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FOOD, B8



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THURSDAY
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The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 46
Number 91

\$1.00

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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SPORTS, B4

IN BRIEF

School forum

Residents of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools can hear lawmakers talk about the crisis in education funding at a legislative forum at 7 p.m. today at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland.

Participating will include Sens. Glenn Anderson, Patrick Colbeck and Hoon-Yung Hopgood and state Reps. Richard LeBlanc, Dian Slavens, Bob Constan and Kurt Heise, who will talk about Michigan government and the proposed cuts to K-12 education. The audience also will be able to submit questions in writing.

The forum is sponsored by the Wayne-Westland school board in partnership with all of the district's bargaining units. The Dyer Center is at the district's administrative offices, 36745 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, in Westland.

Surplus food

The City of Westland will distribute surplus federal food at several locations this month.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, south of Palmer.

Residents of Westland living south of Michigan Avenue should pick up their commodities from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the second Monday of the month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. The phone number is (734) 729-1737.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers will pick up their food at Taylor Towers and must call their building manager for their day of distribution. Greenwood Villa residents also must pick up their food items at the complex.

For the month of April, apple juice, mixed vegetables, peaches, sliced carrots, tomato soup, UHT milk, frozen whole chickens and possible additional items will be distributed.

The program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services, which determines the food allocations, distribution sites and dates of distribution. For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Egg Scramble

The Westland Jaycees will sponsor the 14th annual Easter Egg Scramble Saturday, April 16, at Jaycee Park at the corner of Hunter and Wildwood in Westland.

The Easter Egg Scramble, which will kick off at 1 p.m., is a free event for children age 11 and under in the Westland community. In addition to the scramble, there will be pictures with the Easter Bunny and other activities for kids to choose from while they are waiting for their turn on the field.

The Westland Jaycees are a local organization dedicated to training young leaders through community service. For more information, call (734) 626-0067 or visit www.westlandjaycees.org.

City uses website for block grant survey

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland residents can provide input on the planning for the federal Community Development Block Grant program without having to make a visit to City Hall.

"We're doing a survey on how to spend the money," said Westland Community Development Director Joanne Inglis. "We're required to hold a public hearing and we're having an online survey."

The survey is part of Westland's five-

year consolidated planning process for the CDBG program. The planning process includes a number of components, including study sessions, public hearings and, for the first time, a citizens survey.

The purpose of the planning process, Inglis said, is to determine the city's housing and community development needs and how best to use the city's resources to address those needs. The city currently receives federal CDBG, HOME partnership program and Housing Voucher funds.

"These funds provide decent and safe housing, rehabilitation grants and

loans, infrastructure repairs, public services for seniors and youth, and much-needed jobs," said Inglis, adding that public input is a vital part of the planning process for the city's fair housing programs, affordable housing needs, homeless and special housing needs, and other non-housing related community development needs.

The survey will be online and can be accessed through a link in the city's monthly e-newsletter or on the website through the Community Development Department pull down tab.

Surveys can be completed through-

out the month of April.

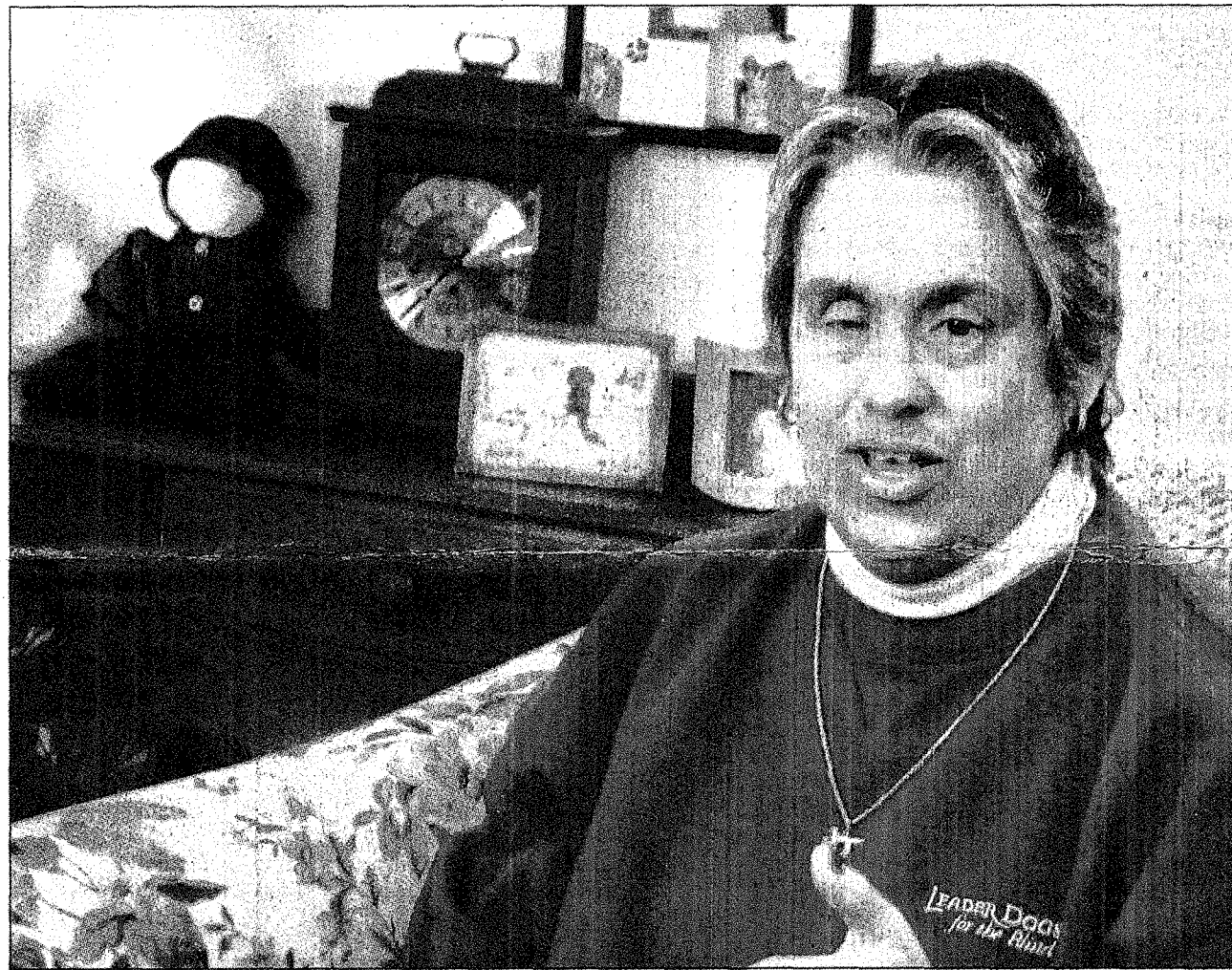
"There are seven questions on priority needs — high, medium or low," said Inglis. "It's another way to get public input."

The second CDBG public hearing before the City Council is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, April 18.

For more information, or to request the survey in an alternative format, contact Deb Richardson, Community Development secretary, at (734) 595-0288, Ext. 2630.

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

'... Different way to get from A to B'



Debbie Dayton of Westland talks about her experiences and the changes her life went through after she became blind at the age 44 due to diabetic retinopathy in Keith Famie's "Can You See how I See?" which airs on WTVS Channel 56 on Sunday, April 10.

Westland woman featured in Famie's 'Can You See' documentary

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Debbie Dayton isn't amazed at what Patrick can do for her in different situations. She was in a store in Florida and asked him to take her to a shopping cart. He did.

"He's a true blessing," said Dayton.

Patrick is Dayton's guide dog, her four-legged "people person" who has helped her regain her independence. She and Patrick are featured in a 110-minute film about blind individuals

that airs on WTVS Channel 56 in a two-part series at 6 p.m. Sunday, April 10 and April 17.

Produced by Emmy Award-winning director/producer Keith Famie, the documentary, "Can You See How I See?", follows the stories and journeys of several blind individuals as they refuse to let blindness hold them back from achieving their dreams. Dayton, a Westland resident, is the only person featured in the film who uses a guide dog, "everyone else uses a cane," she said.

HER EXPERIENCES

In the film, Dayton shares her experiences and the changes her life went through after she became blind at the age 44 due to diabetic retinopathy. She also talks about the impact having a leader dog has had on her life.

"I hated to have to hold onto someone's arm, I hated to be dependent on others," said Dayton. "That was the big reason I went to Leaders Dogs. With a leader dog, my life changed totally."

Please see **DAYTON, A2**

Farmers Market ready for new season, location

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With snow and/or freezing rain and 60-degree temperatures projected in the same week, it's starting to seem like spring in Michigan.

In less than a month, Westland's Farmers Market will return for a new season that will run Tuesdays, May 3 through Oct. 25. Shoppers visiting the weekly market will notice two changes — the market will now be located in the Westland City Hall parking lot and will open an hour earlier at 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During its first year, the market was located on Wayne Road in the east parking lot at Westland Shopping Center.

"It will be great to have it at City Hall, there are 35,000 cars that pass along Ford Road," said Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski. "It's a good transition. Eventually, we'll have the market in Central City Park."

The earlier starting time for the market is aimed at people who might want to stop by on their way to work, said Kosowski.

"We're going to have weekly entertainment at the market. We're really looking forward to having it here," he said. "It was great having it at the shopping center."

The market will be set up in the parking lot between Westland City Hall and the Westland Police

Please see **MARKET, A2**

Mayor delivers budget to council

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Last year as part of preparing a two-year budget, Westland made spending cuts through a number of changes, including some layoffs, early retirements, attrition and a millage increase, in part generated by the number of police and firefighters who started collecting their pensions.

Unlike a lot of other communities, this year Westland Mayor William Wild has presented the council with a balanced budget proposal that includes no layoffs or millage increases while accommodating at least a temporary \$1.4 million loss in state shared revenue.

"I get the sense talking to other communities that we're farther ahead than some others," said Wild. "In my discussions with council, they seemed to received it (the proposed budget) favorably. I don't think it was really a surprise — we've been working on this for several years."

The process of looking longer term at city budgets began when the city had a five-year financial projection done by auditors Plante and Moran which showed increasing deficits each year. The two-year budget — both years were presented but only the 2010-11 budget actually was adopted — made changes to

Please see **BUDGET, A2**

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AROUND WESTLAND

District hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson will hold district coffee hours on Monday, April 11, in Westland and Redford. No appointment is necessary. Anderson will be at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland 9-10 a.m. and at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with the Senator but are unable to attend may contact him by mail, at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933, by phone at (866) 262-7306 or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Pavilion rentals

Summer is fast approaching and many people are planning for their summer events.

Picnics at one of Westland Parks and Recreation's park pavilions are great for a family reunion, child's birthday, graduation party or church picnic.

Tattan Park, home of the Play Planet Playstation and the H2O Zone, provides an ideal place for events with lots of children. Jaycee Park and Corrado Park have play equipment for children, as well as large grassy areas for a game of Frisbee or soccer.

Every pavilion will accommodate groups of 50 comfortably. Reservations for the summer of 2011 have already begun and weekend dates are going fast. For more information contact the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7620.

School enrollment

Gaudior Academy, a prekindergarten-eighth-grade public charter school authorized by Eastern Michigan University, is accepting applications for all grades for the fall 2011 school year. The open enrollment period is now through Saturday, April 16, for the school which is at 27100 Avondale, Inkster.

For more information, call (313) 792-9444.

Sell*A*Bration

A vendor and shopping expo to benefit the Salvation Army's Girl Guards and Rangers has been scheduled for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 30.

It will be second annual Sell*A*Bration and feature more than 30 independent business consultants and business owners from all over southeast Michigan representing a vast array of goods and services.

The vendor and shopping expo will be held at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 S. Venoy, Westland. Admission is \$1.50 per adult and includes coffee and hot tea.

This is a fundraiser that will help support the Girl Guards and Rangers, scouting type groups, in their plans to attend Jamboree 2011 in July. The Jamboree will be held at the Salvation Army Northwood Camp in Finlayson, Minn.

For more information, call Sandy Kollinger at (734) 722-3660.

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.

Fibro workshop

The Metro Fibromyalgia and CFS Support Group is hosting a workshop, "What Really Works for Fibromyalgia," 1-5 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City.

Two nationally renowned medical experts, Dr. James Dowd and Dr. Howard Schubner will be the guest speakers.

The workshop will provide individuals with fibromyalgia an opportunity for an in-depth discussion with two leaders in the field. Expect to leave the workshop with specific tools that you can use immediately. Dr. Dowd is an expert in nutrition, vitamin supplements and exercise. He will speak on the importance of these issues in the treatment of fibromyalgia. Dr. Schubner is an expert in the mind-body connection and he will provide an understanding of how this issue is important for healing in fibromyalgia. He will also lead the audience in mind-body exercises that have been shown to reduce pain in fibromyalgia.

The books written by Dr. Dowd and Dr. Schubner will be on sale at special discount prices.

The workshop cost \$40 and pre-registration starts at 12:15 p.m. For more information, visit the group's website at www.MetroFibroGroup.com.

Healing Hearts

Hope 4 Healing Hearts, a grief support group for adults who have lost a loved one to the prison system provides a safe environment allowing members to share in a non-judgmental atmosphere. Individuals share ideas, resources and experiences that are helpful to one another.

Meetings are 6:30-8:30 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of every month at the Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Donations only.

For more information, contact Bonnie at (734) 646-2237, by e-mail at bonnie@hope4healinghearts.com or visit the website at www.hope4healinghearts.com.

Singles skate

Looking for a great way to meet new friends and enjoy a fun atmosphere? Look no further, come and enjoy a great night out at the Mike Modano Ice Arena, 6210 N. Wildwood.

Singles Skate Night is every Tuesday 9-10 p.m.

Rates for residents are \$4 and nonresidents are \$4.50. Skate rental is \$3. This event is for ages 18 and older. For more information, visit www.cityof-westland.com.

Fees change on impounds, vacant homes, streetlights

Some fee changes included in the proposed 2011-12 budget are:

- Owners of impounded vehicles will be charged a \$50 city fee, if the vehicle is redeemed or sold at auction. The impound lot would receive a \$15 fee, if a vehicle is abandoned. It's projected this fee would generate close to \$100,000 annually which would be earmarked to be used for purchasing new patrol cars.
- Another proposal is to require owners, including banks and other lenders to

register vacant homes at a cost of \$150. Using what Mayor William Wild describes as a conservative estimate of 700 vacant homes, that would generate \$100,000 annually.

"Part of this process is that they have to tell us who will maintain the home. We want to get out of that business. With a little more data, we could manage it," said Wild. "We put the charges on the tax bill but it causes a cash flow problem. This will make it a lot more manageable and give us data that we need."

• Anyone who has a street light should expect to a higher annual charge on their winter tax bill. The city is budgeting \$1.4 million for street lighting costs.

"DTE Energy has raised rates substantially in recent years and what is charged for street lights no longer covers the costs," said Finance Director Steven Smith. "The amount you pay now depends on where you live. Some people pay \$5, some people pay \$60. It depends on the number of street lights in the district.

There are 100 street lighting districts and the charge varies."

The rates have not been increased at all in 20 years, Smith said, but have been subsidized using \$200,000 in Metro Act funds, money for right of way maintenance, and \$20,000 from the city general fund.

"And it still wasn't enough," said Smith. "The auditors have mentioned this. Ideally you would treat it like the water rates. We would do it by ordinance."

-By LeAnne Rogers

BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

address a projected \$3.5 million for the current fiscal year and a \$12 million shortfall in 2011-12.

Due to the current uncertainty, specifically regarding the governor's proposal to make communities earn what

had been called statutory state shared revenues, Wild said he really can't offer a second-year budget at this time.

"I didn't want to do a two-year budget where we were balancing the budget with layoffs, that's no good for morale for one thing," said Wild. "At this point, we could not balance a second-year budget without proposed layoffs."

The city is hopeful of meet-

ing the governor's requirements to receive the \$1.4 million, but it's not known what that plan will look like after going through the state Legislature. Whatever fund are received from the former statutory state shared revenue would go into fund balance, Wild said.

Other goals in the budget were maintaining a projected \$1.3 million fund balance and

not using any proceeds from an upcoming refinancing of Taylor Towers.

"We're holding our own, cuts have been made. If there is an uptick in property values, that will help," said Wild.

The council is scheduled to hold a study session to begin budget discussions on Saturday, April 16.

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DAYTON

FROM PAGE A1

I had all of my independence back."

Bill Dayton also joins his wife, the president of the Westland Lions Club, and Patrick in the film, as well as Army Capt. Ivan Castro, who was blinded by a mortar round in Iraq in 2006. He is the only blind Special Forces officer to serve in active duty with the U.S. Army. He continues to serve his country as a part of Fort Bragg's 7th Special Forces Group, mentoring soldiers with life-changing injuries and completing athletic feats many sighted individuals may never try.

Can You See How I See? also documents the experiences of Jordyn Castor of Rockford, a 16-year-old student born blind, through her first day of high school, competing in the National Braille Challenge in Los Angeles and skiing at Boyne Mountain, as well as George Wurtzel of Lansing, a 56-year-old blind carpenter, who displays craftsmanship that rivals pieces created by sighted woodworkers.

The documentary was four years in the making and got its start at a community dinner, where Farnie listened to a retired African-American attorney, who was blind, talk about his life.

"I couldn't stop thinking about what it must be like to be blind," said Farnie. "I decided then that I needed to make this film."

With a minimal amount of funding, Farnie did the filming himself. He worked with editor Nick Hrycyk from Digital Image Studios, and edited the footage down to several "inspirational and compelling stories."

Released by Visionalist Entertainment Productions, Farnie said the documentary is a film every young person should see.

"We live in a world of fast moving daily life: MTV and reality shows on every imaginable subject," he said. "These are real people who deserve to be heard, seen and understood."

LIKE A 'SON'

Patrick is Dayton's second guide dog. After losing her first dog, Joshua, she returned to Leader Dogs to get a sec-



Patrick waits patiently as Debbie Dayton attaches his harness in a scene from "Can You See What I See?"

ond dog because she "couldn't stand my loss of independence."

"She told us how she hated being dependent on people and how Leader Dogs for the Blind gave her back the confidence and independence she thought she had lost," said Farnie in publicity about the film. "Debbie spoke of her first dog Josh as if he was her son."

"She really opened our eyes to how a leader dog affects a human's life," he said. "The bond between dog guide and their master goes deeper than one can possibly imagine. The conversation got very emotional as Debbie told us about losing Josh. She had lost her companion, her mobility and her independence when Josh died."

When Dayton realized how much Joshua actually did for her, she went back to Leader Dogs for the Blind to get a new dog and came home with Patrick.

"Patrick picked up right where Joshua left off," said Dayton. "Leader Dogs changes lives, in a zillion different ways."

"He's a true blessing and I hope that comes across in this documentary," said Dayton. "The film began when we were a brand new team. It shows how we can get to our goal like sighted people. It's a wonderful documentary. I'm glad I showed up in the final cut."

For more information about *Can You See How I See?*, visit www.canyouseehowisee.com.

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MARKET

FROM PAGE A1

Department.

"The market, which was held in the parking lot of the Westland Shopping Center last year, was a huge success," said Mayor William Wild. "We are pleased to bring back the market for a second season and are very excited about the new location."

Market goods accepted at the Westland Farmers Market

include vendor-grown fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs and spices, bedding plants, hanging and potted plants and cut flowers, dried flowers and plants, farmstead products such as cheese, meats, fish, poultry, eggs, baked goods, honey, maple syrup, and preserves, if packaged in accordance with rules established by the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Products that are not listed must receive clearance from the market coordinator before sale. Products purchased for

resale at the market are generally not allowed and must have prior approval.

- Market stalls are on an asphalt parking lot and are approximately the space of one parking space.
- There is no electricity or running water on site and vendors should supply their own tents, tables, chairs, umbrellas or other equipment. All permits and licenses required by the City of Westland, Wayne County and the State of Michigan are the sole responsibility of the vendors.
- Vendors can register for the entire season for only \$300 or register for a single day for only \$20. Discounts may be given for additional space with the purchase of a space at regular price.
- People interested in par-

ticipating in the Westland Farmers Market must complete an application, which can be downloaded at www.cityof-westland.com, and return it with the appropriate vendor fee to the City of Westland Parks and Recreation Department.

- The parks and recreation department will review and approve all vendor applications before a vendor can participate in the market. Space at the market and the items a vendor offers will be factors in determining approval. Fees for unaccepted applications will be returned.

For additional information on applications, guidelines, or fees and permits, contact Kosowski at (734) 722-7620.

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Series Continues Wednesday, April 13th at 7 PM

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AAUW finds answer to pricey prom wear with sale

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Most girls dream about attending the prom with an equally dreamy date. But, not all girls can afford to pay the high price of a prom dress in this economy.

The Plymouth-Canton branch of the American Association of University Women has solved that dilemma by offering gently used prom dresses and party dresses for just a donation.

The Prom and Party Dress Sale is offered for the first time from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 10, and 6-8 p.m. Monday, April 11, at Memorial Elementary School, 30001 Marquette, east of Merriman, in Garden City.

The sale is open to all girls no matter where they live.

Shirley Zaetta, a retired Garden City Public Schools teacher, is the program co-chair who has organized this first-time event for the.

"We have put out fliers," Zaetta said. "We also have accessories, purses and jewelry."

She's pleased with all the donors who were anxious to share the dresses with girls who need them. If a girl can't afford a donation, she can "just take" a dress, Zaetta said.

The sale will be held in the library of Memorial Elementary where Jan Blumberg, a former AAUW president, works as the principal.

Collection of the "gently used and gorgeous" dresses started in January. More than 250 dresses, sized 0 through size 22 will be offered. There also will be rooms available to try on the dresses.

Some dresses have never



Shirley Zaetta, a retired Garden City Public Schools teacher, shows off some of the dresses donated to the Prom and Party Dress Sale organized by the Plymouth Canton branch of the American Association of University Women.

been worn and still have the original tags attached. There are a variety of current styles, sizes and lengths. Some are form-fitting and some are straight.

"We will have racks set up," said Zaetta, a Plymouth Township resident. "We have tried to think of everything."

Dresses are on hangers and in plastic bags. Ribbons will delineate dress sizes, red for small, blue for medium and white for the larger sizes.

"I hope the girls come," she said. "There are lots of choices."

s buck@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2249

Last appointments complete new water board

The newly reconstituted Board of Water Commissioners for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department is ready to go to work, following the last two appointments by Detroit Mayor Dave Bing.

Bradley Kenoyer of Ford Motor Co. and Linda Forte of Comerica Bank join fellow Detroit representatives Mary Blackmon and Jim Thrower. The new suburban representatives are Fred Barnes, representing Macomb County; James Fausone, the Westland city attorney who represents Wayne County, and J. Bryan Williams, Oakland County.

"I am pleased with the makeup of this new DWSD board," said Bing. "All of the commissioners bring the expertise and commitment we need to deliver the highest level of customer service."

Fausone, a resident of Canton Township, he is a partner in Fausone Bohn LLP, where he practices business law, municipal law, veterans disability law and environmental law. He was also president of K&D Industrial Services, an environmental remediation, industrial service and waste transportation company, and served as a partner at the Dykema Gossett law firm.

He holds dual bachelor's degrees in environmental engineering and oceanography from the University of Michigan and earned his law degree from Gonzaga University. He was elected a Schoolcraft College trustee and is the director of the University of Michigan College of Engineering - Civil and Environmental Engineering board, among other affiliations.

Blackmon was first elected president of the BOWC in January 2003. She is a retiree of Ameritech and a current member of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency Board of Education, where she has served since 1982.

She also served for 10 years as a member of the Detroit Board of Education. She has

served on several committees for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), where she is a vice president. A graduate of Leadership Detroit, Blackmon remains active in a number of civic and community organizations.

Forte, a senior vice president at Comerica Inc., brings more than 30 years of business, finance and commercial banking expertise to the board. A member of Comerica's senior leadership team, she is responsible for defining and driving business strategies.

Forte earned her bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University and received her master's of business administration degree in finance and accounting from the University of Michigan. She serves as a director of the Economic Development Corporation of the City of Detroit and serves on many other agency and organization boards as well.

Kenoyer brings a decade of cross-functional experience in delivering customer-driven results to technical, lost and service quality issues for Ford Motor. An honoree of the Ford/Massachusetts Institute of Technology/University of Detroit Mercy program for engineering excellence, Kenoyer holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and earned a master's degree in product development from the University of Detroit Mercy. He has served on the Board of Directors of Preservation Wayne and has volunteered at the Ruth Ellis Center.

Thrower is president and CEO of Jamjamar Inc. and the owner of seven McDonald's restaurants in Detroit and the surrounding metropolitan area. Following a career in professional football playing as a defensive back for the Detroit Lions and the Philadelphia Eagles, Thrower served as loan executive and executive assistant to the board chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People (NAACP), regional manager of public issues and planning at Michigan Consolidated Gas, and director of community affairs at Stroth's Brewery.

He holds a bachelor's degree in English and physical education from East Texas State University. Thrower is affiliated with several corporate and community groups, such as the Ronald McDonald Children's Charities.

Barnes is a registered professional engineer from Sterling Heights. He owns and operates Fred W. Barnes Associates Inc., a consulting engineering firm. Before starting his own company, he was a senior project engineer with Atwell-Hicks Inc., where he managed engineering projects and supervised engineers, planners and designers.

Barnes also worked for the Macomb County Public Works Department for more than 20 years, involved in the design, operation, and maintenance of more than 700 county drains, as well as the review of residential and commercial developments. He holds a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Williams is an attorney with the Dickinson Wright law firm. Williams of Bloomfield Hills practices in the areas of corporate and municipal law. He has served as counsel to the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner in municipal bond financings, and has counseled Oakland County in connection with privatization of its medical care facility. Williams has a wealth of experience in providing counsel to both privately- and publicly-held companies.

He earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Notre Dame and received his juris doctor degree from the University of Michigan. He is a member of the Birmingham Planning Board, and a past member of the Board of Directors of the Economic Club of Detroit. He is also a past vice chairman of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Macy's Optical

50% off*

Reg. prices

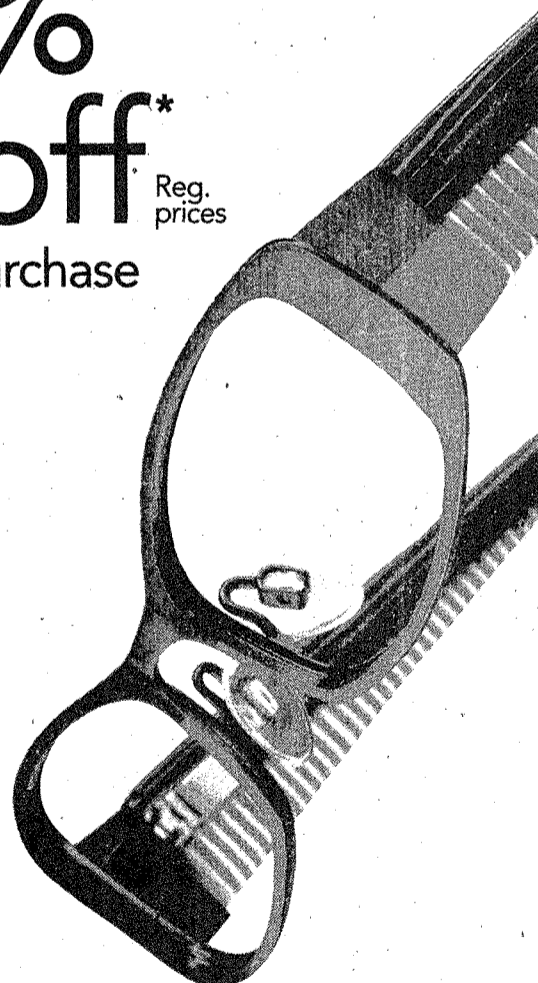
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For the location nearest you, call 1-888-889-EYES

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

To open an account, bring in the child's Social Security card.



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STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, April 7, 2011

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hometownlife.com

BECOME A FAN TODAY



SUSAN G. KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE

An Army of Pink

Thousands of men, women and children will converge on Comerica Park in Detroit on Saturday, May 21, for the 20th annual Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure. Sponsored by Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, the event features a 5K Run/Walk and Mile Walk. The event raises funds for breast cancer research through support of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Individuals interested in participating in the race can pick up an entry form at the Westland Art Van store at 8300 N. Wayne Road, north of Warren Road, now through Saturday, April 23. To sign up or for more information, also go to www.karmanos.org and click the Race icon or call (800) KARMANOS and ask for the Komen Detroit Race for the Cure.

Oakwood wins first 'Best' honor for its hospitals

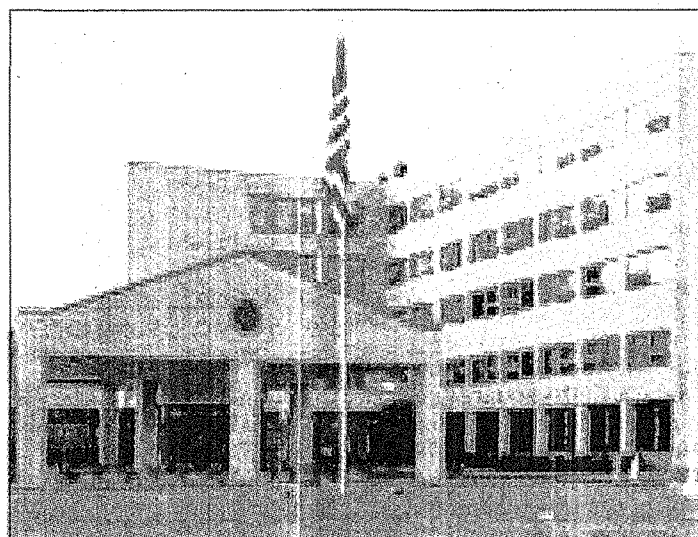
The Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center in Dearborn is among the top five hospitals in southeast Michigan and the highest-ranking hospital in western Wayne County, according to the *U.S. News and World Report*.

The publication recently released its first-ever Best Hospitals metro area rankings, and it showed that the OHMC was the fourth best hospital in the Detroit metro area, behind Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak; the Detroit Medical Center's Harper Hospital and the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

All four of the acute care hospitals operated by Oakwood Healthcare Systems were among the top 20. Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne was ranked at 12th; Oakwood Southshore Medical Center in Trenton was ranked at 14th and the Oakwood Heritage Hospital in Taylor was ranked 16th.

"It's an honor to be recognized for the quality services we provide," said Brian Connolly, president and chief executive officer of Oakwood Healthcare. "I'm proud of all of our employees who take the extra steps to ensure our patients are well-cared for and have a positive overall experience. It's a team effort and this is a validation of that hard work."

Eric Widner, president of the western region of Oakwood Healthcare and chief administrator at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, agreed.



Oakwood Annapolis Hospital

"Our dedication and commitment to excellence in patient care would not be possible without the collaboration between physicians, nurses and the support staff," he said. The magazine created Best Hospitals more than 20 years ago to identify hospitals exceptionally skilled in handling the most difficult cases, such as brain tumors typically considered inoperable and delicate pancreatic procedures, according to Avery Comarow, health rankings editor for *U.S. News and World Report*.

"The new metro area rankings are relevant to a much wider range of healthcare consumers," she said, adding that they are aimed primarily at consumers whose care may not demand the special expertise found only at a nationally

ranked "All of these hospitals provide first-rate care for the majority of patients, even those with serious conditions or who need demanding procedures," said Comarow. "The new Best Hospitals metro rankings can tell you which hospitals are worth considering for most medical problems, if you live in or near a major metro area."

The new rankings recognize 622 hospitals in or near major cities with a record of high performance in key medical specialties, including 132 of the 152 hospitals already identified as the best in the nation. There are nearly 5,000 hospitals nationwide. To be ranked in its metro area, a hospital had to score in the top 25 percent among its peers in at least one of 16 medical specialties.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Help for Japan

Hope-2o, Inc. (www.Hope-2o.org) has partnered with the American Red Cross to raise urgently needed funds for people affected by the Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami.

For every Hope-2o bottle purchased online at www.greenbottleonline.com/hope2o/American_Red_Cross_Japan_Disaster_Relief, Hope-2o will donate \$8 towards the American Red Cross Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund. The program runs through May 30, and every gift to the disaster relief efforts will directly help those throughout the Pacific that have been affected by this devastating natural disaster.

"Hope-2o is so pleased to be able to offer the average person a means of contributing to the global fundraising efforts for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief," said Peter Hall, chief executive officer for Hope-2o. "With this fundraising campaign and partnership with the American Red Cross, we bring together two worthy causes, the protection of our environment and the urgent support for the many lives that have been dramatically and forever affected by the Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami. We ask that everyone reading this message considering sharing it with friends, business associates."

Shoe donations

Soles4Souls Inc. has com-

mitted to collect and distribute 11 million shoes in 2011 to people living in extreme poverty and recovering from natural disasters through its "11 IN 11" campaign. The shoe charity gives away one pair of shoes to a person in need every 7 seconds. Since 2005, Soles4Souls has distributed more than 12 million pairs of shoes because of the generosity and commitment of people and organizations like Laurel Park Place.

Soles4Souls believes partners like Laurel Park Place will challenge others to become a force of change by helping the charity reach its aggressive but necessary "11 IN 11" goal which reflects the every-growing needs of the global community. The shoe charity recognizes its success is the result of individuals and industry partners such as Laurel Park Place who clean out closets and warehouses so that 300 million children around the world can have their first pair of shoes.

Soles4Souls and Laurel Park Place will be collecting your gently worn footwear and/or donations through Friday, April 22, to make a tangible difference through the gift of shoes. Every donation will support the charity's initiative to distribute 11 million pairs of shoes in 2011.

"With the earthquakes in countries like Japan, Haiti and Chile, on top of the enormous needs elsewhere, we can use the estimated 1.5 billion shoes taking up space in the closets of ordinary people to change the world one pair at a time," said Wayne

Elsy, founder and CEO of Soles4Souls. "We need partners like Laurel Park Place to get behind our '11 IN 11' campaign and get a little crazy this year. Donating shoes is one of the most simple yet profound gifts you can make, because it will greatly improve someone's life in the most difficult of times."

Customers are urged to bring gently worn shoes and drop off at any of the Soles4Souls bins located at the Easter Set near the Food Court, in Parisian Court, at the Concierge desk and at the Nine West store location. Laurel Park Place is a Newburgh and Six Mile in Livonia.

Management training

Schoolcraft College's Continuing Education and Professional Development is offering Project Management Training from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 28, in Room 165 of the BioMedical Tech Building.

Hone your project management knowledge and take your career to the next level with Project Management (PMP® and CAPM®) training. The school is partnering with Q'vive, a local leader in innovation strategy and training to offer a 10-week intensive training program that will improve your knowledge and skill in project management, and prepare you to take the Project Management Institute PMP® or CAPM® certification exam.

For more information, visit www.schoolcraft.edu/cepd/pmp or call (734) 462-4448.

Just ask: It can be life changing

BY CLARITY PATTON NEWHOUSE
GUEST COLUMNIST

My goal is to be helpful, so I'm excited to share today's concept. When implemented, it can absolutely change a person's life - work life or home life. It's so simple and yet it's ignored at an astonishingly high rate.

Ask for what you want. Just ask!

OK, I'm sure you already know how powerful this is. But it's worth mentioning because sometimes we

forget; often salespeople become unpaid consultants just by forgetting to ask for the sale.

In business or in our personal lives, what keeps us from asking? Perhaps we forget, or perhaps it's fear. Whatever stops us, we need to get over it, if we want to get ahead. Should we be strategic about how we ask? Of course. Think strategically and then ask.

Sometimes the results come so easy it's funny. We all know the downside of asking, hearing the terrifying "no." But if we're afraid of that little two-letter word, then the joke's on us.

So ask for what you want. If you don't, it's like holding a lottery ticket without checking to see if it's a winner. Try it. You'll be amazed at what can happen if you just ask.

Have a Sunny Day!

P.S. "If you don't ask, you don't get." Mahatma Gandhi

Clarity Patton Newhouse is Quality and Business Development Manager for Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury in Garden City. She writes "A Sunny Note" to brighten the day with encouraging insights for business and life. "A Sunny Note" also is published online at ASunnyNote.com for readers across America and beyond.



Clarity Patton Newhouse

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Career Tech students help give area family hope

Students at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland are using the skills they have learned to make a difference in their community.

Students in the Construction Technology, Culinary Arts and Digital Media programs are all offering their special skills and gaining real world experience while they help the Life Remodeled Project.

Life Remodeled is an effort to build a home in seven days for a deserving family in Westland. The entire effort will be filmed as a reality television show. It is similar to the show *Extreme Makeover*.

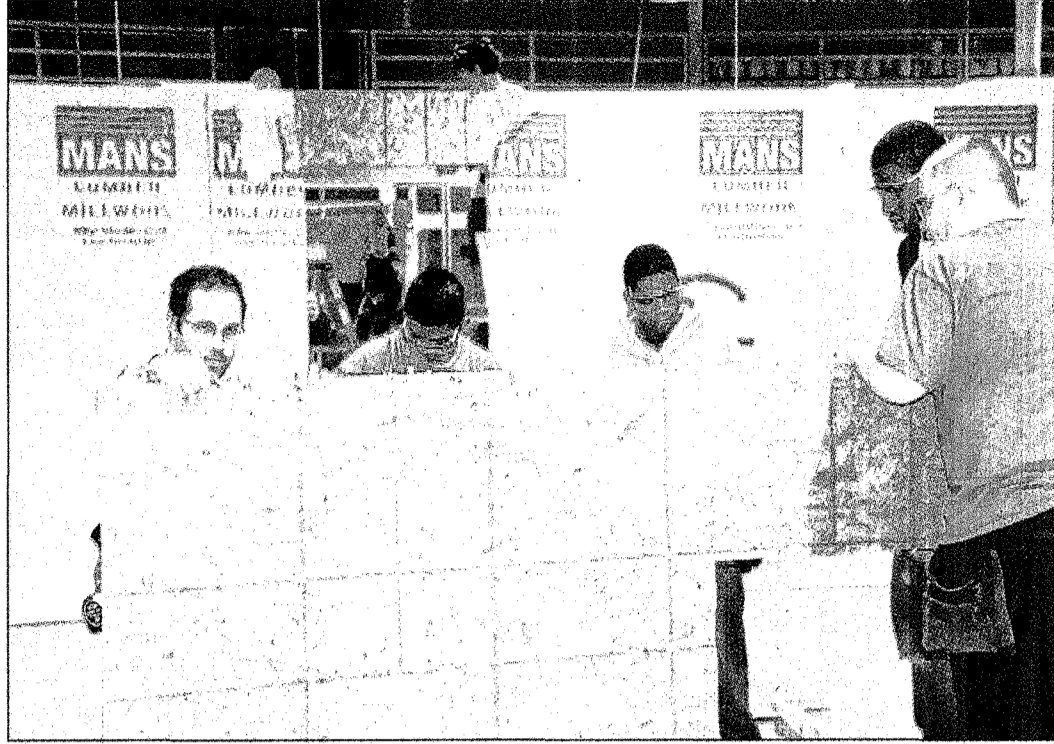
The construction tech students built the walls of the home in their classroom. They will be transported to the site and erected on the first day of the seven day build on April 25. The home will be a 1,200-square-foot single family home located on Oscoda Court in Westland.

"The Life Remodeled Project is a total community effort, it is about supporting our community," said Steve Kay, principal of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center. "This is one of the many things the center does to create work-life experiences for our students. The process it is allowing students to get real world experience while utilizing the skills they are learning in the classroom."

In the past year alone, the Construction Tech students have participated in Habitat for Humanity by building all of the walls for their Women's build and worked with the cities of Wayne and Westland in their Neighborhood Stabilization Project. They have remodeled two homes and built two more.

The Digital Media students will work with the production crew performing camera work, audio, editing and lighting. They will get hands on knowledge in the production of the actual reality TV show.

"The project not only beautifies our community it provides assistance to families in need," Kay said. "The project is teaching students to be good citizens contributing their talents to society for the benefit of others. The William D. Ford Career Technical Center is proud to support this outstanding



Construction Tech instructor Mark Valchine works with students on the walls for the Life Remodeled home.

project." "I think it is great what this group is doing to help this family and to improve this neighborhood. I am proud to be a part of this project," said Charles Bond, a senior at Wayne Memorial High School.

"It feels very humbling to help someone less fortunate than us right here in our community," added Benjamin Aponte, a senior and a Construction Tech student. "I'm very honored to help rebuild this neighborhood. I am thankful for the ability to use the skills that I have learned and apply them to such a noble cause."

According to Wayne Memorial senior and JROTC Battalion Commander Kelsie Honeycutt, the Life Remodeled has given high school students the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have learned in Construction Tech while helping the community.

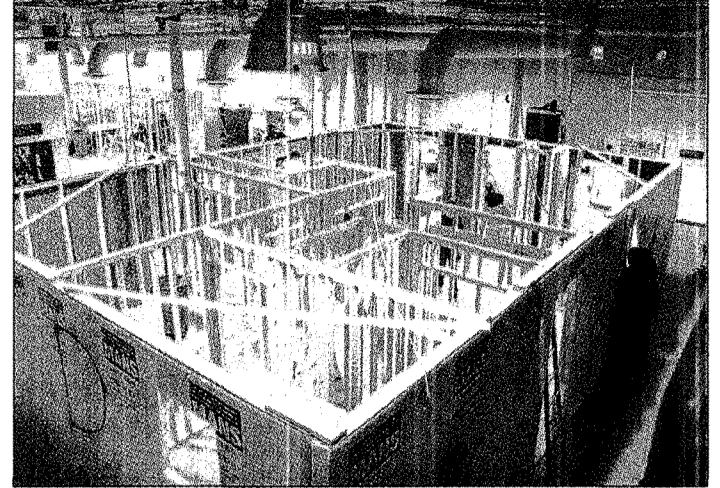
"To be a part of this project, not only by helping build the house with William D. Ford's Construction class, but also by being on site and securing area with Wayne Memorial's JROTC program, is an extraordinary opportunity for me," she said. "I am so excited to see how this house comes together and also to see how life changing it will be for not only the family that is chosen but also the participants who dedicate their time to a family in need."

JROTC students from Wayne Memorial High School will be on site every day as part of the safety

team. Construction Tech teachers Mark Valchine and Mike Koelzer try, whenever possi-



Don't be left behind... Call 734.582.8363 today to learn more about advertising in OUT ON THE TOWN!



Students in the William D. Ford Career Technical Center are prebuilding the walls in advance of the Life Remodeled build project later this month.

ble, to involve their students in real life projects so that their learning is as relevant as possible.

"We also appreciate the opportunity to show them that even at this young age, they have valuable skills that can be donated in order to make a difference in their community," they said. "We hope that this principle of

service learning helps make them better citizens. In this time of tightening school dollars, it is incredible to be able to frame an entire house in our classroom with absolutely no cost to the school district."

For more information on the Life Remodeled project, visit its website at www.life-remodeled.com.

Out On The TOWN

Check out these local businesses. Many are offering great values and are ready to serve you...ENJOY!

Marvako's 6581 N. Wayne Road, Westland
ITALIAN GRILLE 734-405-5222
 Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11am-10pm
 Fri.-Sat. 11 am-11 pm; Sun. Noon-10pm

\$10.00 OFF 2 Dinner Entrees
\$6.00 OFF 2 Lunch Entrees

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 Presents
Lenten Fish Fry Friday
 Every Friday in March & April • 5-8pm
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Artisan & Craft Fair
 Saturday, April 9, 2011
 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

West Middle School
 (Corner of Ann Arbor Trail & Sheldon Road)

Admission \$2.00
 40 Booths

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Sponsored by the:
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Strollers & Wheelchairs Welcome

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 Sun., April 24
 11:00 am and 1:30 pm Seatings

Adults \$19.95
 Children 4 to 10 \$8.95
 Children Under 3 Free

Breakfast Station
 Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Hash Browns, French Toast
 Casserole, Assorted Breakfast Breads

Salad Station
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Carving Station
 Roast Beef Au Jus, Spiral Ham, Roast Turkey, Chicken Strips,
 Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine

Dessert Station
 Coffee, Tea, Fountain Pop, Orange and Apple Juice Included

11am Omelet Station 1:30pm Lasagna Station

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36000 Seven Mile
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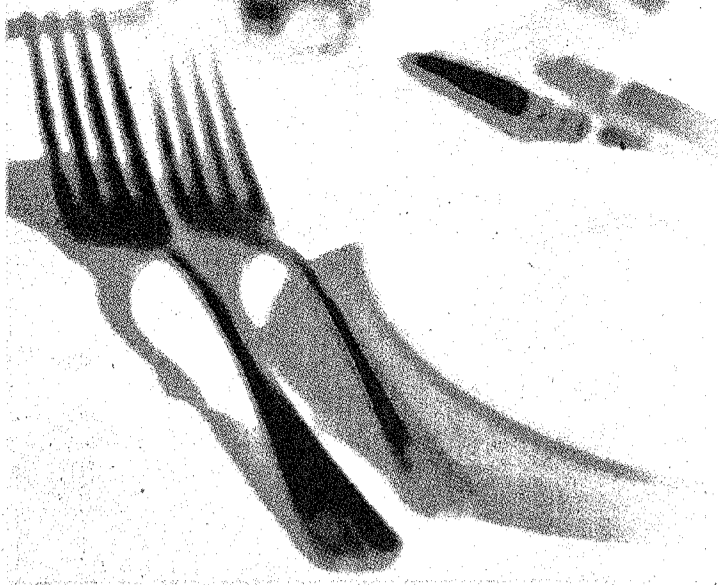
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 A comedy over drinks.

Directed by: James R. Kuhl
 Featuring:
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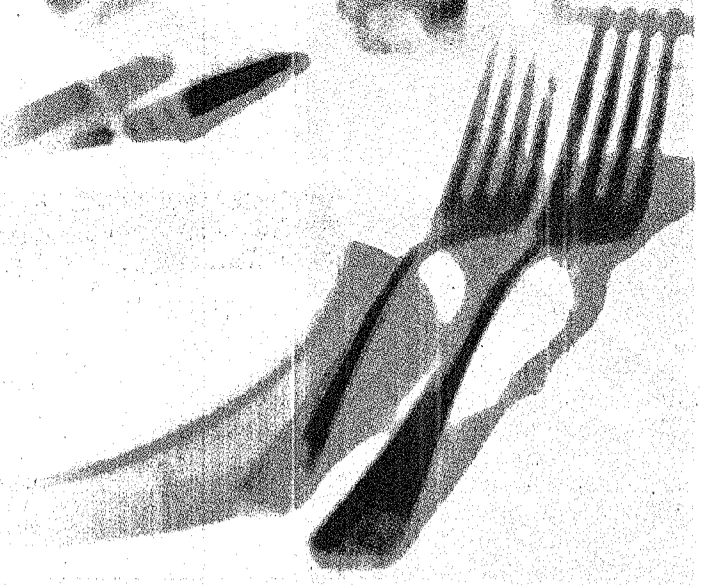
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with beverage purchase
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Buy 1 Sandwich, get one of equal or lesser value FREE
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43750 Ford Rd. • Canton 48187 • (734) 414-1888

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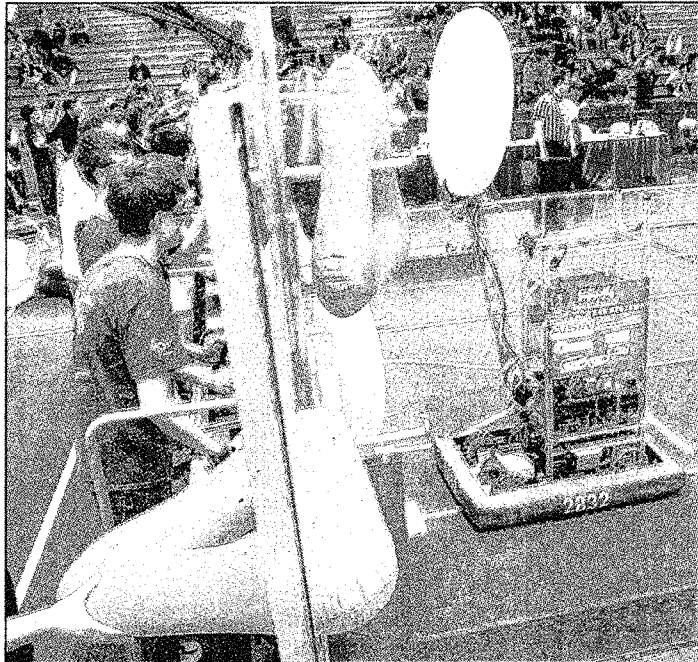
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Engineering success



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Robotics competition gives students real-life experience

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The popular songs *I Love Rock 'N' Roll*, *Everybody Dance Now* and others blare over loudspeakers. Parents and fans cheer from the stands when points are scored. Even cheerleaders and mascots implore their teams onto victory.

Someone who walked into Churchill High School Friday afternoon might have wondered what rival was there to pack the parking lot with cars. That guest would have been surprised to learn that the tournament had nothing to do with basketball or volleyball, and in fact, had little to do with physical brawn or how fast the participants could run.

Teams from high schools all over the state gathered to pit and stake their smarts and wits in their mechanized robots in the FIRST Robotics two-day competition.

FIRST Robotics (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) educates students about the professional world of engineering, science and math in the varsity sport-like competition.

Students built robots with help and encouragement from engineer mentors and coaches, then programmed and guided their robots to carry inflatable rings and plant them on pegs to score points.

The 40 teams came from as far away as Marquette and Escanaba and as close as Farmington, Westland, and, of course, Livonia to participate in the robotics competition. The Livonia team, called the Warriors, placed 12th.

The teams received a standard "kit of parts" in January for a six-week design-and-build process to create robots.

Alliances of three teams each earned points by hanging square, round and triangular shaped inner tubes (which represent the pieces of the FIRST logo) on posts along one end of 27-by-54-foot field. Alliances were awarded extra points if the tubes were placed in the proper order to create the FIRST logo.

For some of the more skilled teams, their robots also deployed Mini-Bots (mini-robots) to race up the vertical poles at the end of the round to earn bonus points.

"It takes their classroom work and applies it to a real-life science, math and engineering program," said Gail Alpert of FIRST in Michigan. "They work with real-world engineers. It opens up whole new careers for them in mechanical and electrical engineering, marketing and writing. It's a microcosm of life."

LEARNING ABOUT DEADLINES

Brian Aitken, a mentor for the Livonia Warriors, is a Ford engineer who works on fuel systems on his day job.

"The students learn time constraints and financial constraints of modern-day problems in engineering," Aitken said. Students have to follow a 72-page rule book. The robots can only be 28 inches by 38 inches by 5 feet tall.

Students learn how to use sensors, rotary encoders and potentiometers to move the robot and carry and deliver

the tubes, Aitken said. "I'm an engineer, and I didn't learn any of this until college," Aitken said. "That's the cool thing about it."

Aitken also quoted FIRST robotics founder Dean Kamen. "This is the only sport where anyone can go pro," Aitken said.

Churchill's gym is abuzz with robotics.

Teams either carry or roll out their machines on carts. The halls are crowded in between rounds with teams arriving or leaving the gym, transporting their machines in the pit, yelling "Robot!" so bystanders get out of the way of their machines.

Safety glasses must be worn in the pit while the students work on their machines. Even bystanders (and reporters) are handed these glasses to wear and reminded to leave them on.

Isolina Carlini, an English teacher at Holmes Middle School, is the team leader of the Livonia Warriors. Their three-team alliance scores 28 points and draws a cheer from the home crowd.

"I love this program because it positions the students for success," Carlini said. "It gives them a real-life experience."

Carlini liked that the competition called for the teams to form alliances with each other, which doesn't mean that the best teams always win. The "little guy" can team up with the "middle guy" to be successful, she said. The team works to resolve problems together and the alliance forms strategies to score points, she said.

"It always provides something for someone," Carlini said. "You never really know who will be the winner. You do your work to the best of your ability. That's a great thing."

WARRIORS WORKING

Livonia team member Joel Mancewicz, a Livonia Churchill senior, plans to study mechanical engineering at Michigan Technological University.

"It gives you the whole engineering process to solve the problems and you go through all the elements of finding a solution," Mancewicz said.

Mancewicz said the team worked on the arm design to improve its efficiency, moving from a lamp system to two arms, then to a singular arm with a "wrist."

"The second one worked a little bit better," Mancewicz said. "Now we have a singular arm. It doesn't work like the lamp system. It doesn't reach as high, but it is more efficient."

Brandon Manenti, a senior at Franklin, also plans to study mechanical engineering at Michigan Tech.

"It's a lot more hands-on," Manenti said. "This is more of putting it together and executing what you learned in the classroom."

Mancewicz said Churchill hosting the event has ramped up interest in the competition at the school. "People have been popping in here all day to see what's going on," Mancewicz said. "They don't exactly know what it is."

Gary Komora, a Churchill junior, said he's always enjoyed working with motors on lawn



Jason Spurlock and mentor Karl Heinrich work on the Wayne-Westland robot.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Wayne-Westland's Matt Castaldini programs their team's robot.

mowers, cars and mechanical things, so he joined the team. "I always have liked building something, designing stuff and working with my hands," Komora said. Komora said he learns something new when he and his teammates work on the robot. "That happens every day," Komora said. "You never know everything."

FARMINGTON FIRES UP

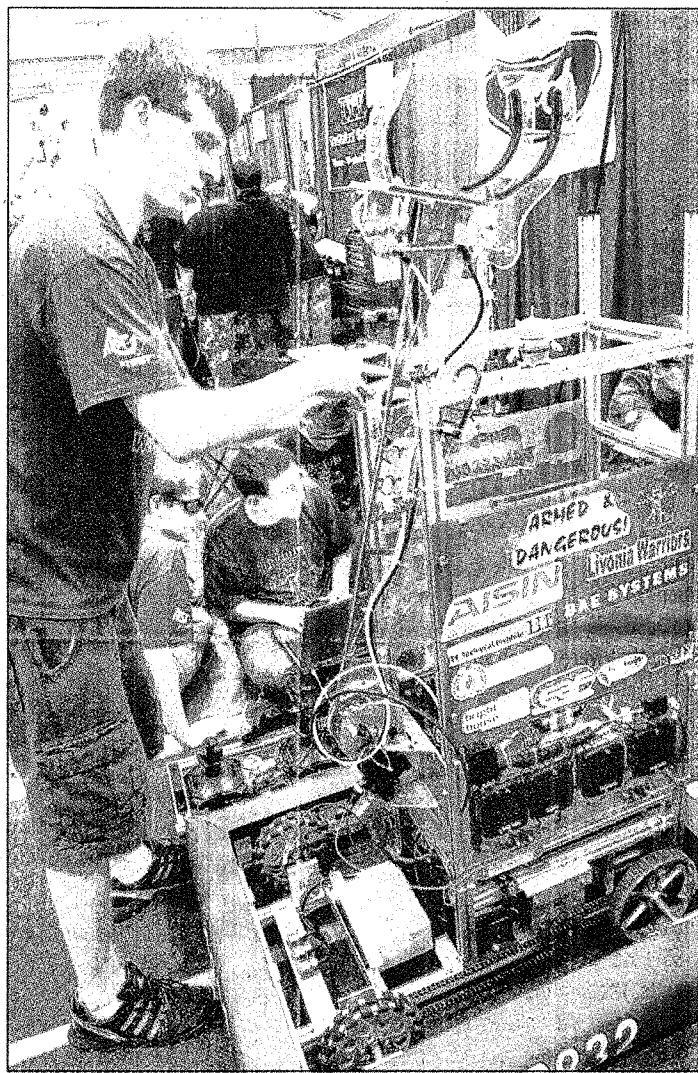
Jeff Ely, a Ford engineer who works on automatic transmissions at Livonia Transmission, mentors the Farmington team, which won four of 12 matches and was invited into the quarterfinal matches. Their alliance did not advance.

Ely said the students experience deadlines for the projects, which they will learn from.

"You have six weeks to have a concept, build and test it, just like you do in the real world," Ely said.

"You never have enough time for what you need. To see the wheels turning in their heads is amazing."

Tom Lang, event director, said Churchill was the perfect place to host the event, and that the city of Livonia, Livonia Public Schools and Livonia Chamber of Commerce embraced the event. He appreciated the support from the district sponsors and local businesses.



Brandon Manenti of the Livonia Warriors tweaks the robotic arm between rounds Friday at the Livonia Churchill FIRST robotics district competition.

"The business community wants to help these kids today and help the future workforce," Lang said.

Randy Liepa, superintendent of Livonia Public Schools, sat in the crowd Friday afternoon. "We owe a lot to the volunteers who had the vision to set this up in the school district," Liepa said. Liepa credited Lang for organizing the event and for parents who volunteered to assist with working at the event.

Volunteer coordinator Cindy Nader said more than 80 volunteers helped out with this year's event, including 16

judges.

With Michigan's nine district events, all Michigan teams will compete at least twice within the state. Similar to sports tournament formats, district competition scoring qualifies teams for the 2011 Michigan State Championship. From there, 18 teams will be eligible to advance to the international FIRST Championship in St. Louis, April 27-30.

On Saturday, Marquette, Temperance Bedford and Oxford high schools won the competition at Churchill.

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Livonia's cheering section gets busy during the competition.

OUR VIEWS

Freedom of speech

School board president shouldn't decide who can be heard

Livonia school board President Lynda Scheel did not set a good example for the district's more than 16,000 students in censoring resident Loyd Romick's comments at March 21 school board meeting.

Scheel had the microphone turned down so Romick's comments could not be heard by people watching the meeting at home.

In doing so, she conveyed the wrong message to students about freedom of speech in this country. Scheel said she had the microphone turned down because Romick had refused earlier in the meeting to remove his video camera from the front row of the audience until he was ordered to do so by Livonia police.

Scheel may not have agreed with Romick's behavior, but that didn't give her the right to censor his comments.

Scheel did not deny Romick his right to speak at a public meeting — he was heard by those who were physically present at the meeting. And, the school board is not legally obligated to broadcast its meetings.

However, since public money is used to broadcast the meetings, the meetings should be broadcast in their entirety. Elected officials should not pick and choose whose comments they will allow to be aired based on whether they like the behavior of the people making them or what the people have to say.

Romick is a frequent critic of the board. He makes some good points.

But for criticism to be constructive, it needs to be presented in a way that does not alienate those being criticized.

Romick should be more respectful and cordial when speaking to the board. He should address board members by their titles, not informally by their first names, and not intentionally mispronounce Superintendent Randy Liepa's last name.

His actions should seek to resolve differences, not drive the wedge deeper.

As for the placement of the video camera, the board has a right to establish reasonable rules to ensure its meetings are orderly. However, the rules must be recorded in writing and be consistently enforced. That means parents of students receiving awards at board meetings should also be prohibited from sitting in the front row if they have video cameras.

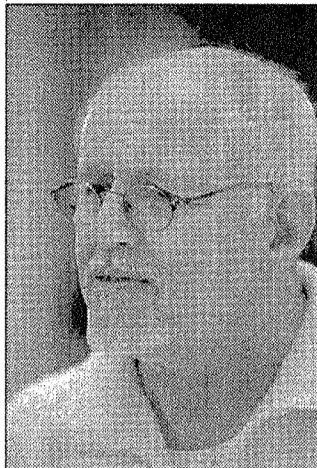
We hope the police aren't needed at any more Livonia school board meetings to keep the peace — they have more important things to do.

We expect the adults in the community to set a better example for students of ensuring freedom of speech and working together to effect positive change — important lessons in the subjects of civics and civility.

COMMUNITY VOICE

The NHL playoffs are about to start. Who's your pick to win the Stanley Cup?

We asked this question at Westland Shopping Center in Westland.



"The Red Wings. They always are great and have great players."

Silvestra Negrisor
Westland



"Red Wings, of course. I'd be a nut to say anything else."

Michael Bishop
Southgate



"Red Wings, my daughter works for them."

Mary Morabito
Garden City



"Red Wings, of course. They're always good and they're second in the Western Conference."

Brandon Morgan
Livonia

LETTERS

Wider view of W-W meetings

Due to a school board election on May 3, 2011, last year I began to attend monthly meetings. I find the in-house atmosphere regrettably does not carry over on cable.

Watching each board member and the superintendent gave me a much wider view of how our district is managed. Next meeting is April 11 at 7 p.m. Plenty of seats are available.

The school board members are elected representatives of the people. The superintendent is hired by the board. The superintendent is employed by the district. This is simple enough for me to follow. Confusing is seems for others to include certain board members.

It is interesting to learn committees made up of school board members are hand-selected in groups of three to make decisions for the board of seven to vote on. No discussion, no questions, no civil debate! There is something wrong with this procedure. Just because it has evolved to doing business this way doesn't make it right.

I am disappointed that a board member repeatedly verbally attacks the comments of another board member, at times, with a prepared script. Does this person have their own ideas to improve the current district to present? Openly attacking another is unprofessional and should be controlled by the board president. Could the day job be interfering with their position on the school board?

This being a "business" meeting leads me to ask why the board president is allowed to speak an excessive amount of time, at consecutive meetings, on his mistake regarding his proposed re-election. A huge mistake may have been made but ultimately this board member was the responsible party. Own it and move on, please.

The Observer school board candidate interviews have been informative. A former school board member and former city elected official is a candidate. Possible pertinent information seems to have been left out. This person was

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

on the Westland City Council during the recall of 2000. If memory serves me correctly, he was a recall target and opted to step down with another council member while the remaining two were recalled.

I so regret AT&T cable customers are unable to watch the meetings. Maybe calling city hall may influence the administration to act.

Nancy Foreich
Westland

Concerned about school cuts

I am writing to you as a parent of children in the Wayne-Westland school district. I have been watching the news for the last few weeks, and now I feel compelled to contact you with concerns I see looming as lawmakers struggle with the budget and economic worries.

I have some worries of my own regarding the cuts that have been proposed by legislators and the governor and must tell you that the cuts to education in this state are scaring the hell out of me. While I am concerned about

the district my children attend, these proposed cuts will devastate districts (including mine) and lead to substandard education for tens of thousands of children. How can they call for increased standards and benchmarks and test scores while cutting the legs out from under the institutions that you task with performing them? Our superintendent is frantic over the impact that your decisions will make on our district that has tightened its belt and has been a good steward of the money that has been spent on quality educational programs, even while contending with per pupil cuts over the last few years.

The next rounds of cuts will put a stake in the heart of dozens of underfunded districts and drive them bankrupt. Is this part of a larger plan to displace local control of districts? To put in emergency financial managers and take control from the local people? To convert them to for-profit schools that are not responsible to the local populace? Are our legislators implementing someone's master plan? I don't like those ideas one bit.

Public education should not be a partisan platform for advancing political ideals or class divisions. This is what I see happening right now and it is just not right. I think they should take a deep breath and slow down and think. I am amazed that the citizens of the community are not outraged over the politicians plans to gut their school systems right under their noses.

I want the politicians to remember that the children affected by these cuts are the ones they are counting on to build the New Michigan economy. The high skill workforce they are counting on to fill these jobs will be the ones they kicked in the teeth with unwise choices made at this critical juncture.

They should fund the school systems equitably and fairly, then demand accountability.

Jim Schirmer
Canton

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS



The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues. In Your Voices. Find more comments or join the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

The issue: Response to letter writers

Julie: You are right on the money. If funding is not restored, your school district will be one of the first to see the state step in. New board candidates are touting that they have solutions. Some of them have talked about restructuring the administrative offices to save money. This might help a little. Those people are integral in running a school district - or any other one for that matter - they will have to make cuts to services. Those cuts will have to be privatizing busses and custodial services, if not completely cutting those out. I would expect that to come up with \$1150 per student, it would include significant cuts to electives like music and art as well as athletics. I have read the campaign propaganda of some of the candidates (endorsed by the MEA), and it appears that they have no answers. In fact, it appears they have no idea how or where the money will come from. So, with that in mind, write your State Reps and Senators. Make certain that you vote for candidates that will not sell you down the river to preserve Cadillac benefits for the district's employees and cut the very services that you all rely on for your children and grandchildren.

opine4utoo

Patty Klarr! Shame on you, for doing your homework! Don't you know you are supposed to be stupid! If you do not do talking points, you are going to have to get a time out!

KoolAid2

Bring transparency to title insurance costs

BY BERNARD J. YOUNGBLOOD
GUEST COLUMNIST

When it comes to buying auto insurance, health insurance or life insurance, most of us will aggressively shop for the best and most competitive prices.

But when it comes to purchasing a title insurance policy on the most significant expenditure we ever make — our home — we never give the cost a second thought until it's too late.

That's because title insurance is a hidden cost of buying or refinancing a house, one generally presented to us in a slew of paperwork by our real estate broker or loan officer at closing. If we object, we're typically told we are squashing the deal because our interest rate lock is expiring or, when the real market is robust, the seller will entertain other offers.

On the purchase of a \$200,000 home, the cost of a title insurance loan policy for a homebuyer can range from \$597 to more than \$1,000. A

buyer can cut that rate down to about \$375 if he or she gets a simultaneous loan rate in conjunction with the owner policy the seller is required to obtain.

But if the seller's and buyer's respective real estate agents work for competing brokers, these brokers often have exclusive relationships with different title insurance carriers. These relationships often negate any potential savings, a problem compounded by the lack of true competition in our region for title insurance.

Late last year, the Federal Trade Commission cited Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and the Portland, Ore., area as two places where title where a monopoly exists in title insurance.

The lack of competition drives up the price tri-county residents are forced to pay when they purchase or refinance a house, and contributes to our ranking as one of the country's most distressed real estate markets.

Think back to your last home purchase or refinancing. Wouldn't it have been nice to save a couple of hundred dollars on title insurance that you could have instead spent on other home improvements or put in your bank account?

Since most consumers don't know where or how to shop for title insurance, my office has introduced a new feature on our website at www.waynecountylandrecords.com.

The site features a title insurance rate calculator, which prompts consumers to enter either their purchasing and financing cost or their selling price. They will then immediately receive pricing information from the title insurance companies that are licensed in Michigan. The information includes website links and phone numbers for the various providers.

This is a great tool for both homebuyers and home sellers. It empowers consumers to make informed decisions and it brings transparency to a purchase that consumers generally have no awareness of or control over.

More importantly, it will help spur competition in a local industry that has been deemed monopolistic. And competition will breed many positives for our local real estate market.

Bernard Youngblood is the Wayne County register of deeds. The Register of Deeds Office is the place where people record documents relating to land transactions. His office is located at 400 Monroe St., Seventh Floor, Detroit. He can be reached at (313) 224-5854 or by e-mail at rodhelp@co.wayne.mi.us.

Project Healthy Living makes stop in Westland

People can get a check up on their health when Project Healthy Living makes a visit to Westland Shopping Center next week.

The shopping center is one of 24 sites in five Michigan counties to host the health screenings, coordinated by United Health Organization. Residents can stop by between noon and 6 p.m. Monday, April 11, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, April 13-14.

"We continue to be impressed by the demand for health screening services in southeast Michigan," said Ifetayo B. Johnson, executive director of UHO and Project Healthy Living.

Project Healthy Living is a non-profit whose purpose is to improve the health and quality of life in southeast Michigan through the detection of asymptomatic diseases and health education. Each year more than 10,000 screening and counseling ser-

vices are administered through the project.

Many of the basic screenings for fitness, obesity, hypertension, vision and hearing remain free of charge. For a nominal cost, new blood screenings for vitamin D deficiency, A1C glucose levels, cardiovascular health, and liver function also will be offered. A four-hour fast is recommended before testing.

Participants can pre-register to be

screened at their preferred location using Fast Track, UHO's online registration system at www.projecthealthyliving.net. Persons must be at least 18 years of age to participate, or be accompanied by a guardian.

All Project Healthy Living events are free and open to the public.

Strategic partners in the production of the 2011 Project Healthy Living season include Rosedale Park Baptist Church, Quest Diagnostics

Laboratory, the Michigan Cover the Uninsured Network, Wayne County Health Choice, the Metropolitan Detroit YMCA, U.S. Soccer Association and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

For more information about how to support UHO, Project Healthy Living, call the hotline at (313) 531-9108 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., or visit the Project Healthy Living website.

Probationers check in for random alcohol testing

Only one of 648 probationers tested for St. Patrick's Day alcohol use by Westland's 18th District Court tested positive.

In an effort to protect the public and ensure compliance with probation orders, the court conducted random alcohol testing between 6:30-11:30 p.m. on March 17 and 7-9 a.m. March 18. Those selected for the alcohol testing had been placed on probation for an alcohol-related offense and have a strict no alcohol consumption requirement.

The court reports that from among 680 probationers scheduled for testing, 648 appeared and only one was found to have alcohol in their system. That person was taken into custody, released after posting a high bond and was scheduled for a probation violation hearing.

"The 18th District Court has been conducting random testing for the past 10 years and has found this program to be a good deterrent against drinking and driving and also a good way to rehabilitate those individuals who have alcohol addictions," said 18th District Court Judge Sandra Cicirelli.

The alcohol testing was initiated in response to the fact that St. Patrick's Day is known to be one of the busiest bar nights of the year.

"St. Patrick's Day is known for alcohol abuse. We hope this program served as an incentive for our probationers to stay away from alcohol that day," said 18th District Court Judge Mark McConnell.

Trivia for Tata's

Stop by Buffalo Wild Wings, 6677 N. Wayne Road, Westland, at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 10, for Trivia to benefit the Breast Cancer 3 Day. Registration is a noon. The cost is \$15 per person, if paid by April 8, or \$20 at the door. All ages welcome.

There will be trivia playing for cash prizes. Bring your own team or come on in and join a team. There will be bonus questions for more prizes, raffles and 20 percent of all food and drink sold will be donated to the cause with flier.

For more information send an e-mail to Dawn at downt@doubledexpress.net.

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.

Raion Taiko Drummers

Japanese drumming will be showcased when the Raion Taiko Drummers perform at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 30, in Garden City High School's O'Leary Auditorium.

Taiko is a drumming style of Japanese origin, characterized by its large drums and thunderous energy.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$5.50 or for \$6 the night of the performance. The show runs until 8:30 p.m., and proceeds will benefit a group of Garden City High School students who will visit Japan for two weeks this summer as well as

the Japanese National Honor Society.

Mom 2 Mom Sale

Do you have a whole bunch of clothes your kids have outgrown or maybe never got to wear? Are there toys laying around the house that haven't been touched in years? More books than shelves or baby stuff, but your babies are all grown up?

Consider selling your new and gently used items at our Mom 2 Mom Sale at Garden City Middle School 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 9. Or come shopping to get great deals on baby and kids clothes as well as toys, games, videos/DVDs, books, strollers, cribs, bouncers and more.

There will be 100 tables, a large item area, bake sale and concessions. Tables are \$20 for a 6-foot table, including rack space. For table availability/agreement or more information, e-mail Mary at marysawyer70@yahoo.com.

Admission is only \$1. All proceeds go to the Garden City Middle School PTSA. Garden City Middle school is at 1851 Radcliff, south of Ford.

Lenten Fish Fries

St. Raphael Parish is holding Lenten Fish Fries every Friday during Lent. Hours are 4:30-7 p.m. or until dinners are sold out and 3-7 p.m. or until dinners are sold out on Good Friday.

The menu includes the church's own recipe for hand battered Icelandic Haddock. Available are fish, shrimp or fish and shrimp combo dinners for \$8.50, a fish sandwich plate for \$7, a kid's two-slice pizza meal for \$4, a kid's one-slice pizza meal for \$3.

Dinners include choice of mashed potato or french fries, coleslaw, roll

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

and butter and choice of coffee, hot tea or milk. Diners are available for carry-out, but do not include a beverage.

St. Raphael is on Merriman, just north of Ford Road.

• 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, April 8 and 15. There will be no fish fry Good Friday, April 22.

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

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

Garden City Rotary

The Garden City Rotary Club is on the hunt for new members.

The local club was chartered in 1940 as part of the worldwide Rotary International organization and is guided by the Rotary motto "Service Above Self." Charitable involvement covers the spectrum from local activities, such as college scholarships, literacy training, coats for needy elementary children, to projects including school construction and orphanage support in Latin America, as well as pure water, polio vaccination, and other international humanitarian efforts.

Rotary offers a wonderful opportunity for people to provide service for others on many different levels and to the extent they feel comfortable doing so. At the same time, it offers the

availability for weekly contact and socialization with other, like-minded, nice people.

The club meets at noon on Thursdays at Amantea's Restaurant on Warren Road just east of Venoy in Garden City. Individuals interested in more information about the club can call Steve Kelly at (734) 748-1345.

Garden City Kiwanis

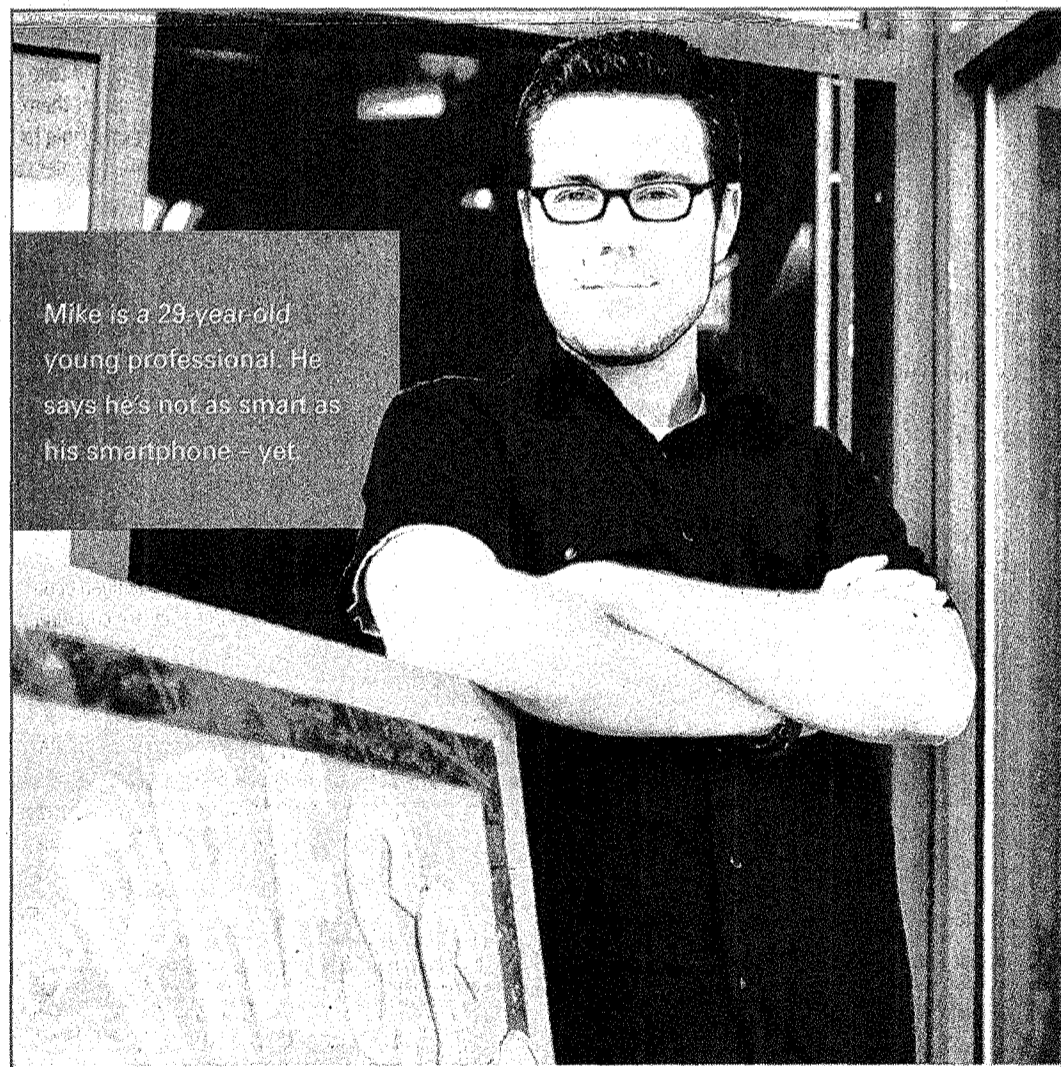
The Garden City Kiwanis Club of is recruiting new members to help provide assistance to the disadvantaged residents of our community — especially children — who are having a difficult time during this economic recession. Founded in 1948, the Kiwanis Club of Garden City provides many community service projects each year including a "Baby Shower" for the Garden City Family Resource Center, a continuing Food Pantry drive, the Trauma Doll Project for hospitalized children, and the Third Grade Dictionary Project.

The club meets at noon on Thursdays at Amantea's Restaurant on Warren Road at Venoy in Garden City.

Anyone who is interested in attending one of the luncheons or with questions about the club's community involvement can call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101.

Free testing

As a service to the community, the staff of Garden City Hospital's Community Services offers blood pressure testing, free of charge, on a bi-weekly basis to senior citizens at the Maplewood Community Center, located on Maplewood just west of Merriman. Testing will be available at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (734) 458-4330.



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Phone scam targets seniors

Better Business Bureau of Eastern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula is warning consumers to be on the lookout for a resurgence of the "grandparent scam," which is again targeting victims in Michigan.

According to the Michigan Attorney General's Office, in one instance, Michigan grandparents were taken for \$33,000. They wire transferred \$3,000 to someone they thought was their grandson after he called and claimed he was caught fishing without a license in Canada and needed to pay a \$3,000 fine. They were taken for an additional \$30,000 after the supposed grandson called again to say that alcohol and drugs were found when his boat was searched, and he needed \$30,000 to post bond to get out of a Canadian jail.

"Once you send money to Canada, there's no hope of getting it back," said Patrick Bennett, BBB Director of Community Relations. "A good rule of thumb is to never wire money out of the country unless you initiated contact with that relative or friend and you know for a fact they are where they say they are."

Another variation of this scam involves two scammers - the first scammer calls and poses as a grandchild under arrest. The second scammer, posing as some type of law

enforcement officer, then gets on the phone with the grandparent and explains what fines need to be paid.

Alternatively, the scammer may pretend to be a family friend or neighbor. A common theme of the scam across the nation is the caller's request for the grandparent to wire money through Western Union or MoneyGram or to provide bank account routing numbers. Wire transfers of money are nearly impossible to trace and typically cannot be recovered from the telephone con artists.

BBB offers the following tips to protect against this scam:

- Don't fill in the blanks for the caller. In other words, the scammer may ask leading questions like "Hello grandma; do you know who this is?" Do not provide the name they are seeking.
- Ask a lot of questions that have answers only your family should know like "What's your daughter's name?" or "How old were you when ...?"
- "You'll learn quickly enough if it's a con artist," said Bennett.
- Do whatever is necessary to confirm your relative's whereabouts. Get off the phone and call your grandchild's home, school or work to verify what you've been told.
- Don't wire money. If a caller asks for your bank account

number or urges you to wire money for any reason, it's likely a scam. Cons prefer wire transfers because they are fast, and funds can be picked up easily and just about anywhere.

If you are a victim of this scam file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission by calling (877) 382-4357, the Michigan Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (877) 765-8388 or contact your BBB at (248) 223-9400 for more information.

The Better Business Bureau, which serves eastern Michigan, is a non-profit organization with the purpose of assisting in the protection of consumers and businesses from fraud and unethical business practices in the local marketplace.

In addition to its recognized dispute resolution services, BBB maintains reliability reports on the customer service history of more than 80,000 local businesses and provides consumer education materials on numerous topics.

BBB provides its services free to the public and its service territory stretches across eastern Michigan from Jackson/Ann Arbor through metropolitan Detroit, Lansing, Flint and Alpena, and covers the entire Upper Peninsula of the state. For more information, visit www.easternmichiganbbb.org.

County Parks ready for Marshmallow Drop

For 26 years, youngsters and their families have converged on the Nankin Mills area of Hines Park in Westland every Good Friday, and this year will be no different.

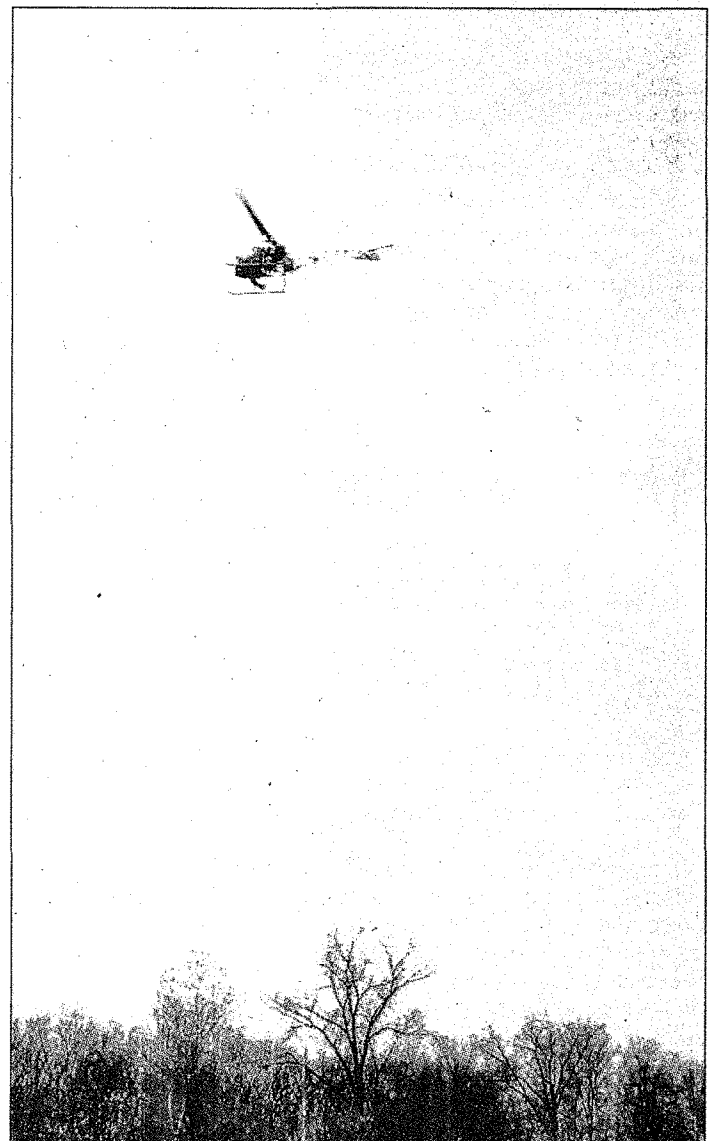
Hundreds of children will be there to scamper for marshmallows to fall from the sky as part of the Wayne County Parks 27th annual Marshmallow Drop.

It's a proven fact, at least in Wayne County, that when marshmallows begin falling from the sky, it's time for fun. The 2011 drop takes place at 11 a.m. Good Friday, April 22. More than 20,000 marshmallows will be dropped for children to collect. Children will be divided into groups based on age, to make sure everyone has an opportunity to participate fully.

Since Marshmallow Drop falls on Earth Day, there will be booths from various environmental organizations with information on making the earth a better place.

The Wayne County Parks Marshmallow Drop is co-sponsored by Trenton Parks and Recreation, ITC Holdings, WNIC-FM (100.3) and WJBK-TV (Channel 2).

Nankin Mills is on Hines Drive just east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. For more information, call (734) 261-1990.



A helicopter will drop 20,000 marshmallows from high above Nankin Mills during Wayne County Parks annual Marshmallow Drop on Friday, April 22.

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Countdown to jazz festival
ENTERTAINMENT, B6

Patriots lead way at own relay meet

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was only fitting that the day belonged to host Livonia Franklin in the annual Patriot Relay track and field meet.

The Franklin boys edged Livonia Stevenson for the team title, 109-106, while the Patriot girls scored 113 points to hold off Salem (93) and Stevenson (92) for the championship.

Pia Klein figured in three first-place finishes for the Patriots.

And the German exchange student made quite a splash in her track and field debut with a mark of 16 feet, 9 inches to help win the long jump relay and break Megan Wilson's school record of 16-8.25 (set in 2007).

Klein also cleared 4-10 in the high jump relay and was a member of the Patriots' first-place shuttle hurdle quartet.

Franklin's other firsts came in the distance medley and 800-meter relays.

Stevenson's lone relay first came in the sprint medley, but the Spartans' boasted three individual field event bests — Bridget Koessler, high jump (5-0); Kayla Branton, discus (101-6); and Alex Kitz, pole vault (10-0).

On the boys side, Franklin captured the shot put, discus, 800 and throwers 400 relays to edge Stevenson by three points.

"This was a really close one between Stevenson and

us," Franklin boys coach Pat Koelzer said. "They (Stevenson) actually had more success in the sprint and distance events and will be very tough to beat later this season. We were able to stay close on the track and take more field event points. Our throwers once again led the way for us."

Senior Jay Woolfork figured in three first places for Franklin including a throw of 133-11 in the discus and a heave of 49-11 in the shot put.

Teammate Adam Clay paced the shot put field with a toss of 50-1.

"This is a great start for our team as we still try to find the events our newer athletes will be most successful in," Koelzer said.

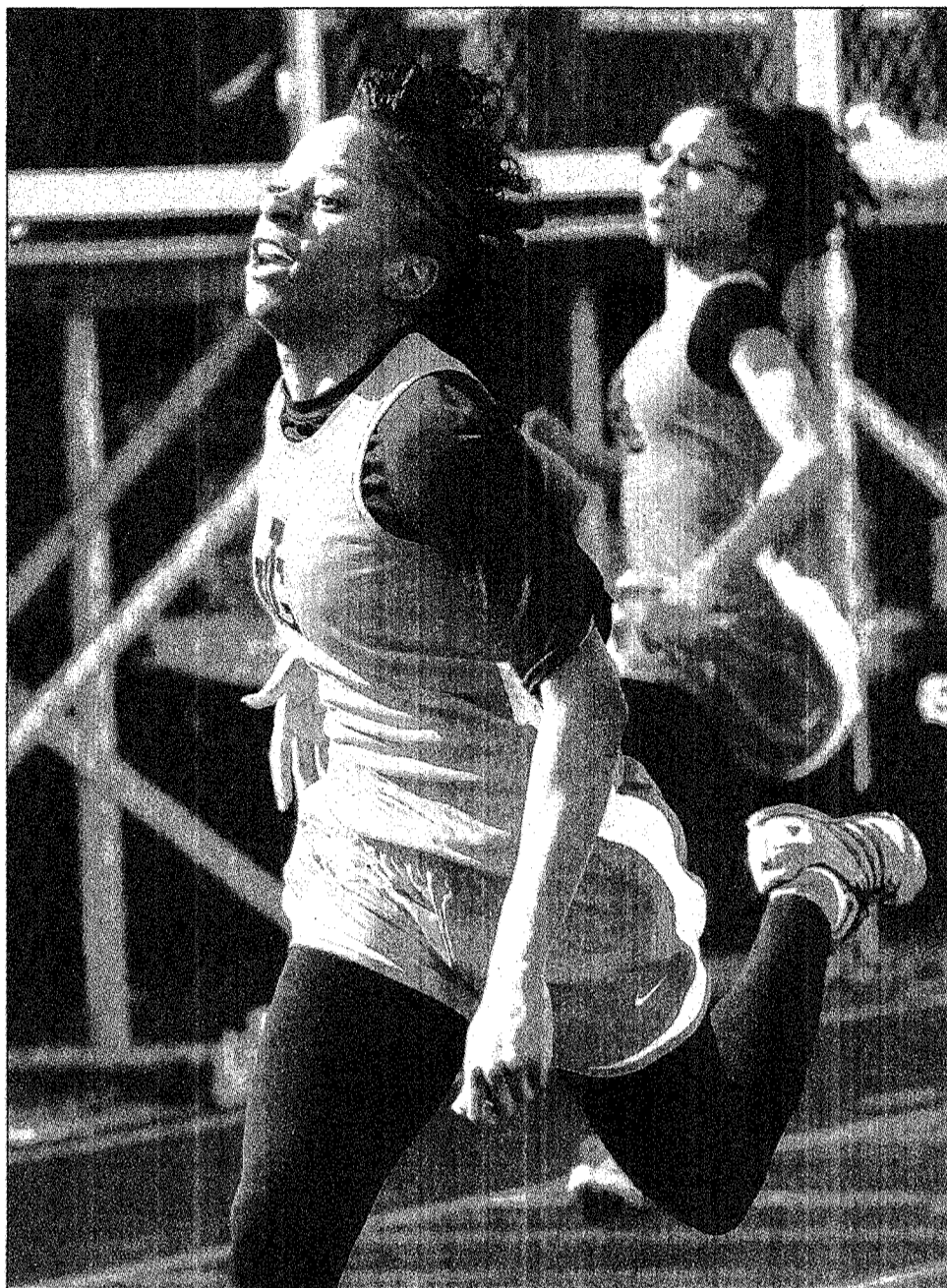
Stevenson, meanwhile, took the 1,600-meter team run, led by Joe Urso's 4:37.9 time, along with the shuttle hurdle, 3,200, sprint medley, distance medley and 1,600 relay events.

Both Matt Williams and Adam Chudzinski each figured in three first-place finishes for the Spartans.

The Spartans' Jon Aneed led all discus competitors with a throw of 136-1.

Redford Union's Tre Goynes cleared 6-2 to top all individuals in the high jump, while Redford Thurston's Eric Wilson was the No. 1 long jumper at 21-5.5.

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Leaning for the tape

Westland John Glenn's E'ajsha Guster crosses the finish line first in the 100-meter dash in 12.7 seconds. The Rockets won the KLA South Division dual meet Tuesday at Livonia Churchill, 79-58. See prep track and field results on page B2.

SIDELINES

MU softball swept

The No. 20-ranked Madonna University women's softball team watched visiting Davenport University score what proved to be the game-winning run in the seventh inning of both games of Saturday's double-header to earn a sweep, 5-4 and 5-3.

Davenport pitcher Samantha Cole (10-6) outdueled MU's Jess Irwin (12-4) in the opener with a four-hitter. Cole struck out seven and walked three, while Irwin gave up four earned runs on five hits and five walks.

Irwin struck out eight.

Tara LaMilza's three-run homer in the top of the fifth inning, her fourth of the season, tied the game at 4-4. Hallie Minch (Garden City) drove in MU's other run in the third.

Pinch hitter Brianna Carpenter drove in two runs for the Panthers, while Heather Brusokas added two hits and one RBI.

In Game Two, Ali Dawson cracked a three-run homer and Carpenter added solo shot to spark a 5-run uprising in the top of the seventh to pin the loss on Minch (11-2), who had held the Panthers scoreless through six innings.

Carpenter (4-5), who worked the final 4.1 innings in relief, was the winning pitcher for Davenport, now 17-12 overall and 4-0 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

LaMilza went 2-for-3 and knocked in all three runs for the Crusaders (23-6, 4-2).

Blazer lacrosse 1-1

Senior Alexa Burns tallied seven goals and three assists Monday as host Livonia Ladywood downed Warren Regina, 16-6, in a Catholic League lacrosse match.

Senior Nikki Jacobs and junior Mary Maslak added two goals apiece as Blazers improved to 1-1 overall and 1-0 in the league.

Donna Lapointe scored four goals for Regina (0-2, 0-1).

Ladywood goalkeepers Rana Freij, a junior, and Lauren Perugi, a senior, combined for 12 saves.

On Friday, five goals each by Julia Guest and Gen Czernanowski carried Grosse Pointe North to a nonleague win Friday over the host Blazers.

Simone Williams added three goals for the Norsewomen.

Junior Kylie Birney paced the Blazers with four goals and one assist, while Burns added two goals and two assists.

Perugi and Freij teamed up for 17 saves.

MU golfers 2nd

NAIA runner-up Brett Quitiquit's second-round 76 carried the Madonna University men's golf team took second place in the Purple and White Invitational held at Foxfire G.C. in Lockbourne, Ohio.

Malone University (Ohio) was first with a two-day total of 299-315-614, while MU shot 314-318-632.

MU scorers included Vince Carango, sixth (77-78-155); Quitiquit, seventh (80-76-156); Nick Sears, 10th (80-78-158); Austin Stillman (Livonia Franklin), 29th (77-91-168); and Tommy Lucko (Livonia Churchill), 33rd (84-86-170).

Hat trick: Ladywood goes 3-0 at Carlson tournament

Sophomores Dominique Sarnecky and Catherine Garber shared co-tournament MVP honors Saturday as Livonia Ladywood swept all three games to capture the Gibraltar Carlson girls soccer tournament.

Ladywood, which improved

to 4-1 overall, defeated Monroe (6-0), Grosse Ile (2-0) and the host Marauders (3-0) en route to the title.

"Our defensive backline of Garber, Marissa Ozog, Becky Babon and Carlee Faber were very good all day," Ladywood coach Ken Shingledecker

GIRLS SOCCER

said. "Only giving up seven total shots in three games is remarkable. We have put a focus on team defending and it showed today."

Goalkeeper Maddie Reed,

who had to make just a total of three saves in three games, recorded her second, third and fourth shutouts of the season.

Meanwhile, Sarnecky tallied four goals on the day.

"Domenique, Paige Brennan, Kelly Capoccia, and Liz Danger did a great job on

the offensive side of things," Shingledecker said. "It can be difficult to produce big goal numbers in shortened game like this, but those four consistently got it done all day."

Goal scorers against Monroe

Please see **SOCCER, B2**

Crusaders take series vs. Saints

It was miserable weekend baseball weather, but that couldn't stop Madonna University from sweeping a four-game set from Siena Heights University.

At cold, windy and wet Ilitch Ballpark on Sunday, MU improved to 20-9 overall and 9-1 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference by sweeping the Saints, 10-1 and 10-0 (seven innings).

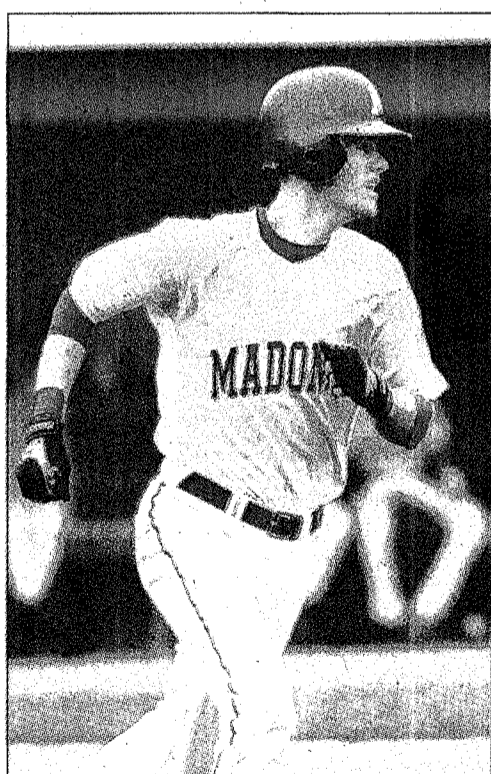
In the opener, Livonia's Jeremy Gooding (Dearborn Divine Child) improved to 5-0 by going six strong innings. He struck out eight, walked four and allowed just three hits.

Offensively, Jeff Bultinck went 3-for-5, while Dan Harder added two hits and two RBI.

Canton's Tarik Khasawneh also added an RBI double.

In the second game, lefty Tom Hansen improved to 4-2 with a four-hitter over six

Please see **BASEBALL, B3**



TIM BUSCH | MADONNA SPORTS INFORMATION PHOTO

Madonna University second baseman Jeff Bultinck was named NAIA National Player of the Week.

National honor for MU's Bultinck

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics announced Tuesday that Madonna University senior second baseman Jeff Bultinck has been selected as the NAIA Baseball National Player of the Week (ending April 3).

Bultinck, who was named the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player of the Week on Monday, is the first Crusader to earn a national honor since Jeff Sonnenberg was named National Pitcher of the Week on April 28, 2008.

The Sterling Heights native led the Crusaders to a 6-0 week with all six wins coming in WHAC play as MU swept Davenport University in a midweek double-header before taking all four games in a weekend series against Siena Heights University.

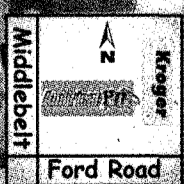
Bultinck, a graduate of Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, hit .625 with six extra base hits among his 15 hits for the week.

After going 3-for-7 with a double and a run scored against Davenport, Bultinck posted a 12-for-17 ledger against Siena Heights, including a pair of homers and a perfect 4-for-4 game in the series finale.

During the week, Bultinck's average was 300 points higher than his average coming into the six games while his 1.042 slugging percentage was 464 points higher than his average coming into the week.

Bultinck posted a .636 average with runners on-base (7-for-11) while hitting .500 (3-for-6) with runners in scoring position, driving in eight during the week.

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Vomastek leads way as Spartans blank Lake Orion

It's still early in the season, but Livonia Stevenson got a signature victory Tuesday at home with a 4-0 nine-inning triumph over Lake Orion.

Senior Even Piechota starred on the mound and at the plate as the Spartans improved to 3-0 overall.

Piechota worked the first six innings to pick up the win. He allowed only two hits, walked one and struck out eight before giving way to sophomore reliever Jake Semak, who gave up just one hit and one walk while fanning three over the final three innings.

The two combined on a four-hitter.

Piechota also doubled and walked twice, while knocking in a pair of runs. Mark Wagner added a solo homer in the victory.

LUTH. WESTLAND 13, FLAT ROCK 3: Marc Rosin went 3-for-3 with three RBI Tuesday as Lutheran High Westland (1-0) downed the Rams (0-2) in a six-inning mercy.

Ten different Warrior players recorded a hit with Taurrek Fikes going 2-for-3 with a double and two runs.

Winning pitcher Jake Andrzejewski went all six innings, allowing three earned runs on nine hits. He struck out six and hit a batter.

Kyle Simpson doubled twice and Josh Kittle also had two hits for Flat Rock.

"Obviously we are happy with the win against a team we haven't had much success against as a program and we are happy with being able to get outside and play a game and for everyone to see some action was great," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade said. "With that said, we need to get better everyday and make

PREP BASEBALL

the little things count."

GARDEN CITY 11, CHURCHILL 0: Winning pitcher Tyler Steele helped his own cause by driving in three runs Monday as host Cougars (3-2) took five innings to mercy Livonia Churchill (3-1). Steele went all five innings on the mound, allowing just two hits and one walk.

Kent Barikmo went 2-for-3, including a 2-run triple, for GC. He knocked in three runs and scored three himself.

Losing pitcher Troy Bogenschutz allowed four earned runs on seven hits and a walk in three innings.

FRANKLIN 16-12, THURSTON 1-2: In a pair of mercy-rule games, host Livonia Franklin (3-1) rolled to a pair of victories over Redford Thurston (0-3).

The Patriots took the opener in three innings, 16-1, as Joel Trudell went 2-for-3 with two RBI. He also scored three runs.

Dan Muller added a triple, walked twice, scored three times and knocked in three runs.

Brent Marzion was the winning pitcher, fanning three, walking one and allowing three hits in three innings.

The Patriots also took the nightcap, 12-2 in five innings, as Josh Gorman got the victory. He allowed four hits, walked two and struck out eight in going all five.

Justin Forrestal and Muller each went 2-for-3 and knocked in three runs apiece. Trudell also contributed two hits, while Jake Turchan and Brandon Hawkins each collected an RBI.

CHURCHILL 11-13, RU 1-0: In a pair of games that went seven innings, visiting Livonia Churchill (3-1) swept Redford Union (0-4).

Churchill racked up 16 hits to win the opener, 11-1, as Stephen Foster went 3-for-4 with two RBI.

Joe Williams also collected three

hits, while Brent Ochodnicki went 2-for-4 with two RBI and two runs scored.

Winning pitcher Jon Targus, a senior right-hander, allowed just one hit in five innings. He struck out seven and walked four.

Losing pitcher Jon Matties gave up six earned runs on eight hits and two walks in four innings.

Ochodnicki, a junior left-hander, earned the mound win in the nightcap as Churchill rolled 13-0.

Ochodnicki went six innings, allowing just two hits and three walks while fanning eight.

Mike Rybinski went 3-for-5 with three RBI and two runs scored to pace Churchill's 12-hit attack. Drew Loudon also went 2-for-4 with four RBI and three runs scored as RU starter Justin Bratner took the loss.

STEVENSON 10-11, GARDEN CITY 4-6: Livonia Stevenson (2-0) launched its 2011 season Saturday with a bang as the Spartans swept the visiting Cougars (2-2).

Mike Vomastek went 2-for-5 with four RBI, while Troy Bodtke added a pair of hits in the opener as the Spartans won, 10-4.

Brandon Jurczynski, Mark Wagner and J.J. Petterson also knocked in runs for Stevenson.

Kirk Barikmo paced the Cougars with two hits, while Kody Richardson clubbed a 3-run homer.

Stevenson junior Chris McDonald was the winning pitcher in relief, allowing three runs on three hits and two walks.

In the second game, Evan Piechota clubbed a solo homer and Tyler Lynch went 2-for-4 with three RBI for Stevenson in an 11-6 win.

Vomastek also doubled twice and knocked in two runs.

The Spartans used three pitchers with reliever Jake Semak getting the win. The sophomore went three innings while not allowing run and scattering three hits.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Thursday, April 7
Churchill at Dearborn, 4 p.m.
Franklin at Lincoln Park, 4 p.m.
Novi-Detroit CC at Stevenson, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 8
Wayne at Taylor Truman (2), 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 9
(all double-headers)
Franklin at Edsel Ford, 11 a.m.
Woodhaven at Stevenson, 11 a.m.
Annapolis at Luth. Westland, 11 a.m.
Huron Valley at Franklin Road, 11 a.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL
Thursday, April 7
Churchill at Dearborn, 4 p.m.
Oak. Christian at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 8
Wayne at Taylor Truman (2), 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 9
(all double-headers unless noted)
Redford Union at Stevenson, 11 a.m.
Annapolis at Luth. Westland, 11 a.m.
Huron Valley at Franklin Road, 11 a.m.

Ladywood at Boardman (Ohio), TBA.
GIRLS SOCCER
Thursday, April 7
Ladywood at Mercy, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 8
Belleville at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Garden City at Wayne, 4 p.m.
BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
Saturday, April 9
Shrine Inv. at Ladywood, noon.
Carleton Airport Invitational, TBA.
GIRLS TENNIS
Thursday, April 7
Churchill at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Canton at Franklin, 4 p.m.
Northville at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
Ladywood vs. B.H. Cranbrook at Schoolcraft College, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 8
John Glenn at Garden City, 4 p.m.
Belleville at Wayne, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 9
Livonia Inv. at Stevenson, 9 a.m.

BOYS GOLF
Thursday, April 7
Huron Valley vs. Franklin Road at Warren Valley G.C., 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 9
MIAC Tune-up Meet, TBA.
GIRLS LACROSSE
Saturday, April 9
Ladywood at Plymouth, noon.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL
(all double-headers)
Thursday, April 7
Bethel (Ind.) at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 9
Indiana Tech at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 10
Indiana Tech at Madonna, 1 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL
(all double-headers)
Saturday, April 9
Madonna at Indiana Tech, 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 10
Madonna at Aquinas College, 1 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

BASEBALL

FROM PAGE B1

innings. He struck out three and walked only two.

Bultinck went 4-for-4, including his third homer, and three RBI. Mike Gansser added two hits, including his first homer and two RBI, while Alex Charles added two hits and three RBI. Harder also had three hits.

The loss drops Siena Heights to 4-19 overall and 0-7 in the WHAC.

MADONNA 5-6, SIENA HEIGHTS 3-4: Madonna University (18-9, 7-1) used a 3-run rally in the ninth

inning to force extra innings before scoring a pair of runs in the top of the 11th inning to pull out a 6-4 win and complete the sweep over Siena Heights (4-17, 0-5).

MU won the day's opener 5-3 at Ilitch Ballpark.

Junior Robert Fraser (Westland John Glenn) went all seven innings in the opener to improve to 3-2. He struck out six, walked one and scattered six hits.

Infielders Victor Barron and Jeff Bultinck each went 2-for-3.

Barron had two RBI, while Bultinck, Matt Kay (Canton) and Dan Harder added one each.

In the nightcap, MU trailed 4-1 heading into the ninth inning before Bultinck delivered a 2-run double to cut the deficit to one. Drew Adamiec sacrificed Bultinck over to third and Steve Pelletier

(Farmington Harrison) brought home the game-tying run with a sacrifice fly.

In the 11th, Pelletier delivered a clutch 2-run double and Travis Schuba, who pitched three scoreless innings, got the victory to improve to 2-0.

Bultinck went 3-for-5 with three RBI, while Pelletier also finished with three RBI.

Livonia's Billy Hardin III (Novi-Detroit Catholic Central) also had two hits.

Michael Lollo went 3-for-4 for the Saints, while reliever Jacob Kret (1-2) took the loss in relief.

Saints starter Corey Alexander went nine innings, allowing four earned runs on five hits. He struck out six and walked two.

MU also used Aaron Saarela, Andy Omilian and Logan Ryan.

Charger pitching duo stymies RU

Pitchers Natalie Hiser and Abby Jewell were razor sharp Saturday as Livonia Churchill swept a non-league double-header against host Redford Union, 6-0 and 10-0.

Hiser, a senior left-hander, threw a one-hitter in the opener. She allowed just one hit, walked one and struck out 15 as Churchill opens to season at 2-0.

RU's Allison Katterson broke up Hiser's no-hit bid with two-out in the top of the seventh inning with a single.

Katie Sherada paced the Churchill offense going 3-for-4 with a double, RBI and run scored. Nikki Salloum added two hits and two RBI, while Mackenzie Everson and Rachel Jason each added two hits.

In the second game, Churchill's Abby Jewell threw a no-hitter with the game ending after five innings because of the 10-run mercy.

Jewell struck out five and walked only one.

Casey Bias led Churchill's attack going 2-for-3 with a triple and three RBI, while Hiser added two hits, including a double.

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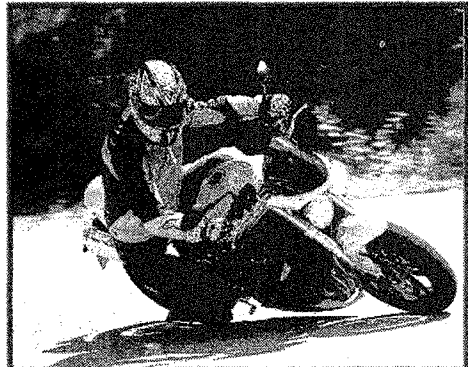


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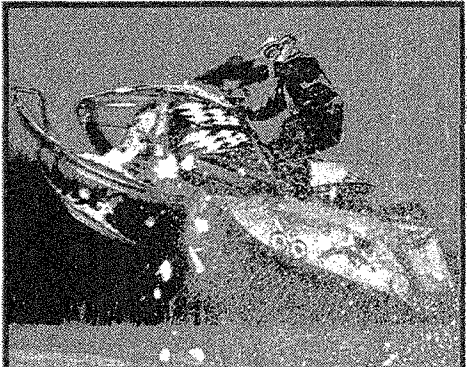


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CHURCHES MIX EGG HUNTS WITH CRAFTS, GAMES

How long does it take 600 kids to find 10,000 Easter eggs? "The actual hunt takes about five minutes," says Judy Brown, the children's pastor in charge of Church of the Nazarene's annual egg hunt. "What we do is we have a lot next to us that is our property. It's roped off by age and color-coordinated. Everyone waits for the big whistle."

The popular event, which draws youngsters from Farmington Hills and Livonia to the church at 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile in Northville, is set for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 23. This year youngsters must be pre-registered by April 20 and no walk-ins will be accepted. Registration will close sooner if the head count reaches 600.

"We've been growing each year and last year we maxed out. I hate to limit it. We are struggling with that, but we're limited. Last year we had a little over 600 children and 1,300 in total with the adults. And that is really the max that our sanctuary can hold."

Although the egg hunt is held outdoors, other activities, including a lunch, games, Easter Bunny photos and a brief entertainment show, keep children, age 1-11 busy indoors.

"The show is only about 20 minutes, but it's an important piece," said Brown, explaining that it includes a religious component. The King's Yomen will talk about their faith while executing yo-yo tricks. Their act also incorporates drama and song.

"They're really engaging. They're a favorite."

Brown said 400 youngsters have signed up for the event, leaving room for 200 more.

Register at www.dfnazarene.org. For more information, call the church at (248) 348-7600.

"It's a nice deal and we try to make everyone feel welcome," Brown said.

Other church egg hunts include: • Faith Community Wesleyan Church, 14560 Merriman in Livonia. Youngsters through age 11 can hunt for Easter eggs, hear an Easter story, and make a craft from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 23. Youngsters should bring a basket or bag to collect and take home eggs. (734) 522-3570

• St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inkster Road, Livonia. Registration deadline for "Kids Easter Fun Day" is Sunday, April 10. The event runs 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 16 and will include crafts, stories, an Easter egg hunt, prizes and more for children, 3-13. Call the church office at (734) 422-1470 to register.

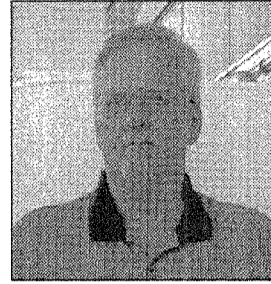
Passages Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances 1-800-579-7355 • fax 313-496-4968 email: oeobits@hometownlife.com View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

JOAN BOLES

Age 104 of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Robert. Loving mother of Eugene (Carol) Koch and Judy (Terry) Wilson. Proud grandma of Diane, Matthew, April, Wendy, Julie and Jan and great grandma of many. Also survived by many other loving family and friends. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel 36100 5 Mile Rd. (E. of Levan) Thursday 5:30-9pm. Funeral will be Friday at the funeral home gathering 10am service 11:30am. In lieu of flowers memorials are to be made to the MI Humane Society. Please visit online guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com

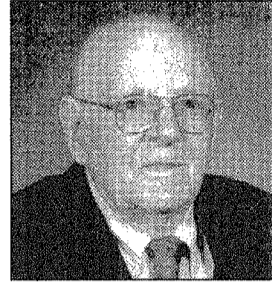
PHYLLIS ELAINE GRAHAM

Age 82 of Novi, went into the presence of the Lord at 5:30 a.m. Tuesday (April 5, 2011) in their residence. She was born August 15th, 1928, in Des Moines, Iowa, to Everett and Marian Scherich, and was born again in Jesus in 1954. She married Clayton Graham on December 29, 1956, in Jackson, Michigan. She leaves behind her loving husband, Clayton, and three loving children Michael C. (Cindie) Graham of Gilford, New Hampshire, Mrs. Peggy A. (Rick) Kolojan of Plymouth, Michigan, and Patricia A. (Kyle) Riehle of South Lyon, Michigan. She now is reunited with her daughter, Kathryn Susan. She was dearly loved by Katie, Holly, C.J., Jessica, Catherine, Rebecca, Alyssa, and Joshua, her grandchildren; and Jaden and Graham, her great grandchildren; and two sisters, Mary Malpass of California and Barbara Aune of Illinois. Phyllis was a wonderful mother and grandmother, who made every activity of her grandchildren a priority. She was often seen on bleachers and church pews encouraging her family. Phyllis was an active member in God's kingdom work, including Fox Run Bible Study, backyard Bible clubs, Bible Study Fellowship, and a community Bible Study. She devoted much time to serving the elderly by providing transportation and other needs, and also served in the after-school Care program. She was also a member of the Daughter of the American Revolution and currently fellowshiped at Calvary Baptist Church in Canton. After graduating Manistee High, she attended Central Michigan University. Visitation will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 on Friday, April 8 at Northrop-Sassaman Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 9 at 11:00 a.m. at Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church in South Lyon. Officiating will be Pastors David Brown of Fellowship Church and John Shinn of Calvary Baptist Church in Plymouth. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to either Fellowship Church or Calvary Baptist.



JOSEPH FRANK KRACHT

Age 65, went to be with the Lord on April 5th at his home in Brighton surrounded by his Family and Friends. Born to Elden Gregory and Catherine Kracht on April 30th, 1945. Survived by his loving and caring wife of 45 years, Pam. Loving children Gregory (Denise), David (Lisa) and Jen (Mark) Kroll. Treasured Papa to Jacob, Trevor and Ryan Kracht and Alex and Alyssa Kroll. Dearest brother to Mary (Gary) Mierzwa, Bill (Marge) Kracht, Janie (Jay) Pewtress, John Kracht, Juanita (Earl) Siterlet, Irene Turner. Greatest brother-in-law to Cindy Horton and Jeff (Wilma) Funtukis. Uncle Joe to many nieces and nephews. Dearest friend to Gary and Shari Korff. Memorial service to be held at Cornerstone Evangelical Church 9455 Hilton Rd. Brighton, on Friday April 8th at noon. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 310 North Main Street #100 Chelsea, Michigan 48118.



ERNEST MANZEL

Age 95, of Plymouth, passed away on April 1, 2011. Loving husband of the late Viola. Beloved father of David (Patricia), Dale (Gwynn) and Darrell Manzel. Proud grandfather of Kenneth (Lori) Manzel, Kevin (Courtney) Manzel, Matthew (Tammy) Manzel and Jason (Mary) Manzel. Great grandfather of Colin, Avery and Lauren Manzel. Funeral service Thursday 11:00am from St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1343 Penniman Ave, Plymouth with family receiving friends beginning at 10:30am. Visitation Wednesday from 1-9pm from the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth. Interment Riverside Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society. Share memories at: schrader-howell.com



DONALD CARL RAMIN

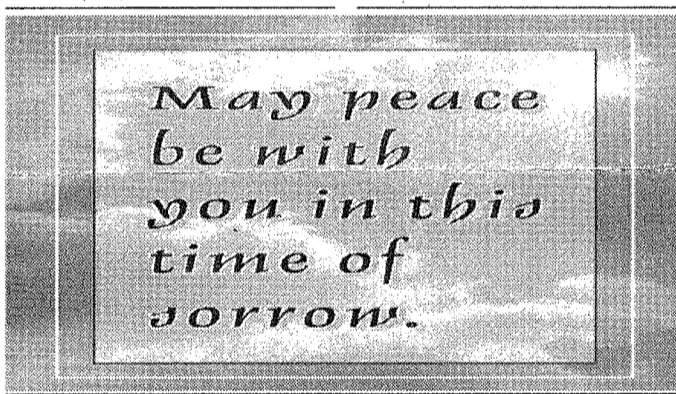
Of Farwell was called to his Savior's side and eternal home on Sunday, April 3, 2011 after a courageous battle with pneumonia and renal failure. He was born in Romeo on December 23, 1927. Don served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1944-1948 and was on five different ships during WWII. Don was a Livonia Firefighter for 30 years, retiring in 1981 as Senior Captain. Don was a woodworker and golfer. Don married Linda Helena Carnahan on December 16, 1950 and they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 16, 2010 with a party given by their children. Don and Linda were blessed with six children. Don was preceded in death by his mother, Dorothy Duell, his step-father Alfred Duell, and his grandson Ryan Paul Amerman. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife Linda, his sons Michael John (Kathryn) and Dennis Charles, his daughters Patricia Lynn Maddix (James), Cynthia Jo Gerstenlauer (Michael), Linda Susan Belanger (Louis), and Kathryn Irene Zilz (Rick). Left to cherish the memories of their grandfather are 16 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Family was very important to Don and he loved spending time with them. Don was a member of the Clare Church of the Nazarene and will receive visitors at the church on Thursday April 7, 2011 from 2-4 and 6-8 P.M. Funeral Services will take place on Friday, April 8, 2011 at 11:00 A.M. at the church with Pastor Jim Young, Senior Pastor officiating. Don will be laid to rest in the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Memorial contributions may be made to the Great Lakes Burn Camp PO Box 6189, Jackson MI 49204. Don's family would like to thank Great Lakes Renal Dialysis Center in Mt. Pleasant for the care and compassion given to him over the last several years. Those wishing to may leave an on-line condolence at: www.stephenson-wyman.com

ELIZABETH ANN (FRISBIE) DISBROW

72, of Interlochen, MI and formerly of Birmingham, passed away suddenly Friday, March 25, 2011 at her home on Green Lake. Liz was born in Battle Creek, MI on December 28, 1938 to the late Walter and Regina (Martin) Frisbie. She graduated from Battle Creek Central High School, class of 1956. She attended Miami of Ohio University where she studied History and was a member of the Alpha Omega Pi Sorority. In 1959, Liz married Donald Rex Disbrow, Jr., also of Battle Creek, her husband of 52 years. Liz was the love of Don's life and together they raised their four children in Birmingham. There was nothing Liz enjoyed more than taking care of her family and friends, always ready with a smile and a hug, and her reassuring warmth. Outside of the home, Liz worked for the David Stalker Auction Gallery of Birmingham for over ten years. She and Don resettled to their home on Green Lake in Interlochen upon their retirement in 1995. Though retired, Liz enjoyed helping her new neighbors and community. During the 16 years she lived in Interlochen, she was an active member of the Green Lake Township Planning Commission as well as a volunteer for the Father Fred Foundation, the annual Cherry Festival, and the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce. Liz is survived by her husband Don; her four children, Jeff, Tim (Kim), Andy (Beth Ann), and Beth (Adam); twelve grandchildren, Matt (Tricia), Brian Rex, Jenny, Shannon, Madeline, Ben, Brian Reese, Sam, Hannah, Drew, Jessie, and Kaitlyn; her great granddaughter, Peyton; her brother, Walt (Carol), and sister, Alice (Bill); her sister-in-law, Deanna; and many other loving family members and friends. A memorial mass was held on April 1st at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Grawn, MI. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made in Liz's memory to the Father Fred Foundation in Traverse City. The family is being served by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

DAVID ALLEN MARKLAND, JR.

Born June 25, 1976 died March 13, 2011. Survived by uncle Kevin, aunts Patty, and Terri, and cousins Sean, Crystal, Tara, Ronnie, and Eric, and sister Danielle. Preceded in death by mother Debbie Markland, father David Markland Sr., sister Michelle Markland, aunt Sandi Kneeshaw, uncle Keith Casey, and grandparents John and Frankie Casey. Memorial service on April 12, 2011 at Calvary Missionary Church 29850 Six Mile Rd., Livonia, MI 48152 from 1pm-9pm; service at 7:30pm



Let others know... When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"... a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper. Call 1-800-579-7355

EDNA S. ZEHRA Age 87, of Farmington, MI. Passed away March 29, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI.

Your Invitation to Worship

Directory of churches including Catholic, United Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Greek Orthodox, Churches of the Nazarene, Plymouth Church of the Nazarene, Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Presbyterian, Lutheran Church Wisconsin Synod, St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School, Congregational, and North Congregational Church.

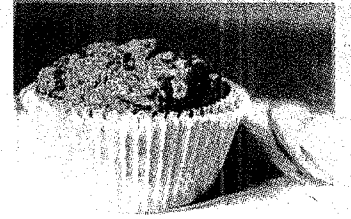
For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, April 7, 2011

hometownlife.com

Joys of SOY



FOOD, B8

Fundraiser starts countdown to jazz festival

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Johnny Trudell will take the stage this weekend at the Michigan Jazz Festival's spring fundraiser, giving listeners a taste of what's in store for them at the big mid-summer event.

"It's our festival. We created it 17 years ago," said Trudell, festival president. "We've used numerous people in the past for this fundraiser. The board decided it was time to give the old trumpet player a chance."

The Johnny Trudell Quintet with Chuck Shermataro, Ray Tini, Bill Cairo, and Gene Parker, along with Trudell on trumpet, will perform from 3-5 p.m., Sunday, April 10 in the DiPonio Room at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, located on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia.

Tickets are \$15 and are available at the door or in advance by calling Midge Ellis at (248) 474-2720.

Proceeds help fund the annual Michigan Jazz Festival planned for July 17 at Schoolcraft. The festival, set both outdoors and inside the college, is free and features jazz bands from throughout Michigan performing on several stages.

"We're the only jazz festival I know of around here that does fundraisers," said Ellis, festival producer and a Livonia resident. "None of us gets paid and that makes us different."

DONATING

Festival organizers raise approximately \$30,000 annually, through spring and fall fundraisers, a Father's Day brunch concert, sponsorships and donations.

Last year, when major sponsors pulled their support because of the poor economy, the festival's future looked bleak.

"It was the first year we asked for donations all the time. We just started putting canisters out saying put your change in here," Ellis said. The festival has given away an assortment of items — everything from cup holders to CD openers, pot scrapers and refrigerator magnets — to audience members who donate to the canisters.



Johnny Trudell, president of the Michigan Jazz Festival, will perform at a fundraiser Sunday, April 10, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. The fundraiser will support the annual festival.

Ellis also added a donation plea to correspondence and flyers. She's delighted with the response.

"It's just amazing that by changing the wording on the bottom of the flyers, it has brought in money," she said. "We (recently) got two \$500 checks. I about fainted."

The donations will help to keep the festival parking and admission free.

FAVORITES, NEWCOMERS

Jazz fans will see 26 bands this year, including several that are new to the festival. Two high school groups and several college bands also will perform on the Future of Jazz Stage, which was a new

addition last year. It's back on the schedule because "everyone loved it so much," Ellis said.

Festival performers run the gamut from Big Bands to Dixieland groups to trios and quartets with a common ability to improvise their sounds.

"I think people don't understand that when solos are done with a big band there is nothing on their sheet music. They play it off the top of their head and by their heart. That is what makes jazz what it is," Ellis said.

For more information visit the Michigan Jazz Festival online at www.michiganjazzfestival.homestead.com

Singer explores traditional music

Singer-songwriter-multi-instrumentalist Tim Eriksen will give listeners a taste of his new CD, *Soul of the January Hills*, Saturday, April 16 at Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia.

Nick Schillace will open for Eriksen at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for members.

Eriksen is co-founder and front-man of the "folk noise" band Cordelia's Dad, which recorded eight albums, including 1998's *Spine* and earned a strong following in the US and overseas. He's also known as a leader in the American "shape note" or "Sacred Harp" tradition. Traditional "shape note" style was encoded in the 1844 Sacred Harp songbook. The unconventional style uses geometric symbols in place of musical notation, and was designed to help untrained choir singers perform hymns.

He coached actors and extras in two "shape note" songs used in the Oscar-nominated soundtrack of the 2003 film, *Cold Mountain*, in which he also overdubbed actor Brendan Gleeson's singing voice. Eriksen subsequently traveled the country with Ralph Stanley, Alison Krauss & Union Station, Jerry Douglas and other traditional musicians as part of the 2004 Great High Mountain Tour.

Eriksen is an accomplished instrumentalist on guitar, banjo, and fiddle, which he played on two previous solo albums, *Tim Eriksen* and

Every Sound Below. Both were recorded live in the studio with no sidemen, overdubs, or edits, but his new *Soul of the January Hills* CD takes this solo approach one brave step farther. Inspired by his location, the 2008 Jaroslaw Festival in southeastern Poland, Eriksen took a digital recorder into a tower on a wall surrounding Jaroslaw's Benedictine Abbey, sang 14 traditional American songs in one take with no accompaniment at all, and walked out about an hour later with the January Hills recordings.

With these 14 songs for voice alone, Eriksen says, "I'm throwing down the gauntlet. Not really. I'm not looking for a battle, but it would be nice if this record was taken as a friendly challenge to get people into hardcore singing, especially the old ballads and hymns and stuff."

Over the last decade, Tim has worked with his various bands, served as a visiting professor at Dartmouth College and the University of Minnesota, conducted ethnomusicological research in the U.S. and abroad, recorded and toured as a solo artist, and immersed himself in the Sacred Harp communities. Eriksen is currently working toward a PhD in ethnomusicology at Wesleyan University when he's not on the road.

For more information or for tickets call the theater at (734) 464-6302 or visit www.trinityhouse.org

Weathering the Storms of Life

37th Annual Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast

Presents

Chuck Gaidica,
WDIV, Chief Meteorologist

Thursday, May 12, 2011
7 - 8:45 a.m.

St. Mary's Cultural Conference Center
18100 Merriman Rd. Livonia, MI

"God is our refuge and our strength"
Psalm 46:1

Music by
Matthew Landry
Sharon Smith

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
NEWSPAPERS

Quartet performs traditional Irish music

Former Redford resident Sean Gavin and his fellow members of Bua, will perform traditional Irish music Friday, April 8, at the Gaelic League in Detroit.

Gavin, who plays flute and uilleann pipes in the band, is the son of fiddler and music teacher Mick Gavin of Redford.

Now living in Chicago, Ill., Gavin plays and teaches traditional Irish music. He is a member of the group NicGaviskey, and often performs with his family. He also tours internationally with the music and dance show, Celtic Legends.

He and musicians Brian O hAirt on vocals and concertina, Brian Miller on guitar and bouzouki and Devin Shepherd on fiddle, make up Bua, a group that draws from more than a century's worth of Irish traditional music and song cultivated in the Midwest and Ireland.

Bua has performed at many



Bua performs Friday, April 8 in Detroit. The group includes former Redford resident, Sean Gavin.

of the top Irish festivals in North America including Boston's prestigious Irish Connections Festival, the Milwaukee Irish Festival, the Dublin Irish Festival, Celtic Fest Chicago, the Goderich Celtic Roots Festival and Bethlehem's Celtic Classic. As individuals they have shared the stage with many top Irish musicians including Martin Hayes, David Munnely, Liz Carroll, Len

Graham, Paddy Keenan, among others.

Admission to Bua's concert is \$15 at the door. The Gaelic League is located at 2068 Michigan Ave.

Fish diners are available from 5-8 p.m. and cost \$7 at the Gaelic League every Friday during Lent. Bua's concert starts at 8 p.m.

For more information call (313) 964-8700 or (313) 537-3489.

Once Upon a Mattress
(The Princess and the Pea)

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PERFORMANCES

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April 9 - 2:00pm & 8:00pm
April 10 - 2pm
April 15 - 8:00pm
April 16 - 2:00pm & 8:00pm
April 17 - 2:00pm

TICKETS
\$15-\$18
www.SpotlightPlayersMi.org

LOCATION
The Village Theater at Cherry Hill
50400 Cherry Hill Road
Canton, MI 48187

ART

City Gallery
Time/Date: Through April 8; gallery hours are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
Location: In the Costick Center at 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Work by Stephen Deeb, head of the art department at North Farmington High School
Coming up: Farmington Art Foundation holds its Spring Exhibit and Sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 14, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday, April 15 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16 at the Costick Center. Opening reception, 6 p.m., followed by awards at 6:30 p.m., April 14
Contact: (248) 473-1856
Plymouth Arts Council
Time/Date: 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, April 8
Location: 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: "Its Arts - Pure & Simple" gala reception featuring its new exhibit, "Pure Art of Michigan," cocktails, foods, music, door prizes, raffle and auction; admission is a donation of any amount
Contact: (734) 416-4278



"A Sentinel of Lake Superior," by Carol Caruso, is part of Plymouth Arts Council's "Pure Art of Michigan" exhibit.

COMEDY

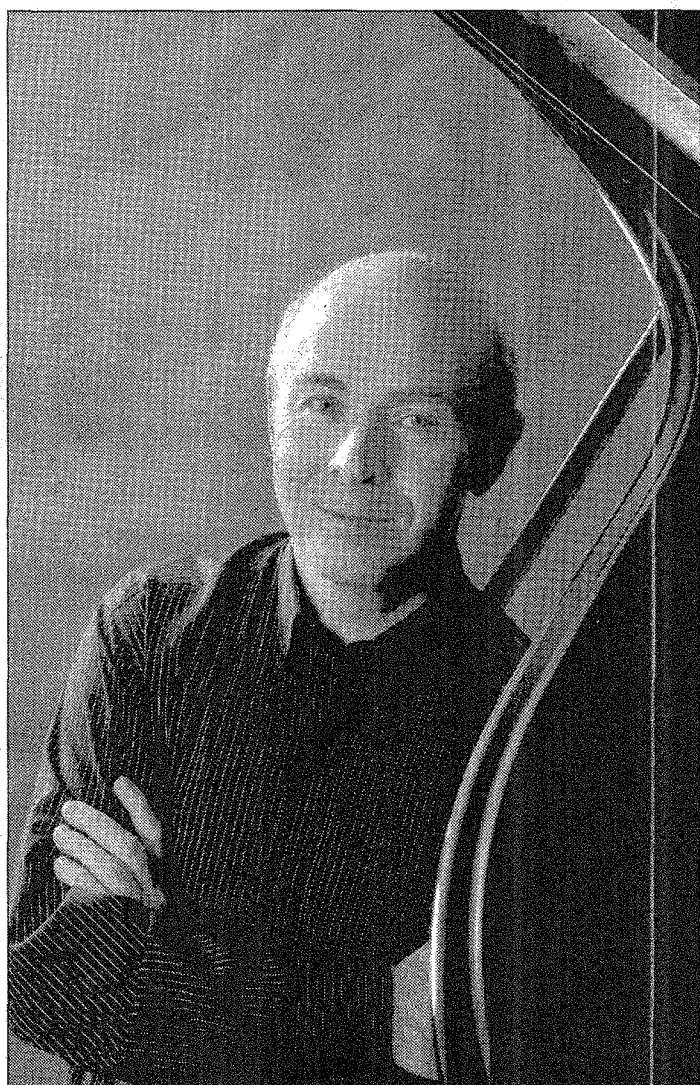
Go Comedy!
Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays
Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale
Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays
Contact: (248) 327-0575; www.gocomedy.net
JD's House of Comedy
Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings
Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield
Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday
Contact: (248) 348-2420 or www.ticketmaster.com
Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Chas Elsner, April 6-9; Floyd J. Phillips, April 13-16; Mark Poulos, April 20-23; Claude Stewart, April 27-30; Mike Green, May 4-7; Rob Little, May 11-14
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com
Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle
Time/Date: Steve McGrew, April 7-9; Michael Somerville, April 14-16; T.J. Miller, April 21-23; Don Friesen, April 28-30; Kathleen Madigan, May 5-7; John Pinette, May 12-14
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

April 9-10; Brendan James & Matt White & Lauren Pritchard, April 11; Adrian Legg, April 12; Catie Curtis & Amy Speace, April 13; Breathe Owl Breathe & The Photographers, April 14; The Johnny Clegg Band, April 15; Anais Mitchell, April 16; Shape Note Singing, April 17; Peter Yarrow, April 17
Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org
Baseline Folk Society
Time/Date: Third Saturday of the month
Location: The JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: Eight "open-mic" performances plus a featured group. Sign up for open mic from 6:15-6:45 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Open mic performers may sing two songs. If more than eight performers sign up, a lottery will be held for the eight spots. Individual membership is \$25 and includes monthly concerts from September through May. Otherwise, admission to each concert is \$5 at the door. Family memberships are \$50 and include monthly concerts
Contact: (248) 719-3464 or mjmmul-len@yahoo.com
Jazz @ The Elks
Time/Date: 7-10:30 p.m., every fourth Tuesday
Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780 at 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth
Details: Jazz musicians perform; no cover, but donations accepted. Complimentary hors d' oeuvres. Naima Shambourger will sing, Sven Anderson will play keyboard, Marion Hayden will be on bass and George Davidson on drums at the next concert on April 26
Contact: (734) 453-1780 www.

PlymouthElks1780.com
Seligman Performing Arts Center
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Saturday, April 16
Location: 22305 W. 13 Mile, Beverly Hills, located on the campus of Detroit Country Day School
Details: Chamber Music Society of Detroit presents pianist Jorge Federico Osorio. He'll play Beethoven, Franck, Granados and Mussorgsky. Tickets are \$43-\$75, students, \$25
Contact: (248) 855-6070; www.ComeHearCMSD.org
Trinity House Theatre
Time/Date: Putnam Smith, April 8, Melissa Greener, April 9; The Choir, April 14; Brooks Williams with Mike Vial, April 15; Tim Eriksen with Nick Schillace, April 16; Songwriters Anonymous Showcase, April 29; Craig Cardiff, April 30
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Contact: (734) 464-6302, www.trinityhouse.org
Vivace Music Series
Time/Date: 8 p.m., Saturday, April 11
Location: The Birmingham Temple, 28611 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: Eugenia Zukerman will share the stage with Russian/American soprano Svetlana Strezeva and her daughter, pianist, Milana Strezeva. The program will feature music by well known Russian and French composers in folk and classical traditions. Tickets are \$23 general admission and \$20 for senior citizens and students
Contact: Ann Sipher at (248) 661-1348 or Joyce Cheresh at (248) 788-9338
FAMILY
Bakers Keyboard Lounge
Time/Dates: 2-5 p.m. Sundays
Details: Jazz for Kids Program



Eugenia Zukerman will perform April 11 at the Birmingham Temple in Farmington Hills.



Jorge Federico Osorio performs at the next Chamber Music Society of Detroit concert April 16.

Location: 20510 Livernois Ave., Detroit
Contact: (313) 345-6300, www.bakerskeyboardlounge.com
Detroit Institute of Arts
Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays
Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org
Detroit Zoo
Time/Date: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily
Location: I-696 service drive and Woodward, Royal Oak
Details: Admission is \$11 for adults 15 to 61, \$9 for senior citizens 62 and older, and \$7 for children ages 2 to 14; children under 2 are free
Contact: (248) 541-5717
FILM
Penn Theater
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Friday, April 8; p.m. 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, April 9-10
Location: 760 Penniman Ave.,

and 8 p.m. April 9
Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit
Details: Three Stooges Festival; tickets \$5
Contact: (313) 537-2560

MUSEUMS

Charles H. Wright
Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday
Location: 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit
Details: The Test: Tuskegee Airmen Project through June 19; Framed Stories: The Art of Carmen Cartines Johnson and Jerome Wright through April 11. Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free
Contact: (313) 494-5800
Cranbrook
Time/Date: 2 p.m., Thursday-Sunday
Location: 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills
Details: Docent-guided public tours of Saarinen House, a rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature, depart from Cranbrook Institute of Science front desk. The tours are about 90 minutes long and take place rain or shine.
Contact: (248) 645-3200 for house tours; http://science.cranbrook.edu
Plymouth Historical Museum
Time/Date: Through Oct. 23
Location: 155 S. Main, just north of downtown Plymouth
Details: Rediscovering the Civil War
Contact: (734) 455-8940

THEATER

Spotlight Players
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Friday, April 8 and 15; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, April 9 and 16; 2 p.m. Sunday, April 10 and 17
Location: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill, Canton
Details: "Once Upon a Mattress," the Tony award-winning musical comedy that turns the classic children's story "The Princess on the Pea" on its head, delightfully skewering all fairy tales in the process. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors and students. Tickets are available in advance or at the door, one hour before show time
Contact: (734) 394-5300 or (734) 394-5460; www.spotlightplayersmi.org
Trinity House Theatre
Time/Date: Fourth Tuesday of the month
Location: 38840 W. Six Mile, Livonia
Details: Improvisation workshops for all levels; \$3 per session
Contact: Laura Gumina at (248) 225-0160

CONCERTS

The Ark
Time/Date: David Bromberg & Angel Band, April 7; Steppin' in it, April 8; Mr. B's Piano Celebration,

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FOOD

Thursday, April 7, 2011

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

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E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

The everyday joys of soy

If you want to improve your diet by adding healthy foods, now may be the perfect time to try something new, something soy. April is National Soyfoods Month, and finding delicious soy-based foods has never been easier.

"Soyfoods can be a part of any healthy, well-balanced diet because they are full of high-quality protein that is low in saturated fat, full of nutrients, and cholesterol-free," said Patricia Greenberg, The Fitness Gourmet.

Greenberg offers these tips for enjoying soyfoods all day long:

Breakfast

- For creamier oatmeal, replace half the cooking water with vanilla soymilk.
- Slice veggie sausage links into scrambled eggs or breakfast casserole.
- Top English muffins with soynut butter, bananas and cinnamon.

Lunch

- Make a better BLT with soy-based bacon strips.
- Add steamed edamame beans to soups and salads.
- Go for the veggie burger — and be sure to add all your favorite condiments.

Dinner

- Thicken creamy sauces, soups, and dressings with pureed silken tofu.
- Blend shredded soy cheddar with regular cheese for



Carrot Apple Muffins

tacos and quesadillas.

- Add sliced vegetarian sausage to Italian-style peppers or jambalaya.

Snack

- Carry single-serving containers of delicious chocolate soymilk for on-the-go snacks.
 - Make your own trail mix with roasted soynuts, dried fruits and bite-sized whole grain cereal.
 - Carry soy and fruit bars in your purse or backpack for emergency snack attacks.
- Savvy shoppers be ready, there are going to be a variety of soyfood promotions running all April. Get familiar with where your grocery

store stocks these products and you are sure to find a bargain.

- Soy Cheese: In refrigerated cases with dairy and juice products, in the produce section, and in the health food or natural food aisles.

• Soymilk: Soymilk comes in two forms; one needs to be refrigerated and can be found in the refrigerated section. Shelf-stable soymilk can be found in the health food section, the cereal aisle, or near other shelf-stable beverages.

- Tofu: Tofu comes in many forms: firm, silken-style, sprouted, high protein and baked tofu, found in the

refrigerated meat section, produce section or natural foods section. Shelf-stable silken tofu can be found in the Asian food section or in the natural food aisles.

• Meat Alternatives: Meat alternatives, such as veggie burgers, soy sausage, soy crumbles and edamame, can be found in the freezer section. Edamame may also be found in the fresh produce section.

• Soy Desserts: Soy desserts, including soy frozen yogurt and soy toppings, can be found in the refrigerated section or in the freezer aisle.

To learn more about specific soyfoods and discover delicious ways to celebrate

National Soyfoods Month, visit www.soyfoodsmonth.org. Or follow the Soyfoods Association of North America on Twitter @social-SANA.

CARROT APPLE MUFFINS

Makes: 12

- 2 cups carrots, grated
- 1½ cups apples, grated
- ½ cup maple syrup
- ½ cup plain or vanilla WholeSoy yogurt
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- ½ cups flour
- ¾ cup walnuts, chopped
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup raisins

Preheat oven to 400°F. Lightly oil a muffin pan.

In a large bowl, mix carrots, apples, maple syrup, yogurt and oil.

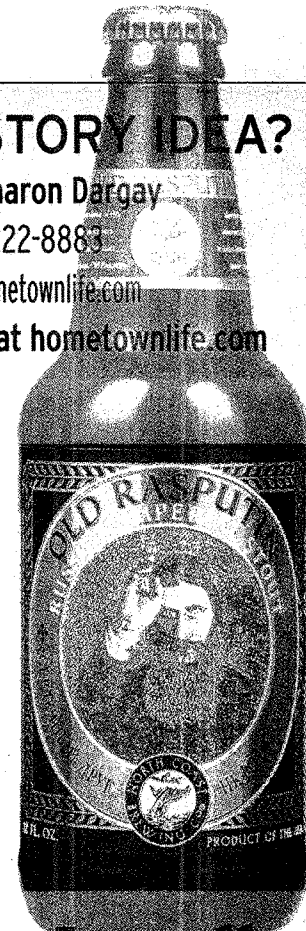
In a separate bowl, combine flour, walnuts, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg, cinnamon, ground ginger and salt.

Fold the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients until just combined and then fold in the raisins.

Spoon the batter into the muffin pan.

Bake for 20-25 minutes until golden, or until a toothpick comes out clean.

— Courtesy Family Features



A walk on the dark side

BY NATE PARSONS
GUEST COLUMNIST

Old Rasputin Russian Imperial Stout is a bold endeavor worthy of its Porter bloodlines and mad monk moniker.

The opaque black hue linked to a hardy stout is unmistakable. This distinct characteristic stems from a malt roasting technique similar to brewing coffee. Contrary to popular belief, Imperial Stout — or Russian Imperial Stout — originated from England.

Open trade with Russia in the 1700s prompted the English to create a "stout" beer capable of enduring a harsh journey to the Baltic States. Adding more hops

deterred corrupt bacteria while extra malt hopped the alcohol to prevent freezing — Imperial Stout was born.

Today, Stout is enjoying a revival with many craft breweries offering a variation in their seasonal cache. Old Rasputin Russian Imperial Stout from North Coast Brewing is one of the few available all year around. I was first introduced to Old Rasputin at the legendary Brick Store Pub in Decatur, Ga. WOW!

TASTING NOTES:

- Beer: Old Rasputin Russian Imperial Stout
- Brewery: North Coast Brewing Company
- Origin: Fort Bragg, California
- Style: Russian Imperial Stout
- ABV: 9 percent

GLASSWARE:

Pint — Nonic, or Becker

DESCRIPTION:

Pours jet black with a consistency reminiscent of motor oil, delivering a thick creamy head that crowns the glass. The aroma is dominated by dry bittersweet chocolate, roasted espresso and hints of spiced fruit. Up front, each mouthful is an explosion of complex flavors; coffee, mocha, vanilla, molasses, surrounded by rich smoky overtones. Further in Rasputin gives way to savory malts intertwined with hops for an almost buttery finish. This is an aggressive complex winter warmer but very drinkable and highly recommended.

WHERE TO PURCHASE:

- Hiller's Market, 425 North Center Street, Northville — 4pk/\$8.99
- Super Fine Wine & Liquor, 1634 Haggerty Road Canton — 4pk/\$9.50
- The Wine Palace, 13971 Middlebelt Road, Livonia — 4pk/\$9.99

Parsons writes about Aventinus, a German beer, in the April 21 issue of *Inspire*, in the *Observer*.

Nate Parsons can be reached at mdevin@yahoo.com.

CITY BITES

Tea and computers

Plymouth — Socializing over tea takes on a new meaning next week April 13 at Sweet Afton Tea Room, 450 Forest. The tea room has teamed with Forest Computer Solutions to offer computer classes for senior citizens, 55-plus. The class on April 13 will focus on Facebook. They'll learn about Skype on April 20. Participants can bring their own computers or use one provided by the class. (734) 454-0777

Wine month

Statewide — Governor Rick Snyder has declared April as "Michigan Wine Month" to honor Michigan's wide selection of quality wines and the wine industry's contribution to the economy. "Michigan's 81 wineries welcome more than 1 million visitors to their tasting rooms each year and offer a truly Pure Michigan agri-tourism experience," said Keith Creagh, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) director. "Not only do these businesses offer a quality product and memorable

experience, but our wine and grape industries also contribute nearly \$800 million to the state's economy annually."

Sales of Michigan wines in the state rose nearly 12 percent last year and 10 new wineries opened.

Many events are planned this spring and early summer that will provide opportunities to meet winemakers and sample a variety of Michigan wines, including:

- Michigan Wine Showcase, April 11 at the Radisson Bloomfield Hills, home of Northern Lakes Seafood Company. Join Master Sommeliers

Claudia Tyagi and Madeline Triffon and more than 20 Michigan wineries for wine sampling and lavish appetizers. (517) 241-4468. www.michigan-wines.com/showcase

• Michigan International Wine Expo, April 15-16 at Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi. A fine wine and food experience, featuring wine tasting and seminars, hors d'oeuvres from area restaurants. (517) 548-1200. www.michiganwineexpo.com

For more about Michigan wine and wine-related events, visit www.michiganwines.com.

Simply delicious springtime solutions

With spring in the air comes time to clean closets, cupboards and ... recipe boxes? Freshen up more than your home this season by sorting through your collection of mealtime favorites. Adding new springtime desserts to the recipe rotation is a surefire way to satisfy everyone from the pickiest of eaters to those with special dietary considerations, including gluten free.

Spend some time browsing online at inspiring food websites and blogs, flip through your favorite magazines and revisit trusted cookbooks to revitalize your recipe collection. Try unexpected tasty combinations, such as Strawberry-Marshmallow Crisp Ice Cream Sandwiches made with gluten free Chex® cereal, a recipe created by cookbook author and DishTowelDiaries.com blogger Silvana Nardone.

"Introducing new recipes to fit everyone's needs is fun and delicious," said Nardone, author of *Cooking for Isaiah*, a cookbook catering to the millions of Americans with food sensitivities like her son, Isaiah. "Gluten free cooking is easier than ever with five varieties of gluten free Chex cereals, which I use as an ingredient in everything from Sweet 'n' Salty Coconut Chicken to Double Chocolate Pudding Pie, to



Strawberry-Marshmallow Crisp Ice Cream Sandwich

a refreshing homemade ice cream sandwich."

Nardone offers these tips to ease into a scrumptious spring:

- New twists for the table: Reach for delicious fruits and vegetables at your local farmers market or grocery store to make a beautiful — and nutritious — centerpiece.

• Creative uses for everyday staples: From an on-the-go gluten free snack

mix, to a perfect piecrust, Chex cereals offer a fun crunch from breakfast to dessert. Nardone notes five Chex cereals — Honey Nut, Chocolate, Cinnamon, Rice and Corn — are gluten free; and Wheat and Multi-Bran varieties are not gluten free.

• Blending it up: A smoothie is a perfect snack for both kids and adults. Just toss together a variety of fruits, yogurt and ice, and blend until creamy.

Feeling inspired? Try Nardone's tasty gluten free Strawberry-Marshmallow Crisp Ice Cream Sandwiches.

For additional creative recipes, visit www.Chex.com/GlutenFree. And remember, if you're cooking gluten free, always read labels to make sure each recipe ingredient is gluten free. Products and ingredient sources can change.

— Courtesy of Family Features

REAL ESTATE

PAGE B9 (*) Thursday, April 7, 2011

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Owning a home usually a boon come tax time

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

The possibility of eliminating the mortgage interest deduction from Americans' tax returns has caused a stir in real estate circles.

Kathy Coon, broker/owner of Real Living Great Lakes Real Estate with offices in Rochester Hills, Clarkston and West Bloomfield, is president of the Metropolitan Consolidated Association of Realtors, which is merging with the Western Wayne Oakland County Association of Realtors. She'll be president of the new merged group, the name of which will soon be announced.

She's been in real estate since 1990 and sees tax benefits to owning a home.

"There's a significant benefit at the federal level. There is a lot you can deduct in terms of your closing costs," she said. "And there are tax benefits at the state level too."

Mortgage interest deduction is important. "You're building equity," she said. "History has shown over the last 100 years there's a benefit in home ownership."

The last few years have been difficult, she acknowledged, "and challenging. It's an interesting market here in Michigan."

She's seen a bottoming out of prices in the past several months. "Listings are down. We're seeing a lot of buyers in the market." Her office and other agents she knows are seeing multiple offers on properties in good shape, well-priced.

"Then we're going to start seeing an upswing in the value of these properties."

"It would be a terrible thing, I think, if the government removed the benefit," Coon said of the mortgage interest deduction. "Our industry certainly fights to keep that deduction in place."

It's "for the consumers' best interest. They keep chipping away at the consumer. They're the ones who are ultimately hurt," she said.

Coon doesn't see taxes as a big factor for new buyers.

"I think first-time buyers are just so



excited about home ownership." Taxes are less important, she said, but a side benefit.

Offering a different perspective is Dan Smith, a Northville resident and vice president/mortgage banking for First Place Bank of Livonia. "So many people buy houses for all the wrong reasons," said Smith, who believes you should buy to put a roof over your head.

Smith said it's always a mistake to take on a lot of debt. "Somehow people perceive it as more affordable because of the deduction, and it is," said Smith, who favors capping property tax and other deductions.

In the past, he's seen some people run up credit card balances and put them on a home equity loan. "They're giving it all away. You've got to live somewhere. They'd be living in the street."

"I don't think it should be even in the

investment column," Smith, a several-decades veteran of his field, said of owning a home. "Lenders, banks, consumers, all guilty as charged." Those considering a home purchase must weigh their income and overhead, he said.

"So many people, they just go into it so leveraged. I love my home, I love going home to it. To me, it's the hub of your life," Smith concluded.

National experts in real estate have varied views but rally around the mortgage interest deduction as a plus. "Owning a home offers myriad benefits throughout the year, but some of the financial advantages of home ownership are most apparent at tax time," said NAR President Ron Phipps, broker-president of Phipps Realty in Warwick, R.I. "As many of today's hardworking American families are feeling a financial squeeze, the tax benefits that can come from owning a

home can be a welcome relief."

A number of tax deductions and credits are still available for homeowners; these include deductions — with specific limits — for mortgage interest and capital gains on home sales, and credits for certain energy-efficient home improvements. Even with these benefits, homeowners pay 80-90 percent of all U.S. federal income taxes.

"It's been suggested that many of today's tax incentives for home ownership primarily benefit wealthy individuals, but that's simply not true," said Phipps. "As today's public debate continues about what home ownership means for families, communities, and the nation's economy, there's no question that for many, owning a home is still the best way to begin building wealth."

Ninety-one percent of homeowners who claim the mortgage interest deduction earn less than \$200,000 a year, and the ability to deduct the interest paid on a mortgage can mean significant savings at tax time. For example, a family who bought a home in 2010 with a \$200,000, 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage, assuming an interest rate of 4.5 percent, could save nearly \$3,500 in federal taxes when they file this year, according to the NAR.

"Realtors see the very real positive impact of home ownership every day with our clients," said Phipps. "Recent proposals to reduce or eliminate the mortgage interest deduction and remove government support of the housing finance market could have disastrous consequences for the economy, not to mention making it harder or nearly impossible for millions of families to own their own homes. We believe America must continue to invest in home ownership, for the future of our families and our nation."

For homeowner tax season tips, visit www.HouseLogic.com. HouseLogic is a free source of information from NAR that helps homeowners maintain and enhance the value of their homes and engage in issues that affect their local communities.

The NAR website contributed to this report.

'Specialist' may not be all that claims say

Q: I have seen on the statements from our attorney that a so-called "collection specialist" is handling our matters. I have inquired as to what a collection specialist is and got a response that is somewhat vague. Do you have any idea what a collection specialist is?

A: Frankly, I doubt if the collection specialist is an attorney or, for that matter, a certified legal assistant. It is probably someone who is assisting administratively in the collection of assessments. That doesn't make that person a "specialist" in the sense of obtaining a degree



Robert Meisner

or reaching a certain plateau of expertise in that particular area. It is probably a euphemism for an

administrative assistant who does not have a legal assistant degree. You are best advised to request a full explanation as to what is meant by a "collection specialist" from your attorney and absent receiving same, find an attorney that utilizes legal assistants and attorneys to collect assessments.

Q: I live in a condominium where they have failed to clean my sidewalk and/or my driveway on two separate occasions. I have complained to the management company but they refuse to respond in a timely fashion. I am thinking about docking them for having me hire a snow removal contractor to take away the snow from my driveway and walk. Do you think that is a good idea?

A: Probably not, your condominium documents, as do most, do not allow a co-owner to deduct from his or her assessment obligation the cost of work which they had to undertake which allegedly is the responsibility of the association. What will probably happen is that the Association will consider your assessment to be delinquent and seek collection activities. You in turn have a right to sue for mismanagement, but you do not have a right to withhold assessments because of mismanagement or deprivation of services. Indeed, this writer wrote that section of the Michigan Condominium Act 25 years ago. You are best advised to consult with an attorney to write the association and the management company a letter indicating that you will seek recourse against them for all damages incurred by you because of their failure collectively and individually to properly maintain the condominium in accordance with the condominium documents.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com. This column shouldn't be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD-WAYNE

544 Stonehenge Dr 39747 Wales St Garden City	\$160,000 \$113,000	35637 W Chicago St 19208 Westmore St Northville	\$97,000 \$135,000	334 Pinewood Dr 14750 Robinwood Dr 1199 S Sheldon Rd 136 S Union St 14756 Thornridge Dr Redford	\$56,000 \$180,000 \$29,000 \$315,000 \$160,000	Westland	1811 Alexander Dr 32301 Avondale St 7947 Beatrice 7342 Cavell St 31351 Fernwood St 38503 Jill Dr 38505 Lorus Ave 28031 Mackenzie Dr 37827 Oakwood Meadows Dr 34999 School St 870 Superior Pkwy 6319 Twin Oaks	\$93,000 \$53,000 \$48,000 \$6,000 \$30,000 \$155,000 \$104,000 \$68,000 \$185,000 \$71,000 \$55,000 \$82,000
28165 Six Mile Rd 35913 Six Mile Rd 9830 Berkwick St 35490 Brookview Dr 31781 Cambridge St 29828 Curtis Rd 15124 Fairfield St 29137 Grandon St 37396 Kingsburn Ct 31223 Mungler St 15657 Oporto St 39026 Pinetree St Livonia	\$42,000 \$160,000 \$156,000 \$124,000 \$190,000 \$230,000 \$107,000 \$27,000 \$85,000 \$248,000 \$230,000 \$46,000 \$78,000	50285 Seven Mile Rd 49166 Freestone Dr 16764 Lochmoor Cir E 16072 Morningside 413 Randolph St 19029 Stonewall Blvd 20599 Woodcreek Blvd Plymouth	\$107,000 \$379,000 \$235,000 \$111,000 \$310,000 \$50,000 \$367,000	9241 Corinne St 275 Garling Dr 13375 Haverhill Dr 215 N Mill St 499 N Sheldon Rd 560 Parkview Dr	\$80,000 \$120,000 \$280,000 \$60,000 \$96,000 \$90,000	19132 Delaware Ave 9536 Garfield 9235 Kintoch 11394 Lucerne 26338 Margaretta 11372 Marion 27100 Meadowbrook Rd 14027 Rockland 17169 Ryland 9300 Salem 14924 Summer	\$66,000 \$60,000 \$77,000 \$98,000 \$60,000 \$49,000 \$160,000 \$31,000 \$33,000 \$41,000 \$25,000	

HOMES SOLD-OAKLAND

759 Purdy St 987 Ridgedale Ave Commerce Township	\$395,000 \$275,000	34006 Glouster Cir 20862 Halsted 36710 Kenmore Dr 25498 Leestock 29292 Marvin Rd 34274 Old Timber Rd 23900 Springbrook Dr 25462 Springbrook Dr 37828 Stableview Dr 29488 Sylvan Ln 24196 Twin Valley Ct Lathrup Village	\$225,000 \$450,000 \$372,000 \$96,000 \$250,000 \$225,000 \$77,000 \$179,000 \$236,000 \$133,000 \$40,000	23460 Argyle St 45824 Ashford Cir 20950 Chase Dr 23764 E Le Bos 41831 Primrose Dr 26967 Victoria Rd 46080 White Pines Dr South Lyon	\$470,000 \$420,000 \$345,000 \$109,000 \$225,000 \$45,000 \$550,000	28815 Murray Crescent Dr 23902 Plumbrooke Dr 30248 Southfield Rd # A275 24549 Templar Ave 16941 W 13 Mile Rd 18455 W Nine Mile Rd 20385 Westover Ave White Lake	\$132,000 \$166,000 \$20,000 \$49,000 \$115,000 \$87,000 \$24,000
31671 Nixon St 22235 Nottingham Dr Birmingham	\$170,000 \$327,000	33960 Braebury Rdg 30941 Cedar Creek Dr 30983 Country Blf 23073 Elmgrove St 38938 Empire Ct Farmington Hills	\$189,000 \$200,000 \$70,000 \$123,000 \$275,000	28665 Eldorado Pl Milford	\$119,000 \$185,000 \$280,000 \$60,000	20201 Alhambra St 27359 Apple Blossom Ln 22405 Chatsford Circuit St 17000 Maryland St 17366 Melrose St 16248 Mount Vernon St Southfield	\$115,000 \$123,000 \$190,000 \$80,000 \$47,000 \$82,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Career Seminar

A Real Estate Career Seminar will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 21, at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. You can learn about the free pre-licensure course.

For more information, contact Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@kw.com.

BIA

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) will sponsor a three-hour Continuing Competency course, required for license renewal for both Builders and Maintenance and Alterations Contractors licenses, on Tuesday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to noon at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

For those with licenses issued prior to Jan. 1, 2009, three hours of continuing competency are required each licensing cycle. The instructor,

Don Pratt, CGB, CGR, CGP, CAPS, of CECS of Michigan, LLC, will present one hour for each of the required subjects: legal issues, codes, and safety issues. Registration fees are \$55 for members or guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at www.builders.org/events.php.

Apartment Association of Michigan's (AAM) Property Management Council (PMC) will sponsor a seminar for leasing professionals called Leasing 101: The 2011 Tour on Friday, April 15, from 9 a.m. to noon at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

Kathleen Mabie of Ann Arbor-based Success On Site will provide guidelines to increase occupancy immediately. Topics to be presented include Competitive Analysis, Closing from Start to Finish, Secure Contacts when they call, hit websites, or send e-mail, Meet and Greet Interface, Follow-up and more. The entire leasing process will be covered.

Registration fees are \$69 for PMC members, \$79 for AAM or Building Industry Association members and \$99 for guests. For registration information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at: www.builders.org/events.php.

Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan's (BIA) NAHBR Professional Remodelers Council will hold a three-part seminar series called "Your Master Planned Business" on April 19, June 15 and Oct. 19.

The seminars will be presented by Dawn Droid, business coach and CEO of ClearVision Business Coaching. Part One, to be presented on April 19 is "Measure Twice, Cut Once." Part Two is "Your Master Blueprint" and will be held on June 15. Part Three is "Project Review" and will be held on Oct. 19.

The April 19 program will begin at 12:30 p.m. with lunch followed by the seminar from 1-2:30 p.m. It

will be held at the Ford Conference & Event Center at 1151 Village Road in Dearborn in conjunction with the Pella Pro Expo being held at that location later that day. The June 15 and Oct. 19 programs will each run from noon to 2 p.m., including lunch, at Association Offices, 2075 Walnut Lake Road in West Bloomfield.

Registration fees for members or guests are \$40 per person for each seminar or \$80 per person, if you register for all three seminars. For further information, call (248) 862-1002 or register online at: www.builders.org/events.php.

Investors

The Real Estate Investor Association of Wayne County holds monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 17201 Northline Road, Southgate. Entrance fee is \$20 for nonmembers to be applied to annual membership. For information, call (313) 819-0919 or visit www.reiawaynecounty.org.

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Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- Vacillate (hyph.)
 - Good times
 - Pours down
 - Poker card
 - Tina Turner's ex
 - Marinate
 - Guest accommodation
 - Percolate
 - Movie popcorn size
 - Warhol or Rooney
 - First US state
 - shui
 - Hologram maker
 - Bleachers cry
 - Know-nothing remark
 - New car option
 - Period
 - Alehouse
 - Derek or Jackson
 - Ernesto Guevara
- DOWN**
- relief
 - Daffodil starters
 - Hong —
 - Royal pronoun
 - Unser rival
 - Vinyl records
 - Gripes
 - Checked for weapons
 - Twangy
 - Sighs of relief
 - Rhea cousin
 - Coeur d'—
 - Small fry
 - Heartache
 - Prefix for bone
 - Ken. fractions
 - Horse's morsel
 - Investment returns
 - Like the Cyclops (hyph.)
 - Serving of bacon
 - Kind of system
 - Adroit

Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	T	A	H	G	A	D	A	M	O	S
D	A	V	I	I	I	N	A	N	O	
Q	T	I	P	B	L	A	C	K	T	O
A	D	O	B	E	L	O	A			
				U	S	H	E	R	I	A
				C	O	B	S	A	C	E
				P	I	S	A	S	G	T
				A	T	L	A	N	T	A
				W	Y	O		Y	A	R
								T	E	N
								N	I	G
								H	O	M
								L	U	C

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SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

9			4	7	5			3
			3	6			1	9
4	3			1				7
			9	6	5		8	3
			3	8	9	2		
	6			4				
3	5	2		7		1		8
		1	2		6			
6	8				5			

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Word Search — Lawn & Garden

Z K G Q J M H S S I W Y T J A
 F S T C V R Z L R H B S O R E
 M N P S D T S R X E O D K A R
 M A A P E X I V H P W V O J A
 S H V Q G G R G M O N O E J T
 S E E D A M F O B S S C L L E
 I X U T I A C N O N E E I F I
 X T I N L W F E G E O E N C S
 G O W T O A U E A C F W R H Z
 N A B D F G A R E D E N S R T X
 L X U M O K I G E X H U B B F
 T A J X D R B B C U B D Y Q T
 T U W W G Z P F T S E L O H D
 R E Z I L I T R E F H C L U M
 B M K J R X R I V T O Q J Z O

- Aerate
- Flowers
- Green
- Lawn
- Shovel
- Compost
- Foliage
- Hose
- Mulch
- Shrubs
- Fertilizer
- Garden
- Irrigation
- Seed
- Trees

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Z	K	G	Q	J	M	H	S	S	I	W	Y	T	J	A	
F	S	T	C	V	R	Z	L	R	H	B	S	O	R	E	
M	N	P	S	D	T	S	R	X	E	O	D	K	A	R	
M	A	A	P	E	X	I	V	H	P	W	V	O	J	A	
S	H	V	Q	G	G	R	G	M	O	N	O	E	J	T	
S	E	E	D	A	M	F	O	B	S	S	C	L	L	E	
I	X	U	T	I	A	C	N	O	N	E	E	I	F	I	
X	T	I	N	L	W	F	E	G	E	O	E	N	C	S	
G	O	W	T	O	A	U	E	A	C	F	W	R	H	Z	
N	A	B	D	F	G	A	R	E	D	E	N	S	R	T	X
L	X	U	M	O	K	I	G	E	X	H	U	B	B	F	
T	A	J	X	D	R	B	B	C	U	B	D	Y	Q	T	
T	U	W	W	G	Z	P	F	T	S	E	L	O	H	D	
R	E	Z	I	L	I	T	R	E	F	H	C	L	U	M	
B	M	K	J	R	X	R	I	V	T	O	Q	J	Z	O	

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

Word Search

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