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USA WEEKEND



Auditions

Inspire Theatre announced plans for the new year with a Neil Simon classic and more classes for children.

The latest production is Neil Simon's classic, "Rumors," the story of four couples who gather at a friend's dinner party to celebrate their hosts' 10th anniversary. When they arrive, they discover there are no servants, the hostess is missing, and the host has shot himself.

Comic complications arise when, given everyone's upper class status, they decide they need to do everything possible to conceal the evening's events from the local police and the media.

Auditions will be held at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 6-7, at Inspire Theatre, 33445 Warren Road, east of Wayne Road, Westland.

The cast is comprised of five men and five women, ages 30 through 60. Those wishing to audition should arrive at before 7 p.m. prepared to do cold reading.

Inspire School of Theatre Arts, the teaching outreach of Inspire Theatre also offers classes geared for 9-15-year-olds. The class project is a presentation of Aesop/Grimm-style fables and fairy tales.

Those interested in future classes or in the auditions can call (734) 751-7057.

So Shuh

Allen "Buddy" Shuh, the 42-year-old connections pastor for Journey Community Church in Westland has made it



past week five of NBC's The Biggest Loser. The Wayne resident continued to lose weight, dropping another eight pounds to weigh in at 345 pounds, an impressive drop from the 403 pounds he weighed when he started on the popular reality weight loss show.

However, his Red Team lost the weight-loss percentage at the weigh-in to the Black Team, and Shuh joined four of his teammates in voting off Nancy Rajala of Fowlerville after the Red Team.

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Public Library of Westland

Police department puts more officers on patrol

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

At the midway point in the 2011-12 fiscal year, Westland's 18th District Court is \$800,000 short of its projected revenues. Now, additional Westland police officers, including sergeants assigned to the Detective Bureau, will be in uniform and working road patrol. Due to

a program of budget reduction through early retirements, manpower has been reduced at the police department like other city departments.

"We have assigned extra guys to the road, a meeting regarding the court revenues was held," said Westland Police Chief Greg Angelosanto. "After that meeting, many of our officers were reassigned to patrol with the pri-

mary responsibility of being proactive in policing. I can't comment on court revenues."

Detective Bureau sergeants will be assigned to work road patrol two of their five regularly scheduled work days.

"The detectives will have to prioritize their cases," said Angelosanto. "We saw a need for more road patrol officers."

The court traditionally

receives most its revenue in the second half of the fiscal year, much of it in the third quarter, specifically, said Judge Sandra Cicirelli.

"People pay their fines and costs when they get their income tax returns," said Cicirelli.

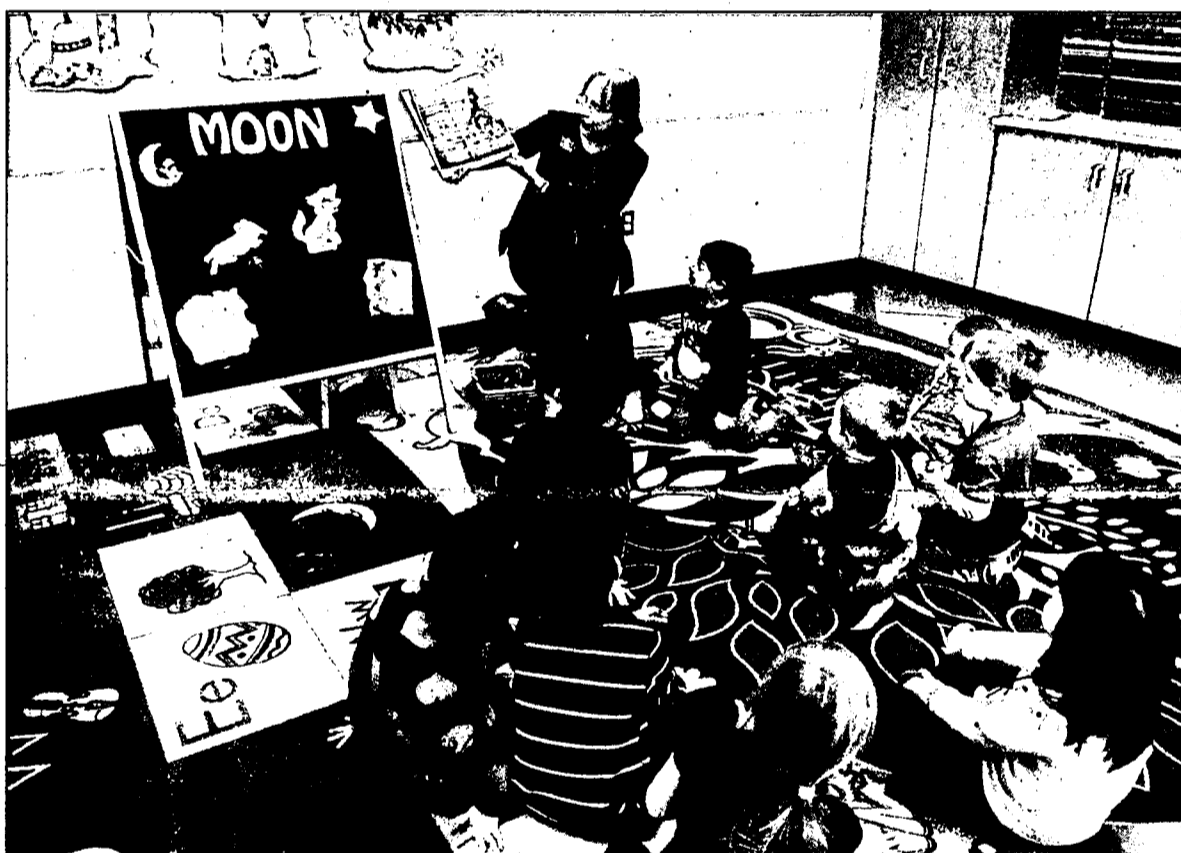
Two staff vacancies haven't been filled at the court, and

Please see PATROL, A2

Library programs direct toddlers to books



Melanie Matussek uses puppets to go along with the story at the William P. Faust Library preschool storytime.



Youngsters pay close attention as Bernadette Dewyer, children's associate, reads a book about the moon at the William P. Faust Library.

There are plenty of activities for children of all ages at Westland's William P. Faust Public Library.

Each week the library offers storytime for kids 3 1/2 to 5 years old. Held in the Children's Activity Room, Preschool Storytime is designed for an independent child not yet in kindergarten, who is ready to sit and listen to stories, learn finger plays and sing songs.

The storytime runs approximately 30 minutes and introduces early literacy concepts.

Preschool Storytime is offered 10:30-11 a.m. Thursdays.

For younger children, 18 months and 3 1/2 years and their families, the library offers Tod-

dlers Tales 11-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays.

It's an interactive program that lets parents and caregivers enjoy 30 minutes of theme-based stories, songs, signs, and vocabulary building with their little ones.

The library also offers Get Up

and Move for Preschoolers noon to 12:30 p.m. every other Tuesday — the next session is Feb. 6. This program is for parents and caregivers and preschoolers to attend together and learn fun new ways to play.

Preschoolers need an hour of

meaningful play everyday, and each activity works on different skills like kicking, throwing, catching and balancing.

For more information, call the library at (734) 326-6123 or visit the library's website at www.westland.lib.mi.us/.

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Ex-church worker bound over for trial on embezzlement

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

About a dozen parishioner from Westland's St. Theodore Catholic Church turned out Thursday for a preliminary examination scheduled for a former church employee charged with embezzling more than \$13,000 from the parish.

"We're supporting our parish, she's a crook," said parishioner Loretta LaBerge, who attended the hearing with her husband George. "We're upset and want to make sure justice is done."



Galoch

was ordered bound over to Wayne County Circuit Court on a charge of embezzling over \$1,000 from a nonprofit orga-

Please see TRIAL, A2

In a short appearance before 18th District Court Judge Mark McConnell, Kathleen Galoch, 63, waived her right to a preliminary examination. Galoch

Salvation Army meets fundraising goal

The Wayne-Westland Corps of the Salvation Army has met its fundraising goal this season, even as others struggled with goals.

The local corps had a Red Kettle goal of \$165,000 and mail goal of \$20,000, said Wayne-Westland Capt. Derek Rose, who serves with wife Capt. Joanna Rose. Totals this year were \$176,000 for the kettles and \$11,200 for mail.

"We in essence broke even and had a little profit," Derek Rose said, adding the goal was

met by Christmas with a total of \$187,200.

"We actually did a very good job this year," he said. "The Wayne-Westland community's just very supportive of the Army and we appreciate everything they do."

More than 600 families, representing 1,200 children, received Christmas assistance from the Wayne-Westland Corps.

"We just had a great Christ-

Please see GOAL, A2

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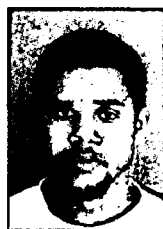
Parents of dead infant undergo psychiatric exam

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A competency hearing for a couple charged with abusing and killing their infant son has been adjourned until March 15.

Inkster resident Antonio Pepalonia Brandon, 22, and Nicole Susanne Roberts, 18, of Westland had been scheduled to appear Thursday in 18th District Court. The pair have been ordered to undergo psychiatric examinations for hearings on their competency and criminal responsibility in the death of their two-month old son Kayden Brandon.

Brandon is charged with first-degree murder, which carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole, and two counts of first-degree



Brandon



Roberts

child abuse — one relating to Kayden, the other over injuries to his surviving twin brother, Cameron Brandon.

Roberts has been charged with involuntary manslaughter/failure to perform legal duty, a 15-year felony, and two counts of felony second-degree child abuse/reckless act.

Both Brandon and Roberts entered not guilty pleas and are being held in lieu of \$1 million cash bond each.

An autopsy found that

Kayden Brandon died Dec. 5 from asphyxia and blunt force trauma to the chest. Police and Fire Rescue were called to a unit in the Westland Meadows mobile home park just before 5 a.m. about a baby not breathing. Kayden was not responsive and pronounced dead a short time later at an area hospital.

In a statement to police, Brandon indicated he would quiet the crying babies by placing his hand over their mouths for 10-20 seconds until they stopped breathing. Brandon would then bite the infant to startle them into breathing.

The autopsy showed bite marks on the baby.

Brandon told police he also struck the baby on chest in an effort to stop

him from crying or would squeeze the infant tightly to his chest.

In a statement to police, Roberts told police she heard Brandon beating Kayden early Dec. 5 and looked to see him striking the baby, but didn't intervene. Roberts also told police that she would also place her hand over the babies' mouths to get them to stop crying.

The surviving twin, who was removed from the home along with a 2-year-old half sister, had a broken femur and ribs which police said resulted from being swung by his legs. The boy is being cared for by Wayne County Protective Services, while the girl has been returned to her mother.

PATROL

Continued from page A1

meetings are being held to look at options to address the shortfall in projected revenues, she added.

"We were in this position a couple of years ago. I think we were about \$600,000 off and we ended up over (budgeted) revenues," Cicirelli said. "We will keep an eye on it. If it holds true to the past, people will pay fines and costs, so we can expect some income shortly."

In the past, the court has used an amnesty program to help encourage people to pay outstanding fines and costs. Cicirelli said she has been talking with the court collections department about payment plans that are in place.

"We also set up payment plans for people. If they are too high, peo-

ple get discouraged and don't bother to pay," she said. "People will send in smaller amounts."

The projected revenue shortfall was discussed by council members at a recent study session attended by Angelosanto, along with deputy police chiefs Dan Karrick and Rob Collier.

"We met with the police department, the finance department and the court to discuss revenues," said Mayor William Wild. "The police department and court both have ideas. I would be reluctant to do an \$800,000 budget amendment. It will be pretty tough to make that up in six months."

Another meeting on the court finances has been scheduled for Feb. 10. Wild said he expects to hold a study session with council after that.

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TRIAL

Continued from page A1

nization, a 10-year felony. A not guilty plea had been entered for Galoch, a Canton resident, who remains free on a \$10,000 personal bond.

Some of the parishioners at court didn't realize that Galoch was charged with embezzling only a fraction of the \$143,000 reported missing from the parish where she had been employed since 1986 to handle bookkeeping and other administrative duties until being laid off early in 2011.

When interviewed as part of the investigation, police said the Rev. Gary Michalik, who had been the St. Theodore parish priest, reported authorizing the bulk of the spending by Galoch. The audit prepared by the Archdiocese of Detroit showed checks written to pay mobile home rental fees, utilities and other expenses for Galoch's adult son, James E. Galoch, and wages for her husband, James J. Galoch. Both men had done maintenance-type work at the parish. Personal bills were also paid for Galoch's former daughter-in-law, Shannon, who still works for the parish.

"We had a meeting with the archdiocese last year and they told us we were short on money," said LaBerge. "We found out we had a \$258,000 debt."

That debt came as a shock to church members, since St. Theodore

was a good parish that met its annual \$60,000 Catholic Services Appeal commitment, said another parishioner who asked not to be identified.

Some of the parishioners reported what they described as red flags regarding the parish finances. Specifically, several mentioned a 2008 letter from Michalik, now assigned to St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia, asking each family to contribute \$300 to pay a debt dating to 2002.

"Five people in her (Galoch's) family were paid and counting the (collection) money on Sundays for the parish. That sent up red flags," said another parishioner, who also didn't want to be named.

St. Theodore had a parish council but several of the parishioners described the group as puppets.

"Many of us saw red flags and tried to get rid of her (Galoch)," said a parishioner.

New financial accounting procedures are now in place at the parish.

"We tried to go into a meeting to hear about what was going on and were ushered out," said Loretta LaBerge. "We never could find out what her salary was. We were told it was none of our business."

Galoch is scheduled for circuit court arraignment on Feb. 16.

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(313) 222-5428

AROUND 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.

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.

Doo Wop Dinner

Angelo Brothers Banquet Hall is hosting a Doo Wop Dinner, featuring The WhatAbouts, Friday, Feb. 24.

Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m., followed by the show 7:30-9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each and include pizza, salad, rolls and beverage. A cash bar will be available. For reservations, call

(734) 216-9451 or Kelly at (734) 377-1745. Angelo Brothers is at 33550 Ford Road, Westland.

Food drive

Open your heart and be a valentine to someone in need by donating nonperishable 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 to the Lighthouse Home Missions in Westland.

Book sale

The Friends of the William P. Faust Library of Westland will hold their used book sale Friday-Sunday, Feb. 17-19, at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford Road.

Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday. There will be a special sale of hardcover fiction—buy one for \$1 and get one free. Others prices will be \$2 for coffee table books, \$1 for hardcover non-fiction books, DVDs and CDs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, 25 cents for small paperbacks, videos, cassettes and records, 10 cents for small paperback romance books and 10 cents for magazines. Sunday will be a \$4 bag day sale.

— By Julie Brown

CORRECTION

A story in the Thursday, Feb. 2, *Observer* about the fundraiser for the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities featuring Steve King and the Dittilies should have said the reception beforehand is not a dinner, but will feature appetizers and dessert samples.

GOAL

Continued from page A1

mas," Rose said. "We want to say thank you to everyone for their support."

Volunteer bell ringers were down this year, but volunteer numbers for indoor jobs rose.

"We understand with the weather," Rose said. "It was weird weather."

He noted that blue collar communities are often strong on Salvation Army fundraising, and that unemployed people give what they can.

"It's just a difficult year, a reeling economy. Westland's really stepped up. We can't say thank you enough," he added.

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ZONING BOARD OF
APPEALS**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a hearing will be held by the City of Garden City Zoning Board of Appeals at 6:30 p.m., **Wednesday, February 22, 2012** at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135. At the hearing all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard on the following agenda item.

- 11-003, Variance request, 7153 Middlebelt Road is proposing to establish a gas station. Gas Stations require a land area of 20,000 square ft.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the application may be examined at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135 during regular office hours until the date of the hearing. Written comments may be sent to the above address.

Publish: February 5, 2012



Giving the invocation

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-District 12, is joined at the podium by the Rev. Bob McDonald Thursday during the commission's twice-monthly meeting. McDonald, who has served as chaplain of the Westland Police Department since 2009, delivered the invocation before the commission's full board meeting. He also has served as chaplain of the Garden City Fire Department since 2004. He has been pastor of Fair Haven Baptist Church in Westland since 1991.

Westland man charged with sexual assault

A Westland man, charged with 20 counts of criminal sexual conduct, is being held in lieu of \$1 million as he awaits preliminary examination in 18th District Court. Gerald Raymond Baker, who turns 37 Thursday, also is facing six additional felony counts

of having sexually abusive material on his computer. A not guilty was entered for Baker. Baker has been in custody since his arraignment on Jan. 20. His preliminary examination was adjourned until Feb. 16 at the request of the defense attorney. "This is not a strang-

er case, he (Baker) was a family acquaintance," said Westland Police Sgt. Kyle Dawley, who identified the victims as two children under 10 years old. Neither are related to Baker. The charges allege the sexual abuse occurred throughout 2011 at Baker's Westland home.

St. Raphael School auction goes tropical

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

It may be winter in Michigan, but you can pay a visit to the tropics when St. Raphael School holds its sixth annual "An Evening at the Tropics" on Saturday, Feb. 11.

The evening will include a Hawaiian-themed buffet dinner, music, raffles and live and silent auctions. "It's one of the big fundraisers for the school," said Michael Choi, who has been helping plan the event. "The money raised will help upgrade technology and academics and make improvement to the building and grounds that's not covered by tuition."

According to Choi, plans are to move the school's computer lab from the church office to the main school building. The lab would be set up beside the library and provide students with more access to the computers.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 each and included appetizers, the buffet dinner, two drink tickets for beer, wine, water and pop, and the chance to bid on a variety of items.

The dinner will be catered by Halina and include Hawaiian chicken and meatballs. Laura's Fine Catering will provide Hawaiian pulled pork. There also will be a All Around Town sweets table with desserts donated by local businesses like the Garden City Bake Shoppe and Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe.

Auction items include a Chicago Sheraton Hotel Package, Disney Hopper passes, Wheel of Fortune VIP tickets, sports memorabilia and wine tour. There also will be basket raffles, 50/50 raffles and deck of card raffles. St. Raphael's pastor, the Rev. Raymond Lewandowski, has made a donation: He's offering his services to prepare a barbecue dinner for four-six people. And even the students are making contributions of their handiwork for the raffles.

"The kids from each grade participated in a classroom project for this auction," Choi said. "Whether it was their handprint, signature, or artwork to personalize a piece of art, it's something the winning bidder will be proud to display as a memory of this

fine institution." Tickets for the classroom projects are \$3 each or four for \$10. They're available after the Masses today (Feb. 5) and during the event.

Just 300 tickets—the capacity of the school gymnasium—are available for the event. More than half have been sold, and organizers are making a final push for a sellout this week. Tickets are available after today's Masses and at the school office.

"They'll be available until we sell out," said Choi.

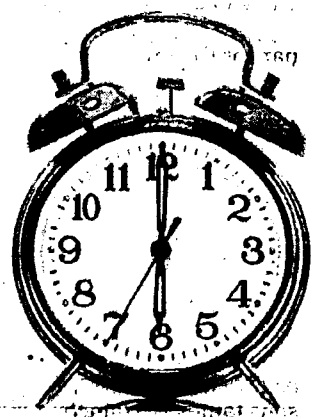
Work on the auction began working on the auction in October after the annual parish festival. The call went out for volunteers and Choi signed on. Admittedly the hardest part is getting items for the auctions.

"That's the toughest part," he said. "We have something for everybody. Someone donated an original oil painting, there's baskets of wine, Yankee Candles. People have very generous hearts."

For more information, call (734) 425-9771.

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- **Sleep Medicine Specialist, Amal Omran, MD**
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W-W families can apply for schools of choice

Residents of the Wayne-Westland Community Schools can take advantage of the district's schools of choice program for the 2012-13 year for students in kindergarten through eighth-grade.

The schools of choice program provides parents with the opportunity to move their children from one school to another within the boundaries of the school district provided there is room available in the school. Transportation to and from the school of choice must be provided by the parent or legal guardian.

School district residents who would like their child to attend an elementary or middle school other than their school of residency must submit a 2012-2013 schools of choice application which will be available in every Wayne-Westland school by Monday, Jan. 30.

Schools of choice applications for elementary school students, upper elementary students and middle school students will be accepted in the Pupil Accounting Office at the administrative services building at 36745 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland, between Jan. 30 and March 2. No schools of choice applications will be

accepted for high school students.

Applications received according to the timelines will permit, if space is available, selected students to begin the 2012-13 year in their school of choice. If more students apply for a grade or building than there are openings, a random selection process will be used to pick students. The names of students not selected at that time will be placed on a waiting list for the 2012-13 year.

Current schools of choice students must reapply to remain eligible next year. After the deadline, schools of choice applications will be accepted until Aug. 31 at the elementary or middle school the parent or guardian would like the child to attend. The names will be added to the 2012-13 school year waiting lists on a first-come, first-served basis.

Principals will use the waiting lists to notify qualified students of an opening. Building principals will be allowed to place schools of choice students only through Sept. 21. No schools of choice placements will be made after that date.

A schools of choice student could be moved back to his or her home school, if an overcrowding situation occurs in 10 weeks.

Way to spell



Wayne-Westland Upper Elementary Spelling Bee winner Ian Mass (center) is congratulated by retired Wayne-Westland Assistant Principal Earle Chorbagian (right) and Marshall Upper Elementary Principal Bobby Kelly Jr. Ian continued the family's winning ways. His sister Skyelar was the runner-up a few years ago. He now advances to the regional spelling bee in Detroit on March 3.

W-W adds more iPads, laptops to its learning arsenal

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools is continuing to use grant money to purchase more than \$500,000 in learning labs and new computer systems for schools in the district.

The school board approved the purchase of 13 iPad Learning Labs. A majority of the \$287,606 purchase price will be covered by 31a grant money the district receives for at-risk students as part of the State School Aid Act.

"The state has always been specific in the use of grant money," said Paul Salah, the deputy superintendent for instruction. "We've been able to use federal Title 1 and Title 2 and 31a grants to integrate different technologies into the classrooms."

Each mobile lab includes 30 iPad2 tablets and a MacBook laptop. Twelve labs are going to Edison, Elliott, Hamilton, Hoover, Roosevelt-McGrath, Walker-Winter and Wildwood Elementaries and Marshall Upper Elementary which will each get one lab, and

Franklin and Stevenson Middle schools will each get two.

The 13th lab will go to Wayne Memorial High School and will be paid for with the money the school received from Famous Footwear and Converse. The school won \$60,000 in the online contest last fall when Principal Valerie Orr's entry received the most votes.

Orr had said the money was going to be used for a literacy initiative at the school to provide support for struggling readers, computer software to help teachers identify

struggling readers "so we can move them into one of our many safety nets."

The district also is purchasing \$322,055 in Dell laptops and SafeHarbor security carts that will be put seven schools. Wayne Memorial and John Glenn High School, the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, Stevenson Middle School, and Taft-Galloway and Walker-Winter Elementaries will each get two wireless carts, containing 18 laptops.

The Tinkham Center will get four carts. Two will be used for its alternative high school program and two for its adult

and community education program.

The district was able to save on the costs of the iPads through the statewide cooperative purchasing via the REMC SAVE Bid Project. There also was additional savings because of the amount ordered.

However, the district did not bid out the Dell laptop purchase because Dell Marketing is the sole source for the laptops at the Dell Michigan K-12 education pricing.

The keep costs down, the district's network technicians will handle the hard drive imaging

for the laptops, according to Kevin Galbraith, the executive director of technology.

This isn't the first time Wayne-Westland has been able to use grant money to update its technology. Last year the district used more than \$1 million in federal Title I and special education IDEA carryover money to purchase interactive whiteboard tablets, notebooks and computer station carts to expand and improve the use of technology across the district.

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George Love of the United States Tennis Association (left), Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski and Keith Harnos were among those turning out for the reopening of the Wayne Aquatic Center.

Swimmers line up for indoor pool's reopening

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

There was clearly some pent up demand as Wayne's indoor swimming pool reopened at 5:30 a.m. Wednesday. Sixteen people were waiting to hit the pool.

The Neighbor Acceptance agreement lets Westland and Wayne residents use recreational facilities and programs in each city at resident rates. As a result, Westland Mayor William Wild, Councilman Adam Hammons and Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski joined Wayne Mayor Al Haidous, Wayne Parks and Recreation Director Nathan Adams and other Wayne city officials at the grand reopening ceremony.

Wayne's Ted D'Pulos Pool has a full schedule of open swimming water fitness classes, swim lessons and other activities. In addition to a standard swimming pool, there are slides and splash areas.

To celebrate the pool reopening, there will be special offers through Tuesday, Feb. 7, including free open swimming and water fitness classes, dis-

counts on birthday parties and swim lessons.

For more information, (734) 721-7400 or visit at www.ci.wayne.mi.us.

Membership at the Wayne Aquatic Center, located at 4635 Howe, includes Cardio-Theater Area, Wellness Area, Whirlpool, Open Ice Skating, Dry and Wet Saunas, Locker Rooms, a free 15-minute orientation, Walk/Jog Indoor Track and Indoor Pool.

Westland's Bailey Recreation Center has an outdoor swimming pool, so the pool reopening allows residents a chance to enjoy a pool over the winter, said Kosowski. The goal of the Neighbor Acceptance Plan is to provide access to more facilities and increase participation in both communities.

"We keep track of the numbers (of Wayne residents) at the golf course and room rentals but not for walk-ins like using the gym," said Kosowski. "I know there are kids from Wayne using the (Mike Modano) arena. I know

our numbers are up."

lrogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428

Bowl for Braille books

WMGC's Chris Edmonds will be the emcee at Seedlings' 25th annual Bowling for Braille Books Saturday, March 25, at Plaza Lanes in Plymouth.

The event, presented by Ameriprise Financial, celebrates Seedlings' 25th anniversary. Registration starts at noon, with bowling beginning at 1 p.m.

The event helps place braille books into the hands of blind children locally and around the world. There will be raffle prizes, a silent auction and prize packages for the top three bowlers who raise the most pledges. Bowlers who raise \$100 or more receive a bowling T-shirt and have a

braille book inscribed in their name. The first 25 bowlers to raise \$250 or more get their names entered into a drawing for a chance to win a Kindle Fire. Seedlings has set a 2012 goal of 25,000 braille books.

Bowlers will receive three games, shoes, lunch, a goody bag, and a free raffle ticket. Sponsorship opportunities are available to local businesses and organizations. Register now and reserve a spot at the event. Registration deadline is March 9, and the minimum donation per bowler is \$60.

For more information on the Bowling for Braille Books Event or on Seedlings, visit their website at

www.seedlings.org or call (734) 427-8552.

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a non-profit organization in Livonia dedicated to increasing the opportunity for braille literacy by providing high-quality, low-cost braille books for blind children. Every \$10 earned at this year's Bowling for Braille Books event will create one more book.

Last year, bowlers raised more than \$32,000 to provide blind children access to popular children's books in braille and to bring them the materials they need to read and succeed.

For more information, call (734) 427-8552 or visit www.seedlings.org.

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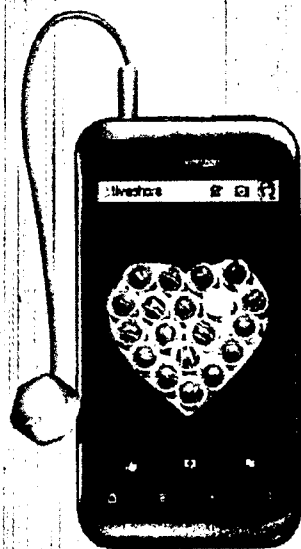
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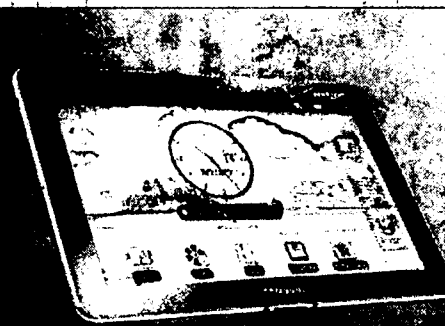
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the of Eric C. Bohn please contact H. Gregory Briese, Attorney at Law, 25355 Fairgrounds Blvd., Bush, La. 70431 or 985-886-1184. This pertains to foreclosure proceedings filed by Teche Federal Bank.

Publish: Jan. 29 and Feb. 5, 2012

OE08766338 114

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Frog survey training sessions set

Training sessions to participate in the 2012 Frog and Toad Survey will be held in March. Four area training sessions have been planned and the schedule is as follows;

- Saturday, March 3, from 10 a.m. to noon at Plymouth Township Hall, located at 9955 Haggerty Road.

- Tuesday, March 6, from 7-9 p.m. at Canton's Summit on the Park, located at 46000 Summit Parkway.

- Saturday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Livonia Civic Center Library, located at 32777 Five Mile Road.

- Saturday, March 17, from 10 a.m. to noon at Bloomfield Township Hall, located at 4200 Telegraph Road.

Each training session will focus on frog and toad identification skills in order to help volunteers determine different species out in the field. Frogs and toads are considered excellent indicators

of the environmental quality around us. The more species a site can support, the better the habitat.

Once trained, volunteers will spend five to 15 minutes at their site(s) each time they visit during the spring and early summer. Data will be gathered over two to four months and will be used by Friends of the Rouge to track changes in habitat and water quality. The information will also be utilized by local communities and state agencies in developing water quality improvement plans.

Training sessions are open to anyone, child or adult, who is concerned about the environment and wants to play an active role in monitoring its health. The sessions are free and pre-registration is required. To register, call the Friends of the Rouge at 313/792-9621 or e-mail monitoring@therouge.org.

Local store to host super hero smackdown

By Larry Ruehlen
Observer Staff Writer

Comic book fans from all over the area will soon converge on Redford for a not-so-serious debate — which team of super heroes will win the upcoming war between the Avengers and the X-Men.

"We are encouraging people to bring signs like a real political rally," said comic book aficionado Mike Mullins. "But we don't know how many people will go all out and wear a costume."

Mullins works at Back to the Past Pop Culture Warehouse, 12670 Inkster Road, which claims to be Michigan's largest comic book and pop culture store.

Starting at 6 p.m., Thursday, the store will host a local tie-in to Marvel Comics' blockbuster event of the Spring: Avengers vs. X-Men. The Redford Township shop's customers will pick a side and declare the store's allegiance via a vote fol-



Back to the Past employees Dennis McDermott and Pete Johnson take opposing sides in the upcoming Comic Book debate in Redford.

lowing a debate by representatives on each side of the conflict.

For those who don't read comics, this is a big deal amongst people who do.

Tens of thousands of comic book readers around the country, most of whom are adults who grew up reading about super heroes, are calling the special twelve-issue story sending The Avengers and the X-Men to war the biggest event in comic history.

Yes it's true, Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, Hulk, Black Widow, Spider-Man, Wolverine, Cyclops, Storm, Magneto and others will wage war and just one side will

escape total carnage in 2012.

"We are always excited when we get the chance to bring a comic event home to a local level," said Andrew Cirinesi, owner of Back to the Past.

Comic book fans are expected to engage in a political-style rally and debate over which side will emerge victorious in a comic book war to end all comic book wars. Representatives of each side of the conflict will present their case and customers will vote to determine which side the store is on.

The official debate starts at 7 p.m. Immediately following the debate, fans will be able to vote for their team

and determine the allegiance of the store for the Avengers vs. X-Men #1 release party coming in early April. The store's allegiance will determine what special offerings will be available at the release party.

"Of course, it wouldn't be a Back to the Past event without some goodies and giveaways," said Cirinesi. Attendees will be awarded a free magnetic badge declaring "I voted!" in both X-Men and Avengers flavors, prizes will be given for best signage/team support as well as a \$100 back issue gift certificate awarded to one lucky recipient on the winning side of the vote.

CITY OF WESTLAND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **February 17, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

Assessing Services

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at (734) 467-3204 or at <http://www.cityofwestland.com>. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

William Gabriel
City Controller

Publish: February 5, 2012

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY Notice of Election

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Garden City, Wayne County, Michigan:

Notice is hereby given that the Presidential Primary will be held in the City of Garden City on,

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012

From 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the following polling places:

Precinct 1	Farmington School 33411 Marquette
Precinct 2	Memorial School 30001 Marquette
Precinct 3	Lathers School 28351 Marquette
Precinct 4	Lathers School 28351 Marquette
Precinct 5	Memorial School 30001 Marquette
Precinct 6	Garden City Middle School 1851 Radcliff
Precinct 7	Maplewood Center 31735 Maplewood
Precinct 8	Henry Ruff School 30300 Maplewood
Precinct 9	Civic Center 6000 Middlebelt
Precinct 10	Douglas School 6400 Hartel

Candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties seeking nominations for the following office are to be voted upon:

President of the United States

All polling places are handicapper accessible. To obtain election instructions in an alternative format (audio or Braille), contact the Clerk's Office at 734-793-1620 prior to Election Day. If you anticipate difficulties at your normal polling place please phone the City Clerk's Office to arrange an alternate location. Absentee Ballots for this Election are available at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt, through 4:00 P.M., Monday, February 27, 2012, to anyone who meets one of the following requirements: Electors age 60 or older; Electors who expect to be absent from Garden City the entire time the polls are open on Election Day; Electors who are physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another; Electors who cannot attend the polls due to tenets of their religion; or Electors who are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial. Furthermore, any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union.

In addition to our regular hours, the City Clerk's Office will be open on Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the sole purpose of absentee voting.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS
CITY CLERK
CITY OF GARDEN CITY, MICHIGAN

Publish: February 19, 2012

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My brush with Super Bowl stardom

By Greg Kowalski
Eccentric Staff Writer

"Do you want to be on a Super Bowl commercial?"

How often do you get asked that kind of question?

The call came in about 8

p.m. on a Tuesday, and was completely unexpected. I knew the film crew was in town taping the commercial, but I did not expect to be asked to be part of it. If you have seen me, you know I have a face best suited for radio, but what the heck.



Greg Kowalski

"Sure," I said. "Be at St. Florian Church tomorrow at 5:30 a.m."

And I was. There were just a few people there when I arrived, one applying makeup to someone I didn't know, another filling out stacks of forms and a couple more sitting at a table. The basement of the church was used as a staging site for the production crew.

"We need you to sign some papers," the guy seated at the table said. And so it began - my career in show business. For the next eight hours I learned the intricacies of making a major TV commercial.

The crew was in town to make a commercial for the new Chevy Volt, but GM didn't want a typical commercial. They wanted to show what the car meant to Hamtramck. The GM Pole-town plant, where the Volt is manufactured, straddles the Detroit-Ham-

tramck border and is a principal supplier of tax income to Hamtramck. I got involved in the whole project because I am chairman of the Hamtramck Historical Commission, and I supplied background information for the producers to use.

And so shortly after 6 a.m. on a cold November morning I joined a van load of about eight people and we headed out across town to a donut shop.

The production crew - about 50 people in all - was already there and has set up lights and camera. We just needed to start the action. My role was tiny. I got to walk down the sidewalk across the street from the doughnut shop.

The real action was on an actual GM employee who stops by the shop every morning to pick up doughnuts for his coworkers at the GM plant.

Even though I was way in the back, one of the first things I learned in the production is that absolutely everything you get to see is tightly controlled. Even who is in the distant background.

A production guy with a radio stood close by but just out of camera range.

He gave me the cue when to start walking. We shot the scene about a dozen times over the next few hours before the director, who sat in a heated tent watching the action on a big screen TV, was satisfied.

When he was, we went back to the church to take part in an amazing buffet lunch. But by noon we were on the road again to a local house where we were shooting a second scene. This time, the camera crew was inside the house focusing on my friend and local business owner Joan Bitter, of the

Polish Art Center, feeding her bird in the window of the house. I'm outside, walking down the street again. By this time, I'm an old pro, and I hit every mark on cue.

And it was just like it was in the movies. The director called "action," the cameras rolled, then we heard "cut," and reset for another take - actually more than a dozen takes.

We wrapped up at about 2:30 p.m., and I must say it was a blast. The production crew members were friendly and extremely professional.

We were told the commercial likely would be broadcast during today's Super Bowl, but there as no guarantee, so you may see me and you may not.

Honestly, I don't really care. I did it for fun, although the \$340 they paid me didn't hurt.

And I did it to be part of the experience. I have some great memories, but this made me wish that Gov. Snyder would reconsider his stance on film production credits. These folks spent a lot of mon-

ey in town that can't be directly measured. Granted, they were doing a commercial, not a movie, but the point is they infused money into the local economy.

They hired many local people, like me, as well as professional producers from around the metro area. Film credits is a far bigger topic than can be explored here, but it deserves to be looked at again.

As for me, I have officially retired from show business.

Unless I get called again.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the Birmingham Eccentric. He can be reached at (586) 826-7393 or at gkowalski@hometownlife.com.

Citizens group hosts panel on restorative justice

The public is invited to a special panel discussion of restorative justice at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

This approach impacts families, classrooms, schools, prisons, workplaces, groups, governments and nations. In schools using restorative practices, incidents of misbehavior, bullying and violence have decreased.

The panel will discuss restorative conferencing and restorative practice peacemaking circles within diverse school and community settings. A seven-minute video will highlight Michigan State University student participation in the process. Panelists will speak from their expe-

riences as to what brought them to this work, describe results and achievements, and what their vision is for the future. The panelists are:

• Susan Butterwick, J.D., consulting director of family programs for Wayne Mediation Center.

• Marcia Lee, M.A., co-director for Cap Corps Midwest.

• Nancy Schertzing, M.S., a restorative justice coordinator with MSU's Department of Campus Living Services and Residence Life.

• Bill Sower, B.S., director of The Christopher and Virginia Sower Center for Successful Schools.

For more information, go to www.citizensforpeace11.blogspot.com or call (734) 425-0079.

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Oakwood physician

Nilesh M. Patel, MD

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Dr. Patel is a fellowship trained spine surgeon. He was a native of southeastern Michigan prior to his medical training in Ohio. Dr. Patel graduated with honors from

Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. He then went on to complete his orthopedic surgery residency at Summa Health System in Akron, Ohio. Dr. Patel concluded his training with a combined Orthopedic and Neurosurgical Spine Surgery fellowship at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston.

If you are encountering low back or neck pain, this event is for you.

To register for this FREE event, please call

800.543.WELL (9355)

DATE: Thursday, March 8, 2012

TIME: 6-8 p.m.

LOCATION: Oakwood Annapolis Hospital Conference Room 2
33155 Annapolis Street
Wayne, MI 48184

(Park in the West Lot and use the Outpatient entrance, then follow the signs).

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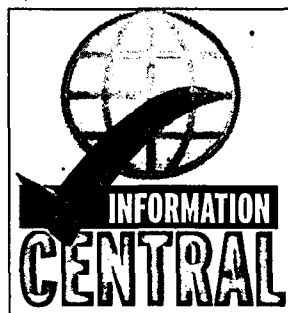
Langston Hughes and the black experiences

Langston Hughes is considered one of the most important American poets of the early 1900s and, by many standards, the most important African-American poet of his time. His work detailed the experiences of urban, working class blacks and was an important part of the Harlem Renaissance which raised into national prominence such artists as Hughes, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Bessie Smith, Jacob Lawrence and Zora Neale Hurston, just to name a few.

James Langston Hughes was born on Feb. 1, 1902, in Joplin, Missouri. He worked and traveled abroad after high school before making his way to New York City. He published his first book of poems, *The Weary Blues*, in 1926. This collection included one of his most famous poems, *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*, as well as the title poem, which illustrates Hughes' love for and incorporation of jazz rhythms into his poetry. His 1951 work, *Montage of a Dream Deferred*, contains perhaps his most far-reaching poem, regarding the American Dream: "What happens to a dream deferred? / Does it dry up / like a raisin in the sun?"

Hughes was a prolific writer in many genres, including fiction and drama, and his poems have been re-imagined into illustrated children's books. He wrote many short stories, most of which were about the character, Jesse B. Simple, also known as Simple, which also depicted the problems facing African Americans.

The Westland Public Library contains many volumes of Langston Hughes' work, including *The Best of Simple*, *Five Plays*, *The Langston Hughes Reader* and



The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes, including some fine audio recordings of his poetry. If you are a student, check out our databases (specifically Literature Resource Center) for information you are sure not to find online.

If you have any questions about Langston Hughes, don't hesitate to call the Reference Desk at the Westland Public Library at (734) 326-6123 or visit us anytime throughout the week at 6123 Central City Parkway, between Ford and Warren Road, or online at westlandlibrary.org

HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES

A Life in Food: Chef Reva Constantine, 7 p.m. Feb. 6

Join us for a special African American History Month celebration, as we spotlight local chef, Reva Constantine's, rise to executive chef status at Joe's Produce in Livonia, and also her recent first-place finish at the 2011 Arts, Beats and Eats Chef Dual (beating out seven other renown chefs from the Detroit area). Chef Reva will give a cooking demo as part of her talk. Save your seat by signing up online or call the library (734) 326-6123 or online at westlandlibrary.org/events.

Five Secrets to Permanent Weight Loss: 7 p.m. Feb. 7

Tired of all the weight loss programs you've tried and still can't take off and maintain a healthy weight? Fad diets are sometimes very dangerous and usually result in weight gain over time. Learn how you can turn your body into a fat burning machine and keep the weight off naturally through a completely natural approach to improve metabolism. Find out how to permanently lose the unwanted weight off and keep it off. This is the second of a four-part series presented by Dr. Brian Brackney, a member of the Foundation of Wellness Professionals. Save your seat by signing up online at westlandlibrary.org/events or call the library at (734) 326-6123.

Library Board of Trustees Meeting: 7 p.m.

Feb. 8

The Library Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the library. Board meetings are open to the general public.

Screenwriting: 7 p.m. Feb. 9

Screenwriter and novelist Drew Tierney leads a new, monthly library workshop in writing scripts for the big and small screens. Sign up by e-mail at andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org, if you're interested.

Friday Night Movie: 7 p.m. Feb. 10

Join us as we continue our Friday Night Movies throughout February. Tonight's movie is, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*. "During experiments to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease, a genetically-enhanced chimpanzee uses its greater intelligence to lead other apes to freedom." (imdb.com) This movie is rated PG-13. Snacks and refreshments will be served. Trivia and prizes. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Movie starts at 7 p.m. No reservations needed.

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

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

Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the Library: 7 p.m. every Wednesday. Everyone welcome, including crocheters.

Chess Group: 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays

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Computer classes are offered all year long. Contact the library to find out more. The library offers One-on-one computer classes. Call (734) 326-6123.

Information Central was compiled by Andy Schuck, library programs and adult services. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

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Jam session

Canton mom trades records for recipes

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Former record promoter Christine Laming used to push new jams to radio stations — that is, before she started making jam and jelly in her own kitchen.

Now, this Canton mother of three has abandoned hit songs for hip flavors like raspberry jalapeno, cinnamon pear, cranberry orange and strawberry lemon poppyseed. "My love is cooking," Laming said, stirring a batch of Michigan apple pie jam on her stove.

Her home-based business, Jam by Hand, evolved after she and husband Gerald made a trip a couple of strawberry-picking seasons ago to an Ypsilanti produce farm.

"We ended up picking 40 pounds of strawberries," said Laming, who had little access to such farms growing up on Long Island, just outside New York City.

Pondering the fate of her small mountain of strawberries, Laming stopped at Meijer, bought canning jars, pectin — a substance that helps firm up jam — and other ingredients she needed to try her luck.

"It was awesome," she said. "It was like no other jam we had ever tasted. We had so much jam we started giving it to people."

Starting up

They told her that she should sell it. So she

researched Michigan's cottage-industry laws governing home businesses and started Jam by Hand.

The rest is sweet history, though some recipes certainly turn up the heat — like the one that blends habanero peppers with apricots, onions and red peppers.

Laming even has one recipe called Marmalade for YaYa — the Greek word her children, Zoe, 6, and twins Sophia and Emma, 4, use for their grandmother, Rene Conte. Its flavors blend grapefruit, orange, lemon, clementine and pineapple.

With nearly 20 flavors in season, Laming's recipes cost \$6 for an 8-ounce jar and can be found at places such as the Canton Winter Market, which returns 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 12, March 18 and April 22 inside the historic Cady-Boyer Barn in Preservation Park, on Ridge north of Cherry Hill.

Market manager Tina Lloyd said patrons often return because they are eager to buy products sold by local vendors like Laming, whose customers get 50 cents off their next purchase when they return their jars.

"Most people leave the Winter Market with something in hand," Lloyd said, adding that patrons also enjoy supporting the local economy.

Taste matters

But really, it's the taste



Christine Laming's finished product is ready for the market.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christine Laming stirs one of her jam recipes, part of her home-based Jam by Hand business.

that matters — and sampling Jam by Hand flavors in Laming's kitchen quickly indicates there are no wrong choices. Raspberry jalapeno?

"It's my best seller," Laming said.

Carrot cake jam? "That's a favorite, for sure."

Laming offers her recipes at events such as wedding parties and baby showers, and she assembles baskets for holidays such as Mother's Day. She has started a Jam by Hand Facebook page to tout her goods.

She estimated she spends three hours a day making jam, jelly and, occasionally, marmalade

— often when the twins are napping or sometimes late at night. Her husband, who has a window-company marketing job, sometimes helps out in the kitchen.

Laming created some of her own recipes and found other ideas on the Internet. She offers tips that take jam and jelly far beyond toast and biscuits.

Avid customer Amber Camiller uses the raspberry jalapeno jam with cream cheese and crackers, and she spreads an apple cider recipe over pork tenderloin to create a glaze.

Camiller also buys the low-sugar peach ber-

ry cobbler — made with sweet peaches, wild blueberries and cinnamon — which she describes as "so much better than store-bought" jam.

"I'm a pretty local customer," Camiller said. "I have tried a lot of her flavors."

Laming keeps her recipes in a binder she affectionately titled the Jam by Hand Manual of World Jam Domination. Her children used crayons to create the artwork.

Somehow, she finds time to lead a Girl Scout troop — the Miller Elementary First-Grade Daisies — which plans to collect pasta during Winter Market for Canton's Open

Door Ministry food pantry. She also is president of a group called Plymouth-Canton Mothers of Multiples.

Standing over her stove, Laming stirs her Michigan apple pie recipe of chopped apples, lemon zest and juice, cinnamon, raisins, nutmeg, apple juice and sugar.

"It will taste like apple pie filling when it's done," she said.

It's a far cry from her record-industry days of pushing jams to radio stations. Yet, it doesn't seem to matter for a woman who creates such sweet hits right in her own kitchen.

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LaShawn Grose, Business Office Manager.
LaShawn Grose is a wealth of information when it comes to Medicare, Medicaid, private and supplemental insurance — she helps families navigate coverage with as little out-of-pocket expense as possible.
LaShawn assists with all paperwork, easing the burden on families and patients. "It can be confusing to residents and families," said LaShawn. "I spend a lot of time and go over every detail. It's a lot to handle, especially if it's your first time placing a loved one."
Few families are aware that Medicare pays for the first 20 days at 100 percent, then co-pays for days 21 to 100. Depending on whether a patient has supplemental insurance, out-of-pocket expenses could be zero. If there is no secondary coverage, LaShawn encourages the patient to apply for Medicaid.
"It all has to be done in a timely fashion or families could miss out on coverage benefits."

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There are ways to invest tax efficiently

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I feel a little guilty that 2011 was my best year ever. I'm in sales and I am considered self-employed. I have an individual 401(k) Plan which I have fully funded. I have another \$50,000 which I would like to invest for my retirement. I have been approached about buying a variable annuity, but after doing some research including your past columns, I don't want to pursue a variable annuity. Is there any other type of investment vehicle that I can consider that would give me some sort of tax advantage?

A: Congratulations on 2011 being your best year. As far as I'm concerned, there is nothing to feel guilty about. Sometimes it seems that with all the political rhetoric that people who make a good living are somehow the bad guys. Nothing can be further from the truth. The fact that you work hard and have been successful is something to be celebrated.

In addition, you should be commended for wanting to put more towards your retirement. All too often when people receive bonuses or have an exceptionally good year, they look at spending the money as opposed to investing it. You're one of the smart ones that isn't adjusting your life-

style to your best year ever but rather, you are continuing to be responsible and put money away for your future.

Unfortunately there are no retirement vehicles with tax advantages that you can use in addition to your 401(k) Plan. However, that doesn't mean that you cannot invest tax efficiently for your retirement. By investing in things like equities, the tax consequences would generally be taxed at your capital gain rate which at the present time is a maximum of 15 percent. Remember, when you invest in a tax advantage retirement vehicle like your 401(k) Plan, the money grows tax deferred, however, it is eventually taxed at your ordinary income bracket. In your situation, your capital gain rate is half what your ordinary income bracket is. Therefore, even though you're not taking advantage of the tax deferral, you are getting another tax break in the fact that you're getting capital gain treatment.

Another advantage of investing outside of a traditional tax deferred account is the fact that you can use tax-free bonds in the portfolio. Typically, you would not want to use tax-free bonds in a 401(k) Plan, IRA or other tax deferred accounts. The reason is that when the money is withdrawn from the tax deferred account, such as a traditional IRA, it is subject to income tax. Therefore, you do not get the benefit of the tax-free character of municipal bonds. However, if you invest in tax-free bonds

outside a tax-deferred account, you do get the benefit.

There's no doubt that tax-deferral is nice, however, it is not worth as much as many people think it is. Remember, in a tax-deferred account when the money is withdrawn it is subject to ordinary income tax. In other words, you can't take advantage of tax-free investments such as municipal bonds or you cannot take advantage of the favorable capital gain rate. Therefore, tax deferral is not worth as much as people assume. Of course the one caveat is if tax laws change. If the capital gain rate is raised, then tax deferral would more likely than not be worth more than it is today. At the present time, tax deferral is important but it is not the end-all.

One last point to stress is how important it is that everyone lives within his/her means. When you receive a bonus, treat it as such. Too many people take bonuses for granted and assume that they will always be there, that is not the case. Especially in these trying economic times, the last thing that anyone should or can depend upon is a bonus, and if you're lucky enough to receive one, make sure that you don't make the mistake and assume that it will always be there. 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.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Engineering firm preps Super Bowl party site

By Matt Jachman
Observer Staff Writer

Super Bowl XLVI fans who are partying on Georgia Street in downtown Indianapolis this weekend have a Plymouth Township firm to thank for helping ensure their safety.

Soils and Materials Engineers Inc., a 48-year-old consulting firm that's had an office in the township since 1991, used advanced technology to "see" below Georgia Street sidewalks as plans were developed for a \$12.5 million streetscape project. Two blocks of Georgia Street, a stone's throw from Lucas Oil Stadium, were remade into a pedestrian-friendly entertainment district that is now hosting the official Super Bowl Village in anticipation of today's big game between the New York Giants and the New England Patriots.

Keith Toro of Canton Township, a senior project engineer at SME, used impulse radar, which bounces an electrical signal into concrete and uses software to form a picture of it, to look beneath the sidewalks, many of which are above the extended basements of downtown Indianapolis buildings, some dating back more than 100 years. Construction engineers wanted to make sure the substructures would support the loads expected on the new brick paver sidewalks they planned to install.

While impulse radar has been around for a while, Toro said, the software that translates its data is new and draws



Civil engineer Keith Toro of Canton Township with the impulse radar unit that helped him "see" beneath the sidewalks on Georgia Street in downtown Indianapolis. Toro works for Soils and Materials Engineers Inc. in Plymouth Township.

a vivid image of what's below.

"I can show somebody that's never dealt with concrete, and say, 'Look, there're three steel bars,'" Toro said Thursday. "It's a great picture of what's actually in the concrete."

The impulse radar unit, which Toro passed over a variety of Georgia Street test areas in a grid pattern, can detect different elements of the world under the sidewalk, such as reinforcing bars — something engineers want to see — pipes, utility conduits, voids and even water (detected because the signal doesn't travel through it well). Unlike taking sample borings of the concrete, it's non-destructive.

The technology can even find different layers of concrete, and Toro, who looked at inch-deep slices of the Georgia Street sidewalk, said there were some areas that obviously had more than one layer.

Although the sidewalk data was turned over to construction engineers,

"I don't think we saw anything that was something that we said, 'Wow, this isn't capable of handling a load,'" said Toro, who also teaches at Lawrence Technological University.

The basements underneath the downtown sidewalks were often originally built to house coal bins, steam pipes or for other utilities, and Toro said they still provide some of those functions, plus some others — like storage and even a prep kitchen for a restaurant.

"It's just amazing, the variety of what was going on," he said. The thicknesses of the concrete structures between the basement ceilings and the sidewalk above ranged from about 10 to 18 inches, with some a little bit deeper, he said.

Above ground, the impulse radar device attracted a lot of attention when Toro worked with it in the summer of 2009.

"I think I explained what I was doing in general terms about 200 times," he said.



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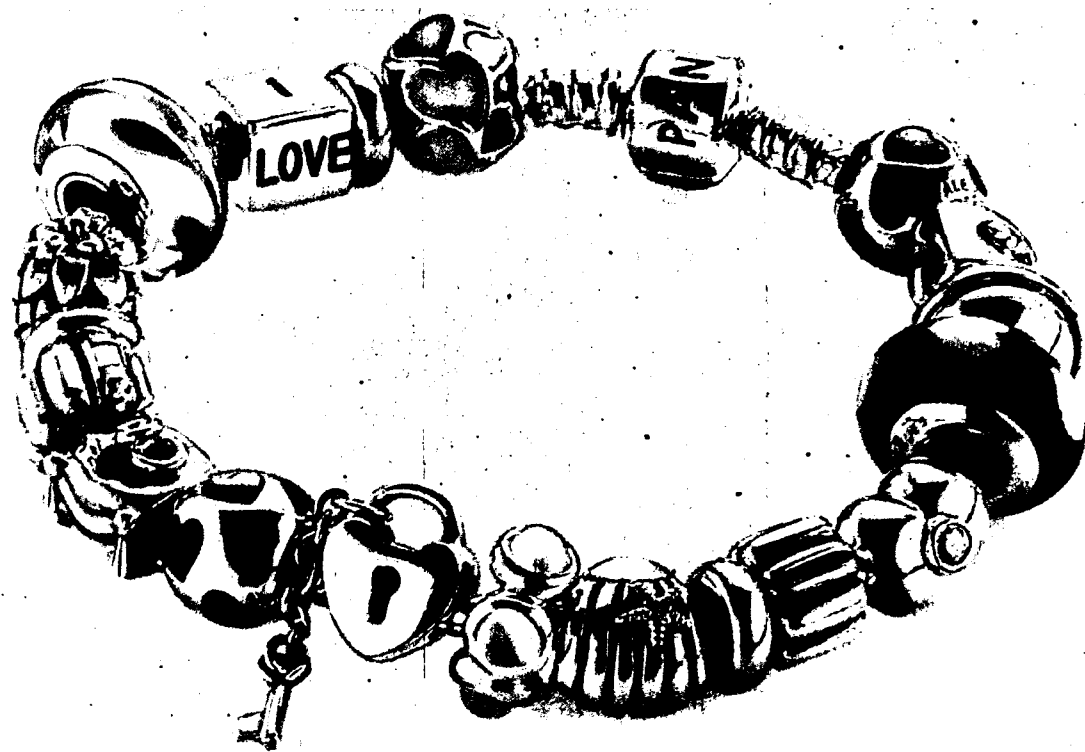
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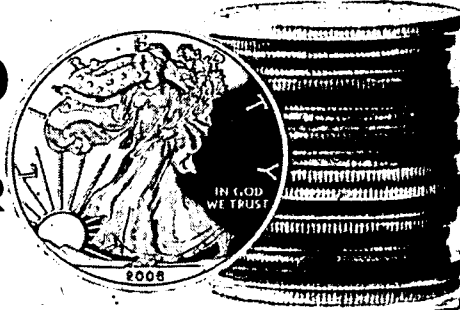
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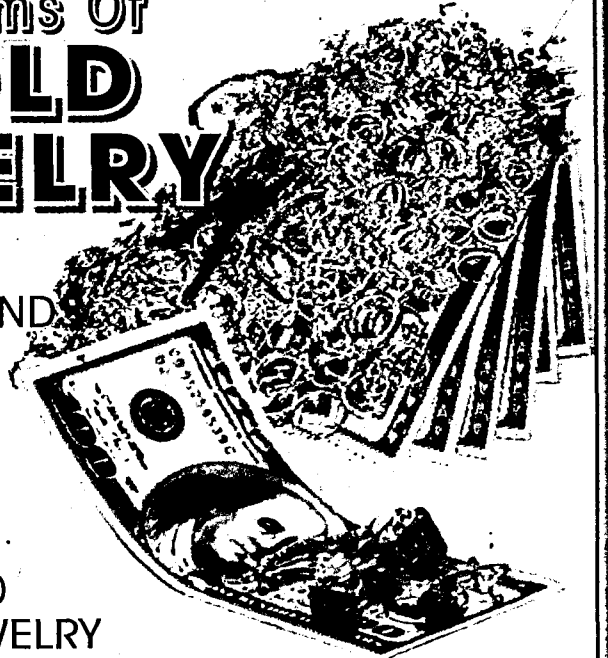
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SPORTS

Spartans turn tables on rival, 6-4

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Having gone through a 10-day gauntlet of playing two No. 1 state-ranked teams and the defending Division 1 state champs, Livonia Stevenson faced yet another stiff challenge Friday night at Edgar Arena.

The Spartans, coming off losses to Novi, Detroit Catholic Central and Trenton, overcame a 4-1 second-period deficit to stun rival Livonia Churchill, the fourth-ranked team in Division 1, 6-4.

Stevenson also avenged a 4-0 setback to Churchill on Nov. 23.

"We needed a win, and to get a win in a Churchill game like this, it makes it all the more special because they're such a good team, and a well-coached team," said Stevenson coach David Mitchell, whose Spartans improved to 11-7 overall and 6-3 in the KLAA's Central Division. "They (Churchill) are having a great year, so to do it tonight was pretty special."

The loss dropped Churchill to 14-4 overall and 6-3 in the KLAA South (now tied with Canton for



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Stevenson's Thomas Ross (9) tries to wrestle away the puck from Churchill's Andrew Puishes (2) during Friday's Kensington Conference crossover at Livonia's Edgar Arena.

Please see HOCKEY, B3

MU baseball aces lauded

Collegiate Baseball has announced its 2012 NAIA Preseason All-America team and Players to Watch list and three Madonna University pitchers were among the honorees.

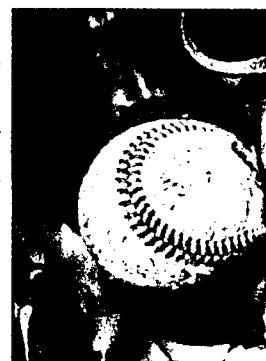
Junior right-hander Jeremy Gooding (Livonia/Dearborn Divine Child) was named to the publication's All-America team, earning his second preseason All-America honor this year.

As a sophomore in 2011, the Crusaders' top starter earned Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Year and NAIA All-America first-team honors after going 9-0 with a 1.10 earned run average to lead the nation in ERA.

Gooding was joined on the watch list by a pair of Crusader newcomers in right-handed pitchers Matthew Cook, a Dresden, Ontario native and transfer from Indian Hill (Ia.) Community College, along with Hicksville, Ohio native Josh Vandemark, a transfer from Glen Oaks CC.

The 6-foot-3 Cook struck out 107 batters in his two seasons at Indian Hills CC, while Vandemark earned NJCAA All-America first team honors last season after striking out 63 hitters and posting a 2.35 ERA with an 8-3 record in 68 innings of work.

The No. 23-ranked Crusaders, winners of the last four and six of the last seven Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference championships, begin their 2012 season on Feb. 9 against Oregon Tech in Costa Mesa, Calif.



Lee gives fishing talk

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.

Please see SWIM, B3

BOYS HOOPS

Rocks rout Stevenson in rematch

By Tim Smith
Observer Staff Writer

Two varsity boys basketball teams had things going at different ends of the spectrum Friday night and the result was predictably lopsided.

For host Salem, winners by a 65-31 score, coach Bob Brodie's machine of interchangeable parts zoomed from the start of the KLAA Central Division tilt against Livonia Stevenson.

Conversely, the Spartans had such a tough night they might have wished the team bus had stayed home.

"We've been doing that most of the year, it's a total team effort," said Brodie, whose team improved to 12-2 overall and 6-2 (first place) in the Central. "That always pays dividends later in the year. It pays dividends when you get in foul trouble, it keeps kids fresh and involved in the game."

"Everybody contributed well tonight, I was happy with it."

Stevenson coach Brandon Sinawi, however, could only watch as his team made just 10 of

54 field-goal attempts (including 2-21 from behind the three-point arc).

The Spartans (7-5, 3-5) also were outboarded, 53-23.

Errant shooting and trouble around the glass made it tough for Stevenson to mount any comeback after falling behind 31-18 at half-time.

"We obviously struggled offensively, we didn't have a rhythm as far as trying to get good looks," Sinawi said. "And even when we did get good looks we were off. We had guys hitting the backboard, we had guys missing shots they normally would make."

"Obviously, Salem played tough. They made their shots and that was the difference."

A signal that it was Salem's night came at the end of the first quarter, when senior guard Markus Olind's shot from beyond the top of the arc banked in off the glass at the horn to make it a 18-12 game.

Another highlight was a layup by 6-foot-

Please see HOOPS, B3



Livonia Stevenson senior offensive lineman Kevin D'Arcy was all smiles Wednesday after signing an NCAA Division I letter-of-intent with Central Michigan University.

Big-time recruits Pats' Clay, Spartans' D'Arcy sign letters

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Because they were too big as eighth-graders, Adam Clay and Kevin D'Arcy weren't even relevant on the football field.

Almost five years later, the two offensive linemen are off to play big-time college football.

Clay, a 6-foot-4, 285-pound tackle from Livonia Franklin, signed an NCAA letter-of-intent Wednesday to play with Southern Illinois, a Bowl Championship Series (formerly Division I-AA) school.

D'Arcy, a 6-4, 300-pound offensive lineman from Livonia Stevenson, also signed Wednesday with Central Michigan University, an NCAA Division I program.



Adam Clay

"I played third through the seventh grades, then couldn't make the weight limit my eighth-grade year in CYO," said D'Arcy, a first-team All-Observer pick this year. "In the eighth grade I weighed 200 pounds, now I'm 300. I started this season at 270."

Clay, meanwhile, never played football until he arrived at Franklin as a freshman.

He had played other sports including basketball and baseball, and participated in track and field as a thrower starting as a seventh-grader at Emerson Middle School.

"The whole football thing was new to me," said Clay, a two-time first-team All-Observer selection. "I always wanted to play as a kid, but because of the LJAL (Livonia Junior Athletic League) and their (weight) limitations, I was always too big. The first time I could really play was at Franklin, and I was

Please see RECRUITS, B4

BOYS SWIMMING

Rocket tankers motor to another victory

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

The motto for the Westland John Glenn boys swimming and diving squad this year is: "Dangerous when wet."

And the Rockets haven't slipped on top of the pool deck or in the water so far this season as they ran their overall dual-meet record to an impressive 7-0 with a 103-78 triumph Thursday night at home over rival Wayne Memorial.

It was Senior Night for the Rockets, who also improved to 4-0 in the KLAA's South Division. Glenn can wrap up the dual-meet divisional crown next Thursday

with a win at Plymouth.

"They're a special group," Glenn sixth-year coach Bob Harding said of his senior class.

"They're part of the resurgence of the program. It's 11 kids, a large group by any school. A number of them chose to become year-round swimmers. If you're going to be successful at the next levels of swimming, you have to train year-round."

"They made some choices and their parents paid the monies so that they could train in the summer. They're just great kids and a whole great class no matter what happens."

Once again it was the Wakeford brothers, Joey and Josh,

who figured prominently in the victory.

They have become two of the school's most talented swimmers to come through since Matt Martin - who still owns seven school records from the early 1990s - when he dominated area swimming before heading off to Stanford University.

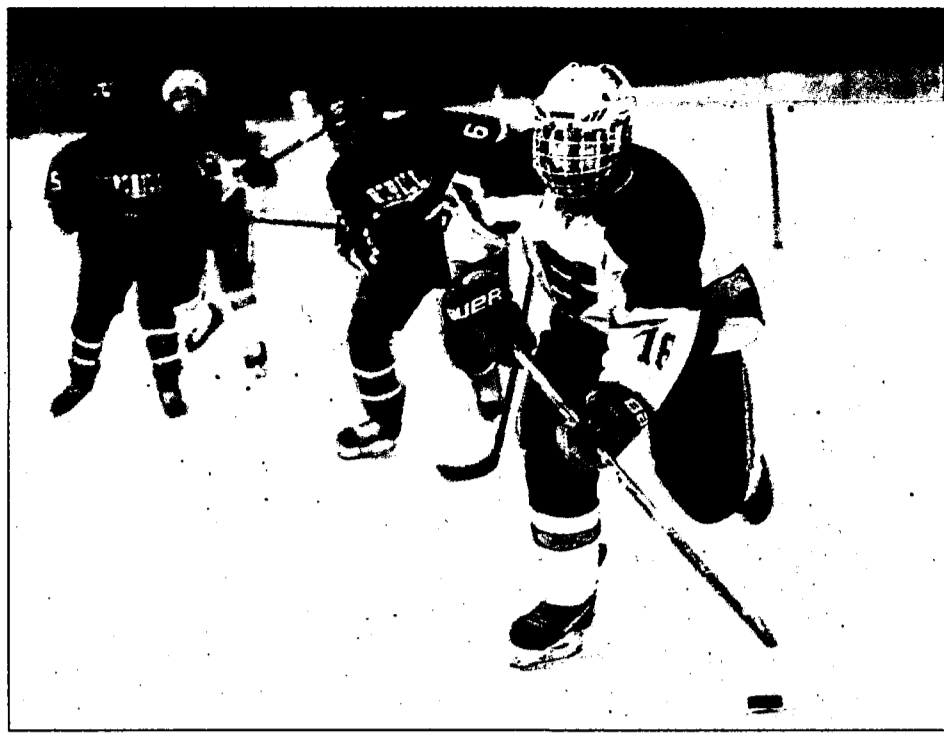
Josh, a junior, captured the 200-yard freestyle (1:51.08) and 100 butterfly (57.86), while Joey, a senior, took the 200-yard individual medley (2:08.57).

The brothers also teamed up with Dave Vader and Nick Stone for a first in the 200 freestyle relay (1:34.54).

"Joey (Wakeford) was ninth

in the state last year in the 100 back," Harding said. "His time would have put him in the top eight. So our goal is to be All-State, which is top eight. We're looking for a second event to qualify in, either probably the 100 free or 100 fly."

"Josh would like to probably qualify in the 200 (freestyle) and the 100 fly. We need to qualify our 200 free relay. We're a couple seconds off, so we're close. We hope to do those things at the MISCA meet (Feb. 11) at Eastern Michigan (University) where the (MHSAA Division 1) state meet is at. It's a great rehearsal for



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Devin Kelly scores the first goal of the game for Stevenson in Friday's 6-4 triumph at Livonia's Edgar Arena.

HOCKEY

Continued from page B1

first). Stevenson's Devin Kelly opened the scoring at 1:58 of the first period off an assist from the speedy Thomas Ross.

But Churchill got the next four, including a goal by Riley Brown on a four-on-four situation from Ben Proben and Andrew Puishes at 9:37, along with another on Jake Otto's power-play goal from Proben and Devin Smythe at 13:19 of the first period.

The Chargers added two more in the second on Smythe's goal from Otto and Nick Proben followed by Mike Rybinski's goal from Michael Gambino at 10:20.

But Stevenson showed some life by cutting the deficit to 4-3 during the final 3:31 of the second on goals by Travis Harvey (from Cam Tetrault off a two-on-one situation) and Ross on a breakaway (from Chris McDonald and Jake Kierdorf) just 18 seconds before the period ended.

"That was a big goal," Mitchell said of Ross's tally. "When it was 4-1 we were just thinking we have to try and slow them

down, and stop it here. We were doing everything, but they're such a good skating team ... and they kept coming and coming. We were able to get a couple of goals and slow their momentum down a little bit."

Stevenson carried that momentum into the third as sophomore Dominic Lutz scored twice just 35 seconds apart.

Nate Sink assisted on the game-tying goal at 6:01 and Harvey assisted on the second at 6:36 to put the Spartans ahead for keeps.

And despite Churchill coach Pete Mazzone switching goaltenders — Chris Adams for starter Alex Estes — the Spartans continued to surge when Sink caught a rebound off the backboards and scored with only 2:41 remaining from Tetrault and Lutz to make it a two-goal cushion.

"The kid (Lutz) is growing up," Mitchell said. "He's a sophomore. He scored a bunch of goals at the beginning of the year, then he's had a dry spell. I'm so happy for him, I couldn't be prouder of him. He's just a complete hockey player and works so hard. So he deserves this. Ross as well. He's a senior and understands

the importance of a Stevenson-Churchill game. To have that type of performance in this type of game ... again, I couldn't be happier for these kids."

Churchill outshot the Spartans, 29-23, but came out on the short end.

"We had a couple of bad line changes," Mazzone said. "But when you have a 4-1 lead, you have to close it out and we've got to get some better stops from our goaltender."

"I felt pretty good about the way we were starting, but the guys got content with the way they were, and quit working. But give Stevenson credit. We need to be mentally tougher."

With 4:37 remaining and the Spartans trying to protect a 5-4 lead, Stevenson junior goaltender Mike Kanitra stopped Brown on a point-blank attempt.

It proved to be the save of the game.

"Mike came up big when he needed to because that (Churchill) team doesn't stop coming," Mitchell said. "He made some big stops in there and allowed us to get the victory."

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HOOPS

Continued from page B1

8 senior center Ryan Jankowski, in just his third game back after recovering from the broken ankle he suffered during football season.

"He did a nice job for us the minutes he was in," Brodie said.

Jankowski joined teammates such as 6-7 junior forward Chris Dierker (10 points, 15 rebounds) and 6-6 senior forward Josh Peterson (nine points, 12 boards) for a formidable low-post trio.

The Rocks had plenty of other options, too.

Senior guard Tyler Stewart and junior guard Kevin Mack each scored nine points while Olind and junior guard Nate Sass added seven apiece.

For the Spartans, senior guard Boulos Saba and senior forward Carey Cobb scored 13 and nine points, respectively.

According to Brodie, he talked to his team about coming out harder and stronger than the first time the Rocks and Spartans met. That time, Stevenson scored 25 points in the first.

"We made a point tonight we were going to get after them and play good, solid defense the whole way," Brodie said. "I was happy with



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson's Vince Tomasi (left) takes Salem defender Cameron Werner off the dribble drive during Friday's KLAACentral Division clash.

the energy level the kids played with tonight. They really came out charged up and did it on both ends of the floor.

"They shared the ball and we got our running game back, which we haven't had in a while. We absolutely pounded the glass which was real important."

Now with division games this week against Novi and South Lyon, the Rocks only need to win to at least earn a share of the KLAACentral title.

"We just got to take care of our own destiny right now," he added.

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PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

KLAACentral Results Feb. 1 at W.L. Western

WAYNE MEMORIAL 60 LIVONIA STEVENSON 16

103 pounds: Jake Preiss (WM) won by void; **112:** Tyler Mulligan (WM) pinned Emmanuel Austin, 2:26; **119:** Tim Way (WM) won by void; **125:** Joseph Frazee (WM) won by void; **130:** Devon Adams (WM) p. Shaun Lopes, 0:49; **135:** Kody Roy (LS) won by major decision over Michael Nicholson, 33-2; **140:** Samer Shebak (LS) p. Kevin Marz, 0:42; **145:** Micheil Hood (WM) won by major dec. over Connor Vaughan, 9-1; **152:** Sharif Hegazi (WM) p. Joe Carroll, 1:10; **160:** Sam Ekanem (WM) dec. Jacob Kelley, 6-2; **171:** Lucas Hofbauer (WM) p. Brad Scott, 2:30; **189:** Devin Korzетки (WM) dec. Joe Scott, 3-1; **215:** Jacob Range (LS) p. Colin Mullins, 1:11; **285:** Dimitrus Renfro (WM) won by void.

WAYNE MEMORIAL 34 HOWELL 30

103 pounds: Mike Strayer (H) pinned Jake Preiss, 2:20; **119:** Marcus Wendel (H) p. Tyler Mulligan, 2:20; **119:** Tim Way (WM) won by major decision over Cole Gilmer, 15-3; **125:** Ben Calandrino (H) p. Joseph Frazee, 0:36; **130:** Devon Adams (WM) won by major dec. over Joe Branchea, 14-4; **135:** Jacob See (H) dec. Michael Nicholson, 6-4; **140:** Hayden Hughes (H) dec. Allen Parker, 7-6; **145:** Dan Honkala (H) dec. Micheil Hood, 12-6; **152:** Sharif Hegazi (WM) won by technical fall over Andrew Huff, 15-0; **160:** Sam Ekanem (WM) won by tech. fall over Kurtis Tank, 16-0; **171:** Lucas Hofbauer (WM) p. Jared Trela, 0:47; **189:** Devin Korzетки (WM) won by major dec. over Brandon Pajur, 8-0; **215:** Dimitrus Renfro (WM) p. Robert Keefer, 2:42; **285:** Cameron Englund (H) p. Tyler Casteels, 2:42.

Wayne's dual match record: 14-1 overall.

SWIM

Continued from page B1

our kids going to the state meet."

Other Glenn individual winners included Ainsworth Orr, 1-meter diving (187.60 points); Cody Hodges, 100 freestyle (55.22); Jake Ferguson, 500 freestyle (5:07.42); and Tim Moran, 100 breaststroke (1:13.89).

Wayne, meanwhile, got a strong performance from Zach Williamson, who figured in four firsts.

The senior hit the wall first in the 50 freestyle (23.74) and 100 backstroke (1:01.84). He also teamed up with Nick Williams, Clint Smith and Devin Gibson to win the 200 medley relay (1:55.06) and anchored the first-place 400 freestyle relay quartet along with Mike Stover, Williams and Noah Karson (3:46.02).

"We're developing pretty well, but we're young and inexperienced," said Wayne coach Mike Grueber, whose team slipped to 2-4 overall and 1-3 in the KLAACentral South. "It's kind of been a work in progress, but we're getting there. We're still making some mistakes, but they're minor ones now and they're not so big."

"We have five MISCA (meet) cuts — (Mike) Stover in the 200- and 500 freestyles; (Zach) Williamson in 50 free and

100 back; and Nick Williams in the 100 fly.

"I'm pleased. We're taking steps in the right direction."

Glenn got off to a somewhat rough start as one of its contending 200 medley relay teams was disqualified.

"It was a different lineup than what it normally is, not sure what the hiccup was," said Harding, who was once the longtime coach at Southfield High. "It happens. We felt we were strong enough that it didn't mean the meet."

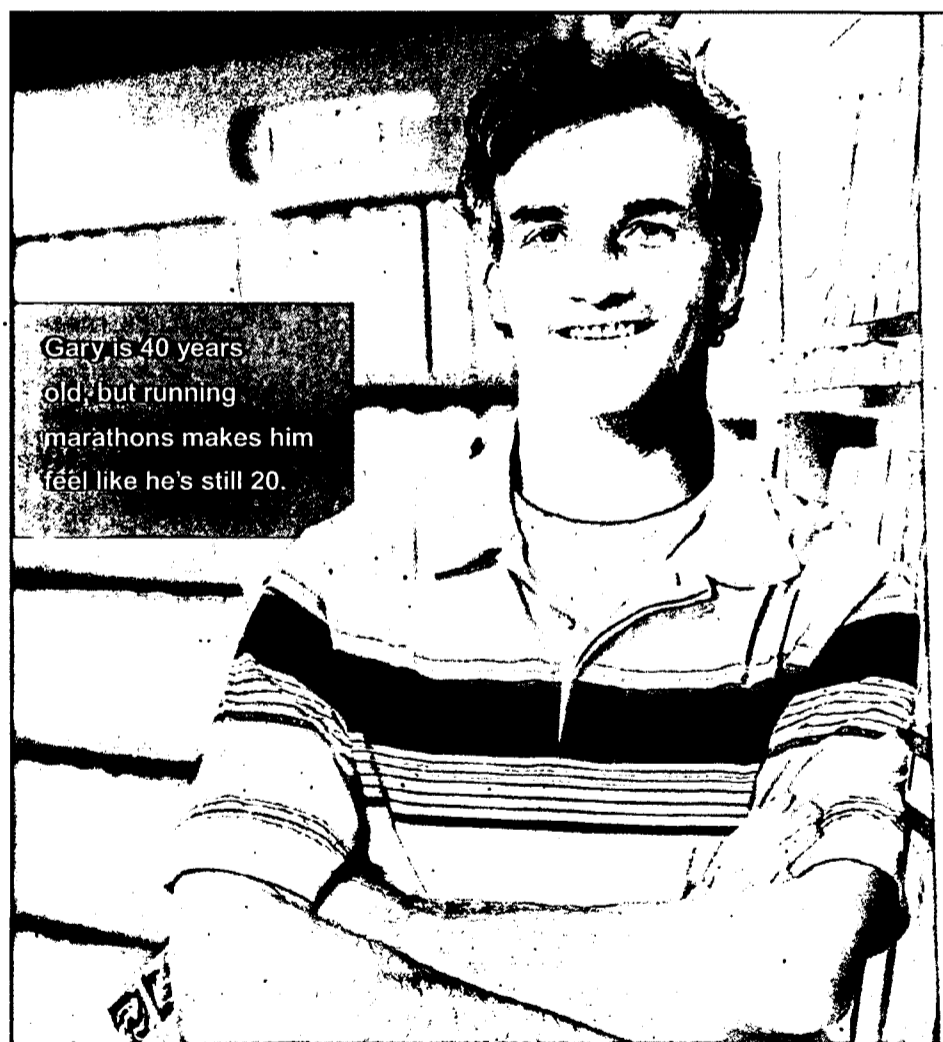
Grueber, meanwhile, believes the Rockets can win the KLAACentral South outright this year after finishing second a year ago. (Glenn will host the division meet on Feb. 17-18.)

"It's great they have a lot of kids out, which is a testament to Bob (Harding)," the Wayne coach said. "He's got a lot of good talent. They should do well at the (KLAACentral South) division meet and I hope they beat Canton."

And thanks to the core group of seniors, Glenn was coming off a big 94-92 dual meet victory Jan. 26 over Canton.

"Collectively they have set the standard," Harding said. "Next year's class will be challenged to follow up where they are now."

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BOYS SWIM RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 103 WAYNE MEMORIAL 78 Feb. 2 at John Glenn

200-yard medley relay: 1. Wayne (Zach Williamson, Nick Williams, Clint Smith, Devin Gibson), 1:55.06; 2. John Glenn Jason Burcicki, Razvan Sav, Jake Deering, Tim Green), 2:14.99; 3. Wayne (Daniel Malcolm, Tristan Coffin, Noah Karson, Ty Weatherwax), 2:15.81.

200 freestyle: 1. Josh Wakeford (WJG), 1:51.08; 2. Jake Ferguson (WJG), 1:55.85; 3. Mike Stover (WM), 1:57.54.

200 Individual medley: 1. Joey Wakeford (WJG), 2:08.57; 2. Burcicki (WJG), 2:10.88; 3. Tim Moran (WJG), 2:26.0.

50 freestyle: 1. Williamson (WM), 23.74; 2. Dave Vader (WJG), 23.77; 3. Nick Stone (WJG), 24.75.

1-meter diving: 1. Ainsworth Orr (WJG), 187.60 points; 2. Sean Taylor (WJG), 161.30; 3. Nick Taylor (WJG), 142.20.

100 butterfly: 1. Josh Wakeford (WJG), 57.86; 2. N. Williams (WM), 59.04; 3. Smith (WM), 1:01.57.

100 freestyle: 1. Cody Hodges (WJG), 55.22; 2. D. Gibson (WM), 59.5; 3. Michael Gibson (WM), 1:00.14.

500 freestyle: 1. Ferguson (WJG), 5:07.42; 2. Stover (WM), 5:15.95; 3. Aaron Alholinna (WJG), 5:40.07.

200 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Vader, Stone, Josh Wakeford, Joey Wakeford), 1:34.54; 2. Wayne (D. Gibson, N. Williams, Smith, Stover), 1:43.63; 3. Wayne (Karson, M. Gibson, Weatherwax, Zack Williams), 1:50.41.

100 backstroke: 1. Williamson (WM), 1:01.84; 2. John Kukulka (WJG), 1:00.75; 3. Burcicki (WJG), 1:19.32.

100 breaststroke: 1. Moran (WJG), 1:13.89; 2. Coffin (WM), 1:25.44; 3. A. Gibson (WM), 1:30.94.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Wayne (Stover, N. Williams, Karson, Williamson), 3:46.02; 2. John Glenn (Josh Wakeford, Vader, Ruben Maya, Ferguson), 3:47.94; 3. Wayne (M. Gibson, Z. Williams, Weatherwax, Coffin), 4:14.9.

Dual meet records: John Glenn, 7-0 overall, 4-0 KLAACentral South; Wayne, 2-4 overall, 1-3 KLAACentral South.

Can't wait to garden? Try lettuce, basil, pansies indoors

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

You've read all of the seed catalogues. You've bought packets of new seed varieties — from "Lofty Lady" marigolds to Turkish Orange eggplant — and loaded up on germinating mixture, potting soil, flats, pots and plant food.

You've heard the groundhog's report on six more weeks of winter, but you're ready to start sowing and growing seedlings indoors.

Resist that urge, says Alyce Humphrey, owner of Grays Greenhouse in Plymouth.

"People are so anxious to plant. It's a little too early for everything. But one thing you can try right now is lettuce. Get a packet of lettuce seeds. Don't plant the whole mass. Plant a little every week and you can keep harvesting it. Put it in your window. That will satisfy your need to plant something."

"It's so important that people have success when they plant. You want to have something that will work."

Parsley, cherry tomatoes, salvia, pansies, viola, double petunias and other flowers have already emerged as seedlings from the flats of growing mixture that share table space with mature plants at Grays's, a perfect winter escape for garden enthusiasts. Alyce and her husband, Richard, won't plant other tomato seeds or peppers until



Alyce Humphrey, greenhouse owner, cautions beginning gardeners against over-watering seedlings and giving them too much sun.

March. Marigolds won't go in until April.

"Some people like to start early," Richard said, adding that plants started too early indoors may become unwieldy while awaiting outdoor transplanting. "We have the perfect lighting here and most people don't have the right light. You can use fluorescent lights as long as you use cool white or blue and a warm red combination. The only problem with any kind of fluorescent lighting is that only the top of the plant is lit up. I've heard of people lining a back wall with aluminum foil and that might help."

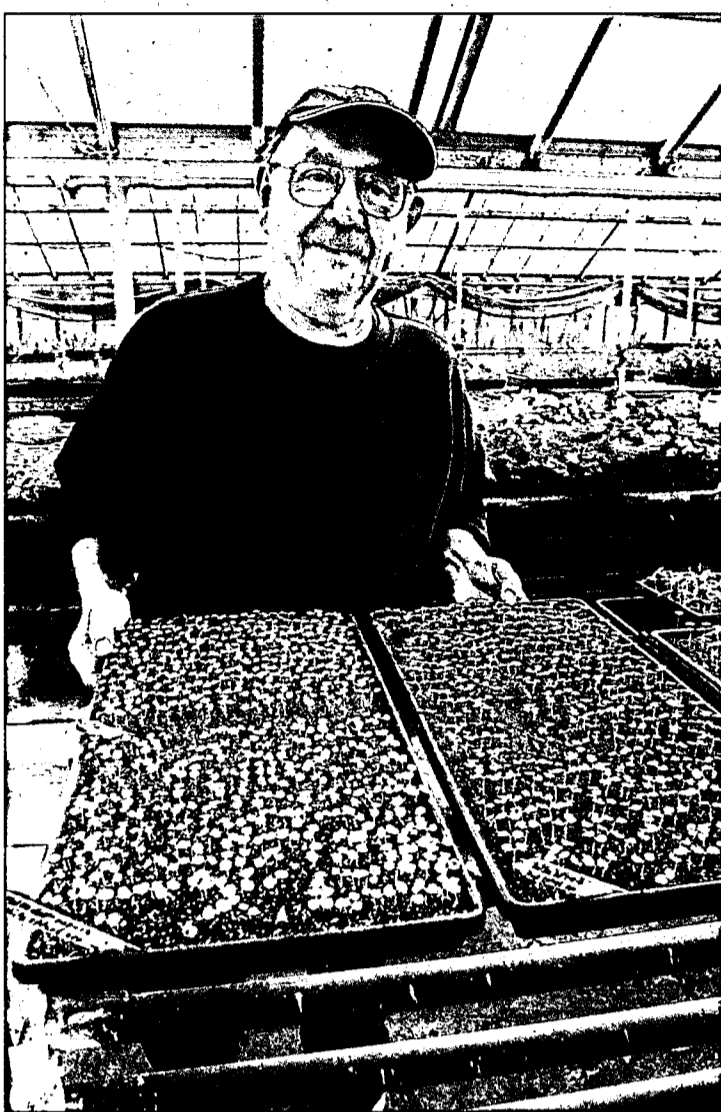
Richard, a retired high school science teacher, suggests using simple shop lights for seedlings. Alyce recommends using window space in a heated garage for lettuce or other cool-weather plants.

Consult catalogs
That's how Chris Britts,

past president of the Farmington Garden Club, had grown seeds — sometimes 40 flats at a time — for many years. She and her late husband turned an extension of her garage into a growing space with windows, fluorescent lights and heat mats.

"The primary advantage to starting by seed is having a much wider range of plants and colors, choices you wouldn't ordinarily see in nurseries," Britts said. "If you want to start by seed there are two catalogues that by far have the best information — Stokes and Thompson and Morgan. They tell you how to grow, when to start seeds, if you need certain temperatures or lighting. There are some seeds that unless you're a professional and have a greenhouse, you're bet-

Please see GARDEN, B6



Richard Humphrey of Graye's Greenhouse in Plymouth shows Polka Dots seedlings. They'll stay in large flats, sitting near heat pipes until they are large enough to transplant.

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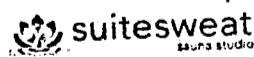
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Share your love of gardening: Join a club

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

It may be too early to plant many seeds indoors but it's the perfect time to talk about garden planning.

There's no better place to bone up on your horticultural knowledge than at a local garden club.

"We have speakers every month that we invite from all over," said Kate Kerr, treasurer of the Trailwood Garden Club in Plymouth.

The club meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday at Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty. Dues are \$20 annually. The organization is a member of the Women's National Farm & Garden Association.

"We range from 25-30 people "You have to have an interest in gardening and want to volunteer. That's a big thing. A lot of garden clubs do service projects. Trailwood does a lot of projects."

It spruces up public spaces, such as Veterans Memorial Park and downtown Plymouth, donates to other garden projects, and organizes a garden walk in conjunction with the Plymouth Garden Club. This year's walk is noon to 8 p.m. June 26.

Farmington Garden Club will present its biennial walk this summer, too.

Chris Britts, past president, says a club meeting is one of the best places a beginning gardener can go to learn more about horticulture and design with plants.

"If you love growing things and appreciate them, garden club members are extremely willing to share anything they know with you. It's a good place to get your feet wet," Britts said.

Sally Ouelette, a master flower show judge, will talk about designs for special occasions at the group's next meeting, noon, Monday, Feb. 6, at the Spicer House in Heritage Park, located on Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, in Farmington.

"We've had all kinds of speakers. You always learn something new," Britts said. "We had a



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

June Hudson pots licorice vine.

speaker on fairy gardens once. We've had people who make herb soaps. One year we had a guy with chocolate and the herbs you could mix in. Boy, was that fun. If the person giving the talk loves what they are talking about, you can't help but get enthused."

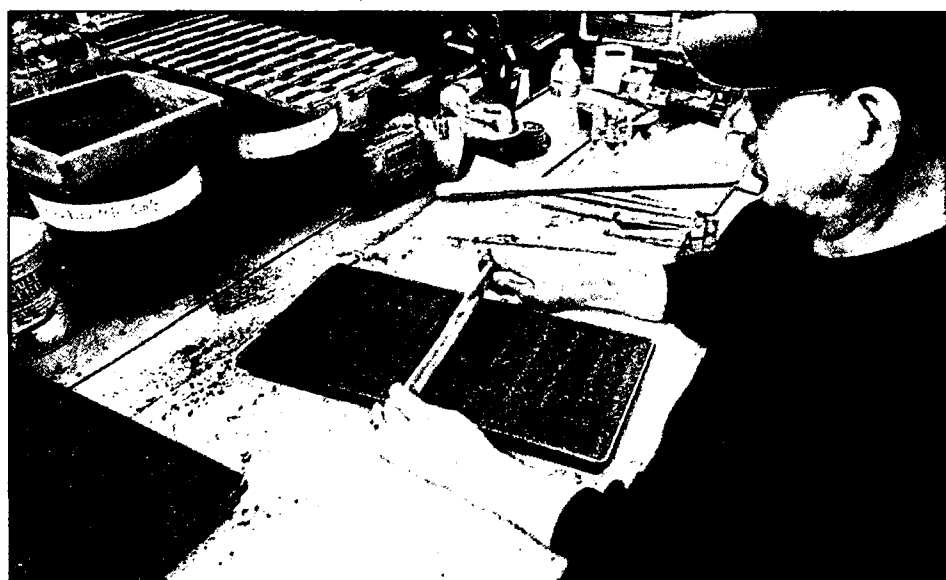
The Farmington Garden Club meets the first Monday every month. Visit its Web site at www.farmingtongardenclub.com.

Here's a sampling of other local clubs:

- Canton Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at the Plymouth Church of Christ, 9301 Sheldon, south of Ann Arbor Road, in Plymouth. Summer meetings are held at members' homes. Visitors pay \$3 per meeting. Membership enrollment is April 1-July 1; cantongardenclub.shutterfly.com/
- Garden City Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month, at Maxwell's Art & Treasures 32416 Industrial Road, Garden City. The club is a member of Michigan Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs; gdcg.weebly.com
- Hill and Dale Garden Club meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Thursday of the month in Farmington Hills. It's a

member of the Michigan Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs. Check its Web site for more information at hillanddalegc.org.

- Livonia Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, in Livonia. Sandra Healy, Advanced Master Gardener from Earthenjoy Flower Scaping, will talk about garden design at the next meeting; sprakay@sbcglobal.net for more information.
- North Farmington Garden Club's next meeting is noon, Feb. 14 at the Farmington Hills Library, Deb Stallings will talk about gourdology, including growing, drying and crafting gourds. Call Maureen Dinverno at (248) 722-4503 to register.
- Plymouth Garden Club meets at 12:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month in the Plymouth Library, 223 S. Main. Mike Appel will talk about rain gardens on Feb. 13. It's affiliated with the Women's National Farm & Garden Association and supports environmental and horticultural cases. It also awards scholarships to Plymouth Canton High school students; sites.google.com/site/plymouthgardenclub.



Richard Humphrey prepares trays for salvia seeds. Although it may be too early to start many seeds indoors, backyard gardeners can try starting cool weather-loving flowers, such as pansies and violas.

GARDEN

Continued from page B5

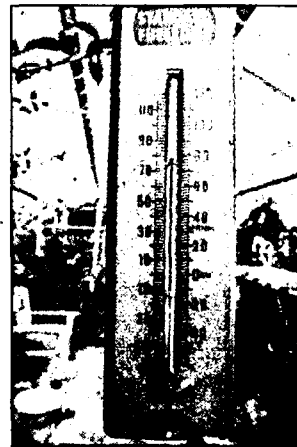
ter off not planting them at all. And for some seeds, all you have to do is plunk them the soil.

"I'd go through catalogues and all of a sudden I would pick out far more seeds than I could use in a lifetime, let alone in one year. It's an obsession. But there is nothing in the world better than going out when snow is all over everything and going into the greenhouse and there are green things a quarter inch high. But once they are up, you have to take care of them every day."

Water lightly

Garden City Garden Club member, Dot-tie Vega, caution against too much watering. After planting her seeds in egg shell cartons containing a seed-starting mixture, she sprays them lightly with water and places the cartons in her basement near fluorescent lights.

"When weather starts to warm around 50 degrees ... I place them



On a partly cloudy day in early February, it's a balmy 80 degrees in the greenhouse. Home gardeners can duplicate the warm temperature by placing seeds, sown in flats and covered with plastic wrap, near a heat register, or sunny window until the plants sprout. The process is called incubating.

outside for some sunlight time," she said. "This takes about a month and then you can transplant into larger containers. Providing the weather is warm enough, you can transplant in garden soil, but you must keep new plants covered with

a plastic tarp to keep the frost off."

She won't start seeds until "just before spring."

But Alyce Humphrey said basil is another easy-to-grow plant that gardeners can start now.

"You can try it from seed or go to the market and get basil in the package. You can put it in water and it will root. Or you can put it in loose soil."

She suggests that beginning gardeners try peas, beans and tomatoes when the weather warms enough to plant outdoors. Peas are a cool weather crop that can be planted outside in April. Sow tomato seeds indoors in late March and transplant to the outdoors in late May. Sow beans directly in the ground after it warms.

"Tomatoes and beans are two of the best things to start from seed because they are so easy. Don't plant the beans all at once. Plant some and 10 days later plant more. You'll have a constant supply of beans coming. It's so satisfying to see."



A greenhouse is a great place to escape cold winter temperatures and begin planning this year's garden. Graye's Greenhouse in Plymouth has started parsley, cherry tomato and some flower seeds. Some houseplants and succulents are started by cuttings.

These Businesses Are SUPER!

There's more going on than a SUPER football game this weekend...check out these SUPER local businesses! Here's who some of the area's businesses have picked for the big game. See how your favorite business voted.

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Milestones



Stevely-Kamin

Erinly Stevely and Jonathan Kamin announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Gary and Candy Stevely of Lakeview, Ohio, attended Wapakoneta High School and Valparaiso University. She is a massage therapist at Pro Wellness Chiropractic in Fishers, Ind. and dance instructor at Dance Creations in Indianapolis, Ind.

Her fiancé, son of Gary and Sue Kamin of Canton, attended Lutheran High School in Westland and Valparaiso University. He is a teacher and principal at Trinity Lutheran School in Paola, Kan.

A June 2012 wedding is planned in Lima, Ohio.



Sanders-Algoet

Amy Sanders and Jeffrey Algoet announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Bruce and Karen Sanders of Livonia, graduated in 2002 from Livonia Churchill High School and in 2007 from Grand Valley State University. She teaches fourth grade in Fort Pierce, Fla.

Her fiancé, son of Jean Pierre and Susan Algoet of Fort Pierce, Fla., graduated in 2000 from Lake Shore High School and in 2003 from Wayne State University. He works at an Internet monitoring software company in Vero Beach, Fla.

A July 2012 wedding is planned at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, Livonia.



Allen-Kelly

John and Michele Kelly of Northville announce the engagement of their son, Michael Brendan, to Melissa Marie Allen, daughter of Pat and Debbie Allen of New Hudson.

The groom-elect is a 2004 graduate of Catholic Central High School, a 2008 graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor of arts degree, and a 2011 graduate of University of Detroit Mercy School of Law with a juris doctorate degree. He works at the law firm of Kelly & Kelly, P.C. in downtown Northville.

The bride-to-be is a 2000 graduate of South Lyon High School, a 2004 graduate of Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor of arts degree, and a 2009 graduate of Nova Southeastern University with a master of arts degree. She teaches fourth grade in Wayne-Westland. An April wedding is planned in Clearwater Beach, Fla.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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



ALLEN, ROBERT CORY

66, of Sarasota, Florida passed away January 31, 2012. Robert (Bob) was born March 22, 1945 in Detroit, Michigan the son of Robert and Marjorie Allen. He proudly served in the United States Army's Military Police in Panama. Bob's hobbies included strolling Marina Jack's Pier, fishing, target shooting and sports. Bob was an all-star football player as well as a track field star. Bob loved his family deeply and cherished his many friends. He leaves to cherish his loving memory, his wife Marina, his children, Jackie, Sandy, and Matt, step children Phillip & Sofia, mother in law Tatiana, brothers and sisters, Pat, Tom, John, Doug, Kathy, Theresa, David, Joe and Chrissy and grandchildren, Mark, Brittany, Ashley, Anthony, Zachary, and Aidan.



CALMA, MARGARITA

Age 89, Feb 2, 2012 of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Emilio. Loving mother of Daniel (Jenisia), Eutiquia (Mars) Mapalo, Maria (Romeo) Erece, Juditha (Danny) Basco, Ana (Manny) Manibog, Eulalio (Mely), Fortunato (Cristy) and daughter-in-law Aniceta (the late Teodoro). Also loving grandmother and great-grandmother to many. Visitation Fri., Feb 10 from 1-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N Newburgh Rd (btwn Ford & Cherry Hill) Westland. In state Sat., Feb 11 at 11 AM until 11:30 AM Funeral Mass at St. Mary Catholic Church 34530 Michigan Ave West, in Wayne. Interment United Memorial Gardens, Plymouth. Memorials may be directed to the family. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com



CHEW, JOHN L.

February 1, 2012 age 67 of Canton. Loving husband of Aldona. Beloved father of Christine (Dawn) Chew and Susan (William) Putnam. Proud grandfather of Abigail, Kazys, Emerson and Alianna. Dear son of Ruth Chew and the late Irving. Dear brother of Thomas (Linda) Chew. Also leaves many nieces and nephews. Visitation Sunday 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Road, (between Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In state Monday 10 AM until the 11 AM Funeral Service at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Road, (at Gottfredson) Plymouth. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Canton Lions Club.

CLEMENTS, CHARLES PRESTON, JR.



CLEMENTS, PHYLLIS JANE SEARIGHT

Preston Clements, age 81, was born and raised in Rolla, MO. Phyllis Clements, age 86, was born in Ida Grove, IA raised in Vermillion, SD and moved to Rolla, MO after college graduation. They raised their family in Plymouth, MI before moving to Albuquerque. He passed away Monday, January 23, 2012 and she on Thursday, January 26th, 2012. Preston served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict and received a Purple Heart. He graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and worked as a Civil Engineer until he retired. Phyllis graduated from the University of South Dakota with a teaching degree and was devoted to taking care of her home and family. They loved to travel around the world and were actively involved with the NM Orchid Guild until their deaths. They will both be remembered for being honest, loving, kind and for their work with the Scouts. They are survived by their son Rick Clements and wife Doris of Beaverton, OR; daughters Linda Bradford and husband Jim of Woodward, OK and Laurie Kantner and husband Chris of Westland, MI; grandchildren Jane Rice and husband Mike, Josh Clements, Nathan Bradford, Spencer Bradford and Jason Kantner; great-grandchildren John and Elizabeth Rice; Preston's sisters Cora McCown, and Edith Kowieski and husband Jerry; Phyllis' brother Tom Searight and wife Jeannie. Preston was preceded in death by his parents Charles Preston, Sr. and Bernice. Phyllis was preceded by her parents Walter and Joy Searight. A Memorial service will be held at the Santa Fe National Cemetery at a later date. Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to the Boy or Girl Scouts of America.

Please visit our online guest book for Preston and Phyllis at www.RememberTheirStory.com.

FRENCH
9300 Golf Course Rd NW
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CONWAY, WILLIAM M.

91 of Germantown, TN, passed away January 25, 2012 at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, TN. Mr. Conway was born in Detroit, Michigan. He was a World War II Army Corps Veteran, and had a great love for flying. He spent more than 50 years in the nursery business. He was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Rosemary Conway. Survivors include a son, Mike (Bonnie) Conway; two daughters, Ann (Vincent) Ciaramitaro, and Kim (Jeff) Pakula; a sister-in-law, Judy Murphy; a niece, Michel (Stuart) Wepler; six grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

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. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home in Garden City. Memorials suggested to Alzheimer's Association. www.santeiufuneralhome.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 was at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Wayne MI 48184. For more information: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

GILMORE, BRUCE ELLIOT

Bruce Elliot Gilmore, beloved son of Robert and Marion Gilmore of Surry Circle, Simsbury, CT died suddenly on January 7, 2012 at his home in Wroxall, Isle of Wight. A celebration of his life was held on Jan. 23, 2012 at St. Thomas Minster Church, Newport, Isle of Wight conducted by the Reverend Kevin Arkell. Afterwards family and friends gathered at his favorite pub at Chequers Inn. He was born in 1953 in Hartford, CT and moved with his family to Plymouth, MI when he was five-years-old. He was a 1971 graduate of Plymouth High School, and in 1978 graduated from Lake Superior State University where he made life-long friends. While there, he spent his junior year at the University of London. Bruce loved British history, and in 1979 moved to London. After obtaining a work permit, he worked for local governments in London, Kent, the Scottish Highlands, and the Ascot area. For the past 11 years, he was general manager of Island Waste, a large waste management company on the Isle of Wight. An avid New York Yankees fan, Bruce started a baseball team with his English friends, many of whom joined us in celebrating Bruce's life. Besides his parents, he leaves his loving wife, Karen; their daughters Sara and Melissa and their son, Robert; his brother Paul and his wife Lynne McGrath of Mendham, NJ; his sister Susan Bell and her husband Gordon of Denver, CO; and dear cousins and nieces and nephews in Connecticut, Colorado, New Jersey, California and Rhode Island. If desired, memorial donations may be made to: The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, and sent to: The Co-operative Funeralcare, 61 Upper St. James St., Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1LQ, England.



HAMILTON, CAROLINE ECHOLS (KIMBER)

Of Bloomfield Township; age 77. Wife of the late William Welch Hamilton, predeceased by her sisters Katherine and Rebecca, and survived by her three sons, William, Stephen, and Christopher. She is also survived by her three grandchildren, Sara, Trevor, and Lucas, who she loved very much and brought great joy to her life. She was a graduate of Michigan State University, and resided in Bloomfield Township since 1965. Caroline taught in the Bloomfield Hills Public Schools, and for many years she served students with special needs at its Wing Lake Developmental Center. The family held a private memorial. Condolences may be addressed to the family c/o Chris Hamilton, 3708 E Acorn Ln, Midland, MI 48642. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Wing Lake Developmental Center, 6490 Wing Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301 winglake.bloomfield.org.



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 S 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

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, Meggin, 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!



MULLEN, SHEILA MARIE (nee: McGraw)

Age 62, January 30, 2012. Dear Daughter of John and Naudean. Sister of John, Kevin, Mark (Marilyn) McGraw, Mary (Donald) Kosch and Chris (Susan) McGraw and Sister-in-law of Debbie McGraw. Most wonderful Aunt of Katie (Jeff), Aaron (Kathryn), Calli, Donelle, Emily, Abigail and Johnny. Great Aunt of Allison, Dominic and baby Pea. She was adored by many friends. Her life was that of giving which included SilverLinens "Trip to the North Pole", Sandcastles, Center for Exceptional Families and Child Hope. Sheila's faith, smile, laughter and love are what will always be remembered by all that have known her. Services were held at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home. www.santeiufuneralhome.com Memorials suggested to Angela Hospice or the above mentioned charities.



MCLEAN, ELIZABETH "LIZ" (WALLACE) MORTON

Died at Broad Creek Care Center in Hilton Head Island, SC, on January 16, 2012, after a brief illness, and just seven weeks shy of her 95th birthday. She was born in 1917, in Detroit, MI, to Harold Lindsay Wallace and Grace Booth Wallace, their first child and the first grandchild of George Gough and Ellen Scripps Booth, founders of the Cranbrook Educational Community in Bloomfield Hills, MI. She began school with a tutor in the Cranbrook House Oak Room, then became one of the first seven students at Brookside School, where she studied until tenth grade. Tradition has it that Kingswood School Cranbrook was built for Liz because Ellen Booth insisted there had to be a school for her, and she went there from 1932 until 1934, a member of its third graduating class. She attended Bennington College, then the Garland School of Homemaking. Fixed up on a blind date with James A. Morton, Jr., a Beta Theta Pi at Williams College, she married him on December 19, 1938, in Christ Church Cranbrook. After living in Madison, WI, they moved back to Birmingham, MI, in 1946 and raised their six children. Jim Morton died in September of 1959. Fixed up on another blind date with widower John F. McLean, Jr., she married him in October of 1961, and added his two sons to the brood. Liz and John had a wonderful, long marriage until his death on December 26, 2009, in Hilton Head, where they had lived since 1978. Liz loved to garden, was an Honorary Life Member of the Cranbrook House and Garden Auxiliary, and had a green thumb that could grow an 18-foot tall lemon tree from seed. She enjoyed cooking, knitting, photography, poetry, and watercolor painting. She was a member of Sigma Gamma Association, which supports the Detroit Institute for Children, and was a sustaining member of the Junior League of Birmingham. Preceding her in death were her siblings Catherine and Ellen Wallace, Shirley Sarver, and Richard Booth Wallace, as well as one son, Cary Dean Morton. She is survived by stepsons Kenneth and Jeffrey McLean, and five children: James, Thomas, Jeffrey, Lora and Christopher Morton. Twelve grandchildren and 15 great-children will also miss her. There will be a private memorial at Christ Church Cranbrook in June. The family wishes to thank the staff of Broad Creek Care Center and of Hospice Care of the Lowcountry for their help during this time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Liz's name to Hospice Care of the Lowcountry, PO Box 3827, Bluffton, SC, 29910. The Island Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of arrangements. Online at: www.theislandfuneralhome.com

TATRO, GREGORY P.

70, of Sterling City, TX died Feb. 1, 2012. A memorial service will be held at 3p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5 at The Landmark. Shaffer Funeral Home/ Grape Creek.

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.

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



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Say 'I love you' in harmony

Harmony Town Chorus is gearing up to deliver singing valentines.

"We started this activity in the year 2000 and every year has brought many pleasant memories to us, and the people singled out as "victims" by loved ones," said Mark Pritchard, in an e-mail. "Our singing has included trips to nursing homes, autistic children, and the unemployed — but not unloved. I speak for all of the men of the Harmony Town Chorus when I say this is one of the most rewarding experiences we have as barbershop singers."

For \$40, a barbershop quartet from the chorus will sing two love songs, present a rose and a personalized Valentine card to the recipient. Musical Valentines are delivered Tuesday, Feb. 14. Other



Members of the Harmony Town Chorus prepare roses to deliver with singing Valentines.

er dates are available by request, but may be subject to additional cost.

"We will be singing in all the usual places — Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Inkster, Northville, Novi,

Plymouth, Farmington and Farmington Hills, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and really anywhere we can logistically reach."

Feb. 12 is the deadline to reserve a valentine. The group accepts

personal checks, MasterCard, Visa and Discover. Call (734) 743-1764 or e-mail to HarmonyMen@att.net. For more information about the chorus and its quartets, visit wesingbarbershop.com.



A representative from Treasure Hunter's Roadshow shows the kinds of items, including jewelry, musical instruments and collectibles, the company will evaluate this week in Livonia.

Girl Scouts plan centennial events

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, which includes members in Plymouth and Canton, plans a celebration marking the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting, March 10, at the Capitol building in Lansing.

Festivities will include a sing-along and parade following a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open "Follow the Girls: 100 Years of Girl Scouting," a historical exhibit at the Michigan Historical Center, 7200 Kalamazoo Street. Fireworks will cap the day's festivities.

"We are inviting all Girl Scouts from all over Michigan, their family members and, especially, former Girl Scouts to celebrate with us at our state capital," stated Jan Barker, chief executive officer of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan.

Three levels of participation are

available. The all-inclusive package costs \$20 and includes all of the day's activities and transportation, walking in the parade and a T-shirt and patch. The sing-along package is \$15 and includes all of the day's activities and transportation and participation in the sing-along. The parade package, at \$12, includes walking in the parade, participation in the sing-along, a T-shirt and patch. Bus transportation is available from various cities for an additional \$15 fee. Individual girls must be accompanied by an adult. Children under 3 years old are free.

To register online, visit www.gshom.org and click on the "Lansing Sing-along" tab. Registration deadline is Feb. 24. Walk-ins are welcome to view the parade and sing-along but must purchase the

sing-along package for access to the afternoon activities and transportation. A Girl Scout tent will be stationed on the Capitol building lawn.

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan has regional service centers in Lansing, Kalamazoo, Jackson, Marshall, Ann Arbor and Saginaw. The Lansing Sing-along is the first of five signature events that will mark the Girl Scout centennial over the next 18 months in Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan. Next up is the Kalamazoo Girl Scout Invasion, set for June 1-3, at Western Michigan University and sites in and around Kalamazoo. Other events include Super-sized Jamboree and Pow Wow, Sept. 7-9 at the Michigan International Speedway, in Brooklyn; the Juliette Low Birthday Party, Oct. 20, in Midland; and Bridging to the Next Century, March 2013, in Ann Arbor.

For more information about any of the events or to join Girl Scouts or become a Girl Scout volunteer, visit www.gshom.org or call (800) 497-2688.

Company will buy collectibles in Livonia

Got a collectible item you want to sell? You can get an assessment of its value and an offer to buy during THR & Associates' "Treasure Hunter's Roadshow," 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Feb. 7-11 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 17123 Laurel Park Drive North, Livonia.

During the free event, company representatives will evaluate items visitors bring for potential sale. They'll look at coins and paper currency issued prior to 1970, toys, dolls, trains, vintage jewelry, old and modern musical instruments, war memorabilia, gold and silver jewelry, costume jewelry, advertising memorabilia, swords, knives, and daggers. They'll make offers based on rarity, collectability, condition and market value. If the price is right for the seller, THR will pay on the spot with no hidden fees.

THR's Treasure Hunter's Roadshow buys gold and silver items too. For more information about THR's Treasure Hunter's Roadshow, call (217) 726-7590.

Arthritis Today

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WHAT THE BLOOD WORK TELLS

In arthritis, laboratory results do not make a diagnosis; results either confirm a physician's impression, or cause him to review his position.

In arthritis, the finding that a person has a high titer of rheumatoid factor does not mean that individual has rheumatoid arthritis. A doctor makes the diagnosis on the basis of the patient's experiencing a particular pattern of stiffness and pain plus on examination, the physician finds swelling and pain in the joints of the hands and feet. These features make the diagnosis and determine treatment. If the laboratory studies reveal a positive rheumatoid factor, the physician can consider his diagnosis reinforced. If the rheumatoid factor is absent, then he disregards the result in light of the evidence the patient provides.

Blood tests for Lupus are not quite the same. A positive ANA (anti-nuclear antibody) test does not "show you have Lupus." Many people without Lupus will have a positive ANA, because a number of past illnesses or exposures to irritants will cause the body to react in a manner that leads to a positive ANA test. However, a negative ANA means Lupus is not present. The ANA test is sufficiently sensitive, that it will not miss any patient whose positive test results from having Lupus.

Laboratory testing in patients taking arthritis medications is a different matter. Patients need surveillance on what effects medication may have on the blood cells, liver and kidneys. Also, physicians need to watch the status of the patient to assure that arthritis medications are not making organs damaged from other medical problems worse because of the strain arthritis drugs place on the body.

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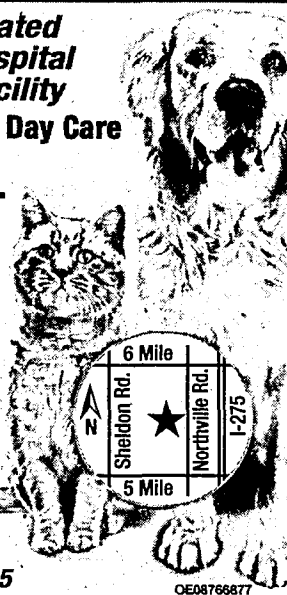
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- Helen Guilbault Westland

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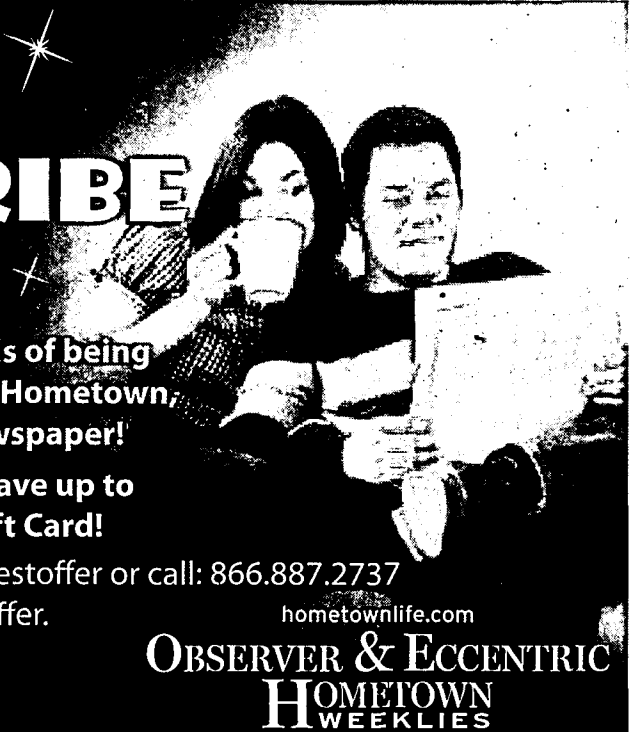
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A health professional administers a PAD test to a patient.

Test checks blood flow in legs

The Michigan Podiatric Medical Association says February, designated American Heart Month, is the perfect time to take a preventative test for peripheral arterial disease (PAD).

Commonly known as "poor circulation," PAD is the restriction of blood flow in the arteries of the leg. When arteries become narrowed by plaque — the accumulation of cholesterol and other materials on the walls of the arteries — the oxygen-rich blood flowing through the arteries can't reach the legs and feet.

The presence of PAD may indicate more widespread arterial disease in the body that can affect the brain, causing stroke, or the heart, causing a heart attack.

Most individuals have no symptoms during the early stages of PAD and often, by the time symptoms occur the arteries

are already significantly blocked.

Common symptoms of PAD include:

- Leg pain (cramping) that occurs while walking
- Leg pain (cramping) that occurs while lying down
- Leg numbness or weakness
- Cold legs or feet
- Sores that won't heal on toes, feet, or legs
- A change in leg color
- Loss of hair on the feet and legs
- Changes in toenail color and thickness

Because only half of those with PAD actually experience symptoms, it is important that people with known risk factors be screened or tested for PAD.

The risk factors include:

- Being over age 50
- Smoking (currently or previously)
- Diabetes
- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol

• Personal or family history of PAD, heart disease, heart attack, or stroke

• Sedentary lifestyle
The test for PAD is called the ankle-brachial index, a painless, non-invasive test that compares the blood pressure in the ankles with the blood pressure in the arms. Testing is available at most podiatry offices and takes approximately 15-20 minutes.

PAD is treatable and treatment is most effective when the disease is diagnosed early. Treatment for PAD focuses on reducing symptoms and preventing further progression of the disease. In most cases, lifestyle changes, exercise and medications are enough to slow the progression or even reverse the symptoms of PAD.

For a list of podiatrists and locations, visit www.mpma.org.

Jump, dance to stay active during winter

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation suggests the families get at least an hour of physical activity every day.

Physical activity doesn't have to happen all at once, but can be spread out over the day in 10- to 15-minute sessions.

The Alliance offers these simple tips to help create a fun physical activity zone in the winter:

• **Kangaroo Jump:** Tape a shoelace to the floor in a straight line. Have your child stand on one side of the string with both feet together. Count to three, and cheer as he or she jumps over the string and back 10 times. Take a short break — and do it again!

• **Double Time:** When watching television at home, do jumping jacks, pushups, or crunches during commercial breaks.

• **House Music:** Get on your feet and start dancing. It doesn't have to be perfect — sometimes it's more fun to be silly. Just turn up the music and move to the beat. Teach your kids to dance while they talk on the phone, watch TV, brush their teeth or clean their rooms or try to hop on one foot with your kids all the way through their favorite song.

• **Hoop it Yourself:** A trash can — or even a box — makes a great indoor basketball goal that is perfect for a

quick game of one-on-one.

• **Crab Crawl:** Sit with your feet flat on the floor, knees bent. Lean back and place your hands flat on the floor behind you. Lift your seat off the floor, putting your weight on your hands and feet. Now, crab crawl around the room with your kids.

The Alliance for a Healthier Generation works to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity and to empower kids nationwide to make healthy lifestyle choices. It was founded in 2005 by the American Heart Association and William J. Clinton Foundation. Get more tips and tools at www.HealthierGeneration.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

February

CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS

Maple Grove Educational Programs for Children of Alcoholics offers "Celebrating Families," a free education and support program for children, ages 5-17, and their parents/caregivers, 5:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays, Feb. 8-March 28 at Maple Grove Center in West Bloomfield. The program is designed for children living with chronic stress due to family challenges such as substance abuse or mental illness. Each day's activities focus on learning skill-building through games and crafts. Topics covered include

feelings, self-worth, communication, coping, defenses, alcohol and other drug use, safe decision-making, getting help and learning how to take care of themselves. To register, contact Maple Grove Community Education at (248) 661-6170 or e-mail mce_cp@hfhhs.org.

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

• **Healthy Hearts 101** celebrates American Heart Month. Cardiologist Nizam Habhab will discuss heart health at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16 at the Village of Redford, 25300 Six Mile, Redford. An exercise physiologist will be on hand to teach simple exercise techniques that can easily be done at home or in the office.

A heart healthy dinner will be served. All events are free. Heart risk assessments will be offered on site. Seating is limited. Call (734) 458-3248 for reservations.

• **Heart Walk 2012** celebrates American Heart Month, 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Feb. 25 at Westland Mall, 35000 Warren Road, Westland. Dress in comfortable clothing and bring all your heart-related questions for a panel of experts. A hospital pharmacist will be on hand to answer medication questions; free health screening on site; and Pulse EMS will be on hand for support. All events are free. Heart risk assessments will be offered on site. Call (734) 458-3248 to reserve.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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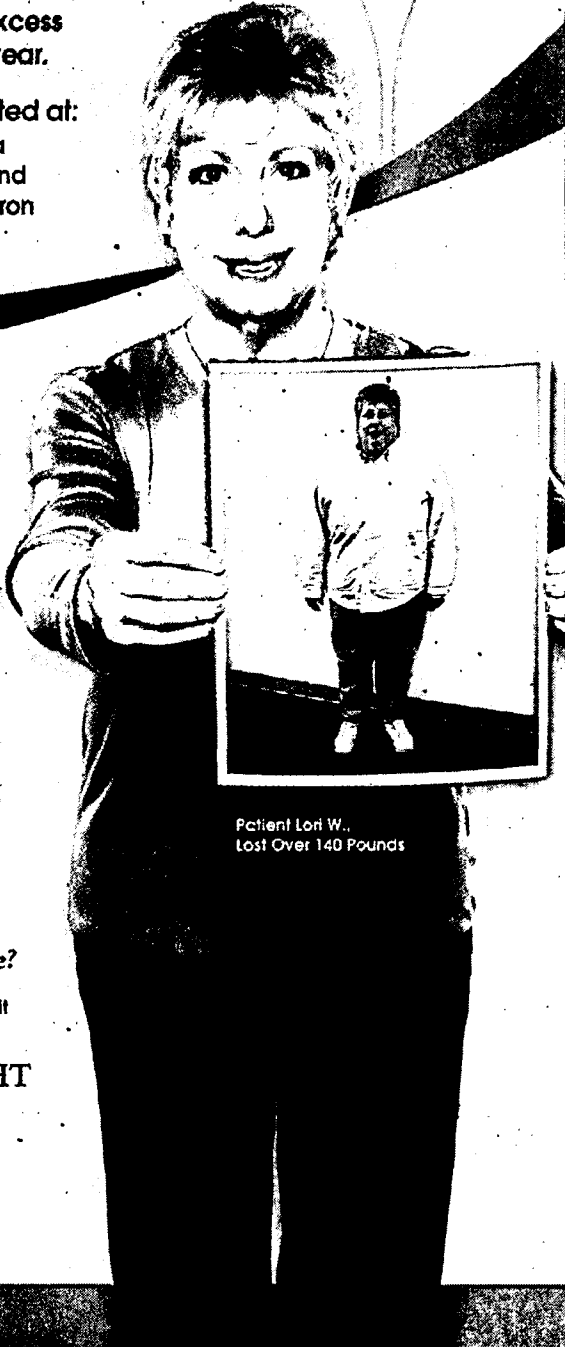
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