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SUNDAY

July 18, 2010

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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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IN BRIEF

LWV voters guide

Non-partisan Voters Guides prepared by the League of Women Voters for the candidates running for the state, county and local elections Tuesday, Aug. 3, are now available at www.lwvww.org.

In this primary election, voters can vote in only one party's primary — either Republican or Democratic. A ballot will be invalidated if the voter "crosses over" from one party to another. In a primary election, voters also can't split their ticket for partisan offices.

The League of Women Voters is a trusted source of non-partisan candidate information, and the Voter Guide provides an easy vehicle for voters to compare the candidates before the primary election.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. It never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

Orange barrel alert

If you plan to travel between Newburgh and Haggerty, be aware that from at 9 p.m. tonight (July 18) to 5 a.m. Wednesday, July 21, road work will reduce the thoroughfare to one or two lanes, both eastbound and westbound.

Concert Series

Westland's 2010 Summer Concert Series is in full swing. All of the concerts begin at 7 p.m. on Thursdays at the pavilion behind the William P. Faust Public Library on Central City Parkway north of Ford.

This week's concert will feature folk/blues music by Peter Madcat Ruth on July 22. Also on tap is Latin jazz music by the Lynn LaPlante 7 on July 29, country music by the Waco Band on Aug. 5 and R&B by the Tyrone Hamilton All-Stars on Aug. 12.

The free concert series is funded in part by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Humanities Council.

Christmas in July

The Westland Community Foundation will hold its annual Christmas in July event at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 22, at Marvaso's Italian Grille & Electric Stick, 6569 Wayne Road. There will be hors d'oeuvres, a scholarship presentation, trivia contest and raffle drawing.

The cost is \$50 per person minimum donation and non-perishable food items for the Westland Salvation Army Food Bank. For more information or to reserve a ticket, call (734) 595-7727.

Used book sale

The Friends of the Westland Library will hold their first ever mini used book sale in the Friends Shop 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 22. Prices are two hard covers for \$1, eight paperbacks for \$1 and three large paperbacks for \$1.

The library is on Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren Road. Money raised help fund library programs for all age groups.

Waiver clears way for opinion on library rent

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Now that a potential conflict of interest has been waived, the Westland city attorney can prepare an opinion regarding the city's ability to collect rent from the William P. Faust Public Library.

Michael McNamara had represented

the library board for some time, but had also filled the city attorney position over the past year during the illness of long-time City Attorney Angelo Plakas, who passed away Tuesday.

Last week, the library board approved a conflict of interest waiver — Mayor William Wild had already signed the waiver on behalf of the city — which will allow McNamara to prepare the

opinion requested by the council.

The question before McNamara is whether the city can collect rent from the library for use of the building without a lease.

As part of the general fund budget approved by council, the city would begin charging the library just over \$50,000 annually for rent and charge more than \$500,000 for 10 years back

rent. If collected, the money would go to the city's general fund.

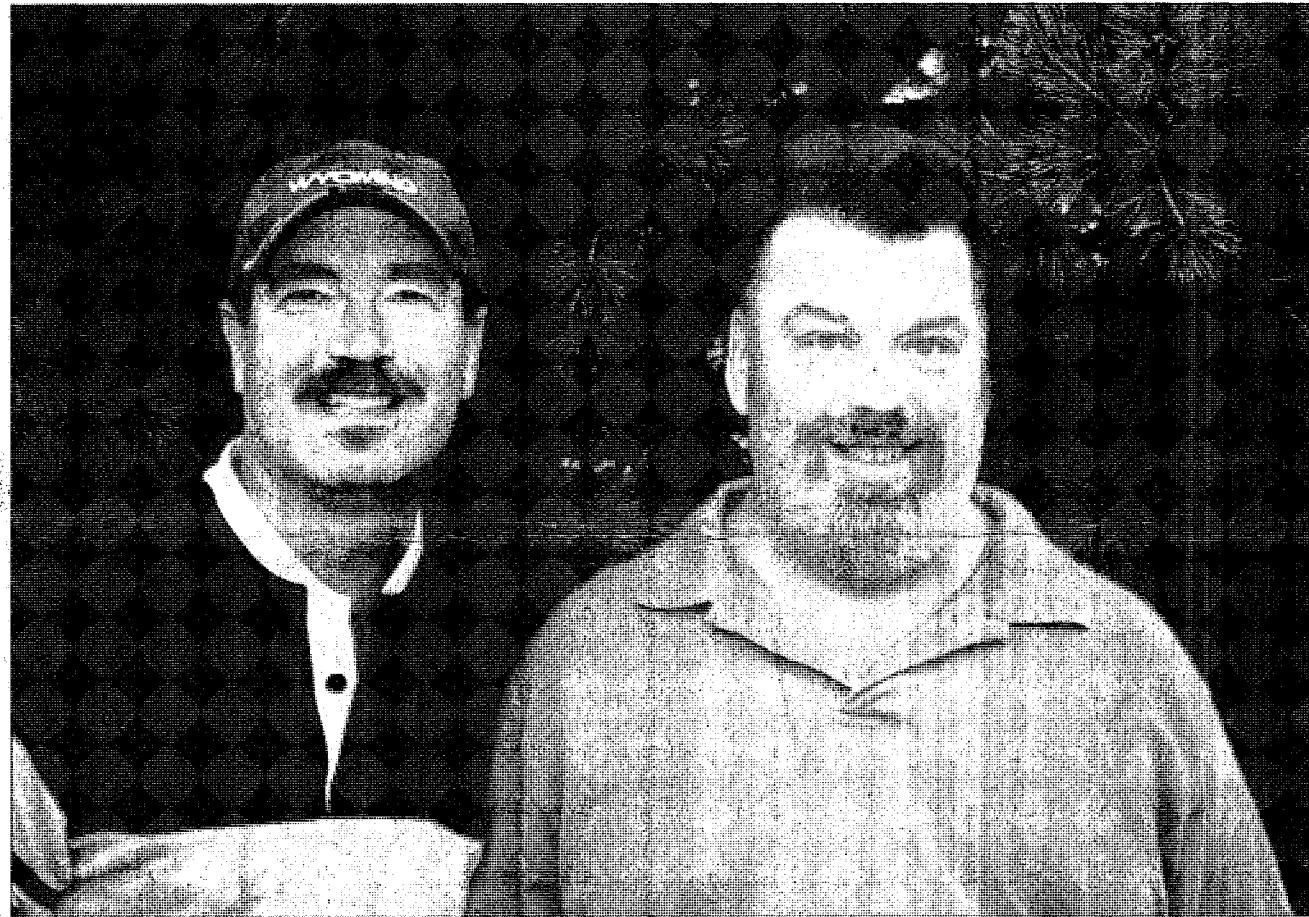
McNamara doesn't have to address the issue of who owns the library building — the city owns the land and, according to Wayne County property tax records, also owns the 34,000-square-foot building.

Please see **BUILDING, A2**

'Hey, bro, how's it going?'

Separated by adoption, brothers get second chance to build lives together

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Robert Staffig-Piotter (left) and David Kirk spent their Fourth of July catching up on the what's happened in the 43 years since they were separated by adoption. Kirk signed a document on June 24 that opened the door for the two brothers to be together again.

David Kirk isn't the kind of guy who signs on the dotted line without reading the fine print.

But that's the dilemma he faced June 24 as he stood in the Park and Ride at Silver Lake Road in Fenton. The only way he could find out the name of a sibling who wanted to contact him was sign a document, most of which was covered by the hands of confidential intermediary Mimi Mazzara.

Two days earlier, Kirk had received a private and confidential letter from the courts, alerting him to the fact that a sibling was looking for him. He called Mazzara the next day and agreed to meet her in Fenton.

"I couldn't see it until I signed it and I never sign anything without reading it, but I went ahead and signed it," Kirk said. "I knew I had an older brother, but I had nothing to go on to find him. I had no names."

More than 2,000 miles away in Casper, Wyo., Robert Staffig-Piotter was waiting and hoping Kirk would sign the paper so he could finally see the brother who he remembered would throw toys at him at night and laugh, the brother he had been looking for since he was 15 years old.

Please see **BROTHERS, A3**

Westland man charged in June 9 fatal crash

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man is scheduled to be arraigned July 29 on four charges, including manslaughter with a motor vehicle and drunken driving causing a death.

On Wednesday, 18th District Court Judge Sandra Cicirelli signed the warrant charging Thomas Rada, 55, in the death of Stanislaus "Stan" Zielinski.

The arraignment was delayed to allow Rada, who had been brought to court by police, to return to the physical rehabilitation facility where he has been receiving in-patient treatment for injuries suffered in the June 9 accident. The arraignment was rescheduled after Cicirelli indicated she would order Rada remanded to jail once he was arraigned.

The warrant charges Rada with one count of homicide-manslaughter, one count of operating with a suspended

license causing death, operating under the influence of alcohol causing a death and drunken driving.

Zielinski, 69, was driving a Chevrolet Metro Cab minivan headed eastbound on Cherry Hill near Wildwood when the collision happened around 2 p.m.

A Ford Explorer driven by Rada, headed west on Cherry Hill, rear-ended a vehicle stopped for the traffic light, then careened into the eastbound lanes, striking Zielinski's vehicle head on.

Zielinski was pronounced dead on arrival at an area hospital. Rada was hospitalized after the accident and subsequently moved to a physical rehabilitation center.

Immediately following the accident, Westland police indicated that alcohol was suspected to be a factor. Filing charges against Rada had been delayed by a lengthy wait for blood-alcohol test results.

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City goes electronic with monthly newsletter

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As a cost-saving measure, Westland is no longer sending out a quarterly newsletter to residents.

Instead, residents can sign up to have an electronic version of the *Insider* sent to them by e-mail monthly.

The newsletter got a soft launch by being sent to council members and city employees July 1. More than 250 people have signed up for the newsletter.

"We signed people up at our community event at Tattan Park. It was all part of our soft launch," Mayor William Wild said, noting the e-version will be sent out more frequently than the printed newsletter.

The electronic newsletter also ties in with the city's Mission: Green efforts to be environmentally friendly. Residents interested in receiving the newsletter can sign up at the city website at <http://ci.westland.mi.us/>.

The city utilizes the website, Facebook, Nixle and Twitter

and other modern communication networks, but Wild acknowledged there are some people who don't have home computers or aren't interested in using a computer.

"I spoke to a lady today who is without Internet access at home, she can use the library computer (at no charge)," Wild said. "Some people love it, some people hate it. I've asked the department heads to have some printed copies available."

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Varmint Police takes over animal control duties

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland no longer has animal control officers on staff and has hired a local firm to handle those duties in conjunction with police officers. Under the budget that began July 1, the animal control officer position was eliminated but the employee, a member of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1602, was being reassigned through the union bidding process.

"At one time we had two animal control officers and that was reduced to one; no one was laid off, they went back to DPS (Department of Public Services)," said Westland Deputy Police Chief Daniel Karrick. "We supervised the animal control officers. They were dispatched from the police department and worked under our rules and regulations." The council has approved a contract with Varmint Police, a Westland company, which will receive \$242 per animal con-

trol call. The company will provide all the necessary equipment and vehicles to respond to the calls. Under the contract, Varmint Police workers would respond to animal control complaints reported to police. That could include calls about dog bites, unlicensed dogs, dogs at large or animal cruelty, said Karrick. The difference in using a private contractor is that the contractor will not do follow-up investigations since they have no enforcement powers

and cannot issue tickets. That is where police officers will now get involved. "Our animal control officers could issue tickets and follow up. Without those people, our officers will have to follow up on the animal cruelty, unlicensed dogs and animal cruelty," said Karrick. "We will handle it through a combination of Varmint Police, who handle the animals themselves, and police who will follow up to write the tickets." Although he didn't know which types of animal control

were most common, Karrick said the city receive a lot of animal control calls. "It is varied. We get calls on barking dogs, dogs loose in traffic, dog bites. We'll handle them in a new way," he said. The contracting of animal control services was among many changes that were part of the city's effort to reduce spending in response to decreased revenues and a projected deficit. Part of cost cutting included an early retirement program that reduced staffing at city departments

and resulted in 13 fewer police officers. Residents with animal control complaints will still call the police department, which will contact the contractor. "We do nothing with wild animals — that law was changed several years ago — unless there has been a bite or a vicious animal like a raccoon," said Karrick, adding residents can call police about dead animals along streets which DPS will collect.

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Party helps local woman celebrate 90th birthday

Saturday was a big day for Ann Dondzila. That's when the Westland resident celebrated her 90th birthday at the Summit in Canton, with family and friends at a "birthday bash" given by her children. Held on her actual birthday, the celebration included a buffet luncheon and the music of one-man band, singer, entertainer and pianist,



Ann Dondzila celebrates her 90th birthday Saturday.

Rennie Kaufman. She married to Walter Dondzila of Grand Rapids on Oct. 5, 1941. He passed away 10 months before they would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple moved to Westland in 1948, and she has been a resident ever since. She also has been a member of St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in Redford for more than 60 years. Dondzila has five children: Laurie (Ralph) Robinson of Plymouth, Judy (Eugene) Borio of Canton, Walter Dondzila who passed away in 2006, Joseph Dondzila of Walled Lake and Ronald

Dondzila (Kathryn Silardi) of Canton. She also has 10 grandchildren - Ralph (Rob) Robinson of North Hollywood, Calif., Jeffrey Robinson of Plymouth, Rachael Lea Dondzila of Springfield, Va., Katie Ann Dondzila-Meek (Josh) of Edgewood, Md., Erik Dondzila, Kristen Dondzila and Kory Dondzila, all of Canton and Jake Dondzila, Meghan Dondzila and Melissa Dondzila, all of Walled Lake. Dondzila has been a Detroit Tigers fan for many, many years. She looks forward to each and every game and knows all of the players and their stats.

Her favorite song is *You Are My Sunshine*, which Walt would sing to her while playing his guitar. Her favorite movie is *Gone With the Wind*, her favorite movie star is Robert Taylor. She also enjoys playing bingo with the Westland seniors at the Westland senior Friendship Center. Dondzila loves to travel and has been to California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and several places in Canada.

AROUND WESTLAND

Drug disposal

The Westland Police Department will be at the Westland senior Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, July 23, to help residents properly dispose of unused and expired medications. People should not bring syringes, needles or hazardous bio-

medical supplies.

Vendors needed

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is looking for sales consultants from direct selling companies to display and sell their products at a sales event Oct. 18. Rental space is \$20-\$30 for the sale which will be held at the Salvation Army build-

ing at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. The event is a fund-raiser for two of the corps' youth groups which are working toward a week-long trip to the Northwoods Camp in Finlayson, Minnesota. For more information, contact Sandy Kollinger at sandra_kollinger@usc.salvationarmy.org or Josh Hubbard at joshua_hubbard@usc.salva-

tionarmy.org.

Garage sale

The Village of Westland Senior Living Community will hold a garage sale 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 24. The sale is a fund-raiser for the senior residents. The Village of Westland is at 32001 Cherry Hill, west of Merriman, Westland.

BUILDING

FROM PAGE A1

The library has a \$1.9 million budget with a 0.994 millage levy — before the Headlee rollback — generat-

ing \$1.7 million for the largest portion of its revenue. Property tax revenues for 2010-11 are projected at \$1.5 million due to decreased property values. The library had a \$1.5 million fund balance, effectively its savings account, which would drop

to \$800,000 with the back rent.

During the budget discussions, Library Director Cheryl Napsha defended the amount of the fund balance, noting the 14-year-old building was likely to need work in the next few years. The library has funded maintenance and upkeep of the building.

The city has a practice of charging rent to departments with their own budgets and funds, such as the water fund, which is billed rent for space in City Hall occupied

by the water billing staff. The library rent came up as the city worked to eliminate projected deficits, \$3.5 million in the current fiscal year.

The council adopted a balanced budget which did not utilize the library rent money — the \$500,000 would bring the city's general fund balance to \$2.5 million. Early retirements, contract concessions and other cuts helped the city cut a projected \$36 million deficit at the end of five years to \$16 million.

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RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Garden City hold its regular meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month in the Administrative Service Center Board Room, 1333 Radcliff, beginning at 7:00 p.m.; further, when feasible, the Board endeavors to designate the second regular board meeting of each month as a meeting to be held at a school building also starting at 7:00 p.m. It should be noted that all student expulsion, disciplinary or appeal hearings will be conducted at the Administrative Service Center.

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**WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS,
WILLIAM D. FORD CAREER - TECHNICAL CENTER**

Career Technical Programs

Each year, Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center offer career/technical programs to the high school districts of Wayne-Westland, Melvindale, South Redford, Redford Union, Crestwood, Dearborn Heights #7, Van Buren and area private schools. These programs are designed to prepare high school students for a broad range of employment and training services and are offered under the guidance of certified teachers, counselors, and cooperative education coordinators. For further information on course offerings and admissions, please call (734) 419-2100 or visit our website www.wwcsd.net/fctc.

The following is a list of programs being offered during the 2010-2011 school year:

Alternative Energy Technology, Auto Body Repair, Automotive Technology, Business/Computer Technology, Child Day Care, Construction Technology, Culinary Arts/Hospitality, Digital Media, Electronics/Robotics Technology, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Game Design and Programming, Graphic Design, Graphic/Printing Communications, Health Occupations, Heating/Air Conditioning/Refrigeration (HVAC), Mathematics, Media Production, Medical Assisting, Welding Technology.

All career-technical programs comply with Federal Laws and Regulations of the U.S. Department of Education. It is the policy of Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center that no person on the basis of race, color, disability, or limited English proficiency shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. Furthermore, the William D. Ford Career-Technical Center will encourage participation by all of the above. Questions concerning Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, should be directed to: CTE Director, William D. Ford Career-Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185, (734) 419-2100.

Inquiries related to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, should be directed to: CTE Director, William D. Ford Career-Technical Center, 36455 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185, (734) 419-2100.

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Robert Staffig-Piotter believes his brother, whom he calls Don David, was about a year old when this photo was taken of them.

BROTHERS

FROM PAGE A1

"He had to approve it; if he didn't, the search was over," Piotter said. "I got a call from Mimi and she asked if I wanted to talk to my brother. I said yes and she said, 'I got him right here, he signed the paper.'"

The first words Kirk heard from his long lost brother were, "Hey, bro, how's it going?"

'COOL BEANS'

Sitting at a table in the Westland Big Boy Restaurant at Wayne Road and Hunter, the two brothers had smiles that stretched from ear to ear. Two weeks after making the connection, they had spent most of the Fourth of July catching up on the 43 years they'd been apart. They had discovered a lot they had in common, from each having a brother named Mark to their favorite saying, "cool beans."

Kirk, who grew up in Westland, admitted that it had yet to sink in. Signing that paper had taken him from knowing he had three blood relatives — his three daughters — to six, including three half-brothers.

"If someone had said two weeks ago I'd be sitting here talking to my brother, I would have bought him a drink," Kirk said. "This has been more than wonderful."

"It's so nice to have a happy ending for us," added Piotter, who drove 19 hours from Casper with a stop in Davenport, Iowa, to meet the younger brother he knew as Don David. "It's been just so cool. We've spent the last three days catching up."

It is no coincidence that they were in western Wayne County. A lot of their early life is connected to Garden City. Their mother, Darlene Diane Staffig, had grown up in Garden City and attended Garden City High School. Their Aunt Shelly had lived in Westland before moving

to Redford recently and had kept her maiden name listed in the phone book in hopes Piotter would find her.

Ironically, while Piotter grew up on a farm in the Thumb area, Kirk grew up in Westland less than a mile from Aunt Shelly and graduated from John Glenn High School in 1983. And his grandparents lived in Garden City.

"We've come full circle," said Piotter who is writing a book, *Fate Awaits*, a fictional story based on his life and his search for his biological family.

LOOKING FOR HIS FAMILY

Piotter began searching for his biological family when he was about 15. His adoptive parents were always open about the adoption and gave him what information they had, "which was very little." He contacted the adoption agency, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Detroit, but was "stonewalled by sealed records."

In 1982, he moved west with friends and ended up in Wyoming. During a return visit to Michigan in 1984 to see family and friends, he went through his folks' paperwork and found information that led him to the last foster care family who cared for him.

They provided him with information about his baptism and a kindergarten picture with his birth name on the back of it. He uncovered his mother's and father's names. Through a baptismal certificate from St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church in Plymouth, he was able to hook up with his godmother, Diane Paquin, who provided him with baby photos of himself and his mother. He eventually found his mother, who died in 2006.

Piotter also got information on his brother's last name from his biological mother. He started searching the Internet and found Kirk's half-brother living in North Carolina and talked to him. According to Piotter,

his mother married Don Corman, but they divorced, prompting her to put the two boys up for adoption in 1967.

"I meet her. She couldn't handle the past, but I got the ghost out of the closet," he said. "The marriage didn't pan out and she couldn't care for us. We weren't placed together. The neglect was enough that they decided to separate us to give us one-on-one."

Kirk wasn't as lucky in his search. He knew he had an older brother, but with no names, he was stymied.

"It's bothered me my whole life. I've wanted to look like someone; it's an identity thing," he said. "I'd been searching, but I had no other data than a brother three years older than me. I contacted the agency and got the same non-identifying letter about my parents and nothing on him."

"People would tell me you look like so and so, and I'd go up and talk to them to see if we might be related," he added.

Kirk was worried that his older brother might have spent his childhood growing up in the system. That question has been answered. They both know they were raised by families that loved them.

Piotter is back in Wyoming, and Kirk is back working at his computer job in Ann Arbor. They plan to get together again in December, when Piotter will return with his wife Vivian, who stayed in Wyoming to be with her daughter, who was due to deliver their first grandchild. It will be a family reunion that will include Kirk's wife Darcelle and their children.

"We've been given a second chance to build a life as brothers, but there will be no throwing toys at me," Piotter said. "I never gave up and other people looking for their relatives shouldn't either. It can happen. It happened for us, and it's been amazing."

"I'm along for the ride and I'm loving it," Kirk added.

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

Hello, Don David ...

When David Kirk signed the document allowing his biological brother to contact him, Mimi Mazzara handed him a non-identifying letter that Robert Staffig-Piotter had been asked to write. In it, he talked about the short time they were together and about his life since they were separated in 1967. Here is a portion of that letter, dated June 7, 2010:

Don David was the name I knew you by. For almost the first two years of your life and about five of mine, we were raised brothers by our biological mother in Detroit, until March of 1967, that was the last time you and I were together. You and I had different fathers and in 1967; with our mother being on her own she couldn't take care of us. She put you and me up for adoption and we were separated in the process. I was in the foster care system for a year before I was adopted into another family from Michigan; I was almost 6 years old. I've never forgotten you and have always wondered how your life turned out. I have a memory of you throwing toys at me from your crib waking me up one night, not crying but laugh-

ing. I also have a picture of you and I sitting in a large kitchen sink bath together when you were about a year old.

I do hope your life turned out as good as mine did. I was adopted into a family that had a small farm in Michigan. I have two loving adoptive parents and an adoptive brother that was three years older than I. Life was good, nothing elaborate, but it was comfortable and secure. Although my adoptive family raised me as their own, being almost six years old, I struggled with memories from another life, one where I had a different mother and little brother. In 1979 I began to search for my biological past, I contacted the adoption agency that handled my adoption but there was little information available. Five years went by and with a lot of research I found our biological mother and family in April of 1984; I believe that fate played a part in my finding the past and still continues to lead me on an amazing journey that I hope to share with you.

I was never able to find any information about your

whereabouts until now. In my research over the years I've found that you have biological family on both our mother and your father's side and have met some of them. I guess one of the things that I struggled with the most growing up with my adoptive family was the fact that "I didn't look like anyone in the family, there was no resemblance." Once I found our biological mother and family, I could see the resemblance. My adoptive family was understanding and supportive when I began to search for my past helping out with what information they had.

... I have and always will wish you the best in life. I look forward to meeting you someday. In my memories we will always be, brothers.

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Volunteer ready to explore after Peace Corps assignment

BY MAGGIE WUNDERLICH
CORRESPONDENT

"The toughest job you'll ever love" is the Peace Corps motto and Ashleigh Shiffler couldn't agree more.

The 22-year-old Shiffler recently returned from two years of Peace Corps service in Guatemala.

"It was an incredible experience with some of the hardest and best days of my life," said Shiffler, Council Director of Girls on the Run of Greater Detroit through the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit. "It taught me to be creative and resourceful and to see the potential that I have in myself."

As a freshman in high school, Shiffler came home one day and told her mom she wanted to join the Peace Corps. The idea was not far-fetched, since her family always emphasized community service. Around the same time, she fell in love with the Spanish language and desired to travel and see the world.

Upon high school graduation, she attended Hope College, where she attained degrees in Spanish and Sociology.

Established in 1961, the Peace Corps is an agency devoted to world peace and



Ashleigh Shiffler recently returned from two years of Peace Corps service in Guatemala, where she helped youngsters such as these children she posed with in Chuiastanci.

friendship. Currently, 7,671 volunteers and trainees are serving in 77 countries. Their service includes the areas of education, health and HIV/AIDS, business development, environment, agriculture and youth development. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment and the application process is lengthy.

Shiffler's placement in Guatemala, a Spanish speaking country, had a lot to do with her previous volunteer work in health related and social services. She'd been there before and envisioned

a tropical and warm climate and, at first, it was. Her three-month language and technical training was right outside Antigua, a popular tourist attraction. She lived with a family, who taught her about local customs and culture.

"Learning so much about another culture and country helps you learn a lot about yourself, your culture and your country," she said.

After her training, Shiffler was assigned to Olinpeque, a village in the mountains, about 2,500 meters above sea level. The climate was a shock for

FAST FACTS ABOUT PEACE CORPS

- Peace Corps was officially established on March 1, 1961, when then Senator John F. Kennedy challenged students at the University of Michigan to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries.
- The current number of volunteers and trainees is 7,671 - 60 percent are female, 40 percent are male.
- The average age is 28.
- Currently 77 countries are served

by the Peace Corps in the areas of education, health & HIV/AIDS, business development, the environment, agriculture and youth development in Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe/Central Asia, Asia, North Africa/Middle East, the Pacific Islands and the Caribbean. For more information about the Peace Corps, go to: www.peacecorps.gov. The toll-free recruitment number is (800) 424-8580.

and leadership. These are new concepts for most, said Shiffler, who admitted she "loved to see their enthusiasm when they realized that they can play an active role in their own lives and their communities."

Guatemala has over 20 different indigenous populations, each with its own language. They share a lot of the same culture and customs, but it varies between regions. Shiffler found it interesting that cell phones came quickly for these regions and almost everyone has a cell phone.

However, when she went to the mall, she said, "Many had never seen an escalator and were taking pictures with their cell phones."

For the majority of Shiffler's service, she was the only Peace Corps volunteer in Olinpeque, where the locals spoke K'iche' and Spanish. She lived alone in a house she furnished from recycled things. She learned how to get herself out in the community and now feels "completely capable in almost every situation."

Now that Shiffler is back in Michigan, she is ready to make a difference with GOTR. She wants to explore more of Michigan and the U.S. as a whole.

Shiffler.

"It was six months of rain every day and six months of not a drop of rain," said Shiffler, who had a cell phone and Internet access, but no indoor heating. "I could even see my breath inside my house on cold nights." The first months were rough, she said.

Shiffler's primary assignment was part of the healthy schools program, where she taught health, nutrition and hygiene in three very rural elementary schools. She saw students frequently, but her main focus was to train the teachers. She learned to be resourceful when she held an 8-hour long workshop, in Spanish, for 250

teachers with a \$12 budget.

Shiffler's secondary project was as director of Girls Leading Our World, which was an overnight three-day camp for underprivileged and indigenous girls between 12-17 years old. For most of the girls, GLOW was their first camping experience and first night away from home. Guatemalan girls, Shiffler discovered, are hardly given any opportunities.

"When they are given just a little bit of encouragement, a little bit of motivation from people they look up to, the results are just incredible," said Shiffler, who taught the girls about self-esteem, health

How to pay when home equity line is cancelled?

Q: Dear Rick: A few months ago, I contracted to do some home improvement work. I had to put one-third down and the remaining two-thirds were going to be paid when the job was done. The job is almost done and this is where my problem develops. I was going to pay for the improvements through my home equity loan. I made the down payment with the home equity loan. However, I received a letter from my bank stating my home equity line of credit was cancelled. I am outraged at my bank. Do I have any recourse against my bank? How do I pay the remainder of what I owe (about \$15,000)? I have attached a list of my assets and hopefully you can help me decide how I should pay for the improvements. I did not want to finance the improvements using my 401(k) plan.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

may find that just because one bank doesn't want your business, there are others that do.

If you can't get a home equity line of credit, how do you pay for the improvements? After reviewing your assets, I recommend cashing out your certificate of deposit (CD).

to make loans to individuals.

However, just because your bank doesn't want to issue you a line of credit doesn't mean you can't try another bank. We live in a competitive society and you

The CD is paying 2 percent. Even if you were able to get a home equity loan, the after tax cost would be more than the 2 percent.

I am generally not in favor of borrowing from 401(k) plans. The general misconception is you are paying interest to yourself, so it's like free money. However, that is not the case. Keep in mind that the interest you pay into your 401(k) plan is not tax-deductible and when the money is eventually withdrawn from the IRA, the interest that you paid will be taxed to you. Since the interest you pay is not deductible and you're putting in post-tax money, the effect is that you will be double taxed on it.

There are other disadvantages to borrowing from a 401(k). Some plans provide that if you have an outstanding loan, you can no longer make new contributions. This could reduce the amount you're saving for retirement and potentially prevent you from taking advantage of the company match.

Another potential disadvantage is if you decide to change jobs and you have an

outstanding loan, it may be due immediately. Therefore, if you do not pay the loan at that point in time, there could be some adverse tax consequences. Other than in cases of emergency, I believe 401(k) money is sacred; do not like to touch it except for retirement and other extraordinary situations.

For those doing home improvements, the main issue is how to pay for them. Don't

let the contractor dictate how you pay for the home improvements. You need to decide based upon what's good for you and only you.

Good luck!

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

A: The home equity line of credit documents that you signed probably give the bank the right to revoke your line of credit. This is something many banks are doing for a number of reasons. They are doing it because housing values have dropped dramatically and there is not as much equity in homes as in the past and, with the sluggish economy, banks are more hesitant

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Family prays sale helps with medical bills

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

John Weaver has had kidney trouble since he was 4 years old, but never anything quite like this.

Weaver, now 46, has so many stones in his right kidney, his mother said doctors are considering taking it out in an effort to save his left kidney which, she said, is also starting to show signs of disease.

His mother, Beverly, is out of work due to medical problems of her own: She's got chronic obstructive pulmonary disease that has left her unable to work.

And, with no health insurance and Medicaid (Weaver said) unwilling to help cover her son's medical issues, the bills are starting to mount, adding up to more than \$20,000.

"We have to do something," Beverly Weaver said. "His medical bills are outrageous."

The "something" Beverly Weaver decided to do is an

estate sale of sorts she'll hold July 31 at the Livonia Elks Lodge in Livonia. The Weavers are gathering up nearly everything they own - "We have to keep some of the basics," Beverly Weaver said - and selling them at estate-sale prices in an effort to raise some capital to help with the mountain of bills.

For sale will be a host of household-style items, including Christmas ornaments, clothing, household goods, a small TV, brand-new linens, kids' stuff and collectibles.

She's also got a 14-diamond ring she said has been appraised between \$1,500 and \$1,800.

"What else can I do?" she said of selling most of her possessions. "I have no other way of coming up with money. I know I'm not going to come up with that kind of money (more than \$20,000). I'm just hoping to make enough to clear some of the smaller bills out of the way so I can focus on the larger ones."

HOPING IT HELPS

• **What:** Weaver family 'estate' sale

• **When:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 31

• **Where:** Livonia Elks Lodge, 3117 Plymouth Road, just east of Merriman

• **Why:** The family is selling most of its household possessions to try to whittle down a mountain of medical bills. Sale will include household goods, Christmas decorations, kids' items, clothing, jewelry, all at what Beverly Weaver said would be "great prices."

Weaver said she's been disabled since 2002, laid up by her COPD, fibromyalgia and other medical problems that have made it difficult for her to get around and even breathe. Her son was struck by a car when he was 4 - his right kidney, she said, never grew properly - and has had

problems ever since. Doctors, she said, started surgery on him when he was 12, but had to delay it because his blood pressure dropped.

Unable to work - except for brief stints doing odd jobs such as delivering pizza when his health allows - John Weaver and his mother are hoping the sale will help.

"It's everything we've accumulated and collected," Beverly Weaver said. "Most of it is new, and a lot of it still has the tags on it."

For the July 31 sale, Weaver said her niece is helping her set up the booth, and her family, she said, has been very supportive, as have several churches in the area. With Social Security her only income, Weaver said it's been a struggle.

"My family ...," she said, choking back emotion. "I owe them so much. Them and the churches have gotten us through the last year."

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

Miss Wayne County pageant seeks entries

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2010 Miss Wayne County scholarship pageant, an official Miss America preliminary. Young women who live, work full-time, or attend school full-time in Wayne County and who are ages 17-24 are eligible.

The winner will represent Wayne County at the 2011 Miss Michigan pageant in Muskegon. The competition includes an interview, lifestyle and fitness in swimsuit, evening gown, talent and an onstage question. In addition to competing in the Miss Michigan pageant, the winner will also receive a cash scholarship.

Call (734) 367-0560 or send an e-mail to SheilaMae116@aol.com to request an application or go

to the website at www.miss-waynecounty.org.

Applications are also available for the Miss Wayne County Princess program at www.miss-waynecounty.org/princess-program.html. The Princess Program for girls ages 4 to 12. Miss Wayne County's Princess Program has been developed to bring into our organization a group of younger girls who will one day be part of our Miss Wayne County program. Participants will be mentored by one of the contestants competing for the title of Miss Wayne County.

The deadline for entering the pageant and princess program is Aug. 15. The pageant will be at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at Livonia Churchill High School.

IN BRIEF

Vacation Bible school

For the first time, the Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church is offering a vacation Bible school that includes a program for preschool children in addition to one for children 5-13 years old.

Raindrops to Rainbows is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday, July 19-23, and will feature a weather station, a science laboratory and a puppet show in addition to the Bible stories, crafts and snacks. There is no cost or obligation. Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church is at 33144 Cherry Hill. For more information, call (734) 524-0880 or visit www.CherryHillFellowship.com.

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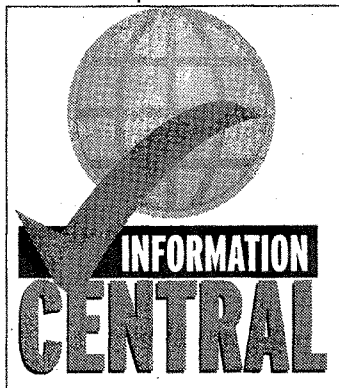
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Cheese: It's been around a long time

Pizza, cheese burgers, alfredo sauce, fondue, macaroni and cheese, lasagna, grilled cheese, quesadillas, potatoes au gratin, chili cheese fries, and cheesecake. Who doesn't like cheese?

The use of cheese in human civilization is older than recorded history. It is believed that the origins of cheese began with the domestication of animals for their milk which began around 8000 BC. People discovered that cheese (curdled milk) stayed fresh longer than milk giving it a longer shelf life. Cheese doesn't just come from cow's milk, but it can be made from the milk of sheep, goats, buffalo, reindeer, camels and yaks.

Do you like Munster, Brie, Gouda, Asiago, Cheddar, Swiss, Gorgonzola, Feta, Edam, Gloucester, Roquefort, Parmesan, Provolone and/or Mozzarella? There are thousands of different types of cheeses in the world, many of which come from France. Fifty-six different cheeses are classified, protected and regulated under French law, each of which are native to a specific French producing region.



If you'd like to learn more about all the different cheeses of the world, the Westland Public Library is a good place to start. Take a look at the "Cheese Companion: A Connoisseur's Guide" by Judy Ridgway, "A Gourmet's Guide to Cheese" by Carol Timperley and "French Cheeses: The Visual Guide to More Than 350 Cheeses from Every Region of France" by Kazuko Masui and Tomoko Yamada. If you are interested in learning how to make cheese yourself, we have you covered with "Cheesemaking" by Rita Ash. And if you enjoy wine, you might want to try "Cheese & Wine: A Guide to

Selecting, Pairing and Enjoying" by Janet Fletcher.

Additionally you can search a database of 670 cheeses by names, by country of origin, by kind of milk that is used to produce it, or by texture at www.cheese.com.

Highlighted Activities

Blood Pressure and Glucose Testing: 11 a.m. to noon July 21
Adult Book Discussion Group: 7 p.m. July 20

Join us as we discuss In the "Woods" by Tana French. As dusk approaches a small Dublin suburb in the summer of 1984, three children do not return from the dark and silent woods. When the police arrive, they find only one of the children gripping a tree trunk in terror, wearing blood-filled sneakers, and unable to recall a single detail of the previous hours. Copies of the book will be available at the Reference Desk. All are welcome.

Songwriter Workshop: 7 p.m. July 20, age 18 and up

For those who have attended the first two classes, John Latini will be at the library for the third, and last, class in his songwriting series. Each week covers a different aspect of writing and performing your own songs.

One day only - Friends of the Library Book Sale: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friends Book Shop

The Friends of the Library is having a special book sale in the Friends Shop. Hard Covers will be two for \$1, paperbacks eight for \$1 and large paperbacks three for \$1. Money raised help fund programs for the library for all age groups. Everyone is invited.

Summer Concert Series - Peter Madcat Ruth: 7 p.m. July 22, age 14 and up Library Pavilion

This evening's featured performer is Peter Madcat Ruth, "a Grammy Award-winning virtuoso harmonica player based out of Ann Arbor. But Madcat doesn't just play blues harp, he also sings and plays ukulele, guitar, high-hat, jaw-harp, penny-whistle, kalimba, banjo and other folk instruments from around the world. Madcat's

repertoire of styles includes Blues, American Roots Music, Folk Music, Jazz, and World Music." Come early to get a seat. 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 www.westlandlibrary.org

Friday Night Movie Cult Classics: 7 p.m. July 23

This week's selection is "The Warriors" (Rated R). The leader of New York's biggest street gang declares a truce, and gangs from all five boroughs venture to the Bronx for a clandestine meeting. 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. Special Demo: Designing Your Own Project. Everyone welcome, including crocheters.

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.

Computer Classes are offered all year long. Contact the library at (734) 326-6123 to find out more.

Children, teens and adults: Programs, prizes, reading, fun - Join the Summer Reading Program today!

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.

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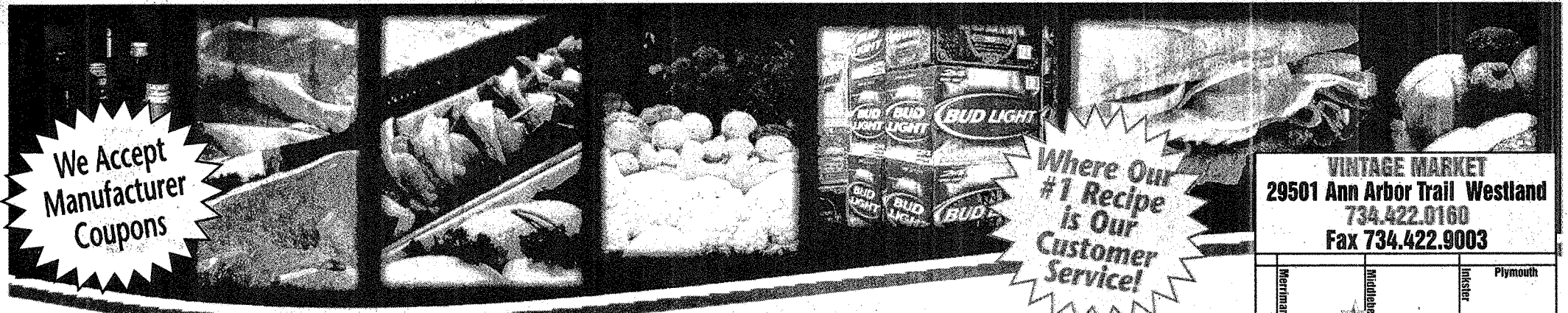
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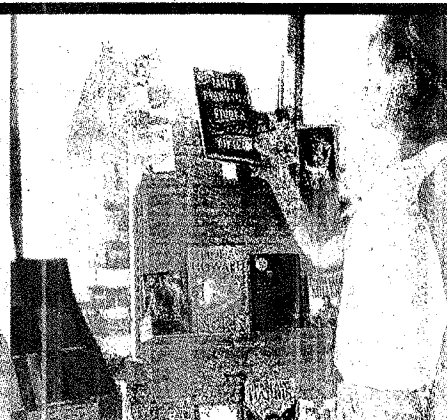
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Rolling rookies

First-year skaters win medals, friendships

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's the middle of summer, a time of year when pre-teen girls usually go to the pool or shopping mall with friends.

But there are five girls who'd rather spend hours going around in circles on the smooth surface at Canton's Skatin' Station II — practicing their favorite thing in the world.

Under the tutelage of veteran coach Vicki Hudson, the artistic skating club members beat the odds by qualifying for the 2010 USA Roller Sports Figure Skating National Championships in just their first year of competition in the sport.

"I was really happy to make it to nationals," 10-year-old Anna Hanson of Canton said, "because it's unheard of for beginners at their first regional meet to get to nationals, so I was really proud."

Hanson, four of her roller-skating friends, their families and coach Hudson will travel later this week to Lincoln, Neb., for the July 24-25 competition. They will take part in the 9-10 and 11-12 age brackets.

Also headed for nationals are Canton's Shelby Vassel (a gold-medal winner in figures at regionals) and Darrien Fordham, Plymouth's Rachel Bakewell and Westland's Ashlyn Nordquist.

They qualified for nationals June 26-30 at the Great Lakes Figure Skating Regional in West Chester, Ohio.

Hudson said all of the girls qualified in figures (the event where skaters gracefully follow a series of circles emblazoned on the rink), with Vassel and Fordham also making it in the dance category.

"I'm just so excited," Vassel said during a break from working with her coach. "I've only been skating for over a year and a half and I made first place in figures and that was a surprise to me."

WHAT THEY SAID

Following are some of the thoughts of Skatin' Station II artistic skating club members who will compete July 24-25 at the 2010 USA Roller Sports Figure Skating National Championships to be held in Lincoln, Neb.:

Rachel Bakewell of Plymouth: "I'm really proud of it and I can't wait to go."

Darrien Fordham of Canton: "I'm learning you really need to focus to get a good score in competitions and I'm learning friendship."

Anna Hanson of Canton: "I like roller skating because it kind of challenges me to be my best. And I just have lots of fun when I'm skating."

Ashlyn Nordquist of Westland: "I think I've gotten better since the beginning when I started. She (coach Vicki Hudson) helps us get better."

Shelby Vassel of Canton: "The competitions are fun and so is coming here all the time. I love skating."

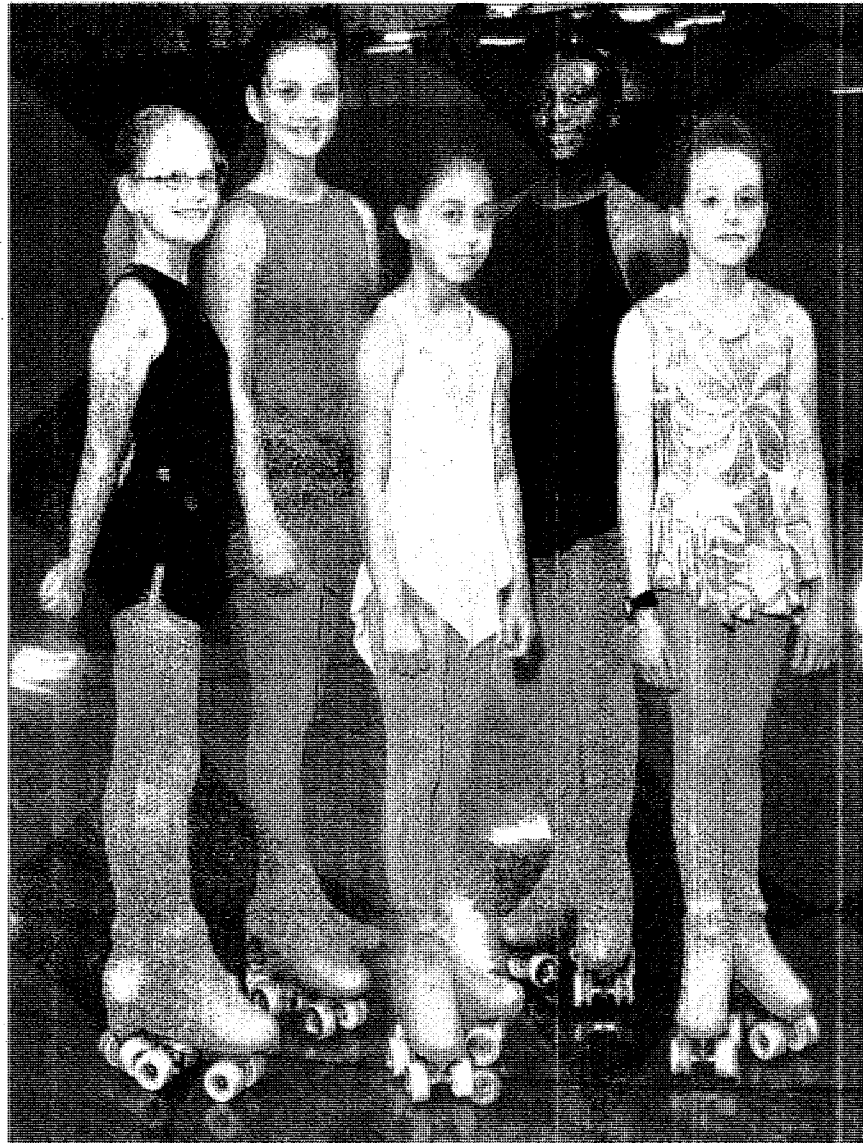
With a grin, Fordham said she is glad to have qualified in both events, especially dance "because it's different from the others. You have to follow a pattern and stay to the pattern, but it's also really fun and it has different songs that I like."

Also fun is being able to travel to different tournaments, which is one of the perks of being on the team.

"I'm really proud of it (going to nationals) and I can't wait to go," Bakewell said. "Especially because, one of the reasons I want to compete like this is to get to go places without begging my parents."

TOTAL DEDICATION

Bakewell chuckled when saying that, but the hard work and dedication needed to rapidly go from newbie to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The smiles say it all, as Skatin' Station II artistic skating club members (from left) Anna Hanson, Shelby Vassel, Ashlyn Nordquist, Darrien Fordham and Rachel Bakewell qualified for nationals in their first year of competition in the sport.

the nationals is no joke.

"You have to practice a lot. I practice three days a week," Vassel said. "I work on figures and dance, mostly. The hardest part is trying not to be nervous during the competitions and to stay strong."

According to Hudson, team members come to Skatin' Station II several times a week throughout the year, coming straight from school. The practice schedule usually includes three or four sessions weekly.

"It's very monotonous, the training and listening to me all the time,"

Hudson said. "But most people that start skating can be very good — if they want to be."

Their ascent in their initial year of competitive skating is plenty indication they do.

Christine Hanson, Anna's mom, said the girls put the time in and glean whatever useful instruction they can from their coach.

"Vicki's a wonderful coach," Hanson said. "They just come here and skate. Putting the time in is important."

Please see **NATIONALS, B2**

SIDELINES

SC athletes honored

Ten student athletes from Schoolcraft College are among the more than 1,300 student athletes nationwide to be recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association for excellence in the classroom as well as on the playing field.

Those NJCAA Distinguished Academic All-American honorees from Schoolcraft include: Emily Bronkema, 3.84, volleyball; Jennifer Brunink, 3.80, volleyball; Tayler Seroke, 3.85, women's bowling; and Nicole Trivax, 3.94, women's soccer.

Gaining Academic All-American distinction were Blake Furnari (3.60, men's bowling), Michele Heikinen (3.60, women's bowling), Jordan Kerr (3.73, volleyball), Kirstin Kirk (3.72, volleyball), Brittany Pickett (3.76, women's soccer) and Jamie Wick (3.63, women's cross country).

Award winners were required to achieve a 3.8 or better grade point average on a 4.0 scale to earn Distinguished Academic All-American honors and between 3.6-3.79 for Academic All-American honors.

Ace shooter

Russ Baumann of Livonia recorded his first hole-in-one at the age of 74 July 14 when he used a 9-wood to ace the 149-yard 16th hole at Moose Ridge Golf Course in South Lyon.

Baumann shot 105 for his 18 holes of play.

Fall ball signup

Registration is continuing for returning teams looking to participate in the Redford Leisure Services fall softball leagues. Registration for new teams wanting to sign up will begin Monday, Aug. 9.

All teams are guaranteed a 12-game (doubleheader) schedule. Fees are \$350 per team, plus all umpires will collect \$14 per team at the field before the start of each game. Each team will need to supply a new ball before each game. Games begin the week of Aug. 30.

For more information, contact Redford Leisure Services at (313) 387-2650.

Tryouts

The Motor City Riversharks will host tryouts in mid-August for its competitive travel baseball program of the Kensington Valley Baseball and Softball Association. Players from Canton, Plymouth and surrounding areas are welcome to participate.

Tryouts are slated from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 14 and Sunday, Aug. 15, followed by a 2-to-4 p.m. tryout on Friday, Aug. 20. All three tryouts will take place at the UAW Local 735, located at 48055 Michigan Ave. in Canton.

Players must be willing to commit to 40-to-50 games including weekends and tournaments, with the schedule running from April through July of 2011.

To pre-register or have questions answered, contact coach Bill Boyd — 734-718-7782; motorcityriversharks@gmail.com. Players do not have to attend all three tryout dates.

'A Bitter Cup of Coffee'

Book details how former players were denied MLB pensions

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Al Moran played his last Major League baseball game 45 years ago, but he's still ready to go to bat today for former players like himself.

The Farmington Hills resident is among hundreds of men who were denied a pension and benefits, because their stay in the big leagues was too short.

Their story is told in Doug Gladstone's new book: 'A Bitter Cup of Coffee — How MLB and The Players Association Threw 874 Retirees a Curve.'

The book title derives from the fact the men were in the majors long enough to have a cup of coffee, which is sports jargon for a short stay.

Livonia-based attorney Jim Aho represented Moran and the other ex-players with less than four years of service in an unsuccessful 2003 class-action suit.

The core issue and focus of

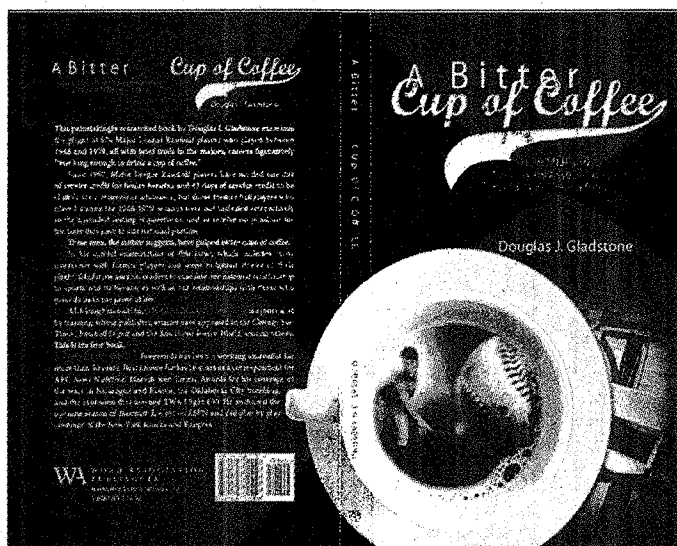


JOHN STORMIZANO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Al Moran, a resident of Farmington Hills, played his last Major League baseball game 45 years ago. He remains active in off the field affairs dealing with former Major League players.

Gladstone's book deals with a 1980 change in the MLB Players Association pension agreement.

Prior to that, players had to be in the majors four years



A new book entitled 'A Bitter Cup of Coffee — How MLB and The Players Association Threw 874 Retirees a Curve,' focuses on past and present pension agreements between Major League Baseball and the MLB Players Association.

to qualify. Players since then have needed one day of service for health insurance and 45 days on a MLB roster to get a pension.

Moran, a former shortstop who played less than three

full seasons with the Mets and Red Sox, and the others in his situation were never included retroactively.

Moran, 71, assisted Aho in building the case, serving as a class representative in the

Midwest, gathering information and fielding phone calls from former players.

When he left baseball in the mid 1960s, finishing with the then-Yankees farm team in Toledo, Moran went to work as a carpenter, doing construction work.

"I was pretty fortunate; I got a nice pension for that," Moran said, adding he's motivated by principle and for the sake of his former colleagues. "Like I told Doug in the book, I don't care if I get a penny."


"We've got homeless guys, guys in real bad shape. They keep promising us something, but we don't know if we'll ever get it. They say they'll do something at the winter meetings, but who knows?"

When work began on the lawsuit, there were nearly 1,500 former players who played between 1947 and 1979, from the time the first players union was organized and the change in vesting requirement.

Please see **BOOK, B2**

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BOOK
FROM PAGE B1

"A lot of guys have passed away," Moran said. "Business is business. The longer you wait..."

Acho, also a Farmington Hills resident and, like Moran, a graduate of Catholic Central High School, said MLB's position is it's a matter for the Players Association.

"In truth, it probably is," he said. "If we could get the player reps in a room and explain how much would be needed (to cover the men in question, it might happen)."

Acho said it would take one half of Alex Rodriguez' annual salary to provide a \$10,000 pension and medical benefits for the retirees.

"The problem is (former) union chief Donald Fehr refused to put it before the players," he said. "I had good conversations with Fehr. He always put it off and had bigger fish to fry."

"Even though he was pleasant to deal with, he made it clear it was not a pressing issue on his agenda."

"I don't think it's greed. I don't think the (current) players want to see former players (go without). It's really ignorance. They're unaware of what goes on."

The only recourse is the hope current MLPA Executive Director Michael Weiner will take up the issue, Acho said.

There's no going back to court. The judge who heard the original case said the players were morally right, according to Acho, but there was nothing that could be done. The statute of limitations was six years.

"I'm told the Players Alumni Association is actively working with (Weiner), and that's the only hope," Acho said. "There's no hope through the legal system. That ship has sailed; it had before we got involved."

"(The suit) should have been brought in the mid 1980s or earlier. The only reason we thought we had a chance in 2003 was I went under the theory of continuing violation."

MLB does provide a \$1,000-a-month pension to African-Americans who played in the old Negro League, because they were denied the opportunity to play in the Majors, Acho said. It's not called a pension but a special assessment, however.

"That's fantastic and richly



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Farmington Hills resident Al Moran spent nearly three seasons in the Major Leagues, suiting up for both the New York Mets and Boston Red Sox. The story of Moran and hundreds of other former big leaguers is told in a new book entitled 'A Bitter Cup of Coffee - How MLB and The Players Association Threw 874 Retirees a Curve.'

deserved," Acho said. "Having said that, our players deserve a charitable contribution, because they made the game what it is today and helped these (current) players make millions."

Moran, echoes Acho's statement about players from past decades helping to pave the way for Major Leaguers of today to earn salaries beyond anyone's imagination when he played.

"We're actually the ones who built the foundation for these guys in the old days," he said. "The Major Leagues are so deluded with minor league players. When I played there were only eight teams in each division, and it was tough to make those teams in those days."

Moran was disillusioned after the lawsuit was rejected and became resigned the status-quo, but he believes the issue could be easily resolved.

"It's going to take somebody in the Major League office or alumni office to say: 'OK, let's get this thing done.' That's all it's going to take," Moran said.

"At some point, the guys feel, if they get something, it's a victory. Even if there's a hundred guys left, if they get something, it's all worth it, I guess."

Moran played college football until Red Sox made right offer

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Al Moran was a sophomore at Michigan State University in 1959, playing football on scholarship for legendary coach Duffy Daugherty.

A change in the bonus rule allowed Major League baseball teams to offer more money, and Moran decided to sign with the Boston Red Sox, the team that had drafted him.

He was later traded to the New York Mets and made it to the majors in 1963. He played a full season with the Met the following year and the first month in 1965 before being sent to the minor league team at Buffalo.

Detroit owned the farm team in Syracuse at the time, and Moran played against future Tiger greats Denny McLain, Willie Horton and Mickey Stanley.

"There were so many good players in the minor leagues, and they just needed a break," Moran said. "I wasn't a great ballplayer, but I played against a lot of hall of famers."

An injury that never healed contributed to the end of Moran's baseball career. He continued to play with the injury.

"It was a pulled groin muscle that went up into my stomach," Moran said. "In the old days, they didn't just put you on the shelf until you were ready. If you were out of the lineup, you'd never get back in there."

After leaving baseball, Moran, a former shortstop and later utility infielder, played softball at a high level and has been a member of many championships teams. He still plays today at age 71.

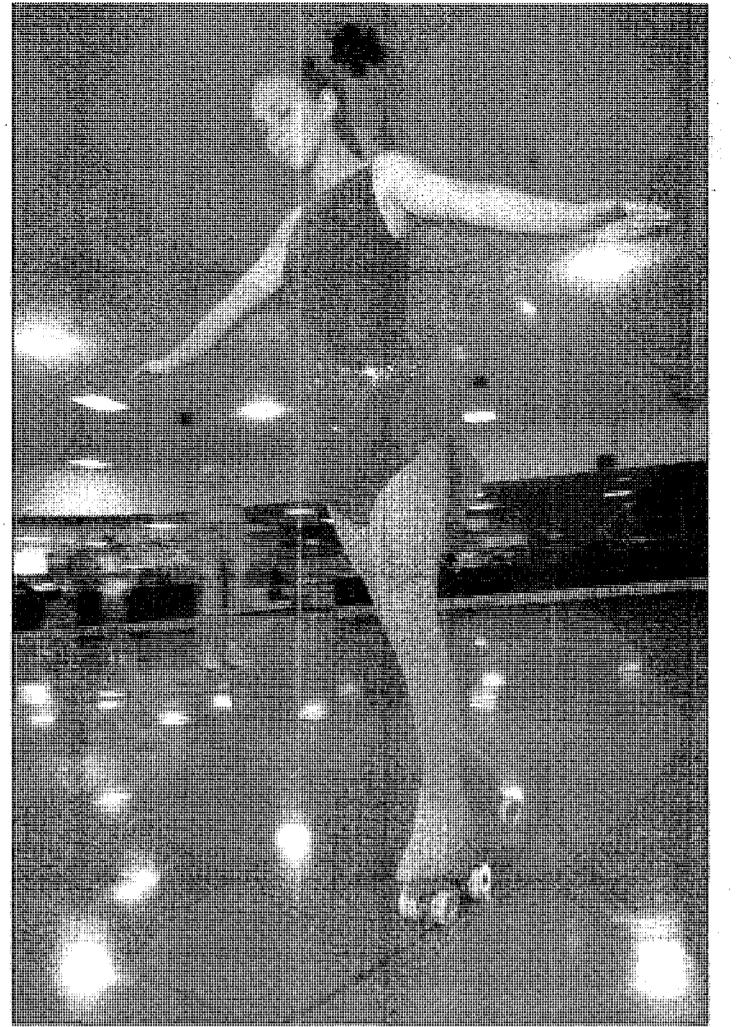
"Part of my game was running," Moran said, talking about the injury and how it affected his range at shortstop. "They time me with a sun dial now going down to first."

An all-state football, hockey and baseball player in high school at Detroit Catholic Central, Moran was the assistant to CC varsity baseball coach John Salter for 25 years.

"We hit it off well," Moran said. "We formed a partnership, and we did very well."

Moran left coaching in 2005, a year before Salter retired, but he returned this year to assist current CC coach Kevin Walters.

"Al Moran has helped hundreds if not thousands of kids over the past 40 years — quietly, selflessly," Livonia attorney Jim Acho, who worked with Moran in a class-action lawsuit against Major League Baseball and the MLB Players Association, said. "He's done a ton of good in the community."



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Shelby Vassel works on figures during practice Wednesday at Skatin' Station II. Vassel won a gold medal in that event at the recent regionals. In figures, skaters must successfully complete two trips around a series of circles — requiring intense concentration.

NATIONALS

FROM PAGE B1

HOOKED RIGHT AWAY

Hanson signed her daughter up last fall and "she just took to it like a fish to water. She just loved it from the very beginning."

Of course, Anna has had to devote herself to the sport.

"She gets better on a weekly basis," her mother said. "Anna is very tenacious, so no matter how many times she falls, she gets right back up and does it again. I think that's a good life lesson."

Hudson said the girls must also keep their grades up in order to be on the club and being a good teammate is another must.

The first rung of the ladder tends to start with friendship.

"They skate individually, and everybody wants to win, but these girls are all real good friends," Hudson said. "They all travel together and they have someplace to go when they get out of school."

Friendship is a big reason Fordham relishes being on the team: "I like making friends here."

"When I went into skating, I never expected to actually go into doing stuff like this and competing," Bakewell said. "And I'm glad I actually did because I made lots of friends that I would never have."

DISCOVERY

The girls also have discovered something they could be passionate about for years.

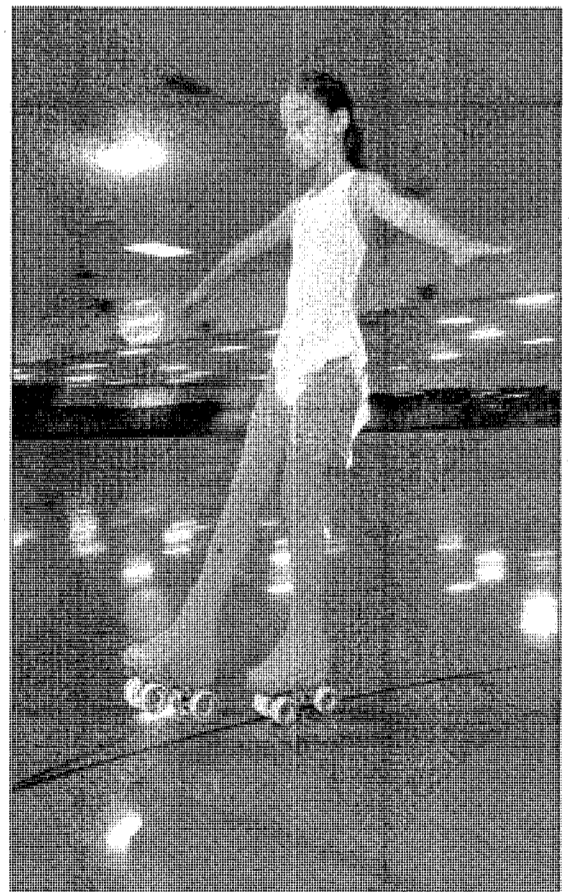
"I think it's important to keep the kids busy during the teenage years," Christine Hanson said. "I'm glad (Anna) found something. And I think it's wonderful they made nationals. I couldn't be happier."

That also goes for the youngest of the group, 9-year-old Ashlyn Nordquist, who only said one word — "happy" — when asked about how she felt about going to nationals.

These families must spend about \$5,000 per year to pay for practice time, equipment and travel expenses.

And there might be college scholarships down the road. But for now, Nordquist's response, and similar ones from the other girls, is plenty return on that investment.

tsmith@hometownlife.com



Silver medalist Ashlyn Nordquist of Westland works at staying sharp in figures, an event involving body control and skating accuracy.

SPORTS CAMPS

Youth grid camp

Powerhouse Gym of Farmington Hills will sponsor a youth football camp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, July 24, at Harrison High School.

The camp is part of an effort to re-establish ties between the Farmington Rockets and Harrison football programs, according to Tim Mumford, manager of Powerhouse Gym and a former Harrison player.

The camp is open to all players in the 7-14 age group, however. The cost is \$35. Lunch and a Powerhouse Gym T-shirt are included.

The camp instructors will include the Harrison coaching staff, former Detroit Lion Ron Rice and former MSU and Harrison star Mill Coleman.

There will be a cheerleading camp the same day at Harrison, too.

For more information and registration, contact Mumford at 248-875-9962.

Just for kicks

Redford Soccer Club's Summer Soccer Camp will be held July 19-23 at Bell Creek Park for players U6 through U19. Cost for the weeklong camp, which runs from 5:30-8:30 p.m. daily, is \$130. Waza FC's professional coaches will instruct youngsters in various aspects of the game. Participants are asked to bring shin guards, a soccer ball and a water bottle.

For more information, call Jim Gibbs at (313) 995-4234.

Cougar camp

The Garden City High School Cougar football coaching staff will host its youth football camp for 8- and 9-year-olds July 19-22 from 5:30-8 p.m. and for 10- and 13-year-olds July 26-29 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Cost for each camp is \$55 and all campers will receive a t-shirt.

For more information, visit www.gccougarcountry.com and click on the 'camps' section to print a registration form.

Summer cheer camp

The North Farmington High School Summer Cheer Camp for boys and girls ages 5-12 will be from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, Aug. 2-6.

The cost is \$100 per child. You must register by Friday, July 23, to receive a free T-shirt. Campers must bring a bag lunch.

All participants will be invited to cheer with the varsity cheerleaders at the first home football game.

For more information, contact varsity cheer coach Amanda O'Neill at either amandaoneill@yahoo.com or 734-624-8252.

Hoop Skills Camp

Redford Township Leisure Services is offering its Hoop Skills Camp tailored for youngsters between the ages of three and six with little or no experience playing basketball.

The one-week camp offered, either Aug. 9-13 or Aug. 16-20, will teach fundamentals of the sport, including shooting and dribbling, and focus on the basics. Parents are required to attend the camp with their children in order to reinforce proper technique and skills after camp. Classes will be held at Pearson Education Center.

Cost is \$25 and sessions will run daily from 10-10:45 a.m.

For more information, contact Redford Leisure Services at (313) 387-2650.

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Victory's in the Cards

The Canton Cardinals 11U travel baseball team recently went 3-0 to win the 2010 Frankenmuth tournament. Getting the squad started was a come-from-behind 7-6 victory against Huron Valley with a two-out hit by Collin Werner winning the contest. The Cardinals won their final two games of the tournament more convincingly by beating the host Frankenmuth team 12-1 before overcoming rain delays to beat a very good Saginaw River Dogs team, 5-1. Offensive heroes were many, including Phil Lessnau, Jimmy Walkinshaw, Jason Arnold, Evan Voyles, Noah Spencer and Cody Zidzik, all with multiple hits. Strong pitching from Spencer, Arnold, Justin Goethe, and Mitchell King and solid defense from Goethe, Luke Hirschman, Zidzik, Werner and Voyles were instrumental in the tourney title. Pictured are the victorious Cards: (front row, from left) Luke Hirschman, Evan Voyles, Jimmy Walkinshaw, Cody Zidzik; (middle row, from left) Noah Spencer, Mitchell King, Justin Goethe, Phil Lessnau, Jason Arnold, Collin Werner; (back row, from left) coaches Mark Werner, Rob Hirschman, Doug Spencer and Alan Zidzik.



Big fish

The GCYAA Marlins girls softball team, comprised of players ages 11-13, completed a perfect 15-0 season by not only claiming the top spot in regular season play, but also emerging as champions in tournament action. Coached by Jim Gains, Sunday Gains and Brian Gidley, team members included Alyssa Smith, Rhiannon Stevens, Chloe Trigg, Heather Gains, Mariah Loschiavo, Hannah Udell, Melissa Beier, Jessica Pate, Rosie Muscat, Katie Thorn and Chelsea Dviekan.

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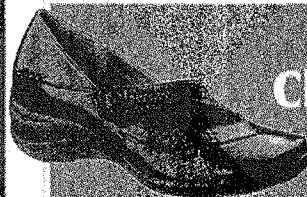
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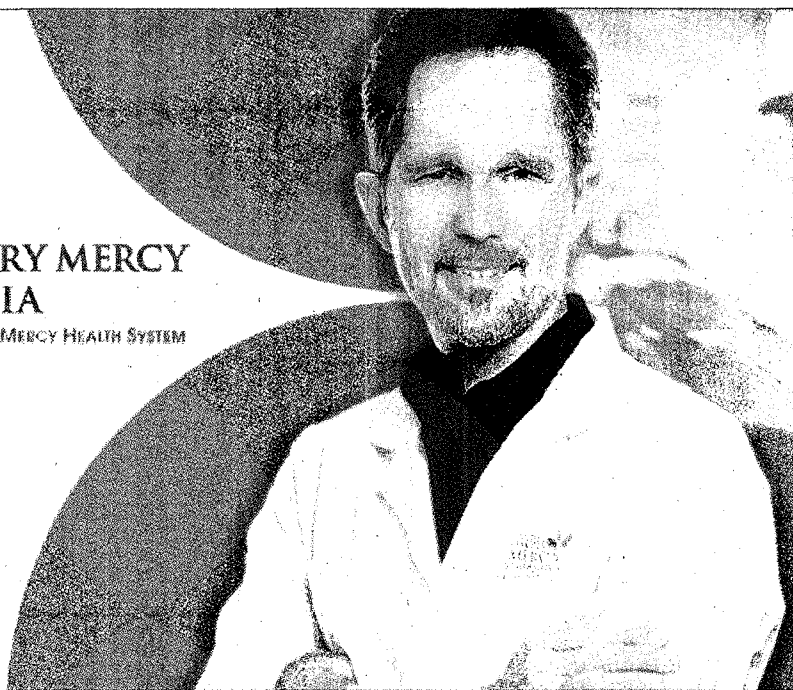
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Sunday, July 18, 2010

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BECOME A FAN TODAY

Summer beach reads

Traditional books or E-books ... the plot thickens

BY SALLY RUMMEL
CORRESPONDENT

When you're thinking about which books to throw in your beach bag for a summer getaway, your "stack" might be as small as one of today's E-reader devices — which can hold more electronic books, magazines and newspapers than you could ever read, let alone carry to the beach.

"People are definitely beginning to use more downloadable E-books than ever before, and today's libraries are making these available to patrons for free through a variety of new tech services," said Laurie Golden, marketing and communications specialist for the Canton Public Library.

While traditional books comprise the greatest majority of books "checked out" through metro Detroit area libraries, E-book technology definitely is catching on, and people like Golden see it as a trend for the future — and the future is now.

"You can even download our E-books or audio books from home if you're a library cardholder, without ever stepping into the library to borrow or return them," said Golden. "The 'book' will actually 'disappear' from the screen after three weeks."

People also can borrow regular audio-books on CDs, so they can listen to books while they're driving or sitting on the beach. Another option are "play away" books that are pre-loaded onto an MP3 device. "All the patron needs is a set of standard play headphones and he or she can 'read' a variety of titles for free," said Golden.

Many people already have their own

E-book readers, such as a Sony E-reader, that is able to take free downloads, in comparison to other E-readers like the Amazon Kindle, Barnes & Noble Nook or Apple iPad. These proprietary products can take a limited number of free downloaded titles, but mostly can download titles for a nominal fee from their own "store."

The benefit of these E-readers is the sophistication of the technology, which enables people to adjust the print size, brightness of the page, and turn pages one at a time or a group of pages — just like a book.

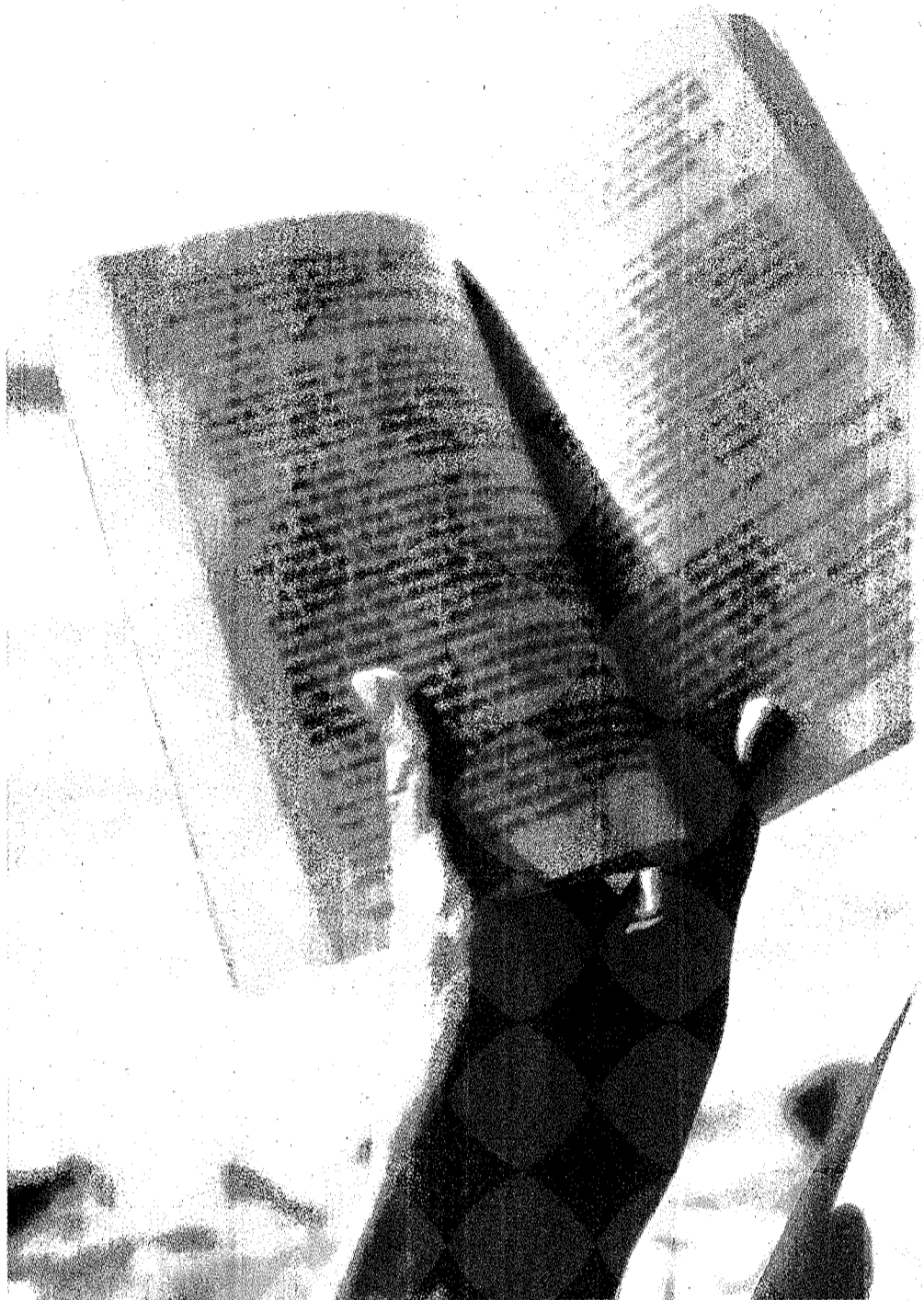
CAREFUL HANDLING

Another huge benefit is portability, but the E-book's downside is its sensitivity to sand and water. "I definitely would not take an E-reader to the beach or near water," said Melissa Bliss, owner of Paperbacks & Things in Westland.

Bliss uses an E-reader for researching books or for convenience when traveling, but said she wouldn't use it where it could be easily damaged. "It's one thing to accidentally wreck a \$7.99 paperback if you're out on or near the water, but it's an entirely different thing to lose a \$300 E-reader. Electronics are too sensitive to sand and water. You're much better off to bring a bag of inexpensive books to the beach."

She and her customers are anticipating the release of Janet Evanovich's paperback, *Fingerhickin' Fifteen* and her new hardcover book, *Sizzling Sixteen*. Another favorite

Please see **BOOKS, B6**



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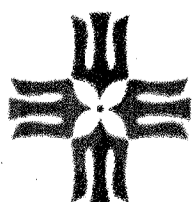
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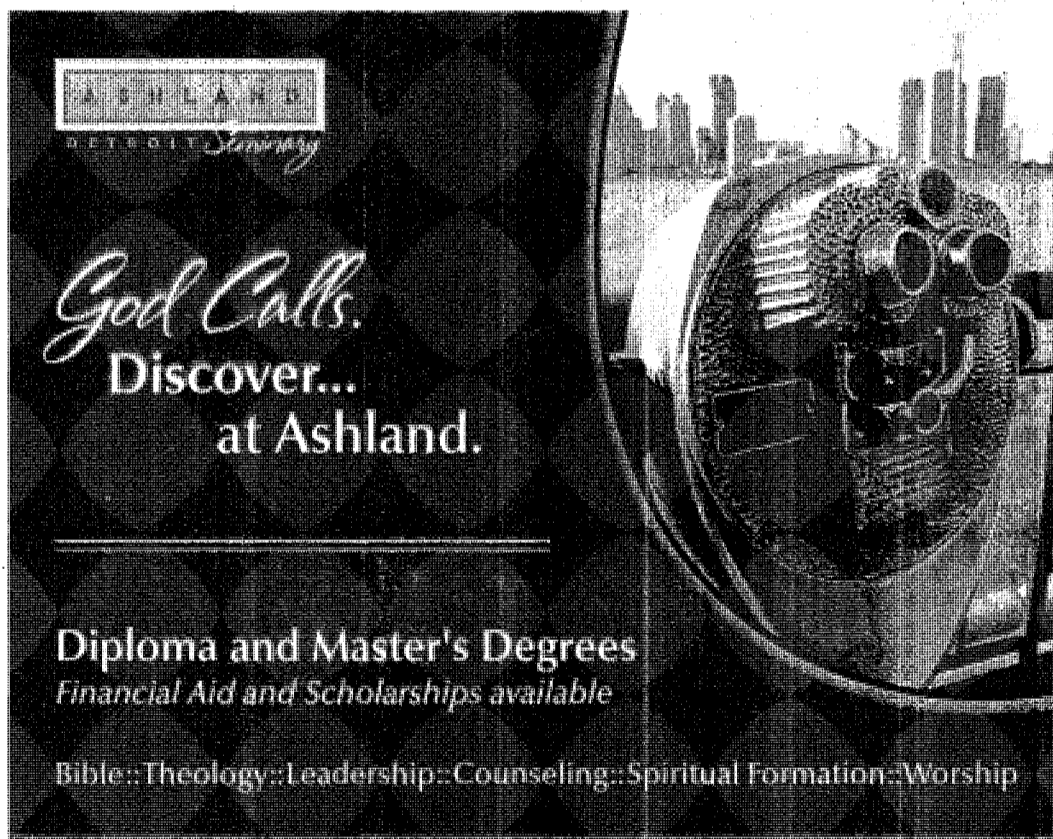
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In the event student enrollment applications exceed available space, a random selection drawing will be administered on August 16 starting at 6:30pm at 9101 Hillcrest, Livonia, MI 48150. The random selection drawing, in accordance with the Michigan Revised School Code and the chartering contract provisions with Livonia Public Schools, will be conducted under the direction of a third party administrator not affiliated with JASSEM. If required, the third party administrator will be a representative from Plante Moran, PLLC.

OE08707496

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Summer recitals

Enjoy free concerts this week at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. The Ambassador Chamber Players and students from the Schoolcraft Summer Piano Concerto Camp will perform works of Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart and Schumann at 7 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, July 20-22, in the Forum Building Recital Hall. A concert, featuring Alicia Doudna on violin and Julia Siciliano on piano, also is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, July 26 in the recital hall. For more informa-

tion call the Schoolcraft Music Office at (734) 462-4403. **Learn about butterflies** The Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association will present "Exploring the Lifecycles and Host Plants of Blues, Coppers, and Hairstreak Butterflies," at 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 21, at Nankin Mills, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Parking is available on Hines Dr. or Ann Arbor Trail. The cost is \$3 for non-members. (734) 326-0578 or www.sembabutterfly.com.

BOOKS

FROM PAGE B5

beach read for this summer is Rachel Gibson's *Nothing But Trouble* and books by historical romance novelist Lisa Kleypas, including *Married by Morning* and *Love in the Afternoon*. For most readers, it's not the medium that's the most important — it's still the story. A good "beach book" is engaging and a quick enough read that you can finish most of it on the beach before your sunscreen wears off, according to veteran summer readers. "Most people read for pleasure in the summer," admitted Golden.

RELAX AND READ

At Read It Again Books in Novi, owner Mary Mansour sees a whole different group of customers during the summer than those she sees all winter. "People really want to wind down and slow down on vacation in the summer," Mansour said. "They want to take a pile of books with them so they have something fun to do while they're relaxing." She and her staff already are anticipating *Finding Perfect*, a light-hearted book by Susan Mallery that will be released next month. The author's *Almost Perfect* hit bookstore shelves in June and *Chasing Perfect* was published in April. "The timing of these books for pleasure reading in the summer is



"Finger Lickin' Fifteen," a novel in the Janet Evanovich series about fictional bounty hunter Stephanie Plum, is a favorite beach read.

just perfect," Mansour said. Other favorite authors for summer reading are Janet Evanovich, Robyn Carr and "The Virgin River Series" with her newest book, *A Summer in Sonoma* released last month. "Anything by Debbie

Comparing E-readers: Which one to buy?

It is literally impossible to compare the dozens of E-reader devices available today, partly because the category constantly changes as models are improved and new styles added. Also known as E-book readers, these are handheld portable devices designed to read electronic books, magazines, periodicals and newspapers, hence the E-reader name. However, these four are seen as the leading E-readers as of June 2010, according to several sources, including ereaderebooks.com:

- Sony Daily Edition:** Priced at \$399, it weighs under 13 ounces and has a 7.1-inch grayscale screen. Battery life is up to seven days with 3G wireless connection on. It has expandable storage, a virtual keyboard and has no browser.
- Amazon Kindle:** Priced from \$259 for the Kindle 2 to \$489 for the new Kindle DX, it weighs about 19 ounces and has a 9.7-inch grayscale screen. Battery life is up to seven days with 3G wireless connection on. It has expandable storage and a keyboard and features 400,000 books and 130,000 newspapers with a browser.
- Barnes & Noble Nook:** Priced at \$259, it weighs 12 ounces and has a 7.7-by-4.9-inch grayscale screen for reading, but color for navigating. Battery life is 10 days with 3G wireless connection on. It has expandable storage, a virtual keyboard and offers 350,000 books for sale, 30 newspapers plus 1 million Google Books, without a browser.
- Apple iPad:** Priced from \$499 to \$829 depending on features added, the iPad is more than just an E-reader, but it's the one all others are being compared with. It weighs 1.5 pounds and has a 9.7-inch color screen. Battery life is 11 hours with 3G wireless connection on. It has expandable storage, a touch screen keyboard and offers 500,000 books and several hundred newspapers, including Apple's Safari browser.

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SHOULDER-HAND

Nature acts in curious ways, and human bones and joints are no exception. An arthritic condition exists called shoulder-hand syndrome, in which the shoulder becomes stiff and immovable and the hand becomes swollen and painful. What is curious is that the rest of the arm, including the elbow joint, is completely normal.

Shoulder-hand syndrome most often occurs in people who are diabetic though the degree of diabetic control and the type of diabetes, that is whether the person needs insulin or not, does not matter. Mild diabetes may experience the condition as well as those individuals who are uncontrolled.

Physicians do not know the underlying cause for Shoulder-hand syndrome, particularly why the elbow is spared. Present theories focus on the blood supply to the shoulder and hand and that nervous system control of the blood vessels to these areas is impaired. However, that explanation alone does not explain why the elbow is not involved.

Since doctors are unsure of the underlying cause of Shoulder-hand syndrome, the treatment is uncertain. The usual approach is to prescribe high doses of oral steroids such as 60 mgm a day of prednisone. However, if the patient is a diabetic this regimen is not practical since prednisone can raise blood sugar to a dangerous level even with diabetic treatment.

An alternative is injection of cortisone into the involved shoulder and hand joint. This procedure may not resolve the pain and swelling, but often brings discomfort to a level the patient can accept.

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HEALTH

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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Study looks at aspirin and the elderly

In an effort to extend the length of a disability-free life for older adults, researchers from Wayne State University are partnering with colleagues from across the U.S. and Australia in the largest international trial ever sponsored by the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health.

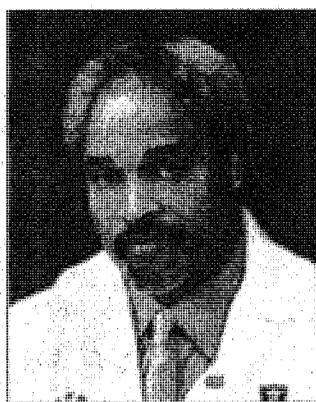
The research study, "Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly," (ASPREE), aims to assess whether aspirin can not only prolong life but help provide a life free of physical disability and/or dementia for healthy older people.

"ASPREE is the largest study of its kind, and its sheer size and scope will enable investigators and society to learn a great deal about whether aspirin can help older adults 70 years and older live longer, healthier lives," said Dr. John Flack, professor of Medicine and Physiology, and chair of Internal Medicine at Wayne State University, and site investigator for the study.

In addition to Flack, Peter Lichtenberg, director of the Institute of Gerontology at WSU, will work with the ASPREE study team on community outreach and recruitment efforts.

Although it is known that aspirin prevents heart attacks and strokes in people with established heart disease, the role of aspirin in people without a history of cardiovascular disease is less certain.

"In the U.S., Australia and elsewhere, people are living longer, so identifying treat-



Flack

ments to prolong life free of physical disability and memory problems is increasingly important," said ASPREE investigator Dr. Anne Murray, epidemiologist and geriatrician and associate professor of medicine and geriatrics at the University of Minnesota. "Aspirin is a potentially useful drug, as it is cheap and widely available."

BENEFITS AND RISKS

To date, very little information is available about the overall effects of aspirin in older adults because most trials focus on middle-aged people. The ASPREE study, for the first time, will determine whether the potential benefits of low-dose aspirin outweigh the risks specifically for people age 70 and over.

"Because of its proven effectiveness in preventing second events, many doctors have also prescribed aspirin to prevent heart attacks and strokes in otherwise healthy people," said John McNeil, head of the Monash School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine

in Australia and also a principal investigator for ASPREE.

"However, in the last couple of years, serious doubts have been raised about the evidence supporting this practice and, as a result, editorials in major medical journals have called for this question to be settled."

ENROLLMENT NUMBERS

The ASPREE study will enroll 6,500 healthy individuals age 70 and over in the U.S. and another 12,500 in Australia. Six hundred participants will be sought by Wayne State University. All eligible participants will be randomly assigned to take either low-dose aspirin or a placebo daily for about five years.

Patients will receive initial measurements on specific health markers as well as functional and cognitive ability, and changes in these will be monitored throughout the study.

"What we learn from the ASPREE study extends far beyond the effects of aspirin," said Dr. Flack. "The scope of the study includes other clinical measurements and assessments that could impact and transform the way clinicians medically treat the elderly in their everyday care."

ASPREE is being conducted in clinics and universities in select cities in Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Texas. For more information visit www.ASPREE.org.

Upcoming walks aid programs for mental health, bleeding disorders

NAMI WALKS

The National Alliance on Mental Illness, (NAMI) is gearing up for a family event and walk on Saturday, Sept. 25, at Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, in Farmington Hills.

The event is designed to raise money for and the mental health services it provides to families across the state. All the funds collected by walkers will be used to fund NAMI programs in Michigan. Registration for the 5K walk will begin at 9 a.m., with the walk running from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

For more information or to register visit namimi.org or call (800) 331.4264.



HEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION

Registration is being accepted now for the Walkin' on the Wild Side fundraiser to benefit the Hemophilia

Foundation's programs and services for individuals with bleeding disorders. The walk will start at 8:45 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 29, at the Detroit Zoo, located on Ten Mile (I-696 service drive) and Woodward in Royal Oak. On-site registration will begin at 7:45 a.m.

The Foundation aims to raise \$100,000.

A registration fee of \$15 per person includes all-day admis-

sion to the zoo, refreshments and a Walk T-shirt. Children under 2 are free.

For every contribution of \$100, the individual donor's name will be put in a drawing for a 50-inch plasma television, an Apple iPad, and an Amazon Kindle. Winners will be drawn immediately after the Walk ends at 10:30 a.m. on the Grassy Knoll at the Detroit Zoo.

Donate to your favorite team captain, walker or directly to the Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan. Donate online or mail donations to the Foundation by Wednesday, Aug. 25. Donations made after that date will not be included.

Register at www.hfmich.org or contact Dawn Evans at (800) 482-3041 or dawn@hfmich.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JULY

Comedy for a Cause

The Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan offers a night of comedy, Wednesday, July 28, at Joey's Comedy Club in Livonia. Tickets for the event are \$15, with \$10 of that amount benefiting the organization. Seating will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the show will start at 8 p.m. To buy tickets, call Dawn at the Foundation at (800) 482-3041.

Free concert

The Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan is offering free concerts at rallies for its upcoming "Walkin' on the Wildside" fund-raising walk. Steel Traxx will perform at 6 p.m., July 28 at Booth Park in Birmingham. A concert also will be held at 6:30 p.m., July 27 at the Corner Brewery in Ypsilanti. The Foundation will provide free pop and pizza at each event. RSVP at (800) 482-3041.

Caregiver class

Learn the skills necessary to care for a child with diabetes, 1-4 p.m. July 29, at the Danto Auditorium, in the Cardiovascular

Center at the University of Michigan Medical Center, located at Fuller and East Medical Center Drive, in Ann Arbor. The Pediatric Endocrinology Department at the University of Michigan is offering a class for grandparents, teachers, baby sitters, step-parents, and others interested in learning about how to care for a child with diabetes. The cost is \$15 per person and covers the handouts that will be given at class and light refreshments. Call (734) 764-5175 with questions. Make checks payable to the University of Michigan and send it to Pediatric Endocrinology, Attn: Caregiver Class, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, D1205 MPB, SPC 5718, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

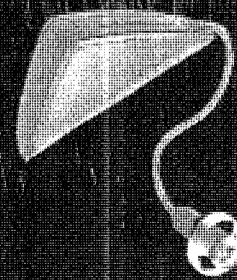
Physical Therapy

Find out how physical therapy can help relieve back, knee and shoulder pain while keeping joints and muscles strong and healthy, at a free community seminar presented by Beaumont Hospital. The one-hour seminar will be led by a Beaumont physical therapist and a Beaumont doctor. The program is scheduled for 2-3 p.m., July 29 and 6-7 p.m., Aug. 2, at the hospital, located on Woodward Ave., and 13 Mile in Royal Oak. Register at (800) 663-7377.

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