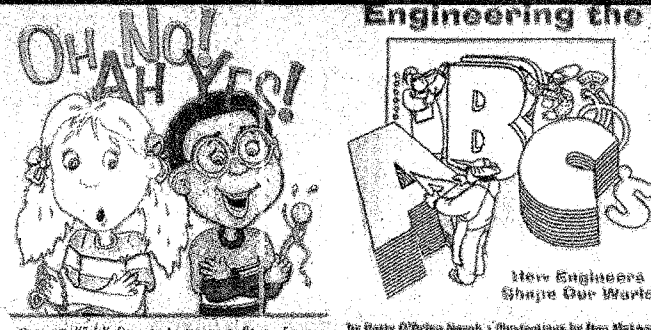


2/27

STUDENTS USE MATH SKILLS TO HELP ST. JUDE HOSPITAL EDUCATION, A4

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Written by KIRA K. ROSS • Illustration by Corinna Evans

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SUNDAY
February 27, 2011

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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Michigan Authors event proceeds to help Art Road

COMMUNITY LIFE, B5

IN BRIEF

I-SAVE winners

Six Wayne-Westland students were honored for winning entries in the I-SAVE contest.

Individuals Save And Vie for Efficiency is a voluntary program developed by Wayne-Westland Community Schools as an internal energy conservation program and an alternative to performance contracting or outside energy consultants. It annually holds a contest in which students create posters, write essays and create videos encouraging energy conservation. This year's winners are:

• Joshua Lees and Chloe Adams, both students at Walker-Winter Elementary School in Canton, who placed first and second in the poster contest.

• Marissa Pawlowski and Tony Gjocaj, both students at John Glenn High School in Westland, who placed first and second in the essay contest.

• Jacob Toarmina of John Glenn High School and the Bright Futures program at Franklin Middle School, first and second in the video contest.

Margaritaville

St. Damian School will take a trip to Margaritaville when it holds a dinner-auction fundraiser Saturday, March 5, at the school, located on Joy Road west of Middlebelt.

The cost is \$25 per person and includes dancing, dinner catered by Helena's and live and silent auctions. There also will be a cash bar and 50/50 and Jelly Jar raffles. Parrots will be sold for \$30. Get the winning parrot and pick any live auction item. Only 100 parrots will be sold.

Tickets on sale now at the school and parish offices. For tickets or more information, call the school at (734) 427-1680.

The school also is hosting an International Fair from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, March 10.

Students will be tour guides for a night of travel around the world, visiting places guests may have never been before and learning about their culture, geography and history.

No suitcases needed, just pick up a "passport" in the lobby and get ready for the tour.

Your news, now!

Breaking stories and news updates are always posted online at hometownlife.com. Check out the latest happenings in Westland - as well as around western Wayne County throughout the day.

Get into the online discussions by clicking on Story Chat on each story, editorial or letter to the editor. It's a great way to sound off and to connect with other readers.

Check out the awesome photo galleries posted by our staff photographers and our readers, as well as video clips that help tell the stories in our community. Stop by the Observer & Eccentric's Facebook page and become a "friend" to receive news updates right on your wall. It's your news, on your time, in the format of your choice.

Officials work to address snow removal problems

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A couple of days before the metro area was hit with about 10 inches of snow on President's Day, local officials were meeting to discuss problems with snow removal on Wayne County roads.

Those snow removal problems were, if anything, worse in the aftermath of the Presidents Day storm. The problems and complaints from municipalities about unplowed roads were severe enough that Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano fired

The problems and complaints from municipalities about unplowed roads were severe enough that Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano fired his director of roads Mike Rogers Thursday.

his director of roads Mike Rogers Thursday.

"I wasn't surprised (by the poor snow removal) but I was disappointed certainly," said Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, who received calls from Westland officials including Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford. Specifically, Gebhardt said

the earlier meeting was to address problems with snow removal at Cherry Hill and Wayne Road and procedures for breakdowns and when the supervisor wasn't present.

"We were working towards a solution when we got hit with the storm (President's Day)," said Gebhardt, whose

Please see **SNOW, A2**

Police will issue snow tickets

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Contrary to some comments at recent council meetings, Westland police will issue tickets when vehicles are left on the street during snow emergencies.

The goal isn't to write tickets but to get vehicles off the street so snow plows can get the streets cleared.

"It's not that we don't write them. In the first (recent) snow emergency, we tagged over 50 vehicles (with warnings) and 49 vehicles were moved," said Chief Alan Ramsden. "We try to treat the citizens well and give them a chance to move the car. We'll knock on the door and ask them to move a vehicle."

During the most recent

heavy snowfall, Ramsden said his officers didn't have much time for snow emergency enforcement.

"We were overwhelmed. We had 38 (traffic) accidents in 24 hours. I can't count the number of stranded motorists we were trying to help."

By the time the down-sized department is freed up for snow emergency enforcement, Ramsden said the snow emergency has often been lifted.

"We're not giving people a free pass. We want people in Westland to respond to a snow emergency," he said. "Our officers continually work and will get to the tickets. I think 80 to 90 percent of our residents are good citizens who understand if they want clear streets, they have to move their vehicles."

AARP tax preparers assist area residents

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The AARP tax preparation program doesn't have income guidelines but Bob Crews, coordinator of the Westland and Canton sites, has turned a couple of people away from the free service over their income.

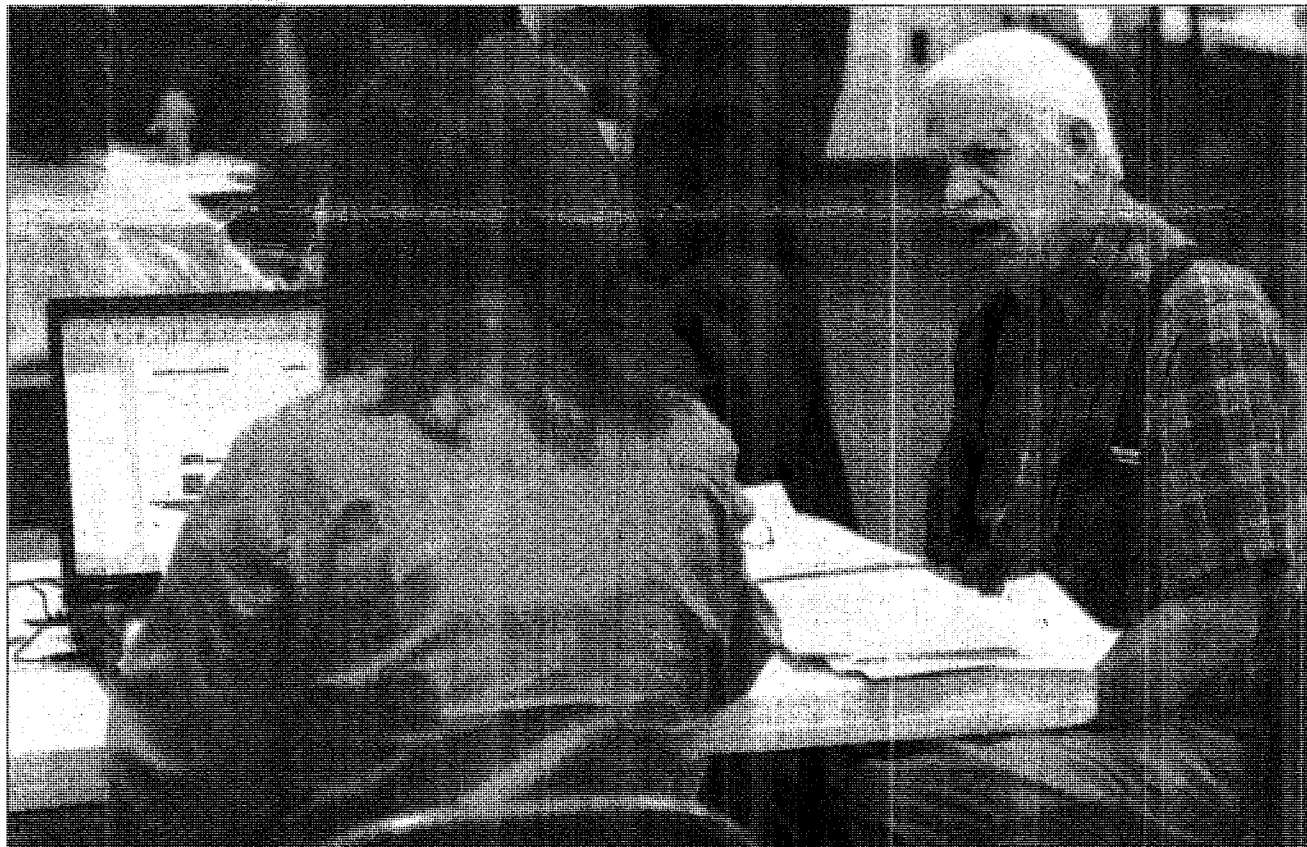
"They were making \$200,00 or \$300,000, they were taking advantage. I just didn't want to do them," said Crews. "There are no income guidelines. Basically, we look at the complexity of the return."

Last year, volunteers at the Westland and Canton sites completed 1,794 income tax returns. Most of the people using the service, offered in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service, are senior citizens but there are also no age restrictions.

"We're seeing more and more clients who don't want to pay to have their taxes done, we're a free service," said Crews, whose volunteers at Westland's Friendship Center three days a week and the Canton Summit one day each week during tax season.

On a recent day, the volunteers had a full house with preparers working with clients and a couple of people waiting for their appointment. Down three volunteers from last year, Crews said the program might not be able to meet the number of returns completed last year.

"Every return here is reviewed by someone else. Each piece of paper that is looked at by the preparer is looked at by someone else," said Crews. "A private preparer doesn't have that. When you see 1,800 people, that's a lot of keystrokes. If you think you're not going to make a mistake, you're nuts."



Volunteer Vicki White works to prepare an income tax return for Jerry Rowley at the AARP tax preparation program at Westland's Friendship Center. The volunteers also work one day weekly at the Canton Summit.

The volunteers undergo tax preparation training and can consult with Crews, who has been supervising the Westland and Canton program for number of years. Some people have not filed returns due to their income levels - something that isn't necessarily a good idea.

"A lot of people listen to their neighbors or someone they talk to in a store who say because of their age that they

don't have to file," said Crews. "It was like the year with the stimulus payment. You had to file a return to get it. There are property tax credits and other credits. Just because you don't have to file doesn't mean you shouldn't."

All tax returns are filed electronically as they have been for the past six years. Due to a change in the connection, wireless vs. a cabled network,

those who have their tax returns completed at Westland or Canton must go back to the same site this year.

For more information, call the Friendship Center at (734) 722-7632 or the Summit at (734) 394-5485. There are also AARP tax preparation sites in Garden City, Plymouth and Livonia. There are no residency requirements.

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

New trustee has management, health care experience

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Randy Roulier wasted no time getting started as the new trustee on the Livonia school board.

Less than a minute after he was sworn in Wednesday night, he took a seat at the board table and voted on a motion to adjourn the meeting at which he had just been appointed to replace Dan Lessard.

On Monday night, he'll attend his first subcommittee meetings.

His goals, he said, include getting a sense of the key issues and trying to get up to speed as

quickly as possible - after, that is, "figuring out which door to go into."

A manager for Blue Cross Blue Shield, Roulier was appointed in a 6-0 vote after the board interviewed five other candidates. Those candidates had been narrowed from a field of 18.

ACTIVE PARENT VOLUNTEER

Roulier joked that he doesn't know his way around the board office, but he has been involved in the schools as an active parent and a member of the district improvement team. His son, Brian, is a junior at Franklin High School. Both daughters are graduates of



Roulier

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Winter break is time for skating

Youngsters, accompanied by a few parents, took to the ice at Westland's Mike Modano Arena Thursday for a mid-winter break learn to skate program.

"We had about 20 kids — we'd like to get 100 kids," said Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski. "Learn to skate is how we introduce kids to hockey and figure skating."

The learn to skate program, which was followed by open skating time, was part of athletic camps and activities scheduled throughout the week for youngsters who didn't have classes for the midwinter break.

Based on the turnout during the week, Kosowski said some adjustments will be made to what programs will be offered.

"Some programs went, some didn't. We need to go with more cheaper stuff like the learn to skate," he said. "Not the big camps — people just don't have the money."



Instructor Tess Kuehne helps Samantha LaChance on the ice during a learn to skate program at Westland's Mike Modano Arena.



Samantha LaChance finds that learning to skate includes some hard landings.

Westland native nominated for Oscar

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, Westland resident Ruth Phillips will be paying a lot of attention to the annual Academy Awards presentations — she'll be waiting to see if her son, Sean, will be among the winners.

"I'm very excited — extremely excited," said Ruth Phillips, who still lives in the Westland home where her son grew up. "We brought him home from the hospital to this house."

A Livonia Franklin High School graduate, Sean Phillips is part of a team nominated for an Oscar in the category of visual effects

for Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*. The team was also nominated for a Bafta, the British equivalent of an Oscar.

"They've really been flying high. It's such a hard field. There are so many good people who don't get nominated, I'm so excited," said Ruth Phillips, adding she has a DVR that she'll use to make sure she doesn't miss the big moment.

At 47, Sean Phillips is the youngest of three children. Ruth Phillips recalls that a high school teacher used to let her son borrow an early Apple computer on which he would do graphics over the weekends.

"My husband was an artist at Ford styling for years. He always had stuff up for the kids to do," said Ruth Phillips, whose husband, Allan, died in the fall. "I have drawings around the house that he (Sean) has done since he was 2 years old."

After studying art and engineering at Michigan State University, Sean Phillips worked for Grace & Wild Studios in Farmington Hills before eventually relocating to California. He worked for Disney and Sony Pictures Imageworks before his current work with DreamWorks.

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Options for library funding considered

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Garden City Library is exploring every option as the city plans its first budget workshop on March 7.

Besides discussion of a possible consolidation with another city, Library Director James Lenze is also looking at other options for the library.

Garden City faces about a \$4.2 million shortfall if no changes are made in its almost \$19 million general fund budget which provides the bulk of funding for the library.

Funding for the library is one of the "small holes" that the council talked about recently, Lenze said.

"The larger and more important hole right now is the projected budget gap," Lenze said. "Council is correct to be thinking about the small holes while considering solutions for

the larger hole because all the possible solutions will have an impact on residents."

The budget gap needs to be the primary focus right now. "Stop the biggest leak first," Lenze said.

An ad hoc Fiscal Condition Review Committee has looked at several options for the library and will likely include some of them in their recommendations to the council.

A Southeast Michigan Council of Governments representative has been part of those meetings for weeks and will soon deliver his report.

"What it boils down to is city council has two options for funding a library: use of general fund monies, an appropriation or millage," said Lenze. "If council finds a solution to the budget gap, they might choose to continue funding the library through appropriations. Or, they may want to

consider a library millage as part of the budget gap solution."

Under state law, the council would levy up to one mill to fund library services. Westland and Eastpointe are two cities which have chosen this option.

"Such a millage would save the general fund about \$228,000," Lenze said. "It could be levied for as little as one year, or in perpetuity."

As another option, Garden City could try to consolidate library service with one or more neighboring cities by forming a District Library. "But a district library still needs to be funded, either through appropriations or its own millage," said Lenze.

The options for library funding will be further explored during the budget process. All options are still on the table.

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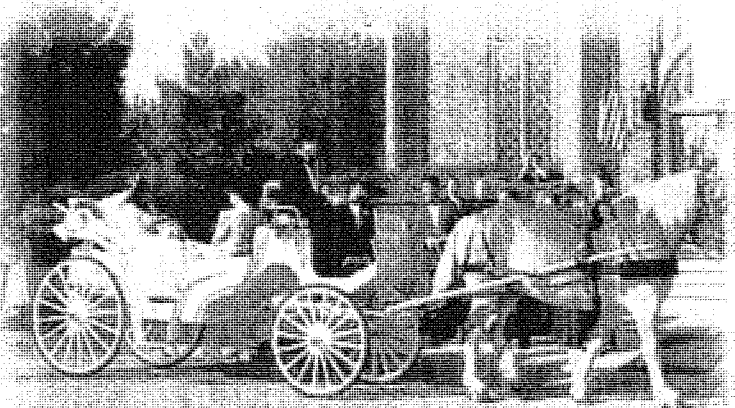
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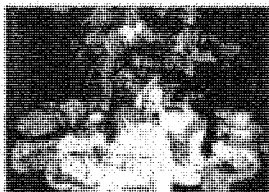


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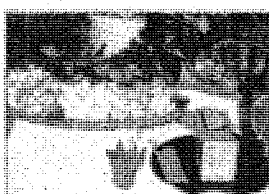
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Students use math skills to help St. Jude Hospital

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Students at Edison Elementary School in Westland have found a way for doing math and helping others.

For more than five years, the students have participate in the St. Jude Math-A-Thon, raising more than \$38,000 over seven years for the children's cancer/research hospital.

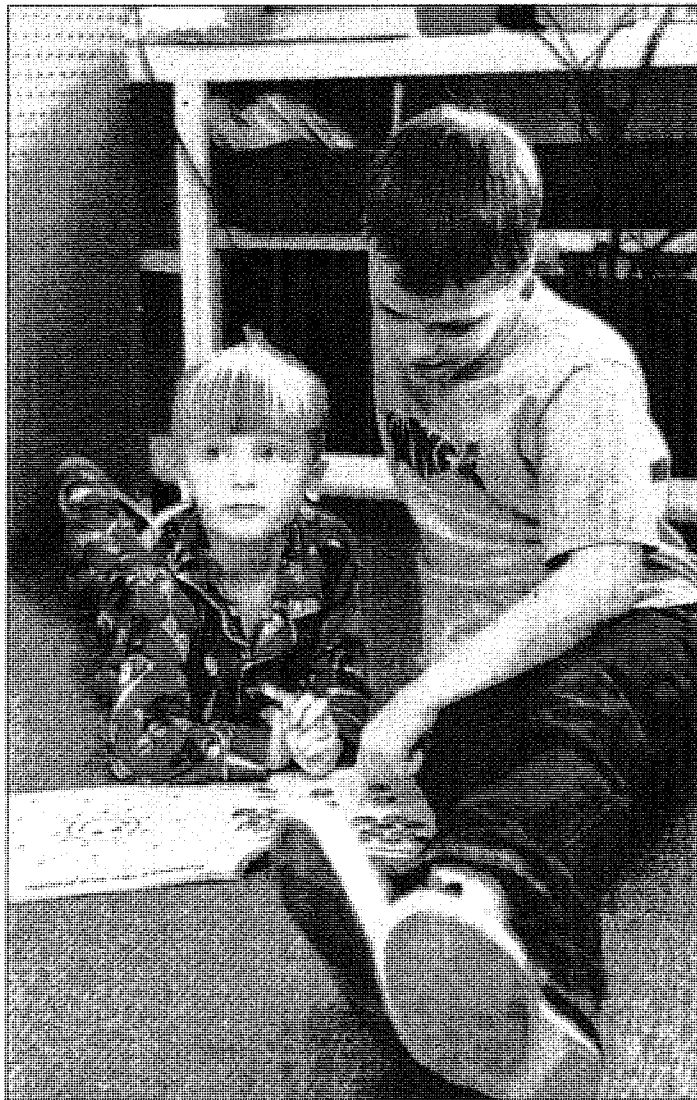
"Every student participates, and many of the teachers sponsor students," said fourth-grade teacher Tim Sullivan, who oversaw this year's Math-A-Thon. "Even though they're doing math, they're doing something for other children."

Students at each grade level receive a Scholastic Funbook that includes age-appropriate mathematics problems they must complete as part of the Math-A-Thon. Even kindergartners are able to participate.

The goal this year is to raise \$2,000; Sullivan will know what the bottom line is March 9, when donations are turned in by students. Depending on how much they raise in pledges, they can receive prizes ranging from a St. Jude T-shirt for \$35 up to a portable mp3 stereo speaker system or digital camera for \$500.

"With kindergarten through fifth grade here last year, we raised \$5,200. This year, we're not sure," Sullivan said.

Edison has more than 400 students this year in kindergarten through fourth grade.



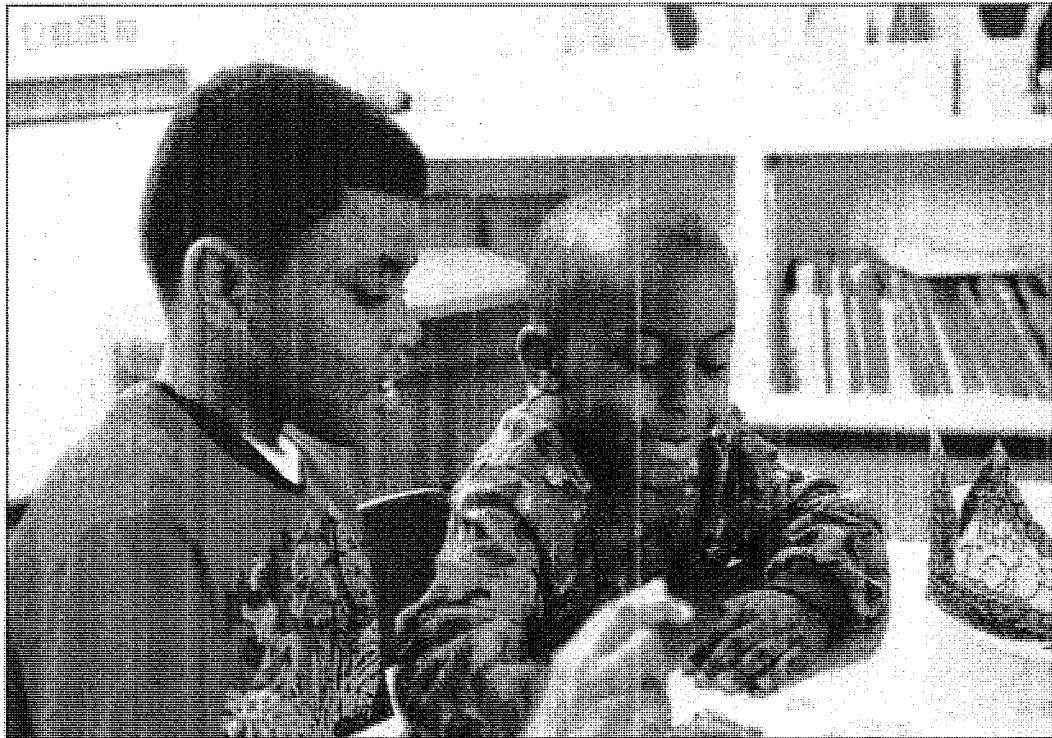
Kindergartner Dylan Moore with his buddy, fourth-grader Josh Salter, work on the Math-A-Thon problems.

DOING THE MATH

Sullivan estimated that most classes would spend a couple of hours doing the math problems. A lot of classes partnered with other classes so they weren't just sitting for two hours, as with Sullivan's class, which worked with younger

counterparts in completing the books.

The Funbook includes cartoons with the Numerators, math super heroes like Fraction that fights with a powerful slash and Symmetry that splits into two parts for a double attack. Also prob-



PHOTOS BY THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Kindergartner Ryan Goodson, working with fourth-grader Dante Barthwell, gladly paid \$1 so he could wear his pajamas to school on Math-A-Thon Day.

lems like adding numbers to identify the country assigned that number, a crossword-like number puzzle and everything from addition and subtraction to multiplication and division, depending of the grade level.

As part of the Math-A-Thon, students also had the opportunity to wear pajamas to school the last day before mid-winter recess by paying \$1.

The Math-A-Thon started as a pilot program in 1979 to raise funds for St. Jude and has grown into one of the hospital's most successful fundraising programs. To participate, students ask family and friends for pledges to solve math problems.

The funds raised by the students benefit St. Jude, where doctors and scientists work to eradicate childhood cancer and other catastrophic childhood diseases. St. Jude is the only pediatric cancer research center where families never pay for treatment not covered by insurance. No child is ever denied treatment because of the family's inability to pay.

GETTING WORD OUT

Sullivan challenged several of his students to make commercials. One group was assigned to promote Edison gear, while a second group — Chris Cybulski, Hannah

Bourdeau, Raven Nelson and Ryan Erickson — created their own one-minute Math-A-Thon commercial that played on white boards in the classrooms during announcements.

In their commercial, the students pointed out that getting pledges is hard work, doing the math is a lot of sweat and helping with cancer research is "priceless."

"It's based on the Visa commercial," Sullivan said. "They created it, they came up with the idea. They had a week to come up with something. It was pretty clever."

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Town hall draws celebrities, film incentive supporters

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The town hall meeting Thursday drew hundreds of film industry supporters and celebrities who are strong advocates for the tax incentives for the film industry.

Their message was about the jobs and impact on Michigan residents who had found work in the film industry.

Actor Jeff Daniels, who lives in Chelsea and owns the Purple Rose Theatre there, spoke about the trickle-down impact of the film industry and the incentives.

Daniels met a truck driver on a set who had lost his job and his house had faced foreclosure, but with the incentives, the driver found work and made enough money to purchase two Ford vehicles.

"Let's ask the Ford salesman what he thinks of the tax incentive," Daniels said. "Based on those two cars, he bought a ring for his wife."

"Now let's ask the jeweler who he bought the ring from what he thinks of the tax incentives."

EFFORT WAS BIPARTISAN

Filmmaker Mike Binder called it a "sad night."

"I can't believe we're pushing this ball back up the hill," Binder said, referring to the discussions with state lawmakers three years ago to develop the tax-incentive package.

Binder pointed out that the original bill was spearheaded by Republicans. "This was not creating a Department of Film; this was to incentivize the business," Binder said.

"Everything that was promised has happened, only better. It breaks my heart to have to fly in here and push this rock up the hill again."

Columnist Mitch Albom mentioned the occupations impacted by the film industry from producers and film crews to caterers and hotel employees.

"This isn't about saving Hollywood; this is about saving Michigan," Albom said.

Albom pointed out that state film production expenditures went from \$2 million to \$225 million in two years. "This is 100-fold growth," Albom said.

REPORT SAYS JOBS CREATED

An Ernst & Young economic report also showed 6,491 full-time equivalent jobs were created in 2009-10, creating more than \$800 million in economic output or an annual salary of \$53,000 each.

No other industry in Michigan experienced that kind of growth, Albom said. "Just as they were setting down the boat, the governor blew it out of the water," Albom said. "This is not about saving Tom Cruise; it's about saving Tom Farmington Hills, Tom Novi and Tom Detroit."

Not everyone who spoke had worked in Hollywood or with filmmakers.

Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner, who worked on the film credit package three years ago, drew his own take from the recent Eminem ad for Chrysler.

"Gov. Snyder, this is Michigan, and this is what we do," Meisner said. "But in order to keep doing it, we will need some help."

Meisner said the group that pushed for the incentives three years ago studied New Mexico, Connecticut and Louisiana to create Michigan's package. "We saw this was a proven formula," Meisner said.

Meisner believed that Snyder's proposal in changing the tax structure was a "leap of faith."

"Facts are facts," Meisner said. "Our No. 1 goal was to stimulate jobs and investment at a time when it wasn't happening. This economic downturn was one of the worst in history," he said.

Meisner pointed out that the film industry brought diversification to the state's economy and that the effort to develop the film incentives was bipartisan.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"I thought I was preaching to the choir," says Jeff Daniels, speaking about his meeting with candidate Rick Snyder, who, according to Daniels said that he did not want to kill the film incentives.

Walsh said he will balance the input he receives on the film issue with the calls he receives from senior citizens, schools, indigent care and the environmentalists, groups and individuals who have contacted him about Snyder's budget.

"It's a balancing act for this," Walsh said. "My focus remains on education and sound fiscal management."

WALSH WILL STUDY CAP

On Friday, state Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, said Snyder's cap on the incentives was a "dollars and cents" issue for Snyder.

Walsh will meet with officials in the film industry, then review the budget to see if the cap could be expanded beyond the \$25 million and less than

Film supporters fight to stop final cut on incentives

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

More than 1,000 film industry supporters gathered at a standing-room-only town meeting at Laurel Manor in Livonia Thursday night with hopes of saving the film incentives that have provided work and jobs for them.

Workers employed in the industry, ranging from actors and producers to truck drivers and construction workers, attended the gathering to send a message of "work it out, don't throw it out" to Gov. Rick Snyder and state lawmakers.

Snyder proposed a cap of \$25 million to the film industry in each year. Previously the incentives totaled \$150 million a year, and filmmakers could receive up to a 42-percent rebate on production expenses.

The impact of the loss of the tax incentives would be felt locally, as Philippe Martinez, owner of Maxsar Studios in Livonia, told the crowd. Martinez has already invested \$1.6 million to start his company here.

Martinez said the governor talked about "shared sacrifice."

"He took the film business as the little lamb to be sacrificed," Martinez said.

"I'm not here to fight for the building. I'm here for the 50 employees that I've hired and I want to hire more."

Many of the attendees will be working to save the tax incentives as they have a personal stake in them.

'SHUTTING DOWN A PLANT'

David Dalton of Redford has worked as a stagehand in lighting and in rigging theaters and sets.

"This is equivalent to an auto company shutting down an entire plant," Dalton said. "Instead of a paycheck, the people here will be collecting an unemployment check."

Dalton noticed an immediate impact with the tax incentive.

"I've seen more movies shot here (since the tax incentives began) than I have in my last

30 years," Dalton said. "They've increased my income."

Dalton, who worked on the set for *Detroit 1-8-7*, also worked on *Salvation Boulevard* with Pierce Brosnan, *The Irishman* and *Game of Death*, among others.

"We'd have slow seasons," Dalton said about his work before the incentives. "With the movies in town, it hasn't been slow since."

Dalton spoke with David Jackson of Grosse Pointe, who is a Teamster who sets up movie sets and builds displays for shows, about what they planned to do to let state lawmakers know that they support the incentives.

Jackson said the display set-up business is dead without the film industry. Jackson also builds Auto Show displays.

Jackson has worked on Clint Eastwood's *Gran Torino*, *The Double* and *Home Run Derby*.

"It's been a good run in business," Jackson said. His wife, Elizabeth, also created a craft service industry, and has worked with *Detroit 1-8-7*.

'GOOD FOR MICHIGAN'

Carol Schober of Plymouth attended because she supports the incentives.

She thinks about the young college students and recent graduates involved in the film industry.

Her granddaughter moved to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career and attend the American Music and Dramatic Academy. "It's really great to hear the young people talk," Schober said. Several college students from the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University talked about how they have found work or their hopes in landing a job in the film industry here.

Schober believes state lawmakers need to sit down and figure out how to keep the incentives. "It's good for Michigan," she said.

"The people who are not involved with the arts have no idea how many fields are affected by it," Schober said.

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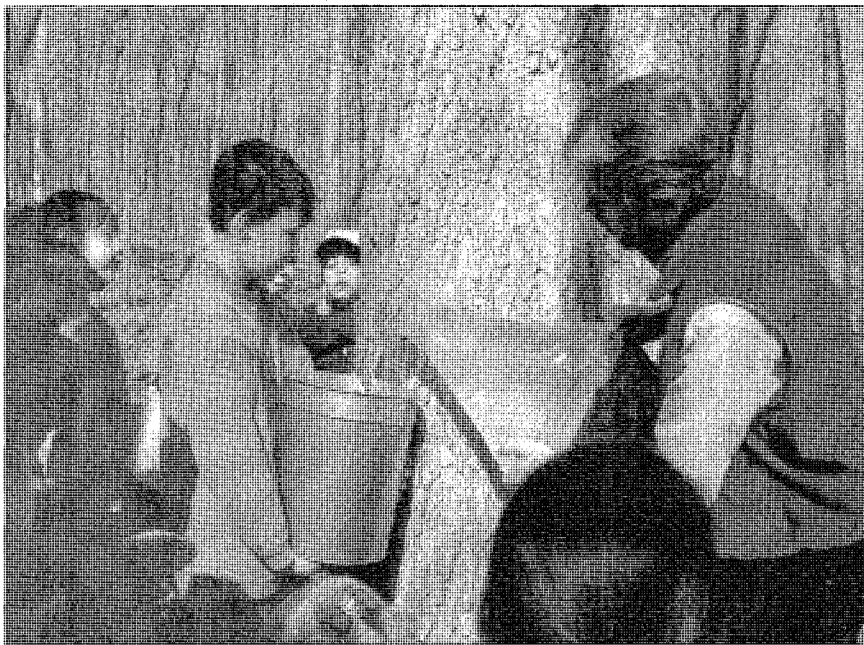
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March 10th - April 14th
Thurs nights
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6 week ZUMBA class
March 9th - April 18th
Mon or Wed nights
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\$45 one session
\$80 for both

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Naturalists at Wayne County's Cass Benton Park in Northville will talk about and demonstrate maple sugaring during three programs March 19.

Naturalists demonstrate maple sugaring at Cass Benton Park

It may not be spring, but the sap is flowing up the maple trees.

So bundle up and join the naturalists at Wayne County's Cass Benton Park on Saturday, March 19, for a maple sugaring program.

There are three different time slots to choose from - 0 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon - and the program lasts approximately 1 1/2

hours.

Learn how Native Americans were the first to discover that sap was a tasty treat, and taught early settlers how to collect and boil it.

A short hike in the woods for a hands-on demonstration of tree tapping, sap collection and boiling is part of the program. Information for backyard hobbyists also will be presented.

All ages welcome for the program, but trail is not stroller friendly.

The cost is \$5 per person, and advanced registration and pre-payment are required.

Cass Benton Park is located in Northville, off Northville Road between Six Mile and Seven Mile. For more information, call (734) 261-1990 or visit www.waynecountyparks.org.

Life Remodeled aims to change lives

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Members of Ekklesia aim to change the life of a local family through the Life Remodeled project and are hoping a reality television show will provide the means to bring the program to more people.

A congregation that meets at Westland John Glenn High School, Ekklesia is the sponsor of Life Remodeled which will not only build a new home in Norway for a local low-income family but also provide additional support through counseling and financial management guidance.

"It's really more of a holistic transformation of lives. We're coming from a different niche," said Chris Lambert, a pastor at Ekklesia.

The home at 32231 Oscoda Court, a blighted building acquired through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, is set to be demolished March 4. Life Remodeled volunteers, which will include building trades professionals, will build the new home April 25 through May 1.

Now that the location is in place, the Life Remodeled project is focusing on fundraising for both the home and the reality show, along with selecting a family who will become the owners of the new home.

"I've read that 15 to 17 percent of the homes are lost after Extreme Makeover," said Lambert. "We would have four hosts - me from the perspective of a pastor, a financial adviser, a woman from the University of Phoenix as an educator working with children and parents and the fourth is a therapist."

Like Life Remodeled itself, the television show would be aimed at not just putting people into a house but helping them develop improved financial and life skills. Lambert estimates \$45,000 will be needed to construct the home, which is receiving donated materials and labor, and \$51,000 to produce the reality show.

A total of 111 applications were received and 20 applications were returned from 28 applicants selected for the second stage. A committee that includes Wayne-Westland

Schools Superintendent Greg Baracy, Lou Toarmina of Toarmina's Pizza and Shaun Taft, basic services director for Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency will continue narrowing the field.

"There are criteria for the program. They have to approve a participant family that is low income," said Westland Community Development Director Joanne Inglis, who compared the Life Remodeled home construction and follow-up support to Habitat for Humanity. "The payment can't exceed 35 percent of their income. It's the same requirements as our first-time homebuyers program."

Upcoming fundraisers for Life Remodeled include Monday, March 7, when the Westland Buffalo Wild Wings will donate 30 percent of their sales to customers who mention the program. A benefit auction will be held Saturday, April 2, at the Westland Friendship Center.

For more information, visit www.lifemodeled.com.

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

Starfis receives Kellogg Foundation grant

Starfish Family Services, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating brighter futures for the children of at-risk families in metropolitan Detroit, has received a \$10,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The grant enables Starfish to make strategic improvements to its Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Developments will be made through the implementation of advanced HighScope Infant-Toddler Training for teachers, and an upgrade to the current HighScope Child Observation Record (COR), from a paper-based structure to a web-based system.

The modifications will enhance the success of these programs by yielding better data that can be applied to support children's educational pre-

paredness. The project is part of Starfish's comprehensive Early Childhood Plan to drive community-level change for young children in the city of Inkster.

"We take pride in our ability to provide the best services and care to our families and we are extremely grateful for the generosity and support the Kellogg Foundation has shown us," said Kalass. "This grant will give us the ability to further improve and update our Head Start programs to meet the needs of our children and the expectations of our families."

Starfish will execute the objectives of this grant over a duration of 12 months - January 2011 through December 2011.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation, established in 1930, supports children, families and communities as they strengthen and

create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society.

Founded in 1963, Starfish Family Services is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by creating family success. Based in Inkster, Starfish serves vulnerable children and families throughout metropolitan Detroit and western Wayne County, providing early childhood and parenting programs, after school programs, children's mental health services, and emergency shelter to teens and youth in crisis.

Each year, Starfish helps more than 9,000 individuals, children and families. For more information, visit www.starfish-online.org.

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

CITY OF WESTLAND RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL 2011 SCHEDULE FOR BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS

Monday, March 14	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 15	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 16	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 17	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Friday, March 18	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

CALL (734) 467-3160 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT
Appointments are scheduled five minutes apart.
For more info on Board of Review,
visit our website at www.cityofwestland.com and click on Assessing.

Board of Review Meetings are held at Westland City Hall
2nd Floor - Council Chambers
36601 Ford Road
Westland, MI 48185

Written Appeals Must Be Received by 2:00 P.M. on Friday, March 18, 2011

Publish: February 27 and March 6, 2011

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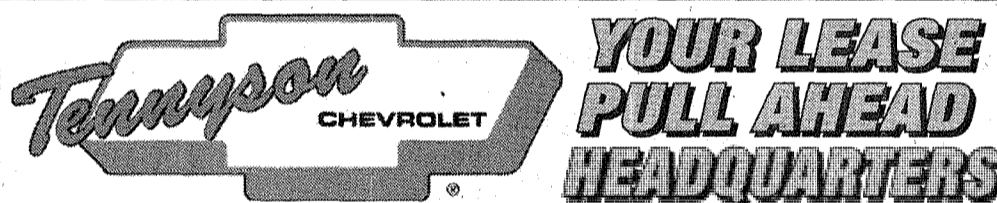
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Thursday, March 3
5:30-7 p.m.

♥
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Montessori School**
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(734) 459-1550
www.pcmontessori.org

Sunday, March 6
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♥
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(734) 427-8255
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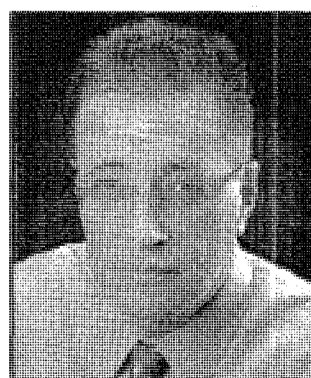
SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

The tragedy is that less than half of those persons who are denied benefits file an appeal. Thus, many thousands of people who deserve benefits never receive them.

Those denied can appeal on their own, but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign clients to young associate attorneys with much less experience.



In addition to practicing only Social Security Disability law Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups.

Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure.

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be

eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

In a recent radio interview attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefits).

Bieske represents clients from all over the state of Michigan. Call him at 1-800-331-3530 for a FREE consultation if you have been denied. Or if you are thinking of possibility of applying for Social Security benefits call him for FREE advice.

www.ssdfighter.com

CE0872019

Lack of W-2 no excuse for not reporting income

Q: Dear Rick: Because of the lousy economy last year, I had a number of different jobs. I received W-2s from two of my employers, but did not get one from the third company. I tried to contact the company, but it is no longer in business. Their phone has been disconnected and there is no forwarding address. A friend of mine also worked for the company and he did not receive a W-2 either. I contacted the company's accountants and they were not helpful. They told me the company went out of business and they have no more information. I also contacted the state and they cannot help me. What should I do? When I've mentioned my problem to friends, they said don't worry because since I didn't receive a W-2, I don't have to report the income. Do you have any thoughts?



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

to recreate the numbers needed to complete an accurate W-2, however, there is no alternative. As taxpayers, it is our responsibility to make sure that our tax returns are filed correctly. The fact that you did not get a W-2 when you were supposed to may help in alleviating some penalties, but that's it.

By now we all employees should have received W-2 forms. If not, contact your employer. Any W-2 not properly accounted for on a tax return will definitely lead to IRS scrutiny. That said, everyone should check W-2s for accuracy. Make sure your Social Security number is correct. After all, you're paying into the system so you might as well receive the benefits you deserve down the road. If your employer inaccurately reports your information, you may not be getting the proper credit. In addition, make sure to review wages, federal, state and city withholdings. These numbers should match the numbers on your last pay stub.

If you discover an error on your W-2, contact your employer and have them correct the mistake as soon as possible. Your employer can issue a corrected W-2, which is a relatively easy procedure.

A good place to go, not only for tax forms but also good information regarding taxes, is the IRS website at www.irs.gov. The website is informational and user friendly. In addition, the IRS website allows user to connect to a variety of sites to file a federal return electronically at no charge. It's not a gimmick, and these sites are not IRS programs, but rather tax preparation programs, from many of the large, well-known companies.

My philosophy is, if by taking advantage of it you save money, why not?
Good luck!

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

Author to speak about Holocaust Museum visit

Michigan author Robert M. Weir will speak about his visit to the Holocaust Museum in Berlin, Germany, during the monthly meeting of Citizens for Peace at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, at Unity Church in Livonia. The public is invited.

Weir pondered the question of how so many could kill so many during a recent visit to the Holocaust Museum. Deeply moved by what he learned at the 4.7-acre memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe, he developed his presentation and discussion forum which includes a 12-minute video of the museum. He will recount his personal emotions and the impressions he saw etched in the faces of those visiting the memorial. Weir hopes to elicit more questions from his audience and discuss the similarities of pre-war Germany and social conditions that exist in some nations today.

Department of Peace and a culture of peace.

Unity of Livonia is at 28660 Five Mile Road (between Middlebelt and Inkster roads). Donations are desired, but not required. For more information, call (734) 425-0079.

Varicocele

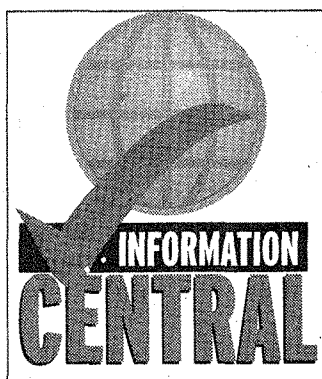
Varicocele is the widening of the veins in the scrotum. A varicocele forms when valves inside the veins prevent blood from flowing properly. This causes the blood to back up, leading to swelling and widening of veins. They develop slowly and are more common in men ages 15-25. Varicoceles are often the cause of infertility in men. Symptoms of varicoceles; enlarged, twisted veins in the scrotum, infertility, painless testicle lump, scrotal swelling. Sometimes there may not be symptoms.

Your doctor can examine the groin area and may be able to detect a varicocele. However, it may not be seen if th...

Peace Corps observes 50th anniversary

In the years following World War II, many politicians began proposing bills for the creation of volunteer organizations in developing countries. It was Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey who introduced the first Peace Corps bill in 1957. After a lack of enthusiasm and support, it did not go very far.

It wasn't until the 1960 presidential campaign that John F. Kennedy picked up the proposal once again.



At 2: a.m. on Oct. 14, 1960, Kennedy gave a speech at the University of Michigan Union. In that speech, he presented the students with a challenge of giving just two years to live and work, helping people in developing countries. There were many who criticized the idea of this program. People, such as Richard Nixon, believed that the organization would just attract draft dodgers.

Once Kennedy was elected, he continued pushing for the establishment of the Peace Corps. In his inaugural address, he famously said, "And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Kennedy officially signed Executive Order 10924, establishing the Peace Corps, on March 1, 1961. In August 1961, the first group of volunteers left to serve in Ghana and Tanzania. It wasn't until the 1980s that the Peace Corps became its own

independent federal agency after celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Throughout the '80s and '90s, the government continued to increase funding and the number of volunteers. When 9/11 happened, President Bush responded to the rising anti-American sentiment in the Middle East by increasing the Peace Corps budget. President Obama has also taken steps to increase the size of the Peace Corps since he has been in office.

To get a sense of what it's like volunteering in the Peace Corps, check out "Power Lines: Two Years on South Africa's Borders" by Jason Carter or "The Unheard: A Memoir of Deafness and Africa" by Josh Swiller.

Stop by at the reference desk, call us at (734) 326-6123, or remotely search our catalog 24 hours a day at www.westlandlibrary.org.

Highlighted Activities

Writers Club: 7 p.m., Feb. 28,

adults and teens

Do you have stories or poems or ideas you would like others to hear, but not critique, in a casual atmosphere? Join us as Cheryl Vatcher-Martin leads the Westland Library Writer's Club. All writing is interesting to us so bring whatever you are working on.

Afternoon Movie Classics: "The Searchers," 3 p.m. March 1, ages 12 and up

Tough hombres and gun fights amid unbridled scenery. Join us as we explore the drama and grandeur of classic Western films from the American Film Institute's top 100 movies from the last 100 years. Today's selection is "The Searchers" with John Wayne.

Yoga for Beginners: Morning class, 10 a.m. March 2, Evening class, 7 p.m. March 2, adults and teens

Join Lois Gannon of Evolve yoga studio in Ypsilanti as she leads a beginning Hatha yoga class. Interested parties should bring a yoga mat, if possible. Wear loose clothing. One of four morning classes this month. Sign up at the Reference Desk or call (734) 326-6123. Space is limited.

Friday Night Movies: "Secretariat," 7 p.m. March 4, ages 12 and up

Love movies? Join us as we watch projected Oscar nominees for the 2011 awards. Tonight's movie is "Secretariat," starring Diane Lane,

Scott Glenn and James Cromwell.

Refreshments available. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Movie starts at 7 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 drop-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.

Information Central was compiled by Homebound Delivery Coordinator Andrea Perez. 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.

Schoolcraft holds job expo, Kids on Campus open house

Schoolcraft College Continuing Education and Professional Development Department will host an open house for its Kids on Campus summer camp program 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 3.

This is the 32nd year of the Kids on Campus, and this year's program will include several new offerings for children entering the first through 12th grades in the fall.

Attendees of the open House will be able to meet with instructors, ask questions, visit the campus, see class demonstrations and register for the more than 50 different week-long sessions in July.

Some of this year's Kids on Campus offerings include robotics, aviation and aerospace, adventures in medicine, crime detection, gaming design, culinary arts, starting a business, song writing, acting, art, study skills, academic basics in writing, math, science and for those preparing for college, navigating the daunting process of college applications.

The Kids on Campus open house will take place in the Diponio Room of the VisTaTech Center on the college's main campus on Haggerty between Six and Seven Mile. For more information, contact the Continuing

Education and Professional Development Department at 73 462-4448 or go online to www.schoolcraft.edu/koc.

Schoolcraft also will hold its annual Public Safety Expo 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, March 23, at the Radcliff Center in Garden City. Potential employers will be on hand to accept resumes and answer questions about their programs. The expo is free and the public is invited.

Those attending include area police, sheriff, fire and rescue units, Michigan Department of Corrections and State Police, federal law enforcement units including the Department of Natural Resources, Drug

Enforcement Administration, Secret Service and Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Army and ROTC, Coast Guard and Marine Corps, public safety and security departments from area hospitals and other public facilities, forensics lab, commercial enterprises, Schoolcraft's training academies, colleges and universities.

Representatives from Dallas, Texas, law enforcement also will be attending. Job seekers should bring 30-40 resumes with them to the event.

The Radcliff Center is on Radcliff, south of Ford Road, in Garden City.

AROUND WESTLAND

Keep walking

In the mood to walk, but don't like the weather? Westland Shopping Center has the answer - mall walking.

Westland Shopping Center opens its doors before usual operating hours for people who want to walk for exercise. Walking begins at 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Enter through Arcade 2 by Olga's Kitchen on the northeast end of the mall. All other doors

are locked until approximately 8:30 a.m. On Sunday all doors are opened at 10 a.m.

Westland Walkers also hold a meeting at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Community Room on the lower level. Call (734) 425-5001 to check when a meeting has been scheduled.

It's easy to become a member of Westland Walkers. Just fill out a registration card available at the Customer Service booth in East Court. Return it to the Customer Service Associate or

put it in the Walkers Box located on the side counter. Westland Shopping Center is at Wayne and Warren roads in Westland.

Weatherization help

Weatherization Assistance is a home energy conservation program providing services to low-income residents. Families receiving weatherization services can expect heating costs to be reduced 20-25 percent, amounting to about \$300 sav-

ing per year. Eligible projects include such things as floor insulation, storm windows, window repair/replacement, programmable thermostat, furnace and duct repair or replacement and roof repairs.

Wayne-Metropolitan Community Action Agency manages the Weatherization Program for Wayne County, including the city of Westland. Contact Jeff Boyd, weatherization director, at (734) 284-6999.

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'Our little miracle'

Family credits paramedics for saving daughter's life

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For a little girl who suffered cardiac arrest and spent her fourth birthday in a coma, Nevaeh Muntian of Canton seems remarkably healthy. She laughs and sprints across her family's living room as she plays with her brother, Braelen, and cousin Lexi Bonar, both 2. She still enjoys singing, dancing, eating cookies, coloring and watching her favorite cartoon character, Dora the Explorer.

She hardly seems to notice the defibrillator doctors implanted in her upper left chest. She remembers little of her recent 16-day hospital stay. "I was sleeping," Nevaeh said. She nearly died, more than once. Her parents, Brandon and Melissa Muntian, are convinced they would have lost their beloved daughter if Canton Fire Department paramedics hadn't arrived as quickly as they did to help Nevaeh, who was unconscious and barely breathing in her home on Heritage Drive, near Haggerty and Palmer.

"They saved our daughter's life," Brandon Muntian, 29, said. "We couldn't be more pleased with the way things turned out."

TURNING BLUE

Nevaeh's parents, her two grandmothers and a family friend, 19-year-old Derek Styron, still recall the terrifying ordeal that started after

an outing Jan. 26 to a Detroit Pistons basketball game at The Palace of Auburn Hills, where Brandon Muntian took photos of his smiling daughter on his phone.

Returning home after 11 p.m., Nevaeh had started toward the bathroom when Styron noticed her fall. Her father rushed to her.

"Her eyes rolled back in her head. She was turning blue. I picked her up and she was limp in my arms," Brandon Muntian said.

Nevaeh's paternal grandmother, Vicki Partin, said it seemed that a Canton police officer arrived within 90 seconds after a 9-1-1 call was made, and he radioed his findings of a weak pulse to paramedics who quickly arrived. They used every medical procedure possible to save Nevaeh as they rushed her by ambulance to Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne.

Fire Chief Tim Dunn said four paramedics — Chris Battistone, Matt Niemczewski, Richard Crackel and Ryan Molina — had rushed to Nevaeh's house in an ambulance and a heavy rescue vehicle. Three of them accompanied her to Oakwood Annapolis, where doctors gave further treatment before Nevaeh was flown by medical helicopter to the University of Michigan's Mott Children's Hospital.

'GOING TO DIE'
U-M doctors nearly lost

Nevaeh. "They thought she was going to die," her 24-year-old mother said.

Even after the initial scare, Nevaeh remained in a coma for several days, including her fourth birthday, as doctors gave her a hypothermia treatment to cool her body. They needed to reduce the risk of brain damage.

"Her brain was shut off," Melissa Muntian said.

Doctors slowly revived her Feb. 2, and her family said doctors ran tests that showed Nevaeh hadn't suffered any brain damage, despite going into cardiac arrest four times and then being in a coma.

"That's why we call her our little miracle," her maternal grandmother, Shelly Ozment, said.

Nevaeh finally came home Feb. 10 with a defibrillator implanted in her small body, and her family said U-M doctors suspect one of two heart conditions could have caused her problems. They also believe Nevaeh's condition could be genetic, though her parents said no one on either side of the family ever suffered cardiac arrest at a young age.

Nevaeh returns for a follow-up visit in late March, when her parents hope to learn precisely what caused her heart problems. Doctors already have told the family that Nevaeh may have to wear a defibrillator the rest of her life.

'SHE HAD ANGELS'
Dunn, Canton's fire chief,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Four-year-old Nevaeh Muntian sits in her father Brandon Muntian's lap, while her mom holds Nevaeh's 2-year-old brother, Braelen. The family is grateful Nevaeh got the quick help she needed after suffering cardiac arrest.

was glad to hear that Nevaeh's family lauded the efforts of local paramedics, police and hospital personnel at Annapolis Oakwood and U-M. "We try to do our best to help everybody," Dunn said. "That's why we're here."

Aside from top-notch medical care, Ozment believes her granddaughter also had help from another source.

"She had angels," Ozment said.

Brandon Muntian said Nevaeh's ordeal has brought the family even closer together. Family members are thankful Nevaeh will, again, be able to sing, dance, eat cookies, color and watch cartoons. And in coming weeks, there will be a belated fourth birthday party.

That thought brings a smile to Nevaeh's face. "I want some cake," she said.

Anderson: Budget plan won't move state forward

The Democratic vice-chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee is voicing serious concerns over Gov. Rick Snyder's budget proposal and the devastating cuts it makes to K-12 schools and universities, public safety, and vital state services for families and seniors.

While Snyder's budget included \$1.8 billion in corporate tax breaks for businesses, many other working families and retirees will actually be seeing a significant tax increase, said State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland.

"Everyone knows that in order to turn Michigan around we will need to make tough choices to close the budget gap and invest in the programs that will drive Michigan's revitalization," said Anderson. "I have grave concerns about the groups and programs that Snyder has decided should carry this burden — particularly education. The Governor's plan will divest critical funding from our education system at every level, from kindergarten to the university classroom, placing a quality education out of the reach of Michigan's future workforce."

Governor Snyder's budget proposal stands to hurt nearly all Michigan residents by:

- Cutting \$470 per pupil from education funding for K-12 schools.
- Slashing \$222 million (15 percent) from higher education funding for colleges and universities.
- Cutting statutory revenue sharing by almost 34 percent for cities, villages and townships that communities use to fund police officers and

fire fighters in our neighborhoods. State revenue sharing payments to counties will also be cut by \$51.8 million.

• Raising taxes on all public and private pensions that retirees and seniors receive.

• Eliminating the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit, which helps working families who are struggling to get by with lower wage jobs. Last year, 200,359 Wayne County residents filed for the Michigan EITC, returning \$86,538,418 back to our local economy.

"Michigan is certainly facing a fiscal challenge, but cutting public safety, education, and raising taxes on working families and seniors is certainly not the answer," Anderson said. "We need to balance our efforts to help businesses create jobs and support the educational opportunities necessary for kids to qualify for those jobs."

In addition to the \$470 per pupil cut from all of the school districts in Senator Anderson's district, the Governor's budget eliminated categoricals from Wayne-Westland Public Schools worth \$6,065,800 and Garden City Public Schools worth \$726,000.

Anderson, State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, and State Rep. Bob Constan, D-Dearborn Heights will be fighting to get this funding restored, but are concerned that it will be even more difficult this time than in the past.

"These cuts to our local schools will be devastating and they reflect the wrong priority for moving Michigan forward," Anderson said.

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Wayne High seniors' blankets help Spread the Love

Nothing warms the feet like a gift from the heart.

More than 100 students from Wayne Memorial High School adopted that philosophy when they took on the Spread the Love program at Oakwood Healthcare as a service learning project.

The students, all seniors, put on fundraisers to generate money to purchase fabric and then used their sewing skills to create more than 100 blankets and quilts which were donated to Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne.

"We incorporated a lot of different skills," said Katie Sullivan, one of the teachers who coordinated the project. "It was a very meaningful exercise for a lot of the students."

The Spread the Love program is about seven years old. Beverly Beltramo, director of spiritual support services for Oakwood Healthcare Inc., helped bring the project to the healthcare system. Volunteers make and donate the blankets to the four Oakwood acute care hospitals in the Oakwood system. The blankets are given out to patients, Beltramo said.

"It's a great program," said Beltramo. "We give them out every day. We always need more."

The Wayne Memorial students put on fundraisers, such as read-a-thons, to

generate the \$900 they used to purchase fabric. When the final stitch had been tied off, they had 123 blankets to donate.

"I'm just glad I was able to help out," said Jesse Sullivan, a senior. He raised the most money - about \$180 - and created five of the blankets himself.

"I thought it was a great idea," said Robert Parker, who created three of the blankets. "I think they should keep it going every year."

"I loved it, it was fun," added Hailey Diehl.

The students dropped the blankets off at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital. There were almost four carloads, enough to overflow three large cardboard boxes and fill several large garbage bags.

Teresa Jackson, a patient representative in the guest relations department at Oakwood Annapolis, had to hunt down three different places to store them.

"I think it's awesome," she said. "It's the largest donation we've had to the Spread the Love program here."

The Rev. Susan Mozena, the chaplain at Annapolis Hospital, who frequently hands out the blankets during the course of her daily rounds, agreed.

"I think it's great seeing good kids doing positive things instead of hearing about bad kids doing negative things," she said.



The Rev. Susan Mozena (left) and Teresa Jackson (right), patient representative at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, accepted more than 100 blankets for the Spread the Love program from Wayne Memorial High School students Hailey Diehl, Jesse Sullivan, Robert Parker (kneeling) and Destiny Baker. Marguerite Foshee (back row, right) and Katie Sullivan (back row, left) coordinated the program.



Wish You Were Here

Dave and Patricia Nothstine (from left) and Barb and Jim Rozelle, all of Westland, pose with Their Observer at the top of the Gondola Ride near Christchurch, New Zealand. The photo was taken on Feb. 1, while the Nothstines and Rozelles were visiting Christchurch as part of 12-night Princess Cruise to New Zealand and Australia. The cruise started in Auckland, New Zealand, on Jan. 27 and ended on Feb. 8 in Sydney, Australia, where they stayed two additional nights before returning to Westland on Feb. 10. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason as a jpg at smason@hometownlife.com or by mail to her attention at 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

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GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Pancake breakfast

The Garden City Lions will hold their 20th annual Pancake Breakfast 8-11:30 a.m. Sunday, March 13, at the Moose Lodge on Ford east of Middlebelt.

The breakfast is \$4 for adults and \$2 for kids age 12 and younger and includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice, coffee and milk.

Look for members of the Garden City Fire Department helping out as the special guest cooks.

Constituent hours

The staff of U.S. Representative Thaddeus McCotter, Michigan's 11th Congressional District, is holding office hours in several locations. This time is set aside so that the citizens served by the representative have the opportunity to speak with a staff member for assistance regarding any federal issue that they might have. This is not a political venue and no discussions of a political nature will be expected.

Office hours for Tuesday, March 1, are 9-10 a.m. at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Northville Senior Center, noon-1 p.m. at the at the Plymouth District Library, 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City and 3-4 p.m. at the Westland senior Friendship Center.

The Thursday, March 3, office hours, at 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Summit Senior Center.

The congressman has two offices in Livonia and Milford the district to serve constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-0314 and the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

Pasta Dinner

The Garden City High School Band Boosters will hold a pasta dinner 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, March 4, in the cafeteria. The cost is \$4 for

students and senior citizens and \$6 for adult. Children under age 4 will be free.

Open house

Garden City Co-Op Preschool is holding an open house 6-7 p.m. Monday, April 11, at the preschool, housed in the Garden City Presbyterian Church at 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford.

Parents can bring their children to meet the teacher and see what will be offered for the 2011-2012 school year.

Preschool enrollment

Garden City Preschool is currently taking names for its mailing list for fall 2011.

Registration for the four-year-olds begins Wednesday, March 30, at Lathers Early Childhood and Kindergarten Center, 28351 Marquette at Harrison, Garden City. Registration for the three-year-olds begins Wednesday, April 6.

Contact Jeannine at (734) 762-8550 for more information. Non-residents welcome.

Used Book Fair

The Friends of the Garden City Public Library are sponsoring a Used Book Fair Monday-Wednesday, March 21-23, in the gymnasium of the Maplewood Community Center on Maplewood, west of Merriman.

The hours will be 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Wednesday will be a Books by the Bag Day.

The library also is accepting donations of used books, CDs, DVD's and videos in good condition for the sale.

Support group

The Metro Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group will meet 1-3 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, south of Ford, Garden City.

Ronda Violi will be the speaker. A registered nurse and a life, business, and retreat coach, she has had chronic pain for 10 years and understands the importance

of taking good care of yourself when you have a chronic illness.

There are no dues, but the group does accept donations. For more information, visit the website at www.MetroFibroGroup.com.

Breaking the Boundaries

Tickets and table space is available for the West Suburban Area Council of Chambers' annual Breaking the Boundaries business expo 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft, west of Inkster Road, Livonia.

The event brings together business professionals from the Canton, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Greater Farmington Chamber, Lakes Area, Livonia, Plymouth, Redford, Southern Wayne County Chamber of Commerce for the expo. There will be a speaker at 5 p.m. talking about "How to Work the Room" followed by the expo 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Space for the expo is limited. A full table costs \$50, a half table \$25. Space is limited available on a first come, first serve basis. Appetizers and a cash bar will be provided. Cost is \$10 per person and a reservation is a must.

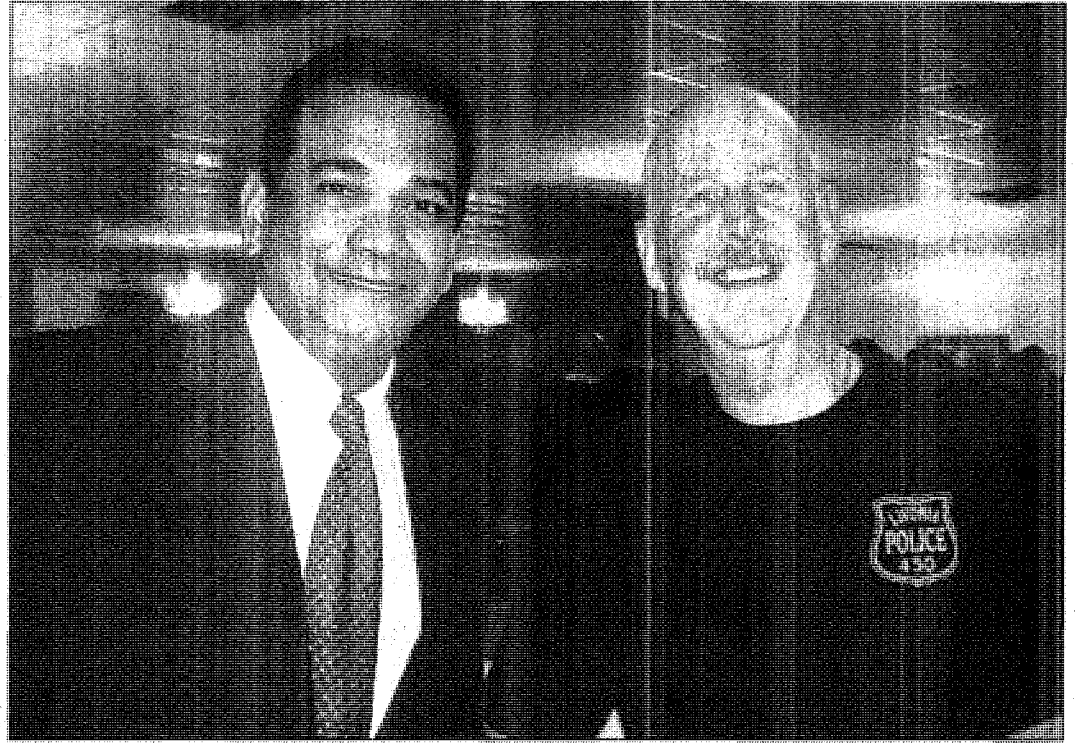
For more information or to reserve a spot, call the Garden City Chamber of Commerce at (734) 422-4448.

St. Pat's Feast

Maxwell's Arts and Treasures will be the site of a St. Patrick's Day feast Thursday, March 17.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the family event that includes dinner, entertainment and fun. Tickets purchased before March 11 are \$10 for adults and \$4.50 for children. After March 12, they will be priced at \$12 and \$6.50.

Preregistration is encouraged because of limited seating. Call (734) 427-5300, Ext. 7, or (734) 722-7620 for more information. Maxwell's is at 32416 Industrial Dr., north of Ford, Garden City.



Roop Raj from Fox 2 Detroit (left) was master of ceremonies as Livonia Police Chief Robert Stevenson (right) and others paid tribute to Nehasil.

Jaycees raise \$16,000 for fallen officer's family

The Livonia Jaycees raised \$16,000 for the family of fallen Livonia Police Officer Larry Nehasil during a fundraiser Feb. 4 at the One Under Bar and Grill in Livonia.

More than 400 donors and supporters attended the three-hour event, which featured Roop Raj, from Fox 2 Detroit, as the master of ceremonies.

Nehasil was killed in the line of duty Jan. 17.

Members of his family, Livonia Police Chief Robert Stevenson and John Badeen, president of the Livonia Jaycees, paid tribute to Nehasil's memory in a celebration of his life.

More than 50 packages were auctioned off, and the banquet

hall, food and beverages were donated by One Under Bar and Grill.

The following individuals, businesses and organizations helped to make the event possible: Mark Abbo, Glenn Anderson, Andiamos, Bill Brown Ford, Body Works Healing Centers, Bonnie Showerman, Brainers Greenhouse, Bright Side Dental, Cardwell Florist, Canton Township trustees, Chinn Jewelry, Coifer Salon, Compuware Sports Arena, Crazy Cops Poker Room, Dairy King, Embassy Suites, EZ Groom, Flowers On the Avenue, Gebela's Pizza, Gigi's Mode, Jeff Glover, Hampton Inn, Honey Baked Ham

Co., Dr. Michelle Klukos N.D., Livonia Police Officers Association, Dale Massey, Thaddeus McCotter, Michigan State University, Midwest Carpet, Mojo in the Morning, Motor City DJ, Cole Newton, Northville Township Trustee Chris Roosen, Plymouth Crossings, Plymouth Mix, Rebel Hero, LLC, Reborn Glass, Salon Bella VI, Salon Tress, Alan Stefan, Starring the Gallery, Top Notch Events, Wedding & Celebration Creations, WJBK Fox 2 Detroit, Westland Cigar Party and Ziebart.

For more information, visit www.LivoniaJaycees.com or call Livonia Jaycees President John Badeen at (734) 956-0548.

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Novi spoils Stevenson's conference title quest

Reynolds keys win vs. Rocks

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

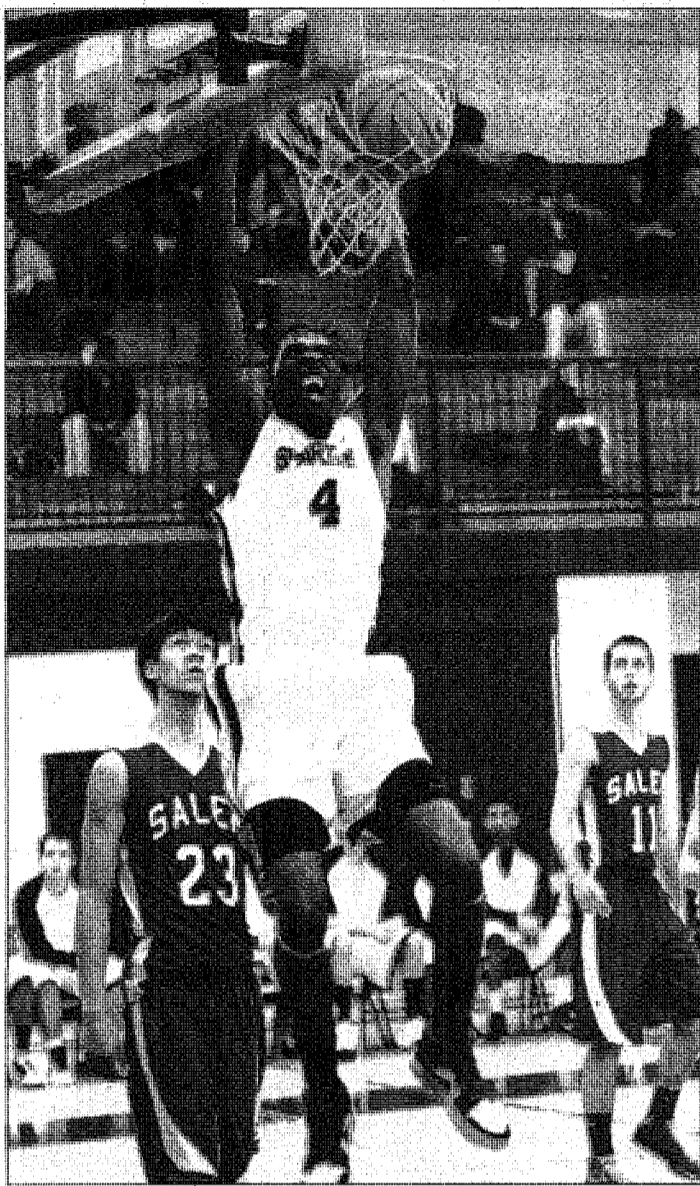
Grant Bettner's three-pointer with 5:26 to go in the game put Salem in position to pull off the upset against host Livonia Stevenson in Wednesday's Kensington Conference boys basketball semifinal.

It gave the Rocks a 50-47 advantage, but that was the last point Salem would score as Spartans closed out the game 15-0 run en route to a 62-50 victory.

Stevenson, which improved to 17-1 overall, got 27 points and 19 rebounds from 6-foot-9 senior center Jalen Reynolds to earn a spot in Friday's conference championship game to face KLAAs Central Division nemesis Novi (16-3).

"Down the stretch I thought we buckled down as a team and found a way to come away with the victory," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "It's a great win for Stevenson and it's a great win for our program,

Please see **REYNOLDS, B3**



JOHN KEMSKI

Stevenson's 6-foot-9 senior center Jalen Reynolds throws down one of his seven dunks during Wednesday's 62-50 Kensington Conference semifinal victory over Salem.

Third time's a charm for Wildcats, 55-51

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Rob Laney's return to the Novi boys basketball lineup definitely adds another dimension.

And it was no more evident than in Friday's KLAAs Kensington Conference title game, as the 6-foot-5 senior led the way with 15 points as Novi upended host Livonia Stevenson, 55-51.

Stevenson, which had won its first two meetings against the Wildcats, had its 14-game winning streak snapped and falls to 17-2 overall.

Novi, surviving a late Stevenson scare after building a 53-44 lead with 4:10 remaining, improved to 16-3 overall.

"It's nice, we haven't gotten one yet," Novi coach Cory Heitsch said of the conference title. "This is our second league title in four years. It's a little extra sweet because we've been 8-2 in the division and second place every year since this (KLAAs) league started.

"As I told the kids, it's nice to beat really good teams. At least compete against them and see where you're at. Hopefully we have a little confidence heading into districts, which isn't going to be easy with Catholic

Central, Plymouth, Canton, Salem and South Lyon and Northville."

Stevenson's 6-foot-9 senior center Jalen Reynolds accumulated two early fouls and was forced to the bench for a stretch.

Meanwhile, Laney was carving up the Spartans' defense with 13 first-half points. It was only his second game back after a nine-game absence because of a torn thumb ligament.

"This is the first time Laney played against us and he had a heck of a game," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "It shows he's been working hard over the last month. Even though he was injured, he stayed in shape. He definitely was the determining factor in tonight's game.

"With Jalen picking up two silly fouls early, that really put us back. It made it tough for him to stay focused for 32 minutes and it made it tough for our team to stay focused."

Reynolds finished with 15 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks, while senior point guard C.J. Mwila added 14.

Stevenson junior guard Jonathan Campbell, who torched Novi for 25 points in the previous meeting, was limited to 10.

Please see **STEVENSON, B3**

SIDELINES

Crusaders ousted

An upset bid fell just short Thursday night as the Madonna University men's basketball team lost to host Indiana Tech, 61-58, in the opening round of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference playoffs at the Schaefer Center in Fort Wayne.

Senior Bryant Slaughter (Westland) scored a team-high 17 points in his final game as the Crusaders end their season at 8-22 overall.

Connor Leidal (Livonia Franklin) and Josh Gay added 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Geoff Gaylor, also in his final game as a Crusader, finished with eight points and 10 rebounds.

Indiana Tech (21-10) which rallied from a 36-27 halftime deficit, got 17 points from Clyde McKinney.

S'craft men routed

The men's basketball season ended on a losing note Wednesday night for Schoolcraft College.

Sam Burton scored 18 points and Doug Anderson added 16 as nationally-ranked Mott Community College, No. 1 in NJCAA Division II, rolled to a 92-54 triumph over the visiting Ocelots.

Mott, which clinched a share of the MCCAAs Eastern Conference title, improved to 26-2 overall and 14-1 in the conference. The Bears shot 11-of-14 from the foul stripe.

Schoolcraft (9-20, 3-13) got 16 points from Karl Moore.

Daniel Hill (Wayne Memorial) added 15 points and nine rebounds, while Zachary Childress chipped in with 14 points.

Schoolcraft, which made 14-of-21 free throws, missed the MCCAAs playoffs for the fourth straight year.

Abraham adds two

Madonna University women's volleyball coach Jerry Abraham announced the signing of two more players for the 2011 season when he added Cassie Castro of Saline and Kayla Vogel of Hastings to NAIA letters-of-intent.

Castro was a 2010 All-State selection for the Hornets along with being a two-time All-Region and All-Southeastern Conference selection. She was Saline's Defensive Player of the Year two straight seasons.

Vogel earned four varsity letters at Hastings where she amassed 613 kills, 132 solo blocks and 92 ace serves as a senior to earn All-Barry County first-team honors.

Evans honored

Concordia University 6-foot-4 senior forward Brad Evans (Livonia Churchill) was named to the All-Academic team in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

To be named to the all-academic team, a student-athlete must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or higher and be a junior or senior.

Crusader softball squad loaded

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

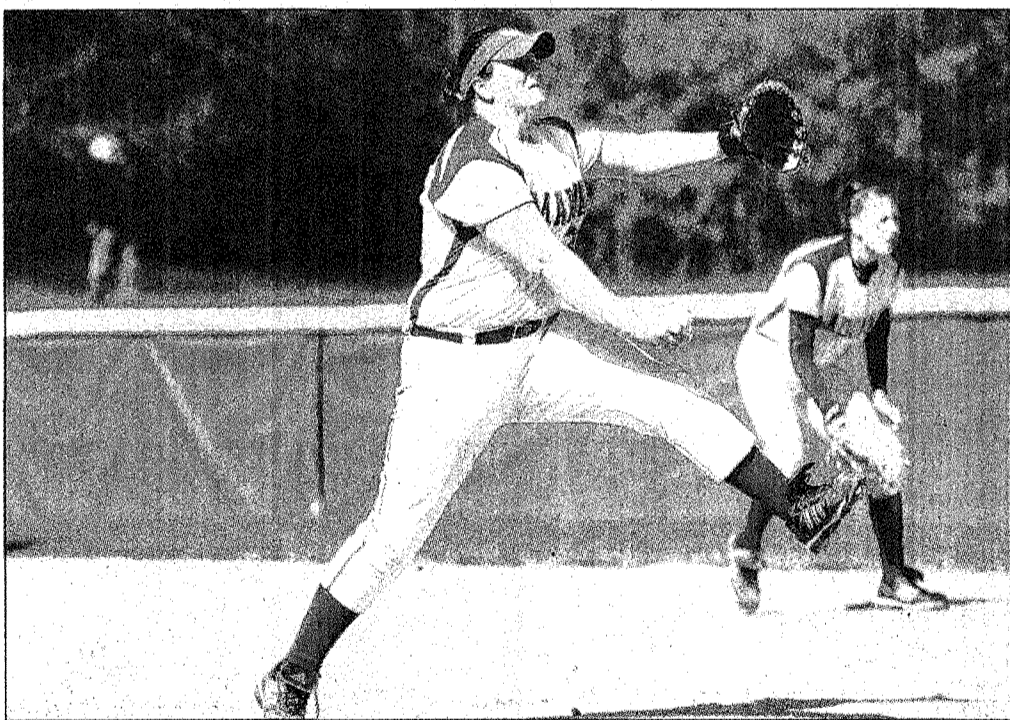
It's not out an Abbott & Costello routine, but who's on first base may be the biggest question mark as the Madonna University women's softball team embarks on the 2011 season.

The Crusaders, who begin their quest Friday, March 5 in the Tucson (Ariz.) Invitational, return a quality cast from last year's 43-12 squad which reached the NAIA Nationals for the second straight year.

"The talent is head and shoulders above anything we've put together," said MU coach Al White, who has amassed 409 wins since he began in 1999. "As a coach, you have a good problem, and as a coach, I'm not scared to put these kids in any position."

The team's leading hitter from a year ago - Livonia Churchill's Cat Sidor - has graduated. The All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference pick batted .374 with six homers and 36 RBI.

First base will more than likely be manned by four freshmen - Carlee Meek, who helped White Lake Lakeland to the 2010 Division I state finals; Erin Mays, an All-Stater from Ida who hits with left-handed power; Caitlyn Keuvelaar, coming off shoulder surgery from Essexville-



PATRICK MOORE | MU SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTO

Madonna University senior pitcher Jess Irwin went 29-6 last year with 370 strikeouts in 236.1 innings.



White Irwin

Garber; and Kristen Drabek of Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central.

"We've had only two first basemen over the last eight years, so you can say we're

spoiled," White said. "We have four first basemen working out who will get an opportunity, and whoever produces, will get the most playing time.

"It's scary, but we're excited, too."

Drabek and Keuvelaar will also provide depth at catcher behind the duo of Ashley Shay (Garden City/Dearborn Divine Child), a durable senior who led MU with 37 RBI while playing in all 55 games, along with sopho-

more Amber Rafko, who hit .318 in 25 games.

Senior pitcher Jess Irwin, who posted an impressive 29-6 record with a 1.66 ERA and 370 strikeouts in 236.1 innings, returns as a three-time WHAC Pitcher of the Year.

She will once again be backed up by junior Hallie Minch (Garden City), who finished 14-6 with a 2.47 ERA.

Please see **SOFTBALL, B2**

Wayne girls rule region tournament

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Four area bowling teams are state finals-bound after earning top three finishes in the MHSAA Division 1 Region 5 team event held Friday at Westland Bowl.

Headed to M-66 Bowl next Friday in Battle Creek is Wayne Memorial which captured

PREP BOWLING the girls team title with a

total of 3,563 pins. Belleville and Brighton were second and third with 3,367 and 3,283, respectively, to also earn team qualifying berths.

Meanwhile, Plymouth captured the boys regional with a total of 4,160 pins to edge Westland John Glenn (4,159) for the title by one pin.

Wayne Memorial also made the state finals cut with a total of 4,033 on a six-game Baker of 189-214-131-157-182-192, followed by a three-game match play set of 1,073-932-963.

The Wayne girls posted a six-game Baker set of 156-186-224-157-150-191 followed by a three-game match set of 864-893-742.

Belleville's Daniella Perez led all individuals with a 581 series

Please see **BOWLING, B2**



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FEB. 27-MARCH 2

Mass for widowed

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m. Feb. 27
Location: St. Columban Church, 1775 Melton, between Woodward and Coolidge, north of 14 Mile, Birmingham
Details: Presented by Widowed Friends, a peer group in the Archdiocese of Detroit. The widowed celebrate Mass together and meet and mingle in a safe setting afterward. Refreshments served during the fellowship.
Contact: Gerry at (586) 795-0477 or visit www.widowedfriends.org

Tax preparation

Time/Date: 1:30-5:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 27
Location: Faith Bible Church, 34541 5 Mile, Livonia
Details: Free tax preparation service directed by Jeff Conolly, an accounting services professional
Contact: (734) 464-7990

MARCH 3-9

Ash Wednesday

Time/Date: 6-6:45 p.m. soup supper; 7 p.m. service, March 9
Location: Lola Park Lutheran Church, 14750 Kinloch, Redford
Details: Pastor Gregory Gibbons will preach on the theme "Jesus, Peter and Me." Refreshments follow the service. The church will hold Lenten services and soup suppers every Wednesday through Lent
Contact: (313) 532-8655 or (734) 968-3523

Alzheimer support

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-noon, March 4
Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: James P. Lampertius, a specialist in elder law and the principal of the law firm Lampertius & Associates will speak to the St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's patients. Lampertius will cover the legal and financial facts that need to be faced when one has to place a loved one in a nursing home
Contact: (734) 453-0190

Clothing Bank

Time/Date: 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 9 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26
Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy, Canton
Details: Free clothing will be given

to anyone in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480 or (734) 927-6686
Concert
Time/Date: 9:30-10:45 a.m. Sunday, March 6
Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt Road, near Eight Mile, Livonia
Details: The Royalheirs, a southern gospel quartet, will sing at morning worship
Contact: (248) 474-3444 or e-mail the church at: clarencevilleumc@att.net

Concert and dinner
Time/Date: 4 p.m. concert; 5-7:30 p.m. dinner, March 6
Location: Congregation Bnai Moshe, 6800 Drake, West Bloomfield
Details: The Gemini Brothers perform in a free concert; strolling Israeli dinner afterwards. Cost of the dinner, catered by Elite Kosher Catering, is \$25 for adults; \$10 for children, 5-12 and free for children, 4 and under. The fare will be gluten-free and nut-free. There will be a kids' station and a dessert station. Reservations must be received by March 1.
Contact: (248) 788-0600

Guest speaker
Time/Date: 7 p.m. March 5
Location: Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301 Halsted, Farmington Hills
Details: Nancy Seubert will talk about "The Earth Charter as an Ethical Framework for Local Action." The Earth Charter was fashioned from the principles of science, international law, the teachings of indigenous peoples, the world's great religions, and numerous traditions and best practices for building sustainable community. This interactive presentation will explore the Earth Charter principles and ways to reconcile social benefits that seem to conflict with each other, such as a sound economy and environmental integrity, \$10 if reserved in advance by phone; \$12 at the door. Reception follows
Contact: (248) 478-7272 or www.uufarmington.org/llc

Pancake dinner
Time/Date: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8
Location: Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills
Details: Chris Cakes will fling all the pancakes you can catch - and eat. Includes pancakes, sausage, orange drink, milk and coffee. Tickets available in the church Narthex for \$6 per person, \$2 for kids 4 and under. Or pay \$6.50 for adults and \$2.50 for kids at the door. Proceeds benefit the annual Youth Mission Trip

Contact: (248) 626-3620
MARCH 10-16
Learning Shabbat
Time/Date: 6 p.m. service, 7 p.m. congregational Shabbat dinner, Friday, March 11 and 9:30 a.m. service, with lunch and program following, Saturday, March 12
Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Dr. Rebecca Schorsch, chair of the Bible Department at the Chicagoand Jewish High School in Deerfield, Ill., will teach about the role of women and gender in Jewish life and imagination. Schorsch will analyze the text Eishet Hayil (Woman of Valor; Proverbs chapter 31) in a study session called "Who is the Woman of Valor? A Study of a Friday Night Tradition." There is no charge for the after-dinner talk, and walk-ins are welcome. Reservations are required for the dinner by 4 p.m. March 9. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$8 for children, 6-12. On Saturday, Schorsch will lead a second study session, "God as Midwife and Women as Saviors: The Feminization of the Exodus." There is no charge for the Shabbat afternoon learning session, and walk-ins are welcome
Contact: (248) 851-6880

Widowed Friends
Time/Date: 5 p.m. social, 6 p.m. dinner, Friday, March 11
Location: American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple, Troy
Details: Widowed Friends, a peer group in the Archdiocese of Detroit, invites widowed individuals of all ages to a family-style Lenten dinner. Cost is \$14, payable in cash at the door. Bar drinks and desserts extra. Cards, games and conversation afterward
Contact: RSVP by March 9 to Mary Ann at (586) 939-5270 or Sally at (586) 575-9535

ONGOING

AWANA
Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays
Location: Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills
Details: AWANA program for children from kindergarten-fifth grade
Contact: (248) 426-0096
Classes/study
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia
Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.

Contact: Pastor Scott Sessler at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail to pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org
Faith Bible Church
Time/Date: 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sundays through May 8
Location: 34541 5 Mile, Livonia
Details: "Four Views of the End Times" adult study
Also ongoing: "Life's Healing Choices" Study Group, 6 p.m., fourth Sunday through September is for men and women who want freedom from hurts, hang-ups and habits
Contact: (734) 464-7990
Men's Bible study
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberg at (734) 464-9491
New Life Community Church
Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays
Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville
Contact: (734) 846-4615
Nicole's Revival
Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday
Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford
Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer
Contact: (313) 531-1234
Our Lady of Loretto
Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Scripture study
Contact: (313) 534-9000
Ward Presbyterian
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Clothing bank
Canton Christian Fellowship
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m., second Wednesday
Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty
Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org
Food Bank
New Hope Church
Time/Date: 5-7 p.m., every Friday by appointment only
Location: is 44815 Cherry Hill, Canton
Contact: Call pastor Ranay Brown to schedule an appointment at (734) 270-2528.

Get creative with a spring arts class

The VAAL, (Visual Arts Association of Livonia), is accepting registration for its spring classes, which will begin March 9 and run through May. Classes include Amazing Acrylics taught by Kim Ensch; Creative Painting-All Media with Marj Chellstorp; Portraits with Lin taught by Lin Baum; The Joy of Watercolor taught by Edee Joppich; Create with Audrey taught by Audrey DiMarco-Terry; and Mono Types and Mono Prints with Laura Host. Classes are for serious beginners as well as advanced painters. Sessions are held days, evenings, and weekends. Among the workshops being offered are a two-day pastel class with Jim Markle; Flowers that Bloom in the Spring, a three-day class with Edee Joppich; a three-day Experimental Experience with Edee Joppich; Spatter Painting and Beyond a two-day workshop with Marj Chellstorp; and a two-day class, Painted Brush Lettering, with Linda McVicar. All classes are held at the VAAL classroom at the New Five Shopping Center, 37653 Five Mile at Newburgh, Livonia. To receive a free schedule of classes call (734) 838-1204 or visit www.vaalart.org.

Hazardous waste collections planned

Got unwanted chemicals? Dispose of them, along with other unwanted hazardous household wastes, March 26 at Wayne County Community College District, Western Campus, 9555 Haggerty, Belleville. Wayne County's Department of Public Services also has scheduled a collection Saturday, June 18, at Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn. Hazardous household waste collections run from 8 a.m.-p.m. and are open to Wayne County residents only. Items that will be accepted include household paints, stains, floor-care items, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, antifreeze, fluorescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs, old computers and television sets. Pharmaceutical waste (non-controlled substances only) and medical sharps in puncture-proof containers will also be accepted. All waste must be from residential sources. For more information, call Wayne County's Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936.

GARDEN AND NATURE

Send garden information and photos to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.
LIVONIA GARDEN CLUB
Dale Smart, is from the Organization for Bat Conservation and the Bat Zone at Cranbrook Institute of Science and will give a live bat demonstration, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, at the Livonia Senior Center, located at 5 Mile and Farmington Road, in Livonia. Visitors are welcome.
GARDEN TRIP
Party Animal Travel is accepting registration now for the The Garden Club of Wayne County trip to the North American Flower and Garden Show, Friday, March 4 in Chicago, Ill. Cost is \$88 and includes motor-coach transportation, time for shopping and admission to the show, which will include garden displays, Master Gardeners and more than 100 informational booths. For more information call (734) 525-9777.
FARMINGTON GARDEN CLUB
Gloria Minnebo will offer a workshop for making miniature designs. She'll have supplies, including containers, on hand at the next meeting of the Farmington Garden Club, noon, March 7, in the Spicer House in Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. Guests are welcome. For more information call Joann at (248) 474-0866 or visit www.farmingtongardenclub.com.
AT ENGLISH GARDENS
• The store will provide everything needed, including hands-on instruction, to design a gorgeous fresh flower arrangement to take home, in a workshop at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 26. Cost is \$24.99
• Learn the ABC's of growing herbs at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 5. The presentation is free.
• A Make It & Take It workshop features kitchen herbs at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 5. Participants select four herbs to grow in a ceramic container. The store provides everything needed to make the garden to take home. Cost is \$19.99.
• Learn the hints for creating an exceptional landscape with tips from the professionals at a free presentation, "The Basics of Landscape Design," 1 p.m. Saturday, March 12.
• "The Grass Can Be Greener," 1 p.m. Saturday, March 19, will offer advice on keeping lawns healthy, growing and green.

Coast Guard class teaches boating safety

The U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will offer a boating safety and seamanship class beginning March 3 at Stevenson High School, 33500 Six Mile, Livonia. The eight-week class runs from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays in the north cafeteria. Material cost \$45 for the first family member and \$15 for each additional member using the same book. There is a \$12 per person classroom charge. Register at Livonia Schools, 15125 Farmington Road or by calling (734) 744-2602. The class number is 7536-W10A. For more information call Larry Dunn, Flotilla Staff Officer, at (313) 538-1604 or John Burdick at (313) 538-7227. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's mission is to support the Coast Guard and promote boating safety through education.

New address for tickets to event

Making reservations for the Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast? Take note - the address for ticket purchases has changed. Organizers request that checks be sent to Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast, 18858 Mayfield, Livonia, MI 48152. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, K-12. The 37th annual breakfast is May 12, at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100 Merriman, Livonia. Guest speaker, WDIV-TV meteorologist, Chuck Gaidica, will talk about "Weathering the Storms of Life."



Local Doctor Helps Legally Blind to See Again! Don't believe "there's nothing left to do"

Do you have macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, inoperable cataracts, or other eye problems that rob you of the better eyesight you used to enjoy? Do you want the freedom to read smaller print, drive and see street signs, or watch your grandchildren and friends across the room? Do you have poor eye sight which does not improve with regular glasses? If your answer is "yes," to any of these questions, then this is the most life-changing information you'll ever learn about. Using the same state-of-the-art telescope technology used by heart surgeons, Dr. Smith designs custom low vision glasses that allow things to look larger, closer, and easier to see. With interest free payment options this technology is now more affordable than ever. If you want to experience the freedom and independence that custom designed low vision telescope glasses can bring, call Dr. Smith now, for a free telephone consultation.

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White Rose Ball participants are Alex Vickers (left) of Dearborn, Alexis Enyedy of Beverly Hills, Anthony Warren of Port Huron, Veronica Kontosh of Southgate, Shane Danyko of Trenton, Haley Feher of Livonia, Alex Marchelletta of Dearborn, Lillian Mihalak of Lake Orion, John Budjuso of Trenton and Nicole Kovach of Milford.

Local debutantes perform traditional Hungarian dance

Haley Feher, a Livonia Stevenson High School student, was among the teens who were introduced to Hungarian society at the 53rd annual Hungarian White Rose Debutante Ball earlier this month.

Other debutantes were Alexis Enyedy, a Beverly Hills resident who attends Groves High School in Birmingham; Veronica Kontos of Anderson High School in Southgate; Nicole Kovach from Milford High; and Lillian Mihalak from Lake Orion High School. As a part of their debut, the students and their escorts performed the Palotas, a traditional Hungarian royal court dance.

Linda Enyedy was the honorary chairperson of the ball. She was honored for her lifetime commitment to the advancement of Hungarian culture. Enyedy was one of the co-founders of Dancers Hungaria, and has taught Hungarian dance for many years. She also started the only zither group in North America. She has been instrumental in almost everything Hungarian that happens in Michigan — from cultural displays to providing Hungarian expertise and extras to the film industry.

Two college scholarships also were awarded at the ball. One went to Justin Rito, an accomplished pianist and composer from Mount Pleasant, and the other to Max Geissler, a talented cellist who attends the University of Michigan.

Mission work in Uganda an eye-opener

BY STACY JENKINS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Paul and Nancy Berrigan didn't know that a Sunday morning Mass in July 2005 would change their lives.

A missionary spoke that morning — not an unusual occurrence at St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills. But, this time something was different.

The words of Monsignor John Kauta, from Uganda, seemed to be directed at the Farmington Hills couple.

"He touched us," said Nancy Berrigan, telling the story of how Kauta talked about Pagan Babies, a fund-raising effort she was involved in when she was just a little girl. "He was such a dynamic speaker."

Kauta explained how far the U.S. dollar goes in Africa and how much would be needed to do something like, say, build a school.

"We talked to him after Mass ... and before we knew it, we were building a school," said Nancy Berrigan.

Two years of sorting out the logistics and getting the contractors in place, the school for ninth grade through junior college, was built in a remote area of Uganda called Chelekura. It's not a village, but an area in the east African nation of Uganda, about four hours east of the country's capital, Kampala.

"It's just a blank space of land — no water, no electricity," said Paul Berrigan.

The first school in Chelekura was the shade from a large tree. The second school was under a hut made from tree limbs and a thatched roof, with no walls. The third location for the school was inside a crumbling old church, after a new one was built.

"The only things there are a church and a school," said Paul Berrigan.

The new school — named the John Paul School, after Paul and Nancy's fathers' first names — has become the center point of the rural community and it seems to be attracting more people to the area. Mud huts have popped up near the school, and there is some trading of goods and other signs that a community or village may be forming.

Hundreds of people attended the dedication in 2007, each bringing gifts for the Berrigans — including turkeys, goats, coins, eggs, fruit and more.

It was an overwhelming experience for the couple.

"They believe you have to give back of your time, talent or treasure. It was so humbling," said Nancy Berrigan.



Paul and Nancy Berrigan of Farmington Hills dig their shovels into the ground in Chelekura, a remote area in Uganda, where a new science and library building will be added to the campus of their John Paul School.

belong to the school, and the Berrigans encourage the students to maintain them, and rent them out to others in the community. Establishing micro-businesses in Chelekura is a goal of the Berrigans.

They are currently in the midst of building a new science and library building on the John Paul School campus. It will have a biology lab, a physics lab and a chemistry lab, a computer lab and a library. An anonymous \$5,000 donation will be used for the science lab equipment. They hope to get solar panels on the building. A Rotary club installed solar

A SPECIAL BOND

The Berrigans didn't know the bricks and mortar would be just the beginning of an amazing and fulfilling endeavor that's reached well beyond their expectations.

They have formed a special bond with the people of Chelekura.

"We've been adopted into the Eteso Tribe," said Nancy Berrigan, noting her tribal name is Igoe and Paul's name is Odele, the names of Kauta's grandparents.

"He said we've become a part of Uganda's history," she added.

JUST THE BEGINNING

Since the school was built, there is now a water system, toilet facilities and a girls dormitory, where the female students can live, and not have to walk five to seven miles to school. The Berrigans have also established a scholarship program for the students to be able to afford attending the accredited, private Catholic school. The tuition is \$100 per year or \$200 for girls who are boarding. The students go to school for as long as they can afford it, then they drop out.

The Berrigans see how much is needed in Chelekura.

"That was just the beginning," said Paul Berrigan, of building the school. "Their needs are endless."

Because no one has vehicles in Chelekura, the Berrigans bought the school staff members bicycles to make the trek to work a little easier. The bicycles

panels on the main school building.

Support is also coming from Nancy's former classmates in Kansas City, and from other friends and parishioners in Michigan.

They hope the new science and library building will be completed by the time they return to Chelekura in June. The Berrigans visit Uganda once a year — most recently in November for the science and library building groundbreaking.

They know their work is far from being finished.

"The next thing we need is staff housing," said Paul Berrigan. "They all come from miles away."

When they talk about all that's happened in the last five years, they cannot believe that they've built a school in Africa.

"You forget how far you've come," said Nancy Berrigan. "It's been a wonderful journey and we've met so many wonderful people."


Paul Berrigan is retired from Chrysler, where he was director of distribution, and Nancy is a retired registered nurse. They know that it's the right time in their lives to do this work — and they're loving it.

"It's our passion," said Nancy Berrigan. "We are connected to these people."

She said people may wonder, "Why Africa? Why not here?"

"I think everybody gets a calling," she said. "It just so happens ours was to go to Africa."

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



FOOT PAIN

When a patient notes foot pain, the doctor often will stop the discussion at once and ask: "point to the spot where you are experiencing pain." The reason for the doctor's abrupt question is that the location of the pain often tells the doctor what is the most likely cause of the problem.

If the patient points to the back of the foot by the heel, the cause of the pain is not a "heel spur." X-rays of the foot often will show what appears to be a saber like sliver of bone slashing through the tissue around it. What the x-ray really shows is calcification of the tissue attaching to the heel. The usual cause of heel pain is injury to the bone, the calcaneus, with treatment being cushioning of the site of maximum tenderness.

If the person's pain is in the bottom front of the foot, called the forefoot, then the doctor would consider rheumatoid arthritis as a possible cause. If the patient was experiencing pain in both forefeet, then rheumatoid arthritis would be the likely diagnosis even without x-rays or laboratory studies.

If the pain begins at the base of the great toe, and the pain comes on suddenly with intensity, then the first diagnosis is gout. Another characteristic of gout pain is that it occurs at rest or on the first step after sitting for a long time at a movie or watching television.

In a younger person a red and swollen second or third toe is evidence of psoriatic arthritis, in an older person, the doctor would think of peripheral arterial disease. Finally, pain over the whole foot, like a stocking, is in keeping with neuropathy.

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Lucky winners from last month's contest

Gilda's Club has bereavement support

Losing a loved one to cancer is devastating. Gilda's Club Metro Detroit offers many different support groups to ensure that help is available and that a sincere, welcoming environment is attainable in someone's time of need.

"Gilda's Club is unique because our bereavement support is ongoing; it's not for only five weeks like some hospice/funeral homes might have," said Kristen Bernat, senior program manager at Gilda's Club Metro Detroit. "Members help each other grieve and cope through very difficult times."

Gilda's Club Metro Detroit has six different bereavement groups dedicated to providing support for anybody who has lost a loved one to cancer.

Spouses Bereavement group meets on the first and third Monday of every month from 7-8:30 p.m. and is for anyone who lost their spouse/partner to cancer.

The Family Bereavement group meets the second Wednesday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. and is for anyone who has lost someone to cancer.

The LGBT and cancer group meets the third Wednesday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. and is open to anyone in the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual & Transgender) Community who has been affected by cancer.

For children and teens, Gilda's Club Metro Detroit offers three separate bereavement groups.

Grief Busters for Kids (ages 5 to 9) is held on the first Monday of every month from 7-8 p.m.

Teen Grief (ages 10 to 12) is held on the second Monday of every month from 7-8 p.m.

Teen Grief (ages 13 to 18) is held on the fourth Monday of every month from 7-8 p.m.

Gilda's Club Metro Detroit provides free social and emotional support for men, women and children living with cancer, their families and friends.

Gilda's Club Metro Detroit is located at 3517 Rochester Road in Royal Oak. Anyone interested in joining Gilda's Club may attend a New Member meeting on Mondays at 1 p.m. or Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. For more information on Gilda's Club and to make a donation, visit www.gildasclubdetroit.org or call (248) 577-0800.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, February 27, 2011

hometownlife.com

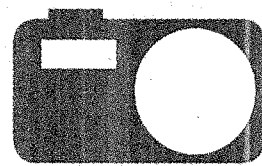


PHOTO GALLERIES

hometownlife.com

Meet authors, support art classes at events in Livonia, Novi

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Linda McLean will combine two passions — art and reading — at a fundraiser Saturday, March 5, at the Art-is-in-Market stores at 12 Oaks Mall, Novi and Laurel Park Place Mall, Livonia.

The author, artist and former school media specialist will gather nearly 20 Michigan authors and illustrators to sign their books from 1-7 p.m. at the stores in celebration of Reading Month. In turn, they'll donate a portion of book sales to The Art Road, a non profit group that brings art lessons to children in Detroit who have no access to art classes.

"It's a nice fit," said McLean, a Northville resident and author of *The Heidelberg Project-A Street of Dreams*, a book that combines poetry with photos of Tyree Guyton's Detroit street art. The title is one of two books sold at Art-is-in-Market, a store that sells mostly art works made exclusively by Michigan artists.

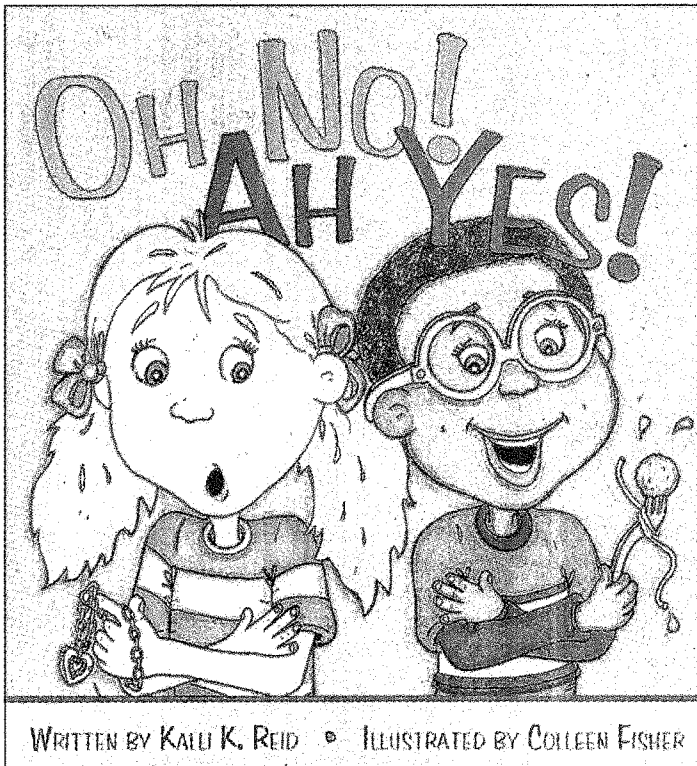
McLean, a mural painter, had coordinated an author signing and fundraiser at a store in Clawson last year and suggested a similar idea to Art-is-in-Market owner Debbie La Pratt.

"I said, I know a bunch of authors who would love to come," McLean said. "I feel people are turning back to supporting local authors and artists ... local anything Michigan."

"We're supporting children's books and we are supporting children as artists."

CREATIVE ENGINEERING

Patty O'Brien Novak, a Livonia mom, former engineer for Ford Motor Company and author of *Engineering the*



WRITTEN BY KALLI K. REID • ILLUSTRATED BY COLLEEN FISHER

Colleen Fisher, a second-grade teacher in Livonia, illustrated this book for Kalli Reed of Canton. Both will be on hand for the booking signing event March 5 at Art-is-in-Market in Laurel Park Place.

ABC's, is happy to participate in the event because it will give her a chance to talk about one of her favorite topics.

"I can talk to people and show them that engineering is a creative process. I feel like whenever I have a chance to share engineering love it's a good thing," Novak said, with a laugh.

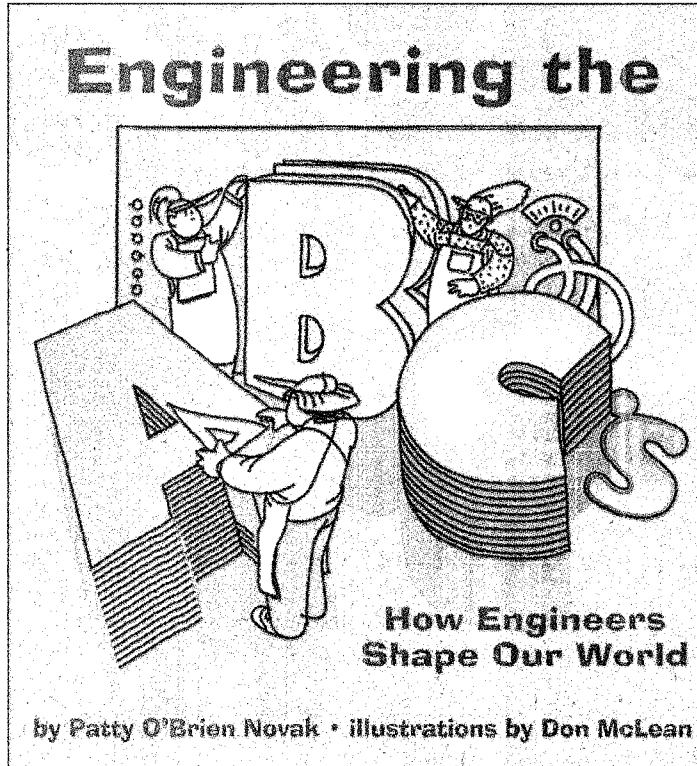
She originally wrote *Engineering the ABC's* as outreach material for a professional engineering group. But a publisher told her it would have wide appeal, especially in schools.

"They don't even hear the word engineering in schools. They hear science, but not engineering. And engineering



Fisher

is an incredible set of critical thinking skills that we use in our daily lives."



by Patty O'Brien Novak • illustrations by Don McLean

Patty O'Brien Novak helps children understand engineering with her book, "Engineering ABC's." She'll be at the Art-is-in-Market event on March 5.

Her book illustrates the engineering found in "every day life" by highlighting words that start with a different letter of the alphabet.

"I also want to write a princess engineer book with a pink cover, so girls know about engineering. I believe in talking to girls about engineering. That's why I do a lot of Girl Scout workshops."

THE PROCESS

Colleen Fisher, who teaches second grade in Livonia schools, says the book signing event is the perfect time to ask authors and illustrators about their work.

"People out there say, 'Oh, I have an idea for a book.' We can tell them how we got involved

and how the process went for us," she said. "And it's for a good cause, The Art Road."

Her first book, *The One and Only Bernadette P McMullen*, which she wrote and illustrated, grew out of a graduate school writing class. She also wrote *Miss Martin is a Martian*, due out this summer. The self-taught artist illustrated two other books, including *Oh No! Ah Yes!* by Canton writer Kalli Reid.

"As a teacher I'm inspired by the kids. Without them I don't know if I would have all these ideas."

Other local authors participating at the book signing are:

• Marybeth Dillon Butler of Livonia will have her book, *Myrtle the Hurdler* and her

Pink and Purple, Polka-Dotted Girdle on hand at the Laurel Park store. Her book and presentations to elementary school students, promote running and healthy lifestyles

• Laura Becker grew up in Garden City and is author of the children's book, *The Wonder of a Summer Day*. She'll be at the Novi store.

• Kalli Reid, a Canton resident, wrote *Oh No! Ah Yes!*, a book illustrated by Colleen Fisher of Livonia. She'll be at the Novi store.

• Diane Dignan of Farmington Hills, is author of *Bartholomew's Gift* and *The Boys Club*. She'll be at the Novi store.

• Jennifer Greening of Plymouth will sign her book for parents, *Opening Doors - Opening Lives*, at the Novi store.

• Angie Kenrick of Canton wrote *Rugli, Wordy Bird - Adventures in Learning*, and *The Chronicles of Flannery Fiddlesticks*. She'll be at the Livonia store.

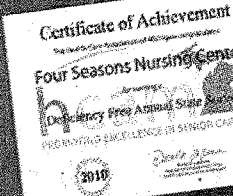
Additional authors at the 12 Oaks Store will be Wayne Brillhart, author of *Mystery At The Birdfeeder*; Karen Dabney, author of *The Magic Pencil*; Rachel Longhurst, author of *Where My Story Begins* and *The Enchanted Tree of Crooked Lake*; Raenette Palmer, author of *Eagle Rock*; Linda Sicks, author of *Nick the Wise Old Cat*; Terri Williams, author of *Girlavanting-The Girls Guide to Balance, Bliss and Fun!*; and Paul Adams, author of *Watercolor Memories*.

Also at the Laurel Park location will be Jennifer Charron Ward, author of *Running Home* and *Black of Night*; Veronica Davids, author of *Wrestling the ABC's*; and Sharon Chess, author of *Grandma's Ready*.

FOUR SEASONS REHABILITATION AND NURSING

GREAT STAFF. GREAT CARE.

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The Health Care Association of Michigan (HCAM) would like to congratulate Four Seasons Nursing Center's recent CITATION FREE SURVEY.



Congratulations on this impressive accomplishment! As you know, it takes team work and a facility-wide commitment to quality to earn a DEFICIENCY FREE SURVEY. You should take great pride in the quality of care you provide for your residents everyday — not just when the surveyors are there. Congratulations again!

AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE, FOUR SEASONS REHABILITATION AND NURSING IS DEVOTING THIS WEEK'S SPACE TO ASSIST FAMILIES SEARCHING FOR

LONG-TERM CARE



Meet Debra Labadie, Four Seasons Admissions Director. She works as a team with Jill Taylor, Admissions Nurse. Both suggest touring a facility before making a decision. Four Seasons is open to the public 24-hours a day. Beware if a facility demands an appointment or offers tours only during certain hours.

"We always have someone available to take them around," said Taylor. "We encourage them to tour other facilities. Some like smaller facilities. Some like bigger. Four Seasons can hold up to 180 residents."

Labadie says to "look at residents. Are they happy? Is staff happy? Is the facility odor free? An overpowering smell shouldn't hit you in the face when you walk in the door. It could mean residents aren't being taken care of."

Visit at mealtime. Is there enough staff to assist residents? Are residents and their clothing clean? Make allowances if residents have recently eaten a meal. Give staff a chance to care for residents.

Labadie educates families about what to look for and expect from a long-term care facility. "Make sure a facility is Medicaid certified to pay the nursing home and has beds available," said Labadie. "It's very hard on the elderly (to be moved). They're just getting comfortable with the facility, residents and staff. Find a facility you can leave that resident to live the rest of their life."

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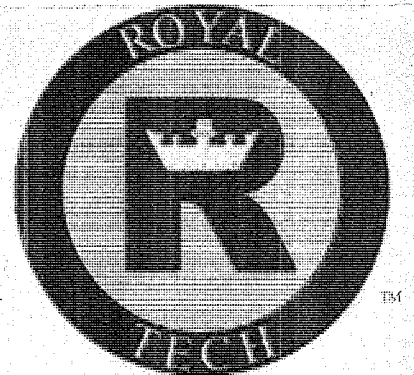
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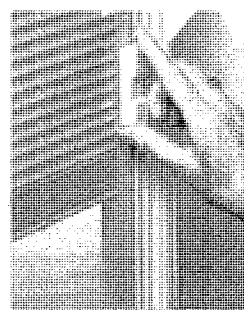
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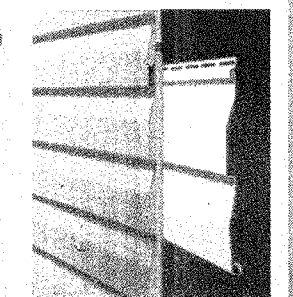


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THE WEEK AHEAD

MU women stay alive with OT win

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, March 1
Luth. Westland at S.H. Parkway, 7 p.m.
Huron Valley at S. Field Christian, 7 p.m.
Clarenceville at Clawson, 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 3
Churchill at Waterford Mott, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Lakeland, 7 p.m.
Wayne at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Wat. Kettering, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Brighton, 7 p.m.
Old Redford at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
Huron Valley at Birm. Roeper, 7 p.m.
Clarenceville at Cranbrook, 7 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
(MHSA DISTRICT TOURNEY DRAWS)
CLASS A
at LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Monday, Feb. 28: (A) Redford Thurston vs. (B) Livonia Stevenson, 5:30 p.m.; (C) Livonia Franklin vs. (D) Livonia Ladywood, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 2: Livonia Churchill vs. A-B winner, 5:30 p.m.; Garden City vs. A-B winner, 7 p.m.
Friday, March 4: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals Tuesday, March 8 at Warren Fitzgerald vs. Detroit Southeastern district champion.)
at ROMULUS
Monday, Feb. 28: (A) Romulus vs. (B) Westland John Glenn, 5:30 p.m.; (C)

Belleville vs. (D) Inkster, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 2: Wayne Memorial vs. A-B winner, 5:30 p.m.; Taylor Truman vs. C-D winner, 7 p.m.
Friday, March 4: Championship final, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals Tuesday, March 8 at Monroe vs. Lincoln Park district champion.)
CLASS B
at LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Tuesday, March 1: (A) Detroit Central vs. (B) Detroit Old Redford Prep, 6 p.m.; (C) Livonia Clarenceville vs. (D) Detroit Community, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 3: Highland Park vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m.; Detroit Communication & Media Arts vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 4: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals Tuesday, March 8 at Dearborn Divine Child
CLASS D
at WESTLAND HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN
Wednesday, March 2: Plymouth Christian Academy vs. Detroit Michigan Health Academy, 6 p.m.; Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. Lutheran High Westland, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 4: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals Tuesday, March 8 at Auburn Hills Oakland Christian vs. Birmingham Roeper district champion.)

BOYS HOCKEY
(MHSA PRE-REGIONAL DRAWS)
DIVISION 1
at ORCHARD LAKE ST. MARY ARENA
Monday, Feb. 28: (A) Livonia Stevenson vs. (B) West Bloomfield, 6 p.m.; (C) Orchard Lake St. Mary vs. (D) North Farmington-Harrison, 8 p.m.
Wednesday, March 2: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 8 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final, 7 p.m. Saturday, March 5 at Livonia's Edgar Arena vs. Northville pre-regional winner.)
at DEARBORN INDOOR SKATING CENTER
Monday, Feb. 28: (A) Livonia Churchill vs. (B) Monroe, 5:20 p.m.; (C) Taylor Truman vs. (D) Dearborn Unified, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 2: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final, 12:30 p.m. at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube vs. Ann Arbor Huron pre-regional winner.)
DIVISION 2
at LIVONIA'S EDGAR ARENA
Monday, Feb. 28: (A) Livonia Franklin vs. (B) Lincoln Park, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 2: Farmington vs. A-B winner, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 5 at Trenton's Kennedy Arena vs. Southgate Anderson pre-regional winner.)

PREP WRESTLING
MHSA INDIVIDUAL FINALS
(at Palace of Auburn Hills)
Thursday, March 3: Round 1, 2:15 p.m.
Friday, March 4: Round 2, 8:30 a.m.; Round 3, 11 a.m.; Round 4, 2 p.m.; semifinals, 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 5: Round 6, 8:30 a.m.; Round 7, 10:10 a.m.; Round 8, 11:30 a.m.; Round 9 finals, 4:45 p.m.
BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING
(MHSA CHAMPIONSHIPS)
Friday-Saturday, March 4-5
Division 1 at M-66 Bowl (Battle Creek), TBA. Div. 2 at Century Lanes (Waterford), TBA. Division 3 at Airport Lanes (Jackson), TBA.
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
(MHSA FINALS)
at DELTA PLEX-GRAND RAPIDS
Friday, March 4
Division 4, 2 p.m.; Division 1, 6 p.m.
Saturday, March 5
Division 2, 10 a.m.; Division 3, 6 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Tuesday, March 1
Plymouth Whalers at Saginaw, 10:45 a.m.
Friday, March 4
Saginaw vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 5
Windsor vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced

It was a total team effort Wednesday night as the Madonna University women's basketball team kept its season alive with an 89-80 overtime victory over host Indiana Tech in the opening round of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference playoffs at the Schaefer Center in Fort Wayne.
Sophomore center Kaylee McGrath led the victorious Crusaders, who improved to 12-14 overall, with 24 points and 12 rebounds.
Sophomore guard Heather Pratt added a career-high 22 points, while senior forward Tabatha Wydryck contributed a double-double with 15 points, including five in OT, to go along with 10 rebounds. McGrath's layup sent the game into OT at 75-all.
Rachel Melcher, a freshman guard, added 13 points, while sophomore Shantelle Herring posted nine points and a career-best tying eight assists.
MU has now won seven straight WHAC playoff openers dating back to the 2003-04 season.
Indiana Tech (16-15) got a game-high 25 points from Brittney Jones.
MU moves into the WHAC semifinals to face No. 1-ranked (NAIA Division II) Davenport University (31-0) beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday in Grand Rapids.
SCHOOLCRAFT 73, MOTT 57:
Sophomore center Kimberly Bee recorded her second triple-double of the season and Cameo Kendrick contributed a career-high 17 points Wednesday as MCCA Eastern Conference champion Schoolcraft College (26-3, 16-0) downed Mott Community College (4-21, 3-12).

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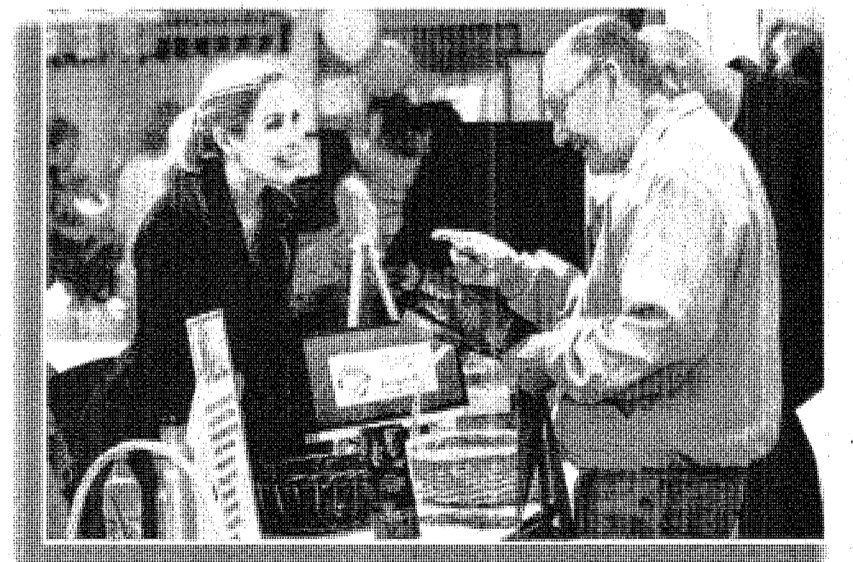
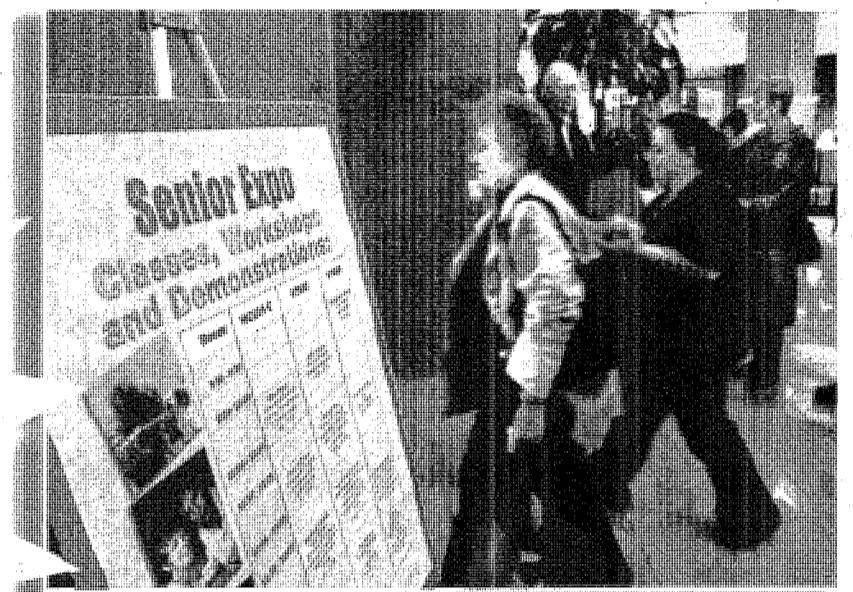
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HEALTH

Sunday, February 27, 2011

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

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Comment online at hometownlife.com



Heart healthy

St. Mary Mercy Hospital staff show their support of American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign earlier this month by wearing red. During February, the hospital raises awareness of American Heart Month by offering healthy breakfast and lunch options in the cafeteria, "heart smart" seminars and free blood pressure screenings for staff. Although the American Heart Association's annual Go Red for Women campaign wraps up Monday, Feb. 28, the hospital's Heart & Vascular Center's screening programs continue. They include "StayFit," which consists of bone density, blood pressure, cholesterol, Body Mass Index (BMI), and risk assessment for \$49; ForeverFit, with electrocardiogram (EKG), blood pressure, cholesterol, and cardiovascular risk assessment for \$49; VascularFit, including Carotid artery ultrasound, Ankle-Brachial Index, abdominal ultrasound, and cardiovascular risk assessment for \$49; and HeartFit, with blood pressure, cholesterol, peripheral vascular screening, electrocardiogram (EKG), and cardiovascular risk assessment for \$79. The screening results are provided to patients to share with their physician. For more information or to make an appointment for a wellness screening, call (734) 655-2961.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

FEBRUARY

Having a baby

St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers a childbirth education class called, "Let's Get Ready to Have a Baby." This is a five-week program, 7-9 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 28-April 4, in classrooms 1 and 2. The class is based on the "Lamaze Method" and includes exercise, relaxation, breathing techniques and comfort measures to assist expectant moms through the different stages of labor. Classes also include information on anesthesia options, medication, nutrition, family adjustment and the importance of the support person's role. It enhances confidence and joy of the birthing experience. The class is open to expectant parents, not just those delivering at St. Mary Mercy Hospital. There is a fee of \$75 per couple, and registration is required. Call (734) 655-1162 for more information, or to register.

MARCH

Bariatric surgery

The Michigan Bariatric Institute presents educational seminars from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, March 3 and April 7 at St. Mary Mercy Livonia, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Dr. Tallal Zeni, director of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery, and Dr. Jacob Roberts, a bariatric surgeon, will make presentations. For more information, call the Michigan Bariatric Institute at (877) WHY WEIGHT.

St. Mary Mercy

St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers these programs in March:

- "Getting to Know Your Newborn and Caring for the Sick Infant" from 6:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, March 3, in Classroom 1 at the hospital. This one-day class will teach new parents the basic characteristics and needs of a newborn, including diapering, bathing, feeding, growth and development patterns. In addition to baby basics the class also will include how to recognize when a baby is sick. Car seat and home safety will also be covered. Fee is \$55. To register, call (734) 655-1162 or visit stmarymercy.org.
- Annual Prostate Screening and Men's Health Fair runs 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 5, for men ages 40-70. The Men's Health Fair consists of a prostate exam by a physician; total cholesterol and HDL check; blood pressure screening; and optional skin cancer checks by a dermatologist; hearing, eye and food exams; and information related to healthy living. Participants can meet the robot used to perform minimally invasive urological, thoracic, and colorectal surgeries. This event and screenings are free, but registration is required; call (734) 655-8940.
- The Marian Women's Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital will offer a Sibling Tour, 10-11:30 a.m., Saturday, March 19. Good sibling preparation can minimize a child's feelings of anxiety and jealousy with the coming of a new baby. Aimed at children, 1-13. There is a \$10 fee per family. Pre-registration is required. Call (734) 655-1162.
- A prenatal breastfeeding class runs 7-9 p.m. March 24 in Classrooms 1 and 2 at

the hospital. The class is designed for expectant mothers between the seventh and eighth month of pregnancy. The class will focus on the benefits of breastfeeding for infant, mother, and family. Cost is \$25 per couple. Call (734) 655-1162 or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

- A class in CPR runs 6-9 p.m. March 29 in the Community Outreach Department, Classroom 10. The class is being offered through a partnership with the American Heart Association. Instructors will train participants using the American Heart Association's "Family & Friends CPR" course. They'll learn CPR and choking techniques for infants, children, and adults. There is a fee. Call the Community Outreach Department at (734) 655-8950 to register.

The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

Diabetes Caregiver Class

Grandparents, school personnel, baby sitters, stepparents, and others interested in learning about how to care for a child with diabetes will learn about insulin pens, syringes, calculating insulin doses, nutrition, exercise and other topics in this class, 1:30-4:30 p.m. March 21, at the University of Michigan Medical Center Auditorium, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor. The class will be an interactive and educational session with plenty of time to practice and time to ask questions. The cost is \$18 per person and covers the handouts that will be given at class, the cost of parking, and light refreshments. Register by calling (734) 764-5175.

Arthritis Foundation: Time to move! Exercise classes ease joint pain

The Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter is offering an exercise and self-management program at 200 locations throughout Michigan.

Classes include:

- The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program that uses gentle activities to increase joint flexibility, range of motion and maintain muscle strength. The program can be done standing or seated.

- The Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Program offers warm-water exercise that helps improve joint flexibility and reduce pain and stiffness while being supported by the water's buoyancy and resistance.

- The Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi Program uses Sun-style tai chi that is particularly supportive of joint health because it includes agile steps, high stances, gentle movements, and relaxed

breathing. The program can be done standing or seated.

- The PATH (Personal Action Toward Health) workshop is a six-week series that provides participants with the keys to successful pain and self-management techniques.

Classes offered by the Arthritis Foundation have helped individuals with joint pain decrease stiffness and

soreness, reduce stress and depression, improve energy and stamina, and increase feelings of self worth.

Programs are suitable for people of all ages with arthritis and related joint pain or stiffness. The exercise programs offer an option to individuals who are new to exercise, recovering from injury, or are interested in a joint-friendly exercise program.

Sites that offer the Arthritis Foundation programs are partners that promote good health through joint-friendly physical activity. All programs are led by instructors who are specially trained and certified by the Arthritis Foundation.

For times, dates and locations of winter/spring classes, call (800) 968-3030 or visit www.arthritis.org.

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