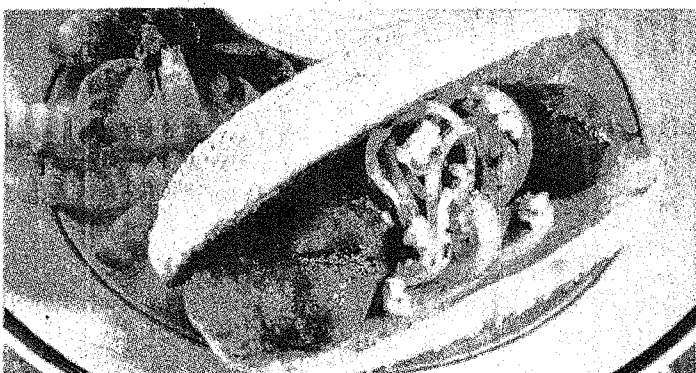
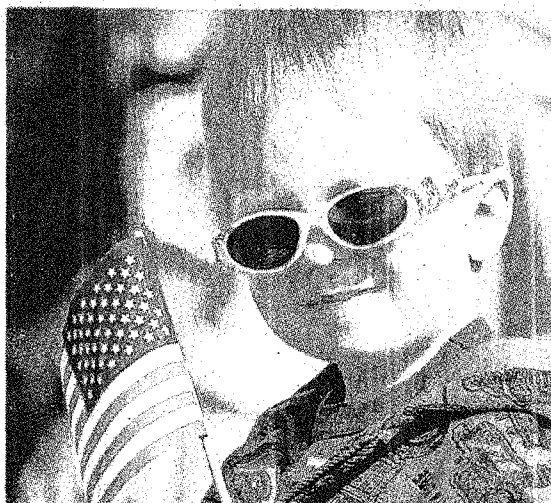


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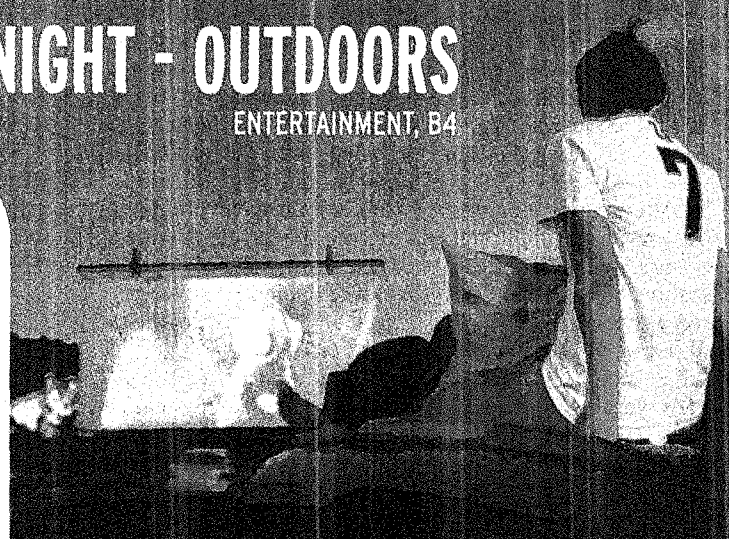
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MOVIE NIGHT - OUTDOORS
ENTERTAINMENT, B4



THURSDAY
MAY 20, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 45
Number 103

\$1.00

WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com

AROUND TOWN

Road trip

Westland has become known as one of Michigan's greenest cities with its curb-side recycling program that boasts a 90 percent participation rate that saves the city money and helps the environment at the same time. Now residents can see where their recyclables go with a tour of Great Lakes Recycling in New Boston to see what happens to the more than one million pounds of trash recycled in the city each month.

The recycling trips are scheduled for 10 a.m. the last Monday of the month June through October. This month's trip will be on May 24. The dates are June 28, July 26, Aug. 30, Sept. 27 and Oct. 25.

Call (734) 722-7632 to reserve a seat on the bus. Trip guests need to arrive at the Friendship Center at 1119 N. Newburgh 15 minutes prior to the departure time. Children are welcome to attend during summer months, but must be chaperoned by a responsible adult.

The bus will leave promptly at 10 a.m. and return to the Friendship Center at approximately 12:30 p.m. The tour will begin approximately at 11 a.m.

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City sets aside land for vets memorial

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A plan to create a Veterans Memorial Garden on a portion of land in Central City Park got a big boost Monday evening when the Westland City Council approved a resolution designating the land surrounding Friendship Lake for use for a historic site.

The resolution opens the door for

the Westland Veterans Association to acquire old military equipment that is destined to be destroyed.

"I'm happy we got the property set aside for the memorial," said association President Kenneth Mehl. "At least, now we can look at it from the standpoint of how we can lay it out, then we can move ahead."

The association announced plans to build the memorial in November 2008

and has been in the process of fund raising to cover the estimated \$500,000 cost.

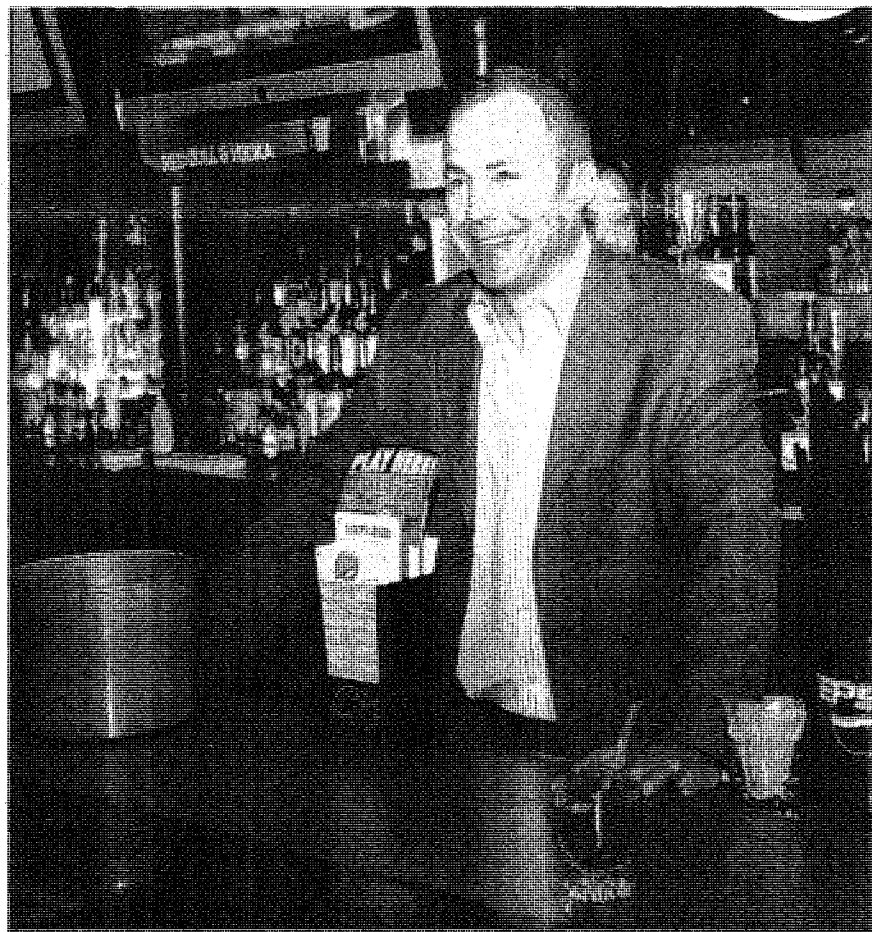
The site is on the east side of the lake along Carlson. The proposal calls for a flagpole in the center surrounded by stanchions representing the different wars, going back to the American Civil War. There would be benches on the edges of the memorial for people to sit and meditate and areas for armament to

illustrate the conflicts.

Mehl credits John Welchman of the Romanowski VFW Post for finding out about the surplus equipment that will be given free of charge to organizations like the WVA to display. But in order to qualify, the group needed the council resolution designating the area for the memorial.

Please see **MEMORIAL, A2**

Mayor's team goes 'wild' for relay



Westland Mayor William Wild may not have been as wild as Tom Cruise in the 1988 movie "Cocktail" but he was willing to try during a fund-raiser for this weekend's Relay for Life.

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mayor William Wild has a lot of job duties, but tending bar generally isn't among them.

That changed last week when Wild took to bartending at Malarkey's for a cancer-fighting Relay for Life benefit. "I'll have to think about that,"

Wild said when asked what drink he was best at making. "I make a mean margarita. It's actually a 'Wild' margarita."

This is the fourth year the mayor's has a team in the May 22-23 Relay for Life, proceeds from which support the American Cancer Society. This year's event will run 10 a.m. Saturday to 10 a.m. Sunday at Jaycee Park, at Hunter and Wildwood by the Mike Modano

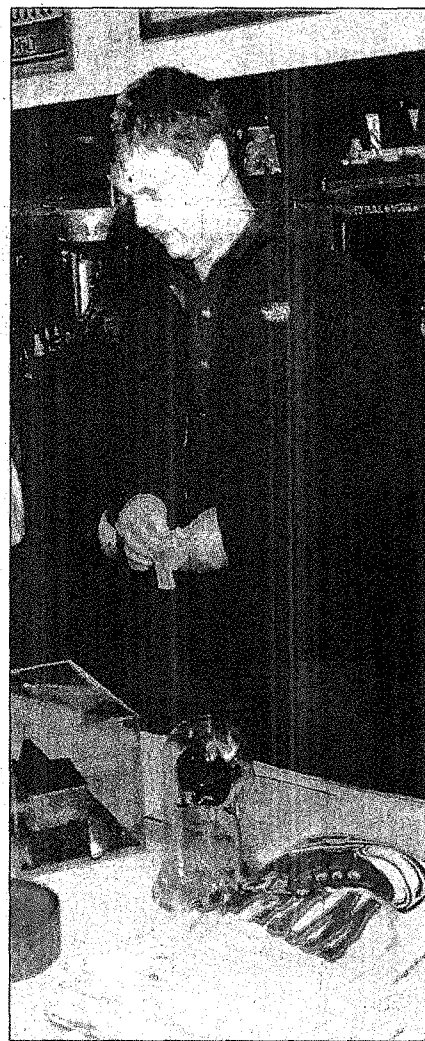


Among items sold were Wild's Walkers T-shirts.

Ice Arena.

"It'll go into the big pot we hand over at the Relay," Deputy Mayor Jade Smith said of the "Tips for a Cure" proceeds. The mayor's team, again called Wild's Walkers, has about 70 folks.

Wild noted the team has raised close to \$10,000 for the Relay each year,



Jeff Staebler buys raffle tickets for the silent auction that was held as part of the Wild Walkers' fund-raiser at Malarkey's.

challenging in this year's economy. "It touches everybody's family," he said of cancer. "It's something that's easy to rally around."

The American Cancer Society does good work and the Relay, which entails teams walking for 24 hours on a track, makes it fun, he added.

The Wild's Walkers also got a boost from the UAW when Councilman Bill Johnson presented Wild with a check at Monday evening's council meeting. "Mayor, you asked if we could do something for Relay for Life and this check for \$2,000 is from my members," Johnson said. Johnson is chair of UAW Local 900 in Wayne.

38 teams get ready for Relay for Life

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Organizers are putting the finishing touches on the annual Westland Relay for Life, a 24-hour event that they hope will raise more than \$100,000 for the American Cancer Society.

This is the 10th year the city has hosted the 24-hour event and chair Kelly Bates has a big goal.

"Every year, we've raised around \$100,000, I hope this year we hit the \$1 million mark," she said.

And with \$45,000 in donations already, Brang is confident the relay will hit its goal.

The event, the American Cancer Society's signature fund-raiser, runs from 10 a.m. Saturday through 10 a.m. Sunday at Jaycee Park, Wildwood at Hunter. Members of the 38 Relay

teams will set up camp around the park's walking path on Saturday and lace up their walking shoes to help raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

The teams have been fund raising in advance of the 24-hour event but also will sell a variety of items during the Relay which is promoted as a com-

Please see **RELAY, A2**

Registration opens for Salvation Army camp

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Summer day camp at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is a perfect mix of learning and plain old fun.

"Without the Salvation Army, there might not be an opportunity like this," said Andrew Barylski, director of community and youth ministries.

The camp, for children ages 6-12, will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 21 to Aug. 6, at the corps building on Venoy south of Palmer in Westland. Registration is under way, and families can stop by for more information or call Barylski at (734) 722-3660, ext. 110.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, there will be a parent/guardian orientation for all youngsters registered up to that date. There'll be a waiting list after that.

Families can do a week at a time or longer stints in the program. The cost is based on income.

According to Barylski, the camp entails a lot and includes field trips to Kensington Metropark's beach weekly along with the Detroit Science Center, Detroit Zoo, roller skating, bowling, canoeing and fishing. The four classes at the corps center will be music, Bible study, arts and crafts and gym.

There are no geographical restrictions, although families outside the service area pay a bit more.

"We get a lot of kids from Garden City and that's not in the service area," Barylski said.

There's space for 50 kids a week. Donations to support campers who have difficulty paying are also welcome, payable to the Salvation Army at 2300 Venoy, Westland MI 48186.

"It is a great time for the staff," he said. "We are really looking forward to day camp. It's just going to be an awesome summer."

Echoing those views is Capt. Derek Rose, Salvation Army corps commander with wife Joanna.

"We want to provide an opportunity for low-income families to have a safe environment for recreation, educational opportunities, health, nutrition and, I would say most importantly, a wholesome Christian environment to spend their days," Derek Rose said. "We definitely look at it as a ministry."

Town hall: Health care reform makes America stronger

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Township resident Adrienne Davis always listens intently to the day-to-day stories about the unemployed without health insurance.

Whether it is her friend, who is in her early 50s and in need of a knee replacement, or a young family who aren't taking their children to the doctor because of no insurance, Davis is interested.

Health care reform is important to this Plymouth-Canton school board member as it is to U.S. Congressman John Conyers, who spoke Saturday at a panel discussion held at Northwest UAW Local 163 in Westland.

Health care reform is a way to make America "better and stronger for everybody," said Conyers the keynote speaker.

On March 23, 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the first comprehensive health care reform law in the nation's history. By insuring 32 million Americans and reducing the national deficit by \$1 trillion, many say the historic legislation is the first step forward in making health care a right for all Americans, not an expensive privilege for some.

LAW CHANGES

The new health care law bars insurance companies from discriminating based on pre-existing conditions, health status and gender. It provides small businesses and working families with tax credits to help purchase insurance.

It strengthens Medicare and closes the prescription drug "doughnut hole." Many say that prescription drug coverage varies too greatly.

While industrialized countries have universal health care coverage, "We have been trying to get universal health care for 50 years," said Conyers, who is keeping "a health care horror story" file that he hopes to one day reduce. He wants to replace these stories with success stories on his web page.



Dave and Sue Wamsley of Garden City and Frankie Wamsley of Dearborn Heights listen to the discussion at the healthcare town hall meeting.

Conyers said that many people consider having a job more important than having health care. That bothers him.

They have told him, "I would rather have a job and be sick than to be well and not have a job." It's a crazy choice for anyone.

"Of course, you want both," Conyers said. "A job and health care are important for everyone."

He asked members of the audience how many people they knew who had to go into bankruptcy because of health care bills. Hands went up. Similarly, a majority of people who attended did have health care.

Conyers mentioned that Republicans, like Thaddeus McCotter, Candice Miller, Mike Rogers and Peter Hoekstra voted against health care reform and asked the bill opponents: "Granted, you don't like the bill that we are putting forward? What bill are you putting forward?"

"We voted, now everyone has to account for their votes," Conyers said.

He added that he would be

willing to debate health care reform with McCotter, who represents District 11, right in the same union hall.

"We want the American people to make up their own minds," Conyers said, adding that the public shouldn't be daunted by the more than 1,000 pages of the law. "All difficult things can be made simple. Everything can be translated. We're going to put this in plain English."

He considers health care a matter of right.

"You get the health care you need, regardless of who you are working for or if you don't have a job," Conyers said. "What is so complicated about that?"

Panel member Natalie Mosher, a Canton Township resident and a Democratic candidate in the 11th Congressional District, has experience as a public school teacher, mother, community volunteer and has been a nonprofit development director. She said that she and her husband interviewed people about their health care stories and put them on her website.

"You have to start somewhere," Mosher said. "We have a foundation that we can build upon."

She wants to make sure that every man, woman and child has coverage that is affordable and has nothing to do with any pre-existing conditions.

Extending health care to young adults to allow them to stay on their parent's health care plan until age 27 is also important to her.

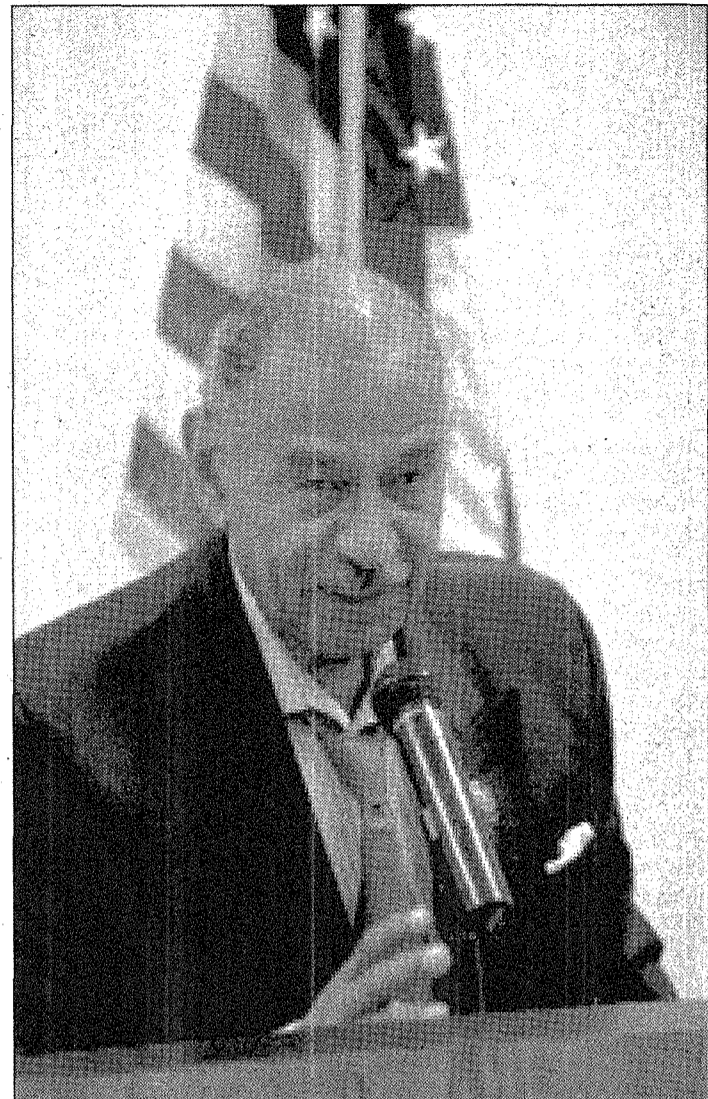
"Medical costs to individuals is off the chart," Mosher said.

CONYERS PRAISED

Isaac Robinson of Young Democrats of America complimented Conyers in the vernacular by calling him "a bad dude" because he helped to push through the health reform legislation.

The audience submitted questions and one asked if mental illness was covered in the new plan. The answer was that it is unclear.

Marjorie Mitchell of Michucan said that it was important that the coverage for



The keynote speaker at the town hall meeting was U.S. Rep. John Conyers Jr. of Detroit.

mental illnesses makes it into the benefits package.

"Those are our advocacy roles," she said.

The goal is to include that which wasn't covered before.

"You don't have to go to medical school to know that the mental and the physical are related," Conyers said.

Garrett Arwa, state director of Organizing for America, said that many seniors have concerns.

"They will not have their benefits reduced," Arwa said.

John Freeman, state director for Health Care for America Now, hopes that the new law will also help the home health care force and "professionalize" them.

"You allow people to be empowered by allowing them to stay in their home for a much longer period of time," Freeman said.

That prevents the more expensive 24-hour care in nursing homes.


Joanne Lamar, a Plymouth resident, credited Conyers for his "sensible view."

"He is a very sensible man," Lamar said.

In the end, Davis felt that the forum was beneficial because it provided still more personal stories for her to ponder.

"It resonates with me," Davis said.

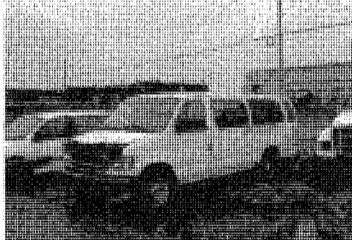
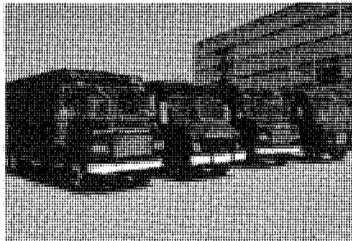
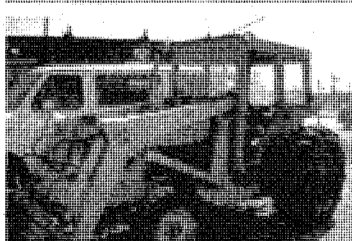
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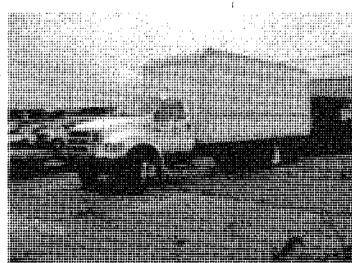
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Auction begins at 11 AM

Inventory Viewing
Monday, May 24, from 4 to 6 PM

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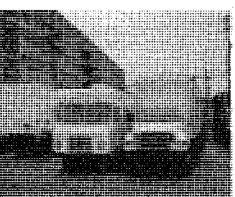
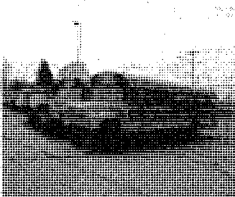
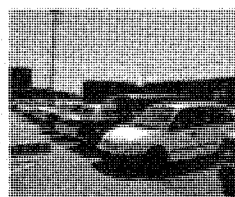
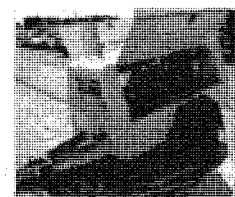


The second auction at
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[Inventory consist of over 25 School Buses]
Bidder registration starts at 2 PM
Auction begins at 3 PM

Inventory Viewing
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Payment for purchases made at both auctions must be made with Cash, Cashiers Check, Money Order or Company Check with Banks Letter of Guarantee.
NO Personal Checks, Debits or Charges accepted.
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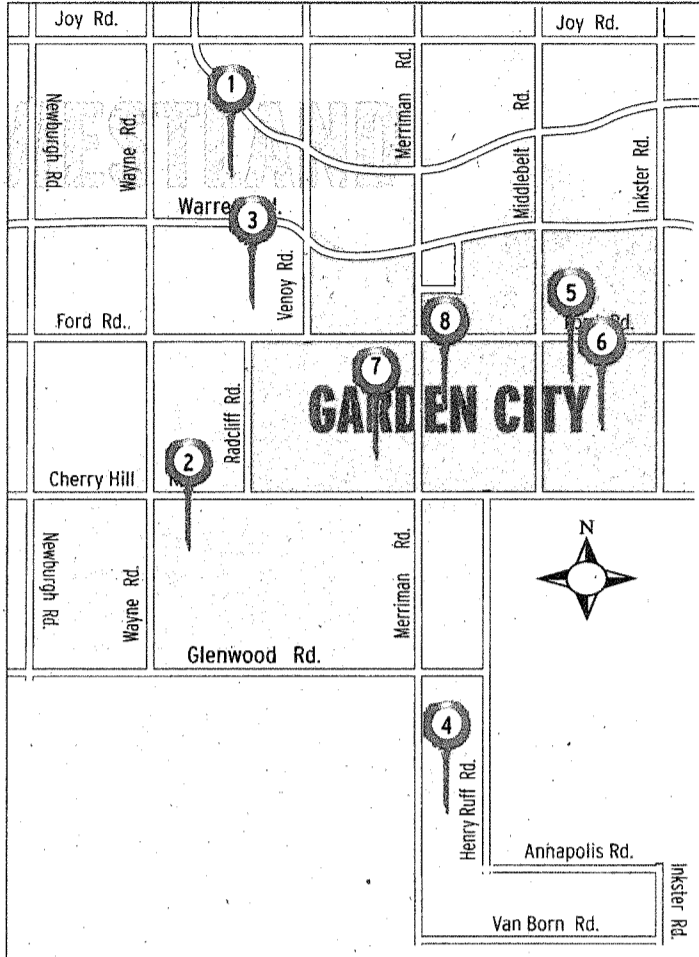
Arson damages truck's interior

Vandalism
1 A Bloomfield Township resident told police that sometime between May 14 and May 17 someone threw rocks at several windows of a building she owns at 35230 Central City Parkway. Damage was estimated at \$5,000.

Fraud
2 A Novi man discovered that a payroll check in a mailbox at his Plymouth business had been taken and cashed at a Westland party store. The man told police on May 17 he had placed an employee's check in the box on May 10 and that the check had been cashed at the Wayne Med Mart, 417 S. Wayne Road. He also said he has no idea who took the check.

Arson
3 A 2007 Ford F150 pickup on the lot at North Brothers Ford, 33300 Ford, was damaged May 14 when someone set the passenger seat on fire. The manager told police that a man wearing blue jeans and a blue parka and glasses was seen in the lot and hanging around the business, "acting strange." He was carrying a pop bottle containing a yellow substance, quite possibly gasoline, he said. The suspect was asked to leave the business after he set off the car alarms in the new car department and when he left, he walked through the lot near where the pickup truck was parked. There were no witness nor a video of the suspect.

Vandalism
4 Police are checking on at Metro PCS store at 4683 S. Merriman after the business



owner found the front door and window damaged and tampering with the rear door. The man told police that he had locked the business up on May 16 at 7 p.m. and when he returned on May 17 he found that someone had thrown rocks had been used to damage the window and door. The rear door had been stabbed with an unknown object and one of the hinges had been tampered with. Damage was set at \$1,500.

Hit-and-run accident
 A Wayne resident told police that his car was hit by another vehicle while he was westbound on Van Born from

Middlebelt May 17. The man said he had slowed down for a vehicle that was in front of him when he was hit in the rear by another car that then fled west on Van Born. The driver and his passenger were able to get the license plate number of the vehicle, but could not describe the driver.

Vandalism
 A resident in the 39000 block of Nottingham told police that sometime between 1 a.m. and noon May 17 someone threw a piece of concrete through the windshield of her automobile. Damage was set at \$200.

Man arrested in altercation at medical clinic

Disorderly person
5 Garden City police arrested a 23-year-old Dearborn Heights man about 1 p.m. May 16 for disorderly conduct at a medical clinic.

The man became irate when an employee at the Garden City Medical Clinic, at Middlebelt and Pardo, told the man that he couldn't speak to his ex-girlfriend who works there. The employee told police that the man has a habit of continually calling the clinic to speak to the woman.

Outraged that he was unable to talk to his ex-girlfriend, the man who was en route to the office, sped up to more than 80 mph to get there, according to his friend who was a passenger in the vehicle. The passenger said that the driver "acted crazy" on northbound Harrison from Cherry Hill.

Driving westbound on Pardo, he again accelerated to more than 80 mph, losing control of his 1997 Ford Explorer which spun out of control and jumped the curb on the north side of the building. He struck the building before coming to rest in front of the door on Pardo.

When another female employee heard the crash and saw his vehicle, she locked the front door. The man, however, jumped through the front window of the business. He forced his way in to the office and through an interior door. The woman, who answered the man's call, yelled that she was calling the police and managed to get away by leaving through the rear door.

The man might have caught up to the woman, but he fell in the parking lot, she said. When the police arrived, the paramedics were trying to treat the man who was lying in

the parking lot bleeding from his head, hands and arms. He was uncooperative. The police tried to handcuff the man who tried to pull away and get up.

After he was handcuffed, the police officer discovered that he, too, was bleeding from his hand. His glove was torn and his finger knuckles were bloody. Both men were taken to Garden City Hospital and treated and tested for HIV because their blood mixed. No HIV was detected. Because the hospital staff sedated the man with a variety of medications, he couldn't have his blood drawn to see if he was also drunk.

Tampering with a vehicle
6 A woman in the 1580 block of Harrison reported that someone took her floor mat and car registration from her 1997 Pontiac on May 14.

She said that another car that she owns, a 1998 Dodge, also had been searched but nothing was stolen. She said that she usually doesn't lock her cars because she doesn't keep anything of value inside of them.

Drunken driver
7 The police arrested a 22-year-old Garden City woman at her house May 13 in the 31400 block of Leona. They found her slumped over the steering wheel of the car parked in front of her house.

She registered a .12 on the preliminary breath test. Her friend, who was seated in the passenger side, said that they had just been "hanging out."

Stolen auto
 Someone stole a 1991 Cadillac DeVille owned by a 46-year-old Detroit man that was parked in an assigned parking space at an apartment complex in the 31200 block of Krauter May 16.

Attempted auto theft
 Someone tried to steal a 1986 Cadillac that was parked at Beechwood and Brandt May 15. The driver's side window was smashed, the ignition was damaged and the radio was stolen.

Fraud
8 A woman who lives in the 30700 block of Barton reported that someone fraudulently opened a new telephone account in her name last year. She began to receive communication from a collection agency contracted by AT&T. The account was opened in August 2009 to someone who lives on Donnelly Street. She said that the AT&T wouldn't provide her with more information.

Larceny
 A Garden City man reported that a hunting knife and a bag containing \$30 in coins were taken from his 2009 Nissan on May 16. He left his vehicle unlocked.

Theft
 A Garden City woman reported May 10 that someone stole her Blackberry Curve, a GPS unit and two pairs of expensive sunglasses from her vehicle which was parked in the rear yard of her home in the 30900 block of Rosslyn May 10.

Someone stole a purse placed in the front passenger seat of a 2001 Pontiac which was parked May 16 at John Hawk and Brandt. The police officer found two, four-inch long stripes which were spray painted in pink on the door which also had scratches.

A GPS unit was stolen from a 2001 Pontiac Aztec May 16 which was parked in the 29500 block of Winter Drive. The driver's side door, would no longer open properly after the incident, according to the police report.

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OUR VIEWS

Relay for Life: Time to get involved

There's still time to support the American Cancer Society by participating in the local Relay for Life event, taking place 10 a.m. Saturday, May 22, to 10 a.m. Sunday, May 23, in Westland.

Each year, hundreds of people gather with their teams at Jaycee Park, where they set up tents and attractions with everything from games for the kids, to refreshment stands and goodie tables.

While there's plenty to do and see off the track, the most important part is being conducted on the track itself. You see, it's where team members take turns walking laps — for 24 hours, nonstop. The continual walking is in recognition that cancer never sleeps.

Celebrate, remember and fight back are themes that link the Westland Relay for Life with relay events around the world. The Relay for Life is chance for people to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. It also is the American Cancer Society's signature event, dedicated to increasing awareness and raising funds to fight cancer.

Participants celebrate with the Survivors Lap, an inspirational time when survivors are invited to circle the track together and celebrate the victories achieved over cancer. The Luminaria Ceremony after dark honors people who have been touched by cancer and remembers loved ones lost to the disease. And at the Fight Back Ceremony, participants make a personal commitment to save lives by taking up the fight against cancer.

Each team member raises money for to help further the fight against cancer. Last year, 33 teams raised nearly \$100,000 for the American Cancer Society during the Westland Relay for Life.

The Westland Relay is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year and has been expanded to include the City of Wayne. The goal is to have 40 teams set up camp around the park's walking path. We hope organizers reach their goal.

If you're not on a team, that's OK. There is still time to get involved in this important fund-raiser in the community. Community members can join the movement for a world with less cancer and more birthdays by making donations to the Westland Relay for Life event by visiting www.relayforlife.org.

People also can stop by to encourage the teams through their 24-hour journey. It's a worthwhile effort that brings comfort to those affected by cancer. And who knows, this Relay could be the turning point in beating cancer.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

A sampling of what our online readers are saying about:

Teachers' early retirement

The only incentive the teachers should have needed would be to know that retiring would be helping the district. \$30,000 no matter how long the district takes to pay them is a bit excessive. When the custodians got privatized, any money they went after, there were board members that called them extortionists and two of them are on the board right now.

bolognasandwich

Council's vote on skate park

Personally, I think it's very sad that sooooooo many people showed up to fight for a skate park when there was NOBODY at the School Board Meeting to fight for employees for their kids education. It'll be great to have a skate park while we have hundreds of houses empty from families losing their jobs. Let's shut down the pool, demolish the log cabin, drive on parking lots that will bottom out our cars so the kids can find another place to smoke and hang out without parent supervision. How many parents that were at that meeting actually plan to go to that skate park with their kids to supervise them or use it to actually spend quality time with them? I for one will have to be working a second job to get my kid a car to drive to school and back since there will be no transportation for the high school next year.

GCGranna

WESTLAND OBSERVER



Sue Mason
Community Editor

Susan Rosiek
Executive Editor / Publisher

Grace Perry
Director of Advertising

COMMUNITY VOICE

What do you think about the proposal to drop Saturday mail delivery?

We asked this question at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City.



"I think they should stop to save the post office money and then they wouldn't have to up the postage. It would also give postal workers a weekend off like normal people."

Irene Gaylord
Canton



"It doesn't matter to me, but I don't want it to stop all together. I go to the post office."

Janet Watson
Garden City



"They can drop Saturday delivery because that way, if I go away, I don't have to worry about the mail being in the box."

Regina Iwata
Livonia



"They dropped the paper to three days a week, so it wouldn't make a lot of difference."

Carol Whitt
Garden City

LETTERS

Keep it simple

Now that the state Legislature has finally made a decision on the retirement benefits for public school teachers and state employees, the public and political leaders should now move on to the next logical step: Follow the Hawaii example and have one statewide school system.

Our state Constitution already specifically provides the state government with the responsibility for public K-12 schools. When voters adopted Proposal A tax reform constitutional amendment in the 1990s, it was a first step in having a uniform financial system for all the public schools in the state. At the same time, state and federal laws have essentially standardized (or should be "federalized") public school curriculum and graduation standards.

What's left for the local school boards and administrators to do? Not much. Local officials have little control over anything — especially curriculum and finances.

Under a single state school system, there would be one teachers' union contract with changes made for different costs of living in different sections of the state. Regional administrators would be retained to carry out policies and regulations and — thankfully — there would be an end of endless school property tax elections.

One clear economic benefit would be an end to local teachers' unions using whip-saw tactics to pressure local school boards into approving salary or fringe benefit increases to "keep up" with neighboring districts.

At the same time, there are also too many small districts, particularly in suburbs near urban centers that have enrollments smaller than some individual high schools in nearby communities. What an example of inefficiency!

It doesn't make any economic or political sense in continuing to have more than 500 local school districts thinking they have any authority or control over local educational decisions. It's a political fiction that has been carried on by local districts for too long.

The constitution gives the Legislature full authority over public education but it hasn't exercised that authority until the last few years. Now is the time to think about a change and eliminate these senseless boundaries.

Leonard Poger
Westland

Support Right To Repair

On behalf of more than 5.5 million citizen-activists nationwide, the 60 Plus Association asks Congress to support the passage of H.R. 2057/S.3181, the "Motor Vehicle Owners' Right To Repair Act."

The Right To Repair Act is a good piece of bipartisan legislation that requires automakers to provide the same service information, safety alerts and tools to independent auto repair shops, as well as to consumers, that the auto-maker dealership service centers receive. This bill would increase competition in the auto repair industry in the United States which we believe would benefit senior consumers.

Opponents of this legislation don't give consumers, especially seniors, credit. They are savvy enough to shop and compare. Competition keeps rates down and keeps companies on their toes — answering to consumers on technology, service and price. As for the property rights concerns cited by the car companies, the bill states that their trade secrets and proprietary information will be protected.

This legislation, which has attracted supporters on both sides of the aisle, is good for seniors and all consumers. Times, technologies and service providers have changed, and now Congress

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

Submit letters via the following formats.
Web: www.hometownlife.com
E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com
Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.
Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

needs to change the law so that all auto repair facilities can fairly compete for seniors' business. Please visit www.righttorepair.org to send a message in support of the Right To Repair Act to your congressional representatives.

Jim Martin
chairman
60 Plus

Put phone down

How many people have died from texting and driving accidents compared to, say, fires, cancer, and other hazardous things?

The number of deaths is rising in these easily preventable car crashes, and we need to take even more precautions and stop the taking of innocent lives.

Texting and driving has become a major issue in the newer generations. Recently two innocent lives were taken, one of a Plymouth high school student, and another of a John Glenn senior. Lance McKay was killed on Michigan Avenue, after his car ran out of gas, and was hit by a woman texting and driving, while pushing his car in pursuit of fuel.

Why are we allowing these careless drivers to flood our streets and roads when we have the voice to prevent it? We are losing our future generations, and allowing the others to grow up on a corrupt way of thinking that distracted driving is OK.

Lance McKay was planning on graduating and starting the rest of his life, but now it is all gone because one person couldn't wait to answer an insignificant text. Is your life worth a text message? Are you willing to risk your best friend's, your parent's, your wife or husband's, your role models, or your children's lives just to answer that one text? If you are willing to give up your life for, "OMG NO WAY!!" or "hey, what's up?" then risk your life on your own time, but stop for those innocent victims.

I want you to support the ban on texting and driving and help making this into a set in stone law. I want you to take the first step in helping me, and just put the phone down.

Tess Laurentius
Canton

Postal problems

"For 44 cents, they'll take something that you wrote, stick it on a plane and fly it across the country," *The Daily Show's* Jon Stewart said in response to a Utah senator's fear that government involvement in health care would make the doctor's office more like the post office.

Many armchair mailmen have been coming up with solutions to the postal service's (government agency, not musical group) fiscal woes. Some have suggested dropping Saturday delivery, a multi-tiered wage structure similar

to autoworkers, wholesale cuts in spending, or even the closing of branches. Most of the suggestions that require the nation's oldest government corporation to tighten the strap on its messenger bag say that the USPS should be run more like a business; that in tough times businesses have to cut back.

True champions of industry will advocate the exact opposite, the perfect time to reinvest and expand are when times are toughest.

With e-mails, e-bills, and even spam (a.k.a. junk mail) flooding America's inboxes, the amount of substance in traditional mailboxes seems to be dwindling. The USPS can use this opportunity to enter the business of sending those e-mails; perhaps opening their own e-mail site offering something all other e-mail providers don't, complete security of information.

All e-mail providers subsidize their operations by selling the information their patrons send via e-mail to advertisers so that the advertisers may target those users with ads geared toward what they talk about in e-mails.

The postal service should also take this time to shift its core business away from letters and towards packages, to compete directly with UPS and FedEx.

The two largest private parcel carriers have also begun entering the field of logistics, working with large companies to help them manage shipping of mass quantities of finished goods. These businesses take advantages of economies of scale not possible when each piece of mail has to be directed to a particular place, instead devoting a whole truck or railcar to a destination.

UPS has been in this profitable business, which the industry calls Less than Truck Load (LTL), since 2006.

The post office would have a built-in advantage in this arena because of the agency's extensive national footprint and scale of its operations.

Andrew Justus
Plymouth

Adoption warning

People who "want to be parents" and adopt children out of the country are taking many chances. Why not adopt in America?

A new parent should adopt a baby and not a child who has been institutionalized most of his or her childhood. You must ask what the child's life was like before they were orphaned.

I was institutionalized for the first seven years of my life. I was not able to be adopted because my mother paid room and board for me and hoped some day her life would change for the better, so she could take me with her.

The orphanage was run in a military style with a strict program in order to handle the many children, who did not get individual attention unless they misbehaved. For discipline, we were locked in a room and left to rage until we calmed down. We were never hit or whipped.

After hearing the news about the boy from Russia, I don't believe things have changed. The news media has made the new mother the abuser. That boy retaliated because he wanted to go back to the orphanage he understood. The child was not raised in a traditional family and there were no professionals to help during the adjustment period.

I write this letter because I experienced it as a 7-year-old girl. I didn't live with my mother and her short visits left me in tears. Then, when I moved in with her and my stepfather, it was worse because of many problems and lack of understanding.

Mary Elizabeth
Redford

Pink warriors will walk, run, race for cure Saturday

More than 30,000 people of all ages are expected to gather Saturday at Comerica Park for the 19th annual Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure®.

Some 10,000 pink ribbons and 240 large, pink street banners will line Woodward Avenue and around Comerica Park to greet supporters, honor loved ones and celebrate survivors who are walking or running in Michigan's largest foot race.

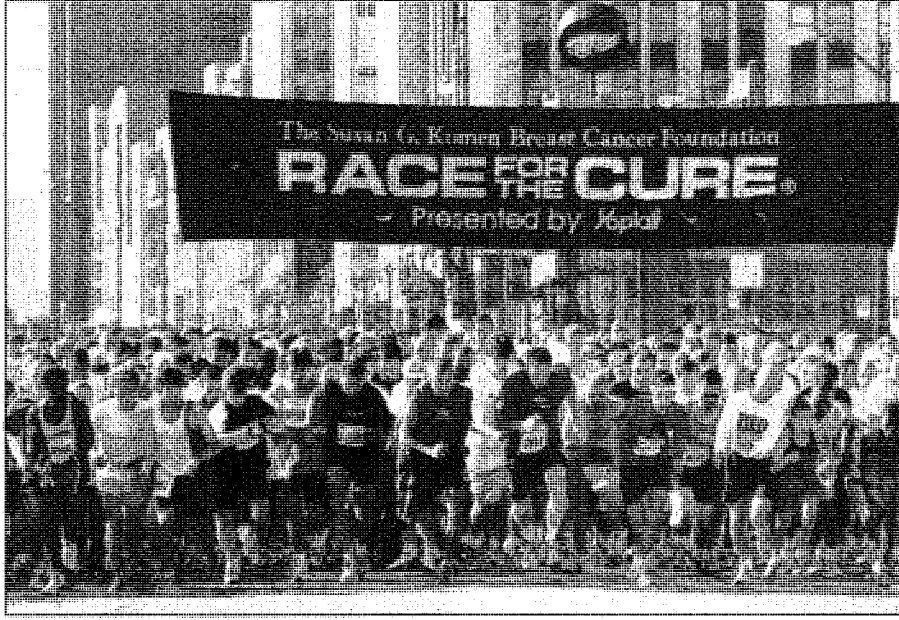
Metro Detroiters continue to demonstrate that even in the most challenging of times, their generosity and support for others is heartfelt and unwavering, say organizers of the event.

More than 30,000 participants and 100-plus local sponsors and underwriters will take part in the race.

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute has been the local presenting sponsor of the Komen Detroit Race for the Cure® for the past 18 years.

The community has rallied the support of family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to raise \$2 million in 2009 alone in the fight against breast cancer, according to event organizers.

As a result, \$1.5 million funded breast health education, breast cancer screening and treatment programs in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb



More than 30,000 participants and 100-plus local sponsors and underwriters will participate in the 19th annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Detroit Saturday.

counties, allowing the uninsured and underinsured to receive the needed services they might not otherwise get.

Every three minutes, a woman in the United States is diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,000 women will die from breast cancer this year alone.

There is something for participants of all ages at the Race. Bands and entertainment groups will perform for the walkers and runners, a variety of sponsors will have giveaways and offer exciting interactive activities. A children's activity area will be available.

Street closure begins at 7 a.m. Sponsor booths open at 8 a.m. and opening ceremonies begin at 9 a.m. Closing ceremony and awards presentations take place 10:30-11:30 a.m.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Participants can register online through midnight (ET) tonight (May 20). Register at www.karmanos.org/detroitracefortheure. Registration fees range from \$15-\$35 prior to Race day.

You can also register at several locations around metro Detroit and on-site Race day, from 7-8:45 a.m. Fees will

be \$20-\$40 on Race day. Children age 5 and under are free but must be registered to participate.

There is still a need for volunteers to help with Race duties. View volunteer opportunities at www.karmanos.org/detroitracefortheure/volunteers.asp.

Donations of all amounts are appreciated. Details at: www.karmanos.org/detroitracefortheure/friendsfortheure. or stop by the Friends for the Cure® booth on Race Day.

For more information go to www.karmanos.org and click the Race for the Cure® icon or call (800) KARMANOS, (800) 527-6266, and ask for the Komen Detroit Race for the Cure®.

Cure, has invested more than \$1.5 billion to fulfill the promise, becoming the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world.

For more information about Susan G. Komen for the Cure, breast health or breast cancer, visit www.komen.org or call (877) GO KOMEN.

RESEARCH, PATIENT CARE

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, based in Detroit, is one of 40 National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer centers in the United States. Caring for nearly 6,000 new patients annually and conducting more than 700 cancer-specific scientific investigations programs and clinical trials, the Karmanos Cancer Institute is among the nation's best cancer centers.

To learn more about the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, its activities, or how you can get involved, visit www.karmanos.org or call (800) KARMANOS.

The Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure®, locally presented by the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, is supported by national and local sponsors. The National Presenting Sponsor of the Race series is YoPlait.

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THURSDAY
May 20,
2010

SECTION B
(WL)

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

See films on the big screen outdoors, B5

SPORTS, BUSINESS, ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD

HOMETOWN LIFE

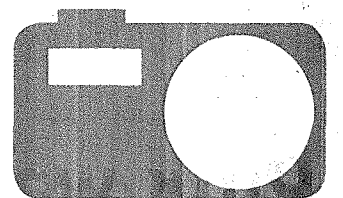


Photo galleries

Online at hometownlife.com



Members of the state-ranked Stevenson baseball team take rights to the traveling job and celebrate their Livonia City baseball tourney title Saturday at Ford Field.

Comeback kids

Late Stevenson rally yields Livonia City title

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Winning the Livonia City Tournament was Priority No. 1 for the Stevenson baseball team.

The state-ranked Spartans, despite being in the midst of a three-way chase for first place in the KLAA's Central Division, put all their eggs in one basket Saturday at Ford Field.

And it couldn't have worked

out any better as Stevenson rallied to stun Churchill in the championship game, 5-4, in eight innings, after beating Franklin in a six-inning mercy in the first semifinal, 12-2.

"When you coach in Livonia, you can be in a division race, but to the players and the City of Livonia, the City Tournament is the be all, end all of what they want to win," said Stevenson coach Rick Berryman, whose team improved to 22-4 overall.

"Obviously we threw (Jeff) Sorenson the first game to get by Franklin. We can't win the KLAA. We can tie for first, but we couldn't win the tie-breaker.

"We met as a team, and the team decided this was our strategy. We decided we'd go for this. We could have saved Jeff for Monday (vs. Franklin again) and guarantee a tie. They wanted this and that's what they did."

Stevenson trailed 4-1 going

into the bottom of the sixth, but rallied for two runs thanks to a pair of costly Churchill errors with two outs to cut the deficit to 4-3.

In the seventh, Dan Lopez doubled and went to third on Tyler Lynch's infield single. He then scored when the Chargers turned a double play to send the game into extra innings.

Stevenson won it in the eighth on a lead-off double by

Please see **BASEBALL, B3**

Crusaders open with 8-5 victory

Pitcher Jeremy Gooding improved to 10-1 overall as the 10th-ranked Madonna University baseball team opened NAIA Region action Tuesday with an 8-5 win over No. 15 College of Idaho at Totman Stadium in Riverside, Calif.

Gooding, a Livonia native from Dearborn Divine Child High, went 8.1 innings, allowing five earned runs on seven hits. He struck out eight and walked one.

He held College of Idaho (37-15) scoreless through seven innings before giving up a run in the top of the eighth and four more in the ninth.

Reliever Andy Omilian came on to get the final two outs for the Crusaders, who improved to 47-9 overall.

MU collected a total of 11 hits led by Dan Harder's 3-for-4 effort.

Ted Toune and Jeff Bultinck each drove in a pair of runs, while Billy Hardin III, Zach Flavin, Brad Lineberry and Drew Fry added one RBI apiece.

Jye Lanphere went 2-for-4 with three RBI for College of Idaho.

Losing pitcher Ben Rosen (10-3) was roughed up for eight runs (five earned) on 10 hits in five innings.

MU resumes action in the five-team regional beginning at noon (PST) Wednesday to face host California Baptist (46-13), which also advanced with a 6-1 win over Vanguard (Calif.).

COLLEGE
BASEBALL

SIDELINES

MU's Quitiquit 2nd

The Madonna University men's golf team finished Tuesday's opening round of the NAIA National Championships at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Ill., with a team score of 304.

Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference individual medalist Brett Quitiquit (Highland) led the way for the Crusaders turning in a 3-under round of 68, good enough for second place overall.

The Milford High grad caught fire in the back nine, making four birdies on last seven holes to get back to under par after three straight bogies at holes nine, 10 and 11.

The Oakland University transfer is just one stroke behind tournament leader Axel Ochoa of Oklahoma Christian University, who shot a 4-under 67.

Other MU scorers included James Uelman, 78; Livonia Churchill's Tommy Lucko and Nick Sears, 79 each; and Livonia Franklin's Steve South (Westland), 81.

"We go the opening round jitters out of the way, scoring conditions were very good in the morning round and Brett (Quitiquit) took advantage of them and made seven birdies," MU coach Steve Mato said. "We started to settle into our game and expect to play well tomorrow."

MU, among 25 teams in the field, needs to finish in the top 17 after Day Two to make the cut.

Proben shoots 73

Schoolcraft College's Josh Proben (Livonia Churchill) was tied for 19th with a 1-over par 73 after the opening round of play Tuesday NJCAA Division II National Tournament held at Palm Valley Golf Course in Goodyear, Ariz.

Taylor Welborn of Darton (Ga.) College led after the first day with a 4-under 68.

Spartan 5K Run

The Spartans 5-kilometer and 1-mile run-walk will be at 9 a.m. Sunday, May 23, at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile, Livonia.

All proceeds will go to the Stevenson Booster Club.

Packet pickup and on-site registration begins at 8 a.m. Late registration cost is \$20 for the 1-mile run-walk and \$25 for the 5K run-walk.

For more information, call Lori at (248) 442-9234 or Jeff at (734) 748-4909.

You can also visit www.livoniapublicschools.org/Stevenson for a course map, or to download a registration form.

Wilson's bat keys victory for Spartans

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The third time proved to be a charm for the Stevenson girls softball team.

The Spartans, who lost in two previous encounters with rival Churchill, captured the Public Schools of Livonia Invitational title Saturday at Ford Field with 5-0 victory over the rival Chargers.

Catcher Shelbie Wilson was the offensive catalyst, while pitcher Jacqueline Johnson threw a 4-hit shutout as the Spartans improved to 19-10 overall.

After Churchill starter Natalie Hiser mowed down Stevenson through the first three innings, the Spartans got

Please see **SOFTBALL, B3**

Sister act shows plenty of promise

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Three's Company as sisters Merrill, Bayne and Scout Froney of Livonia will be on display Saturday and Sunday at the Livonia Community Recreation Center in the North Zone Region B Synchronized Swim Championships.

Over 100 athletes from three different states — Michigan, Indiana and Illinois — will compete in the two-day event.

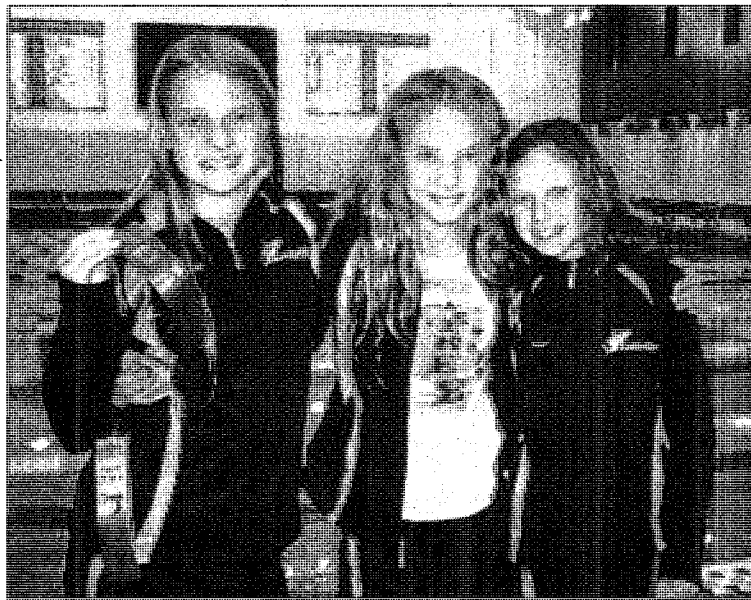
The Froney trio — representing the Troy Synchro Sharkettes club team — features 12-year-old Merrill, a seventh-grader at Holmes Middle School; Bayne, 11, a sixth-grader at Riley Upper Elementary; and Scout, 9, a fourth-grader at Webster Elementary.

Last year, the sisters competed in the ESynchro US Age Group Championships in Gainesville, Fla. They are coached by Livonia's Erin O'Brien.

"They are phenomenal, up-and-coming athletes," O'Brien said. "Their future in synchro is quite promising. They're very competitive, very driven and strive to improve at every practice. They best way to describe them is that they're extremely focused."

This year, the sisters will compete on different teams and routines.

Merrill's "Love" team (ages 13-15) includes Abby Green, Katie Ward and Carlie Zitikus, who earned gold at the Michigan



The Froney sisters of Livonia (from left), Merrill, Bayne and Scout, will compete Saturday and Sunday for the Troy Sharkettes in the North Zone Region B Synchronized Swimming Championships at the Livonia Community Recreation Center.

Association Synchronized Swimming Championships.

Bayne and Scout's "Chicago" duet (11-12) placed first as well along with Jenna Gaiownik. Bayne also earned a first in figures (11-12), while Scout (10-and-under) won solo at the Michigan Association meet.

The girls were introduced to synchronized swimming while living in Shanghai, China. They swam for the recreational Emerald Gemas, a team of 10 expatriate girls from the U.S., Canada and Colombia (coached by

American Debbie McDonald).

After moving back to Livonia they continued their synchronized with the Sharkettes. They also swim for the Livonia Community Swim Club team coached by Joe Bublitz.

In between the two sports they are in the pool 12 hours per week, and as the T-shirt says: "Chlorine is their perfume."

The competition starts at 8:30 a.m. each day and admission is \$3 each day.

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Autism Society and AMC offer 'Shrek' screening

AMC Entertainment (AMC) and the Autism Society have teamed up to bring families affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis. Sensory Friendly Films will continue this month with a showing of *Shrek Forever After* at 10 a.m. May 22. AMC Livonia 20 is located at 19500 Haggerty, Livonia.

Autism is a complex neurodevelopmental disability that affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. It often comes with sensory challenges, such as hypersensitivity to light or sound, and children or adults affected by autism may not understand the social boundaries of movie theatre etiquette, such as not talking during the film or sitting

still through most of the show.

In order to provide a more accepting and comfortable setting for children with autism or other special needs, AMC movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing — in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event.

For more information about sensory films, visit www.autism-society.org/sensoryfilms.



Chamber Music Society of Detroit Concert

The Parker Quartet will perform as part of the Chamber Music Society of Detroit concerts at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 22. The concert will be held at the Seligman Performing Arts Center located at 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills. Contact the Chamber Music Society of Detroit Ticket Service at (248) 855-6070 or online at www.comehearcmsd.org for more information.

LOCAL CONCERTS

The Ark

Time/Date: May Erlewine and Samuel Seth Bernard, May 20; Suzy Bogguss, May 21; Eilen Jewell, May 22; Dala, May 23; Matt Andersen, May 25; Diane Birch, May 27; Gaelic Storm, May 29
Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

Detroit Institute of Arts

Time/Date: Friday Night Live concerts, 7 and 8:30 p.m.
Location: 5200 Woodward Ave
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

Magic Bag

Time/Dates: The English Beat, May 20; The Mega 80's, May 21 and June 5; The High Strung CD release party, May 22; Members of Morphine, May 28; MacPodz, June 6; The Original Wailers, June 9

Location: 22920 Woodward, Ferndale

Contact: (248) 544-3030, www.themagicbag.com

Music Hall

Time/Date: Hatian Benefit CD release party, May 20; Tim Reeves, May 21-22, \$5; Music Hall Star Search Finals, May 27
Location: 350 Madison Ave., Detroit

Details: Jazz Cafe performances
Contact: (313) 887-8500

Trinity House Theater

Time/Date: Bill Mallonee, May 21; Open Land with Jessica Ripka, May 22; Sweethearts of the Yellowroom Gang featuring Kitty Donohoe, Annie Capps, Jill Jack and Allison Downey, June 4; Wayward Roots, June 5; Jennie DeVoe, June 11; Chris Trapper with Billy King, June 12
Location: 38840 West Six Mile, Livonia
Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org

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Hear duets, ensemble piano music at Livonia concert

The Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum will present a "Monster Concert" of multiple pianos and piano players at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 23 at the William M. Costick Activities Center, 28600 11 Mile, in Farmington Hills.

The concert will feature piano duet and ensemble music performed on 11 Steinway grand pianos at one time. More than 160 students from beginning to advanced levels of musicianship will participate. These students represent

the studios of 17 teachers from communities in the surrounding area. Concert proceeds will be used to support scholarship opportunities provided by the Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum.

The Livonia Area Piano Teachers Forum is affiliated with the Michigan Music Teachers Association and the Music Teachers National Association. Active in the community for more than 35 years, it promotes growth and pro-

fessionalism in the private music teaching business, and provides members' students with performance, competition and scholarship opportunities.

For more information about the organization, visit the Web site at www.laptf.com.

Pianos for the event will be provided by the Steinway Piano Gallery of Detroit; these pianos will be offered for sale. For more information piano sales, contact Steinway at (248) 560-9200.

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ENTERTAINMENT

See films on the big screen outdoors

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Pack the cooler, dress the kids in their pajamas, add the family dog and head to the drive-in this weekend. Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township starts its summer season with a sneak preview May 21 and 22, and May 28-30. Its grand opening is Friday, June 11, when it begins showing films daily through Sunday, Sept. 5.

"There is something going on here all the time. The fun never stops," said Peter Krupsky, director of communications and community relations for Compuware Arena. "We like what we're doing. It's really family friendly."

The larger lot at the theater can accommodate approximately 250 cars. The smaller lot can include 100-150, Krupsky said. "We're finding that the people who come out to the drive-in are as passionate as people are about the Plymouth Whalers," Krupsky noted, referring to the local hockey team associated with the arena. "It's a different vibe but similar in that it's family fun. We're just doing it in a different way."

Krupsky said the outdoor theater will be easy on the wallet this summer, too. Regular admission is \$7 for adults, Sunday-Thursday, \$5 for kids, 4-12, and free for kids, 3 and under, everyday. Adults pay \$9 Friday-Saturday.

"We'll have some entertainment stretchers for families," Krupsky added. That includes "pack your car" Mondays with admission set at \$15 per car for a maximum eight individuals; two-for-one tickets and \$2 concession value meals on Tuesdays, \$5 pizza and \$5 tickets on Wednesdays and \$2 burgers at CJ's, the restaurant at Compuware Arena, on Sundays. Cash or checks only are accepted.

"We've had the theatre in different forms the last six or seven years, but it's been about three years that we've really concentrated on it. We're looking forward to this season."

Theater management earlier this week hadn't decided which films would run during the sneak preview. Call the hotline at (734) 927-3284 for titles.

The drive-in is located at 14900 Beck, north of M-14, in Plymouth Township. Gates open at 7:30 p.m.



and movies start at dusk. www.compuwarearena.com

WAYNE, OAKLAND DRIVE-INS

• The Silverdome Drive-in runs double features through Sept. 17, at 1200 Featherstone Road, north of M-59 and west of I-75 in Pontiac.

Gates Open at 7:30 p.m. and the movies begin at dusk. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for students with ID, \$5 for children, age 4-12 and free for children, 3 and under. Double

features today, Thursday, May 20 are *Robin Hood* and *The Back-up Plan*; *Iron Man 2* and *Clash of the Titans*; *The Losers* and *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. New films start Friday. For more information see www.silverdomedrivein.com

• Ford-Wyoming Drive-in runs double features through Sept. 15 at 10400 Ford Road, at Wyoming, in Dearborn. Double features today, Thursday, May 20 are *Just Wright* and *Date Night*, *Robin Hood* and

Repo Men, *Iron Man 2* with *The Back-up Plan*, *A Nightmare on Elm Street* and *The Losers*, *Death at a Funeral* and *Kick Ass*. New films start Friday. Cost is \$8.50 for adults, \$3 for children, 12-6, and free for children, 5 and under. Call (313) 846-6910 or visit www.fordwyomingdrivein.com for more information.

STATEWIDE

Vacationing in Michigan this sum-

mer? Here's a sampling of drive-ins around the state:

- Flint: The New US 23 Drive-in, 5200 Fenton, (810) 238-0751.
- Muskegon: Getty Drive-in, 920 Summit Ave, (231) 798-2608.
- Honor: The Cherry Bowl Drive-in, 9812 Honor Highway; (231) 325-3413.
- Coldwater: Capri Drive-in: 119 W. Chicago Road; (517) 278-5628; check its website, www.capridrivein.com for hotel packages and other events.

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MARK ADAMS, THE SUNDAY MORNING NEWS

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FROM HOLLY SCOTT, DIRECTOR OF 'GLADIATOR'

ROBIN HOOD

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SCREENPLAY BY CHARLES LE GRASSIE AND BRIAN KOPPELMAN DIRECTED BY HOLLY SCOTT

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SCREENPLAY BY CHARLES LE GRASSIE AND BRIAN KOPPELMAN DIRECTED BY HOLLY SCOTT

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RELATIVITY MEDIA

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DREAMWORKS

SHREK THE FINAL CHAPTER

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RELIGION CALENDAR

JUNE 10-16

Faith Community Church
Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, June 12
Location: 14560 Merriman, Livonia
Details: Outdoor sale; spots for rent. The church will supply the area and vendors supply "the stuff" to sell. Cost is \$10 for a 12-foot by 12-foot spot. All proceeds support the Vacation Bible School program at the church
Contact: (313) 541-0396 or (313) 255-9717

St. Anne Church
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, June 11 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 12
Location: 38100 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Rummage sale
Contact: (734) 462-3200

St. Dunstan
Time/Date: Doors open at 6 p.m., silent auction starts at 6:30 p.m., starts at 6 p.m., June 11
Location: 1526 Belton, Garden City
Details: "Slide into summer" silent auction with fellowship, food and fun; tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Ticket price includes buffet dinner
Contact: (734) 425-6720

Unity of Livonia
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday-Saturday, June 11-12
Location: 28660 5 Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Livonia
Details: Rummage sale
Contact: (734) 421-1760

ONGOING
AWANA
Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays
Location: Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills
Details: AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade
Contact: (248) 426-0096

Breakfast
St. Michael the Archangel
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to noon, third Sunday each month, October through May
Location: 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth, in Livonia
Details: The Ushers' Club presents an "all-you-can-eat" pancake breakfast served in the school cafeteria and featuring pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages. Meals are served buffet-style. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for

children, 4-11, free for children under 3, and \$15 for a family with two adults and children
Contact: (734) 261-1455

Career workshops
St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
Time/Date: First and third Mondays
Location: 30900 Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Workshops are designed to help people in employment transition build a network and use their resources to find that next good job. Workshop leaders are available to work one-on-one with anyone looking for work.
Contact: (734) 422-6038

Classes/study
Detroit First Church of the Nazarene
Time/Date: 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesday
Location: 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile
Details: Tuesday Ladies Bible Study; \$15 registration fee includes inter-denominational study materials. Child care available for children through age 5
Contact: (248) 348-7600

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia
Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.
Contact: Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@att.net.

Livonia Unity
Time/Date: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.
Location: 28660 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions
Contact: (810) 813-4073 or gary@energeticarts.org.

Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 p.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

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HELEN R. BAIRD

Age 83, of Livonia, passed away May 18, 2010. Loving mother of Paul (Lora) Baird and Wendy Cain. Proud grandmother of Jennifer (Tony) Casler, Rachael (Renzo) Carrillo, Lauren Kozma, Cory Baird and Austin Baird. Great grandmother of Raenna, Jessica, Ashlee Rose and Mason. Dear sister of John Moti, Elizabeth Marshall, Pauline Cassidy and Samuel (Virginia) Moti. Preceded in death by sisters Viola Higerson, Mary Toth and by son in law Robert Cain. Funeral service Thursday 11:00am from the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 280 South Main, Plymouth. Visitation Wednesday 5-9. Interment Riverside Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Compassion International. Share memories at schrader-howell.com.



KATHRYNE M. BLAKENEY

"Kay" of Farmington Hills, May 18, 2010. Beloved wife of the late William (d.2004). Loving mother of Bob (Diane), Pat Holt (Bob), Dick (Donna) and the late Susan Wells-Decker. Grandmother of 11, great-grandmother of 16. Funeral service Saturday, May 22nd, 11:00 AM (in state 10:00 AM) at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. Visitation Thursday 4-8 PM and Friday 3-8 PM, 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 Comforts Place, 25376 Harcourt St. Farmington Hills, MI 48336.

WILLIAM "BILL" HAUTAMAKI

Age 85, passed away May 18, 2010. Bill is survived by his loving children: Judy Wolfe, Carol Freeman, Bob Hautamaki, Dave Hautamaki, and Nancy Tietz. He was preceded in death by his wife June in January 2010. Visitation will be Friday, May 21, from 2 - 4 & 5 - 8 p.m. at Phillips Funeral Home, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, May 22, at 11:00 a.m. with final visitation beginning at 10 a.m. at Phillips Funeral Home. Online guestbook www.phillipsfuneral.com



VERDA THOMPSON

Age 77 of Westland, May 16, 2010. Loving mother of Nona F. Kaul and Roberta Rhoten. Proud grandmother of four and great grandmother of fourteen. Beloved sister of Alice Densmore. Also leaves behind special friends Sandy Salingue and Gloria Nesbit. Verda was the owner of Thompson's Dog Grooming. She loved to go to the casino, go to yard sales, read and most importantly she loved all her dogs. Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh, Westland, in charge of arrangements. Memorial contributions may be made to the Michigan Humane Society. To share a memory with the family, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

ORVILLE L. TUNGATE

Age 80, formally of Plymouth, passed away on February 8, 2010. A funeral mass will be held at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth on June 2, 2010 at 10:30am. A gathering will follow the mass at the Box Bar in Plymouth. Peggy and Orville will be interred at the National Cemetery in Holly, MI on June 3, 2010.

HELEN RUTH VENOS

May 15, 2010; Age 62 Of Auburn Hills, Mother of Kelli Ross and Gary Baum Jr. Arrangements by Simple Funerals (248) 227-1954 SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com

OBITUARY POLICY
The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)
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Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
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Westland-Garden City Strictly Business



(From left) The Rev. Beth Librande of Clarenceville United Methodist Church in Livonia, the Rev. Linda Golden of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Livonia, the Rev. Mary Margaret Eckhardt of St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Livonia, and the Rev. William Lindholm, retired minister at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia, attended the breakfast hosted by the Rost family including Clarence Rost, retired owner, and Matthew Rost.

Funeral home marks its 100th anniversary

R.G. & G.R. Harris Funerals and Cremation Services hosted a Clergy Appreciation Breakfast in honor of its 100th anniversary.

Clergy from around the area joined with the funeral home staff to enjoy breakfast and to hear a message of thanks and encouragement from Todd Van Beck of Decatur, Ga. at Laurel Manor Banquet Center in Livonia.

Van Beck, an author, minister and funeral director, has written more than 200 articles and 65 books on topics of interest to funeral directors, cemeterians and members of the clergy.

The R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home was started in 1910 in Detroit. Over the years the funeral home branched out to the east and north sides of Detroit and to Livonia and Garden City in 1965 and 1970. The funeral home is still owned and operated by the Harris family. The current owner and president is Thomas F. Rost, grandson of founder Robert G. Harris.

Despite significant changes in the business, the core of the funeral service remains unchanged, Rost said.

"Being there to take care of the family, that will never change," he said. "And 95 percent of what we do is for the living."

Independent and family-owned funeral homes such as R.G. & G.R. Harris are a tradition in Michigan, said William Wappner, president of the National Funeral Directors Association.

"Michigan has a rich tradition of the multi-generation funeral services," he said. "So it's not unheard of, but serving a community for five generations and 100 years is a significant milestone. There is a lot of pride in service to the community, and we see often times generations going into business and keeping them in the family."

Founder Robert G. Harris prepared himself with formal schooling and apprenticeship, and began serving families with the help of his father, George R. Harris, a manager with the *Detroit Free Press*. Four years later George joined

his son full-time and the firm became known as the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home located in the Haste Mansion at Trumbull and Hancock. Robert's wife, Flora, also obtained her funeral director's license at that time, making her one of the first women licensed funeral directors in the state of Michigan.

Over the years, many changes took place. A move to Cass Avenue and later to Harper Avenue and McNichols Road in Detroit offered families greater convenience. Later branches in Livonia, Garden City and Mt. Clemens were added to better serve the growing number who preferred the Harris family to serve them.

During all these transitions, Robert's son Thomas L. Harris and his son-in-law, Clarence F. Rost, continued the service families could depend on including cremation and memorial services for those preferring an alternative to the traditional funeral.

Today, the tradition continues with Rost and his son, Matthew T. Rost.

newspapers in past years. Bloom has also been selected as one of the Top 250 Financial Planners by *Worth Magazine* for several years consecutively.

The Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year awards program celebrates its 24th anniversary this year. The program has expanded to recognize business leaders in over 135 cities in 50 countries throughout the world.

Regional award winners are eligible for consideration for the Ernst & Young LLP Entrepreneur of the Year national program. Award winners in several national categories, as well as the overall national Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award winner, will be announced in November.

The awards are the culminating event of the Ernst & Young Strategic Growth Forum, the nation's most prestigious gathering of high-growth, market-leading companies.

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Details: Forum Fitness Center bills itself as a fitness center with your goals in mind. It offers everything you need to reach your fitness goals. From the pool and hot tub to the variety of group exercise classes, it makes sure time spent there is rewarding. Now, you can see what it's all about by trying it for 30 days at a cost of just \$10. You'll find the coupon online at their website, forumfitnesscenter.com.
Contact: (734) 729-7000 or by e-mail at info@ForumFitnessCenter.com

Free Screening
Time/Date: Now through May 31
Location: Pearle Vision Center near Kohl's in Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road at Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Time is running out to use the online coupon at www.westlandcenter.com/sales.cfm and get a free vision test at the Pearle Vision Center now through May 31. Some restrictions may apply. Find the coupon on the Westland Shopping website, www.westlandcenter.com/sales.
Contact: (734) 525-5907

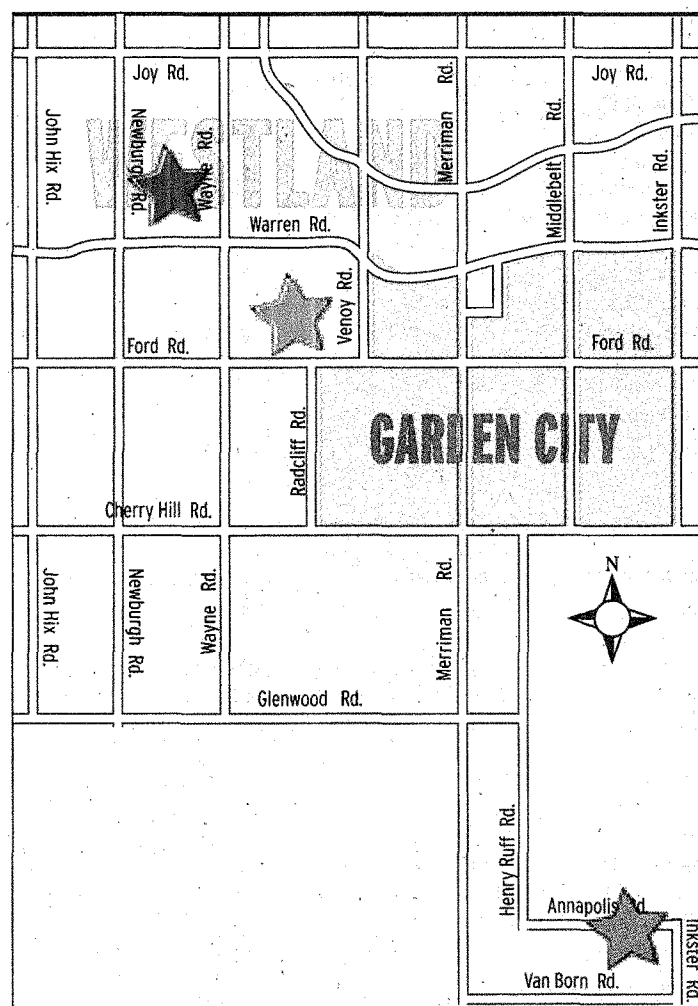
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Location: Forum Fitness Center,

Grand opening
Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday

Location: Knox's Family Restaurant & Catering, 4675 Middlebelt, Westland
Details: A ribbon cutting ceremony was held this week for the grand opening of Knox Restaurant and Catering which specializes in American cuisine with a southern flare, prepared by head chef/owner Cassandra Knox. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner - good for groups, good for kids, take-out and delivery available.
Contact: (734) 728-8298 or visit their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/.../Knoxs...Restaurant-Catering.

Special program
Time/Date: 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 25
Location: Community room of the Westland Specialty Center, 35600 Central City Parkway, Westland
Details: Through recognition and management of risk factors, lifestyle changes and compliance with recurrent stroke prevention treatments, research shows up to 80 percent of strokes can be prevented. In an effort to raise awareness, Garden City Hospital (GCH) is inviting community members to attend "Brain Attack Awareness" a presentation focusing on prevention, risk factors, warning signs and symptoms and the importance of prompt treatment. This presentation is free to the community. Light refreshments will be served.

BUSINESS MILESTONES



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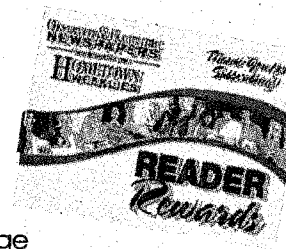


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Learn about food labeling, nutritious choices on tour

Make dinner quickly tonight with these tips

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Gail Posner guarantees that even the savviest, most nutrition-conscious shopper will learn something new during her guided tour of supermarket shelves.

"And boy, am I going to fool you," said Posner, a registered dietician who scrutinizes product nutritional claims and ingredient labels during her one-hour classes at Hiller's markets. She gave the *Observer & Eccentric* a preview this week of her upcoming tours in Hiller's Plymouth and Bloomfield Hills stores.

"This one just cracks me up," she said, taking a Peaches & Cream Quaker Instant Oatmeal off the shelf. "You'll get far better nutrition out of regular oatmeal, but what I found humorous on this is, what kind of oatmeal is this? Peaches & Cream. But let's read the ingredients...whole grain rolled oats, sugar...corn syrup, whey...ah, here it is, flavored with colored fruit pieces, dehydrated apples and artificial peach flavor. So, the funny thing is, this is this is apple with peach flavor — don't think you're getting peaches."

And so it went, up one aisle and down the next, with Posner pointing out nutritional red flags on product packaging, recommending healthful brands and pointing out new products.

In the bread aisle, she found "white fluffy bread" masquerading as rye. It looked like rye and its packaging included the word rye, but a quick scan of the ingredient list showed otherwise.

"It doesn't say whole rye flour. You want to get three servings of whole grain in," she said. "So many of my clients eat out so much I say buy the 100 percent whole wheat to eat at home because you're not going to get it in a restaurant."

BOX VERSUS CANNED

The soup shelves offered a dizzying variety of canned products, but Posner ignored them all in favor of Kitchen Basics and other brands in a box.

"A lot of people know there is a chemical to avoid in plastic baby bottles, but it also is in our canned goods, except for Eden brand beans."

The Michigan-based company cooks its line of organic beans in cans that are free of bisphenol-A, (BPA) a chemical that has been linked to developmental changes in studies conducted on animals. The National Toxicology Program, which coordinates toxicological research across the U.S. government, expressed "some concern" for bisphenol-A's effects on the brain, behavior, and prostate gland in fetuses, infants, and children, according to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Web site. It suggests reducing the use of canned foods

FROM THE TOUR

A few more tips from Gail Posner's super-market tour:

- Buying juice? Look for "100 percent" juice on the label.
- Choose distilled rather than spring water.
- If buying lean meats, such as ground turkey, make sure the label says no less than 97 percent fat free.
- Choose a whole grain cereal and add your own fruit.
- Buy mayonnaise with olive oil.
- If buying lunch meat, look for nitrate- and nitrite free.
- Try something new in the produce aisle, such as jicama. Peel it, slice it, squeeze on lime juice and sprinkle on chili powder.
- Choose brown rice rather than white rice and whole grain pasta or a blended pasta.

and opting for glass, porcelain or stainless steel containers, especially for hot foods and liquids.

"It leaches into the food. The ones leached into the most would be meat and tomato — acidic products," Posner noted. "Tuna in a pouch is better than tuna in a can. Buy tomato juice in a bottle versus in a can."

And although white albacore tuna generally costs a few cents more than chunk light, Posner avoids it, favoring the less expensive, darker meat.

"You want to go with the chunk light. Chunk light tuna are little fishes that are younger and swim higher in the ocean, so they swallow less mercury. The white albacore tuna and tuna steak come from big tuna that have been polluted with mercury."

PRIVATE COUNSELING

Posner, a dietician for 30 years, said the supermarket tours grew out of her private West Bloomfield practice, where she counsels clients one-on-one and creates healthful eating plans to match their nutritional needs.

"My office is unique. When people come in their chin drops. I have bookshelves full of empty food boxes. I make practical, sensible recommendations. I show people what the box looks like, so when they get to the grocery store it's quick and easy to find."

With both clients and tour participants, Posner stresses the importance of enjoying food and of eating "mindfully." She points out new products and offers tips on healthful, quick "grab and go" foods.

Her tour runs 7-8 p.m., May 24 at Hiller's West Bloomfield store, 6433 Orchard Lake Road, in the Orchard Mall, and 7-8 p.m. May 27, at the Plymouth store, 15455 Haggerty, at 5 Mile. Cost is \$25. Call (248) 855-4558 to register.



Gail Posner suggests buying tomato products in boxes or bottles to avoid the bisphenol-A found in cans.



With only 15 calories per tablespoon, Michigan-made American Spoonfood's apple butter is "calorically a pretty good bargain," says Posner.



Posner searches for nitrate- and nitrite-free luncheon meat at Hiller's market.



With 7 grams of fiber, this whole wheat flat bread will "stick to your ribs" and help you feel full if you're watching your weight, says Posner.

Try Gail Posner's simple recipes for fast, healthful dinners:

• **Quesadillas:** Place two tortillas on a cooking sheet. Top with 1/4 cup shredded cheese and leftover toppings, such as chicken. Add a veggie if desired, such as chopped green onions, green pepper and olives. Broil or top brown in a toaster oven until the cheese melts. Top one of the tortillas with 2 tablespoons of salsa and place the other tortilla on top.

• **Stuffed, baked potatoes:** You can cook potatoes in the microwave in a flash. Wash and scrub Idaho potato and pat dry. Pierce with a fork. Place on microwave-safe dish uncovered and cook for 4-5 minutes per medium potato. Let stand for 10 minutes. Slit open and top with low fat cottage cheese, fat-free ranch dressing, a protein such as chicken or veggie patty, salsa, frozen veggies in a low-fat cheese sauce, frozen broccoli. Or spritz a baked potato with butter spray, sprinkle with garlic powder and malt a slice of low-fat cheese on top.

• **Pasta or rice night:** Buy Uncle Ben's Ready Rice, whole grain, and microwave according to directions. When cooked, add prepared frozen veggies, and a cooked protein, such as chicken. If using pasta instead of rice, boil pasta noodles and add frozen peas or canned mushrooms, and then toss with olive oil, garlic powder and a little Parmesan cheese.

• **Chicken or fish in a minute:** Buy flash-frozen chicken breasts or fish, such as salmon, tilapia and cod, and defrost in microwave. Heat 1 teaspoon of oil in fry pan over medium high heat. Add fish or chicken, sprinkle with seasoning/spice mix, such as Mrs. Dash, or jerk spice or sprinkle with a sauce such as Italian dressing, BBQ sauce, or bottled marinade. Cook about four minutes per side until done.

• **Frittata leftover:** Gather all of the meat and vegetables that are left over from the night before, such as chicken, beef, pork, potatoes, rice, vegetables. Heat them in a pan with a little olive oil. Crack one or two eggs per person and scramble them up with some milk, low fat sour cream or plain yogurt. Pour the eggs over the leftovers and bake in a 350 oven for 25 minutes. Serve with toast and a salad.

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