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Free entree for veterans, active military

Texas Roadhouse restaurant in Westland is inviting veterans and active members of the U.S. military to enjoy free lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11.

Veterans, including all active, retired or former U.S. military, can choose one of 10 entrees, including a six-ounce sirloin and two made-from-scratch sides plus a choice of any Coca-Cola product, sweet tea/ice tea or coffee during lunch. Proof of service includes military or VA card or discharge papers.

Texas Roadhouse is at 36750 Ford Road, west of Wayne Road.

Also between now and Nov. 30, Texas Roadhouse is donating 10 percent of the purchase amount of Texas Roadhouse military design gift cards to Homes for Our Troops, which builds specially adapted homes for severely injured veterans. The cards can be purchased online at www.texasroadhouse.com.

U-M ticket contest

Michigan Wolverine fans who always wanted to see a game at the Big House but couldn't get tickets now have a chance. Our website, Hometownlife.com, is giving away two prime tickets to the Nov. 19 game against the Nebraska Cornhuskers through a special Facebook promotion.

To enter, visit us on Facebook and click on the Sweepstakes tab, or go to Hometownlife.com, and click on the Wolverine helmet in our Don't Miss module. The contest winner will be selected at random Nov. 14.

Clerk expects low turnout in city election

By LeAnne Rogers
 Observer Staff Writer

When Westland voters head to the polls Tuesday, Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof is hoping to be pleasantly surprised.

"I would like to expect everyone to vote, but I don't think that will happen," said Schoof, who is running unopposed for her third term as clerk. "At a city primary, we have about 8-percent turnout. I hope we will

have more like 12-percent turnout this year."

Late last week, about 4,000 absentee ballots had been issued for the Nov. 8 general election.

For the first time anyone could remember, Westland voters did not have a primary election to narrow the field of council candidates. Only seven candidates are in the race to fill four council seats — nine candidates would have triggered a primary elec-

tion.

In the Westland council race, the top three finishers each earn a four-year term, while the fourth-place candidate receives a two-year term.

Incumbents James Godbout, Adam Hammons, Bill Johnson and Michael Kehrer are seeking re-election. First-time candidates in the race are Richard Ciaramitaro, Kevin Coleman and Peter Herzberg.

Voters in the Livonia

school district are filling three board of education seats. Four candidates are seeking to win one of two four-year terms on the board — incumbent Lynda Scheel, Dianna Laura, Eileen McDonnell and Lee Yesh.

Incumbent board member Randy Roulier is the only candidate who will appear on the ballot running for a two-year partial term. Lloyd Romick, a frequent school board critic, is running as a

write-in candidate for the two-year term after filing an affidavit.

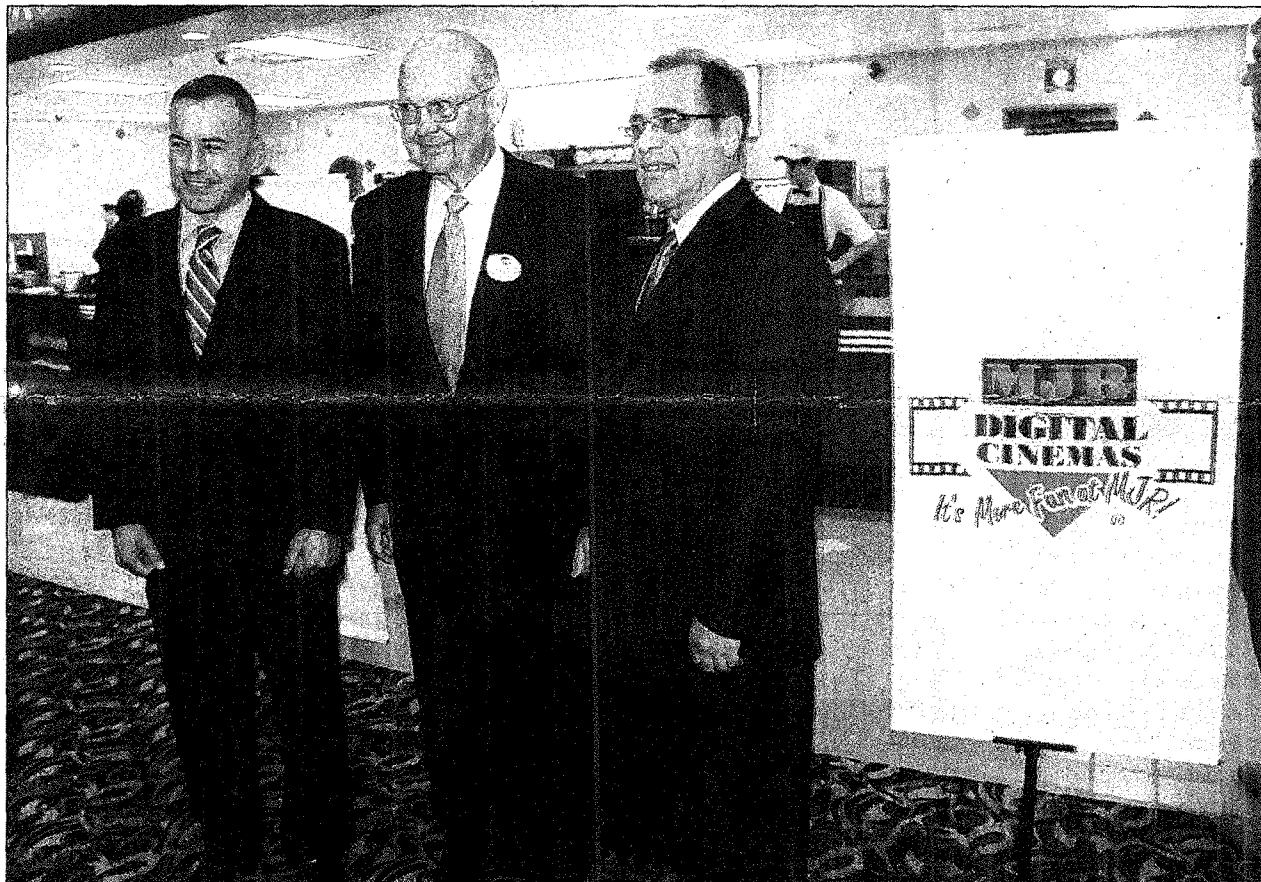
Roulier was appointed to the board in February to replace Trustee Dan Lessard, who resigned.

The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Westland city offices will be closed election day. Emergency services and trash are unaffected.

rogers@hometownlife.com
 (313) 222-5428

MJR's Mihalich finds Westland 'a great place to do business'

By LeAnne Rogers
 Observer Staff Writer



Westland Mayor William Wild (left), MJR Theaters founder and CEO Michael Mihalich and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano attended the preview night at the new MJR Westland Grand 16 Digital Theater.

The evening before the new MJR Westland Grand Digital Cinema officially opened to the public Friday, the theater invited guests to attend a preview and also hosted a fundraiser.

Speaking during the preview Thursday night, MJR founder and CEO Michael Mihalich noted the hard work and diligence that was required for the 16-screen, 69,000-square-foot theater to be constructed in under eight months.

"We've worked in eight communities — always problems came up. We never had a better experience than working in this community," Mihalich said, mentioning Mayor William Wild, Economic Development Director Lori Podale and Planning Director Bruce

Please see CINEMA, A2

Weather bodes well for park restoration

By LeAnne Rogers
 Observer Staff Writer

Crews were expected to have wrapped up work for the year at Central City Park over the last couple of days thanks to some nice weather.

"We got some big-time work done this (past) week. They were able to do a lot," Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski said. "This (last) week was a gonsend."

A second layer of asphalt was applied to the newly paved parking lot, which has more than 200 spaces, new curbs and two entrances and exits. The parking lot still needed to be sealed and striped. A new sidewalk has

also been installed along the east side of the park on Carlson.

"They've also paved most of the walking path and done about 80 percent of the hydroseed," Kosowski said, adding the walking path won't be available for use until next year to protect the newly seeded areas.

Construction has been under way at Central City Park for nearly a year as the site was cleared and regraded, then covered with a geotextile membrane and 10-15 inches of top soil. Along with passive measures dealing with methane gas, the work is part of efforts to remedi-

Please see PARK, A2

Wayne-Westland wins 12th consecutive business awards

By Sue Mason
 Observer Staff Writer

Gary Martin has two more awards to hang on the wall of his office after accepting awards for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

For the 12th consecutive year, the district received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Board Officials International and Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its 2010 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

"These are outstanding awards that recognize the competent level we have in our business office," said Wayne-Westland School

Superintendent Greg Baracy.

"Twelve consecutive years in one school district under on CFO and one financial team is phenomenal."

Wayne-Westland is one of four districts in the state that have posted their financials in "a very comprehensive, very transparent way," Baracy said.

"Transparency was fashionable for Wayne-Westland before transparency was fashionable," he said. "They have pretty much fulfilled the dashboard requirement that the legislature passed this year."

The ASBO award is the highest recognition given for school district financial operations offered by the organization and is only given to districts that have met or

Please see AWARDS, A2

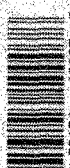
INDEX

- Community Life..... B5
- Crossword Puzzle..... C3
- Opinion..... A4
- Health..... B9
- Homes..... C2
- Jobs..... C1
- Obituaries..... B8
- Services..... C2
- Sports..... B1
- Wheels..... C3

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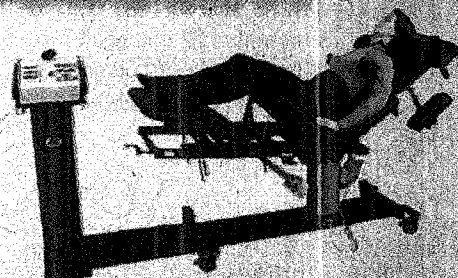
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AWARDS

Continued from page A1

exceeded the standards of the program.

Likewise, the GFOA certificate is the association's highest recognition given in governmental accounting and financial reporting and represents "a significant accomplishment by a government and its management." It also demonstrates "a constructive spirit of full disclosure."

Martin said participating in the ASBO and GFOA certificate of excellence programs is a "rewarding experience." "Attaining these awards

brings a feeling of confidence and has remarkably increased out financial reporting credibility not only to the district, but to the community as a whole," said Martin, the district's deputy superintendent for administrative and business services.

Martin said that Linda Compton, senior executive director of business and operations, Sue Rawson, her executive secretary, and Angela Black, supervisor of business/purchasing, are a "tremendous team," and that there is another full staff in his office that also does a tremendous job.

"The community can be proud of these folks and the job they do for them,"

he said.

School board President Carol Middel presented Martin and his staff with plaques recognizing their achievement, pointing out that she wished "it had come from us because we know the tremendous work you do."

"I can't say enough about the business office," she said. "You work very hard and are very diligent."

"There is no other CFO of a district to receive these awards 12 years in a row.

"You're the very best and I wouldn't trade you for anybody," she said.

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751



The new MJR Westland Grand opened for business Friday. Located on Wayne Road south of Warren, the old Showcase Cinema was demolished to make way for the new theater.

CINEMA

Continued from page A1

Thompson. "Westland is a great place to do business. All the people in Westland get it."

The approximately \$14.2 million project received a more than \$200,000 reimbursement for the Brownfield redevelopment of the former Showcase Cinema located on Wayne Road south of Warren Road.

The project also benefitted from the Wayne County TURBO (Transforming Underdeveloped Residential and Business Opportunities) program, which provided a 100-percent tax exemption for one year and a 50-percent rebate for five years.

"I would have gotten more media attention for my press conference here instead of holding it downtown," Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano said, speaking shortly after announcing changes in his staff.

"I grew up at Wayne Road and Ann Arbor Trail. The mayor (William Wild) and I were talking about not just the (now demolished) Quo



Hallways leading to auditoriums weren't going to be empty long as the MJR Westland Grand opened for business Friday.

Vadis (theater), but also the old Algiers drive-in," Ficano said. "It's great to be able to go to the movies in Westland. You had to go to Livonia or Canton before."

Wild agreed, adding it was hard to believe the theater was constructed in such a short time.

Noting the theater expects to draw 880,000 patrons annually, Wild said the new MJR Theater will serve as a catalyst for other development.

"Commercial real estate agents have told us that this is a game changer for Westland," he said.

On Wednesday, the city of Westland and St. Mary Mercy Hospital of Livonia partnered on a fundraiser called "Lights, Camera & Take Action!" at the new state-of-the-art theater to support St. Mary Mercy Hospital's health programs offered in Westland.

Attendees were among the first to receive the passport for the "Passport to Healthy City" Campaign, which encourages residents to have

fun while getting healthy by attending campaign approved or sponsored events to collect stamps, much like a travel passport.

Participants are encouraged to fill multiple passports and register to earn prizes, coupons and discounts from vendors and retailers at www.cityofwestland.com/healthcity.

In 2010, St. Mary Mercy Livonia partnered with dedicated local organizations to provide nearly \$11 million in low-cost and free health programs and services. Approximately 98,000 individuals residing in the Wayne County area benefited from services such as mammograms and prostate cancer screening, fitness programs, diabetes prevention classes, heart health education programs and transportation to and from treatments and procedures with the St. Mary Mercy Hospital Transportation Program.

irogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428

PARK

Continued from page A1

ate long-standing lead and other contamination in the eastern portion of park.

Last year, Westland accepted ownership of the 33-acre park from Wayne County after having leased it for a number of years. Wayne

County is funding the \$2.5 million project for the 12 acres on the east side of the park, but remediation for the other approximately 21 acres was cost-prohibitive. As a result, that area will be restricted for the foreseeable future.

Future plans for Central City Park include the installation of soccer fields, pavilions, a

walking path, a concession area with family-style restrooms and a plaza area that will host numerous activities, ranging from the Westland Farmers Market to concerts in the park.

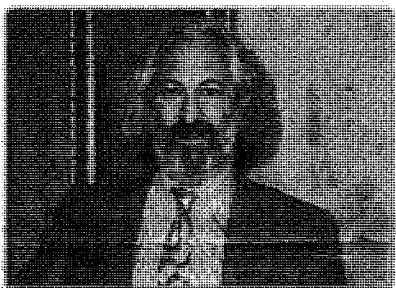
Closed since 2006, the restoration and reopening of Central City Park has been eagerly anticipated by Westland residents. Kosowski has been posting regular updates on progress at Central City Park at www.cityofwestland.com.

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Dr. Thomas Selznick, Four Seasons Medical Director

Rehabilitation and nursing centers have changed dramatically since Dr. Selznick went into practice 25 years ago after a residency at Wayne State University. Back then, physicians visited patients once a month as required by law. Selznick and Dr. Jerry Wilburn, his partner at Livonia Family Physicians, changed that practice. For rehabilitation outside the hospital, Four Seasons utilizes a team approach — physicians make rounds 7 days a week, and physical and occupational therapists work with patients 5 days a week to ensure a quick recovery and return home.

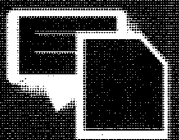
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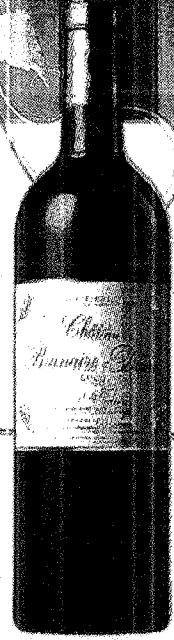
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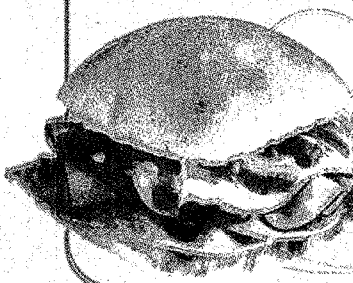
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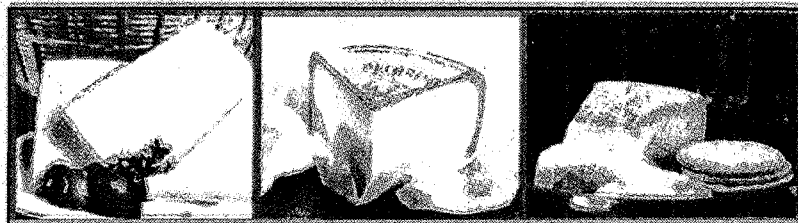
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Our recommendations for Nov. 8

For candidates, Tuesday's general election will be their moment of truth. Have they been able to sway enough voters to win a seat on the Westland City Council? The results at the end of the day will answer that question.

Seven candidates are seeking four seats on council: incumbents James Godbout, Adam Hammons, Bill Johnson and Michael Kehrer and newcomers Rick Ciaramitaro, Kevin Coleman and Peter Herzberg. The top three finishers will receive four-year terms, the fourth-place finisher a two-year term.

The current council has had to make many tough decisions and, with the state's languishing economy, more are yet to be made. Keeping the city moving forward is challenging at best and requires a good working relationship between the mayor, his administration and council. We believe the candidates who can do that are James Godbout, Adam Hammons, Bill Johnson and Michael Kehrer.

All four have the experience and an understanding of the city government processes. They know what the issues are and are willing to make decisions that are best for the entire community. Knowing what the bottom line needs to be has helped them come to an agreement on what needs to be done. They know how to work together to solve problems, but

are not shy about speaking their minds when they don't agree on a proposal.

As the current council president, Godbout has proven to be a capable leader, keeping the minutiae at bay and council focused on doing the business of the city, whether it is in a study session or during formal meetings.

We are glad to see Ciaramitaro, Coleman and Herzberg show an interest in serving on council, but believe they would not be effective as members of council. They have a narrow focus and lack a strong understanding of city government and the issues facing Westland.

That said, we recommend that James Godbout, Adam Hammons, Bill Johnson and Michael Kehrer be re-elected to the Westland City Council.

Residents also will be electing a city clerk. Eileen DeHart Schoof is unopposed in her bid for a third four-year term.

Over the past eight years, DeHart Schoof has done a masterful job of heading up the clerk's office. She is responsive to the needs of the public and has worked hard to increase efficiencies in the department. A reflection of how well she has done may be the fact that she is unopposed in this election.

It is an easy one, but we recommend Eileen DeHart Schoof for

Westland city clerk.

Livonia Public Schools

Westland residents living in the Livonia Public Schools district also will fill two seats on the Board of Education in Tuesday's general election.

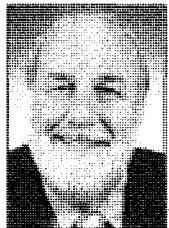
Four candidates are running for two four-year terms: incumbent board President Lynda Scheel, Dianne Nay Laura, Eileen McDonnell and Lee Yesh. Incumbent Trustee Randy Roulier is the only one whose name will appear on the ballot for the partial two-year term on the board. Loyd Romick filed as a write-in candidate for that seat.

For the four-year seats, we recommend Eileen McDonnell and Dianne Laura. Each has individual strengths that can help guide the board as it continues to work on improving student achievement and increasing efficiencies to strengthen the district financially.

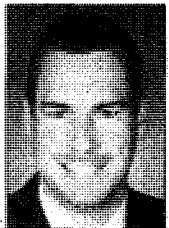
We don't think Scheel should be re-elected because of questionable decisions the board has made under her leadership, including granting Supt. Randy Liepa a \$50,000 raise after it had cut programs and services and before it requested concessions from employee groups.

For the unexpired term, we recommend Randy Roulier. Romick, with his late filing as a write-in, is using his candidacy to express his dissatisfaction with Scheel more than to get elected. He would not make a good trustee because of the way he drives a deeper wedge rather than seeking to resolve differences.

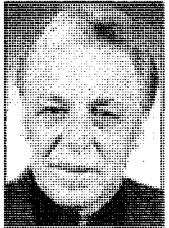
We also ask residents to get involved in the election process. Now is the time to make your voices heard by voting for those candidates you believe will represent the community as a whole. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8.



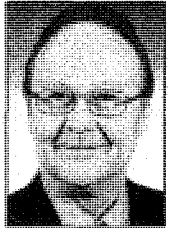
Godbout



Hammons



Johnson



Kehrer



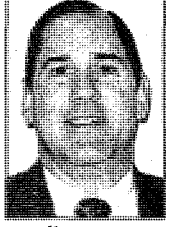
DeHart Schoof



Laura



McDonnell



Roulier

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Scheel is a proven leader

Please join me in re-electing Lynda Scheel to the Livonia Public Schools school board. Lynda Scheel has been an exemplary public servant, serving students, staff and constituents of Livonia and Westland proudly for eight years. I was fortunate to meet Lynda through her public service and she has always been willing to listen, consider all aspects and make the best decision she can for the district, even if that decision isn't popular.

In these extremely tough economic times, we need proven leadership that knows how to balance the interests of our students, families, employees and their various unions to keep our community schools strong.

Maggie Feher
Livonia

McDonnell worthy

Eileen McDonnell is an LPS school board candidate worthy of your vote. She has maintained a continuous involvement with the district and schools since her children first entered kindergarten. Eileen McDonnell has become even more motivated in seeing that our children's education becomes the top priority. Mrs. McDonnell understands the funding issues facing education and remains confident there are strategies and actions to be taken to improve LPS education and prevent declining enrollment with the funds available. "Above state average" doesn't say much — students excelling is Eileen's goal.

Dianne Marietti
Livonia

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Livonia schools can do better with Laura, McDonnell

This school board election is critical for both parents with children in Livonia schools and voters wanting to prevent falling home prices and deteriorating neighborhoods. School board trustees set educational goals and policy, conduct oversight of our schools and, when appropriate, hire and set compensation for the superintendent. Their objective is to develop the natural ability of each individual child in order that they take their place in American society as a responsible, productive citizen. This was in mind as we interviewed the four candidates running for the two, four-year school board seats.



Takalo



Churchill



Esparza

Important to our analysis and evaluation was the current performance of Livonia Public Schools and what we felt is the best path to improvement and excellence. Firstly, we met with Supt. Randy Liepa, who defined board responsibilities and the interaction between the board and school administration. Secondly, we did considerable independent research. Thirdly, we utilized Colleen Churchill, an Allen Park teacher, as an educational adviser. Finally, we interviewed each candi-

date and made an evaluation. Among the items we discovered, while doing our research, is the fact Livonia does not spend as much, proportionally, on instruction as other southeast Michigan districts. Also, on the Michigan Department of Education's Public School Top to Bottom list for 2011, Livonia's schools averaged a percentile rank of 67.1 while the schools in Northville, Novi and Plymouth-Canton averaged between 95.3 to 80.3. A percentile rank equates to the percentage of schools statewide that had lower achievement and improvement. We chose to compare Livonia against those districts because we compete against them when families are looking to purchase homes. According to the superintendent's contract, his compensation in 2011 will increase from \$148,919

Reader panel interviews school board candidates

The *Livonia Observer* selected two panels of readers to interview candidates and make endorsements in the Livonia mayoral, city council and school board races Nov. 8.

The panels operated independently of the *Observer* editorial staff, interviewing the candidates in person, attending candidate forums, researching the issues and deliberating on the choices.

The idea is to give readers an additional

opinion separate from the *Observer's*, one formed by readers like themselves.

Sitting on the Livonia school board reader endorsement panel were Al Churchill, Michael Esparza and Eric Takalo. The panelists were chosen by the *Observer* from among several applicants, who learned about the program from stories in the newspaper.

At right is their endorsement for the two four-year seats on school board.

to \$212,738, while in 2013 it will be \$218,208. The state average is \$137,000 plus fringe benefits, while districts with similar demographics pay \$178,440, including unused vacation days paid, according to Michigan Department of Education data. Clearly, Livonia Public Schools should be doing better in a number of areas.

That being said, it is the opinion of the reader panel that **Dianne Laura** and **Eileen McDonnell** are exceptionally qualified to guide Livonia's schools in 2011. Having worked in schools for 45 years, both as a teacher and administrator, Laura has an outstanding comprehension of educational issues. She was also active in a number of statewide educational organizations. She previously served on the Livonia Board of Education prior to 2001. First among her priori-

ties is the constraints put on the budget because of a dwindling rainy day fund and a decline in state aid. She suggests that grants, partnerships and outsourcing be considered as a partial antidote. Student achievement is a great concern. Concerning the failure of our high schools to achieve average yearly progress and student achievement generally, Laura suggests that intervention and the use of technology would help. Laura also wants to build on the relationship between our schools and citizens. Broader communication is the key. She wants to involve citizens more deeply in decision making. She is also concerned about school transparency. Lastly, she believes that the time was not right for the recent raise in the superintendent's salary.

McDonnell will also make an excellent addition to the school board. She has lived in Livonia for 15 years and has been a regular attendee at Board of Education meetings the past five years. Her children have been and are students of Livonia Public Schools. She has been very active in the Chamber of Commerce, PTA, Girl Scouts, Optimist Club and other charitable organizations. She is employed as a contract bid administrator and has a very good understanding of purchasing law.

McDonnell's priorities include financial well-being, academic improvement and public communication. She has a strong desire to get parents involved in Livonia's schools. Indeed, McDonnell believes that community members are an untapped resource who can help resolve the

issues facing the education community. Financially, McDonnell wants to reduce consultant and legal fees. Administrative overhead needs scrutiny and this is not the time for large administrative raises. She also thinks that the superintendent's raise was ill-timed. McDonnell wants contract bidding to be more aggressive. She stresses that the district's budget must be in line with revenues. McDonnell is very detail-oriented. For instance, she recently found a book used by students to be outdated. She is also concerned with district transparency. Finally, our panel sensed that McDonnell has a very clear awareness of right and wrong.

While the reader panel believes that Laura and McDonnell are right for Livonia for the next four years, we would like to thank all of the candidates for participating in our interviews. While we did not endorse them, Lynda Scheel and Lee Yesh both have something to contribute to the education dialogue in Livonia. We would also like to thank Dr. Liepa for getting information to us and for the time he spent with us.

We believe the recommended candidates will provide the best opportunity to introduce new priorities, measurements, community involvement, transparency and improved communication. This will drive improvements in Livonia's "State Percentile Ranking." That will bring us more in line with other top-performing districts, resulting in improving home values and neighborhoods. Don't forget to vote Nov. 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Laura is clear choice

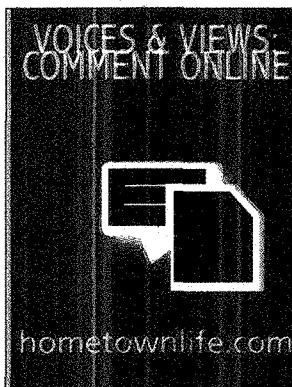
Dianne Laura is a clear choice for Livonia school board trustee on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Dianne has 19 years administrative experience as a principal and an additional 24 years experience as a classroom teacher. She has previously served as a Livonia school board trustee and held a position on the Livonia Zoning Board of Appeals.

She has the knowledge and dedication to move our district forward during these difficult economic times. Dianne's experience within the education field and our community makes her a front-runner to serve as a trustee. Her knowledge is invaluable to keep our existing programs and to help determine cost-cutting measures to continue to provide these programs in the future.

Dianne has the ability to promote mutual respect and trust between the community and the Livonia school board.

Kim Naccashian
Livonia



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Have your dog's "Mug Shot" taken for a chance to **WIN \$100 or Resilite Refresh Carpet!**

For a donation to Westland's Humane Society you can enter to **WIN a Bundle of Dog Fun...**

- Pink Ribbon
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Veterans continue memorial fundraising

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

It only seems appropriate that the Westland Veterans Association will have a visible presence setting up a display at Westland Shopping Center starting Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11.

The veterans, raising money for the new Veterans Memorial Garden in Central City Park, will be in the mall near the Coffee Beanery throughout the weekend selling commemorative sweatshirts, T-shirts and hats.

"We've raised over \$60,000 for the first phase, which will cost \$150,000," WVA President Ken Mehl

said. "Next year on Veterans Day (2012), we plan to dedicate at least the center of the memorial garden."

The design for the Veterans Memorial Garden has undergone one revision — the water element has been eliminated after consultations with buildings trades professionals.

"We'll have the new picture on display. The building trades people told us to do what we want, but there are maintenance issues," Mehl said. "Other communities have shut off the water fountains. So we took it out."

On display at the mall will be the carved stone POW/MIA marker which Mehl said will then go on

We've raised over \$60,000 for the first phase, which will cost \$150,000. Next year on Veterans Day (2012), we plan to dedicate at least the center of the memorial garden.

KEN MEHL

Westland Veterans Association president

to be displayed at the William P. Faust Library until it is installed at the memorial garden.

As the veterans hold their fundraiser, the holidays will officially get under way at Westland Shopping Center with Santa Claus arriving via helicopter — at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 12.

The mall will be set-

ting up a collection box to gather toiletries, gum, snacks and other items to be shipped to military personnel serving overseas during the holidays. The theme will be "Don't Forget Our Troops."

"We don't want to take away from his cause (the veterans memorial). We want to be part of the community and help the community," said Samantha

Grosman, shopping center administrative assistant. "There will be kids here with parents as Santa arrives. We are trying make it a really big community event."

Westland Shopping Center will have a list of needed items being collected for overseas troops on its Facebook page. In addition, monetary donations are needed to help offset the shipping costs of the holiday packages. It cost about \$600 the last time there was similar collection, Mehl said.

The items donated at the mall will go to individual military personnel rather than whole units. As a result, Mehl said names of

serving military personnel can be submitted by friends and family as long as they can provide a full overseas mailing address.

"We'll get names through VFWs, American Legions and friends and family," Mehl said.

The WVA still has tickets to a performance of Toppermost, a Beatles tribute band, Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road. Tickets are \$10 per person. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the show at 8 p.m.

For tickets or information on other WVA programs, call (734) 335-7943.

lrogers@hometownlife.com
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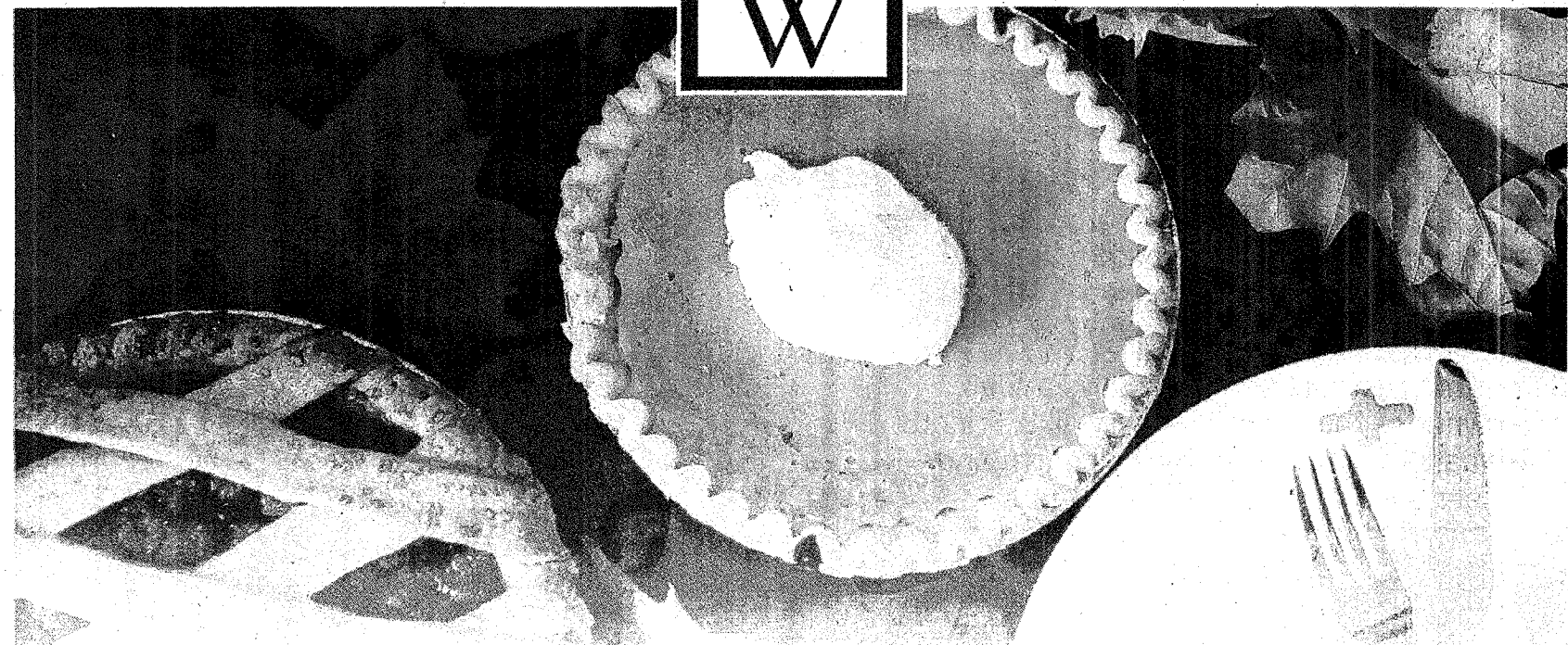
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Get out the Vote

Youngsters at the McKinley Cooperative Preschool are working hard to get out the vote in hopes of winning \$10,000 from Pepsi and getting a new playground. People can vote three ways everyday through Nov. 30. Send a text to PEPSI (73774), standard text messaging rates apply; go online at the Refresh Everything page, www.refresheverything.com - Block all www.refresheverything.com results - sign in once and then you're set to vote each day - and on McKinley's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/McKinleyCoopPreschool. People who sign up for daily e-mail reminders could win, too. If McKinley wins the \$10,000 grant, it will select three random winners who will each receive a \$100 gift card. Sign up today at eepurl.com/gio4z and help the preschoolers get a playground. You can also watch a video about the project on YouTube at www.youtube.com. McKinley Cooperative Preschool is a non-profit educational and developmental program for young children. It is owned and operated by parents and is licensed by the State of Michigan. Visit www.mckinleypreschool.org to learn more the preschool.

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Just in time for winter, Jack Daniels by the barrel

By Pat Murphy
Observer Staff Writer

These guys really like whiskey.

Bob Taipala and Wayne Elliott met about a decade ago when their sons attended High-meadow Elementary School in Farmington Hills. Over the years they and their families shared many experiences as well as a few drinks.

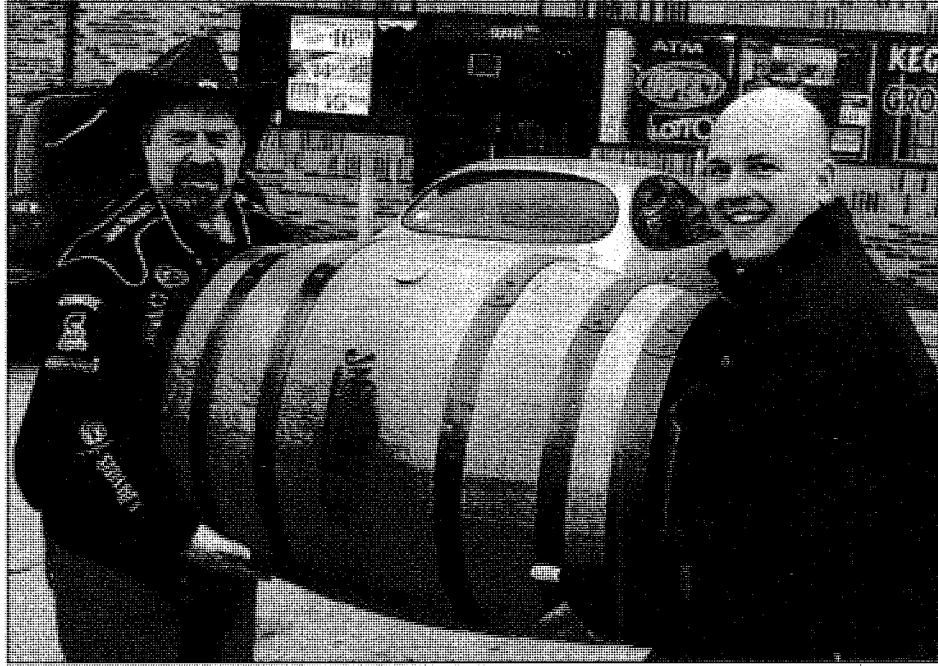
They will probably share a few more after taking delivery on their share of a barrel of Jack Daniels whiskey delivered to a Redford Township party store Thursday.

Taipala, Elliott and their wives went to the distillery at Lynchburg, Tenn. in August, where they sampled several barrels before selecting just the right one. Lynchburg, ironically, is located in a dry county.

They decided to buy their whiskey by the barrel because it is a unique experience, and doing so would save time and money. But it was also a fun weekend trip, the drinking buddies agreed.

"This will last me for years," Taipala said Thursday, as he tasted a sample from their barrel. He generally likes different bourbons, Taipala said. "But I guess I'm a confirmed Jack drinker."

Elliott said he's more of a beer drinker. "I



Robert Taipala, left, and Ryan Koehneke, a representative of the distillery, carry the empty barrel into the Redford Township party store.

probably haven't had a bottle of Jack in my entire life," he said. But he'll probably drink Jack now, he said, "and give a few bottles as Christmas gifts."

Taipala and Elliott each purchased one fourth of the barrel. The other half was purchased by Statewide Disaster Restoration in Southfield, where Elliott is an estimator. The price, according to a distillery spokesman was about \$11,500 and the barrel holds between 230-250 bottles. The barrel is tapped at the distillery and all the bottles are filled. Each has

a special label with the names of the buyers and a plaque with their names will also hang on a wall at the Lynchburg facility.

His company will probably give most of its bottles to customers, Elliott said. He plans to do much the same, although he'll keep some bottles for personal consumption.

The whiskey drinkers took delivery of

their barrel at the Seven Mile One Stop convenience store on Seven Mile Road, owned by Sam Zaia, Taipala's brother-in-law. The barrel was empty on delivery and the cases of bottles were stacked in rows, some of which were four high.

The distinctive Tennessee whiskey is a good seller, said Zaia, "But most people buy it by the bottle."

National Home Care Month celebrated

Approximately 12 million Americans receive in-home health care from home health care providers every year. In their honor, United Home Health Services joins the National Association for Home Care & Hospice in celebrating November as National Home Care Month with the theme: Because There Is No Place Like Home.

Movie-goers worldwide know this famous line from *The Wizard of Oz*. According to United Home Health Services officials, millions of people feel like Dorothy did, longing to go home, especially if they're aged, disabled, or ill and in a hospital or nursing home. Unlike Dorothy, these individuals do not need ruby slippers or the help of a good witch to stay in their homes.

They just need a little extra help and that's where home care comes in. Whether they need a nurse or therapist a few times a week or a caregiver for a few hours a month or 24 hours a day, home care keeps people safe and healthy in their own homes.

The benefits of home care, officials said, will become even more evident as the baby boomers age. Moving into a

nursing home is one of their greatest fears, and there's a good chance they won't accept this fate. The boomers marched for civil rights. They rallied against the Vietnam War. They protested the draft and they are still breaking the rules. Most boomers want to remain in their own home as they age gracefully and remain a part of their community.

"Caring for the sick and elderly in their homes is truly a privilege for us," said United Home Health Services President Penny Rhein. "We are honored that they allow us into their homes and hearts. Many times our staff become like family to them. Home is where healing really happens the best so our mission is to help our patients remain safe and independent in their own homes."

Through modern technology, home health care has grown far beyond basic care. Today's home health agency offers a wealth of nursing, therapy, dietary, lab, monitoring devices, telehealth, medical supplies and equipment, and personal care.

For more information, call (734) 981-8820 and refer to United's website at www.uhhs.org.

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Anderson: GOP bill is 'license to bully' in state

A western Wayne County senator is mortified at a bill approved by the Michigan State Senate that would require that local school districts create anti-bullying policies but fell far short of the measures needed to adequately address this critical issue that affect many children across the state.

Senate Bill 137, introduced by Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, went through several drafts throughout the committee process, the most recent of which made significant changes. The new, drastically altered version of the bill was added to the agenda at the last minute and through a legislative maneuver rammed the bill through both General Orders and the final passage of the bill.

"The amended version of this bill is a disastrous step backward for the efforts to create effective anti-bullying legislation in our state," said Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland.

Anderson has been a leader on this issue for the better part of the decade, introducing his own comprehensive anti-bullying legislation in several previous legislative sessions dur-

ing his time in the House and his first term in the Senate.

"I am mortified by this Republican substitute," he said.

Language was added in the substitute that allowed for "a statement of a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction of a school employee, school volunteer, pupil, or a pupil's parent or guardian." Opponents of the amendment argued that this allowed for bullies to continue bullying and, in fact, gave them a blueprint on how to do so, or a "license to bully."

Democrats in the Senate introduced amendments that would have stripped that language, included cyber-bullying, included teachers and adults in the schools in those covered, required reporting to track the legislation's effectiveness, and added enumerated categories to ensure that local school district policies covered those most affected.

These measures were all defeated, most on party lines.

Kevin Epling, whose son the bill is named after, submitted a statement of opposition to the amended bill saying that the amendments were "mind boggling" and that he was "ashamed

that this could be Michigan's anti-bullying law."

"To the families of the 10 reported suicides that were directly linked to bullying and the countless others that have gone unreported, this bill adds insult to injury," said Anderson. "I have been working for years to pass legislation to provide a safe school environment for all of our students. This bill goes in the exact opposite direction and, in fact, provides a license to bully. This fight for safe schools is not over and the shameful legislation that was passed should challenge us all to stand up for a real anti-bullying law in Michigan."

"I am utterly shocked to learn that our so-called leaders have yet again tampered with Michigan's anti-bullying bill in the most bizarre ways," said Epling. "To give people a 'pass' because their verbal or physical assault is 'sanctioned' by religion is mind boggling. Are we are going back to the days of the Crusades? This passage negates the rest of the bill. If people claim 'religious grounds' then there will be no reports, no course corrections and greatly increase the growing tensions in our schools."

CAPA presents 'Phaedra' and 'The Burial at Thebes'

By Elizabeth Casella
Correspondent

Phaedra and *The Burial at Thebes* will open the 2011-2012 season of shows produced and performed by the Creative And Performing Arts department at Churchill High School.

Phaedra by Jean Racine, written in 1677, is adapted from the Greek play *Hippolytus*, written by Euripides in 428 B.C. and translated by Colin John Holcombe in 2008.

The story raises concerns about justice but also with control and asks how do people control themselves, when should they control themselves, and whether control is always good. In this way, the play confronts Greek ideas about *nomos* and *physis*.

The Burial at Thebes, originally written by Sophocles as *Antigone* in 442 B.C. and adapted by Seamus Heaney in 2004, tells the story of Antigone, the daughter of Oedipus king of Thebes, Greece, who learns that her brothers have killed each other fighting on different sides of a war. The story reveals how the brothers supported different sides of the war and started a brutal fight over who should get buried and where, since some consider one a traitor and the other a hero.

Students were asked what was the most rewarding part of the show.

"My acting classes have paid off. The monologues have been tough to learn, but my acting has



The cast of the 'The Burial at Thebes' includes Alexis Tesner (from left, in front row), Alex Szczotka (Antigone), Laena Bradley and Leah Dixon, Carly Angott (from left, in second row), Alex Capeneka and Ana Gomulka, and Jesse Boruff (third row).

improved because of it," said Claire Whittbracht, a senior who plays Phaedra.

"It was great work being able to work with everyone in the cast, getting to know all of the new kids in CAPA and getting to work with them personally," said Alex Szczotka, a senior who plays Antigone in *The Burial at Thebes*.

Teacher Rolfe Bergsman, director of Phaedra, said that he chose to do a Greek tragedy because it is where CAPA teachers "start to teach the kids."

"It is the roots of theatre and it is a hard show. So it pushes the kids every time they rehearse it and helps them become better actors," Bergsman said.

Kyle Grant, director of *The Burial at Thebes* and CAPA alumnus, said this

show was more attractive to him more than Greek tragedy itself.

"This translation is really beautiful and captures the poetry of the show without being too flashy," Grant said.

Remaining *Phaedra* show times are at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11 and 2 p.m. on Nov. 12. Remaining *The Burial at Thebes* show times are 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 10, and 12 in the Carli Auditorium at Churchill High School, located at 8900 Newburgh Road, just north of Joy Road.

Tickets can be purchased in advanced at starringcapa.com or at the door. Tickets are \$12 for adults, and \$10 for students and seniors.

Elizabeth Casella is a ninth grade student at Stevenson High School.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.



Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear themselves at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

Those denied can appeal on their own but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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MSHDA's HCV Program is partnering with Wildwood LDHA/LP, Lincoln Behavioral Services and Continental Management to make available supportive housing rental subsidies for a total of twenty three (23) 15-1/BR and 8-2BR units located at Wildwood Apartment Homes, 5995 N. Wildwood St., Westland MI.

The Project Based Voucher (PBV) waiting list will be established by MSHDA beginning Monday, November 7, 2011 for all applicants who qualify. The waiting list for the PBV program will remain open indefinitely.

You may qualify for residency at Wildwood Apartment Homes - family units, if you are a supportive housing target population, your income falls within the allowable limits (30% AMI), you can prove residency in Wayne County (living or working) - and meet one or more of the following criteria:

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- Special Needs
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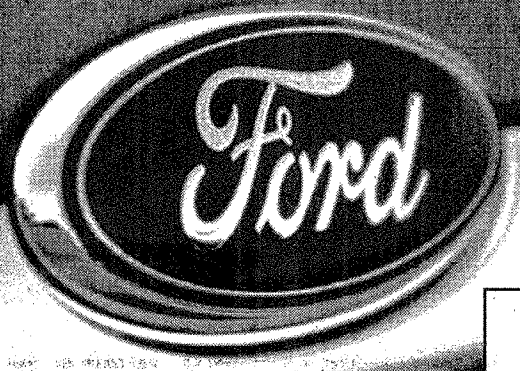
Anita Jackson and Donna Recor from Lincoln Behavioral Services will be accepting applications beginning November 7, 2011. They will be available to determine eligibility and assist eligible individuals with the application process. Please contact Anita or Donna at: 313.242.1024 between the hours of 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday to make an appointment or to discuss your eligibility for rental assistance.

Residency Documentation Requirements: You must provide a COPY of proof of residency in Wayne County along with your application. Acceptable documentation includes: A letter from the homeless service provider on their letterhead, a current lease, driver's license, state ID card, utility bill, social security printout, or voter's registration card. If the applicant or household member works, or has been hired to work in Wayne County, please provide a COPY of proof of the work address or a letter from the employer verifying employment.

Other Documents: Copy of birth certificates and social security cards for all household members.



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Dragging case could spur new charge

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

A Westland driver accused of hitting another man and dragging him as a crowd gathered outside a Canton house could face a new, higher charge of assault with intent to murder, authorities have confirmed.

The defendant, 20-year-old Rodney Manning, already had been ordered to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on charges of operating a vehicle while intoxicated causing seri-



Manning

ous injury, felonious assault and reckless driving causing serious injury. However, Wayne County authorities have remanded the case to 35th District Court for a new hearing to consider an attempted murder charge against Manning. He is charged in a horrific incident July 2 that police say occurred

when a motorist drove off Beck Road near Woodlong Drive and struck an 18-year-old victim, who became trapped under the car and was dragged toward Saltz Road.

The victim, also a Westland man, suffered severe injuries and spent just over two months in a hospital, Canton Detective Tim Wright has said.

Manning appeared before 35th District Judge James Plakas, who adjourned the new hearing until Nov. 18 amid claims by prosecuting

attorney Kenneth Simon that there are "reluctant witnesses" in the case. Simon's allegations prompted Plakas to warn that he will jail any witnesses who refuse to cooperate.

Plakas also issued a warning that anyone involved in the case could find themselves in legal trouble, if they attempt to threaten or harass others. That warning came amid allegations by a defense attorney that threats have been made against Manning on Facebook

and that vehicles have been driving past his house late at night since the incident, possibly in an attempt to harass him.

Plakas also warned Manning not to have any firearms. Manning said in court that he doesn't have any.

Manning is charged in an incident that Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner has said occurred during "a large gathering of young adults and teens."

Manning was charged amid allegations he drove off the shoulder

of the road onto a grassy area, striking the 18-year-old victim and dragging him for what police called a considerable distance.

Authorities have said the driver initially didn't realize the victim was pinned under the car. The driver left the scene but later turned himself over to authorities.

No details have yet emerged to indicate what may have triggered the incident.

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Recycle for cash

Drop off used ink jet cartridges, cell phones, digital cameras and similar items at City Hall. Garden City Charities, a group formed by city staff, sends the items off to be recycled by Cartridges for Kids and gets cash in return. Money raised by Garden City Charities benefits local organizations.

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St. John's Project provides cheer for veterans

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

It started out as project for adults and children at St. John's Lutheran Church and School in Westland to provide holiday packages for veterans at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. Armed with \$780 in cash and donations, they made in-patient boxes that they delivered to the hospital, where they visited with veterans and sang songs.

Five years later, they're still making the boxes, but the effort has expanded to include the in-patient boxes, food and clothing for homeless veterans and boxes for military personnel in combat overseas.

"It's just blossomed. It's huge," Kendra Schaffer said.

Schaffer got the idea to do the packages for the veterans from her son, who worked at the hospital. He told her the patients don't get a lot of visitors and have limited toiletries.

The first year, they prepared 100 boxes for patients. The second year, they collected \$1,900 in cash and donations and prepared 101 boxes for the patients and 115 boxes of food for homeless veterans. With each passing year, the donations have increased and more people and churches have got involved. Students at Huron Valley Lutheran High School in Westland are helping out, as are St. John's sisters churches — St. Paul's and Peace Lutheran in Livonia, Our Savior in Westland and Trinity Lutheran in Saline. Even Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has contributed \$1,000 to this year's effort.



Marine Cpl. William C. Danic III and Gunnery Sgt. Jody Nelson and Army Sgt. First Class Jose Vital show off the Christmas packages they received from the St. John's Veterans Project while they were stationed in Afghanistan last year.

fer said there is no way to describe packing day, although she admits she has never heard her name called so much. Boryszczuk, however, describes it as "fun chaos."

Last year was probably the "most memorable" visit to the VA Hospital. Because of the flu, they couldn't go to the continuing care area, so they had time to stop and talk to the veterans.

"Last year our children had a great opportunity to speak to the veterans and what an education they received," Boryszczuk said. "The experience touched every heart involved."

The St. John's Veterans Project is a 501(c)3 charity. Contributions are 100-percent tax deductible and 100 percent of the donations go to the project. Business names go on a thank you poster and on a donor list placed in every box. Businesses that donate also will receive a thank you certificate.

People wishing to make cash donations can send checks, payable to St. John's Veterans Project, to St. John's Lutheran School and Church, 2602 S. Wayne Road, Westland, MI 48186-5427. Donations also can be dropped off at the school office.

More information also can be found on the project's Facebook page at facebook.com/stjohnsveteranproject.

"I never thought it would get this big," Schaffer said. "Next year we'll keep doing what we're doing this year and add blankets. The more who get involved, the bigger we can make it."

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751

"When you go out there and see these veterans ... they're the reason we have our freedom, but they look so lonely," Schaffer said. "It's so moving because here are these huge men who fought in wars with tears in their eyes, saying thank you."

"I took my 7-year-old son last year and they were so excited to see him," Trisha Boryszczuk said. "They taught him how to shake hands properly."

In 2010, the group received \$3,126 in cash and donations. It made 142 in-patient boxes, 140 boxes for the homeless and added 38 individual boxes for troops serving in Afghanistan. That, according to the two women, was "truly awesome." The children made Christmas cards and drew pictures that were included in the individual boxes. Members of the congregation also wrote Christmas cards. "These guys were

waiting for these boxes because they had run out of soap," Boryszczuk said.

This year the group has adopted another 35 soldiers serving in Afghanistan and is preparing 260 boxes. After some brainstorming, they expanded to include clothing.

With the help of coupons, Schaffer was able to get 50 coats from the DAV Thrift Store "pretty much for free." She went back and got another 27 for 50 percent off. The Laundry Stop on Wayne Road helped in cleaning them.

"I wanted at least 100 hats, coats, scarves and gloves coats and I'm at 135," Schaffer said. "The grade school did a glove drive and a lady at the church made 200 fleece scarves."

Kmart on Wayne Road has "been great" in with its buy one, get one free on sweat pants and Meijer has provided gift cards that are used to

purchase items for the boxes. Schaffer even bought up every T-shirt the CVS had on sale for 25 cents each, much to the dismay of other shoppers.

They're also collecting gently used men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes and boots for a veterans homeless shelter. Items can be dropped off at the Laundry Stop or at the school on Wayne Road just north of Glenwood. Canned goods should open with pull tabs.

"It's become its own animal," Schaffer said. "Now I do shopping all year-round. It helps doing it throughout the year."

Some businesses have donation jars out to help collect funds. Cash, according to the two women, is the best way to help because it lets them fill items that are needed.

The coats, hats, gloves and scarves will go out to the homeless veter-

ans within the next few weeks. They all will be on hangers, with the accessories in a bag. The overseas packages will be sent out by Dec. 10, while the packages for the VA Hospital and the homeless will be assembled Dec. 16 and delivered Dec. 17. The hospital will distribute the items meant for homeless veterans at several centers it has in the area.

"The fun part is bringing all of the things into the school gym and setting up the assembly line," Schaffer said. "The cards from the younger kids will be done in the early morning, the older kids will do the assembly of the boxes. They'll make sure every box gets all its items."

The boxes are wrapped in Christmas paper and then yet another assembly line is formed to load them into a box truck provided by Glenn and Karen Stockdale of GMK Flooring. Schaf-



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St. Mary Mercy Hospital's UPCOMING HEALTH INFORMATION PRESENTATIONS

- **Center for Joint Replacement Seminar**
Guest speaker Ryan Moll, DO
Thursday, November 10, 6 p.m.
Call 734-655-2345 to register or for more information.
- **Stress Free Holidays**
Guest speaker Cynthia Rochon, RN, PMHN, MBA
Wednesday, November 16, 7 p.m.
Call 734-655-8950 to register or for more information.
- **Women's Health Series:
Healthy Living. Healthy Woman.**
Speakers from Gynecology and Urogynecology
Thursday, November 17, 6-8 p.m.
Call 734-655-2281 to register or for more information.
- **Center for Joint Replacement Seminar**
Guest speaker Jeffrey Mendelson, MD
Wednesday, November 30, 6 p.m.
Call 734-655-2345 to register or for more information.
- **Michigan Bariatric Institute Seminar**
Guest speaker Tallal Zeni, MD
Thursday, December 1, 6 p.m.
Call 877-WHY-WEIGHT to register or for more information.
- **Fall Prevention**
Guest speaker Kevin Moore, OTR, WCC, MSA
Wednesday, December 7, 7 p.m.
Call 734-655-8950 to register or for more information.

REGISTER NOW!

Presentations are free, but registration is required. Visit stmarymercy.org and click on *Classes & Events* or call designated number above.

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Bring a new unwrapped gift to one of the office locations below and as our way of saying thank you, receive a coupon for a free Buddy's 4 square cheese pizza.*

All gifts will be given to Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford and Orchards Children Services in Southfield.

Methodist Children's Home Society is a 94-year old agency that responds to the needs of abused and neglected children by providing residential, adoption and foster care services.

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Scoop will personally give each child who donates a gift a Scoop t-shirt in addition to the pizza coupon*

From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. ONLY!
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December 1, 2011
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South Lyon, MI 48178

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December 9, 2011
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41304 Concept Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170

All unwrapped gifts will be accepted Nov. 6 through Dec. 9.
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*while supply lasts

AROUND WESTLAND

Testing

An Emergency Alert System test is scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, on all radio, television and other media services.

The Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will conduct the first-ever nationwide test of the EAS.

The three-minute test is designed to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the system as a way to alert the public during nationwide emergencies.

Beatles tribute

The Beatles tribute band Toppermost will perform a concert Saturday, Nov. 12, to benefit the Westland Veterans Association. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$100 for reserved tables for eight. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the concert at 8 p.m. at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale.

For more information and tickets, call (734) 335-7943.

Bazaar/Bake Sale

The public is invited to the Village of Westland at 32001 Cherry Hill, west of Merriman, Westland, for a Bazaar and Bake Sale 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12.

Used Book Sale

The Friends of the William P. Faust Library of Westland will hold a used book sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 18-19, and noon-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 20, at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road.

There will be a special sale of \$1 for hardcover books - fiction, biography, autobiography and memoirs - buy one get one free. Hardcover

non-fiction books, DVDs and CDs also will be \$1 with coffee Table Books priced at \$2. Large paperbacks will be 50 cents, small paperbacks, videos, cassettes, records 25 cents and small paperback romance and magazines 10 cents.

The coffee table books and other books in the Thanksgiving/Christmas section are great for holiday gifts. And add one of the Friends Reusable Green Book Bags for \$2 to your purchase for another great gift.

Preview sale for Friends Members will be 3-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17. You can become a Friend at the preview sale.

Support the Westland Library by shopping at the book sale as the Friends are now paying for all programs that are held at the library.

For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Commodities

The City of Westland has established the day, times and locations that residents may obtain surplus federal food for the month of November.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities on 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Dorsey Community Center, located at 32715 Dorsey Road, south of Palmer.

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

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers will pick up their food there and must call their building manager for their day of distribution.

For the month of November, apple juice, corn, beef stew, dried plums, mixed vegetables, UHT milk and possible additional items will be distributed.

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

American Legion

The American Legion, Westland Post 251, meets at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. All veterans, male and female with an honorable discharge are welcome to join. Visit the post Web site at www.post 251.org or call (734) 326-2607 for more information.


Free workshop

Westland residents at risk of losing their homes can attend a free Loan Modification and Short Sale Workshop held 6-7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey east of Venoy.

Annette Compo of WJR Real Estate 411 and Linda Miller, an MSHDA-certified foreclosure counselor with National Faith Homebuyers, will be on hand to meet with residents one-on-one to do an overview of the foreclosure process and present them with various options for their situation.

The city of Westland is working with developers to assist residents that lose their home to foreclosure to try to remain in the same neighborhood.

To register for the workshop, call (313) 378-5418 or send an e-mail to lindamiller@national-faith.org.



**"2011-
No Child
Without a
Christmas"**

The Westland Goodfellows is holding a toy and food drive. Donations of toys, hats & gloves, and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at any of the following locations. All donated items will be distributed to Westland families this Christmas. Donation boxes available November 1 to December 2nd, 2011

Participating Goodfellows' Partners

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-11 All Med Medical B & G Bookkeeping & Tax Service Biggby Coffee Cash Connection Catherine's Central Park Dry Cleaners Chief Financial Credit Union Clos, Russell & Wirth, P.C. Comic City Daniel SharpSmart Disabled American Veterans Thrift Store Family Video Fountain Park Apartments Harlow Tire & Racing Icon Computer Solutions Independent Carpet One Mancino's Ninja Computer Repair Our Saviors Manor Parkside Credit Union Red Holman Pontiac-GMC Schoolcraft College-Radcliff Campus Snack Alley at Westland Bowl Tanabed Island Tooling & Equipment International Victory Honda Warriors 3 Comics & Games Wayne Ford Civic League Wayne-Westland Fed. Credit Union Westland Car Care Westland Chamber of Commerce Westland City Hall, Lobby Westland Bailey Rec. Center Westland Fire Dept., Main Station Westland Police Dept., Lobby Westland Nursing & Rehab. Centre Westland Friendship Senior Center Willow Creek Apartments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 126 S. John Hix Rd., Westland, at Cherry Hill 6321 Commerce Dr., Westland 32508 Michigan Ave., Wayne 37644 Ford Rd., Westland 6060 N. Wayne Rd., Westland 34764 Warren Rd., Westland 36329 Ford Rd., Westland 31100 Palmer Rd., Westland 35551 Ford Rd., Suite 100, Westland 42727 Ford Rd., Canton 5770 N. Hix Rd., North of Ford Rd. 8050 N. Middlebelt Rd., Westland 146 S. Venoy, Westland 37410 Fountain Park Cr., Westland, off Newburgh north of Warren Rd. 1845 N. Wayne Rd., Westland 35858 W Michigan Ave, Wayne 1400 N. Wayne, Westland 37636 Ford Rd., Westland 33163 Ford Rd., Garden City 29495 Annapolis, Westland 1747 S. Newburgh Rd., Westland 35300 Ford Rd., Westland 1751 Radcliff, Westland 5940 N. Wayne Rd., Westland 35041 Cherry Hill Rd., Westland 12550 Tech Center Dr., Livonia 315 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth 35613 W Michigan Ave., Wayne 1645 N. Wayne Rd., Westland 500 S. Wayne Rd., Westland 7666 N. Wayne Rd., Westland 36900 Ford Rd., Westland 36601 Ford Rd., Westland 36651 Ford Rd., Westland Ford Rd. and Central City Pkwy 36701 Ford Rd., Westland 36137 Warren Rd., Westland 1119 Newburgh Rd., Westland 1673 Fairwood Drive, Westland
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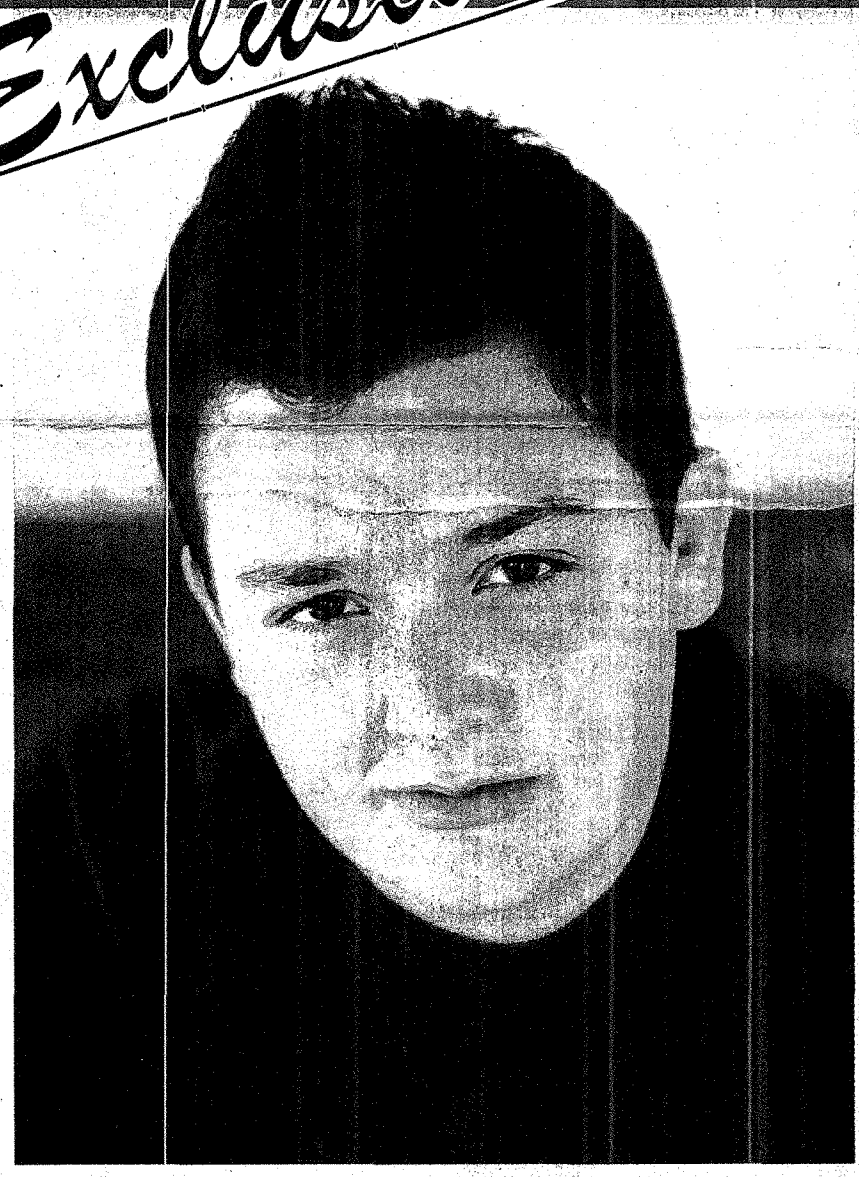
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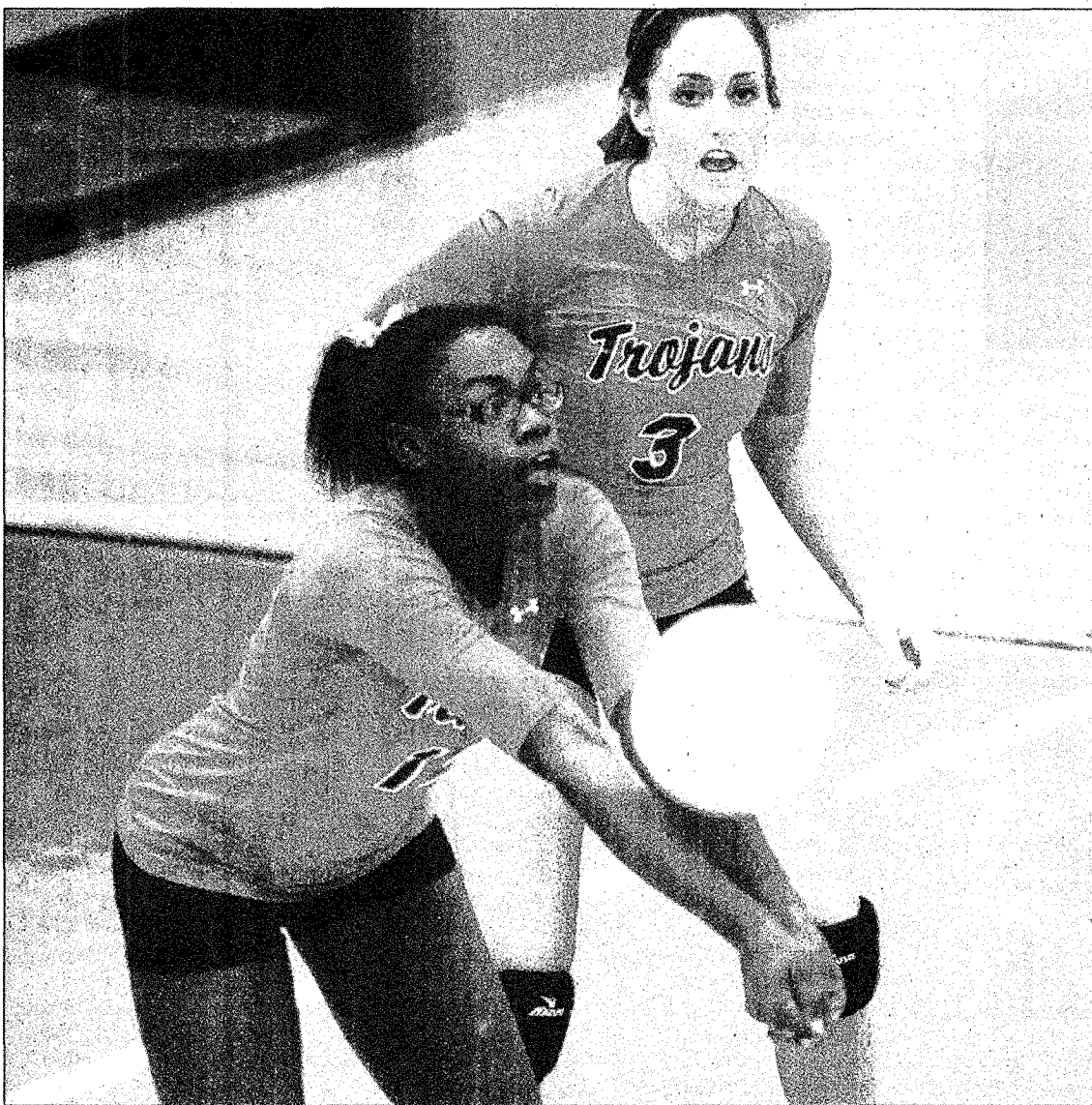
See www.westlandcenter.com for more details, dates, and times.

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C'ville spikers seize crown



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Clarenceville's Ayanna Buckley (12) comes up with the dig in front of teammate Angela McAlpine (3) during Friday's Class B district championship win over Hamtramck.

1st district title since '97

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Being an independent and not affiliated with a league, Livonia Clarenceville's eye on the prize all season long was a district girls volleyball title.

And the Trojans accomplished their mission Friday night with a convincing 25-10, 25-5, 25-7 triumph over visiting Hamtramck.

It was Clarenceville's first district title since 1997 and catapulted the 27-14-4 Trojans into a Class B regional semifinal matchup against 39-17 Livonia Ladywood beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Carleton Airport.

"At the beginning of the season they said they wanted that (banner) flag up top and it didn't matter what team they came across," Clarenceville sixth-year coach Wendy Mershman said. "They said they were getting that flag."

"We've got to have something to play for and districts was our goal."

Hamtramck, formerly affiliated with Clarenceville in the old Metro Conference, offered little resistance in the district championship final.

The Cosmos could muster only three total kills in the three sets.

Meanwhile, Clarenceville was get-

Please see C'VILLE, B3

MU women ousted in OT

Paige Eli's overtime goal in the 96th minute enabled the host Davenport University women's soccer team to escape with a 3-2 triumph Wednesday over Madonna University in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference quarterfinal playoff match played at East Kentwood H.S.

MU, getting a pair of goals from Liliana Serratos, ends its season at 6-9-1 overall.

Serratos opened the scoring in the 24th minute on a header off a long cross from Ashley Parent.

But the Panthers tied it in the 53rd minute on Letesha Cannonier's first of two goals.

Serratos added her fourth of the season in the 66th minute off an assist from Diana Brda (Livonia Franklin) to give Madonna a 3-2 lead, but Cannonier tied it again in the 80th minute with her 10th of the year.

MU goalkeeper Chelsea Gregg (Livonia Clarenceville) made three saves, while Catherine Howard had 11 stops for Davenport (11-7-1).

Rosen selected to ODP pool

Jake Rosen, a freshman at Livonia Clarenceville High School, was selected to the U.S. Youth Soccer Region II Boys Olympic Development Program pool team in his age group.

Regional and national coaches selected Rosen at a regional camp held recently in Overland Park, Kan., where the top 18 players from each of the 14 Midwest state soccer associations competed for selection.

Rosen is a member of Vardar Soccer Club, which is a member of the US Soccer Development Academy.

"Being selected to the regional pool is a major accomplishment," said Ellie Singer, Region II administrator for the Olympic Development Program. "Jake will be observed now and in the future for possible selection to a U.S. National Team."

Regional-bound

Spartans block Garden City in district

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

For the first time in six years, Livonia Stevenson is back in the Class A girls volleyball regional.

The Spartans ran their record to 37-12-2 overall with a 25-16, 25-16, 25-16 victory over Garden City in the district final hosted Friday by Livonia Churchill.

Stevenson moves into the regional semifinal for a 5:30 p.m. matchup Tuesday at Warren Cousino against the Detroit Renaissance district champion.

"I don't think it's set in yet with the huge match that we had on Tuesday," said Stevenson coach Kelly Graham, whose team won a key five-set match against rival Churchill. "It will settle in probably after the weekend. Just thinking about it I got excited today, but it

hasn't set in."

The Spartans, however, weren't taking Garden City for granted.

"They (Garden City) were scrappy watching them play," Graham said. "Actually they were even scrappier and more aggressive playing against us, which is where we ran into our problems because we weren't matching their aggressiveness. So that's where we struggled with our intensity. I knew they had a couple of really good servers and they ran those quick sets in the middle, and also to number eight (Holly Sayer) on the outside, who is a solid player, too. They had a little bit of everything."

The Spartans, however, had a little bit more led by 5-foot-11 senior Kelly Vellucci, who finished with 13 kills, nine assist-to-kills and seven digs.

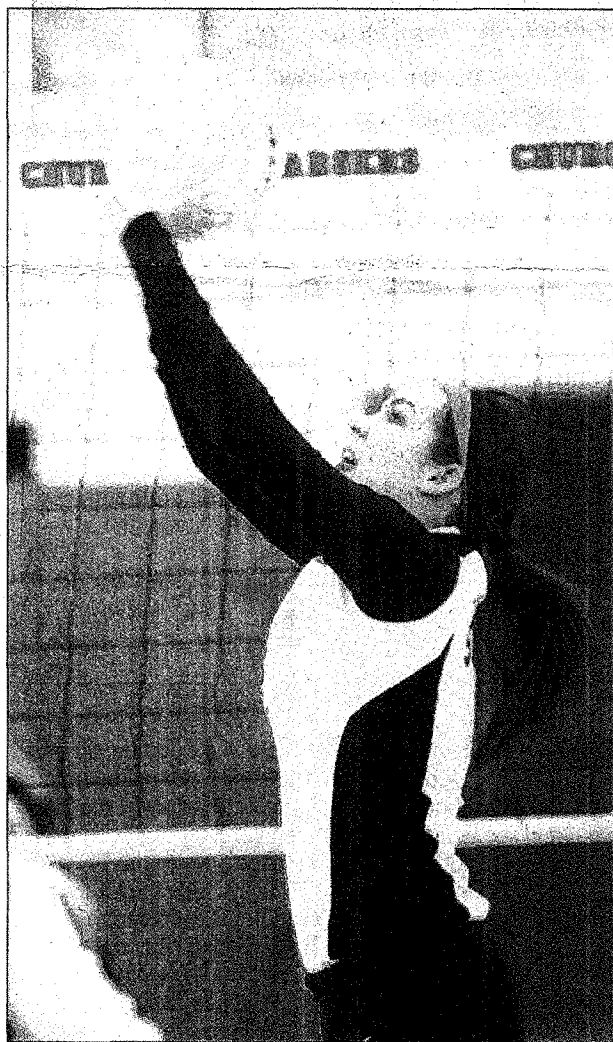
Junior setter Allie Koestering also chipped in with a team-best 11 assists.

Sophomores Katie Tomasic and Morgan Copperstone each added six kills, while senior Jordan York sparked the Stevenson defense with a team-high 14 digs.

"Vellucci and Tomasic . . . just fantastic all-around players," GC coach John Pace said. "And their libero (Jordan York) is very solid. They knew exactly how we were going to play our game. They defended my best hitter and we tried to play as good of defense as we could against them. They just had too many people that could terminate the ball. That was the difference."

The Cougars got 10 kills from junior Cayla Bone, while senior Cassan-

Please see SPARTANS, B2



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Stevenson setter Allie Koestering makes the pass in Friday's Class A district championship victory over Garden City.

'Katie Bar the Door:' Horton sinks Rockets

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Wayne Memorial put itself in position to capture its first district girls volleyball title in more than two decades with a 25-20, 22-25, 25-20, 25-18 win Thursday night over rival Westland John Glenn.

The Zebras, who improved to 18-12-2 overall, got another sterling performance from 6-foot-1 middle hitter Katie Horton, who finished with 24 kills, six solo blocks and 14 digs.

Wayne took on Romulus, a 3-0 winner over Belleville in the other district semifinal, for the Class A crown Friday at Taylor Truman. (See related story.)

"This is the first year we've won all four matches in my eight years," said Wayne interim coach and former Zebra player Samantha Dye. "Both teams really

brought it. It was an intense match. Glenn had all their injured players back, so that was exciting. It was fun, exciting rival match for the night."

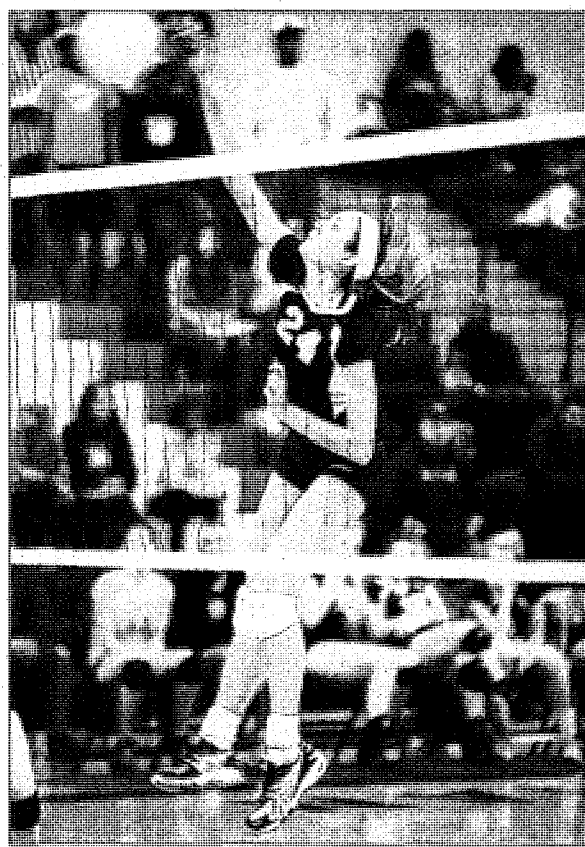
"I was kind of nervous. All week we said, 'Glenn's going to bring it, Glenn's going to bring it.' We knew they were ready. When it comes to districts every team steps up."

Katie Horton controlled the front row and the back row with the help of her 6-foot senior sister, Keri, who added 12 kills, three blocks and seven digs.

Setter Samantha Hershey had 34 assist-to-kills and 12 digs, while Ciara Frazier, playing with a hyperextended elbow, added 11 digs.

Wayne's only hiccup was Set Two when the Rockets pulled even, getting six kills from Jordyn Coniam and

Please see VOLLEY, B2



MIKE FCASNI | CANTON ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY

Wayne Memorial junior middle hitter Katie Horton recorded 24 kills and six solo blocks in Thursday's 3-1 Class A district semifinal victory over Wayne Memorial.

Champs: Zebras win in 5

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The Wayne Memorial girls volleyball team Friday night did it the hard way in the Class A district final at Taylor Truman.

Sisters Katie and Keri Horton racked up 33 and 23 kills, respectively, as the Zebras pulled off a dramatic comeback to beat a determined Romulus squad in five sets, 20-25, 27-29, 25-13, 29-27 and 15-13.

Wayne, 19-12-2 overall, now moves into the regional semifinal beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Brownstown Wood-

Please see ZEBRAS, B2

Meteors champs

The Livonia City Soccer Club Meteors, an under-17 girls soccer team coached by Ken Shingledecker, defeated the host Kalamazoo Kingdom, 1-0, last weekend to go undefeated in the Michigan State Premier Soccer Program.

Team members include: Natalie Desautel, Livonia Franklin; Liz Danger, Catherine Garber and Shelby Walsh, Livonia Ladywood; Carlin O'Malley, Abby Urso and Delanie Thurlow, Livonia Stevenson; Kasey Bunio, Garden City; Kirsten Padalis and Taylor Shrader, Farmington Hills Mercy; Lauren and Kristen Wozniak, Northville; Krissy Kozlowski and Erica Horton, Dearborn Heights Crestwood; Kristi Grden, Dearborn Divine Child; Megan Kalanik, White Lake Lakeland; and Julie Klingsten, Howell.

Grden, Horton, Kozlowski and Thurlow are all seniors.

Big Ten champs



BOB MCFARLANE | PHOTO

Livonia Churchill High grads Sara Kroll (left) and Rachel McFarlane (right) figured prominently as Michigan State repeated as Big Ten women's cross country champion in a meet held Oct. 30 in Urbana, Ill. The Spartans scored 55 points to edge Michigan's 61 for the team title. Kroll, a sophomore, clocked a career 6-kilometer best of 20 minutes, 35 seconds to earn second-team All-Big Ten honors. McFarlane, a redshirt junior, also ran a career best 20:48 to place 17th overall. "Rachel was our seventh individual earlier this season at Wisconsin, and this was her first Big Ten Championship she has ever competed in," MSU coach Jeff Drenth said. "To have her come out and finish in the top 20 in the conference, and race the way she did, especially from rebounding from the (injury) struggles she has previously had. Her perseverance has just been fantastic. For Sara, she did not even run at the (NCAA) nationals for us last year, and now she is an all-conference runner and is one of our top individuals."

Spartans rout Eagles in district semi match

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

That thump-thumping noise echoing from the Livonia Churchill gymnasium Thursday night was the sound of Kelly Velucci's and Katie Tomasic's palms smacking the volleyball followed closely by the sound of the volleyball smacking the gym floor.

The hard-swinging Livonia Stevenson duo combined for 27 kills to fuel the Spartans' 25-10, 25-7, 25-10 victory over Redford Thurston in the second of two Class A district semifinal matches.

Garden City swept Redford Union, 3-0, in the earlier match to set up Friday night's Spartan-Cougar final.

Thurston coach Scott Gray was particularly impressed by the 6-foot Tomasic, who peppered

the Eagles' defense with a parade of forceful hits.

"What we saw firsthand tonight was what happens when you run into a potential Division 1 hitter," Gray said of Tomasic. "She's the real deal. We tried to put in a defense the past couple days to defend her. I knew we couldn't go toe-to-toe with her at the net and block with her, so I tried to put as many kids as I could in the backcourt to cover as many holes as I could."

"We got a few up that I didn't think we'd be able to get up, but she was just too good."

Stevenson, which improved to 36-13-2, is searching for its first district championship in recent memory. From what coach Kelly Graham has seen from Garden City this week, it won't be easy.

"They're very scrappy and they have one big hitter, so it will definitely be a challenge," said Graham. "We'll know a lot more after the first game."

After the Spartans won the first set rather easily, Graham tried to get as many players as much playing time as possible in addition to tweaking a few things.

"On the free balls, we tried to run some stuff that we've been working on other than the bread-and-butter plays," she said. "The girls did a nice job with it."

Vellucci finished with 23 assists. York led the winners with seven digs and Abigail Whitehead registered a team-high four blocks.

Thurston ended its season at 6-7 overall.

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VOLLEY

Continued from page B1

four from Emily McNally. "We couldn't get the passing to our target," Dye said of the second set. "Glenn kept tipping and tipping. We knew it was coming, but for some reason we couldn't get it in our head that we've got to get the tip."

Katie Horton, who has committed to Ohio University, then took charge in sets three and four with 13 kills and five blocks.

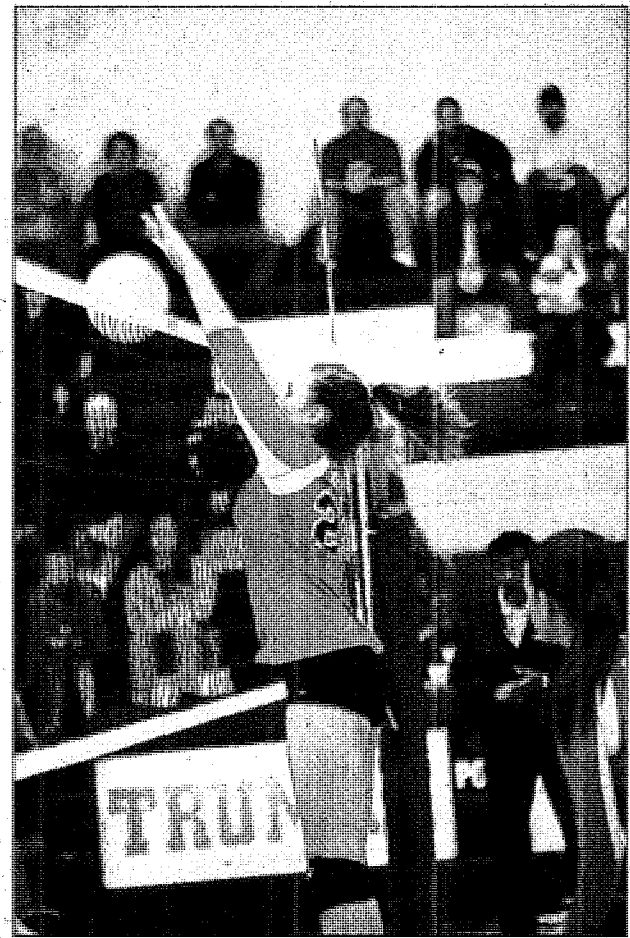
"Katie's always good at the net and she's aggressive," Dye said. "She'll go up one time, then be ready two seconds later and be ready for anything. I was really proud of her. She stepped it up a lot. She broke down Jordyn (Coniam), (Hannah) Staples and (Brooklyn) Holbrook, and she really pushed and pulled through for our team."

Glenn had no real answers for the hard-hitting Katie Horton.

"The only true, nasty kills she gave us was over passes," Glenn coach Sharon Hubbard said. "That's one thing we work on so much is passing. We really tried to keep the ball away from her. The girls served consistently, too, so we could keep them off their hitting game a little bit, but they (Wayne) prevailed. It was great match."

Coniam, a senior, finished with a team-high 16 kills, while McNally and Brooklyn Holbrook added seven and six, respectively.

"I'm really proud of Sarah Headrick (12 assists and



MIKE FCASNI | CANTON ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY

John Glenn's Katie McNally goes up for the block in Thursday's Class A district semifinal match against rival Wayne Memorial.

a-.224 passing average). She played her butt off. She hits, she digs, she blocks. She does everything."

"Claire (Truskowski) - 33 assists - this kid is awesome. I'm so looking forward to watching her senior year. What a great night, and to have Jordyn (Coniam) back. She was on fire."

Glenn ended its season at 17-20-6 overall.

"We hadn't played Wayne yet with a full team, so tonight was the first time

playing them full on," Hubbard said. "The girls stepped up. I really don't have any complaints. A great end to a rough season."

"This is some of the best volleyball I've seen at John Glenn in five years. I'm so proud of these kids. So proud. Sam (Dye) and I are good friends and I am so proud of the Wayne team and all the girls. Both teams, what a great night."

bemons@hometownlife.com

ZEBRAS

Continued from page B1

haven to face perennial state power Temperance Bedford.

"Tonight was a thrilling ride," said Wayne interim coach Samantha Dye. "The first two games of the match we couldn't find our way. But after a team talk, and a deep breath, we relaxed and began to play our game. The third match we were on fire."

Katie Horton, the 6-foot-1 junior committed to Ohio University, also contributed eight blocks

and 18 digs.

"Once again tonight Katie Horton pulled through for her team," Dye said. "She was magnificent the last three sets of the match."

Setter Samantha Hershey also enjoyed a stellar night with 40 assist-to-kills and a team-best 20 digs.

"She set to perfection tonight," Dye said. "I was so proud. She has grown so much this year."

Keri Horton, a 6-foot senior, was the Zebras' top server and added 14 digs.

Other digs leaders for Wayne included Shelby

Hooper (18) and Ciara Frazier (14).

"Halfway through the match the girls woke up, found their hearts, and decided to play volleyball," Dye said. "They wanted this. With a supporting fan club behind us tonight we pushed to the finish. It was the most intense match I have ever seen. It could of gone either way. I am proud of the girls' improvement this season. Their goal was to come home champions and given opportunity they did just that."

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SPARTANS

Continued from page B1

dra Ford was 31-of-33 on serve receive for a 2.36 average to go along with 13 digs.

Sophomore Kennedy Gossett also added 11 digs, while setters Taylor Bejma and Jacqueline Lagraff combined for 12 assists.

"I have four seniors and I played a lot of underclassmen in the match," Pace said. "It was a great experience to play the Tuesday match (vs. Livonia Franklin) that went five (sets) and the extra time. This was a good district experience for us. We're

going to miss our seniors, but my underclassmen are pretty fired up about next year. We'll see what happens and I'm excited about next year's team. I think they've got the bug."

But Stevenson had just too much firepower in the end.

"You could tell," Pace said. "They (Stevenson) play a very good schedule and in a very good league (KLAA), so they're well-seasoned and they can handle a lot of situations that we couldn't."

Graham's only concern going into Tuesday's regional match was the health status of 6-foot Tomasic, who sat out the third set.

"She's got plantar faciitis, but she just tweaked it and got a little bruise," the Stevenson coach said. "It was a just a precaution."

Meanwhile, the Spartans should be the team to beat the Cousino regional.

"Obviously we want to win Tuesday and bring it in on Thursday," Graham said. "Hopefully that will be my first regional championship. We just stay being focused with Monday being a quick practice. We want to find some intensity and aggressiveness going into Tuesday not knowing who we play."

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MU spikers seize WHAC opener

Senior Karie Altman had 15 kills and setter Evia Prieditis added 32 assist-to-kills as Madonna University opened the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference women's volleyball playoffs Friday in Grand Rapids with a 25-21, 25-15, 25-19 win over Concordia University Aquinas College's Sturhus Center.

The fourth-seeded Crusaders, who improved to 29-9 overall, also received 15 digs from Amanda Koszela and 13 from Megan Fricke.

Ashley Hart led the Cardinals (18-17) with 10 kills, while setter Adrienne Kanitz finished with 25 assists.

MU resumed pool play 2:30 p.m. Saturday against host Aquinas.

ST. CLAIR 3, SCHOOLCRAFT 0: In an NJCAA District E match Friday in Grand Rapids Community College, third seed St. Clair County CC (31-14) downed sixth-seed Schoolcraft College (26-13) in three sets, 25-19, 25-18, 26-24. The Lady Ocelots resumed play Saturday against seventh-seed Flint Mott CC in the consolation round.

INDIANA TECH 3, MADONNA 0: Madonna

University (28-9, 6-3) closed the regular season Wednesday night with a 25-20, 26-24, 25-19 loss at No. 16-ranked Indiana Tech (31-5, 9-0).

MU committed 23 attack errors and posted just a 0.73 attack percentage.

Senior Karie Altman led all players with 14 kills, while teammate Megan Fricke added 10 kills and eight digs.

Fellow senior Amanda Koszela paced the defense with 21 digs, while sophomore setter Evia Prieditis handed out 28 assist-to-kills.

Kelsey Cox led the Warriors with 10 kills, while setter Melanie Forman had 31 assists.

Digs leaders for Indiana Tech included Kayla Hartman (13), Ashley Hamilton (12) and Adrienne Kline (10).

Terranella's 28 kills goes in vain

An inspiring performance from senior Amanda Terranella couldn't save Lutheran High Westland's bid for a Class D district girls volleyball crown on Thursday.

The 6-foot senior middle hitter racked up 28 kills to go along with a pair of solo blocks, but host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist came away with the championship in four sets, 25-23, 26-28, 25-20, 25-23.

The Warriors, who ended their season at 18-14 overall, had beaten the Chargers in two previous MIAC Blue Division meetings.

"This definitely was a tough loss and it stings a bit," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade said. "We had leads late in sets and just didn't finish. We made too many errors, and when sets are close, those definitely hurt your chances."

Setters Erica Killian and Shannon Abbott chipped in with 18 and nine assist-to-kills, respectively, while Alissa Flury contributed seven blocks, including two solo for the Warriors.

Taylor Wiemer led the Warriors' defense with 21 digs, while Marisa Hahn

and Chandler Davenport added 15 and 10, respectively.

"I am very proud of the five seniors who played their last match tonight," Wade said. "They played hard and gave it everything they had. I will miss each of them very much. It just wasn't our night tonight and sometimes that just happens, but it wasn't for lack of effort."

Inter-City moves into the regional semifinals 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Westland Huron Valley Lutheran to face the Marine City Cardinal Mooney district champion.

By Brad Emmons
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Ladywood earned its 10th district girls volleyball title in 11 years under coach Erin Craggs with a 25-20, 25-12, 25-19 win Friday night over Allen Park Cabrini in the Class B district final hosted by Dearborn Divine Child.

The Blazers, now 39-17 overall, advanced to regional semifinals beginning 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Carleton Airport against 27-14-4 Livonia Clarenceville. The other semifinal match, starting at 7 p.m., pits host Jets against Detroit University Prep.

Kenzie Kettner led Ladywood's hitting attack with 12 kills, while Olivia Quinn chipped in with nine against the Monarchs.

Jenny Rhodes finished with seven kills and 13 digs, while Kristi Aurand contributed 22 digs.

Setter Alex Hines wound up with 33

assist-to-kills.

"We played well," Ladywood coach Erin Craggs said. "We came out a little flat, but halfway through first set we picked it up. We started serving aggressively and we were attacking."

On Wednesday, cleared a major district hurdle with a 25-17, 24-26, 25-16, 25-20 semifinal victory over host Divine Child.

The Blazers got 15 kills from Kettner, while Cheyenne Woodall and Rhodes each added 10.

Aurand once again led the defense with 23 digs, while Rhodes added 10. Hines contributed 38 assists.

"It was a great match," Craggs said. "Great fans on both sides. Our team displayed great mental toughness pulling off a big win against a good team on their home court."

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Raiders lead All-Area tennis team

FIRST-TEAM SINGLES

Stephen Payne, Sr., Liv. Franklin: The No. 1 singles player for the Patriots finished 31-3 as a senior en route to a berth in the MHSAA Division 1 quarterfinals and a KLAAs Kensington Conference consolation bracket champ (where he defeated Division 2 state champion Kevin Renehan of South Lyon East).

Payne owns a career-record of 108-15 and is a three-time regional champ at No. 1 singles, along with winning the No. 2 singles title as a freshman.

He is a three-time Livonia City champion, as well as earning No. 1 singles titles at the Warrior, Olson, Noland and Monroe classics (2009, 2010, 2011).

The team captain also captured the LG Patriot Classic this season.

"One of Stephen's most impressive characteristics, in my opinion, is regardless of whether he is winning or losing, he plays with integrity and honor, always giving his opponents the respect they deserve," Franklin coach Dawn Fallu said.

Payne has narrowed his choice between Western Michigan or the University of Detroit Mercy.

"Whichever college Stephen ends up playing tennis for is not only getting a very talented tennis player, but an asset to their team," Fallu said. "He is the epitome of pride and respect for the sport of tennis."

Jacob Scott, Jr., Salem: The junior completed his second outstanding season as the No. 1 singles player for the Rocks and head coach Bill Nelson.

What Scott can achieve in his senior year is something that Nelson can't help but smile about.

In addition to his game, Scott will be team captain for a second straight year and "is a leader both on and off the court" not to mention having a 3.91 grade-point average.

"He works continually on improving his game, both (with) power and accuracy," Nelson said.

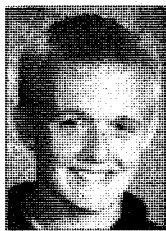
Scott also racked up a 19-6 record, which Nelson said is good considering the high quality of No. 1 singles players in the KLAAs.

Michael Mertz, Sr., N. Farmington: Mertz played No. 1 singles and posted an 11-10 record against quality competition in the Oakland Activities Association's top division (Red). The senior was a four-year varsity singles player for the Raiders.

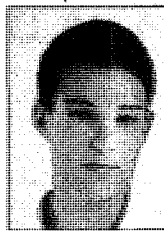
"Despite a very tough league and no easy matches this season, Michael was still able to finish the season with a record over .500," coach Whitney Wasielewski said. "He started the season with some injuries, and he battled back to



Stephen Payne Franklin



Jacob Scott Salem



Michael Mertz N. Farmington



Max Kohl N. Farmington



Griffin Mertz N. Farmington



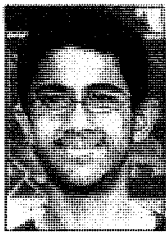
Jonathan Martin Churchill



Colin Halow N. Farmington



Danny O'Neill N. Farmington



Tarun Giridhar N. Farmington



Ryan Wolok N. Farmington



Ryan Kay N. Farmington



Jason Kraft N. Farmington

improve and peak at the state tournament.

"He had a tough first round loss to Midland Dow's player, 6-4, 6-4. Although he lost that round, he played great tennis. I was very proud of him this entire season. He was one of my captains and did a great job leading the team on and off the court."

Max Kohl, Sr., N. Farmington: Kohl is another veteran singles player for the Raiders. The senior compiled a 20-7 record this year at the No. 2 flight. He was a regional finalist and Division 2 state semifinalist.

"Max had a phenomenal season with some great wins," Wasielewski said. "He was co-captain of our team and a great leader. Some good wins were against Groves, Andover, Troy, U-of-D and Lahser."

"He earned a fourth seed at the state tournament as a result of his great season and impressive record. He lost to Okemos in a close three-setter at state. Max was a huge asset to our team, being a consistent competitor, tough at every match both physically and mentally."

Griffin Mertz, Fr., N. Farmington: The freshman had an impressive first season of varsity tennis, posting a 19-8 record at No. 3 singles and winning a Division 2 regional championship. Mertz was an OAA Red finalist and a state quarterfinalist.

"Griffin had some great wins over Groves, Seaholm, Adams, Lahser and Andover throughout the season," Wasielewski said. "He did a great job at three singles, and I'm looking forward to great things from

him in the future. He has a lot of time to mature and develop into an even stronger competitor than he already is.

"Griffin also earned the fourth seed at the state tournament, losing to the eventual runner-up in a tough match. He is a very smart player and knows how to put points together and use a variety of shots to win points. He will definitely continue to be a threat in the future."

Jonathan Martin, Fr., Liv. Churchill: The talented freshman played No. 2 singles for the state qualifying and regional champion Chargers where he finished 19-3 overall.

Martin was regional champion and also captured the Livonia City Quad, where he won all three matches by 6-0, 6-0 scores, along with Adrian Invitational.

He was also runner-up in the Howell Tournament for a Cure and a semifinalist in the KLAAs Kensington Conference winner's bracket.

"Coming in as a freshman, Jonathan was able to compete at a high level at the No. 2 singles position," Churchill coach John Webster said. "He looks forward to working hard in the off season and stepping up to the No. 1 singles position next year."

FIRST-TEAM DOUBLES
Colin Halow, Soph.; Danny O'Neill, Soph., N. Farmington: The all-sophomore first doubles team finished with a 14-11 record that included quality wins over fellow Oakland County powers Seaholm, West Bloomfield, Stoney Creek, Andover and Lahser. Halow

2011 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS TENNIS TEAM FIRST-TEAM SINGLES
Stephen Payne, Sr., Liv. Franklin
Jacob Scott, Jr., Salem
Michael Mertz, Sr., N. Farm.
Max Kohl, Sr., N. Farm.
Griffin Mertz, Fr., N. Farm.
Jonathan Martin, Fr., Liv. Churchill

FIRST-TEAM DOUBLES
Colin Halow, Soph., N. Farm.
Danny O'Neill, Soph., N. Farm.
Tarun Giridhar, Soph., N. Farm.
Ryan Wolok, Sr., N. Farm.
Jason Kraft, Sr., N. Farm.
Ryan Kay, Sr., N. Farm.

SECOND-TEAM SINGLES
Matt Cezat, Sr., Liv. Churchill
Chad Northey, Soph., Liv. Stevenson
Jacob Lipnik, Sr., N. Farm.
Jacob Sealy, Soph., Salem
Aaron Zhang, Sr., Plymouth
Rohan Vhaishnav, Fr., Canton

SECOND-TEAM DOUBLES
Andrew Murtland, Jr., N. Farm.
Rob Chapekis, Soph., N. Farm.
Brian Baumgartner, Sr., Churchill
Mark Denstead, Soph. Churchill
Kaemen Holman-Rayos, Jr., Stevenson

Jeff Frederick, Sr., Stevenson
COACH OF THE YEAR
Whitney Wasielewski, N. Farm.

HONORABLE MENTION
Canton: James Dodge, Travis Michalak; Plymouth: Charlie Hou, Josh Heinze, Josh Postel; Salem: Nick Ortiz, Amol Caravaha; Churchill: Joe Mulka, Rishabh Arvikar, Tejas Sori, Mayuresh Iyer; Franklin: Connor Benson, Nick Munro; Stevenson: Marcus McEachney, Sam Tabor, Johnson Yang, Nick Marsh, Doug Giroux; Farmington: Joey Amis, Lokesh Pagadala, Akhilesh Sivakumar.

Jason Kraft, Sr.; Ryan Kay, Sr., N. Farmington: The senior duo had an impressive season at No. 3 doubles; Kraft's record was 20-7 and Kay's 17-7. In addition to being regional finalists, they also won the Northville Invitational and had wins over Novi, Northville, Groves, Seaholm, West Bloomfield, Andover and Lahser.

"Our team had a lot of depth, and Jason and Ryan proved to be a very tough three doubles team, winning the majority of their matches with a very tough schedule," Wasielewski said. "They had several three-set wins, many of them after losing the first set."

"That proves they never give up and fight hard until the very end. This is part of what made them so successful and such a tough team to play against."

COACH OF THE YEAR
Whitney Wasielewski, N. Farmington: The Raiders did well in every respect this year under Wasielewski's leadership. They were 5-2 in OAA Red Division dual meets and

10-3 overall. North Farmington tied for second place in the dual season and division tournament, and it placed third overall behind Troy and Andover. The Raiders had dual

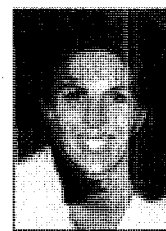
wins over Andover, West Bloomfield and Groves, and they also won the Dexter Invitational.

North was second in a Division 2 regional (one point behind Andover), and it tied for sixth place at the state meet, finishing three points out of second. Wasielewski also was named Regional Coach of the Year and Division 2 Coach of the Year.

"The 2011 season was one of the most successful since I've been coaching at North Farmington, both on and off the court," Wasielewski said. "I was privileged enough to have a great group of players, wonderful captains, an amazing coaching staff and supportive parents who helped make this season so successful."

"This group of boys proved they were hard workers and tough competitors. We lost 11 seniors last season and finished higher this season at all levels, with the majority of our team being new to the varsity. Only four players in the starting regional lineup played varsity last year."

"They were a unified team and all worked toward the same team goals that we chose in the beginning of the season. I am so proud of my team and all of the effort they put in this entire season."



W. Wasielewski N. Farm. coach

C'VILLE

Continued from page B1

ting contributions from nearly every player led by middle hitter Ayanna Buckley, who led the way with nine kills and a pair of ace serves.

"She works hard and is just a strong player," Merschman said the 5-foot-11 sophomore. "She's got some natural talent."

Junior outside hitters Ashley Murphy and Tonya Vernier each added eight kills on the night.

Sophomore setter Nicole Kurdziel finished with 16 assist-to-kills, while junior Jodi Ankiel and Buckley paced the defense with 10 and seven digs, respectively.

The Trojans served a total of 16 aces in the match led by senior Angela McAlpine, who a total of six including five in the second set.

"They played with a lot of heart, spirit and they were aggressive," Merschman said of her team. "Everybody - all 12 players - played. They gave it their all."

"They've continued to work hard all season since June conditioning. It's been the same all along. I don't think it's gotten any less or dropped off. I think

they continue to do a great job."

Meanwhile, Hamtramck never got its offense going and found itself on its heels for three straight sets.

"We have a young team," Hamtramck coach Charisse Youmans said. "We don't have a freshman team. We don't have a JV team. This is my whole program - 13 kids."

"I'm really proud of where we've come from. We've got people coming up saying: 'We've seen you at a tournament and you don't even look the same.' As far as getting our offense going... I thought we passed well. That was our offense. That's our accomplishment for the season and I couldn't be prouder."

Trojans romp

Setter Nicole Kurdziel was 27-of-27 served with seven aces, while Ashley Murphy went 21-for-21 on the line with three aces in a 25-5, 25-12, 25-9 district semifinal triumph Thursday over visiting University High of Ferndale.

Angela McAlpine also added seven kills in the win as the Trojans advanced to the district final against Hamtramck.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL REGIONAL PAIRINGS CLASS A

at WARREN COUSINO
Tuesday, Nov. 8: Livonia Stevenson vs. Detroit Renaissance district champ, 5:30 p.m.; Sterling Heights district champ vs. Detroit International district champ, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the state quarterfinals, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15 at Wayne Memorial vs. Brownstown Woodhaven regional champion.)

at WOODHAVEN
Tuesday, Nov. 8: Wayne Memorial vs. Temperance Bedford, 5:30 p.m.; Allen Park district champ vs. Gibraltar Carlson district champ, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the state quarterfinals, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15 at Wayne Memorial vs. Warren Cousino regional champion.)

CLASS B
at CARLETON AIRPORT
Tuesday, Nov. 8: Livonia Clarenceville vs. Livonia Ladywood, 5:30 p.m.; New Boston Huron district champ vs. Detroit Cesar Chavez district champ, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 10: Championship final, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the state quarterfinals, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15 at Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard vs. Brooklyn Columbia Central regional champion.)

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, Nov. 9
Schoolcraft vs. Rochester JV at Rochester H.S., 7 p.m.
Rochester College at Madonna, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, Nov. 9
Rochester College

at Madonna, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 11
(Cincinnati State Classic)
Schoolcraft College vs. Rend Lake (Ill.), 5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 12
Madonna at Mich. Tech, 1 p.m.
(Cincinnati State Classic)
Schoolcraft College vs. Lincoln Trail (Ill.), 1p.m.

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Defense won't rest

Ocelots' coach Henry eyes rebound

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Randy Henry's mantra for the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team entering the 2011-12 season is simple and elementary.

"I just think if our team is going to be successful, we're going to have to be a lot stronger defensively," said the fourth-year coach, who is coming off a 9-19 season. "We gave up well over 88 points (per game) last year. You're not going to be successful at all doing that. I'm not too worried offensively if we're going to score. I want to cut that 88 down to the 60 (point) range, and be able to get 60 or less a game."

As the Ocelots prepare for Friday's season opener against the Marygrove JV squad, Henry has put a heavy emphasis on defense during the preseason.

"I think we'll be more competitive," said Henry, whose team finished 3-10 in the MCCA's Eastern Conference. "We've spent a lot of time on defensive schemes. We're helping, we're pressuring. I have enough guys who are equal that you don't have to worry about playing long minutes. You play as hard as you can while you're on the floor. You may see a guy play only five or six minutes, then another two or three come in and keep the pressure steady."

Most of the team's key players returned led by 6-foot-5 forward Karl Moore (Academy of Oak Park), who averaged 19 points and seven rebounds, along with 6-3 power forward Daniel Hill (Wayne Memorial), who added 13 points and a team-leading 9.1 rebounds per game.

Moore earned third-team All-Eastern Conference honors a year ago.

"I think Karl (Moore) is going to be a lot more mature," Henry said. "We've been working on that mental aspect for him because if he's going to be successful, he's going to have to be able to channel his energy in such a way that he stays under control, plays hard, and not become frustrated. You can't play

this game frustrated - if you're going to be successful - because your mind is on something else other than basketball."

Hill, meanwhile, is the team's most consistent player, somebody who knows his way around the hoop and can score in traffic like an Adrian Dantley.

"Daniel Hill is a kid that coaches look for," Henry said. "He's a great kid. He comes to practice every day, he works hard all the time. He's going to give you his best and play all-out. He doesn't talk much, but when he says something, he really means something. He's a coach's dream. You want 15 of those guys all the time like this."

Also scheduled to start up-front is 6-4 forward Lydell Mason (Westland John Glenn), who averaged six points and five rebounds per game as a freshman.

"Lydell has to improve those numbers to be successful," Henry said. "And he has to be better defensively. He's a key for us on the backline."

The guard position will be manned by 6-foot sophomore Mohamed Elhaj (Dearborn Edsel Ford), who led the team in steals and assists, along with 5-9 sophomore Zachary Childress (Detroit Cass Tech).

Newcomer Richmond Jackson, a 6-4 guard from Detroit Mumford, will also figure prominently.

"I like what Richmond brings to the table," Henry said. "He played in the PSL (Detroit Public School League) and he's probably our best conditioned and best defender who can shoot the 15-to-18-foot jumper."

Others that could play key roles this season for the Ocelots include Christopher Kinney, a 6-4, 240-pound forward from Detroit; Reshard Anders, a 6-3 guard from Academy of Oak Park; Deon Dunn, a 6-3 guard from Detroit Chadsey; Matthew King, a 6-1 guard from Detroit King; and Keith Houston, a 6-4 three-point shooting specialist from Warren Fitzgerald.

Rounding out the Ocelots' roster is 6-3 Corey Reynolds (Livonia Clarenceville), 6-2 Derrick Han-

McGrath keys '11-12

Crusader cage hopes

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Having their feet put to the fire in pair of exhibition games against NCAA Division 1 foes, the Madonna University women's basketball team hopes to find a more friendly playing field beginning Wednesday in their home opener against Rochester College. (Game time is 5:30 p.m.)

Fifth-year MU coach Carl Graves lost honorable mention All-America Tabatha Wydryck to graduation, but returns pre-season All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference pick Kaylee McGrath, a 6-foot-1 junior center from Livonia Stevenson High.

Wydryck will be sorely missed after averaging 11.6

points per game. The 6-foot swing player was a multi-dimensional threat who led the 12-15 Crusaders last year in rebounds (7.6 per game), steals, blocks and assists while averaging 11.6 points per game.

McGrath, meanwhile, returns as the team's leading scorer after averaging at team-best 15.6 points while shooting 51.1 percent from the field. She was also MU's second leading rebounder at 7.4 per outing.

Other key returnees include 5-7 junior guard Heather Pratt (8.6 ppg), 5-8 junior guard Shantelle Herring (7.7 ppg), 5-4 senior guard Erin Bentley and 6-2 senior center Becca Wojcinski.

Also in the mix are veterans Megan Murphy, a 5-9 senior guard; Katie Martin, a 5-2 senior guard; and Kristie Porada, 5-9 junior guard.

The Crusaders, however, suffered a key loss when the team's fourth leading scorer, 5-9 sophomore guard Rachel

Melcher (8.6 ppg), went down for the season with a knee injury.

Among the newcomers expected to contribute and get heavy minutes include Hillsdale College transfer Michelle Lindsey, a 5-9 guard who started and scored 12 points in a season opening 93-46 exhibition loss Oct. 27 to the University of Detroit Mercy.

Taihlor Flaim, a 6-3 freshman from Carleton Airport, is also expected to contribute right away and will be joined by new recruits 6-foot center Hayley Stempien (Dearborn Divine Child), 5-10 sophomore guard Kayleigh McCollum and 5-7 guard Yazmeen Hamid.

MU finished 7-9 last season in the WHAC and Graves is 32-24 overall in conference play. His record over his first four seasons is 58-67.

bemons@hometownlife.com
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McGrath

No. 4 Bellevue survives MU scare

Behind a career-high 24 points and nine rebounds from sophomore Fred Williams, the Madonna University men's basketball team put a scare Friday afternoon into No. 4-ranked Bellevue (Neb.), but fell 81-69 at the Caleb Dimich Memorial Tournament hosted by Indiana Wesleyan inside Luckey Arena.

In addition to Williams' career effort off the bench, sophomore point-guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) added 20 points and five assists, while teammate Travis Schuba scored 12 points, knocking down a trio of three-pointers for the Crusaders (0-2).

Five Bellevue players

scored in double figures led by Jeremy Arrington's 19 points. Ousseynou Diop also grabbed 14 rebounds as Bellevue outscored the Crusaders 45-33 in the second half.

SCHOOLCRAFT 106, MARYGROVE JV 58: Karl Moore poured in 33 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to propel Schoolcraft College (1-0) to a season-opening victory over the Marygrove College JV squad.

The Ocelots, who pulled away in the second half after leading 49-35 at halftime, also got 12 points apiece from Derrick Hanson and LenDerrick Richter. All 14 Schoolcraft players came up with steals led by point-guard Mohamed Elhaj with seven. Elhaj also dished out nine assists.

Shaun Covington paced Marygrove with 17 points. **ROCHESTER 73, MADONNA**

50: Madonna University (0-1) officially opened its 2011-12 season Wednesday with a setback to host Rochester College (6-0) at Rochester High School.

Sophomore Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson) placed MU in scoring with 13 points and handed out four assists, while Travis Schuba added 10 points, knocking down a pair of three-pointers. Freshman Donald Owens posted a career-high seven points and led MU with nine rebounds.

The Crusaders shot only 31.3 percent from the floor (15-of-48) and committed 23 turnovers.

Forward Dramel Hogan paced Rochester with a game-high 29 points on 11-of-13 shooting from the floor. He also grabbed 11 rebounds.

Stephan Henning and Sean Mattia each added 11 points for Rochester, which led 35-19 at halftime. Rick Doran also snared a game-high 12 rebounds.

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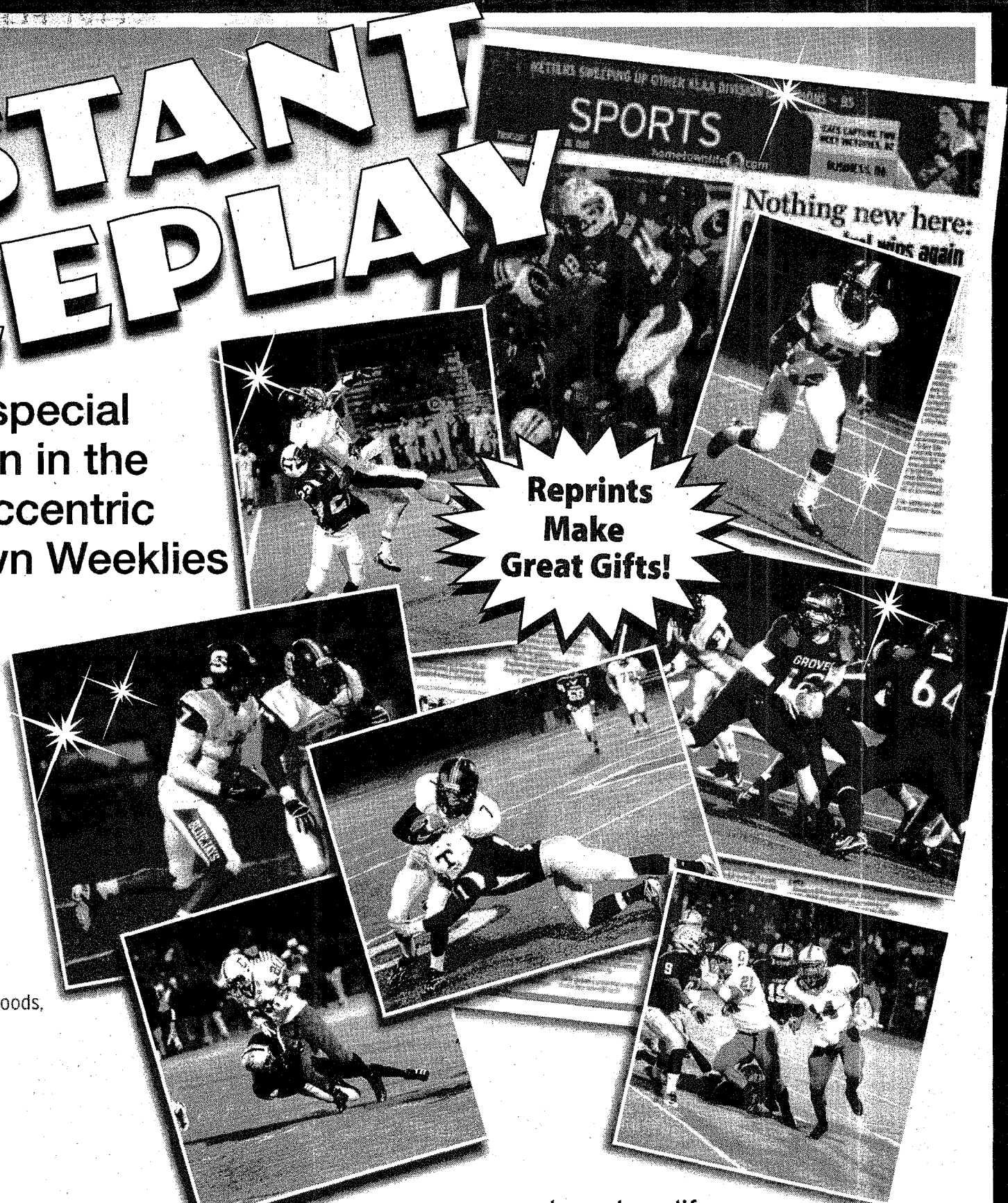
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Sherrie Bencik and Brian DeVetter on their wedding day.



Sherrie Bencik's daughter, Cambrie, gets a smooch from a furry friend while visiting Best Friends Animal Sanctuary for her mom's wedding.

Bride combines love of animals with wedding

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Sherrie Bencik spent the day before her wedding walking dogs, training puppies and reconnecting with an old canine friend named Tabitha.

Her husband-to-be, Brian DeVetter, and nearly half of their 70 wedding guests, volunteered with her. Some walked dogs or cuddled cats, while others cared for exotic birds and horses. They spent the day with animals and each other in a breathtaking setting called Angel's Canyon, near Kanab, Utah.

Fans of the National Geographic television program, *Dogtown*, recognize the locale as the home of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, one of the largest animal havens in the country.

Bencik, who grew up in Livonia, had volunteered regularly at Best Friends for more than a decade, sometimes making three visits there in one year. When it came time to make plans for her Aug.



Sherrie Bencik and Brian DeVetter welcome a four-footed friend to their wedding at Best Friends Sanctuary in Utah.

Please see WEDDING, B6



Aimee Hamlin and Phil Jeffers of Canton will tie the knot on Veteran's Day in a ceremony at the Royal Oak Music Theatre.

Couple answers 'call to wed'

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Most couples look forward to a wedding day that's all their own, Aimee Hamlin and Phil Jeffers don't mind sharing.

The Canton residents will marry on Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11 — that's an easy-to-remember anniversary date of 11/11/11 — along with seven other couples involved in the military, at the Royal Oak Music Theatre.

Each couple won a place in the multi-nuptial wedding and reception based on an essay contest, "Call to Wed." Jessica Miller, events director

for the theater, proposed the idea as a way to give back to military couples for their sacrifice. She enlisted the help of 30 Michigan businesses to donate goods and services — from flowers, bridal gowns, wedding veils and tuxedos to food, liquor, photography and entertainment — to make the evening memorable for the couples and their 30 guests each.

"One thing I'm happy about is the fact that there seven other couples getting married. I don't know them at all, but to be able to share your event, your night with seven other people who

Please see CALL TO WED, B6

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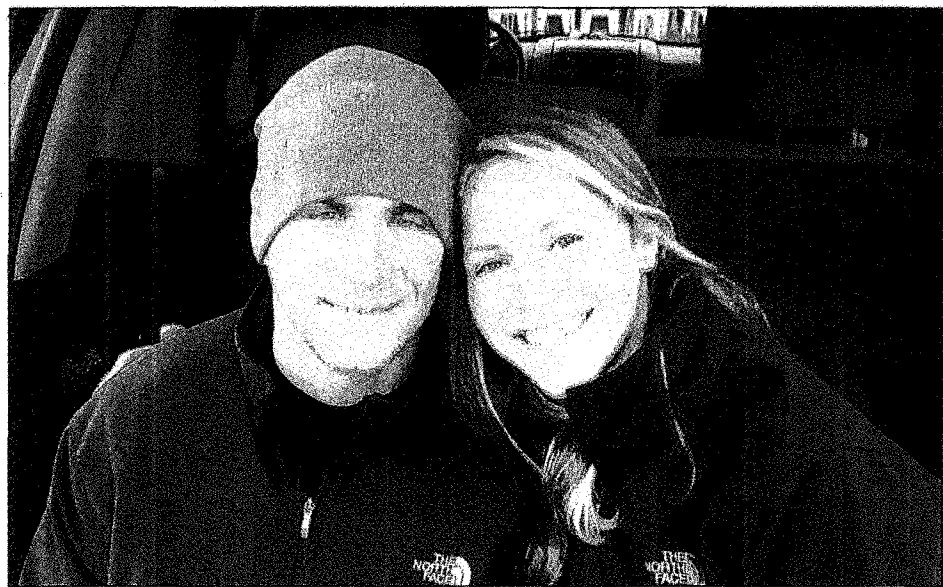
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Phil Jeffers and Aimee Hamlin will marry on Veterans Day.

CALL TO WED

Continued from page B5

have been in the military or are still in the military and have gone through what I've gone through in their own way means a lot," Jeffers said. "Even though we don't know them it's cool that we can spend it all together."

Military experience

Jeffers, who graduated from Plymouth Salem High School in 1997, joined the U.S. Army, which included a stint in the presidential honor guard and the Army's drill team. He left the army in 2000 and has worked for Ford Motor Company and has taken classes at Schoolcraft College. He's been a member of the Michigan National Guard for three years and was deployed to Iraq. His hand and a knee were injured while overseas, requiring surgery and therapy. He returned home and was part of a community-based "warrior transition" program until Dec. 2010. He's back at Ford and at Schoolcraft where he's focusing on an associate's degree in homeland security.

Jeffers says the Vet-

erans Day wedding is as much a salute to family members and friends as it is to military men and women.

"We had been together for almost nine years. We have a house in Canton and two dogs. I left her unmarried and went to Iraq, overseas for a year. She took care of the house, the dogs, did everything from shoveling snow to cutting the grass. It may be a salute to veterans but it's also a salute to people who support the veterans."

Friends at first

Hamlin, who works for Quicken Loans, earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Walsh College after graduating from Agape Christian Academy.

She met her future husband while sledding with friends. Jeffers' best friend was dating one of Hamlin's best friends.

"When I went away to the army the first time we kept in touch. We talked off and on and were close friends before we started dating," Jeffers said.

He considers their first date the Christmas he spent with her family. She said it's when they went to the movies together for the first time.

"It will be 10 years in January," Hamlin said, figuring the length of their courtship.

During those years they discussed marriage but the timing wasn't right. She wanted to wait until after she finished school, but then he prepared to deploy overseas. They became engaged just before he left for Iraq. When he returned, he was in therapy for his injuries and didn't resume work at Ford until this year. Meanwhile, money was tight.

Jeffers submitted an essay for the contest and then told Hamlin about it. Both say Call to Wed came along at the perfect time.

"It's a dream come true," Hamlin said. "It's been a crazy ride and I can't wait for the day."

Jeffers, who has two older sisters, is the son of Phil Jeffers of Canton and Debra Norman of Ypsilanti. Hamlin is the middle child of three daughters. Her parents are Darrel and Larrena Hamlin of Canton.

How did family react to the couple's unusual wedding plans?

"It was very emotional," Hamlin said. "We've been a part of each other's families for a long time."

WEDDING

Continued from page B5

27 nuptials, there was never any question where the wedding would take place.

"My immediate family, they know I've been going there for years and it was well known that if I ever got married, that's where it would be," said Bencik, who is finishing a residency in emergency medicine in Kalamazoo. "I sent a note out eight months before the wedding saying hey, this is a destination wedding so if you're interested, make plans to go."

Her parents, William and Diane Bencik of Livonia, and her husband's parents, Dennis and Roberta DeVetter of Marshfield, Wis., along with the couple's siblings and their children, stayed in rented cottages and cabins at the sanctuary.

The wedding, held at a grassy area called Angel's Landing at Best Friends, capped a week-long stay that included tours of nearby parks, canyons and the animal haven. The couple's three-month-old son, Bodie, was the ring-bearer, with the jewelry affixed to his pacifier. Their daughter, Cambrie, 2 1/2, who Bencik had with the help of a sperm donor during her fourth year at medical school, also witnessed the marriage, which included a sand ceremony.

The couple mingled sand from Best Friends and from both shores of Lake Michigan into one container, symbolizing separate lives coming together.

Meeting on the job

Both Bencik and DeVetter are physicians who will work for Southwest Michigan Emergency Services after finishing their emergency medicine residencies in summer 2012. Bencik met her future husband at the hospital on her first day of her emergency medicine residency. Initially, marriage wasn't one of her goals.

"I'm an independent person and did not plan on getting married," she said, adding that DeVetter "accepted my daughter and all of my animals."

Bencik, who holds bachelor's degrees in chemical engineering and German and a master's in



Brian DeVetter and Sherrie Bencik, a former Livonia resident, marry at Angel's Landing in the sprawling Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah.

business, was working in marketing at Kimberly-Clark when she started volunteering at Best Friends. Three times a year she took business trips to Las Vegas, Nev., about three hours away from the sanctuary. On one trip, while driving between the Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon, she noticed the sanctuary sign. She stopped, took the tour, volunteered and was hooked. When she left Kimberly-Clark in 2005 to attend medical school at the University of Wisconsin, the trips became less frequent but she managed to visit Best Friends at least once a year.

"I love going there. It's so beautiful and peaceful there. They know how to treat animals. None of the animals are in small cages. They do everything humanly possible to make their quality of life better."

Animal lover

Bencik has adopted several animals over the years, including three cats and a dog from Best Friends. One of her cats also has a memorial at Angel's Rest, the pet cemetery at the sanctuary. If she could, she'd also adopt Tabitha, a shy Bor-

der Collie mix that she has visited every time she volunteers there.

"Tabitha is my buddy. I make sure to see her every time I'm there," said Bencik. "She doesn't like other animals around so I've never been able to adopt her. But every time I go to the sanctuary I do a dog sleep over. You spend time with them one-on-one for the night."

Bencik was so busy coordinating her wedding guests the day they all volunteered, that she didn't ask to see any specific dogs. Bencik was delighted to discover that Tabitha was the first dog brought out of her run to meet the group.

Bencik hopes to continue volunteering at Best Friends and include her children when they are old enough to participate. Some of her wedding guests have planned a second trip to the sanctuary. Some also donated to Best Friends, raising more than \$1,000 for the organization.

"Spending a week at Best Friends instead of taking a honeymoon and getting married at Angel's Landing was exactly what I wanted."

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Collectible sale, harvest dinner set at Greenmead

Historic Greenmead will offer a cross between an estate sale and flea market, "Treasures from Grandma's Attic," 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12.

Collectible, vintage and other "treasures" will be for sale at the Alexander Blue House in the historical park, located at 20501 Newburgh, in Livonia. Admission and parking are free.

A "Harvest Candlelight Dinner" also will be held at the Alexander Blue House, 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17. A harvest-themed meal, complete with wine and desserts will be served on tables set with linens and candles. Tickets are \$35. Call (248) 477-7375 for reservations.

Proceeds go toward the restoration and preservation of Greenmead.



This card is one of 12 different designs available from Seedlings Braille Books for Children.

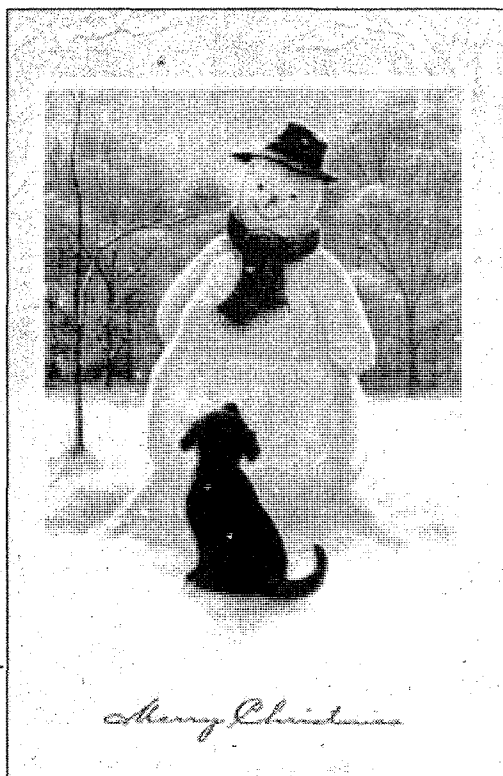
Holiday cards support braille books

Seedlings Braille Books for Children, a Livonia-based nonprofit organization, is offering holiday greeting cards in 12 designs and two sizes.

Pumpkin Press created the cards, which cost \$18 per box of 16 large cards and \$10 per box of 10 smaller cards. All designs are made from premium grade, environment friendly recycled paper, printed with agri-based inks and made in the USA — including the packing material.

Sale proceeds will enable Seedlings to place braille books into the hands of visually impaired children locally and around the world. The organization is dedicated to increasing the opportunity for braille literacy by providing high quality, low cost children's literature in braille.

Buy holiday greeting cards 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday at Seedlings' office, 14151 Farmington Road, Livonia. Call (734) 427-8552 for directions and more information. Visit Seedlings Web site at www.seedlings.org/donate.php, for a look at its new card designs.



Holiday cards from Braille Books for Children cost \$18 and \$10 per box, depending on card size.

Sweet donation



JULIE YOLLES

Pam Turkin, (left), founder of Just Baked, a Livonia-based bakery, and Melissa Kukulka, cake studio designer, donated their delicious creations to the 1,200 people that attended the Cattle Baron's Ball at Joe Louis Arena Saturday, Oct. 29. More than \$1.4 million was raised — with more than \$300,000 from live auction alone — for the American Cancer Society.

Arthritis Today

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



DIET AND ARTHRITIS

A good diet is a good arthritis diet. Nutritional concepts that emphasize a diet balance with fruits, salads, vegetables and small amounts of meat, chicken and fish, are applicable to patients with arthritis as to people in good health or with diabetes.

Popular opinion holds that people with gout need to stay away from seafood and steaks. Such dietary restrictions are rarely required, as medication available today can bring serum uric acid levels down without necessitating stringent mealtime mandates.

Dietary supplements fare little better. The value of glucosamine is overrated, and made more suspect because being unregulated by the government, the amount of glucosamine in each tablet can and does differ from what the label states. In addition, no supplement in the arthritis marketplace has stood up to a test of its claims, and no supplement has a chemical composition that holds promise of acting as an inducer to end inflammation or as an initiator of rapid repair of arthritic joints.

Patients with arthritis must keep vigilant about dietary fads. For instance, no one questions the need for Vitamin D and calcium for maintenance of strong bones. But be aware that claims for the need of Vitamin D over 2,000 units a day are only claims; mega doses of basic nutrients do not produce super benefits.

Nor do high doses of fish oils produce an effect in keeping with the amount needed to enhance immunity. Doses that have proved useful are too large to take daily as they cause the unwanted side effect of bleeding leading, to stroke and brain-hemorrhage.

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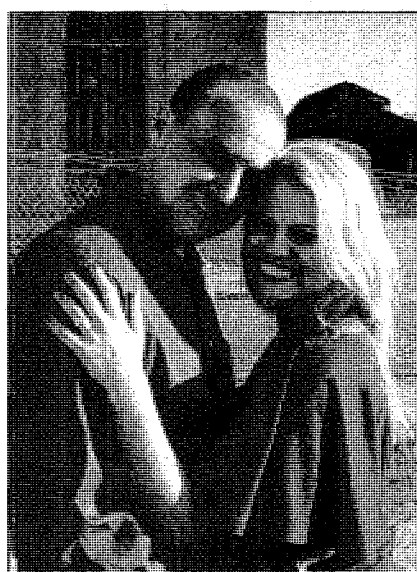
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Milestones



La Bean-Rutkowski

Kellee Renée La Bean and Joseph J. Rutkowski announce their engagement. The bride-to-be is the daughter of Arnold and Sandra La Bean of Westland. Her fiancé is the son of Phillip and Linda Rutkowski of Port Austin. A November 2011 wedding is planned in Plymouth Township.



Madeline Rose Kramer

Madeline Rose Kramer was born Sept. 27, 2011 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, in Livonia. Her proud parents are Joel and Katie Kramer of Livonia. Grandparents are Richard and Katherine Brown of Livonia and Dennis and Diane Kramer of Troy.



Ludwig-Englen

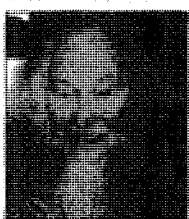
Kevin Ludwig and Emily Ann Englen were married Oct. 15, 2011 at St. Michael's in Wayne. The bride, daughter of James and Shelly Englen of Garden City, is a 2010 graduate of Garden City High School and has attended Schoolcraft College. She is employed at Imagine Theater in Canton. The groom, son of Kris Woolsey of Garden City and John Ludwig of Florida, is a 2010 graduate of Garden City High School. He is a mechanic for the US Army. Katie Englen was the Maid of Honor and Leander Berry was the Best Man. A reception was held at Knights of Columbus in Garden City. The newlyweds plans to make their home in Fort Lewis, Wash.

BLANCHARD, CATHERINE E. Brighton, MI

Her Legacy... Age 85, died November 3, 2011. She was born June 19, 1926 in Detroit, MI, the daughter of Daniel and Sadie (Smith) MacDonald. On December 12, 1945 Catherine married James Blanchard. James preceded her in death January 5, 2003. Catherine spent her life as a devoted wife and loving mother. Her Family... Beloved mother of the late Carol Dillon, John (Tammy) Blanchard of Brighton, Stacey (John) Phillips of Brighton and Howard (KaTina) Blanchard of Plymouth, dear grandmother of 13 and great-grandmother of 10. Her Farewell... The family will gather with friends Sunday and Monday from 4-8 PM at Borek Jennings Funeral Home, Hamburg Chapel. A Healing Farewell will be held Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Brighton beginning with 9:30 AM visitation followed by 10:30 AM Mass of Christian Burial with Rev. Fr. Karl Pung as Celebrant. Burial will be in Knollwood Memorial Park in Canton. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Rheumatoid Arthritis Foundation of Michigan 1050 Wilshire Drive, Suite 302 Troy, MI 48064-1564. Please leave a Message of Comfort to Catherine's family by calling 877-231-7900 or visit her guestbook at: www.borekjennings.com.

BOGGS, MARGUERITE ROSE "PEGGY" (NEE LATHROP)

Age 87 years, of Farmington Hills, MI, passed away on Monday, October 31, 2011 at the home of her daughter in Holton, MI. The Funeral Service will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, November 4, 2011 at the Kroeze-Wolffs Funeral Home, Inc., 637 E. Main St., Fremont, MI 49412, (888) 544-5388. Visitation will be from 1-2 PM on Friday. To view her complete obituary or to sign the online guest book please visit: www.kroeze-wolffs.com



DARROCH, ROBERT E ("Bob" or "Boo")

Age 72, of Largo, FL, died Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011, at his home. He was a policeman with the Southfield, Michigan Police Dept. for 25 years, achieving the rank of Lieutenant before retiring in 1993. Bob was an avid biker, who rode wearing the colors of the Blue Knights and the Christian Motorcyclists Association, and with numerous friends and motorcycle enthusiasts. Survivors include his daughter, Rebecca Darroch Dandeker and husband, Anand, of Burtonsville, MD; his sister, Maureen McCarron of Largo, FL and Northampton, MA; his niece, Pam McCarron Graham of Ashfield, MA; and granddaughter. There will be a memorial service on Saturday, Nov. 12, 3:30 p.m. at A Life Tribute Funeral Care, 716 Seminole Blvd., Largo, FL. Visit our online Guestbook at: www.ALIFLtribute.com. Written condolences may be mailed to: 6428 Ridge Terrace, #401, Orlando, FL 32810. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to International Families, Inc. of Maryland: www.ifimd.com

JASKE, MILDRED E.

Age 84, of Farmington Hills, October 26, 2011. Beloved wife of the late Walter. Loving mother of Kim (Melody) Jaske, Karla (Robert) Winnie, Kirk Jaske, and Karen (Tom) Hilliard. Dear grandmother of SGT. Andrew and SGT. Matthew Hilliard, Abigail Jaske, Christen Ciarravino, Travis and Erica Jaske. Great-grandmother of Spencer and Brielle Hilliard and two grandcats. Funeral Saturday 11 a.m., November 5th, at First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River Ave., Farmington. Visitation Friday 1-8 p.m. at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave., Downtown Farmington, (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.). Memorial contributions may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research www.michaeljfox.org www.thayer-rock.com

Passages
Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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Deadlines: Friday 4:15 p.m. for Sunday • Wednesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



DUGGAN, ROBERT "BOB"

Age 46, of Livonia, MI passed away on November 3, 2011. Loving son of Patrick and Joan Duggan of Livonia. Brother of Michael (Lori Maher), Daniel (Sharlene), James (Stephanie) and Timothy (Albina). Favorite uncle to thirteen nieces and nephews. Duggan was born at St. Mary's Hospital on February 23, 1965 and attended St. Michael's catholic school before going on to Redford Catholic Central (class of 1983). Duggan graduated from Adrian College before heading to Orlando, Florida to pursue an acting career. While in Florida, Duggan secured his real estate license and moved back to Livonia in 2008 after spending 19 years in Florida. His acting career led him back to his home state where he recently appeared in Real Steel. He was a former Livonia Jaycee and active in the Catholic Central and Adrian College Alumni Associations. Duggan had a passion for the city of Detroit and was an avid supporter of all Detroit sports franchises. Viewing will be held on Saturday and Sunday from 4-8 PM at the Neely-Turowski Funeral Home on Five Mile Road (between Merriman Rd and Middlebelt Rd). A funeral mass will be held Monday, November 7 at 9:30 AM at St. Aidan Catholic Church 17500 Farmington Rd Livonia, MI 48152 at 9:30 AM. www.neely-turowski.com.



HOWE, ROBERT "BILL"

Age 82, October 28, 2011. Beloved husband of Mary for 59 years, dear father of Mark G. (Esther), Lori Richardson, Darrell (Marilee), and Beth Simmons. Grandfather of Buffy, Joshua, Danae, Mateo, Jenny, Jessica, Erin, Emily, Joseph, Tommy, Brad, Chad, and the late Markie and Jon, and 13 great-grandchildren. Robert was born on April 23, 1929 and raised in Highland Park Michigan. As a teenager he was a member of the Order of DeMolay and the US Coast Guard, he later joined the US Navy. He also served as Corporal, Dental Technician and Communication Engineer in the US Army in the 599TH Field Artillery Battalion. He attended Radio Electronics School, was a part-time teacher for Michigan Public Schools, served as a member of the Garden City Planning Commission and served as a Work Release Program Director for Garden City. He was also a long time Committee Member of the Keep Michigan Beautiful Committee. Hobert worked for thirty years in Research & Development for Burroughs (Unisys) Corporation. Visitation Wednesday 2-9 p.m. at the John N Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd (between Ford Rd and Cherry Hill). In state Thursday 10 a.m. at Merriman Road Baptist Church, service begins at 11 a.m. 2055 Merriman Road (1 Block south of Ford Rd) Donation to Angela Hospice. www.santeiufuneralhome.com

KUNZAT, RICHARD

Age 79, of Farmington Hills, MI. Passed away October 28, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

NELSON, ARNOLD F.

November 1, 2011, age 73. Beloved husband of Lois. Loving father of Patricia (Daniel) Corby, Andrew (Julie) Nelson, Rosemary Setser, Edward (Angela) Nelson, Benjamin (Christine) Nelson, Mark Bonoff and Matthew (Carol) Nelson. Memorial services were held Saturday at Newburgh United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia, 48150. Contributions may be made to the church or Boys and Girls Town, National Headquarters, 200 Flanagan Boulevard, P.O. Box 6000, Boys Town, NE 68010



NYLAND, JOHN R.

Age 88, of Seneca, SC, passed away October 2nd. Born in Saginaw, he was a retired Executive Vice President of Indian Head Inc., and President of the Metals and Automotive Groups. Prior to that, he was President of Detroit Gasket & Manufacturing, Inc. and Vice President - General Manager of The Holley Carburetor Company. He started his automotive industry career as a Purchasing Agent at Ford. John was a 1958 engineering graduate of Wayne State and a 1970 graduate of the AMP program at Harvard University. A veteran of World War II, John was a Primary Flight Instructor at Orangeburg, SC. A licensed pilot for 65 years, he learned to fly prior to the start of the war, then flew internationally for TWA afterwards. John was an avid private pilot maintaining a commercial pilot rating, and accumulating over 12,000 hours until his last flight in 2006. John was a volunteer firefighter with the Bloomfield Village Fire Department from 1964 to 1984 having served as Chief and Assistant Chief for many years. He enjoyed boating and spending time with family at his vacation home in Lake City, MI and Hilton Head, SC to which he retired in 1984. John is survived by his loving wife of 61 years Dorothy, sons John (Carol) of St. Michaels, MD, Scott (Barbara) of Hockessin, DE, daughters Susan of Travelers Rest, SC, Jill Ischinger (Gene) and Barbara Andrews (Charlie), both of Campobello, SC and grandchildren Kathryn, Andrew and Michael. Funeral services were private. Contributions may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 26 Broadway 14th Floor, New York, NY 10004 or to the Aircraft Owners Pilots Association - Air Safety Foundation, 421 Aviation Way, Frederick, MD 21701



READE, ALAN LEE

Of Bloomfield Hills passed away peacefully surrounded by his children at age 89 on October 18, 2011. He was born and grew up in New York City, graduated cum laude with a degree in mathematics from Harvard, served in the Navy in WWII, and after the war returned to Harvard for an MBA. He started his business career in textiles in NYC where he met his late wife, Carmeta McLeod. He then went on to spend the rest of his career in the early computer business. After losing his wife to cancer in 1975, he retired to Michigan staying in his same home until the end of his life. He had a very active retirement: skiing, playing tennis and bridge, and advising people on their investments. He is survived by three children and six grandchildren who will miss him greatly, along with the wonderful family reunions he arranged.



ROWLAND-BARNAR SARAH J. "SALLY"

Age 77 of Fenton (formerly Plymouth) passed away October 24, 2011. Beloved wife of Robert Barnar, and the late Robert Rowland. Loving mother of Christine (David) Cope, Debra (James) Tiller, Gail (Christopher) Rink, and Rob (Connie) Rowland. Proud grandmother of eight. Also leaves two sisters, and several nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her brother. Visitation was held Thursday 4-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. In state was held Friday until the 11 AM funeral service at First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial (west of Sheldon) Plymouth. Interment Lake City Cemetery. To share memories please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

WATTON, SALLY ELLEN (NEE TORPIN)

Born February 20, 1931 in Philadelphia to Richard Torpin III and Margaret Chase. Sally passed away peacefully to join her beloved relatives, friends and "critters" on October 23, 2011 in Rehoboth, DE. She was graduate of Cheltenham High School and Centenary College for Women. Sally successfully embraced a variety of interests and adventures throughout her life with enthusiasm and warmth: daughter, writer/actress, executive's wife, supportive mother, fashion coordinator, and active parishioner at her churches in PA, MI, and lastly, in Lewes, DE. Sally is survived by her loving husband of 59 years, Donald, three children, grandchildren, extended family and many treasured friends. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Sussex County S.P.C.A., Vitas Hospice, or St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lewes, DE. Burial will be private and a beach memorial service will be held in the summer of 2012. Sign the online guest registry at: www.parsellfuneralhomes.com

ZIEL, PATRICIA A.

Age 80, of Canton, formerly of Homer, passed away Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at her daughter's residence. She was born in 1931 to Grandville and Lola Patton in Homer, Michigan. She lived in the Plymouth-Canton area since 1955 as a Homemaker, she attended the Presbyterian Church in Homer, was involved with the Senior Exercise Club, Jackson Trippers and enjoyed homecrafts. Pat is survived by: Daughter - Janice (Glenn) Boyer of Dexter; Son - Jeffrey (Barbara) Ziel of Saginaw; (2) grandchildren - Erica and Natalie Ziel. A Gathering for family and friends will be Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 12:00-1:00 P.M. at the J. Kevin Tidd Funeral Home, 208 W. Erie Street, Albion, Michigan 49224. Graveside Service will be held Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 2:00 P.M. at Fairview Cemetery, M Drive South, Homer, Michigan 49245 with Pastor Tim Marvil officiating. Assistance with Memorial Contributions can be made to American Cancer Society is available at the funeral home. www.kevintiddfuneralhome.com



David and Patricia Furman of Farmington

50th wedding anniversary

David and Patricia (Crampton) Furman of Farmington marked their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 28. They were married in 1961 at Redford Presbyterian Church in Redford. The couple have two children, Sheila (Curt) Sigro of Livonia and Rhonda (Scott) Treadwell of Farmington. They also have two grandchildren. David is retired from a career in the auto industry and enjoys boating. Patricia, retired from a career in retail administration, plays flute in the Farmington Community Band, is a board member of Miss Wayne County Scholarship Pageant and a member of the Michigan Humane Society. They celebrated their milestone anniversary with dinner at Andiamo's Livonia.



David and Patricia Furman on their wedding day in 1961.

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NEW FACES

Three doctors have joined the medical staff at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. They are:

• **Jennifer A. Gerteisen, DPM**, received a degree in podiatry at Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, Des Moines, Iowa. She completed her residency at St. John Hospital & Medical Center, Detroit and is a member of the American Podiatric Medical Association, Michigan Podiatric Medical Association, and is an associate of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons. Gerteisen is located at Dr. Kane & Associates, PC, 35210 Nankin Blvd., Suite 301, Westland; (734) 525-2555.



Gerteisen

• **Tamam Mohamad** received his medical degree from Damascus University School of Medicine, in Damascus, Syria. He completed an internal medicine residency and cardiology fellowship at Detroit Medical Center Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit. Mohamad is board certified in internal medicine. He is a member of the American College of Cardiology and American Medical Association.



Mohamad

Dr. Mohamad is located at the Heart & Vascular Institute, PLLC, 4160 John R., Suite 510, Detroit; (313) 993-2577.

• **Nicholas J. Szerlip** received his medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, La. He completed a neurosurgery residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, Md. Szerlip is a member of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, American Association of Neurological Surgeons, and Society for Neuro-Oncology. He is located at the Wayne State University Physician Group Department of Neurosurgery, 4160 John R., Suite 925, Detroit; (313) 966-5007.



Szerlip

Dr. Szerlip is a member of the American College of Cardiology and American Medical Association.

Surgeons offer seminar on joint replacement

The Center for Joint Replacement at St. Mary Mercy Hospital will offer a free educational seminar 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10 in classroom 10 at the hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia.

One of the hospital's orthopedic surgeons — Ryan Molli or David Mendelson — will be on hand to



Molli

answer questions and discuss joint pain, joint replacement procedures, and available implant options. They'll also talk about the comprehensive group approach to St.

Mary Mercy's program, including pre-surgical classes, choosing a personal "coach" to assist through the process, and what to expect post-surgery and discharge from the hospital. The multidisciplinary team approach to care enhances pain management and makes recovery faster while shortening hospital stays.

Other meeting dates are Wednesday, Nov. 30 in the auditorium and Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012 and Jan. 26, 2012 in classroom 10. All sessions run from 6-8 p.m. To register, call (734) 655-2400. For more information about physician and hospital services visit www.stmarymercy.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

November

ST. MARY MERCY

Theresa Castagna, RN, Behavioral Medicine, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, will talk about managing holiday stress at the Diabetes Support Group meeting, 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, in the hospital's auditorium. The American Diabetes Association states that the holidays can be a very busy and stressful time of year. When stress builds up, it causes the release of "fight or flight" hormones. These hormones then cause an increase in blood glucose. Castagna will discuss ways to decrease holiday stress. This is a Diabetes Support Group presentation and is open to anyone with diabetes and their support family. There is no charge, and pre-registration is not required. For more information call Community Outreach at (734) 655-8955. The hospital is located at Five Mile and Levan in Livonia.

BEAUMONT HOSPITAL

The hospital offers Silver Lining, a five-week wellness program for women cancer survivors. The program is free and designed for women who have survived any type of cancer. It includes meditation, yoga, breast awareness/self-exam, mindful listening and expressive writing. The program helps cancer survivors explore and heal the physical, emotional and spiritual effects of the disease. The program meets for five weeks, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., beginning Thursday, Nov. 10 through Dec. 15. All interested participants must attend an evening information/registration session on Thursday, Nov. 3 at the Beaumont Cancer Institute in Royal Oak. Participants must be 18 years or older and have completed their cancer treatments. Call Pam Jablonski at (248) 551-4645.

HEALTH CLASS

The National Kidney Foundation presents a free workshop designed to help individuals

manage long-term health conditions, 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7-Dec. 12 at American House, 11525 Farmington Road, Livonia. The Personal Action Toward Health (PATH) class is aimed at individuals with chronic health conditions such as arthritis, heart disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, bronchitis, asthma, and depression. Workshops are conducted by trained leaders who hold informal, small group discussions and provide easy-to-understand course materials. Facilitators discuss ways to reduce pain and stress, cope with fatigue, use medications wisely, and benefit from physical activity. To register or learn more about this program, call Elizabeth Star at (734) 425-3050.

MAPLEGROVE CENTER

A free public panel discussion will address the questions and concerns parents and other family members have about young people who may be using drugs or alcohol, 7-9 p.m. Nov. 10 in the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital Ravitz Atrium, 6777 West Maple, West Bloomfield. Betty Conger, Maple Grove Children and Family Program coordinator, will make the keynote presentation on how to better understand and guide young adults who may be struggling with making healthy, mature decisions. Other panelists include Judge Linda Davis with the Macomb County District Court and Families Against Narcotics; Dawn Kepler, Prevention Network College Program coordinator; Tom Ghena, administrative director of Maple Grove Center; as well as a family in recovery. Register at (248) 661-6170 or mce_cp@hfh.org.

VITA REDITA DINNER

The ninth annual Vita Redita gala dinner and auction is set for 6 p.m., Nov. 12, at Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth. The event raises funds for U-M Transplant Center's research programs, as well as programs to assist patients in need, organ donation initiatives, and Camp Michitanki, an annual program that sends more than 60 pediatric

transplant recipients to a week-long summer camp in Northern Michigan. Michigan State Rep. Kevin Daley, (R-Lum) will be the keynote speaker. Daley's son died in a car accident this year and his organs were donated to help save others. Vita Redita — which means "life restored," will include a strolling dinner, premium bar with signature cocktails, desserts, valet parking and an auction on such items as a private plane trip and original works of art. Tickets are \$175 per person. Call (734) 232-0594 or e-mail to vitaredata@umich.edu.

December

ST. MARY MERCY

The Michigan Bariatric Institute at St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers free monthly educational seminars, 6-7:30 p.m. in the hospital's auditorium. Dr. Tallal Zeni, director of minimally invasive and bariatric surgery and Dr. Jacob Roberts, bariatric surgeon, present information about laparoscopic bariatric surgery. The next session is Dec. 1. For information, call the Michigan Bariatric Institute at (877) Why-Weight. It's located at 14555 Levan, Suite 311, in the Marian Professional Building, Livonia.

Ongoing

AQUATIC CLASSES

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 10-11 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1-1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

Pre-Season Party

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11th THRU
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13th

Pre-Season Party Hours:
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THANK YOU! TO OUR SPONSORS!

Without question, Westland's First Annual Blues Brews and BBQ was a hit! Without something for everyone, all who attended said they had a good time and look forward to even more fun next year.

The success of this event is directly due to the support of our sponsors, vendors and attendees. Blues Brews and BBQ is sure to become one of our All American City's signature events.

The proceeds were donated to local non-profit organizations from the community that volunteered their time to run the day's activities. Over 110 volunteers from 9 different organizations played an integral part in making this first time event one that will be talked about for years to come.

Mark your calendar next year's event will be held over a two day period, **September 15 and 16, 2012.** We look forward to seeing you there!

2011 FINANCIAL SUMMARY TO THE COMMUNITY	BBB Breakdown Advertisement/Promotion
Sponsorship Income:	\$33,950.00
Ticket Income:	\$14,743.76
Total Income=	\$48,693.76
Expenses:	\$33,100.69
Event Profit:	\$15,593.07
Donations Made to Local Non-Profit Organizations	
Warm Hearts	\$250
Westland Grange #339	\$250
Westland Historical Commission	\$500
Westland Goodfellows	\$1,000
Westland Rotary	\$1,000
Westland Lions	\$1,000
Westland Civitans	\$1,000
Westland Community Foundation	\$1,000
Westland Chamber of Commerce	\$4,500
Total Amount Donated	\$10,500
Net Reserve Balance for 2012 Blues Brews & BBQ: \$5,093.07	

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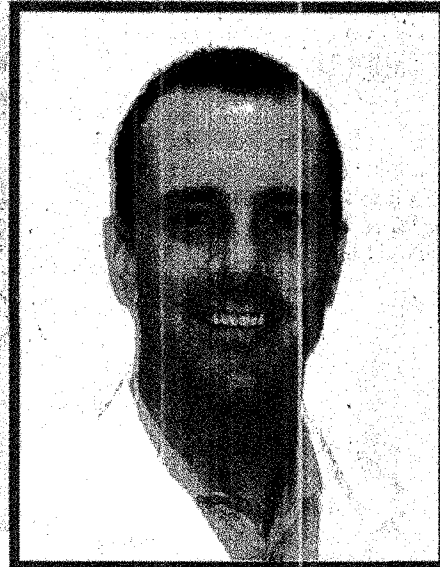
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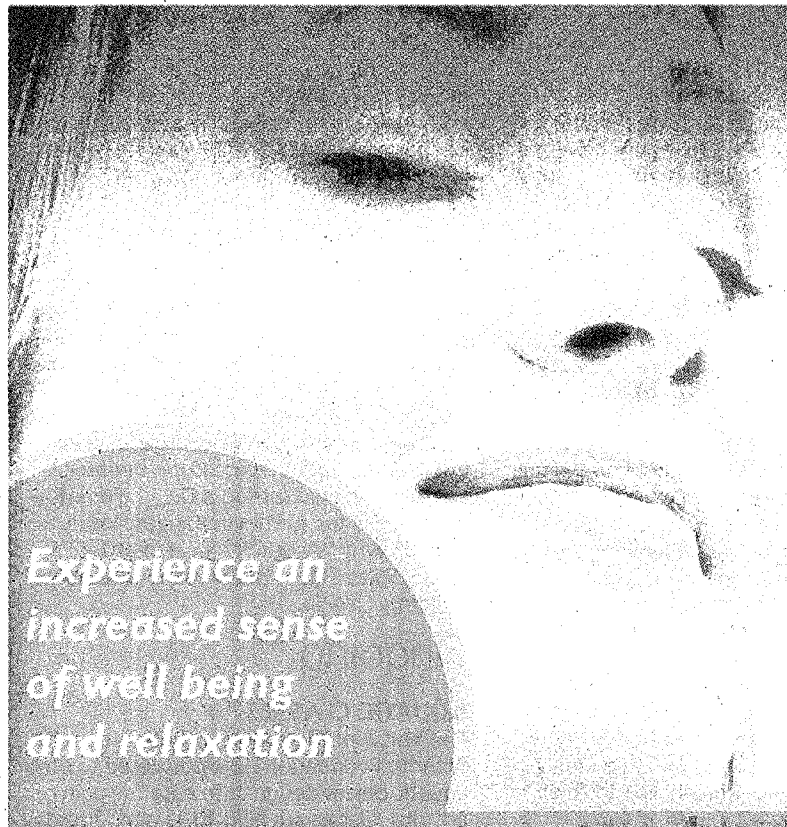
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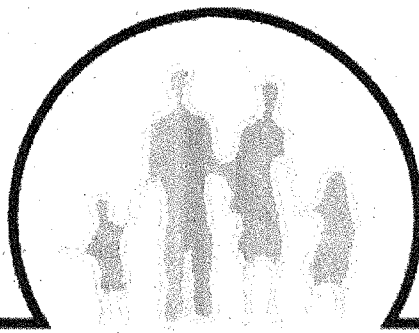
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