Baumgardner, Duncan), 44.5; 800 relay: 1. Franklin (Hurt, Woolfork, Mike Beasley, Duncan), 44.5; 1,600 relay: 1. Plymouth...

KENSINGTON CONFERENCE TRACK & FIELD RESULTS

KLAA KENSINGTON CONFERENCE TRACK MEET RESULTS May 12 at Novi H.S. GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Livonia Churchill, 134 points...

BOYS TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Novi, 119 points; 2. Plymouth, 100; 3. Salem, 78; 4. Westland John Glenn, 67...

GOLF

FROM PAGE B1 respectively. Churchill's team showing was spear-headed by Ben Proben's 81...

GIRLS TRACK RESULTS

GIRLS DUAL MEET RESULTS LIVONIA CHURCHILL 109 CANTON 9 May 12 at Churchill Churchill 1sts: Taylor Byron, shot put (35 feet, 6 inches); Chrissy Maleske...

(WJG), 18.31; 2. Chelsea Belt (WJG), 18.69; 3. Eberle Ogbuaku (WJG), 21.15; 300 hurdles: 1. Ogbuaku (WJG), 54.0...

2.5; 3. Brittany Milican (LF), 26-10.5. Discus: 1. Haig (LF), 102-3; 2. Milican (LF), 95-2; 3. Price (LF), 92-2...

BOYS GOLF RESULTS

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 162 WAYNE MEMORIAL 183 May 12 at Whispering Willows Churchill scorers: Ben Proben, 37 (medalist); Adam Yerber, 40; Evan Fargo, 42; Cory Dane, 43; Ryan Carpenter, 45; Doug Simpson, 47...

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NEIGHBORS

Bob-Lo memories

Learn about boat's past at Historical Society banquet

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Robert Legel remembers Bob-Lo Boat moonlight cruises on the Detroit River as "one of the greatest dates of all times."

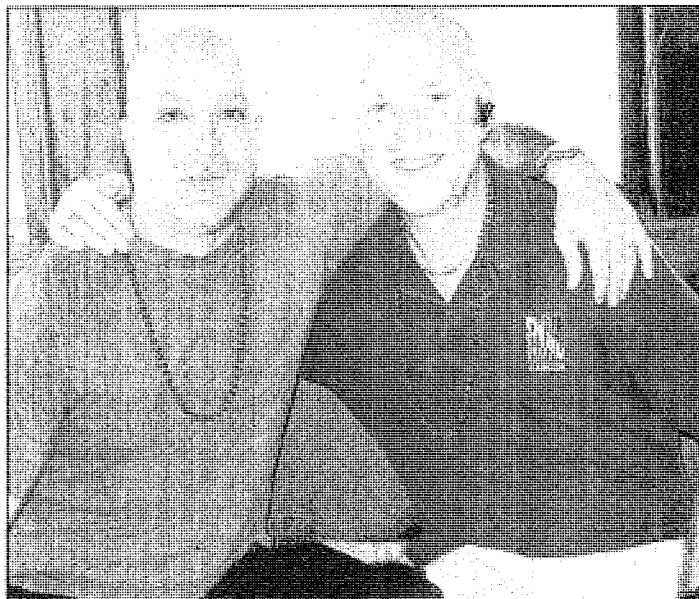
As a child, Sue Daniel took "nice" family outings on the S.S. Columbia and S.S. Ste. Claire to Bob-Lo Island's amusement park.

And Kevin Mayer, who worked on the Columbia in the 1980s, is so passionate about Bob-Lo, he created a working, miniature version of the amusement park — complete with the Ste. Claire steamship — in the basement of his Livonia home.

"The love and interest for this ship is still out there," said Mayer, general manager of the Ste. Claire and volunteer coordinator for its restoration project. "This is the last remaining steamship built by Frank Kirby. She just turned 100 on May 7."

Legel, Daniel and other Livonia Historical Society members will take a nostalgic armchair cruise through the Bob-Lo boat's past, and learn about its future, at their annual banquet, Thursday, May 20, in the Alexander Blue House at Greenmead, Newburgh and Eight Mile, Livonia.

The Livonia Historical Society event, which includes



Dr. Ron Katoo (left), is one of three business partners who bought the S.S. Ste. Claire. Kevin Mayer (right) is general manager and volunteer coordinator for the restoration project. They'll speak at the Livonia Historical Society banquet.

dinner and the "Bob-Lo Memories" program, is open to the public. Tickets cost \$16 and reservations are due Monday, May 17. Call (248) 477-7375 for tickets.

Mayer and Dr. Ron Katoo of Bloomfield Hills, a Henry Ford Hospital physician and principal owner of the Ste. Claire, will be the guest speakers.

"We're going to be doing it all, giving a little bit of history, showing (pictures of) the crew, Captain Bob-Lo, showing the renovations," Mayer said. "We hope to have her up and sailing again. We are taking everything down to the bare metal and wood. It's looking great."

RESCUING AN ICON

Kattoo and his partners in the Maximus Corp. bought the ship from its previous owners in 2006 and began the esti-

mated \$3 million restoration that is funded by himself, his partners, public donations and sale of souvenirs.

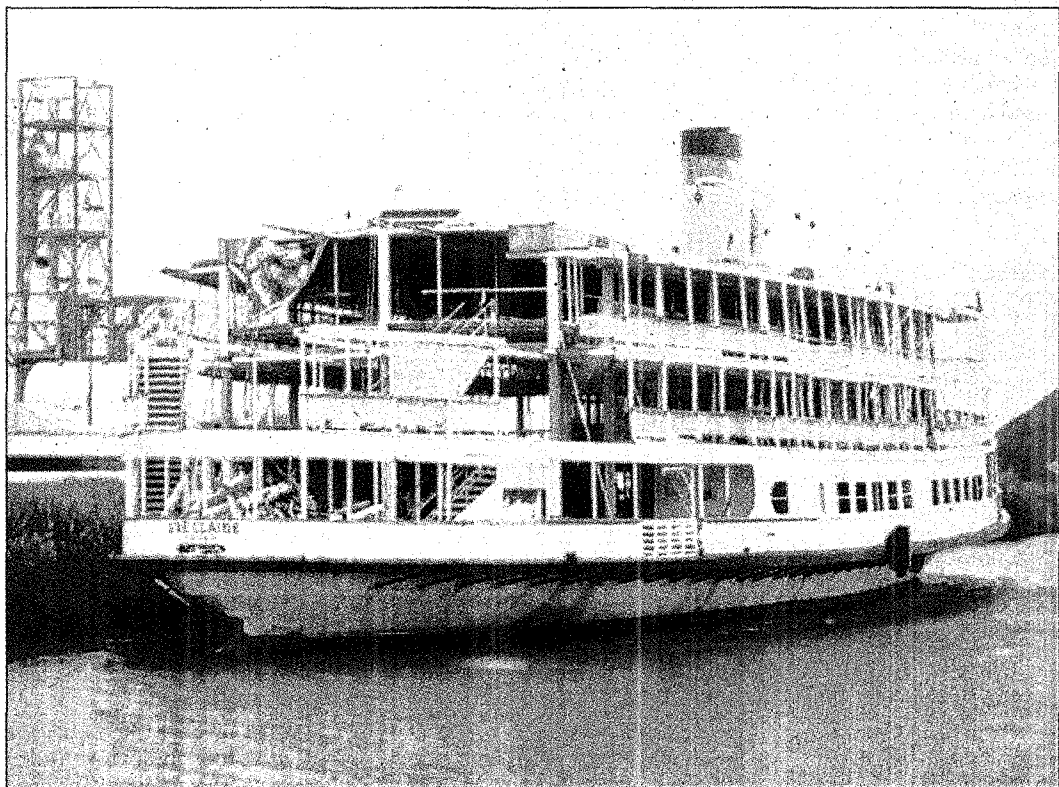
More than 400 volunteers are involved in the project.

"There's something for everyone on the ship. We have contractors and electricians. But there's always debris to take off and put in a dumpster, sweeping up and behind the scenes work at different festivals," Mayer said.

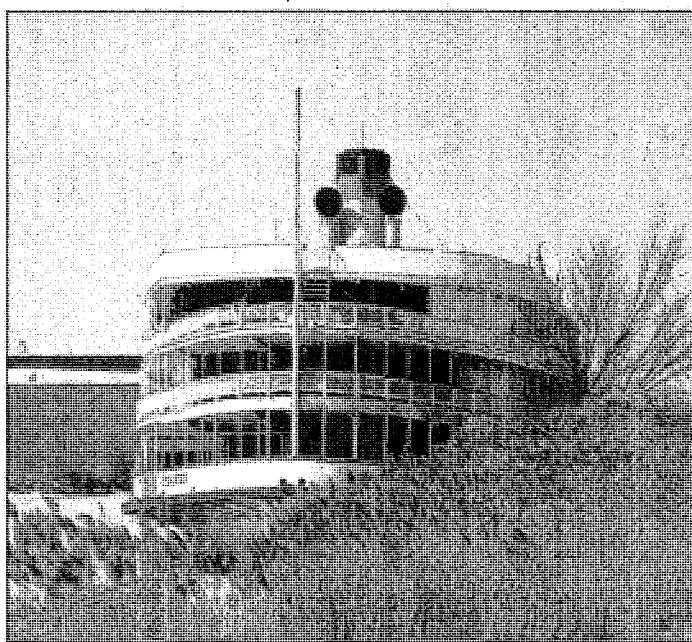
The Ste. Claire was built in 1910 to hold 2,426 passengers, and along with its older, larger sister ship, the Columbia, sailed the Detroit River for 81 years. Millions of residents in Southeastern Michigan took the 18-mile trip to the Canadian island, south of Grosse Isle, to picnic, play and ride roller coasters.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

"Oh boy, it was fun riding



The S.S. Ste. Claire marked its 100th anniversary May 7.



The Bob-Lo boat, S.S. Ste. Claire is docked in Ecorse, undergoing a restoration.

that boat," recalled Daniel, president of the Livonia Historical Commission and treasurer of the Historical Society. "It was an experience

I didn't have anywhere else except on the boat and the amusement park when you got there." Legel, Livonia Historical

Society president, fondly remembers the dancing on board the ship and its moonlight cruises.

"You'd take your girlfriend on the moonlight cruise. It was great, Legel said.


The ships stopped running in 1991 and the amusement park was closed and its rides sold to make way for luxury condos.

A New York investor bought the Columbia with plans to restore the ship and sail it on the Hudson River, Mayer said.

The Ste. Claire restoration team hopes to have the ship ready for dock side tours in two years and eventually cruising the Detroit River again.

"I hope it comes to fruition and they get it floating," Legel said. "All you have to do is mention Bob-Lo boat and everyone says, 'I remember that.'"

For more about the Ste. Claire restoration visit <http://bobloboat.com>.




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Laugh, walk, sleep on behalf of animals

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

You probably won't see any cats on leash at Project Kitty Connect's 3rd Annual Catwalk May 22 in Redford, but felines will benefit from the funds raised by the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) organization that strives to reduce stray and feral cat population and

euthanasia. Participants will collect donations and pledges for the cause and walk any time 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Claude Allison Park, located south of Seven Mile on the east side of Beech Daly at Pickford, in Redford. Just \$30 will pay for a wellness check-up, rabies vaccine, an ear tip and spaying or neutering for one local feral

cat. The ear tip identifies the cat as spayed or neutered. Rebecca Godo started the organization — which has a core group of about 10 volunteers — in 2007 to help feral cats in her neighborhood and to stop them from reproducing. Godo said her heart broke when she discovered that feral cats taken into the shelter system often are euthanized, because they are deemed unadoptable.

"I started researching for an alternative and found Trap-Neuter-Return. I found people doing it but not so much on an organized level. There wasn't a lot of help out there." She and other volunteers began working together as Project Kitty Connect, educating others and enlisting the help of veterinarians to perform low cost spay and neuter surgery. Volunteers trap the cats, have them spayed or neutered and then return them to the out-of-doors.

"People care for these animals with food and water and then they start reproducing. They reach out to us for help." Project Kitty Connect doesn't place animals into foster or adoptive homes, but has referred individuals who find

stray cats to rescue groups. "We assist people in also getting them spayed and neutered and we encourage them to seek out adoption routes. We help out when we can," Godo said.

In addition to the walk, Country Cat and City Kitty Rescue will be at the fundraising event with adoptable felines. Jan's Pet Grooming will trim nails for \$5 a pet, All About Animals Clinic will offer spay/neuter information, and local arts and craft vendors will sell their goods. www.projectkittyconnect.com

JUGGLE THAT COCKTAIL

Tail Waggers USA will offer two entertaining ways to support homeless animals this week, starting with a program of Flair bartending, 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 18 at Dearborn Friday's, located at 720 Town Center Drive, on the grounds of Fairlane Town Center.

Flair bartending is the practice of handling bar tools and liquor bottles with the skill of a juggler to entertain customers. Friday's bartenders have presented Flair shows since the early 1980s and now offer them as charity fund-raisers. Donate pet food during



"Sleep Well" is an ongoing partnership between the Michigan Humane Society and U.S. Mattress.

the show and you'll receive a free coupon for up to an \$8 appetizer. The donations will supplement Tail Waggers Pet Food Assistance Program, which helps feed pets from economically-strapped families.

Tail Waggers also will benefit from Comedy for a Cause, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, May 22, at Joey's Comedy Club, 36071 Plymouth Road, inside the Kicker's complex in Livonia.

Ed Buehner will emcee the show that will feature Johnny Beehner and Erin Jackson. Tickets are \$20 per person with \$15 of the ticket price directly benefitting Tail Waggers' efforts, including Pet Food Assistance, Spay/Neuter Programs, low-cost vaccinations, emergency assistance and cruelty investigation and rescue.

Buy tickets online at www.tailwaggersusa.org or by e-mailing gogodogs@ameritech.net. Tickets will be available at the door, however, seating will be guaranteed for those guests who purchase tickets in advance.

Tail Waggers USA is a nonprofit organization, based in Livonia and is committed to helping people help animals.

ADOPTION EVENT

You'll find adoptable dogs, puppies and kittens in the showroom at US-Mattress.com, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 22, at 1087 Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth.

During the event, potential adopters can learn more about "Sleep Well," an ongoing program and partnership between

the Michigan Humane Society (MHS) and US-Mattress.com, one of the largest mattress retailers in the Midwest. Buy a mattress at a US-Mattress.com showroom in Plymouth, Brighton or Commerce Township and mention MHS, and the company will donate \$100 to the animal welfare organization. If you buy online from www.us-mattress.com, enter the coupon code MHS to generate the \$100 donation.

For more information about the adoption event, call the Michigan Humane Society at (866) MHUMANE or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

31ST ANNUAL WALK

You can register and begin collecting donations now for the Humane Society of Huron Valley's (HSHV) annual Walk and Wag. The dog walk and family fun day is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, May 22, at County Farm Park, 2230 Platt, Ann Arbor.

HSHV, which serves Washtenaw County, as well as Plymouth and Canton, asks that all participants raise or donate a minimum of \$25. Check-in is from 10-10:30 a.m. on event day and includes a goodie bag. From 10:30 a.m.-noon, visitors can walk — with or without their dogs — and meet Harley, the celebrity spokesdog, as well as check out the dog games. Vendors will be on site and children can visit the craft tent and get their faces painted. For more information and registration, visit www.hshv.org

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Arthritis Today

JOSEPH J. WEISS, M.D. RHEUMATOLOGY
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Phone: (248) 478-7860

AGING, ACTIVITY AND ARTHRITIS

As more people are living into their 80's and 90's, physicians are seeing more of them coming in with complaints of aching all over. The patient notes that mornings are particularly difficult and that activities such as making meals, keeping the house clean and working in the garden are becoming impossible because of aching and fatigue.

In most instances the patient comes with a daughter or a person in the family who has reached a point that the patient can no longer live at home without assistance.

After listening to the patient and undertaking a physical examination the doctor may reach a conclusion that startles the patient. The doctor will say that the patient does not have rheumatoid arthritis, polymyalgia rheumatica or a cancer related condition. Rather, the patient is out of condition and needs exercise. The patient protests saying that she (or he) is busy every day with house chores.

Often the doctor is fortunate, as the family member attending the patient will say that the doctor is right: the patient spends too much time sitting around, reading, resting, or watching television, and that family members have told the patient so many times.

Probably the most common cause for joint stiffness and muscle fatigue in patients over age 80, is inactivity. The treatment is not another medicine but more workout. The activity must be work: done daily, going on for at least 30 minutes continuously, and should bring up a sweat. Finally, the older the patient the more important that she (or he) does the activity every day.

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Livonia artist shows her landscapes at May 22-23 show

Barbara Spraul of Livonia will exhibit and sell her paintings May 22-23 at the Village of Rochester Hills' annual spring art show.

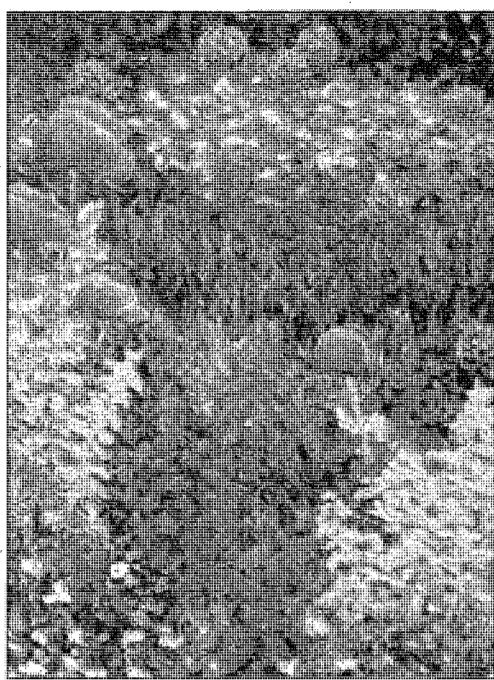
Spraul, known for her color intense landscapes, was born and raised in Germany and had an early profound love for art. While studying drawing, she also earned a nursing degree. She moved to Michigan in 1994 and studied drawing, oil painting, and miniature painting. True to her heart, she found that painting was more satisfying than any other profession and devoted her time to her passion of creating.

Her technique combines oil, acrylic, gouache, and charcoal. She paints series of paintings, choosing one subject matter at a time. She also works with individual costumers to create unique pieces of art.

"I feel a deep emotional fulfilment and pleasure when I paint. I am very thankful that by creating unique peaceful paintings it is possible to spread joy and lift the spirits of the viewers," she stated.

The show runs 10 a.m.-8 p.m. May 22 and noon-6 p.m., May 23 at the Village of Rochester Hills shopping center, located at Adams and Walton in Rochester Hills.

For more information call (248) 689-8734.



Linda Spraul of Livonia depicts lush landscapes in her paintings.

Flute choir will perform in Farmington Hills 4 p.m. Sunday

The Southeast Michigan Flute Choir will perform at 4 p.m., Sunday, May 16, at St. John Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills.

Jackie Wright directs the group, which includes professional flutists as well as adult amateurs and talented high school and college players. The Choir also has been invited to participate in the prestigious Chicago Flute Festival this coming November.

Its program at St. John includes works by J. S. Bach and George Bizet. Also featured on the program are *Fantasia on Land of the Silver Birch* by Nancy Nourse and *The Global Village Samba* by Anthony G. Holland.

Oboist Patrick Carroll also will perform Vivaldi. Clarinetist the Rev. Lauren Kirsh-Carr and flutist Cam Kureth will play a new composition, *Five Settings on the Tune, Berglund* by St. John organist, Wes Fishwick.

The Southeast Michigan Flute Association's mission is to promote the flute and flute playing.

It's a nonprofit organization that serves as a platform for students, amateurs, professionals, teachers and lovers of the flute.

Membership in the Association includes the

St. John Lutheran Church is on Gill Road, between Grand River Avenue and Freedom Road. For more information call the church office at (248) 474-0584. Concert information also is available at stjohn-elca.org and at wesleyfishwick.com.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra members, major university and college professors, regional orchestral flutists and talented students of all ages.

Members arrange, coordinate and involve the group in a number of concerts, recitals, annual festivals and master classes.

Admission is free. A free-will offering will be taken. Refreshments will be provided.

St. John Lutheran Church is on Gill Road, between Grand River Avenue and Freedom Road. For more information call the church office at (248) 474-0584. Concert information also is available at stjohn-elca.org and at wesleyfishwick.com.

Be wary of a new sort of crook in the appliance industry

In my days past I learned a great deal about how the unethical appliance repair companies operated and how many thousands of consumers



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

were being literally ripped-off. Working with the Victorian lady of consumerism, Esther Shapiro, at the Detroit Consumer Affairs Department was one of the most rewarding things I've ever done. She used to tell me that the schemes and scams that were worked on homeowners were always changing in ways that we could never imagine.

I recently have been reading stories about thieves being captured and charged with possession of hundreds of stolen appliances taken from homes with a "for sale" sign on the front lawn.

One pair of crooks had sold hundreds of products on the Internet. Capture was rather easy for the police department, which installed GPS devices inside the appliances in an undercover operation at one house. One case is about a legitimate appliance retailer selling products and used by the

thieves as a fence. Fortunately none of this is going on here in Michigan, at least not to my knowledge.

Recently I've spent time at the telephone at my son Mark's appliance repair business in Livonia. It's been most enjoyable talking to many readers who call with questions about their major appliances and I would like to tell you of one these calls. A senior lady called to tell my son that she would not be using his company to install her new dishwasher even though the \$100 price he quoted her was \$139 less than the retailer was going to charge her. I asked her why she was going to spend \$239 to have a new dishwasher installed when she could get the job done for \$100. Her reply caused the hair on the back of my neck to stand straight up.

"The retailer told her that if she used anybody besides him to install the product she would not be able to get her Michigan rebate of \$50 from the State."

It really is too bad that Esther Shapiro is retired and the office of Detroit Consumer Affairs is no longer in existence. Esther would have put this retailer on national television or even worse.

As for my last column about the dishwasher which came on by itself I received an e-mail from an engineer who writes: SO, did you find out if the dishwasher did, in fact, come on by

itself? As we get deeper into the processor controls I need to understand ways they go wrong — you can bet that Microchip isn't going to have a list of reported circuit gremlins available for review and agency standards are reactive at best. Even traditional technology can become unpredictable with new manufacturing techniques and alternate manufacturing locations and, as you know, one flawed component can take out the best design in the world.

Well folks I did talk to the person who had a dishwasher come on by itself. He did call GE and they did come out to check it out at no charge. The service technician did order a new electronic board and another part and should be installing it soon. Even though the product is out of warranty GE is covering the bill on this repair and I think rightfully so. There isn't a manufacturer around who wants to mess with the Consumer Product Safety Commission in Washington. Those boys will tag on some pretty hefty fines for dangerous products which are not reported promptly. You could say they carry as much weight as Esther Shapiro. Stay tuned.

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

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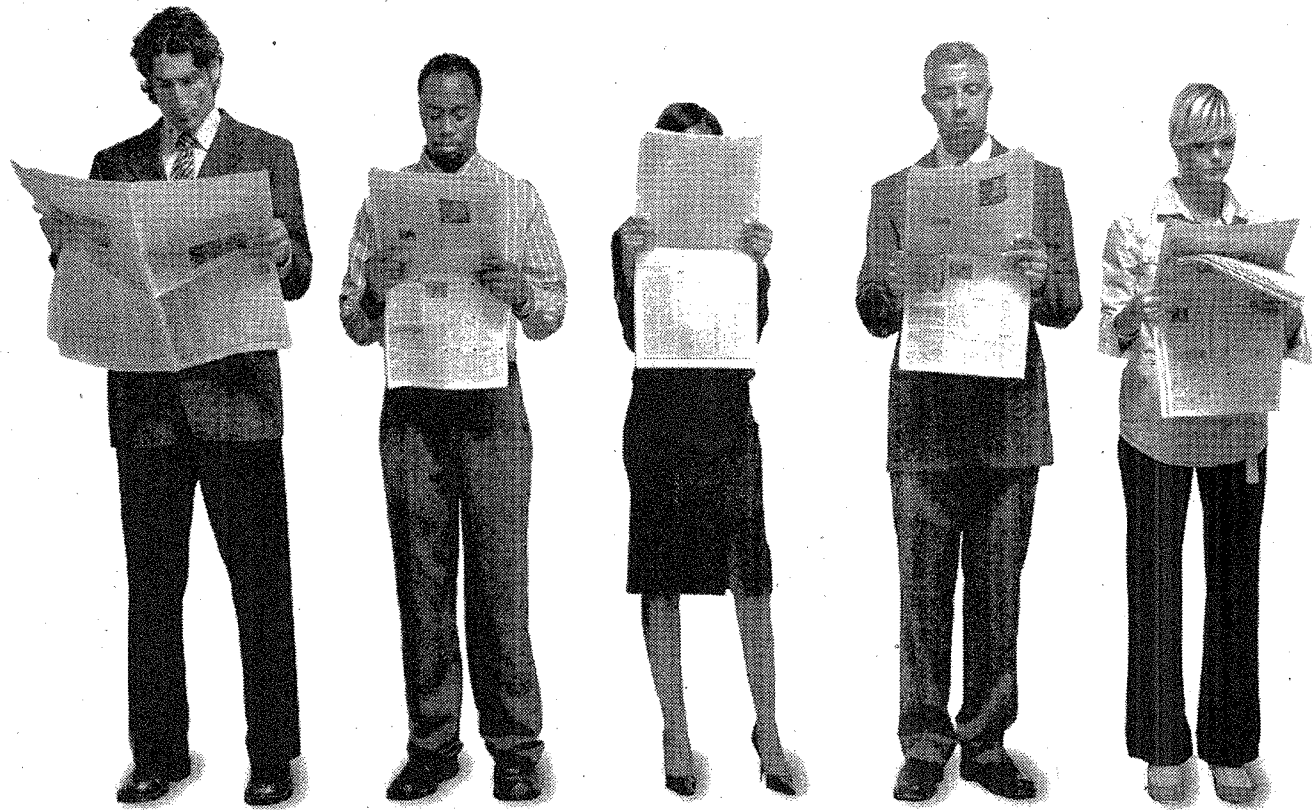
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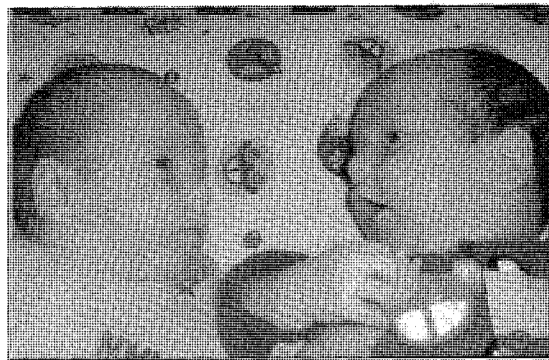
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Alexander and Nathaniel Baird, twins, were born March 2010 at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Proud parents are Lindsey and Matt Baird of Canton. Grandparents are John and



Alexander John Baird and Nathaniel James Baird

Betty Baird of Northville and Diane Knowlton and James Cooper of Elkhart, Ind.



Gentle greyhound

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REUNION CALENDAR

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

Andover High School

Class of 1970
Reunion planned 7 p.m. Aug. 14 at the Heathers; contact Cis Sloan Stokas at Quintop@aol.com

Birmingham Groves High School

Class of 1975
35th class reunion, Oct. 22-23, will include homecoming game, Friday night, and party, Saturday night, at The Birmingham Community House. Contact groves1975@gmail.com or Groves Class of 1975 - 35th Class Reunion, on Facebook.

Dearborn Heights Haston High

Class of 1965
45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 24; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail her at patkopczyk@aol.com.

Detroit Cody

Classes from 1950-1969
Annual picnic for all '50s-'60s Cody Comets and friends, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 22, Nankin Mills Pavilion, at Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive, Westland. BYOB and bring a chair; organizing committee will supply music and memorabilia. The Optomystics will perform. Door prizes, hot dogs, bottled water, T-shirts and sweatshirts, tassels and music CDs will be available. Free parking for classic cars. No need to register - just show up. Classmates.com will have information and photos from past picnics. Questions? Call Phil Varilone at (313) 562-3579 or Jerry Marszalek at (313) 532-0134.

Class of 1965
Looking for graduates from the January and June classes for a September reunion. For more information call Tim Dunning at (248) 879-2148 or e-mail to timdunning@wowway.com or call Chris Snopkoski Nashlen at (734) 261-3116.

Detroit Mackenzie

Class of 1962
Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

Class of 1960

50th reunion will be held Oct. 16 at The Marriott in Livonia. For more information contact: Tim Yarde at (248) 573-7147 or Russ and Judy (Mackinder) Sarns at (734) 464-7166

Detroit Pershing

Class of 1960
50th reunion festivities in September will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. Call Sherry Forbusch (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

Farmington High School

Class of 1970
Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking classmates. Join on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion. Or e-mail

Carla Campbell Lehn at dblehn@aol.com.

Class of 1980
30-year reunion, 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 17, Dunleavy's Pub & Grub, 34505 Grand River, Farmington. Contact Kelly McDonald at kelly_fns1980@yahoo.com and Farmington High School Michigan Class of 1980 on Facebook

Garden City High School

Class of 1960
Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Garden City East

Class of 1964
Picnic, Aug. 21, in Garden City Park. For more information e-mail Karen Medwid Berry at karber@comcast.net or Teri Friedman at terifriedman@gmail.com

Garden City West

Class of 1970
40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Dinner and DJ for \$50 per person. Classmates from 1968-72 also invited. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1980
Reunion planned for Friday July 30. For more information call Ron at (734) 834-2566 or send an email to info@livoniafranklin1980.com

Livonia Stevenson

Class of 1975
35th reunion, 6 p.m. Saturday, July 24, at Fellows Creek Golf Club, 2936 Lotz, Canton, includes buffet, cash bar and DJ. Attire is dressy/casual. Cost is \$30 per person through PayPal or by check in advance or \$40 at the door. Send checks to Stevenson Class Reunion, 115 Continental Road, Cornwall, N.Y. 12518. Send PayPal payments to payments@institutionalmarkets.com Send e-mail correspondence to stevensonclassof75@yahoo.com. (845) 534-2228

Oak Park High School

Class of 1980
130th reunion, July 2-4; for information, e-mail to ophighschool1980@yahoo.com

Plymouth Canton, Salem

Class of 1980
Joint 30th reunion with golf outing Sept. 3 and evening gathering, Sept. 4. For more information and to register on its Web site visit http://home.comcast.net/~1980cantonsalem/ site/ Contact the reunion committee at 1980cantonsalem@comcast.net

Redford Union

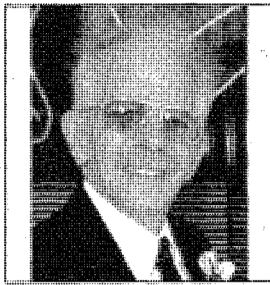
Class of 1960
50-year reunion, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 14. For more information contact Mike and Carol (Gerogeff) Pontius (248) 446-9948 or e-mail to mikecarol91500@att.net. Or call Tena (Fear) Keith at (248) 437-6827.

5/16/10

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ALBERT "AL" R. BRITTS, JR.

Age 67, May 12, 2010. Al is a retired industrial engineer from Johnson Controls, and lived in the oldest log cabin in Farmington Hills. He is survived by Christine, his beloved wife of 46 years; his loving children, Mary-Lynn Britts-Miller (Jim Miller) and LeeAnne Patterson (Mike); his cherished grandchildren Brandon Albert Miller, Marcus Lee Britts, Eric Patterson and Jimmy Lee Miller. Al is also survived by his devoted stepfather Norman Spiegel, his aunt, Ginny Hostetter, and cousins, Karen, Donna and Linda. Visitation Monday, May 17th, 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM, concluded by a 7 PM Memorial service, at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btw. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington (248-474-5200). Memorial tributes suggested to American Heart Assn. heeney-sundquist.com



GLORIA "MARGARET" HULL

Age 93, May 11, 2010. Beloved wife of the late William Carl. Loving mother of Michael (Paulette) and Hillaree (William) Coseo. Dear grandmother of William and Chloe Coseo. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and friends. Visitation at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Friday from 1-9 PM and Saturday from 10 AM until Funeral Service at 11 AM. Memorials may be directed to St. Mary Mercy Palliative Care Fund or Angela Hospice. Please share a memory at: www.rgharris.com.



JUNE DOROTHY WAHL

May 8, 2010 in St. Petersburg, FL. Age 87 of Indian River, MI. Beloved wife of Adolph "Wally" for 63 years. Loving mother of William (Jan), Daniel (Susan) and the late Pamela June Wahl. Grandmother of Evan, Conor, Danny and Sophia. Sister of Ken Harma, Gloria Mertz and the late Ethel Scrase and Evelyn LaLonde. Services were held Friday at A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home. Memorial tributes to American Diabetes Association or the Michigan Humane Society. View obituary and share memories at www.desmondfuneralhome.com

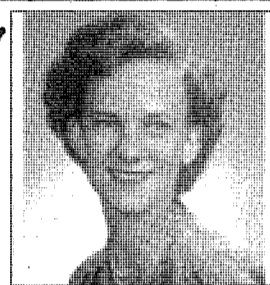
RICHARD C. MEACHAM

On Sunday, May 9, 2010. Dear father of Richard (Pamela) Meacham, Katherine Etherington, Jennifer (Lynne Getz) Cohen-Jordan, Jeffrey Meacham, John Meacham, Lucas Meacham and Kimberly Meacham; dear brother of Terry Fischer and Susan Wright; dear grandfather of 10 and great-grandfather of 11; dear uncle to several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at Kutis South County Chapel, St. Louis, MO.



DOUGLAS D. WAACK

Age 63 of Canton Michigan passed away Monday May 10th at Veterans Hospital in Ann Arbor. Beloved husband of Kay for 32 years. Dear father of Ken (Meg) Guinn, Jim (Denise) Guinn, Doug Guinn, Ken Waack and Doug Williams. Son of Russell Waack (deceased), Ruth Waack (deceased) and Grace Waack. Loving grandfather of Jeremy, Rachel, Yoshi and Christopher. Brother of Russell (Retitia), Ruthann, Judy, Joan (deceased) John (Dawn), Mike (deceased), Tim (Crystal), Jeff (Mark), Annie (Liz). Survived by nieces, nephews, and cousins. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family. Services to be held Friday May 14th at Generations Funeral Home, 29550 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills, MI. Visitation 11:00-12:00. Services at 12:30.



LILLIAN ERICKSON

Age 91, of Dearborn Heights, MI, passed away May 14, 2010. Arrangements: Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

HAZEL FAYNE LOVELAND (Nee McCoy)

Age 75, of Canton, formerly of Lincoln Park. Beloved wife of 54 years to David. Loving mother of Dr. Jeffrey (Kathryn) Loveland, Dr. Robert (Michelle) Loveland, and Cheryl (Dr. Miles) Hammond. Cherished Grandmother of Joshua, Sarah, Brian, Alexander, and Robert. Decendant of the McCoy family of Pikeville, KY. She will also be missed by the many who she brought pleasure to through her culinary skills. Visitation, Wednesday 4-8pm; Thursday 1-8pm at J.L. Peters Funeral Home 3880 Fort Lincoln Park Mi. (313-928-6500). In state Friday 10am until time of service at 11am at First United Methodist Church in Lincoln Park, Rev. Mary Tame officiating. Interment at Michigan Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or The National Exchange Club. You can sign the register and print a memorial: www.jlpetersfuneralhome.com



MARGARET ELIZABETH MULCAHY MEESKE

August 2, 1917-April 30, 2010
Passed away on April 30, 2010 in San Marino, California. Margaret was born in Bay City, Michigan on August 2, 1917 to Emma Streng and Francis James Mulcahy. She had one brother, James Francis Mulcahy, formerly of Arlington, Virginia, now deceased. Margaret grew up in Bay City, Michigan. She completed her Bachelor of Arts and Science degree at The University of Michigan in 1939, where she also was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Margaret then received her teaching credential from Eastern Michigan University. She taught elementary education in Grand Rapids, Dearborn, Detroit and Birmingham, Michigan. In 1944 she married Charles John (Jack) Meeske. They eventually settled in Birmingham, Michigan to raise their four children. Margaret was a life long learner and enjoyed taking classes regarding history and religion well into her eighties. She coordinated the History in the Making Class with local university professors at The Village Club for over a decade. An avid bridge player, Marg could be found playing at least once a week up until 2006. She also loved to travel the world with her husband Jack up until his death in 2002. Margaret is survived by her sons C. John Meeske of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, William J. Meeske of Santa Monica, California, and her daughter Lisa Meeske Sloan of San Marino, California, along with eight grandchildren and three great-granddaughters. A service will be held at Holy Name Church in Birmingham Michigan on Saturday, July 10th at 10am.

PATRICIA M. WEBBER

Age 42, of Canton, MI, died May 7, 2010. Born March 21, 1968 in Wayne to Richard Fulner and Evah (Tatman) Seiber. Survived by her loving husband, Edward, children, Mandi Reitenga of Canton, Christopher Reitenga and Ryan Reitenga, Edward (Jami) Webber III, all of Belleville, Sarah Webber of Chelsea, Joseph Webber of Canton, Thomas Webber of Belleville, Elizabeth Rose, 3 grandchildren, Brice Webber, Luke Thompson and Louis McCary, her parents Harry and Eve Seiber, 2 brothers, Jon Seiber of Ypsilanti and Brian Seiber of Clarkston, also a sister, Diane Romas of Wayne. Patti loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She believed in continuing her education and was studying for her Master's Degree in Nursing while working as the manager of the HIC Department at William Beaumont Hospital, Detroit. Funeral Service held at Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, Tues May 11. Memorials to Susan G. Koman for the Cure. www.davidcbrownfh.com

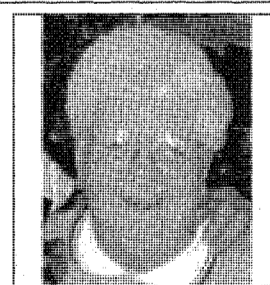


J. KENNETH SCHENDEN

Age 93 of Rochester Hills. May 10, 2010. Loving Husband of Wilma. Dear Father of James M. (Carolyn) Schenden, John J. (Kathryn) Schenden, Marilyn (Leo) Perazza, Dr. Michael J. Schenden and Kathryn M. (James) Nihilis. Survived by 8 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Kenneth retired from GM after 40 years of service, was a life member of the K of C and Elks and a WWII Veteran. Funeral Mass Wednesday, May 12, 2010, 9:00 AM with an instate time of 8:30 AM at St. John Fisher Chapel University Parish 3665 Walton Blvd, Auburn Hills. The family will receive friends Tuesday from 6 to 8 PM at the Potere-Modetz Funeral Home 339 Walnut, Rochester. Memorials to Sister Jane Frances Miller, Memorial Endowment, C/O Congregation of St. Joseph, PO Box 29, Nazareth, MI 49074-0029. Online guestbook: www.modetzfuneralhomes.com

JAMES L. MARKEY

Age 86, of Farmington Hills, MI, passed away May 13, 2010. Arrangements: Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI



JOYCE MARIE ALLEN

Passed away May 12, 2010 at the age of 78. Her beloved husband Herbert passed away in 1995. She is the dearest mother of Brenda (Russell) Cotter, Ray (Julie) Allen and Keith Allen. Dear sister of Betty Smith, Pat Beaver and Ron (Joan) Roberts. She was still working as a cafeteria helper for the Northville Public Schools. Previously she was a school bus driver for the Plymouth-Canton Schools for 27 years. She loved playing cards, especially Euchre and Texas Hold 'em. She was a member of The Moose Lodge and Eagles in Northville and American Legion Post 32 in Livonia. Funeral Services were held Saturday, May 15, 2010, at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Followed by burial in Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association.



RAYMOND L. HEIMSTADT

Of Davison, age 90, passed away April 13, 2010 at Genesys Hospice Care Center, Goodrich. Cremation has taken place. A Memorial Service will be held 1 PM Saturday, May 22, 2010 at Allen Funeral Home, 9136 Davison Rd., Davison. The family will receive visitors one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Genesys Hospice Care Center, Goodrich. Please share your thoughts with the family at www.allenfuneralhomeinc.com.

Paying
Tribute
to the
Life of
Your
Loved One

ROBERT EUGENE UTLEY

Age 97, May 7, 2010 of Ocala, Florida formerly of Farmington, Michigan. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth (McClure) Utley. Dear father of Robert (Carol) Utley and Sheryl (Jon) Hartman. 4 Grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Pre-deceased by a brother Carlton Utley. Mr. Utley was a life member of the Farmington Masonic Lodge #151 in Farmington, Michigan. He retired from General Motors after 35 years as a machinist. He enjoyed golf, hunting, watching sports and telling a good story. In state Thursday 9:00am until funeral service 10:00am in the Chapel of Flowers-White Chapel Memorial Cemetery, Troy. Arrangements by Price Funeral Home, Troy. (248) 689-0700. Memorials to the Hospice of Marion County, P.O. Box 4860, Ocala, Florida. 34478-4860. Share memories at: www.pricefuneralhome.net

SCOTT ALLEN KAUFMAN

Age 49 of Livonia. Beloved husband of Dawn. Loving father of Cory & Curtis. Also survived by many other loving family & friends. Funeral Services were held on Thurs. 10:30am at St. Priscilla Catholic Church 19120 Pulingbrook Rd. Livonia 48152 Please visit online guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com

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Support group offers tips to fight weight-loss plateau

As weight-loss warriors climb to the mountaintop of fitness and better health, they will inevitably cross a plateau or two in their journey. According to Dr. Nicholas Yphantides, medical spokesperson for TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), the nonprofit weight-loss support organization, "There are inevitable periods of plateau. You feel like you have changed nothing, yet the body fat no longer disappears and your weight loss seems to be stuck in neutral. The real dilemma is that the plateau can be a huge motivation killer."

The harm, he says, is that some people give up during a plateau and fall back into poor eating and exercise habits out of discouragement.

On a positive note, since it's best to lose weight slowly, steadily, and sensibly, plateaus often can be a body's balancing act. A plateau also can signal that a body has less fat left to lose.

Yphantides points out that

real plateaus, when weight loss does in fact stall, are different from perceived plateaus, when a person is in denial and doesn't believe they are doing anything differently, yet the weight is not coming off.

"Honesty and accuracy are such core ingredients to healthy living for TOPS members that I have to mention them, as I frequently discover what I call a 'perceived plateau' upon deeper interaction and conversations with people who are frustrated with their weight loss," he says.

One cause of a true plateau is that the body is trying to achieve equilibrium, or homeostasis. In this state, the body wants to retain the status quo and not lose weight. Weight will resist coming off, even if the number of calories consumed and level of exercise stay the same.

Yphantides says that the key is to mix up your routine so the body reacts to changing signals. "Some weight-loss

warriors make the mistake of expecting different results with the same routine. It's easy to get discouraged, but it's more effective to get creative," he notes.

His strategies for overcoming a weight-loss plateau include:

- Eat the same weekly amount of calories but eat less one day and more the next to make the body react differently. Also, remember to drink water to feel full and avoid problems caused by dehydration.
- Try adding a new activity to an exercise routine. It will activate more muscles and change the way the body is used. For instance, if you typically walk daily, swim or bike instead. Add high-intensity cardio intervals to a low-intensity workout. If there's a fun, new dance class to try, this is a good time.
- Switch the type of workout. For example, trade an aerobic session for a strength-training or muscle-toning

class. This can increase lean muscle mass and jump-start the metabolic rate.

• Spread out daily food intake to fuel metabolism over a longer period of time. Add a few mini-meals each day, going from three meals to five, without adding calories. Make sure breakfast is a solid meal, because it results in better concentration and higher energy throughout the day.

Use patience and persistence as tools in the journey to overall wellness. Weight-loss plateaus will happen along the way but they can be overcome.

TOPS promotes weight management with a philosophy that combines healthy eating, regular exercise, wellness information, and support from others at weekly chapter meetings. TOPS has about 170,000 members in nearly 10,000 chapters throughout the United States and Canada.

Visitors may attend their

first TOPS meeting free of charge. To find a chapter, visit www.tops.org or call (800) 932-8677.

Here's a sampling of local TOPS groups:

CANTON

St. Thomas A'Becket, 555 S. Lilley; meetings at 7 p.m., Thursday

FARMINGTON HILLS

Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile; meetings at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday
Tapiola Village, 35150 W. Eight Mile, in the clubhouse; meetings at 7 p.m. Tuesday

GARDEN CITY

The Harrison Center, 6701 Harrison, room 7; meetings at 10 a.m., Thursday
Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, 10 a.m., Friday

LIVONIA

Newburgh United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann

Arbor Trail; meetings at 6 p.m., Tuesday
Church of the Holy Spirit, 9083 Newburgh; meetings at 9:30 a.m., Thursday
Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile; meetings at 7:30 p.m., Monday

REDFORD

South Redford Christian Church, 26505 W. Chicago Road; meetings at 7:30 p.m., Thursday
Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway; meetings at noon, Wednesday
Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly; meetings at 7 p.m., Tuesday

WESTLAND

Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road; meetings at 7 p.m., Monday
St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road; 7:30 p.m., Wednesday
Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley; meetings at 6:15 p.m. Monday

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

MAY

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, supervisor, 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 7:30 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 golfing 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.ooa.org.

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital,

36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Caregivers support group

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

Metro Fibromyalgia

Meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 2055 Merriman, Garden City. For more information, call Lucy at (734) 462-1768.

Wayne metro caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to loved ones. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Ave., Westland. Meetings are also held at the

Village of Redford on Six Mile. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month; the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550. Ext. 233.

Parkinson Support

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

CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call (248) 937-3314.

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