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Tax preparation

The Westland Friendship Center is taking appointments for anyone in the community who wants to have their taxes prepared free of charge. There is no age or income requirement for the service.

Generally, the tax return service, offered through AARP, is for simple returns. Individuals with lengthy returns, many rental properties or investments should have a CPA or professional firm complete their returns.

The site is an E-file site only, and appointments are necessary. The site manager has discretion over what returns they are willing and able to complete. Taxes will be done during the day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The senior center is offering the service. Any question regarding a return will be taken by a staff person, and returned by a preparer at their convenience.

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

Valentine dances

The deadline to register for the annual Fairy Princess Ball and Daddy/Daughter and Mommy/Son Western Hoedown is today (Feb. 2).

The Hoedown will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, in the Bailey Recreation Center. The cost is \$15 per couple and includes dancing, snacks, a sundae bar, games and a gift bag to take home.

Two Fairy Princess Balls planned - 3-4:30 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4. The cost is \$20 per couple and includes entrance fee, snacks, gifts and a complimentary picture.

If a parent can't attend, an aunt, uncle, grandma, grandpa or special family friend may attend. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

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Report to offer options for court consolidations

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A report on potential district court consolidations in five communities, including Westland and Garden City, is expected to be finalized this week.

The report, prepared by the National Center for State Courts, finds complete consolidation of the five courts and seven

judges in Westland, Garden City, Wayne, Inkster and Dearborn Heights into a single unit isn't feasible. However, some smaller consolidations show promise.

"NCSC has offered to come to all the councils to discuss the report and answer questions. If two or three courts want to do a deeper dive into the recommendations, they (NCSC) can facil-

itate that discussion," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "What I took away from it was (an option for) 29th District Court in Wayne and 18th District Court in Westland to merge and locate at Westland. That one jumped off the page."

The study estimates renovations needed to house a third judge at 18th District Court would cost about \$500,000.

Another \$84,000 per year was estimated to be needed to pay for the probation department to be located at an alternate location.

Savings of about \$200,000 annually were projected from elimination of duplicate staff positions, such as a court administrator, a part-time security person and possible a deputy court clerk.

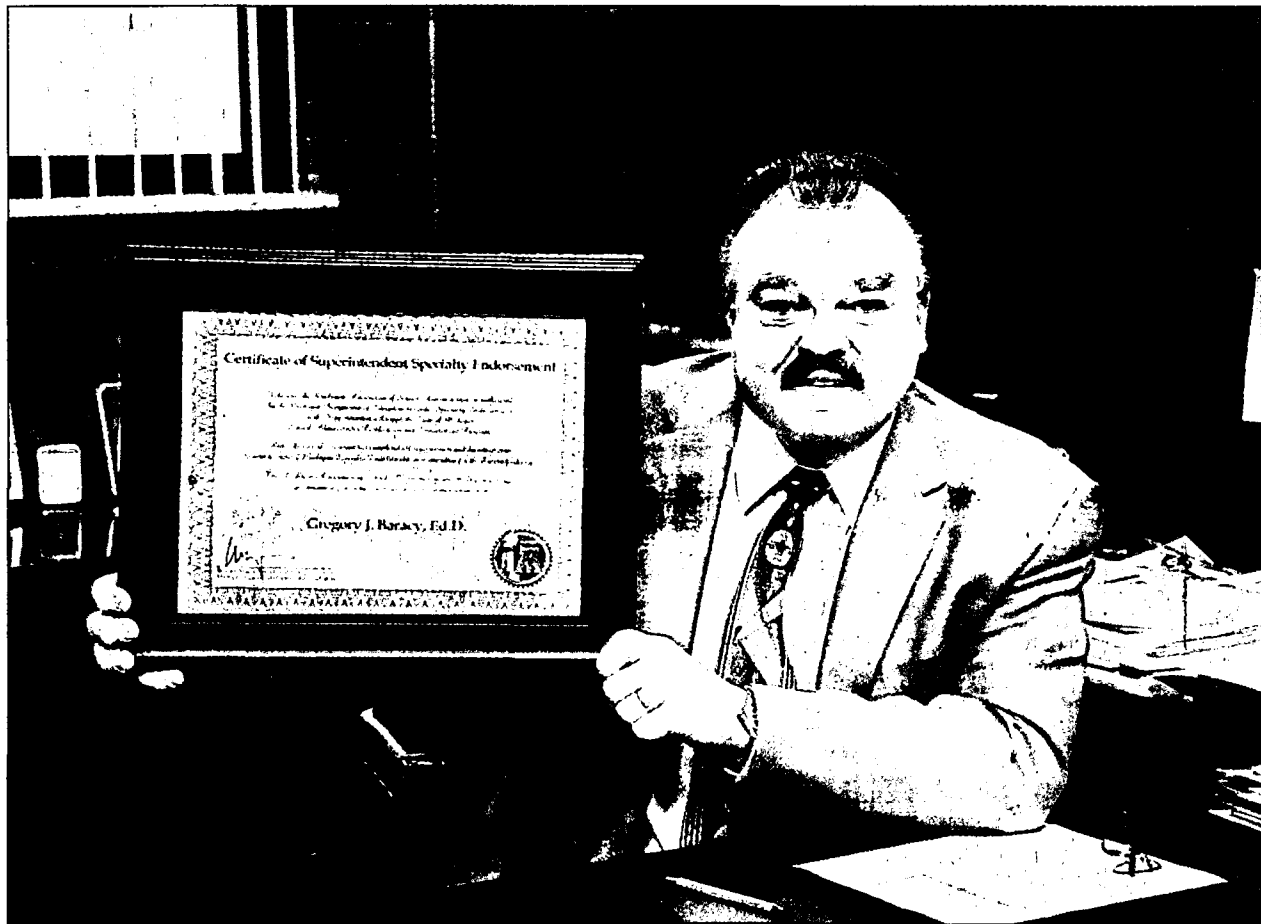
"(29th District) Judge (Laura) Mack and (18th District Court Chief Judge Sandra) Cicirelli seem to be willing to discuss having the two courts within the Westland court," Wild said.

Westland's court has already been working closely with 29th District Court and also Garden City's 21st District

Please see COURT, A2

W-W chief earns advanced state endorsements

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer



Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Greg Baracy has reason to smile after acquiring two advanced state endorsements on his school administrator certification through the Michigan Association of School Administrators' Courageous Journey Program.

It took three years to accomplish, but now Greg Baracy has joined an elite group of administrators who have taken the Courageous Journey.

The superintendent of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools has been recognized by the Michigan Association of School Administrators for acquiring two advanced state endorsements on his school administrator certification.

"It's a special thing. It's made me a better superintendent," Baracy said. "It's provided me with a laser-like focus on improving student achievement and allowed me to contribute to many initiatives in place in the district today."

"It's solely geared around the personal and professional growth of the superintendent as it relates to improving student achievement in the

Please see BARACY, A2

Absentee ballots go out for presidential primary

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

About 3,400 absentee ballots have already been mailed out for the Feb. 28 presidential primary and Westland Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof is suggesting voters take advantage of the opportunity to vote in advance.

"The weather with the February primary absolutely could be bad. If someone works outside the city during the day and might not make it back in time to vote, I would encourage them to get an absentee ballot," Schoof said. "Being out of the city is one of the reasons to get an absentee ballot. No one will check on them to make sure they didn't make it home."

The deadline to register to vote in the presidential primary was Monday. Registered voters can request absentee

HELP WANTED

As the Feb. 28 presidential primary approaches, Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof has the help wanted sign out. Election workers are needed and applications can be filled out at the City Clerk's Office in Westland City Hall. Applicants must be registered voters in Wayne County, but Westland residency isn't required. The workers are

paid \$130 for working election day. "They should fill out applications — the sooner, the better. It helps if they are a little computer literate, but it's not required," she said. "We will hold training classes. We will notify them when the classes are scheduled."

Applications are available during the regular business hours.

Republican ballot with 11 candidates, including front-runners Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul and Rick Santorum, or the Democratic ballot listing only incumbent President Barack Obama. Both ballots also have spots for uncommitted and write-in, although the latter vote won't be counted unless

Please see ABSENTEE, A2

LPS survey: Most voters would reject \$190M school bond

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

The majority of respondents to a telephone survey conducted Jan. 23-25 said they believe voters would reject a \$190 million bond proposal for technology and equipment, fine arts and major facility renovations to Livonia Public Schools because it would cost too much.

However, the majority of the 480 respondents also said they personally would support such a proposal.

A \$190 million bond would cost the owner of \$125,000 home about \$150 a year for 30 years.

The majority of respondents also said they think most people would support technology renovations to help make the district competitive with current education practices.

The technology renovations, without the other improvements, would cost an estimated \$36 million, or \$31 per year for the owner of a \$125,000 home.

No decision yet

The Livonia school board has made no decision about if or when it would put a bond proposal on the ballot or how much it would ask voters for.

Board members on Monday reviewed the results of the survey conducted by Banach, Banach & Cassidy of Ray Township at a cost of just under \$12,000.

The board plans to discuss the issue at another committee meeting Monday.

Trustees Dianne Laura and Eileen McDonnell said they need time to digest the information.

Please see BOND, A2

BOND

Continued from page A1

"I don't personally feel comfortable pushing anything forward for May," McDonnell said.

Superintendent Randy Liepa said time was getting tight for putting a proposal on the May ballot but recommended the board keep working on the issue and "not let it go either." He said the board may want to decide how much of a bond it thinks the community would support and then what improvements it would want to make.

Trustee Colleen Burton said she is in favor "of going forward with this in some way, shape or form."

She said she was encouraged by the survey results, which she described as positive given how little information respondents had to go on. "By a 2-1-1 margin, our community is saying, 'Yes we want to invest in our schools.'"

Survey results

Nearly 64 percent of respondents, all registered voters, said they personally would favor a \$190 million bond proposal to address all three areas of improvements even though just under

40 percent said they thought voters would support it. Nearly 68 percent said they think most people in the community would support \$36 million in just technology improvements.

The three areas of improvement — technology and equipment, fine arts and major facility renovations — come from the district's long-range facilities plan developed in 2009 by hundreds of residents, staff and experts.

Liepa said some of the district's schools, including Cooper Elementary, are more than 50 years old and are in need of electrical, mechanical and infrastructure improvements, along with windows, exterior doors and heating and ventilation upgrades. He said the district is "falling behind when it comes to technology."

He said the plans stem from the district's shared vision of providing students with a safe, welcoming environment with facilities that are updated, well-maintained and include cutting-edge technology and equipment.

Population projections from SEMCOG indicate Livonia will continue to need all of its existing upper elementary, middle and high schools until at least 2035, Liepa said.

If it doesn't need a K-4 school that it renovates, it can use that building for other programs currently housed elsewhere, he said.

Resident reaction

Livonia resident William Petersen, who has two children who have attended Livonia schools, told the school board Monday he wonders whether this is a good time to seek a bond. "The economy is starting to come back, but it's coming back slowly," he said. "I question whether this is a good time to throw another \$200 tax on the residents."

"It might be worthwhile to wait just a bit more until the economy is a bit more rosy than it is now."

But another resident said waiting to ask voters for a bond proposal is the wrong answer. He said he has three sons who graduated from Livonia schools and two grandsons attending now.

"As a senior citizen, I'm in favor of bonds and in favor of keeping Livonia as a leading school district," he said, adding that Livonia is in competition with surrounding districts. "If our schools are strong, then our city is strong."

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BARACY

Continued from page A1

district," he added.

Baracy spent three years in the MASA's Courageous Journey program that included classes, forums and online work to improve his leadership skills aimed at improving staff and student outcomes in the district.

He is among about two dozen superintendents in the state to achieve the endorsements.

To get them, he had to carry out and document his work, showing such things as a district level improvement in student achievement and evidence of its impact and improved school district practices and processes.

Focused learning

The program included formal meetings throughout the year, classes and a project intended to improve learning and use of a professional blog and discussions. Baracy focused on high school reform and reviewed literature to increase his knowledge about the use of "best practices" as they relate to effective classroom instruction and the effective use of data to drive instruction and the decision-making process geared at improving student achievement.

"The classes, research and professional sharing became a very intentional attribute toward the development and implementation of a culture that supports profession-

al learning communities," he said. "It has led to many interventions for students as well as the expansion of professional learning communities."

He also had to do a final exhibition of his work in order to receive the recommendation for the endorsements to the state Department of Education.

"It's the equivalent of doing a dissertation," he said. "I did a PowerPoint to the program leaders, I did a more than 100-page report. I had to show the results of the work I did in the district."

Baracy decided to pursue the Courageous Journey experience because of his "inherent characteristic" to seek "knowledge, perfection and excellence in my work." He added that he is committed to exploring new instructional strategies to help students better connect with classroom instruction that's engaging and meets their needs.

"I feel really good about this. It impacted students and the school district in a positive way," he said. "That's what I was looking at when I entered the program."

School board President Carol Middel announced Baracy's accomplishments at Monday's meeting by reading a letter from William Mayes, MASA executive director.

Proud of accomplishment

"School leaders who earn these specialty and enhanced endorsements do so on a voluntary basis

by placing their actual work as superintendents on the line for review and evaluation against the state standards for school leaders. We hope you are as proud of this accomplishment as we are," she read, adding, "So now we know what you do in your spare time."

Members of the board thanked Baracy for his efforts. Trustee Frederick Weaver noted that "these are two certifications most superintendents don't receive in their lifetimes."

"This man has moved this district forward with the bond issue in 1998 and the sinking fund in 2003," he added. "I consider him a bold, well-spoken and courageous leader and I thank him for that."

"We appreciate your dedication to this district," board Secretary Cindy Schofield said.

"I'd like to thank you for being the leader you are by going back to school and leading the way."

Completion of the program now makes Baracy a member of the Courageous Journey Guild, which provides additional opportunities to build high-impact practices and network with other superintendents "doing leading edge work in their districts."

"Despite all the good things going on as a result of me completing this program, Wayne-Westland is a better place for teaching and learning," Baracy said.

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ABSENTEE

Continued from page A1

the person written in has filed an affidavit to run as a write-in candidate.

"Initially, we had some problems with the absentee applications, but we mailed them back with notes telling them they must select which ballot they wanted. No one was upset," Schoof said.

"Most of the applications are coming in correct now."

Voters in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools have a third choice — effectively none of the above in the presidential primary by opting to vote only on a school ballot question. The district is seeking a 10-year renewal of a nearly 1-mill sinking fund tax levy. The sinking fund is used for

buildings and site maintenance and improvements.

Westland has approximately 56,000 registered voters from among about 83,000 residents. During the 2008 presidential primary, Schoof said there was a 19.7-percent voter turnout.

"That might have been a little higher with the Democratic turnout due to the Democratic races," Schoof said.

As a reminder, Schoof said that voters are not required to provide an e-mail or telephone as requested on the ballot — that is information the two political parties are gathering.

The state primary will be held Aug. 7, with the general election Nov. 6.

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COURT

Continued from page A1

Court, Cicirelli said. The latter court is sending its defendants sentenced to community service to Westland's work program.

"My thinking is that what we need to do is not necessarily physically consolidate buildings, but consolidate services," Cicirelli said, adding Mack assigns defendants serving intensive reporting probation to the 18th District Court probation department.

While she doesn't see it happening immediately, Cicirelli agrees that long term she could see a combining of the district courts in Westland and Wayne or Garden City.

"That will be in the future. Westland and Wayne are already combined for schools," she said.

If there was a consolidation, the report estimates operating costs would be divided on an 80/20 formula based on current caseloads, with Westland having the much larger operation.

"I think the ground work is there, especially now that NCSC has identified this as an option," Wild said. "We can start eliminating duplica-

tions. All these are difficult decisions. I think if we look out long term for both communities (Westland and Wayne), one day there will be only one community and only one court."

The five communities are splitting the \$35,000 cost for the study. Westland was able to obtain an \$8,750 grant for consolidation feasibility studies from the state Economic Vitality Incentive Program.

"That's the maximum 25 percent grant. We will divide it up among the five communities. That will bring the costs down," Wild said.

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CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

The City of Westland will hold its public accuracy test on the ES&S M-100 voting equipment for the February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary Election on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan.

The public accuracy test is conducted to determine that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the ballot results count the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Eileen DeHart, CMC
Westland City Clerk

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Late Registrants Accepted

Firefighters take to ice to benefit Morton family

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

In the realm of fund-raising hockey, the Garden City Firefighters are 1-0. They're hoping to extend their winning streak by defeating the Dearborn Firefighters team in a game on Friday, Feb. 17, to benefit the family of Kent Morton.

"We really want to pack the arena," said Garden City firefighter Tom Wincel. "It's going to be a good hockey game and, of course, people will want to see their hometown team win. We want to keep that momentum going."

The game will be 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Garden City Civic Arena, 200 Log Cabin Road in Garden City Park at Cherry Hill and Merriman. The cost is a \$10 donation for an individual or family, payable at the door.

The Canton Mighty Ducks and Garden City Stars Mite teams will do an exhibition between periods, and there will be raffle prizes and silent auctions featuring autographed Kid Rock and Detroit Red Wings memorabilia, 50/50 raffles and more.

An invitation also has been extended for people to join in an after party for spirits and live entertainment at Albert's on the Alley on Middlebelt, 5651 Middlebelt, north of Ford Road, after the game.

The hockey game came about after a friend of the Morton family contacted the Dearborn Fire Department. They called Garden City about doing a benefit and Wincel agreed.

"Kent was a very well-liked person by many," said Wincel. "We'd like to do this for the family. We really want to pack the arena."

Kent Morton died Jan. 11 after a fall from the Ambassador Bridge where he had been working. He survived the 150-foot fall into the Detroit River and even managed to swim briefly



Fund-raisers are being held to help the family of Kent Morton who includes his daughter Makayla, 7, and an unborn child.

Feb. 29.

• A bowling benefit at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road, north of Ford Road, Westland. Tickets cost \$20 per person for three games, shoes and pizza. Check-in is at 8 p.m.

For more information, call Mike Lesperance at (734) 536-6066 or Will Hamilton at (734) 716-3329.

• A memorial benefit Friday, Feb. 10, at the Bullfrog Bar and Grill, 15414 Telegraph in Redford Township. The evening will include performances by Killz, Royce Fann, Knox Money, M City Jr., Cymphonee, Walker, 1st Born, Big Dame, Bigman, Mail, Valerie and Steven B the Great, with special guests L'Renee, Guilty Simpson, Ro Spit, Trick Trick, Supa Emcees, Moe Dirdee, Marwvon, King Gordy, Chief and Mu.

There will be raffles for Detroit Tigers tickets and a jewelry giveaway from The Diamond Connection.

The donation is \$10. There will be \$5 drink specials all night with a \$2 power hour at midnight. For more information, call Scott Waiter at (313) 717-4551.

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before being carried off by the current. He was last seen near the Bob-Lo docks south of the bridge. His body has not been recovered.

He had a 7-year-old daughter and was expecting a second child.

The hockey game is one of several benefits being held for the Morton family.

Other fundraisers include:

• A dinner buffet and raffle 2-6 p.m. Sunday,

March 4, at Albert's on the Alley. The Friends of Fawn Salvatore are holding a buffet with food and a raffle, and kids are welcome. Tickets are \$20 per person and are available by pre-sale only. No tickets will be sold at the door the day of the event. Tickets are available in the office at Memorial Elementary 1-2 Campus, at the corner of Brandt and Marquette in Garden City. They're on sale 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday through

Church youth to protest world hunger

By Sue Buck
Observer Staff Writer

A small group of young people will protest world hunger outside of Garden City Presbyterian Church Sunday, Feb. 5.

Julie Eiermann, youth group leader, will join the students who are in the sixth-12th grades before the 10 a.m. service and after the service until everyone has left the church.

"We will sit together in church during the service," Eiermann said.

The students have raised almost \$600 through fundraisers will be donated to World Vision. The protest is part of World Vision's 30-Hour Famine.

"We will be protesting for the injustices of hunger around the world even here in the United States," she said.

According to Eiermann, three most common reasons people fall into situational poverty are illness, divorce, and job loss. Of the 25 richest industrialized nations, the United States has the highest childhood poverty rate second only to Mexico.

About 39.5 million

people live in poverty in the U.S., a number equal to the entire population of Canada.

Eiermann and her husband, Randy, are known for different Christian events including Alive in the Park at Garden City Park.

As part of the Famine event, the Cross Talk youth group will be experiencing what it feels like to go without. They will try to imagine what it is like to walk in the shoes of many who go without, like many here in the United States and around the world. Their scheduled famine dates are Feb. 17-18.

Funds raised by 30-Hour Famine participants will help feed and care for children in communities in need around the world through World Vision. A portion of the funds raised assist families in need in the United States.

Since 1992, 30-Hour Famine has raised about \$140 million. World Vision works in about 100 countries. For more information about this group, visit www.worldvision.org.

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Larceny

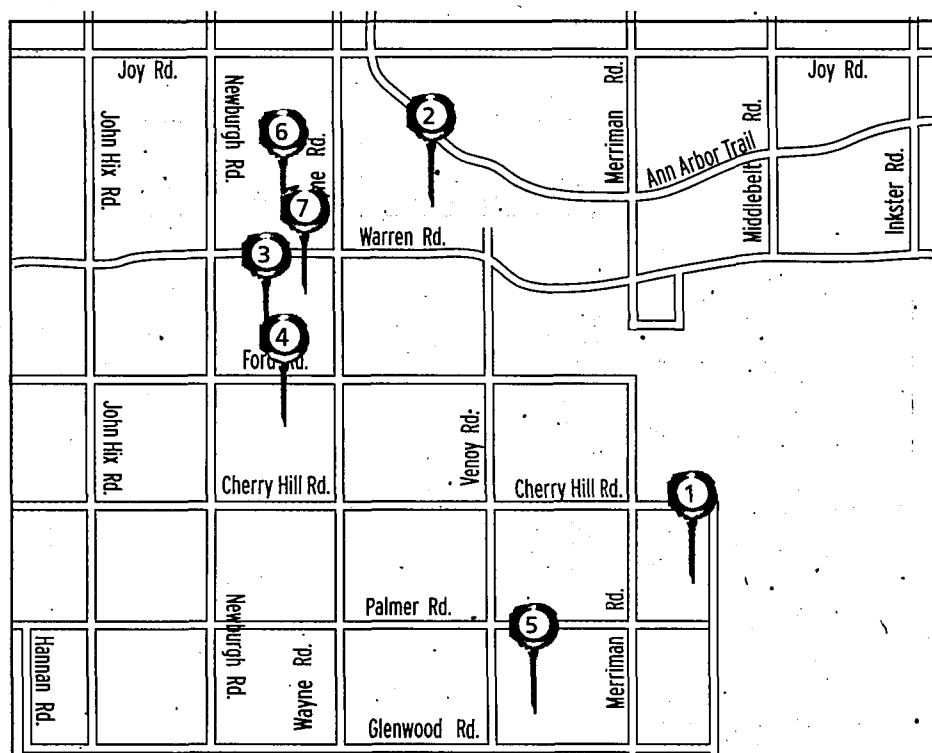
1 On Jan. 30, a resident in the 800 block of Henry Ruff told police that he went into his unlocked garage to take his kids to school and discovered his new Cub Cadet single stage snow thrower was missing. He said he had last seen the snow blower, valued at \$500, about 11 p.m. the previous night.

The officer noted fresh tracks in the snow heading south on Henry Ruff and ending at an abandoned party store at Glenwood. The resident told officers his father had given him the snowblower as a gift.

Stolen package

2 A resident of an apartment in the 31000 block of Cowan told police Jan. 27 that someone had stolen a package delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. He said that he knew the package, containing miscellaneous guitar parts, was to arrive but it was not there when he arrived home.

Using the tracking num-



ber, the resident said he found the package had been delivered at 10:12 a.m. The man checked the Dumpster near his building about 3 p.m. and found the package opened. All of the items were still in the package. He said he filed a report with the Postal

Police also.

Vandalism

3 Police were called to Hunters West Apartments, 6501 Yale, early Jan. 31 after a witness reported seeing a person dressed in brown break a window on a parked vehi-

cle, then flee west on foot.

Officers found the rear driver's side window of the 1996 Ford Taurus had been smashed and a brick was on the seat. The officers were not able to locate the registered owner of the vehicle, a Northville man.

Stolen property

4 Thieves reportedly used a Nike golf club to break out the rear window of Ford Explore that was parked in the driveway of a home in the 1800 block of North Crown between 10 p.m. Jan. 22 and 8 a.m. Jan. 23.

Missing from the vehicles was a set of Golf Smith golf clubs, valued at \$200.

According to police, the club broke in the process of breaking the window and was left behind.

Attempted break-in

5 An anonymous caller alerted police to a burglary at Boost Mobile, 2325 S. Venoy, just after midnight Jan. 23.

The caller told police a man was attempting to break into the store. When police arrived, they found the rear door heavily damaged, but still secured. The rear dead bolt lock had been punched in and the door handle had been broken off. The head of a

hammer was found on the ground near the door.

The owner opened the building, and it was searched by police. It also was secure and it appeared the suspects did not get inside.

Larceny from auto

6 The catalytic converter was stolen from a 2002 Pontiac Aztec while it was parked in the 7000 block of Drew Circle on Jan. 19. The converter was valued at \$800.

Burglary

7 Some \$4,000 in electronics was reported stolen during the break-in of an apartment at 6501 Yale on Jan. 21.

The resident told police that between 4:20 p.m. Jan. 20 and midnight Jan. 21 someone forced open the front door of the apartment, smashing the dead bolt. The apartment had been ransacked.

Missing were a 58-inch Samsung flat screen TV, PlayStation 3, iPod Nano and a Dell laptop computer.

By LeAnne Rogers

Identity theft: Do you know what to do?

If you become the victim of identity theft, do you know what to do? According to the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, the most important thing to do is act immediately to stop the thief's further use of your identity.

The sheriff has provided a number of steps people need to take under the Safety Center tab on the department's website. Those steps include:

1. Immediately contact all credit card issuers. Get replacement cards with new account

numbers. Ask that the old accounts be processed as "account closed at consumer's request." This is better than "card lost or stolen," because when this statement is reported to credit bureaus, it can be interpreted as blaming you for the loss.

2. Call the fraud units of the three credit reporting companies - TRW, Equifax, and Trans Union. Report the theft of the credit cards and/or numbers. Ask that the accounts be flagged. Also, add a victim's statement to the report such as, "My

ID has been used to apply for credit fraudulently. Contact me at XXX-XXX-XXXX (your phone number) to verify all applications."

3. Notify the bank or banks of the theft. Cancel checking and savings accounts and obtain new account numbers. Ask the bank to issue a secret password that must be used in every transaction. Put stop payments on any outstanding checks that you are unsure.

4. If you use the ATM card for banking services, get a new card, account

number, and password. Do not use your old password. When creating a password, avoid such commonly used numbers as the last four digits of your Social Security number and your birth date.

5. If you have had checks stolen or bank accounts set up fraudulently, report it to Telecheck and National Processing Company. These check guarantee companies will flag your file so that bogus checks will be turned down. Call Telecheck at (800) 366-2425 and National Processing Com-

pany at (800) 526-5380.

6. Notify the Social Security Administration's office of the Inspector General if your Social Security number has been used fraudulently. You may want to have your number changed, if it has become associated with bad checks and credit. Caution: This step should be reserved for only the most extreme situations. You must be sure to notify all credit grantors and credit reporting bureaus of your new number.

The sheriff department

also recommend that in dealing with the authorities and financial institutions, keep a log of all conversations, including dates and names. Send correspondence by certified mail. Keep copies of all letters and documents. Provide the police report number to expedite reporting the crime.

The safety center also includes a list of agencies to contact and their telephone numbers and websites. The Safety Center is at www.waynecounty.com/sheriff_safety_idtheft.htm.



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Fairy tale performance

Plymouth-Canton AAUW brings 'Cinderella' to O'Leary stage

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Live children's theater will return next to O'Leary Theater at Garden City High School as the Plymouth-Canton Association of American University Women stage its version of the fairy tale classic, *Cinderella* Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 8-10.

The all-woman cast has been rehearsing at the high school since the beginning of January, and for co-director Kaytee Bellows of Waterford, it's a twist on growing up with her mother, Sue Bellows, who plays the fairy godmother.

"The tables have turned," said the Waterford resident. "She spent a lot of years telling me what to do. Now I get to do it. I'm going to take it and run with it."

This is Kaytee Bellows' first time directing the play. She's sharing the duties with Becky Copenhaver of Canton who's in the director's chair for a fourth time since joining the local AAUW branch in 1985.

"I brought my son to see the play in 1984 and commented to my husband that they were having too much fun and I needed to be up there," said Copenhaver. "I joined the next year and the very first year I was Wendy in *Peter Pan*. It was very exciting for me, but they took a chance on me."

52nd year

This is the 52nd year for the branch's children's theater production. The plays started out as a branch inter-



Sandy Iannucci (from left) of Plymouth plays the Fairy Godmother in Training from Plymouth, with Shirley Zaetta of Plymouth as Norm the Mouse, Sue Bellows of Garden City as the Fairy Godmother and Kay Paupore of Canton as Gus the Mouse.

est group aimed at bringing live drama to children in Plymouth. It has now become the major project of the branch, which is known around the state for its live theater and which is also a drawing card for new young members like MaryBeth Riblett of Plymouth. In her fourth year, she's playing Cinderella, the role she wanted.

"It just seemed to be a fun role, I get to do the whole fairy tale thing," she said. "I auditioned for this and one of the stepsisters. I got this and I'm having a lot of fun with it."

"Every other year I've been a boy, so I'm excited that I get to wear a dress this year," she added.

Sue Bellows is also playing the role she wanted as Cinderella's fairy

godmother. But in the branch's version of the fairy tale, she must contend with a fairy godmother in training (GIT) played by Sandy Iannucci of Plymouth.

"I'm her straight man," said Sue Bellows of Iannucci. "I'm getting up in age and can't be around forever. I'll eventually go to the fairy godmother home, but I have to deal with this fairy godmother wanna-be."

"I have to show the other side of myself," the Garden City resident added. "I was the Queen of Hearts last year and I was fabulous, if I must say so myself."

Armed with a wand that lights up, Sue Bellows was busy showing her good side and expressing her love for the three mice - Jack, Worm and



Monica Nick (left) of Plymouth and Michelle Churchill (right) of Novi are play sisters Gruesue and Ugetta, while MaryBeth Riblett of Plymouth appears in the title role as Cinderella.

Gus. "Oh, we love her back, but we have to keep reminding her we turn into horses," said Kay Paupore of Canton, who plays Gus.

Sparkling hair

Iannucci stands out in her role with her sparkly blue wig. She admitted that sparkle caught her off guard, the first time she put it on.

"When I tried it on the first time, someone was talking to me and I couldn't talk," she said. "I couldn't concentrate because of the blue wig."

In her 12th year with the AAUW, Iannucci admits it was the play that attracted her. At the urging of fellow member Melissa Uhl, she joined after she was told she'd enjoy it.

"I started off shy, my first play I was an Indian brave with one line," she said. "I've had a lot of roles since then and I can say I'm no longer shy. This is a great group of women."

The branch has sev-

en different plays that it presents. Each time a play is staged, a new script is updated with news lines and characters like this year's GIT.

"We have so many talented people," said Copenhaver. "I wrote the GIT for Sandy because I knew she'd ham it up."

Kaytee Bellows took on the directing job when no one stepped up to be director by September. Copenhaver agreed to help her.

"I would rather be up on stage, but everyone has been very helpful and offered suggestions," said Copenhaver. "I get to bounce ideas off of Kaytee, but it's nerve wracking."

The play serves as a fundraiser for the branch which uses the money to provide scholarships for women attending school or returning to school at places like Schoolcraft College and Madonna University. It also has become a popular program for scouts who attend presentations and watch the show on Thurs-

CINDERELLA

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 8-9 and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10

Location: O'Leary Auditorium at Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt Road, north of Ford Road, Garden City

Details: The Plymouth-Canton AAUW will present its annual children's play, "Cinderella." Tickets are still available for two performances on Thursday and Saturday morning for scouts interested in earning theater badges. The program includes reserved seating, acting presentation at 6:15 p.m. Thursday and 10:15 a.m. Saturday, the show and a fun patch. Tickets are \$5 in advance (includes patch for scouts) and \$6 at the door. Seating is still available for all shows. Tickets are available at Perko's Shoes, 33426 W. Five Mile, Livonia; Sideways Gifts, 505 Forest Ave., Plymouth, and Fanatic U, 30409 Ford Road Garden City.

Contact: For more information, visit the Plymouth AAUW website at www.aauw-pcmi.org.

day evening and Saturday morning, while earning fun patches. Last year, 1,100 scouts attended the two shows.

"It's pretty wonderful," said Kaytee Bellows. "They get patches with the workshop, and we have a lot of fun."

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<p>FEB 11 ANATOMY OF A MURDER (1959) Johnson, Rosati, LaBarge, Aselyne & Field, P.C. Tickets available at: Center Street Cellar of Simply Wine located at 109 N. Center</p>	<p>JOHNSON ROSATI Center Street Cellar of Simply Wine</p>
<p>FEB 18 IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD WORLD (1963) Northville Physical Rehabilitation located at 215 E. Main, Suite B</p>	
<p>FEB 25 BYE BYE BIRDIE (1963) Keller Williams Realty Northville located at 200 N. Center</p>	

Presenting sponsor: The Movies at the Marquis series is open to all guests five years and older. The historic Marquis Theatre is located in downtown Northville at 135 East Main Street. For more information and updates on the 2012 Movies at the Marquis series, visit www.downtownnorthville.com or call 248-349-0345.

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Farmington Players present 'Whose Wives Are They, Anyway?'

Two buddies take a golf trip without their wives, but the new boss shows up and ruins their fun.

Whose Wives Are They, Anyway?, is a play loaded with comic high jinks which are "par for the course" on the Farmington Players stage.

The show runs Feb. 17 through March 3 at the Barn Theatre in Farmington Hills.

Teeing off

The fun tees off with John Baker and David McGachen, who unexpectedly encounter their new boss on a golf outing. The only problem is, the golfers are vacationing without their wives, and they learn the boss frowns on men leaving their spouses behind.

The sand trap

They find themselves in sort of a sand trap when the boss invites their wives to dinner and refuses to take "no" for an answer. So the pals scramble to rustle up some "better halves," before they lose their jobs. It looks like the guys will "save par" until their real wives surprisingly show up and

all "Hades" breaks loose.

Hole in one

Director Dennis Broadhead of Royal Oak enjoys any story in which ordinary people create wild solutions to cope with unbelievable circumstances.

"This is an excellent cast," says Broadhead. "With all the current problems in the world today, all the audience needs to do is just relax have a good laugh at all the silliness that's going on, on stage!"

Broadhead crafts that silliness, by tapping into some of the Farmington Players top comedic talent to pack that stage with plenty of physical fun, tricky timing, crossed phone lines and cross dressing buffoonery.

Broadhead says, "No matter how many crazy problems life throws at you, just face them and tell the truth. Otherwise, things can get a little out of hand and really get crazy!"

It's a message he is certain will strike a "hole in one" with his audience.

Tickets for *Whose Wives Are They Anyway?* are



JIM KELLY

John Boufford, of Northville Township and Geoff Wehner of Bloomfield Hills rehearse a hilarious scene in bed.

available now at farmingtonplayers.org or at the box office (248) 553-2955. Questions about the show may be e-mailed to whosewives@farmingtonplayers.org

Show dates

The shows are: at 8 p.m. on: Feb. 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, March 1, 2, 3 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 19, 26. Tickets are available at both www.farmingtonplayers.org

and the box office at (248) 553-2955. Tickets are \$16 adults; students are \$2 off any performance; Senior Sunday, take \$2 off tickets on Feb. 19; Thrifty Thursday, take \$2 off on Feb. 23 and March 1; group discounts of \$2 off any show with a group of 10 or more.

The Farmington Players Barn is located at 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farming-

ton Hills. It's the big white barn on the north side of 12 mile between Orchard Lake and Farmington Road.

The Cast

• John Baker, played by Geoff Wehner of Bloomfield Hills

• David McGachen, played by John Boufford of Northville

• Tina, played by Alisha Gellin of West Bloomfield

• Mrs. Carlson, played by Mary Ann Tweedie of Novi

• Wilson, played by Tony Targan of West Bloomfield

• D.L. Hutchinson, played by Maureen Mansfield of Farmington Hills

• Karly McGachen, played by Diana McSweeney of Farmington Hills

• Laura Baker, played by Laurel Stroud of Redford

The crew

• Director Dennis Broadhead of Royal Oak

• Assistant Director George Uridge of Farmington Hills

• Producer-David Reinke of Novi

• Producer/Set Designer/Construction-Tim Timmer of Wayne

• Stage Manager-Jill Jones of Southfield

• Lighting Designer-Frank Ginis of Troy

• Sound Design-Rachael Rose of Waterford

• Costumes-Julie Vanderbeek of Ferndale

• Props/Set Dressing-Kandi Krumins of Farmington Hills

Find out more about the Farmington Players at www.farmingtonplayers.org and also on Facebook.

Wayne Memorial, John Glenn seek alumni award nominations

Wayne-Westland's John Glenn and Wayne Memorial High Schools have put out the call for nominations for their distinguished alumni awards they present to former graduates.

"We have had many outstanding people graduate from Wayne Memorial, many have contributed significantly to the betterment of society on a local, state, national or international level," said Principal Valerie Orr. "The Dis-

tinguished Alumni Award is our way of honoring an outstanding graduate on an annual basis."

The award has become a part of the annual commencement ceremony of Wayne Memorial High School. Each winner is awarded a medal inscribed with the official school seal.

"This is an opportunity for our current graduating class, to hear first hand from a former alumnus who has made his/

her mark on society," Orr said.

The most difficult task is to locate the many alumni who have distinguished themselves since their graduation. Wayne Memorial is asking the community to help in its search, by sending a nomination to contact Pam Rawson, secretary to the principal, at Wayne Memorial High School, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne, MI 48184, or call her at (734) 419-2206.

A "Distinguished Alumni" committee will decide on the recipient for 2012. An announcement of the winner will be made in mid-May, and the recipient will then be honored at commencement ceremonies on June 2 at the Eastern Michigan University Convocations Center.

John Glenn High School also will recognize a former graduate as a Distinguished Alumnus at its June 2 graduation cere-

mony.

The Faculty Council at John Glenn High School is seeking nominations for the award which "has become one of the highlights of the graduation ceremony each year. We feel that successful graduates, such as these, could have a positive motivational effect on the graduating seniors as well as the school community and the faculty."

Residents of the community can nominate

a former graduate for the honor by contacting Robyn Brennan at John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185. For more information, call Brennan at (734) 419-2332.

The Faculty Council will review all applications and select the nominee to be honored with this year's graduating class.

The deadline for making nominations for both awards Friday, Feb. 24.

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Douglas Adams, the newest member of the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees, is sworn in by his long-time friend and associate, Wayne County Deputy Clerk Caven West.

Adams becomes newest Schoolcraft trustee

The Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees has a new member with the swearing in of Douglas H. Adams, at its Jan. 25 meeting.

Adams was sworn in as a trustee by Wayne County Deputy Clerk Caven West, longtime friend and associate.

Adams was appointed in November to complete the final year of the six-year term of Trustee Gregory J. Stempin who recently retired from the board. The term expires Dec. 31, 2012.

Adams served on the Schoolcraft College Foundation Board of Governors since 2010 and as a member of the Foundation's Investment Oversight Committee since July 2011. He is currently vice-president of Small Business Administration Lending for Comerica Bank.

He is a former community college student, having attended Jackson Community College for general studies prior to earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. He

also has a master of public administration degree from the University of Toledo. He is attending Beijing University in Beijing, China, as a visiting scholar and is completing his doctorate at the University of Louisville's College of Business and Public Administration.

In addition to his employment at Comerica Bank, Adam, a Canton resident, was a project manager for Michigan Economic Development Corporation, International and National Business Development, assistant to the dean and a research assistant in the College of Business and Public Administration at the University of Louisville and an adjunct lecturer in the Department of Social Sciences at Indiana University-Southeast.

The board also elected new officers at the meeting.

Brian Broderick of Plymouth will serve as chair, with Carol Strom of Livonia as vice-chair; Joan Gebhardt of Livonia as treasurer and Patricia Watson of Northville as

secretary.

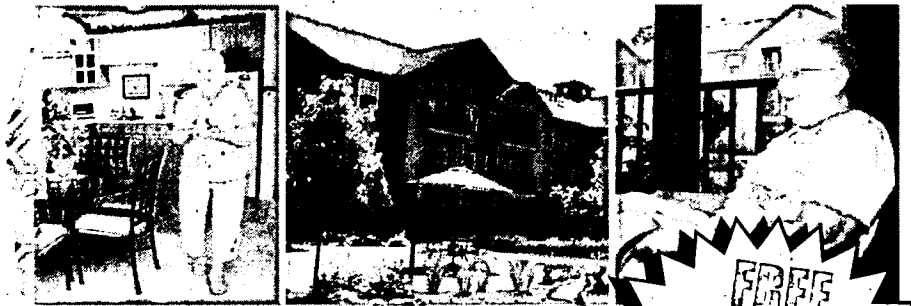
Normally, officers of the board are elected for two-year terms, however, because of the timing of the recent addition of two new trustees to replace retired board members, the officers will complete the remaining one year for this term of office.

Because board officers are elected every two years in January following a general election, the Board of Trustees will elect new officers in January 2013.

Other members of the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees include Douglas Adams of Canton, John Elkins of Livonia and James Fausone of Canton.

The seven-member Board of Trustees serves as the college's policy-making body. To be considered a candidate for the position, an applicant must be a registered voter and a resident of the Schoolcraft College district, which includes the Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville and Plymouth-Canton school districts and part of the Novi school district.

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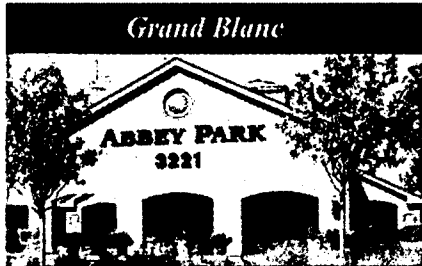
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'It's a long shot, it's a Hail Mary'

Retired police officers seek answers in 1990 cold case

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Michael Frayer is a realist. Finding out what happened to an Okemos woman who disappeared along I-96 22 years ago may be near to impossible. But he is committed to finding her and providing closure for her family.

"If we find her, I think we can find out who did it," said Frayer. "It's a long shot, it's a Hail Mary. It's tough because we have no victim, we're not even sure where the crime scene was."

Frayer is part of a three-member cold case team made up of retired law enforcement officers who represent 110 years of experience and who are working with the Livingston County Sheriff's Department on the more than 20-year-old mystery.

Frayer is a retired Westland police chief. Also on the team is friend and retired Westland police officer Joe Morrow and retired Canton Police Officer and Mackinac Island police chief William Lenaghan.

"We've been able to generate 80 new leads and tips and we've gotten about a dozen that are viable," said Frayer. "We've also come up with five persons of interest."

A substitute teacher, Paige Renkoski was 30 years old when she disappeared without a trace along I-96 in Livingston County on May 24, 1990. Her car was found on the shoulder of the westbound lanes of the Interstate about a quarter-mile east of the Fowlerville exit. It was unlocked, with the engine running and the headlights on. Her shoes and purse were still inside.

Team members

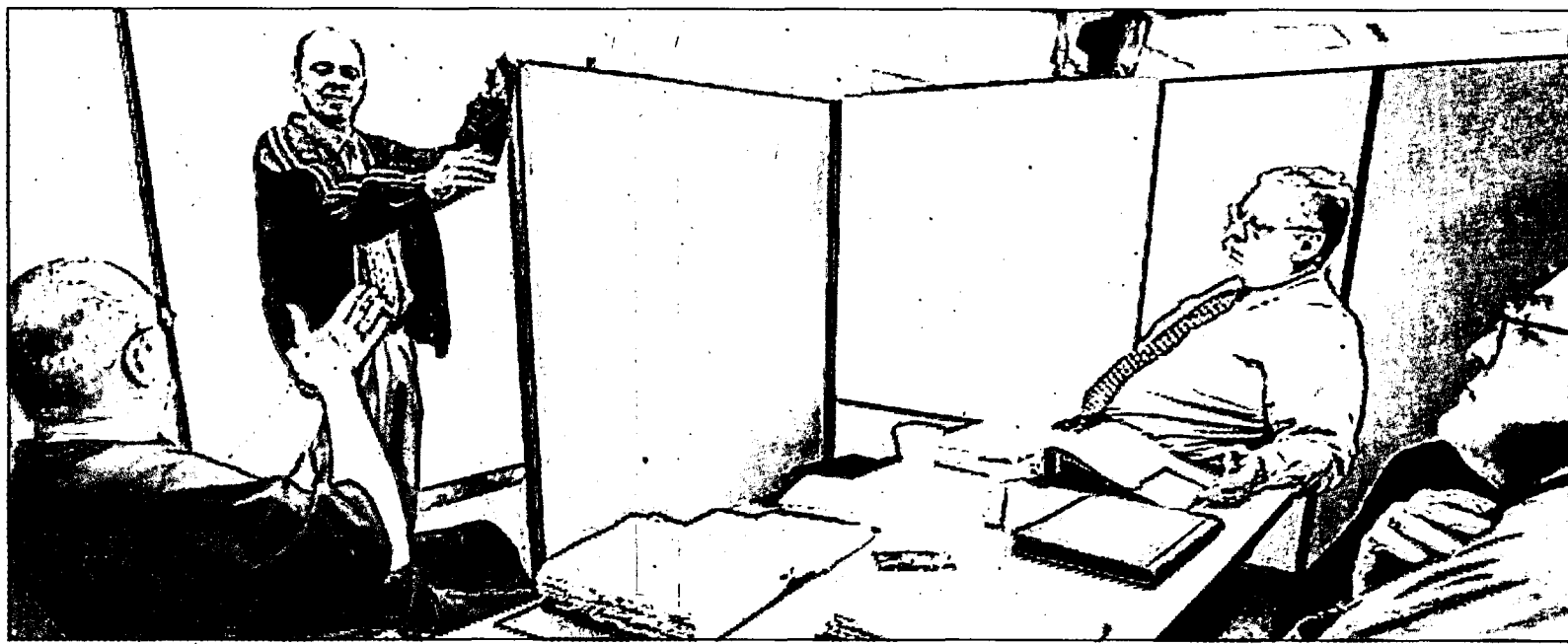
Lenaghan, who was working for Livingston County 9-1-1, was approached by Sheriff Bob Bezotte about working on the case. He contacted Morrow and Frayer to see if they were interested.

"He asked how we would like to work for no money," said Frayer. "We've been deputized and work eight hours a month at minimum wage. I think I made more money on my first paper route."

"With gas and oil and lunch when we go up there, it costs us money," added Morrow.

Morrow handled fatal accident investigations while on the Westland Police Department and was a private investigator for 10 years after he retired in July 1991.

Frayer worked on the road patrol and in the detective bureau before moving up the chain of command to chief. He retired in July 1992 and then worked for Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority,



Lt. Todd Luzod stands to talk with cold case team members Michael Frayer (from left), William "Bill" Lenaghan and Joe Morrow.



Retired Westland Police Chief Michael Frayer (left) and retired Westland Police Officer Joe Morrow are working on a Livingston County Sheriff's Department cold case team, trying to solve the disappearance of an Okemos woman 22 years ago.

ty, retiring from there in 2006. He also worked with Morrow and at Schoolcraft College.

They been provided with discarded sheriff uniforms to wear when needed and have gotten help from private individuals and other law enforcement agencies.

The team started off reviewing the entire Renkoski report which included five cabinet drawers filled with tips. They've used cadaver dogs from Michigan Urban Search and Rescue to check possible burial sites and GPS to search sites where they thought Renkoski might be. Anthropologists and FBI agents helped in digs conducted on property in Conway Township in November. A gentleman in the private sector also loaned them an \$80,000 GPS unit they used in their search.

One site they investigated they had a hit on a spot that looked promising, but when they dug it up, what they thought might be a human skull

was a rock. Another spot, they dug up an elbow, a "plumber's elbow," Frayer said.

"It's very frustrating," Frayer said. "We got a tip from a lady that her dog had brought home a femur. Her boyfriend said it was a deer bone. She disagreed. While she was talking to us, the dog ate the bone."

Of the five persons of interest they've come up with, several are incarcerated and one is a fugitive. One of the possible suspects is getting out in March, he's been in prison since he was 17 years old, Frayer said. One is in prison in California, and they've sent material out west to see what, if anything, turns up.

Frayer and Morrow describe themselves as "old school." They develop leads through contacts. Today's police use a lot of new technology.

"There's things we didn't know existed that they're doing, but they don't have the ability to go out and talk to peo-

ple," said Morrow. "We use the old boy network ... we talk to a guy who knows a guy who knows a guy."

Tracking info

Morrow lives in West-

land and Frayer in Wayne and they meet regularly to talk about the case.

"Him and I have lunch together and bounce ideas off each other," said Frayer. "We all

have our own theories as to what happen."

Frayer also checks the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) which tracks missing and unidentified remains around the country.

"I'm usually on it daily to see if anything has turned up," he said.

For the two men, working on the cold cases offers them two opportunities — one to give back and the other to keep current with a profession they grew up in.

"We use some of our training and skills, actually a good part of them," said Frayer. "This is a personal challenge we want to see to the end. It keeps our training sharp."

"It also gets me out of the house," added Morrow.

Each time they talk to the media, they hope it will generate new leads that will put them closer to finding Paige Renkoski and their goal of bringing her home.

"Primarily, I'd like to get the guy who did it, absolutely, but I'd really like to bring her home to her mother in Okemos," Frayer said.

Gannett News Service contributed to this story.

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751

Investigators look for missing piece of puzzle

The disappearance of Paige Renkoski is a mystery a Livingston County Sheriff's Department cold case team would like to solve. For three years, the team has reviewed the investigation and generated new leads, but none have panned out as of yet.

Renkoski was 30 when she vanished from Livingston County virtually without a trace on May 24, 1990. A substitute teacher from Okemos, she was last seen talking to a man along I-96 in western Livingston County.

A passing motorist first saw Renkoski talking to a man standing between her car and a maroon minivan at about 3:30 p.m. on the shoulder of westbound lanes just east of the Fowlerville exit. The motorist became concerned when he saw the car running with no one inside at about 7:30 p.m. on his return trip. He called police.

Investigators found the car unlocked, with the engine running and the headlights on. Her shoes, purse, a cup of



Paige Renkoski

beer and an open bottle of beer were still inside the car. There was no mechanical problem or damage to the car or its tires. There was no sign of a struggle.

Throughout the years, authorities have compared DNA samples related to the Renkoski case whenever a convicted serial killer is connected to the area. In 1999, two State Police detectives and three county sheriff's detectives comprised a task force to look at the cold case.

They investigated two theories — whether Renkoski disappeared on her own or whether she was abducted. According to Living-

ston County Sheriff Bob Bezotte, they believed she was abducted.

In 2001, that task force announced that they had a suspect who was "connected" to the maroon minivan. The suspect was identified after new technology allowed authorities to cross-reference more than 1,000 tips in the case, and uncover leads which had seemed unrelated.

However, it did not solve the case.

The current cold case team members admit that solving the case will be hard, but if they find that one clue or piece of information it could pull all the pieces together.

"I really believe, even with (the case) as old as it is, there are people out there who know what happened," Bezotte said. "I believe the case is solvable."

Anyone with information about the disappearance of Paige Renkoski is asked to call the cold case team at (517) 540-7879 or the Livingston County Sheriff's Department at (517) 546-2440.

Gannett News Service



GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

In June 2011, cold case team member Mike Frayer marks an area that reads an anomaly during a search of an area in Handy Township in a search for of Paige Renkoski, who went missing in 1990.

Symphony founder left 'a great legacy'

By Karen Smith
Observer Staff Writer

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia for Francesco DiBlasi, founder and former conductor of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra.

People who plan to attend the service are requested to RSVP to cmoore@yahoo.com.

Mr. DiBlasi died Jan. 23 of heart failure at St. Jude Convalescent Center in Livonia. He was 85.

Rose Kachnowski, president of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, said DiBlasi left a great legacy.

"Although his physical presence will be missed at the symphony's 40th anniversary celebration in November, the beauty of the music performed by the orchestra he began lives on," she said.

Kachnowski said DiBlasi was a friendly, enjoyable person who made each concert fun by the music he chose or the outfit he wore while conducting.

"The first part was always classical, the second part fun," she said, adding he once wore a cape to conduct in.

'Brilliant musician'

Christine Moore, a stepdaughter who lives in Tustin, Calif., described DiBlasi as a "brilliant musician" who both played for and conducted various orchestras. He was third trumpet for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for seven years in the 1950s.

"He really did have a life of accomplishment," she said.

After attending Detroit Public Schools, DiBlasi went to Julliard School of



Francesco DiBlasi, pictured here with a Rolls Royce, enjoyed driving luxury cars when he wasn't playing music or conducting an orchestra.

Music in New York City. In the 1940s, he played trumpet and was assistant conductor in the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo orchestra. At the time, the company was the foremost ballet troupe performing in the United States, featuring illustrious lead dancers Alexandra Danilova and Frederick Franklin. DiBlasi enjoyed the ballet, and always said his favorite ballet was *Coppelia* — about a doll who came to life and danced, his stepdaughter said.

During the latter part of his playing for the DSO, he founded and conducted The Pontiac Symphony and the Detroit Little Symphony, a summer group that performed concerts at Metropolitan Beach. He also revived and conducted the Michigan Opera Company.

Formation of LSO
On June 4, 1973, DiBlasi

and his wife, Nelda, founded the Oakway Symphony Orchestra as a community orchestra to give talented young musicians the opportunity to play with seasoned performers under professional direction. It was designed to bring music to the cities located in Oakland and Wayne counties; therefore, it was named Oakway Symphony.

As these communities grew and launched their own symphonies, support for the symphony became diluted. In 1988, the symphony board voted to change the name to the Livonia Symphony Orchestra because of city's known support of the arts, a well-established school music education program, and the interest shown by prominent community leaders.

In 1979, under DiBlasi and the symphony board,

a Young Artist Competition was inaugurated to showcase young upcoming talents. This competition was run for many years with funding provided by an active women's association.

A vast array of known artists also performed with the symphony under DiBlasi's direction, including Victor Borge, "Fat Bob" Taylor and Alexander Zonjic, Ralph Votopak, Flavio Varani and Fedora Horowitz.

DiBlasi also taught music and conducted the orchestra at Ladywood High School in Livonia and served on the faculty of Madonna University.

In addition, DiBlasi also performed with the American Youth Orchestra, Radio City Music Hall, New York City Opera, American Symphony Orchestra and the Metropolitan Opera. He conducted the Buffalo Philharmonic, Grand

Rapids Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Scandinavian Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Grosse Pointe Symphony, St. Cecilia Orchestra in Rome, Italy, Julliard Opera, Canton Symphony of Ohio, Detroit Women's Symphony, San Diego Symphony and the Flint Symphony.

He attended the Detroit Institute of Musical Art and L'Ecole de Pierre Monteux. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Madonna and a master in performance from Eastern Michigan University.

Family life

DiBlasi and his wife Nelda, longtime Livonia residents, were married for 31 years before she died in 1983. He was also predeceased by a stepson, Jim Klote, in 1993.

Moore, the oldest of DiBlasi's three stepchildren and two biological children, said music was a part of their lives every waking moment.

"When we were in the house with him, there was constant music. He gave us an appreciation of music," she said.

Besides Moore, DiBlasi is survived by daughter Francine DiBlasi of Lake San Marcos, Calif., son Paul DiBlasi of Southfield, stepson John Klote of Leesburg, Va., five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, 37637 Five Mile Road, PMB#398, Livonia, MI 48154.

Those planning to attend the memorial service are requested to RSVP to cmoore@yahoo.com.

ksmith@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2098

Habitat orientation meeting

Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County is hosting a homeowner orientation meeting 5:30-7:30 p.m. today (Thursday) at the Wayne Community College Western Campus in Belleville.

Free and open to the public, the program will give participants a history of Habitat for Humanity, the application process and documents required for home ownership and how to use the principal portion of their mortgage payments to supplement construction costs for starter homes.

Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County is an organization that was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a decent, safe and affordable place to live. Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat and its homeowner families have built or rehabilitated more than 400,000 houses. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build together in partnership.

The orientation meeting will be held in the Educational Multi-Purpose Room on the Western Campus, 9555 Haggerty, Belleville. For more information, contact the Western Campus at (734) 699-7008 or visit www.wcccd.edu.

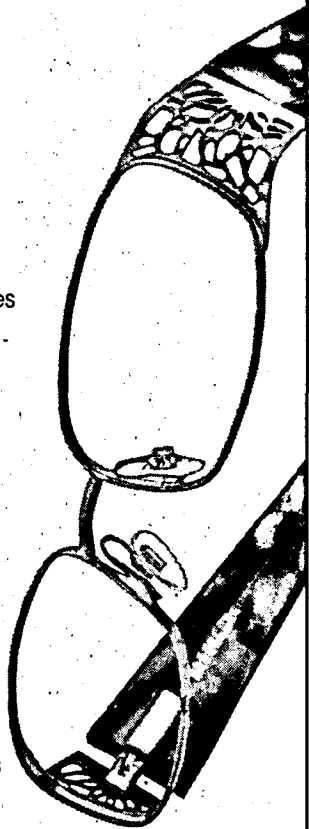
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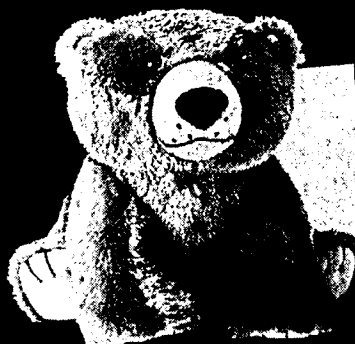


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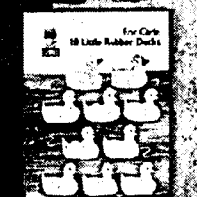
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KOHL'S
expect great things

Registration opens for certificate, enrichment courses at Madonna

Registration is still open for Madonna University's popular medical certificate training programs that provide students an opportunity to get specialized training in three areas of the medical industry in need of workers.

These certificate classes, offered through Madonna's continuing education and professional studies department, are available in medical coding, pharmacy technician and medical administrative assistant. The classes are eight or 10 weeks of intense training led by professionals in the health care industry.

"The medical training courses are the most popular continuing education courses we offer at Madonna, due in large part to the growing demand for support staff in the medical industry," said Joan Stephens, director of the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Studies.

In addition to the certificate classes, Stephens' department also offers a variety of non-credit, personal advancement classes in business, art and health. Some of the more popular classes include:

- Pharmacy Technician Certificate Program - The cost is \$1,024, including books. Classes are Mondays and

Wednesdays, Feb. 27-April 23.

The comprehensive 50-hour course prepares students to enter the pharmacy field and to take the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board (PTCB) exam. Course content includes medical terminology, reading and interpreting prescriptions and defining drugs by generic and brand names. Students will learn dosage calculations, I.V. flow rates, drug compounding, dose conversions, dispensing of prescriptions, inventory control and billing and reimbursement.

- Medical Coding Certificate Program - The cost is \$1,824, including

books. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday, Feb. 14 - April 19

This 80-hour course offers the skills needed to manually file claims, using the CPT and ICD-9 manual, complete common insurance forms, trace delinquent claims and use generic forms to streamline billing procedures. The course covers CPT (introduction, guidelines, evaluation and management), specialty fields (such as surgery, guidelines) and the basic claims process for medical insurance and third party reimbursement.

- Medical Administrative Assistant Certificate Program - The cost is \$1,024, including books.

Classes are Tuesday and Thursday, Feb. 28-April 24.

In this 50-hour course, students will learn medical terminology, insurance billing and coding, medical ethics, customer service and legal aspects of handling patient care and records. Learn how to schedule appointments, maintain medical records, perform billing and clerical duties, arrange for a patient's admission to a hospital and order laboratory work. The course prepares students to apply for such positions as: medical receptionist, medical secretary or medical office specialist.

- Improve Your Inter-

viewing Skills - There's no cost for the program that will be held Saturday, March 31.

Get the job by preparing and practicing for your interview. In this workshop, learn how to develop responses to interview questions that will highlight your core competencies and identify you as the perfect candidate for the job. Gain ideas to help eliminate self-defeating behaviors and cultivate techniques that will create a positive impression.

For a complete list of class offerings, visit www.madonna.edu/academics/continuing-education or call (734) 432-5804.

Roth IRA can be good investment tool, even for teen

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

It is important to retain tax information that is starting to arrive in the mail. Many people will be doing their return over the next few weeks and there's something that can definitely bring your children or grandchildren substantial value down the road. It is a Roth IRA.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Many people with children who have worked in 2011 forget that even though they may be minors, they are eligible to open a Roth IRA. It is important to take advantage of a Roth IRA, if your child or grandchild is eligible.

Eligibility is not a matter of their age but rather, whether they have had earned income (money earned from wages). If, for example, last summer your child had a job and received a W-2, they are eligible to invest in a Roth IRA. Even if they do not have any taxable income they are still eligible for Roth IRA contributions.

A child may also be eligible for a Roth IRA if he/she was considered self-employed. They may have worked somewhere, received a 1099 or they could have done a variety of odd jobs where they received compensation. Of course, that money would have to be reported on a tax return.

The main benefit of a Roth IRA for a child is that the money will grow tax-free for decades. The numbers are startling as to how much money will grow when it is compounded. Therefore,

from a purely financial standpoint, a Roth IRA can be a great investment vehicle for a young person to begin to save for retirement. If you think retirement is difficult today, just think about how difficult it will be 40-50 years from now.

The reality of the situation is that many teenagers and young people today can potentially be retired for as many years as they've worked. We know that they are not going to have pensions available to them and we have no idea whether Social Security and Medicare will be around. The bottom line is they will have to save a substantial amount of money for retirement. The fact that they can potentially start saving now and let the money grow tax-free, is a huge benefit to them.

Another benefit to opening a Roth IRA for a child or grandchild, is that it can be used as

teaching lesson regarding investing in general and the importance of saving.

Over the last few years, many financial institutions have made it more difficult for young people to invest because of high minimums and high IRA fees. However, there are still many companies that offer a variety of low-cost IRA programs. Some investor-friendly companies to consider are TD Ameritrade, Charles Schwab and Scottrade. In addition, T. Rowe Price and Vanguard also have some IRA programs worth considering. I recognize to get a teenager or a young adult to invest for their retirement is difficult. After all, we live in a society that teaches us to spend as opposed to save. Therefore, you have to look for ways to overcome this issue. For grandparents and parents who are in the financial position where they can just invest the

money for the child, of course that is great. The limit for a younger person investing in a Roth IRA is \$5,000. However, the key is they must have at least \$5,000 in earned income. For example, if they only had \$3,000 in earned income, that would be the maximum contribution.

Another option may be to have a type of matching program for your child or grandchild. Tell them for every dollar they put in, you'll match it, or something similar. The bottom line is that investing in a Roth IRA provides a young person with a head start in their quest to be able to have the financial resources to enjoy a long and comfortable retirement.

When investing in a Roth IRA for a young person, remember that you're not investing for just the next five or 10 years, you're investing for 40-50 years down the road. Therefore, you should have a portfolio

that's heavily invested in equities. Remember, you're not investing the money for yourself; you're investing it for a child or grandchild who has a much longer time frame.

One of the nice things about Roth IRA contributions is that you still can do them; you can make a 2011 Roth IRA contribution up to the time tax returns are due and that is April 17 of this year so you have plenty of time.

One last note, at the same time you're considering a Roth IRA for a child or grandchild, don't forget about a Roth IRA for yourself. Roth IRAs are great vehicles and just about anyone can benefit by taking advantage of them. Good luck!

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

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SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Attorneys J.B. Bleske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally 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 Bleske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.

Attorneys Bleske 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 Bleske has written a book for attorneys about the

subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bleske 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.

Bleske 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.

www.ssdfighter.com

TV time has arrived

By Jon Gunnells
Guest Columnist

The most wonderful time of the year for television-crazed consumers isn't the days leading up to Black Friday. Nor is it Cyber



Tech Savvy

Jon Gunnells

Monday, Taco Tuesday or any other made up holiday before the holidays. The most wonderful time of the year for prospective television buyers is right now. Historically, the best time to find a deal on a new television is after Christmas, but before the Super Bowl.

It's not because ABC Warehouse is trying to hawk a 55-inch flat screen to you before the big game. Rather, this time marks the beginning of the new television model year.

If you're looking to replace your picture tube before the Super Bowl, or want to find a deal when your current screen fizzles out - follow these tips to make your search as pain-free as possible.

- First decide on what type of TV is best for you, LCD, LED or Plasma. Generally, plasma screens are the cheapest of the trio, but they're also the best television for dark basements. For lighter areas like living rooms, or bedrooms with many windows, LCD or LED are better options.

- Next, figure out what size television you want. The biggest television possible may seem like a great idea, but small rooms with close viewing areas probably don't need a 70-inch movie screen in them.

- Now that you know what size and type of TV you desire, start narrowing down your list of brands. Some manufacturers make 40-inch models, but not 42-inch sets while others make screens in 47-inches but not 46-inches. You can use sites like ABC Warehouse.com to see what brands make what size models.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

William Johnson, mobile manager at ABC Warehouse on Plymouth Road in Livonia, demonstrates just how comfortable a recliner and a wide screen TV can be.

- If you still need help narrowing down your selection, think about what you want most in a TV. If picture clarity is on the top of your list, a 1080p television is better than a 720p television. You also have to choose a television with a proper amount of hertz (hz). Most LCD or LED televisions have 60hz, 120hz or even 240hz. The higher the number the smoother the quality or refresh rate the television has. However, many programs and movies aren't meant to be refreshed as much as a 120hz or 240hz TV allows. In that case, your 60hz TV would be a better bet. Simply put, don't let hertz decide what type of set you buy. Just be cognizant of what each hertz level can do for your viewing interests.

- Now that you have hopefully narrowed your TV selection to a few flat screens, try and find the store that has the best price. Some stores such as Wal-Mart will price match and even value their online price if it is lower. Target on the other hand will price match, but not hon-

or lower online prices. The best option might be ABC Warehouse because the local chain matches prices and will also haggle. With enough negotiating you might get the sales rep to throw in a convection over or a blender

- And speaking of local, there's only one television manufacturer that sort of keeps their profits in America. Vizio, which is headquartered in California, makes their sets overseas.

Now that you have this handy checklist to help you decide which television to buy, all you need to do before game day is decide how many cheese dips to make. I say three.

Jon Gunnells, a Northville Township resident, is a social media planner at a Detroit-based advertising agency. A 2007 graduate of Michigan State University, he holds a B.A. in journalism. When he's not working, Gunnells enjoys college sports, social media and playing basketball. He can be reached at jona-thann.gunnells@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @GunnSh0w.

Therapists find new home after Hope clinics close

The end of the year and the beginning of a new year are traditionally busy times for mental health professionals. Anxiety caused by family gatherings and unrealistic holiday expectations, financial difficulties, and the increased temptation to overindulge in food and alcohol are just some of the challenges patients encounter.

The recent holiday season, clients of the Hope Network Insight - Westland and Novi locations had one more large challenge looming before them - the closure of both clinic sites. In early November, staff members were notified that the Westland and Novi locations would cease operations by the end of the year. Then the closure was moved up by several weeks.

Therapists scrambled during the holiday season to answer patients' questions about the closure and assist patients in their transition to new facilities. During this time, therapists also had to search for new facilities at which to continue their work.

"It was very challenging," said Stephen Smith, a licensed master social worker. "Our priority was putting our clients first, making sure that they received the counseling and assistance

that they needed. We had to make sure that patients who needed prescription refills were quickly transitioned to new health-care providers who could evaluate them and provide for their future needs."

In early December, Cruz Clinic, an outpatient mental health center in Livonia, opened its doors to the therapists and their patients. Six former Hope Network Insight - Westland and Novi therapists have now joined the staff of Cruz Clinic and hundreds of their patients are now receiving treatment through the Cruz Clinic.

"It is an excellent match for us," said Smith. "Cruz Clinic, which has served area residents for over 35 years, was in a position to expand their services and we were looking for a place to continue to help our clients."

If patients can't get transportation to the Cruz Clinic in Livonia, the staff has offered to assist them in finding new therapists outside the Cruz Clinic network.

"We are also concerned about former Hope Network Insight - Westland and Novi patients," said Smith. "There are patients that I've seen years ago who will have difficulty in finding my current place of

employment." "Often people come back to a therapist many times over the years for brief periods to help them through tough times, such as the loss of a loved one," he added. "That's one of the major reasons we at Cruz Clinic are willing to help people locate a former therapist, even if that therapist doesn't work at Cruz Clinic."

The six former Hope Network Insight - Westland and Novi therapists that have joined Cruz Clinic, include Smith, Helen Jedlowski, Lacie Jones, Patricia Mies, Martha Firmschild and Donald V. Daly Jr., who will begin work in February after he returns from a month-long volunteer assignment with AmeriCares, a medical relief and humanitarian assistance organization.

"We are glad we were able to help so many dedicated therapists to continue their work with the least interruption to patient care possible," said Dr. Victor M. Cruz. "The six new therapists from Hope Network Insight - Westland and Novi bring a wealth of additional experience to our team. We are very grateful to have them working with us."

More information on the clinic can be found at www.MyCruzClinic.com.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Corporate citizen

Co-op Services Credit Union recently received the Corporate Citizen Award from the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber during the annual Member Tribute event.

The chamber award is presented to a member business that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to, and achieved success in the demanding area of industry and commerce. The award also recognizes the achievements, dedication and efforts of a business that has made a significant impact toward the quality of life in southern Wayne County.

Lisa Fawcett, marketing director for Co-op Services, accepted the award on behalf of the credit union.

"We have a strong commitment to the communities we serve, and it's an honor to be recognized with such a prestigious award," said Fawcett. "We've been an active member of the downriver community since 1966."

Kathy Hurt, business development coordinator for Co-op Services, is a former chamber ambassador and currently serves on the board of directors. Each year, the credit union helps

sponsor and volunteer for a variety of Chamber events including the Downriver Cruise and Grub Crawl.

In 2011, members and employees of Co-op Services gave generously to the Gleaners Food Bank, The Salvation Army, Toys for Tots, Forgotten Harvest, Desert Angels, Leukemia Foundation and others.

The credit union also established a community initiative, called Project 100, which gave 100 people \$100 each during 100 days. With no strings attached, each recipient was asked to share what they could do to give back to their community. The stories from Project 100 were inspiring and the program achieved its goal of spreading goodwill.

Headquartered in Livonia, Co-op Services Credit Union has more than 52,000 members and maintains eight full-service branch offices, including one on Ford Road in Westland. Members also have access to more than 3,000 shared branches and 28,000 ATMs nationwide.

For more information about Co-op Services, visit the credit union web site at www.cscu.org or call (800) 321-8570.

Ladies Night

St. Mary Mercy Hospital, is hosting a presentation, entitled "How to Have a Healthy Heart, for the Wednesday, Feb. 22, Ladies' Night Out.

The program will be held in the St. Mary Mercy Hospital Auditorium. Bone density screening, blood pressure screening and massage will be offered from 5:30-7 p.m., and the lecture will be from 7-8:30 p.m. The speaker will be Endovascular Services Medical Director and Interventional Cardiologist Dr. Delair Gardi.

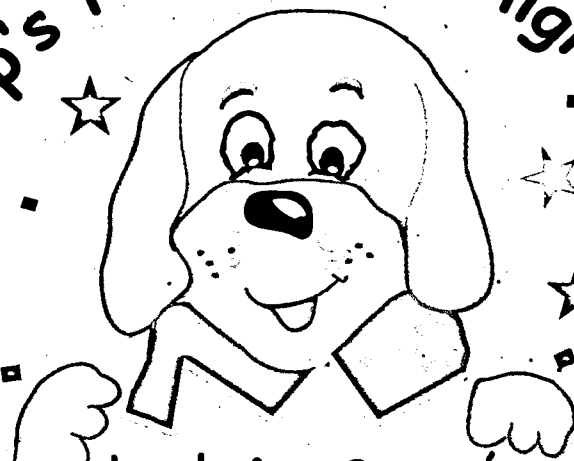
A strong, healthy heart is vital for longevity. Participants can learn everything they need to know about heart conditions, such as coronary artery disease, abnormal heart rhythm (arrhythmia), aortic valve disease, cardiomyopathy, aortic aneurysm, stroke and heart attack.

Registration for this event is required. There is no charge, but a \$5 goodwill donation is requested to benefit Marian Women's Center Programs.

Contact the Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1182 to register, or register online at stmary.org and click on "classes and events."

Attention Boys, Girls, Teachers and Parents!

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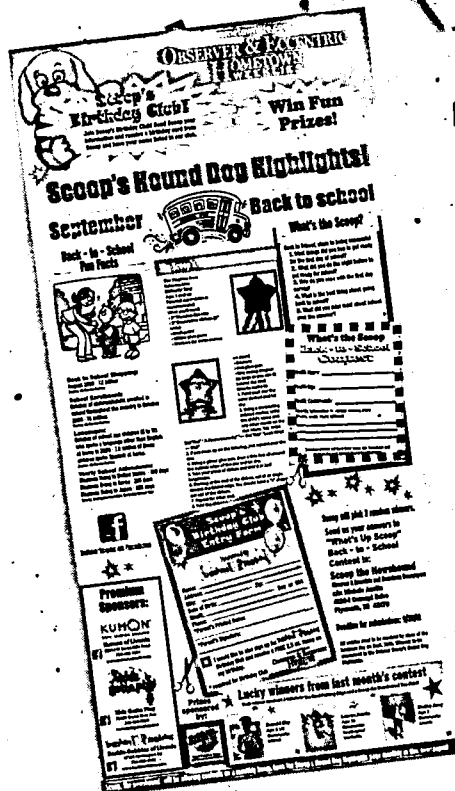
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OUR VIEWS

Great job Honors prove Wayne-Westland's educational worth

A lot of good things have been happening in the Wayne-Westland school district.

First, Superintendent Greg Baracy joined an elite group of school leaders by receiving advanced state endorsements on his school administrator certification. Then, last week a group of educators from Michigan and around the country recommended the district receive North Central Association AdvacEd accreditation.

For school officials, the accreditation recommendation validates something that they have been saying for years: Great futures do start in their school district.

The team could not say enough about what they saw and heard in the district in its oral report. Their praise of what is being done at all levels was welcome news to a district that has invested time and money into making its schools top-notch and its programs current and relevant.

During the three days the team members were in the district, they spoke to 344 individuals — from Baracy and members of the Board of Education to teachers, 88 students, parents and community leaders. The team also visited 16 schools to see what's happening in classrooms. Their parting comments showed clearly that Wayne-Westland has earned a spot among districts that are preparing students for a future in a global economy.

Impressive, wonderful and great were adjectives the team members used in talking about their experiences. One noted that the school buildings were filled with "warmth, love and a passion for learning." Several spoke about initiatives they had seen that the plan to take back to their own school districts.

Those words should resonate like a great opera for the residents of the district. The district has worked hard to improve student achievement. It has used the funds available to make sure students and staff have access to the latest technology in the classroom so that learning is taking place in a 21st century environment.

What also is impressive is the list of five commendations it received as well as getting operational or highly functional ratings for the seven standards. The commendations speak to the district's commitment to making "great futures for all" and having everyone involved in the process.

Wayne-Westland has lived in the shadow of larger neighboring school districts for a long time. The perception was that those districts were better. This accreditation recommendation, is proof positive that Wayne-Westland is their equal in what it does.

The comments attest to what school officials have done by living up to promises made to residents. The district used an \$108 million bond issue and its sinking fund millage to make repairs and improvements so students have the best environment possible to learn in.

Baracy's honor is just as impressive. It took a countless number of hours over three years of his time and effort to complete the Michigan Association of School Administrators' Courageous Journey Program to earn the endorsements.

Baracy's work wasn't theoretical, it was practical. He focused on high school reform and had to show the results of the work he did in the district, including district level improvement in student achievement among other things.

Wayne-Westland has worked hard to improve student achievement, and it successes are reflected in the awards it has received over the past decade. It has its fair share of state-sponsored Golden Apple Awards, two Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary Schools honors and several Robert and Patricia Muth Excellence in Leadership Awards from the Middle Cities Education Association.

It's also had several programs — Red Wagon summer literacy, Freaky Friday at the middle schools, Tech-N-More professional development, to name a few — recognized by the Michigan Association of School Boards with its Education Excellence and Best of Michigan awards.

Our hat is off to Wayne-Westland. We appreciate the hard work of all involved in reaching these educational pinnacles. Our only regret is that the district will have to wait until June for the state Board of Education to approve the accreditation recommendation.

But then we know that it's true that "good things come to those who wait," and that "great futures" do start in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What advice do you have for Gov. Rick Snyder?

We asked this question at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland.



"Be a little more kind to people who retire. They've already paid their dues, they shouldn't have to pay again."

Michael Young
Westland



"Make Michigan a better place."

Stanley Okoye
Westland



"Focus on jobs more. In the State of the State I didn't hear enough about jobs. I'd assume his focus on jobs would be most important."

Rachel Beck
Westland



"Stop spending taxpayer money. Where has it gone? Where's the money they owe Detroit? They owe them."

Charlotte Price
Westland

LETTERS

Good information

Just this week we were talking about World Medical Relief and how they can help folks out with prescriptions and durable medical equipment. Lo and behold, Sue Buck had an article in today's Observer about this very organization.

This is a great article and is chock full of information about WMR and how they can help folks out.

Thanks, Sue, we have shared this information throughout Plymouth, Canton, Belleville and Northville.

Laurie Aren
director, Family & Community
Ministries
The Salvation Army Plymouth
Corps

In a dream world

President Obama believes speech writers but forgot his own history.

He asked industry to create new products and educate workers to produce them in this country. Boeing developed a fuel-efficient aircraft, built a factory and trained workers in South Carolina. Obama's NLRB shut it down because workers could choose to be non-union in that state.

Suggestions to work your best do not apply to union shops. Pressure comes from union stewards to slow down and keep more employees working. This is not competitive in a world economy.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters by the following formats:

Web: www.hometownlife.com
Mail: Letters to the Editor, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226
Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com

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

Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Boeing has been hurt by costly strikes.

The president bragged about his energy policy, but outlawing oil drilling and a pipeline from Canada makes one ask "What energy policy?"

The speech was sincere and well delivered, but this man lives in a dream world.

Hank Borgman
Farmington

Donate old cell phones

Many of us start off the new year with resolutions for the future. Why not include a pledge to give back to those in need here in

metro Detroit? The best part? You can get started on your resolution right now.

If you received a new phone for the holidays, you can easily turn that device into a lifeline by recycling it or putting it in the hands of someone who needs it.

Recycling and giving back to people in need couldn't be easier. Many retailers in our area have implemented recycling programs to help consumers recycle their phones and other electronics. One such retailer is Verizon Wireless. Through HopeLine from Verizon, the company accepts wireless devices, batteries and accessories in any condition from any manufacturer or service provider. The phones can be dropped off at any Verizon Wireless store throughout metro Detroit or dropped in the mail with a postage-paid label, and the company will either refurbish them or dispose of them in an environmentally sound way.

These refurbished phones can either be put directly into the hands of a domestic violence survivor, or turned into cash grants for local domestic violence organizations. Not only does your device go through the proper channels to get recycled, but it also ends up in the hands of someone who needs it.

John Granby
president, Michigan/Indiana/
Kentucky Region for Verizon
Wireless

GUEST COLUMN

Obama, value of education

By Tom Watkins
Guest Columnist

Regardless of one's politics, it is always good to have a smart President of the United States visiting your state.

Sure there are the inevitable traffic jams, police overtime costs and logistical headaches. But there is nothing better than commanding our President's attention as well as the nation and the world focused on your hometown.

To have his focus on education is icing on the cake.

Education and talent will rule as the 21st century unfolds. It should be our goal to make Michigan and America the brain bank of the world, where everyone comes for deposits and withdrawals. The city, state, and nation that gets right its system of learning to prepare its citizens to be competitive on the world stage will soar while others sour.

Speaking at the University of Michigan recently, President Barack Obama forcefully reinforced his message about college affordability saying, "When kids do graduate, the most daunting challenge can be the cost of college. At a time when Americans owe more in tuition than credit card debt, this Congress needs to stop the interest rates on student loans from dou-

bling in July. Extend the college tuition tax credit we started, that saves middle-class families thousands of dollars. And, give more young people the chance to earn their way through college by doubling the number of work-study jobs in the next five years."

Amen to that. At the other end of the spectrum, the President also spotlighted our nation's high school dropout rate—a national disgrace.

Michigan is well ahead of the curve when it comes to addressing the high school dropout crisis, which when analyzed on a national level, might well be considered a public health care epidemic.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama told the nation, "We also know that when students don't walk away from their education, more of them walk the stage to get their diploma. So, tonight, I am proposing that every state requires that all students stay in high school until they graduate or turn 18."

To have a law on the books that allows a child to leave school at the tender age of 16, without an education is state sponsored stupidity.

As the incoming state superintendent in 2001 I called for this change and the law was adopted in 2010.

Quality teachers matter

A recent study by Citizens Research Council (crcmich.org) highlights the importance of teachers and how Michigan could do a better, more efficient job of preparing its classroom leaders. We need

to engage classroom teachers and listen to their voice as we embrace and lead school change.

The president also said, "At a time when other countries are doubling down on education, tight budgets have forced states to layoff thousands of teachers. We know a good teacher can increase the lifetime income of a classroom by over \$250,000. A great teacher can offer an escape from poverty to a child who dreams beyond his circumstances."

Instead of bashing them or defending the status quo, let's offer schools a deal. Give them the resources to keep good teachers on the job, and reward the best ones. In return, grant schools flexibility to: Teach with creativity and passion, stop teaching to the test, and replace teachers who just aren't helping kids learn."

Well said, Mr. President. The just-released "A Blueprint for an America Built to Last" provides greater depth to the ideas of building an educational system and economy that works for everyone. (See www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/01/24/blueprint-america-built-last)

Our country's future will only be brighter, if we heed these ideas now. We owe it to our collective futures to invest in the human potential of all Americans.

Tom Watkins served as Michigan Michigan's state superintendent of schools, 2001-05. He can be reached at tdwatkins88@gmail.com.

WESTLAND OBSERVER

A GANNETT COMPANY

Sue Mason,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

AROUND WESTLAND

Train show

The Ss. Simon and Jude Usher's Club will sponsor a buy and swap train show, Railroadiana, noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, in the church hall, 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman Road, Westland.

Admission is \$2 per person and \$4 per family. Food is available and parking is free.

There will be operating train layouts of various gauges and more 130 dealer tables. Tables are available at \$10 per table. To reserve tables, or for more info, call (734) 595-8327. Dealer set-up is 9 a.m. on the day of the show.

Bowling benefit

St. Damian Parish in Westland is hosting its 11th annual 9-pin No-Tap Cosmic Bowling fundraiser Friday, Feb. 3, at Merri-bowl Lanes on Five Mile, east of Merriman, in Livonia.

The event starts with check in at 9:15 p.m. and bowling begins at 9:45 p.m. Advance tickets are required. The cost is \$20 per person and includes three games of bowling, snacks, pizza and pop. There also will be many raffles.

Lanes can be reserved for either four or five bowlers, and there is room for 160-200 people. Contact the parish office at (734) 421-6130 weekdays to purchase tickets or for more information. Proceeds will help defray the costs of the youth groups' upcoming events, including a youth conference, retreat and summer mission trip.

Food drive

Open your heart and be a valentine to someone in need by donating non-perishable food items to Westland Shopping Center's Grateful Hearts food drive.

The center will be collecting nonperishable food now through Friday,

Feb. 10. People can drop off donations at a table by the Guest Service Desk in the mall's East Court. Bring in three items and enter to win a \$100 mall gift card. Details are available at Guest Services.

All food collected will go the Lighthouse Home Missions in Westland.

Card party

Ss. Simon and Jude Church is hosting a Valentines Card Party 6:30-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10. There will be door and table prizes, along with a 50/50 raffle. There will be a light meal and snacks. Admission is \$8 per person and can be paid at the door. Bring your friends to play cards and games of your choice.

The church is located at 32500 Palmer, Westland. For more information, call (734) 722-1343.

Ready to Relay

It's time to fight back against cancer. The American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Westland has set the 2012 event date from 10 a.m. Saturday, May 12, to 10 a.m. Sunday, May 13, at Jaycee Park.

A kickoff celebration will be held Thursday, Feb. 16, in the multipurpose room of the Bailey Recreation Center. Registration and refreshments will be at 6:30 p.m., with the program at 7 p.m. The world's largest grassroots fundraising movement, Relay for Life mobilizes communities to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost and provide participants with an opportunity to fight back against the disease.

So far, 13 teams and 63 participants have registered for the Westland Relay for Life. Participants can start a team by visiting relayforlife.org or calling (800) 227-2345.

Auditions

Westland's own Inspire

Theatre is holding auditions for the upcoming production of Neil Simon's *Rumors*.

Five men and five women, ages 30-60, are needed. Actors will do cold readings from the script at the auditions, planned for 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Feb. 6-7.

The comedy revolves around several affluent couples who decided to conceal from the police and media what they discovered when they arrived at a posh suburban residence for a dinner party. Comic complications arise when the try to hide the fact that the hostess is missing, there are no servants and the host has shot himself through the earlobe.

Inspire Theatre is located inside the Warren Road Light and Life Church, 33445 Warren Road, east of Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 751-7057.

Auction items

Organizers are looking for businesses or individuals interested in donating good or services for the live and silent auctions that will be a part of the Wayne Memorial High School's eighth annual Zebra Safari Fundraising Dinner.

The dinner will be Friday, March 30, and feature a dinner catered by the William D. Ford Career Technical Center culinary arts staff, entertainment, silent and live auctions and door prizes. Contact Principal Val Orr at (734) 419-2206 or by e-mail at orrvp@wwc-sd.k12.us about donating. All donations are tax deductible, and the money raised benefits the students.

Tickets also are on sale and cost \$30 each or \$200 for a table of eight. Tickets are available in the main office of the high school, located at Fourth Street and Glenwood in Wayne.

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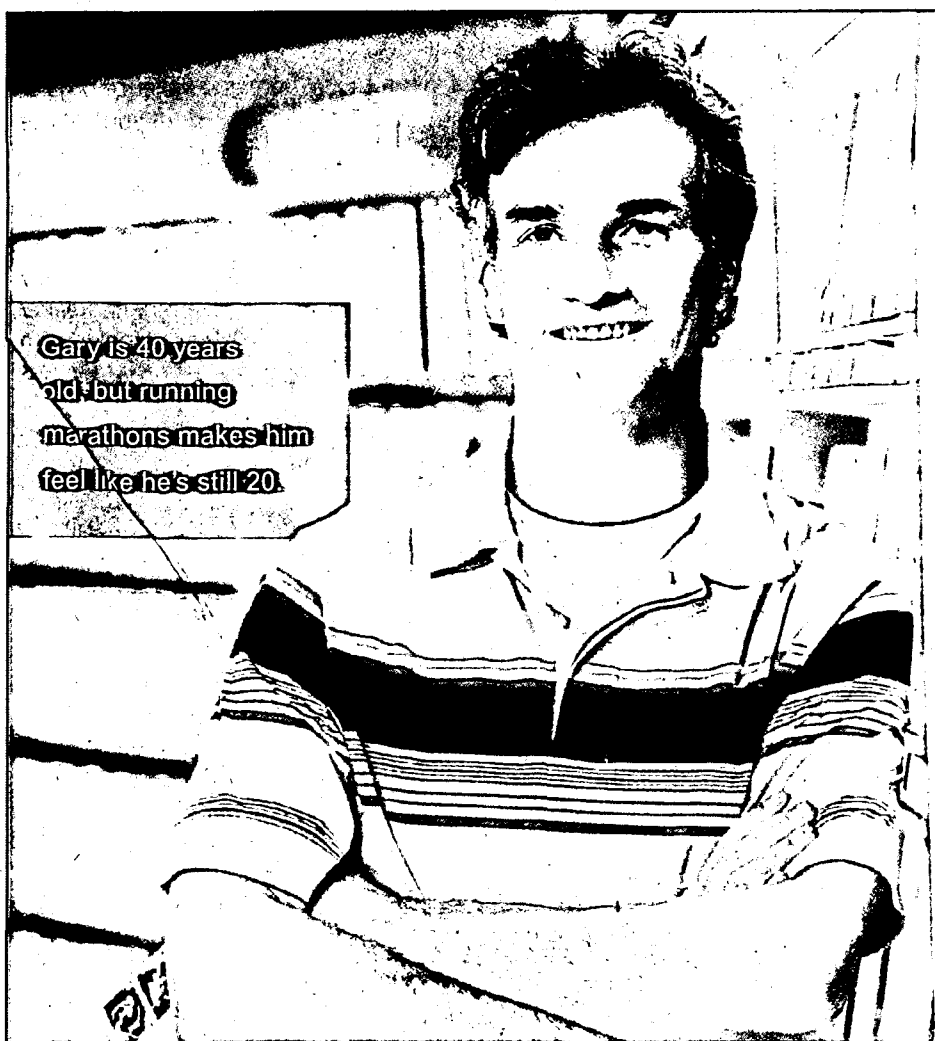
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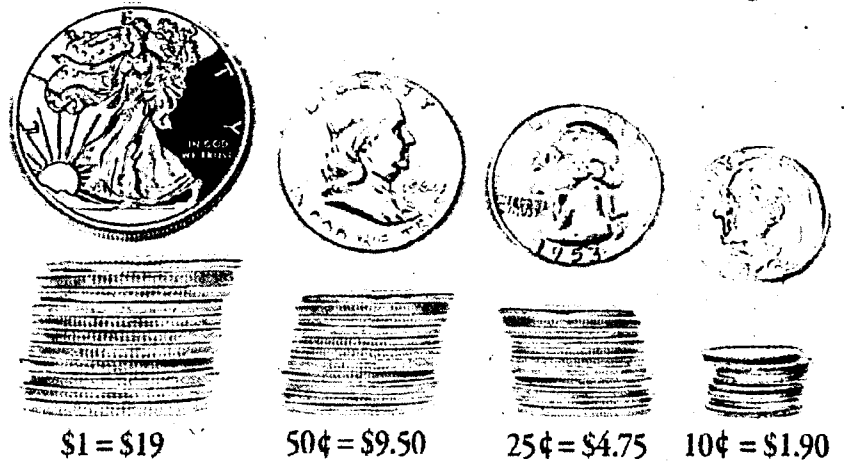
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Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

Upcoming Events

NEWBORN CARE

Time/Date: 6:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9

Location: Classrooms 1 and 2 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: St. Mary Mercy Hospital is offering a "Getting to Know Your Newborn and Caring for Your Newborn" Infant Care Class. The class, taught by a registered nurse, will teach new parents the basic characteristics and needs of a newborn to include diapering, bathing, feeding, growth and development patterns. In addition to baby basics, the class will also include how to recognize when a baby is sick. The class is open to anyone who cares for an infant. Spouses or support persons also can attend the class at no additional cost. The fee is \$55.

Contact: To register, call St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1162, or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

LENDING WORKSHOP

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11

Location: Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, north of Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Become an investor without spending any money of your own at a Mother/Daughter Micro-Lending Workshop 2012, hosted by Schoolcraft College and the Zonta Club of NW Wayne County. Each participating mother/daughter team will choose a small business in a developing country to support with a small loan, and will



PHOTO BY DAVID L. MALHALAB/M NEWS SERVICE

Lifetime member

Don Charters, a contributing member of the Northwest Detroit Coin Club, was awarded a lifetime member Plaque by President Gary Kelly of Garden City, at a recent meeting at the Livonia Senior Center. The club meets at the senior center, 15218 Farmington Road, at 7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. All coin collectors or noncollectors are invited to attend.

learn about strategies to make investment decisions, cultures around the globe, and the economic impacts of micro-lending. Discover the ways that small loans make a big difference to entrepreneurs all over the world. Explore their unique businesses, and learn how Zonta International clubs support them.

Contact: Register online today at zontanorthwest-wayne.eventbrite.com.

WIDOWED FRIENDS

Time/Date: 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8

Location: Corsi's Italian Restaurant, 27910 W. Seven Mile, west of Inkster Road, Livonia

Details: Widowed Friends welcomes widowed men and women to attend a social hour at 5 p.m. and an Italian buffet dinner at 6 p.m. The cost of \$14.00 includes buffet, beverage, desert, tax and tip. Pay at the door (cash only) with exact amount. Cards, games and conversation until 9:30 p.m. Must RSVP by Feb. 1, no drop-ins. Cannot accom-

modate without reservations nor latecomers once dinner is served.

Contact: To RSVP, call Cookie at (248) 357-2183 or Carol at (248) 946-0300.

BLACK HISTORY

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday Throughout February

Location: Guardian Building, 500 Griswold St., Detroit

Details: Wayne County is celebrating Black History Month with a series of four kiosks set up on the first level and the promenade inside the Guardian Building. The kiosks recognize African culture, achievements of famous historical and present-day African-Americans, inspirational milestones in black history and Detroit black history makers.

MOM2MOM SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., March 10

Location: Hillside Elementary School, 36801 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills

Details: \$2 early admission, \$1 general admission. About 100 tables of gently used baby, maternity and children's clothing, toys, equipment and furniture. A great opportunity to get items you need and save money off of retail prices. Proceeds of the sale will benefit Hillside Elementary and its students. Now accepting resale table registrations.

Contact: E-mail hillside-mom2mom@gmail.com

TAILWAGGERS

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Saturday, March 31

Location: UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Space is still available for participants that would like to put their chili to the test in Tailwaggers popular Chili, Hoops and Hounds event. Space is still available. Registration is \$30 and includes a Chili, Hoops and Hounds apron. Three prizes will be awarded to those who have the Best Tasting Chili, Best Table Decoration and a People's

Choice Award. Pre-registration is required by March 15. The public is welcome to this family friendly event. An All-You-Can-Eat wrist band is \$15 or taste samples for only \$1.

Contact: Sign up today by e-mail at tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com.

Organizations

FRIENDS OF ELOISE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December)

Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.

Contact: Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918

WESTLAND ROTARY

Time/Date: 12:15 p.m. Thursdays

Location: Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland

Details: Community Service programs and planning. Catered lunch; visitors welcome. Check www.westlandrotary.com for more information about meetings, programs and events.

Contact: Jeff at (734) 261-5010

FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. first Monday of the month

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for family members and/or friends age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance and United Way.

Contact: Helen Streett at 74 629-5004. Call to confirm time and date, if coming for the first time.

CAREGIVERS - SPOUSES

Time/Date: 1 p.m. second Tuesday of the month

Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: For residents of

southern and western Wayne County who are caring for a spouse age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance. Funded by The Senior Alliance and United Way.

Contact: Helen Streett at 74 629-5004. Call to confirm time and date, if coming for the first time.

CAREGIVERS - WESTLAND

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the third Thursday of the month

Location: American House III, 35700 Hunter, Westland

Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for family members and/or friends age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance. Funded by The Senior Alliance and United Way.

AMERICAN LEGION

Time/Date: 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month

Location: Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: American Legion Westland Post 251 meets at the VFW hall the first Tuesday of each month. The post welcomes all veterans male and female who have been honorably discharged.

Contact: Bill Acton at (734) 326-2607, Ron Nickels at (734) 455-3415 or visit the website at www.post251.com or www.post251.org.

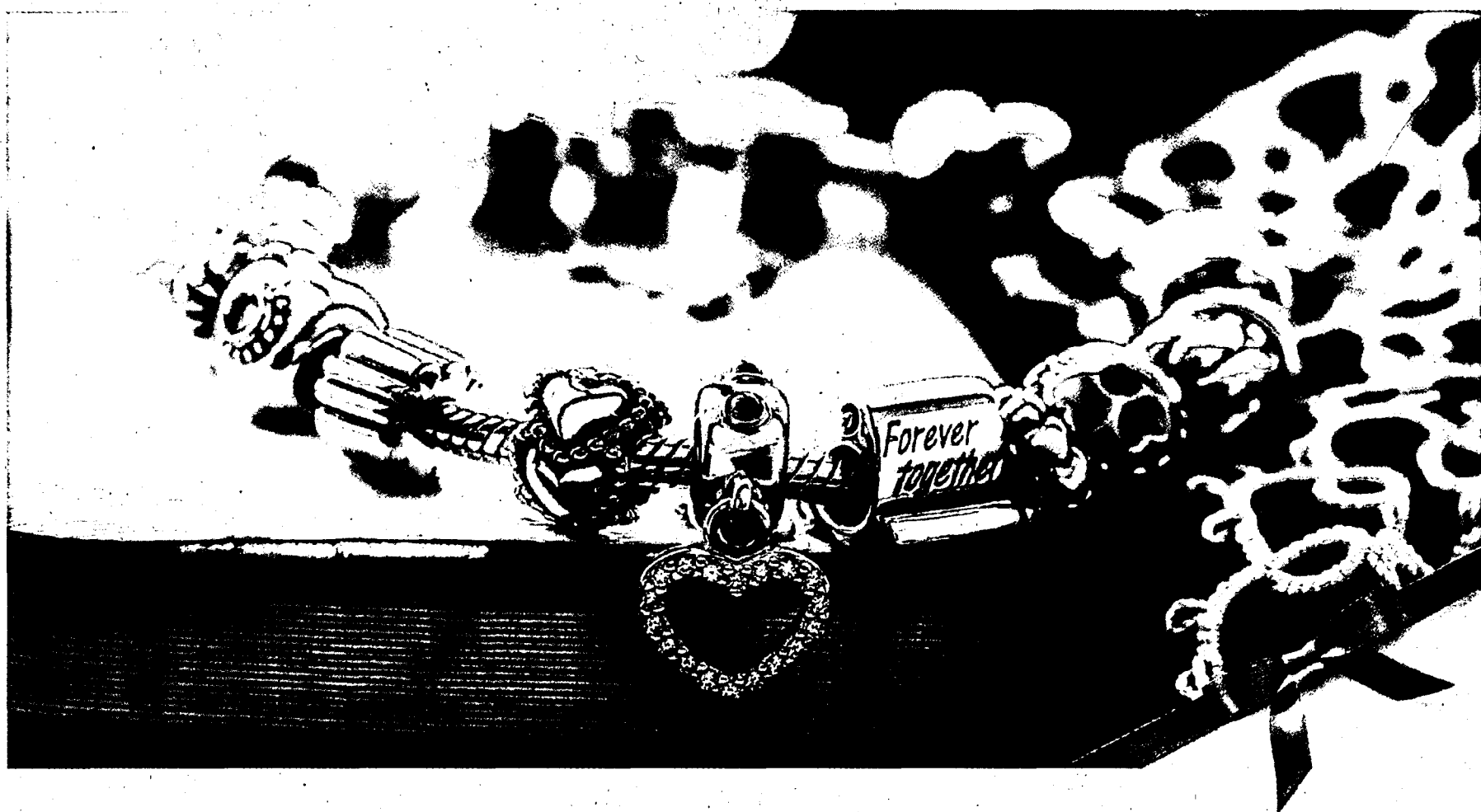
LIONS CLUB

Time/Date: 11:45 a.m. the second Monday of the month and at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month


Location: Big Boy Restaurant at Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland.

Details: The Westland Lions Club holds lunch and dinner meetings on Mondays.

Contact: For more information, call Debbie Dayton at (734) 721-4216.



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SPORTS

Observerland deadlocked

Pats, Glenn share crown

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Not even a hanging chad could decide the team champion of the 21st annual Observerland Wrestling Invitational Saturday at Livonia Churchill.

When the final points were tallied, Livonia Franklin and Westland John Glenn shared the crown with exactly 182.5 points apiece to lead the 16-school field.

Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, which sent its "B" or White team to Observerland while its "A" team spent the day in Cleveland, finished third with 165.

Rounding out the top 10 were Farmington Hills

Harrison (134), Wayne Memorial (133), Plymouth (125.5), Belleville (98), Farmington (82), Salem (77.5) and Northville (72).

The outcome for the team champion came down to a pair of heavyweights in the final match of the tournament.

Trailing Glenn by four points, Franklin's Omar Haymour needed a victory by decision to secure a tie or come up with a pin to give the Patriots their fourth outright Observerland title.

Haymour didn't get the pin, but had enough to outlast Churchill's Manny Haddad for the 285-pound title, 1-0.

Please see INVITE, B3



Franklin's Allen Steele (left) was leading Sultan Hubbard of Farmington Harrison in the 171-pound finals when Hubbard went down with a knee injury and had to default.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Arnold bowls another 300

For the second straight weekend, Wayne Memorial senior Elliot Arnold rolled a perfect 300 game to lead the Zebras to the Livonia Clarenceville Doubles Championship Sunday at Merri-Bowl Lanes in Livonia.

Arnold and partner Zack Huffman, the No. 2 qualifiers, upended Westland John Glenn's top-seeded duo of Jordan Hornes, the defending MHSAA Division 1 individual singles champion, and Daniel Ammons.

Hornes finished with a school-record 807 series including games of 238, 270 and 299 (also a school record).

Laker Taylor out for year

Grand Valley State University junior forward Brittany Taylor (Livonia Franklin) has been lost for the women's basketball season due to a torn anterior cruciate knee ligament along with a possible tear to her medial collateral ligament.

The 5-foot-9 Taylor was enjoying her best season statistically, averaging 9.5 points and 5.5 rebounds per game. She is the third GVSU starter to go down with a season-ending injury.

Brittany was a standout on the Lakers' basketball and softball teams along with twin sister Brianna, who is averaging a team-best 14.1 points and 6.1 rebounds per game for the Lakers, who are 9-10 overall and 6-6 in the Great Lake Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Brittany will seek a medical redshirt from the NCAA for softball. The outfielder and her twin sister, a shortstop, both earned All-GLIAC first-team honors last year in softball.

OBSERVERLAND MAT RESULTS

21st OBSERVERLAND WRESTLING TOURNAMENT Jan. 28 at Livonia Churchill
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. (tie) Livonia Franklin and Westland John Glenn, 182.5 points each; 3. Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 165; 4. Farmington Hills Harrison, 134; 5. Wayne Memorial, 133; 6. Plymouth, 125.5; 7. Belleville, 98; 8. Farmington, 82; 9. Salem, 77.5; 10. Northville, 72; 11. North Farmington, 71; 12. Livonia Stevenson, 66; 13. Livonia Churchill, 51; 14. Garden City, 48; 15. Lutheran High Westland, 45; 16. Redford Union, 34.

CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS
103 pounds: Kyle Gillies (WJG) pinned Mohamad Youssef (Ply.), 1:00; **3rd place:** Parker O'Brien (CC) decisioned Jack Newa (LF), 4-0; **5th place:** Dwayne Lately (Bell.) dec. Michael Volyniuk (FHH), 11-8.
112: Austin Koehler (Bell.) p. Nimantha Herath (Farm.), 2:45; **3rd:** Brandon Hamis (Ply.) dec. Josh Perez (LC), 5-1; **5th:** Tyler Mulligan (WM) dec. David Lilley (CC), 7-3.
119: Dan Martinez (LF) p. Cody Korpus (Salem), 4:49; **3rd:** Zack

Colone (CC) p. John Locklear (LC), 3:41; **5th:** Tim Way (WM) dec. Gabe Colston (FHH), 6-2.
125: Zachary Francis (LW) dec. Casey Hagen (CC), 9-6; **3rd:** Gabe Martinez (LF) dec. Manny Govantes (Farm.), 4-2; **5th:** Chase Khalil (Ply.) won by major dec. over Andrew Fialka (FHH), 9-1.
130: Jon Conn (Ply.) dec. LaRone Mack (FHH), 6-4; **3rd:** Jesse O'Neal (WJG) dec. Eli Joseph (CC), 15-9; **5th:** Mike Williams (NF) dec. Sean Wagner (N'ville), 7-3.
135: Travis Compo (N'ville) dec. Alec Breckenridge (Ply.), 6-5; **3rd:** Kody Roy (LS) dec. Chris Naubert (CC), 4-2; **5th:** Bobby Mathieson (FHH) won by major dec. over Brian Spehar (GC), 14-6.
140: Said Youssef (Ply.) dec. Jordan Atienza (LF), 4-3; **3rd:** Allen Parker (WM) dec. Samer Shebak (LS), 7-6; **5th:** Donovan Reilly (WJG) dec. Alex Goings (CC), 11-6.
145: Mike Rankin (Farm.) dec. Kevin Wacker (WJG), 8-4; **3rd:** Marcus Shepherd (FHH) p. Matt Lang (Salem), 2:54; **5th:** Tim McCotter (CC) p. Will Herring (Bell.), 4:16.
152: Travis Mann (WJG) won by

major dec. over Michael Babicz (CC), 15-5; **3rd:** Nick Frazier (LF) dec. Walter Layner (Bell.), 5-0; **5th:** Alex Coe (N'ville) p. Martin Kemp (LW), 1:39.
160: Ryan Derry (LF) dec. Sam Ekanem (WM), 8-6; **3rd:** Anthony Long (WJG) p. Kyle Lake (FHH), 3:26; **5th:** Josh Wooten (Bell.) p. Jayson Walton (RU), 0:51.
171: Allen Steele (LF) won by injury default over Sultan Hubbard (FHH); **3rd:** Trevor Maresh (N'ville) dec. Danny Croft (WJG), 7-5; **5th:** Collin Rankin (RU) dec. Zach Juchartz (Bell.), 3-1.
189: Kevin Miller (NF) p. Jake McCabe (Salem), 1:31; **3rd:** Devin Korzetki (WM) dec. J.T. Ayotte (CC), 9-7; **5th:** Austin Jarvis (FHH) p. Matt Horne (LF), 4:19.
215: Dimitrus Renfroe (WM) dec. Jake Range (LS), 8-5; **3rd:** Jordan Brandon (WJG) dec. Adam Druz (GC), 6-3; **5th:** Tony Agostini (Salem) dec. Christian Miner (CC), 3-1.
285: Omar Haymour (LF) dec. Manny Haddad (LC), 1-0; **3rd:** Dylan Morantes (WJG) dec. Majd Mokbel (NF), 4-2; **5th:** Jimmy Rousseau (CC) dec. Ali Ajami (Salem), 4-3.



In the 103-pound final, Westland John Glenn's Kyle Gillies (left) pinned Plymouth's Mohamad Youssef for the title.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

2 OTs: Northville upends Spartans

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The girls basketball race for first place in the KLAA's Central Division was turned upside down Tuesday night as Northville pulled out a 49-46 double-overtime win over previous leader Livonia Stevenson.

The Mustangs got a clutch buzzer beater from Kendra Brenner at the end of the first overtime and then made 5-of-6 free throws in the second OT to improve to 5-2 in the Central (now tied with Stevenson and Novi).

"We had a play drawn up, we started to execute it pretty well," Northville coach Todd Gudith said of Brenner's bank shot, which was launched near the elbow area at the free throw line. "It broke down. We wanted our kid to get to the rim. She got stopped, ran out of time and there's nothing you can do but turn and pull. Lucky enough she caught glass and it went in."

Stevenson (9-3, 5-2) squandered a chance to remain in first place all alone in the Central.

The Spartans won the first meeting between the two teams, 44-43, but could not

complete the sweep. "We knew what we were getting into with them," Stevenson coach Jen Knoph said of the 9-4 Mustangs. "When we played at their place it was neck-and-neck like that the whole time, too."

It was 38-all at the end of regulation as the two teams went scoreless over the final 3:25.

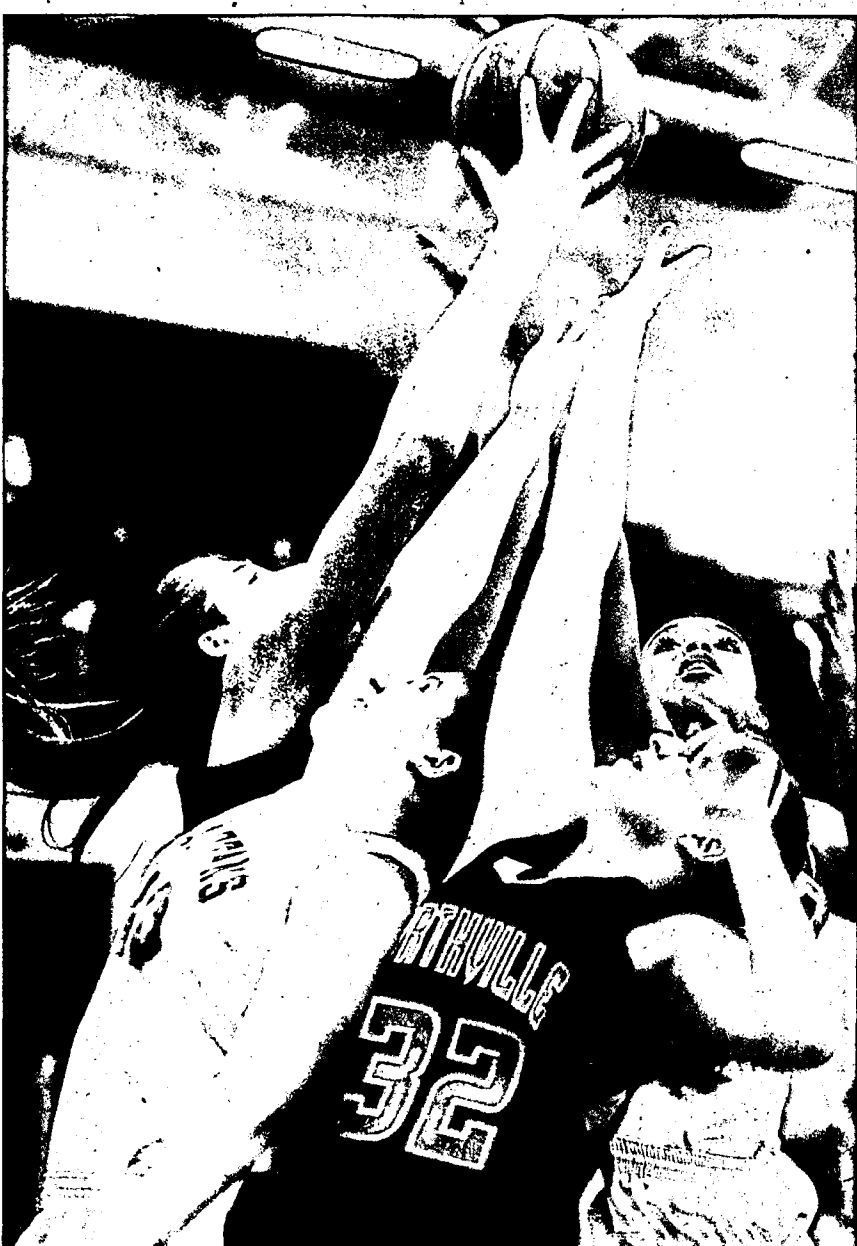
During the first four-minute OT session, Stevenson took a 44-40 lead with 1:18 left on a pair of free throws by Molly Knoph.

But Northville clawed back thanks to a pair of foul shots from Meredith Williams to cut the deficit to 44-42 with 1:03 remaining.

The Spartans then threw up a shot that got blocked and missed the front end of a one-and-one, giving Gudith an opportunity to call timeout with 12.31 seconds to go to set up a final play.

"I told the girls they played awesome defense in that sequence," Jen Knoph said. "They didn't do a thing wrong. To let them score that basket ... she (Brenner) turned and fired it up. I called it a prayer. They played great defense and

Please see HOOPS, B2



Battling for the rebound are Stevenson's Rosemary Morse (far left) and Charlesann Roy (top right), along with Northville's Alex Moynes (top left) and Aly Bates (32).

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Opportunistic CC blanks Stevenson, 5-0

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Top-ranked Novi-Detroit Catholic Central notched a pair of goals each in the second and third periods Saturday night to put away host

PREP HOCKEY

Livonia Stevenson, 5-0, in a boys hockey game played at Edgar Arena.

Senior forward Joe Steele scored twice and senior defensive Ryan Wandzel added a goal

and assist as the Shamrocks, rated No. 1 in Division 1.

Tyler Van Acker and Danny Middleton also contributed goals, while Michael Babcock chipped in with three assists for CC, which

improved to 14-3 overall. Steele's goal made it 2-0 and Van Acker added another just as a Stevenson penalty expired to make it 3-0 after two periods.

"We felt good the way we played the first peri-

od," said CC coach Todd Johnson, whose team led 1-0. "They (Stevenson) were playing a defensive-minded strategy and that (Van Acker) goal was the pivotal goal

Please see ICERS, B3

MU softball casino trip

The Madonna University women's softball team will sponsor a fundraiser charter bus trip to Greentown Casino from 3:30-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18.

The cost is \$30 for each passenger, who will also receive a \$20 voucher to use at the casino.

Refreshments will be served on the bus. You must be 21 years or older and have a valid photo I.D. to make the bus trip. Reservations are due by Friday, Feb. 10.

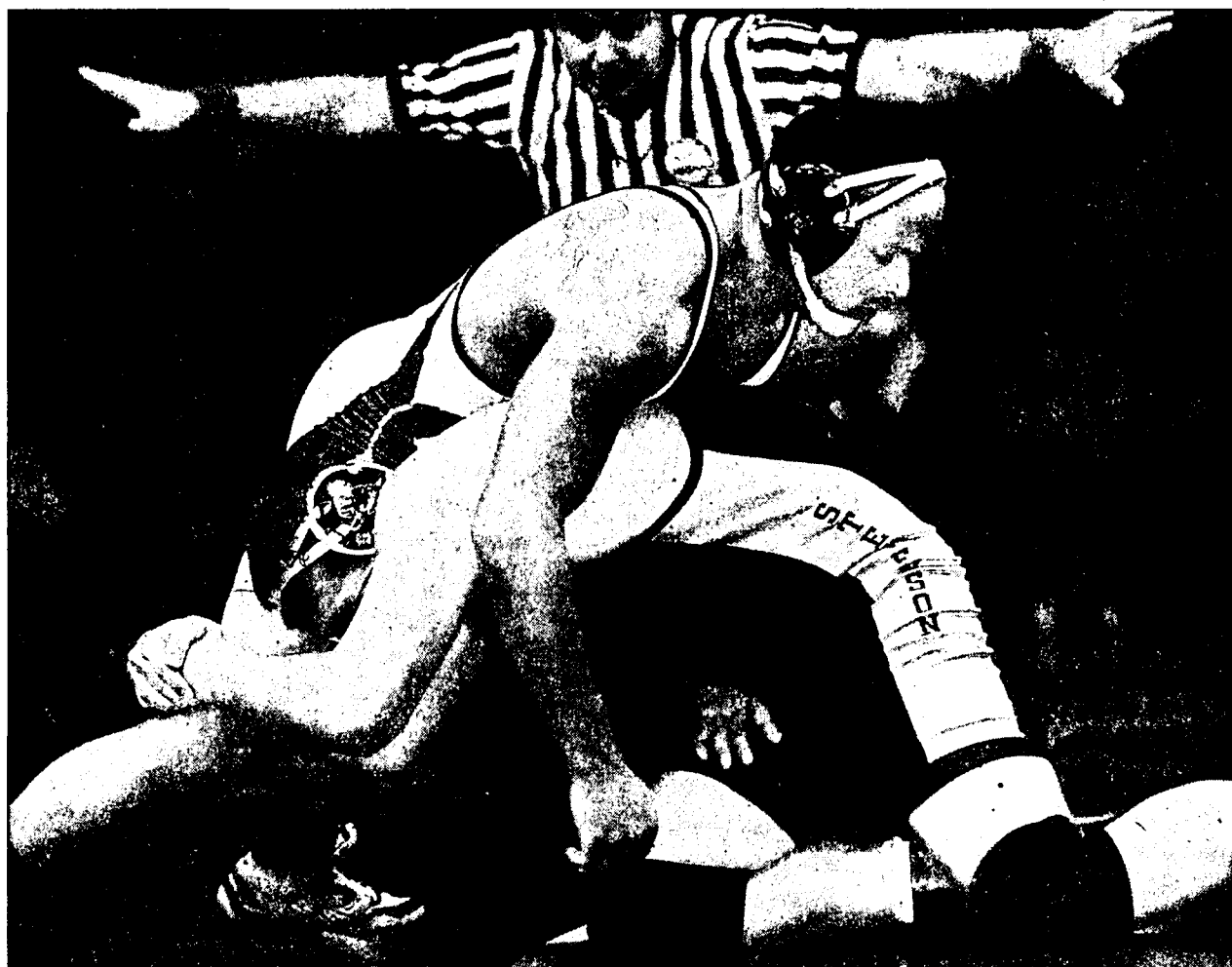
For more information, e-mail MU softball coach Al White at awhite@madonna.edu.

Faith concert

The Plymouth Whalers' second annual Faith & Family Day will be Sunday, Feb. 12, at Computware Arena.

Plymouth faces off against Saginaw in a 2 p.m. contest, which will be followed by a free concert by Christian rockers The Jason Eaton Band. WDIW's Chuck Gaidica will be the host, with pastor Brad Cannon of Solid Rock Bible Church in Plymouth providing a message. Andy Bathgate of the Whalers will participate.

Group tickets to the game, which also includes the concert, are \$10. Visit www.plymouthwhalers.com or call (734) 453-8400.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne's Dimitrus Renfro (top) decided Stevenson's Jake Range for the 215-pound weight division final.

INVITE

Continued from page B1

"I told him (the situation), but I also said, 'Don't go for the pin and end up losing' because he's dreamed about being Observerland champ since he was a freshman," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said of his senior. "His goal was to win it last year and he didn't. So, 'Don't screw yourself up and win it for the team.'"

Haymour, who improved to 38-4 overall, tried to get Haddad on his back, but simply couldn't turn the sturdy Churchill grappler over.

"He was trying, but we wrestled him (Haddad) before and it was a 1-0 match," said Chiola, whose team trailed Glenn by nine points and CC by 2.5 heading into the finals. "So again, a pin was pretty high aspiration."

Haymour was one of four Patriots to earn titles on the day joining teammates Dan Martinez (119), Ryan Derry (160) and Allen Steele (171).

While the final team score was being tallied following the heavy-weight match, Glenn

coach Bill Polk joked to the scoring table area: "How about a recount?"

It was a frustrating day for the Rockets, who won their only other Observerland title in 2004 when they shared it with host Churchill.

"Two ties together and we win it outright," Polk said. "Our kids didn't wrestle very well. I'm not happy with how we wrestled all day long. We had kids placing lower than what they were seeded in probably six weight classes."

"No discredit to them. Franklin is tough. They're Wayne County champs and they have a lot of solid kids, but we were a little more balanced overall. We had matches we were winning where we got pinned, losing close ones. That's the way it goes. They came back on us."

Glenn's two individual champions were Kyle Gillies (103) and Travis Mann (152).

"Travis (Mann) wrestled great obviously, but he was No. 1 seed—he should have," Polk said. "I didn't have any body do more than they were expected to. Our third seeds were taking

fourths, and our second seeds were taking thirds. We gave them (Franklin) the open door to come back and they did. Congrats to them."

Franklin got a big boost from Derry, who had seen little action this season, but captured the 160-pound class capped by a come-from-behind 8-6 win in the final period over Wayne's Sam Ekanem in the finals.

"Ryan (Derry) is a 145-pounder that we've had issues with this year, but I wanted him to wrestle because he's a great wrestler," Chiola said. "But I let him pick his spots where I'm going to wrestle him. I don't want to bump anybody else in the lineup. We had a hole at 160. I said, 'Do you want to wrestle? It's got to be at 160 even though you only weigh 145.' I told him I was going to draw him and I told him, 'You're going to win it.' I told him this morning: 'You're going to win this.' He's a real good wrestler. He's real good."

It was Franklin's fourth Observerland title overall with the last three coming during a run in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

"The good kids came

through," Chiola said. "The good kids came through. I thought we lost it at the beginning because our 145-pounder was scratched because of ringworm by the referees. And I thought that was going to cost us, eight to 10 points right there."

"But I said, 'Just keep plugging away, plugging away. Let's stay close. Let's get our share of champs' and hopefully that would put us over the top—and it did."

"We had some big performances. Matt Horne (189) had huge matches twice in the wrestlebacks to get sixth place, and that was a lot of points for us. The guys that we needed to come through, came through for us."

Plymouth got individual titles from Jon Conn (130) and Said Youssef (140).

Other individual winners included Austin Koehler (Belleville), 112; Zachary Francis (Lutheran Westland), 125; Travis Compo (Northville), 135; Mike Rankin (Farmington), 145; Kevin Miller (North Farmington), 189; and Dimitrus Renfro (Wayne), 215.

bemons@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6851

THE WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL**
Friday, Feb. 3
Franklin at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Salem, 7 p.m.
Wayne at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Luth. W'sld at L. South, 7 p.m.
Taylor Baptist at HVL, 7 p.m.
- GIRLS BASKETBALL**
Thursday, Feb. 2
Luth. W'sld at L. South, 7 p.m.
HVL at Taylor Baptist, 7 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 3
Wayne at John Glenn, 5:30 p.m.
Churchill at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Salem at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Luth. North at C'ville, 7 p.m.
Ladywood at DC, 7:30 p.m.
- MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS**
Saturday, Feb. 4
Madonna at Concordia, 3 p.m.
Wayne Co. at S'craft, 3 p.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS**
Saturday, Feb. 4
Concordia at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Wayne Co. at S'craft, 1 p.m.
- PREP HOCKEY**
Friday, Feb. 3
Churchill vs. Stevenson at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 4
Churchill vs. Plymouth at Arctic Edge, 5:30 p.m.
Ladywood vs. Canton at Arctic Pond, 7:30 p.m.
- PREP WRESTLING**
Thursday, Feb. 2
Luth. W'sld at Clawson, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 4
Summit Tourney, 9 a.m.
KLAA Tourney at EMU, TBA.
- BOYS SWIMMING**
Thursday, Feb. 2
Canton at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
Franklin at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.
Stevenson at N'ville, 6:30 p.m.
Wayne at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.
- GIRLS GYMNASTICS**
Thursday, Feb. 2
Livonia Blue vs. Salem at Churchill H.S., 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 4
Canton Invitational, 9 a.m.
- PREP BOWLING**
Friday, Feb. 3
Ladywood vs. Divine Child at Sterling Lanes, 3:45 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 4
Mercy Tournament at Drakeshire Lanes, 10 a.m.
- GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER**
Saturday, Feb. 4
Southgate Invitational, 10 a.m.
KLAA at Hartland, TBA.
- ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE**
Friday, Feb. 3
Whalers at Sarnia, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 4
Windsor vs. Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.
TBA—time to be announced.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

TROY ATHENS SNOWFEST INVITATIONAL GIRLS GYMNASTIC RESULTS
Jan. 28 at Troy Athens
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Troy Athens-Auburn Hills Avondale, 144.700 points; 2. Troy, 137.950; 3. Haslett, 137.775; 4. Livonia Blue, 137.450; 5. Fraser, 120.000; 6. Dearborn Edsel Ford, 118.150; 7. Athens-Avondale (Purple), 44.250; 8. Dearborn Fordson, 21.000.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS
DIVISION 2
Vault: 1. Alex Kitz (Blue), 9.15; 3. (tie) Haley Olson (Blue), 8.7.
Uneven bars: 1. Jacey Jackard (Haslett), 9.225; 4. Kitz (Blue), 9.1; 6. Jillian Zafarana (Blue), 8.55; 7. Sarah Hogan (Blue), 8.45.
Balance beam: 1. Kitz (Blue), 9.3.
Floor exercise: 1. Sereen El-Awad (Athens-Avondale), 9.65; 3. Kitz (Blue), 9.5; 5. (tie) Andrea Irvine (Blue), 9.1.
All-around: 1. Kitz (Blue), 37.050; 5. (tie) Zafarana (Blue), 33.70; 10. Olson (Blue), 33.15.

DUAL MEET RESULTS
HURON VALLEY 141.625 LIVONIA RED 126.725
Jan. 31 at Churchill H.S.
Vault: 1. Catrina Malysz (HV), 9.3; 2. Chloe Presley (HV), 9.15; 3. Taylor Shotwell (HV), 8.45; 4. Jackie Dziurgot (Red), 8.4; 5. Mallory Dorton (HV), 8.375.
Uneven bars: 1. Presley (HV), 9.275; 2. Malysz (HV), 9.15; 3. Amber Talaski (HV), 8.0; 4. Dziurgot (Red), 7.9; 5. Maggie McGowan (Red), 7.625.
Balance beam: 1. Presley (HV), 9.45; 2. Malysz (HV), 9.2; 3. (tie) Elaine Kozma (HV) and Talski (HV), 8.65 each; 5. McGowan (Red), 8.5.
Floor exercise: 1. Presley (HV), 9.45; 2. Talaski (HV), 9.325; 3. Malysz (HV), 9.125; 4. Rose Prebola (Red), 8.875; 5. Shotwell (HV), 8.575.
All-around: 1. Presley (HV), 37.65; 2. Malysz (HV), 36.775; 3. Talaski (HV), 34.175; 4. (tied) McGowan (Red) and Shotwell (HV), 32.375 each.
Dual meet records: Huron Valley, 4-1 overall; Livonia Red,

ICERS

Continued from page B1

of the game."

Junior netminder Derek Moore got the shut-out for the Shamrocks. He had to make only 14 saves, but one was on a breakaway attempt during the opening period by Stevenson's J.D. Byrne.

Connor Humitz, who made 29 saves, went all the way in net for the Spartans (10-7).

"He was really, really good in net," Johnson said of the Stevenson junior. "It was a very disciplined game on both sides."

It was the second straight game Stevenson had played a No. 1-ranked team. On Wednesday, the host Spartans lost 3-1 to Trenton, rated No. 1 in Division 2.

"We battled hard at times, but you can't give up goals in the first and last minute of a game and expect to compete against a team of CC's caliber," Stevenson coach David Mitchell said. "We panicked with the puck too much rather than settling down and making plays. Of course, that had a great deal to do with the opponent. They are a very well-coached and extremely disciplined team. We know we have

to get better."

CHURCHILL 7, DAVISON 0: State-ranked Livonia Churchill (14-2) got a balanced attack and scored in a variety of ways en route to win Saturday afternoon over host Davison (9-7-1) at Lapeer Arena.

Goaltender Alex Estes made 17 saves to post the shutout for the Chargers, who are ranked No. 3 in Division 1. Jim Lelekatch's goal from Tommy Carey in the opening period gave Churchill a 1-0 advantage.

The Chargers then scored four times in the second period to break it open—Carey (from Devin Smythe); Ben Proben on a power play (from Brad Milks); Mike Gambino on a power play (from Milks); and Kevin Louwers (from Riley Brown).

Churchill added two more goals in the final period including one from Jake Otto (from Smythe and Evan Gibboney) and Brad Milks (short-handed).

Davison got a combined 45 saves from David Arterburn, who played the first two periods, and Jake Rye, who finished up in the third.

"We got scoring from three different lines, including a power play and penalty kill," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "It took us awhile to get going, but we settled into the game plan and play pretty well."

CRANBROOK 5, LADYWOOD 0: On Saturday, Sydney Sakwa's four goals were more than enough as Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (11-2, 9-2) blanked host Livonia Ladywood (7-9, 7-9) in a Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League game at Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

Goaltender Colleen Jacoby earned the shutout with 27 saves for the Cranes, who led 3-0 after the first and second period. Sarah Koch stopped 12 shots for the Blazers.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Mat fundraiser

A trivia challenge to raise money for the Livonia Franklin wrestling team will be Sunday, Feb. 19, at Buffalo Wild Wings, located on the west side of Wayne Road just south of Warren, in Westland.

Registration begins at noon with the trivia challenge starting at 1 p.m.

The cost is \$15 per person (\$10 for wrestlers). A percentage of food and drink sold will be donated to the Franklin wrestling program.

All ages are welcome with league players eligible to win 20 bonus points. Bring your own team or join a team. There will also be bonus questions for more prizes and raffles.

First-place prize is \$200, while second and third is \$125 and \$75, respectively.

For more information, call Franklin wrestling coach Dave Chiola (734) 752-2340.

Future Stars camp

The sixth annual Future Stars baseball camp will be from 9-11:30 a.m. (Session 1) and 12:15-2:45 p.m. (Session 2) on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia.

Session 1 consists of hitting, base running skills, and infield work, along with taking the extra base, hitting for average, and proper infield approach.

Session 2 consists of pitching and defense, pitch location, catch-

ing drills, and outfield approach.

Lunch will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (bring your own).

The cost is \$30 per session or \$50 for both (includes T-shirt). Registration forms are available at www.franklinpatriotsbaseball.com.

For more information, e-mail Franklin coach Matt Fournier at mfournie2@livoniapublicschools.org; or call (734) 968-0499.

WYAA basketball

Registration continues for Westland Youth Athletic Association basketball 7-9 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Lunge Community Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Age groups offered include: Right Start (7-8), Freshman (9-10), Junior Varsity (11-12) and Varsity (13-16).

Right Start games will be played at Upper Elementary School, while Freshman, JV and Varsity will be at the Bailey Recreation Center.

For more information, call the WYAA at (734) 421-0640.

Lee talks fishing

Captain Jerry Lee will be the featured speaker at the Metro-West Steelheaders meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7 at the Livonia Senior Center on the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads.

Meetings are free and opening to the public. No

reservations required.

Lee, with more than 30 years of fishing and guiding experience on the Great Lakes, will share his knowledge of salmon and walleye fishing.

The presentation includes tips and tactics to consistently boat limits of fish for his customers daily.

Captain Chip Cartwright will also be on hand to unveil the latest lures from Wolverine Tackle, maker of the Silver Streak.

For more information, visit www.metroweststeelheaders.org or call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790.

Youth baseball

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage mail-in registration for its 2012 co-ed instructional T-ball (ages 5-6) and coach-pitch (ages 7-8) baseball through Feb. 10, along with walk-in and fax-in registration through Feb. 17.

Registration is open only to those residing in the Livonia or Clarencev-

ille public school districts. Enrollment is limited to the first 640 participants in each division. Forms are available at area schools or can be picked up at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard.

The season runs from May through July with T-ball scrimmages Monday evenings and coach-pitch on Thursday evenings.

Late registration will be from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 31 at the LCRC (for Livonia and Clarenceville Public School district residents only).

Non-resident registration will begin at 9 a.m. Monday, April 1 at the LCRC's Parks and Recreation office and will run through April 30 on a first-come, first-serve basis (or until teams are filled).

Open registration fees are \$40 (residents) and \$50 (non-residents). Late registration fees are \$50 (residents) and \$60 (non-residents).

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

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FALCONER, WALTER B.

Age 85, January 27, 2012. Beloved husband for 31 years of Rosemary. Dear father of Susan (Ron) Tipton, Teri (Jim) Harrelson and step-father of Susan Digue, Steven Symanski, Tim (Kim) Symanski, Ron Symanski and Stan (Dottie) Symanski. Grandfather of 24 and great-grandfather of 14. Predeceased by son Michael and family members Richard Symanski, Bruce Digue, and Jessica Digue. Arrangements were made by the John N. Santeuf & Son Funeral Home in Garden City. Memorials suggested to Alzheimer's Association. www.santeufuneralhome.com

FENN, LEON T.

Jan 26, 2012 Age 67. Beloved father of Michael Fenn and Cheryl (Phil) Kuch. Loving grandfather of Amanda (Chris) Joseph, Joshua Fenn, Ally Kuch and Kassie Kuch. Visitation and Funeral Service at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home 34567 Michigan Ave., Wayne MI 48184. Visitation: Fri, Feb 3, 2012 from 4-8pm. Funeral Service: Sat, Feb 4, 2012 11:00am. For more information: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

HIGGINBOTHAM, BARBARA J.

Age 55 of Redford Twp. Cherished Daughter of Florence and the late Curtis. Beloved Sister of Curtis (Mary), Leigh Anne (Tony) Swirple and Laura (John) Denski. Proud Aunt of Deanna and Katie. Memorial Service Fred Wood Funeral Home 36100 5 Mile Rd. Livonia (E. of Levan) Wed. Feb 8 at 3pm with memorial gathering 4-9pm. Proud owner of the Dogs Bow Wow for over 25 years in Livonia. Please visit online guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

LEONARD, LOLA CHRISTINE

Age 84, Oscoda, MI, formerly of Belleville and Ypsilanti, MI, went to be with her Lord Monday, January 30th, at home with her family. She was born July 18, 1927 in Popular Buff, MO, the daughter of Dallas and Daisy Vinson. She married Leo Albert Leonard March 4, 1945, and he preceded her in death on August 4, 2010, after 65 years of marriage. She was a Girl Scout leader, worked for the Van Buren Public Schools and was co-owner of Leonard's Gutter Co., Ypsilanti, MI, along with her husband Al. They moved to Oscoda in 1989, where they both loved living right on Lake Huron, enjoying the beautiful sunrises and their family together. Christine was a loving mother, grandma and Mee-Maw. She believed that how you lived life is how you will spend eternity. She is survived by two sons: Larry (Janet) Leonard and Gary Leonard; five daughters: Linda Morin, Brenda Leonard, Charolette Wilson, Angela Leonard and Amy Cousino, eleven grandchildren, Leanna Christine (Rodney) Armstrong, Erika (Scott) Baker, Erik (Amber) Morin, Delisa Leonard, Amanda (David) Richardson and Patrick Wilson, Tyler Cousino, Troy Cousino, Jake Cousino, Greg (Julie) Raymond and Debbie Raymond; fourteen great-grandchildren, Jacob, Blake, Kurt, Alex, Seth, Michael, Megan, Cameron, Carson, Samantha, Courtney, Jacob, Amber, and Elizabeth Marie; two great-great-grandchildren, Kylie and Brian; three sisters, Mary Staples, Pauline Jordan and Zelma Taylor, three brothers, Roy, Charlie and Donald Vinson and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces & nephews, sister-in-law Dorothy Ferguson and her special caretaker Mindy Wassman and many friends, both down state and Oscoda. Her cats, Tommy & Bobby, will miss her dearly. She was preceded in death by: one sister, Geraldine Vinson, four brothers, Melvin Vinson and Dallas Vinson, Jr., Tommy Vinson and Danny Vinson, her parents, several brothers-in-law & sisters-in-law. Funeral service will be held at the Buresh-Bennett Funeral Home, Oscoda, Thursday, February 2nd at 3pm, with Rev. Glen Bake officiating. Graveside service will be at the Pine Crest Cemetery. In honor of Christine's Irish heritage, bagpipes will be played during the services and at the grave site. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer Foundation (in memory of her husband, Albert Leonard) or the Leader Dogs for the Blind, in memory of Christine. A special thank you goes to all the Heartland Home Care personnel and to Heartland Hospice. Bless You All!

VEENSTRA, RICHARD (DICK)

Passed on the morning of January 15, 2012, after a short illness at the age of 92. God saw you were getting tired and a cure was not to be. So He put His arms around you, and whispered, "Come with Me". We watched you pass away, although we love you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest, God broke our hearts to prove to He only takes the best. Dick as he liked to be known as, was born on the 29 of September 1919 in Holland in the Netherlands (Dutch), and immigrated to the United States at the age of 9 with his parents John, a Master Mason, his mother Martha a homemaker, and brother Everett, all who are preceded in death. He also has a sister Henrietta living in Florida, and a sister Jeannie living in Livonia. In 1960 Dick decided to marry for the first time, and married Ann Lane, and her four children. They were married for 28 years until her untimely death. He had the four step children, many nephews, nieces, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Interment was on the 23 of January at the Parkview Memorial Cemetery, in Livonia. Any donation may be made to the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 114 Livonia, 30905 Plymouth Road, Livonia, MI 48150, in his name,

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Concert benefits immigrant legal aid

Singers of United Lands a touring group of four professional singers from four continents, will perform folk songs from their homelands at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia.



Rybinska



Granado

Zuzanna Rybinska of Poland, Engelhardt Unaeb of Namibia, Virgil Sequera of India, and Paola Granado of Bolivia will sing in their native languages.

Every year a new team of four singers representing different countries and cultures, tours throughout the U.S., visiting schools and churches. The organization's mission is to develop international and cultural relationships through vocal music.

Tickets are \$15 per person, or \$35 per family of two adults and their children, 17 and under. Tickets will be available at the door. Proceeds will benefit Justice For Our

Neighbors of Southeastern Michigan.

Justice for Our Neighbors is a faith-driven ministry that welcomes immigrants into communities and churches by providing free legal immigration services, education and advocacy.

The United Methodist Community on Relief sponsors the program with 24 clinic sites operating nationwide. Justice for Our Neighbors-Southeastern Michigan was formed in 2009 with sites at Dearborn First United Methodist Church,

The Baldwin Center in Pontiac, and Ypsilanti First United Methodist Church.

In 2011 the organization served 105 new clients from 29 different counties. It helped families stay intact, assisted domestic violence survivors and counseled clients with answers to complicated legal questions.

For more on the singers, visit www.singer-sofuntlandlands.org. For more on Justice for Our Neighbors-Southeastern Michigan, visit www.jfonsemi.org.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. If including a photo, it must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

February

BETHANY

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11

Location: Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Detail: Stilettoes Dance, "Detroit Still Doo Wops," with music from 8 p.m.-midnight. Cost is \$20 and includes beer and pop

Contact: Chooch at (734) 697-7270

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Time/Date: Dinner, 6 p.m. Feb. 18; Eucharist, 10 a.m. Feb. 19

Location: St. John's Episco-

pal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

Details: The dinner, held at the Summit in Canton, will include, a video presentation, music, gift drawings, and a ticket for a chance to win a centennial quilt and more. The ticket costs \$40 per person. Bishop Wendell Gibbs will attend the worship service on Feb. 19. The service will include special music and banners created by members of the parish. A celebration reception will follow the service

Contact: (734) 453-0190

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 5-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9 and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25

Location: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank, 41920 Joy Road, between Lilley and Haggerty Roads, Canton

Details: Free clothing and shoes are available to anyone in need

Contact: (734) 927-6686 or (734) 404-2480

GLAZER INSTITUTE LECTURES

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Feb. 10

Location: Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills

Details: Rabbi Daniel B. Syme will talk about "Combating Bullying, Cruelty, Depression and Suicide Among Youth People - A Religious Imperative." Heather Irish, founder and director of The MINDS Program, a non-profit organization that educates teenagers about mental illnesses and suicide prevention, will continue the discussion at 10:45 a.m. after a brief intermission. Admission is free

Contact: (248) 851-1100, Ext. 3149

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Faith - Freedom - Fellowship
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Arts benefit

Versatile singer and his band rock out in Canton

By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

There's more to Steve King than meets the ear. The frontman for the band, Steve King and the Dittilies, King, known as the "Wayne Newton of Wayne County," began his singing career as a choir student during the 1970s at Bentley High School, where he also formed a band for a school talent show.

Through the years King also has:

- Learned to become a "survivor" while growing up in a family of 13 siblings.
 - Rebuilt — and then lived in — three houses in his hometown.
 - Coached soccer and taught physical education after getting a teaching degree in 2001.
 - Earned a master's degree in educational leadership last summer, with an eye toward becoming a school principal.
 - Served on the Livonia school board after winning a four-year term in 2006.
 - Lost his bid for the Livonia City Council last November.
- Through it all he has continued to sing at events as large as the Woodward Dream Cruise and as small as private birthday parties.
- "I hate not being busy," King explained. "I always have 10 balls in the air and I see what happens. I have so many interests.

ROCK-N-ROLL VALENTINE'S

What: A dinner and rock music show fundraiser for the Canton Partnership for Arts and Humanities

When: 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10

Where: The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: A reception kicks off the event and features appetizers by P.F. Chang's China Bistro, Northville, and Station 885, Plymouth, along with desserts from The Chop House, Ann Arbor. The Showroom of Elegance and Indigo Salon and Day Spa will be onsite offering promotions. Steve King and the Dittilies play classic rock at 8 p.m. Couples can get a free appetizer by showing their concert ticket at the afterglow at Hayden's Bar and Grill, 39895 Ford Road

Tickets: \$30

Sponsors: Frank and Jill, Glenn and Patty Shaw and Don and Colleen Soenen.

Contact: www.cantonvillage theater.org or call (734) 394-5460

I love teaching, coaching and building. Pursuing my passions is what I've always done and that is the secret to well-being.

"I really enjoy performing and I would like to continue doing it for

a long time. We get around. I try to work as much as possible."

The band specializes in classic rock — tunes from the '50s-'90s — although it has expanded its repertoire to include music from the '30s and '40s. It will play a little of everything when it headlines Rock-n-Roll Valentine's, a benefit for the Canton Partnership for the Arts and Humanities, Friday, Feb. 10 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill.

Sing, dance along

King said the show will include a dance area for audience members who want to move to the music.

"We've never played a gig where someone didn't get up and start dancing."

The set list also will include songs that show the depth of the band and "showy stuff" that brings horns front and center.

"This gig is more challenging than most. The majority of the people will be sitting in the audience, listening. So, not only are we doing a show with people sitting there, we have to try to hit all eras because that will be the demographics."

Putting the listener first is second nature to King. When a power outage zapped the Woodward Dream Cruise in 2003, King, who was playing at a Royal Oak restaurant, said he convinced management to quickly round up generators, enabling the show to continue until



Steve King of Livonia rocks out with his band, Steve King and the Dittilies. He has performed since high school.

police shut the annual event down.

He insists on producing live sounds with a nine-piece group, rather than downsizing to a smaller band with pre-recorded tracks.

"My approach always has been that I'm here to facilitate fun for people who come to see us. People want to have a good time. The music we do is recognizable, good songs and I make that connection from stage to the audience."

Classic tunes

He describes his favorite music — 1960s rock — as "the best ever written," with memorable melodies and lyrics. He also points out that long-time rockers who are still popular today, such as Mick Jagger and Tom Petty, got their start during that decade.

While performing in Las Vegas, Nev. last year, King noticed a table of Polish women singing along as the band played songs made

popular by the 1960s-era television show and band, The Monkees.

"They didn't speak English. I asked how they knew these songs and they said 'American movies.' Any (contemporary) music style today has roots in the '60s. They are great songs. They tell a story."

For more about the Canton Partnership for Arts and Humanities visit partnershipforarts.org. For more on Steve King and the Dittilies, visit skatd.com

AT THE HISTORIC **REDFORD THEATRE**

Cary Grant
Audrey Hepburn
Walter Matthau

February 3 – 8:00 p.m.
 February 4 – 2:00 & 8:00 p.m.

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TIME: 8:00 p.m.

TICKETS: \$30 per ticket

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GET OUT!

Art

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS
Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays
Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit
Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission
Exhibits: Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus exhibit runs through Feb. 12 and includes 64 works. Tickets are \$16 for adults; \$8 for youth, 6-17. Other exhibits include Detroit Revealed: Photographs 2000-2010, an exhibit of 50 photos through April 8; Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection of drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs through March 18
Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY GALLERY
Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Feb. 24
Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
Details: The work of Patrice Erickson, all original oils, is on exhibit. Erickson is inspired by nature and strives for landscapes that are rich in color
Contact: (248) 473-1856

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE
Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Feb. 18, with an artist reception, 6-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3
Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville
Details: "6th Annual Mem-

ber Exhibition," includes work by more than 70 artists; free admission
Contact: (248) 344-0497

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Time/Date: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25-May 20
Location: University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor
Details: "Fluxus and the Essential Questions of Life," includes more than 100 works by major artists, such as Yoko Ono, Nam June Paik and George Maciunas; admission is free
Contact: (734) 764-0395

VILLAGE THEATER
Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday through Feb. 24
Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton
Details: "Lest We Forget: Legends of Detroit Gospel," celebrates the history of Gospel music in Detroit
Contact: (734) 394-5300 or visit cantonvillagetheater.org.

Comedy

GO COMEDY!
Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays
Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale
Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays
Contact: (248) 327-0575; gocomey.net

JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY
Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

Duo to perform



Dave Steele and Shari Kane will perform two full sets of "stomp blues and street swing" Saturday, Feb. 4 at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia.

www.theberman.org

MOON DUSTERS
Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.
Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s, '40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members
Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays
Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Andy Hendrickson, through Feb. 4; Basile, Feb. 8-11; Mikey Mason, Feb. 15-16; Rich Guzzi, Feb. 17-19; Coco, Feb. 22-25; Glen Wool, Feb. 29-March 3
Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE
Time/Date: Keith Alberstadt, Feb. 2-4; Tim Nutt, Feb. 9-11; Rocky Laporte, Feb. 16-18; Ted Alexandro, Feb. 23-25
Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak
Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

MARQUIS THEATRE
Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4
Location: 135 E. Main, Northville
Details: "Goldfinger;" tickets \$3
Coming up: "Anatomy of a Murder," Feb. 11; "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World," Feb. 18, "Bye, Bye, Birdie,"

of Shadows," 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 17-18, and 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19; "Hugo," 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24; 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 25-26 and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 1
Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

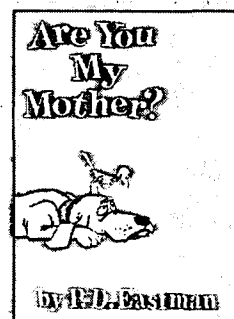
REDFORD THEATRE
Time/Date: 8 p.m. Feb. 3 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 4
Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit
Details: "Charade," tickets \$4
Coming up: "The Apartment," 8 p.m. Feb. 17 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 18; "Gone With The Wind" 8 p.m. March 2-3 and 2 p.m. March 4, includes an appearance by "the Gone With The Wind answer lady," Kathleen Marcaccio
Contact: (313) 537-2560

Museums

CHARLES H. WRIGHT
Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday
Location: 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit
Details: Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free. "Moving to His Own Beat" celebrates the life and music of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, who fused traditional African high life music with classical jazz and funk, a unique sound he called "Afrobeat" The exhibit runs through April 1
Contact: (313) 494-5800

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday; current exhibit runs through June 17
Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: "Ration Stamps & Bombers, WWII at Home" is the current exhibit. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17
Contact: (734) 455-8940

Musical



Watch P.D. Eastman's book come to life through a musical production Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

story of the site's excavation, which was initiated by the University of Michigan in the 1920s and 1930s. Part II follows the changes that took place in Karanis with the beginning of the Roman occupation of Egypt and then later with the advent of Christianity. The displays - all but a few will be new - include collections of Roman glass, tax rolls on papyrus, and the leather breastplate of a Roman soldier. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.
Contact: www.lsa.umich.edu/kelsey; (734) 764-9304

Music

THE ARK
Time/Date: Frontier Ruckus, Feb. 2; Cheryl Wheeler, Feb. 3; Yiddishe Cup, Feb. 4; The Global Jazz Project, Feb. 7; Girlyman & Edie Carey, Feb. 8; William Fitzsimmons & Denison Witner, Feb. 9; Newfound Road, Feb. 10; Student Songwriter Series: The Ark at UMMA, Feb. 10; Mustard's Retreat, Feb. 11; My Folky Valentine, Feb. 12; Miss Tess and the Bon Ton Parade, Feb. 13; Solas, Feb. 14; JT Nero & Allison Russell, Feb. 15; Jill Sobule, Feb. 16; The RFD Boys, Feb. 17; Kate Clinton, Feb. 19
Location: 316 South Main, Ann Arbor
Contact: (734) 763-8587; www.theark.org

BASELINE FOLK SOCIETY
Time/Date: 7-9:30 p.m. the third Saturday of the month
Location: JWH Center for the Arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth
Details: The show includes open mic performances and a featured performer. Admission is \$5. Annual memberships are \$25 for individuals and \$50 for families. Members may attend monthly concerts free of charge.
Contact: Mike Mullen at (248) 719-3464 or e-mail to mjmmullen@yahoo.com

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Dance

DANCE MONTH
Time/Date: through Feb. 18
Location: Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: "Michigan Five: University Showcase," 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4; Allure Dance Company, dance for children, 3-12, 1-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5; Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11; Ballet Folklorico de Antioquia, 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18. Ticket prices are \$15 for Jewish Community Center (JCC) members and \$20 for non-members for the Michigan Five showcase; \$20 for JCC members and \$25 for non-members for the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble; and \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members for all other programs. Call the box office for student and workshop prices
Contact: (248) 661-1900;

Sunday fundraiser



Blackthorn will perform at a Doctors without Borders fundraiser Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Gaelic League Irish America Club in Detroit.

Feb. 25
Contact: (248) 349-8110

PENN THEATRE
Time/Date: 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 4-5; 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5 and 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9
Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth
Details: "My Week with Marilyn," \$3
Coming up: "Happy Feet 2," 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 11-12; "Sherlock Holmes: A Game

U-M KELSEY MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY
Time/Date: The museum is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday
Location: 434 S. State, Ann Arbor
Details: Part II of the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology's special exhibition - "Karanis Revealed: Discovering the Past and Present of a Michigan Excavation in Egypt" - will run through Sunday, May 6. This special exhibition explores the

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS
Time/Date: 4-10 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12
Location: The Gaelic League/Irish American Club, 2068 Michigan Ave., Detroit
Details: Irish and Scottish music, song and dance. benefit Doctors without Borders. Performers include Blackthorn, Finvarra's Wren, Ashley Macisaac, O'Hare Dancers from Plymouth, Crossroads Ceili and more. Admission is by donation. Family-friendly environment with cash bar, food available for purchase and lighted, guarded parking
Contact: Mick Gavin at
Please see GET OUT, B7

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Allure Dance Company will lead dance workshops for children Sunday, Feb. 5 at The Berman Center for the Performing Arts at the Jewish Community Center, West Bloomfield.

Take a dance workshop, perform the same day

So you think you can dance? Then join Allure Dance for Dance Day — created for children, 3-11, who love to dance — 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, at The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, located at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. No dance experience is necessary.

Members of the Allure Dance Company will lead the workshops that will feature creative movement and simple choreography.

"I Love To Dance" is for ages 8-11 and begins at 1 p.m. "Watch Me Dance" is for ages 5-7 and begins at 1 p.m. "Mommy and Me" is for ages 3-4 and starts at 1:30

p.m. Following the workshops, all students will appear in a dance program at 3 p.m.

Cost is \$10 per child and \$5 for adults involved in the "Mommy and Me" sessions. The dance performance is free for workshop participants and \$10 per guest.

Shannon Einhardt, a recent recipient of the Maggie Alsee New Choreography Award heads the Allure Dance Company.

The workshops are part of a month-long series of dance activities at The Berman Center. For a complete list visit www.theberman.org. To buy tickets, call (248) 661-1900.

GET OUT

Continued from page B6
(313) 537-3489 or Kathleen O'Neill at (313) 96-IRISH

HELLENIC CULTURAL CENTER

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. show, Saturday, Feb. 11

Location: 36375 Joy Road, Westland

Details: 50's and 60's Valentine's Show with Legends Live tribute show features songs by the Everly Brothers, Gene Pitney, Full Throttle DooWop, Roy Orbison and Cal Roberts, along with emcee Rockin' Ronnie. Tickets are \$38 and include dinner, cash bar and show

MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC

Time/Date: 2 p.m. Feb. 12; pre-concert talk at 1:15 p.m.

Location: First United Methodist Church, 45201 North Territorial Road, Plymouth

Details: "Sunday with Schubert" featuring Michigan Phil principal clarinetist Lisa Raschiatore performing the Copland Clarinet Concerto. Other works include Schubert Symphony No. 5 and Amalia Concerto for 12. Tickets are \$22 general, \$18 senior and \$10, student

JAZZ AT THE ELKS

Time/Date: 7-10 p.m. last Tuesday of the month

Same Time Next Year



Aaron Alpern of Ann Arbor plays George and Diane Hill of Farmington Hills is Doris in the Two Muses Theatre production of "Same Time Next Year," that runs Feb. 3-19 in Farmington Hills.

Location: Plymouth Elks Lodge #1780, 41700 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth

Details: There is a \$10 donation at the door which includes hors d'oeuvres.

Contact: (734) 453-1780 or e-mail to plymouthelks1780@yahoo.com

PAUL'S PLAYERS

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Feb 11 and 3 p.m. Feb. 12

Location: St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: "Love Notes" features singers Allison Soranno Boufford and Jason Wilhoite, along with instrumentalists Sue Nienhaus, Michael Soranno, and Paul Soranno, performing

selections from a wide variety of Broadway composers. The concert of love songs from Broadway will include desserts and coffee. Tickets are \$10

Contact: (248) 347-4134, or e-mail paulsplayers@gmail.com

PLYMOUTH COFFEE BEAN

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Monday, Friday, Saturday

Location: 884 Penniman, Plymouth

Details: Open mic on Monday; live music Friday-Saturday. Americana, folk, rock, pop, country and soul by solo singers, duos and bands

Contact: (734) 454-0178

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Game-winning dips and healthy tips

Two of the most popular New Year's resolutions are losing weight and eating healthier. But by the time the big game rolls around, many people are ready for a break — or looking for an excuse to cheat. But kickoff does not have to be a signal to punt your healthy-eating habits. Registered dietitian Jodie Shield knows it can be a struggle to celebrate and stay healthy. She's put together some win-win tips and recipes — healthy and delicious — that are sure to keep fans cheering for more:

— Know your game plan. If you're the home team (i.e. the party host), you get to call the plays. Serve entrees that are lean and festive, such as Touchdown Turkey Chili. Or prepare a thin whole wheat crust pizza using reduced-fat mozzarella cheese, tomato sauce and lots of sliced veggies.

— Offer a starting line-up of healthier appetizers. Whip some traditional game day favorites into shape. Instead of nachos, serve baked chips with salsa. Pass on the salt and butter and sprinkle a dash of Parmesan cheese over popcorn. Forget the fried chicken wings and serve baked chicken tenders seasoned with Hidden Valley Salad Dressing & Seasoning Mix.

— Think fresh. Skip the super subs and set up a sandwich bar with lean deli meats such as turkey breast and ham, low-fat cheese slices and prepped veggies — like sliced tomato and shredded lettuce — and low-fat toppings.

— Pass on super big portions. No matter what foods are served, remember you don't have to eat the whole thing. Grab a small plate and load half of it up with fresh veggies and baked chips.

— Get in on the action. During halftime, grab your guests and head outdoors for a quick game of touch football. You can always record the commercials so you don't miss out.

7 Layer Fiesta Ranch Dip

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Makes: 10 (1/4 cup) servings

- 1 16-ounce can fat-free refried beans
- 1/2 cup guacamole
- 1 package Hidden Valley Fiesta Ranch Dips Mix
- 1 cup fat-free sour cream or plain nonfat yogurt
- 1 cup shredded reduced-fat cheddar cheese
- 6 green onions, chopped
- 1 medium tomato, chopped
- 1/2 cup sliced black olives (optional)

1. Spread each of the ingredients in the order listed over a 9-inch serving platter or pie dish.
2. Chill for an hour and serve.



Hold That Line Hummus Dip

"No need to pass on fabulous dips to maintain your diet," said Shield. "Thanks to the protein and fiber in chickpeas, hummus is light, yet heart-healthy enough to satisfy hungry sports fans. Try this easy recipe for happy game day guests."

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Makes: 8 (1/4 cup) servings

- 2 cans (15 1/2 ounces each) chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- 4 garlic cloves
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1 package Hidden Valley Salad Dressing & Seasoning Mix
- 4 tablespoons cold water
- 1/2 cup tahini (sesame seed paste)
- Dash of paprika for garnish

1. In a food processor, puree the chickpeas, garlic, lemon juice, salad dressing and seasoning mix and water until very smooth, about 3 minutes.
2. Add tahini paste and process an additional 2 minutes.
3. Spread hummus into a shallow serving bowl.
4. Sprinkle top with paprika.

— Courtesy Family Features

Touchdown Turkey Chili

Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook Time: High heat cooks for 4 hours;
Low heat cooks for 8 hours
Makes: 8 (1 cup) servings

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 medium green bell pepper, chopped
- 2 pounds lean ground turkey breast
- 2 cans (14.5 ounces each) Mexican-style diced tomatoes
- 1 can (6 ounces) reduced sodium tomato paste
- 1 can (15 ounces) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup low sodium tomato juice
- 1 package Hidden Valley Fiesta Ranch Dips Mix

1. Heat olive oil in a large nonstick pan over medium-high heat.
2. Add onions and bell pepper and sauté until crisp-tender, about 5 minutes.
3. Remove and place in slow cooker.
4. Add ground turkey breast to the same pan and cook until crumbled and browned, about 8 to 10 minutes.
5. Add the turkey to the slow cooker along with all of the remaining ingredients.
6. Cover the slow cooker and cook for 4 hours on high heat or 8 hours on low heat.

Cheesy Ranch Popcorn

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 3 1/2 minutes
Makes: 6 (2 cup) servings

- 1 bag (3 ounces) reduced-fat, low sodium butter-flavored microwave popcorn
 - 1/2 pack (0.25 ounces) Hidden Valley Salad Dressing & Seasoning Mix
 - 3 sprays from olive oil mister
 - 3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
1. Pop popcorn according to package directions. Immediately open the bag and pour the popcorn into a large serving bowl.
 2. Spray the popcorn with three sprays from the olive oil mister, toss with salad dressing and seasoning mix and then toss with the Parmesan cheese. Serve immediately.



PLAY GOOD DEFENSE AND SUBSTITUTE

The best way to tackle those creamy, high-calorie dips is to make smart substitutions. Here are a few options to help you get started:

- Guacamole — Use salsa instead
- Pesto — Substitute chopped tomatoes and basil
- Sour cream — Trade it for plain fat-free yogurt
- Cheese — Try reduced-fat cheese
- Cream — Substitute fat-free evaporated milk

For more recipes and tips, visit www.hiddenvalley.com.

Industry pro sadder but wiser on sump pump policy

By Marlene Klimecki
Guest Columnist

So, you like myself, had the same insurance agent with a large, well-known insurance company for years; you go through some life-changing events as I did with the passing of a spouse, your daughter moving out of Michigan, and not knowing if your deceased husband told the agent that you finished your basement.

All of these things happened to me in 2010. I contacted the agent, told her all three changes, and that since my husband handled all of our insurances with her for years that I didn't know what we needed to change, but I was relying on her for her professionalism and guidance. She asked me a battery of questions that I answered and we closed the conversation by her saying she would "handle it."

Here is the trap, according to the law, it is YOUR responsibility to follow up with the agent to make sure they made the changes. We NEVER discussed sump pump failure insurance as any option and now in checking with most people, very few are aware of it. Sump pump failure insurance is a minimal premium (under \$50 a year).

We waited to finish our lower level to make sure there were no cracks in the walls and that the basement did not have any issues with water. My husband passed in May 2010 and I notified the insurance company of the three issues in June.

My homeowners policy came up for renewal in November along with the million dollar pamphlet that outlines upgrades which are your responsibility to read and check with your agent to see if you have these coverages. I am quite sure I can't tell you if the



Marlene Klimecki



A solid homeowners insurance policy will protect your largest investment, as an area Realtor found out the hard way.

pamphlet was or was not in the renewal notice, I just quickly wrote a check and put it in the mail so it would not get overlooked. You guessed it, I had sump pump failure (a six-year-old sump pump) the following May.

I called the 800 number to see what I should do at 9:30 p.m. and was told I was not insured. I was positive this was a mistake and the basement cleanup crew said often times the 800 number does not have a complete outline of coverage so not to worry and to call my agent in the morning. It was a holiday weekend so when she returned I called again; at first she denied ever hearing from me at all, then bits and pieces of her memory came back, but still insisting I never told her my daughter moved to L.A. when she in fact handled her claim for an auto accident the first month she moved there.

I tried three supervisors at this company offering outline only to

have my claim rejected based on the fact that I did not have my basement insured in 2006 which is when we built and moved in the site condo. No one would listen when I said I would not have insured my basement then since it was not finished at that time. After writing checks out of my personal account totaling \$17,000 to restore my two-year-old basement, I contacted my attorney as I felt the agent's negligence would be covered under her errors and omissions insurance she is required to carry.

The bottom line is since they claim the pamphlet was in the renewal notice and I paid it, it was my responsibility to call the agent and follow up with her to make sure she made the changes we discussed. In talking to several contractors that worked on the basement, they said it is common for insurance agents NOT to cover it with you because it is one of the lowest cost upgrades and one of the largest claims paid out. So, in

closing, DO NOT rely on your agent to protect your best interests of your insurances, read through the material yourself and hope for the best.

I now have a new sump pump and a water backup system in case of power failure. There seriously is no loyalty for long-term client/insurance relationships when it comes time to paying out claims. How many of you knew about sump pump failure insurance coverage? Hopefully none of you will never have to go through what I experienced with an agent and insurance company I trusted. Oh, yes, I have changed all my insurance on the car and the condo and I met with the agent three times to make sure I understood everything before signing and writing the check.

I wish you all a dry basement but, if not make sure you have sump pump failure insurance!

Realtor Marlene C. Klimecki is an associate broker for Remerica United Realty in Novi.

Lawyer can help with board roles

Q: Our board is expending money on items which we do not believe are within the responsibility of the association. I, as a board member, have protested but have gotten nowhere. What can I do?

A: Assuming you have not gotten a legal opinion from the association's attorney regarding the propriety of the action to be taken by the board, you should at least put on the record your opposition to what the board has taken and a request for a legal opinion. If the majority of the board is not inclined to do, or they have already gotten a legal opinion, you may wish to seek a second legal opinion and, hopefully, get reimbursed for the costs involved in doing so, although



Robert Meisner

there is no guarantee of same. Sometimes Directors do not understand their responsibilities to make repairs, and other times go beyond their responsibility on behalf of the Association to make repairs on items which are the individual co-owners responsibility. It is often a thin line to determine the difference, but obviously it is an important issue that should be resolved with the benefit of good and experienced legal counsel within the attorney/client privilege.

Q: Our developer has abandoned the project, not paid the assessments or the taxes on his lots and he cannot be reached. The co-owners think that our chances of getting any recovery are futile and do not want to spend the money on getting any advice. How do I get them to realize that this is not smart?

A: Hopefully, they will read this column and understand that they may well have rights against the developer or the successor to that developer whoever that ends up being. Moreover, there may be other factors and considerations involved including the prospect that the property which has not been developed depending upon the manner in which it is described in the master deed, may revert to the condominium project as a common element and/or otherwise may be available to the condominium association to develop on its own having picked its own contractor or builder. It is imperative, therefore, that the Association understand its legal rights and that the co-owners are well advised to get experienced legal counsel in condominium development matters to answer their questions and to provide them with the various options and/or alternatives available to them.

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

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS - WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 17-21, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
48465 Antique Rd	\$387,000
1958 Briarfield St	\$78,000
2481 Cleveland Way	\$176,000
6416 Connaught Ct	\$300,000
236 Constitution St	\$147,000
46896 Creeks Bnd	\$170,000
1251 E Crystal Cir	\$195,000
7540 Embassy Dr	\$160,000
51211 Gold Ridge Ln	\$248,000
50121 Grant St	\$228,000
50169 Grant St	\$238,000
7546 Green Meadow Ln	\$122,000
5793 Hathaway Rd	\$205,000
1685 Heron Cir	\$173,000
39784 Hillary Dr	\$105,000
2233 Knollwood Dr	\$77,000
48392 Manhattan Cir	\$370,000
49311 Northampton Ct	\$410,000
46214 Polo Dr	\$220,000

49578 Potomac Rd	\$160,000
49830 Potomac Rd	\$160,000
8145 Sandpiper St	\$130,000
41953 Saratoga Cir	\$165,000
42088 Saratoga Cir	\$80,000
3565 Shepherd Ln	\$145,000
GARDEN CITY	
29438 Balmoral St	\$16,000
30150 Beechwood St	\$60,000
1012 Cardwell St	\$55,000
6315 Merriman Rd	\$25,000
LIVONIA	
18834 Amber Ct	\$167,000
33492 Bobrich St	\$207,000
8933 Crown St	\$100,000
9131 Deering St	\$55,000
36269 Dover St	\$85,000
19947 Edgewood Ave	\$297,000
14838 Ellen Dr	\$140,000
34081 Fonville Dr	\$193,000
20314 Fremont St	\$37,000
14942 Gary Ln	\$95,000
35103 Grove Dr	\$140,000
31155 Hathaway St	\$109,000
19471 Ingram St	\$95,000
36800 Joy Rd	\$66,000
38114 N Vista Dr	\$195,000
19540 Pollyanna Ct	\$190,000
16473 Ronnie Ln	\$145,000

9905 Roseland St	\$35,000
14368 Stonehouse Ave	\$85,000
18419 University Park Dr	\$39,000
27830 W Chicago St	\$45,000
18454 Westbrook Dr	\$120,000
NORTHVILLE	
16971 Algonquin Dr	\$330,000
16896 Country Knoll Dr	\$245,000
48899 Freestone Dr	\$380,000
17254 Lake View Cir	\$270,000
16959 Lochmoor Cir W	\$225,000
20248 Longwood Ct	\$89,000
19690 Marilyn St	\$199,000
310 Saint Lawrence Blvd	\$200,000
39657 Springwater Dr	\$124,000
PLYMOUTH	
11875 Beacon Hill Dr	\$290,000
46965 Burning Tree Ln	\$289,000
46263 Litchfield Dr	\$265,000
49525 Pointe Xing	\$105,000
49926 Pointe Xing	\$120,000
1453 Ross St	\$210,000
9350 Saddlebrook Ct	\$343,000
1250 Sheridan Dr	\$195,000
599 Virginia St	\$154,000
45800 W Ann Arbor Trl	\$419,000

REDFORD	
17677 Denby	\$23,000
25909 Elba	\$70,000
24633 Elmira	\$43,000
9093 Fenton	\$54,000
9571 Salem	\$61,000
12835 Salem	\$40,000
11416 San Jose	\$82,000
14078 San Jose	\$23,000
9563 Tecumseh	\$60,000
12891 Tecumseh	\$80,000
15876 Wakenden	\$32,000
15552 Woodworth	\$10,000
WESTLAND	
37258 Amhurst Dr	\$76,000
34709 Blackfoot St	\$58,000
378 Brookfield Dr	\$74,000
35802 Castlewood Ct	\$52,000
37559 Lang Ct	\$91,000
37594 Laramie St	\$120,000
34860 Melton St	\$51,000
467 N Linville St	\$85,000
157 N Sybald St	\$65,000
8158 Pickering Pl	\$185,000
1302 S Dowling St	\$78,000
35441 Schley St	\$70,000
1666 Shoemaker Dr	\$32,000
38375 Warner Farms Dr	\$51,000
2350 Wilshire St	\$81,000

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION - OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 10-14, 2011, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

BEVERLY HILLS	
31410 Evergreen Rd	\$155,000
BINGHAM FARMS	
30825 River Crossing St	\$220,000
BIRMINGHAM	
1796 Graefield Rd	\$75,000
770 Humphrey Ave	\$425,000
1851 Mansfield Rd	\$180,000
2685 Pembroke Rd	\$120,000
1011 Pierce St	\$315,000
1186 Stanley Blvd	\$285,000
1137 Suffield Ave	\$350,000
361 Townsend St	\$1,100,000
1521 Villa Rd	\$735,000
2850 Windemere Rd	\$130,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
2857 Rambling Way	\$228,000
3760 Thornbrier Way	\$330,000
748 Briar Hill Ln	\$295,000
2786 Hunters Way	\$440,000
1835 Stonycroft Ln	\$210,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
3665 Bradford Ct	\$174,000
1387 Club Dr	\$610,000

712 E Valley Chase Rd	\$363,000
2471 Mulberry Sq	\$55,000
1119 Park Place Ct	\$350,000
3657 Quail Hollow Dr	\$295,000
750 Trailwood Path	\$66,000
1780 Woodgrove Ln	\$380,000
COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
1606 Commerce Shrs	\$215,000
3384 Edgewood Park Dr	\$700,000
391 Longspur Ln	\$445,000
3610 Moberly Rd	\$490,000
2334 Palmetto	\$150,000
5007 Parkgate Dr	\$50,000
4350 Ravinewood Dr	\$215,000
5281 Sandalwood Dr	\$307,000
6080 Turnberry Dr	\$360,000
1441 Woodview Ln	\$313,000
2407 Yasmin Dr	\$290,000
FARMINGTON	
33640 Alta Loma Dr	\$130,000
22695 Power Rd	\$118,000
22833 Violet St	\$60,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
28701 Aranel St	\$135,000
25835 Branchester Rd	\$179,000
37541 Burton Ct	\$245,000
21709 Collingham Ave	\$40,000
28865 E King William Dr	\$225,000
21147 Flanders St	\$82,000
39236 Horton Dr	\$265,000
25447 Hunt Club Blvd	\$217,000
27241 Hystone Dr	\$144,000
31086 Oak Valley Dr	\$220,000

33414 Old Timber Rd	\$220,000
31996 Olde Franklin Dr	\$220,000
30190 Pipers Lane Ct	\$148,000
29380 Regents Pointe	\$113,000
28253 Westerleigh Rd	\$180,000
LATHRUP VILLAGE	
18830 San Diego Blvd	\$126,000
MILFORD	
1515 Kurtz Dr	\$290,000
450 Lawrence Dr	\$350,000
406 Lone Tree\$	\$238,000
731 Mill Pointe Dr	\$220,000
NOVI	
45125 Bartlett Dr	\$90,000
24757 Bashian Dr	\$68,000
50641 Billenca Dr	\$588,000
50697 Calvert Isle Dr	\$655,000
50866 Calvert Isle Dr	\$511,000
50749 Chesapeake Dr	\$700,000
25032 Hadlock Dr	\$639,000
45511 Irvine Dr	\$377,000
25968 Laramie Dr	\$350,000
27929 Middleton Dr	\$148,000
41025 Mooringside	\$144,000
41613 Sleepy Hollow Dr	\$149,000
30213 Viewcrest Ct	\$227,000
23637 W Le Bost	\$118,000
41778 Webster Ct	\$117,000
42605 Wimbleton Way	\$236,000
24152 Windcrist Ln	\$345,000
28225 Woolcott Dr	\$84,000

SOUTH LYON	
58697 Castle Ct	\$40,000
25345 Collingwood Dr	\$40,000
160 Harvard Ave	\$104,000
61121 Ladbrooke Dr	\$292,000
24819 Martindale Rd	\$196,000
61211 Saddlecreek Dr	\$233,000
25316 Stanley Ln	\$40,000
397 University Ave	\$115,000
572 Willow Dr	\$135,000
SOUTHFIELD	
27675 Berkshire Dr	\$74,000
22875 Coventry Woods Ln	\$140,000
29322 E Chanticleer Dr	\$120,000
19310 Eldridge Ln	\$95,000
30100 Everett St	\$44,000
21988 Evergreen Rd	\$80,000
23351 Grayson Dr	\$38,000
19960 Hickory Leaf St	\$75,000
19073 Middlesex Ave	\$75,000
30105 Northgate Dr	\$138,000
24033 Pierce St	\$76,000
21927 Rose Hollow Dr	\$70,000
20365 S Greenway St	\$135,000
28073 Sutherland St	\$35,000
28410 Tavistock Trl	\$130,000
WHITE LAKE	
2497 Blair St	\$60,000
33 Danforth St	\$133,000
9210 Half Acre Dr	\$68,000
9858 Mandon St	\$201,000
408 Rustic Ln	\$230,000
382 Rosario Cir	\$166,000

Challenging fun for ALL ages Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

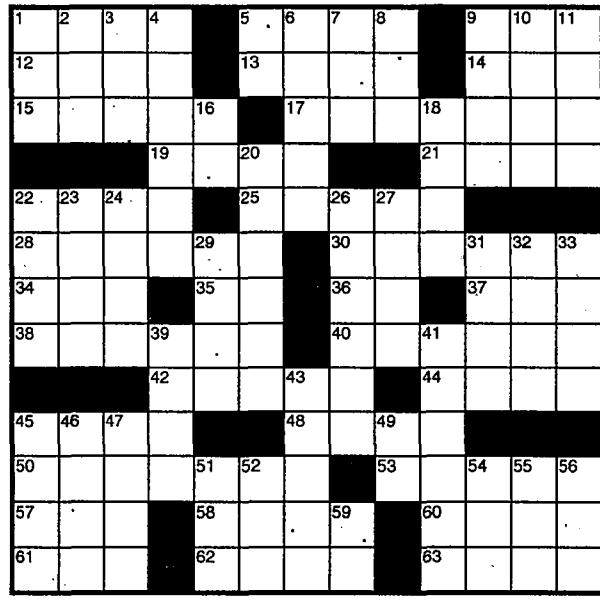
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Great Lakes port
 - 5 Toss, as a coin or rainbow
 - 9 Eyebrow
 - 12 Saki grain.
 - 13 Visage
 - 14 PBS funder
 - 15 Upriver spawner
 - 17 Intellectual person
 - 19 Apiece
 - 21 Clumsy bumbler
 - 22 Continuously
 - 25 Realizes, as profit
 - 28 Obi wearer
 - 30 Moralize
 - 34 Landers or Jillian
 - 35 GI tag
 - 38 Italian river
 - 37 "Little Red Book" author
 - 38 Pump choice
- DOWN**
- 1 RN stations
 - 2 Crater edge
 - 3 Bartender's rocks
 - 4 Conger catchers
 - 5 Fortissimo, musically
 - 6 Shop machine
 - 7 Fritz, to himself
 - 8 Architect I.M.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

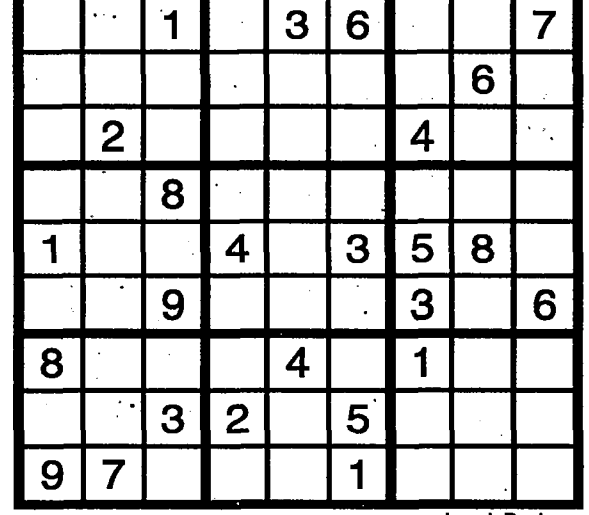
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- 9 "Diana" singer
- 20 Hold gently
- 22 Old-time exclamation
- 23 —, vidi, vici
- 24 One, in Munich
- 26 Horrify
- 27 Que, or Ont.
- 29 Got a move on
- 31 Jacques' pals
- 32 Reassure
- 33 Throw a party
- 39 Housecat's perch
- 41 Take in
- 43 Usher's beat
- 45 Type of synthesizer
- 46 Home of the NCAA Bruins
- 47 Sediment
- 49 Metric wt.
- 51 Ghost — chance
- 52 Nervous twitch
- 54 Broadcast
- 55 Spiral molecule
- 56 Top NCO
- 59 Wyo. neighbor

Want more puzzles?
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SUDOKU



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

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

Word Search — Family Fit

Cardiovascular Dinner Fit Lifestyle Resolution
Children Exercise Gym Nutritional Togetherness
Diet Family Healthy Parent Vegetable

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku

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

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word Search

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