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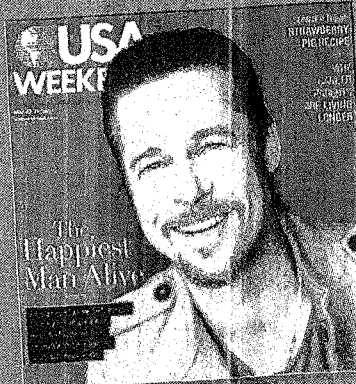
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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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BRAD PITT:
EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW

IN BRIEF Life Remodeled

With the help of about 450 volunteers, Life Remodeled completed construction of a new home in Norwayne over six days in April.

Get a look at the reality show filmed during the project at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 2, at the Imagine Theater on Ford, east of Lotz, in Canton. Admission is \$1 per person.

Life Remodeled is hoping to sell its reality show to a cable network and help fund future projects.

Just a reminder

Westland city offices, including the library, recycling center and 18th District Court, will be closed Monday, May 30. The library will be closed Sunday, May 29.

And for residents with a Monday refuse collection day, there will be no rubbish or recycling picked up Memorial Day. Those collections will be picked up Tuesday and refuse collection will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week.

Summer campers

Four Wayne-Westland middle school students will enjoy a week at camp as part of a partnership between the school district, North Bros. Ford and the YMCA.

Rachel Dean and Gyonna Rice of Stevens Middle School and Devon Page and Justin Zarzycki of Franklin Middle School will attend one-week sessions at YMCA camps.

"On behalf of all of the employees and customers, we're happy to support the YMCA and young people in the community," Doug North said. "I attended camp and I remember it to this day."

The students had to write essays about either someone who inspired them to be a leader in the community or about a camp which they would enjoy and how it would have an impact on their life. Rice was the only one to write about a leader, Rosa Parks, and how attending a YMCA camp would make her a better leader like the late civil rights activist.

Dean wrote about wanting to attend a baby-sitting camp to learn the skills that would make her a good baby-sitter. Page expressed interest in attending a camp that would teach him more about the creative arts, while Zarzycki wants to learn about survival in the woods.

The camps offer everything they're looking for and will truly change their lives," said Doug Overton from the Livonia Family YMCA.

Not only did North sponsor them for the camps, he also presented them with canvass bags, packed with a sleeping bag, hat and beach towel.

Pared-down W-W language in new budget

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland school officials are relieved that the new school aid budget includes a partial restoration of its \$6 million equity funding. But beyond that, there's not much to celebrate.

"We're happy to get it, but it's one-time money. Even the state language is one time only," said Gary Martin,

deputy director for administrative and business services. "We're struggling to keep our heads above water with the challenges this year and with what we'll face in 2012-13."

The budget that was signed into law Thursday will cost Wayne-Westland between \$7.7 million and \$9 million. Per-pupil funding will still be cut \$470, but there's the potential to get \$200 back. The state is offering \$100 per

student to offset a sharp increase in retirement costs and another \$100 if districts meet five best practices related to service consolidation, bidding out of non-instructional services, employees paying 10 percent of their health care, the district being the health care policy holder and a dashboard on its website.

According to Supt. Greg Baracy, with some tweaking, the district could qual-

ify for the dashboard best practice, "but the other four, we're not even close."

"These are huge cuts," he said.

If the district qualifies for the \$200 extra, the loss would be \$608 per student, but without the best practice money, the loss is \$708 per student.

"These are being used as one-time money to soften the blow," Martin said.

Please see **BUDGET, A2**

Westland spared massive flooding after heavy rainfall

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Construction equipment in Hines Park was submerged by flood waters as the Middle Rouge River overflowed its banks. The park is a flood plain for the river which crested at 10.6 inches Thursday morning, just above its 10-foot flood stage.

What a difference from a year ago. Unlike some surrounding communities, Westland avoided any widespread problems after heavy rains last week.

"We're pretty stable. We had 60-80 homes that experienced flooding. A lot of it was Wednesday night," said Westland Mayor William Wild. "Most of it was in the north end of town all the way across to Inkster Road along Hines Park."

In June 2010, approximately 2,000 homes around the city reported basement flooding following a tremendous rainfall. In this case, Wild said the rainwater overwhelmed the Wayne County interceptor in Hines Park — the Rouge River was reported to be five feet above its normal level for this time of year.

"At some point between 5:30-9:30 p.m., Wayne County bypassed the interceptor and pumped the water into the river. That got things moving," said Wild.

City crews worked on diverting water

Please see **FLOODING, A2**

Zumbathon raises money, awareness of sarcoidosis

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As a Zumba instructor, Derica Wade works to get people fit and moving.

Now Wade is using Zumba to raise money and educate people about sarcoidosis, a potentially fatal systemic disease that can affect any organ.

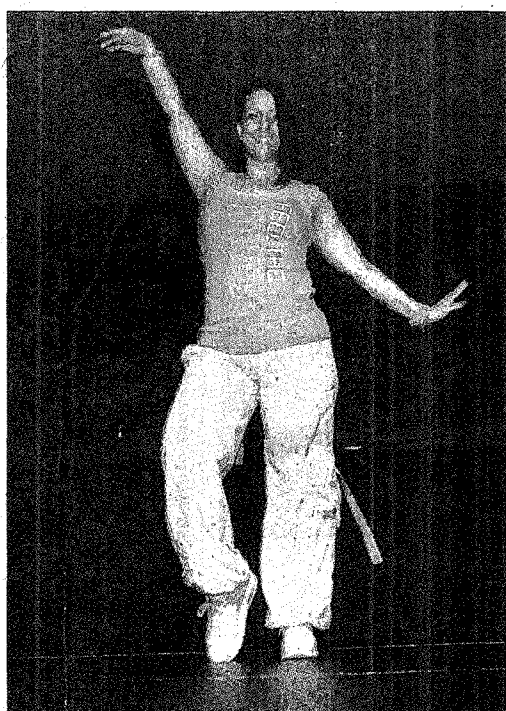
"My mother-in law has the disease — it runs all through my husband's family and we've lost family members to it," said Wade. "It's really near and dear to my heart."

The Zumbathon for Sarcoidosis will be held 2-4 p.m. Sunday, June 5, at Skateland West, 37550 Cherry Hill, Westland, where Wade teaches Zumba four days a week. The doors open at 1:30 p.m. It's open to all ages and a \$15 donation is requested.

"We average more than 100 people for a Zumba party. I hope we will get at least 200 people for the Zumbathon," said Wade.

Along with the Zumba fundraiser to benefit the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research, Wade said part of the event is aimed at educating the public about the disease. If the average person has heard of the disease, she notes that it is likely because that is what caused the death of comedian and actor Bernie Mac.

In sarcoidosis, the immune system doesn't function properly and blood cells become overactive, releasing chemicals which cause inflamed tissue to form in the body's organs. Common symptoms are vague, such as fatigue unchanged by sleep, lack of energy, weight loss, aches and pains, arthritis, dry eyes, swelling of the knees, blurry vision, shortness of breath, a dry hacking cough or skin lesions. The cause



Instructor Derica Wade is using a Zumba-thon to raise money and educate people about sarcoidosis, a potentially fatal systemic disease.

isn't known and there isn't a cure.

"There isn't a lot of awareness. It's a horrible disease. They used to think it was genetic but now it affects all ethnic groups ... It used to occur more in ethnic minorities," said Wade, who hopes to have a couple of sarcoidosis sufferers speak at the event.

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Hearing delayed in WYAA embezzlement case

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The preliminary examination for a former athletic association president charged with embezzling from the group has been delayed again.

Galen Huren Jr., 46, had been scheduled to appear before 18th District Court Judge Mark McConnell Thursday for preliminary examination on a charge of embezzling more than \$20,000 from the Westland Youth Athletic Association.

The hearing was adjourned until Thursday, June 16.

Currently residing in Garden City, Huren is free on the \$10,000/10 percent bond. He had waived his right to preliminary examination within 14 days of arraignment.

The charge is that money was stolen from WYAA from January to July 2010. According to police, cash collected for registrations were not deposited into the bank. WYAA put the figure for the

Please see **HEARING, A2**



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INDEX

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AUTOMOTIVE ... C4
CAREER BUILDER ... C1

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FLOODING

FROM PAGE A1

and they provided information to homeowners about how to deal with water in their basements. Last year, the city sent out crews from Belfor to help residents clean up their basements.

"Last year was a citywide emergency in my estimation, this was more localized flooding in the Rouge area," said Wild. "We dodged the bullet."

The recent wet weather caused the cancellation of the Thursday morning ground-breaking scheduled for Westland's Community Garden in partnership with DTE Energy at their training facility of Cherry Hill.

"The ground is so wet. They haven't even been able to plow," said Westland Planning Director Bruce Thompson, who also heads the city's Mission: Green program. No new date has been set for the ground-breaking.

The rain is also delaying work on the remediation and restoration of Central City Park, which is scheduled to be completed by June 17.

"Obviously, it's been bad. They were supposed to pave the approaches to the park from Carlson this week but that was moved back a week," said Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski. "The rain has definitely limited us but



Hines Drive near Warren Road in Westland couldn't be seen under the Middle Rouge River which spilled over its banks after heavy rainfall Wednesday.



A playscape in Hines Park will be out of commission until the Middle Rouge River recedes. Flooding due to heavy rain closed Hines Drive from Northville to Dearborn.

there is not much we can do. The ground is so saturated, it's starting to look like they are going to need an extension. We have a really great contractor and we want to do it right."

The park has been closed due to lead contamination since 2006. The remediation project focuses on the

east part of the park which was cleared and regraded in advance of a geotextile membrane being installed to contain contaminated soil and covered with up to 12 inches of top soil before being seeded in some areas, covered with sod in others.

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Rezoning allows shooting range to relocate to Ford Road site

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Firing Line shooting range will be relocating.

The Westland City Council recently approved a rezoning and special land use required to allow the Firing Line to relocate to 33000 Ford, west of Venoy.

The 14,469-square-foot building had been used for automotive repair. It had been zoned CB-4, vehicle service, with the rezoning making it I-1, light industrial, which allows an indoor gun range.

Moving from its current location in an industrial park off Hix north of Ford, the Firing Line would now be located within the Westland

Downtown Development Authority district. The favorable recommendation from the Planning Commission cited studies prepared for the DDA suggesting that the amount of automotive-related uses along the Ford Road corridor be reduced.

In other action:
• Council approved a revised site plan for Plastipak Packaging, 1351 N. Hix. The action will allow the installation of an addition to the roof of the existing building to accommodate new equipment for the existing operations.

The proposed roof extension would be 35 feet tall and the construction materials will match the existing 184,631-square-foot building.

• A revised site plan has also been approved for a proposed solar pilot project at the DTE Energy Training Facility, 38155 Cherry Hill, west of Newburgh. Plans call for the installation of a 386kW solar array system at the south end of the site and a 5kW solar system at a pole barn previously approved by council.

The site has an existing 22,000-square-foot building and a large outdoor training facility, with outbuildings at the rear of the property.

The development on the property makes it necessary for Westland's DTE Community Garden to relocate on the site for its second year.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Progressive raffle

The Westland Goodfellows have added a new progressive raffle to its fund-raising efforts. In addition to its long-standing regular Bingo event, held every week at the Wayne Ford Civic Center, and poker tournaments, at Marvoso's-Electric Stick, the Goodfellows have launch an "Ace of Spades" Progressive Raffle, a 54-week event, hosted by Buffalo Wild Wings, 6677 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

Drawings are held at 9:30 p.m. every Monday. It is a 60/40 raffle with 60 percent of the jackpot going to the winner. People interested in participating, can visit Buffalo Wild Wings to get tickets each week.

Golf outing

The Westland Fire Fighter's Public Awareness Committee is sponsoring a benefit golf outing for Children's Fire Safety.

The proceeds from the outing will be used to educate children about the dangers of

fire and how to escape them. Throughout the year, the Public Awareness Committee promotes fire safety through school programs, after-school programs and the sponsorship of many other functions, both within the fire department and within the city.

The 2011 Children's Fire Safety Golf Classic will be held on Thursday, June 9, at the Gateway Golf Club, 33290 Gateway Dr., Romulus. The cost is \$125 per person and includes lunch, dinner, refreshments and prizes. The tee time for the 4-person shotgun scramble is 8:30 a.m.

To participate in the golf outing or for fairway sponsorship information, call (734) 467-3201.

Bowling benefit

A Breast Cancer 3-Day bowling benefit will be held Saturday, June 4, Oak Lanes, 8450 N. Middlebelt Westland. Check-in begins at 6:30 p.m., bowling starts at 7 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per person and includes three games of 9 pin no tap bowling, and

shoe rental and mystery, cash bar, snack bar open, raffles and 50/50 drawings all night. Bring a team or come alone.

Pre-pay by May 27 for free 50/50 tickets. Contact Dawn Downer at (734) 502-4277 or at downt@doubledexpress.net.

Proceeds will help Downer raise the \$2,300 she needs to walk in the Michigan Breast Cancer 3-Day Aug. 12, 13 and 14.

Benefit concert

"For the Love of Chris" is a benefit to help musician/singer/song-writer Chris McCall win her fight against Cancer. Enjoy an amazing night of music with an incredible line up of local Detroit bands featuring The Christina Jensen Band, Panic Trigger, Robb Roy and Pistol Day Parade.

The event takes place 4-10 p.m. Sunday, June 12, at Bumper's Bar and Grill, 8631 N. Newburgh, south of Joy, Westland. The event is open to people who are age 18 and older. A \$10 donation at the door will be accepted.

HEARING

FROM PAGE A1

missing funds at \$31,000 during this period of time.

Representatives from WYAA filed a complaint with police in July 2010 after Huren had resigned as president. Huren, who has entered a not guilty plea, denied the allegations when interviewed

by police.

WYAA officials discovered money missing when the group began getting notices of nonpayment, including the utilities at their headquarters on Farmington Road. The group reported little or no deposits into their account for about six months.

WYAA has worked out payment plans and has been working to rebuild their finances after adding to their

financial checks and balances, while continuing to offer youth sports programs.

Now in its 53rd year, WYAA registers about 1,000 youngsters 5-16 years old annually participating in football, baseball, volleyball, basketball, softball and cheerleading. The group is self-supporting through registration fees and fundraisers.

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BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

"Next year the \$200 in stipends and the one-time money for categoricals will be gone."

As it now stands, Wayne-Westland's per-pupil funding will drop to the 2001-02 level of \$7,249. At that time, the

district had 14,300 students, a retirement rate of 12.17 percent and health care costs of \$8 million. For 2011-12, enrollment is projected to be to 12,602, the retirement will be 24.46 percent and health care costs will be \$15 million, "assuming we can get the bargaining units to increase their co-pays," Martin said.

"This will put us at the mini-

mum of funding for districts in Wayne County. It's a travesty because Wayne-Westland was in the top half before Proposal A," he said.

Now that the district knows what to expect, Martin will be going to the school board to get its direction on what to do with the new budget. There won't be much time, since the board will vote on a new budget on June 13.

"We're still hoping we can do something with the cooperation of all the bargaining units," he added.

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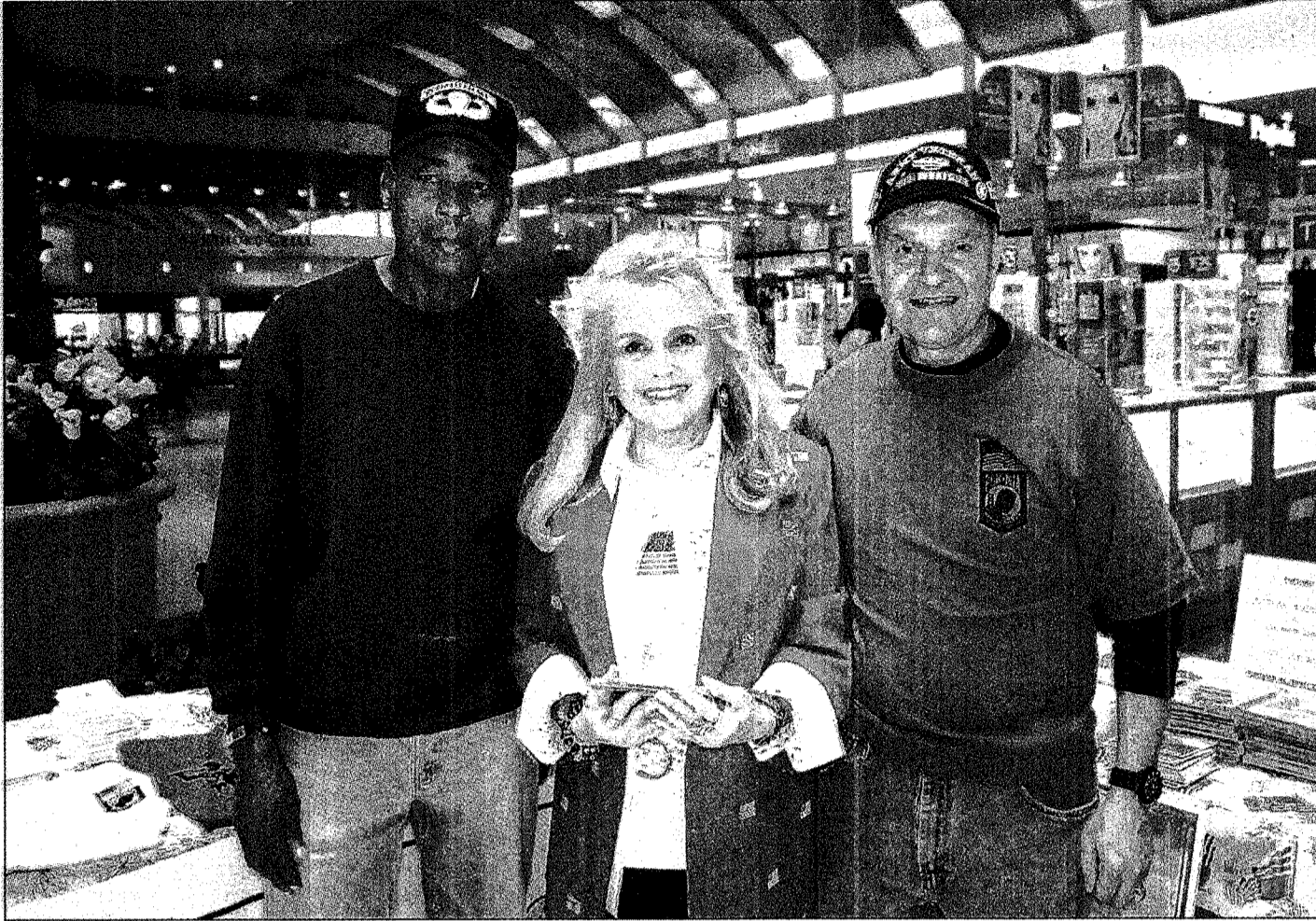
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Byron MacGregor's 'The Americans' stands test of time



Al Parker (from left), Jo-Jo Shutty-MacGregor and Paul Jingoizian of the Westland Veterans Association chatted at Westland Shopping Center where the veterans were holding a Memorial Day weekend fundraiser.

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Detroit radio traffic reporter Jo-Jo Shutty-MacGregor stopped by Westland Shopping Center Thursday to help local veterans with their fund-raising efforts.

One of items being sold by the Westland Veterans Association has a personal connection to Shutty-MacGregor — it's a spoken word CD by her late husband, Byron MacGregor. Included is MacGregor's chart-topping recording of *The Americans* which has already raised \$4 million for the American Red Cross.

"It was (recorded in) 1973, that's what makes it so incredible and amazing. That message of *The Americans* stands

the test of time," said Shutty-MacGregor. "The message transcends time."

Recorded with *America, the Beautiful* performed by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as background music, *The Americans* reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and sold more than 3.5 million copies.

"It's not the precise words — it's the presentation. Byron's presentation is to lift you up," said Shutty-MacGregor.

Proceeds from the sale of *The Americans* CDs, along with two other CDs, the *Remember the Other Side* which is music and the *Military Americans*, narrated by Lee Alan, will benefit the Westland Veterans Memorial project.

More than 35 years after it was recorded, *The Americans*

sends a clear patriotic message, Shutty-MacGregor said, especially coming from her husband, a Canadian who later had dual citizenship.

"People call to this day asking to hear it. We've had earthquakes and tornadoes since then," said Shutty-MacGregor. "It's all things people can relate to — the only (natural disaster) we've had that wasn't mentioned is a tsunami."

Shutty-MacGregor hadn't met her future husband when he recorded *The Americans*, which he originally read at the end of a public affairs program that aired on CKLW (800).

MacGregor was news director at CKLW which had the 20/20 news department in addition to being a top 40 music radio powerhouse. MacGregor came up with the

idea of adding a traffic reporter delivering reports from a helicopter and ended up hiring his future wife.

Currently heard on radio stations WOMC (104.3), WWJ (950) and WJR (760), Shutty-MacGregor and her husband, who died at 45 in 1995, worked at CKLW during its heyday.

"*The Americans* is continuing to help out and what better than to help out our service people," said Shutty-MacGregor. "Talk about our treasures. They fight for our country and our personal freedoms. So many people take that for granted."

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Westland veterans group fundraises for Wall's visit

Members of the Westland Veterans Association will be fundraising throughout the Memorial Day weekend.

The veterans will be selling three CDs with proceeds going towards the construction of a new Westland Veterans Memorial in Central City Park. The first phase is projected to cost \$150,000 and the vets hope to have it dedicated on Veterans Day 2012.

The CD featuring *The Americans* and other recitations by Byron MacGregor with background music and a musical CD, *Remember the Other Side*, are being sold for \$15 each or both for \$25.

A third CD called *The Military Americans*, narrated by former disc jockey Lee Alan, is available for \$7. All three CDs can be purchased for \$30.

The veterans will be in the east court of Westland Shopping Center through

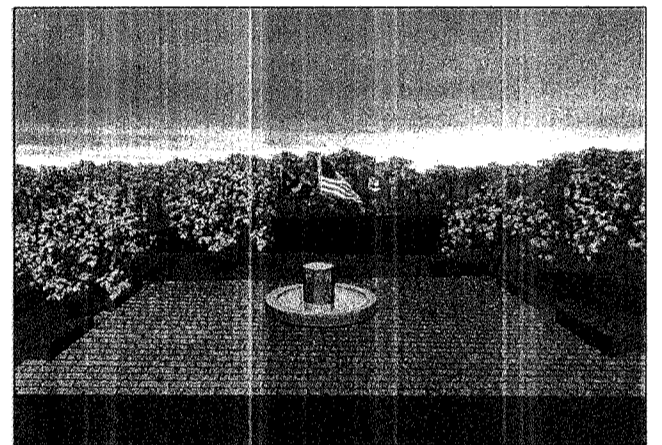
Memorial Day selling the CDs. T-shirts which benefits the Vietnam Moving Wall visit to Westland July 21-25 are also being sold at the mall.

The T-shirts sell for \$15 for sizes small through extra large, \$18 for 2X and \$22 for 3X.

Members of the veterans association also will be selling T-shirts during the Memorial Day Parade, sponsored by Wayne-Westland Veterans Parade Council. The parade will be at 1 p.m. today, May 29. It begins at the Wayne-Ford Civic League, 1645 N. Wayne Road, then west on Ford to the Peace Memorial at Westland City Hall.

The shirts will be available during the parade at the Wayne-Ford Civic League and Westland City Hall.

For more information, call (734) 335-7944.



This is a rendering of the Westland Veterans Memorial that is to be constructed in Central City Park.

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Students put Beyblades to test in Marshall's first ever tournament



Teacher Chris King explains how the brackets work at the start of the tournament.

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

"Who would have thought tops would be so exciting?" Kim Schwenger said, watching youngsters mill around battle stadiums where Beyblades whirled and twirled as they bounced off each other. "It's a new generation."

Schwenger was among parents who converged on Marshall Upper Elementary School last week for its first ever Beyblade Tournament.

Organized by teacher Chris King, students launched their tops with hopes that theirs would nab them the championship.

"I thought it would be 30 kids and it turned out to be 128," King said. "We had an overwhelming response. I would have loved to participate, but when it got up past 40 kids, I knew I couldn't."



His expression says it all as Noah Said wins a round in Marshall's Beyblade Tournament.

Using a bracket system and broken up into eight groups of 16, the players sent their Beyblades two at a time into the stadiums, hoping theirs would stay upright the longest. They played against each other, with first-round losers getting a second chance to advance on the way to the sweet 16 finalists.

In some groups, the students managed the competition, keeping track of the brackets, while in others parents like Schwenger helped keep groups focused on the competition. Her son Dylan, a sixth-grader, has been playing with Beyblades for two years. His arsenal include

nine blades, seven of which were free.

"My mom does online surveys and got a ton of them before they came out," he said.

Hoping to spin his way to the finals, he lost in the fourth round, only to beat the winner in the other bracket.

"I hope this will be annual thing," co-Principal Bobby Kelly Jr. said. "When you do something like this, it's hard not to do it again when the other kids know about."

Youngsters play the game during recess and before school. They had been playing during lunch a little "crazy," Kelly said.

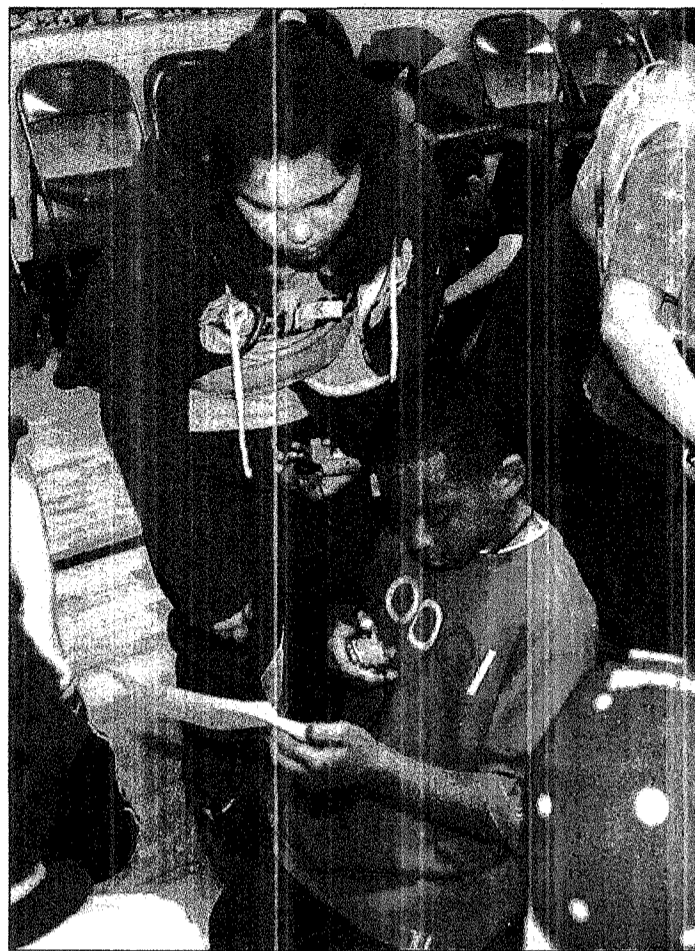
"It's the nature of the game.

Everyone wants to crowd around to see what's going on," he said.

King had set aside two hours for the event, but with the crowd of students, he had to call play at the semifinal round, holding off the final games for a special championship round which he hosted during lunch the next day.

"I'm a let-it-ride kind of guy. I figured we'd get through this one way or another and that it would be more fun than frustration," he said.

Dustin Hinkle was in the finals. A sixth-grader, he's been playing Beyblades for only a few months.



Students Courtney Prough and Andre Edwards look over the directions for the competition.

"It's pretty cool. You can beat people by having matches," he said, pointing out that each Beyblade is different. They come in different colors, have names and can even have the spinning shafts changed. For his heats, he was relying on a red Dark Gasher. "The school's great for activities like this," Schwenger said. "These activities are great for the kids."

The 16 finalists also played in a double elimination round,

with sixth-grader Delon Anderson winning bragging rights as the best Beyblader at Marshall. Placing second was fifth-grader Kalpit Sutariya. Aaron Foster was third.

Terrie Griffith-Wrone's son Nathaniel was among the 16 players making it to the final competition.

"They take it so seriously and it's just tops," she said. "Who would have thought a top would be so much fun?"

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Glenn grad named Canton Firefighter of Year

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mere hours after he learned his skin cancer has spread, 32-year-old Ryan Swick reached the pinnacle of his career Thursday evening as he was named Canton Firefighter of the Year.

It was a bittersweet day for Swick, a former Westland resident, John Glenn High School graduate, highly respected firefighter and father of two little girls — Shelby, 2, and Shylei, 9 months. He has earned accolades for saving other people's lives even as he battles for his own.

Honored by the Canton Public Safety Department's top brass, Swick humbly accepted his award on the stage of the Village Theater at Cherry Hill as the audience stood to applaud him. His wife, Laurie, snapped pictures of him during the Canton Fire Department's 12th-annual awards ceremony.

"I'm very humbled," Swick said during an interview before the ceremony. "I never thought anything I did would lead to an honor like this."

Swick was singled out among 59 firefighters for the department's highest honor on the same night his wife earned a Civilian Commendation Award for grabbing a garden hose and dousing a wooden fence that had caught fire across the street last summer in their Canton neighborhood. She was nearly eight months pregnant at the time.

"She stepped in and risked her safety as well as the safety of her unborn child to not only put the fire out, but to keep the fire from spreading," Fire Chief Tim Dunn said.

Ryan Swick was lauded by Dunn as a hard-working firefighter paramedic who has emerged as a leader and



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Glenn alumni Ryan Swick, who is battling cancer, is Canton's Firefighter of the Year.

role model as he continues to work, following multiple surgeries and treatment for melanoma.

"He has worked every day his doctors would allow him to work with a smile on his face and determination to make every day count," Dunn said. "With a hard work ethic, determination and dependability, Firefighter Swick is a positive role model for all firefighters to follow. He is a perfect example of how to handle difficult situations with dignity and strength."

Swick has worked seven years in Canton after earlier giving five years of service to Huron Valley Ambulance. He wanted to become a firefighter since he was a teenager, and he didn't let his asthma deter him.

"I like to be able to help people and be someone peo-

ple look up to," Swick said. "I like to break stuff, too," he said, smiling, adding that he likes breaking down doors to rescue people from fires or breaking out car windows to help people involved in accidents.

Battalion Chief Mike Caruso and Firefighter Wendy Murphy nominated Swick as Firefighter of the Year, and an awards committee made the final selection.

"He has kept coming to work through all of his cancer treatments," Caruso said. "It's just a real tough ordeal for him to get through, and he never gave up working. He was going through a lot of surgeries, and he was back to work not long after."

Murphy gave Swick similar praise.

"He's one of the nicest guys you could ever know — the kind of guy you can't dupli-



Ryan Swick accepts the Firefighter of the Year award from Public Safety Director Patrick Nemecek.

cate," she said. Swick said being a firefighter paramedic always

interested him, and he likes seeing the profession glorified in movies such as

Backdraft and *Ladder 49*.

"Firefighter Ryan Swick has been an asset to the fire department from his first day on the job," Dunn said, calling Swick "a seasoned paramedic" who is "the kind of man who can count on in any situation. He works hard and is very dependable. He is a teacher, a leader and his co-workers call him a good and loyal friend."

Swick, dressed in his uniform, seemed proud as he walked across the Village Theater stage to accept his award. He smiled toward the crowd, which stood and applauded at length until he had returned to take his seat among other firefighters on the stage.

"I'm just so proud of him," Laurie Swick said. "I'm immensely proud of him."

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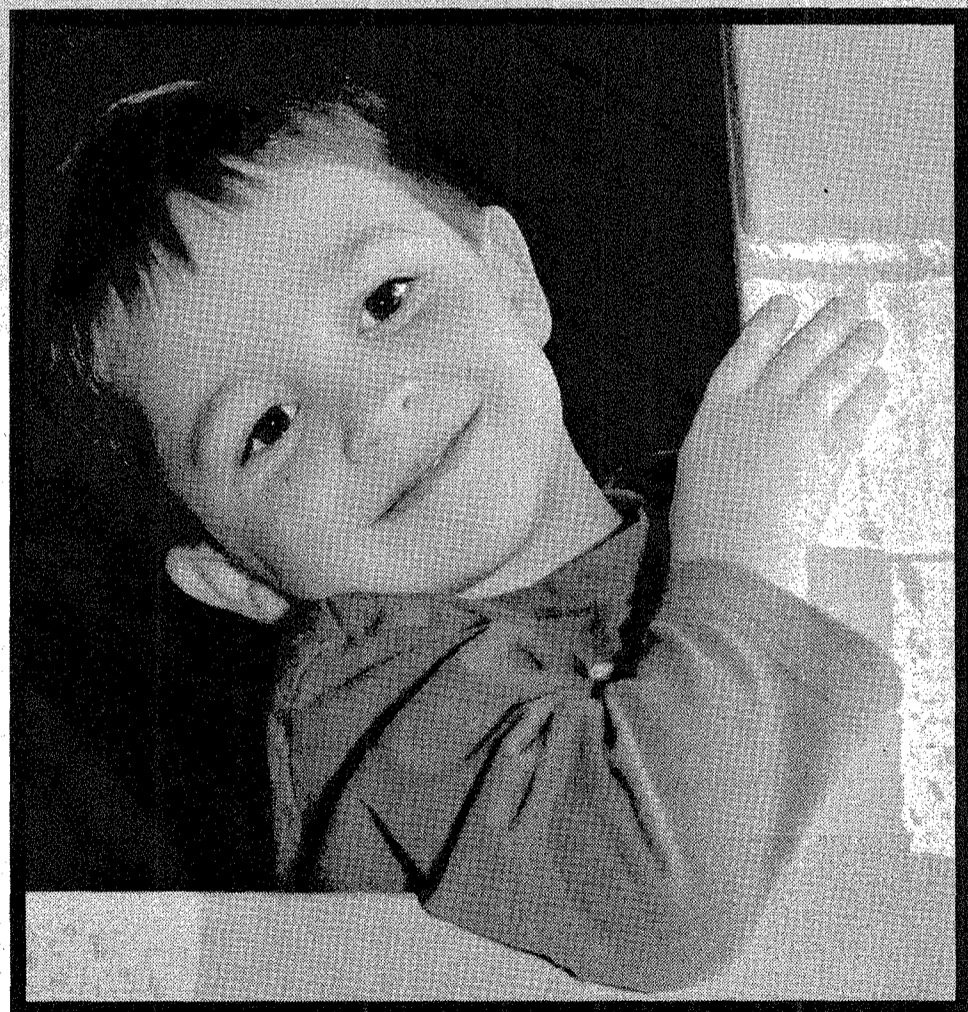
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A new brother and son

Vietnam veteran dedicates book, meets family of fallen Livonia soldier

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Over the years, Livonia native Debra Braden often wondered about her brother, Arnold Sarna.

She never really knew him as a child. She was only 4 when Arnold, the oldest of eight Sarna children, left for Vietnam. When she was 7, her family received the horrible news that Arnold had been killed by a rocket in a strike by the Viet Cong in March 1968.

Debra grew up with her siblings in a home on Wayne Road in Livonia, and attended Ladywood High School before the family moved to San Jose, Calif., in 1976. She eventually married and moved to Hillsborough, N.C., always wondering about Arnold. As many transplants do, she was homesick and missed her family, a feeling that made her long even more for personal details about her brother.

She left a note on the Virtual Wall, a website devoted to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. At the site, relatives and friends can place letters, poems and photographs.

"I wanted to know if anyone was stationed with him, who knew him and what he did for fun," Braden said.

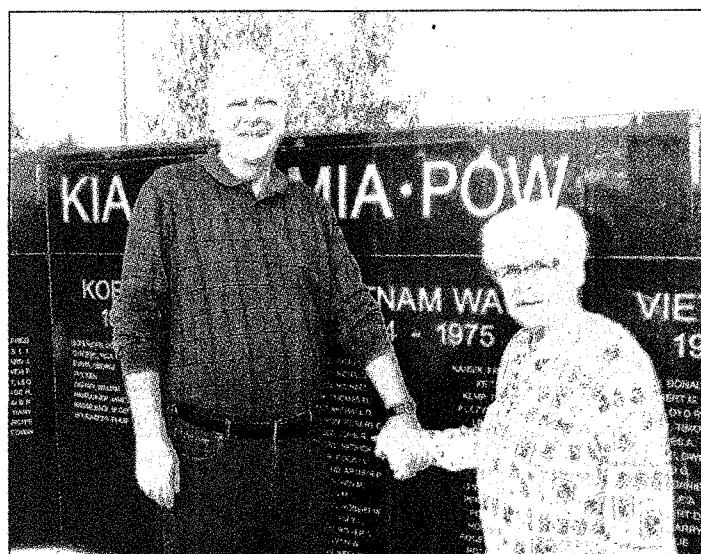
The note drew occasional responses from Vietnam veterans, none of whom really knew Arnold.

The note sat in cyberspace.

FINALLY, A RESPONSE

Then one day, Braden received an e-mail from someone who said she knew of someone who had written a book about Vietnam and dedicated it to her brother. Braden remembers her reaction.

"Oh, yeah, right," Braden



Pat Moffett stands with Cecilia Sarna at Veteran's Park Memorial Plaza in Livonia. Moffett visited the plaza to view the name of Arnold Sarna, Cecilia's son.

said.

The woman followed up with a second e-mail and sent information about the book so Braden searched for it on Amazon.com. "I looked it up and saw my brother's name, and I just gasped," Braden said. "Here was my brother's name just staring me in the face."

The dedication in *Fortunate Soldier* read: "This book is dedicated to Arnold P. Sarna. I didn't forget."

It turned out Braden was corresponding with a friend of Pat Moffett, an author and Vietnam veteran.

Oddly enough, Moffett never met Arnold Sarna. Moffett dedicated *Fortunate Soldier*, a book about Moffett's Vietnam experiences, because Moffett had an opportunity to live his life when he returned home from Vietnam, enjoying a successful business career, family and a grandchild. Moffett was with the 101st Airborne Division in 1968. Moffett was sent out

on reconnaissance, but was called back because the division needed someone to type up "morning reports," which highlighted soldier counts, accounting for R&R breaks to ensure minimum counts of soldiers. Moffett could type 80 words per minute.

One of his first assignments was to type up information on Arnold Paul Sarna. Moffett asked what happened to Sarna. "He was killed when a rocket hit his tent," Moffett said he was told.

"When he was killed, I got his job," Moffett said.

Weeks later Moffett learned that his former company where he had served in the field had been overrun and everyone was killed. Moffett believes that Sarna's death spared his life.

Moffett went back to the United States, married, raised a family and today he is vice president of logistics for Audiovox Electronics Corp. He lives in Great Neck, N.Y. Years and decades passed.



Arnold Sarna

Moffett wrote the book and dedicated it to Arnold Sarna in 2003. Then Moffett heard about and read Braden's note on The Virtual Wall.

Braden received the e-mail and later Braden and Moffett spoke. "It was an amazing, overwhelming experience," Moffett said.

REMEMBERING ARNOLD

Moffett met the Sarna family on the weekend of Veterans Day 2010. Moffett flew into Detroit, then traveled with Sarna family members and met Arnold's mother, Cecilia Sarna, at St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Heights to visit Arnold's grave.

Moffett said the grave visit represented closure "because I knew he was home with other family members at the cemetery, and I didn't know that," Moffett said.

Cecilia said the first time she saw Moffett at the cemetery, "it was like Arnold was reaching down to me."

"This man is very sensitive and feels a closeness he had with Arnold even though he never met him," Cecilia

said. "He said he always said a prayer for Arnold, and that he would never forget and he never did."

Moffett and Sarna family members visited the Veteran's Park Memorial Plaza at Five Mile and Farmington Road, where Arnold's name is etched on the wall. That weekend Moffett visited and learned all about the Sarna family, enjoying a Polish meal of kielbasa, sauerkraut and beer with the family in Northville. "I didn't know Sarna was Polish," Moffett said.

Moffett gave Cecilia a leather-bound copy of his book, writing in it: "Your son gave his life for his country on March 13, 1968, and through a twist of fate, my life was spared. I will be eternally grateful to Arnie and the entire Sarna family for his supreme sacrifice that day. He will always be my hero."

Moffett called Cecilia on Mother's Day and Easter, Cecilia said. "He calls me 'Mom'; he's adopted me," Cecilia said.

Other Sarna members who grew up in Livonia included Tom Sarna, now in Portland, Maine; Deb Braden, Hillsborough, N.C.; Judy Sarna, Salem Township; Tina Michelski, Farmington Hills; Maryann Concertino, San Jose, Calif.; and Bill Sarna, Port Angeles, Wash. Another brother, James, is deceased.

Arnold graduated from Franklin High School, while Judy graduated from Churchill. Their father, Adolph Sarna, died 30 years ago. Their mother, Cecilia, is 85 and lives with Judy in Northville.

'A VISIT FROM HER SON'

Sarna family members were moved by the entire experience of meeting Moffett. "She

actually felt like she got a visit from her son," Judy said of her mother. "After all these years, he feels like he owes his life to Arnold. We've kind of adopted him."

"It's just awesome, after all these years."

Moffett points to the life he's had as the reason for his deep appreciation, respect and honor for Arnold and the Sarna family. He's experienced tragedy, too, as he lost his wife last year at the age of 53 to Alzheimer's disease. He wrote a book about that, too, called *Ice Cream in the Cupboard*.

Moffett enjoys a successful career in the business world and reflects on his life today and the blessings of his 64 years of life.

"None of this would have happened," Moffett said. "My first grandchild was born last year and all those moments would not have happened, everything I've done over the past 40 years."

Braden said she believes that the experience leaves her thinking that the world "is not as big as we think."


Braden believed that her brother would be fascinated and amazed by the family's connection to a soldier he never knew.

"He would be happy to know that my mom was able to touch him many years later," Braden said. Though the family lost Arnold years ago, "we are close to him," Braden said.


"So many people can touch one point in history. And at some point, you touch again, and he (Moffett) has a whole new group of friends now," Braden said.

"Something good has come out of something horrible."


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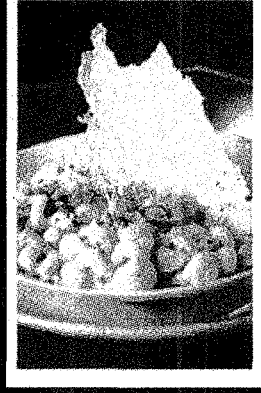
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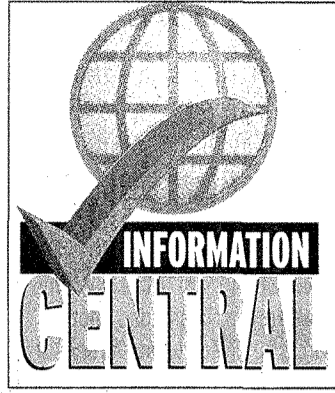
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Spy games: Read up about espionage

Tense action sequences, car chases, gun fights, and cool gadgets - in one word: espionage. Espionage, or spying, involves a spy or secret agent working to obtain secret, confidential information without permission. Spies are typically hired to collect information related to the government, military or a corporation.

No one can talk about espionage without thinking of James Bond - famous for his love of women, fast cars, preference for "shaken, not stirred" martinis, and use of exciting spy gadgetry. Ian Fleming, author and creator of the infamous James Bond, was born this month (May 28) in 1908. Events in the James Bond novels were directly influenced by Fleming's own experience working in the British Naval Intelligence Division. You can learn more about Ian Fleming in "Ian Fleming: The Man Behind James Bond" by Andrew Lycett.

James Bond first appeared in "Casino Royale," published in 1953. "Casino Royale" was the first of 12 books and nine short stories that Fleming wrote about the fictional British Secret Intelligence Service Agent 007. After Fleming died, several authors including John Gardner, Raymond Benson, Sebastian Faulks and Jeffery Deaver continued to write Bond novels. Numerous movies (22 released



to date) were made based on various James Bond novels beginning in 1963 and continuing to the present day.

Check out these titles related to Espionage and James Bond at the Westland Public Library:

- James Bond Books and DVDs - "For Your Eyes Only," "Casino Royale," "Dr. No," "You Only Live Twice," and "The Spy Who Loved Me."

The Westland Public Library also has books on espionage and spying like "The Complete Idiot's Guide to the CIA" by Allan A. Swenson and Michael Benson and exciting titles for kids such as "101 Spy Gadgets for the Evil Genius" by Brad Graham and Kathy McGowan and "The Master Spy Handbook: Help Our Intrepid Hero Use Gadgets, Codes & Top-Secret Tactics to Save the World

from Evildoers" by Rain Newcomb with illustrations by Jason Chin.

Please give us a call (734) 326-6123, check the online catalog at www.westlandlibrary.org or stop by the library to learn more.

Highlighted Activities

Adult Literacy Tutor Training - Session 2: 9:30 a.m. June 4, 9:30

This is the second of three training sessions for tutors of the Westland Library Adult Literacy Program.

Afternoon Movie Classics: "Platoon," 3:30-5:30 p.m. May 24, age 18 and up, unless accompanied by an adult

Join us for the summer version of Afternoon Classics! This month we explore great American war movies. This week: the Oliver Stone Vietnam War classic, "Platoon." "A young recruit in Vietnam faces a moral crisis when confronted with the horrors of war and the duality of man." Starring Charlie Sheen, Willem Dafoe, and Tom Berenger. This movie is rated R.

Summer Afternoon Movie Classic: "Star Wars: A New Hope," 7:30 p.m. June 7

Join us for the summer version of Afternoon Classics. This month's theme is Summer Favorites, this week: "Star Wars: A New Hope" starring Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford. This movie is rated PG.

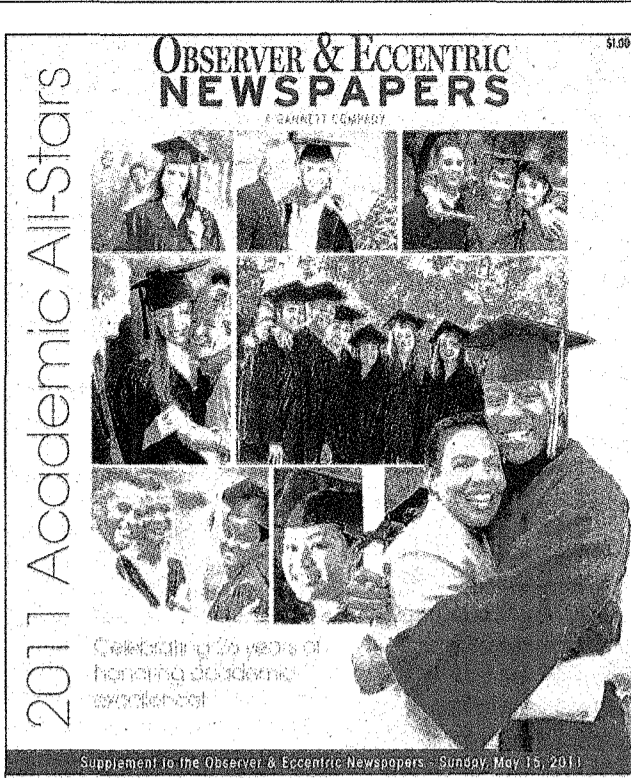
Right Foreclosure - One-on-One Counseling: 4-7 p.m. June 7, adults

New Day - New Time! Homeowners can schedule a private, 30-minute, one-on-one meeting with a foreclosure counselor from the Wayne County Fight Mortgage Foreclosure Program. Call (734) 326-6123 or stop by the library to schedule your appointment. Space is limited. The Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program is a no fee, Wayne County program providing you an expansive network of certified counselors who will help you avoid or manage a mortgage foreclosure.

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

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job-related activity? Stop by the library, where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help. Drop in. No reservation needed.

Information Central was compiled by Tara Scott, a Wayne State University graduate student and library intern. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.



All-Star Section

The special section profiling the 2011 Observer & Eccentric Academic All-Stars was distributed to paid subscribers only on Sunday, May 15. Additional copies of the section are available for purchase at \$1 each by calling (866) 887-2737 or in the Plymouth Distribution Center, 41304 Concept Drive, (off Haggerty Road between Plymouth and Schoolcraft roads), Plymouth, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. The section profiles nearly 80 outstanding students in public, private and parochial schools in the western Wayne County and Oakland County coverage areas of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Many things to consider about withdrawing

Q: Dear Rick: I retired about five years ago and between my pension and Social Security, it has covered my living expenses. I'm in the situation now where I'll need some extra money and I'm not sure exactly where I should take it. I have money in a traditional 401(k), a Roth IRA and money outside my retirement account. I am 67 years of age, so I don't have to take anything out of my retirement accounts. I recognize that everyone's situation is a little different, however, I would like your thoughts as to what I should consider when it comes to my income needs.

A: Generally, when it comes to investing, age is not something that I consider very important. However, when it comes to income needs for someone over 70, then age does enter into



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

that you should first draw down on your non-retirement accounts and then use your retirement accounts. I don't subscribe to that theory because it's based on the fact that traditional IRAs grow on a tax-deferred basis. The theory being the longer you

the equation because when one reaches 70½, they have mandatory distributions.

Many people believe that you should wait until 70½ to take money out of your retirement account. The general theory is

can let money grow tax-deferred, the better it is, however, that's not always the case. Remember, non-retirement money receives the favorable capital gains treatment, therefore, sometimes it makes sense to withdraw money from a retirement account prior to 70½ and let the non-retirement accounts grow at a more favorable tax rate.

I believe you should never let the tax tail wag the dog, meaning taxpayers should not make a choice just for the tax benefits. However, that doesn't diminish the need to take taxes into consideration. My general view is when someone over 59½ needs income, he/she should first withdraw money from the traditional IRA. However, they must

be sure that withdrawing the money won't throw them into a higher tax bracket. For example, if I'm in the 15-percent bracket and I need \$10,000 of income, I would take an amount from the retirement account that would still keep me in the 15-percent bracket. In other words, if I can only withdraw \$7,000 and stay within the 15-percent bracket, I'll take \$7,000 from the retirement account and the remaining \$3,000 from the non-retirement account. My theory is that by withdrawing from the retirement account prior to 70½, I am lowering my overall taxes and giving myself the most flexibility by eventually lowering my required minimum distribution.

As for the Roth IRA, because

that money is not growing tax-deferred but tax-free, my general thought is to leave that to grow for as long as you can. Remember, a Roth IRA does not require minimum distributions. The money can grow tax-free for as long as you choose, and if for some reason you never need the money, upon your death, your loved ones inherit the money income tax-free.

One additional issue needs mentioning. Just because you are an income investor does not mean your entire portfolio should be invested for income. You're only 67 years old which means you will, more than likely, be around for many more decades, so it is important to have a growth element in your portfolio.

My recommendation is to keep your growth side (mostly equities) of the portfolio invested in your non-retirement account. Keeping those outside of your retirement account will preserve the favorable capital gains treatment available to you. For most people, the capital gains bracket is less than half your ordinary income bracket. By having an effective strategy, you can reduce your taxes and at the same time remain economically smart.

Good luck!

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

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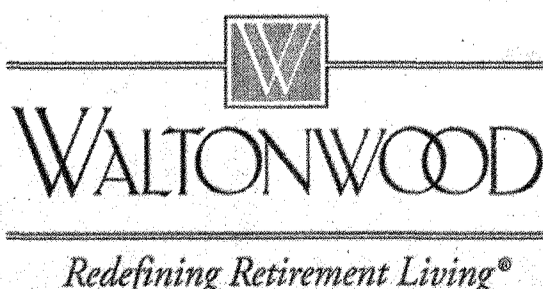
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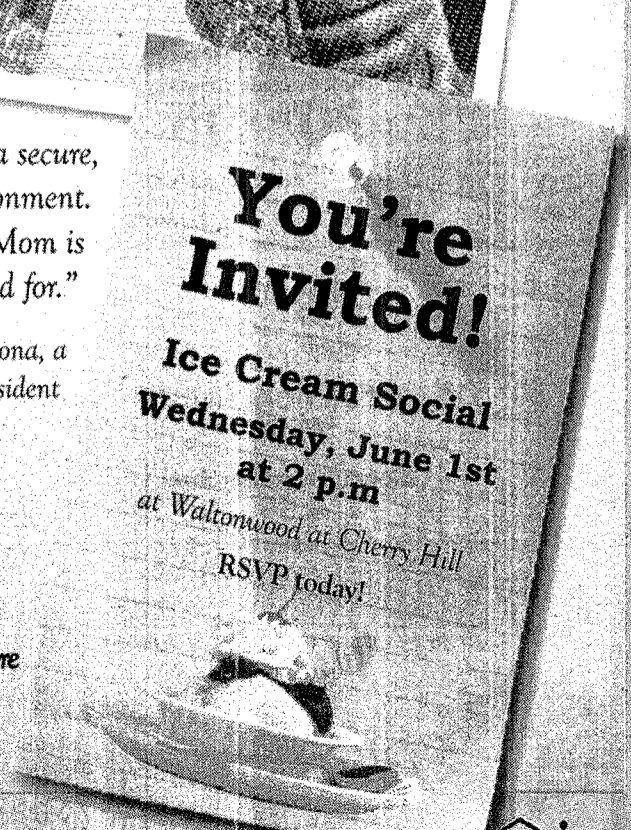
Val, daughter of Iona, a Waltonwood resident



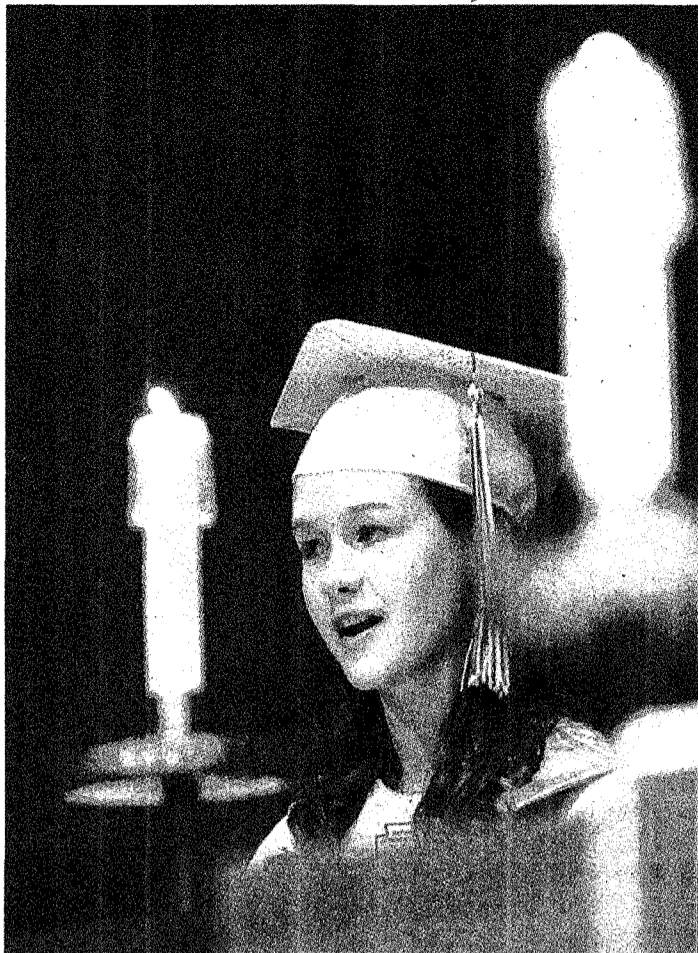
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Ladywood graduates 83 in Class of 2011

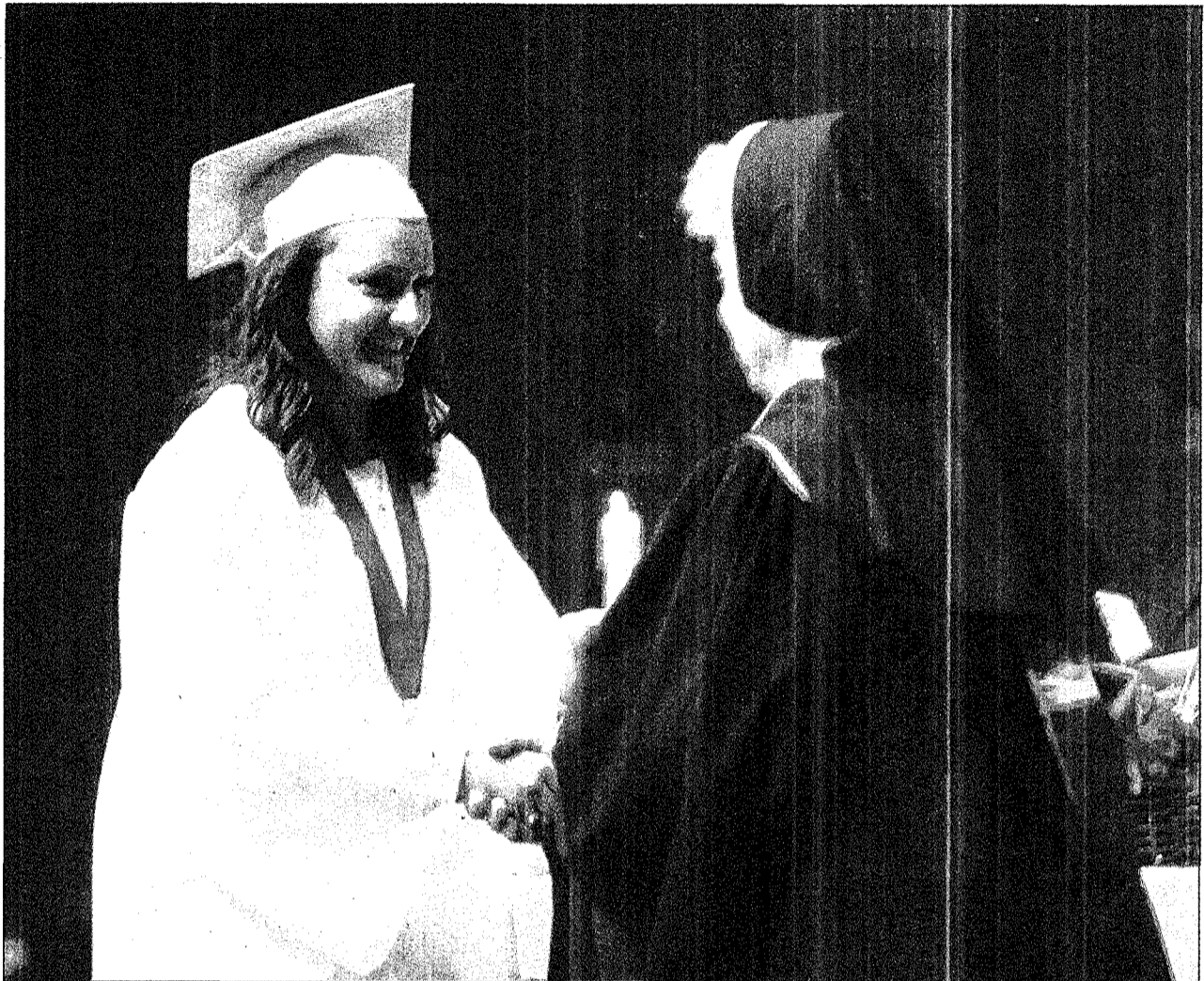


Valedictorian Mercedes Sarah Black speaks to graduates, parents and guests.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Soon-to-be graduates listen to the class salutatorians.



Devon Renee Corby receives her diploma from Principal Sr. Mary Ann Smith.

Livonia's Ladywood High School graduated its Class of 2011 Sunday at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Canton.

All 83 graduates intend to pursue higher education. They have been accepted at 30 institutions, counselor Susan LeVasseur said.

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Forty-six earned the Gold Honor Cord for being on the Honor Roll all four years, and 10 earned the Blue

Honor Cord for being on the honor roll for three years.

Valedictorian was Mercedes Black of Redford. Co-salutatorians were Katherine Suchyta of Dearborn and Megan Vitale of Livonia.

Winners of the Moms and Dads club scholarships were Rachael Heath of Livonia and Erica Mirabitor of Westland, respectively. The Moms and Dads scholarships are based on essay written by the students on the topic of what an education at Ladywood has meant to them.



Megan Ann Vitale and Katherine Louise Suchyta give the salutatory address. Behind them is Principal Sr. Mary Ann Smith.

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Crowd turns out to celebrate schools 75th anniversary



Jackie Jones of Westland, mom of sixth-grade student Taylor, serves up the hot dogs to guests.

There were plenty of hot dogs and plenty of cupcakes. That's good news when you have 100 people show up at the door.

That was the case at St. Raphael School's 75th Gala Celebration May 21. An estimated 500 people showed up for the event which included Mass and then a party in the school with the different classrooms decorated for different eras.

"It was a great turnout," said Kathy Carroll, who helped organize the event. "We sold tickets up until Saturday and ran out.

Rather than print more, we stamped hands. We had about 100 who came with no tickets."

Coming back for the celebration were five nuns from the Sisters of St. Francis in Sylvania, Ohio, including Sister Winifred Templin who was a principal when Carroll attended the school, and Sister Marie Aneree who taught there between 1946 and 1955.

Even though Carroll wished that more members of her Class of 1969 had attended — there were six there — she was excited that one of her best girlfriends came in from Denver, Colo., for the party.

The school has always had

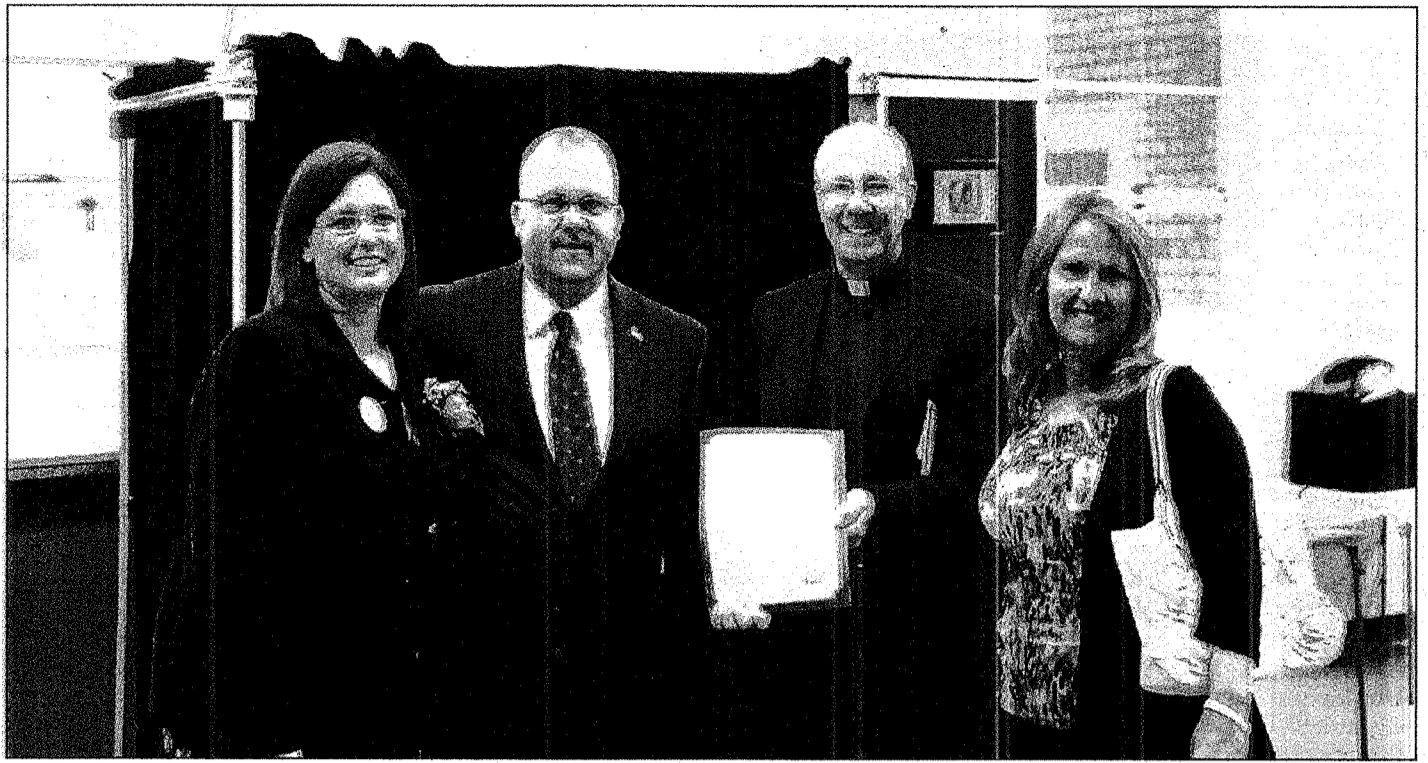


St. Raphael teacher Karen Beaubien is all smiles as it's announced that after teaching at school for 37 years, she is retiring this year.

an auction fundraiser which was rolled into the gala celebration this year. This is the first time the school held an anniversary celebration and there's talk now to "hold something like this every five years," Carroll said

"It was a success, we heard nothing but good reviews," she said. "We're very pleased. I had a smile that went from side to side all evening."

-By Sue Mason



PHOTOS BY THOMAS BEAUDOIN

School Principal DeAnn Brzezinski, Garden City Mayor Randy Walker, Father Raymond Lewandowski and former St. Raphael teacher and Garden City Council Member Jaylee Lynch show off a city proclamation presented to the school on its 75th anniversary.



Alison and Isabel Christopher of Coldwater enjoying the crafts at the celebration. Their father attended St. Raphael School in 1981.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
WAYNE-WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
PROPOSED 2011-2012 BUDGET
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011

Please take notice that, on June 13, 2011 at 7 o'clock p.m. at 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan, the Board of Education of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, Wayne County, Michigan, will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2011-2012 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2011-2012 budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2011-2012 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order of the Board of Education.
CINDY SCHOFIELD, Secretary
Publish: May 29, 2011

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GARDEN CLIPPINGS

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.

CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

The following appeals will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

Petition #2736-M. Cole, 360 N. Hix
Req. for a side yd. fence location variance and a 1'6" side yd. fence hgt. variance from Art. X of the Westland City Code of Ordinances in order to install a 6' high privacy fence in the north & south side yds. of the home; whereas Sec. 22-304(a) states that only rear yds. fences that are allowed cannot exceed 4'6" in hgt.

Petition #2737-V. Tasi, 32040 Merritt
Req. for a 5.5' front yd. setback from Ord. 248 in order to construct a 6' x 18' covered porch addition to the front of the home that would be located 19.5' from the front lot line; whereas Sec. 7:4.2 requires a minimum front yd. setback of 25'.

Publish: May 29, 2011

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Irish eyes are ready to smile at festival

BY JILL HALPIN
CORRESPONDENT

Irish eyes will certainly be smiling when the second annual Motor City Irish Festival rolls into Redford Township June 3-5 drawing an estimated 5,000-7,000 people eager to celebrate in the Celtic tradition.

With more than 20 local Irish bands lined up to perform, the family-friendly festival will showcase some of the best that the area has to offer in Irish music, dancing and culture on the grounds of St. Valentine's Catholic Church.

Local acts will perform in two tents, the Claddagh All Ireland Tent and the Dunleavy's Ceilidh Tent. Organized by Wayne County's Stephen Walsh Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, proceeds from the festival will benefit St. Valentine's as well as the Redford Interfaith



Irish bands will be jamming during the entire festival.

Relief and other local charitable organizations

The event offers area residents an excellent opportunity to celebrate the Irish heritage, festival co-chair Charlie French of Livonia said.

"This is a feel-good festival. Detroit has such a rich history with the Irish culture; this is a great chance to recognize that," French said.

Festival planners focused on creating a fun, family event and activities appealing to all ages are planned

throughout the weekend, said Kevin Murphy, a co-chair of the festival. Murphy is a Livonia resident and owner of Redford's Murphy's Restaurant.

A children's area featuring games, face painting and an inflatable bounce house will offer fun for young festival-goers and a vendor's area featuring Irish food and merchandise will give folks an opportunity to purchase everything from Celtic crosses and T-shirts to Irish soda bread and shortbread. In addition to beer and whiskey tasting, food will be available from St. Valentine's and Claddagh Irish Pub in Livonia, a festival sponsor. Dunleavy's Irish Pub of Allen Park is also a large event sponsor.

IRISH MENU

Menu items include Irish fare such as "bangers and mash," also known as sausage and mashed potatoes,

shepherd's pie and fish-n-chips, we'll as more traditional festival eats like pizza, hot dogs and hamburgers.

Special events planned for the festival include a "Parade of Champions" featuring the winners of a local "feis" or Irish dance contest at 6:45 p.m. Saturday, June 4, and an outdoor Mass at noon June 5.

"It's entertainment for the whole family," Murphy said, adding that several notables in the Irish community are expected to attend Mass, including honorary festival chairperson Tom O'Halloran, owner of the Tipperary Pub.

"We are also expecting the Maid of Erin and Court of St. Brigid and many local priests," Murphy said. The Mass coincides with a food drive for Redford Interfaith Relief. Those bringing four canned goods between noon and 2 p.m. Sunday, June 5, will receive a free pass to the

festival. Tickets to the festival cost \$7 and \$2 discount vouchers are available at <http://www.motorcityirishfest.com>.

According to Murphy, there are currently 22 local Celtic bands scheduled to perform on two different stages and include well-known performers such as The Kreellers, Blackthorn and The Diggers. He said he is pleased that the festival offers a chance to highlight local Celtic musicians.

"We have phenomenal talent here in Detroit. We could have hired at least 10 more bands," Murphy said.

For French, longtime co-owner of Livonia-based business The Irish Baker with Jack Derrig, the Motor City Irish Festival is long overdue.

He and festival organizers have wanted to organize a large event that gives metro Detroiters a chance to celebrate their culture and the

traditions of Ireland.

After attending Irish festivals around the area with partner Derrig, it quickly became evident that "Detroit is the only major city without an Irish festival. There are festivals in Chicago, Muskegon ... even Toledo," he said.

"There is such nice Irish community in the area. We need to celebrate that," French said. He and friends within the AOH organization decided the time was right for such an event. The first festival was held last year at the AOH in Detroit. A larger venue was necessary for this year's celebration, and they settled on the Redford location after recognizing the township's community spirit.

"The township has just embraced us," he said. Murphy agrees, "This is a great place for the festival. The Redford community is wonderful and always very supportive."

A look at the bands performing at the Motor City Irish Festival

The Motor City Irish Festival opens with performances in two tents in the grounds of St. Valentine's, 25881 Dow Road in Redford Township. The lineup is as follows:

Friday, June 3
Claddagh All Ireland Tent
6 p.m. - Terry Murphy Band
7:20 p.m. - The Codgers
8:40 p.m. - Bill Grogans Goat
10 p.m. - The Kreellers

Dunleavy's Ceilidh Tent
6:15 p.m. - Gerard Smith
7:45 p.m. - Tom Kish Band
9 p.m. - Traditional Irish Music Session

Saturday, June 4
Claddagh All Ireland Tent
12:30 p.m. - Shamrock Shore
2:15 p.m. - Odd Enough
3:45 p.m. - Inis Ceol
5:15 p.m. - Jamrocks
6:45 - Detroit International Feis/Parade of Champions
7:20 p.m. - Terry Murphy Band
8:40 p.m. - The Kreellers
10 p.m. - The Codgers

Dunleavy's Ceilidh Tent
1:30 p.m. - Frank Kennedy
2:45 p.m. - Tommy O'Halloran, Frank Kennedy and Terry Murphy
3:30 p.m. - Terry Murphy
5 p.m. - Celtic Crossroad
6:15 p.m. - Irish Step Dancing with Ann McCallum
7:45 p.m. - Brian Bonnor
8:30 p.m. - Ceili Dancing with the Ardan Academy of Irish Dance
9:30 p.m. - Traditional Irish Music Session

Sunday, June 5
Claddagh All Ireland Tent
1 p.m. - Inis Ceol
2:15 p.m. - Jamrocks
3:30 p.m. - The Diggers
5 p.m. - Blackthorn
6:15 p.m. - Irish Dancers
6:45 p.m. - The Kreellers

Dunleavy's Ceilidh Tent
1:30 p.m. - Carey's Company
3 p.m. - FOUJ Chowder Society
3:45 p.m. - Emerald Isle Dancers
5:30 p.m. - O'Hare School of Irish Dance
6 p.m. - Brian Bonnor & Ardan Academy of Irish Dance

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Swedish success story: IKEA going strong as 5-year mark nears

BY HELEN NIEMIEC
CORRESPONDENT

The big blue and yellow building so eagerly awaited during its construction is gearing up for a major birthday celebration marking five years of operations in June. IKEA, the Swedish-based furnishings store, is very pleased with its decision to call Canton its home.

The Canton store, located on Ford and Haggerty roads, is one of 38 American stores in the chain. There are 280 stores in 26 countries. As the sole Michigan location, the Canton store is a destination shopping event, not only for locals but people throughout Michigan, Ontario and parts of Ohio. Before the store in Cincinnati, Ohio opened last year, the Canton store also drew shoppers from Kentucky and Tennessee.

James Organ, deputy store manager, said the Canton store has met and exceeded all corporate expectations, even in the bleak economic times.

He says there is much to celebrate.

"IKEA has delivered very positive results. More than 300 people are gainfully employed, with no layoffs when the economy went sour. We offer well-designed furniture at great prices. The Canton IKEA has a steadily growing market share," Organ said.

Canton was one of the cities looked at and its cultural diversity, accessibility to major freeways and the good relationship with local government is what played a role in the final decision.

"It made sense to open a store in this area. Detroit is in the top 10 in the country for furniture spending. People in this market spend a lot of money on their homes," Organ said.

IKEA is a 311,000-square-foot building, with two levels and 1,300 parking spaces on a 21-acre parcel. Showrooms and model houses are located on the second floor. Also on the upper level is a 300-seat



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IKEA is a destination. Tour Connection, based in Lansing, offers a \$30 day excursion from Lansing to IKEA, then to Block Greenhouse in Romulus, to Guernsey in Northville for ice cream, then back to Lansing.

restaurant. The main floor houses Smaland, a supervised children's play area, the unassembled furniture stock to take home, 17 checkout lanes and packaged Swedish food.

IKEA designs all its items at the headquarters in Sweden. Cost is a key component in deciding to put an item on the market. Packaging is the other, Organ said.

"We believe in flat packaging. When we put something like pillows in a box for shipment, the air is removed so more pillows can fit in a box. That means fewer trucks on the road and less emissions," Organ said.

The IKEA look decidedly is Swedish, with cleaner lines and a European color palette. The taste also is decidedly Swedish, both at the restaurant and the Swedish Foodmarket.

The stock ranges from small kitchenware items to appliances, furniture and a full array of bedding and linens. A children's section features toys, decorative items, bedroom furniture and tot-sized tables and chairs.

DECORATE AFFORDABLY

"Tastes change from babies to tweens. Parents can decorate more affordably here. We have an expandable toddler bed that grows with the child," Organ said.

It's that type of versatility and good price point that makes IKEA a major part of the furnishings business, he said. While the business is steady throughout the year, Organ said that in July and August as students prepare for the dorm life at colleges and universities, there is a great demand for beds, desks and décor that fits into the compact space.

"We are a destination. We're the only store in Michigan right now. That's why it's important to offer a good day out. We try to make it fun and we make it affordable," Organ explained.

The recessionary times and affordability have broadened IKEA's appeal, Organ said. Shoppers, who might not have considered IKEA before, came in when money was tight. IKEA is finding that the initial

contact was positive because many have become repeat customers and are spending more now that the economic climate is improving, the deputy manager said.

Customers find that to be the case.

Charley Hernandez was picking up items for his new apartment in Westland.

"I needed something nice for the living room and found everything on this one trip," he said.

Admitting that home furnishings aren't his specialty, he said he relied on the look of the floor design at the store and asked the IKEA salesperson for advice.

"She was great — gave me really good ideas but she didn't push anything on me," Hernandez said.

Tiffany Baines of Canton was shopping for "little odds and ends." With a tight budget, she's tired of the look of her rooms and wanted some new purchases to "spice it up a bit."

Kathy Kovacic of Cleveland was in town to visit relatives



Livonia resident Andrea Otto and 2-year-old daughter Makenna shop at IKEA in Canton. The store celebrates its five-year anniversary early next month.

and always tags on a trip to IKEA.

"Certainly I am an expert IKEA shopper. The one closest to me is outside Pittsburgh, opened several years before the one in Canton. But with the family up here, I go to this one more often. I like the store, its furnishings' clean lines and good price; I have a lot of their products."

Another plus in her eyes is the access. "I like the one in Canton better than the Pittsburgh one in ease of getting in and out," she said.

SWEDISH APPEAL

The Canton store is the only IKEA not on a freeway.

Swedish members of the Detroit Red Wings hockey team make regular visits to the store to pick up items that they had in Sweden but are difficult to find locally. They're most usually dropping in to buy food items, Organ said. There is a variety of herring and salmon products, as well as lingonberry jam and cookies, a Swedish mainstay.

Organ added that a good work team makes IKEA successful and that employees are enthusiastic about what they do.

An IKEA employee who works 30 hours per week is considered full-time, getting benefits. Former store manager Kelly Frieze held a meeting

with employees when the economy soured to reassure them that their jobs were safe.

Libby Olave, an employee in the Interior Design Department, attests to that.

"I appreciate the amount of time the company places on training and development. And I am grateful for its values," she said.

Olave hired in when the store first opened

"IKEA takes a long-range view of things," Organ said. "We knew that we would work together and see this through. There was such a peaceful feeling when they heard that. It certainly provided a calming effect in the storm."

In addition to what it sells, Organ said the company makes charitable giving and environmental issues a part of its everyday planning. Though it doesn't send out press releases on its charitable acts, Organ said the Canton store has been involved in a few projects, including First Step, a shelter for women and children.

Environmentally, the emphasis is on reducing carbon footprint. The chain has stopped selling incandescent light bulbs and earlier this year the headquarters shipped 300 bicycles to be given to Canton employee so they can pedal to work, or during off hours if they live too far away, to reduce the impact of car emissions.

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at LIVONIA STEVENSON
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Livonia Churchill vs. (B) Canton, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: Salem vs. A-B winner, 10 a.m.; Livonia Stevenson vs. Plymouth, noon; **championship final:** 2 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals Saturday, June 11 at Novi vs. Birmingham Groves district champion.)
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Wayne Memorial vs. (B) Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 4 p.m.
Friday, June 3: Romulus vs. A-B winner, 11 a.m.; Westland John Glenn vs. Inkster, 1 p.m.; **championship final:** 3 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals Saturday, June 11 at Saline vs. Brownstown-Woodhaven district champion.)

DIVISION 2
at MADONNA UNIV. (Iltch Ballpark)
Saturday, June 4: Dearborn Heights Robichaud vs. Dearborn Divine Child, 10 a.m.; Livonia Clarenceville vs. South Lyon East, 12:30 p.m.; **championship final:** 3 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals Saturday, June 11 at Madonna University's Iltch Ballpark vs. Warren Fitzgerald district champion.)

DIVISION 4
at PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN
Saturday, June 4: (A) Westland Huron Valley vs. Plymouth Christian Academy, noon; **championship final:** Lutheran High Westland vs. A-B winner, 2 p.m.

GIRLS SOFTBALL
Tuesday, May 31
 Thurston at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 1
 Waterford Mott at Stevenson, 4 p.m. (Suspended Catholic League A-B Final)
 Ladywood vs. Farm. Hills Mercy at Univ. of Detroit Mercy, 4 p.m.
Thursday, June 2
 Clarenceville at A.A. Greenhills, 4:30 p.m.

DISTRICT TOURNEY DRAWS

DIVISION 1
at LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Saturday, June 4: Livonia Franklin vs. Redford Thurston, 10 a.m.; Garden City vs. Redford Union, noon; **championship final:** 2 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals Saturday, June 11 at Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett vs. Marine City Cardinal Mooney district champion.)
at LIVONIA STEVENSON
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Canton vs. (B) Livonia Churchill, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: Livonia Stevenson vs. Plymouth, 10 a.m.; Salem vs. A-B winner, noon; **championship final:** 2 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals Saturday, June 11 at Novi vs. Birmingham Groves district champion.)
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Wayne Memorial vs. (B) Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 4 p.m.
Friday, June 3: Romulus vs. A-B winner, 11 a.m.; Westland John Glenn vs. Inkster, 1 p.m.; **championship final:** 3 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals Saturday, June 11 at Saline vs. Brownstown-Woodhaven district champion.)

DIVISION 2
at LIVONIA LADYWOOD
Tuesday, May 31: Dearborn Heights vs. Dearborn Divine Child, 4 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: Livonia Clarenceville vs. South Lyon East, 10 a.m.; Livonia Ladywood vs. A-B winner, 12:30 a.m.; **championship final:** 3 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals Saturday, June 11 at Livonia Ladywood vs. Warren Fitzgerald district champion.)

DIVISION 4
at PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN
Saturday, June 4: (A) Westland Huron Valley vs. Plymouth Christian Academy, noon; **championship final:** Lutheran High Westland vs. A-B winner, 2 p.m. (Winner advances to the

regional semifinals Saturday, June 11 at Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett vs. Marine City Cardinal Mooney district champion.)

GIRLS SOCCER
DISTRICT TOURNEY DRAWS

DIVISION 1
CANTON-SALEM-CEP (Host)
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Livonia Franklin at (B) Plymouth, 5 p.m.; (C) Canton vs. (D) Salem, 7 p.m.; (E) Northville at (F) Garden City, 6 p.m.; (G) Livonia Churchill at (H) Livonia Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Thursday, June 2: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 5 p.m.; C-D winner vs. E-F winner, 7 p.m. (both at Canton-Salem-CEP).
Saturday, June 4: Championship final, noon. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 8 at Dearborn Edsel Ford vs. Dearborn district champion.)
ANN ARBOR PIONEER (Host)
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Wayne Memorial at (B) Ann Arbor Skyline, 7 p.m.; (C) Westland John Glenn vs. (D) Taylor Truman, 5:30 p.m.; (E) Ann Arbor Pioneer at (F) Ann Arbor Huron, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, June 1: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 5:30 p.m.; Taylor Kennedy vs. E-F winner, 7 p.m. (both at Pioneer).
Saturday, June 4: Championship final, 2 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 8 at Dearborn Edsel Ford vs. Brownstown-Woodhaven district champion.)

DIVISION 2
SOUTH LYON (Host)
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Livonia Ladywood at (B) South Lyon East, 6 p.m.; (C) Redford Union at (D) South Lyon, 6 p.m.; (E) Redford Thurston at (F) Dearborn Divine Child, 6 p.m.
Thursday, June 2: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 5 p.m.; Detroit Renaissance vs. E-F winner, 7 p.m. (both at South Lyon).
Saturday, June 4: Championship final, 2 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 8 at Chelsea vs. East Lansing district champion.)

DIVISION 3
BEVERLY HILLS
DETROIT COUNTRY DAY (Host)
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Madison Heights Bishop Foley at (B) Clawson (City Park), 6 p.m.; (C) Detroit Cesar Chavez at (D) Harper Woods, 5 p.m.; (E) Detroit University Prep at (F) Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, 7 p.m.; (G) Livonia Clarenceville vs. (H) Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day, 7 p.m.
Thursday, June 2: E-F winner vs. G-H winner, 5 p.m.; A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 7 p.m.
Saturday, June 4: Championship final, 1 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 7 at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep vs. Grosse Ile district champion.)

DIVISION 4
PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN (Host)
Tuesday, May 31: (A) Ann Arbor Greenhills at (B) Taylor Baptist Park, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, June 3: Ann Arbor Rudolf Steiner vs. A-B winner, 3 p.m.; Lutheran High Westland vs. Plymouth Christian, 5 p.m. (both at Plymouth Christian).
Saturday, June 4: Championship final, 2 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 7 at Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard vs. Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett district champion.)

BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
Saturday, June 4
 (MHSAA state finals)
 Division 1 at Rockford, 10 a.m.
 Div. 2 G.R. Houseman Field, 10 a.m.
 Division 3 at Comstock Park, 10 a.m.
 Division 4 at Jenison, 10 a.m.

BOYS GOLF
Tuesday, May 31
 Kensington Conference Tourney at Pheasant Run G.C., 8 a.m.
Thursday, June 2
 (MHSAA District Tournaments)
 Div. 1 at Whispering Willows, 8:30 a.m.
 Div. 1 at Huron Meadows, TBA.
 Div. 1 at West Shore (Grosse Ile), TBA.

GIRLS TENNIS
 (MHSAA state finals)
Friday-Saturday, June 3-4
 Division 1 at Midland, 10 a.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE
 (MHSAA Regional Semifinals)
 Ladywood at A.A. Skyline, 7:15 p.m.
 TBA - time to be announced.



Conference champions

The Oakland Community College women's softball team is the Michigan Community College Athletic Association Eastern Conference champion. The Raiders are coached by Jamie Seaman and finished with a 17-5 record. The team members are (front, left to right) Kayla Provo, Macomb Dakota; Mareec 'Mo' Jordan, Macomb Dakota; (kneeling) Katelyn Shattleroe, Garden City; Kim Toth, Farmington; Angel Biernacki, Utica Eisenhower; Marissa Masakowski, Sterling Heights Stevenson; Chelsea Freeland, North Branch; (third row) Shantel Uballe, Clarkston; Vanessa Bayley, Ortonville Brandon; Kallie Desjarlais, Windsor Villanova; Chelsea Roggenbuck, Harrison Township L'Anse Creuse; (fourth row) Alexis Mullard, Westland John Glenn; Lori Tennis, Holly; Jessica Sherman, Ortonville Brandon; Hailee Johnson, Westland (Ohio); Katrina Vandenberg, Bay City Central; Samantha Antoinie, Madison Heights Lamphere; and Kelcie Drenth, Ellsworth.

The big picture

Potential Whalers get taste of OHL in orientation

BY TIM SMITH
 OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Teenagers haven't changed too much over the past three decades. But it is safe to say quite a bit about society and the Ontario Hockey League has since Craig Wolanin played for Kitchener in 1984-85.

That's one reason the 43-year-old former NHL defenseman is thrilled that his son, Christian — a 2011 draft pick of the Plymouth Whalers — had the opportunity to get a two-day primer at Compuware Arena.

Craig Wolanin, watching his son scrimmage from above the blue seats at one end of Compuware, said the Whalers rookie orientation was a "terrific" idea.

"It exposes the kids to what might be. And (Whalers GM-coach) Mike Vellucci does a real good job of painting a clear picture of what the options are for these kids and what the Whaler organization has to offer."

The younger Wolanin, a 16-year-old left wing from Rochester who played last season with the Detroit Little Caesars U-16 team, was one of 11 players recently drafted by Plymouth to take part in the rookie orientation.

(Of course, No. 1 pick Mitchell Dempsey was on hand, as was second pick Matthew Misteale. Both are wingers.)

There also were others drafted in 2009 or '10 and a handful of free agents. Helping coach the Blue and White teams in scrimmages were former Whalers such as Ryan Hayes and Tyler Brown; two players from the 2010-11 team (goalie Matt Mahalak, defenseman Max Iafraate of Livonia) also skated.

WHAT TO EXPECT

One of Christian Wolanin's teammates on the White Team was another left wing just



Recent Plymouth Whalers draft pick Christian Wolanin, wearing orange hockey pants from his Detroit Little Caesars U-16 team, skated during last weekend's rookie orientation at Compuware Arena.

drafted by the Whalers, 16-year-old Danny Vanderweil of Island Lake, Illinois.

"It's a pretty good experience, it's nice out here to kind of get a feel for what it's like, the facilities, the rink," Vanderweil said. "Just go out there and play."

Vanderweil, a self-described "grinder" from the Team Illinois U-16 squad, added that the on-ice part of the orientation was "maybe a little bit different" from what he expected.

But after talking to Mahalak and another 2010-11 Whaler, Tom Wilson (who participated in the 2010 orientation) he felt more at ease about being able to handle the frenetic OHL pace.

"It's kind of a big transition from Minor Midget to play-

ing in the OHL," Vanderweil said. "But they said that after a while you get the hang of it and (that) it's a good fit."
 Another aspect of the orientation was finding out that life in the OHL goes far beyond what transpires on the 200-by-85 ice sheet.
 "Right now I'm heading upstairs to have a meeting with the coaching staff," he said. "Then it's dinner and back to the hotel to get some rest for the game tomorrow (Sunday)."
 Wolanin and Vanderweil and the other youngsters also took a field trip to Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, which is where Whalers players go to high school.
 That was another plus as far as Craig Wolanin was con-

NOT JUST YET

cerned.
 "What they're trying to do is just expose them to the Whaler organization, orient them to what is demanded of these kids moving forward," he stressed. "And not only on the ice, (it's) the expectations of getting in the weight room, ... acclimating themselves to a new situation. Understanding that school is still important."

But Christian and Danny undoubtedly will have to tuck away the experience for future reference.
 According to Craig Wolanin, a Michigan native himself, Christian will stay another year at home, playing for Little Caesars Midget Majors (ages 16-18).

"We're family first, he just turned 16," the ex-New Jersey Devils blueliner said. "There's a lot of stuff that (still) needs to take place at home."
 Wolanin stressed that being drafted and invited to the orientation does not guarantee ever playing for the Whalers.
 "A kid is drafted by the Whalers, all that means is the Whalers retain his rights," he added. "They see something in that kid, potential that might evolve into something."
 "Drafts are potential. Now it's up to the kid, 'Do I want to realize that potential?'"
 Taking some mental notes on the newest crop of future players was season ticket holder and billet host Steve Kowalkoski of Plymouth.
 Kowalkoski hosted Rickard Rakell last season, and in previous seasons was Hayes' billet.
 "We've come here for the last five or six years to watch this," Kowalkoski said. "It gives them an idea what it's like to play in the Ontario Hockey League."
 "It's different than playing Midget Majors or Midget Minors, so it's a good orientation for them."

tsmith@hometownlife.com



RENA LAVERTY

Schoolcraft College women's basketball coach Karen Lafata stepped down after 13 seasons to take an assistant coaching position at Wayne State University.

LAFATA
 FROM PAGE B1

"The Schoolcraft college community recognizes the outstanding women's basketball coaching career of Karen Lafata, whose numbers reflect her loyalty and dedication to the college and the student-athletes she served," Fox said. "Karen epitomizes the very best of what college educators provide on a daily basis, that balance of academics and athletics. We wish her the very best at Wayne State University."
 The 39-year-old Brathwaite

played two years of basketball at Moraine Valley Community College (Ill.) and did his undergraduate work at Chicago State University. He coached at Our Lady of Angels in Chicago and Detroit Old Redford Academy in Detroit.
 Brathwaite is a former Detroit police officer who currently resides in Detroit.
 "I'm really happy and it will be a smooth transition," Lafata said. "The kids love him. I feel good about that and he's a big part of our success the last four years. They should keep rolling."

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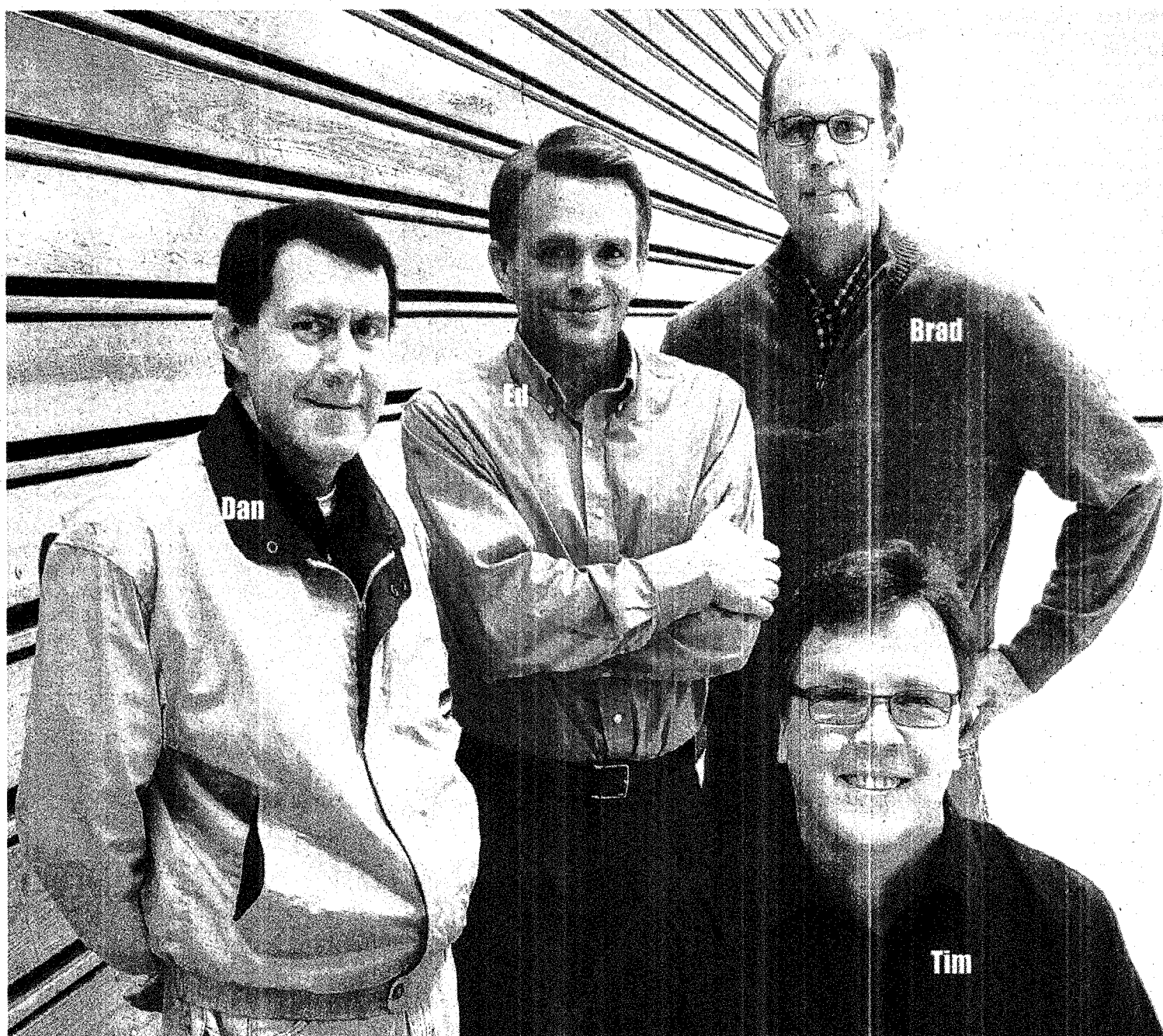
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Knowledge, Experience, Dedication

The Observer Team has more than 100 years of experience covering youth, prep and local college sports teams. Our team is dedicated to providing what local readers expect - information about outstanding students athletes who compete in our hometowns and aim to be the best they can be in the classroom, on the field, on the court or in the pool.

Meet the Observer All-Star
SPORTS TEAM

Dan O'Meara Sports Editor

Beat: Farmington/Farmington Hills youth/prep sports

Experience: Has covered sports in the Farmington community for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers for more than 23 years and, for seven years, worked the same beat in Plymouth-Canton. Before joining the Observer, Dan worked for three daily newspapers - the Big Rapids Pioneer, The Daily News in Greenville and the Ypsilanti Press - from 1979 until early 1987.

Education: Graduate East Detroit High School; B.A. Journalism (minored in history and english) Central Michigan University in 1978.

Awards: Honored for sports writing, sports column writing and best sports sections by the Michigan Press Association and Suburban Newspapers of America.

Personal: Lives in Westland. Attends annual homecoming reunions with former "Shamrocks" from EDHS and enjoys covering the gridiron sport.

In his own words:

"I enjoy reporting and making the Observer the go-to source for sports information, especially when covering big games and events of heightened interest in the community."

Ed Wright Sports Editor

Beat: Redford, Garden City youth/prep/recreation sports

Experience: Worked as the sports editor for the Marshall (Mich.) Chronicle and Dearborn Heights Leader before accepting position as a publications manager for Midwest Publishing, Inc. Worked at Midwest Publishing, Inc. for 16 years before getting laid off in 2004 due to economy-based down-sizing.

Worked as free-lance writer for Observer from 1999-2002; worked as sports editor of Plymouth and Canton Observers from 2004-09. Developed and operated PlymouthCantonSports.com from August 2009 to February 2011.

Education: B.A. in Journalism from Central Michigan University.

Awards: Many state and national writing awards for sports coverage, sports writing, column writing and sports features from the Michigan Press Association and the Suburban Newspapers of America.

Personal: Married to Laura (25th wedding anniversary in August 2011); three kids: Erik, 21; Brandon, 17; Ben, 10. Erik is a redshirt sophomore pitcher for Madonna baseball team, majoring in marketing and sport management; Brandon is a student at Cooke School in Northville; Ben is a fourth-grader at Tonda Elementary in Canton. The Wright family lives in Canton.

In his own words:

"Here is why I love covering high school sports: There are no lockouts, no holdouts, no taking plays off, no guaranteed contracts and no practice boycotts. It's refreshing being able to write about athletes who play for their school, their teammates, their coaches and their love for the games."

Brad Emons Sports Editor

Beat: Livonia, Westland youth/prep sports, Madonna University, Schoolcraft College.

Experience: Joined the Observer & eccentric Newspapers in December 1977 and has covered the Livonia, Westland, Redford, Canton, Plymouth and Garden City sports beat for nearly three decades.

Education: Livonia Franklin High School grad where he played high school basketball on the patriot's first district championship team B.A. Journalism, Franklin College, Franklin, Ind.

Awards: Catholic League Hall of Fame (1996) Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Hall of Honor (2008) O&E Journalist of the Year (1996) College Tennis MVP, Franklin College 1977 Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association Finish Line Award (2003) Honored for sports column writing by the Michigan Press Association

Personal: Lives in Plymouth and is an active distance runner with two local clubs (Northville and Downriver). He averages 30-35 miles per week.

In his own words:

"Covering community sports is rewarding because it's remains the last bastion of amateur sports. The athletes and schools remain appreciative of the coverage."

Tim Smith Sports Editor

Beat: Plymouth and Canton youth/prep and Plymouth Whalers of the OHL.

Experience: Joined the O&E in 1986, as a news reporter for the Southfield Eccentric. He also covered news beats in West Bloomfield/Lakes (1991 - 97) and Farmington (1997 - 2001).

Joined the sports staff in 2001, covering the Redford - Garden City communities, Madonna University and Schoolcraft College.

Education: Graduate of Livonia Clarenceville High School, B.A. Mass Communication Wayne State University.

Awards: Finalist for Society of Professional Journalist's (Detroit Chapter) Journalist of the Year Award in 1996, O&E Journalist of the Year 1998. Writing, reporting awards from the Michigan Press Association and Suburban Newspapers of America.

Personal: Lives in Livonia with wife Donna and 16 year-old daughter Elizabeth. He is the author of "Miracle Birth Stories of Very Premature Babies-Little Thumbs Up!" (1999). Is a longtime recreational ice hockey goalie.

In his own words:

"I cover teams from year-to-year, all season long. You almost feel part of the teams yourself and can't help silently cheering when an athlete or team does something incredible. Another plus: When moms and dads thank us for what we do, chronicling the efforts of their sons or daughters in a way they can't get anywhere else."

COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, May 29, 2011

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Sew amazing Redford costume designer dresses actors in authentic style

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Bernadine Vida amassed approximately 10,000 clothing items — including jewelry, hats, purses, dresses, shirts and ties — to tell a story this month.

The Redford costume designer used the authentic 1960s vintage clothing to build wardrobes for each character in *Margarine Wars*, a film comedy about anti-oleo laws and margarine smuggling in the Midwest. The film, which recently finished shooting in Armada, tells the story of a New York hippie whose van breaks down in rural Illinois en route to California. He ends up smuggling margarine across state lines for women in the community, trying to earn the \$500 he needs to fix his vehicle.

Vida outfitted actors in clothing that will help tell the story, enhance their characters, and accurately interpret the 1960s time period. Many of the pieces came from her own collection of vintage outfits and accessories. Others were bought with the film's costume budget or sewn.

"I wanted this film to have a real authenticity. To be true to the story and the characterization, you've got to be true to the sociological aspects of the film. What were people doing, what were they thinking? It's all reflected through their wardrobe."



Bernadine Vida of Redford on set of the "Margarine Wars," in Armada.

COSTUME HOUSE

Vida, who has costumed nearly all the major feature films that have been shot in Michigan, worked for several weeks this spring in a rented vacant ranch house 15 minutes from the *Margarine Wars* set on an Armada farm. For three of those weeks, she lived in a nearby condo, miles from her Wayne County home and studio.

Assisted by five interns, she stored and organized racks of clothing, boxes of hats, purses, earrings, pins and necklaces. She adjusted and fit costumes and kept track of the costume budget and receipts.

"To be successful in this industry, you've got to have an even

mind, be flexible and be a jack of all trades," Vida said. "I can build, I can sew. Whatever goes through my mind I can make an actuality. I've always been proud of that."

She has clothed dancers, musicians, opera singers and actors on the theater stage, in commercials, television shows and industrial promotions and events.

MEMORABLE JOB

She's most proud of her work with the Lincoln presidential library and museum in 2001.

"When I go into the rotunda and see John Wilkes Booth and realize I built his entire costume, tailored it, dressed it and everything, it's one of my favorites. I'm



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bernadine Vida makes nice with a cow on the set of "Margarine Wars." The Redford costume designer has created garments for theater, movies, television, dance and yes, even animals.

proud because it will live beyond me."

Lately she has designed costumes for a teen television sitcom, *The Wannabes*, and for characters involved in promoting a new injection pen for diabetics. She's also busy with made-in-Michigan movies.

"I'm happy I'm getting the kinds of movies that are socially important. They aren't fluff and junk," said Vida, who began work this week on *The Citizen*, a film about a Lebanese Immigrant becoming a U.S. citizen.

"Big studio features will always go to what is stereotypically desirable to American masses. The big (Los Angeles) features want to hire designers out of L.A. I don't get a chance to do that because I never made the L.A. exit."

HOMETOWN GIRL

Except for a brief stay in California years ago, Vida has lived locally since childhood. After graduation from



Costume interns (left to right) Vikki Hicks, Daniela Agnello and Katie Thoenes pack up hats used in the film "Margarine Wars."

Redford Union High School, where she was "a bit of a miscreant ... painting the walls and doing crazy stuff," she studied mass communications at Wayne

State and the Society of Arts and Crafts (College for Creative Studies), later learning fashion

Please see **DESIGNER, B8**

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Attorney Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 27 years. That is the **only** type of law he practices. And, he personally meets with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings.

call him to determine if you may be eligible for these benefits. He offers a free phone or office consultation. If Bieske represents you, there will be **no fee charged until after the case is won**. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

In a recent radio interview attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. You may be eligible even if you have retired and are receiving a pension. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/ Widower's benefits).

Call attorney J.B. Bieske at **1-800-331-3530** for a FREE consultation if you are considering applying for Social Security Disability Benefits or if you have been denied. His Livonia office is located on Six Mile Road just West of I-275 and his Novi office is on Haggerty just North of 12 Mile Road.

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Pamela Shorter (left), and Alberta Karll (right) are all smiles after receiving community service awards from John Sackett Regent Cynthia Tenerovich of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Susan Sweetman (second from left) of Livonia, receives a warm welcome into the DAR from Dorothy Moore (left), chapter chaplain, Brenda Halseth, chapter registrar and Cynthia Tenerovich, chapter regent.

Area DAR chapter inducts new member from Livonia

The John Sackett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently gave community service awards to members and inducted Susan Sweetman of Livonia into the organization.

Alberta Karll and Pamela Shorter received

community service awards for their dedicated service to the residents and families of Angela Hospice. Karll has worked with Angela Hospice since 1994; Shorter has been involved since 2009. Both prepare freshly-baked goodies including cookies, specialty breads and pies on

a weekly basis.

The program for the chapter's May meeting was "Collecting More than Dust." Members shared their prized collections. Katrina Beery showed silver commemorative spoons from around the world. Margaret Steward presented

antique Indian quill boxes. Dorothy Moore had antique citrus fruit spoons on hand. Mary Anne Duluk brought elaborate decorative eggs to the meeting. Joan Cheyne showed antique invalid feeders.

Humane Society seeks pet photos for annual calendar

The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) is looking for metro Detroit's most photogenic pets for its 2012 Pet Calendar.

The \$20 entry fee per photo guarantees inclusion in MHS' 14th annual calendar. Twelve top photo entries will be selected for special "Pet of the Month" placement, with all other photos appearing in

a variety of formats throughout the calendar.

Dogs and cats wearing collars and ID tags, and cats photographed indoors will receive the best consideration. Entries must be post-marked by June 15. Calendar proceeds will help the Michigan Humane Society change the lives of animals in need.

Photo guidelines:

- Photos must be clear, in color, contain only pets, and be no larger than 4- by 6-inches
- Horizontal (landscape) orientation and gloss finish preferred
- For quality reasons, color prints made at home on ink-jet or laser printers cannot be considered for Pet of the

Month placement. However, these types of prints will be accepted for the smaller photos used throughout the calendar.

• Photos taken at a commercial studio must include a signed copyright release from the photographer

Write your name, phone number and pet's name on the back of each photo

using a permanent felt-tip pen. Mail entries by June 15 to Michigan Humane Society 2012 Pet Calendar, 30300 Telegraph, Suite 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025

Download an entry form at www.michiganhumane.org.

In the fall, MHS 2012 Pet Calendars will be available for purchase for \$15 plus tax at www.michiganhumane.org.

org. For more information, call the MHS administrative office at (866) MHUMANE, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) is a private, nonprofit organization that runs animal shelters in Westland, Detroit and Rochester Hills.

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JOINT INJECTIONS, MORE THAN ONE?

The place of joint injections in the treatment of arthritis is on firm footing. Not only well organized studies, but the individual physician's own experience provides evidence for the ability of a steroid injection into a joint such as the knee or shoulder to provide a patient with pain relief and better movement.

This column has dealt in the past with the question of how often a person can receive a joint injection, the answer being: as often as the injection confers benefit. But another related question is: at any one time, how many joint injections can a patient receive?

Physicians cannot turn to the medical literature to answer that question as investigations are lacking on that aspect of medical therapy. However, by custom, two injections at one time are considered as acceptable treatment.

The answer really depends on the condition of the patient. If the individual is elderly and has 2 swollen knees and a sore shoulder, then the doctor likely will inject only the 2 worse joints. The amount of anesthesia needed might cause the elderly person to become dizzy or even faint.

If the patient is not elderly, but is a poorly controlled diabetic, the physician may inject only one joint. Steroids antagonize insulin and 2 or more injections may cause the diabetes to go out of control.

If a knee or shoulder joint shows far advanced arthritis, the physician may not inject any joint. The injection may give temporary relief and weaken the patient's resolve to seek an orthopedic surgeon for a replacement knee or shoulder.

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JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bernadine Vida keeps photos of movie cast members on the wall of her temporary costume department in a rented house near the set of "Margarine Wars."

DESIGNER

FROM PAGE B6

design at Parsons School of Design in New York.

After college she designed clothing for the Harbinger Dance Company, but worked mostly in the political arena, both in Michigan and in San Francisco, Calif., where her now ex-husband was completing a job assignment.

Growing tired of politics, the young mother took on a challenge of designing costumes for a San Francisco theater produc-

tion of *Little Women*.

That led to an internship and more work in theater, both in San Francisco and later in Michigan. Although she has travelled extensively, Vida has maintained her studio and residence in her childhood home ever since.

Her father helped her raise her son while she juggled motherhood and a growing costume design business.

"I wanted my son to go to the schools I went to. My brothers and I went to Redford Union and so did my son."

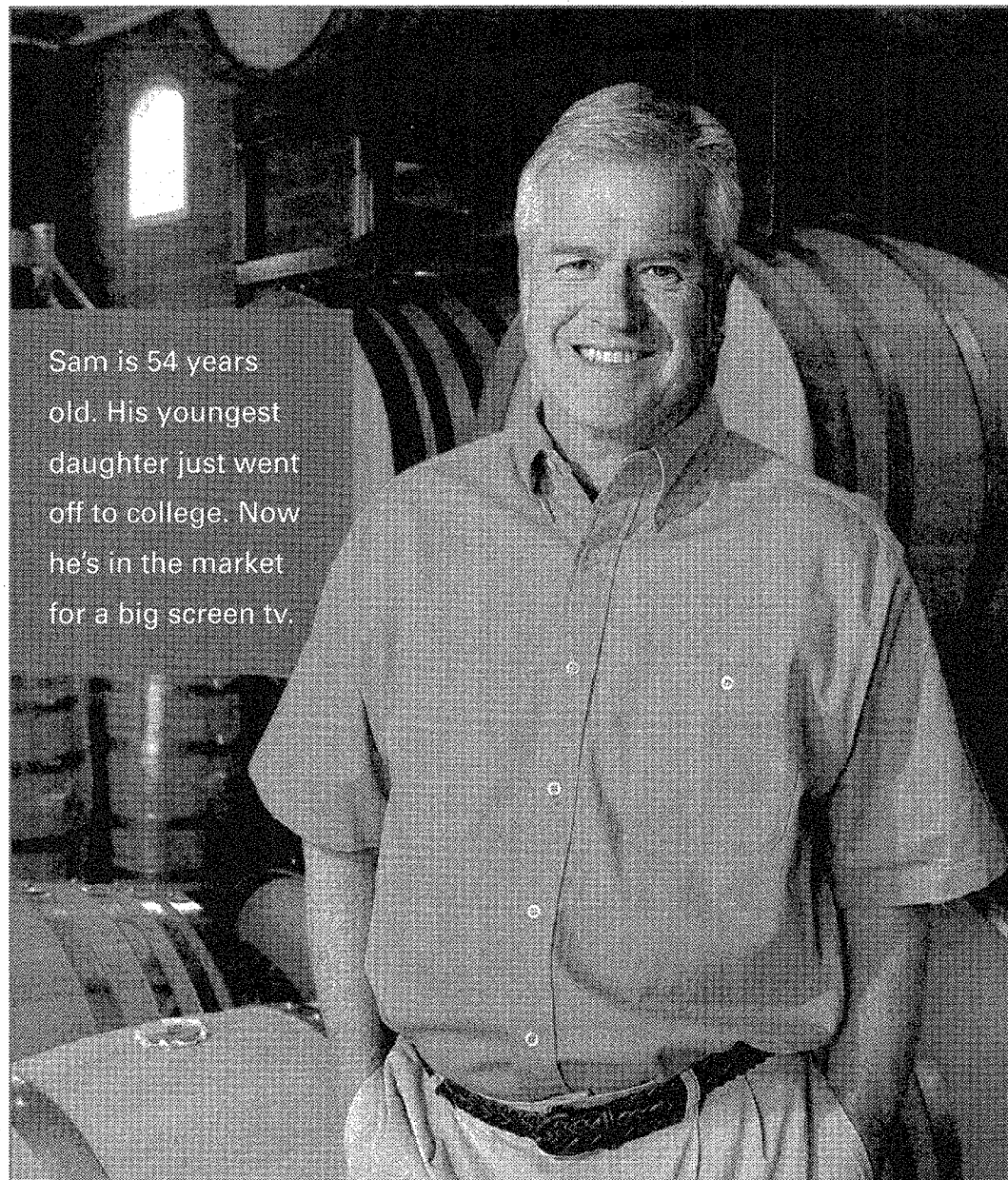
Last summer she turned the

garage into a second studio. She suspects she is the most long-term resident in her neighborhood, which she describes as "a village."

She doesn't plan to stray far from her roots.

"I've been fortunate. I haven't made a million dollars but I've amassed quite a career. And the real joy for me is being able to teach, mentor and pass on my skills to others."

In addition to working with costume interns on films, she teaches at the College of Creative Studies and has lectured extensively.



Sam is 54 years old. His youngest daughter just went off to college. Now he's in the market for a big screen tv.

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Some new products to check out.

BORA CLAMP EDGE

Affinity Tool Works, LLC recently introduced the Bora Clamp Edge.

Honestly, I thought it was going to be just another gimmick tool that I'd never use. Wrong!

The Bora Clamp Edge is a quick guide tool that provides a perfectly straight and secure straightedge for accurate cuts through all kinds and types of wood. You can use it with circular saws, jigsaws, routers and biscuit jointers as well as with other tools or just as an accurate guide to scribe.

The company manufactures three sizes of clamps to handle a complete variety of woodworking projects. The small, 24-inch model is commonly used as a fence on table saws, router tables and small cutting projects. The 36-inch clamp edge is perfect for remodeling jobs such as trimming doors and cabinets.

They also make a 50-inch clamp edge, which is the one I've been testing. It's designed for 48-inch cuts. The design, engineering, integrated clamps and ease of use are all impressive.

The Bora Clamp has ergonomic handles, easy and simple lever locking mechanisms, unique swivel clamps (which also permits the user to do some slight angle cuts) and was designed for professionals, handymen and homeowners in mind.

The clamps are made from aircraft grade extruded aluminum and come with a lifetime warranty.

Affinity Tools also has an enviable line of pistol grip clamps, multi-angle adjustable squares and an angle master miter duplicator.

If you or someone you know works with wood, check out Bora Tools at the following websites: Woodcraft (www.woodcraft.com); Rockler (www.rockler.com); Sears (www.sears.com).

SPORT BRELLA CHAIR

Now that great weather is almost upon us, I'm sure everyone, including myself is looking to the outdoors as well as outdoor projects and events.

I recently came across the Sport Brella Chair. It is a unique, new portable garden and patio chair. Yes, we've all seen portable outdoor fold-up chairs. People take them from their patios to the Woodward Dream Cruise, beaches, parks and concerts.

What makes the Sport Brella Chair unlike other foldout sport chairs is that it has an attached, 360-degree swivel umbrella, which can be moved from side to side, and can be swiveled at three different points with the push of a button. The umbrella opens out to 46-inches, which provides complete coverage from the sun and wind at any conceivable angle.

The lightweight Sport Brella Chair also has a

built-in cup holder, bottle opener and even a zippered pouch for personal items. The chair easily folds up and fits into a compact carry bag that has a comfortable carry strap.

The M.S.R.P. is \$39.99 and is available at www.sportbrella.com. I recently found it at Costco for \$35.00.

WHISPERSENSE VENTILATION FANS

Panasonic recently introduced its new Whisper Sense Ventilation Fans at the 2011 kitchen and bath industry show in Las Vegas.

Panasonic claims the WhisperSense bathroom exhaust fans are the only vent fans on the market to incorporate dual-motion and humidity sensors. That makes perfect sense, since the fan will only operate when necessary. The motion sensor has a delay shut-off timer that activates when a person enters the bathroom and automatically shuts the fan off 20 minutes after the occupant has left.

If the tub or shower is used, the built-in humidity sensor overrides the delay timer and continues to exhaust moisture until the humidity is back down to a pre-set level.

All that is well and good, but my favorite feature is the noise level. It has an incredibly quiet level, as low as 0.3-sone. One-sone is the sound of a quiet refrigerator operating at night. The 0.3 would be the quietest ceiling mounted fan I have experienced.

Panasonic WhisperSense ventilation fans have an average suggested retail price from \$289 to \$412 depending on the model (some have lights) and are available at Panasonic dealers and wholesalers. Check out the WhisperSense fans when they come out in June of 2011 at www.panasonic.com/vented-fans.

Q: While a rolling stone may gather no moss, our shaded, shingle roof is. What do people do if their roof is susceptible to fungus or moss?

A: You don't have to raise the roof to correct it. For all types of roofs there is a product called "Shingle-Shield" from Chicago Metallic. It is a maintenance-free roof moss/fungus protector. It is easily installed along the ridgeline and releases zinc oxide. The manufacturer claims it will last the life of the roof. Chemicals such as zinc oxide or chloride in metals are carried down the roof when it rains. These chemicals discourage the growth of moss. Also trim any overhanging trees and keep the roof clear of leaves and debris. With a cedar shake roof, remove as much of the moss between the shakes as possible. Use a piece of wire, then hose off the tiles.

Lon Grossman of Bloomfield Hills is president of Technihouse Inspections Inc., a southeast Michigan residential and commercial inspection company. E-mail your questions to him at rdriy@comcast.net. Call (248) 855-5566. Visit his website www.technihouse.com.

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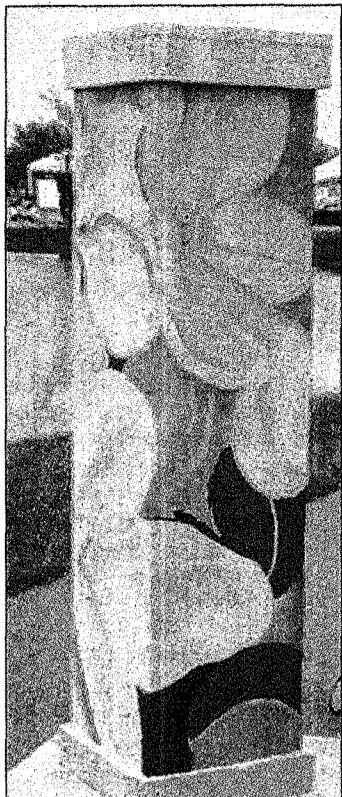
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A Georgia O'Keeffe-style pillar painted by Marilyn Meredith will be on display at Canton's Liberty Fest next month.



Cathy Vettese works on her pillar during Relay for Life in Canton.

Painting adds creative touch to annual relay

Sharon Lee Dillenbeck earned the "People's Choice" award for her painted pillar version of Herbert Badham's "George Street" painting during the annual Relay for Life earlier this month in Canton. Dillenbeck, owner of D & M Art Studio of Canton, came up with a creative, artistic way to help the cause by asking artists to donate their time to paint famous

artwork on four-sided pillars with acrylic paint. The artists painted during the Relay. Local businesses and philanthropists sponsored the short pillars for \$50, large pillars for \$100 and those attending the Relay voted for their favorites at \$1 per vote. Artists included Marilyn Meredith, Elizabeth Gullikson, Megan Flynn, Megan Miner, Deana

Salhane, Rachel Bissonnett, Cathy Vettese, Bethany Grysko, Ryan Rockov, Megan Vance and Mary Elizabeth Winther. The pillars will be displayed during Canton's Liberty Fest next month. The short pillars are for sale at \$125 each. Large pillars are \$250. Call Dillenbeck at (734) 453-3710 for more information.

Camp featuring acting coach teaches teens to act for film

Film Acting Camp for Teens, taught by acting coach Gordon Michaels, will run 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. June 20-24, at Genitti's Little Theatre, 108 E. Main, Northville. The Gordon Michaels Actors Workshops have been housed at Genitti's Little Theater since the first time his classes were made available in Michigan in 1999. They have grown into what is now The Gordon Michaels Acting Studio. The studio provides actors of all ages with a place to grow artistically while at the same time gathering insight in the business of film, television, and theatre. Michaels says that "any person who has that dream in



Michaels

their heart and truly believes in their heart that they want

to become an actor must be true to themselves, and move forward with every ounce of effort to make that dream come true." "I believe a person with these desires has a responsibility to honor that dream which is born in their heart. I have witnessed many successes in the entertainment business of people doing exactly that. It's not always easy for a person with the desire to become an actor to just throw themselves into that area but the most important thing is to take that first very important step, begin to get training." Cost of the teen camp is \$225. Register at gordonmichaelsstudio.com or call (248) 262-6805.

GARDEN & NATURE

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

BIBLE GARDEN

Congregation Beth Ahm will dedicate its Louis and Fay Woll Memorial Bible Garden at 11 a.m. June 5, at 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. The dedication and public opening will include tours of the garden. Visitors will experience a series of themes including the Garden of Eden, Abraham and Sarah's Tent, Parting of the Red Sea, and the giving of the Hebrew Bible at Mt. Sinai. The many species of plants, flowers, and trees included in the garden are identified by both their biblical references and botanical names. A visit to the Woll Memorial Bible Garden concludes at a replica of the Western Wall, the remnant of the Old Temple and one of Judaism's holiest sites, in Jerusalem. The Woll Memorial Bible Garden will be open from sunrise to sunset in the spring, summer, and fall. Guided visits can be arranged by calling (248) 851-6880 and visitors may come at their convenience for self-guided tours. See the garden on the Internet at www.wollbiblegarden.org.

GARDEN WALK

The 21st annual Ann Arbor Garden Walk will run 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 11. Six gardens and a marketplace of garden art are included. Garden Walk tickets can be purchased online at www.annarborfarmandgarden.org, or at these Ann Arbor locations: Dixboro General Store, Downtown Home & Garden, Nicola's Books, and Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Advance tickets are \$12. Tickets are available the day of the walk at any of the gardens, at \$15 adult, \$3 students K-12. Groups can purchase advance tickets for \$10 per person; contact Irene Ball at (734) 222-0747. The ticket includes a map of the garden locations; participants can visit the gardens in any order and at their own pace. Descriptions of the featured gardens are on the website.

ENGLISH GARDENS

- See a free presentation, The Basics of Water Gardening, at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 11 at all store locations.
- Learn how to bring color and texture to your garden at a free presentation on perennial gardening, 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 29 and 10 a.m. Saturday, July 2.
- Get tips on creating a container water garden, 10 a.m. Saturday, July 9.
- Find out how to keep the summer garden looking its best at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 13.

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

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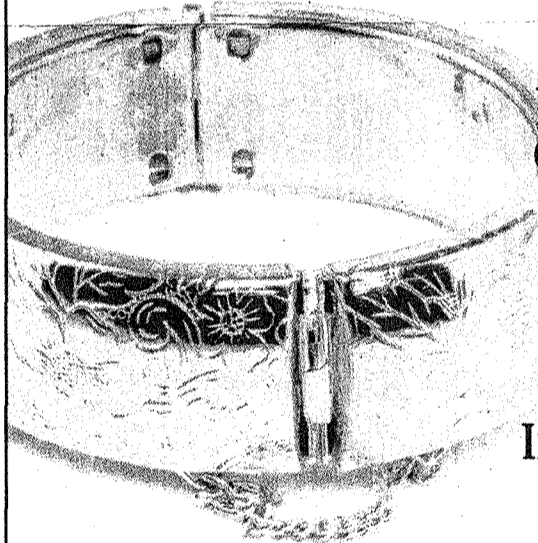
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Sinus Care 101: Spring cleaning for your allergies

With the departure of the winter chill comes allergy season with all of its runny, scratchy, sneezy annoyances.

Stuffy nasal passages and plugged up sinuses are a common complaint and remedies can range from over-the-counter medication to sinus surgery in extreme cases.

Doctors at the Michigan Sinus Center offer the following tips to keep you breathing easier:

Before you consider other measures, one of the simplest things you can do is cut down on your exposure to allergens.

"Allergy avoidance is the key for patients with allergies," stated Dr. Jeffrey Terrell, director of the Michigan Sinus Center and professor of otolaryngology at the University of Michigan Medical School. "It's the real first step, because if you can avoid the allergies you can avoid the symptoms."

If pollen bothers you, keep your windows closed, change clothes and shower after doing yard work, and consider investing in an air purifier with a HEPA filter for your home.

Reducing your exposure to non-seasonal irritants can help, too.

Most people spend more time in their bedrooms than in any other room in the house. Putting allergy covers on your pillows and mattress can help cut down on allergies to dust mites, which feed on skin flakes.

Fido and Fluffy may love sleeping in the bed with you, but keeping them out of the bedroom will keep their dander out, too. And if your basement smells too much like a basement, you may have a mold problem, which can exacerbate allergies.

If you have chronic sinus stuffiness or discomfort, testing for and treating underlying allergies is a critical step, said Dr. Melissa Pynnönen, associate professor of otolaryngology at U-M.

"Treatment options can include medications, allergy avoidance and allergy shots," Pynnönen said. "Many medications for allergies are available without a prescription, including antihistamines like Zyrtec,

Allegra and Claritin, while other medications, such as nasal steroid sprays, require a prescription."

One simple, cheap and effective weapon against sinus troubles is a salt-water rinse, said Dr. Mark A. Zacharek, associate professor of Otolaryngology at U-M.

"They come in two varieties — a neti pot, which is like a little watering can — and a plastic squeeze bottle, which introduces the water with more force," Zacharek said.



"The rinse helps to clear the nasal passages and keep them moisturized."

If you've already been prescribed a steroid nasal spray, Terrell suggests you lean over the bottle while holding it straight, rather than tilting it up into your nostril. The

technique ensures the medicine gets deep into the nose.

The Michigan Sinus Center is located in Livonia. For more information, visit <http://www.nofmhealth.org/medical-services/noseandsinus> or to make an appointment call (734) 936-8051.

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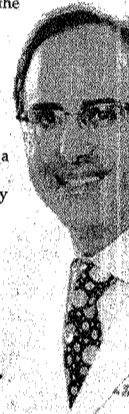
Erectile Dysfunction (ED) may be the most important diagnostic tool when it comes to general health in the baby-boomer population! Often times, it's the first symptom that men may notice and the one that leads them to the doctor. If a man is experiencing E.D., it is suggested that he be screened for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

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

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

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Dr. Andrea Schrieber joined our Canton location in September 2010. She graduated with highest distinction from the University of Michigan in 2002 and Wayne State University School of Medicine in 2006. She did her residency in dermatology at Wayne State University and subsequently became board certified in dermatology. Dr. Schrieber specializes in diseases of the skin, hair, and nails for all ages.

She is truly a local girl, completing kindergarten through residency in the Metro Detroit area. Dr. Schrieber is excited to meet you at our Canton facility.

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