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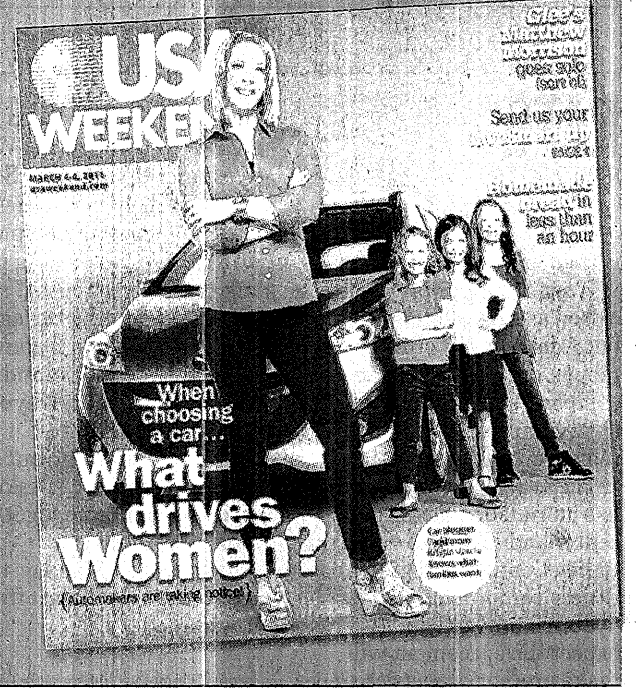
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FOUNDERS' DAY STUDENTS LAUDED

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THE HOTTEST TRENDS ON WHEELS FOR BUSY MOMS

USA WEEKEND - INSIDE



SUNDAY
March 6, 2011

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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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IN BRIEF

Lenten Fish Fries

Lent begins Wednesday and along with it the traditional Lenten fish fry at St. Saint Damian Parish in Westland.

Church members will be serving fish dinners 5-7 p.m. Fridays, March 11, 18 and 25 and April 1, 8 and 15. There will be no fish fry Good Friday, April 22.

A one-piece fish dinner is \$4.50, two pieces for \$6 and three pieces for \$7. Baked fish or shrimp (five pieces) dinners cost \$7, with a pierogi (five pieces) dinner costing \$6. Dinners included fries, tartar sauce, coleslaw, roll and drink. Side orders include macaroni and cheese, \$2.50, and fries, \$2; desserts also are available.

St. Damian Parish is at 30055 Joy Road, east of Merriman.

Art of speech making

According to surveys, speaking in front of people is the greatest fear of most people, but people can conquer that fear with the help of Westland Easytalkers Toastmaster Club.

The club is conducting a Speechcraft program beginning Thursday, March 17. Designed to help people develop presentation skills, the six-week program will not get rid of the butterflies in the stomach, but it will give participants the information and equipment to write speeches, give impromptu speeches and gain the confidence needed to speak in public.

Speechcraft will be offered at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays at the Bailey Recreation Center, 35561 Ford Road, behind the Westland City Hall. The cost is \$10 per person to help cover material costs. Space is limited, so sign up early by contacting Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445 or by e-mail at cgottlieb@sbcglobal.net.

The Easytalkers also host the Toastmasters International Area 14, Division C International Speech and Evaluation Contests, held Thursday, March 10, at the Bailey Center. Registration and refreshments begin at 5:30 p.m., with the contests beginning at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. There is no admission charge, but donations will be accepted.

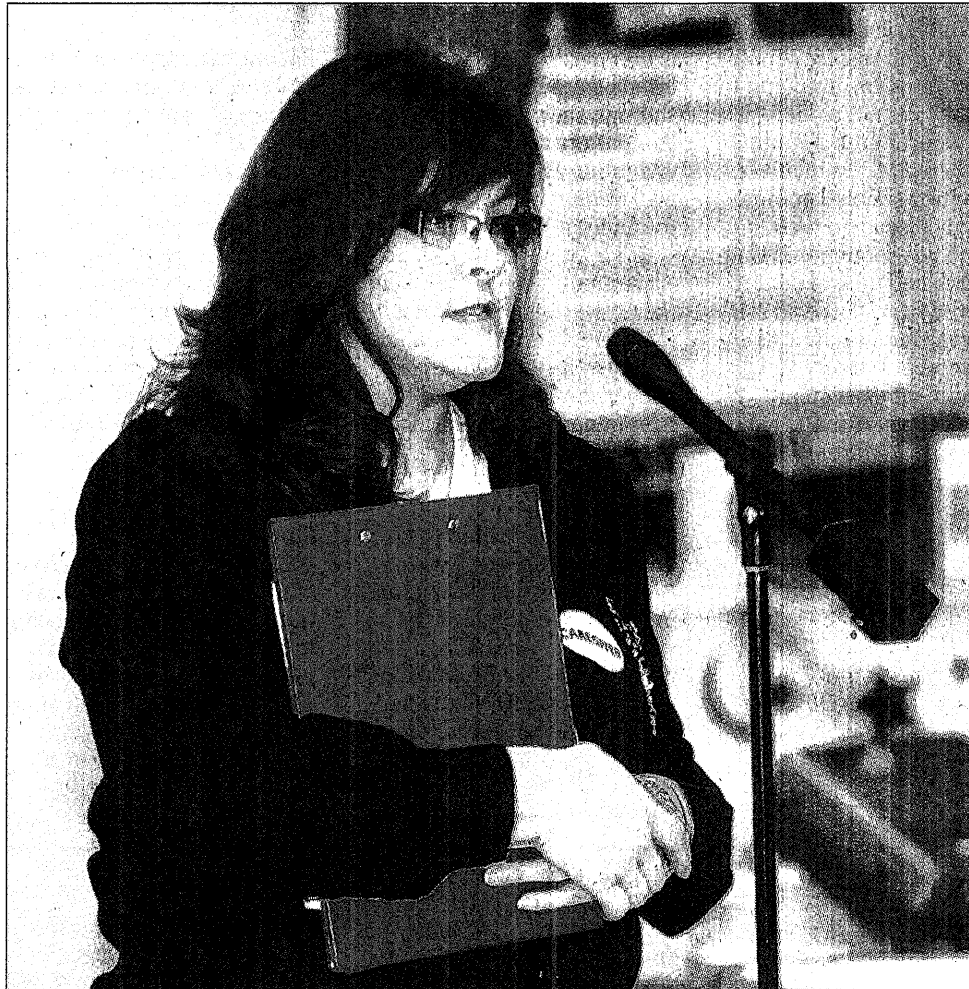
State budget game

Think you can manage Michigan's public piggybank better than the politicians?

The Center for Michigan, an Ann Arbor-based think tank, lets you take a crack at balancing the state general fund budget. It takes just a few minutes and gives you a sense of the debate in Lansing.

Whether you're a government-cutting tea partier or a tax-and-spend liberal, the game offers real choices to cut spending, raise taxes and balance the state's controversial books.

Share your budget solutions with friends. Who knows, Lansing might even listen. Go to www.thecenterformichigan.net and play the budget game.



Westland Relay for Life Event Chairperson Rhonda Temple is part of Alyssa's Angels, a team formed in memory of her daughter who died of cancer.

More birthdays

Lifers celebrate survivors, support cause at Relay kick-off

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Balloons decorating the Bova VFW hall read "Imagine a World With More Birthdays."

As the annual Westland Relay for Life kicked off Wednesday, cancer survivors were recognized and given a gift in recognition of that goal.

"I volunteer because I believe in this cause so much. I lost my daughter Alyssa (to cancer) 4 1/2 years ago," said Rhonda Temple, who is

co-chairing the 24-hour American Cancer Society fundraiser with Westland Councilwoman Meriam Kadi. "But I also relay for others like my father who survived tongue cancer. I want to remember those who survived, too."

This is the 11th year Westland has had a Relay for Life, raising more than \$1 million during the first 10 years. Scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, May 14, through 10 a.m. Sunday, May 15, in Jaycee Park, the

Please see **RELAY, A2**



For those who have cancer, the American Cancer Society Relay for Life offers hope.

Westland logs drop in 2010 crime rate

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Overall crimes reported in Westland during 2010 dropped more than 15 percent from the previous year with an 8 percent decrease in major crimes.

"One of the things I'm proud of in Westland is that violent crime rates are very small. They are still too high," said Westland Police Alan Ramsden. "I've been a police officer over 20 years. Our crime is from people they (victims) know. It's crimes of opportunity. We have some violent crimes like robberies or car thefts but most of it is family on family or friend on friend crimes."

Most crimes decreased in 2010 from 2009 but Ramsden noted it was important to look at the hard numbers — percentages by themselves can be misleading. In 2010, Westland had a 300 percent increase in incidents of pornography/obscene material — jump to four cases from a single case in 2009.

"Numbers can be skewed. There are enough assaults and robberies for a statistical increase or decrease. All crime went down but that doesn't tell the full story," said Ramsden.

For instance, Westland had three homicides in 2010 — statistically a 50 percent increase. A common denominator in all three crimes is that they were not the result of random violence — those involved knew each other and that's usually the

WESTLAND CRIME STATISTICS			
	2009	2010	Percent Change
ALL CRIMES	40,807	34,534	-15.4
Murder/manslaughter	2	3	+50
Forcible sex offenses	83	99	+19.3
Robbery	98	82	-16.3
Assaults	1,457	1,369	-6.0
Home invasion	597	605	+1.3
Larceny	1,590	1,440	-9.4
Vehicle theft	308	314	+1.9
Fraud	461	460	-0.2
Drugs	583	439	-24.7

Source: Westland Police Department

case with murders that happen in the city.

"On average, we have one homicide in a year. With 86,000 residents, that's amazing," said Ramsden.

Home invasions were up slightly, but Ramsden notes there were a rash of break-ins last year that helped push that number higher, a string of crimes that police helped end by arresting the suspected ring-leader of the group responsible for many of the crimes.

"So much crime spills over from one community to the next, there is an ebb and flow.

Please see **CRIME, A2**

Council to vote on extending resident rate to Wayne

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland and Wayne residents should soon be able to use recreation facilities in each city for a lower rate.

On Monday, the Westland City Council will consider an agreement that will let

Wayne residents use recreation facilities and programs at the resident rate. The Wayne City Council had already approved the agreement to let Westland residents use their facilities at the cheaper resident rate.

"It's called the Good Neighbor Acceptance Plan, people can get equal resident

rates in both cities at any facility," said Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski. "It's a win-win situation for both communities. We can't go wrong on this."

"It will benefit both sides. We'll split costs for promotional materials and have a broader base of consumers.

An increase in traffic is the biggest thing," said Wayne Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Adams.

For Wayne residents, Kosowski noted the agreement would provide less expensive access to facilities, such as Westland's municipal golf course, Mike Modano Arena,

the skate park and Bailey outdoor pool.

"That couple dollars difference can make a lot of difference, if you have a couple of kids," said Kosowski. "Wayne has banquet facilities (at the recreation center) but bigger

Please see **RATE, A2**

Fatal I-275 crash case goes to the jury

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The fate of Robert Bojaj is now in the hands of a jury.

The jury trial for Bojaj, 28, of Farmington wrapped up with closing arguments Thursday in the Wayne County Circuit courtroom of Judge David Allen. Allen then dismissed the jury until Monday, when they will report back to begin deliberations.

Bojaj is accused of killing 25-year-old Shelby Gunn of

Westland when he allegedly rear-ended her in an accident that ended after Bojaj reportedly reached speeds of nearly 100 mph on northbound I-275 in Canton around 1:30 a.m. Aug. 15.

Bojaj is charged with three counts: murder in the second degree, manslaughter with a motor vehicle and operating under the influence of liquor causing death. A fourth charge, driving with a suspended license, was dismissed at Bojaj's preliminary hearing in 35th District Court. The

murder charge carries a sentence of up to life in prison; the other two charges are 15-year felonies.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Athina Siringas and defense attorney Paul Bernier made their closing arguments Thursday afternoon.

Maria Miller, spokeswoman for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, said her office would have no comment until after the jury

Please see **TRIAL, A2**

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RATE

FROM PAGE A1

is their indoor pool.” Wayne’s indoor pool was closed as part of budget cuts, but Adams is hopeful it will reopen once the city is able to complete some energy efficiency improvements that will reduce operating costs.

The Wayne recreation center has an indoor track, fitness center and ice arena while the Bailey Center has a gym and fitness equipment.

Both Kosowski and Adams expect the agreement will make promotions easier since

many of their programs are marketed through the Wayne-Westland Community Schools. “It will help both cities with their revenues and help with administration cutting printing and delivery costs,” said Kosowski, adding the agreement came through conversations between Westland Mayor William Wild and Wayne Mayor Al Haidous.

“They’re thinking out of the box. The state is asking cities to cooperate together,” Kosowski added.

If approved Monday, the agreement would be effective Tuesday.

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RELAY

FROM PAGE A1

event is a week earlier than last year. Part of the kickoff was screening a video of the 2008 Westland Relay for Life.

“We wanted to show our own event (rather than a generic video) to show how the community comes together to celebrate, remember and fight back,” said Temple. “As you can see it’s a wonderful community and a wonderful event.”

Currently, 16 teams have signed up to participate in the relay — Westland has a goal of 39 teams and raising \$111,000 in 2011.

“We can do it but not without a lot of work,” said ACS representative Marie Matuszak.

“We want to inspire people to actually get involved and to know they are not alone — it’s a team effort,” added Kadi, who called on team members to read inspirational quotes randomly placed on their tables. Kadi commented that her father had died of cancer before the first Westland relay but her mother is now a 13-year cancer survivor.

A comment often heard from veteran relay participants



Participants in Westland’s Relay for Life American Cancer Society fund-raiser gathered for their kick-off at the Bova VFW Hall. This year the 24-hour event will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15.

is that descriptions of the 24-hour event — people walking through the night to signify that cancer never sleeps, a survivors’ lap and silent luminaria walk remembering those lost to cancer — don’t do it justice.

“It’s a lot of fun, it’s a lot of excitement. Unless you’ve been there you can’t really know,” said Beverly Smith. “I walked a relay at Eastern Michigan University. I was so glad to have one in my community.

I’m one asking if you’re awake at 3 a.m. You can make a difference by walking and getting involved.”

Teams can sign up and donations can be made at www.relayforlife.org/westlandmi. A fundraising workshop for teams from Westland, Garden City and Belleville will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, at Farmington Elementary School, 33411 Marquette in Garden City.

“I think it’s great to see the relay in its 11th year and what this event has turned into,” said Craig Welkenbach, WLND director who chaired the first two years of the Westland Relay. “As a cancer survivor, and my wife is a cancer survivor, it’s great to see the community come together like they always do for events like this.”

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CRIME

FROM PAGE A1

You might have stolen in cars in one area at a particular time of the year,” said Ramsden. “All in all, I’m really pleased with the statistics for the year.”

When he talks about the level of crime in Westland, Ramsden said he always mentions that despite downsizing, officers still are able to respond to quality of life complaints about loud parties or barking dogs.

“We can still send an officer to that. When crime is high in a community, you can’t send officers to that,” he said. “My greatest pride as a Westland

police officer is that we’ll arrest you. We pride ourselves on being an aggressive and proactive department.”

“We’ve maintained the ability to have a safe community. Our guys work hard and seek out crime,” he said.

An area of concern is a 19 percent increase in juvenile offenses and complaints — 242 in 2010 up from 203 in 2009.

“It’s a jump — not hundreds or more, it’s 40. We could have had some big parties which could alter that number,” Ramsden said. “We haven’t seen more problems at the high school or the mall, places where kids congregate.”

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TRIAL

FROM PAGE A1

reaches a verdict. Bernier told the *Observer* he, likewise, would have no comment.

Witnesses testified to the high-rate of speed at which Bojaj was allegedly traveling in the dark-colored Lexus he was driving. According to testimony at the preliminary hearing, Bojaj allegedly had a blood-alcohol content more than three times the legal

limit. By the time police arrived at the scene, the Lexus was tangled in the guardrail cords in the median of I-275 just past Koppernick in Canton Township. On the right side of the road sat the Dodge Intrepid, driven by Gunn

of Westland, its rear end smashed and Gunn slumped over the wheel.

Gunn, the daughter of Rob and Teri Gunn of Westland, died in the accident.

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Alumni game

Join the Westland Wild Wings as they seek a win against the Detroit Red Wing Alumni in a hockey game will be played Saturday, March 12, at the Mike Modano Ice Arena, 6210 N. Wildwood.

The puck drops at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

AROUND WESTLAND

Kids under age 3 are free. Seating is limited to 800, so don’t be slow in getting tickets. They’re available at the mayor’s office in Westland City Hall, the Bailey Recreation Center and the Mike Modano Ice Arena.

Sponsorship opportunities also are available for this event with a range of levels and cost. For more information,

contact Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski at (734) 722-7620 or by e-mail at rkosowski@cityofwestland.com.

Proceeds of the event will go to fund improvement to the Mike Modano Ice Arena.

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center

in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, March 18. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

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

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

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Wild Wings aim to win in rematch with Wings Alumni

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It may be awhile since they played in the NHL but you can still expect a good crowd when the Red Wings Alumni team takes to the ice to play local challengers.

"I enjoy playing in the games. It's nice to see a building full - the rinks are jammed," said former Red Wing John Ogrodnick, who recently played in sold-out alumni games in St. Ignace and Algona.

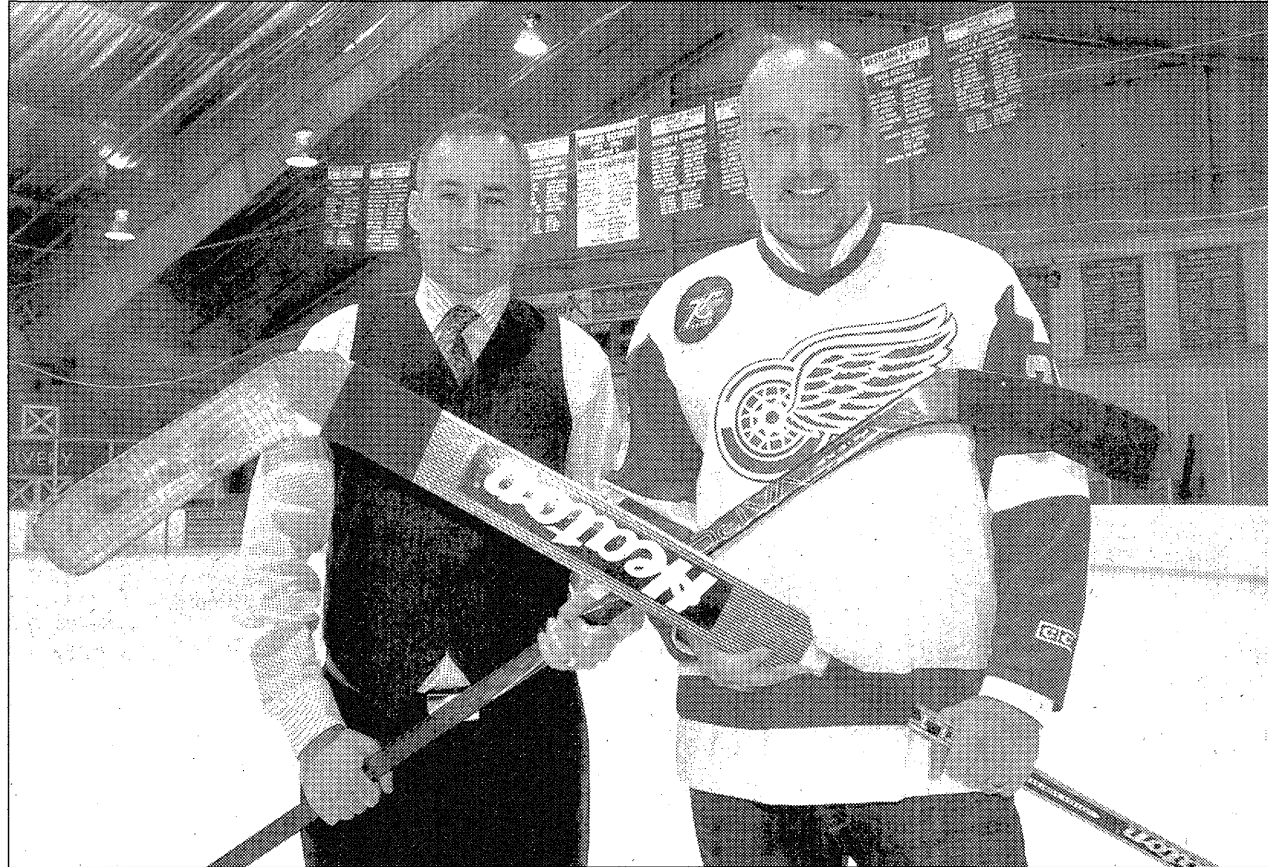
"I'm from a small town in Alberta. I know I'd have been there if a team like this came - the place would be packed," said Ogrodnick.

Drafted by the Red Wings in 1979, Ogrodnick will be taking to the Mike Modano Arena ice with the Red Wings Alumni Saturday, March 12, to play the Westland Wild Wings, headed by Mayor William Wild. Last year, the charity hockey game raised \$20,000 to help the remediation at Central City. This year's proceeds will go to make improvements at the arena.

"One thing you learn when you get out of the game and into the real world, is that there are a lot of great charities out there," said Ogrodnick.

"It's a way for a lot of players to give back. Westland did a great job last year and sold out the building. If you do it right, you can make good money (for charity), even with the recession."

The Red Wings Alumni make money for their charity fund through a set amount donated for their playing in the game. In Westland, Wild said that money



is generated by donations from players filling the Wild Wings roster, leaving proceeds from admissions, sponsorships, raffles and other fund-raising for the local charity.

HELP FOR THE ARENA

"We need improvements at the arena. We're looking at new improved lockers rooms and showers and the energy efficiency of the heating over the stands. The six heaters are obsolete, we can't get parts for them," said Wild, adding the city is talking with hockey and figure skating groups for input

on the arena needs.

Annually, the Red Wings Alumni play 15-20 games for charity - no contact and no slap shots.

"Our guys can control slap shots but we don't want guys who can't control the puck taking slap shots," said Ogrodnick.

"We still have guys who can dipsy doodle (the puck), who can still move the puck. We win about 95 percent of our games."

STELLAR CAREER

The Wild Wings lost last year, but Wild is counting on his ringer - assistant arena

manager Joe Burton, who holds the record as the highest scoring player in minor league hockey from his time with the Oklahoma Blazers.

Selected as a member of the first NHL All-Star Team, Ogrodnick scored 55 goals in the 1984-85 season joining Mickey Redmond and Danny Grant as Red Wings reaching that scoring level. Ogrodnick also is in the select company of Gordie Howe and Marcel Dionne as Red Wings earning 105 points in a season.

From the Wings, Ogrodnick was traded to the Quebec

Nordiques, spent five years with the New York Rangers and was back with the Wings in 1993 until retiring in 1995.

"I stayed here because it's a great hockey town. People remember the name, it's great for business," said Ogrodnick, a financial advisor based in Plymouth.

"When I was still playing, Ted Lindsay told me when you're working your name will open doors by you still have to do the work."

Tickets for the benefit hockey are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids with youngsters age 3 and

Westland Mayor William

"Wild Bill" Wild and former Red Wing John "Johnny O" Ogrodnick will be taking to the ice Saturday, March 12, for charity as the Westland Wild Wings take on the Red Wings Alumni at Mike Modano Arena. The Wild Wings are hoping to avenge their loss in last year's game.

WINGS VS. WILD WINGS

Who: Westland Wild Wings vs. the Detroit Red Wings Alumni

What: Charity hockey game to fund improvements at the Mike Modano Ice Arena

When: Saturday, March 12. Doors open at 5:45 p.m., game is at 7 p.m.

Where: Mike Modano Arena, 6210 Wildwood at Hunter, Westland

Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids, kids under three admitted free. Tickets available at arena, Bailey Recreation Center and the Mayor's Office.

under admitted free. It's recommended that tickets be purchased in advance at the arena, the Mayor's Office in City Hall or the Bailey Recreation Center.

Doors open at 5:45 p.m. and the game will start at 7 p.m. with the puck dropped by Mike and Karen Modano, parents of current Red Wing Mike Modano.

Along with the hockey game, there will be Shoot on a Sumo, a Score-O variation, Chuck a Puck, a 50/50 raffle and other raffle items, including a Modano autographed jersey. Sponsorships also are available. There are a limited number of \$100 VIP tickets for an after party with the players to be held at Marvaso's Italian Grille.

Contact Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski for more information at (734) 722-7620 or e-mail rkosowski@cityofwestland.com.

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PTSA Council honors students, teachers at Founders' Day

The Livonia PTSA Council honored five graduating seniors from each of Livonia's three high schools during its 57th Annual Founders' Day Celebration Feb. 16 at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

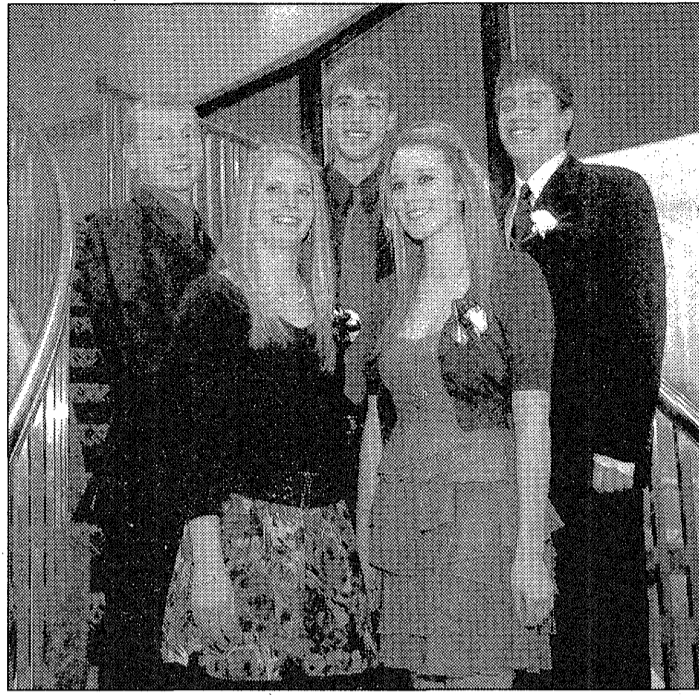
The students were selected by their school principals and the presidents of their school PTAs, said LPTSAC President Heather Broos.

Each of the honored students, in turn, nominated up to three LPS teachers whose influence continues to inspire them. Those teachers were also recognized at the celebration.

In addition, individual PTA units were recognized for outstanding programs and activities.

Attendees were able to view display boards showing the programs and projects PTA units have done over the year and students' entries for the PTA Reflections Fine Arts Competition.

The program also paid tribute to the founders of the PTA, the only school associa-



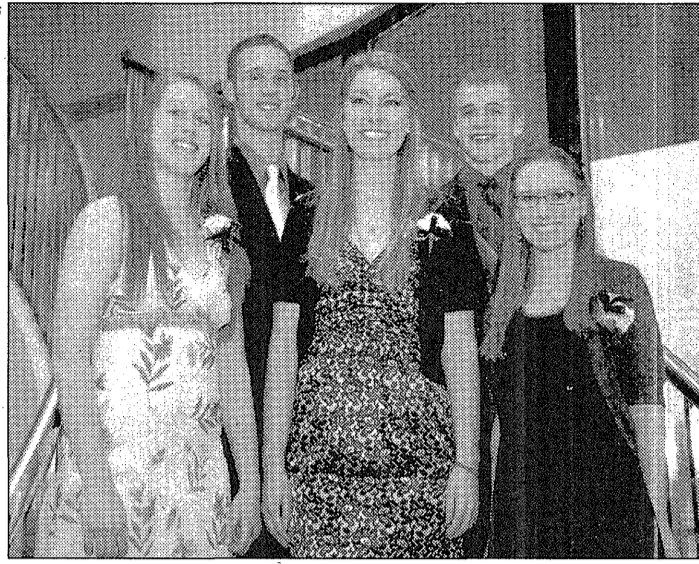
The Churchill students honored were (from left) Stephen Charnley, Megan McDonald, Eric Stromberg Jr., Cory Urbats and Michael Houghan.

tion that promotes advocacy for children in government. The students honored were:

- Churchill High School — Stephen Charnley, Michael

Houghan, Megan McDonald, Eric Stromberg Jr. and Cory Urbats.

- Franklin High School — Amanda Borieo, Brian Haupt, Sarah Noffze,



Franklin students honored were (from left) Amanda Borieo, Brian Haupt, Sarah Noffze, Steven Tuyo and Heather Pailon.

Heather Pailon and Steven Tuyo.

• Stevenson High School — Lauryn Babish, Lauren Corbeill, Michael Holloway, Sara Quashnie and Katherine Wilkes.

- The teachers honored were:
- Perrinville Early

Childhood Center — Carol Ashworth

- Cass Elementary — Colleen McAlinden
- Grant Elementary — Lori Ashton Weiner
- Hayes Elementary School — Colleen Murray-Fisher
- Hoover Elementary — Laura Bonanni Flak, Jane

- Ryan (retired)
- Randolph Elementary — Karen Burdette (deceased)
- Roosevelt Elementary — Chris Schulte
- Webster Elementary — Lorna Rootare, Shari Shaw
- Riley Upper Elementary School — Dan Vlcko
- Emerson Middle School — Elaine Kramer, Jennifer Prouty, Pam Wright
- Frost Middle School — Lisa Anderson, Carim Calkins, Jim Rumon, Sean Senecal, Mike Vasich, Kristie Wells.
- Holmes Middle School — Char Baringhaus, Kathy Fox, Linda Henry (retired), Russell Keberly, Peter Rathburn
- Churchill High School — Doug Coates, Mark Grenier, Andrew Jones, Rob Upton, Andrew Wood
- Franklin High School — Terri Bennett, Dave Chiola, Molly David, Lynn Massucci, Sunshine Weber
- Stevenson High School — Craig Barker, Debra Clouse, Karen Dillon, Julie Harb, Kathy Ladd, Janet Stack

ACHIEVERS

Freshman Nicholas Carvalho and junior Mallorie Gregg, both of Westland, have been named to the Dean's List for fall semester at Northwood University.

To achieve Dean's List recognition, Carvalho and Gregg had to earn a 3.25 grade point on a 4.0 scale.

Named to Madonna

University's Dean's List in recognition for superior academic achievement during the Fall 2010 term were Westland residents Aimee Joy Abrazaldo, Lisa Lee Alaraysi, Abatchy Adele Edwige Allais, Nakia Rochelle Anderson, Eric Scott Angevine, Meagan Bales, Daniel Baunoch, Carla Beaver, Geoffrey Bedner, Hailey Makenzie

Benton, Nicole Deanne Bergeski, Jafer Beydoun, Timothy John Boes, Suzanne Marie Bower, Marie Bowles, Diana Lynn Brda, Mallory Jane Brosious, Kevin Allan Buchan, Yuliya Yevgenyevna Buzle, Abeer Moloud Buzreba. Adrienne Kirsten Camunag, Amanda Marie

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Levy, Joseph Thomas Lijek, Sarah Rose Machowicz, Daniel John Mahoney, Ana Paula Marcolina, Kathleen Margaret McGowan, Heather Meahan, Edjola Merdani, Kelly Rae Moran, Jana Raji Musleh. Amy Lynette Nichols, Karolina Oldziejewska, Kayla Ann O'mara, Lisa Carolyn Opett, Jeong-Eun Park, Samantha Grace Paul, Danielle Marie Peel, Ashley Jean Quinn, Amber Dawn Raffko, Hala Amin Rihani, Rund Amin Rihani, Mary Kay Ross, Megan Sergeichik, Bruce William Shippe, Emily Claire Silsbee, Matthew Brandon Soucy, Stephen Patrick South, Karina Marie Stephens, Ooky Bhikhabhai Suthar, Laura Ann Sweet, Jared Todd Thirjung, Karen Mechelle Tomlinson. Hannah Elizabeth Trimble, Mazda Beatriz Troche, Katherine Emily Urquhart, Jessica Vaughan, Louissa Villaroman, Charles West, Kelly M Wheeler, Javier Arturo Zarate and Sally Zarate.

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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 possibly applying for Social Security benefits call him for FREE advice.

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Velvet Peanut Butter spreads to 500 grocery stores

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Like many in Metro Detroit, Eric and Jason Bruce grew up eating Velvet Peanut Butter, made in Livonia for 30 years.

Then the company was sold in 1985 and after a series of acquisitions, the brand disappeared off store shelves.

"I thought that was criminal," said Eric, 44, adding that local brands are part of an area's identity.

So Eric bought the recipe and the rights to the Velvet label and found a manufacturer in Georgia to make it. His wife Kim took it to the senior buyer at Hiller's Market, Larry Krispin.

Hiller's bought 1,300 jars, their entire inventory, and the peanut butter sold out in two weeks. That was in 2009.

Today, Velvet Peanut Butter is available in more than 500 Michigan grocery stores, including Kroger, Meijer, Hiller's, Spartan and Busch's. The business is doing well enough that Eric recently hired his brother Jason, 41, who lives in Livonia, as director of operations. Jason is overseeing the expansion and distribution of Velvet Peanut Butter.

EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

Eric, who has a master's degree in business administration from Eastern Michigan University and works in Atlanta in marketing for an ABC affiliate, said he expected the brand to do well, but he didn't expect the emotional connection people would have with it.

"Their grandma or their mom would serve it to them," he said, explaining the appeal of Velvet Peanut Butter, with its trademark boys, "Fresh," "Pure" and "Delicious."

Eric's favorite part of the business is getting emails from customers who are glad the



Jason Bruce of Livonia is the new director of operations for Velvet Peanut Butter, available in both smooth and crunchy. He said the feedback from customers at Busch's Market in Livonia, where this photo was taken, and other stores has all been positive. "When I'm stocking the stores, I get a lot of, 'Oh I remember that as a kid!'" he said.

product is available again. "Velvet Peanut Butter takes me back to the late '60s when I rode with my mother in the car to pick my dad up from work," wrote a customer from Rochester. "As we would approach the Velvet Peanut Butter facility (on Schoolcraft Road), mom would say, 'OK, roll the window down!' and I would crank the window down and inhale the wonderful aroma of roasting peanuts!"

Wrote a customer from Center Line whose grandparents served him Velvet peanut butter sandwiches every weekend for lunch, "It has brought back memories of simpler times and family long gone and I will be a customer as long as you make it."

Some of the emails come with suggestions of how to eat it - like with oatmeal or jalapeños.

WONDER BREAD

The Bruce boys, who grew up in Garden City, prefer Velvet Peanut Butter on white bread, preferably Wonder bread.

That's how they ate it in their school lunches - Eric with grape jelly, Jason just plain - and that's how they still eat it today.

"When you bite into it, it actually feels like you're tasting a peanut, and that's the thing I like about it," Jason said.

Their kids love it. Eric's daughter, Emily, 4, screams for peanut butter as soon as she sees the jar. Jason's son, Benjamin, 9, won't let anyone he knows have any brand other than Velvet in their kitchen cupboard. "From the get-go, he's been my No. 1 supporter," Eric said.

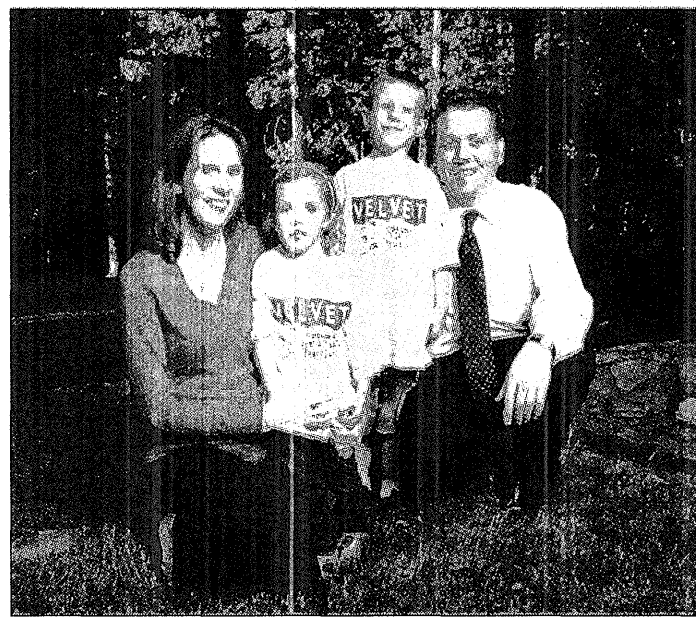
Velvet Peanut Butter was started in 1937 in Detroit by an Eastern Market truck driver who saw used peanut butter making equipment advertised for sale. The boys on the jar were drawn in the likeness of his son.

Eric's goal is to preserve the Velvet brand so it never disappears from store shelves again, and for Velvet to become the No. 1 peanut butter sold.

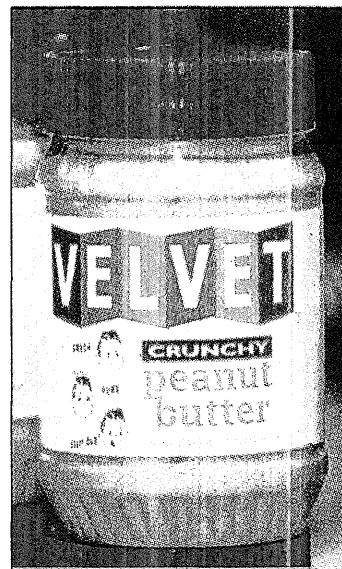
He's got a long ways to go - Velvet is just starting to be sold in other states - but he's unwilling to take any shortcuts to get there.

10 PERCENT TO CHARITY

For example, he won't reduce the amount of peanut butter in the jar from 18 ounces. That goes against his company's values. And he pledges



Kim, Emily, Dominick and Eric Bruce hope Velvet Peanut Butter sales grow to the point where they can move from Atlanta back to the Detroit area and Eric can make running the company his full-time job. Eric grew up in Garden City.



The trademark Velvet boys on the label, "Fresh," "Pure" and "Delicious," were drawn in the likeness of the founder's son. Velvet was started in 1937 by an Eastern Market truck driver.

Oakland County to help feed kids from low-income families who normally get lunch for free at school.

The company now has five part-time employees, including Eric's wife, Kim. Jason also works as rink manager and a Zamboni driver for the Livonia Hockey Association.

Eric and Kim moved to Atlanta in 1999 because of Eric's job, but they want to move back to the Detroit area to be near both their families. Eric and Jason's parents, Dominic and Claudia Bruce, are Livonia residents.

Eric hopes to grow the Velvet company to a point where he can leave Atlanta and return to Michigan to run the company full-time.

He said being in Georgia, where peanuts are grown, put him in contact with the right people to help him revive the Velvet brand and start manufacturing it.

Now he hopes the brand he brought back to Michigan brings him back here as well.

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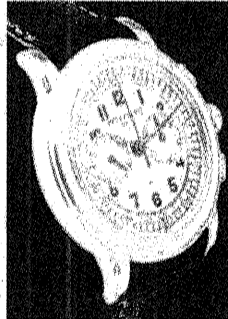
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Chili fest's record fundraising benefits Habitat for Humanity

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amy Tracy had long thought of home ownership as beyond her reach.

That changed in December, when she and son Kamron, 12, moved into a new house in Westland with the help of Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County.

Tracy, who runs a child-care center at a social services agency, pays Habitat a zero-interest mortgage for her house, and also put in hundreds of hours of sweat equity in lieu of a down payment, working on Habitat building projects

and volunteering at the Great Lakes Regional Chili Cookoff in Plymouth last October.

"That was a fun day," Tracy told members of the local Habitat board of directors on Monday. "I'll be at the next chili cookoff."

HELPING HABITAT

The nonprofit Great Lakes Regional Chili Inc. is a major contributor to Habitat, raising the \$138,000 for the organization since 1996.

On Monday, the couple behind Great Lakes Regional Chili, Ken and Annette Horn, stopped by the Habitat office to deliver the proceeds from

last year's cookoff: \$37,500. It was the most money raised so far through a single Plymouth cookoff, the Horns said.

"Ken and I are thrilled to support such a great charity that in turn attracts the volunteers necessary to enable us to run our event," Annette Horn said.

Habitat was responsible for mobilizing about 170 volunteers, including Tracy, for the last cookoff, said Alice Dent, director at the local Habitat office.

"It's a major contribution. This is the largest single fundraiser that we've received," Dent said of the check dropped

off by the Horns. "We are blessed and honored to participate in this annual event."

OFFERING THANKS

For Tracy, who had stopped by the Habitat office with a mortgage payment, Monday's check presentation was an opportunity to thank the Horns and Habitat board members, who had gathered for their monthly meeting.

Tracy, who rented an apartment in Plymouth before buying her house, said the home in Westland has given her and Kamron security, financial stability and a greater sense of optimism for the future.

If Kamron, who is interested in architecture, wants to attend graduate school after college, for example, she'll be in a position as a homeowner to help him do that, Tracy said.

Dent said praised the chili cookoff, calling it an event that brings people together for a good time and a good cause. Despite the state's recessionary economy, she said, the cookoff's fundraising is above what it was when times were better.

"It shows that the giving spirit of Michiganders is still strong," Dent said.

Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County has seven building projects sched-

uled for this year, both new construction and home rehabilitations, Dent said. Habitat volunteers will be working in Redford Township, Westland, Taylor and Romulus.

Habitat budgets about \$80,000 for each new home its volunteers build.

Great Lakes Regional Chili Inc. has contributed to several other charitable and service organizations in its 15-year history, including the Salvation Army, the Make-a-Wish Foundation and the Rainbow Connection.

mjachman@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2405

Westland resident completes responder training

AROUND WESTLAND

St. Pat's Feast

Maxwell's Arts and Treasures will be the site of a St. Patrick's Day feast Thursday, March 17, presented by the local Plymouth-Westland Grange.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the family event that includes entertainment and a dinner of corn beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes and cole slaw.

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 Drive, north of Ford, Garden City.



Anders

A Westland teen recently completed the first phase of the Air Land Emergency Resource Training program offered at the International ALERT Academy in Big Sandy, Texas.

Philip Anders, the son of Mark and Esther Anders of Westland, successfully completed nine-weeks of basic training.

The goal of ALERT is to equip young men with a ministry mind-set, preparing them with the skills, priorities and attitudes to function as a servant of God, regardless of what their profession may be.

The focus of basic training is on intense spiritual, physical and mental training that

requires the young men to continually depend on God and to serve one another. The rigorous nine-week program includes wilderness hiking, physical exercise, basic living skills, memorization of Scripture and learning respect for authority.

Anders was among 54 young men who completed the training and received awards for Scripture Memory, Personal Excellence, Endurance, Team Excellence and Cadet Membership.

He is continuing with

his Emergency Response Training, which involves specialized instruction in counseling, disaster response, basic fire fighting, high angle rescue, public speaking, rescue systems, emergency medicine, search and rescue, working with a chain saw and search and recovery diving. He also is participating in disaster relief, rescue work and service projects as the opportunity arises.

The final phase of ALERT is advanced training which offered concentrated instruction in trades and skills, including aircraft maintenance, auto body, auto body mechanics, aviation, construction, emergency medicine, emergency services operation, law enforcement, leadership and management and service response team training.

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SECTION 00010
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Bid Package #30 consisting of:

Media Center Additions to Elliott, Hamilton & Wildwood Elementary Schools;
Kitchen Remodeling at Roosevelt/McGrath Elementary School

will be received until **10:00 A.M. local time on Tuesday, March 29, 2011** at which time they will be opened and read publicly at Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education Office, located at 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan 48185.

Bids received after this time and date will not be accepted and will be returned unopened.

Faxed proposals will not be accepted.

This Bid Package will consist of a separate sealed bid for the following Bid Divisions:

101	Earthwork / Site Utilities
103	Selective Demolition
104	Concrete Footings & Foundations
105	Concrete Flatwork
106	Masonry
107	Steel
108	Carpentry & General Trades
109	Roofing / Sheetmetal
110	Manufactured Wall Panel Systems
112	Caulking
113	Hollow Metal / Wood Doors / Finish Hardware
114	Aluminum Windows / Entrances / Glass & Glazing
115	Metal Studs / Drywall / EIFS
116	Hard Tile
117	Acoustical Treatment
118	Carpet / Resilient Flooring
120	Painting
130	Window Treatments
137	Food Service Equipment
140	Plumbing
142	HVAC
143	Electrical
148	Landscaping
149	Fencing

Bidding documents prepared by **TMP Architecture, Inc.** will be available for public inspection at the office of the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, 24317 Indoplex Circle, Farmington Hills, MI 48335; the Dodge Plan Room, CAM, Reed, and Builders Exchange, Lansing.

Bidders may obtain one (1) set of 1/2 size bidding documents, beginning at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, by contacting the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.**, at (248) 427-8400. Additional plans may be ordered and purchased directly from Dunn Blue Reprographics Technology, (248) 288-5600. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope supplied by the Construction Manager, **McCarthy & Smith, Inc.** The bid division(s) being bid is/are to be identified on the outside of the envelope.

There will be a pre-bid meeting held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Wildwood Elementary School Cafeteria located at 500 N. Wildwood, Westland, MI 48185. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the project, schedule and to answer any questions that bidders may have.

A sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship existing between the bidder and any member of the school board, school superintendents, or chief executive must accompany each bid. The Board of Education will not accept a bid that does not include this statement. This statement is on the proposal execution form.

All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security, in either the form of a bid bond or certified bank check, in the amount of five (5) percent of the amount of the bid, payable to Wayne-Westland Community Schools, as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, the bidder will execute the contract and file the required bonds within ten (10) days after notice of award of contract.

If awarded a contract, the successful bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond. Wayne-Westland Community Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and to waive any informalities and irregularities in the bidding.

This project is to be bid at the prevailing wage rate.

Publish: March 6, 2011

CITY OF GARDEN CITY BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on the following date and time to examine the assessment roll for the current year:

Tuesday March 8, 2011 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Review will meet in session on the following days and times to hear appeals on the assessment roll:

NOTE: Meetings located in THE GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM with late night appointments on Tuesday & Wednesday

Monday	March 14, 2011	9:00am -5:00pm
Tuesday	March 15, 2011	1:00pm - 9:00pm
Wednesday	March 16, 2011	1:00pm - 9:00pm
Thursday	March 17, 2011	9:00am -5:00pm
Friday	March 18, 2011	9:00am -5:00pm

APPEALS BY APPOINTMENT or WRITE-IN. Write-ins must be received by Monday, March 14, 2011.

Tentative ratios for the 2011 tax year are:

CLASS	PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RATIO	PROJECTED EQUALIZATION FACTOR
Commercial	51.55%	0.9699
Industrial	56.62%	0.8831
Residential	59.31%	0.8430
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Taxes are paid on **TAXABLE VALUE**, which is the lesser of the calculated Assessed and Capped value, unless there is a property transfer. The capped value is based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index), which is 1.017 for 2011. As a result, all Taxable Values will increase 1.7% unless there has been a transfer of ownership or an addition to the property.

The 2011 Assessment Roll will be open for inspection from March 8, 2011 through March 11, 2011 in the Assessment office from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. And 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m..

ALLYSON BETTIS
TEASURER-CLERK

Publish: February 27, March 3rd & 6, 2011

CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 5 02/22/11

Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Hammons, Johnson, Kadi, Kehrer, Reeves

23: Appr. minutes of special meeting held 2/7/11.
- Appr: minutes of regular meeting held 2/7/11.
- Appr. req. from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church to hold "Crop Walk" on 5/1/11.
- Appr. req. from Knights of Columbus to hold "Tootsie Roll Drive" 4/15-4/17.
- Appr. agrmnt. w/WWCSD re. JGHS Police Liason.
- Appr. 5 yr. lease agrmnt. w/Neopost; amt. \$3,867 per yr.
- Appr. disbursement of 13th pmt. to Bidigare for SWQIF Project; amt. \$284,884.17.
- Appr. disbursement of 7th pmt. to Bidigare for SSR Rehab Project; amt. \$49,619.21.
- Intro. Bud Amend 2011-10; General Fund.
- Adopt Bud. Amend 2011-09; General Fund \$200,000.00.
- Adopt Prep. Res. approving Wayne Co. Annual Storm Water Maintenance Permit.
- Adopt Prep. Res. opposing Senate Bill 34.
- Adopt Prep. Res. proclaiming wk of 3/14-20th as "World Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week."
- Appr. to participate in Marathon Fleet Fueling Program.
25: Adopt. Ord. 29-W-26-19 to amend Ch. 46, Sec. 46-1(48), 46-1(49)c, & 46-1(49)d to amend rates for municipal water & sewer.
26: Appr. Agrmnt w/Belfor for invoice pmt. of \$2,136,643.34.
27: Appr. Spec. Land Use for prop. exp. to BP Station, 31411 Joy Rd.
28: Appr. Rev. Site Plan for prop. exp. to BP Station, 31411 Joy Rd. w/contingencies.
29: Appr. Site Plan for prop. MJR Theater, 6800 N. Wayne Rd. w/ contingencies.
30: Appr. Spec. Land Use for prop. Pharmacy, PID 045-99-0004-001, s. of Ford, w. of Wayne Rd., Westland Town Ctr.
31: Appr. checklist: \$377,564.03 & Prepaid: \$2,331,320.63. Mtg. adj. at 9:10 p.m.
Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

James Godbout
Council President
Eileen DeHart
City Clerk, CMC

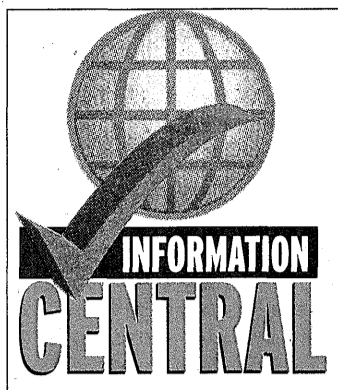
Publish: March 6, 2011

Adult literacy tutor information night

In the United States, there are 30 million adults who can't read well enough to understand a newspaper article at the eighth-grade level or fill out a job application. Low literacy costs the U.S. \$225 billion or more each year in non-productivity in the workforce, crime and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment.

Literacy is crucial for people to vote, use computers, read maps, understand health information, help their children in school, get employed or seek better employment and know what is going on in the world. Many adults hide their low reading levels from even their families and friends, but there are many brave people who are coming out and seeking help. Currently, more than 100,000 adults are on waiting lists to get paired with a literacy tutor in this country.

Find out how you can get involved and share your love of reading with an adult in need at the Adult Literacy Tutor Information Night at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, at the Westland public library. There are currently no adult literacy agencies that service the Westland area, and we are exploring what kinds of services we can provide. This is a fantastic volunteer opportunity that will make a great difference in someone's life. We will go over different types of training options and what's necessary to become a tutor - just two hours a week. No formal training in education is required and



you don't have to make any commitments right away. Just show up and find out what adult literacy is all about! If you are unable to attend this information session and are still interested in adult literacy tutoring opportunities, call the library at (734) 326-6123 or stop by the Reference desk and ask for Kristy.

Highlighted Activities

Fight Foreclosure One-on-One Counseling Session: 5-8 p.m. March 7

Homeowners can schedule a private, 30-minute, one-on-one meeting with a foreclosure counselor from the Wayne County Fight Mortgage Foreclosure Program. Call (734) 326-6123 or stop by the library to schedule your appointment. Space is limited. The Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program is a no fee, Wayne County

program providing you an expansive network of certified counselors who help you avoid or manage a mortgage foreclosure. Additional counseling dates are scheduled through April. Call the library for more information.

Afternoon Movie Classics: "High Noon," 3 p.m. March 8, age 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 "High Noon" with Gary Cooper.

Yoga for Beginners - Morning Class: 10 a.m. March 9, 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.

Yoga for Beginners - Evening Class: 7 p.m. March 9, 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 evening classes this month. Sign up at the Reference Desk or call (734) 326-6123. Space is limited.

Friday Night Movies: "Never Let Me Go," 7 p.m. March 11, age 12 and up

Love movies? Join us as we watch projected Oscar nominees for the 2011 awards. Tonight's movie is "Never Let Me Go" starring Keira Knightley, Carey Mulligan and Andrew Garfield. Refreshments available. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., movie starts at 7 p.m.

Advance Care Planning - Drop-In Session: 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Stop by to learn more about advance care planning and how to prepare your own advanced care plan, with help from Edie English, registered nurse/clinical manager, with Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center. English will be available to answer your questions and help you complete any forms.

Green Jobs Training Information Session: 1 p.m. March 14

Learn about free training opportunities to prepare you for a green job in your future. Marie Guerra, Regional Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEPTP) representative will explain how you can take advantage of this free training opportunity. Funding for this training is provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Call (734) 326-6123 or visit the library to sign up, or register online at westlandlibrary.org/events.

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

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in.

No reservation needed.

Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the Library: 7 p.m. every Wednesday. Everyone welcome, including crocheters.

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 signup required.

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

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

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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If you cannot pay in full by March 31 or for additional help, please email the Wayne County Taxpayer Assistance Department at taxinfo@co.wayne.mi.us visit us at www.treasurer.waynecounty.com, or call 313-224-6104



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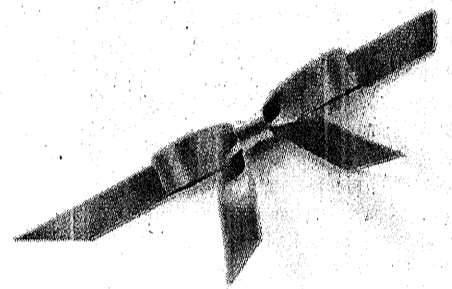
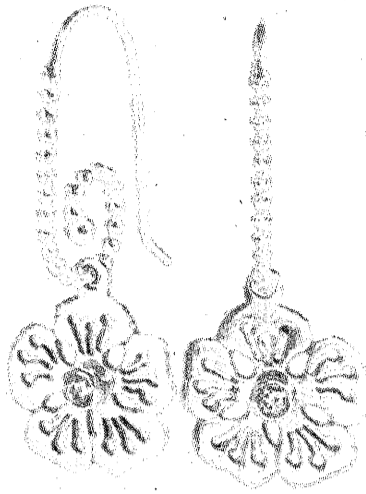
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Thursday, February 24th
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Guest speakers from the American Association for Wartime Veterans

RSPV by February 22nd
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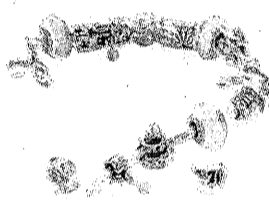
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Dakota knocks off Glenn, Wayne for state title

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

BOYS BOWLING

Macomb Dakota played spoiler against two local schools during Friday's MHSAA Division 1 boys team bowling finals held at M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek. The Cougars denied Westland John Glenn for the state title, 1,331-1,164, after eliminating Wayne Memorial in the semifinals,

1,396-1,263. The eight-team elimination format featured total pinfall for one regular game and two Baker games (alternating shots). Dakota posted a two-game Baker set of 192-179 and rolled a 960 regular game to win the coveted state championship.

Shawn Worth's 269 game led the Cougars, while Mike Leskoviansky added 197. Glenn shot 155-164-845 in the finals as Thomas Brusseau posted the top game with a 195. "Today is what my assistant coach Steve O'Harris and I prepared the boys for all year," Glenn head coach Ron Brusseau said. "Although we fell short of our ultimate team goal — winning a state

championship — we couldn't be more proud of them. "My hat goes off to the Macomb Dakota boys. They proved they were the better team." Glenn advanced to the championship final by ousting defending champion Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 1,262-1,150. The Rockets went 158-164-940.

Please see **BOWLING, B2**

GAME WRAPS

Whitfield invite

The 20th Jason Whitfield Men's Gymnastics Invitational will be Saturday-Sunday, March 12-13, at the University of Michigan's Cliff Keen Arena, located at 1000 State St., Ann Arbor.

The meet honors the memory of the late Olympic hopeful from Westland who attended Livonia Franklin High School. Whitfield was a member of the USA Gymnastics Federation's Junior National Team when he died in a motorcycle accident in Iowa City, Iowa, in 1991.



Whitfield

The Whitfield Foundation was established to financially assist other male gymnasts with similar Olympic aspirations. Anderson he knew what he was up against going into the district final. "We had scouted Inkster about five times," he said. "They don't defend very well against bounce passes. We just wanted to move the ball, and make bounce passes. I just had to reassure my girls to stay calm — don't panic. And I think we did just a little bit."

Leah Scott added 12 points, while Crystal Bradford came off the bench to add eight. Both Scott and Bradford are also headed to CMU. "Just a great team," Anderson said of Inkster. "Ranked in the country. Ranked number one just about all year. I lost games to two teams, one ranked number one and one ranked number three (Canton). "My girls should feel extremely proud to have

Please see **ROCKETS, B2**



PHOTO BY THOMAS BEAUDOIN

John Glenn's Shakeya Graves (3) takes the ball to the rim against Inkster defender Kelsey Mitchell in Friday's Class A district final at Romulus.

Inkster too tough

Vikings defuse Rockets in district finals, 68-44

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Inkster's relentless pressure was too much to bear for Westland John Glenn in Friday's girls basketball Class A district championship game at Romulus.

The Rockets committed a total of 28 turnovers and came out on the wrong side of a 68-44 ledger.

Glenn ends its season at 19-4 overall, while the state-ranked Vikings improve to 19-2 and advance to Tuesday's regional semifinal at Monroe. Central Michigan signee Jasmine Bracey, a senior forward, led Inkster with 18 points.

But it was the second-quarter play of senior forward Janae Jackson that tilted the scales in Inkster's favor.

Jackson scored 11 straight points during the final 3:58 of the first half to propel the Vikings to a 34-21 halftime advantage.

Jackson, who went down briefly with an injury during the opening quarter, finished with 15 points.

"She had a good game for us today," Inkster coach Peggy Carr said. "The last couple of games, she felt like she's been struggling offensively, so today was a good day for her offensively."

Glenn, which trailed 15-11 after one quarter, couldn't recover from a 19-10 Inkster spurt during the second.

The Rockets went 1-for-11 from the field during the second quarter.

"We missed, at least in the first half, 12 or 13 layups," Glenn coach Mark Anderson said. "They weren't really contested layups. Just the girls got a little excited. I think we didn't calm down until sometime after halftime. I love the way they competed."

The Vikings continued their full-court assault in the third by going on a 17-4 run.

Glenn coughed the ball up 16 times in the opening half and had five more in the third quarter as Inkster built a commanding 51-25 lead.

"We didn't handle their pressure," Anderson said. "I actually thought we allowed their pressure to be effective.

I thought we started to speed up the game when we didn't have to. I understand that was their game plan, but we allowed that to happen."

Anderson he knew what he was up against going into the district final.

"We had scouted Inkster about five times," he said. "They don't defend very well against bounce passes. We just wanted to move the ball, and make bounce passes. I just had to reassure my girls to stay calm — don't panic. And I think we did just a little bit."

Leah Scott added 12 points, while Crystal Bradford came off the bench to add eight. Both Scott and Bradford are also headed to CMU.

"Just a great team," Anderson said of Inkster. "Ranked in the country. Ranked number one just about all year. I lost games to two teams, one ranked number one and one ranked number three (Canton).

"My girls should feel extremely proud to have

Anastos' 25 lifts Blazers to crown

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Stevenson simply had no answers for Livonia Ladywood sophomore point guard Andie Anastos in Friday's girls basketball Class A district final.

The 5-foot-9 Anastos poured in a game-high 25 points as the Blazers pulled away in the second half for a 63-41 triumph at Livonia Franklin.

The Blazers, now 18-5 overall, advance to the regional semifinals beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Warren Fitzgerald, where they will face Detroit King.

Anastos hit 10-of-15 shots from the floor, including 3-of-4 from 3-point range. She also grabbed nine rebounds, dished out six assists and had four steals.

"She was a woman possessed," said Ladywood first-

year coach Anthony Coratti, who was decked out in his bright blue blazer. "She wanted to win this game. She's a very mature kid and she does a good job following the lead of our great senior leaders. They do a great job of showing her the ropes. She has free rein — they all do."

Senior forward Alyssa Anastos also did her part with 12 points, while junior guard Brianna Combs chipped in with 11.

But it was the play of Andie Anastos that drew rave reviews from Stevenson coach Jen Knoph.

"We went to the diamond-and-one (defense) to start the second half thinking that we might stop her," Knoph said. "She's a great player. I can't take anything away from her. We didn't have anybody that could keep up with her."

Please see **LADYWOOD, B3**

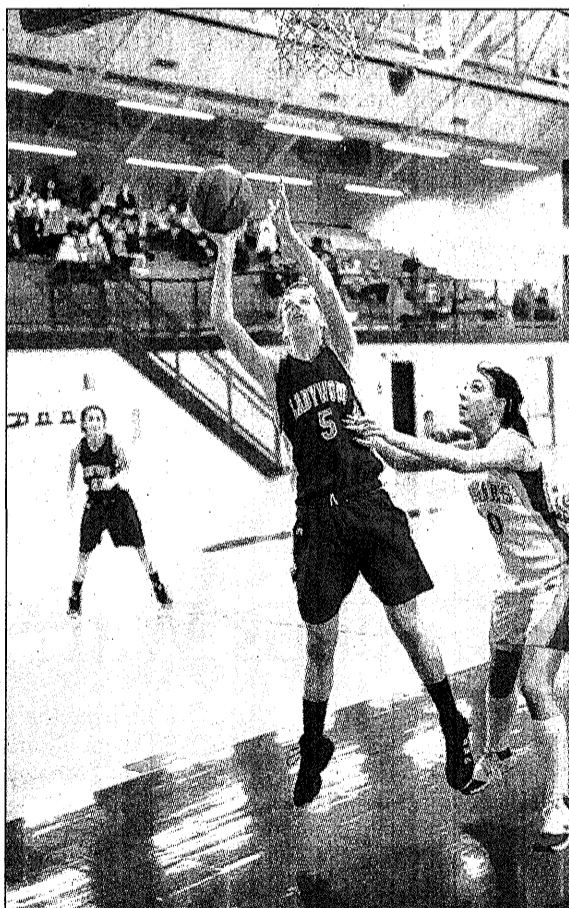


PHOTO BY THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Ladywood's Teresa Wojnarowski (5) goes in for two points as Garden City defender Samantha Fischer makes contact during Wednesday's Class A district semifinal. See story on page B2.

Stevenson's regional bid dashed, 5-3

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The stakes were much higher Wednesday night as host Orchard Lake St. Mary turned the tables on Livonia Stevenson for a 5-3 Division 1 pre-regional boys hockey win.

Stevenson, which bowed out at 16-7-3 overall under first-year coach Gerry Vento, had beaten the Eaglets just 18 days

BOYS HOCKEY

earlier in the Trenton Showcase by the same 5-3 score.

"They (St. Mary) were skating lot better today," Vento said. "They were on us in our zone the whole game and kept the pressure on us. We just didn't play enough their zone. It's pretty simple."

St. Mary outshot the Spartans,

Please see **HOCKEY, B2**

Berger All-UAA

Washington University (Mo.) senior forward Kathryn Berger (Livonia Ladywood) recently earned 2011 first-team All-University Athletic Association in women's basketball.

Berger leads the 12th-ranked Bears in both scoring (14.3 points per game) and rebounding (6.1), while also recording a team-best four double-doubles.

She has been named UAA Athlete of the Week five times this season as the Bears finished second in the UAA at 11-3.

On Feb. 11, Berger scored a career-high 32 points and in the process became just the 12th player in program history to pass 1,000 career points.

With 1,063 points, Berger ranks 12th in school history, just nine points shy of passing Jaimie McFarlin for 11th place.

Berger also ranks fourth in free throw percentage (.796), fifth in three-point field goal percentage (.383), eighth in rebounds (666) and blocked shots (65), and 10th in career three-pointers (85).



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Time for sharing

Unselfish play lifts Ladywood past Cougars, 63-23

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Ladywood's basketball team can shoot, defend and rebound with the best teams around.

But it's a skill the Blazers learned in kindergarten – sharing – that led them to a 63-23 triumph over Garden City in Wednesday night's Class A district semifinal at Livonia Franklin High School.

The far right column of the Blazers' score sheet reflected their unselfishness as five players scored between 12 and eight points.

"This is a really great group of kids who all take pride in getting everybody involved in what is going on out there," Ladywood coach Anthony Coratti said. "They're a bunch of high-character individuals who care about each other. They're fun to coach."

The Blazers improved to 17-5 and earned a berth in Friday's 7 p.m. district final against Livonia Stevenson.

The Spartans upended crosstown rival Livonia Churchill, 48-27, in the night's opening semifinal encounter.

The Cougars trailed just 6-2 deep into the first quarter before succumbing to Ladywood's balance, depth and their own shooting woes.

"I thought we played defense with great intensity in the first half," said Garden City coach Barry Patterson, whose team finished 13-8. "We weren't scoring early, but we were playing with a lot of intensity."

"Ladywood is such a balanced team. They're hard to defend. You can use any gimmick defenses against them because they're strong on the perimeter, decent inside and their guards can drive to the basket. They run eight to nine players at you and they're all solid players. We just couldn't quite match their depth."

Senior forward Teresa Wojnarowski led all scorers with 12 points. Junior guard Briana Combs pumped in three treys on the way to an 11-point night while sophomore guard Shelby Walsh and senior guard Alyssa Anastos contributed 10 points each.

Kiley Gorski also enjoyed a productive night for the winners, netting eight points and six rebounds.

Senior guard Carley Shattleroe led the Cougars with six points. Senior Deanna Hudson added five.

Pestered by the Blazers' active, hands-waving zone, Garden City connected on just nine of 44 field goals and committed 26 turnovers.

"In order to compete with a team like Ladywood, we have to shoot better than average, and we didn't," said Patterson. "Their pressure got to us a couple times and they beat us back down court a couple times. That's what I'm most disappointed about because we prepared for that."

Patterson said his team's failure to prevent quick transition points was epitomized in the final seconds of the first half when Shattleroe bombed in a three and

Samantha Fischer converted a nice driving banker to bring the Cougars to within 33-17.

"But they zipped down the court with less than five seconds left and got an easy layup at the buzzer," he said. "We worked so hard to cut the lead down and then we gave up an easy transition basket."

Ladywood padded its 18-point halftime lead to 49-27 after three quarters.

Although the Blazers haven't faced Stevenson this season, Coratti is familiar with the Spartans' firepower.

"They have very good guards and a very good post player in the freshman (Charlesann) Roy," said Coratti. "Defensively, they're a lot like this team, playing a two-three zone."

STEVENSON 48, CHURCHILL 27: On Wednesday, Livonia Stevenson (14-8) jumped out to a 13-4 first-quarter lead and never looked back to beat Livonia Churchill (3-18) in a Class A district semifinal at Franklin.

Freshman Charlesann Roy led the Spartans with 19 points.

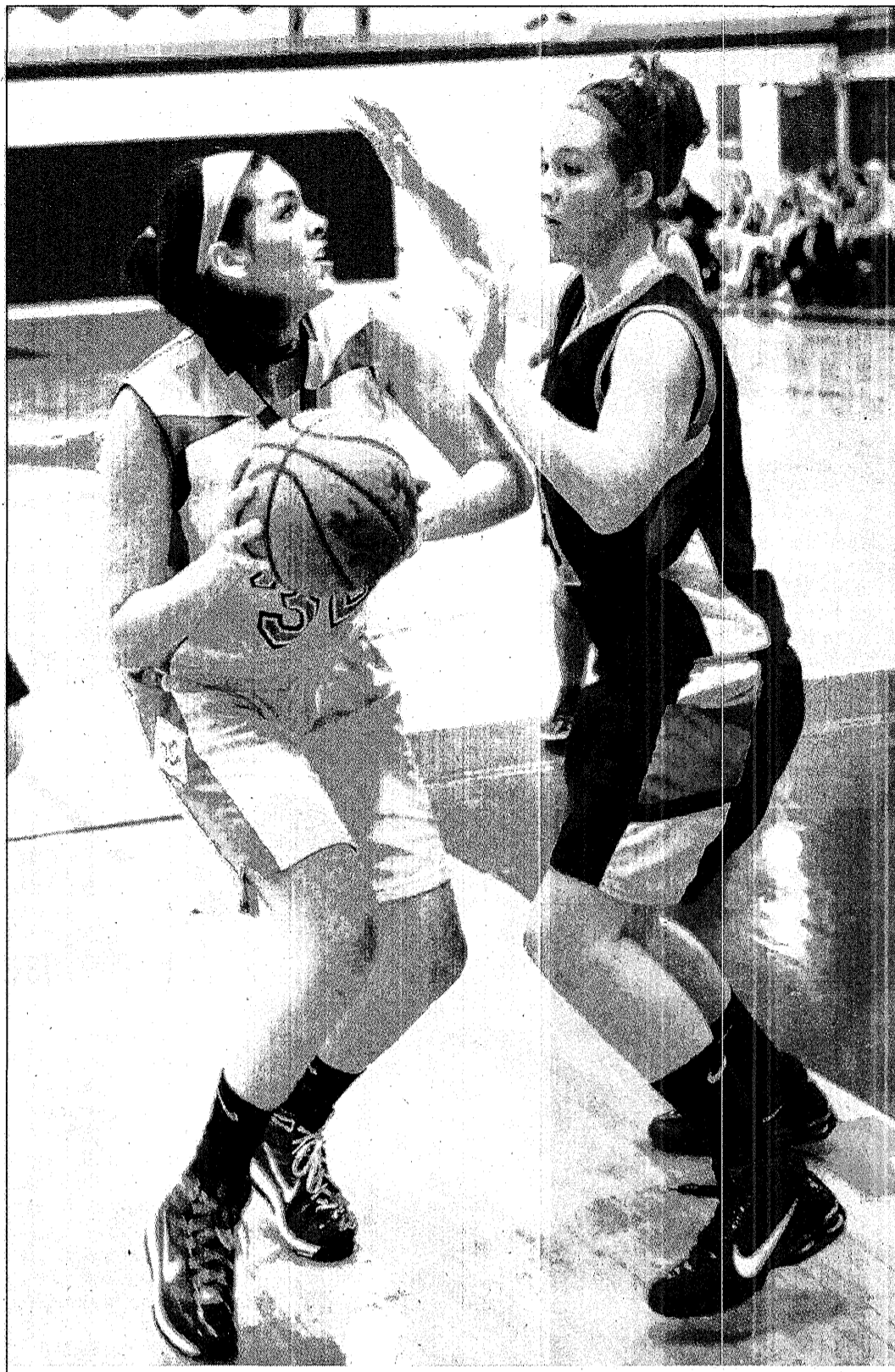
Senior Monika Rudis added 13 points, while Jordan York and Kristen Balhorn chipped in with seven and six, respectively.

"Roy came out very aggressive, she got a lot of loose balls and second chances," Churchill coach Chad Jenkins said. "And Rudis was excellent in transition."

Junior Erin Menard led the Chargers with 10 points. Sophomores Sydney Anderson and Emily Norscia chipped in with eight and six, respectively.

Stevenson hit 9-of-18 free throws, while Churchill was 2-of-8.

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Churchill's Erin Menard (left) looks for an opening against Stevenson defender Kristen Balhorn during Wednesday's Class A girls district semifinal.

PHOTO BY THOMAS BEAUDOIN

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

40-14, but needed a power play goal from Alan Boozer with only 5:30 remaining in final period to break a 3-3 deadlock.

Defenseman Trevor Bardallis followed with an empty netter in the final 35 seconds to secure the win.

"The last time we played them, we just started out slow," St. Mary coach Brian Klanow said. "They (Stevenson) got a couple bounces early and we got behind 3-1. We made a comeback, but just not enough."

"Today, I think we played strong. I think we played almost a full game today."

Stevenson's Ryan Urso scored the lone goal during the first period at 11:16 from Josh Pettersson to make it 1-0.

But the Eaglets owned the second period — outshooting the Spartans 16-2 — while getting goals from Ryan Foe (unassisted at 7:31) and Jacob Smyth (on a rebound just 56 seconds later from Cody Milan).

Stevenson's Tim Pruchnik tied it at 2-all at 3:05 of the third when he flipped a backhand past St. Mary netminder Austin Julvezan.

Andrew Palushaj and Christian Wood drew the assists.

St. Mary, however, answered just 1:24 later when David Muth pounced on a rebound after a shot rang off the post on a power play effort from Matt Sweet and Matt Latham to make it 3-2.

The Spartans came back again with a power play goal of their own on a nifty tic-tac-toe passing effort from Max Humitz and Nicholas Barr to Justin Shureb with only 7:42 left to even the count at 3-all.

But the Eaglets were awarded

another power play chance and didn't put it to waste as Boozer tallied the game-winner from Foe and Bardallis.

"They're a fantastic team," Klanow said of the Spartans. "We knew going in they (Stevenson) were not going to give it to us. But you know what? That shows the character of our team right now, and where we're at. We fought back and were able to come away with a real big win. It was a good win for our program."

Needless to say, Stevenson sophomore goaltender Connor Humitz was stellar as he made 36 saves.

"He was unbelievable," Vento said of his goalie. "To be down only a goal after the second period ...

"As tough as it was for our guys there, they didn't quit as usual all year. They gave it their best. We got the equalizer, then took a tough penalty and they capitalized on it. It was very untimely, very unfortunate. We only got the one power play on our end that we capitalized as well. But our boys emptied the tank. I couldn't ask more out of them."

St. Mary improved to 16-10 overall and earned a spot in Saturday's regional final against the winner of Thursday's pre-regional matchup between Salem and Northville. (Game time is 7 p.m. at Livonia's Edgar Arena.)

Despite the state tournament setback, Vento was proud of his team's play throughout the season.

"They were an exciting bunch to coach," he said. "Whether it was a practice or a game, they gave me 100 percent. I pushed them hard all year, but they never backed down. They just kept working harder the harder I pushed them. It was a pleasure to coach this group — that's for sure."

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ROCKETS

FROM PAGE B1

played both of those teams very competitive. I thank our (Kensington) conference for having us prepared for these teams."

Sophomore guard Shakeya Graves led Glenn with 15 points, while junior forward Erica Covile added seven.

"They have a great team," Carr said of the Rockets. "They're young. Next year they're going to be a great team and hard for

us to beat. This year, I think our pressure and our style affected them down the road. We've been pretty successful with that."

The Vikings shot 42.8 percent from the floor (30-of-70) and showed why they're a serious contender to make a run in the Class A tourney.

"The girls understand how serious it is," Carr said. "They really want to win a state championship and they're playing better and better each game."

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Old Redford denies Lady Trojans

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF

There are nights when your shot feels so good that the rim looks bigger than a Hula-hoop.

Friday was not one of those nights for the Livonia Clarenceville girls basketball team.

The cold-shooting Trojans found the net on just 11 of 54 shots in their 47-33 setback to Old Redford Preparatory Academy in a Class B district final played in the Clarenceville gymnasium.

"I don't think it was their defense as much as it was nerves," said first-year Clarenceville coach Katrina Vanover, when asked about her team's shooting woes. "We have a very young group of girls and I think it showed down the stretch tonight."

"We're a decent-shooting team, but tonight was one of our worst nights of the season."

The Trojans, who were riding high following Wednesday night's upset of district favorite Detroit Communication & Media Arts, fin-

ished 9-14.

Meanwhile, the Ravens improved to 17-4.

Clarenceville trailed just 22-21 with 2:30 left in the third quarter after sophomore guard Jodi Ankiel banked in a driving layup.

However, Old Redford countered with a 13-2 outburst over the ensuing three minutes to put the clamps on a district title.

"We missed too many easy layups," Vanover said. "We had a freshman and a sophomore go for 19 and 12 Wednesday night, and they only had four and two tonight. We're just young."

Senior guard Jade Gaines led the Ravens with 13 points. Gaines was huge during the pivotal stretch of the third quarter when she scored eight straight points.

Clarenceville seniors Jenna Burgess and Brittany Tallman wrapped up their high school careers by each scoring a game-high eight

points. Burgess also ripped down 19 rebounds.

"They've both brought this team a lot of leadership this year, both on the court and off," said Vanover of her seniors. "They've both averaged at least 15 points a game, so they've contributed a lot."

Ashley Murphy also hit the boards hard for the Trojans, hauling in 11 rebounds.

The Trojans, who made 11-of-21 free throws, committed 31 turnovers against the Ravens' aggressive full-court pressure.

Alexis Stripping scored 12 points for the winners, while Breiona Anderson tallied 10.

"To get to this point — the district championship game — in my first year here is a great accomplishment for the team," Vanover said. "It took a while for us to mesh. It happened late, which was good, and it got us this far. We have a lot of girls returning next year, so I think our future is bright."

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PCA clips Warriors in district final

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Scoring points in bunches, Plymouth Christian Academy clobbered Lutheran High Westland 58-36 Friday night, in a Class D girls basketball district final at Westland Huron Valley Lutheran.

The Eagles (17-4) rolled out to a 17-2 lead after one quarter and were up 21-9 at halftime.

Then, for good measure, they

blitzed the Warriors 22-5 in the third to for all intents and purposes decide the outcome.

"We came out early and played really well," said PCA coach Carol Gerulis, whose team won its third straight district crown. "We got a lot of stops defensively and we were getting control of the ball."

Sparkling the Eagles was Karen Windle, with 13 points and five steals. Also chipping in were Emily Gerulis and Jenny Malcolm (11 points, four

rebounds each). Jenna Abraham "played a great game" with seven points while Brianna Harris collected six points, five assists and four boards.

Lutheran Westland's Amanda Terranella led all scorers with 22 points. Aldreana Fikes added seven for the Warriors (4-17).

PCA's next test will be the Class D regionals Tuesday at Auburn Hills Oakland Christian against the winner of the Birmingham Roeper district.

BOWLING

FROM PAGE B1

while CC had a 152-188-810 set.

Meanwhile, Dakota spoiled Wayne's bid with a 1,396-1,263 semifinal triumph. The Cougars had a 160-211-1,025 set, while Wayne finished 204-162-897.

In the quarterfinals, Glenn advanced by beating Utica by a mere five pins, 1,266-1,261. The Rockets posted a 175-175-916 set, while Utica bowled a 222-162-877.

Wayne advanced with a 1,218-

1,090 win over Walled Lake Central.

The Zebras had Bakers of 177-139 to go along with a 902 regular game, while Central posted a 160-153-777 set.

In the 18-team qualifying block to determine the Elite Eight, just six pins separated the two area schools as Glenn and Wayne finished one-two with total counts of 3,544 and 3,538, respectively.

The qualifying block featured eight Baker and two regular games.

The Rockets recorded four 200-plus Baker games paced by a 247. They finished 945 and 1,046 in the two regular sets.

Wayne posted only one Baker over 200 with a 211, but led all teams in regular games with a 1,071 and 1,036.

New Baltimore Anchor Bay captured the Division 1 girls title over Taylor Kennedy.

Wayne missed the Elite Eight after finishing 13th in the qualifying block with a total of 2,878.

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Bulldogs' defense chews up Spartans

The Brighton boys basketball team completed the regular season last Tuesday night with a 58-44 victory over visiting Livonia Stevenson.

The Bulldogs, who were voted as an honorable mention in this week's state rankings, will take an 18-2 record into the Class A district tourney. "Our guys played great defense tonight," Brighton first-year coach Tony Sweet said. "We just clamped down on them. We played great defense and we're heading into the districts with an upbeat tone."

Brighton only hit seven shots from two-point range, but canned another seven from three-point range to build a lead. The Bulldogs also made 23-of-28 free throws.

Nick Schroeder led the way with 19 points and five rebounds, while Shane Dokey added 12 points.

Stevenson's star, 6-foot-8

KLAA BOYS HOOP

Jalen Reynolds who is heading to Xavier University next season, managed to score 24 points in the game, but fouled out in the end.

The Spartans end the regular season at 17-3 overall.

JOHN GLENN 49, KETTERING 34: On Wednesday, sophomore guard Nick Daniels scored a team-high 15 points as Westland John Glenn (12-8) defeated host Waterford Kettering (9-11) in a KLAAC crossover.

Daniels made five 3-pointers as the Rockets outscored the Captains in every quarter.

Christian Covile added 11 points, while Marcus Meeks and Kelly Maxwell each contributed six.

Bret Hoffman led Kettering with a game-high 19 points.

MOTT 38, CHURCHILL 35: Dayonte Daniels' 10 points lifted Waterford Mott (9-11) to a KLAAC crossover win Thursday at home over Livonia Churchill (2-18).

Matt Windle and Stephen Foster tallied nine and eight points, respec-

tively, for the Chargers. Churchill connected on just 15-of-49 shots from the floor (30.6 percent and committed 19 turnovers. The Chargers were also outrebounded 28-17.

Mott made just 4-of-12 free throws, while Churchill hit 3-of-6.

W.L. WESTERN 58, WAYNE 52: On Thursday, host Walled Lake Western (5-15) broke a 23-all halftime deadlock with a 19-7 third-quarter run to subdue visiting Wayne Memorial (3-17) in a KLAAC crossover.

Will Griffin and Blake Hunter scored 14 and 12, respectively, for the victorious Warriors.

Juniors Desmond Burleigh and Thomas White led the Zebras with 21 and 13 points, respectively.

Wayne was only 5-of-12 from the foul line.

LAKELAND 50, FRANKLIN 22: In a KLAAC crossover Thursday, host White Lake Lakeland (10-10) rolled past cold-shooting Livonia Franklin (5-15).

Ryan Zukowski paced the victorious Eagles with 10 points, while sophomore point-guard Jake Erme led Franklin with eight.

The Patriots couldn't recover from a 27-8 halftime deficit.



CVO boys hoop champs

The Livonia St. Genevieve boys basketball team (grades 7-8), recently captured their second straight Catholic Youth Organization division title with a 10-2 record. Members of the Jaguars include: Nolan Bradford, Mark Buisson, Troy Campbell, Drake Dunning, Luke Hebner, Jake Kubiak, Mitch Kubiak, Matt McNeff, John Magdowski, Brendan Tabone and Frankie Wells. The head coach is Greg Knoph. He was assisted by John Tillery and Sean Tabone.

C'ville boys squad up cage mark

Junior guard Damien Quarles scored 17 points as Livonia Clarenceville ended the regular season on a high note with a 61-57 boys basketball victory Thursday night at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

Sam Brown and DeOndre Hogan chipped in with 11 points apiece for the Trojans, who evened their overall record at 10-10.

Clarenceville led 27-24 at halftime before extending its lead to 50-41 after three quarters.

Steven and Sterling Morrow paced the Cranes with 25 and

15 points, respectively.

The Trojans made 13-of-21 foul shots, while Cranbrook connected on just 8-of-20.

OLD REDFORD 60, LUTH. WESTLAND 59: Senior guard Marc Rosin's game-high 24 points were not enough Thursday as host Lutheran High Westland (3-17) fell to Detroit Old Redford Academy in the regular season finale for both teams.

Rosin's three-pointer, a bank shot, with approximately six seconds left pulled the Warriors to within one, 60-59.

Lutheran Westland then fouled immediately and the Ravens missed a pair of free throws with four seconds to go.

"The ball got tipped around (on

the miss) and we never got a shot off," Lutheran Westland coach Doug Haller said. "The second quarter (outscored 21-10) killed us. We had too many turnovers."

DeAngelo Maylon and Lejaun Cameron led Old Redford with 14 and 11 points, respectively.

Old Redford was 16-of-27 from the foul stripe, while Lutheran Westland hit 10-of-14.

ROEPEP 44, HURON VALLEY 21: Durajaiye Lewis scored a game-high 21 points Thursday as host Birmingham Roeper (5-15) romped to a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference triumph over Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (6-13).

Garrett House added 11 for the victorious Roughriders.

Chargers roll in pre-regional, 8-0

It was all Livonia Churchill in Wednesday's MHSAA Division 1 pre-regional boys hockey game at the Dearborn Indoor Skating Center.

The Chargers improved to 14-10-2 overall with an 8-0 mercy-rule victory over host Dearborn Unified.

The win advanced Churchill to Saturday's regional championship final against Ann Arbor Pioneer (14-10-1) at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

Joe Williams' power play goal from Steve Klisz and Brad Milks ended the game with 2:20 remaining in the final period.

Ben Proben led the

Churchill goal scoring parade with a pair.

Klisz added one goal and two assists, while Jake Otto and Mike Kutek each contributed a goal and assist as Churchill enjoyed a wide advantage in shot (44-5).

Mike Rybinski and Riley Brown also tallied goals for the Chargers, who led 5-0 after one period and 7-0 after 30 minutes.

Netminder Alex Estes had to make just five saves as Churchill posted its third shutout in four games.

Dearborn Unified ended its season at 13-11-1 overall.

FARMINGTON 8, FRANKLIN 0: The

Falcons (22-3) waltzed through the pre-regional round of the Division 2 tourney with a mercy victory over host Livonia Franklin (8-14-4) at Edgar Arena.

The win advanced Farmington to the regional final Saturday night against Wyandotte Roosevelt at Trenton's Kennedy Arena.

In the win over Franklin, senior linemates Alex Schmitt and Nick Elliott each scored two goals and added two assists.

Junior Mike Munzo and seniors Ethan Baker, Austin Cole and Max Saranen accounted for the other goals.

Senior goaltender Tim Rogers had to stop just seven shots by the Patriots to earn the shutout in a game shortened to two periods because of the eight-goal mercy.

C'ville girls stop CMA; Rockets, Warriors win

Livonia Clarenceville has book a spot in the Class B district girls basketball final after disposing Detroit Communication & Media Arts on Wednesday night, 55-48.

The host Trojans, who improved to 8-14 overall, got a team-high 19 points from freshman center Ayanna Buckley. Sophomore forward Ashley Murphy contributed 12 as Clarenceville earned a spot in the finals Friday night at home to face Detroit Old Redford Academy.

Old Redford also advanced Wednesday with a 50-26 win over Highland Park.

Clarenceville led 21-20 at halftime before outscoring the Pharaohs 24-15 in the third quarter to take command.

Regina Young and Betatrice Kiel tallied 19 and 16, respectively, for Media Arts.

Clarenceville was 4-of-8 from the foul line, while CMA hit just 4-of-14.

DISTRICT HOOPS

JOHN GLENN 62, WAYNE 28: Three players scored in double figures Wednesday as Westland John Glenn (19-3) downed rival Wayne Memorial (3-18) for the third time this season in the Class A district semifinal at Romulus.

The Rockets got 14 points apiece from freshman point-guard Kaira Barnes and junior center Joslyn Massey.

Barnes also dished out five assists, while Massey grabbed a team-high eight rebounds.

Senior forward Michelle Vanover chipped in with 13 points as Glenn advances to play state-ranked Inkster in Friday's district final. (Game time is 7 p.m. at Romulus.)

Jaylyn Hammac scored 13 points to lead the Zebras, who trailed 17-10 after one quarter and 33-12 at halftime.

"Wayne played really scrappy and fourth to the end," Glenn coach Mark Anderson said. "They played tougher than the previous two game and they've made great improvement."

One statistic that Glenn needs

to improve upon is foul shooting. The Rockets made just 5-of-14 against Wayne.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 38, HURON VALLEY 22: In a Class D district semifinal Wednesday, junior center Amanda Terranella's 19 points and 12 rebounds carried Lutheran High Westland (4-16) past host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (1-14).

Aldreana Fikes also grabbed a game-high 21 rebounds, including 16 on the defensive end, to help the Warriors earn a spot in Friday's district championship game against Plymouth Christian Academy. (Game time is 7 p.m. at Huron Valley.)

Hannah Conley chipped in with six points for the Warriors, who overcame a 16-11 halftime deficit with a 15-4 third-quarter run.

"It's nice to get a win for the girls," Lutheran Westland first-year coach Sandi Wade said. "They have been working hard all season."

Katie Nell and Dayna Schroeder scored seven and six points, respectively, for Huron Valley.

The Hawks were 6-of-11 from the foul line, while Lutheran Westland made 6-of-12.

LADYWOOD

FROM PAGE B1

Stevenson trailed 15-11 after one quarter, but then had a mini-meltdown toward the end of the second and trailed by 12 at intermission, 33-21.

"We had a letdown with our press break — that's all we worked on the last couple of days knowing they (Ladywood) switch up the presses all the time," Knoph said. "We were breaking it with ease in the first quarter, but at the end of that second quarter — once that started happening — they all started being defeated, turning and chucking the ball. Not doing the things that we should do."

Ladywood then broke it wide open with a 22-5 third-quarter run.

"Our pressure finally got through," Coratti said. "Our kids did a great job of playing with a relentless passion. They wanted to win this game and it showed."

Senior forward Monika Rudis and junior guard Jordan York each tallied 10 points for the Spartans, who end their season at 14-9 overall.

"We're proud of the girls," Knoph said. "We told them after in the locker room going from seven wins last year to 14 and doing things we needed to do to get to the district championship is just a step in the right direction for the program and for next year."

"We're losing one starter — three seniors. We're proud of what they accomplished this year. We're hoping, with some work over the summer, it's one more step in that direction."

Meanwhile, the Blazers will have a couple of days to prepare for Tuesday's regional test.

"I like our chances," Coratti said. "Not a lot of people are going to expect us to go there and produce anything. I think we're pretty battle-tested and I like our chances of moving forward — I really do."

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL MHSAA DISTRICT DRAWS

CLASS A

at LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Monday, March 7: (A) Redford Thurston vs. (B) Garden City, 5:30 p.m.; (C) Livonia Franklin vs. (D) Livonia Churchill, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9: Redford Union vs. A-B winner, 5:30 p.m.; Livonia Stevenson vs. C-D winner, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 11: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Detroit Cass Tech regional Monday, March 14 vs. Cass Tech district champion.)

at TAYLOR TRUMAN

Monday, March 7: (A) Westland John Glenn vs. (B) Inkster, 5:30 p.m.; (C) Taylor Truman vs. (B) Belleville, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9: Romulus vs. A-B winner, 5:30 p.m.; Wayne Memorial vs. C-D winner, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 11: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Saline regional Monday, March 14 vs. Dearborn Heights Crestwood district champion.)

CLASS B

at LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Monday, March 7: (A) Detroit Communication & Media Arts vs. (B) Detroit Community, 6 p.m.; (C) Livonia Clarenceville vs. (D) Highland Park, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9: Detroit Old Redford Academy vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m.; Detroit Central vs. C-D winner, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 11: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the New Boston Huron regional Monday, March 14 vs. Roper district champion.)

CLASS D

at PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Monday, March 7: (A) Plymouth Christian Academy vs. (B) Lutheran High Westland, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9: Detroit Westside Christian Academy vs. Detroit Michigan Health Academy, 7:30 p.m.; Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. A-B winner, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 11: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the Birmingham Roeper regional Monday, March 14 vs. Roeper district champion.)

GIRLS BASKETBALL REGIONAL TOURNEY DRAWS

CLASS A

at WARREN FITZGERALD

Tuesday, March 8: Livonia Ladywood vs. Detroit King, 5:30 p.m.; Detroit Pershing vs. Warren Fitzgerald, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the state quarterfinals Tuesday, March 15 at the University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall vs. Warren Fitzgerald regional champion.)

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Lady Ocelots fend off OCC

COLLEGE HOOPS

The Schoolcraft College women's basketball team experienced a few anxious moments Friday before earning a 78-62 victory over Oakland Community College in the NJCAA Division II-District H semifinals at Flint Mott CC.

Oakland CC led 33-31 at halftime and 49-44 with 12:21 left in the game before Schoolcraft went on a 10-0 run to take a 54-49 lead.

Shawnicka Thomas and Diamond Tolliver each tallied points for the victorious Lady Ocelots.

Kimberly Bee added 16 points, 14 rebounds and five blocks, while Shanequa Bragg contributed 12 points and 11 boards.

Meagan Heiden led OCC (14-15) with 17 points. Amber Kingsley chipped in

with 13.

Schoolcraft shot 48 percent from the floor (30-of-62), but only 50 percent from the foul line (12-of-24). The Lady Ocelots held a 43-36 rebounding edge.

Schoolcraft, which improved to 28-3 overall, advanced to Saturday's District H final to face Eastern Conference nemesis Delta College (22-7) at Mott for the right to play in the NJCAA Nationals, March 13-15, in East Peoria, Ill.

Delta advanced with a 78-62 win over St. Clair County CC in the other semifinal.

Schoolcraft has won both meetings this season against Delta, 56-50 and 56-51.

Crusaders drop pair in desert

COLLEGE BASEBALL

The Madonna University baseball team dropped a pair of games Friday on its first day in the desert.

At the Russ Matt Greater Phoenix (Ariz.) Invitational, Malone University (Ohio) swept the Crusaders in the double-header, 3-2 (in 11 innings) and 2-0 at the Sneidgar Complex in Chandler.

In the opener, Malone scored the game-winning run in the top of the 11th to pin the loss on reliever Andy Omilian (0-2).

MU starter Jeremy Gooding, who did not get the decision, went eight strong

innings, allowing just one earned run on four hits. He struck out 11 and walked only two.

Malone used three pitchers with reliever Jesse Coblenz getting the victory.

T.J. Rosenberg went 2-for-5 to lead Malone, while Jeff Bultinck collected two hits for the Crusaders. Tim Duffy had the lone RBI for MU.

In the second game, Malone starter

Tyler Newhart pitched a six-hit shutout to beat the Crusaders. Newhart (1-0) struck out five and walked two in going all seven innings.

MU starter Tom Hansen (0-1) threw six effective innings, allowing just two runs (both unearned) on two hits. Travis Schuba finished up in relief.

Steve Pelletier (Farmington) went 2-for-3 to pace the Crusaders, who fell to 2-4 overall.

Anthony Cono had two hits for Malone (2-0).

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Hunter safety class

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer a hunter safety class (ages 10-and-up) from 5-9:30 p.m. Friday, March 18 and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at the Livonia

Senior Center, located at the corner of Five Mile and Farmington roads.

Space is limited and advance registration is required. You can sign up at the Parks and Recreation office inside the

Livonia Community Recreation Center at 15100 Hubbard.

The fee is \$10 and participants must attend both classes.

Any person born on or after Jan. 1, 1960 must receive this certification in order to obtain a

hunting license. Children ages 11-and-under must be accompanied by an adult. Topics that will be covered also include legal requirements and equipment use. (Bring a bag lunch.)

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DIRECT CARE STAFF Work with developmentally disabled adults. Canton. (734) 722-4580 x12

DRIVERS: TOW TRUCK Exp. 'd only. Various shifts. Contact Karen or Walter: 734-455-1130

INCOMING CALL CENTER REPS Needed in Livonia. Great Money. 734-252-9566

ROOFERS, SHINGLERS, LABORERS Must be experienced. Call: (734) 335-6791

LATHE HAND Full or Part-Time. 10 yrs. experience. Westland. Call: 734-326-6737

AUTO PAINTERS HELPER For Milford area shop. Some light body work. \$600-\$800 per week based on exp. Valid driver's license, clean record. Drug free. EOE 313-995-2519

APPOINTMENT SETTER Ideal for anyone who can't get out to work. Work from home PT schedule pick-ups for Purple Heart. Call 9-5, M-F 734-728-4572 or email: phoneworkinfo@aol.com

Crescent Academy/Southfield seeking Paraprofessionals & Bus Drivers/Aides. Drivers must meet bus requirements. Para's must have 60+ college credit hours. **Apply online at: mepservices.com**

GEN. - LABOR WILL TRAIN \$10-18/hr. Benefits! CALL 313.292.9300 Traffic Flagger Signal Person. Direct traffic & check signals! Emp-1 \$185 #6795, 110

Driver - Truck Driver For construction co. Experienced w/good driving record and Class A CDL license. Excellent pay & benefits. For job application email: villanova_jobs@yahoo.com

Landscape Co. needs: Qualified Employees. Prevailing Wages up to \$32/hr. on State and Federal Projects. **Crimboli Nursery, Inc.** 50145 Ford Rd, Canton 734-495-1700 Fax 734-495-1131

APARTMENT MAINTENANCE Full-Time needed for West Bloomfield property. Must have experience. Benefits, salary based on experience. Fax resume: 248-960-7656

Assistant Manager/Maintenance Supervisor Large apartment community in West Bloomfield is looking for an individual to live on site with a minimum of 5 years exp. in related fields. Good salary, benefits and housing. Fax resume: 248-960-7656

CHILD CARE DIRECTOR: Exp. req'd. \$34-\$50K. Monthly bonus. Excellent benefits. **TEACHERS WITH EXP- FT:** At Tutor Time Childcare in Plymouth, 734-420-2700 email judget@hotmail.com

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Help Wanted-General 5000

Full Charge Bookkeeper Long-term, Full-time. Min. 5 yrs Exp. QuickBooks, AP/AR, Full-Service Payroll Monthly-Quarterly reporting, Bank Rec's, General Ledger, Monthly P&Ls, Excel, Access, Phone Skills, Admin Exp. is req'd. Send Resume to: pcagents@comcast.net

MACHINE OPERATORS Experienced machine operators for manual Lathe, Bridgeport, O.D., I.D., grind. Benefits include health, vacation and retirement. **Apply in person at: Sibley Diamond Tool 32320 Ford Rd Garden City, MI 48135**

MAINTENANCE TECH Full-Time For Ypsilanti apartment community. Techs exp'd. in apartment community maintenance only need apply. **Please fax resume: (734) 483-6008**

SALES SUPPORT FT & PT DRIVER Sales Support incl training, admin & HR duties. Driver: Driver makes light local deliveries. Hours 10-2, M-F. **Apply online or in person: www.2millennium.com 33140 Industrial Rd. Livonia, MI**

SHIPPING ASSISTANT Exc driving record. Duties: Heavy lifting, wash/pack parts, banding crates, preparing shipments, loading & unloading, delivery/pick up, hi-lo. **Apply in person only: Lyon Mfg. 13017 Newburgh, Livonia**

Bakery Equipment Mechanic Trouble Shooting Abilities, Motor Control Wiring, Machine Repair, Welding, Plumbing, Gas Controls. Fax resume with salary requirements to: 734-762-0948

Drivers Attention CDL Drivers Our business is growing and we need Local CDL A drivers in the Detroit metro area. Minimum 1 1/2 yrs. exp. & good MVR. Good pay & benefits. **Call Today: 877-977-4287**

ESTIMATOR/PROJECT MANAGER Insurance reconstruction firm looking for experienced estimator/project manager who is professional, well organized, and proficient in Xactimate software. Must have reliable transportation. **Please fax resume to 248-477-1777**

Activities Director Small 55 bed facility is seeking a qualified part-time recreational therapist or activities professional that is licensed, registered or certified with the required credentials. Candidate must provide outstanding customer service. Resumes & cover letter accepted to hr@marycrestmanor.org

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CUSTOMER SERVICE/ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT Consumer products company seeks experienced, highly motivated & dependable person to process orders from major US retailers. Three years Customer Service experience required. MAS90 & EDI experience preferred. Sales experience beneficial. Salary commensurate with experience. **Please forward resume to: Customer Service Manager, PO Box 701394, Plymouth, MI 48170-0964**

Help Wanted-General 5000

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Excellent opportunity for an experienced litigator at a well-regarded Troy law firm, primarily in the area of probate litigation. Probate experience is a plus but not required.
Email resume to: spalmer@brmmaw.com or fax to: (248) 641-7073

Social Services & Activities Director Great Opportunity for the right person, in a 56 bed faith based, not-for-profit skilled nursing facility. MSW required. Candidate must have required credentials with exceptional customer service. Experience preferred - with Admission and Discharge process, MDS 3.0, Care planning, Regulations, etc. Resumes & cover letters accepted at hr@marycrestmanor.org

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Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

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Part-time shift available (8AM-12:30PM, Mon-Fri) at technical society in Farmington Hills (12 Mile/Haggerty). Must be dependable and have friendly, pleasant and professional demeanor. Some duties include answering multi-line phone system, data entry & clerical tasks. Good computer skills required.
Email resume and salary requirements to: Barb.cheyne@concrete.org

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST Exp'd. for medical office. Insurance billing preferred. Fax resume: 248-324-2444

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST Full-Time for medical office in Farmington Hills. Email resume: surgplast1@aol.com

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST 2 years exp. multi-tasker with BP and Allscripts computer. Rochester Hills, Mon-Fri, 30 hours. Resume with cover to: officeboss@wowway.com

QUALITY ASSURANCE RN 12-8:30pm. FT or PT & every other weekend for 32 bed Livonia nursing facility. dorene@woodhavenc.org or call: (734) 261-9000

FILE CLERK Part-Time Cardiology office in Farmington Hills. PT 11-5pm, 5 days. Fax resume to: 248-932-0973

MEDICAL ASSISTANT Part time for busy Livonia office. Must have exp. in x-ray, EKG and phlebotomy. Email resume to: careers@hometownlife.com Fax resume to: (734) 513-1623

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

MEDICAL SECRETARY Part-Time for busy doctor's office. Detail oriented, upbeat, punctual. Exp. preferred. Email to: employment.FSG@gmail.com

Medical Assistant & Medical Receptionist Needed for suburban pediatric practice. Experience preferred, team players. Fax resume: (248) 788-2346

OPHTHALMIC TECH/SCRIBE For busy practice in Birmingham with multiple physicians/locations. Great benefits, competitive wages. Fax resume: (248) 290-2760 conniec@oaklandeye.com

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

RESIDENT AIDS All shifts are available. CNA's are preferred. Contact Senior Home Care Solutions (734) 453-2600

CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE Busy chiropractic office looking for a positive, friendly, up-beat, multi-tasker willing to learn & be a team player. No experience needed, but would be helpful. Please call Lisa at: 734-525-8422 or fax resume to: 734-525-5421

When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer & Eccentric Classifieds! 1-800-579-7355

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

PHYSICIANS NEEDED FOR A HOUSE CALL PRACTICE Our physicians management company specializes in making house calls for geriatric patients in their homes. We are currently seeking full time and part time physicians to provide primary care to our patients in their homes. Each of our physicians travel with a certified medical assistant to assist in the patient visits. If you are interested, please forward your CV to: officemanager@senecacom.net

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

CENA'S West Bloomfield Nursing Center, a Beaumont Hospital affiliate, is now hiring CENA'S. Preference is given to full time PM and MN shifts. New starting wage with full benefits after 90 days. Positions usually fill rapidly so apply in person at 8445 W. Maple, West Bloomfield for your immediate interview or fax resume to Karen at: 248-661-2276

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080

LINE COOK W/ EXP Full or part time. Apply: Comparis 350 S Main, Plymouth. No calls.

COOK, Full & Part-Time with Pizza Exp. ALSO hiring WAIT STAFF. EXP'D ONLY Apply at: Starting Gate 135 N. Center St., Northville

Help Wanted- Food/Beverage 5080

Dietary Supervisor - Exp'd FT. Northville/Livonia area. This is a working position. Will cook, supervise staff, schedule & order supplies. Fax resume to 248-356-3509

BARTENDERS, WAIT STAFF, COOK & DISHWASHER Must have some exp. Benefits avail. Apply in person: Four Friends Bar & Grill 44282 Warren Rd., Canton 734-416-0880, btwn 9 & 11am

Help Wanted-Sales 6120

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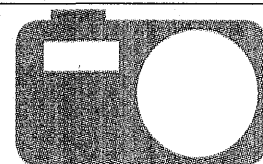


PHOTO GALLERIES

hometownlife.com

Mad for hats

History buffs dress up to sip tea at Historical Museum

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Betty Schuck wore the perfect hat to tea last weekend at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

"This is my tea hat," said the Westland woman, who had decorated the red chapeau's wide brim with play-sized cups, saucers and tea pot and stapled Red Rose tea bags to its crown. "You know when you were a kid and you put on your mother's high heels and purse and you'd stomp around? Well, it's the same feeling."

Schuck wasn't the only woman in the crowd playing "dress up" at the formal tea, one of several the museum plans this year.

Organizers of the "Mad Hatter Tea" on Sunday, Feb. 27, encouraged participants to wear their favorite, silly, or fashionable hats to the party, which included the museum's signature blend tea, sandwiches, scones and desserts, along with a presentation by Ohio-based historian Jana Sloan Broglin.

Schuck was among several members of the Red Hat Society Frills and Feathers



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Guest speaker Jana Broglin presents "Hookers, Crooks, and Kooks: Aunt Merle Didn't Run A Boarding House" during the Mad Hatter Tea at the Plymouth Historical Museum.

chapter who attended the event. Members 50 and older wear red and purple attire on outings and younger women wear lavender and pink. Everyone wears a hat.

Schuck had assembled her tea hat a few years ago for a Society convention but didn't have an opportunity to wear it again until last weekend.

Her daughter-in-law, Michelle Schuck of Brownstown Township, dusted off one of her convention purchases — a pink cowboy hat with a frothy ring of feathers on its brim — for the tea.

"I like to wear it because it gets a lot of attention and makes people smile. It's got a little of everything on it. That's why it's such a great hat," she said.

COMPLETE OUTFIT

Charlotte Austin of Novi, couldn't bear to wear her 1880s-style hat without the wardrobe to match. The former Plymouth resident was decked out in a floor-length 19th century-style dress, shawl, gloves and purse.

"I couldn't wear the shoes because I have a cast," said

Austin, who is a historical re-enactor. "I fell down the stairs."

Marie-Louise Capote of Plymouth also loves to wear the vintage clothing she collects. Her Mad Hatter creation combined a head-hugging cap of netting and flowers with some seasonal home decor.

"The nest on top is just part of my Easter stuff that I use to decorate the house," she explained the hat's avian motif. "It has little blue eggs in it and this is the blue bird of happiness. I have a bunch of these I use in the spring. I put



Emily Taupin pours tea for Lisbeth Nordstrom-Lerner (left) and Jean Knowles.



Michelle Schuck of Brownstown Township wears a cowboy-style hat decorated in a frothy ring of feathers.

them on bare branches on my front porch."

The tea gave Golda Walker of Plymouth a reason to model her collection of jeweled butterflies and bugs in public. She attached the dazzling pins to a pink hat and wore a pink

sweater to match.

"I'm glad there is an occasion where you can do it," she said. "Otherwise they just sit on the shelf. I know people enjoy looking at them."

Connie Fitzner, also

Please see HISTORY, B7

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Meet LaShawn: helping families understand the paperwork necessary to pay for nursing care

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

Meet LaShawn Grose, Business Office Manager at Four Seasons Rehabilitation and Nursing. It's LaShawn's job to help patients receive coverage for long-term care, as well as short-term rehabilitation, with as little out-of-pocket expense as possible. She's a wealth of information when it comes to Medicare, Medicaid, and private and supplemental insurance. Although she prefers that families make an appointment, her door is always open to answer questions about paying for their loved one's care.

"They need to know if insurances cover a nursing facility, and what it will cover," said LaShawn Grose. "I go over it with them."

Few families are aware that Medicare only pays for the first 20 days at 100 percent, then co-pay per day for days 21 to 100. Depending on whether a patient has supplemental insurance, out-of-pocket expenses could be zero. If there is no secondary coverage, LaShawn encourages the patient to apply for Medicaid. LaShawn recommends to families and residents to read the Medicare Handbook.

"It is confusing to residents and families," said LaShawn. "I spend a lot of time with them. It's a lot to sink in when it's your first time placing a loved one."

LaShawn assists with all of the paperwork, easing the burden on families and patients.

"It has to be done in a timely fashion or they could miss out on some coverage," said LaShawn.

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GARDEN AND NATURE

Send garden information and photos to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

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

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.
 • Learn the basics of composting and how to recycle rain water with a rain barrel at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 26.
 • Store experts will show what to prune and when to prune trees and shrubs at a free presentation 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 30.
 • Learn the basics of starting a garden free presentation, "Gardening 101" 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 6 and 1 p.m. Saturday, April 9.
 • Planting a Raised Vegetable Garden will give you advice to get started growing your own vegetables. The free presentation is at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 13 and 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16.
 Registration is required for the fresh flower arranging workshop and kitchen herb session.
 Local English Gardens stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, at Maple, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506.

AGING WITH GRACE SERIES CONTINUES

Botsford Commons Senior Community is hosting a monthly lecture series full of information to help all seniors age with grace. The free series hosted by Diane Zide, Botsford Commons' executive director of Senior Living Services, runs the third Tuesday of the month from 7-8 p.m. at the Farmington Hills campus. The series continues on March 15, and is based on the book *BrainFit for Life: A User's Guide to Life-Long Brain Health and Fitness*, by Simon J. Evans, PhD. and Paul R. Burghardt, PhD. Discussions for this book will take place from March through June. Evans will be present at the March 15 session and both authors will appear throughout

the series. Reviewing the book prior to the series would be helpful for attendees. Discussion topics include: how aging can be a time of promise and productivity; optimizing and maintaining intellectual and spiritual vigor; how faith and community, purposeful work and service, healthy eating and exercise. The lecture series is free of charge and will be 7-8 p.m. in the Botsford Commons Chapel, located at 21440 Archwood Circle in Farmington Hills. The facility is located between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake, north of Eight Mile, south of M-5 and Grand River. For more information, call (248) 426-6902.

REUNION CALENDAR

- Belleville High School Class of 1971**
 Planning 40th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail BHS.1971@yahoo.com. If on Facebook join the group by searching BHS reunion 1971 40th sign up site; also on CLASSMATES/REUNIONS.
- Dearborn Fordson Class of 1971**
 The 40th reunion is planned for Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Tickets are on sale now for \$52 per person for dinner and open bar. Send a check payable to Fordson '71 Reunion to 16124 Golfview, Livonia, MI 48154. For more information go to Facebook, Classmates.com or the Web page at Fordson71Reunion.com.
- Dearborn Heights Robichaud Class of 1961**
 50th class reunion Sept. 24, 2011 at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course. All classes are welcome as Robichaud High School also celebrates its 50th anniversary. Contact Bill Haskin at billsmustangs@msn.com; (734)595-4927 or Nancy at woloni@aol.com; (248) 529-6461.
- Detroit Cody Class of 1961**
 50th reunion Aug. 27, 2011, at Hellenic Banquet Center, Westland. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail codycomet61@gmail.com. Or call Connie Callear Majeske at (734) 425-7094 or Bernie Lekki Grudzien at (734) 522-3167.
- Detroit Mackenzie June Class of 1961**
 50th reunion will be Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011. For more information e-mail lvanerian@msn.com or phone Joanne (Poloway) Glance at (734) 878-6543.
- Class of 1962**
 Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.
- Ladywood High School Class of 1961**
 Planning a 50th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail sandymacg@aol.com or call Sandy Phillips O'Leary (734) 453-0783 and leave a message if voice mail picks up.
- Livonia Bentley Class of 1961**
 Holding a 50th class reunion Sept. 16-17. To register, call Donald Bruner, (734) 524-0979 or e-mail dbruner@twmi.rr.com.
- Livonia Franklin Class of 1961**
 45th high school reunion, Oct. 7-9. Contact Larry Ruzsas at lruzsas-187264mi@comcast.net or Diane Kujath-Pishalski at dianepishalski@bex.net.
- Rosary High School Class of 1966**
 Planning 45th reunion in July of 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail Pam at Taffitoo@aol.com

Orthodox churches offer Sunday Vespers for Lent

The Very Rev. Roman Star, pastor of St. Innocent of Irkutsk Orthodox Church, Redford, will preside at the first of five Sunday Vespers presented by the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches. The first service will start at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 13 at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, 11455 Metropolitan Parkway, Sterling Heights. Fr. Star is president of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of St. John Chrysostom of Metropolitan Detroit, and spiritual advisor to the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches. Other members of the clergy will assist him at the service. The Rev. Nicholas Pathenos, presiding priest at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Bloomfield Hills, will give the homily and the Orthodox Choir of Metropolitan Detroit, conducted by Vickie Kopistiansky, artistic director, will sing during the service.



The Very Rev. Roman Star, pastor of St. Innocent of Irkutsk Orthodox Church, Redford, will preside at the first of five Sunday Vespers.

Lenten Vespers is open to the general public, as well as Orthodox Christians. Refreshments will be served afterward and all proceeds will be used for Orthodox Christian charities and the Council's programs. Robert A. Mitchell, Council of Orthodox Christian Churches president, said Vespers is an evening service that does not include communion. "It's not the same as Mass because no communion would be served, but it's a service that generally is dedicated to the saint that would be observed the next day," he said.

The first service coincides with the Sunday of Orthodoxy and includes a procession of icons. "It celebrates when icons were decreed to be lawful and okay for all the churches to use, because there was a long period of time when they were considered idolatry. At that service everyone has an icon. They

go around the church with a grand procession of icons," Mitchell said. "It is a wonderful service to come to because priests do litanies in different languages ... one in Russian, another in Greek, Serbian. It is quite nice and it's the first time in years we're celebrating at a Greek Orthodox church."

The remaining four services this year will be March 20 at the Antiochian Orthodox

Basilica of St. Mary, 18100 Merriman, Livonia, (734) 422-0010; March 27 at St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral Ravanica, 4575 East Outer Dr., Detroit, (313) 893-6025; April 3, at St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, 26355 West Chicago Road, Redford, (313) 937-2120; and April 10 at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 20484 Anglin, Detroit, (313) 366-0677.

The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches is a 54-year-old clergy and lay association that represents various canonical Orthodox churches in metropolitan Detroit and sponsors a variety of worship, fellowship, and charitable, educational and outreach programs. Visit its Web site at www.coccdetroit.com. Or e-mail Mitchell at rmitc02@ameritech.net.

-By Sharon Dargay

Take a girl's night out at the zoo, have fun

Girls ages 5 and older and their female chaperones 18 and older can celebrate Women's History Month with an overnight stay, from 7 p.m. Friday, March 11 to 10 a.m. Saturday, March 12, at the Detroit Zoo.

The adventure at the Ford Education Center will include a late-night tour of the Zoo, keeper talks, craft project, marshmallow roast, movie and breakfast at an animal habitat. Guests will also meet some of the dedicated women who work at the Zoo, including members of the animal care staff. The cost for "Girls' Night Out" is \$50 per person.

"This overnight event is a wonderful opportunity for fun, facts, fellowship and a shared awareness of the role of women in history, especially relative to conservation and animal welfare," stated Irma J. Hamilton, director of education for the Detroit Zoological Society. The theme of Women's History Month 2011 is "Our History is Our Strength."

For more information or to register, call (248) 541-5717, Ext. 3800, or e-mail education@detroitzoo.org.

The Detroit Zoo is located at 10 Mile (1-696 service drive) and Woodward in Royal Oak.

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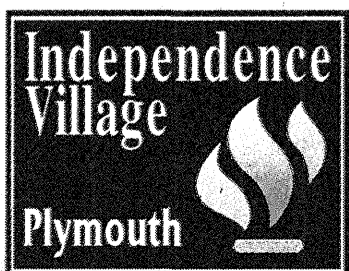
NOT TAKING MEDICATION
 When a patient does not take a medication as prescribed by the doctor, the doctor labels that patient as "non-compliant." Non-compliance in the treatment of gout with allopurinol illustrates the problems for both patient and doctor when a patient decides to stop a medication. The role of allopurinol is to prevent a buildup of uric acid in the blood as a high uric acid is the cause of gout. Keep in mind that an attack of gout comes on suddenly with intense pain that prevents the person from moving without great distress. Work, sleep, leisure all come to a halt until medicine resolves the pain. Taking allopurinol daily prevents an attack of gout with its attendant effects. However, for the medicine to work, the person needs to take allopurinol every day. If one stops the drug, the uric acid level rises and inevitably an acute attack of gout occurs.
 What too often happens is that after six or nine months on the medication, and no joint pain disturbs the person's life, the individual, believing he has overcome the problem, stops taking the drug.
 An attack of gout will not occur the next day, but the attack will come. The patient will experience undue pain and be incapacitated and the physician will have to start the process all over again of stopping the acute attack and weaning the patient back to allopurinol.
 Often patients have good reason to stop a medication: cost, side effects or allergic reactions. But the patient should inform the doctor immediately to allow a therapeutic substitution or prevent a rebound of illness from too rapid a discontinuation.

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DOGS OF THE WEEK

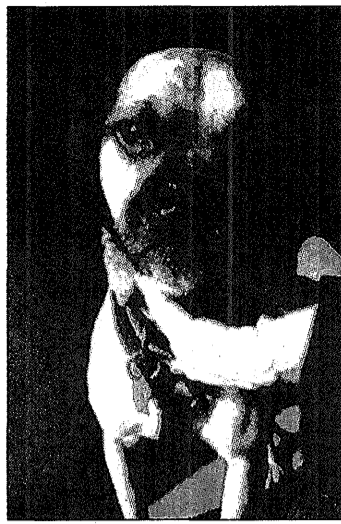
Oliver and Astro are the featured, adoptable dogs from Guardian Angel Animal Rescue (GAAR) this week. Here's what Sandy Mezza, president of the Westland-based group says about them:

Oliver (Ollie), a 1½-year-old pugle was surrendered to Guardian Angel Animal Rescue because his owner's health issues make it difficult to keep up with his high energy level. Ollie is a sweet dog, neutered and up-to-date on his vaccines.

Astro was left to die after a family chained him to a tree and moved out of the home. He is a very loving and sweet boy. Very well behaved and gets along with other dogs. Astro will make a wonderful addition to any family.

If you're interested in meeting Oliver or Astro, visit www.gaarmichigan.org, call its hotline at (734) 516-2171 or e-mail to info@gaarmichigan.org

The organization also shows adoptable animals from 1-4 p.m. every Saturday at PetSmart in Commerce Township.



Oliver is a sweet-natured pugle.



Astro's family left him chained to a tree. The sweet dog is ready for a loving home.



BILL BRÉSLEK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wylie Rundell of Royal Oak sports a spring hat.

Get pets vaccinated, meet a Greyhound

ANNUAL SHOTS

Tail Wagger's 1990 kicks off its series of low-cost vaccination clinics from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 6 at Sheehy Animal Hospital 18790 Middlebelt, in Livonia.

Distemper and rabies shots for both dogs and cats will cost \$12 each. Dog owners can add Bordetella — for those that frequent dog parks, attend day care or are boarded — and receive the package rate of \$30.

Laura Zain, Tail Wagger's 1990 founder hopes individuals will "take advantage of the Low Cost Vaccination Clinics and get their pets properly vaccinated to avoid further health issues."

"This year, Plymouth, Rochester and Ann Arbor have joined our list of communities which shows there is a need and demand to get animals vaccinated in an affordable manner."



PET PROJECTS

Another local clinic will run 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 26 at Wags to Wiskers, 44707 Five Mile, at Sheldon, in Plymouth.

No appointment is needed but an RSVP will help Zain plan. Pets will be taken on a first-come first-served basis and a minimal wait time is expected. To RSVP call (734) 560-4660 or e-mail vaccinationclinic@yahoo.com.

MEET AND GREET

Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption will have representatives on hand with dogs from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, March 6, at Canton PetCo, 43435 Ford Road, Canton.

The group also will show adoptable dogs from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 13 at Celebrity Pets in Laurel Park Place, 37700 W. Six Mile, Livonia.

For more information visit www.greyheart.org

WADDLING AWAY

Planning to attend this year's annual Great American Basset Waddle for Rescue on May 15? Better gas up and pack a lunch.

The 18th annual parade of hounds will move from Woodward Avenue in Birmingham to Canterbury Village in Lake Orion. It raises funds for Michigan

Basset Rescue, a non-profit organization that has rescued nearly 3,000 homeless Basset Hounds since 1993.

The event that started with 12 hounds waddling up Woodward Avenue grew to 400 dogs last year. Michigan Basset Rescue expects more than 500 short-legged, long-eared, vertically-challenged, drooly hounds to strut their stuff in support of their less fortunate doggy brothers and sisters this year. Bassets, many of them having been rescued themselves, will converge on Lake Orion from 45 states, six Canadian provinces and Ireland. After the parade, the pooches will "hang out" in the park at Canterbury Village. For more information on the parade and its new home, visit www.michiganbassetrescue.org or call (248) 623-1698.

HISTORY

FROM PAGE B5

known as "the button lady" of Plymouth because of her association with an antique button society, tried to affix buttons, flags and daisies to the top hat she found in her basement.

"I kept trying and they kept falling off."

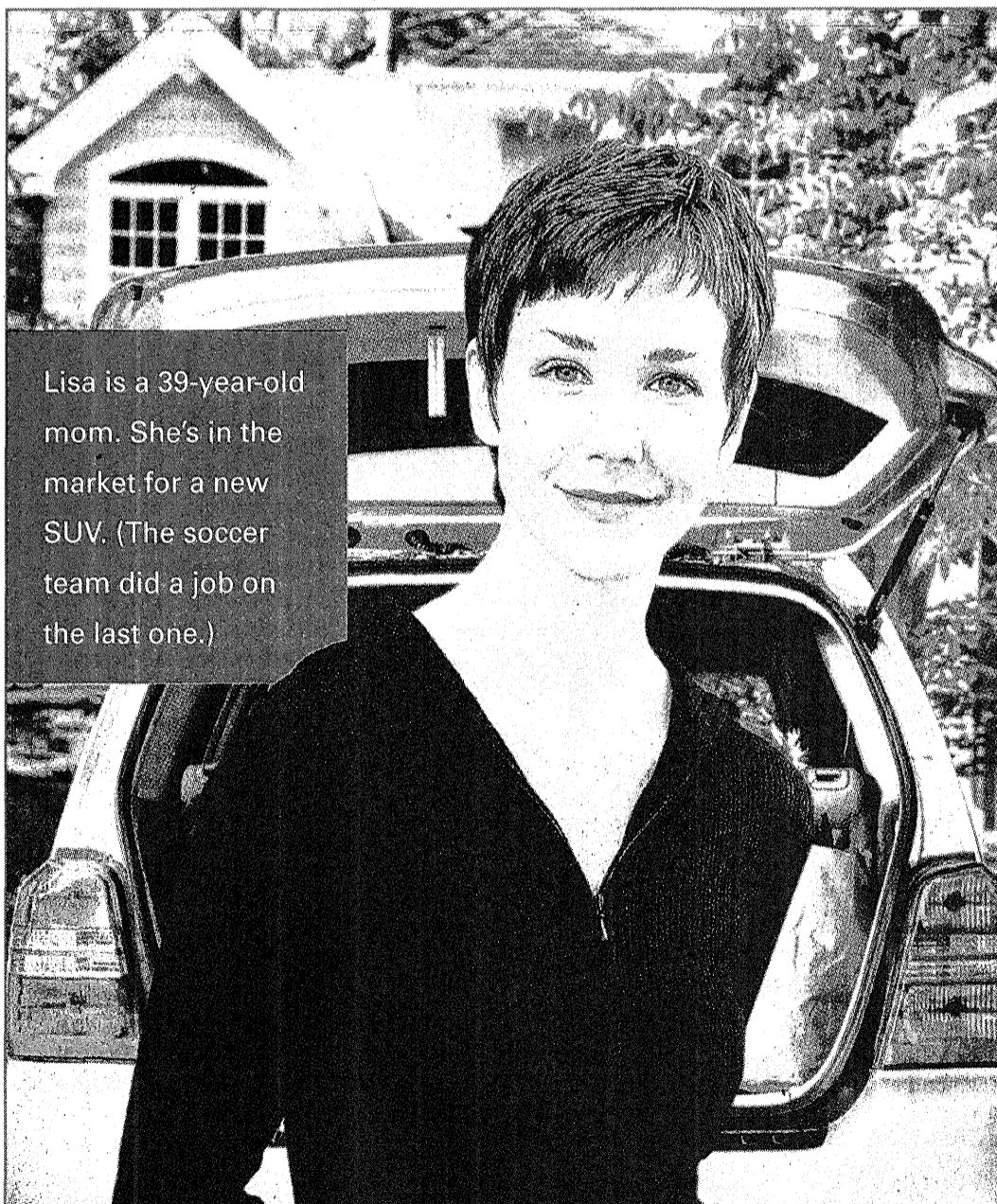
She eventually tied fake flowers to wire on the hat and added curly ribbon in a rainbow of colors that cascaded

down her back.

"I bet I had that hat for 20 years," Fitzner said. "My family said why don't you get rid of it? You know how you collect stuff? But I kept it. I must have kept it for today."

The museum's next tea is a "Faerie Garden" affair from 2-4 p.m. May 1. The guest speaker will explain how to create a faerie garden. Tickets are \$25 for non-members and \$20 for Plymouth Historical Society member by April 20. Add \$5 to the price after that date. (734) 455-8940.

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section



Lisa is a 39-year-old mom. She's in the market for a new SUV. (The soccer team did a job on the last one.)

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New Event!

Livonia Home Improvement Show

Saturday, March 26, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Churchill High School
Admission is FREE!

Come and get great ideas for improving your home!

This show will feature a collection of carpenters, electricians, concrete specialists, roofers, landscape designers, and other home improvement experts.

Plus, students from the Livonia Career and Tech Center will provide do-it-yourself project tips.

A few booth spaces remain. For details call the Livonia Chamber, 734.427.2122

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HEALTH

Sunday, March 6, 2011

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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Evening funds research advances in pediatric cancer

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Thirty years ago a group of parents vowed to do everything possible to prevent another family from losing a child to pediatric cancer. They met in the waiting room as their sons and daughters received treatment at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit. Their goal was to find a cure for all pediatric cancers.

Thirty years ago childhood leukemia was nearly always a death sentence with only about a 30-percent survival rate. Today, because of advances in treatment there is a 75- to 80-percent cure rate after five years.

The work continues as founding parents like Mary Ellen Klein continue to raise money for pediatric cancer research at Children's Hospital of Michigan through the nonprofit Leukemia, Research, Life, Inc., (LRL). On Saturday, March 12, they will present an Evening of Hope at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

LEUKEMIA DIAGNOSIS

Danny Klein was only 2 1/2 years old when Mary Ellen noticed the pea size bruises on his body and took him to the pediatrician. By Monday the toddler was running a low-grade fever. He was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) Dec. 10, 1979.

"It was an incredible shock," said Klein who works in Plymouth. "LRL was started 1 1/2 years later by par-



Sarah Lemieux with her big brother, Danny Klein, on the front porch. Taken around 1984-85. Sarah is married to Dan. They have two children - Alyne and Michael Daniel.

ents who were waiting for their children who were getting chemo and blood tests. Danny was on methotrexate and we were asked to fill out a questionnaire. They were doing a study that was cancelled because (President Ronald) Reagan cut funding. We said, 'we need to raise money to help our children.'

Parents formed LRL in September 1981 and started selling T-shirts and candy. That first year they raised \$30,000 to pay for a research physician's salary.

Mary Ellen and Mike Klein sought a bone marrow transplant for Danny in Seattle, Wash., in 1984 because the treatment wasn't available in Michigan at that time. He died in May 1985 before his eighth birthday. "My prayer is that no parent ever has to feel this pain," said Klein.

Sarah Lemieux was 6 years old when her brother died. She still misses him today and echoes her mother's prayer.

"Danny was just always sick," said Lemieux, a Plymouth resident. "At the time it was all I knew, the normal thing, my older brother always in the hospital. It wasn't until after he died I was profoundly affected. He was my best friend. It's still hard. I always wonder what our lives would have been like if he lived."

The Kleins took their children to LRL fundraisers and sent them to Special Days Camp for children living with cancer and their siblings. It was through the camp in Brighton that Lemieux met her future husband, Dan. His sister is a leukemia survivor.

NEED TO UNDERSTAND

"Mom and dad felt it was important for us to understand," said Lemieux, now teen camp coordinator for Special Days. "We've always been taught it was important to give back

and find a cure."

Lynn Pischke has childhood cancer on both sides of her family. As LRL executive director she's dedicated to finding a cure. In the last 30 years, the nonprofit has raised nearly \$4 million for childhood cancer research at Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Pischke became involved with LRL in her 20s. She was 18 when Danny died. Mary Ellen Klein is her father's cousin.

"Being so closely exposed to the disease and having attended so many funerals and memorial services, I have pediatric cancer very much in the forefront of my mind," said Pischke of Canton. "Being the largest contributor of cancer research dollars for Children's Hospital, we've funded everything from grassroots research to new treatment protocols and drug therapies for children battling the disease. At one time, bone marrow transplants were something new. Mary Ellen's son was one of 20 kids to receive a bone marrow transplant in the country. Back then children used to spend three months in a plastic bubble and couldn't go to school. The advances come from research 100 percent."

RAISING FUNDS

LRL started with small fundraisers like bake sales and evolved to major benefits like the Evening of Hope. This year in addition to the dinner auction, LRL is honoring nurses who care for the children.

"They're kind of unsung heroes,"

said Pischke. "They're delivering the care not just to the kids, but the moms and dads, grandparents. Treatments can be very traumatic for the family."

Thirty years have passed and parents, family and friends are as determined today to find a cure through LRL. They meet the second Monday of the month at Children's Hospital and are always looking for volunteers.

"They don't have to volunteer hours of time," said Pischke. "It can be something very small, holding a jeans' day at work. Every little bit helps. We're always looking for new ideas or for people to just get on our mailing list. We'd love to have people's input."

HOW TO HELP

A good place to start helping is with the March 12 fundraiser. The gala takes place from 7 p.m. to midnight at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia. Tickets are \$85, and available by calling Pischke at (734) 309-0908 or visiting www.lrlinc.org.

Auction items include two tickets to the Detroit Tigers opening day at Comerica Park, a one-hour flight tour over city of Detroit, golf and dinner packages, and jewelry.

"Our goal is within our children's lifetime that all children's cancer will be preventable," said Pischke. "That's the future of the genetics research behind this, to find out precursors of childhood cancer."

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

MARCH

Training classes

The American Red Cross is offering nurse assistant, home health aide and patient care tech training classes at multiple classroom sites including 20319 Middlebelt, Livonia. For more information, as well as class dates and times, call the American Red Cross at (313) 576-4130 or (313) 576-4120.

St. Mary Mercy

St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers these programs in March:

- Donate blood from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 17 in the auditorium. The hospital's 2011 blood drive theme is "Be an All Star and Donate Blood." Five blood drives will be held over the year. March's theme is, "College Basketball." Donors will receive a basketball-themed digital clock. To schedule an appointment call (800) GIVE-LIFE or visit redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

- 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.

APRIL

Bariatric surgery

The Michigan Bariatric Institute presents an educational seminar 6-8 p.m., Thursday, 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.

Blood donations needed for the Red Cross

The American Red Cross urgently needs to bolster blood supplies and is asking

eligible donors to roll up their sleeves and donate.

In late January the organization issued a national appeal after winter storms caused a drop in blood donations in much of the country. In south-

eastern Michigan alone between December 2010

and January severe winter weather was responsible for 2,500 missed opportunities to collect blood.

Patients at 43 hospitals in southeastern Michigan are

counting on volunteer blood donations to help them through serious illnesses, accidents and surgeries.

Donors can make an appointment by calling (800) RED CROSS or by visiting redcrossblood.org.

Peyronie's Disease

Peyronie's Disease is characterized by the presence of hardened scar tissue that can be felt just beneath the skin of the penis. It can cause pain as well as a curvature that can make intercourse difficult.

Many physicians believe that trauma is the largest cause of Peyronie's Disease, which affects some 3 percent of males between the ages of 30 and 80.

Treatment can be divided into two categories: invasive and non-invasive. Invasive treatment could include injections of corticosteroids, verapamil, or interferon directly into the scar tissue, or surgery. Surgery is usually performed as a last resort due to post-surgical complications.

Non-invasive treatments include oral medications such as vitamin E, colchicine or a twice-daily application of verapamil topical compound.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call...

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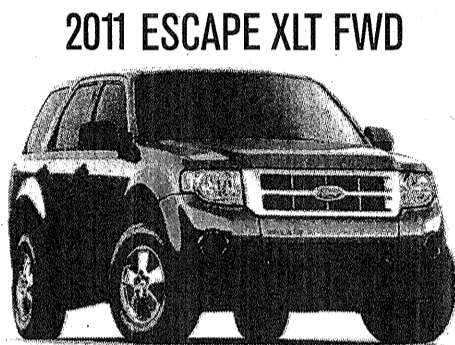
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