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SUNDAY

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## IN BRIEF

### Bee-ry good

Ben Biber of Westland came within one letter of representing the Wayne-Westland Community Schools at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

A sixth-grader at Marshall Upper Elementary School, Biber was one letter shy of correctly spelling velocipede to win the regional competition held in Detroit last month.

According to Aaron Baughman, the district's director of professional development, Ben twice had the chance to snatch the victory from Siddharth Varanasi, a seventh-grader from the Canton Charter Academy, who won his second consecutive regional bee and return visit to D.C. by correctly spelling the word pachinko.

"I'm very impressed with Ben," said Baughman in a presentation before the Wayne-Westland school board last week. "He fought hard and in the Detroit competition he was stellar."

Ben and the middle school spelling bee winner Sydney Watson of Franklin Middle School were honored as the district champions. Retired school administrator Earle Chorbajian who started the district spelling bee more than 30 years ago was on hand to present a plaque to Ben. A fixture at the annual bees, Chorbajian for this first time missed this year's event due to an illness.

"I'm really honored to be here to present this plaque to you," he told Ben. "From what I hear, you did a terrific, terrific job. Your teacher along with your parents are doing a good job. Congratulations on stressing language skills."

"There was a lot of foreign language words," said board Trustee Carol Middle, who attended the regional bee. "I commend the students. They were difficult words and they did an excellent job."

Baughman is excited about Ben's prospects. He has two more years to compete in the district's spelling bees.

### Toddler workouts

High Velocity Sports is offering a creative motor development and basketball programs for toddlers ages 2-4, beginning this week at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road, Westland.

High Velocity Sports introduces youngsters to sports like soccer, basketball and floor hockey along with creative movement and locomotors - jumping, skipping, hopping and galloping. There are two sessions - 10-10:40 a.m. for Bambinos (ages 2-3) and 10:50-11:30 a.m. Jumping Beans (ages 3-4) - on Wednesdays, March 23 through April 27.

High Velocity Sports Ballers Rookie class will introduce youngsters ages 3-4 to basketball and motor development. Kids will learn how to dribble and shoot as well as basic basketball concepts. Equipment is provided, but the class requires parental participation. The class will be offered 10-10:40 a.m. Mondays, March 21 through April 25.

The cost of both programs is \$48 for residents and \$53 for nonresidents. Register at the Bailey Center or call (734) 722-7620.

# Monit won't campaign as write-in

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Five weeks after finding out that he lacked the required number of signatures to run for a fifth term on the Wayne-Westland school board, Skip Monit has made a decision: He will not seek re-election as a write-in candidate. "It is with heavy heart and with much trepidation that I have decided to withdraw from this election," he announced at the board's monthly meeting last

week. "I feel it would be negligent on my part to accept funds and waste my supporters' time when I consider my prospects to succeed quite a difficult challenge."

The current school board president, Monit was disqualified after submitting nominating petitions containing too few signatures of registered voters in the district. State law requires a minimum of 40 signatures in school districts with populations of 10,000 or more.

Monit had turned in petitions con-

taining 29 signatures, 11 short of the 40 that was required, after being told by the Wayne City Clerk's Office that the required number was 25. The discrepancy wasn't discovered until after the filing deadline for the May 3 school election, precluding him from gathering more signatures.

Last month, Wayne City Clerk Matthew Miller acknowledged that nothing in the information given candidates indicated what was needed and that the requirement of 25 signatures

comes from the Wayne City Charter. That is the number needed to run for the City Council. However, he declined to comment on how the wrong information was given out.

Monit, in announcing his decision, thanked residents who were concerned about his situation and those who urged him to run as a write-in candidate, noting that "it takes an event like this to bring out those who truly appreciate

Please see **MONIT, A2**

## Going green



The smile on Elissa Sudorowski's face says it all. The Westland resident is the proud owner of one of the first production models of the electric Chevrolet Volt.

## Westland resident among first motorists to buy the Volt

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For most people, buying a car without having a chance to kick the tires and take it for a test drive would be unthinkable.

An interest in using less gasoline outweighed those issues for Elissa Sudorowski, who took that leap of faith, ordering a new electric Chevrolet Volt. Earlier this month, the Westland resident took delivery on one of the first models available locally.

"Oh, my God, I'm so excited I don't know what to do with

myself. I've been waiting for it since it was a concept car," said Sudorowski. "I've been saving for it for three years. I saw it three years ago at the (Detroit International) auto show."

After placing her order for the Volt, Sudorowski got to go see the car again at the 2011 auto show.

"That was the first time I got to see the car that I ordered, I still didn't get to drive it," she said. "The first time I got to drive it was when the car came in. They called me at work and I got off early so I could run down there. I got to try it out. It's so smooth, it's

amazing."

Driving older model cars like a Chevy Beretta and Pontiac Grand Prix in recent years to avoid a car payment and help save for the Volt, Sudorowski said she was afraid she might have to buy an interim vehicle due to car problems and the long wait for the electric model.

### 'COULDN'T BELIEVE IT'

Sudorowski happened to call Mark Chevrolet in Wayne, where she had bought cars in the past,

Please see **VOLT, A2**

## Contestants sought for summer pageant

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

At this time of year, the Fourth of July may seem like a summer dream but plans are well under way for the annual Westland Summer Festival, including the Miss Westland Festival Pageant.

"There are a lot of things ready to go, some other things we're waiting for answers. We've been working on this since last October," said Ken Mehl, who chairs the Westland Summer Festival Committee.

The festival will be held June 30 through July 4, culminating with the July 4 fireworks display over Central City Park.

Pageant contestants have to plan ahead - applications are due Monday, May 2. The pageant, which awards scholarship money to the winner and two runners-up, is open to female Westland residents age 16-22 who have never been married. Judging is based on responses to questions on the application, poise, personality, an essay and general appearance - there is no swimsuit or talent competition.

Applications are available at Westland John Glenn, Wayne Memorial, Livonia Franklin and Churchill and Lutheran West high schools and Westland's Bailey Recreation Center. The judging will be held Saturday, June 25, at the Friendship Center when contestants are required to appear in formal attire.

As in past years, the festival will feature carnival rides, midway and food booths set up in the parking lot between City Hall and the police station. Entertainment is scheduled nightly along with children's events and other attractions, such as exotic animals. There will be health screenings along with a child identification program sponsored by Wayne Masonic Lodge No. 112.

New this year, there will be a Walk for Alzheimer's fundraiser set for the morning of Saturday, July 2.

The self-funded festival offers business sponsorships ranging from \$250 to \$3,000 that help support the event and provide a promotional opportunity for businesses.

For more information on sponsorships, contact Mehl at (734) 335-7943.

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

## Ficano nominates Fausone for water board seat

Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano has nominated Westland City Attorney James G. Fausone for appointment to the Detroit Water and Sewage Board of Commissioners.

"Jim brings the skills, qualities and leadership needed to continue the progression already accomplished," Ficano stated. "His high regard as a consensus builder throughout the community, accompanied with his strong analytical and communications skills, will serve as critical attributes to the team in place."



Fausone

According to Ficano, Fausone, a Canton resident, is highly respected in the legal profession and his commitment to public service is demonstrated through participation on a number of boards and service organizations. Fausone adds decades of engineering and environmental expertise to the regional authority, and will be an advocate for transparent, accountable governance, upholding his duty to act in the best interest of the region's constituents.

"I am honored to be nominated by the Wayne County Executive for the Board of Water Commissioners, as these are challenging times

Please see **FAUSONE, A2**



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**VOLT**

FROM PAGE A1

and talked to a saleswoman who told her that neither of the two Volts allocated to the dealership had been sold.

"I went right there with a \$1,000 deposit. I couldn't believe it," said Sudorowski, a nurse at Children's Hospital in Detroit. "We had some issues and savings were used up but the money came through."

After applying a \$7,500 federal tax credit, Sudorowski said the Volt cost about \$36,000.

"I thought that I'm paying for technology. I'll be able to make it to work and back each day without using any gas," she said. "That's my first thing — less gas usage. It's not even so much the money — to reduce gasoline consumption is a good, good thing. It uses renewable energy."

**INTEREST IN GREEN**

Sudorowski has been interested in being green for years, recalling being a youngster volunteering at a recycling center separating materials.

"I'm in my heyday with the curbside recycling (in Westland)," she said.

With husband Chris driving a hybrid Ford Fusion, Sudorowski said it was also important for her to buy an American car.

"I'm definitely an American and buy American all the way. I come from an auto family," she said.

The Volt can be charged at



A chance phone call to Mark Chevrolet in Wayne hooked up Elissa Sudorowski with her new Volt.

any electric outlet using an extension cord taking about 10 hours for a full charge on a 110-volt outlet. Sudorowski has had a charging station installed at her home which can provide a full charge in four hours.

DTE Energy offers a discounted rate midnight to 4 a.m. specifically for electric vehicles. The charging station is being provided at no cost and the required second

electric meter, which costs \$2,500, was offered with incentives.

"I'm very excited. I had zero out of pocket costs," she said. "The (federal) Department of Energy also has free charging stations. They want to reduce oil consumption. I can't use solar panels to charge a vehicle but I can use them on my house or wind energy."

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**Sell-A-Bratton**

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is looking for shoppers for its Sell-A-Bratton, a gathering of independent consultants all in one spot, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 30, at the Community Center, 2300 S. Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.

On hand to display and sell their products will be representatives from AmeriPlan, Arbonne International, Ardy International, Avon, Beijo Bags, Cookie Lee Jewelry, Jewel Kade Jewelry, Lia Sophia, Market America, Mary Kay, My Vintage Baby, Pampered Chef, PartyLite, Premier Designs Jewelry, Pre-Paid Legal Services, Rain Nutrition, ReLiv, Scentsy, Service First Fundraising, Shaklee, Sophia's Giftique, Stella and Dot, Tastefully Simple, Thirty-One Gifts, Tribute Jewelry, Tupperware, US Borne Books and Wildtree.

Admission is \$1.50 for adults and includes free coffee and tea. The event is a fundraiser for the Youth Jamboree. For more information, call (734) 722-3660.

**Lenten Fish Fries**

The Men's Auxiliary of the Romanowski VFW Post 6866 is holding fish fries on Fridays during Lent.

Hours are 4-7 p.m. Dinners cost \$7 each and include fish (baked or fried), potato (fries or baked) or macaroni and cheese, homemade coleslaw and bread and butter. There will be a cash bar with beverages. Carry-outs also will be available.

The post is at 28945 Joy Road, east of Middlebelt, Westland.

St. Saint Damian Parish in Westland is holding Lenten fish fry on Fridays now through April 15.

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 pierogie (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.

**AROUND WESTLAND**

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

**Dinner-theater**

Inspire Theatre will be serving up a heaping helping of Elvis when it presents Graceland, dinner-theatre, musical tribute to the King of Rock 'N' Roll, Saturday, April 2.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for the one-night-only event. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and includes "C.C. Rider" chicken or "Tupelo" tilapia, "Roustabout" rice, "Viva Las Vegas" vegetables, "Suspicious Minds" salad, an "American Trilogy" of beverages and "Graceland" cake.

Tickets are \$25 for the dinner and show, which will be presented at the theater inside Warren Road Light and Life Church, 33445 Warren Road, east of Wayne Road, Westland.

Tickets are available by calling (734) 751-7057 or online at www.inspirationtheatre.com.

**Metro Fibro Group**

The Metro Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group is hosting a seminar/workshop 1-5 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, south of Ford Road, Garden City.

Dr. Howard Schubiner from Providence Hospital, and author of Unlearn Your Pain, and Dr. James Dowd, rheumatologist, and author of The Vitamin D Cure, will be the speakers. The seminar/workshop costs \$40 per person.

The group has no dues but donations are accepted and appreciated. For more information, visit the website at www.MetroFibroGroup.com or call Ruthann at (734) 981-2519.

**Glow skate**

Enjoy some glow-in-the-dark fun at Westland's Mike Modano Ice Arena 8-9:20 p.m. for Friday Glow Skate. The cost is \$3 for kids and \$4 for adults. Skate rental is \$3.

The arena also offers open skating 1:30-3:20 p.m. Saturdays. The cost is \$4 for kids, \$5 for adults and \$3 for skate rentals.

The arena is at Wildwood and Hunter, east of Wayne Road. For more information about ice arena programs, call

(734) 729-4560.

**AARP Tax Preparation**

The Westland Friendship Center is now taking appointments for anyone in the community who wishes to have their taxes prepared free of charge. The center is an E-file site only. Appointments are necessary.

Generally, the tax return service offered through AARP is for simple returns. Those individuals with lengthy returns, many rental properties or investments are encouraged to have a CPA or professional firm complete their returns. There is no age or income requirement. The site manager has discretion over what returns they are willing and able to complete.

Taxes this year will be done on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Call for an appointment. Unfortunately, the preparers are only on site during the day the center offers the service so any tax question regarding a return must be taken by a staff person, and returned by a preparer at their convenience.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call (734) 722-7628.

**Weatherization help**

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

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

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

**Lions Club**

The Westland Lions Club meets at 11:45 a.m. the second Monday of the month and at 6:15 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month at Logan's Roadhouse on Ford in Canton. For more information, call Debbie Dayton at (734) 721-4216.

**FAUSONE**

FROM PAGE A1

for DWSD," Fausone said. "By having a seat at the table, I look forward to building consensus on the major issues facing the system, not to mention, part of the solution to these challenges."

"Jim Fausone has a well deserved reputation for intelligence and integrity," added Reginald Turner, Partner, Clark Hill, and Past President, Michigan and Wolverine Bar Associations. "He is eminently qualified to serve on the Detroit Water and Sewerage Board of Commissioners."

Fausone has served as partner at Dykema Gossett

in Detroit; president of K&D Industries in Romulus; and currently, as a partner in Fausone Bohn LLP in Northville. He serves on the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees, the Canton Public Library board and the Westland city attorney.

Westland Mayor William Wild believes Ficano has nominated a person with integrity, and the background to conscientiously represent the residents of Wayne County. Wild has worked with Fausone for years, and believes this is great news for the residents of Wayne County.

"Jim knows how to ask the hard questions and also how to build consensus," Wild added.

"I have known Jim for years and could not be hap-

pier to see a Canton resident of his reputation and skill appointed to the Board of Water Commissioners," Canton Township supervisor Phil LaJoy added. "I think Mr. Ficano made a terrific selection."

Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey has high regard for Fausone, and is comfortable with Ficano's selection. "I believe Jim's very sensible approach to matters will work well on the Board," Kirksey stated.

Fausone holds a bachelor of science degree in Environmental Engineering, and a bachelor of science degree in oceanography from the University of Michigan and is a graduate of Gonzaga Law School.

**MONIT**

FROM PAGE A1

what you do and the value of your work."

He added that he determined that mounting a successful write-in campaign would require more than what would

be needed if his name were on the ballot. Part of the problem was concern about the spelling of his given first name, Lorne, correctly.

"The fact that while there are many who voiced their support and encouragement, real commitments in a manpower and funding are not sufficient enough to warrant a realistic

chance in what I believe will be a hard fought campaign," he said.

Monit was first elected to the school board in 1999 after serving as one of the tri-chairs for the 1998 bond issue. He has served as treasurer, vice president and president of the school during his 12 years on the board.

His decision now trims the

field of candidates for the two four-year terms to six. Pamela Prough and Carolyn Byndas, both of Westland, also have dropped out. Prough withdrew from the race by the Feb. 11 deadline, however, Byndas's decision came too late to have her name removed from the ballot.

"I have recently gotten

engaged and will be moving out of the school district," she said in an e-mail sent to the Observer last week. "It's too late to remove my name from the ballot, but I am not campaigning. I don't want people to vote for me due to the change in circumstances."

Appearing on the ballot will be Thomas Bukalew of Wayne

and Westland residents Andrea Clawson, Scott Davis, Harold Dunn, Charles "Trav" Griffin and Jeffrey Hayton, who was appointed to the school board in February to fill the remainder of a term vacated by longtime Trustee Martha Pitsenbarger.

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Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland, 36601 Ford Rd., Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **March 30, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.** for the following (no exceptions will be made for late filings):

**Fitness Equipment - Fire Department**

The fitness equipment the Fire Department is seeking should include both strength training and cardiovascular assessment equipment. Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, 48185, or at the City's website at www.cityofwestland.com. Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Martin Reddy, Deputy Fire Chief at (734) 467-3252. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

**WILLIAM GABRIEL**  
Controller

Publish: March 20, 2011  
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# 'Get your butt out of there'

## Garden City mom worries about her son who lives in Tokyo

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sue Kracker knows what she would like to do, but she can't. So instead she relies on TV reports and e-mails to keep track of her 26-year-old son, David, who is living and working in Tokyo, Japan.

"I know it's worse than what he is telling me because he doesn't want to worry me, but I'd rather have him tell me the truth," said the Garden City resident. "If I had the ways and means, I'd go over there and haul his fanny home."

David admits there was some shaking going on in Tokyo March 11. In an e-mail to the *Observer* that he saw the elevated road swaying and "light poles oscillating back and forth like frenzied metronome" by Polygon Pictures Inc., a computer graphics studio where he works as an interpreter.

"Everyone was frightened, although there was no apparent damage," he wrote. "Earthquakes are fairly common in Japan, but I never felt something like this. It set off an alarm in my head."

Sue Kracker doesn't normal turn on the TV in the morning, but overnight snow had her turning it on to see about road conditions. When she saw there had been an earthquake in Japan, she immediately went to the computer and found a message from David that the quake had not affected him and that he was OK. Then she

heard about the tsunami and sent him another e-mail.

All of the contact with him have been by e-mail, not his cell phone, and he provides his mother with few details.

"He won't tell me that (bad) stuff," she said. "If I tell him what they're saying in the U.S., he'll e-mail what the British government is saying. He won't listen to the U.S. government about leaving, but if the Japanese government does, he will."

### STARTED WITH ANIME

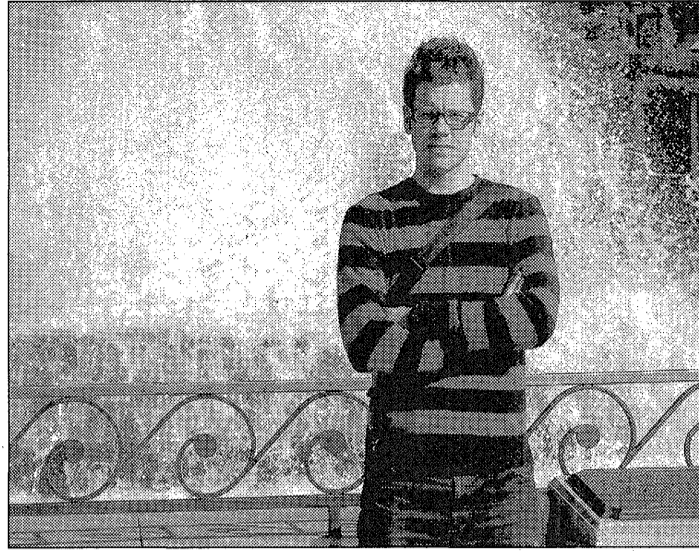
David, a 2002 graduate of Garden City High School, has been in Japan since 2007. He went there to work as part of the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program and after two years moved to Tokyo, taking a job at Polygon. According to his mother, he loves everything about Japan, an interest fostered when he was a child.

"It started with Japanese Anime, he found a bunch of kids who were into it and it was all Japan, Japan, Japan," she said. "He's completely wrapped up in the culture and the way of life."

David studied Japanese from elementary through high school, and according to his mother, "if you hear him speak Japanese, you'd be floored."

"It's completely natural," she said.

He studied abroad his freshman year of college and "always planned to go back." He did within months of graduating from Eastern Michigan



David Kracker, a graduate of Garden City High School who lives and works in Tokyo, has assured his mother Sue Kracker that has not been affected by the earthquake, tsunami and the problems at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant that's 135 miles north of the city.

### UNIVERSITY

"The vibe of the country fits my life style and it's refreshing to get out of the media spin zone that America has become," he said. "I've had my share of ups and downs here, with the pros far outweighing the cons."

According to David, the first news reports of the damage were alarming but not severe. An hour later, he started seeing footage of the tsunami on TV and Internet streams, but even then "the human element was missing."

"The initial reports from the Japanese government gave very low death tolls — 15, which soon rose to 1,000 and above over the weekend," he said. "It was unreal seeing entire towns engulfed by what looked like an endlessly rolling amoeba of sludge."

### 200 MILES AWAY

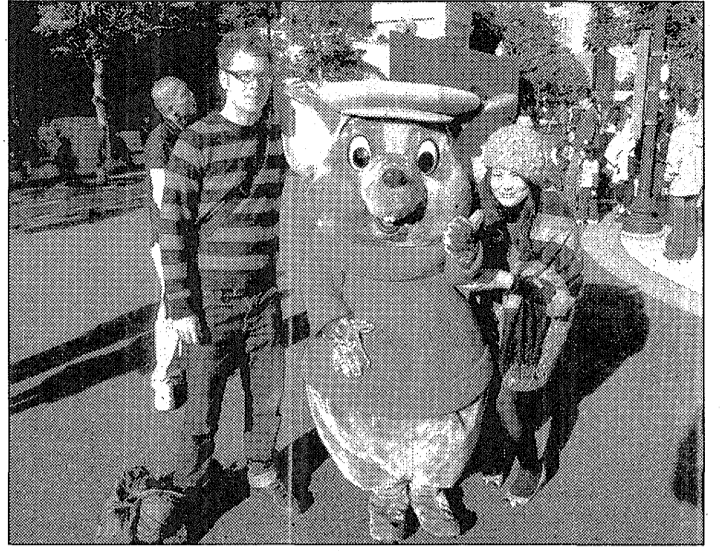
Sue Kracker worries about

her son and in every e-mail urges him to leave. David stresses that Tokyo is over 200 miles away from the areas hit by tsunami and even further from the epicenter. Its 23 districts sustained very little damage although public transportation went down the night of the quake, leaving people stranded at their work.

Because the problems at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, the government asked citizens to conserve power and developed rolling blackouts. Many businesses remained closed over weekend. He won't go so far as to say there have been food shortages, but the shelves are free of dairy products, including milk and bread.

"You have alternatives — soy milk and the local bakery, there's still plenty of meats, fruits, and vegetables," he added.

David returned to work



David Kracker and his girlfriend Miki Kura pose for a photograph with a costumed character at the Tokyo Disney Sea amusement park.

last Tuesday, but many of his foreign co-workers have temporarily evacuated either to Osaka or their home countries. Some Japanese as well have gone back to be with their parents in the countryside.

"Fear is a communicable thing and spreads like a sickness," he said, adding that it's unclear who to trust on the reactor issue. The Japanese media downplayed the situation at the offset, leading to "harsh criticism and a breach of trust." On the other hand, foreign news outlets, particularly those from Europe, "have been stoking fears with erroneous and sensational coverage."

"As a layman, I'm expected to make choices based on what the talking heads dictate to me," he said. "All I can do is try to shut off the noise and go on with my life."

Sue Kracker wants her son to leave Tokyo. He doesn't have to be to come home, although that would be fine with her. Every e-mail she sends her son includes a message of "get your

butt out of there." He did this weekend, going to Kanazawa, about 200 miles west of Tokyo to see his girlfriend, Miki Kura. Sue Kracker thought of asking Kura to make David stay there.

"Isn't she a living doll? I'm going to tell her to make David stay in Kanazawa about 200 to the west of Tokyo."

"He doesn't have kids, he doesn't realize what a parent goes through," she said.

David isn't ready to leave Japan. He loves working there and can't see himself coming back to the United States "unless something truly catastrophic happens to the entire country."

"I can always return to Kanazawa City, north of Kyoto, where I spent my time on JET," he said, adding that the only Japanese-related jobs in Michigan are related to the auto industry "and one taste of such a lifestyle was enough for me."

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# AAUW hosts spring luncheon at Fiamma

Members and friends are invited to The American Association of University Women's spring luncheon, which will be held at Fiamma Grille 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 9.

Entrees include Norwegian Salmon, Citrus Chicken, and Grilled Vegetable Salad. Included in the meal is dessert, bread and butter, salad, coffee, tea and soft drinks. A cash bar will be available. Cost is \$25 per person.

After lunch, participants

will be entertained by the Kish Celtic Band.

Fiamma Grille is located at 380 S. Main St. in Plymouth. To make a reservation, contact Shirley Zaetta at (734) 455-6366 or szaetta@wowway.com. Reservations and checks must be mailed by Saturday, April 2.

AAUW is open to all those interested in advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Visitors are always welcome.

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

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

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# EDUCATION

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## W-W to put more technology in classrooms

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Federal money is helping put more than \$1 million in technology into classrooms in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

The school board last week approved four different purchases ranging from new interactive whiteboard tablets to netbooks and computer station carts, expanding and improving the use of technology across the district. The purchases are being paid for through federal Title I and special education IDEA carryover money.

"We're very fortunate to be able to upgrade our technology without taking money out of the general fund by using Title I and IDEA money," school board President Skip Monit said.

On the district's shopping

list are:

- 1,928 MOBI Learner mobile interactive whiteboard tablets, 616 MOBI Dock docking stations, 76 student response system classpacks and 15 building licenses for the ExamView Learning Series software. The district is buying the equipment and software for \$542,888 from low bidder SPI Innovations. It will be funded through a Title I carryover funds that must be spent by June 30.

According to Kevin J. Galbraith, the district's executive director of technology, the MOBI tablets are wireless "chalkboard slates" that work without a line of sight and work "more efficiently."

"In the seventh and eighth grades, it allow students to text information to their teachers, they'll be able to give answers to open-ended questions," he said. "The

MOBI is bluetooth, with the receiver on the teacher's computer."

The classpacks are handheld devices which allow students to enter answers to multiple choice, true or false and yes or no questions that let the teacher see the responses in real time on a teacher tablet.

If approved, each of the district's elementaries will get four CPS Spark Classpacks, while the upper elementaries and middle schools will each getting eight CPS Pulse Classpacks. The Spark and Pulse devices are student response systems that allow the teacher to see student responses on a mobile device.

**SPECIAL PURCHASE**

- 60 Apple iPads and accessories for \$42,360. The iPads were bid through a statewide SAVE bid project and include a two-year warranty, power

adapter and case. They'll be used by special education staff and students as augmentative and alternative communication systems.

"The iPads will allow students to record their voices and go from speech to text," Galbraith said. "They'll be able to hear their voices. We believe they'll benefit from the technology."

The purchase will be paid for by special education IDEA carryover funds.

- 85 Dell netbook computer systems and four mobile computing station carts for \$54,068. Franklin Middle School and the Tinkham Center will each get two of the mobile computer labs. Franklin's carts will have 15 netbooks with one additional unit, while Tinkham's carts will have 27 units. The carts can hold up to 32 netbooks and the buildings can con-

sider completing them in the future, Galbraith said.

The purchase is being covered by a Title I grant and state funds.

**DIGITAL HUB TECHNOLOGY**

The largest purchase is \$1.14 million for digital hub technology to consolidate and operate the instructional tools in classrooms, including the interactive whiteboards and projectors as well as provide for video conferencing and video capture.

According to Galbraith, the package includes a small 10-by-10-by-12-inch computer that has no screen or mouse and drives the instructional ware for the SMART boards.

"The computer will run the technology for the SMART boards, it will free up the teachers' computers for communications," Galbraith said.

The digital hub will be

installed in 300-350 classrooms in the district. It will be paid for with Title I, Title I ARRA and Title II funds.

"These are technology upgrades for our classrooms to speed up learning," Trustee William Gabriel said.

Supt. Greg Baracy stressed that the money being used can only be spent on specific things and is "totally separate from the general fund."

"We often hear how can you be short on the general fund side and spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on technology," he said. "The federal government and the state set the criteria for use of the money and we can't spend it elsewhere. It can't be spent on salaries and benefits."

All of the purchases are awaiting approval by the state Department of Education.

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## Soldier-father reads with daughter in class via Skype

BY KAREN SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Justin Hartwell is thousands of miles away in Afghanistan, but he was able to participate Monday in a March Is Reading Month activity at his daughter's school in Livonia.

Hartwell listened and watched via Skype as Lillian, 6, read *A Hungry Puppy* to her fellow kindergartners in teacher Jill Klatt's class at Rosedale Elementary School. Klatt and Lillian's mother,

Jessica Prout, came up with the idea to use Skype, a software application that allows users to communicate by voice and video over the Internet, to keep Hartwell involved in his daughter's education after he was deployed in December.

It was the first time Lillian had seen her Dad's face since he had left, her mother said.

"She was really excited; she was smiling ear to ear," Prout said of her daughter's reaction.

**'IT'S HARD FOR HIM TO BE AWAY'**

Hartwell, a military police officer for the Michigan Army National Guard stationed at Bagram Airfield, was equally excited. He answered students' questions about military life in Afghanistan. "He enjoyed being able to talk to Lillian and the rest of the class," Prout said. "It was really nice for him; it's hard for him to be away from everybody."

Klatt said she has used

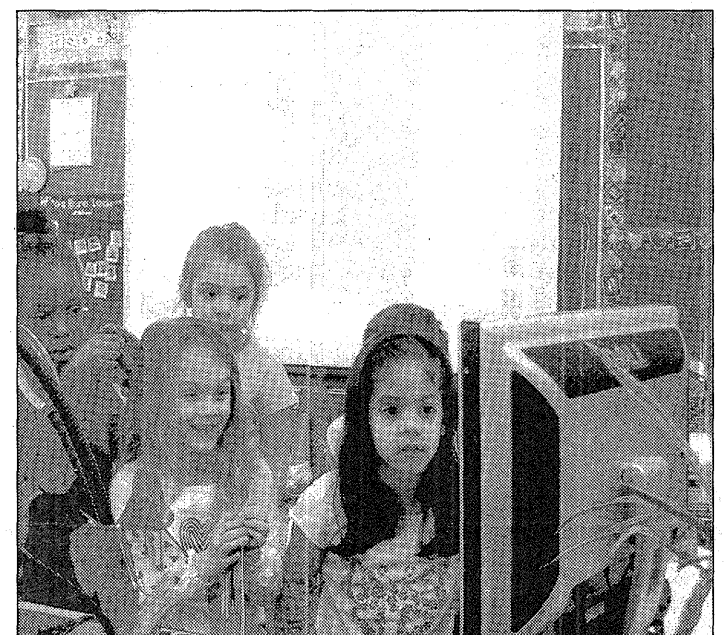
Skype to communicate with other teachers, but this was the first time she used it to involve a parent in one of her classroom activities. Another one of her students has a mother who's being hospitalized for 30 days for a bone marrow transplant. Klatt would like that mother to read to students from her hospital room as a guest reader for March Is Reading Month.

"We thought that would be a phenomenal way for her to get involved," Klatt said.

**SKYPE'S CLASSROOM POTENTIAL**

Klatt said the technology has great potential for involving parents in their children's education when they can't be physically present. For example, Rosedale has a high English as a Second Language population, and some of the parents can't come in for parent-teacher conferences because they don't have driver's licenses. Also, some parents have had to take jobs out of state because of Michigan's economy.

Hartwell, a reservist who works as a parts manager at O'Reilly Auto Parts in Westland, is an involved father who went on a field trip with Lillian and her class earlier in the school year because he knew it would be his only



Lillian Prout (second from left) smiles from ear to ear upon seeing her dad, Justin Hartwell, via Skype. Lillian hadn't seen her father since he was deployed to Afghanistan in December. He listened in as Lillian read a book to him and her classmates. Also pictured are (from left) Saniya Wilburn, Autumn Clarke and Imelda Serratos.

chance while she was in kindergarten, his wife said.

His tour of duty, which is his first since joining three years ago, isn't expected to end until October.

The Westland family communicates mostly by e-mail at home. When they try to use Skype, the Internet signal goes in and out, Prout said.

"She (Jillian) has seen glimpses of him, but she hasn't

been able to sit and see him smile (since he left)."

Lillian is the oldest of the couple's three children. The other children are Carmen, 3, and Tabitha, 6 months.

Prout said the Skype session at school was a good idea — for both Lillian and her daddy. "He's so far away," Prout said. "He misses his little girls."

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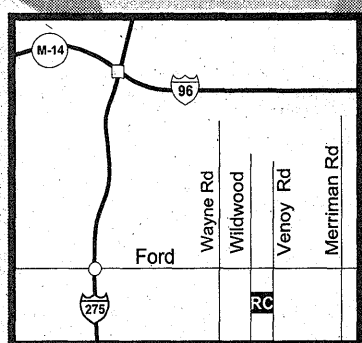
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# 'A great role model'

## Governor's visit brings out boos and red-shirted UAW members

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Greeted by a chorus of boos from UAW members, Gov. Rick Snyder cited Ford's new Michigan Assembly Plant as a shining example of the type of change for a better future that he wants for Michigan.

A 21-year plant employee and UAW representative, Dwayne Walker said he found the comparison ironic — very ironic in light of Snyder-backed legislation to allow emergency financial managers to have expanded powers that include voiding collective bargaining agreements.

"He had his say so. We like to think that that (the new plant) was all in place under Gov. (Jennifer) Granholm and President (Barack) Obama," said Walker, a Westland resident. "He (Snyder) showed up at the right time. We're very pleased to be up and running. It's been kind of a sigh of relief — you never know how these things will turn out."

Walker was one of 1,600 UAW workers at the new plant launch celebration clad in red T-shirts that read "Solidarity in Wisconsin Day." The booing of Snyder subsided a bit after Bill Johnson, UAW Local 900 Wayne Assembly chairman, called on workers to be courteous to the speakers.

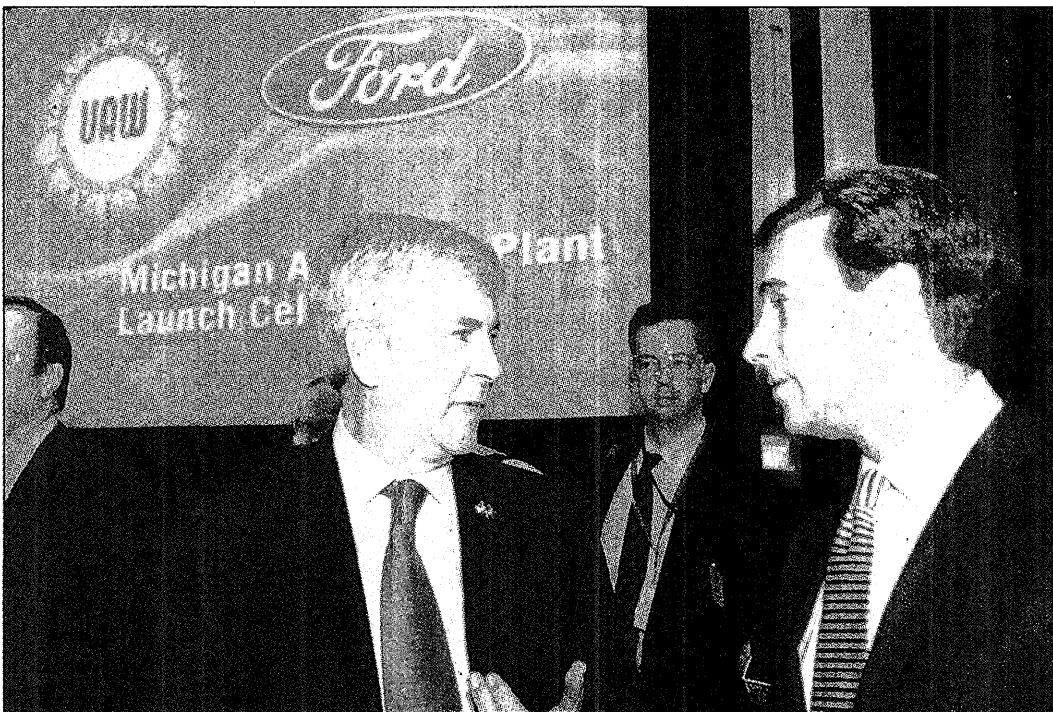
"We all came here to send a message and the message has been sent. Let's give each of the speakers the respect for their positions," said Johnson, a Westland city councilman.

Message to Snyder aside, there was a celebratory mood as Ford officially launched its redesigned Ford Focus and the Michigan Assembly Plant, retrooled from a truck assembly plant with a \$550 million investment from Ford Motor Co.

"I'm so proud of our team. Not only did they build these beautiful vehicles, but also a new facility, new layout and a new product," Wayne Assembly Plant Manager Rob Webber said.

Ford executives attending the launch included Mark Fields, Ford president of the Americas, who lauded the workers who transformed the plant into a modern facility which will be able to build up to four different vehicles on two platforms.

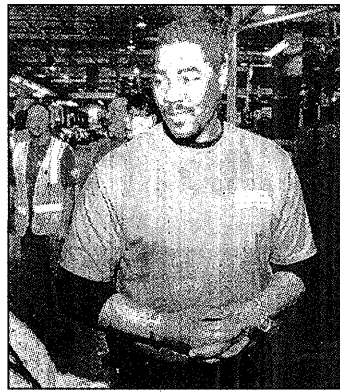
"You are putting out what



Gov. Rick Snyder talks with Mark Fields, Ford President of Americas, at the launch celebration for the new Ford Focus.



UAW Local 900 Wayne Assembly Chairman Bill Johnson, a Westland councilman, lauded Wayne Assembly workers.



Westland resident Dwayne Walker, a 21-year Michigan Assembly employee and UAW representative, was among workers not pleased to see Gov. Rick Snyder.

will be a smash hit in the marketplace. This is no ordinary product. This is the next generation of the vehicle," Fields said, referring to the new Focus. "Sales of the existing Focus, built next door, were up 42 percent this year. With the Fiesta, that has lifted our share of the small car market to 6 percent."

With gas prices on the increase, the 40-miles-per-gallon Focus will be popular with drivers who won't find compromises made in return for economy, Fields said.

By 2012, the Focus Electric, along with hybrid and plug-in versions of the Ford C-MAX small minivan, will be assembled at the plant. Ford also is investing \$450 million at the plant and at other locations in Michigan to develop the Focus Electric and other electric vehicles.

"I want to thank you for the hard work of the Michigan Assembly Plant

team. I'm proud this was done through American investment and UAW jobs," Fields said. "Who says we can't compete when we're competitive?"

Wearing a green tie in honor of St. Patrick's Day and no sign of red apparel, Snyder said that he was glad to be at the plant to celebrate the success.

"As I travel around the state talking about what we

need to do, I use Ford as a role model. It was a broken model and it needed to be reinvented, and the company that stood up the best has been Ford Motor Company," Snyder said. "All of you recognize the need to change. Change is hard. Michigan Assembly is a great role model."

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# New plant is 'shining example' of One Ford

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Top Ford and UAW officials joined Michigan Assembly plant workers Thursday to launch a new vehicle and a new plant that is expected to keep jobs in Wayne.

"I want to say thanks for giving us the opportunity to build the best car in the world with the new Focus. Thanks to the leadership of the UAW and Ford for giving us the opportunity," said Jim Stockdale, a UAW Local 900 chairperson. "This will prove that we can build the best car in the world, profitable and stylish."

Aside from some loud booing of Gov. Rick Snyder and less spirited boos aimed at Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, what Ford called a launch celebration was just that. Ford and UAW officials were effusive in praising the cooperative effort that resulted in the \$550 million makeover of the plant, which will be producing an expanded lineup by 2012.

"This started a little over two years ago when the truck plant closed. People thought that was the end of the world," said Bill Johnson, UAW Local 900 Wayne Assembly chairperson. "You can't ask for a better group of folks. A lot of people will take credit for this, but you are the superstars."

But according to John Fleming, Ford executive vice president for global manufacturing/labor affairs, it wasn't just another product or plant launch. The Wayne plant was described as Ford's most flexible with two platforms that will be able to build four models, making it able to adjust to the market without down time.

"This is a shining example of One Ford in action — one team, one plan, one goal," he said. "We've increased com-



Gov. Rick Snyder (left) and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano both attended the launch celebration for the new Ford Focus at the Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne.

munication and collaboration for the team. It's definitely not business as usual. Each plant will assemble the Focus in the same way with the same parts in the same order. We're concerned about being competitive worldwide wherever we sell vehicles."

Built on a common global platform — German, Russian and Chinese Ford plants will be on board in 2012 — the Focus will share 80 percent of the same parts in an effort to reduce development, engineering and marketing costs.

"Only 18 months ago, we stood here looking at an old obsolete dark plant talking about building a new plant," said Jim Tetreault, Ford vice president of North American manufacturing. "None of us can remember taking a whole plant of people to a new plant loaded with a new product."

Michigan Assembly workers also disassembled the old plant — something that in the past would have been contracted out, noted Jimmy Settles, UAW vice president and National Ford Department director.

"This reinforced what I know — given the proper tools, U.S. workers can accomplish anything," Settles said. "What you have done here is what America needs."

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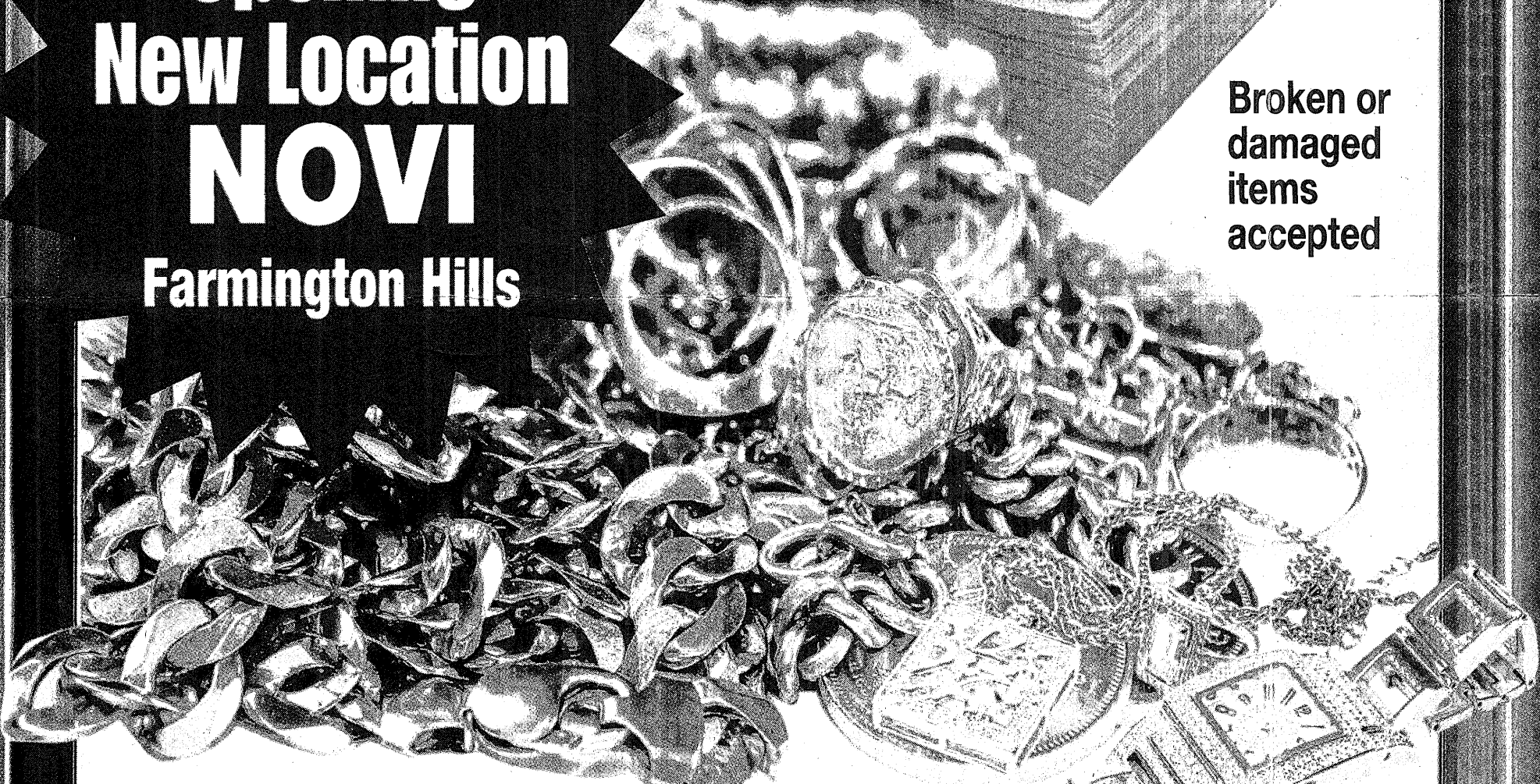
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# Public urged to participate in redistricting process

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With population losses in Detroit and Michigan, Michigan residents can expect to lose one member of the U.S. House of Representatives because the state will lose one Congressional district. Michigan residents can expect new districts to be drawn for the U.S. House, state House and Senate and county commission seats this year once the official Census figures are released some time before April 1.

Organizers of the Michigan Redistricting Collaborative want to educate voters about the redrawing of the new districts. The collaborative hosted a forum Monday at Schoolcraft College in Livonia to inform residents about redistricting laws and how to make the redistricting process more responsive to citizens.

The collaborative is a coalition of nonprofit organizations including the Michigan Nonprofit Association, Common Cause Michigan, the League of Women Voters of Michigan, the Michigan Campaign Finance Network and The Center for Michigan.

## 'ONLY BITE AT THE APPLE'

Often redistricting depends on the political parties in power, some officials say.

"If there is no partisan balance in the legislature, there is no partisan balance in redistricting," said Keesha Gaskins, senior counsel for the Brennan Center for Justice in New York.

Gaskins said it was important for the public to get involved because this year's redistricting is the "only bite at the apple" for another 10 years.

For citizens to have input, they must have access to software to draft maps, contact local newspapers and testify before lawmakers. "They need to say, 'These are the communities where we live, this is what we care about, and this is what is important to us,'" Gaskins said.



Left | Joan Gebhardt, Wayne County Commissioner, 12th District and Susan Smith, Vice President Programs, League of Women Voters of Michigan.

Virginia Martinez, legislative staff attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund in Chicago, said minority representation can be diluted by drawing a line down the middle of an old district, which is called "cracking."

"Or they 'pack' them so they are in one or two districts when there could have been three or four," Martinez said.

Kurt Metzger, director of Data Driven Detroit, a nonprofit established in 2009 through grants from The Skilman Foundation and the Kresge Foundation, said Michigan was the only state to lose population in the 2010 Census. That population loss means that Michigan will lose one House seat, falling to 14 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1950, that number grew to 18.

"We'll have the fewest representatives in the state since 1920," Metzger said.

Other states are either gaining more residents through domestic migration or immigration. Illinois lost more residents than Michigan to domes-

tic migration, but received an influx of immigrants to offset that loss.

Metzger found that Michigan also suffered a net loss of residents to each state when domestic migration was measured between each state, except for Maine. Eight more residents moved to Michigan from Maine than those who moved to Maine from Michigan.

## WAYNE COUNTY LOSS LEADER

Other population shifts were highlighted by Metzger:

• In Oakland County, the population grew by 110,000 between 1990 and 2000, but in 2010 it grew only by 12,000.

• Wayne County not only leads Michigan in population loss, it leads the entire nation. The county is expected to show a loss of 151,402 residents between 2000 and 2010.

• With Detroit losing residents, it is expected that districts currently in Detroit will be redrawn southward and westward.

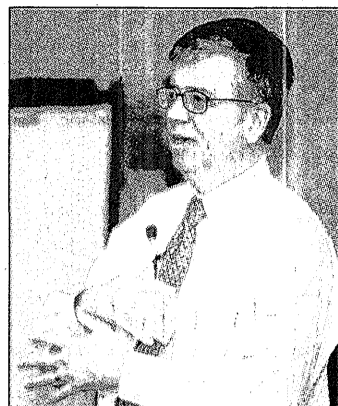
Michael McDonald, an

associate professor of government and politics at George Mason University, directs the Midwest Mapping Project, which examined the political and racial consequences of applying redistricting criteria to Congressional and state legislative districts in Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The project used 2000 population data to draw test plans, then evaluated them using presidential election data from that same year.

McDonald said drawing "nicely shaped" districts was difficult, if not impossible, because equal population sized districts cannot be equal geographically-sized. "It is difficult to piece together geographically smaller urban districts with progressively geographically larger suburban rural districts," he said.

Three of four types of congressional test maps favored the Democrats. All eight state Senate and state House types of maps favored the Republicans.

A key to fair redistricting is how to "unpack" the concen-



Peter Pratt, president of Public Sector Consultants, discusses the issues.

tration of Democrats living in Wayne County. "Mapping scenarios that respected county boundaries were among those consistently most favorable to Republicans," McDonald said.

## NEUTRAL CRITERIA ISN'T NEUTRAL

Following county lines works against minority representation in the state legislature, McDonald said. With the 2000 data, it was possible to draw two additional African-American state Senate districts and 11 additional African-American state House districts by drawing districts resembling the spokes of a wheel.

McDonald said it may not be possible to draw those same districts using the 2010 data.

"These neutral criteria are not neutral," McDonald said.

"They have political consequences; they have racial consequences," Christina Kuo, executive director of Common Cause, said the collaborative's goal was to educate the public about the redistricting process. "We're calling for more transparency," Kuo said.

Kuo would like to see redistricting maps placed into the legislation that creates the new districts. Texas and Minnesota are the only states that do that currently, she said.

The process also needs reform, she said. More details

to explain redistricting plans need to be revealed. "We need to find out and get an explanation (from lawmakers) on why did you pick this plan. We want something detailed to explain why you split counties," Kuo said.

Transparency and openness will be the big push for the collaborative, Kuo said.

Joan Gebhardt, a member of the League of Women Voters and county commissioner representing Livonia and Westland, said the league works to educate voters and redistricting was one of those issues. "People don't realize the importance of the Census," Gebhardt said, in reference to the Census impact on the new districts.

Gebhardt expects that Livonia will be an interesting district because it is one of Wayne County's largest cities besides Detroit. She was uncertain as to what that might mean for her district, which includes a southern portion of Livonia and the city of Westland.

"Detroit lost so much that (the districts) will be pushed out west, north and south," Gebhardt said. It is possible that districts containing Canton and Northville Township will shrink in size because those communities may have experienced population growth.

"What that means for people in the middle, I don't know," Gebhardt said.

Samantha Talbot, a Plymouth resident and a district director for State Rep. Vicki Barnett, D-Farmington, said she attended to obtain a better understanding of the redistricting process. "I think it's important for everyone to know how it works," Talbot said.

Rosemary Doyle, a member of the League of Women Voters, said she attended to learn more about the process. "I wanted to educate myself and be an educated voice," Doyle said.

More details

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# Let the March Madness begin

March Madness refers to the time from mid-March to the beginning of April when college basketball teams compete in the Division I National Championship.

Division I schools have larger budgets and award more athletic scholarships than schools in lower divisions, making them very powerful in the world of sports. There are 31 separate groups of colleges (called conferences) in Division I, including the Big Ten, which houses the University of Michigan and Michigan State, and the Pac-10, a collection of universities near the West Coast.

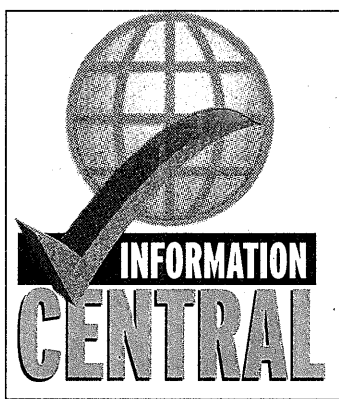
Founded in 1939, the tournament originally consisted of only eight men's teams, but the number has grown ever since. Just last year, there were 65 teams. Rumor has it that the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) could expand March Madness to a whopping 96 college teams, but as of right now, only 68 will compete. Teams are separated into 4 regions and ranked based on their regular season records.

During March Madness, it is customary to create a bracket predicting which team will reach victory. Fans use a number of different strategies in their predictions. One strategy is to consult a team's season schedule to see which teams they beat during the regular season or if they struggled while on the road.

Interested in learning more? The Public Library of Westland owns books on the NCAA basketball tournament, such as "NCAA March Madness: Cinderellas, Superstars, and Champions" from the NCAA Final Four or "Glory Road" by Don Haskins. Also try visiting the website <http://espn.go.com/mens-college-basketball>.

For even more information, visit the Public Library of Westland or call the Reference Desk at (734) 326-6123. You can also search the online catalog at [www.westlandlibrary.org](http://www.westlandlibrary.org).

**Highlighted Activities**  
**Fight Foreclosure One-on-One Counseling Session:** 5-8 p.m. March 21 Homeowners can schedule a private, 30-minute, one-on-one meeting with a foreclosure counselor from the Wayne County Fight Mortgage Foreclosure Program. The Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program is a no fee, Wayne County program providing an expansive network of certified counselors who help you avoid or manage a mortgage foreclosure. Call



(734) 326-6123 or stop by the library to schedule your appointment or for more information. Space is limited. Additional counseling dates are scheduled through April.

**Scrapbooking and Card Making Techniques:** 7 p.m. March 21

Whether you enjoy scrapbooking or card making, sign up to learn techniques to enhance the look of your project. Let Dawn Montagano, scrapbooking expert, show you how. All supplies provided. Space is very limited.

**Afternoon Movie Classics:** "The Wild Bunch," 3 p.m. March 22, adults. Tough hombres and gun fights amid unbridled scenery.

Join us as we explore the drama and grandeur of classic Western films from the American Film Institute's top 100 movies from the last 100 years. Today's selection is "The Wild Bunch" starring William Holden, Ernest Borgnine and Robert Ryan. Refreshments provided. Note: Today's movie is R-rated so everyone attending must be age 18 and older or accompanied by an adult. No registration needed.

**Yoga for Beginners - Morning Class:** 10 a.m. March 23, 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 23, 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.

**English as a Second Language Class Registration:** 9:30-11 a.m.

Friday, March 25  
 Register for a nine-week ESL (English as a Second Language) class. Classes run from April 1 through June 10 (skipping April 22nd and Memorial weekend). Students with children are welcome!

Friday Night Movies: "Get Low," 7 p.m. March 25, ages 12 and up

Love movies? Join us on Friday nights throughout the winter and spring to catch some of the Oscar contenders for 2011. Tonight's movie is "Get Low" starring Robert Duvall, Bill Murray and Sissy Spacek. Refreshments available. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Movie starts at 7 p.m.

**Garden Design and Renovation:** 10 a.m. March 26

Would you like to plan a new landscape, expand an existing one or downsize to a more manageable size? Learn useful tips and tricks from Sandra Ann Healey, Advanced Master Gardener, a Michigan certified nurserywoman and landscape manager. Call the library at (734) 326-6123 to reserve your seat or sign up online [westlandlibrary.org/events](http://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 young adult librarian Liz Waun. 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](http://westlandlibrary.org).

## MILITARY NEWS



Charles Foster

Charles Curt Foster of Westland, the son of Curt and Michele Foster, recently completed basic training at U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. Foster successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

Foster and his fellow recruits began their training each day at 5 a.m., by running three miles and performing calisthenics. In addition to the physical conditioning program, Foster spent numerous hours in classroom and field assignments, which included learning first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marks-

He and his fellow recruits also performed close order drill and operated as a small infantry unit during field training.

Foster received instructions on the Marine Corps' core values of honor, courage and commitment, and what the words mean in guiding personal and professional conduct. He ended the training phase with the Crucible, a 54-hour team effort and problem solving evolution.

After graduation, Foster will continue combat training and then Food Specialist training. Pfc. Foster graduated from Parris Island on March 4 with the 2nd Battalion Gulf Company.

manship, hand to hand combat and assorted weapons training.

## EASTER ACTIVITIES

### Easter Egg Scramble

**Time/Date:** 1-4 p.m. Saturday, April 16

**Location:** Westland Jaycee Park at Wildwood and Hunter, east of Wayne Road

**Details:** The Westland Jaycees in association with Westland Parks and Recreation Department will hold their annual Easter Egg Scramble for youngsters age 14 and under.

**Contact:** For more information, call the Bailey Recreation Center at (734) 722-7620 or the Westland Jaycee Hotline at (734) 226-0400.

### Bunny Brunch

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 16

**Location:** Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale, Westland

### Details:

The Westland Civitan Club and Westland Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring an all-you-can eat pancake breakfast that includes a special visit by the Easter Bunny. The cost is \$3 for children ages 1-2 and \$5 for those age 13 and older. The meal includes homemade, hot off the griddle pancakes with butter, syrup, breakfast sausage, juice, coffee, tea and milk. Children are encouraged to make and wear an Easter bonnet or hat for their picture with the Easter Bunny. Bring your own camera for Easter Bunny portraits. Tickets are available at the Bailey Center.

**Contact:** For more information, call Donna Jensen at (734) 729-8075.

### Easter Delight Night

**Time/Date:** 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday,

April 19

**Location:** Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland

**Details:** Kids ages 3-12 (children under age 6 must be accompanied by an adult) will decorate their basket and make different types of Easter eggs. The cost is \$10 per child and includes all supplies included. The Westland Civitan Club has arranged for the Easter Bunny to visit briefly on his way to decorate his own eggs. Parents can bring their cameras for pictures with the Easter Bunny. Pre-register at the Bailey Center by April 15. Supplies for projects will not be available, if youngsters aren't pre-registered.

**Contact:** Call the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7620 for more information.

## GARDEN CLIPPINGS

### Free testing

As a service to the community, the staff of Garden City Hospital's Community Services offers blood pressure testing, free of charge, on a bi-weekly basis to senior citizens at the Maplewood Community Center, located on Maplewood just west of Merriman. Testing will be available at 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call (734) 458-4330.

**Office hours**  
 Need to talk with Garden City Mayor Randy Walker? You'll find him Tuesdays at Garden City Hall. Walker will hold office hours 4:30-6 p.m. Residents can schedule an appointment by calling Administrative Assistant Margo Ciecierski at (734) 793-

1660.

### Donations sought

Have a used video, book or DVD you looking to pass on? Well, consider donating it to the Garden City Library which is looking for donations of books, videos and DVDs in good condition. For more information, call the library at (734) 793-1830.

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# Seniors go green - St. Patrick's green - at Friendship Center



Dorothy Disbrow and Sally Price, both of Westland, put on the green for the Friendship Center's St. Patrick's Day celebration.

Ilene Maas (from left), Helen Wiseley, Alice Newman, and Judy Cartwrig, all of Westland, enjoy the Irish music.

They were going green at the Westland Friendship Center Thursday in honor of St. Patrick's Day. The partygoers got into the spirit of the holiday wearing green, shamrocks and other festive clothing and accessories. The entertainment included

Irish music by Peter Fetter and Irish dancing by students from O'Hare School of Irish Dance in Plymouth. Light refreshments were included in the \$2 admission for the party, one of the regular seasonal events for senior citizens hosted by the Friendship Center.

## There's plenty to consider when researching mutual funds

**Q:** Dear Rick: I am a mutual fund investor. I've been investing in mutual funds for more than 20 years. I do my own research and I have my own criteria for selecting funds. When I pick a fund, my main focus is on performance. I generally look at a fund's three-year track record. I've been pretty successful in selecting funds, but I'm curious whether there is one thing that you look at, other than performance, in selecting funds.



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom

money invested, he/she is more sensitive when it comes to dealing with issues such as fees and taxes.

I don't expect a portfolio manager to have all his/her money invested in their own fund or fund family. However, I want to see more than just a token investment.

There are literally tens of thousands of different types of mutual funds, therefore you must have a process to sift through them to select the most appropriate fund for your situation.

We invest money to make money, so performance is paramount. However, it is not the only consideration, particularly when you only look at short periods of time. Investors need to be focused on many issues, including corporate governance. I want to make sure that when I invest my hard-earned money in a company — such as a mutual fund — that it plays by the rules. I don't want to invest in companies that play loosey-goosey with the rules.

One last note, there's something even more important than picking the right investment and that is to make sure you have the right allocation for your situation.

Good luck!

**Rick Bloom** is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:moneymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

**A:** There are several factors I use when selecting a mutual fund. Performance is ultimately the most important factor. Other factors, however, are equally as important.

Even when considering performance, it's more than just looking at a three-year track record. I look at three-, five- and 10-year track records. I believe looking at longer periods of time can ensure that you have a more complete picture of a fund.

When doing research, I spend quite a bit of time focusing on the fund's management team. I generally don't want to see a fund that has constant turnover in management. I have found that mutual funds that are able to keep management in place generally will be less volatile than funds which are constantly changing up their team. I also prefer funds that are managed by a team vs. an individual. I have found that funds that use the team approach are better able to manage their way through the crazy gyrations of the market.

Another factor I focus on with regards to the management team is whether members are investing their own money in the fund. I prefer mutual funds where management has money invested. My experience has been that when a mutual fund manager has his/her own



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# Freshman helps position Irish for NCAA berth



NOTRE DAME SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTO

Livonia native Michael Voran has enjoyed a productive freshman season for the Fighting Irish.

## Voran is solid contributor

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was not the kind of homecoming Livonia's Mike Voran expected — particularly one day removed from St. Patrick's Day.

The freshman right winger for Notre Dame returned home to make his collegiate debut Friday at Joe Louis Arena in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association semifinals.

There was no Luck of the Irish as Miami of Ohio spoiled the party with a convincing 6-2 victory.

"They put a lot of pressure on us,"



Voran

Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson said of the 22-9-6 RedHawks. "Their skill and speed forced a lot of pucks over, and you can't do that against a team like that because they transition so well offensively and they have so many great weapons."

"It was a lot about them in my opinion."

The loss put Notre Dame, 23-11-5 overall, in the third-place consolation game Saturday at the Joe against the loser of the other semifinal between Michigan and Western Michigan.

When the RedHawks erupted for four first-period goals without a Notre Dame answer, it put the Irish behind the eight-ball for the rest of the game.

Please see **VORAN, B3**

# MU bats awaken in win vs. Goshen

Behind the strength of a pair of 2-run homers from senior Matt Kay and a 4-for-5 day at the plate from sophomore Spencer Sarel, the No. 11-ranked Madonna University baseball team rolled to a 17-3 win on Thursday over host Goshen College (Ind.) on a blustery and sunny afternoon.

Freshman Logan Ryan earned his second win of the season on the mound, going the first five innings, striking out five while allowing just one earned run to improve to 2-0 on the year.

In addition to Kay (Canton) and Sarel's efforts at the plate, six other Crusaders posted a pair of hits as part of MU's 17-run and 23-hit performance, both season highs.

In addition to the hits and runs, the Crusaders (11-8) drove in a season-high 15 runs in the victory.

Junior Andy Omilian (Plymouth/Novi-Detroit Catholic Central), freshman Aaron Saarela and sophomore Erik Wright (Canton) came in after Ryan and kept Goshen (5-13) off the scoreboard and

struck out a combined four Maple Leafs in their four innings of work.

The Crusaders scored a pair of runs in the top of the first as Kay connected on his fourth homer of the season, driving in fellow senior Jeff Bultinck to put MU on top 2-0 after half an inning.

The Maple Leafs responded with a pair of runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning, taking advantage of a two-out error in the Crusader infield and a double by Nick Wesman to tie the game at 2-2.

MU took the lead for good in the top of the second, plating five runs to go back on top 7-2.

Sarel reached with a one-out single through the left side before moving to third on a single from classmate Alex Charles (Farmington/Birmingham Brother Rice).

Both runners moved up with Sarel scoring on a ground out by Bultinck to make it 3-2 for MU.

A single from junior Drew Adamiec scored Charles to

Please see **MADONNA, B2**



PATRICK MOORE | MU SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTO

Canton grad Matt Kay belted a pair of homers in the Crusaders' 17-3 victory Thursday at Goshen (Ind.) College.

# Crusaders' Wydryck All-America in more ways than one

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Four years sure went fast for Madonna University basketball player Tabatha Wydryck.

Recently named a third-team NAIA Division II All-America, Wydryck is already going through basketball withdrawal.

"I'm horrifically sad," said the 6-foot-1 senior guard, who is the only player in MU history to score 1,000-plus points, grab 500-plus rebounds and hand out 300-plus assists in a career. "What I'll miss the

most are the relationships I made with the girls and the coaches. It goes beyond basketball. It's tough not being part of a team anymore."

As a junior, Wydryck earned honorable mention All-America recognition, then joined former Crusader Kim Olech (Plymouth) as the second All-America third-team choice in the past three sea-



Wydryck

sons for MU.

Wydryck started all 27 games this season for the 12-15 Crusaders, averaging 11.6 points and 7.4 rebounds per game en route to All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first-team honors for the second straight season. She was also named to the WHAC's All-Defensive team after posting 27 blocks and 83 steals.

"As basketball player, anyone in the country would salivate over 6-1 point-guard," MU coach Carl Graves said. "She's so dynamic because she

can play anything. We asked her to rebound from guard spot and she led us, and when we wanted her to score, she'd score for us, too."

During the season Wydryck became the all-time blocks leader in MU history. She ranked 12th in the WHAC in scoring while sitting second in the league with 3.07 steals per game, a mark that placed her 12th nationally.

"I'd take team full of kids like that any day," Graves said. "She's one of best ever to play at MU. The people in the league respect her. She

was third in voting for All-Conference this year. She's just a monster on court. It will hurt losing her. She's meant everything to me and she makes me look very smart."

Wydryck's well-rounded skills proved she could multi-task on the court.

"It's something I developed over years," Wydryck said. "I was short when was younger, so I played guard. Then I had a growth spurt my junior year in high school. I went from 5-8 to 6 foot. I went from

Please see **WYDRYCK, B3**

## SIDELINES

### Meet C'ville teams

Livonia Clarenceville will stage its Meet the Team night for all spring sports athletes, coaches and parents beginning at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, at the high school cafeteria.

Among the topics covered will be athletic and academic eligibility, sportsmanship, season schedule, team rules and consequences, team policies and banquet information.

A representative from Burke's Sporting Good will also be available to sell shoes and other spring sports apparel.

For more information, call (248) 919-0408; or e-mail athletic director Kevin Murphy at [KMurphy@clarenceville.k12.mi.us](mailto:KMurphy@clarenceville.k12.mi.us).

### CHS Hall of Fame

The Livonia Churchill athletic patrons will stage their ninth annual Hall of Fame induction dinner at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at the Italian American Club, located at 39200 Five Mile, Livonia.

Among the inductees will be former football and track coach Bob Armstrong, baseball and hockey player Ron Griffin (1976) and the 2005 and 2006 varsity gymnastics teams coached by Christa Hinderliter and Kelly Grodzicki.

Tickets are \$40 each. For more information, call Neal Houghan at (734) 634-5524 or e-mail [nhoughan@seasons.org](mailto:nhoughan@seasons.org).

### AAU hoop tryouts

The Michigan Celtics will stage AAU basketball tryouts for girls (ages 13-15) from 3-5 p.m. and boys (12-and-under) from 5-6 p.m. Sunday, March 20, at Our Lady of Victory in Northville.

The trout fee is \$15. For more information, e-mail Andrea Gorski at [coachgorski@gmail.com](mailto:coachgorski@gmail.com).

### WYAA Colt-Palomino baseball signup

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association Colt (ages 16-and-under) and Palomino (18-19 year-olds) baseball will be from 7-9 p.m. each Wednesday and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays, at the WYAA's Lange Compound Building, located at 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Both Colt and Palomino play after the high school season is completed in inter-locking leagues with other cities.

For more information, call the Lange Compound at (734) 421-0640; or Keith DeMolay at (734) 516-9269.

### Girls pom clinic

Livonia Pom will stage a clinic for girls in grades three-eight from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 26, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia.

The cost is \$20 (includes clinic T-shirt). For more information, or to download a registration form, visit [www.livoniapom.com](http://www.livoniapom.com).



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### CYO cage champs

The Livonia St. Michael Varsity 1 girls basketball team capped a 24-0 season on March 12 with a 24-17 win over Utica St. Lawrence in the Catholic Youth Organization championship at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep High School. Members of the Gaels include (back row, from left) assistant coach Lauren Perugi, head coach Greg Mellon, assistant coach John Rhoades, Maggie Shirk, assistant coach Linda Willoughby; (middle row, from left) Hannah Gaynier, Sophia Modes, Ashley Lupinski, Maureen Butler, Ella Reimann, Hannah Schwartz; (front row, from left) Mariel Dunn, Kara Holinski and Riley Blair. St. Michael also captured the Warren Regina Thanksgiving and Birmingham Marian Christmas tournaments. Butler received the CYO Scholar-Athlete award, while Holinski set a new Varsity 1 record with 25 points, while Blair added 21 in another game.

### MADONNA

FROM PAGE B1

make it 4-2. After moving up on a wild pitch, Adamiec came home to make it 5-2 on a single from sophomore Steve Pelletier (Farmington Harrison).

Kay then stepped in and for the second straight at-bat took the Omar Hernandez offering

and deposited it over the fence, this time in left center for the 7-2 lead after an inning and a half.

Ryan got into a jam in the bottom of the second thanks to a pair of walks and an error in the infield to load the bases with just one out. The rookie southpaw got the final two batters of the inning to fly out and ground out to end the threat and keep it a 7-2 game.

After a scoreless third, the MU offense reappeared in the fourth, scoring a pair of runs.

Pelletier reached on a fielder's choice and came home thanks to a Goshen miscue on a single from Kay to make it 8-2. Kay, who moved up on the error, came home to score on a single from junior Phil Celeski for a 9-2 cushion.

Goshen got to Ryan for a run in the fifth, taking

advantage of Ryan's wildness with a pair of walks, two wild pitches and a single to the hole at short to cut the MU lead to six, 9-3.

MU added another run in the seventh when senior catcher Tarik Khasawneh (Canton) singled home Charles for a 7-run lead, 10-3.

The Crusaders exploded for six runs on five hits in the top of the ninth with freshman Ryan Lech, senior Tim Duffy and senior Mike Gansser all collecting base hits and Duffy driving in a pair with his single up the middle to cap the scoring and put MU on top 17-3.

Wright came in to close out the ninth and after walking the first two hitters of the inning, struck out the next three Maple Leafs in order to seal up the win for the Crusaders.

# Crusaders settle for split at IU-Southeast

The No. 17-ranked Madonna University softball team opened a four-day, eight-game in four-day road trip with a split at Indiana University-Southeast by identical 2-1 counts.

The Crusaders, now 15-2 overall, captured the opener before falling in the nightcap for just their second loss of the season at the Koetter Softball Complex.

Senior Ashley Shay (Garden City/Dearborn Divine Child) and sophomore Erica Landess paced the MU offense with two hits each in the double-header, while four other Crusaders also posted hits on the day.

Senior Jess Irwin earned her eighth win of the season in the opener, giving up just one hit while striking out seven.

Irwin (8-2) was also tagged with the Game Two loss, giving up one run and two hits in an inning and two-thirds of an inning in relief of junior Hallie Minch (Garden City).

### COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Minch went the first 4.1 innings, scattering five hits while striking out five in taking the no decision.

In the day's opener the Crusaders struck first, tallying a run in the top of the first when Landess scored after the ball off of the bat of freshman Carlee Meek was misplayed allowing Landess to cross the plate for a 1-0 lead.

The Grenadiers tied the Game at 1-1 in the bottom of the second when Kayla Duke doubled home Anne Fowler, who had earlier reached on a Crusader miscue to even the game at 1-1.

MU answered back with another run in the top of the third as Shay doubled with two outs and was brought home on a double by freshman Caitlyn Keuvelaar to go back ahead, 2-1.

From the third inning on, Irwin did not allow a runner past second base and allowed

just one base runner over the final four innings of the game for the 2-1 win.

In the nightcap, neither team got on the board until IU-Southeast (10-9) scored a run in the bottom of the fifth when Jade Detzer reached on a one-out double off of Minch and came home on a wild pitch by Irwin, who came on relief of Minch.

Irwin worked out of the jam to allow the Crusaders to even the count at 1-1 in the top of the sixth.

Landess reached on a fielder's choice to second and after moving to second on a passed ball, came around to score on a Shay double.

IU-Southeast took the lead in the bottom of the sixth for keeps using a Fowler double and a Rachel Mulvey single.

In the top of the seventh, junior Kiley Thornton drew a one-out walk, but was stranded at first as Bethany Sullivan retired the next two Crusaders to end the game and earn the Grenadiers a split.

# Madonna wins 2 on Kentucky tour

The Blue Grass state apparently agrees so far with the Madonna University women's softball team.

The Crusaders chalked up two more victories Friday to improve to 17-2 overall with wins over Union (Ky.), 9-0, in five innings, and Montreat (N.C.) 3-1.

Lead-off batter Jackie Barley went 2-for-4 with a homer and two RBI in the win over Union in a game played a Memorial Field in Campbellsville.

Ashley Shay (Garden City/Dearborn Divine Child), Kristen Drabek and Erin

### COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Mayes chipped in with two hits apiece. Mayes also knocked in two runs.

Kelly Lesko had a 3-run triple, while Kiley Thornton added a 2-run double.

Winning pitcher Jess Irwin (9-2) allowed just two hits, walked one and struck out 11.

Hillary Leftrick had both hits for Union, which falls to 11-11 overall.

Garden City's Hallie Minch was the winning pitcher in the victory over

Montreat (12-14) in a game played at County High School in Campbellsville.

Minch (8-0) scattered nine hits, walked one and struck out 10 in 6.2 innings.

Irwin picked up the save by getting the final out with a strikeout after allowing a walk.

Barley, the second baseman, went 2-for-2 with an RBI, while Minch and Tara LaMilza each knocked in a run.

Jamie Lokken collected two hits for Montreat, while Nicole Denney was the losing pitcher.



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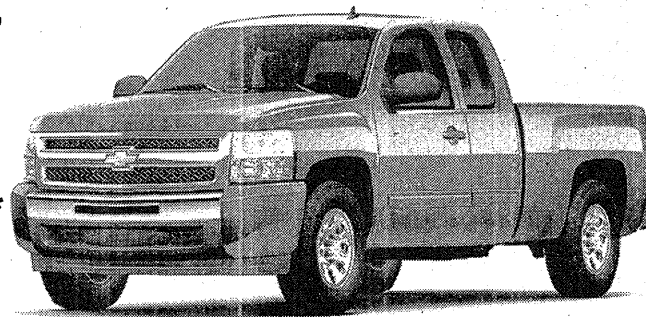
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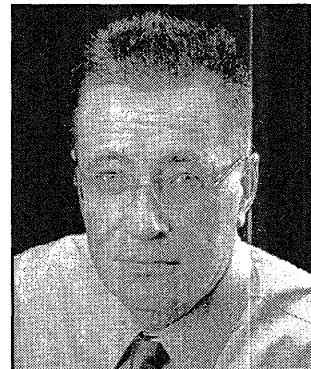
## SOCIAL SECURITY

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

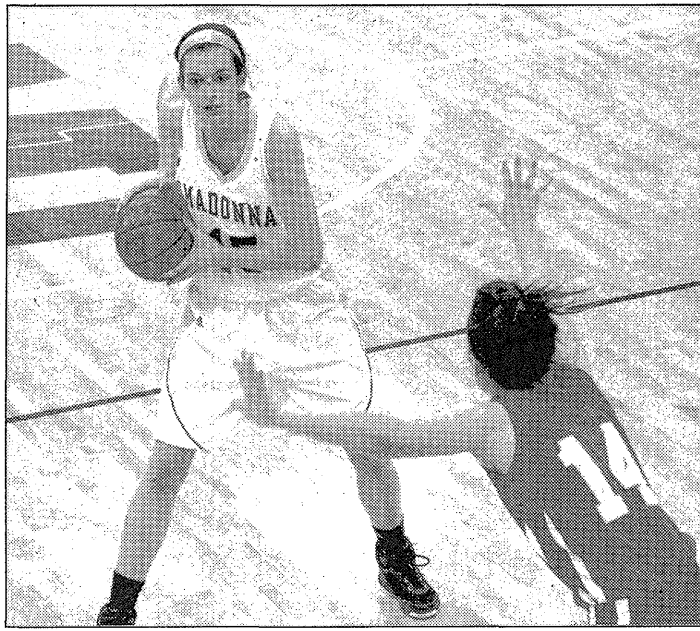
eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

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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ANNA GATT | MADONNA SPORTS INFORMATION

Madonna University senior forward Tabatha Wydryck earned third-team NAIA Division II All-America honors.

## WYDRYCK

FROM PAGE B1

being guard-sized to a body of a post player. And coach Graves helped me tighten up my game, not just rely on one thing."

Tabatha's mother Lori played at the University of Detroit and was a standout player at Detroit Holy Redeemer High. Her dad Robert was also into sports and her younger brother, Robert, Jr. is a junior basketball player at Tabatha's alma mater, Riverview Gabriel Richard High.

"When I played sports I always wanted to be able to do everything," said Tabatha, "and try my hardest to be good at everything."

"I've played soccer, too, in a couple leagues, and I golf with my dad."

Wydryck, however, is more than a basketball player. She also excels academically.

"She's meant a lot to the program," Graves said. "She's been catalyst in the culture change academically. My goal when I came in here was academics first and she's a kid I leaned on the entire time. She really helped me along with that."

The Wyandotte native carries a 3.8 grade-point average and is majoring in pre-med. She was named both an All-WHAC and Daktronics-NAIA

Division II Scholar-Athlete honoree.

"Both my parents are big mentors," Wydryck said. "They've helped me out beyond basketball. I have a couple of more classes in the summer and a couple more in fall, then I'll graduate in December. Right now I'm applying to med school, or go to graduate school in a health-related field. I'd like to stay close to home, either Michigan or Ohio State."

Wydryck is one of Graves' first recruits to complete her four years of basketball eligibility. She thought about playing at her mother's alma mater (U-D Mercy), but committed to Madonna.

"I signed really, really early on," Wydryck said. "I talked to coaches and I had my heart set on it."

Although the Crusaders did not win any WHAC titles or go to the NAIA national tournament, Wydryck said she relished being a Crusader.

"Even though record didn't show it, I'm very satisfied and have no regrets," Wydryck said.

In fact, Wydryck plans to stick around the program as a student assistant next season.

"I'd love to coach rest of life," she said. "I'd like to stay around sports and basketball."

So much for basketball withdrawal.

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

## VORAN

FROM PAGE B1

"Definitely in the beginning we had some costly turnovers," said the 5-foot-11, 197-pound Voran. "We kind of made it easy for them in the beginning. As the game went on we picked it up, but we just didn't bury 'em. It was a little bit too late."

"It was pretty disappointing. We really wanted to win this, but now it's time to move on and focus in on the NCAA Tournament."

Voran was playing for the first time at the Joe before not only his family, but former teammates at Stevenson.

"Growing up here I probably played here two or three times," said Voran, a Stevenson High grad who has four goals and 15 assists in his rookie season. "Playing Little Caesars (leagues) I played for Computware and Honeybaked."

"I was obviously excited to come home. Playing at the Joe is always cool. I'm a huge Red Wings fan, so just being around the rink is a huge plus. I was definitely really excited."

Voran, who turns 21 at the end of the month, arrived at Notre Dame after playing last season with the Sioux Falls Stampede (S.D.) of the USHL.

And thus far, the former Stevenson standout has been able to learn the nuances of the collegiate game and has made the necessary adjustments.

He was selected CCHA Rookie of the Week (Nov. 15) when he had a goal and three assists for four points (along with a plus-2) in a sweep over Michigan State.

It's been a learning process for Voran, who has concentrated on becoming more of a

two-way player instead of just a goal scorer.

"Just playing more defensively," Voran said, "because any time you make a dumb turnover, it's in the back of your own net."

"And at the same time, I would say strength. A lot of the guys are really strong."

Jackson, meanwhile, has been pleased with Voran's progress.

"Mike's had a good year for a freshman," the Notre Dame coach said. "We expected him to be a guy who would take a little time to show what his game is all about."

"But he's a smart player. He's got good hands and he's a great kid. He's fit in really well and he's contributed pretty well for a freshman. We're expecting big things out of him in the future. We're not done this year, but he's got a bright future."

Voran also has adapted to the rigors of balancing the academic side in South Bend.

"It's a bit of an adjustment," Voran said. "It's definitely difficult, but we get a lot of help from the school. They set us up with tutors and get a lot of support. I think it's going pretty well."

Notre Dame's postseason fate now rests in the hands of the NCAA selection committee, which will announce its at-large bids on Sunday.

The Irish are hoping to stay off the bubble and get a bid.

"We know tomorrow is even a bigger game now than tonight," Voran said of Saturday's third-place game. "It's a must win in our eyes and we're going out for the win."

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# BRESLIN BUMMER

## Late shot misses, ends Canton's bid to reach Class A title game

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For the second straight year, Canton's dreams for a Class A girls basketball championship were dashed in a semifinal game at Breslin Center.

But last year's loss at the Michigan State University arena had nothing on Friday's 39-38 loss to Inkster as far as heart-breaking defeats go.

The Chiefs forced a turnover in their own end with about 30 seconds to play, trailing 39-38. There were six seconds left when junior point guard Robyn Mack lofted a three-point bid from the left corner - with a spot in Saturday's championship game riding on it.

Mack's wide-open shot hit iron, bounced straight up but did not come back down through the cylinder. Inkster players then scrambled for the rebound that for all intents and purposes sealed Canton's fate.

"It was a good look by Robyn," Canton coach Brian Samulski said. "One shot doesn't signify how the game turned. But I'll take any player on the team shooting that ball."

"We weren't really going to say 'Hey, pound it inside and we'll try to go to the line.' Let's just attack and see what we get, and we got a great look. It just didn't go in."

### BUZZER-BEATER

Ironically, Inkster senior guard Crystal Bradford had put the Vikings up 20-18 at halftime when her half-court prayer hit nothing but net. The play started with 2.2 seconds to go and Bradford was in mid-air when the buzzer sounded.

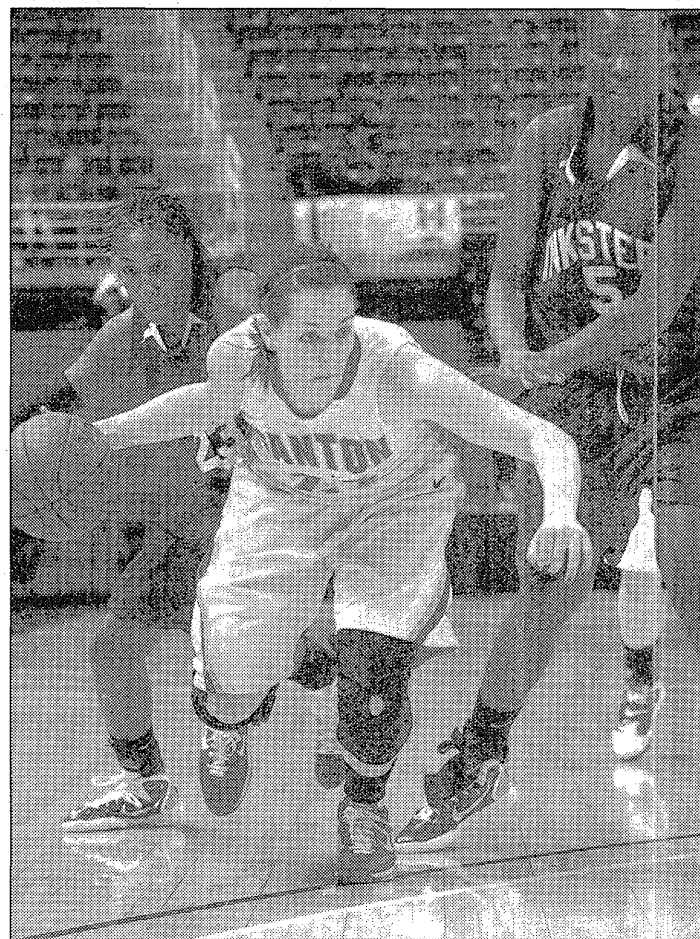
Canton's 18-17 advantage quickly turned into a two-point deficit.

"Bradford's a good player, she made a great shot," Samulski noted. "We were okay at halftime, we were down two (and) she just threw one in from half court."

"And we were six-for-14 from the line. So it wasn't that we didn't like where we were at."

Those missed foul shots - and a six-for-25 performance in field-goal tries in the first half - kept Canton (24-3) from having a half-time lead regardless of the Bradford buzzer-beater.

The Chiefs still led 11-10 after the first quarter and stayed in front for most of the second quarter despite senior forward Kari Schmitt



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's CarolAnn Sexauer (No. 21) heads toward the Inkster basket, but is pestered by Inksters' Crystal Bradford (No. 23) and Jas' Mine Bracey (No. 5).



Yelling out instructions to his players Friday afternoon is Canton head coach Brian Samulski.

sitting on the sidelines because of early foul trouble.

"I thought we played tough," Samulski said. "Kari got into foul trouble and Robyn got into foul trouble. So two of our key kids are sitting out and we were able to hang in there and stay within two-three points."

Another problem for Canton was Inkster's bigger inside presence, which resulted in a 41-29 rebounding edge and 30 points in the paint (compared to 16 by the Chiefs).

"They were very long, they're athletic," Canton senior forward Kayla

Bridges said. "It was definitely a little tougher to score around the rim. But I think we did a great job."

Bridges led Canton with 12 points and seven rebounds, while Kari and Sara Schmitt each tallied eight points.

For Inkster (24-2), junior forward Kelsey Mitchell registered 16 points and 11 rebounds. Also pulling down 11 for the Vikes was Jas' Mine Bracey.

### SEE-SAW BATTLE

Canton came out strong to open the third quarter, apparently shrugging off effects of the Bradford

triple. Bridges sank a layup and Kari Schmitt drained a short jumper from the left side of the key to give the Chiefs a 23-20 edge with five minutes to go in the third.

Inkster regained the lead with a couple quick buckets, but Canton senior guard CarolAnn Sexauer's trey from the left corner made it a 26-24 Canton lead about midway through the frame. Sexauer finished with seven points.

The Vikings then capitalized on a turnover to score a layup in the final minute to send the game into the fourth all even at 29-29.

Sara Schmitt put the Chiefs back ahead 31-29 early in the fourth, but Canton hit an untimely cold snap - missing on four straight trips into Inkster's end.

Meanwhile, Inkster sophomore guard Paris McLeod made back-to-back layups to give the Vikings a 35-31 advantage with 5:20 remaining.

"Paris was really big in the fourth quarter," Carr said. "She gave us some spark and energy that we didn't have at that time."

Inkster still led 38-36 with a minute to play when the 6-1 Bracey blocked Mack's layup bid.

The teams then traded free throws, and the Vikes were up 39-38 when the Chiefs' stellar defense got the ball back with enough time to prevail.

### WINNING LEGACY

But one tough-luck jumper later, the season was over for Canton and its superb cast of seniors - including the Schmitt twins, Bridges, Sexauer and guard Melanie Pickert.

"When people talk about girls basketball, I think Canton's somewhere in the conversation," Samulski said. "And these five right here (in the postgame interview room), they've got everything to do with that."

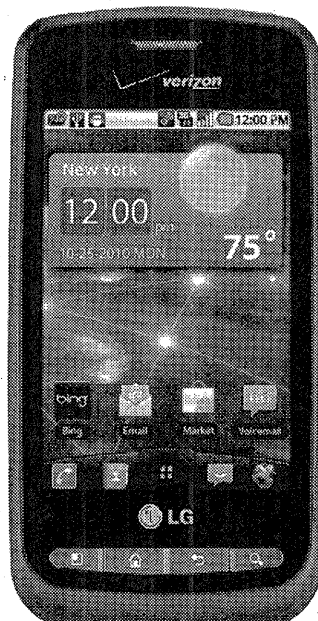
"It was just an honor for me to be part of what they've five have done."

All of the players had reddened eyes as they sat at the podium, but Kari Schmitt talked about how the team did itself proud.

"We were happy we got here, we're proud with what we accomplished," she said. "We just didn't finish off how we liked. But we worked hard for it, we can't say we didn't work hard."

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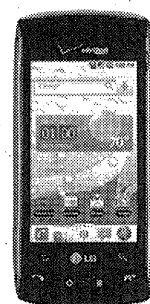
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# Memorabilia Lane

## Stretch of Ford Road is haven for area's sports fans

BY ED WRIGHT  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sports fan thirsty for everything from vintage baseball cards to kelly-green Detroit Red Wings jerseys will find a short drive along Ford Road in Garden City more than quenching.

Located just a long Miguel Cabrera home run from one another, A-Z Cards & Comics and Fanatic U offer a smorgasbord of items for sports enthusiasts from 5 to 105.

A-Z, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary in August, is stocked with a variety of old and new sports cards along with other unique sports memorabilia that ranges from a Shaq O'Neal Los Angeles Lakers figurine to colorful action photos of the 1980s Detroit Tigers.

Fanatic U's Garden City site features wall-to-wall racks of sports apparel in addition to hundreds of other items that would be fitting in any young sports fan's bedroom or finished basement.

Sports cards sales make up

about one-third of A-Z's business, according to manager Richard Rea, who lives in Garden City.

"We sell sports stuff, coins and comics," said Rea. "What's hot depends on the season and other factors."

"Right now, the basic Topps baseball cards are hot. They came out right around the time spring training started. More people buy individual packs and try to build complete sets, rather than purchase a complete set."

One thing hasn't changed for sports-cards collectors over the past two decades: the pursuit of rookie cards, which prove to be more valuable than nonrookie cards over the years.

The card companies have also spiced up the hobby with the addition of another perk for collectors — and it's not cardboard-stiff bubble gum.

"A lot of people are after 'chase' cards now," Rea explained. "When you get one, it's like winning the lottery. A chase card is a card that includes a piece of a player's



A-Z Cards & Comics manager Richard Rea said the hot thing in baseball cards these days are "chase" cards, which include actual player autographs or pieces of players' jerseys or bats.

uniform, an autograph, a piece of one of Babe Ruth's bats, stuff like that. They're just itty-bitty pieces, but, hey, they're the real thing and they hold their value."

The sports-card business was robust in the late '80s and through most of the '90s, but then the market became saturated by manufacturers trying to take advantage of the collecting boom. As a result, the value of the vast majority of cards plummeted due to supply-and-demand issues.

"Back when we were kids, we didn't save the cards; we played with them and, well, ruined them," Rea said. "As far back as the '70s, it was hard to find too many mint baseball cards.

"Once the '80s and '90s rolled around, people started buying cards and putting them in nice binders, to keep them in perfect shape. Mint-condition cards just aren't as rare as they were in the '60s and '70s."

"It didn't just happen with sports cards. The same thing happened with comic books, Beanie Babies and Pogs."

Garden City's Fanatic U store is one of three in the metropolitan Detroit area. Sarah Taylor, a member of the store's sales staff, said you can gauge how well a local team is doing in the standings by the number of jerseys each team is selling.

"Last year after the Lions won a couple games in a row,

their stuff was flying out of here," said Taylor.

The same is true with Detroit Pistons gear — only in reverse.

"We still have Pistons jackets in stock from 2009," she said, explaining how the NBA team's recent struggles are reflected at the cash register. "You can definitely tell what teams are doing well and what teams aren't."

Fanatic U manager Diane Stepchuk said some items are popular no matter how low in the standings teams may be mired.

"Right now, the hottest sellers are probably Red Wings and Tigers T-shirts with the players' names on the back," Stepchuk said. "Another item

that has been a big seller is the 'Cry Baby' T-shirts that have Sidney Crosby's number on them and an image of the Penguins' mascot crying."

How do the local college and professional teams rank in terms of overall sales?

"The Red Wings and Tigers are probably one and two, and the University of Michigan is No. 3," she said.

Stepchuk said the area's recent economic woes haven't had a major impact on Fanatic U's business.

"We really haven't been affected that much," she said. "It just shows you how much people love sports around here."

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### THE WEEK AHEAD

**PREP BASEBALL**  
Thursday, March 24  
Willow Run at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, March 26**  
Harrison at Churchill (2), 11 a.m.  
**GIRLS SOFTBALL**  
Thursday, March 24  
Willow Run at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.  
**GIRLS SOCCER**  
Friday, March 25  
New Boston Huron at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
Farmington at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
Wayne at Lakeand, 7 p.m.  
**BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD**

Saturday, March 26  
Huron Relays at EMU, 10 a.m.  
**GIRLS TENNIS**  
Saturday, March 26  
Pinckney Invitational, 9 a.m.  
**GIRLS LACROSSE**  
Friday, March 25  
Ladywood at Farmington, 7 p.m.  
**MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL**  
(all double-headers)  
Sunday, March 20  
Madonna at N'western Ohio, 1 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 22  
Madonna at Indiana Wesleyan, 2 p.m.

Wednesday, March 23  
Madonna at Ohio Dominican, 1 p.m.  
Saturday, March 26  
Davenport at Madonna, 1 p.m.  
Sunday, March 27  
Davenport at Madonna, 1 p.m.  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL**  
Sunday, March 20  
(Lindsey Wilson, Ky. Classic)  
Madonna vs. Martin Methodist (Tn.), 10 a.m.  
Madonna vs. Lindsey Wilson (Ky.), noon.  
Saturday, March 26  
Bethel (Ind.) at Madonna (2), 1 p.m.

### SPORTS ROUNDUP

#### Youth baseball tryout

Tryouts for the Michigan Bulldogs, a 10-and-under travel baseball team, will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, March 27, at Precision Baseball, 7835 Market Drive, Canton.

Registration starts at 10 a.m. For more information, call Lee Richards at (734) 718-8522.

#### LBSA registration

The Livonia Baseball and Softball Association will stage its 2011 summer baseball registration from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 26 at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Two divisions will be formed for both high school age (15-16) and high school-collegiate age (17-19).

Within each division, there will be highly competitive select teams, along with non-select teams. Rosters and teams are limited. Managers and coaches are also needed.

Registration forms are available at the signup or online at [www.livoniabsa.com](http://www.livoniabsa.com) (under forms section). For more information, call George Coram at (248) 478-5071 or Curt Kreutzfeld at (734) 522-5413.

#### WYAA baseball signup

Baseball registration for the Westland Youth Athletic Association will be 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road and west of Venoy).

The WYAA has openings for all age groups, including: Co-ed T-Ball (5-6), Co-Ed Machine Pitch (7-8), Mustang (10-and-under), Bronco (12-and-under), Pony (14-and-under), Colt (16-and-under) and Palomino (18-and-under).

Mustang, Bronco, Pony, Colt and Palomino age divisions involve local travel with interlocking leagues with other cities.

For more information, call (734) 421-0640 during normal business hours (or leave a message) or visit [www.wyaa.org](http://www.wyaa.org).

#### Steelheaders meeting

The Metro-West Steelheaders monthly meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads.

Meetings are free and open to the public. No reservations needed.

Captain Jerry Lee will be one of two featured speakers. He has over 30 years of fishing and guiding experience on the Great Lakes.

Among the topics include use of lead-core, rotators, cut bait, in-line boards and the latest downrigger savvy. His presenta-

tion also includes tips and tactics to consistently boat limits of fish for his customers on a daily basis.

Captain Chip Cartwright will also unveil the latest from Wolverine Tackle, which produces the world famous Silver Streak lures.

For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790.

#### Girls slow-pitch signup

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage open registration for 2011 girls 10- and 13-and-under slow-pitch softball until enrollment reaches 160 participants in each division for those living in the Livonia or Clarenceville public school districts.

Registration forms are available at local schools or be picked up at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Late registration for school district residents is from 9 a.m. until noon beginning Saturday, April 9, at the Rec Center. Non-resident signup starts at 9 a.m. Monday, April 11 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Open registration fees are \$40 (resident) and \$50 (non-resident), while late registration fees are \$50 (resident) and \$60 (non-resident).

For more information, call (734) 466-2410 (option No. 2).

#### WYAA fastpitch softball

Registration for the Westland Youth Athletic Association 2011 girls fastpitch softball for all ages will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays and 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays at the Lange Compound Building, located at 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford).

Age groups offered include: 8-10, 11-12, 13-14 and 15-16.

Games for 10-, 12- and 16-and-under will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while 14-and-under games on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The WYAA provides trainers for pitching and hitting instruction with indoor winter practices and on-site batting cage. Teams will play league games and tournaments in preparation for high school competition.

For more information, call (734) 421-0640; visit [www.wyaa.org](http://www.wyaa.org) (Facebook/WYAA softball); or e-mail [busymichigan@gmail.com](mailto:busymichigan@gmail.com).

#### Senior golf meeting

The Livonia Senior Men's Golf Association will stage its annual registration and guiding experience on the Great Lakes. Meetings are free and open to the public. No reservations needed.

the LSMGA is open to all men ages 59 and up regardless of residency.

The \$25 membership fee includes lunch at the awards banquet. Single golfers are welcome.

For more information, call Tony Amadori at (734) 261-4718.

#### Women's golf league

The 20-week, 18-hole Livonia Women's Golf League will begin at 8 a.m. Thursdays, beginning May 5, at Whispering Willows.

The cost is \$26 per week (includes greens fees and cart). Non-residents are encourage to join.

For more information, call Alethea VanGorp at (734) 604-9020; or e-mail [aavg@juno.com](mailto:aavg@juno.com).

#### T-Ball, Coach-Pitch

Walk-in or fax-in registration for 2011 Livonia Parks and Recreation co-ed instructional T-Ball (ages 5-6) and Coach-Pitch (ages 7-8) will be available until the enrollment limit (640 participants in each division).

Registration forms can be picked up at area schools or the Livonia Community Recreation Center. You must be a resident of either the Livonia or Clarenceville public schools.

Late registration will be from 9 a.m. until noon Saturday, April 9, at the Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard, Livonia. Non-resident registration begins at 9 a.m. Monday, April 11 at the Parks and Recreation office. Openings will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis until April 29.

The season runs from May through July with T-ball scrimmages on Monday evenings and Coach-Pitch on Thursday evenings. Open registration fees are \$40 (resident) and \$50 (non-resident) for Livonia and Clarenceville district residents.

Late registration fees are \$50 (resident) and \$60 (non-resident). For more information, call (734) 466-2410 (option No. 2).

#### Lady Spartan hoops

The Lady Spartan Basketball Camp will be from 9-11 a.m. (girls entering grades 4-6) and from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (girls entering grades 7-9), Monday through Thursday, June 27-30, at the Stevenson High School fieldhouse.

The \$60 fee includes group and individual instruction from coaches and players from the Stevenson program.

In order to receive a T-shirt, you must be registered by June 3.

For more information, e-mail Stevenson varsity girls basketball coach Jen Knoph at [jknoph@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:jknoph@livoniapublicschools.org).

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# COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, March 20, 2011

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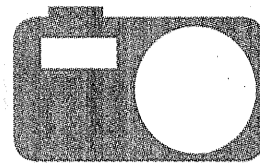


PHOTO GALLERIES

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## Reaching out

### Jewish, Palestinian women find trust, friends through dialogue

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Irene Butter is a Holocaust survivor, having been in a concentration camp in the Netherlands and then in Bergen-Belsen.

"I made it to Switzerland," the 80-year-old Ann Arbor resident said, adding she then lived in northern Africa before coming to the U.S. She was reunited with her mother and brother, but the pain of losing her father to illness remains.

She was among four Ann Arbor women — Be Kaimowitz, Wadad Abed and Huda K. Rosen — who spoke to the Plymouth-Canton Branch, American Association of University Women (AAUW) Thursday, March 17. The women are members of Zeitouna, a group that brings Jewish and Palestinian women together. It's named for the Arabic word for olive, both a symbol of peace and used for opposition purposes in the Middle East in cutting down olive trees.

"Our voice is international," said Abed, a Palestinian who comes from a Christian family.

The women began meeting in 2002 and now speak to a number of church, school and synagogue groups. They showed the trailer of their film, *Refusing to be Enemies*, at the AAUW meeting last week.

The group began around the time of the second intifada in Palestine, said Butter. "Things were getting very turbulent and hostile there," she said.

She was in a group of Jewish women who had children in Israel and met for coffee. They wanted to begin a dialogue with Palestinian women.

The first efforts didn't all suc-

ceed, but the core group of women remains, six Jewish and six Palestinian. Butter knew Abed from a similar dialogue group and Zeitouna began.

#### HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

All the women are U.S. citizens with Judaism, Christianity and Islam represented. Butter was born in Germany and has been in the U.S. most of her life.

Rosen, a Muslim, came from Haifa, Israel, in 1962, Abed in 1968 from Mablus, Palestine.

"We're invited to organizations like this, to schools, to universities," Kaimowitz said. "Part of our purpose is to be a model. It puts a human face on everything."

That means listening and trusting each other, Abed said. The women, ranging in age from early 30s to 80, found "We could learn from each other and we would broaden our perspective," Butter said.

The women saw a film of a similar dialogue in California, but noted only men spoke while women served food. They chose a women's group and meet at each other's home every other week, one taking the role of "topic owner."

There are also such jobs as facilitator and scribe, and they begin with a meal. Rosen noted the women have larger retreats.

"What we like to stress is the importance of talking to others, dialogue," she said, "not to speak over



"What we like to stress is the importance of talking to others, dialogue,' ... 'not to speak over each other and to be arguing. We're not trying to persuade each other 'I'm right and you're wrong.'"

HUDA K. ROSEN, *Zeitouna*

explaining the country was a leader in Arab eyes.

The involvement of U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger during the Nixon administration brought a sense of defeatism, she said. That has changed with recent developments and the realization that it is possible to stand up to a government that's corrupt.

"There was a sense of pride in every single Arab heart," due to Egypt's uprising, she said.

Rosen's husband was surprised the women could discuss their fears. "He said, 'I don't think men will ever admit to fears.'" Other topics Zeitouna has covered include loss, displacement, peace and forgiveness.

"We kind of cling to each other because within our own groups it's not easy," Kaimowitz said.

The women of AAUW, about 20 that night, were impressed with the program held at the Plymouth Community Arts Council's center.

"It's been marvelous, such great dialogue," said program co-chair Shirley Zaetta of Plymouth Township. "Maybe there is a possibility for peace around the world." The retired Garden City elementary teacher liked the focus on dialogue and how each woman felt.

"I thought it was outstanding," said member Dorothy Grant of Plymouth Township, who teaches college reading and critical thinking at Schoolcraft College. "It really opened my eyes to so many things. It really touched my heart."

Grant plans a trip to Israel soon with a Catholic group, and was pleased to learn so much.

"Refusing To Be Enemies," made by a filmmaker member of Zeitouna, can be seen at [www.zeitounamovie.com](http://www.zeitounamovie.com).

each other and to be arguing. We're not trying to persuade each other 'I'm right and you're wrong.'"

Kaimowitz called herself a "standard garden variety Jew" whose family was Zionist. After the 1967 war when Israel became an occupier, her views changed.

Abed said discussing Zionism was hard: "You don't get to the second sentence because you're ready to kill one another." It helped to frame topics in terms of their own narratives, which enhanced trust.

"That's how our conversations have become richer and richer," she said.

#### FIRSTHAND VIEW

Some of the women visited the region in 2006, and noted how dif-

icult it is for such mixed groups to travel together if not foreigners. "Jews aren't allowed to go to the West Bank," Butter said.

Her daughter went to Israel to find her Jewish identity and ended up marrying a Palestinian Muslim. They have two daughters.

"Through them I have learned firsthand what this conflict is all about," said Butter, who wants acceptance for her grandchildren. "They are the ones that can bring us forward. Maybe it's possible in this country but over there it's extremely difficult."

The women touched on the current uprising in Libya and recent ones in Tunisia and Egypt. "We all grew up looking up to Egypt," said Abed,

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By Marc Camoletti  
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(L to R) Delores Stinson, Jasmin Roby, Lori McLeskey, Dorothy Hill, Maegan Porter, Dorothy Hill

Residents will soon color eggs for Easter. At Four Seasons, activities like crafts, ice cream socials, Detroit Tigers outings and live entertainment occur weekly. The morning may begin with staff-led exercise,

movies, spiritual services, or sing-a-longs. In summer, theme parties allow residents to soak in the sun on the patio. The open-air pavilion is perfect for families to grill.

"We have social groups that meet 7 days a week," said Recreation Director Lori McLeskey who involves residents in planning. "We work with residents' moods for the day on the Memory Care Unit."

If residents don't want to exercise, we may switch to bowling or horseshoes. We have new Wii games like Jeopardy and Family Feud they really enjoy. When things warm up we take them to the casino, park for a picnic and have Happy Hours on Fridays."

Ann Setlock looks forward to the activities. In her younger days, the 89 year old resident was a professional bowler. The flat screen TV gets residents moving with Wii video sports. Socialization and activity improve overall health.

"They've got everything imaginable, a lot of entertainment that makes you feel you want to get up and move," said Setlock. "You want to check the calendar to see what's next."

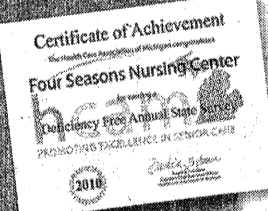
Setlock especially enjoys listening to Jasmine Roby sing. The Assistant Recreation Director even bursts into song in hallways.

"Songs bring back memories," said Roby. "Residents have said to me this song came out when I was 15. It prods good memories."

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# Faith-based group helps girls, women learn and prosper

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sister Maureen Mulcrone and colleague Amy Amador, a social worker, brought an important message to Plymouth March 15.

The women run the Mercy Education Project, based in Detroit's Corktown and serving girls and women of southwest Detroit. Sister Mulcrone, a Sister of Mercy, told of Melissa, who dropped out in ninth grade, as she spoke to Plymouth A.M. Rotarians.

"She had a child and then she had another child," Sister Mulcrone said. Embarrassment came when Melissa couldn't help her children with schoolwork.

"We taught this girl that her

mom could also get help at Mercy Education Project," she said.

Felicia came from an abusive home and ran away. She lived on the street and was in and out of prison before her judge helped her get to Mercy Education Project.

"A few years later, her judge came to her graduation program at Mercy Education Project," Sister Mulcrone said. Another girl made it to 12th grade thanks to an aunt's loving care, but had to drop out to care for the aunt when she got cancer.

"We are helping people whose lives have been chaotic, who have had an experience of failing over and over," Sister Mulcrone said. That includes women who've failed the GED test because their academic skills aren't up to ninth-grade level.

Amador, who holds a master's degree in social work and is executive director, described the transportation offered to participants, as well as hot meals and 65 minutes of one-on-one tutoring for the girls, age 6 to approximately 14. There are more than 70 girls in tutoring during the school year.

There's also an Emerging Leaders program in the summer held at the University of Detroit Mercy. Participants visit other colleges and places of employment over four weeks.

### STRESSING EDUCATION

One young woman got a full ride to the University of Toledo, but didn't want to leave her family and didn't go. Parents are now involved to

encourage participation and higher education.

Amador noted almost 94 percent of residents in Southwest Detroit lack a ninth-grade education. "That's one of the things we're trying to make a dent in," she said.

The facility, located near the old Tiger Stadium, has a waiting list of some 90-120 adults, due to capacity. Volunteers are always welcome in a variety of roles.

Some of the women come from Freedom House, a facility for political refugees seeking asylum, said Sister Mulcrone, director of development and marketing for MEP. MEP started in 1992 with 14 young students and one staffer.

"We almost immediately got into offering programs for women as

well," she said.

They've just started Open Doors for women who've been in the criminal justice system, helping with resumes and job searches.

The MEP "Doorway to the Future" Dinner will be held May 5 as a benefit to support the faith-based group's work. Graduation is also held, complete with caps and gowns.

"No limos or prom dresses, but when you see mom graduate, that's a big deal," said Sister Mulcrone.

Amy Amador can be reached at aamador@mercyed.net or by phone at (313) 963-5881. The Web site is www.merced.net. Sister Mulcrone is at smmulcrone@mercyed.net or (313) 963-5881.

# Redford man hopes community gardens take root this spring

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Fred Bynum of Redford is poised to dig, seed, water and weed this spring, but he needs a little help to get his community garden project off the ground.

Bynum, 58, has organized a nonprofit organization, the American Food Resource, to help supply fresh vegetables to local soup kitchens and food pantries. He's recruiting volunteers to help find and cultivate planting sites for community gardens throughout western Wayne County communities.

"I would like to see every community in Wayne County get involved in this program," Bynum said. "The people who volunteer their time and services will be able to take some food with them, but the majority of it will be donated to Gleaners, soup kitchens and

others. The idea of the community garden is to help the people that need it the most."

Bynum grew up in a family that gardened. He recalls that his mother grew beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, blackberries and raspberries. He wants to help others put fresh produce on their kitchen tables, too.

A truck driver for many years, he travelled across the country and met individuals everywhere who were in need of food. One incident at an Ohio truck stop restaurant made an indelible impression. Another diner told Bynum he ate one restaurant meal a month and cat food most of the time.

"I felt sorry for the man. When I was done I reached over and paid my check and his check," Bynum said.

"When you're a truck driver you go to truck stops and you run into people from the area. I met people on social security

and disability."

Bynum quit truck driving for health reasons, but isn't ready to retire from useful work.

"This is a way I can help and put food in hands that need it the most."

He contacted Gleaners for advice and said Wayne Metro Gardens Program offered the use of tilling equipment.

"We need to work fast in getting this set up so we can get land and manpower," he said.

He hopes to recruit three volunteer leaders per garden site and be ready to break ground by April 20 and plant hardy seeds by May.

Anyone interested in volunteering or in donating the use of land for a garden site, can e-mail Bynum at fred\_bynum@yahoo.com. Potential volunteers should include their phone number, e-mail address, zip code and state where and



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Fred Bynum of Redford hopes tomatoes and other vegetables will soon take root in community vegetable gardens throughout western Wayne County.

how they'd like to help out. "I'm not trying to reinvent the wheel, but a lot of people

need food right now." The organization accepts donations through TCF Bank,

13401 Middlebelt, Livonia. www.americanfoodresource.org.

## Guide to Employment

CHECK OUT THESE EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES! For even more opportunities see our "award winning" classified section!

5000-5980  
Employment  
Instructional Services  
Help Wanted-General 5000

**RICHARD**  
A world leader in automotive stamping seeks experienced Day/Night Shift.  
• EDM Wire w/Master Cam/ Programming exp.  
• CNC Machinist 2D Master Cam exp.  
• Boring Mill Operators  
• CMM Operators  
• Die Maker/Die Helper  
Apply at Richard Tool & Die Corp. 29700 W.K. Smith Dr. New Hudson, MI 48165 Fax to: 248-486-4660 vchandler@rdcorp.com

All students/other \$14.25 base-appt Spring Openings in cust sales/service, all sched avail, no exp. needed, CALL NOW! 248-426-4405

**Assistant Property Manager** Must be exp'd. & licensed. For real estate/property management company. Submit resume & wage expectations to: dmz@remsrealstate.com or fax to: 313.533.0340

**Auto Parts Counter Person** Exp. needed using computer to look up parts. No nights or Sunday's. Resume: PO Box 1184, Walled Lake, MI 48390

**BINDERY** Position available. Experience necessary. Full-time, benefits. Call: (734) 943-3013

**BUSINESS MANAGER** AGBU Alex & Marie Manoojian School seeks exp'd Business Manager.  
Responsibilities incl: mgmt of all accounts, financial reports, payroll, benefits, insurance, HR, property management, & other related school reports.  
**Position requirements:**  
• Minimum of Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and/or Finance  
• Minimum of five (5) years experience  
• Familiarity with Public School and government accounting requirements  
• Knowledge of accounting software programs  
• Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.  
Please submit cover letter and resume to: Dr. Hosep Torossian torossian@manoojian.org 22001 Northwestern Hwy Southfield MI 48075

• CAD/CAM  
• Stamping Die Designer Experienced in Delcam Powershape or Powermill software.  
Mail Resume: PO Box 214696 Auburn Hills MI 48321-4696

To place your ad here contact us at  
careers@hometownlife.com  
or call 1-800-579-7355

Help Wanted-Medical 5060  
**Medical Transcriptionist** Multi-physician Southfield office needs in-house exp'd Medical Transcriptionist. Part-time. Great pay. Email resume to: \*transcripthire@gmail.com

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT:** Part-time, pediatric experience necessary. Fax resume: (248) 662-0365

**OPTOMETRIC ASSISTANT** Positive, personable professional needed part-time for private office. Pre-testing, contact lenses, some dispensing exp. preferred. Email resume to: eyecarehr@yahoo.com

**RN** Insurance Service firm providing Medical Assessments (IME's and Reviews) seeking RN to perform Quality Review on med assessments for Disability. Good benefits/Competitive pay hr mmro@yahoo.com Or fax (248) 356-6757

Help Wanted-Food/Beverage 5080  
**MATURE HOSTESS** Exp'd. Apply 10am or 6pm at Koney Island Inn, Livonia Market Place, 7 & Middlebelt.

**NIGHT COOK** Senior apt. complex, part-time position. Call: (248) 540-4555.

•BARTENDER  
•WEEKEND SHOT GIRL  
•WAITSTAFF  
Experience is a MUST!! Apply within: Kickers 36071 Plymouth Rd. NO PHONE CALLS Please

Help Wanted-Sales 5120  
**AUTO SALES** Immediate opening for Car Sales Professionals. Top commission paid! Will train ideal candidates. Excellent benefits pkg. Email apply@dickscott.com

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Help Wanted-General 5000  
**CARPENTERS** Experience only with good transportation. 248-214-6650

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**CHILD CARE PROVIDERS** For infants, toddlers & pre-schoolers. Call: 248-471-1022

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**CLEANERS, Full-Time** for area homes. \$10 hr. to start. No nights or weekends. Car req. Plymouth Area: 734-812-5683

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**CLEANERS NEEDED - EXP'D** For Novi cleaning co. Must be dependable & responsible. Join our family of cleaning professionals. \$10/hr w/flex schedule. (248) 478-3240

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**CONDOMINIUM MGMT** Fast paced Farmington Hills Property Management Co. seeks self starter for condominium mgmt. Requires excellent organizational, computer and interpersonal skills. Please send resume to: mcarroll@johnparralco.com.

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**Construction:** Swim Pool shotcrete experience required, CDL, year round, benefits  
**Retail:** Swim Pool Supplies, must be 18.  
**Swim Pool Service Dept:** Pool Openers, Service/Maintenance and Plumbers B&B POOLS Livonia. 734-427-3242

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**CUSTOMER SERVICE REP-** Part-time, for Westland insurance office. Flexible hours. Some computer & phone skills needed. Will train. Email resume to: mbsjohin@aol.com

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**CUSTOMER SERVICE/SALES** Looking for a change? Established Royal Oak insurance agency seeks a motivated individual for customer service and sales support. FT. Salary plus commissions. Email: carolyntack@alstate.com or fax: 248-583-4770

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**Delivery - WILL TRAIN** Call(313)292-9300 \$-14/hr Reg License OK take steel samples from plant to Lab. Use Co Car Emp - 1 \$185 J#295.82 Full Time Hours

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**DIRECT CARE STAFF** Work with developmentally disabled adults. Canton. (734) 722-4580 x12

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**DPW MAINTENANCE WORKER** Full-Time Charter Township of Redford  
For more information call: 313-387-2761 or visit our website at: redfordwp.com/dep/HR Equal Opportunity Employer

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**DRIVER - ROAD SWEEPER** Part-Time. Variable hrs. CDL. Good record. References req. \$15/hr. Call: 248-321-7755

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**Driver - Tri-Axle Dump 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

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**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. Fast card or flatbed plus a plus Call Today: 877-977-4287

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**CDL A Drivers** Local company looking for Regional ant Team Drivers in the Detroit area. Minimum 1 yr. exp. & good MVR. Call for more info. 877-977-4287

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**FACTORY - (Automotive) MASS HIRING!** Call(313)292-9300 \$-14/hr + Benefits PD TRAINING Run machines on line for auto plating COI E1 \$185 J292.93 Advancement & Pension!!!

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**GENERAL LABOR** In manufacturing plant. Afternoon Shift: 3:30pm-midnight. Apply Within or Mail Resume: 1911 Northfield Dr., Rochester Hills MI 48309

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN** Full-Time White Lake based Co. Minimum 5 yrs. exp. in Servicing & Repairs of Systems. Email resume HRProLand@ymail.com or Fax to: 248-889-9068

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**LAWN EQUIPMENT TECH** Full or Part-Time Experienced Preferred. 734-525-0980 or email: john@commilawn.com

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**Lawn Technicians** Min. starting pay \$10/hr. Will train. Benefits & commission. Must have valid/good driving record. MI Property Maintenance Livonia 734-793-5135

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**LOOKING FOR A CAREER (not a job) REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT** (Special pricing for Pre-licensing only \$99) This is the time to buy homes in Michigan, be the one to sell the House. Change your life personally & financially register today.  
**CALL ED BOWLIN** at: 734-591-5940 x107

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**ROOFERS** Commercial/Industrial Foreman & Labor Positions Experience a plus.  
• Competitive wages  
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• 401K Plan  
Reliable transportation a must. Must be at least 18 yrs of age. Pre-employment drug testing. Submit resume or apply in person at: 38750 Ford Rd Westland MI 48185

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**SALES** Multiple positions in Novi, MI Miracle Software Systems, Inc. is a large multinational business consulting company. Must have the ability to develop and manage professional networks with prospects and clients to strengthen knowledge of business, industry and geographic practices. Be a self-starter and results oriented and be comfortable making cold calls. Salary plus commission and full benefits. Please forward resume to: sratnala@miraclesoft.com For further info, please visit www.miraclesoft.com

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**SALES & SERVICE** For heating & cooling co. Must have own truck. Call 313-937-2886 Btwn 9-4pm, ask for Mary

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**Seasonal Parks Maintenance Workers** Part-Time Charter Township of Redford  
For more information call: 313-387-2761 or visit our website at: redfordwp.com/dep/HR Equal Opportunity Employer

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**Service Tech-Installer FULL TIME -BENEFITS, COMPANY VEHICLE, 401K & COMPETITIVE WAGES.** Looking for a personable, reliable, hard-working and mechanically inclined person that can lift over 80 lbs to service and install water treatment equipment. Must have a valid, clean driving record and able to pass a drug screen. If you are interested, please call: Mark: (610) 632-5042

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**SWIMMING POOL COMPANY** seeks Laborer & Maintenance with swimming pool exp. Outdoor physical work. Top \$\$ paid. 248-477-7272

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**Teacher HEATING & COOLING INSTRUCTOR** for Southfield tech school. Min 5 yrs field exp req'd. (248) 415-0330; or email: lgauther@northwesterntech.org

Help Wanted-General 5000  
**VETERINARY TECHNICIAN** LVT or equivalent, full-time. Please apply in person: Strong Veterinary Hospital, 29212 5 Mile Rd. Livonia, MI 48154

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020  
**LEGAL SECRETARY/ ASSISTANT** General personal injury litigation practice. Exp. preferred. PT 10-15 hrs/wk. \$20/hr. Livonia area (7 Mile/275). Flexible hours. Email resume: cvkavanaugh@hotmail.com or fax to: 734-462-3657

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020  
**PAYROLL ACCOUNTANT** ESI US R&D, Inc. is seeking a Payroll Accountant in their Farmington Hills, Michigan office. Responsibilities include: Ensure accuracy of payroll records by maintaining database with updates in status changes, tax withholdings, benefits deductions, time off accruals, etc. Initialize journal entries and balance out accounts, submit bi-weekly 401(K) contributions and reconcile health insurance deductions to monthly statements. Prepare and remit federal, state, and local tax reports in a timely fashion. Responsible for three payroll totaling approximately 200 employees. Qualified candidates should have an Associate Degree or higher in Accounting or Finance, 5+ yrs. exp. in commercial operational accounting, knowledge of computerized financial reporting systems such as Great Plains, high level of proficiency in MS Excel and 2-4 years of experience working with ADP payroll systems including Pay Expert, Work Force Now, and HRB. Desired qualifications include: Ability to professionally manage highly confidential information, international company experience, detail oriented, organized, ability to multi task & prioritize, strong verbal and written communication skills, ability to work in a team oriented fast paced environment and work under a deadline (with the possibility of long hours).

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020  
**ADMINISTRATIVE** Ferrolux Metals Co. in Wayne has immediate need for a part-time administrative clerk with strong data entry and customer service skills to work in a casual fast-paced office environment. Hourly rate of \$11.54 up to 35 hours per week  
For consideration, email resume in Word format mnesier@ferrolux.com or fax: 734-722-3251

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020  
**Drivers: Attention Class A CDL Drivers.** Exp. Drivers, \$1200 Sign-On Bonus. Exc. miles, home wkly, HazMat Endorsement. Border Crossing Pay, orientation pay. Performance Bonus. Apply: www.carter-express.com or 800-738-7705 x1286

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020  
**Drivers: \$2500 SIGN-ON BONUS** CDL-A, 1yr Exp-System/OTR Drivers. \$35cp, plus \$2.02 Fuel & Safety Bonus. Pay Rates at 3 & 6 mos & 1yr. Health Benefits avail. Jamie/Dolly: 800-593-6433



# Animal rescues offer spay/neuter, charity dog walk

Tail Waggers 1990 will offer "Spay Day 2011" on three consecutive Tuesdays next month at Sheehy Animal Hospital in Livonia.

The cost of neutering male cats will be \$55 which includes full-service veterinary care for the procedure. The cost of spaying female cats and spaying or neutering dogs will be \$85 which includes full-service veterinarian care.

"Anything to help with pet over-population has been a goal for years," stated Laura Zain, Tail Waggers 1990 founder. "Because of the unconditional support we receive from the people of this community, our low-cost program is just another way we feel we have stepped up to the plate for those in need."

Spay Day 2011 will have limited openings on April 12, April 19 and April 26.

Make an appointment by e-mailing spayday2011@yahoo.com or calling (734) 560-4660. Additional information can also be found at www.tailwaggers1990.org.

Tail Waggers 1990 is committed to helping people help animals. It supports dedicated pet owners who are in need of assistance and provides necessary funding for those animals in emergency situations.

### SAVE THE DATE

The 1st Annual South Lyon Charity Dog Walk, "See Spot Run," will benefit Westland's Guardian Angel Animal Rescue (GAAR). Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 14 at McHattie Park, located off Lafayette Street in the heart of downtown South Lyon.

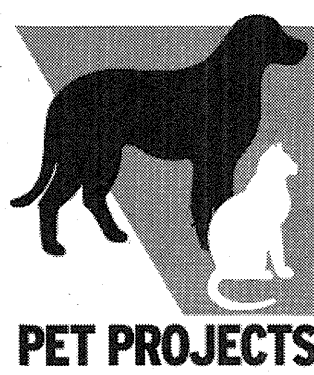
The fun, family-friendly event will include door prizes,

raffle drawings, goody bags with treats for pups and their companions, prizes for top individual and team fundraisers and adoptable pets on site. Walkers can walk one or two miles, with or without pets, through South Lyon.

Registration and sponsorships are available now at www.seespotrunsouthlyon.com. Cost to walk with two pets is a \$20 donation.

GAAR's volunteers are active in fostering and rescuing animals throughout southeastern Michigan.

Recently Sandra Mezza, GAAR's director, responded to a call from Commerce, where a kitten had been caught in a snare trap set in a residential neighborhood. The kitten's leg was amputated and subsequently taken to Mezza's home to recuperate. She also saved a cat from a Detroit neighbor-



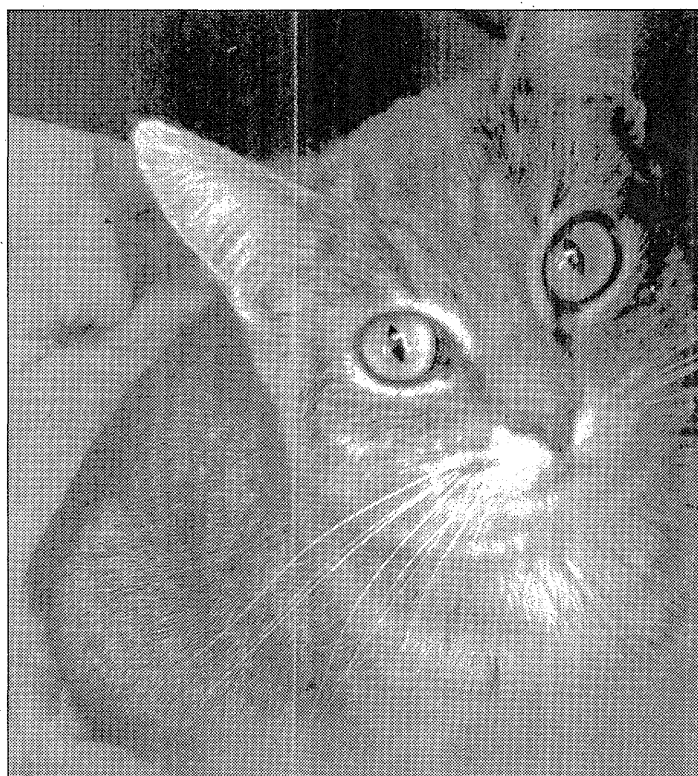
## PET PROJECTS

hood that was found with a rubber band tightened around its tail.

"He weighs no more than two pounds and he is the sweetest kitty," Mezza wrote in an e-mail to the *Observer*. Surgery on the cat's tail was postponed because the feline was weak. Mezza said it's likely to be amputated when the cat is strong enough to endure the procedure.

The group also recently rescued an abused puppy.

"He is the sweetest thing. He is only 4 weeks old and a fighter."



This cat had her leg amputated after it was caught in a trap, but she's recovering with help and care from Guardian Angel Animal Rescue.

See Spot Run will help GAAR raise the funds it needs to pay for medical care and other costs.

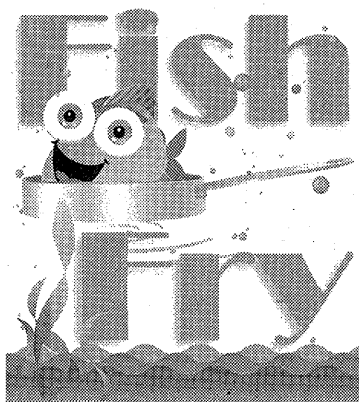
- By Sharon Dargay

## LENTEN FISH DINNERS

### GARDEN CITY

• 4-7 p.m. all Fridays of Lent, at Saint Dunstan Catholic Church, 1515 Belton, west of Inkster Road and south of Ford Road. Fish may be ordered fried or baked. Dinners cost from \$5.25-\$8. Dessert and pop also are available. (734) 425-6720

• 4:30-7 p.m. or until sold out Fridays, at St. Raphael, 31530 Beechwood, west of Merriman, north of Ford Road. Good Friday hours are 3-7 p.m. or until sold out. Prices are \$8.50 for dinners. A la carte items available. (734) 427-1533



Mile and Beech Daly. Seven different dinners ranging from \$4 for macaroni and cheese to \$8.50 for shrimp with cocktail sauce, dinner roll, fries and coleslaw. A la carte menu, side orders and beverages are available. (313) 534-9000

• 4-7 p.m. or until dinners run out, every Friday during Lent, at St. Robert Bellarmine, located at W. Chicago Road and Inkster Road. All-you-can eat baked or fried fish dinners cost \$8. Seniors, 60 and older pay \$7 and children under 12 pay \$4. Weekly specials are \$10. A la

carte items available. Carry-out dinners don't include a beverage. (313) 937-1655

### WESTLAND

• 5-8 p.m. every Friday in March and April, at Sts. Constantine & Helen Church's Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, west of Wayne Road. The buffet dinner costs \$8.95 for adults and \$4.95 for children under 10. (734) 525-3550

• 4:30-7 p.m. every Friday through April 15 at The First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland, 3 Town Square, in Wayne. Baked and fried fish available, served with sides. Pop and dessert available. (734) 721-4801

• 4:30-7 p.m. Fridays of Lent excluding Good Friday, at Ss. Simon and Jude Parish, 32500 Palmer. The menu includes baked or fried fish or shrimp dinners. Adults pay \$7, children under 10 pay \$5. A la carte items also available. (734) 722-1343

### LIVONIA

• 4:30-5 p.m. is senior early bird; 5-7 p.m. is regular serving time, every Friday before Good Friday, at St. Genevieve Church, 28933 Jamison Ave. All-you-can-eat baked or fried fish dinners. Prices are \$6 for the senior early bird; \$10 for weekly specials; \$8 for all-you-can-eat fish for adults; \$7 for seniors; \$5 for children, 12 and under. A la carte items available. (734) 425-4420

• 4:30-7 p.m. Fridays of Lent except for Good Friday at St. Michael the Archangel, 11441 Hubbard. All-you-can-eat fried or baked fish dinners. Prices are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and take-out orders, and \$4 for kids, 3-11. Children under 3 eat for free. (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200, or visit www.livoniastmichael.org.

### REDFORD

• 4-7 p.m. every Friday during Lent, Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church, corner of Six

## REUNION CALENDAR

### Bellefonte High School

**Class of 1971**  
Planning 40th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail BHS1971@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 wolon@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 Callar 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 lvnerian@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.

### Garden City East & West

**Classes of 1966-67**  
A casual, joint reunion is planned for Oct. 8. The organizing committee needs addresses of class members. Call Dale

### Bowes (Whiting) '66W

at (734) 427-7148, Carol Gantt Fenner '67W at (734) 326-8467, Karen Colvard (Domanski) '66E at (734) 427-7012, Cheryl Gibbs '67E at (734) 340-9916/(313) 670-2402, or e-mail Dennis Russell at russ027@comcast.net.

### 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@twm.rr.com.

### Livonia Franklin

**Class of 1966**  
45th high school reunion, Oct. 7-9. Contact Larry Ruzsas at lruzsas187264mi@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 Taffttoo@aol.com

### Southfield High School

**Class of 1981**  
The 30th reunion is planned for 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 6, at Doc's Sport Retreat in Livonia. Tickets are \$20 per person for appetizers. There will be a cash bar. The group is looking for classmates. For more information go to Facebook Southfield High Class of 1981 or e-mail Terri Jarvi O'Brien at terri@streetmktg.com.

### Wayne High School

**All Classes**  
Wayne High Schools Alumni Association 27th Annual All Class Reunion Banquet 5-10 p.m. Friday, May 13, at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born, Wayne. Dinner starts at 6 p.m. The class of 1961 will be honored. Tickets are \$29 before May 1 and \$34 after. For more information call Wandá Boice at (734) 326-7767.

## Arthritis Today

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



## FIBROMYALGIA

The condition Fibromyalgia is a good example of how a diagnosis can cause more difficulties for a patient than not knowing what the problem is.

An individual with Fibromyalgia may see a different doctor, and tell that physician the fibromyalgia related difficulties experienced at the moment. That doctor may say: "You don't have Fibromyalgia, you have Chronic Fatigue Syndrome." Or the second doctor, on examining the patient, finds areas of pain in particular muscles and concludes that the problem is not Fibromyalgia but is Myofascial Pain Syndrome.

Both physicians are correct. Fibromyalgia has the ability to change its expression. At times, the condition will show itself as pressure points in the elbows, shoulders, back and legs. At times, a patient with Fibromyalgia cannot sleep for more than one or two hours at a time; then the person may go for weeks sleeping all the time, a feature of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

Current thinking is that the source of Fibromyalgia, Myofascial Pain Syndrome and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome is a malfunctioning pain center in the midbrain area. The manifestations of dysfunction vary. At first pressure point pain dominates, later on, fatigue asserts itself, at other times, muscle groups take on an aching quality that lasts hours to days.

No laboratory test can identify which aspect of Fibromyalgia is foremost at any one time. Some doctors make a distinction between presentations and other physicians, including me, do not. To understand their fibromyalgia problem, a patient needs to know both the diagnosis and the doctor.

CE0879238

## DOGS OF THE WEEK

Tasha and Blue are the featured Greyhounds this week at Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption. Here's what volunteers say about them:

Tasha, 6, has a loving and gentle personality. She's petite with brindle markings on her white fur.

Blue, 4, has a sweet personality, with lots of love to give.

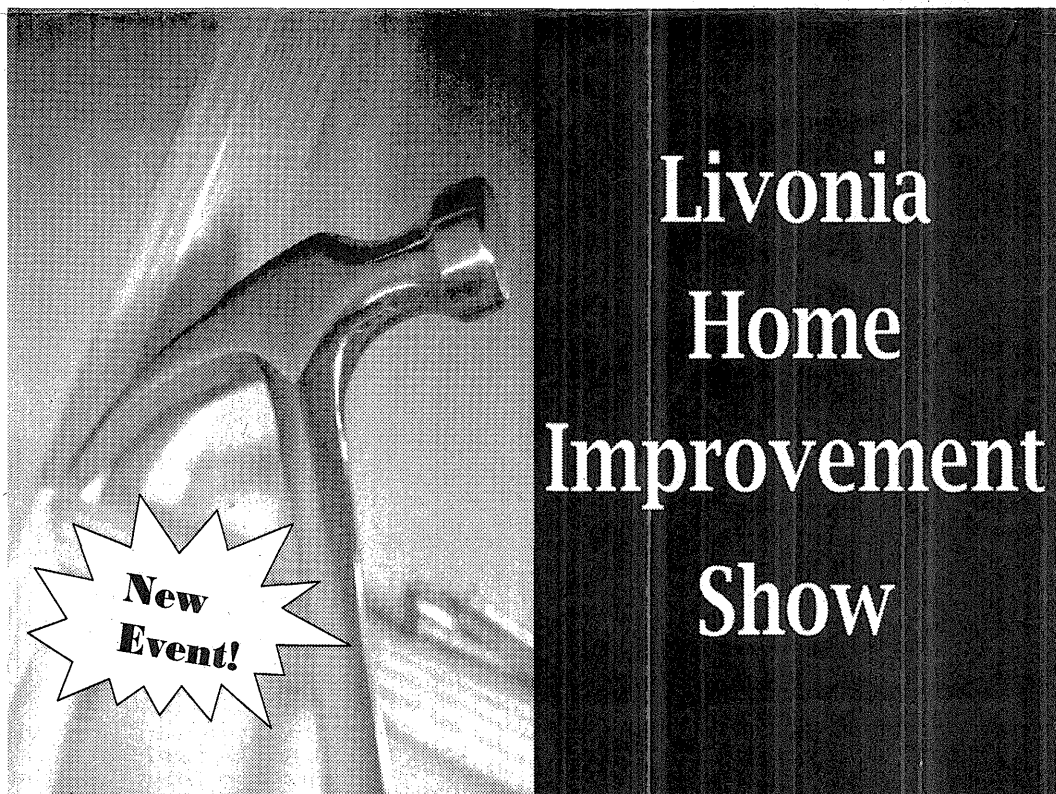
If you're interested in meeting Tasha or Blue, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or visit www.greyheart.org.



Tasha



Blue



# Livonia Home Improvement Show

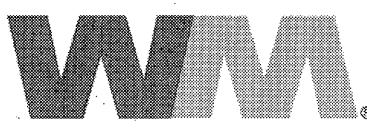
Saturday, March 26, 2011  
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Churchill High School  
Admission is FREE!

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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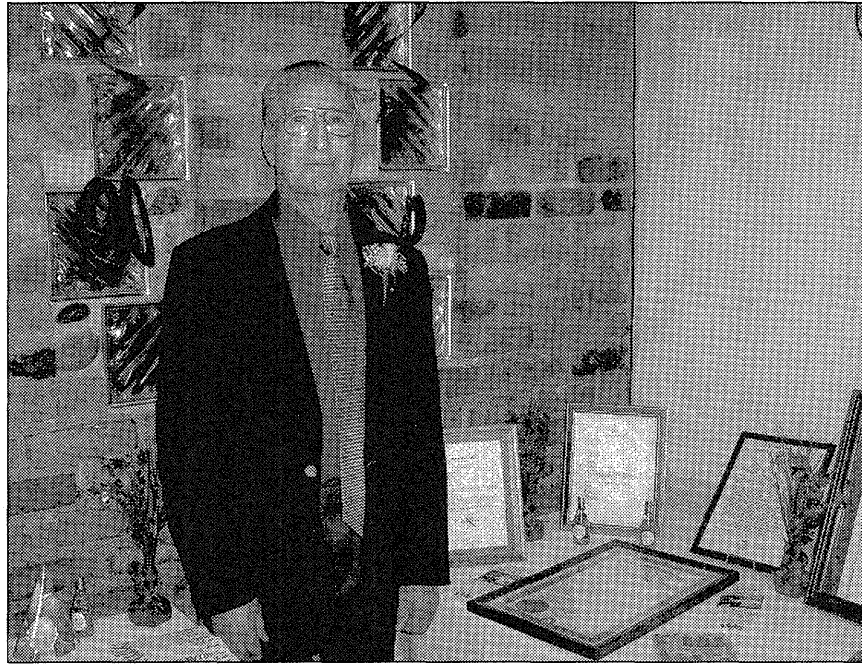
# 90th birthday gives cause to celebrate for Livonia man

Joseph Antonio Girolamo of Livonia, turned 90 years old March 9. He celebrated his 90th birthday at DeLuca's of Westland a few days later with 61 family members and dear friends. Joseph's 17-year-old nephew, Logan Mehan, flew in from Colorado to be a part of the celebration. Also flying in was Eileen Taylor, formally of Livonia, who arrived from Washington, D.C. In addition, friends Bill and Annette Mann drove in from Sarnia, Ontario to share in Joe's special celebration.

His daughter, Joyce Hermann, and husband, Michael, of Plymouth organized the party and also arranged for special birthday greetings to arrive from President Obama, Gov. Rick Snyder, State Rep. John Walsh, R-Livonia, State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, U.S. Rep. Thaddeus G. McCotter, R-Livonia, Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, Michigan's U.S. Sen. Carl Levin and U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano.

Alyssa Faulkner, 12, of Livonia, led the crowd in the pledge of allegiance before lunch. Afterward, McCotter's district representative, Lori O'Brady, presented Joseph with a Congressional Record.

The party was complete with the



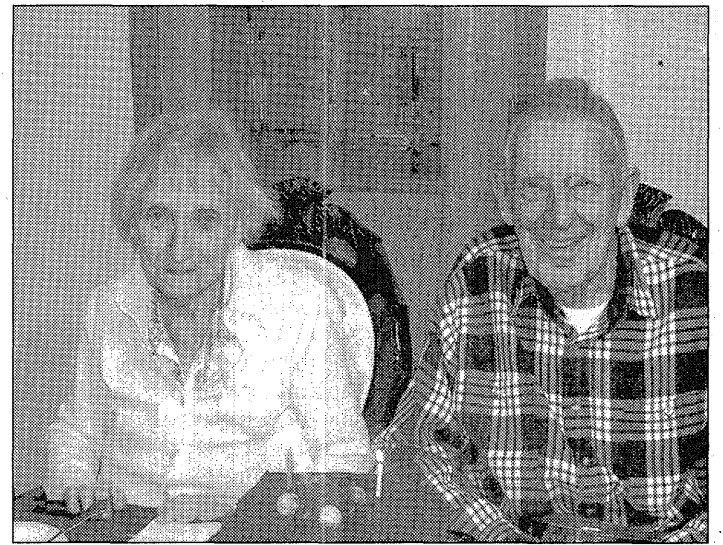
Joseph Antonio Girolamo of Livonia celebrated his 90th birthday this month.

nieces, nephews and grandkids singing Happy Birthday and helping Joe blow out the candles on his cannoli cake.

Throughout his life, he has been in leadership roles and has been a role model for many of the people whose lives he has touched. According to his

family, he is dependable, honest, loyal, cares about others and volunteers his time to help others without expecting payment or reward. They say he is cheerful, tries to make others happy, is brave and has stood up for what he thinks is right.

## MILESTONES



James and Beulah Zimmerman of Wayne

## 70TH ANNIVERSARY

James and Beulah Zimmerman of Wayne marked their 70th wedding anniversary Jan. 6 and celebrated at home with family. The couple married in 1941.

They have two children, James (Carol) Zimmerman II of Westland and Florence (Raymond) Payeur of Oak Harbor, Wash. They have five grandchildren, Margaret Zimmerman, Major Chris (Leslie) Payeur, Connie (Brian) Smith, Angel (Staff Sergeant Patrick) McMillen, and James Zimmerman III. They are the proud grandparents of nine great-grandchildren.

Beulah is an Ohio native and the oldest of three children. James is one of five children — two half-brothers and an older brother and younger sister. His father, Samuel Zimmerman was a doctor in Wayne. Beulah traveled to Michigan to

become a nurse at Carpenter Hospital in Wayne, where she met Jim, an ambulance driver. The couple married in Beverly, Ohio at the local minister's house.

Beulah worked at Eloise Psychiatric Hospital until 1984 when it closed. She later retired from Wayne County General Hospital. She enjoys baking cookies, pies and zucchini bread and writes weekly to keep in touch with family members across the country.

James served his country in WWII, and later worked for Shell Oil Company and spent a number of years working for schools. He is a 32nd degree Mason. He also enjoys a good crossword puzzle.

James and Beulah enjoy visiting with neighbors, walking and most of all being with their family.

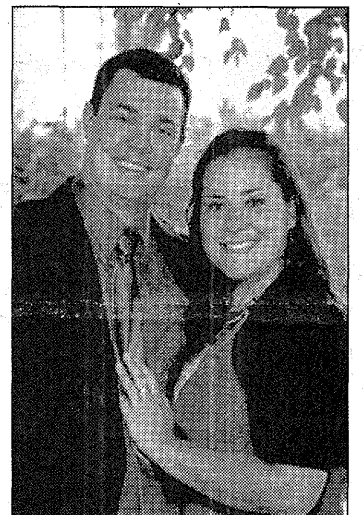
## AUGUST WEDDING PLANNED

Michael and Janet McMullen of Perry announce the engagement of their daughter, Tracy, to Bernard Joseph (BJ) Page, son of Arthur and Eileen Page, of Canton.

An August 2011 wedding is planned.

The bride-to-be is a 1999 graduate of Perry, a 2003 graduate of the University of Hawaii-Hilo, and a 2006 graduate of Michigan State University, where she earned a master's degree. She is the environmental education coordinator for DeVries Nature Conservancy in Owosso.

Page is a 2002 graduate of Schoolcraft College and a 2004 graduate of the State University of New York-Delhi. He is the co-owner and chef



McMullen-Page

of A Family Affair Catering in Plymouth.

## DOSS-ROACH

Venessa Doss and Michael Roach announce their engagement.

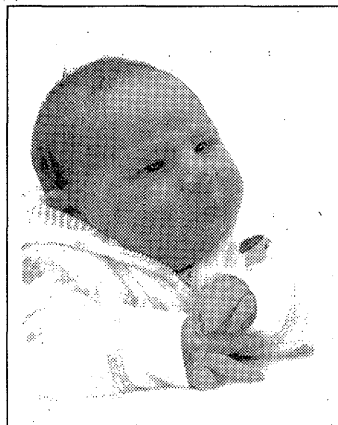
The bride-to-be, daughter of Steve and Elaine Rochowiak of Garden City and Tom Doss of Jacksonville, Fla., attended Garden City High School and the University of Michigan.

She is employed by Goldman SACHS, Jersey City, N.J. Her fiancé, son of Gail Roach of Brick, N.J., and the late Patrick Roach attended Monsignor Dunovan High School in New Jersey and the University of South Carolina. He is employed by Fidelity in Morristown, N.J.

A May 2012 destination wedding is planned.



Doss-Roach



Aidan Anthony Watters

## AIDAN ARRIVES

Stacey and Brock Watters of Livonia announce the birth of their first child, Aidan Anthony Watters.

He weighed 9 pounds 5 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches when he was born at 9:16 p.m. Dec. 16, 2010 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia.

His grandparents are Donald and Dawn Belzyt of Brownstown and Kevin and Denise Watters of Fort Wayne, Ind. Aidan joins his parents' dog, Juliet, at home.

*3/20/11 5/10*

# Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

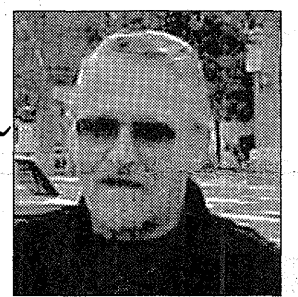
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### BARBARA J. ANTROBIUS

Age 56, March 17, 2011. Loving mother of Brian (Angie), Lance (Samantha) and Matthew. Beloved companion of Roger Avis. Dear grandmother of Dillon. Dear sister of Mary, Beth, Carol, Patricia, Joe, Tom & Terry. Service was held at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Please share a memory at [www.rggharris.com](http://www.rggharris.com)

**JACQUELINE S. JOHNSON**  
Age 87, of Redford, MI passed away March 13, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.



### RICHARD S. ANGERILLI

Age 74 of Howell, formerly of Farmington Hills, passed away Friday, March 11, 2011. He was born July 29, 1936 in Detroit, the son of Louis and Loretta (Lemon) Angerilli. Beloved husband of Clara (Keeskes) Angerilli whom he married June 4, 1960 in Detroit. Dear father of Lisa (Kevin) Hansen of Howell, Lori (Thomas) Cometto of Idaho and Dawn (Craig) Bright of Howell. Also survived by twelve grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and brother, Louis of Walled Lake. Richard was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. Mass of Christian Burial was Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m. (in-state 9 a.m.) at St. John Catholic Church, 2099 Hacker Road, (at M-59), Howell. Visitation Tuesday 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. at MacDonald's Funeral Home, Howell (517-546-2800). Burial in Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or American Cancer Society. Please visit the family's online guestbook at [www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com](http://www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com)

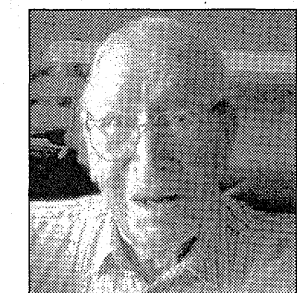


### JAMES MACY

Age 55 of Roscoe Illinois, formerly of Livonia died suddenly at home on Friday March 11 and is now with the Lord. He was the beloved husband of Lori, loving father of Brett, Meghan, and Sean; cherished son of Margarita and the late Wayne; dear brother of Linda (Bob Rogers) and Robert; uncle of Nicole (Dan) Hunter and great uncle of Macie, Max and Morgan. He graduated in 1973 from Stevenson High School and 1979 from MSU. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to: Macy Children Education Fund c/o Gateway Community Bank 5390 Williams Dr., Roscoe, Ill 61073. James will be laid to rest in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia, MI at a later date.

**JOHN T. THURMAN, JR.**  
Age 75, of Farmington Hills, MI passed away on March 17, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

**LINDA ANN WESSELS BONNETT**  
Age 69 died March 14, 2011. On-line condolences may be made to [www.frankvoglerandsons.com](http://www.frankvoglerandsons.com)



### GEORGE ARTHUR HUDSON

91, died on December 27, 2011, in Catonsville, MD. He was born to Izette Farnsworth Hudson and Charles John Hudson in Worcester, MA, on September 13, 1918. He is survived by his wife, Madelon Hudson; his children, Carol (Gregg) Packard of Plymouth, MI, Susan (Bill) Fagan of Lake Hopatcong, NJ, and Skip (Kitty) Hudson of Singer Island, FL; four grandchildren, Lynn Packard of Plymouth, MI, Charlie Packard of Denver, CO, Meg Fagan of Newton, NJ, and Jennifer Fagan of Lake Hopatcong, NJ; and two great-granddaughters, Zosia and Renia Packard. He is also survived by four wonderful step-daughters and their families. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Elizabeth (Betty) Mosher Hudson; his daughter, Holly; and a brother and sister. He was an engineer at GM and graduated from GM University. Over the years, he was on the Plymouth City Council and Planning Commission. While living in Plymouth, he was active in the Kiwanis, the Masons, the Plymouth Presbyterian Church, and the Plymouth Historical Society. In Baltimore, he volunteered at the National Aquarium. A service will be held on April 30, 2011, at the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth. The service will take place at 11am, with visitation to follow. Those wishing to make memorial contributions may donate to the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, or the Plymouth Historical Society.

### OBITUARY POLICY

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

**Deadlines:**  
Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday  
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to [oeobits@hometownlife.com](mailto:oeobits@hometownlife.com) or fax to:  
Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson  
313-496-4968

For more information call:  
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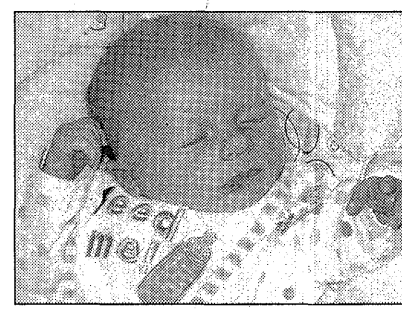
Observer & Eccentric  
Call 1-800-579-7355

**VIRGINIA D. NIPP**  
Age 82, March 16, 2011. Beloved wife of the late William "Bill". Loving mother of Judy (Ron) Blome & Kerry (Vickie). Grandmother of Tony (Carrie) & Harlyn (Heather). Great-grandmother of Rocco Walker, Vincent, Gabriel, Autumn & Summer. Sister of Annette (Harold) Davis, & the late Larry Cunningham. Also survived by several nieces & nephews. Funeral services were held Saturday. Arrangements by John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home. 734-427-3800. [www.santeiufuneralhome.com](http://www.santeiufuneralhome.com)

**WILLIAM E. KLEPSCH, Sr.**  
Age 82, of Livonia, MI, passed away March 10, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

## KNOW THE SCORE

check out the numbers in today's Sports section



Parker Christopher Creehan

## PARKER ARRIVES

Parker Christopher Creehan weighed 6 pounds 1 ounce when he was born Dec. 31, 2010.

His proud parents are Scott and Erin Creehan of Northville. Grandparents are Janis Murfey of Livonia and Jim and Rose Creehan of Brighton.

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# HEALTH

Sunday, March 20, 2011

hometownlife.com

## HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

# Project Healthy Living offers free screenings

United Health Organization (UHO), the nonprofit group that coordinates body wellness checks and community-wide health screenings, has expanded its spring 2011 event schedule.

Participants can select activities for youth, young adults and their families from 24 sites in five Michigan counties.

"We continue to be impressed by the demand for health screening services in southeast Michigan," said Ifetayo B. Johnson, Executive Director of UHO and Project Healthy Living. She said many of the basic screenings for fitness,

obesity, hypertension, vision and hearing are free of charge. For a nominal cost, new blood screenings for vitamin D deficiency, A1C glucose levels, cardiovascular health, and liver function also are available.

Participants can pre-register to be screened at their preferred location using Fast Track, United Health Organization's online registration system. They must be at least 18 years of age to participate, or be accompanied by a guardian.

All Project Healthy Living events are free and open to the public. Highlights of the spring season

include:

- The annual Cover the Uninsured Week observance returns to Cobo Hall in Detroit on April 20.

- United Health Organization and Bert's Place of Eastern Market present a special Project Healthy Living site on April 30. Donations are being accepted to provide clothing and toiletries to the homeless and unemployed.

- The U.S. Soccer Association will conduct two soccer clinics for children ages 6-12 on May 7 at the YMCA Leadership Academy in Detroit. Space is limited to the

first 100 children. Reservations are required. Call the Healthy Living hotline at (313) 9108.

For more information about how to support Project Healthy Living, its events, fee schedules, screenings, locations and times or to make reservations call the hotline at (313) 531-9108 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, or visit the website at [www.projecthealthyliving.net](http://www.projecthealthyliving.net).

Here's a sampling of the local and nearby sites, times and dates:

- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 23-25, Laurel Park Place, 37700 West Six Mile, Livonia.
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 8, Jewish

Community Center, West Bloomfield.

- Noon to 4 p.m., April 9, Christian Life Center Church, 2146 Moeller Ave., Ypsilanti.

- Noon to 6 p.m., April 11, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 12-13, Westland Shopping Center, 35000 W. Warren, Westland.

- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 16, Lahser Surgical Center, 27202 Lahser, No. 100, Southfield.

- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 29, Costick Activity Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills.

- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 13, Ypsilanti Township Recreation Center, 2025 E. Clark St., Ypsilanti.

## 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) 5764130 or (313) 576-4120.

#### St. Mary Mercy

St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers these programs in March:

- The Center for Joint Replacement will offer a free educational seminar from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, in the hospital auditorium. Orthopedic surgeons and expert staff will answer questions, discuss joint pain, joint replacement procedures, and available implant options. Also learn about the comprehensive group approach to joint replacement, including pre-surgical classes, choosing a personal "coach" to assist the process, and what to expect post-surgery and discharge from the hospital. To register, call (734) 655-2400.

- 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](http://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.



Go to [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com) for details

# St. Mary Mercy Hospital recognized for blood drives

St. Mary Mercy Hospital, Livonia, collected 423 pints of blood for the American Red Cross from five collection drives last year. It was the most blood collected from among Trinity Health facilities in southeast Michigan.

"We had the biggest increase in donations out of any of the (Trinity) health systems in (southeast) Michigan, said David Spivey, president and CEO at St. Mary Mercy. "It's important for us to take a leadership role in this initiative."

Representatives from Trinity Health, the nation's fourth largest Catholic health care organization, and the American Red Cross gathered at Laurel Manor Banquet & Conference Center this month to celebrate the blood drive's success.

Carol Furlong, donor recruit-

ment director, American Red Cross Southeastern Michigan Blood Services Region said St. Mary Mercy's successful blood drive had a "rippling effect" on other health systems.

The hospital's blood drive goal this year is to increase donations by 20 percent.

Its first blood drive of the year was held Thursday, March 17. Other collections are Thursday, June 2, Aug. 11, Oct. 27 and Dec. 27. All blood drives run from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the hospital auditorium. It takes approximately one hour to donate.

To make an appointment, call (800) GIVE-LIFE or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), click on "Enter a Sponsor Code" and enter "stmarymercy." The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.



Members of the blood drive team are Trudy Smith (left), American Red Cross; St. Mary Mercy employees, David Spivey, Janet Searight, Jim Aldrich, Jeannie Cox, Cyndi Niva, and Sally Santoni; and Diane Ward, of the American Red Cross.

## NEW InterStim Therapy for Bladder Control

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This procedure is life-changing for many patients. They are able to regain their independence and enjoy activities they had to give up due to their urinary control problems.

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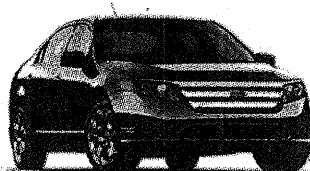
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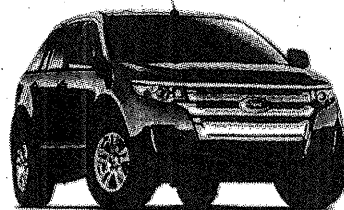
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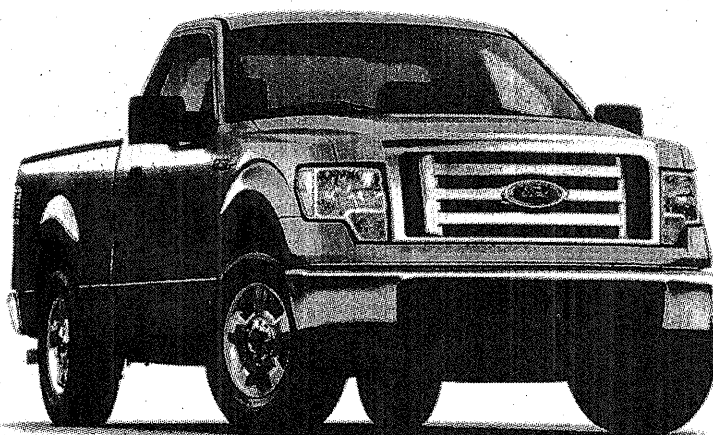
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