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SUNDAY
March 27, 2011

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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WESTLAND OBSERVER
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IN BRIEF

Law Day contest

The Westland City Attorney's Office is holding the 15th annual Law Day Essay Contest for students in grades nine-12 who live in Westland, attend John Glenn High School and are enrolled in a civics/social studies class during the 2010-11 school year.

This year's topic will be: Why is John Adams's role in the Boston Massacre trial significant today? Entries should be typed and double spaced and be a minimum of two to a maximum of three 8 1/2- by 11-inch pages.

The entries should contain the student's name, home address, city, state, home telephone number, school and name of civics/social studies teacher.

Entries can be submitted to Michele Anderson at John Glenn High School by 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 13. The winner will receive the award at the Monday, May 2, Westland City Council meeting.

Fore!

The temperatures may be colder than usual for this time of year but diehard golfers take heart - the Westland Municipal Golf Course opens Friday, April 1. No joke.

The course is located at 500 S. Merriman, south of Cherry Hill. Call (734) 721-6660 for tee times beginning April 1.

Composting resumes

In another sign of approaching warmer weather, Westland residents can begin putting compost at the curb for collection beginning Monday, April 4. Grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste will be collected on the regularly scheduled trash days.

For more information, call the Department of Public Service at (734) 728-1770 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Kielbasa dinner

Military families in need will benefit from a kielbasa dinner 1-6 p.m. today (March 27) at the Romanowski VFW Post 6896 in Westland.

The cost is \$8 per person and includes kielbasa and kraut, pierogis, green beans, apple-sauce and dinner rolls. There also will be 50/50 raffles and bake sale.

The post is a 28945 Joy, east of Middlebelt. For more information, call (734) 525-9454 or online at www.vfw6896 or romanowskivfw6896@groups.facebook.com.

Democratic Club

The Westland Democratic Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, at the Dorsey Center, 32715 Dorsey, east of Venoy and south of Palmer, in Westland.

There will be a discussion about the state, county and local budget challenges, featuring State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-12th District, and Westland City Council President James Godbout.

The board will meet at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call club President Nan Melke at (734) 674-7327.



Westland Mayor William Wild (left), MJR Cinema owner Michael M. Ficano (center) and Westland City Council President James Godbout (right) donned hard hats for the ceremonial ground-breaking. The theater is scheduled to open Nov. 4.

Filling a void
Officials laud MJR for picking Westland

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For digitally projected movies on 16 screens and free popcorn refills, mark your calendars for Friday, Nov. 4. That's the day the new MJR Westland Grand Cinema is scheduled to open.

"This theater fills a void in Westland - a city with over 84,000 residents needs its own movie theater," said Mayor William Wild. "It's a \$14 million investment in the heart of our shopping and dining district. It will have an impact on the city. The 160 stores and restaurants in the area will definitely benefit."

Wild joined MJR Theaters founder and owner Michael Mihalich, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, other elected and appointed officials and MJR staff mem-

WESTLAND GRAND FILM THEATER

About the MJR Westland Grand Cinema:

- There will be 100,000 cinder blocks in the theater's load-bearing walls.
- The foundation and floor slabs will have 2,000 cubic yards of concrete - enough to fill 500,000 one-gallon milk bottles.
- The building will have 3,000 miles of electrical wire and cable with 2,000 miles of plumbing pipes.

bers in gathering for a ceremonial ground-breaking for the project on Wayne Road south of Warren Road.

Wild drew laughs when he added the most exciting part of the new MJR theater was the popcorn refills.

grand opening
sunday march 27 at 8am
westland wildwood plaza
34750 ford road



- The theater will have enough carpeting for 30 homes.
 - The building will have enough structural steel to manufacture 1,000 pickup trucks.
 - More than 500,000 orders for a large pop will be served during the first year.
- Information provided by MJR Theaters.

"Well, we do have free refills," said Mihalich. Based in Oak Park, MJR has seven existing theaters, including one in Southgate, making the Westland Grand

Please see **MJR, A2**

Mayor unveils budget plan at meeting Thursday

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Last year, Westland Mayor William Wild and his staff prepared a two-year balanced budget and planned to do the same this year.

"I'll definitely give council a one-year budget with all the uncertainty, if not a second year budget," said Wild.

An overview of his proposed

2011-12 budget will be presented at a council study session 6 p.m. Thursday.

The longer term budgeting was aimed at getting a handle on the city's projected deficits for upcoming fiscal years. The current year balanced budget was adopted by council while the 2011-12 budget was discussed but not approved.

A \$500,000 fund balance had been budgeted for 2011-12

instead of the \$12 million deficit that had been projected by auditors Plante and Moran.

However, as Wild notes the city didn't collect \$500,000 in rent from the William P. Faust Library and cuts were made in state shared revenue.

With Westland property values down 9 percent this year - compared to 16 per-

Please see **BUDGET, A2**

Candidates express views on issues facing W-W

In a little more than a month, voters in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools will go to the polls to decide who will fill two four-year terms on the school board.

For the first time in more than a decade, there will be no veteran incumbent candidates. In January, Martha Pitsenbarger gave up the seat she had held for 15 1/2 years because of her husband's health problems. School board President Skip Monit was disqualified from

appearing on the May 3 ballot for lacking the correct number of signatures on nominating petitions.

But voters have plenty of choices.

Six candidates are competing for those two seats. They include retired teacher Thomas Buckalew of Wayne and stay-at-home mother Andrea Clawson, Value City general manager Scott Davis, retired engineer Harold Dunn, former Westland mayor and City Council member Charles "Trav" Griffin and Jeffrey Hayton, who was appointed to serve the remainder of Pitsenbarger's term.

In an effort to inform voters about the candidates, the *Observer* will be running stories about each individual, including their biographical information and their answers to questions focusing on the issues facing the school district.

The candidates will be profiled in alphabetical order. Every effort has been made to run their answers to the questions in their entirety. Candidates were limited to 100 words, and answers exceeding that limit were edited.

The coverage begins on Page A4 of today's issue.

- Sue Mason, editor

Census results show Westland is stable community

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Census figures show Westland's population grew nearly 3 percent during the past decade and local residents are fine with that.

Westland Mayor William Wild was down a little but pleased with that number, said Westland Mayor William Wild.

Westland Planning Director Thompson, who chaired the City Council's Complete Count Committee, said the number shows a stable community. "We can look at this percent increase in population number and attribute it to a smaller person per household number - it used to be 2.5 (residents per household) and now it's closer to 2," said Thompson. "In my mind, it doesn't represent any change in the City of Westland."

Westland has had a stable population number, he said, due in part to the wide range of housing options in the city. There are expensive high-end homes at one extreme and very affordable homes at the other, Thompson said.

"Our large amount of apartment stock has also kept our number steady compared to other communities. We have higher- and lower-end apartments," said Thompson. "Westland is seen as a desirable community. All in all, Westland ended up pretty good in the count."

Commercial development is continuing to grow in Westland, which he said benefits from having a mall like Westland Shopping Center.

Each community has attributes, Thompson said, like a traditional downtown business district in Wayne.

With the new 84,094 population number, he said, due in part to the wide range of housing options in the city.

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Please see **CENSUS, A2**



LOCAL POPULATION CHANGES

City	2000 Population	2010 Population	Change	Occupied Dwelling
Westland	86,602	84,094	-2,508/-2.9%	91.5%
Garden City	30,047	27,692	-2,355/-7.8%	93.8%
Wayne	19,051	17,593	-1,458/-7.7%	90.2%
Livonia	100,545	96,942	-3,603/-3.6%	95.8%
Plymouth Twp.	27,798	27,524	-274/-1%	95.7%
Canton	76,366	90,173	+13,807/+18.1%	94.1%

Wayne-Westland Community School District				
2000 Population	2010 Population	Change	Occupied Dwelling	
92,880	87,374	-5,506/-5.9%	90.8%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



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Fire Department honors five members for work

Westland firefighters recently gathered at the Friendship Center for their annual awards program, sponsored by the Westland Firefighters Association.

Among the major awards presented were:

- Firefighter Lee Tritsch was honored as Firefighter of the Year which is given to a firefighter who has exceeded the duty requirements of the position, exemplifies the virtues of professionalism and

dedication, demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service and has a proven devotion to societal security and protection.

- The Fire Officer of the Year Award was presented to the department's three battalion chiefs — Ken Grabowski, Robert Arbini



Eric Smith



Ken Grabowski



Robert Arbini



John Adams



Dan Bourdeau

and Eric Smith.

The award is given to a person of rank that exemplifies leadership, innovation, professional development,

integrity, service to the community and service to the department. The person demonstrates true leadership by example.

All three battalion chiefs were honored based on their response to handling changes in manpower and operations in the department.

• Capt. John Adams was awarded the Michael J. Reddy Father of Advanced Life Support Award. This recognition is awarded for superlative actions that impact the community while on or off duty. These actions or accomplishments exceed the normal activity of a

public servant and uphold, reflect or promote exceptionally high standards of service to the community.

The award is named for retired Chief Michael J. Reddy for his contributions to the City of Westland. Reddy is credited as being the father of ALS for Wayne County.

• Westland's Information Technology Director Dan Bourdeau received the Chief's Distinguished Service Award.

AROUND WESTLAND

Dinner-theater

Inspire Theatre will be serving up a heating 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.

Baby shower

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army and Warm Hearts are again hosting their annual Community Baby Shower for women who are pregnant or the mother of an infant under 1 year old.

The shower will be held 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 6, at the Corps Community Center at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer in Westland. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served, and all moms will receive prizes and gifts.

No children will be allowed at the event.

To reserve a seat, moms can call (734) 722-3660, Ext. 107.

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 pierogi (five pieces) dinner costing \$6. Dinners include fries, tartar sauce, coleslaw, roll and drink. Side orders include macaroni and cheese, \$2.50, and fries, \$2; desserts also are available.

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

MJR

FROM PAGE A1

its second location in Wayne County.

Mihalich recalled getting an e-mail from Westland Economic Development Director Lori Fodale 14 or 15 months ago.

"She asked why the City of Westland didn't have its own movie theater. I researched it and decided it was a great location," said Mihalich.

"Without that e-mail from

Lori, we wouldn't be here today. Lori gave me a lot of good advice during the process. The mayor and his staff have bent over backwards for us."

The MJR Westland Grand will be located on the site of the former Showcase Cinema which was demolished recently to make room for the new theater. Mihalich noted the project is Westland's first brownfield development project bringing up to a \$207,000 reimbursement for the demolition costs.

The project also is utiliz-

ing Wayne County's TURBO program — Transforming Underdeveloped Residential and Business Opportunities. TURBO will provide a 100-percent property tax exemption the first year — that's \$166,236, with \$38,590 waived in Westland city taxes.

For the five subsequent years, MJR would receive a 50-percent rebate on of property taxes on improvement expenses. Using a \$10 million figure for the building, the city has estimated that rebate would be \$140,000 annually, for a total savings

of \$700,000. The city taxes would total \$162,500 over five years or \$32,500 annually.

"I congratulate you for making the choice of Westland and Wayne County. I grew up in Livonia and when I was in high school, it wasn't uncommon to go to the show in Westland," said Ficano. "I'm glad Wayne County was able to participate in this with the TURBO program. You could have chosen anywhere. I thank you for choosing Westland and Wayne County."

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

CENSUS

FROM PAGE A1

lation, Westland is now the 12th largest city in the state down from 10th place in 2000. To Thompson, ranking by population isn't the important

part of the census court.

"The good news is that we got an accurate count for proper representation and appropriation of state and federal funds," he said. Based on the census figures, Wayne County had a 11.7 percent drop in population but remains the most populous county in Michigan

with 1,870,584 residents.

Michigan was the only state in the union with a declining population. The state showed a .6 percent population loss to 9,883,640 to be the eighth largest state in the country in terms of population.

Census information is released by the federal govern-

ment to the governor, then provided to legislators who in turn pass the data to local officials. Thompson said he is eagerly awaiting demographic details from the census which will be important in city planning.

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BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

cent last year — the city is like other municipalities and the state in struggling with decreasing revenues. Property taxes are the single largest revenue source for the city. The current and upcoming

budgets reflects staff reductions through a combination of early retirement programs and layoffs with other cost savings from changes in insurance.

The city also received decreasing state shared revenues even before Gov. Rick Snyder established a new program in which communities must make changes to qualify

for funding.

"Without state shared revenue, we'd have to do a lot of layoffs," said Wild. "We're getting down enough that pretty soon we'll be at the bottom of the numbers we need to operate the city. I haven't talked to the council yet on the budget. They'll get the budget overview March 31."

Council President James Godbout noted the mayor was actually getting the proposed budget to council a day earlier than the April 1 deadline set in the city charter.

"It'll be a good way to kick off a difficult budget year that we'll experience this year," said Godbout.

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Driver sentenced to 15 years in fatal crash

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

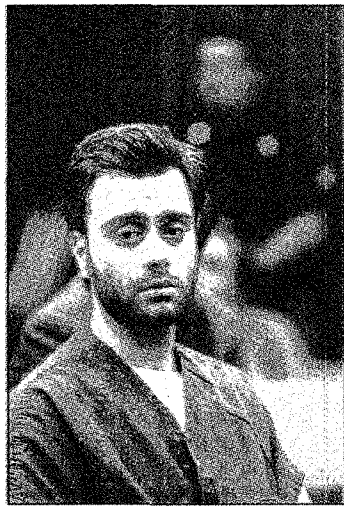
When Shelby Gunn was a little girl, her dad gave her a nickname, "Sassafras," that seemed to capture her personality: bubbly, positive with an infectious laugh and a sense of adventure.

Growing up, she developed a love of music and a "terrific voice," her mom said, and showed support of several friends who had local bands by just "being there to support them."

By the time she was 24, she'd graduated from Schoolcraft College with an associate's degree in science and was finalizing plans to join that school's nursing program.

And, on Aug. 15, Robert Bojaj took all of that away from her, away from her family, when he crashed his Lexus into the Dodge Intrepid being driven by Gunn, a Westland resident, on northbound I-275 near Koppernick in Canton, killing Gunn and devastating a family.

Bojaj was convicted earlier



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Robert Bojaj, convicted of second degree murder and driving while intoxicated causing death, watches a video montage of photos of Shelby Gunn.

this month of second-degree murder and operating a vehicle under the influence causing death. On Thursday, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge David Allen sentenced Bojaj, a 28-year-old Farmington Hills resident, to 15-25 years in

prison on the murder charge, and 10-15 years on the OUIL charge.

JUSTICE SERVED?

"We have been hoping and praying for justice," said Teri Gunn, Shelby's mother. "Thanks to the prosecutor, Athina Siringas, and the jury, (Bojaj) was found guilty of second-degree murder. We were happy and relieved with the verdict. We feel the sentencing should have been the maximum of what the law would allow. Although that didn't happen, we will have to live with the judge's decision, and so will Robert Bojaj."

The one person who won't live with the decision, obviously, is Shelby Gunn. The daughter of Teri and Rob Gunn of Westland, Shelby's sense of adventure got her to sky-dive with her brother, Mark, who was preparing for a one-year deployment to Iraq. According to her mom, Shelby loved "racing down the slopes with her brother, Dan, on their snowboards to see who got there first." She

had taken the hunter's safety course in preparation for hunting trips with her dad and brothers.

"She was always helping others," Teri Gunn said. "Shelby was only 24 years young with a whole life of helping others ahead of her."

According to testimony in the trial, Bojaj had a blood-alcohol level three times the legal limit. The toxicology report showed traces of Vicodin and he was driving on a suspended license. He wasn't wearing a seat belt the night of the crash, and he was driving at speeds in excess of 100 mph.

Teri Gunn feels those things, which some might consider minor, show a pattern of behavior for Bojaj.

"I see a pattern here," she said. "He doesn't learn from his mistakes very quickly. Maybe

15 years will be enough time for him to sit and think about the turmoil he has caused with his selfish, reckless actions. We can only hope."

LIGHTING A CANDLE

Teri Gunn said Bojaj isn't the only one who has something to learn here. She thinks her daughter's death could teach the legal system a thing or two, if anyone's listening.

"Let's stop the behavior before it gets to this," she said. "Perhaps this will be a turning point for how the legal system views other excessively drunk drivers acting recklessly, who have no business being behind the wheel of a car."

Bojaj's defense attorney, Paul Bernier, sympathizes with the Gunns' pain and, while not trying to minimize it, he did say, following Bojaj's conviction, the case caused a lot of pain for

everyone involved.

"The case is a tragedy for everybody concerned," said Bernier. "Everybody involved in this case has lost something. It's a tragedy for the Gunn family, as well as for the Bojaj family."

"That's not much comfort for Teri Gunn, whose birthday fell on the same day her daughter died. She said the verdict and the sentencing have "lifted the weight of having this person held accountable," but the awful sense of loss is still very much there.

"We can't even envision how our lives are going to be," she said. "We love and miss Shelby very much. If Shelby is looking in on us down here, I hope she is satisfied with the outcome. I light a candle every night for her."

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Competency exam delays hearing into fatal pedestrian accident

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A hearing for a Westland man charged with killing a pedestrian struck by his vehicle has been delayed a second time to allow more time for a competency examination.

Terry Albert Hinz, 44, was scheduled for preliminary examination Thursday in 18th District Court. The hearing was adjourned until May 12.

Free on \$12,500 cash/surety bond, Hinz is charged with involuntary manslaughter in the Aug. 4 death of Patricia Beaver, 19, of Sumpter

Township. Police said Beaver was crossing Cherry Hill southbound at Wildwood at about 10 p.m. when she was hit.

The defense had requested an adjournment so that the competency examination could be done on Hinz, who was described in court as having diminished mental capabilities and as being a resident of a group home. He is a licensed driver with a vehicle.

Following the accident, Hinz made statements to officers at the scene that he had a run a red light at the intersection just before striking Beaver, according to police.

Beaver had been at her father's Westland home, which is located near the intersection. Based on information from her family, police said Beaver was walking to the 7-Eleven store at Wayne Road and Avondale. Damage to the vehicle also indicated Beaver was walking south through the intersection, according to police.

Toxicology reports showed that neither Hinz or Beaver had drugs or alcohol in their system at the time of the accident, police said.

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SAVE OUR SYMPHONY

Dear DSO Board Members and Citizens of Southeast Michigan,

The musicians of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra are not just striking. They are leaving.

The DSO is suffering historic losses to the ranks of its musicians. The entire percussion section is gone -- the members having left to continue their careers elsewhere. Philip Dikeman, our highly respected and world renowned Acting Principal Flutist, on stage with the DSO for over 18 years, is also gone. Our musicians are auditioning all over the country and around the world. They are winning jobs and they are leaving. Our orchestra is being torn apart.

Save Our Symphony is working tirelessly to end to this devastating labor impasse and staunch the losses. As Detroiters and Michiganders we are proud of THESE musicians, their incredible talents, their passion for their art, and their dedication to maintaining the artistic integrity and proud tradition of the DSO.

We recognize that board members, management, donors, and subscribers all make the DSO possible. As donors and subscribers ourselves, we commend the board for its commitment to ensuring the financial viability and future of the orchestra. Although at an impasse, both parties care deeply about the institution and have much respect for each other. Both sides are working diligently toward an end to the strike and a return of the music.

Unfortunately, DSO leadership recently rejected the musicians' proposal to allow the season to resume and submit all unresolved issues to binding arbitration. SOS strongly supported that proposal which would have enabled ticket sales to resume, rescued the popular summer concerts and cleared any hurdles for the scheduling of next season. Its rejection was a great disappointment.

The next DSO board meeting will take place on March 30th.
Time is running out.

We ask the board members to consider all available options to resolve the impasse and put the orchestra back on stage immediately. We are confident a solution which satisfies both the financial concerns of the board and the artistic concerns of the musicians is possible. The fate of the DSO is at stake.

Once the musicians return to the stage of Orchestra Hall, the life of the DSO rests on the shoulders of the community. With a membership of 5,000 after just a few short months, SOS is solid evidence of the wide-spread community support for the musicians and the DSO.

Through the participation of its members, SOS will work to ensure that the community is present in all ways possible to fill the seats when the season resumes, applaud the musicians, build a solid small and mid-donor base and help heal the rifts that have crippled this magnificent, century-old institution. If the DSO can survive the Great Depression, World War II and the many other challenges Detroit has faced over the years, then it can survive this too: IF WE WORK TOGETHER.

A joyous return of the concerts to Orchestra Hall accompanying the return of spring would be the best way to begin the healing. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Judy Doyle, President
Denise Neville, Vice President
David Assemany, Secretary
David Kuziemko, Treasurer

www.SaveOurSymphony.info

Buckalew: Wants to be 'voice of excellence'

Thomas Buckalew knows the Wayne-Westland Community Schools very well, both as an employee and as parent.

Buckalew taught at John Glenn High School in Westland for 41 years, retiring in 2009, and as a Wayne resident, his children also attended Wayne-Westland schools.



Buckalew

"Our school district has been very good to my family and to me," he said. "It was a wonderful place to work and it provided my children with an excellent education."

Buckalew is among six candidates vying for two four-year terms on the Wayne-Westland school board. A retiree, he wants to remain connected to the district as a member of the school board and "share in the challenges and contribute to the solutions."

"Recent legislative actions in Lansing have put education at a crossroads and brought dangerous challenges to Wayne-Westland," he said in response to a questionnaire from the *Observer*. "I want to share those challenges and contribute to their solution."

Observer: What do you believe makes you the best candidate for this position?

During my career I had a variety of experiences and the opportunity to develop skills that will be useful as we address current challenges. While I was primarily an American history teacher, I also taught English literature, economics and driver education. I coached wrestling at Glenn for over 20 years and was class sponsor for two graduating classes. From 1994 through 1998, I co-chaired our building North Central Accreditation team. I also served as chairperson of the Social Studies Department from 1995 until I retired. My experiences, term of service, and perspective makes my candidacy unique.

Observer: The Wayne-Westland Community Schools is facing severe financial problems. As a school board member, what ideas or proposals do you have to cut costs and save the district money?

There are five areas where savings can be achieved:

1. Reorganizing Central Office Administration. There will be at least one vacancy at the end of the year. This provides an opportunity to reassess responsibilities and possibly achieve savings.
2. Consider sharing services with other districts. We already do this, however additional partnership could provide more savings.
3. Employee concessions are never

popular, but may be necessary. If they're necessary, the representatives of affected employees should be partners in the process.

4. Examine the current budget for small savings. Undoubtedly, there are many items that while important, are not essential.

5. Plan for future budgets. Consider carefully how we spend our money. Using bond and sinking fund money can be a wise decision, but if general fund monies are required, postponement may be a wiser decision.

Observer: A lot has been said about putting more money in the classroom. What is your definition of "putting more money in the classroom" and how would you accomplish that? Please be specific.

I am not familiar with this phrase. There has never been a time when our schools have had so much money that it could be wasted. Still, teachers and building principals have always been able to justify needs beyond budget limits. The litmus test must be "will this money promote a quality education for our students." Dollar amounts required for different grade levels and programs do vary. A re-evaluation of how much and where money is spent could produce a more efficient use of funds. I do not see classroom spending as a target for cutting the cost of education.

Observer: The Wayne-Westland Community Schools faces the loss of more than \$14 million, if the governor's budget proposal is approved as presented. What steps do you believe need to be taken to handle the revenue losses? Please be specific.

The education cuts in Gov. Snyder's budget proposal are so crippling and so out of line that I am certain the legislature will find them unacceptable. I hope that every person in Wayne-Westland will get behind Dr. Baracy's efforts to convince the legislature to restore a significant portion of the cuts aimed at our district. If the legislature fails, Wayne-Westland will lose over \$1,100 for each student. Even with help from the legislature, cuts will be real and painful. We need to plan for deep cuts, but until we know what our revenue will be, it is irresponsible to rush budget decisions.

Observer: What do you see as the positives about the Wayne-Westland Community Schools? What are the negatives?

Our buildings and grounds are attractive and in excellent condition. In recent years, the community has authorized bond and sinking fund money, and it appears that superintendent and school board have spent well. It is also clear that our maintenance and custodial staffs take great pride in their work. As a former

THOMAS BUCKALEW

City: Wayne

Age: 66

Employment: Retired from Wayne-Westland Community Schools, was classroom teacher at John Glenn 1968 to 2009

Family: Married, he and wife Claudia have two children and four grandchildren

Education: bachelor of science, Eastern Michigan University, 1968, master of arts, Eastern Michigan University, 1978, Education Specialist, Wayne State University, 1992

Community Involvement: Involved with schools and Scouting

teacher, I know that our instructional staff is committed to students. I often wonder if No Child Left Behind and continued competition for higher scores on standardized assessments have not led us to lose sight of the bigger picture — our students. The pressures felt by administrators and teachers alike seem to divide rather than to unite everyone in a committed team effort.

Observer: Is there anything that you believe school officials could do differently to help the school district? If so, what would it be? If not, why?

The Board of Education, as the representative of the community, must be more assertive in that role. At times it seems that the board follows administration designs and not the reverse. Central Office personnel need to be more visible in the schools and more in tune with the daily operation of our buildings. It is too easy for central office administrators to assume that they are fully informed because building principals make periodic reports. And without face-to-face contact with our administrative team, it is too easy for teachers and support staff to forget that we are all part of the same team.

Observer: What is your main goal, if elected, and how do you plan to accomplish it?

When I came to Wayne-Westland as a teacher in 1968, we were known in the state and even nationally as a "lighthouse" district. Our programs were innovative, cutting edge and envied. Our leadership and our staff routinely did excellent work. My main goal is to re-establish that reputation. The solution is simple. Promote innovation, encourage those who fail to try again, and celebrate successes. As a board member I intend to be a voice for excellence. Many people have pointed out the difficulty in achieving simple solutions, but acknowledging that argument would require adopting a lesser goal.

Clawson: Wants to be advocate for children

Andrea Clawson wants to know what's happening in her school district. She's among a small group of residents of the district who regularly attends the school board's monthly meetings and poses questions about finances.

Clawson

Her decision to run for one of two seats on the board in the May election stems from her involvement in her children's education.

"I have two children in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools," she said. "I am involved in their education and, with the tough decisions facing the district, I would like to advocate for my children and all the children and parents in the district."

Observer: What do you believe makes you the best candidate for this position?

I am very involved in variety of district-related activities, from volunteering at the schools to being a member of the PTA. I regularly attend the board meetings. This along with my volunteer activities contributes to an understanding of our educational climate.

Observer: The Wayne-Westland Community Schools is facing severe financial problems. As a school board member, what ideas or proposals do you have to cut costs and save the district money?

As a school board member, I feel that all stakeholders need to have input into the process of reducing spending.

Observer: A lot has been said about putting more money in the classroom. What is your definition of "putting more money in the classroom" and how would you accomplish that?

Putting more money in the classroom can be defined as providing the resources needed to deliver the best academic performance. In order to achieve this, reallocating funds to reduce class size and providing the materials needed to ensure a quality education for all.

Observer: The Wayne-Westland Community Schools faces the loss of more than \$14 million, if the governor's

ANDREA CLAWSON

Age: 36

Employment: Stay-at-home mother

Family: Married, with two children

Education: 1992 Garden City graduate

Community involvement: I belong to the PTA, school improvement team and am a parent liaison for P.D. Graham. I have also volunteered at the schools.

budget proposal is approved as presented. What steps do you believe need to be taken to handle the revenue losses?

The budget issues facing Wayne-Westland Community School District will require the efforts of all stakeholders in the district. Working with our state representative and senator to continue the Proposal A adjustment language in the budget would contribute to better funding of our schools. We need to continue analyzing the budget to find areas where costs can be reduced.

Observer: What do you see as the positives about the Wayne-Westland Community Schools? What are the negatives?

The district has a great academic curriculum, great programs along with hard-working, dedicated staff members/employees in every department. I feel that there is a large need to communicate better with the parents/community.

Observer: Is there anything that you believe school officials could do differently to help the school district? If so, what would it be? If not, why?

With the governor's budget proposal, student programs will need to be protected. A review of the budget will be needed to reallocate funding.

Observer: What is your main goal, if elected, and how do you plan to accomplish it?

Communication is one of the largest issues I would like to address. Strengthening the community's awareness of our many programs/offersings will help to support our efforts to increase student achievement and community involvement.

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Tuesday, April 5
9 am - 10 am

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Seniors show how well they can spell

The fourth annual Wayne County Senior Spelling Bee has begun with the first of the 2011 spelling bees held Wednesday, March 23, at the Westland Friendship Center.

Hosted by Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, there will be six spelling bees in total throughout the next few months, and the first-, second- and third-place winners from all six spelling bees will compete in the Wayne County Spell-Off on Sept. 22, at the Westland Friendship Center.

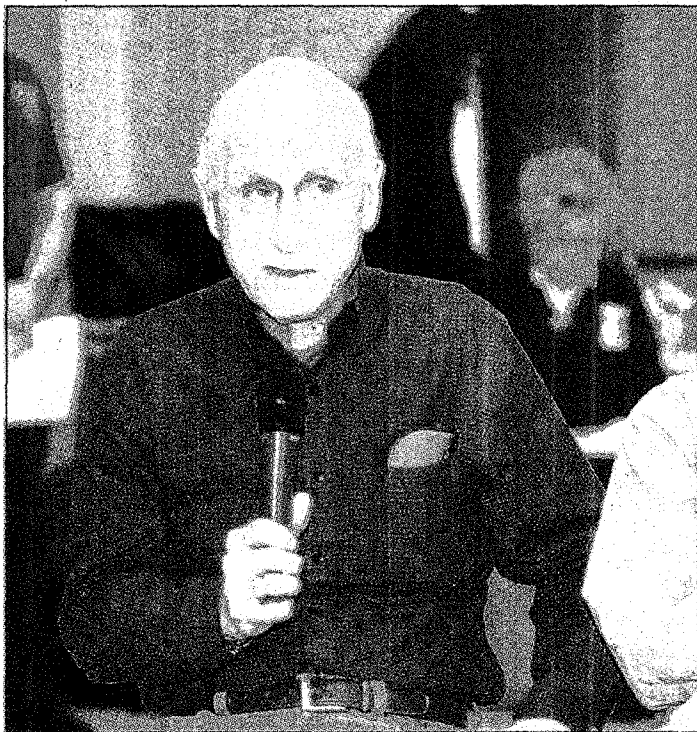
Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said the event helps promote memory, helps seniors to keep up their spelling skills, and encourages good natured competition. It's one of many programs he hosts for seniors each year. He also hosts a seniors summer picnic and a volunteer luncheon on Meals on Wheels.

The competition between first and second place was long and lively, and eventually produced the winner, Evelyn Nash of Westland. Diana Dallavecchia of Westland was second with Richard Brown, also of Westland, third.

Westland Mayor William Wild welcomed the contestants and stressed the importance of spelling in the age of technology and "spell check." Being good at spelling is definitely a skill, he said.

Westland District Court Judge Sandra Cicirelli was also on hand to facilitate the event.

Walmart, Meijer and the Wayne County Mental Health Agency sponsored the event.



Contestant Bill Zawacki Takes a moment to think about how to spell his word in the first of the Wayne County Spelling Bees.



Eighteenth District Court Judge Sandra Cicirelli goes over the rules with contestants at the spelling bee.



Westland Mayor William Wild talks with Barbara Mecklenburg.



Kathleen and John Treanor greet Edie Rice during the lunch that was served to seniors.

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**The Easter Bunny is coming to
Westland Shopping Center!**

Saturday, April 2nd at 11am

He'll be here every day until Saturday, April 23rd!
Several photo packages available, plus receive a
FREE gift when you visit with the Easter Bunny.

Be sure to hop on in that day and enter to win a chance to see a live studio taping of Disney's "Wizards of Waverly Place." Radio Disney will choose one lucky local semi-finalist for a chance to win a trip for four to Los Angeles, CA to see one of the last studio tapings of "Wizards of Waverly Place" LIVE in person!!



"Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to be one of the FIRST to know about sales, contests, events and so much more. Between now and April 15th, go to our Facebook page and tell us what your favorite Easter candy is. One lucky post will be randomly selected to win a \$50.00 mall gift card. One entry per person, please.



Remember, Westland Shopping Center Gift Cards always make the perfect gift no matter what the occasion. Tired of the high gift cards fees others charge you? At Westland Shopping Center, you'll enjoy FEE FREE days every weekend in April.

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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.



T.J. Maxx manager Debbie Miller is ready to show off the new Westland store which opens today (Sunday).

Observer & Eccentric hometownlife.com
 Check out our new redesigned website

T.J. Maxx replaces A.J. Wright Westland store

BY LEANNE ROGERS
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

By the time you read this, Westland will have a new T.J. Maxx store.

The store is replacing an A.J. Wright store on Ford at Wildwood, was scheduled to open at 8 a.m. today (Sunday).

"It's going to be a great draw for that complex and the premium Ford Road frontage for T.J. Maxx," said Westland Economic Development Director Lori Fodale.

T.J. Maxx stores earlier had been open at two locations - on Wayne Road at Hunter and later on Warren Road. Part of the same corporate family, the A.J. Wright store was closed and remodeled to open as a T.J. Maxx.

"We're very pleased to see them open. They are converting all of the stores to T.J. Maxx. There was a complete interior remodel to give the store a fresh new look," said Fodale.



A new T.J. Maxx store scheduled to open today (Sunday) had a complete interior remodeling to transition from an A.J. Wright store.

Typically, a T.J. Maxx store employs approximately 50-60 full- and part-time associates, said T.J. Maxx spokesperson Doreen Thompson. In this instance, she said former A.J. Wright associates were given the opportunity to remain employed and work for the T.J. Maxx store. The number of additional staff hired will vary based on individual store need,

Thompson added. "At T.J. Maxx, we believe value is here to stay and customers seeking our excellent values on current fashions and great brands will welcome our new store," said Thompson. "We welcome customers to stop by and visit our newest store when it opens on March 27."

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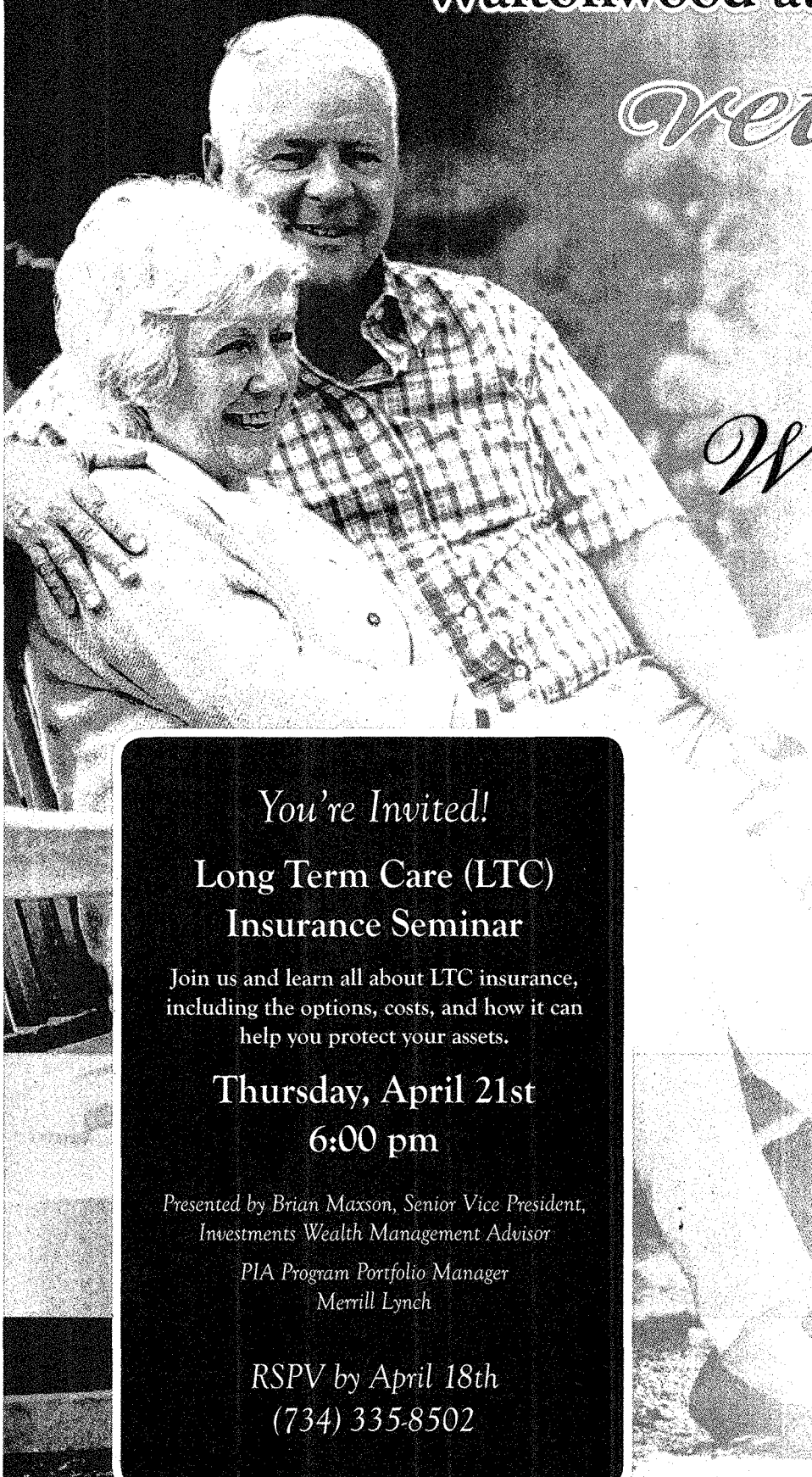
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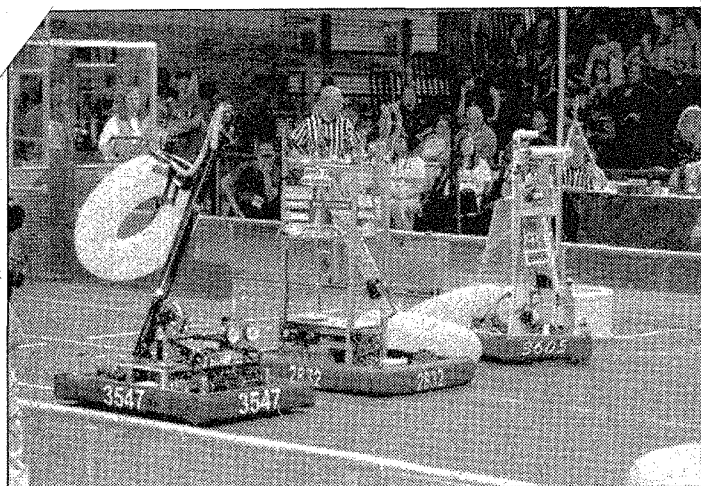


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April is National Poetry Month



The Livonia Warriors robot, Armed and Dangerous (center), finished runner up with their alliance of teams from Rochester Adams and Bloomfield Hills International Academy at the FIRST Robotics Detroit District competition, qualifying for the state finals. Livonia Churchill will host the final District Tournament of the season April 1-2. The Livonia Warriors will compete with 39 other teams from across the state.

Robotics team set for state finals

The Livonia Warriors – a robotics team made up of students from all three Livonia public high schools – finished in second place at the recent FIRST Robotics Detroit District, held at Wayne State University.

Also known as Team 2832, the Warriors' three-team runner-up alliance included Rochester Adams High and Bloomfield Hills International Academy. The winners were an alliance of Pontiac High, Utica Schools and Detroit Finney High. The result already qualifies all six teams for the FIRST in Michigan State Finals April 7-9 at Eastern Michigan University.

"To say a lot of hard work went into designing, building and competing with our robot, named Armed and Dangerous, would be a huge understatement," said Livonia team leader Isolina Carlini, an English teacher at Holmes Middle School.

"FIRST Robotics is a high-pressure undertaking, but one with great reward in the amount of learning, hands-on engineering skills and dedication from students and parents. Many people

have invested their lives into this team's success."

FIRST is an acronym: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. The goal is to pull together high school students with adult mentors in an environment where science, technology, engineering and math are flat out fun and exciting. Most people describe FIRST Robotics as part science fair, part rock concert and part sporting event.

Livonia Churchill will host the final District Tournament of the season April 1-2. The Livonia Warriors will compete with 39 other teams from across the state, from as far away as Escanaba. The event is free and open to the public both days, starting at 10:30 a.m. Friday until about 7 p.m., and then starting up again at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Matches run for just three minutes each, with constant rotation of teams participating, making it easy for fans of all ages to watch just a short time, or all day long.

For more information, visit www.firstinmichigan.org.

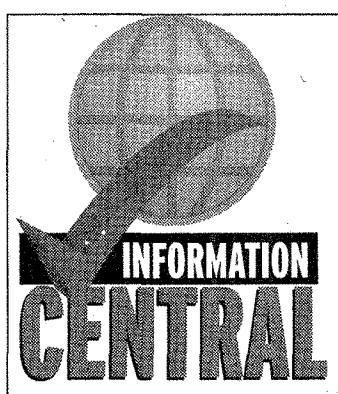
William Carlos Williams once described the coming of spring in the following lines from his poem Spring and all: "Now the grass, tomorrow / the stiff curl of wildcarrot leaf // One by one objects are defined—". Williams, a doctor by trade, used his powers of observation to treat patients but also to write some pretty fantastic poetry in the early-mid 20th century.

April is not the only time nature and poetry come together, but it is the month that the Academy of American Poets (www.poets.org) settled on for National Poetry Month, first celebrated in 1996. This year the poetic word is being celebrated in a number of ways by the Academy, including a poem-a-day for your e-mail or your I-phone, a fancy poster, and a listing of all the poetry happenings in our area for April. Visit their site for more information.

The library is also participating in National Poetry Month in a big way. First off, teens are invited to show off their poetic chops at the fourth annual Teen Poetry Slam on Wednesday, April 6, starting at 6 p.m. National Slam Poet Versiz will emcee. Please sign up in advance at the Reference Desk or call us at (734) 326-6123.

Secondly, poets and writers of stories are being asked to submit their work for the Westland Public Library's third annual Westland Writes publication. Submissions are due by Friday, April 29, in an e-mail to andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org. All writers whose work is accepted will receive a copy of the book.

The Westland Public Library is always glad to help you find poetry or fiction that suits your tastes, whether your mood is romantic or rowdy, critical, political or reserved. Just stop by the Reference Desk, call (734) 326-6123, or visit us anytime on



the web at www.westlandlibrary.org.

Highlighted Activities

Writers Club: 7 p.m. March 28, Adults and teens age 15 and up

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

Afternoon Movie Classics: "Unforgiven," 3:30 p.m. March 29, 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 "Unforgiven" starring Clint Eastwood, Gene Hackman and Morgan Freeman. Refreshments provided. Note: Since today's movie is Rated R, everyone attending must be age 18 or older or accompanied by an adult. No registration necessary.

Science Fiction/Fantasy Book Club: 7 p.m. March 30
Join us for a discussion of

Suzanne Collin's "Hunger Games." Each year, two young representatives from each district are selected by lottery to participate in The Hunger Games. Part entertainment, part brutal intimidation of the subjugated districts, the televised games are broadcasted throughout Panem as the 24 participants are forced to eliminate their competitors, literally, with all citizens required to watch. When 16-year-old Katniss's young sister, Prim, is selected as the mining district's female representative, Katniss volunteers to take her place. She and her male counterpart, Peeta, the son of the town baker who seems to have all the fighting skills of a lump of bread dough, will be pitted against bigger, stronger representatives who have trained for this their whole lives. Copies will be available at the Reference desk before the meeting.

Financial Life Event Planning Series - Weathering job loss. Preserving your future: 7 p.m. March 31.

Are you plagued with questions about how unemployment could affect your future? Whether job loss will affect your tax situation? What the consequences of tapping into your retirement savings may be? Find answers to these questions and more with Andrew Gagne, associate financial advisor, Ameriprise Financial. Call the library to sign up or go online to register westlandlibrary.org/events

Friday Night Movies: "127 Hours," 7 p.m. April 1, Adults

Love movies? Join us as we watch projected Oscar nominees for the 2011 awards. Tonight's movie is Golden Globe nominee "127 Hours" starring James Franco, Amber Tamblyn and Kate Mara. Refreshments available. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Movie starts at 7 p.m.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Class: 9:30 a.m. April 1, Adults

Get help practicing your English skills in a classroom setting with a conversation emphasis taught by Diane and Richard Goers. Classes run from April 1 through June 10 (skipping Wayne-Westland spring break April 22 and Memorial weekend May 27). Students with children are welcome! Attendees must have registered previously. For more information, call the library (734) 326-6123

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 librarian Andy Schuck. 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.

Abandoned vehicle auction: 04/02/2011 12noon
Sparks Auto and Towing, 31797 Block Street Garden City MI

1.	2002	Dodge	2B3HD46R22H156321
2.	1996	Ford	1FALP62W12406
3.	2001	Saturn	1G8ZK52731Z258528
4.	1987	Ford	1FABP51D4HG195578
5.	1997	Chevrolet	2G1WW12M1V9208036
6.	1997	Buick	1G4CW52KXV4621412
7.	1991	Cadillac	1G6CD53B0M4279012
8.	1997	Ford	2FALP71VWXV139216

Publish: March 27, 2011

CLOSE OF REGISTRATION NOTICE
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY BIENNIAL ELECTION AND
CITY SPECIAL ELECTION
CITY OF GARDEN CITY, COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN
TO BE HELD TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2011

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SAID DISTRICT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the biennial election for the School District of the City of Garden City, and the City Special Election, will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2011.

The last day for receiving registrations for the election will be Monday, April 4, 2011. Persons registering after 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2011 will not be eligible to vote at the May 3, 2011 election.

Under the provisions of Act 451, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976 as amended, registrations will not be taken by school officials and only persons who have registered as general electors with the appropriate Clerk of the City or Township in which they reside, or through registration at a Secretary of State driver's license bureau, are registered school electors.

At the biennial election of the Garden City School District there will be elected three (3) Members of the Board of Education for a four-year term each, ending June 30, 2015, and one (1) Member of the Board of Education for a two-year, partial-term, ending June 30, 2013. The candidates for said offices to the Board of Education are as follows:

<p>THREE (3) FOUR-YEAR TERMS (Three shall be elected)</p> <p>Lynette Childress Joanne L. DeHetre Darlene Jablonowski Andrew McMechan Sarah Roffi Roy Watts Marty Williams</p>	<p>ONE (1) TWO-YEAR PARTIAL TERM (One shall be elected)</p> <p>Erik S. Kane Linda Williams</p>
--	---

The following proposal will also be voted on:

PROPOSED POLICE AND FIRE MILLAGE

A proposal to authorize the levy of 1.2 percent of the assessed value (12 mills) on all real and personal property subject to taxation in the City as new additional millage of five (5) year duration for the sole and exclusive purpose of providing for the operation and equipment of the Garden City Police and Fire Departments. It is estimated that 12 mills would raise approximately \$6,601,218 when first levied in 2011.

Shall the proposed police and fire millage be adopted?
Yes No

This notice is given by order of the Garden City Clerk Allyson Bettis.

Publish: March 27, 2011

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Framing Categories Shown

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Polystone & Ceramic Easter Figurines & Table Decor

Easter Kitchen & Dining

Plastic Easter Eggs

Outdoor Lanterns, Oil Lamps & Candle Holders

Iron & Metal Garden Decor

Floral Arrangements

Ceramics, Pottery & Polresin

Pepperell Braiding Products

Vinyl Natural Brass & Arte Metal

Arist Pads, Sheet Paper & Journals

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30% Off

Sequin Fabric & Trim

40% Off

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Easter Jewelry & Fashion Accessories

Easter Trees, Ornaments & Picks

Wooden & Metal Easter Decor

Gazing Balls, Gazing Ball Stands & Pedestals

Polystone & Ceramic Statuary & Garden Decor

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Easter Kitchen & Dining

Plastic Easter Eggs

Outdoor Lanterns, Oil Lamps & Candle Holders

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Plastic Easter Eggs

Outdoor Lanterns, Oil Lamps & Candle Holders

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Woman prepares to swim the English Channel

It's the Mt. Everest of open water.

And, Farmington Hills swimmer Jenny Birmelin can't wait to tackle it.

The 33-year-old math teacher at Orchard Lake Middle School in West Bloomfield, will swim at least 21 miles across the English Channel this summer, after being approved by the Channel Swimming Association for a solo crossing.

The feat could land her in the record books, too. Based on records kept since the first solo swim in 1875, Birmelin is set to go down in the history books as one of only a few hundred Americans, and possibly the first Michigan woman, to successfully solo swim the 21-plus mile English Channel.

The English Channel is considered by many to be one of the most physically demanding swims in the world. In fact, there have been half as many swimmers to make the English Channel swim than climbers to summit Mt. Everest.

Birmelin's swim is scheduled for Aug. 19-27. The exact day of her swim will be determined while she is there and is based on weather conditions, water currents and tides. The English Channel swim starts near Shakespeare's Cliff (between Folkestone and Dover, England), and finishes near Cap Gris Nez (between Boulogne and Calais, France).

She anticipates completing the swim in 13 hours.

LIFELONG SWIMMER

While this feat seems unattainable by most, this goal is a natural evolution of Birmelin's amateur swimming career.

From Snoopy-themed swim suits to Speedos; swimming is a way of life for Birmelin, who has been swimming 27 of her 33 years.

When she was just six

years old, her mom enrolled her in the Birmingham Blue Dolphins "pre-team."

"I was so proud of my first bathing suit. It was red with Snoopy dog houses and rainbows," she said. "I put on that suit for swim practice in the morning and didn't take it off until past dark when the swim club closed for the day. I even told my mom that I would someday get married in a white Speedo."

Birmelin went on to swim at Harrison High School, Michigan State University and has taught swim lessons, and coached, for years. Since college, Birmelin has been competing in masters swimming meets and serves as the volunteer vice president of swimming for her masters swim club, the Ford Athletic Swim and Triathlon Club.

Her prognostication of being married in a white Speedo came true. Well, almost. Birmelin met her husband at a Michigan masters swim meet in 2003. He proposed in 2005 and surprised her with a white Speedo. They were married on Lake Huron in 2006.

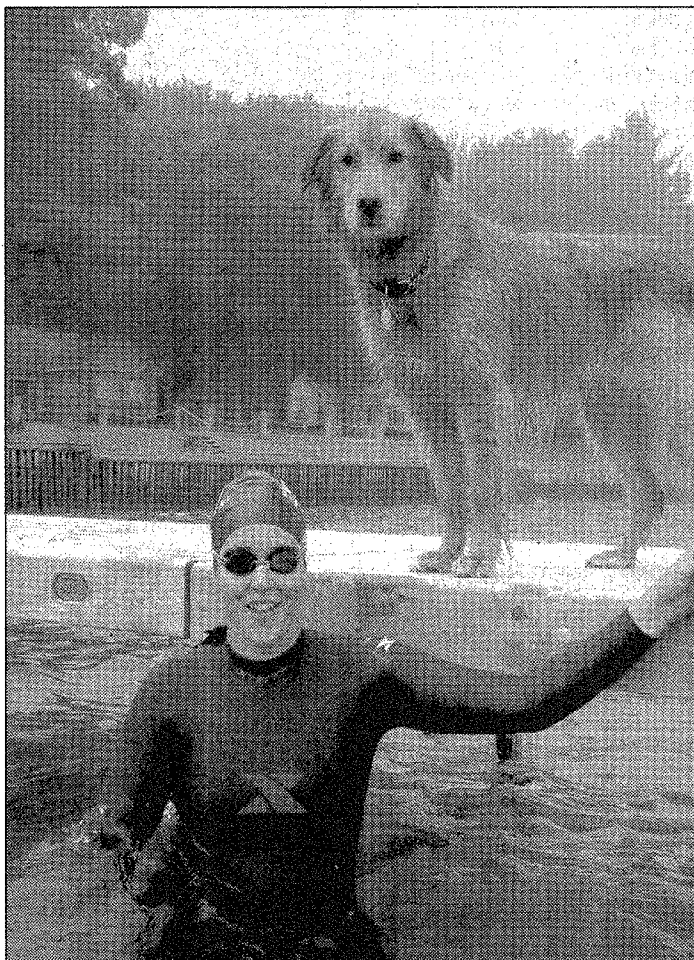
"I wore the white Speedo for our wedding rehearsal on the beach," said Birmelin.

OPEN WATER SWIMMING

Around the same time, she also fell in love with something else — open water swimming. The difference between swimming in a pool versus open water was a little scary at first.

"It took a while to become comfortable looking at sea creatures and waiting for the unknown to make itself known. A few near-hypothermic swims and swimming off-course rattled my confidence," she said. "Then, it happened. I started seeing things differently. When I looked out from Tawas Bay to Lake Huron, the landmarks were no longer objects but destinations."

She's still pushing herself and is energized by each and



Jenny Birmelin and her dog, Sophie.

every new open water swim.

"Every swim is unique and presents its own challenges. When I put on my suit, it's like going to work — I am focused, have a goal and a plan for success," she said.

ENGLISH CHANNEL

The idea of swimming the English Channel first surfaced in the summer of 2009. Birmelin and a few long-distance swimming friends thought it would be fun to swim the English Channel as a relay. As time commitments and the high financial obligation required by both the training and trip to England became realized, several friends were unable to make the commitment. Yet they encouraged her that if she was willing to spend the money and time training to

swim a relay, she should just swim solo.

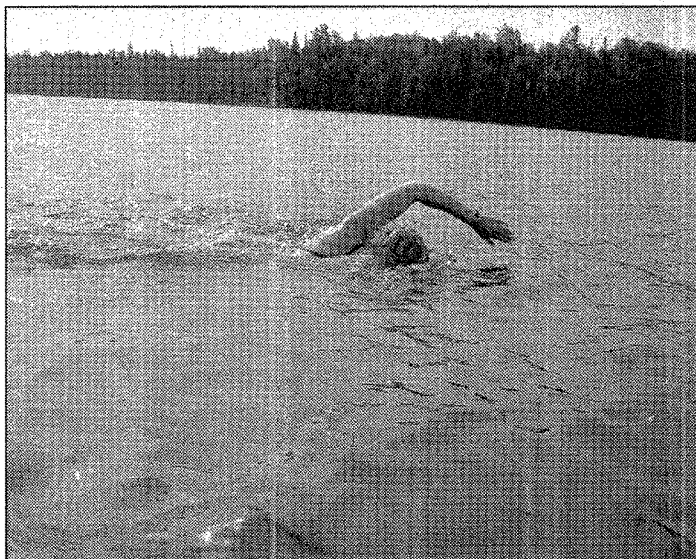
She thought, "why not?"

SUPPORT CREW

With her on most of her training swims is her supportive husband, Noah, and her swim dog, Sophie, a golden retriever who is ready to swim at any time. Noah will be part of her cheering section and support crew on her swim from England to France.

Cheering — and worrying — in Michigan will be her 94-year old grandmother, who Birmelin affectionately calls "Iron Granny."

To prepare for the English Channel, Birmelin was required to prove her ability to swim long distance in cold temperatures. Her six-hour qualifying swim was completed Sept. 25, 2010, in a chilly



Jenny Birmelin, during a long-distance, cold water swim.

59-degree Lake Huron near Tawas City.

Some of her other training swims in 2010 included 14.21 miles Lake St. Clair Swim for Cystic Fibrosis; the USMS 10k Open Water National Championship; a 1.5 mile Alcatraz Swim in San Francisco, followed the next day by a 1.2 mile Golden Gate Bridge Swim.

THE CHALLENGE

Birmelin may begin her English Channel swim before the sun rises and will need to attach a lightstick to the back of her suit to be visible to her support crew on the boat following her.

Her husband will constantly monitor her overall well-being and safety and will record her stroke rate (arm cycles per minute) to make sure that she's at her goal rate.

The most demanding part of swimming the English Channel is to physically and mentally overcome water temperatures that range from 57-62 degrees Fahrenheit. And, no wetsuits are allowed.

She will need to power through currents that will push her side-to-side as the tide changes, possibly making the 21-mile crossing closer to 30 miles. She will encounter jellyfish, seaweed and drift-

wood, and share the water with big ships — the English Channel is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world.

Taking in enough nourishment and calories will be essential. She will begin taking food and drink after the first hour and then every 30 minutes after that.

Her husband will be able to hand her food by using a basket attached to an extension pole. During her swim, she'll consume warm soup broth, high calorie drinks mixed with protein and light foods such as bananas or pieces of energy bars. She is not allowed to touch the boat at any time during her swim.

She'll also battle arthritis pain in her back.

Her final obstacle is a financial one with costs upward of \$8,700 plus the cost of roundtrip airfare for her and her husband.

A "Pool Party" fundraiser to help offset expenses is set for Saturday, March 19, 6-8 p.m. at the Farmington Family YMCA, located at the corner of Farmington Road and 12 Mile. Suggested donation is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Read more about Jenny Birmelin's quest to conquer the English Channel at www.jennybirmelin.com.

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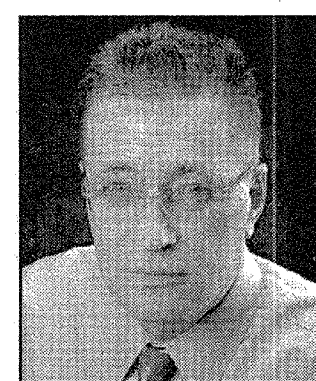
SOCIAL SECURITY

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.

www.ssdfighter.com

0808720129

Starting early is one of keys to investment success

BY RICK BLOOM
GUEST COLUMNIST

Q: Dear Rick: I'm a recent graduate of Michigan State and I have \$2,000 that I want to invest in a Roth IRA. This will be my first investment so, obviously, I'm looking long term. Any suggestions?

A: I've always been a believer that one of the best investments anyone can make is in a good college education. It is an investment that will pay dividends years and years from now.

I think a great investment for



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

your \$2,000 would be the T. Rowe Price Spectrum Growth Fund, a mutual fund that invests in other T. Rowe Price mutual funds. It provides exposure to large and small companies, both foreign and domestic. Consequently, just one fund allows you to start building a

diversified growth portfolio.

I believe for your first Roth IRA investment, the T. Rowe Price Spectrum Growth Fund would be an excellent choice. (www.troweprice.com; 1-800-638-5660).

Target funds have become popular over the last few years. These funds are geared for retirement, the key being that you select the year that you are going to retire, and then invest in that fund. Theoretically, the portfolio manager invests the money based upon the year you plan to enter retirement. Although this sounds

great in theory, it hasn't worked as advertised. The performance of these funds has underperformed, and at the same time they tend to have higher costs. Another problem is that just because you're planning to retire in a certain year doesn't mean it's the year you'll need income. You may be investing in a portfolio that doesn't match your situation. These types of funds, known as target funds, were set up to make investing a little easier. Although I'm in favor of anything that makes investing easier, I don't

want to sacrifice performance. I choose to stay away from target funds.

One last note: I love that you have decided to use a Roth IRA. Particularly for people in their 20s and 30s, it's as close to a slam dunk as you can get. I know many accountants will tell you that going into a traditional IRA allows you to write off your contribution, providing you with some current tax savings. They are correct over the short run, but not when your focus is long term. The benefits of growing tax-

free vs. tax-deferred are dramatic, particularly when you consider that for someone in their 20s or 30s, money will be growing for 40 or 50 years, if not longer. The longer the time period you have to achieve your goals, the more beneficial Roth IRAs become. Good luck!

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

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PHOTOS BY TOM BEAUDOIN

Jake Mushinski and Ryan Baysinger, both of Westland, fight for the rebound in a friendly game of basketball.

Swim and Gym packs them in

Nearly 300 kids and parents — a record number — attended Johnson Upper Elementary School's annual Swim and Gym on March 18 at Churchill High School, Livonia.

The PTA-sponsored event is normally for fifth- and sixth graders at Johnson Upper Elementary, but this year event chairman Mike Chico invited the fourth-graders from the four feeder schools — Kennedy, Randolph, Rosedale and Garfield elementaries — to

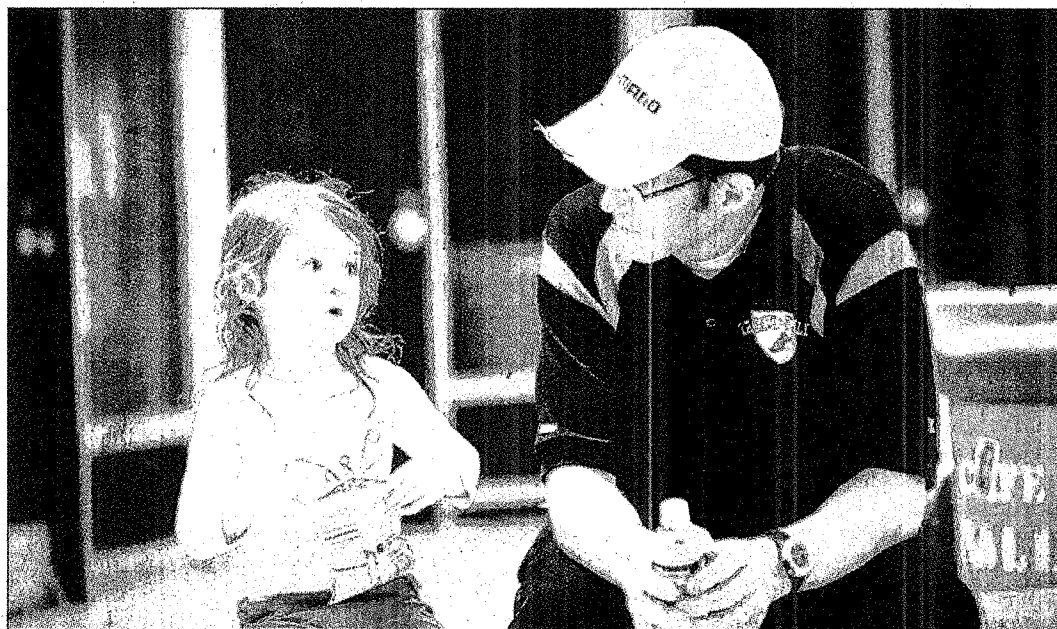
help get them excited about attending Johnson Upper Elementary next year. Chico said he wanted "to show them what happens in the big school — you get a night out at the pool."

Not only did the attendance increase because it was open to the feeder schools, but more current Johnson families attended. "We hyped it up," Chico said, adding attendance more than doubled from last year's total of 110.

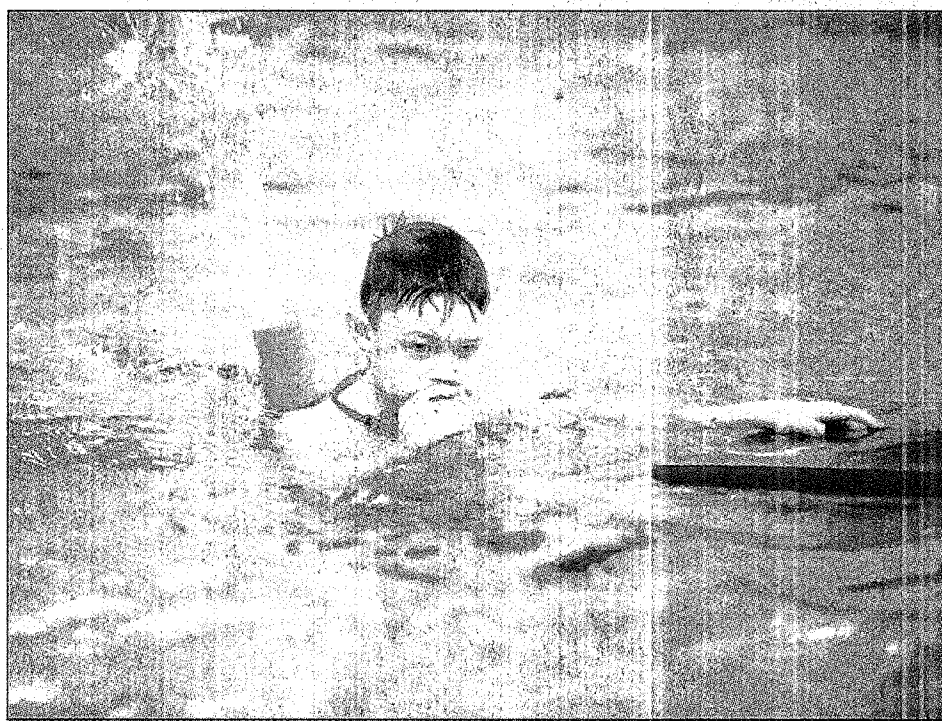
The annual event is free for families. "It's a gift," he said. "A family fun night."

Students, their parents and their siblings can swim in the pool, use the diving board and play volleyball, basketball, kickball and other games in the gym while also enjoying a snack.

"Everybody loved it," Chico said, adding that a lot of fourth-grade families came up and thanked organizers. —By Karen Smith



Jenna talks to her dad, Bruce Rivera. Rivera is an assistant track coach at Churchill who helped out with the event.



Quinn Keyton from Garfield School blows water from the float tub behind him.

Going Green luncheon

The Garden City Chamber of Commerce will host the last of its three part mini Building for the Future seminars at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 5.

Anita Twardesky of Riverside Kayak Connection in Wyandotte will speak on "Going Green." Twardesky is the Public Relations and Marketing Director at Kayak. She is very active

on the Greening Downriver Committee and she serves on many other greening initiatives as well.

The luncheon will be held at Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren Road, Garden City. The cost is \$10 per person and includes speaker and lunch.

Prom dress sale

The Plymouth-Canton Branch of the American Association of University

Women will hold a Prom Dress Sale noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 10, and 6-8 p.m. Monday, April 11, at Memorial Elementary School, 30001 Marquette, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt in Garden City.

"It's girls wanting to share their dresses with other girls," said Shirley Zaetta of AAUW, noting the effort began to help girls in need.

The branch has collected

more than 100 dresses for the sale.

"They are in terrific condition," Zaetta said.

E-mail Zaetta at szaetta@wowway.com for more information.

Moms luncheon

The Garden City American Legion Post 396 Auxiliary Unit is putting out an invitation to any Garden City resident who is a Blue Star or Gold Star mother.

The auxiliary is holding a luncheon Sunday, April 3, for mothers who have a son or daughter who is on active duty with the military or who has lost a son or daughter while protecting the United States.

The luncheon will be held at the American Legion Post at 6860 Middlebelt, south of Warren Road, Garden City. Mothers should call Gail Truesdell at (734) 261-9085 or Kim Dold at (734) 536-0373

for reservations by April 25.

Open house

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

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

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

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Staff goes the extra mile to keep residents healthy and safe at Four Seasons Rehabilitation and Nursing

Meet Stacey Turnipseed. As assistant director of nursing, she educates staff about infection control and safety. At Four Seasons, staff is required to wash their hands every time they come into contact with a resident. That includes entering and exiting a room and administering medication.

"We keep up with the latest as far as infection control and hand washing," said Turnipseed, an R.N. "It's a daily job — infection control education about disease, viruses, bacteria. They have to have so many hours of infection control training."

Turnipseed continuously tracks resident care through inspections.

"I do a surprise attack on nurses as far as hand washing to see if they enter a room and are washing. I watch procedures, anything to do with resident care. Infection is the leading reason residents have to go back to the hospital. Good infection control will keep our residents here and healthy."

"...we keep up with the latest as far as infection control and hand washing... it's a daily job..."

Being proactive with preventive measures keeps residents safe from falls. When a resident is admitted their history is an important part of coming up with a Care Plan.

"The family is often the best resource to tell us they fell at home to give a good idea of how to stay safe," said Turnipseed. "We want to make sure people are safe on a daily basis. We want residents to have as normal an environment as they can. Four Seasons is a very homelike place. We know all of our residents which allows our staff to decide the best way to keep them safe."

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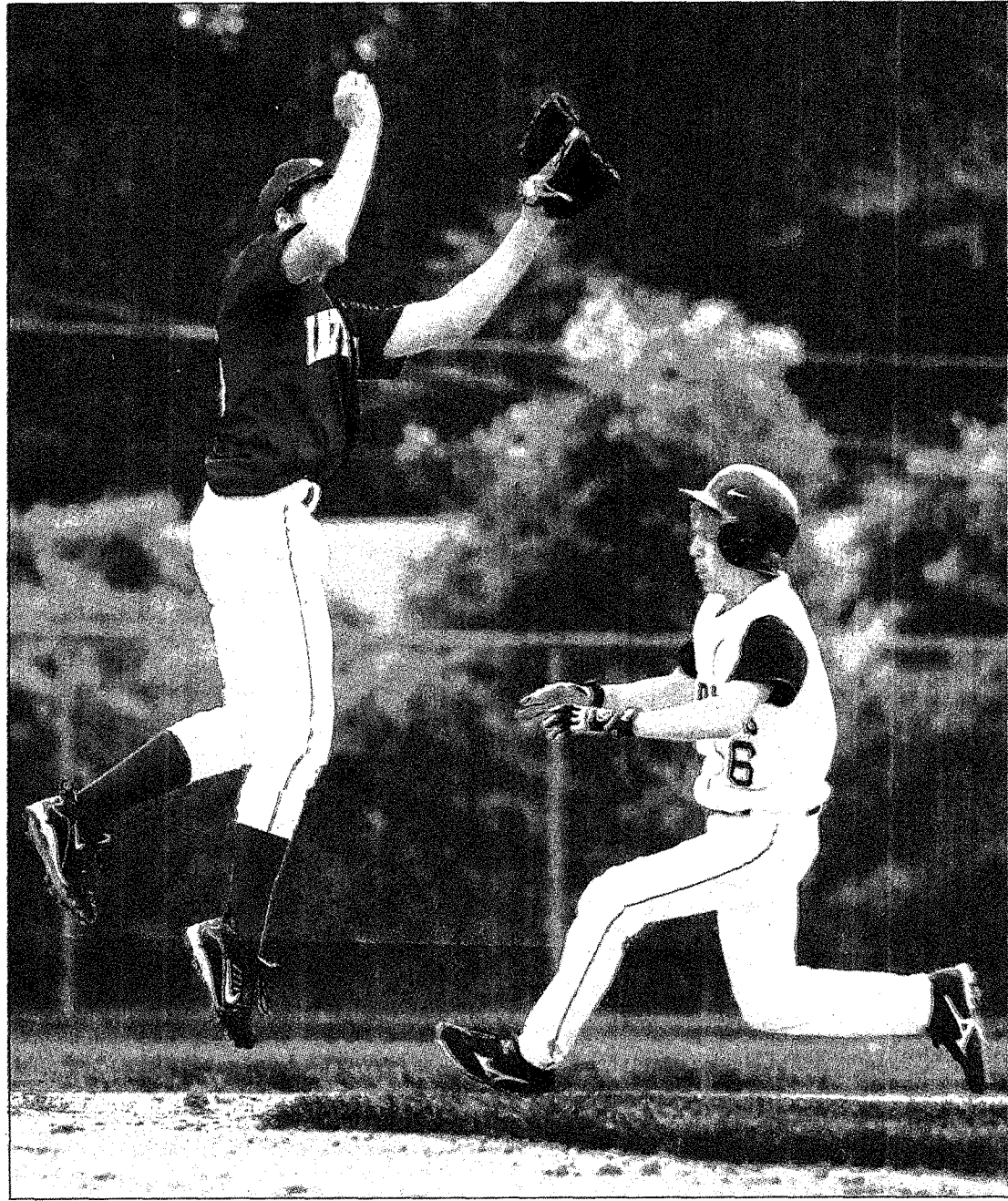
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Area prep baseball teams seek contender status



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Lutheran Westland's Kent Krzyske (right) will move from catcher to shortstop this season for the 23-6 Warriors, who reached the Division 4 state quarterfinals last season.

See capsule summaries, Page B4

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Once the prep baseball season does get going, it's a safe bet that there will be some contending teams that will emerge from the pack.

Livonia Stevenson coach Rick Berryman's biggest task will be replacing first-team All-State and All-Observer selection Jeff Sorenson, now playing for Wayne State University.

Both Sorenson's season and career numbers were impressive to say the least. As a senior, he batted .427 with 12 homers and finished 5-2 as a left-hander starting pitcher for the KLAAs Central Division co-champs, who finished 27-8 overall.

"We have five returning pitchers who had a collective win-loss of 19-4 last season and returning hitters who had a combined batting average of .350," Berryman said. "Hopefully, this combination will result in another successful season for the Spartans."

The cupboard is far from bare as first-team All-Observer outfielder Tyler Lynch, a senior, hit .458, while senior pitcher-shortstop Evan Piechota went 4-3 on the mound and batted .394.

Senior Mark Wagner, who also earned All-Kensington Lakes honors with Lynch and Piechota, went 5-0 on the mound and hit .356.

Livonia Churchill (15-19) could make noise in the KLAAs South Division thanks to the return of senior catcher Joe Williams, a first-team All-Area pick who hit .433 with 25 RBI.

Senior outfielder Stephen Foster (.330) also returns along with senior starter Ben Matigian (6-2, 2.22 ERA).

"This season we will concentrate on finishing off ballgames," Churchill coach Ron Targosz said. "Looking back to last year, we lost seven 1-run games. We will try to turn this around by making the key plays at the right time, as well as scoring more runs."

Livonia Franklin (14-17) also is expected to be improved in the KLAAs South.

The Patriots will be led by senior outfielder-pitcher Dan Muller, who batted .414 with 30 RBI, along with junior pitcher-outfielder Joel Trudell (.360, 27 RBI).

"We think our pitching will be much improved from a year ago with many arms to choose from," Franklin coach Matt Fournier said. "I think because of that alone, our defense will be

PREVIEW



Joe Williams Churchill



Tyler Lynch Stevenson

SIDELINES

Taylor All-America

Grand Valley State University Brianna Taylor (Livonia Franklin) was recently named to the State Farm Coaches' Division II All-America Team.

Taylor, a 5-foot-9 sophomore, earned the honorable mention selection along with teammate Alex Stelfox. They were two of just 40 players in all of Division II that garnered All-American status from the State Farm Coaches' vote.

The All-America team was comprised of 10 players, while 30 additional players were selected as honorable mention recipients.

All 40 players were chosen by a vote of the selection committee, which was comprised of one representative from each of the eight geographical regions and one chairperson.

Taylor and Stelfox recorded the exact same point total - 415 points for a 14.8 point per game average - tying the duo for the sixth-best figure in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Taylor pulled down 6.9 rebounds per game, tying her for team-high honors and finishing 11th in the league in boards. She also was third in the GLIAC in offensive rebounds (3.1 rpg.) and eighth with 46 steals.

Taylor connected on 72 free throws and made 29 three-pointers en route to first-team All-GLIAC North Division honors.

College lacrosse

Farmington High School will be the host for a men's lacrosse game between Michigan State and Colorado State universities at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 2.

The game is a fundraiser for the Farmington High School boys lacrosse team.

Tickets are \$5 per adult, \$10 per family, \$3 per student. Players wearing high school team jerseys gain admittance for \$1. Concessions will be available.

The school is located at 32000 Shiawassee, just west of Orchard Lake Road between Grand River Avenue and Ten Mile Road.

Free throw contest

American Legion Post 32 will stage its first ever Youth Free Throw Championship for ages 7-14 on Saturday, April 2 at the Memorial Church of Christ gym, located at 35475 Five Mile Road (between Levan and Farmington roads).

Age brackets for boys and girls include: 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14.

Registration for ages 7-8 and 9-10 will be at 1 p.m. followed by competition at 1:30 p.m.

Registration for ages 11-12 and 13-14 will be at 2 p.m. followed by competition at 3 p.m.

The cost is \$5 per competitor with proceeds going to the Michigan Veterans Support Group.

Trophies and prizes will be awarded to the winners in each age group.

For more information, call Charles Wagner at (248) 420-8472.

Blazers' lacrosse squad formidable

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The girls lacrosse season was scheduled to start Friday night, but Livonia Ladywood will have wait until Monday when it travels to Ann Arbor Skyline.

Predicted frigid temperatures forced the postponement of the 2011 season opener, but second-year coach Kristine Sanders and her squad can't wait to get out on the field.

Now if only the weather would cooperate.

"I have high expectations and they do, too," said Sanders, whose team is coming off a 6-5-1 season and 14-11 loss to Farmington in the MHSAA Division 2 regional final. "They want to win this thing."

Last year the Blazers were co-champions in Division II of the Catholic League with Pontiac Notre Dame Prep with a 5-1 record.

But Notre Dame Prep went on to win the Division II playoff title with a 13-11 triumph. Ladywood then defeated rival

Farmington Hills Mercy 17-14 in a first-round regional matchup.

Four starters graduated for the Blazers including A-winger Gaby Meyer, who earned All-Catholic League honors with 35 goals and 15 assists for 50 points. Meyer, who was also an Academic All-America, is now attending the University of Michigan.

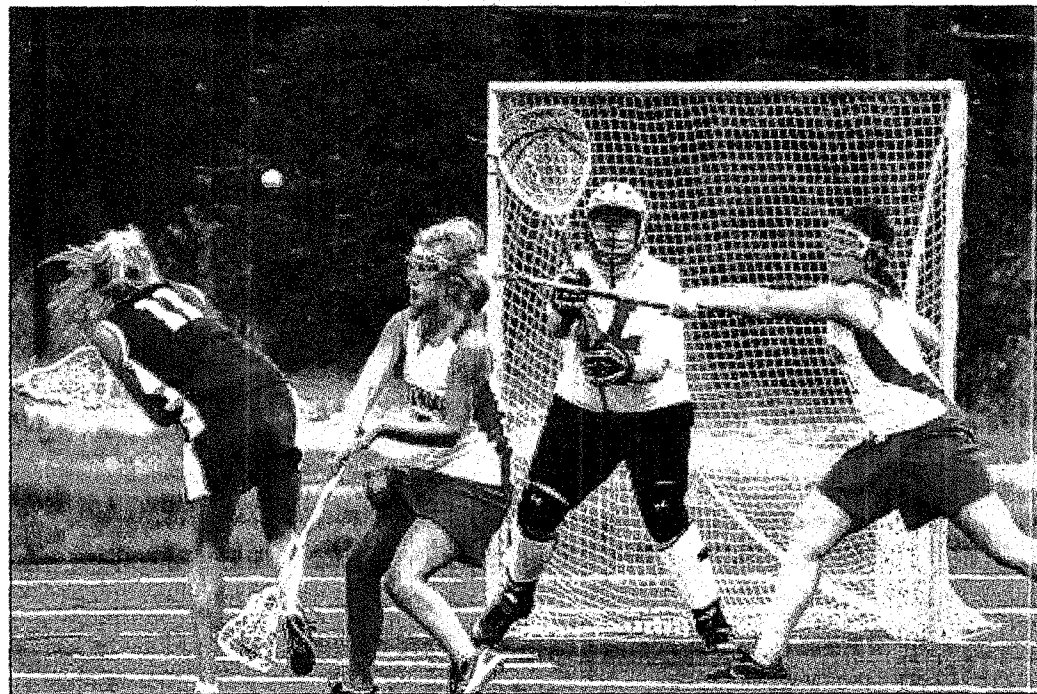
Also gone are defensive wing Allison Coligado and defenders Marissa Ellswood and Hillary Shesterkin.

This season, Sanders is carrying 19 varsity players and another 32 on the JV squad.

"We have 350 girls in our school and 51 came out for lacrosse," Sanders said. "There are schools with 2,000 students that have a hard time fielding a JV team."

"We had a lot of sophomores come out for the first year and it was hard to cut them. We gave them options to join other (spring) sports, but they all wanted to stay. We'll see how this works."

Sanders' top offensive



MIKE PERUGI (PHOTO)

Livonia Ladywood lost to Farmington High in last year's Division 2 regional final, 14-11. Goalie Lauren Perugi (center) returns for the Blazers, but Gaby Meyer (left) and Hillary Shesterkin both graduate.

returnee is senior Alexa Burns, an All-Catholic senior attacker who finished with 96 points a year ago, including 52 goals. Burns will be playing next season at Aquinas College, an NAIA member school.

All-Leaguer Kyle Burney, a junior, also returns at A-wing position to help jump-start the offense.

Other leading returnees include senior center Niki

Jacobs, who will join Grand Valley State's new program in 2012; senior goalie Lauren Perugi, bound for Albion College's new team also in 2012; junior goalie Rana Freij, senior defender Devon Corby and senior defensive wing Courtney Smith.

Sophomore Gabrielle Houska also shows promise as a newcomer on defense.

Sanders has been the Blazers' varsity field hockey

coach for the past 12 years, but took the lacrosse reins from Julie Holland and Lauren Mix after serving as a JV assistant in 2009.

"I did a lot of reading and learned by going to clinics," Sanders said. "The rules are the most difficult. There are a lot of whistles, but once you know certain sports, it gets a lot easier."

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Area matmen prove to be Palace worthy

FIRST-TEAM SELECTIONS
Kyle Gillies, Soph., Westland Glenn (103): Gillies placed fourth in Division 1 state finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills and was the first sophomore ever at Glenn to notch his 100th victory.

He also placed fourth at the Saline regional, second at the Temperance Bedford district and third in the KLAAs tournament while finishing 53-9 overall.

"Kyle was our most consistent performer the entire season," Glenn coach Bill Polk said. "He is an example of what hard work can do for you. He also is an outstanding student with a 3.8 GPA."

"He has already started training to be the next state champion in our program. I am confident that he can accomplish all of his goals before he graduates from our program."

Ben Griffin, Fr., Canton (103): The freshman made quite an impact right off the bat, racking up an outstanding 57-3 record - advancing all the way to the Division 1 state finals at The Palace of Auburn Hills, where he finished seventh.

"Ben was a freshman phenom this season," Canton coach Cory Mancuso said. "He is a real technician on the mat. He has an exciting and bright future for the Chiefs."

Griffin went 3-2 at the finals, including a 10-0 major decision over Caledonia's John Leark.

He also scored key victories in the D1 individual district finals and regional finals against Evan Toth of Novi-Detroit Catholic Central.

Alec Pantaleo, Fr., Canton (112): The freshman also had a stellar rookie campaign for the Chiefs, capturing the Wayne County meet.

He finished with a 49-4 mark, also winning the Division 1 individual district finals with a pin in 1:27 of Livonia Franklin's Danny Martinez.

Pantaleo made it to the second round of the individual regional finals.

He also came up big late in the regular season. At the KLAAs team tournament, Pantaleo earned a 10-3 decision over Hartland's Keith Boldt. He followed that up at the conference quad meet, with a major decision over Hartland's Justin Rollins.

"Alec is one of the best wrestlers in the area from the neutral position," Mancuso said. "He is very explosive on his feet which makes him a constant threat to his opponent."

Jake Meadows, Sr., Liv. Churchill (119): The senior finished the year with a 48-7 record and a sixth-place finish in the Division 1 finals.

"Jake was an unbelievable competitor," Churchill coach Marty Altounian said. "When his or the teams' back was up against it, he was the one to change the tide. He was the one the team counted on to always come through with an outstanding performance."

Meadows also captured the Garden City district crown and added a third place at the Plymouth regional. He was also a KLAAs and Livonia City champion.

"His work ethic in the practice room was nonstop," Altounian added. "His leadership with the other guys on the team was greatly appreciated by the coaches. He would direct the team to do a drill or something like that just before the coaches would say it. His performance at the KLAAs was deserving of the MVP vote. Every loss he had during the season, he had the opportunity to wrestle again, he beat. He is definitely one of a kind."

Cody Korpus, Soph., Salem (119): The sophomore posted a 23-13 record and earned All-State honors after having reached the Division 1 individual state finals, where he won two of three matches.

Korpus made it that far thanks to a fourth-place show-

ing at the Division 1 individual district finals and a second place finish at the individual regional finals.

At the latter, he earned a major decision over Farmington's Kevin Kennerly to reach the finals - and then lost to Livonia Franklin's Gabe Martinez in the championship bout.

"Cody now sees what he is capable of and it has motivated him even more," Salem head coach Pete Israel said. "I am looking forward to the next two years with Cody as he continues to grow as a young man and as a wrestler."

Gabe Martinez, Jr., Liv. Franklin (119): The junior was a state qualifier and finished the year at 55-10 overall.

Martinez captured the regional title and was third at the district.

He also earned titles at Franklin, Livonia City and Rochester Adams tournaments. His career record is 114-31.

"Gabe is one of the more intense wrestlers on the team, and led the team in wins this year," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "He has excellent balance and is very tenacious in his matches. Gabe is one of the hardest workers in the room, and is always willing to help out his teammates."

"The younger wrestlers learn a lot from his work ethic. He is very team-oriented guy and is a pleasure to coach."

Andre Sanders, Sr., Farm. Harrison (125): The senior earned all-state status with a seventh-place finish in the Division 2 tournament. Sanders posted an impressive 47-8 season record.

He was first at his weight in the Grand Blanc, Lakeland and district tourneys, and he was second at the Observerland, OAA White and regional meets. He also was unbeaten at the Harrison (5-0) and Alma (4-0) team dual events.

"Andre was a jayvee wres-

ter for two years, and then he started working in the off season, wrestling and training," coach Jim Stuef said. "Putting in the extra time and work has made the difference."

"I truly believe our kids match up with anyone, athletically, but need the extra mat time to make us competitive. Andre has proven this to be true."

Alec Breckenridge, Soph., Plymouth (130): The sophomore co-captain enjoyed a 35-13 season, qualifying for the Division 1 state finals. He already has a 69-17 record under his belt.

He finished third at the D1 individual district finals and advanced to the championship bout at the regional finals, where Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's Logan Marcicki prevailed.

Other big matches included wins over Steve Tuyo of Livonia Franklin in the KLAAs South meet and individual regionals and over Andrew Napieraj of Birmingham Brother Rice during the season. Both were ranked No. 1 in the state at that time.

"Alec is the type of wrestler who is willing to wrestle anyone for the sake of the team," said Plymouth head coach Quin Guernsey about the Wildcats' co-MVP. "A number of his losses this year were from early in the season where he would wrestle up at 140 or 145 because the team needed him to."

"He is an excellent leader who always can be found helping his teammates get better."

Steve Tuyo, Sr., Liv. Franklin (130): The senior was a state qualifier and wound up 54-8 in his final season as a Patriot.

"He's an extremely smart wrestler, and has always done whatever the team needed to win a meet," Chiola said. "Steve has been like having another coach in the room, and he will be missed."

Tuyo also captured individual titles at the regional, district, KLAAs, Livonia City, Franklin and Rochester Adams tourneys.

"Steve is one of the finest individuals I've ever coached," Chiola added. "While at Franklin he broke the school record for most wins in a career (187). He has been a great team leader, a very hard worker, and a tremendous role model for the younger wrestlers. Steve placed in state as a junior, and I think a late season injury hurt his chances of winning it all this year."

James Roberts, Sr., Farm. Harrison (135): The senior is a three-time regional qualifier and two-time, All-Observer selection. He had a 39-10 record the past season and was Harrison's first Oakland County champion since 1979.

Roberts was the OAA White Division champion and runner-up at the Grand Blanc, Observerland and district tournaments. He has more than 100 career wins and led the Hawks with 28 pins this year.

"James is a great leader, a hard worker and a great example of the kind of student-athlete others can strive to be like," coach Stuef said. "He has shown great character and discipline over the years here,



Kyle Gillies
John Glenn



Ben Griffin
Canton



Alec Pantaleo
Canton



Jacob Meadows
Churchill



Cody Korpus
Salem



Gabe Martinez
Franklin



Andre Sanders
Harrison



Alec Breckenridge
Plymouth



Steve Tuyo
Franklin



James Roberts
Harrison



Jonny Bannoura
Churchill



Nick Tomski
Farmington



Kevin Newborn
Wayne



Anthony Long
John Glenn



Matt Roos
Franklin



Kameron Jones
John Glenn



Sultan Hubbard
Harrison



Anthony Abro
Canton



Dimitrus Renfroe
Wayne



Ben Poirier
Canton

and he will do great things in life because of what he has accomplished as an athlete and a person."

Jonny Bannoura, Sr., Liv. Churchill (140): The senior was a Division 1 state qualifier and ended the year with a 38-10 record.

Bannoura was runner-up at the Plymouth regional and third at the Garden City district. He also captured the KLAAs title and was runner-up at 135 in the Livonia City tournament.

"Jon was a 100 percent better than last year," Altounian said. "He was focused and determined all year. A great leader, he showed what hard work and sweat could do for someone. He became an all-around team-oriented wrestler. Never did the coaches ask him of something that he did not come through for the team. He will be an asset to whatever he decides to do after school."

Nick Tomski, Sr., Farmington (145): The senior ends his prep career as the winningest wrestler in school history (134-40). Former state champ Mark Churella, who wrestled three years at the high school level, had 123 wins. Tomski also has the career record for take-downs (367).

He was 46-7 this year, the Observerland champion and a state qualifier. Tomski is a two-time OAA White Division champ, and he also won the Lakeland and Grand Blanc invites.

"He has that never-give-up attitude that you need to be successful in wrestling," coach Al Beyar said. "I think he set

the standard for hard work and dedication for all future wrestlers at Farmington."

Kevin Newborn, Sr., Wayne (152): The senior closed out his final season with a 41-12 record including a third in the Bedford district.

"He is one of the hardest working kids I've had the pleasure of working with, on the mat and in the classroom," Wayne coach Steve Vasilloff said. "The dedication and time he put in during the short amount of time we had with him, as well as all of his accomplishments, is nothing short of admirable. Everything he got this season he earned, and I wish I had a room full of kids like him."

Newborn was also Observerland and Berkley Invitational runner-up to go along with third at Wayne County.

"If only we had this one as a freshman," Vasilloff added. "Kevin decided to join the team as a junior, and in 16 months that we got to coach him, he was able to qualify for regionals and was one period away from making the state meet. In his first year he won a handful of matches, but because of his hard work and dedication throughout the entire offseason, he was able to come back and win over 40 matches."


Anthony Long, Jr., Westland Glenn (152): The junior finished 38-13 overall and carries a 3.6 G.P.A in the classroom.

"Anthony was our workhorse this season," Polk said. "He

Please see ALL-AREA, B3

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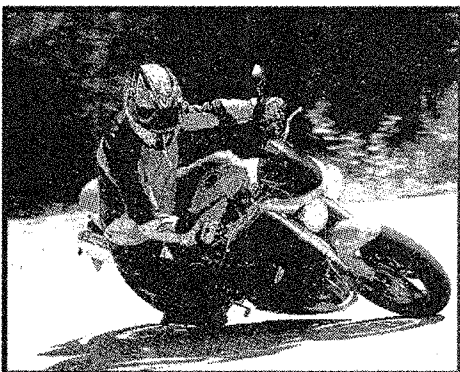


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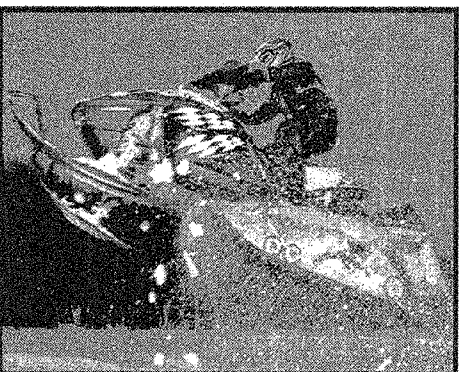


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RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ
 WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER

ALL-AREA

FROM PAGE B2

wrestled any spot we asked him to all year, while giving every match is all. He spent numerous hours after practice drilling and working on his conditioning.

"He was clearly in better shape than any of his opponents and wrestled every match until the final buzzer went off. He is a sponge soaking up all the knowledge he can from all the coaches every day in practice. I am confident he will be a medal winner next year as a senior."

Matt Roos, Sr., Liv. Franklin (160): The senior placed fourth in Division 1 after winning both the Garden City district and Plymouth regional.

Roos, 52-6 overall, also captured titles at Wayne County, the KLAA, Livonia City and Rochester Adams tournaments.

His career record is 133-29.

"Matt has turned himself into a great wrestler over the years," Chiola said. "He set his goals high this year, and worked very hard to achieve them. Matt wrestled well out of his weight class all year to help the team out, and then had an outstanding state tournament. Matt has a great passion for the sport, and his passion rubbed off on his teammates."

Kameron Jones, Sr., Westland Glenn (171): The senior finished 49-12 overall and earned a spot in the Division 1 state finals after taking second at the Bedford district and fourth at the Saline regional.

"He was always the guy we could count on for a win in a clutch situation and would also go for the pin when his team needed it," Polk said. "Because of all his dedication to our program he made it all the way to the state tournament individually."

Jones also added fifth in the KLAA tournament.

"We'll miss having Kameron in our lineup," Polk added. "He was an intricate part of our team state run in 2009 and 2010. When he was a sophomore he came up with a key overtime win to get to Battle Creek and as a junior the dual meet came down to him to go to the show again. Both times Kameron came up big for his team. When he was younger he bumped up one or even two weight classes to fill whatever spot we needed him at."

Sultan Hubbard, Jr., Harrison (171): The junior earned all-state recognition with a seventh-place finish in the Division 2 tournament. Hubbard compiled a 39-15 season record.

He was the OAA White Division runner-up; he was second at the district and third in the regional. Hubbard was first at the Lakeland Invite and 4-0 in the Alma dual tourney.

"Sultan was the most improved wrestler for us this year, and the biggest change was his confidence," coach Stuef said. "Sultan is a great young man. His desire to do his best always comes through in his work ethic and his attitude. We're looking forward to a great senior season."

Anthony Abro, Sr., Canton (189): The senior capped off a brilliant four-year career by winning the Division 1 state championship, defeating Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's Miles Trealout for the title.

2010-11 ALL-OBSERVER WRESTLING TEAMS

103 pounds: 1. Kyle Gillies, Soph., Westland John Glenn; and Ben Griffin, Fr., Canton; 2. Zachary Francis, Fr., Lutheran High Westland; 3. Mo Youssef, Fr., Plymouth; Jon Locklear, Soph., Livonia Churchill; Alex Arbie, Soph., Salem.

112: 1. Alec Pantaleo, Fr., Canton; 2. Dan Martinez, Soph., Livonia Franklin; 3. Richard DeMarois, Soph., Canton; Trey Berry, Soph., Plymouth.

119: 1. Jake Meadows, Sr., Churchill; Cody Korpus, Soph., Salem; Gabe Martinez, Jr., Franklin; 2. Kevin Kennerly, Sr., Farmington; Evan Doyle, Sr., Farmington Hills Harrison.

125: 1. Andre Sanders, Sr., Harrison; 2. Said Youssef, Jr., Plymouth; 3. Jordan Atienza, Fr., Franklin.

130: 1. Alec Breckenridge, Soph., Plymouth; Steve Tuyo, Sr., Franklin; 2. Kienwa Davis, Jr., Farmington; 3. Austin Rohn, Jr., Salem.

135: 1. James Roberts, Sr., Harrison; 2. Josh Hall, Sr., Redford Union; 3. Zach Schultz, Sr., Farmington.

140: 1. Jonny Bannoura, Sr., Churchill; 2. Zach Marsh, Jr., Canton; 3. Josh Hatfield, Sr., Franklin.

145: 1. Nick Tomski, Sr., Farmington; 2. Jalen Jones, Sr., Wayne Memorial; 3. Avery Opperman, Jr., Franklin.

152: 1. Kevin Newborn, Sr., Wayne; Anthony Long, Jr., John Glenn; 2. Kyle Lake, Jr., Harrison; 3. Josh Marhofer, Sr., Salem.

160: 1. Matt Roos, Sr., Franklin; 2. Collin Rankin, Soph., RU; 3. John Davis, Sr., North Farmington; Danny Croft, Jr., John Glenn.

171: 1. Kameron Jones, Sr., John Glenn; Sultan Hubbard, Jr., Harrison; 2. Braden Price, Sr., Canton; Kevin Miller, Jr., North Farmington.

189: 1. Anthony Abro, Sr., Canton; 2. Courtney Drew, Sr., North Farmington; 3. Joe Scott, Jr., Livonia Stevenson; Reggie Timmons, Jr., John Glenn.

215: 1. Dimitrus Renfro, Jr., Wayne; 2. Justin Roe, Sr., Farmington; Dylan Morales, Soph., Churchill.

285: 1. Ben Poirier, Sr., Canton; 2. Jacob Range, Jr., Stevenson; 3. Maled Mokbel, Jr., North Farmington; Omar Haymour, Jr., Franklin; Derrick Campbell, Sr., John Glenn.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Al Beyar, Farmington
HONORABLE MENTION
Churchill: James Locklear, Mike Harp, Justin Baker; Franklin: Alex O'Connor, Bret Thrushman, Allen Steele, Chase Semonick; Stevenson: Kody Roy, Samer Shebak; John Glenn: Quinn Dupraw, David Isaacs, Donavan Reilly, Keven Wacker, Justin Powers, D'Vonteono Anderson, Jon Mayes, Chris Donaldson, Zach Bower, Charles Crawford; Wayne: Devan Adams, Nate Cavanaugh, Sam Ekanem, Darryl Ison, Devin Korzetki, Tyler Mulligan, Tim Way, Allen Parker, Doug Rutan; Canton: Robbie Lincoln, Marc Przyblyski; Salem: Jacob McCabe, Tyler Gross, Jordan Zhou, Riley Duxtader; Plymouth: James Ahern, Shadi Jammoul, Jon Conn, Chase Kalili, Jackson Chalmers; Redford Union: Chris Colon; Farmington: Nimantha Herath, Mannie Govantes, Mike Rankin, Ryan Southerland, Derek Southerland; Harrison: Andrew Fialka, Marcus Shepherd; North Farmington: Jordan Russell; Mike Williams; Lutheran Westland: Martin Kemp, Jacob Richter, Alex Reardon, Brad Muma; Clarenceville: Michael Weiss, Anthony Giordano, Aaron Bibik, Coy Sillanpaa, Brendan Groves; Garden City: DJ Giese.

Abro also went 60-0 this season and finished with 200 career victories.

"Anthony was a great wrestler and leader for the Chiefs and one of the hardest working wrestlers you will ever find," Mancuso said. "He plans to attend Eastern Michigan University next season and join the Eagles wrestling program."

Along the way to the championship, Abro bested Trealout in the D1 individual regional finals and then won all four bouts during the finals at The Palace.

Abro sparked Canton to a 24-5 record, enough for the program to win the KLAA South, Kensington Conference and Division 1 team district — the latter for the seventh consecutive year.

Dimitrus Renfro, Jr., Wayne (215): The junior finished 52-11 overall and wound up sixth in Division 1 after fourths at both the district and regional.

"He lost first round to the eventual (state) runner-up, but stormed back and won three matches in a row and finished sixth," Vasiloff. "He defeated a wrestler who had beaten him at both districts and regionals by using the moves we had worked on. That's the kind of wrestler he is. And that is why

he will be competing for a state championship next year."

Renfro was also runner-up in the KLAA, third at Wayne County and champion at the Salem Elks, Wyandotte and Observerland invitationals.

"Dimitrus is everything you want in a wrestler," Vasiloff. "Never have I had a wrestler listen to everything we have coached him and execute the moves we show like he does. We can show him a move or takedown that we want him to use a day or two specific match, and he will use it effectively. We switched up some of his takedowns before the state meet, as we knew he would see some of the same opponents that he faced a districts and regionals."

Ben Poirier, Sr., Canton (285): The senior went 51-5, finishing his Canton career with a flourish.

After winning decisions over Dearborn's Gerald Moore and Grosse Pointe South's Reggie Lewis in the D1 district and regional finals, respectively, Poirier advanced to the state finals for the second straight year.

In the first round, he defeated Kyle Knapp of Portage Central. But his season ended with a tough 2-1 overtime loss to Flint Carman-Ainsworth's Mark Byrd.

"Poirier was one of the best heavyweights in Canton wrestling history," Mancuso said. "He plans to attend college and play football."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Al Beyar, Farmington: The veteran coach guided the Falcons to their first OAA championship, winning the White Division dual-meet crown and tournament. Farmington was 18-7 and the Observerland runner-up.

The Falcons also won the Fenton tournament and their first city championship since 2005. Farmington sent six wrestlers to the regional and four to state.

"We knew we had some talent in the room," Beyar said. "We had some rough spells at the beginning of January. Then, we started putting things together and finished

the season strong."

Beyar began his coaching career at Power Middle School in 1972. He moved to the high school in 1981 as an assistant and became head coach in 1986-87.

His teams won two WLAA Lakes Division titles, and his 1992 team captured a Western Lakes championship and the inaugural Observerland Invitational.

Beyar's Falcons have won seven team district tournaments. "It's been a pleasure all these years," Beyar said. "The athletes and students have been remarkable. You wish every year was like this year, and you wish it lasted a little longer."

"I think all the Farmington schools were down on the sport for a period of time." With the resurgence of the North Farmington and Harrison programs, "the Farmington schools are starting to make a mark in wrestling once again."

Beyar also credited assistant coaches Dave Hall and Josh Gaskill for the team's success.



Al Beyar
Coach of Year

Freshmen propel Rockets to win

Freshman played a prominent role in Westland John Glenn's season-opening 1-0 girls soccer victory Friday afternoon over visiting New Boston Huron.

Two of the Rockets' four ninth-grade starters teamed up for the game's only goal as Evelyn Accerano scored in the first half off an assist from

Elise Penhollow. Senior Jenna Williams anchored a strong defensive effort as freshman goalkeeper Emily Hinkle posted the shutout.

It also gave Ralph Cabildo the victory in his debut as the Rockets' varsity coach.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL

Monday, March 28
Clarenceville at Thurston, 4 p.m.
Taylor Truman at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
A.A. Skyline at Wayne, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 29
Franklin at Garden City, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 30
John Glenn at Milford (2), 4 p.m.
Redford Union at Wayne, 4 p.m.
Greenhills at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 31
Redford Union at Clarenceville, 4 p.m.
Dearborn at Franklin, 4 p.m.

Friday, April 1
Belleville at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
D.H. Crestwood at Wayne, 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 2
(all double-headers)
Churchill at Redford Union, 11 a.m.
Thurston at Franklin, 11 a.m.
Garden City at Stevenson, 11 a.m.

GIRLS SOFTBALL

Monday, March 28
Clarenceville at Thurston, 4 p.m.
Taylor Truman at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
A.A. Skyline at Wayne (2), 4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 29
Divine Child at Churchill, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 30
Redford Union at Wayne, 4 p.m.
Greenhills at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 31
Redford Union at Clarenceville, 4 p.m.
Dearborn at Franklin, 4 p.m.
John Glenn at Ypsi Lincoln (2), 4 p.m.

Friday, April 1
D.H. Crestwood at Wayne, 4 p.m.
Parkway at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 2
(all double-headers)
Churchill at Redford Union, 11 a.m.
Det. Renaissance at John Glenn, 11 a.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Monday, March 28
New Boston Huron at Wayne, 4 p.m.
Churchill at Northville, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 29
Luth. Westland at Rom. Summit, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 30
Ladywood vs. Birm. Marian at Ultimate Soccer (Pontiac), 3:30 p.m.
Thurston at Franklin, 5:30 p.m.
Clarenceville at Garden City, 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 31
Waterford Mott at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Redford Union at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Stevenson at Churchill, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 1
A.P. Cabrini at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Ladywood at Trenton, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 2
Ladywood at Gib. Carlson, TBA

BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD

Thursday, March 31
Garden City at Clarenceville, 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 2
Patriot Relays at Franklin, 9 a.m.

GIRLS TENNIS

Tuesday, March 29
John Glenn at S. Lyon East, 4 p.m.

Ladywood vs. Milan at Schoolcraft College, 4 p.m.

Thursday, March 31
Ladywood at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
Taylor Truman at John Glenn, 4 p.m.

Friday, April 1
Belleville at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Wayne at Garden City, 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 2
Taylor Kennedy Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
Grosse Pte. South Invitational, 9 a.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Monday, March 28
Ladywood at A.A. Skyline, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 30
Ladywood at Troy, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 1
Grosse Pte. North at Ladywood, 6 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL
(all double-headers)
Sunday, March 27
Davenport at Madonna, 1 p.m.

Saturday, April 2
Siena Heights at Madonna, 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 3
Siena Heights at Madonna, 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Wednesday, March 30
Concordia at Madonna, 1 p.m.

Friday, April 1
Cornerstone at Madonna, 4 p.m.

Saturday, April 2
Davenport at Madonna, 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 3
Notre Dame (Ohio) at Madonna, 2 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Spring break soccer

The Michigan Wolves-Hawks will stage a spring break soccer camp for boys and girls ages 7-12 from 10 a.m. until noon, Monday through Thursday, April 18-21, at Livonia's Jaycee Park.

All skill levels are welcome. The cost is \$50 for the entire camp or \$15 per day. Those registered before Monday, April 11 will receive a free camp T-shirt.

For online registration, e-mail mi.wolves.hawks@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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BASEBALL

FROM PAGE B1

improved over last season. We are still trying to find the right mix in our lineup. We have some very good young hitters. We're just are not sure who will hit where yet."

Last year Westland John Glenn surprised by reaching the Division I regional final despite a 7-24 overall record.

The Rockets lost three key starters to graduation, but returning senior pitcher Rob Schurig and senior center fielder Caleb Clenney give Glen a solid nucleus.

Glenn second-year coach Dan Danic had the interim tag removed after taking the Glenn reigns midway through last season from Tom Wakefield.

"We are excited about competing with a more mature and talented roster," Danic said. "We

have a sound defense that will help us compete for a second district title."

KLAA South rival Wayne Memorial (10-17) has a new varsity coach in Chris Bailey, who spent the past seven seasons coaching at his high school alma mater (Royal Oak Shrine).

Bailey played six seasons in the Pittsburgh Pirates minor league system.

Senior pitchers-infielders Shane Wilson (.394) and Shane Kommer (.357) return along with junior outfielder Jacob Lefler (.360).

"I believe pitching will be a strong part of this team," Bailey said. "We have at least 10 guys that can give us some innings."

No team went farther last year than Lutheran High Westland (23-6).

The Warriors, who reached the Division 4 state quarterfinals before losing to Portland St. Patrick, also captured the Blue Division of the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

Seventh-year coach Kevin Wade must figure out a way to replace All-Staters Austin Baglow and Gage Flanery.

Experienced returnees include pitcher-outfielder Jake Andrzejewski, shortstop Kent Krzyske and third baseman-pitcher Marc Rosin - all seniors.

"As always we play in a tough conference where we've had one team in at least the quarterfinals seven straight years," Wade said. "There is no off day in our conference and the games are as competitive as the state tournament. Sprinkle in some challenging non-conference games and we have a difficult schedule. But it's a schedule that has prepared us for the state tournament in the past and we expect nothing less."

Meanwhile, next door neighbor Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (15-3) is coming off its most successful season in school history under coach Matt Schaeve.

The Hawks, the MIAC Red Division champs with a 12-0 record, are led by senior Andy Barber, who went 8-2 on the mound and hit .481. Senior Shawn Schaffer also lends help after hitting .403 and going 4-1 as a pitcher.

Another team on the upswing is Livonia Clarenceville (14-18) under fourth-year coach Dan Miller.

The Trojans will play as an independent again led by junior outfielder-pitcher Damien Quarles, who batted .444 and finished 3-5 as a pitcher.

Clarenceville's veteran cast also includes Jimmy Moody, Matt Kurdziel, Ben Gehan, Eric Trotter and Zach Rosen.

"With our returning experience and the talent we have, if we go to work every day at practice, we should be able to continue to move our program in the right direction," Miller said.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL

Head coach: Ron Targosz, eighth year. League affiliation: KLAA Kensington Conference (South Division). Last year's overall record: 15-19. Notable losses to graduation: Steven Hovemale, David Harris, Tad Evans, Nate Belyk, Christian Leahley. Leading returnees: Joe Williams, Sr. Inf.-C (first team All-Area, 433, 25 RBI); Stephen Foster, Sr. OF (330, 981 fielding); Ben Matijovic, Sr. Inf.-P (second team All-Area, 6-2, 222 ERA); Troy Bogershtz, Sr. Inf.-P (330 ERA); Sean Swalsh, Sr. 2B; Jon Tarqus, Sr. P; Drew Macorindale, Sr. C; Trey Jardine, Sr. P; Drew Loudon, Sr. Inf.; Brent Ochodnicki, Jr. 1B-P; Dan Cameron, Soph. C.

Promising newcomers: Angelo Cavagnini, Jr. OF-P; Connor Dwyer, Jr. OF; Derek Jakubowski, Jr. OF; Tyler Keeter, Jr. OF-P; Jake Otto, Jr. Inf.; Mike Rybinski, Jr. Inf.-OF-P; Alex Tsakos, Jr. Inf.-OF-P. Targosz's 2011 season outlook: "The group of players that we have this year are focused in on having a very good year and if their work so far is any indication, then I know for a fact that there will not be any team on our schedule that will outwork the players that we have here. Our off season has been the best that I ever have been and we are hoping that will pay big dividends. Saying all of this, we also know that we will have to take care of things on the field. Pitching, hitting and defense are the name of the game. This year I believe that we will be improved in all three of these areas. We are looking forward to getting the season started to see how things work out. We have some very good baseball players, but the outcome of our season will depend on how things come together."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN

Head coach: Matt Fournier, fifth season. League affiliation: KLAA Kensington Conference (South Division). Last year's overall record: 14-17. Notable losses to graduation: Jack Chinavare (All-KLAA), Will Kramer, Nick Hopson, Steven Wells, Anthony Crecheolo, Justin Dean, Prentice Hawkins III, Robbie King. Leading returnees: Dan Muller, Sr. P-OF (second team All-Area, All-KLAA, All-Region; 414, 30 RBI, 2 homers, 11 doubles); Joel Trudell, Jr. P-OF (.360, 27 RBI, 4 homers, 8 doubles); Brent Marzoin, Sr. P-Inf.; Bobby Andrus, Sr. P-OF; Adam Michael, Sr. C; Brandon Hawkins, Sr. OF-Inf.; Jake Turchan, Sr. OF; Matt Luke, Sr. P.

Promising newcomers: Tyler Dewhirst, Sr. Inf.; Justin Forestall, Jr. P-Inf.; Joe Barczuk, Jr. P-Inf.; Max Shamus, Jr. C-Inf.; Kyle Curtis, Jr. P-Inf.; Josh Gorman, Soph. P-Inf.; Travis Barnes, Soph. P-Inf. Fournier's 2011 season outlook: "The 2011 Patriots return many key components from a young, competitive team of 2010. Our kids have put a lot of off season work in to prepare for a successful season. As coaches we are very pleased with what we have seen so far. With still being relatively young in a couple of areas, we will need our returning players to be positive leaders in games as well as practice. I have also challenged some of our younger players to play at a higher maturity level. We are very anxious as a staff and team to get rolling. The goal is always to be playing our best ball at the end of the season while getting better each week."

LIVONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: Rick Berryman, seventh season. League affiliation: KLAA Kensington Conference (Central Division).

PREP BASEBALL CAPSULE OUTLOOK

Last year's overall record: 27-8. Titles won last year: KLAA Central co-champs; Livonia City champs. Notable losses to graduation: Jeff Sorenson (first team All-Area); Nick Anderson, Matt Shain. Leading returnees: Tyler Lynch, Sr. OF (first team All-Area, All-KLAA, 458); Evan Piechola, SS-P (second team All-Area, All-KLAA, 394, 4-3); Mark Wagner, Sr. Inf.-P (All-KLAA, 356, 5-0); Josh DeYonker, Soph. OF (400); Mike Vomaster, Soph. C (344); Brendon Hayes, Sr. 1B (300); Troy Bodtke, Sr. Inf.-P (284, 5-0); Nick McDonald, Jr. P (4-1, 297 ERA); J.J. Petterson, Sr. Inf.-OF; Josh DeHtre, Sr. P-OF. Promising newcomers: Jake Semak, Soph. Inf.-P; Brandon Jurczynski, Soph. OF; Pete Michalak, Jr. P-OF; Justin Small, Jr. OF-P. Berryman's 2011 season outlook: "The expectations are high for Stevenson in 2011. They will be led by seven returning seniors who are very focused and dedicated to continue the success of last years 27-8 season. We have five returning pitchers who had a collective win-loss record of 19-4 last season and returning hitters who had a combined batting average of .350. Hopefully, this combination will result in another successful season for the Spartans."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Head coach: Dan Danic, second season. League affiliation: KLAA Kensington Conference (South Division). Last year's overall record: 7-24. Titles won last year: Division I district champs. Notable losses to graduation: Derrick Ammons, Spencer Dowd, Andrew McGrath. Leading returnees: Rob Schurig, Sr. P; Caleb Clenney, Sr. OF; Shane Anderson, Sr. SS 2B; Kevin Karsnick, Sr. C; Mike Pietruszka, Sr. 3B; Colton Lipinski, Sr. LF. Promising newcomers: Jesse Smitherman, Jr. P-OF; Brandon Caudill, Jr. P; Tyler Hubbard, Jr. OF. Danic's 2011 season outlook: "Coming off a strong finish to the 2010 season, we are excited about competing with a more mature and talented roster. We are adding depth to our pitching roster with the addition of Caudill, Lipinski and Smitherman, and have an explosive offense riding the bats of Clenney and Schurig. We have a sound defense that will help us compete for a second district title."

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Head coach: Chris Bailey, first season. League affiliation: KLAA Kensington Conference (South Division). Last year's overall record: 10-17. Notable losses to graduation: Dominik Corredino, Jake White. Leading returnees: Shane Wilson, Sr. P-SS (394); Shane Kommer, Sr. P-3B (.357); Jacob Lefler, Jr. OF (360). Promising newcomer: Chris Briggs, Soph. P. Bailey's 2011 season outlook: "I believe pitching will be a strong part of this team. We have at least 10 guys that can give us some innings. I think we'll hit well. We have great senior leadership on this roster with a lot of experience. We have been focusing a lot on pitching and defensive play so far in the early going. Our goal is pretty simple - win a league championship and make a run in the state tournament."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Head coach: Dan Miller, fourth season.

BID ADVERTISEMENT

Detroit Service Learning Academy (DSLA) at 21605 W Seven Mile, Detroit MI 48219 will receive sealed bid proposals until 2:00 p.m. on April 7, 2011 for the following bid package: "Asbestos Abatement at Detroit Service Learning Academy - Annex". Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud at the DSLA at this time. Bids received after this time will be rejected. Bidding Documents may be obtained after March 30, 2011, from Nova Environmental, Inc., 5340 Plymouth Rd. Suite 210 Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105 Tel. 734.930.0995 and at the pre-bid examination. A mandatory pre-bid examination of the building will be held at 10:00 a.m. on March 31, 2011 at DSLA parking lot, south entrance to 21755 W Seven Mile Road. All bidders must provide familial disclosure in compliance with MCL 380.1267 and attach this information to the bid. The bid must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the DSLA Board of Education or the Chief Financial Officer of the DSLA. Proposals must include a bid bond or certified check made payable to Detroit Service Learning Academy for not less than 5% of the contract and must be submitted on the bid proposal form furnished with the specifications. These projects are subject to prevailing wages. All proposals will remain firm for a period of 60 days and provide performance/labor and material bonds upon award. DSLA reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids.

Publish: March 24 & 27, 2011

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Donna Casaceli and Instructor Ulana Kushner carefully place an egg into dye.

Wax, dye, steady hand needed to create designs

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Ulana Kushner and Suzan Marzec are on the same wavelength when it comes to Easter eggs.

Kushner comes from a Ukrainian heritage and Marzec is of Polish decent, but both believe in passing along ethnic traditions. And if they're talking eggs, that means teaching the next generation the art of batik-style egg decorating — pysanky in Ukrainian, pisanki in Polish.

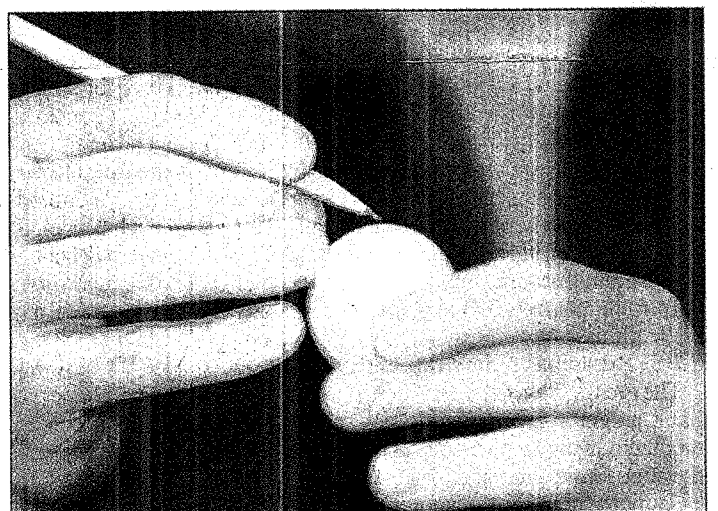
"In the culture that worshipped the sun, the moon, the egg was a symbol of life. Within that culture, the egg became magical. You could write on it what you wished for another. They were treated like Hallmark cards and given to friends. That was the pagan tradition," said Kushner, a Lathrup Village resident who taught two egg-decorating workshops this month at Marzec's Garden City store, Simply Polish.

"When Christianity came in, the legend was that when Mary was crying, her tears formed beautiful decorations on eggs. Pisac means write. Another legend goes that as long as eggs were written, then God promised to keep evil out of the earth. Because of that the egg decorating as been passed on as tradition, from grandmother to daughter to granddaughter. It was taught to the next generation. Eggs are written by most Slavic groups. They are a wax resist process."

Artists use a stylus, called a kistka, to draw — or write — wax designs that protect the egg shell when it's submerged

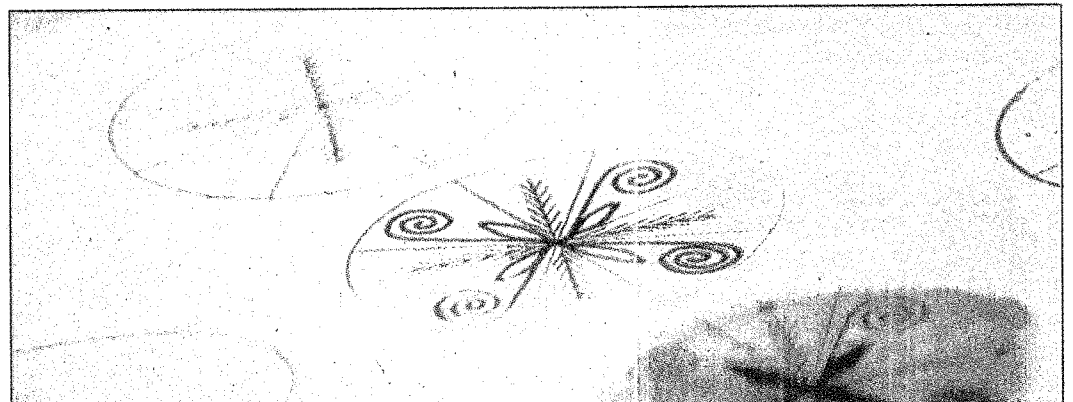


Instructor Ulana Kushner uses heated wax from candles to mark her egg.



Creating a pisanka starts with an egg and a pencil.

Please see **DESIGNS, B7**



Egg patterns often show symmetrical designs.

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• 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

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.livoniasaintmichael.org.

REDFORD

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



Mile and Beech Daly. Seven different dinners ranging from \$4 for macaroni and cheese to \$8.50 for shrimp. A la carte menu, side orders and beverages are available. (313) 534-9000 • 4-7 p.m. or until

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

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to include relevant photos as attached jpgs. Or mail items to Sharon Dargay, The Observer, 615 Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

MARCH 27-30

Concert

Time/Date: 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 27
Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Julie Ford, minister of music at the church, plays the organ; admission is suggested donation of \$5 for individuals and \$15 for families
Contact: (734) 453-0190, Ext. 16, or visit the church Web site at www.stjohnsplymouth.org

Concert

Time/Date: 4 p.m. Sunday, March 27
Location: St. John Lutheran Church, located on Gill, between Grand River Ave., and Freedom, in Farmington
Details: Vespers Concert features local pianist Nensi Bakin performing works by Chopin, Haydn and Beethoven. The performance is combined with a Vespers service. The program and service last roughly an hour
Contact: (248) 474-0584

Concert

Time/Date: 5 p.m. Sunday, March 27
Location: Farmington Hills Church of God, 25717 Power Road, Farmington Hills
Details: The Sweet Adeline quartet "Overture," along with the Harrison High School Madrigal Choir will perform during a "FUNdraising" missions dinner at the church
Contact: (248) 477-8144

Lenten dinner program

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. March 30
Location: First United Methodist Church of Wayne-Westland, 3 Town Square, Wayne
Details: Children's and youth plays and music are on the agenda. The church provides the meat and participants are asked to bring a dish to pass and their own table service
Contact: (734) 721-4801

Lenten program

Time/Date: 7 p.m. March 30, April 6 and April 13
Location: St. Aidan, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: David J. Conrad presents the series. Each session reflects on passage's from John's Gospel. The first is "The Woman at the Well." Themes are "The Man Born Blind" on April 6 and "The Restoration of Lazarus" on April 13. A light reception is held after each session
Contact: Don Esler, St. Aidan Education Commission, at (248) 477-3362

Play

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 25-26
Location: Sacred Heart Major

Seminary, 2701 Chicago Blvd., Detroit
Details: Seminarians will perform the comedy "Room Service." Admission is free but donations will go to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit.
Contact: (313) 883-8533

Vespers

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, March 27
Location: St. Lazarus Serbian Orthodox Cathedral Ravanica, 5675 E. Outer Drive, Detroit
Details: The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) presents the third service in its 2011 series of five Sunday Lenten Vespers. The Very Rev. Roman Star, pastor of St. Innocent of Irkutsk Orthodox Church, Redford, will preside at the service.
Contact: Robert A. Mitchell, at (313) 204-5103 or rmitc02@ameritech.net.

Veterans

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 24
Location: St. Joseph Parish, 830 South Lafayette, South Lyon
Details: Shawn Dowling, homeless program coordinator and Beverly Lenekski, volunteer program coordinator, from the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor; and Gene Pisha, Korean War veteran and VA Hospital volunteer, from the John Dingell VA Hospital, will present "How Veterans Can Get Into the System at the VA Hospitals." There will be time for questions and answers after the presentations. Refreshments will be served
Contact: (248) 719-6855 or e-mail to elainyoung@hotmail.com

MARCH 31-APRIL 6

Guest speaker

Time/Date: 8:45 a.m. gathering, 9:15 a.m. opening prayer, 12:45 p.m. dismissal, Thursday, March 31
Location: St. Fabian Church, 32200 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: The Rev. Richard Fragomeni talks about the power of liturgy to transform lives. Cost is \$22 before March 17 and \$27 after. Includes brunch
Contact: Celia St. Charles at (248) 553-4610 or cstcharles@stfabian.org

Guest speaker

Time/Date: 10 a.m. April 3
Location: Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield
Details: Lois B. Robbins, author of "Lawn Wars: The Struggle for a New Lawn Ethic," will talk about living more harmoniously with the natural world. Robbins chairs North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy's Brandon Preservation Committee in Oakland County. Discussion will follow her presentation
Contact: (248) 359-4488

Learning series

Time/Date: Refreshments at 7 p.m.; learning sessions 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, March 31
Location: Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington, 25301

Halsted Road in Farmington
Details: "Quantum Traces of the Divine," will introduce a few scientific ideas that have emerged from quantum physics and how those ideas might point to the possibility of God. In another class, "Quigon g+Reiki=Meditation on Steroids," participants will learn simple exercises such as meditations for grounding and cultivating energy for personal power and healing. In "Manufactured Consent - How Public Opinion is Created," Noam Chomsky's teaching "Manufactured Consent" will be explored and participants will learn how the ruling elite shape public opinion and manipulate society by induced apathy and use "divide and conquer" tactics. \$5 donation suggested
Contact: www.uufarmington.org

Spaghetti dinner

Time/Date: 5-7 p.m. Friday, April 1
Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, in Garden City
Details: Dinner and silent auction. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$3.50 for children, 3-11, and free for children under 3
Contact: (734) 427-3660

Vespers

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, April 3
Location: St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church, 26355 W. Chicago Road, Redford
Details: The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) presents the fourth service in its 2011 series of five Sunday Lenten Vespers. The Very Rev. Roman Star, pastor of St. Innocent of Irkutsk Orthodox Church, Redford, will preside at the service.
Contact: Robert A. Mitchell, at (313) 204-5103 or rmitc02@ameritech.net.

APRIL 7-13

Rummage sale

Time/Date: 6-9 p.m. Thursday, April 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Friday, April 8 and 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 9
Location: Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Highway, Southfield
Details: \$5 per bag on Saturday
Contact: (248) 359-4488

Vespers

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Sunday, April 10
Location: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 20500 Anglin, Detroit
Details: The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) presents the last service in its 2011 series of five Sunday Lenten Vespers. The Very Rev. Roman Star, pastor of St. Innocent of Irkutsk Orthodox Church, Redford, will preside at the service.
Contact: Robert A. Mitchell, at (313) 204-5103 or rmitc02@ameritech.net.

ONGOING

AWANA

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays
Location: Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills

Classes/study

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia
Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.
Contact: Pastor Scott Sessler at (734) 673-2485 or e-mail to pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org

Faith Bible Church

Time/Date: 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sundays through May 8
Location: 34541 5 Mile, Livonia
Details: "Four Views of the End Times" adult study
Also ongoing: "Life's Healing Choices" Study Group, 6 p.m., fourth Sunday through September is for men and women who want freedom from hurts, hang-ups and habits
Contact: (734) 464-7990

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays
Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville
Contact: (734) 846-4615

Nicole's Revival

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday
Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford
Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer
Contact: (313) 531-1234

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday
Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford
Details: Scripture study
Contact: (313) 534-9000

Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays
Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville
Details: Learner's Bible study is held
Contact: (248) 374-5920

Canton Christian Fellowship

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m., second Wednesday
Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty
Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need
Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org

Seminar on sexual assault set for Wednesday, April 6

Giving Hope Women's Giving Circle will present an educational seminar on sexual assault at 6:30 p.m. April 6 — just in time for prom season — at the Plymouth Arts Council, 774 North Sheldon, Plymouth.

The panel of experts for "Sexual Assault: Does it Happen Here?" include Charise Anderson, Wayne County assistant prosecuting attorney, Judith Bar, associate director of First Step, Sara Boritzki, a Canton police officer, Nancy Laws, associate principal of Salem High School, and Lisa Diebel, life management educator at Plymouth High School.

The group encourages individuals 21 and younger to participate in the seminar for free. Giving Hope members and anyone over 21 will pay a \$10 admission.

RSVP deadline is March 30. Call (734) 495-1200. The event's "Pass the Purse" beneficiary is the Detroit Area Diaper Bank, a Canton-based organization that gives diapers to low-income mothers. Giving Hope members may bring a package of diapers or cash donation for the Detroit Area Diaper Bank.

Seminar sponsors are Community Financial, a federally chartered credit union with local branches in Plymouth, Canton, Northville and Novi; Post, Smythe, Lutz and Ziel of Plymouth LLP, Certified Public Accountants in Plymouth; St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor; Vercruyse Murray & Calzone, a law firm in Bingham Farms; and the LaJoy Group of Plymouth.

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Area workshop provides advice for authors

A writer's workshop, "You Wrote It, Now Promote It," will be held noon to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 2 at the Ann Arbor Holiday Inn, 3600 Plymouth Road, in Ann Arbor.
Sponsored by the Michigan Press

Women, the cost is \$65 and includes take-home materials and refreshments.

Speakers include Joan Wendland, an award-winning author, Christy Minnis, a marketing director, Beth Tobin, a digital services specialist and Mike Steger, a

social media expert. Reservations can be made through Patrice Johnson, vice president of Michigan Press Women, at 392 Fields Rd., Dansville, MI 48819. Or call Johnson at (517) 420-7978.

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TECHNOLOGY HELPS - BUT NOT ALWAYS

Today, technology provides physicians investigating arthritic conditions with CT (Computed Axial Scanning), MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) and Nuclear Bone Scanning. New laboratory tests such as the anti-CCP (cyclic citrullinated peptide) antibody aid physicians in making a speedy diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis. However, the information this new technology brings has limits. First, while a physician orders an MRI after speaking with a patient and examining him, the person reading and interpreting the MRI is a radiologist who has not seen the patient and only knows what is on a one line inquiry; reason for the examination. Therefore at times what the radiologist reports, does not provide all the information the physician wanted. Second, no technology is perfect. If a CT scan or MRI reports no abnormality, the physician cannot conclude that nothing is wrong. It may be that the imaging equipment was not sufficiently sensitive to reveal the problem. Just because the scan did not pick up anything, it does not mean that nothing is there. Third, the physician ordering the test cannot always be sure that the test is appropriate. The pace of technology is swift. Where once an MRI was considered best to reveal a shoulder tendon tear, now a musculoskeletal ultrasound is the preferred imaging. If the advance is new, the physician may not be aware of it. In arthritis, hardly a test exists that by itself will give a diagnosis. Testing either confirms what the physician thought, or brings him to return to the patient to obtain further history or undertake an additional examination.

Quality control: Washington ruined your washing machine

In my travels around, especially these past weeks at the home shows, I have met and talked with a few hundred readers of this column. I must thank all of you for your comments and information you give back to me.

The front load washer is always a topic brought up by many homeowners. A recent column in the *Wall Street Journal* written by Sam Kazman hits the subject right on the head. Please allow me to quote some of his story. "It might not have been the most stylish, but for decades the top-loading laundry machine was the most affordable and dependable. Now it's ruined — and Americans have politics to thank."

"In 1996, top-loaders were pretty much the only type of washer around, and they were uniformly high quality. When *Consumer Reports* tested 18 models, 13 were "excellent" and five were "very good." By 2007, though, not one was excellent and seven out of 21 were "fair" or "poor." This month came the death knell: *Consumer Reports* simply dismissed all conventional top-loaders as "often

mediocre or worse." How's that for progress?"

Up to this point Sam Kazman has cast a dark shadow on how *Consumer Report* magazine evaluates products. How can they say that products are excellent and later say they are mediocre? People ask me all the time what I think of *Consumer Reports* and I have a standard answer. "They do some great studies on products but don't believe everything you read." There is even a strong rumor out there that they are paid for the mention of products but I'm sure that would be difficult to prove.

On the subject of energy standards which are responsible for the development of the new front-loaders Kazman writes: "Front-loaders meet federal standards more easily than top-loaders. Because they don't fully immerse their laundry loads, they use less hot water and therefore less energy. But, as Americans are increasingly learning, front-loaders are expensive, often have mold problems, and don't let you toss in a wayward sock after they've started. When the Department of Energy began raising the standard, it promised that consumers will have the same range of clothes washers as they have today' and cleaning ability wouldn't be changed. That's not how it turned out."

I take this last paragraph

written by Kazman very seriously. Let me reiterate a few viewpoints I've shared in the past. Life span on past top loaders was 15 to 30 years and now that is reduced to 10 years. Front-loaders are very prone to defective drum bearings which cost on the average of over \$500 for repairs. Electronic failures are also very expensive to correct and wash ability in my wife Valorie's front-loader is not worth prunes. It's a touchy subject at my house. She is still upset over her old 35-year-old Maytag top-loader being taken to appliance heaven. What makes it even worse is that the old machine had nothing wrong with it.

I personally never believed that a front-loader would do the job like your old fashioned top-loader. I've heard from so many consumers who aren't very happy with them and I feel very ashamed at what the industry has taken away and forced down the pocket book of American homeowners. One last point for today—it sure makes it hard for old-timers to bend down to put in and take out the clothes. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to applidr@twm.rr.com.

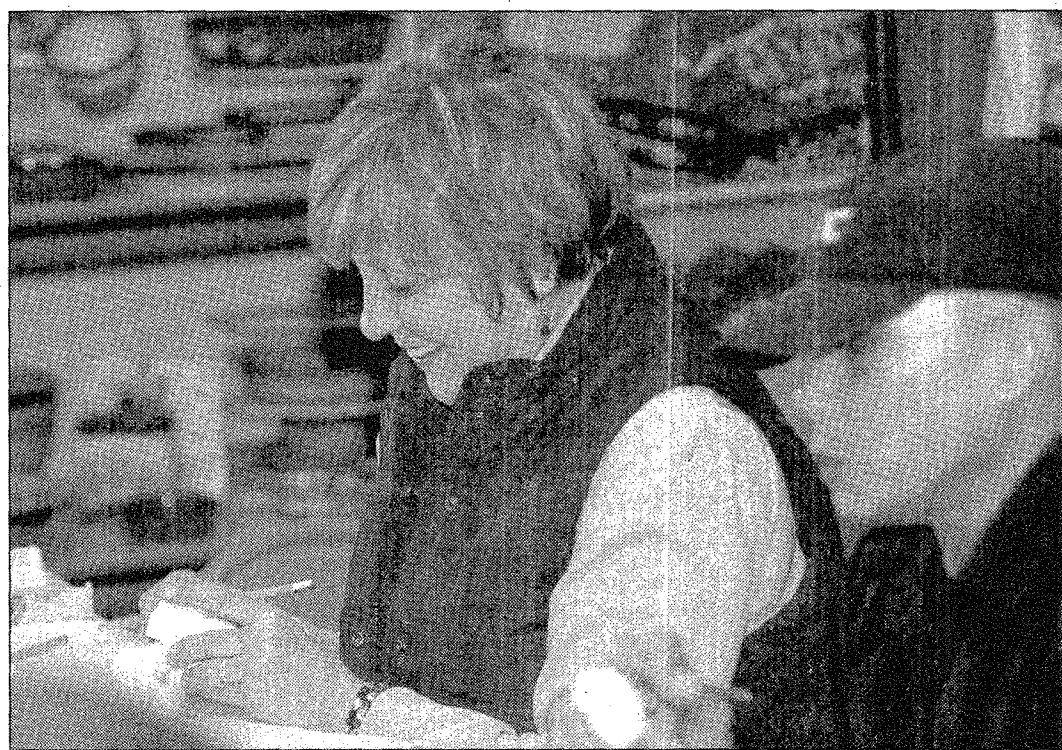


Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon



Gwen Sajewski draws a design in wax on her egg during a class at Simply Polish in Garden City.



Susan Marzec (left), owner of Simply Polish in Garden City, and Susan Biegalski sketch out their egg designs.

Experience arts and nature at Girl Scout camp this summer

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, (GSHOM) which includes troops in this area, is offering arts programming this summer at Camp Linden, a 400-acre camp in Linden.

It will offer sessions in painting, drawing, sketching and sculpting, along with jewelry craft and art from nature. Campers will also enjoy swimming, hiking, boating and archery. No prior membership in Girl Scouting is required.

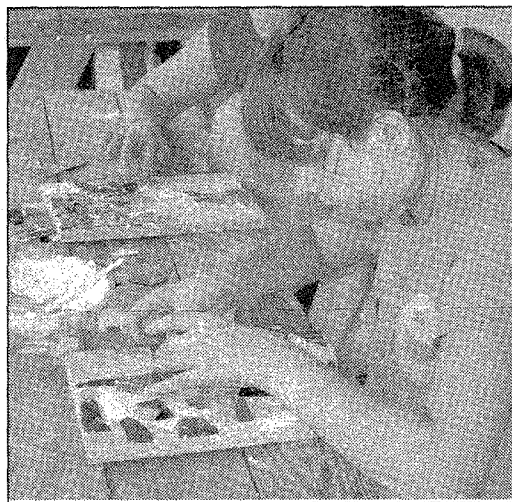
"We know that arts education enhances all learning," said Julie Yeager, GSHOM outdoor program promotions specialist. "This summer, Camp Linden offers girls the unbeatable combination of arts exploration in a non-competitive natural setting."

According to the Michigan Council on Arts and Cultural Affairs, public funding for school art projects in Michigan went from \$26 million in 2006 to \$2 million this year, despite research on the positive impact of arts education.

A 2004 UNESCO report found that training in piano and singing improved students' abstract reasoning skills better than computer instruction did.

Research conducted on fourth graders in 24 elementary schools showed that children exposed to arts education experienced test score increases of 7 percent in reading in humanities, 10 percent in social studies, 25 percent in math, and 7 percent in science.

"Girl Scout camp is an affordable, easily accessible way to give your daughter what



Camp Linden will offer arts programming this summer.

she may be missing in school — experience in the arts, which fosters creativity and imagination," Yeager said.

Families may learn more about all of the GSHOM summer camp offerings at a free camp fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 2, at the GSHOM Ann Arbor Regional Center, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. Open houses will be held 1-4 p.m. Sunday, May 15 at Camp Crawford and Sunday, May 22 at Camp Linden. For more information and locations, call (800) 49-SCOUT or visit www.girlscoutcamp.org for a complete 2011 GSHOM Camp Guide.

DESIGNS

FROM PAGE B5

in a color dye. Kushner's family business sells an electric stylus that was invented by her late father, but the wax writing tools also can be as simple as a small metal funnel, used to hold the warm wax, attached to the end of a dowel.

The colors and designs of egg folk art vary according to ethnic tradition. Ukrainian egg tend to sport geometric designs with colorful lines against black or brown. Polish, Hungarian, Czech and Slovak eggs show more floral and religious symbols, with burgundy, deep purple or green backdrops.

KEEPSAKES

"I love the fact that you preserve the culture," Marzec said, adding that she suggests students date and initial their handmade eggs. "That is something someone can keep and pass on. That is the whole beauty of doing this. We're so caught up in electronics and being plugged in, what a neat thing it is to get together and talk and dye eggs together."

Marzec sells pisanki kits that contain a stylus and dyes. They range in price from \$8.95-\$39. A single stylus runs from \$2.95-\$9.95 and dyes costs from \$1 each to \$10 for a pack.

PRACTICE PATIENCE

She suggests that beginners spend time getting used to writing in pencil on an uncooked egg before switching to the wax drawing tool.

"The biggest challenge is that people today want their eggs to look like they've been doing it for 25 years. The challenge is to be patient and remember it's their first egg," she said.

Marzec will offer one more pisanki class at Simply Polish before Palm Sunday, although she hasn't finalized the date and isn't sure who will teach the session. She'll also schedule a class before Christmas this year, giving students plenty of time over the winter to practice and perfect their art.

"There are a lot of artists out there that use this process to create amazing art," Kushner said. "There's a gal who puts oriental rug motifs on eggs. One woman sells her eggs for \$500 plus. It's a tradition for many Slavic people and for artists, it's an art form."

In addition to chicken eggs, artists use duck and ostrich eggs, Kushner said.

"Some even use robin and quail eggs."

For more information about pisanki classes, tools or finished eggs, call Simply Polish at (734) 525-2880 or e-mail to simplypolish@yahoo.com or visit www.simplypolishusa.com. The store is located at 6201 Middlebelt. For more about Kushner's family business see www.folkimpressions.com

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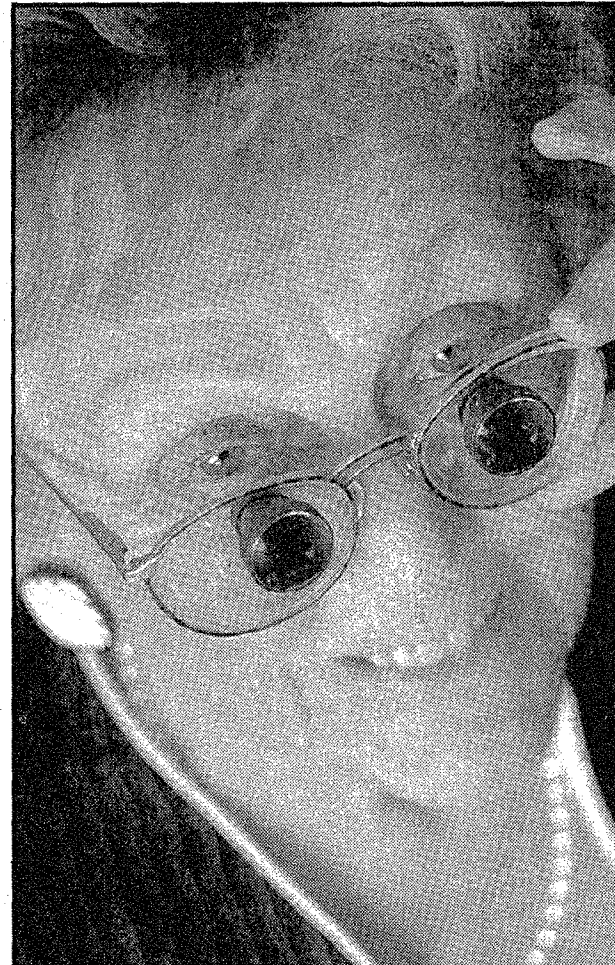
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MHS has low-cost microchipping

Michigan Humane Society (MHS) sees a dramatic rise in the number of lost and missing pets when the weather starts to warm. To help pet companions prevent the pain and heartache of losing a furry friend, the organization is holding a low-cost pet microchipping clinic 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 27, at the MHS Berman Center for Animal Care, 900 N. Newburgh, in Westland.

For more information about the event, call (734) 721-4195 or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

Microchipping costs \$18, discounted from the regular cost of approximately \$50. Microchipping gives pets a safe and permanent form of identification that nearly every veterinarian, humane organization and local animal control recognizes. When combined with an ID tag, it's the best way to ensure that if a pet becomes lost, they will always have a

ticket home.

Supplies of microchips are limited to 400, which will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. All dogs and cats must be on leashes or in appropriate carriers. To register their microchips, pet owners should have on hand their home address and telephone number, name and phone number of the pet's veterinarian and an alternate contact person's phone number.

For more information about the event, call (734) 721-4195 or visit www.michiganhumane.org.

Belleville High School Class of 1971

Planning 40th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail BHS.1971@yahoo.com. If on Facebook join the group by searching BHS reunion 1971 40th sign up site; also on CLASSMATES/REUNIONS.

Dearborn Fordson Class of 1971

The 40th reunion is planned for Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Tickets are on sale now for \$52 per person for dinner and open bar. Send a check payable to Fordson '71 Reunion to 16124 Golfview, Livonia, MI 48154. For more information go to Facebook, Classmates.com or the Web page at Fordson71Reunion.com.

Dearborn Heights Robichaud Class of 1961

50th class reunion Sept. 24, 2011 at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course. All classes are welcome as Robichaud High School also celebrates its 50th anniversary. Contact Bill Haskin at billsmustangs@msn.com; (734)595-4927 or Nancy at woloni@aol.com; (248) 529-6461.

Detroit Cody Class of 1961

50th reunion Aug. 27, 2011, at Hellenic Banquet Center, Westland. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail codycomet61@gmail.com. Or call Connie Callear Majeske at (734) 425-7094 or Bernie Lekki Grudzien at (734) 522-3167.

Detroit Henry Ford Class of 1971

The 40th reunion, with a "Back to the Bahamas"

theme, is scheduled for Aug. 20, at Bahama Breeze Restaurant, 19600 Haggerty, Livonia. The organizers are trying to reach approximately 1,000 graduates from the January and June classes, as well as any other alumni interested in attending the event. Tickets are \$50. Call Barb Blum Douglas at (313) 804-1282, or Marilyn Ogilvy Twa at (616) 802-0305, or e-mail to hfhst91@reunion@yahoo.com.

Detroit Mackenzie June Class of 1961

50th reunion will be Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011. For more information e-mail lvanerian@msn.com or phone Joanne (Poloway) Glance at (734) 878-6543.

Class of 1962

Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

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@twm1.r.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 Taffitoo@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 Schools All Classes

Wayne High Schools Alumni Association 27th Annual All Class Reunion Banquet for alumni of Wayne High School and Wayne Memorial High School, 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 Wanda Boice at (734) 326-7767. The Alumni Association's annual meeting is 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 6, at Wayne Cafe, 3709 Mero Mall Street, Wayne. Call (734) 729-6023 before March 30. www.waynehighalumni.com

GARDEN & NATURE

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

LIVONIA GARDEN CLUB

Barbara Folden, a member of the Greater Detroit Arrangers Guild will show table arrangements in various designs at the club's next meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, at the Livonia Senior Center, Five Mile and Farmington Road, Livonia. For more information call Susan Rakay at (734) 464-7915.

AT ENGLISH GARDENS

The store celebrates spring with its annual Garden Party Weekend, April 2-3 at all stores.

Here's the lineup of events:

- Year-round Garden-tainment with Melinda Myers will show how to put containers to work year-round at 1 p.m. in West Bloomfield and 4 p.m. in Royal Oak, both on April 2; and noon April 3 in Ann Arbor.

- Nancy Szerlag will present Garden Success: Veggies, Flowers & Shrubs, offering tips for a successful garden and bountiful harvest at 4 p.m. April 2 in Dearborn Heights; noon in West Bloomfield and 3 p.m. in Royal Oak, both on April 3.

- Aston Ritchie from the Scotts Company will talk about caring for your lawn and answer questions about weeds, spots, shade and other lawn problems at 10 a.m. April 2 in Dearborn

Heights; noon in Royal Oak and 3 p.m. in West Bloomfield, both on April 3.

- Janet Macunovich talks about low-maintenance landscapes at 10 a.m. in West Bloomfield, 1 p.m. in Royal Oak and 4 p.m. in Ann Arbor. All talks are on April 2.

- Nicholas Staddan of Monrovia Nurseries talks about new plants for 2011 at 11:30 a.m. in Royal Oak and 2:30 p.m. in West Bloomfield, both on April 2; and at noon April 3 in Dearborn Heights.

- Fran Addy of Whitney Farms offers a guide to organics at 1 p.m. April 2 in Ann Arbor.

- Representatives from Proven Winners and Four Star Greenhouses will talk

about what's new to keep portable gardens looking fresh at 10 a.m. in Ann Arbor and 2:30 p.m. in Dearborn Heights, both on April 2.

- Learn about hydrangeas at 11:30 a.m. in Dearborn Heights and 2:30 p.m. in Ann Arbor, both on April 2; and at 1:30 p.m. April 3 at both Royal Oak and West Bloomfield.

- Discover the beauty of flowering bulbs at 11:30 a.m. in West Bloomfield and 2:30 p.m. in Royal Oak, both on April 2

- Learn secrets for decorating the outdoor patio at 10 a.m. in Royal Oak and 4 p.m. in West Bloomfield, both on April 2.

- Get ideas for keeping the lawn looking greener at 11:30 a.m. April 2 in Ann Arbor.

- Loryn Lougheed shows how to have fun with vertical gardening at 1:30 p.m. April 3 in Ann Arbor.

- Learn to grown your own vegetables and herbs at 3 p.m. April 3 in Dearborn Heights.

- Learn about gardening with perennials at 1 p.m. April 2 in Dearborn Heights.

- Get tips on arranging flowers at 1:30 p.m. April 3 in Dearborn Heights.

- Store experts will show what to prune and when to prune trees and shrubs at a free presentation 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 30.

- Learn the basics of starting a garden free presentation, "Gardening 101" 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 6 and 1 p.m. Saturday, April 9.

- Planting a Raised Vegetable Garden will give you advice to get started growing your own vegetables. The free presentation is at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 13 and 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16.

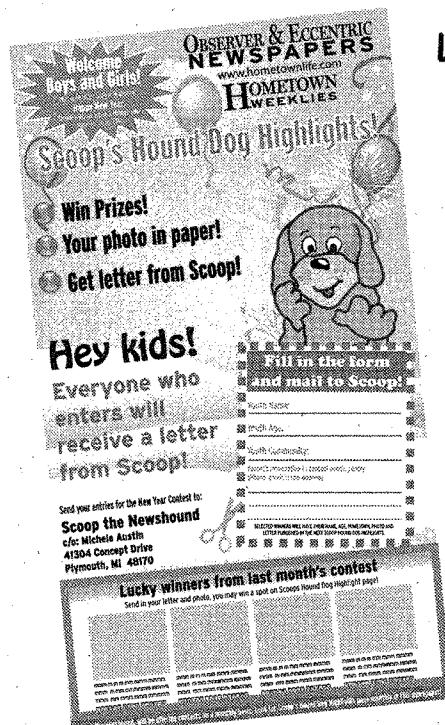
Registration is required for the fresh flower arranging workshop and kitchen herb session.

Local English Gardens stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road at Outer Drive, in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, at Maple, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506.

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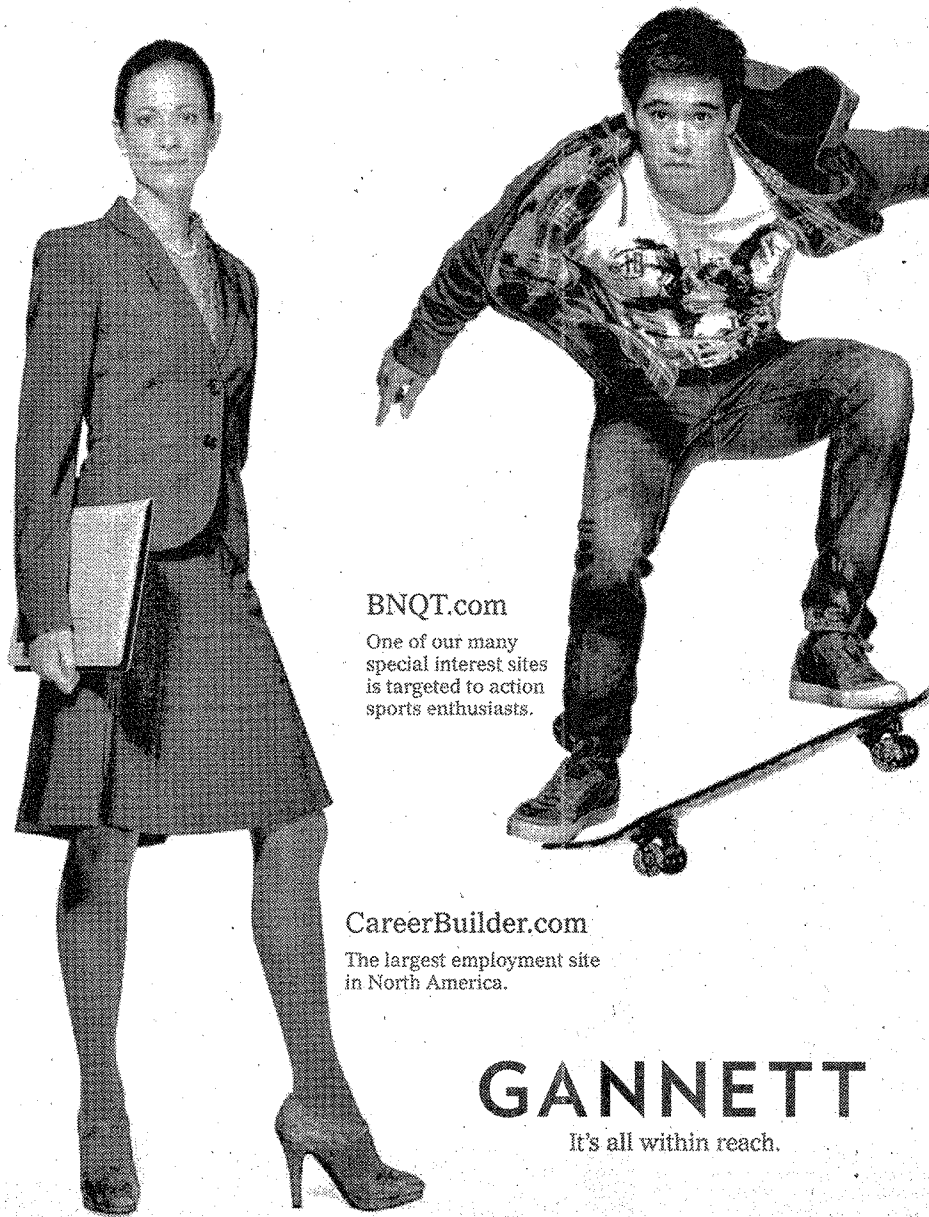
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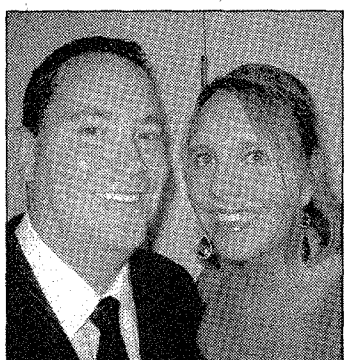
Emily Christine Martin and Matthew Charles Lipsky announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Richard and Linda Martin of Farmington Hills, is a 2002 graduate of Farmington High School and a 2007 graduate of Central Michigan University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in interpersonal communications. Her fiancé, son of Kurt and Kimberly Lipsky of Livonia, is a 2006 graduate of Stevenson High School and a 2010 graduate of Grand Valley State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in finance. An August 2011 wedding is planned at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville.



Martin-Lipsky

JULY WEDDING PLANNED

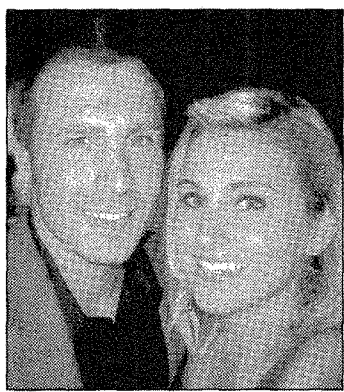
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Prost of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathleen, to Michael Gibson, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Gibson of Brighton. Katie is a secondary special education teacher. Mike works as a corporate security representative. A July wedding in Livonia is planned.



Prost-Gibson

2012 WEDDING PLANNED

Lauren Troher and Jonathan Pearn announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Dan and Julie Troher of Novi, is a 2006 graduate of Novi High School, where she was a 2005 and 2006 state varsity soccer champion. She is a registered nurse at Botsford Hospital. Her fiancé, son of Greg and Nancy Pearn of Farmington Hills, is a 2002 graduate of Orchard Lake St. Mary's. He graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy with a master's degree in architecture and is a certified fire fighter and EMT. An autumn 2012 wedding is planned at Orchard Lake St. Mary's.



Troher-Pearn

Recognition: Metropark website garners Marketing Award

It's been nearly a year since the Huron-Clinton Metroparks launched their all-new website, www.metroparks.com <http://www.metroparks.com>, and the popular site has now won the Michigan Recreation and Park Association's Marketing Award for excellence in website design. The award was announced at the MRPA's Annual Conference on February 8, and was officially presented at their formal Awards Banquet on February 10. In 2009, the Huron-Clinton Metroparks contracted with Basso Design Group, of Troy, to create an entirely new website that was easy to use and geared toward meeting the specific needs of park visitors. Launched in February of 2010, the new website features real-time weather, facility conditions and picnic shelter

availability at each park, along with an online store. The goal of the new design was to bring patrons closer to the parks they love, and give them effortless access to the parks' inner workings. Blogs, posted by interpreters, and an extensive natural resource section with information about park ecosystems, plants and animals create an outlet for park staff to spread their extensive knowledge to visitors. Educating the community on southeast Michigan's natural splendors is paramount to the Metroparks, and the website is a valuable tool in engaging individuals who may not have been as involved in the parks in the past, and those who had been seeking further enrichment. "We've received tremendous feedback from park patrons who really appreciate our efforts to deliver a high qual-

ity, user-friendly website," said David Moilanen, director of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks. The Huron-Clinton Metroparks are proud to have received this prestigious award and will continue to strive to make southeast Lower Michigan's natural treasures accessible to all. Located along the Huron and Clinton rivers, the Metroparks provide a natural oasis from urban and suburban life as well as year-round recreational activities and events. A regional park system, the Metroparks consist of 13 beautiful parks covering 24,000 acres, ten spectacular public golf courses and two marinas on Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, respectively. The parks also offer scenic nature trails, breathtaking beaches, educational activities and exciting winter sports.

Researcher studies cancer cell's ability to spread in the body

A Wayne State University researcher has found that the dense, fibrous matrix surrounding cancer cells is the key to understanding what makes malignant tumors spread to other parts of the body. Karen A. Beningo, assistant professor of biology in WSU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a resident of Plymouth, has discovered that continuous restructuring of the extracellular matrix upholding the weight of a tumor is one of the reasons highly invasive, malignant tumors are mechanically able to spread to other parts of the body. "This study has identified a novel physical parameter and a new conceptual framework in which to assess the process of invasion, not just of cancer cells but other invasive cell types as well," Beningo said. Beningo simulated the tugging and pulling forces by embedding magnetic microbeads in the collagen matrix of a three-dimensional, cell-based testing procedure. She was able to examine the physical mechanisms "without the

complication of secreted biochemical factors," she said. "Surprisingly, we found that cancer cells were two to four times more likely to invade if the matrix was magnetically stimulated than if the culture was not stimulated," said Beningo. She also found that less invasive tumors were not as stimulated by the tugging and pulling forces of the extracellular matrix as highly invasive tumors. The absence of fibronectin, a component of the extracellular matrix, and cofilin, a cellular protein, removed the tumor's sensitivity to the mechanical stimulus. "We can conclusively state that fibronectin and cofilin are required for this mechanical response," said Beningo. Beningo is working toward defining the mechanism of mechanically-enhanced invasion and hopes to identify therapeutic targets. "If we can prevent the invasive movement of cancer cells from the primary tumor, a large battle in the war on cancer will have been won," she said.

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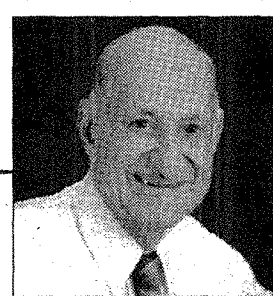
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NADINE T. BERTINI
Livonia, MI resident, passed away in New Port Richey FL 03/11/11. Born 09/29/24 in Sand Springs, OK. Children Paul Bertini, Jonathan Bertini, Gilda Kemp, Lisa Vanderhoof. Grandchild Adrian Bertini.

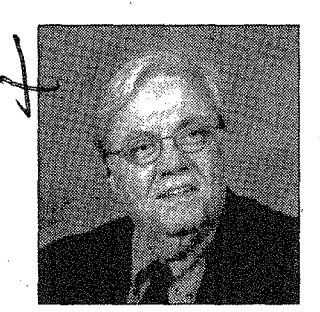
EDWARD W. CONNER
Age 81, of Farmington Hills, MI. Passed away March 23, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.



GEORGE C. SHOLLACK
Age 88, of Canton, March 17, 2011. Beloved husband of 51 years to the late Elaine. Loving father of Ron, Cyndee (Bryan) Prieskorn, and Steve (Christina). Dear grandfather of Dawn (Aaron) Zapata, Aaron (Tangie) Prieskorn, Nicholas, Brandon, and Justin Shollack. Dear great grandfather of Levi and Malachi Zapata, Jordan Emily, and Asher Prieskorn. Visitation Wednesday 3-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (btwn. Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In State Thursday, 10:30AM until the 11AM Funeral Service at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 Ann Arbor Road (at Gotfredson), Plymouth. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com



Radio personality HENRY (Hank) BURDICK a/k/a Hank O'Neal
A Memorial Service is set for April 10th, at 2:00 P.M. at the Traverse City VFW Post 2780, 3400 Veterans Drive, Traverse City, Michigan. Please join us in honoring the memory of Henry (Hank) Burdick.



GENE E. LEVENGOOD
Age 74, March 15, 2011. Beloved husband of Barbara. Loving father of Mark (Jenny). Proud grandfather of Christian Edward Levengood. Dear brother of John Levengood. Preceded in death by son Michael L. Levengood. Visitation Sunday 12-6 PM and Monday 4-8 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., (between Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth, MI. Memorial Gathering Tuesday 2-3 PM followed by a Memorial Service at 3:00 PM at First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, MI. Memorial Contributions may be made to either of the following: Boy Scout Troop 417, c/o Brookside United Methodist Church; 4000 Francis St., Jackson, MI 49203 or Plymouth First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170. To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

VICKI JO CARVER
Age 47, died March 20, 2011 after a courageous battle with cancer. Wife of Bob for 25 years. Loving mother of Tyler, Marc, Cody and Adam. Daughter of Carolyn and Mike Todd. Daughter-in-law of Minnie and Dennis Carver. Sister of Lori (Donald) Anderson, Shari (Rob) Davidek and Michael (Chonne). Sister-in-law of Cindy Schroeder. Fantastic aunt of Randy, Eric, Jack, Sam, Liam, Max, Gavin, Charlie and Lily. A memorial service was held Saturday at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 15451 Farmington Rd., Livonia. In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to the Bob Carver family. Please share a memory at: www.rgharris.com.



FRANCES CONDON
Beloved wife of the late John; loving mother of Carol DeMario, John Condon, Marcia Merando and Marty Condon. View obituary, family pictures and share memories at: www.WalkerFuneralHomes.com

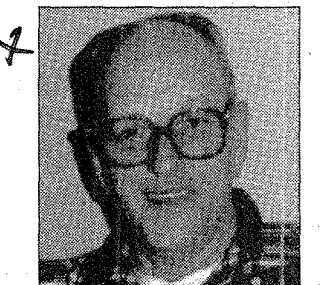
ANN JULIA (PETRINI) LINDAMOOD

Sept. 16, 1935 ~ Mar. 21, 2011
Ann was born September 16, 1935 to Aloysius and Mary Petrini in Sharon, PA. She graduated from Sharon High School in 1953 and was an Honors graduate from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, in 1957, and earned a Masters Degree in Management from Madonna University in Livonia, MI. Ann married Benton Lindamood September 7, 1963 and together raised four daughters: Mary, of Howell, Julia (Daniel) Argonis of Novi, Jane of New York, and Kit of Detroit. She has two grandchildren, Riley and Zachary Argonis, and many nieces and nephews. Ann was an Associate to the Adrian Dominican Sisters and a Spiritual Director. Visitation at MacDonald's Funeral Home, 315 North Michigan Avenue, Howell (517-546-2800) from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, March 24 and from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 25 at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, 2201 South Old US 23 HWY, Brighton, MI. Funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 25, at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Pax Christie USA or to the Adrian Dominican Sisters, 1257 East Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, MI 49221 or to the Church. Please visit the family's online guestbook at: www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com



CHARLES VARKOLY
Age 63, March 18, 2011. Beloved son of Elizabeth (the late Joseph) Varkoly. Loving brother of Stephen (Kathy) and Barbara (the late Steve) Smith. Loving uncle of Kathryn, Christine and Matthew Smith. Nephew of Charles (Mary Lou) Rowe. Charles proudly served his country as Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps in Viet Nam and in the Navy. He had a lifelong interest in journalism and was a former editor of the Redford Observer Newspaper. Visitation and services were held at the John N. Santeufel & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., (between Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). Interment took place at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, MI. Memorials suggested to the American Legion, Post 396, Garden City or NARSAD. www.santeufuneralhome.com

WADE JOHN HANSON
Passed away peacefully on March 16, 2011, in West Palm Beach. Wade was born March 1, 1962, in Detroit, MI and raised in Birmingham, MI. He was the son of Mary and Richard Hanson, and had one brother, Mark. He was also the caretaker of the family cat, Spotty. Throughout his youth, Wade perfected his unique sense of humor and was always the "go-to" guy for a laugh or prank idea. Wade was also an excellent musician and performed his guitar in school talent shows at Groves High School. His band "Refuse" crafted such popular tunes as "Drop the Course," and "Heinz Baked Beans." Upon graduation, Wade decided to pursue college in a warmer climate and moved to Miami to attend Biscayne College. After a year, he decided Miami was not hot enough so he moved to Phoenix to attend and finish College at Arizona State University where he graduated with a degree in Communications, minoring in fraternity life. Thereafter, he returned to south Florida and settled in Palm Beach County where he resided until his passing. Wade never forgot his Detroit roots. He was a die hard Tigers and Red wings fan...not so much the Lions. He loved the Detroit style Coney Dogs, and always dropped by the Hunter House in Birmingham whenever he visited. Professionally Wade specialized in sales. He could sell ice to the Eskimos, and was well respected and liked at every place he worked. A few years ago Wade became a Mason and belonged to the Masonic Lodge in Palm Beach Gardens. He was very proud of his lodge, and especially enjoyed helping with their pancake breakfasts. He was beloved, respected and thought of as a caring, hard working lodge brother. Wade's greatest accomplishments were his three children: Kristen, Erik, and Akexis. All of whom he loved, and was very proud of. He recently married Linda Klein-Scarmato, and became a father figure to her son, Anthony. Wade is also survived by his father Richard, brother Mark, sister-in-law Wendy (Flynn), and niece and nephew, Jillian and Matthew. Wade was an especially cool uncle to Jillian and Matt. They loved him very much, and would always jump at the chance for a visit with Uncle Wade. Wade made a great deal of friends over the years, all of whom he treasured. He was nationwide. Two of his best friends helped him greatly in his last days, famous Michigan attorney Erik Naslund and yet to be discovered and almost famous Hollywood screenwriter, producer and director Calvin "Chip" Vanderbeek. Wade was a great guy who lived by the rules he made and followed his own code. Generous, loving and funnier than hell; Wade will be missed by all those lives he touched. He will be waiting for us all on the other side with a big hug, a firm handshake, a kind word and a big smile. Happy Trails. In lieu of cards or flowers; donations in Wade's name would be appreciated by Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, or the Hanley Center in West Palm Beach.



RICHARD THOMAS MURRAY
Age 80, March 19, 2011, of Garden City. Beloved husband of Peggie. Loving father of Michael (Debbie) Murray and Audie (David) Wacker. Proud grandfather of Brandon, Corey and Shannon. Dear brother of Patricia Hamm. Visitation was held Mon., March 21 at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N Newburgh Rd (btwn Ford & Cherry Hill), Westland. Funeral Mass held Wed. at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lilley Rd (corner of Cherry Hill), Canton. Memorial Contributions to the Disabled American Veterans would be appreciated. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

In Memory Of

IN LOVING MEMORY

NORM ZAWISLAK

July 14, 1946-March 28, 2006

It has been 5 years since you left us. Not a day goes by that we don't think of you, you are gone but not forgotten! Love your family Joanie, Jeff (Sharon), Andrea (Matt), Michelle (Biff), Brian (JoAnne) & grandchildren

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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.)

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HEALTH

Sunday, March 27, 2011

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Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

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Weight support group deciphers marketing gimmicks

Supermarket shelves abound with "value-added" foods, offering innovative twists on traditional products. Cereals claim to make you lose weight, yogurt eases digestion, and chocolate calcium chews replace milk — the options can seem endless and overwhelming.

Much of the time, value-added foods aren't all that valuable, according to TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), the nonprofit weight-loss support organization.

"You may find yourself purchasing foods that offer a very slight nutritional advantage that's not worth the extra money or indulging in a perceived health benefit that has not proven to be effective," says Katie Clark, assistant clinical professor of nutrition at the University of California-San Francisco and nutrition expert for TOPS.

Here are a few value-added food industry favorites and what they do or don't do:

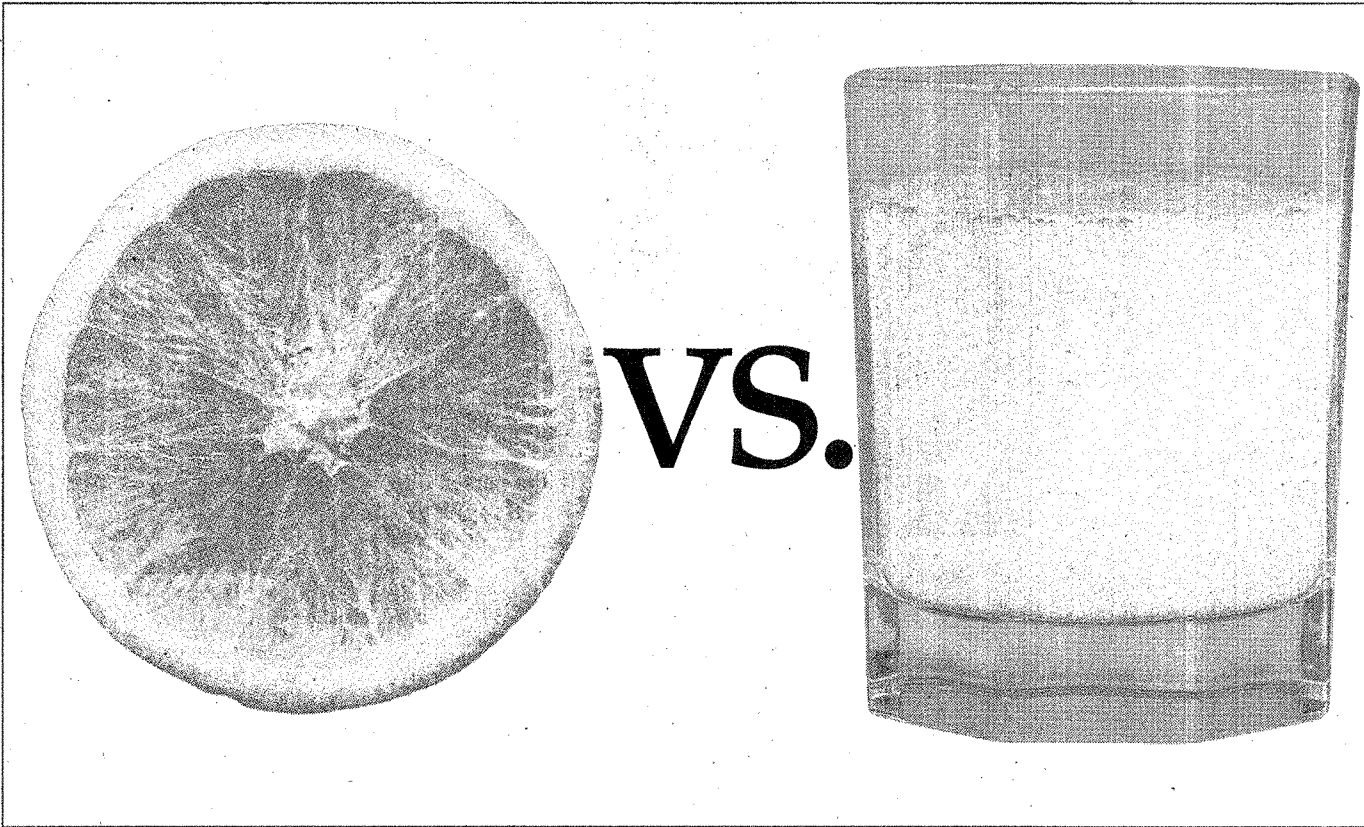
JUICE WITH ADDED FIBER

While whole fruit is a great low-calorie source of fiber and nutrients, fruit juice packs in the calories and forgets the fiber in the discarded pulp. Fiber-enhanced fruit juice is essentially pulverized fruit with its fiber removed, with a different type of fiber added back in. One cup of orange juice with fiber can boast three grams of dietary fiber per 120 calorie serving. But one orange has four grams of fiber and only 70 calories — a lower-calorie, cheaper option with no processing needed.

DRINKS WITH VITAMINS

In 2008, the most popular diet soda in the U.S. released its "plus" product, a diet cola with a small amount of water-soluble vitamins added.

Other vitamin-enhanced drink and waters have taken off in recent years, although, according to Clark, "Many are merely overpriced, sugar-sweetened waters with a tad of vitamins thrown in for good measure. Despite



the fact that you can get 100 percent of all the vitamins and minerals you need in a well-balanced diet, a generic multivitamin only costs about four cents a day. Why spend nearly \$3 on a special vitamin drink when water is free and a more comprehensive multi-vitamin is substantially cheaper?"

IMMUNITY-BOOSTING FOODS

Lately, there has been a wealth of foods on the market touting "immune enhancing" or "pro-immunity" benefits — from yogurts to cereals, drinks, and even frozen vegetable blends. While there is ample data to support the notion that a diet with insufficient nutrients compromises immunity, the opposite does not hold true: eating more nutrient-laden foods has not been proven to increase immunity.

Clark notes, "By eating a well-balanced diet and exercising regularly, you are already maximizing your immune-

enhancing behavior!"

OMEGA-3-ENHANCED

Omega-3 fatty acids are found primarily in fish, fish oil, and, to a lesser degree, in flax and flaxseed oil, canola and soybean oils, and walnuts. Omega-3s have numerous heart-health benefits, including reducing cardiovascular disease risk, lowering blood triglycerides, and lowering blood pressure. The American Heart Association recommends a daily intake of 1,000 mg of EPA plus DHA (two types of omega-3 fatty acids) for people with documented heart disease, equivalent to eating two to three servings of fish per week. Because many people don't eat as much fish as they should, omega-3-fortified foods, like eggs and butter, can seem appealing.

"These foods contain such small amounts of the beneficial fatty acid that you'd have to ingest many por-

tions per day to get the recommended amount," cautions Clark. "You actually end up losing, calorically."

The Nutrition Facts panel on one such enhanced omega-3 butter spread reveals it contains only 32 mg of EPA plus DHA per each one tablespoon serving.

"If you were to get all of your recommended 1,000 mg EPA plus DHA omega-3s from this butter, you would have to eat 31 tablespoons of butter per day (one entire tub), consuming 2,480 calories," says Clark. "Incorporate more fish into your diet for an effective, comprehensive way to consume more omega-3s."

TOPS Club Inc. was established more than 63 years ago to champion weight-loss support and success. Visitors may attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge. To find a local chapter, visit www.tops.org or call (800) 932-8677.

Check out the numbers in

Sports today

Diabetes and Erectile Dysfunction: Take Control

Erectile Dysfunction (ED) may be the most important diagnostic tool when it comes to general health in the baby-boomer population! Often times, it's the first symptom that men may notice and the one that leads them to the doctor. If a man is experiencing E.D., it is suggested that he be screened for more serious health conditions such as heart disease, hypertension, and diabetes.

Erectile dysfunction is a common complication of diabetes. Up to 85 percent of men who have diabetes may experience E.D. The longer you've had diabetes and the more severe it is, the more likely you are to have trouble with erections. High blood sugar can permanently damage the nerves and blood vessels responsible for erections.

Recent advances and treatment methods have changed the way both diabetes and E.D. are now treated.

With regard to E.D., some treatments offer a temporary solution; others provide a more permanent way to resolve the problem. As a urologist specializing in the treatment of E.D., my goal is to provide men with the information they need to find the solution that's most satisfying for them—and their partner!



John F. Harb, MD
Marian Professional Bldg.
14555 Levan • Suite 308
Livonia
734.462.5858

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 9th

11:00 a.m. Sharp – Ages 3 & Under and Ages 4-6

11:15 a.m. – Ages 7-9 and Ages 10-12

Livonia Branch, 37401 Plymouth Road

(SW Corner of Newburgh & Plymouth)

Everyone is welcome – so bring your family, friends and neighbors, too!

COUPON

\$5.00

Use this coupon as the initial deposit to open a Credit Union account.

Coupon expires May 30, 2011.
Cannot be redeemed as cash.

Eggs are filled with:

- Candy
- Tickets for a special toy
- Tickets to win an Easter basket filled with goodies



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Livonia Branch
37401 Plymouth Road
(At Newburgh)
Livonia, MI 48150
734.464.8079



NCUA 3911

ST. MARY MERCY LIVONIA SAINT JOSEPH MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM

National Doctors' Day MARCH 30 • Celebrating Physicians

DISCOVER REMARKABLE

A Time for Thanks

On National Doctors' Day, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System thanks our medical staff for their devotion to clinical excellence and compassionate care. We are grateful for our doctors' commitment to our mission and their dedication to providing exceptional care for our shared patients and families every day.

As a member of Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, our doctors are located throughout southeast Michigan.

To find a St. Mary Mercy doctor, please visit us at stmarymercy.org or call 888-464-WELL (9355).

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