



AROUND TOWN

Good news

Students who publish the Wayne Memorial High School newspaper, *Zebra Print*, got some good news from the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association.

The student produced newspaper was awarded a gold medal for newspaper production and four of the students received individual honors for their work.

"This is a very prestigious award," said Wayne High Principal Valerie Orr. "There's a whole class that works on this and I'm extremely proud of them."

Orr credits adviser Heather Koch in growing the newspaper which many have mistaken for the *News* and *Free Press*.

"My colleagues come into the classroom and say, 'So this is the creme de la creme,'" Koch said. "I refer to them as the my cream of the crop. They're an English teacher's dream come true. I'm blessed to have this class."

The individual student winners were Shane Kommer, first place for photo story, Andrew Laitinen, first place for editorial cartoon, first place for comic strip, third place for illustration and honorable mentions for editorial cartoon, comic strip and illustration, Lance Gentry, second place for editorial/opinion Page/Spread, and Samantha Kilburn, who with Kommer won an honorable mention for Sports Feature Story.

Tweet, tweet

In an effort to create an open and casual line of communication with Westland residents, Mayor William Wild will now be tweeting as part of his daily routine. Follow @MayorWild and experience a day in the life of the mayor.

"I am excited for this new endeavor. This will be an excellent way for me to increase communication with our residents on a personal and professional level," said Wild.

Twitter is a free service that allows you to "follow" people or subjects via short, frequent updates. Wild and the City of Westland now offer Twitter users the opportunity to stay informed about the most up-to-date information and breaking events in Westland.

To join in, visit www.twitter.com and with an active account, elect to "follow" @MayorWild and @CityOfWestland.

Mayor, council work out final budget details

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With adoption scheduled in a week, Westland council members will hold a study session 6 p.m. Wednesday to go over remaining items in the proposed 2010-11 budget.

Both Council President James Godbout and Mayor William Wild said the budget process is on track for adoption at the Monday, June 7, council meeting. The fiscal year begins July 1.

"We'll go through it and finalize anything that is open. I assume we'll have numbers of positions, buyouts

and where the department alignment is at," said Godbout. "I've had several discussions with the mayor, and he's talked to other council members on items out there."

"I'd say we're coming to closure. We'll have a few items to discuss that night. We're getting to the end of the cycle," said Wild.

In the face of decreasing revenues and projected deficits — \$3.5 million by the end of 2010-11 and \$12 million the following fiscal year, the administration presented a two-year balanced general fund budget. The general fund budget for each year has proposed expenditures of more than \$55 million.

A major change in the budget is the reduction in the number of city employees through a combination of early retirements, layoffs in the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employee bargaining unit and vacant positions left unfilled.

"We'll be making an amended manpower budget based on the early retirements. We have to see if we need to do any backfilling," said Wild. "We've got people already gone in this budget. We know people will be leaving halfway through the next year — it's staggered. It will create additional savings."

Other spending cuts were realized through concessions on insurance, lon-

gevity pay and new hire tiers agreed to by city employee unions.

During the most recent budget study session, council members had not been happy with proposed cuts in contracts for the Youth Assistance Program and cable services.

"We'll get the final numbers on the contracts with Youth Assistance and cable. I don't know where we are with that," said Godbout. "I think the proposals they gave (to the mayor and council) are close to what will be agreed upon. I don't see it as a big issue."

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Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon talks to Westland seniors at picnic lunch hosted by himself and Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia.

Sheriff brings safety message to seniors

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jean McGrath said she's "been living in the dark ages" by not having a cell phone. But that ended last Wednesday when she received a free emergency cell phone.

"My kids are all mad at me because I don't have one," the Westland resident said.

McGrath was among a group of seniors at the Westland Friendship Center to take advantage of the free 9-1-1 cell phones given out during a picnic lunch, hosted by Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon and Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia.

Napoleon stopped by the center to answer seniors' questions and talk about personal safety. It was

also a chance for seniors to meet the man who was appointed sheriff last year after Warren Evans was named Detroit police chief.

"He's the most caring person in Wayne County government," Gebhardt said in introducing Napoleon. "He cares about the seniors in Wayne County."

Napoleon fielded questions from the group, ranging from Internet safety to elder abuse and, after lunch, talked to the seniors about personal protection and identity theft.

"I'm concerned about how we treat seniors," he said. "I believe society is judged by how we treat our seniors. These phones are what we do to give you access to safety."



Jean McGrath says her children can no longer be mad at her now that she has a new emergency cell phone.

Please see **SHERIFF, A2**

W-W board apologizes to principal for comments

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne-Westland school board has issued an apology to a middle school administrator whose appointment as co-principal at one of the district's 5-6 schools next fall became embroiled in a discussion over his wages.

Board President Skip Monit, at last week's meeting, extended the board's "deepest apology" to Adams Middle School Assistant Principal Mark Cesarz, saying that "we have all reflected on the evening and how the board, as a whole, overstepped our boundaries."

"We must remember our focus is to set the vision for the district and not to micro-manage in any way," Monit said. "We can't lose focus of this."

The apology came in a response to a letter from the Wayne-Westland Building Administration's Association, which found the comments made about Cesarz's promotion, pay increase and job duties "disrespectful and certainly out of place in such a public forum."

"While we respect the board's right to question the decisions made by the superintendent, including those in the human resource realm, we feel that the questioning of an employee's salary in a public forum is inappropriate and, in this case, could have and should have been discussed privately, with the superintendent prior to the meeting," stated a letter from WWBAA President

Please see **APOLOGY, A2**

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Westland woman pleads guilty to jewelry thefts

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman has entered a guilty plea to two charges of stealing jewelry from residents at a senior housing facility where she was employed.

Michele Lee Holder, 39, pleaded guilty to two counts of larceny under \$200 Wednesday in 18th District Court before Judge Sandra Cicirelli. Four other counts of larceny under \$200 and possession of narcotics paraphernalia were dismissed.

Scheduled for sentencing on July 8, Holder had been working as a housekeeper at the Westland American House Senior Living Facility. A \$20,000/10 percent bond for Holder was continued.

Westland police began investigating after Detective Bureau secretary Sharon Konfara was

reviewing transaction records submitted by local pawn shops and noticed several pawn transactions since April 2 by Holder involving expensive jewelry.

Among the transactions Konfara noticed was the pawning of a Dearborn Fordson High School Class of 1946 ring — the woman who pawned it was born in 1971.

Police were able to obtain a name of the ring owner and after learning where Holder worked, located the owner, an 81-year-old woman, living at the American House.

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

When an officer went to the Barber Shop Exchange, 1916 Venoy, where the ring had been pawned to retrieve it, Holder

arrived with additional items to be pawned and was arrested.

Holder subsequently told police she was addicted to crack cocaine and had been stealing to get money for drugs. Holder later identified the units from which the jewelry had been taken and a number of items were returned to their owners, police said.

Six victims were identified. 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.

Additional stolen items couldn't be identified, police said, since they had been pawned earlier and had been melted down.

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SHERIFF

FROM PAGE A1

While the sheriff doesn't have many first responder duties like the Westland Police, Napoleon and his department's main job is running the three Wayne County jails that house 1,700 inmates. Sheriff deputies also work with Homeland Security, provide security for the Wayne County courts and patrol county parks.

In the case of Internet safety, Napoleon told seniors to see where their grandchildren are going on the computer. Their reaction will give away the fact they are doing something wrong, he said.

"They're children. We should know what they're doing," he said. "We, as adults, are responsible for their safety. Know their friends, know what they are doing."

The Sheriff's Department has an active Internet crimes unit that has nabbed eight people in the 10 months Napoleon has been on the job, he added.

When asked why his office is in Detroit, Napoleon pointed to the Wayne County Charter which dictates that the seat of government be in Detroit. However, he noted that his department maintains a satellite office at Michigan Avenue and Henry Ruff in Westland.

He also urged seniors to use their first responders, the Westland Police, in incidents of elder abuse.

"You have a wonderful department here," he told the crowd.

Napoleon has been delivering



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon stops for a photograph with Reasther Everett, Edna Parker, Juanita Singleton, Pearl Childs, Eldora Ross, Velma Wilson, Emma Stephens and Mary Allen.

his message to senior centers around the county for the past two months. He averages four to five programs a week and is "overwhelmed" by the reception he receives "and the good things they have to say."

"It's amazing to go outside of Detroit and to see how many people have followed my career," he said. "It's exciting for me as sheriff and it's very touching."

Dolores Peters was among seniors who attended the picnic and was impressed with Napoleon, describing him as "a very nice speaker" who related to the people.

"I thought his answers were good and liked how he talked to us about safety," she said. "I didn't know he was taking questions. I thought it would be more of a lecture."

This wasn't the first time Margaret Edwards had heard

Napoleon speak. She saw him recently at union hall in Plymouth.

"It was really nice to meet him," she said. "I've been following his career. I've become a fan of his."

"I thought it was excellent, very informative," Dan Newton added.

There also was a raffle for Detroit Tigers tickets as part of the event, as well as free Wayne County Sheriff Youth and Senior Education Fund Seniors for Sheriff T-shirts.

"It's all part of educating senior. They have a lot of issues and feel they don't have access to us for help," Napoleon said. "Instead of them coming to me, I'm coming to them and I plan to continue to do that through my tenure as sheriff."

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Westland man faces trial in Internet porn case

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man has been ordered to stand trial on eight felony charges related to the possession and distribution of child pornography over the Internet.

Andrew Peter Bergeski, 39, waived his preliminary examination in Westland's 18th District Court Monday before Judge Mark McConnell. The hearing had been delayed while Bergeski was being examined for mental competency.

After he was found competent and waived the hearing, Bergeski was ordered bound over for trial in Wayne County

Circuit Court. He is charged with four counts of using the Internet to commit a sex crime, two counts of possession of child sexually abusive material and two counts of distributing the materials. Bergeski remains free on bond.

The investigation began with a tip from a youngster in Battle Creek who had received as friendship request through an online social network from someone purporting to be a 14-year-old girl but later identified as Bergeski.

Checking the profile page of the would-be friend, the Battle Creek girl told police she saw inappropriate nude photographs

that had been posted. Battle Creek police contacted Westland police after tracing the posting to a local address.

Westland police executed a search warrant for a computer at a home on Ritz where Bergeski lives with his parents. Police said there was no evidence that Bergeski made any attempt to set up a meeting with the girl he contacted online.

Prior to this case, Bergeski was on two years probation, scheduled to be completed in July, after pleading guilty to malicious use of telecommunications equipment.

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Rats! Feeding animals causes rodent problem

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Too much of a good thing — that was apparently the problem with animals being fed at a Westland home.

Parkwood resident Barbara Aimone came before the council recently to complain about her yard being damaged by rats, squirrels and other animals attracted by ground feeding by her neighbor.

"Rats are overrunning my property — the rats have burrowed under my paver patio," said Aimone. "My next door neighbor wants to feed the squirrels. She puts out a pan full of peanuts three times a day. She

feeds birds, she feeds cat. Is there something that you can do?"

Aimone expressed regrets about bringing forward a complaint about her longtime neighbor whom she described as a good friend.

"I've asked her to stop nicely for the last three years. She says animals have a right to eat. I say that's God's job," said Aimone. "I'm not anti-animal. I would like it if she could only feed over the winter. If the food is too much, it's got to stop. I opened a rat burrow and there were peanuts in it."

The animals attracted by the feeding destroy plants in her yard which backs up to Hubbard Park, Aimone said, forcing her to

put plastic containers and other barriers around young plants. She said she had also been forced to put out rat poison.

During a recent visit to the homes, Building Director Roger Shifflett said he saw no sign of active rat infestation. He left a warning notice for the neighbor about violating the city's rat harboring ordinance.

"She (Aimone) had done a good job killing the rats. The property maintenance code covers this well," said Shifflett, adding there is a prohibition of maintaining conditions, such as food and high grass, that would attract rodents.

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APOLOGY

FROM PAGE A1

Stephanie Miller and co-President Scott Burek.

The letter also stated that while members are respectful of needs of the district and understands the financial crisis it faces, "we are disappointed to be referred to as 'overpaid public servants.'"

The letter stems from a discussion at April's school board

meeting in regard to Cesarz's salary as co-principal at Adams Upper Elementary School. The issue was raised by Trustee Carol Middel, who questioned what Cesarz would make in his new position and then pressed him to consider foregoing the pay increase, estimated at \$6,000, in light of the district's financial difficulties.

The discussion was cut short by MEA Uniserv Director Evelyn Baron, who stepped in to remind the board that such discussion should take place in private.

The board approved Cesarz's appointment by a 6-1 vote, with Middel dissenting.


The WWBAA presidents said that what should have been a "proud moment for a dedicated, intelligent and very deserving employee and his family ... was marred by the comments made" to Cesarz at the meeting.

Cesarz has been employed by the district since 1985, first as a substitute teacher and then as an English teacher at Franklin and Adams Middle School. He

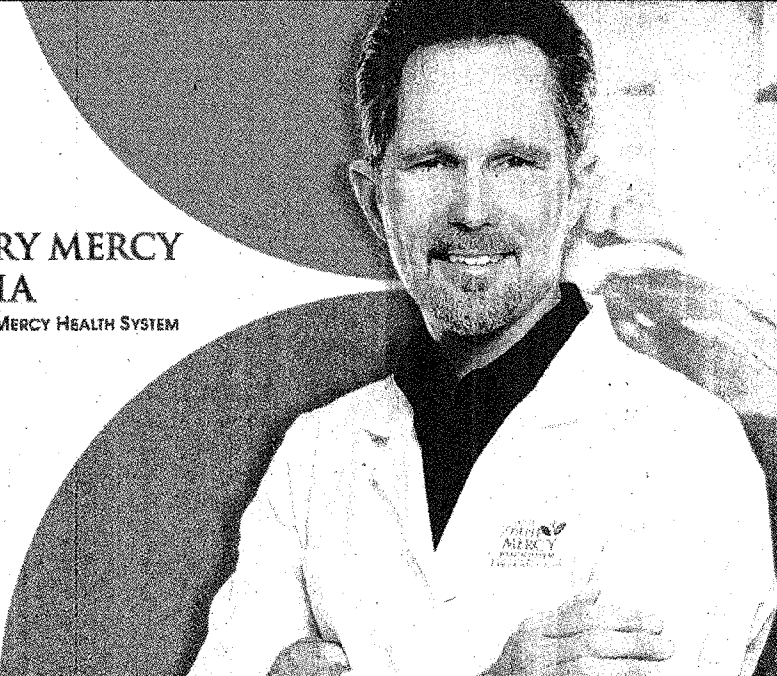
has been an assistant principal at Adams since 1999. A Canton resident, he has a bachelor's degree in English, language literature and journalism and a master's degree in educational leadership, both from Eastern Michigan University.

Under the reconfiguration, the two 5-6 buildings will have two principals who will work with a specific group of students until they move on to middle school.

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1 for 1: Nomination wins student national award

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

According to Garden City High School Assistant Principal Keith Anleitner, "adjectives abound" in describing senior Alex Boyd.

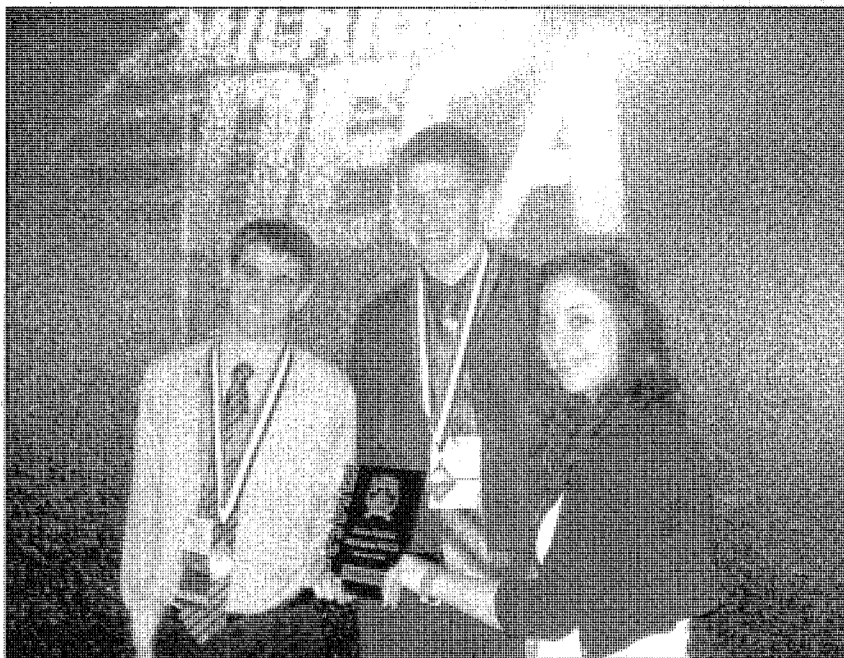
"He is thoughtful, skilled in speaking and influencing classmates, industrious, willing to go the extra mile, conscientious, light-hearted and knowledgeable about his school and its history," Anleitner said. "He is one of the most balanced students that I have had the privilege of knowing."

"Alex is extraordinary," added Lynda Bommarito, a marketing and accounting teacher at the high school. "He excels in all those things."

And DECA, the national student marketing association, agrees and has presented Boyd with its Marketing Education Honor Award.

"I didn't know I had been nominated until I won it, I didn't even know it existed," said Boyd. "I wasn't sure what it was about, it was a great mystery to me. It's something I don't mind having, it's something I can show off."

The award recognizes his achievement in scholastics, leadership, involvement in DECA, and school and community service. He is the



Alex Boyd (from left), Brian Sands and Kiana Cronin show off the National Finalist Award they received for finishing in the top 16 in DECA competition.

DECA chapter president and a three-year competitor at the state conference. He is also an active member of Student Council, competes in cross country and golf and has been captain of the junior varsity and varsity basketball teams.

"I joined cross country this year and ended up as the Most Valuable Runner," said Boyd. "I have a talent for running that I didn't find out about until this year."

According to Anleitner, he was a "key component" in leading student

leadership teams as part of Project Beautification. Dubbed "Ghetto Elimination," Boyd helped paint a men's lavatory in the 200 hall and boys locker room and the main office. He also served as a Cougar Club guide when eighth-graders visit the school.

"He has a 3.9 grade point average and works at Kentucky Fried Chicken," added Bommarito.

Boyd has been active in DECA since his sophomore year when a teacher suggested he and a friend try it. His friend dropped out, but he stayed and has competed at the regional and state level for three years.

"I really enjoy being put in the position of having to think on my feet," he said about the competition.

This year, Boyd and teammates Kiana Cronin and Brian Sands went on to national competition, presenting the chapter's earn and learn project, the development of an online extension of Cougar's Corner, the high school store — www.gardencityspirit.com. The team finished in the top 16 in the country.

"To move out of state was a big deal, then to place in the top 16," he said. "There was some competition and we knew we had to be on our A

game. We had to know our project very well and answer the judges' questions."

Bommarito is "just thrilled" that Boyd won the honor award. This is the first time she's ever nominated a student for it.

"I bet on a sure thing," she said. Popularity in business and marketing has grown at the high school. The service industry is an emerging career pathway and the classes and DECA trains students for it, she said.

"All of the entrepreneurial skills, communications, selling techniques are extremely useful," she said. "Students are going to need those skills to succeed."

Surprisingly, Boyd isn't going on to college to study marketing ... at least not yet. He plans to study animation and game production at the International Academy of Design and Technology in Troy. Once he gets that four-year degree, then he'll "get some kind of degree in marketing."

"People ask why I'm not going in to business, and I say I am, but just a little later," he said. "I know how to market myself, I feel I have the edge. Competing in DECA and the marketing classes have helped me out."

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EDUCATION

Quackers: Ducks raise brood in school courtyard

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Enrollment is up by at Madison Elementary School in Westland, but the 13 newcomers aren't your typical students. They're a brood of baby ducklings born May 10 in one of the school's courtyards.

"My friends tell me, 'Oh, Mary Jo, you have a nursery over there,'" said custodian Mary Jo Rehbein, who has been caring for the family. "We've had baby birds in the boiler room, baby rabbits out front and baby ducks in the courtyards. We have a duck in the other courtyard, sitting on five eggs."

This is the fifth year ducks have nested in the courtyards and, by far, this is the biggest brood. Rehbein has a kiddie pool with ramps set up to give the ducklings and their mother access to water and a pan that she keeps filled duck mash. She also collects worms after a rain for the ducks, puts out crickets and dumps up to 200 gold fish in the pool for the family to eat.

"They go through the fish in a matter of minutes," school secretary Sherry Birchard said.

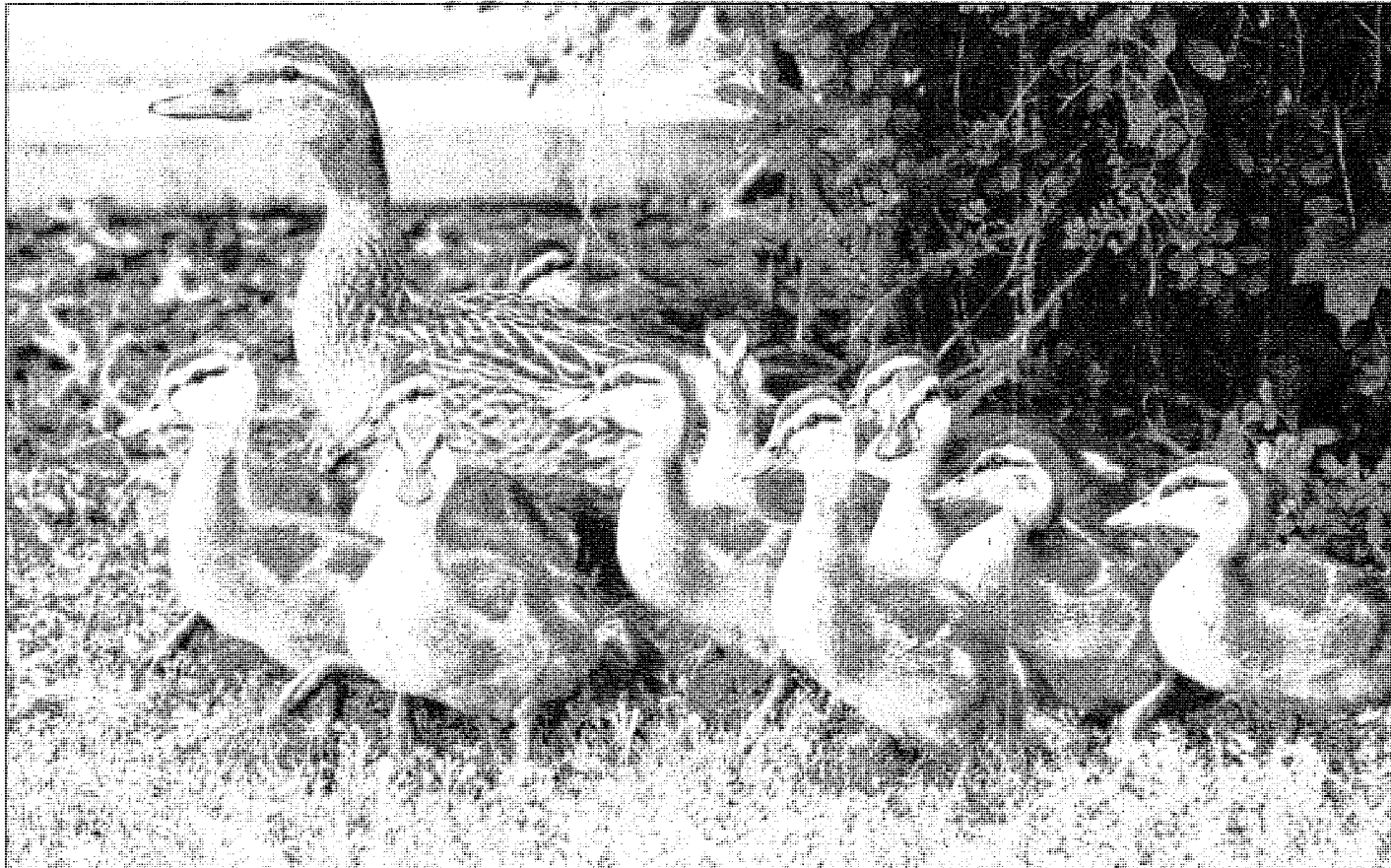
Rehbein gets information about caring for the ducks from her mother, who owns a farm. She told her such things as the type of mash to buy for the newborn ducklings.



Custodian Mary Jo Rehbein puts out food and makes sure there's plenty of fresh water for her feathered family.

According to Rehbein, ducks lay one or two eggs a day until done, and they hatch within 22-28 days of being laid. Based on her calculations, she estimates that the duck in the other courtyard will have babies by the week school gets out.

Students who walk down the hallway past the courtyard windows stop to sneak a peak at the mother duck, who keeps her brood under a large bush during the heat of the day. They've been dropping money in the Dimes for Duck jar in the office to help defray the costs of caring for them. The mash costs



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary Jo Rehbein hasn't given names to the mother duck and her 13 babies she's tending to in the courtyard of Madison Elementary School in Westland. She's trying to keep their "home" as much like the wild as possible.

\$15-\$20 a bag, according to Rehbein.

"We've raised \$120," Rehbein said. "It helps a lot with those 13 ducklings and those five that are coming."

Birchard and Rehbein are concerned what will happen next year, if ducks nest in the courtyards. Madison is

one of six Wayne-Westland schools closing in June. Water and food won't be readily available, and the Department of Natural Resources has said it won't move an active nest.

"I'll ask my supervisor if I can come here during the summer. They can't stay here

with no water," said Rehbein, who comes in on weekends to make sure the family has food. "I worry about these little guys. We've got to protect them."

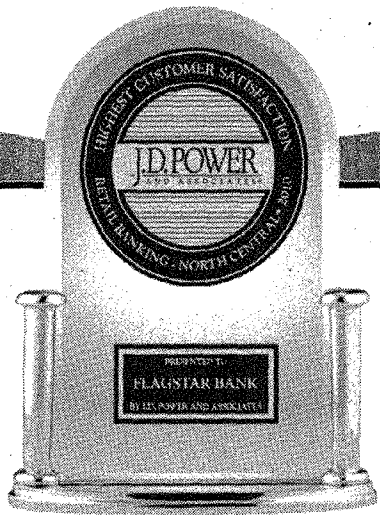
Rehbein also has a theory as to why the mother ducks have chosen Madison's courtyards to nest.

"Everyone on Earth is God's creatures. He had them come down for the kids so they could come and see them grow," she said. "I think this is a good thing. This is a school where the kids come to learn."

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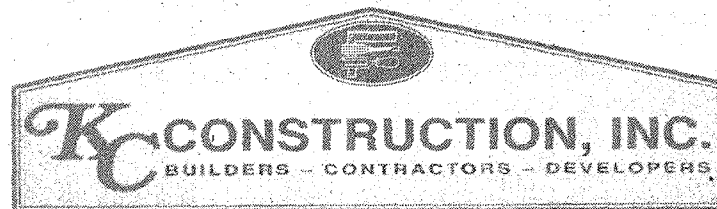
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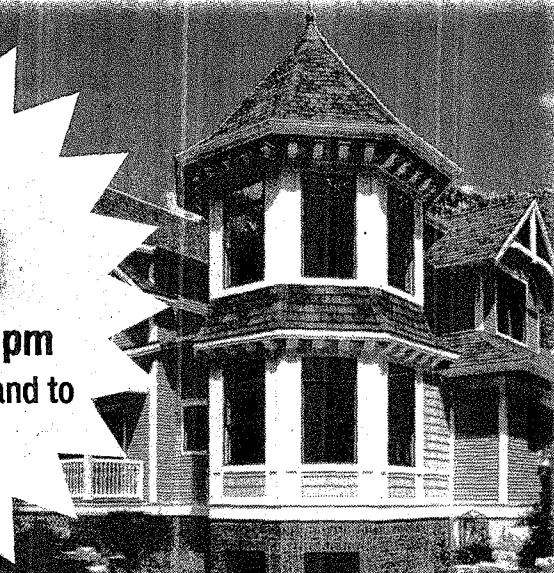


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Unauthorized Biographies

While more and more celebrities are looking to make an extra buck by publishing their memoirs, there are equally as many unauthorized accounts of their lives on the book market now.

The unauthorized biography is a biography written by someone who does not have permission and/or cooperation from the subject to write it. They are not legally required to indicate on the cover that they are unauthorized, although for many people that statement can add to the appeal. These authors also have to be careful that there is nothing included or implied that the biography was written with the subject's cooperation.

Unauthorized biographies are often written about celebrities and public figures. Authors risk being sued for libel when they publish these books but many of them do it anyway. They are protected by the First Amendment right to free speech but must be careful to as accurate as possible. They cannot be sued if they can prove what they write is true.

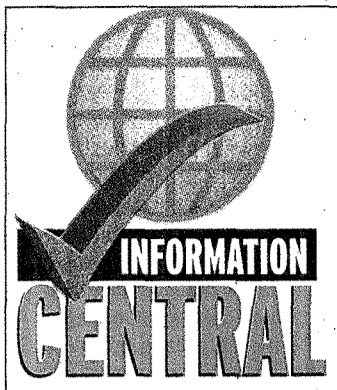
Some of these books are written by career journalists and others are written by someone who knew the person well (and didn't have any qualms about exposing their private lives to the public).

Here at the Westland Public Library, we have a number of unauthorized biographies. The biography section is full of them. Some popular titles include Andrew Morton's "Tom Cruise: An Unauthorized Biography," Kitty Kelley's books "Oprah: A Biography" and "The Family: The Real Story of the Bush Dynasty," Jan Halperin's titles "Brangelina: The Untold Story of Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie" and "Unmasked: The Final Years of Michael Jackson" and Andrew Young's "The Politician: An Insider's Account of John Edwards's Pursuit of the Presidency and the Scandal That Brought Him Down."

If you're in the mood for a good read, try an unauthorized biography. You may just find out some little known secrets about some of your favorite personalities. For more information, visit the library or call the Reference Desk at (734) 326-6123, and we are always available at www.westlandlibrary.org.

Highlighted Activities

Poetry Group: 7 p.m. June 2, age 18 and up
Interested in reading, discussing, and writing poetry? Please join



us for one of our sessions, whether you're a first-time writer or a serious wordsmith. Sign up by inquiring at the Reference Desk. Check out our blog at www.westlandadultpoetry.blogspot.com

Summer Concert Series: Smokin' 45s Rock & Blues Revue, 7 p.m. June 3, ages 14 and up, at Library Pavilion

The Summer Concert Series starts off with a bang as the Smokin' 45s bring their Rock & Blues Revue to the library pavilion for an evening "packed with heart-pumping, foot-stomping rock and blues with a distinctive Detroit drive." Limited seating, so bring a chair if you're late. For a complete list of Summer Concert performers, stop by the library or check out westlandlibrary.org/events.

Local Author Day: 1-4 p.m. June 5, ages 14 and up

Celebrate local authors and learn about the publishing trade by attending our Local Authors' Day event. From 1-2 p.m., local authors will participate in a panel discussion, engaging topics from publishing your work to writing styles and influences. From 2-4 p.m., you will get a chance to talk face-to-face with these authors, as well as buy and get signed copies of their books. No reservation is required.

Friday Night Movie Cult Classics: 7 p.m. June 3, "Rocky Horror Movie Show"

Stop by the library every Friday evening during the summer and enjoy a Cult Classic. This week's movie is "Rocky Horror Movie Show." A newly engaged couple have a breakdown in an isolated area and must pay a call to the bizarre residence of Dr. Frank-N-Furter. Rated R. No registration is required. This is an after-hours program. Library doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Job Seekers Lab: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-4 p.m. Fridays

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an

online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed.

Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the Library: 7 p.m. every Wednesday
Everyone welcome, including crocheters. Special Demo: How to Wind a Yarn Ball. Materials provided.

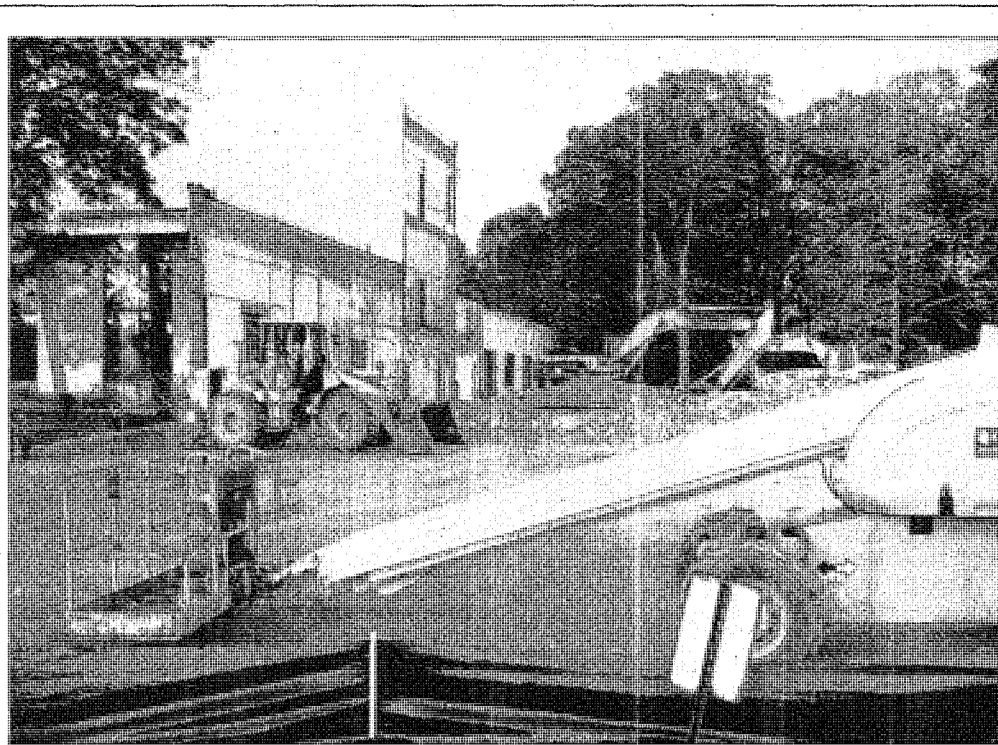
Chess Group: 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays.

Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess Masters are all welcome. No sign-up required.

Library Summer Reading Program - Save the Date: June 12 - Fun for children, teens and adults.

Teens and adults, don't miss the Climbing Wall. Call the Reference Desk at (734) 326-6123 for time.

Information Central was compiled by reference librarian Kristy Cooper. 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.



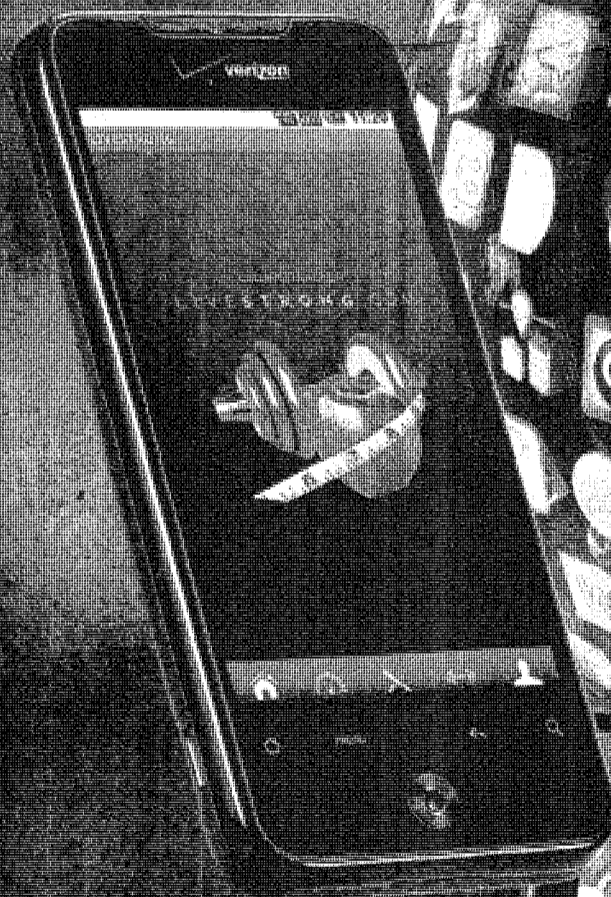
BILL BRISLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Renovations under way at former Observer building

Work crews demolish the loading docks and warehouse space of the former Observer & Eccentric Newspapers building at Schoolcraft and Levan roads in Livonia on Wednesday. Delta/TIFCO, an aircraft gear manufacturer, is renovating the building for a new manufacturing facility. The loading docks and warehouse needed to be demolished to make room for a 40,000-square-foot addition. Bob Sakuta, president of TIFCO Gage & Gear and Delta Research, closed the sale on the eight-acre site in October. Sakuta hopes construction will be completed by the end of this year.

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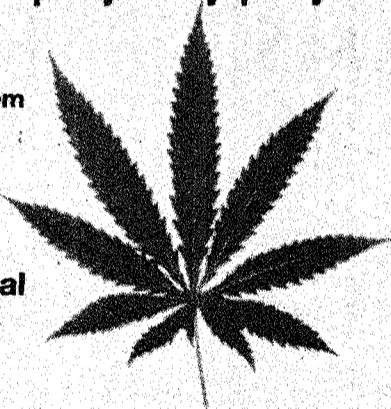
Activation fee/line: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan® lines w/ 2-yr. Agmts). IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Cust Agmt, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$350 early termination fee & other charges. Device capabilities: Add'l charges & conditions apply. Offers &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

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Clinic sees would-be marijuana patients

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Dr. Ernest Mullen wants people to know he doesn't have any marijuana at his Plymouth office, The Medical Marijuana Clinic.

He insists he doesn't want to have anything to do with it — won't even have illustrations of it hanging in the waiting room or hallways. Selling pot there would be illegal, a violation of federal law.

However, people suffering from one of the qualifying conditions under Michigan's new medical marijuana law — including AIDS, cancer and glaucoma — can come to Mullen and, with proper documentation, obtain the medical certification that's a required part of becoming a registered medical marijuana patient in the state.

"I don't touch the marijuana. I don't see the marijuana," said Mullen. "I think that people should have it done the right way."

Mullen, who practices mainly in Detroit and is affiliated with the Henry Ford Health System, sees patients at his office on Plymouth's Main Street only on Wednesdays. But his goal, he said, is to expand his hours in Plymouth and make it the base



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. Ernest Mullen sees patients at his office in Plymouth, The Medical Marijuana Clinic on Main Street, on Wednesdays, and points out he keeps no marijuana in his office.

for his practice, with medical marijuana patients a small part of it.

"This is where I want to be," said Mullen, who lives in Northville. "I want to take care of patients in Plymouth."

Mullen said he was "on the fence" about medical marijuana until a patient with a history of seizures came to him last year with low levels of anti-seizure medication in his blood.

Mullen was alarmed, he said, but the man reported no recent seizures and admitted he had

been smoking pot.

"I thought to myself, 'Maybe there's more in this stuff,'" said Mullen, who began doing research. "I definitely saw validity."

Mullen also advised a brother, a lawyer, on a case involving medical marijuana, he said.

His Plymouth office opened in April; Mullen also keeps Saturday hours at a medical marijuana clinic in Jackson.

His venture comes as the Plymouth City Commission recently passed an amendment to the city's zoning ordinances that prohibits property from being zoned for a use that would be in violation of federal law. A technicality, Mayor Dan Dwyer admits, but one that prevents anyone from formally opening a dispensary or marijuana-growing operation in the city.

Dwyer says officials, like those in many local communities, are waiting for lawmakers to resolve the conflict between the state's medical marijuana law and federal law, and could revisit the issue if that is done.

Lt. Al Cox, Plymouth's acting police chief, said he's aware of activity at Mullen's office, but that, as far as he knows, nothing illegal is taking place.

"It's not a dispensary, he's just providing the recommendation.

It's not a prescription," Cox said. "To sell or buy the marijuana — that's the violation."

Mullen, asked why he's not waiting until Michigan's law is squared with federal law, said President Barack Obama has ordered a hands-off federal approach to medical marijuana. An Internet perusal of news about Obama's stand on the issue appears to bear out that claim.

However, said Mullen, "there're some holes in this law" that he'd like to see addressed.

Though he feels doctors who follow the law are protected from prosecution, Mullen would like to see the state's expectations for doctors explicitly spelled out, and advocates a system of training and licensing doctors who want to use marijuana as a medical treatment.

Medical marijuana is a hot topic among the state's doctors, he said, and some doctors are taking it up, not always as openly.

Mullen said his medical documentation requirement is strict, and that his office can spot people who may not have a qualifying condition and simply want to get high.

"If they get by my front, they're probably pretty good," he said. "We deny a lot of people on the phone."

Book fair benefits Seedlings

Seedlings Braille Books for Children will be on the receiving end of a book fair being held Wednesday, June 2, at the Barnes and Noble Booksellers at Six Mile and Haggerty Road in Northville.

A percentage of shoppers' purchase will be donated when people present a special voucher or mention the Seedlings name between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. that day. The money raised will help produce children's books in braille.

There also will be braille activities and a special Story Time with one of braille readers. At 2:00 p.m., 18-year old Katie Keel of Redford, who has been blind since birth, will read several stories in braille and share some of the children's books Seedlings creates. Children

attending the Story Time will receive a braille bookmark to take home.

People also can also shop online June 2-6 at www.bn.com/bookfairs.com.

Enter the Bookfair number - 10210367 - at checkout and a portion of the online sales will also benefit Seedlings.

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization based in Livonia and is dedicated to increasing the opportunity for literacy by providing high quality children's literature in braille. Vouchers will be available on the Seedlings website at www.seedlings.org, click on special events to download the voucher or by call (734) 427-8552.

Every \$10 received through the fund-raiser will make a braille book possible.

Madonna offers college credit to high schoolers

High school students interested in sharpening their analytical skills while earning college credits still have time to enroll in Madonna University's six-week Summer Math and Computer Science Institute, which runs June 28 to Aug. 5.

Designed with high school sophomores and juniors in mind, the Institute offers a calculus and a Web design class. Students can earn eight credits through the program, five for calculus

and three for web design.

Interested students must submit an application, a high school transcript and a letter of recommendation from a math, computer or science teacher. To receive an application, call or e-mail Isaac St. John at (734) 432-5795 or istjohn@madonna.edu

The program costs \$300. Students may choose to take only one of the classes, but the same rate applies.

Madonna University is at 36600 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

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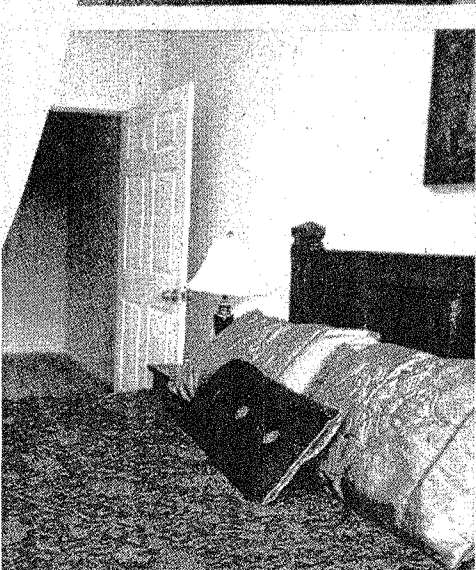
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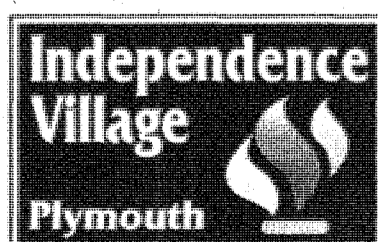
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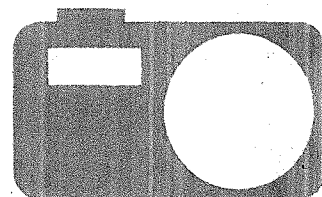
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League celebrates 50 years of informing voters, B5

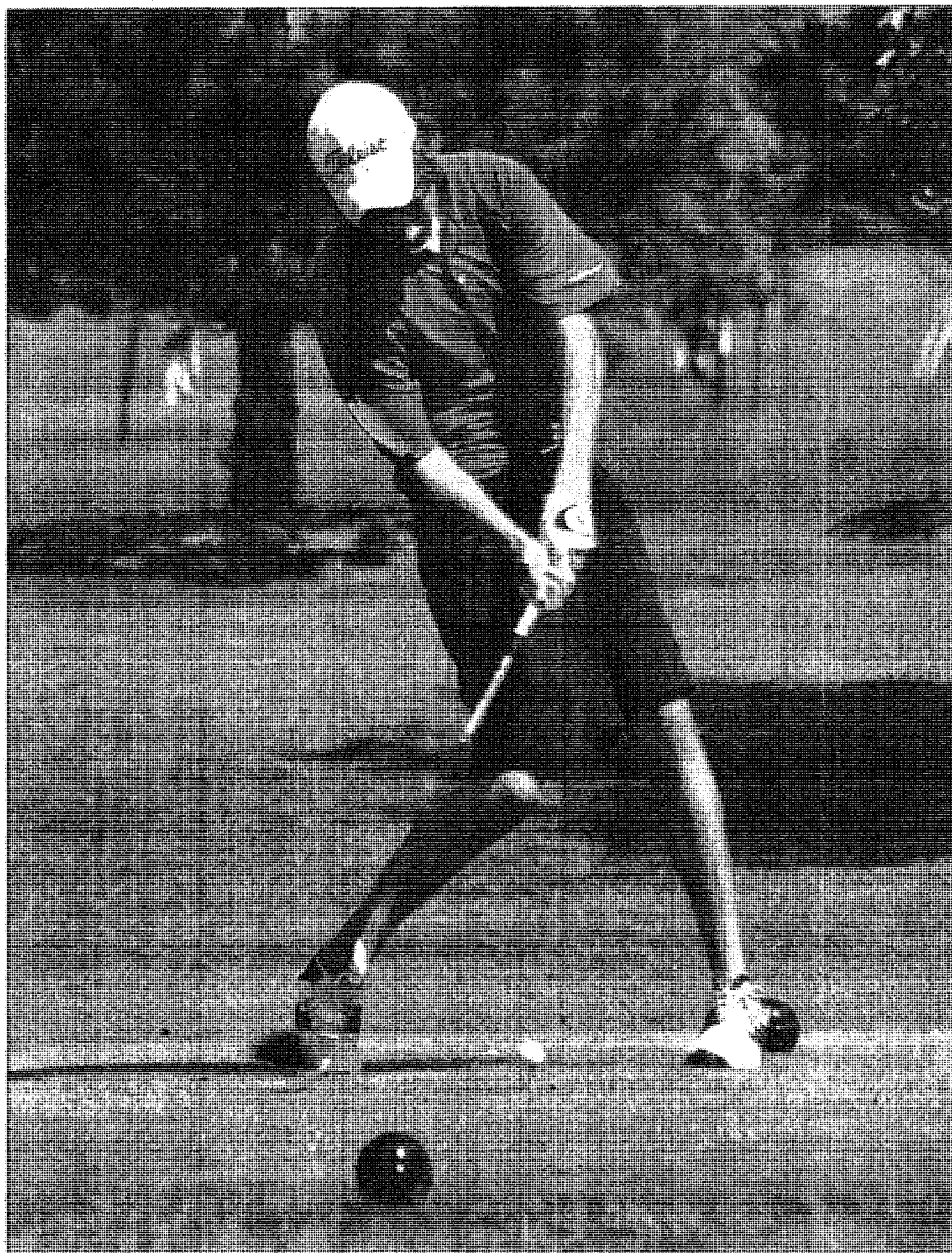
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Churchill's Ben Proben shot a 75 to place ninth individually at the Division 1 district boys golf tournament Thursday at Whispering Willows.

Making the cut

Stevenson, Churchill golfers advance to regionals

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Who says we miss the PGA TOUR here in Michigan? As long as high school players continue to card scores like those recorded Thursday in state tournament action, the void of not having a PGA event held in the state has been fulfilled by the incredible shot-making turned in by future stars.

No less than five teams recorded sub-312 totals in claiming the top six spots at the Division 1 district hosted by Livonia's Whispering Willows Golf Course.

That impressive field was led by the remarkable 290 total turned in by Northville.

Plymouth, led by senior James Bryans' 73, placed second overall with 304 and Livonia Stevenson, behind a sterling 73 carded by senior Drew Mossioan, claimed third with 306.

The remaining three spots - and cause for celebration since they will all be advancing onto regional action Thursday at West Shore Country Club on Grosse Ile - went to Plymouth Salem (308), Livonia Churchill (312) and Canton (323).

"The talent is getting better and better every year because there is more opportunity to

play and kids are taking advantage of it," Stevenson coach Jim Omietanski said. "Northville is such a powerhouse. They had four guys shoot a combined 10-over par.

"Our guys had a very good day. I figured if we shot around 312 we would be right there."

Plymouth coach Chris Moore echoed Omietanski's sentiments.

"A few of the coaches had been talking saying what a fun year it's been," he said. "It's been a very competitive year for all of us - coaches and players.

"I'm real happy for our guys because they have had a great year. They worked their butts off for this. Just their perseverance to never give up has been amazing."

According to Moore, the 304 recorded by his squad marked the fourth time this season the Wildcats have turned in a sub-310 total in an 18-hole event. And for the most part, Plymouth's No. 1 in each of those events has been someone different.

"They are all out there competing for themselves and cheering on each other," Moore said. "It's been great to see."

Following Bryans in the Plymouth scoring column were

Please see GOLF, B4

SIDELINES

Burns'em again

Junior Alexa Burns scored six goals and added one assist Thursday as Livonia Ladywood earned a 17-14 lacrosse quarterfinal victory in the regional opener over Catholic League rival Farmington Hills Mercy.

Senior Gaby Meyer added four goals, and sophomore goalie Rana Friej faced 32 shots as the Blazers improved to 8-5-1 overall.

Courtney Rashed, Alyssa Fritz and Ally Schreider each tallied four goals for the Marlins.

Meanwhile, Mercy goalie Christina LaRue faced 27 shots.

Ladywood now leapfrogs into the regional championship match beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, June 4 at Ann Arbor Skyline after Tuesday's scheduled semifinal foe Temperance Bedford pulled out of the state tourney.

"The girls are playing well and it's been a good year," Ladywood coach Kris Sanders said.

MU golfers 21st

The Madonna University women's golf team ended its first-ever appearance in the NAA Women's Championships with a 21st place team finish at Meadowbrook Golf Course in Rapid City, S.D.

The Crusaders had rounds of 355-355-360 for a three-day total of 1,070, which missed the cut by six places (top 15).

Michelle was MU's top scorer tied for 88th with rounds of 87-88-85-260.

Mariel Meyers (Livonia Franklin) and Sara Sinnitch were next tied for 103rd at 268 each. Meyers posted rounds of 89-86-93, while Sinnitch shot 87-88-93.

Other MU finishers included Chelsea Bathurst (Livonia Stevenson), tied for 112th (92-93-89), and Caitlin Steele, 121st (98-99-100).

Grid stars on TV

The Michigan High School Football Coaches Association 30th annual East-West All-Star Game, featuring 88 of the top senior players in the state, will be 3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 19 at Michigan State University's Spartan Stadium in East Lansing.

The game will be televised statewide on Comcast. The MHSFCA has partnered with Schoolcraft College Media Service and the Schoolcraft Sports Network to produce the game.

The broadcast will air on Comcast Channel 900 at 7 p.m. Monday, June 21; 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 22; 9:30 p.m. Thursday, June 24; and noon Friday, June 25.

Matt Shepard will call the play-by-play with former Detroit Lion Rob Rubick as the color analyst. Jamie Samuelsen will be the sideline reporter.

Area players slated to play for the East squad are Westland John Glenn running back Jeremy Langford and Plymouth defensive lineman Darrell Cohn.

Game tickets are \$5 (through June 12) and available by mailing to: attn: Jim Clawson, All Star Ticket Chair, 21681 Thorofare, Grosse Ile, MI 48138 (make check payable to: MHSFCA). You can also phone (734) 676-4486 (through June 17) for will call tickets.

Game day tickets at the Spartan Stadium entrance are \$10.

Warriors sew up MIAC Blue title

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Lutheran High Westland's maiden voyage into the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference has been nothing but smooth sailing as far as the baseball team is concerned.

The Warriors, No. 4 in the latest Division 4 state rankings, captured the MIAC Blue Division crown outright Wednesday with a convincing 14-3 five-inning mercy rule triumph over visiting Ann Arbor Greenhills.

The Warriors, who improved to 18-4 overall and 13-1 in the MIAC Blue, mounted a 15-hit attack to earn their first league title since 1997 going back to their days in the Metro Conference when coach Kevin Wade was a senior member of that squad.

Austin Baglow led the assault going 3-for-3, including his school record 18th double. He also walked and scored four

runs as the Warriors broke it open with nine runs in the second inning.

Other top offensive contributors include Taurrek Fikes (2-for-2, two RBI, three runs); Tony Cipolla (2-for-3, double, two RBI); Jake Andrezejewski (2-for-4, four RBI); Marc Rosin (2-for-3, double, two RBI); and Nick Andrezejewski (2-for-2, double, two runs).

Winning pitcher Gage Flanery went all five innings, allowing three hits and three walks while striking out four. The loss drops Greenhills to 6-16 and 4-10.

FLAT ROCK 10, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 2: Winning pitcher Zach LaBell tossed a complete-game 3-hitter Friday as the host Rams (12-16) upset Lutheran High Westland (18-5) in a non-conference game.

LaBell struck out four and walked only one. He also went 2-for-3 with a walk, while teammate Alex Buehrer added two hits and two RBI.

Gage Flanery and Kent Krzyske each knocked in a run for the Warriors.

The Warriors committed five errors as starting pitcher Jake Andrezejewski gave up six runs, but only three earned, in four innings. He walked three, hit a batter and struck out two.

"Jake pitched well enough, but we did not come to play," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade said. "Our minds were somewhere else and maybe it's because we were physically and emotionally spent from winning the conference. But if we don't come to play next time out, we'll be done with our season."

HAZEL PARK 4, CLARENCEVILLE 2: Ralph Hopkins pitched a complete-game six-hitter Thursday as the Vikings downed host Livonia Clarenceville (13-15) in a non-conference game.

Hopkins also tripled in the go-ahead run in the top of the sixth inning to break and 2-2 tie and Hazel Park added another insurance run in the seventh with a pair of hits sandwiched in between a hit batter.

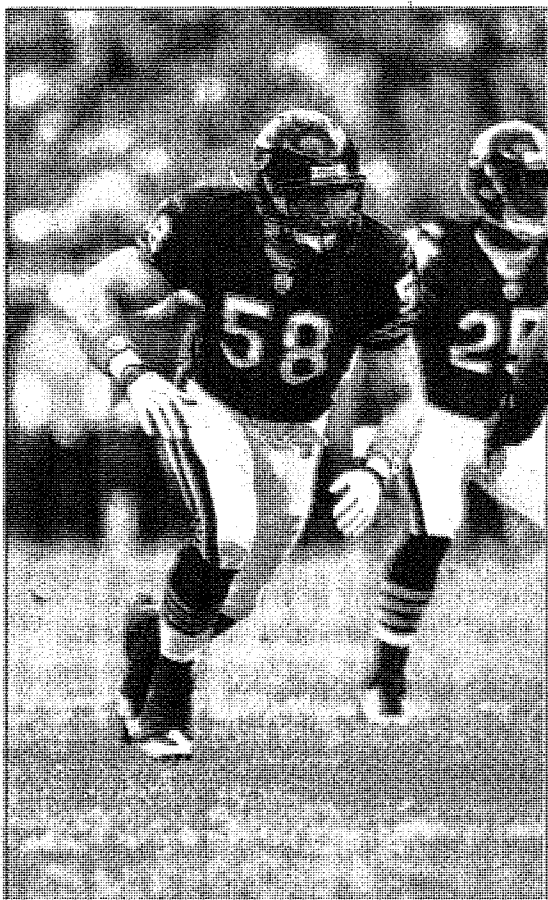
Losing pitcher Damien Quarles also went all seven innings, allowing four earned runs on six hits. He struck out 10.

Ben Gehan led the Trojans' offense with two hits and two RBI, while Eric Trotter scored both runs.



Tumbling champion

Cassandra Skinner, a freshman at Livonia Stevenson High School, captured the Girls Junior Elite Division in power tumbling at the USA Gymnastics Region IV Trampoline & Tumbling Championships held May 21-22 at Illinois State University's Redbird Arena in Normal, Ill. Skinner, representing AGT Flip City in Warren, completed a rare full-out straight routine (two twists and two flipping rotations) with a degree of difficulty of 4.7. She posted a two-round score of 60.70 and now will represent Team USA at the World Cup Age-Group Championships, Nov. 17-19, in Metz, France.



Clarenceville High grad Tim Shaw, now a special teams standout for the Chicago Bears, will conduct a free youth football clinic at his alma mater on Saturday, June 26.

No ordinary Bear

Tim Shaw offers free football clinic June 26 at C'ville

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Normally when the Chicago Bears hit town, they're considered the enemy.

But for this player from the Windy City, it's a welcomed homecoming for sure.

On Saturday, June 26, Tim Shaw will stage a free (non-contact) football clinic for youths in grades 4-12 at his high school alma mater - Livonia Clarenceville.

From 1-5 p.m. he'll be back on the gridiron where he set MHSAA records for rushing yards and TDs for the Trojans.

Shaw later distinguished himself as a linebacker and defensive end at Penn State before being drafted in the fifth round by the Carolina Panthers where he played one season before a brief stint with the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2009. Last season he landed with the Bears and became one of the NFL's top special teams standouts.

Shaw just completed mini-camp

with the Bears and is looking forward to giving back to the community, while lending his football expertise.

"When I went to camps in high school and colleges, it's different mindset - you were there to impress coaches and I knew scouts were there," Shaw said. "This camp is largely based on improving skills and bringing a positive influence to people from what I've been through and what I'm going through. It's going to be about football and life."

Former Penn State teammate Gerald Cadogan, an offensive lineman recently signed by the Indianapolis Colts, will also help out with the camp, which is sponsored by Eastbay, the athletic catalog company.

New Clarenceville varsity football coach Ken Fry, along with ex-Trojan players Pete Shaw (Tim's younger brother) and Walter Ragland, are expected to attend.

They will be joined by Jim Kielbaso, Director of the Total Performance Training Center in Wixom.

"But what I want this to be a positive learning environment and we'll

speak on goal-setting."

Before returning to Chicago for offseason training, Shaw spent two months in Jacksonville.

"Every offseason you learn how to spend your time," Shaw said. "It was a time to chill and recuperate, enjoy the sun and warm, also see family and friends."

Shaw, meanwhile, is fired up about the upcoming season in Chicago, which will hopefully lead to a return to the playoffs.

"I'm excited about the changes we've made as far as the additions and improvements," he said. "It gets me excited to see what we did in mini-camp. We have lots of offensive power and I think we'll have a good team and a good season."

Enrollment is limited to the first 100 for the free camp. You can download a registration form, which includes a medical waiver, online at www.timshawfootball.com; and send it to: Tim Shaw Football Camp, 18341 Pershing, Livonia, MI 48152.

bemons@hometownlife.com (313) 222-6851

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Tuesday, June 1
 Clarenceville at Luth. Westland, 4 p.m.
Wednesday, June 2
 Huron Valley at Clarenceville, 4 p.m.
 Dearborn at Luth. Westland, 4 p.m.
DISTRICT TOURNEY DRAWS
DIVISION 1
at LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Tuesday, June 1: (A) Redford Union vs. (B) Detroit Cody, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 5: Garden City vs. A-B winner, 10 a.m.; Livonia Franklin vs. Redford Thurston, 12:30 p.m.; **championship final:** 3 p.m. (Winner advances to the Wayne State University regional Saturday, June 12 vs. WSU district champion.)
at WAYNE MEMORIAL
Tuesday, June 1: (A) Inkster vs. (B) Romulus, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 5: Dearborn Heights Crestwood vs. A-B winner, 11 a.m.; Wayne Memorial vs. Westland John Glenn, 1 p.m.; **championship final:** 3:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, Saturday, June 12 at Allen Park vs. Dearborn district champion.)
at CANTON
Tuesday, June 1: (A) Livonia Churchill vs. (B) Plymouth, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 5: Canton vs. A-B winner, 10 a.m.; Livonia Stevenson vs. Salem, noon; **championship final:** 2 p.m. (Winner advances to the Novi regional Saturday, June 12 vs. Northville district champion.)
DIVISION 2
at MADONNA'S ILITCH BALLPARK
Saturday, June 5: Dearborn Divine Child vs. Ann Arbor Skyline, 10 a.m.; Livonia Clarenceville vs. South Lyon East, 12:30 p.m.; **championship final:** 2:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals Saturday, June 12 at Madonna University's Ilitch Ballpark vs. Melvindale district champion.)
DIVISION 4
at PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN
Saturday, June 5: (A) Plymouth Christian vs. (B) Lutheran High Westland, 10 a.m.; **championship final:** Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. A-B winner, 12:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, Saturday, June 12 at Lutheran High Westland vs. Allen Park Inter-City Baptist district champion.)
GIRLS SOFTBALL
Tuesday, June 1
 Annapolis at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 2
 Huron Valley at Clarenceville, 4 p.m.
DISTRICT TOURNEY DRAWS
DIVISION 1
at LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Tuesday, June 1: (A) Redford Union vs. (B) Detroit Cody, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 5: Livonia Franklin vs. Redford Thurston, 10 a.m.; Garden City vs. A-B winner, noon; **championship final:** 2 p.m. (Winner advances to the Wayne State University regional, Saturday, June 12, vs. WSU district

champion.)
at WAYNE MEMORIAL
Tuesday, June 1: (A) Inkster vs. (B) Romulus, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 5: Wayne Memorial vs. Westland John Glenn, 11 a.m.; Dearborn Heights Crestwood vs. A-B winner, 1 p.m.; **championship final:** 3:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, Saturday, June 12 at Allen Park vs. Dearborn district champion.)
at CANTON
Tuesday, June 1: (A) Plymouth vs. (B) Livonia Churchill, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 5: Livonia Stevenson vs. Salem, 10 a.m.; Canton vs. A-B winner, noon; **championship final:** 2 p.m. (Winner advances to the Novi regional, Saturday, June 12 vs. Northville district champion.)
DIVISION 2
at LIVONIA LADYWOOD
Tuesday, June 1: (A) Livonia Ladywood vs. (B) Ann Arbor Skyline, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 5: Livonia Clarenceville vs. Dearborn Divine Child, 10 a.m.; South Lyon East vs. A-B winner, noon; **championship final:** 2 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, Saturday, June 12 at Livonia Ladywood vs. Melvindale district champion.)
DIVISION 4
at PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
Saturday, June 5: (A) Plymouth Christian vs. (B) Lutheran High Westland, 10 a.m.; **championship final:** Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. A-B winner, 12:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, Saturday, June 12 at Lutheran High Westland vs. Allen Park Inter-City Baptist district champion.)
DIVISION 1
at LIVONIA STEVENSON (Host)
Tuesday, June 1: (A) Redford Union vs. (B) Salem at P-CEP grass field, 5 p.m.; (C) Livonia Churchill at (D) Pinckney, 7 p.m.; (E) Northville at (F) Livonia Stevenson, 6 p.m.
Thursday, June 3: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 5 p.m.; Plymouth vs. E-F winner, 7 p.m.
Saturday, June 5: Championship final, noon. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 8 at Canton vs. Brownstown Township-Woodhaven district champion.)
DEARBORN EDEL FORD (Host)
Tuesday, June 1: (A) Dearborn Fordson vs. (B) Detroit Western International, 5 p.m.; at Edsel Ford; (C) Garden City at (D) Edsel Ford, 7 p.m.; (E) Westland John Glenn at (F) Livonia Franklin, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, June 2: Canton vs. E-F winner, 5 p.m.; A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 7 p.m.
Saturday, June 5: Championship final, 1, 2 or 3 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 8 at Canton vs. Saline district champion.)
at BROWNSTOWN-WOODHAVEN (Host)
Tuesday, June 1: (A) Dearborn at (B) Wayne Memorial, 4 p.m.; (C) Lincoln Park at (D) Taylor Truman, 5:30 p.m.; (E) Taylor Kennedy at (F)

Woodhaven, 7 p.m.; (G) Southgate Anderson at (H) Romulus, 5 p.m.
Thursday, June 3: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 5 p.m.; E-F winner vs. G-H winner, 7 p.m.
Saturday, June 5: Championship final, 11 a.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 8 at Canton vs. Livonia Stevenson district champion.)
DIVISION 2
LIVONIA LADYWOOD (Host)
Tuesday, June 1: (A) Melvindale at. (B) Redford Thurston, 5:30 p.m.; (C) South Lyon at (D) Dearborn Divine Child, 4:30 p.m.; (E) Dearborn Heights Crestwood at (F) South Lyon East, 6 p.m.
Thursday, June 3: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 4 p.m.; E-F winner vs. Livonia Ladywood, 6 p.m.
Saturday, June 5: Championship final, 11 a.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 8 at Trenton vs. Trenton district champion.)
DIVISION 3
LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE (Host)
Tuesday, June 1: (A) Allen Park Cabrini at (B) Flat Rock, 4:30 p.m.; (C) Romulus Summit Academy at (D) Grosse Ile, 4:30 p.m.; (E) Detroit University Prep at (F) Livonia Clarenceville, 5:30 p.m.; (G) Detroit Cesar Chavez Academy at (H) Riverview Gabriel Richard, 7 p.m.
Thursday, June 3: E-F vs. G-H winner, 4:30 p.m.; A-B vs. C-D winner, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, June 4: Championship final, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 9 at Williamston vs. Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day district champion.)
DIVISION 4
at PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
Tuesday, June 1: Plymouth Christian Academy vs. Lutheran High Westland, 3:30 p.m. West Bloomfield Frankel Jewish Academy vs. Ann Arbor Greenhills, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, June 4: Championship final, 3:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 8 at Ann Arbor Huron vs. Madison Heights Bishop Foley district champion.)
BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
MHSAA STATE FINALS
Saturday, June 5
 Division 1 at Rockford, 10:30 a.m.
 Division 2 at Zeeland, 10:30 a.m.
 Division 3 at Comstock Park, 10:30 a.m.
 Division 4 at Jenison, 10:30 a.m.
GIRLS LACROSSE
REGIONAL FINALS
Friday, June 4
 Ladywood at A. A. Skyline, 6 p.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
MHSAA STATE FINALS
Friday-Saturday, June 4-5
 Division 1 at Midland Tennis Center, 8 a.m.
BOYS GOLF
MHSAA REGIONALS
Thursday, June 3
 Division 1 at West Shore G.C., TBA.
TBA - time to be announced.

Lady Ocelots complete stellar recruiting class

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's a reason why the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team is 65-5 overall and have finished in the Final Four of the NJCAA Division II National Tournament two consecutive seasons.

It's called recruiting, and it reaches far and wide. Coach Karen Lafata put a bow tie on her eight-player class for the 2010-11 season by signing another gem last week to a letter-of-intent - Diamond Tolliver, a 5-foot-5 point-guard from Saginaw High, who averaged 18 points and seven assists for coach Sophia Jordan's 15-5 squad.

Also in the fold is Saginaw

COLLEGE HOOPS

teammate Shanequa Braggs, a 5-11 forward who averaged 12 points and 15 rebounds. Braggs, the sister of Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker LaMarr Woodley, carries a 3.58 grade-point average.

Lafata's lone recruit from Wayne County is Cameo Kendrick, a 5-9 forward from Southgate Anderson who averaged 14 points and nine rebounds.

The Lady Ocelots will also have two players from Washtenaw County - Charlise Slater, a 5-8 guard who averaged 10.3 points for 21-4 Ann Arbor Huron, along with 6-4 center Sequaia Hood of Ypsilanti High,

who sat out last season with a knee injury after averaging 10 points for now defunct Canton Agape Christian in 2008-09.

Macomb County is represented by Shawnicka Thomas, a 5-9 forward from Warren Fitzgerald who averaged 16 points and 10 rebounds.

She is joined by Kelcie Jones, a 6-foot power forward from St. Clair Shores South Lake, who averaged 20 ppg, and Class C All-State center Amber Sammons of New Lothrop, who amassed 1,135 points in four varsity seasons.

Sammons also led Hornets to 97 career victories, while averaging 13.8 points and 7.1 rebounds her senior year.

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

Coratti takes reins as Ladywood hoop coach

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Anthony Coratti is entering his final year of law school, but now he can test his coaching skills and put them into practice on the basketball court.

The 27-year-old junior varsity coach was elevated Wednesday to the varsity girls basketball position at Livonia Ladywood.

Coratti succeeds Pat Cannon, who resigned in late March after going 23-22 in two seasons with the Blazers.

If Coratti's name is familiar, it should be. The 2001 Detroit Catholic Central High grad is the son of former CC varsity basketball coach and longtime Shamrock football assistant Rick Coratti.

"We looked at 15 different resumes," Ladywood athletic director Sal Malek said. "We had a lot of great choices, but he (Coratti) had been in the system and understands the Catholic League.

"He's a technical coach and can relate to kids. He has a great background with his

father and uncles. He comes from a coaches' family. And he's proven a lot in the Catholic League going 21-0 and winning the JV championship this year."

Coratti competed in three sports at CC - football, basketball and baseball - before going on to play football for two seasons at Canisius University (N.Y.). After the school dropped football, he transferred to Iona University (N.Y.) where he finished his eligibility and graduated.

He currently serves as a law clerk and is finishing up his law degree at Wayne State University.

Coratti has been part of the Ladywood basketball program for the past three seasons.

"We'll definitely be tough at all ends of the floor," the new coach said. "We'll play loose and score as fast as possible. Kind of the way my dad coached at CC and hopefully he'll be around to help me out a little bit."

With an undefeated JV squad coming up, Coratti is anxious to see what he'll put on the floor for the 2010-11 season.

"I'm pretty optimistic," he said. "We have a solid group of seniors even though we're a little undersized. We're not big, so we'll shoot and run. We want to press - defense is always first - and get into people."

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NEIGHBORS

League celebrates 50 years of informing voters

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

It was business as usual as Esther Friedrichs took a few moments from eating to sign up volunteers for the annual used book sale for the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County.

The dedication of members is the number one reason voters have remained informed about candidates for the last 50 years.

On May 22, it was time to celebrate their accomplishments with a luncheon at Western Golf & Country Club in Redford. The 89-year-old Friedrichs, a charter member, attended with her friend, Cary Ormond, a member before moving to Novi.

"I like the group of women. The meetings have good topics," said Friedrichs.

Spirits were high as president Paula Bowman rushed around before guests arrived. Established in 1960 as the League of Women Voters of Livonia, the name was changed in 2001 to identify the communities it serves - Livonia, Canton, Plymouth, Northville, Garden City, Westland, Redford and Wayne.

Near the end of the program, the Petticoat Ladies of Garden City Presbyterian Church performed as women inventors from the 1800s and early 1900s.

TIME TO CELEBRATE

"This is a celebratory luncheon, not a lot of speakers," said Bowman. Her mother, Marguerite Kowaleski, was a longtime member before Bowman joined 15 years ago. Both her mother and father, Edward, were involved in civil rights and social justice initiatives so it was only natural Bowman followed in their



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Esther Friedrichs is a charter member of the League of Women Voters.

footsteps.

"Our main mission is to help voters stay informed. We're continually urging them to be participants in their government. They should be going to council and school board meetings, turning on cable, speaking out, being part of the process," said Bowman.

Elected officials such as state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, recognized the League's contributions by offering a framed state resolution. A special certificate signed by Congressman Thaddeus McCotter was on display. Jennifer Trussell presented a resolution on behalf of Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox.

"It's a tremendous service the league provides as far as education and information to make our voters more informed in a nonpar-

tisan way," said Anderson. "We're very appreciative of them and wish them many more years."

The national organization was founded in 1920. History boards showed the local members' work on behalf of voters. State House Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford, participated in several of the candidate forums.

"We have tough times in the state. The organization has to cut to the chase and inform the voters. No time is the role more important when elected officials are under assault," said Dillon.

League members aren't about to stop providing voters with unbiased information on candidates. They will be planning candidate forums prior to the primary and election as well as printed and online voter guides for the mid-term election this year.

"We get calls. They always want to know who we support," said Bowman. "We direct them to the library or online. They're so grateful we have nonpartisan information for them. It's the judges and little guys at the bottom of the ballot that people need to be informed about. Getting info on local candidates affects schools, kids and roads. Local control is critical. We want to make sure good candidates are elected."

Angela Ryan believes the League's candidate forums, voter guides, voter registration drives, and educational forums for ballot proposals and current issues become more important with each passing year.

Ryan, a Livonia resident, joined the League of Women Voters in Virginia 30 years ago. In 2004, she was elected treasurer of the League of Northwest Wayne County.

NONPARTISAN GROUP

"Because we are nonpartisan it becomes more important as years pass as politics is becoming more partisan. The league can present both sides of an issue," said Ryan.

"We do a voter guide even for school boards and voter registration at colleges. If people are interested in joining us, there are so many issues we get involved with - prison reform, climate change, health care. We do public meetings several times a year on these issues."

Nancy White of Northville Township remembers when informing voters wasn't as easy as today. She's been a member 40 years, state president from 1985-89. White is especially proud of the League's work in the late 1980s to make it easier for people with disabilities to vote by providing accessible polling places.

"In the '80s we put computers in the state office and expanded citizen information by putting it onto the website instead of by phone. It was so much better when you could go to computers," said White.

Laura Callow joined in 1963, a time when women were primarily homemakers. She learned about the league from a PTA friend.

"I fell in love with the League," said Callow. "They were about issues of doing and bettering society."

During lunch, Bowman spoke briefly about the organization and its early years.

"We don't have phone trees anymore. We send out e-mail blasts and gone is the hand-cranked mimeograph machine," said Bowman. "Men are a welcome addition to the league now. Dues went from \$5 to \$55."

She recalled a 1970 editorial by Phil Power, then owner of the *Observer* Newspapers, about his



County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt and Lena Parker listen to the program.

belief that "an informed voter is a better voter."

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt couldn't agree more.

"The public needs to know who elected officials are and how they get where they are to vote for candidates and issues that fill their needs," said Gebhardt, who's also a Schoolcraft College trustee.

Gebhardt said there are many benefits to joining the League. She's developed many friendships since joining in 2000. Gebhardt was part of the 50th committee that put together history boards on display at the luncheon. The photos, newspaper clippings and memorabilia have been traveling to libraries in Livonia, Canton and Plymouth.

Susan Rowe, a member of Wayne City Council, was grateful for the opportunity to present her views at candidate forums when running for election. She joined the League in Royal Oak in 1978. "I believe as an elected official they are so important because they give us an opportunity to get our voices heard," said Rowe.

County Commissioner Diane Webb showed up in her T-shirt after participating in the Relay for Life in Garden City. "They educate and they're unbiased. They do their homework and let people know who they are voting for," said Webb.

The League of Women Voters is open to any person age 18 or older including men. "You don't have to be a citizen," said Bowman. "We like having a diverse membership. It helps us maintain our nonpartisanship. In addition to advocacy we do voter education. A number of us went up to Lansing April 21 to visit legislators to talk about convenient voting and no reason absentee voting."

BOOK SALE

The annual book sale for the League takes place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 6, at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia. Proceeds go to support the work of the League, including providing scholarships. For information, visit the website at www.lwvwww.org or call (734) 421-4420.

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SHOULDER SURGERY

Shoulder replacement surgery is becoming more common as longer life brings on more joint wear. For those who may either undergo an operation for a shoulder replacement, or if a torn rotator cuff occurs, for reverse shoulder replacement, this column offers advice.

Post operative care requires an elaborate shoulder sling and a pain pump. Before surgery, ask the doctor to show you the apparatus and allow you to attach it on and then off a manikin until you are comfortable putting on, removing or adjusting the sling and pump.

Expect a slow postoperative recovery. The rule is that recovery from a hospital stay takes three to four days for every hospital day.

If possible, arrange to have a family member or friend in your hospital room throughout your stay. The reason is not to check if the nursing staff is giving you the right medicines at the proper time. Rather, if you have shoulder surgery you are, post operatively, in pain, one handed and limited by the bulky sling and pain pump.

Even keeping a sheet and blanket over you is difficult. A personal attendant can arrange the bed, make sure your meal tray is set where you can eat from it, clear away the clutter that accumulates as visitors and hospital staff come in and out of your room.

While in the hospital and for the weeks that follow, be prepared for bumps in the road to recovery. Constant pain, intermittent fatigue, sweats and chills, but not accompanied by fever will dog your recovery. Remember, if you had no surgery the pain you feel today would only become worse tomorrow, but the pain after surgery, inevitably resolves.

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Stay safe during grilling season

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reminds outdoor cooks not to forget about grill fire safety as the peak months for grill fires arrive.

Individuals with gas grills should take extra precautions. From 2003-2006, gas-fueled grills were involved in 81 percent of reported home grill fires and were involved in 6,400 home fires, including structure and outside fires. The leading cause of gas grill fires was a leak or break in hoses.

"Nobody wants to see their backyard barbecue go up in flames," stated Lorraine Carli, vice president of communications for NFPA. "There are simple measures that can be taken to avoid charring dinner and setting anything on fire."

Although gas grills are used approximately one-and-a-half times more often than charcoal grills, they were involved in five times as many fires. Charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were involved in 1,300, or 16 percent, of home grill fires. The leading cause of these fires were flammable items too close to the grill.

In 2007, approximately 9,600 people went to hospital emergency rooms because of thermal burns caused by grills. About one-third of the burns from gas grills happened while

lighting the grill. Gasoline or lighter fluid was involved in roughly one-quarter of charcoal or wood grill burns. Children under five accounted for roughly one-quarter of thermal grill burns. Most of these burns occurred when the child bumped or touched the grill.

The National Fire Protection Association offers the following grill safety tips:

- Use propane and charcoal grills in outdoor areas only.
- Make sure the grill is located well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Declare a three foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.
- Use long-handled grilling tools to give plenty of clearance from heat and flames.
- Remove grease or fat build up from the grills and in trays below the grill so it cannot ignite.
- Never leave the grill unattended.
- For gas grills:
 - Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year by applying a light soap and water solution to the hose. If there is a propane leak, it will release bubbles. If you do find a leak and there is no flame, turn off



the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, have the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If it does not stop, call the fire department.

- If you smell gas at any point while cooking, get away from the grill immediately and call the fire department.
- Use only equipment with the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never store propane gas tanks in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.
- For charcoal grills:
 - If you use a "charcoal

chimney" to start charcoal for cooking, use a long match to avoid burning your fingers when lighting the paper.

- If you use starter fluid, only use charcoal starter fluid and never add charcoal fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited.
- Never use gasoline or any other flammable liquid to get the fire going.
- Keep charcoal fluid away from children and heat sources.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container.

For more safety tips, videos, facts and figures, and audio clips, please visit <http://www.nfpa.org/grilling>.

NEW FACES

AT KARMANOS

Dr. Robert I. Boorstein, D.O., FACOS, a certified surgeon, has joined the staff at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center's Farmington Hills treatment site. He will begin seeing patients on May 14.



Boorstein

Boorstein specializes in diseases of the breast, upper gastro-intestinal tract, colon and rectum and performs GI endoscopy, minimally-invasive surgery and lapa-

roscopic surgery.

He also has received several awards including the Mead-Johnson National Osteopathic Foundation Grant, Surgical Resident Trainer of the Year in 2007. He is a member of the teaching staff at DMC Sinai-Grace Hospital and has written articles for several medical journals.

The West Bloomfield resident is a member of the Michigan Breast Cancer Task Force and is an associate clinical professor of surgery at Wayne State University School of Medicine and the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He also is a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

Boorstein received his medical education at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his post-graduate training at Botsford Hospital and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

The Karmanos Cancer Center in Farmington Hills is located at 31995 Northwestern Highway. It provides suburban patients with outpatient chemotherapy and radiation services, supportive care, physician consultations and laboratory services. To schedule an appointment with Boorstein, call (800) KARMANOS.

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

Garden City Hospital's medical staff is growing. New staff members are:

- Mohammad Khalil, DPM, podiatry, located at 23822 Ford Road, Dearborn Heights.
 - Sayed Y. Zaidi, M.D., pathology, located at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.
 - Nsima M. Usen, DPM, podiatry, located at 23822 Ford Road, Dearborn Heights.
 - David M. Komarsara, D.O., emergency medicine, located at Garden City Hospital.
- For more information or to make an appointment with one of Garden City Hospital's new or existing physicians, call the Physician Referral service at (877) 717-WELL or visit www.gchosp.org.

Beaumont tests fibromyalgia screening tool

Researchers at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak are seeking volunteers already diagnosed with fibromyalgia, and rheumatoid arthritis to participate in a research study. The purpose of the study is to assess the accuracy of a newly developed screening tool designed to assist physicians in the diagnosis of fibromyalgia. No current tool exists and fibromyalgia is a condition that is not easily diagnosed because of its potentially wide range of symptoms.

"Study participants will be asked to complete a one-page questionnaire with a researcher during a short, 10 minute inter-

view session," said Dr. Martin Tamler, a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician and the study's principal investigator. "The researcher will be unaware of the interviewee's status with respect to having either fibromyalgia or rheumatoid arthritis, or neither of these conditions. Once interviews with all participants are complete, collected data will be statistically analyzed to determine if the screening tool accurately identifies participants with fibromyalgia."

Taking part in the study is completely voluntary. Those interested in participating in the study or who have questions can call the

research team at (248) 898-0161.



There are no direct benefits for participants, but information from this study may benefit other people now or in the future. There are no known risks to people participating in the study.

The Beaumont Research Institute has 430 investigators conducting more than 925 active laboratory and clinical studies involving 96,000 patients that are funded by government, foundation and commercial grants. The Research Institute has an average annual operating budget topping \$30 million.

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