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H.Y.P.E. time

The Westland Parks and Recreation Department is offering children ages 6-14 some H.Y.P.E. during their midwinter break.

The department is partnering with the H.Y.P.E. (Helping Youth Progress and Excel) Athletics Community to offer four-day basketball clinic 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Feb. 20-24, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland.

The clinic will focus on athletic improvement, individual and group drills, contests, and organized games. Coaches include a former NBA player and a two-time basketball national champion. They cost \$30 each. Register at the Bailey Recreation Center. Call (734) 722-7620 for more information.

A Wing deal

How would you like a suite for 10, including beer, pop and food, and a chance to watch the Detroit Red Wings take on the Nashville Predators at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 30.

You could have it if you buy a \$10 raffle ticket being sold by the Westland Rotary members to benefit the organization's scholarship fund and other charities. Tickets are available at the Westland Chamber of Commerce Office, 36900 Ford Road, or from any Rotary member. The drawing to be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 22, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Road, Westland.

For more information, call Mary McGaw at (734) 748-8515.

Leap year babies

With Feb. 29 fast approaching, we are looking for Leap Year babies!

How do you celebrate? When do you celebrate? Has life been any different because you're a Leap Year baby? These are the things we'd like to know.

If you're a Feb. 29 baby, or had a Feb. 29 baby, or even know of a Leap Year baby, and are willing to share your story, please e-mail your information (and a photo!) to Observer editor Sue Mason at smason@hometownlife.com.

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Auditor: City hanging in there

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Westland's municipal finances got a clean bill of health from auditors Plante Moran and city officials got a pat on the back for efforts to deal with declining property tax and state revenues.

"A few years ago when the city was doing strategic planning, you were looking at a \$15 million deficit at that point, you made a lot of tough decisions on staffing and trying to maintain service

levels," said Michael Swartz of Plante Moran during a presentation on the 2010-11 fiscal year audit. "We applaud that. There will be more tough decisions moving forward. You're doing well better than other communities, not as well as others. You're kind of hanging in there."

The auditors commended the city for efforts already made to address the financial situation, including updating the five-year financial forecast for the general fund,

staff reductions and reorganizations, early retirement incentives and cost saving changes in insurance.

Despite decreased revenues, Westland was able to increase the general fund balance by \$1.4 million at the end of the 2010-11 fiscal year.

But as city auditors Plante Moran noted, that figure can be misleading by itself. Included in the fund balance are \$750,000 related to the closing of the workers' compensation internal service fund,

a one-time item.

The city also transferred the majority of the cable fund activity into the general fund which added \$694,000 to the fund balance. Without these transactions, the auditors noted the fund balance would have stayed about the same.

With the additions, the fund balance totaled \$2.2 million at the end of the fiscal year or 4.2 percent of the general fund's budgeted expenditures for the current 2011-12 fiscal year.

"There will be very few communities at the (recommended) 10 percent fund balance level," said Swartz. "Bonding agencies use that as a benchmark."

Looking back to the 2009 fiscal year, the audit showed a steady decline in funding. Property tax revenues dropped from \$25.7 million to \$22.3 million budgeted for 2012. Plante Moran noted the decrease in property tax revenues has slowed.

Please see AUDITOR, A2

Chamber prepares for 50th anniversary

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Planning the celebration is the easy part of celebrating the Westland Chamber of Commerce's 50th anniversary. Putting together the pieces of the earlier history is the hard part for the organizing committee.

"Our main focus is to create a celebration for the chamber, not a fundraiser," said Gary Bulson. "We want everyone to come out and have fun and we need sponsors for what we want to do."

Bulson and chamber members Dan Martin, Rebecca Kelly and Mary Vellardita are planning the 50th Anniversary for Friday, April 20, at the Hellenic Cultural Center. They have been meeting since last November and have pored over photos and ring binders filled with old chamber newsletters to put together a photo slide show and



Anniversary Committee members Gary Bulson of Men on the Move and Rebecca Kelly of Sharon's Heating and Cooling look over old chamber newsletters dating back to the 1970s. Kelly found a November 1971 newsletter that announced that monthly luncheon was cancelled until January due to hunting season, Thanksgiving and the holidays, lunches also were just \$360 and included a cash bar.

decide what to put on photo boards that will be set around the banquet hall.

"Anything that happened after 2003 we have

thousands of photos, before digital, we don't have that much," said Martin.

"And getting a date on

a photo is pretty tough," added Bulson, who spent more than two hours one day pulling 200 photos to be considered for

the slide show. "We were just going to do a slide show and then just photo boards, but decided both have their benefits. The boards would be nice for people to gather and reminisce."

The committee also trying to track down former chamber directors like Joyce Wheeler, who played a role in the construction of the chamber office building on Ford Road in the 1980s, and Linda Shapona. They enlisted the aid of Sid Shaheen, a lifetime member, "to help us contact the elder statesman of the chamber," according to Bulson. Shaheen also is working to get photographs, he said.

The gala will start with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m. followed by a family-style dinner, featuring chicken cordon bleu and roast beef, at 7 p.m. and entertainment by Steve King

Please see CHAMBER, A2

Police seek suspect in theft of mall walker's keys, car

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A woman walking at Westland Shopping Center had her car stolen Jan. 27 after leaving her keys in the pocket of her coat which had been left unattended on a bench.

The Westland woman, 56, told police she was walking at the mall just before 9:30 a.m. When she finished walking, she said she returned to her coat, left on a bench in the south side of the mall near J.C. Penney.

Noticing her coat had been moved a little, the woman said she realized that she had left her keys in a pocket and the keys were now gone. She then found that her car, a gray 2004 Pontiac Vibe, was missing from the parking lot.

Along with the vehicle, the woman reported her purse contained \$100 in cash, credit cards and identification had been left in the car and were missing. A short time later, the woman told police her purse had been recovered in the parking lot of the Dollar Tree store located near the mall.



Westland Police are looking for information on the suspect who stole keys from a coat left unattended by a woman walking at Westland Shopping Center Jan. 27. The suspect stole the woman's car and also her purse which had been left inside the car.

The wallet, with cash and credit cards, were missing.

On Feb. 1, the woman's car was recovered with heavy front end damage, damage to the right rear quarter panel, scratches along the right passenger door and a broken windshield.

The keys weren't in the car but the woman told police that an iPod, a set

of headphones, a CD and garage door opener found in the vehicle didn't belong to her.

Westland Police have released a photograph of the suspect taken from mall security cameras. Anyone with information about the suspect is asked to call (734) 722-9600.

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Tough decisions leads to bond rating upgrade

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

What a difference a year makes. Having dropped four notches last year, Westland's credit rating has been upgraded, thanks to changes made to the water and sewer fund.

Earlier this week, Mayor William Wild announced that Moody's Investors Service had upgraded the city's bond rating from Baa2 to Ba1 and assigned a positive outlook to Westland's water and sewer system revenue debt.

"Our bond rating is up. That is not an insignificant achievement," said Council President James Godbout. "Once the rating dropped, the council has been aggressive in working with the administration and (auditors) Plante Moran to improve the rating. We've made tough decisions. We introduced new (water and sewer) rates tonight."

Like an individual's personal credit rating, the city's bond rating impacts interest rates when the city has to borrow money for large

projects. Part of the problem had been the city's failure to increase water and sewer rates enough to cover annual rate hikes from Detroit and Wayne County along with the city's operational needs.

"Last year, they moved us down four levels. With the work we've done like the repayment to the general fund, they moved us up a notch," said Wild, referring to general fund money which had been subsidizing an underfunded water and sewer fund.

In an effort to keep a better handle on water and sewer fund revenues, the city began reviewing the rates more frequently and has passed on rate increases including fixed charges costs. That resulted in a more than 16 percent rate hike last year with a 12.1 percent increase proposed to be adopted later this month.

Moody's improved rating is based upon the system's improved financial outlook, manageable debt ratio and stable residential cus-

Please see RATING, A2

Chamber was 'busy' promoting city in early years

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Tracking down the history of the Westland Chamber of Commerce has meant finding people who were there in the early years. Unfortunately, many of the individuals who played a role in its start in 1962 are no longer alive, individuals like Ted Kuckelman, Virgil and Harriot Gagnon, Sandra Weed and Joseph Benyo. "One of the first chamber people I recall were Virgil and Harriot Gagnon," said retired *Westland Observer* editor Leonard Poger who started covering Westland just 10 days before it became a city on May 16, 1966. "He owned a gas station at Wayne and Warren roads and probably operated it out of the gas station. Virgil ran the chamber as a side job out of his office probably two-three years. Harriot knew the business com-

munity through her husband."

By 1966, the chamber was being operated by Ted Kuckelman who had a small office in the Dorsey Community Center. Poger described Kuckelman as a semi-retired businessman who went around starting chambers.

"I remember at the meetings he'd say, 'Board members, we have an action-packed agenda,'" Poger said. "His specialty was starting chambers. Once on their way, he'd quietly leave."

Harriot Gagnon succeeded Kuckelman and the office was moved to an office building on Warren Road that the city leased for use by the 18th District Court. The city allowed the chamber one small office and a conference room.

"I remember Millie Evans going before the council to protest the city giving free space to a pri-



Among the photographs the Westland Chamber of Commerce has in its possession is this one dated 1969. The note on the back states that Harriot Gagnon is showing her successful efforts in getting Westland "on the (state) map."

vate enterprise," said Poger. "The council disagreed and said the chamber was helping promote the community and businesses."

Poger recalled that the chamber had a membership of over 400 — "almost half of the businesses belonged" — in the 1980s, the community was growing and the Westland Shopping Center was attracting families and businesses to the city. Joyce Wheeler was the executive secretary and spearheaded the plan to building an office on Ford Road across from the city's civic center.

Poger, who served on the Board of Directors for three-four years, will admit that his "institutional knowledge" isn't perfect, but he does know one thing: "The chamber was helping the city develop and promoting business."

"It was a very busy community, a very busy city that was growing and a very busy school district," he said. "A lot of things were happening."

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RATING

Continued from page A1

tomor base. In 2011 and with a goal of improving its bond rating, the city took steps to increase cash reserves, to pay off a wastewater bond and to reduce operation and maintenance expenses through staff attrition and cutting other operational costs.

"The credit bureaus look for a good working relationship between City Council and the administration in addressing the city's finances," said Wild.

Moody representatives were impressed with the development of a five-year rate analysis that is reviewed annually by the council, the mayor and key staff to stay abreast of economic factors impacting the health of the city's finances.

Wild also credited Plante Moran's Westland team for the help in restructuring the water and sewer model.

Moody's rating upgrade takes into account the city's healthy debt service coverage with the city setting aside sufficient cash reserves in the 2011 fiscal year to meet debt payments in 2012, rate increases being made to address the wholesale costs from Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the city's low 6.3 percent debt ratio.

Moody's stated that "future credit reviews will focus on the system's ability to retain healthy debt service coverage and ongoing financial operations..." The city currently has \$2.9 million of revenue debt outstanding with a total system debt of \$5.3 million.

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CHAMBER

Continued from page A1

and the Dittilies 8 p.m. to midnight. The sit-down dinner is something new

for the chamber which normally does buffets.

"This is one of our big things we need to celebrate," said Bulson. "That's why we're putting it on, that's why we want it to be a fun event."

Tickets for the gala are \$40 per person and \$320 for a table of eight. Tickets are available at the chamber office, 36900 Ford Road, east of Newburgh.

Sponsorships also are available with packages ranging from \$1,000 to sponsor the entertainment to \$250 for a cocktail hour sponsor and \$100 for a supporting sponsor. Businesses interested in being sponsors have until April 6 to sign up.

Despite the tough economic times, the chamber has held a steady on its membership. According to Martin, it's doing better than most chambers in Michigan.

"I went to a conference in the fall and a lot of chambers were talking about their membership dropping the last two years," he said. "We've

done pretty good."

"We've held steady," added Bulson. "We drop 10, but then we gain 10. We caught a little boost with the buyouts with people starting their own businesses."

The chamber is going back to basics and using committees to help reinvent events and take the pressure off of Chamber Executive Director Brookellen Swope.

"Being a member is only have the battle, you need to be involved," said Martin. "You need to invest, show up at events and market your business."

For tickets, sponsorships or more information about the 50th Anniversary Gala, call the chamber office at (734) 326-7222.

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AUDITOR

Continued from page A1

In the audit management letter, Plante Moran recommended that the city continue to look at ways to increase revenues and reduce spending as Westland's taxable value is expected to continue to decrease for the next several years and state shared revenues have decreased.

The auditors noted the city's water and sewer fund cash position continues to improve but noted outstanding debts relat-

ed to previous projects, including approximately \$1.7 million owed to the general fund. That is lower thanks to a \$512,000 payment to the general fund from the water and sewer fund.

Additionally, the auditors noted that the fund's accounts receivable balance due from customers continues to grow. When the fiscal year ended June 30, \$9.8 million was outstanding for 46 percent of the operating revenue.

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CORRECTION

The story in the *Observer* about the Jan. 24 death of Francesco DiBlasi, founder and former conductor of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, should have said those interested

in attending his memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia, should RSVP to Christine Moore at mchristinemoore@yahoo.com

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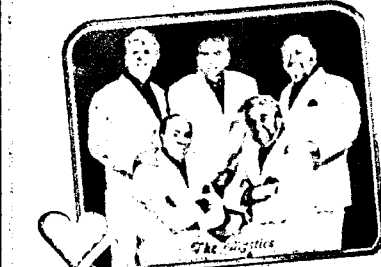
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Sheds to go: Students market their class work

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

They're built like a house, but they're only sheds, and the construction trades program at Garden City High School has several it needs to sell.

The sheds are being built by students in Andy Romes' construction trades program, and are priced to sell - \$500 for a more than 29-square foot building with a door and window.

"We actually built the walls like it was a house. It may be overkill, but they're doing what they would do in the trade," said Romes.

Romes is selling the sheds for the cost of the materials. The price includes delivery. The foundation depends on what the buyer wants and however much the materials cost. If the buyer wants it set on the ground, the students will make sure it is level. They also will set it on stone, cement block or a cement pad.

"I have a student who donated a trailer and we'll roll it out the doors of the wood shop on a dolly," said Romes who is hoping one of the buyers will want the shed on a cement pad which will give students the experience of framing, pouring and smoothing the cement.

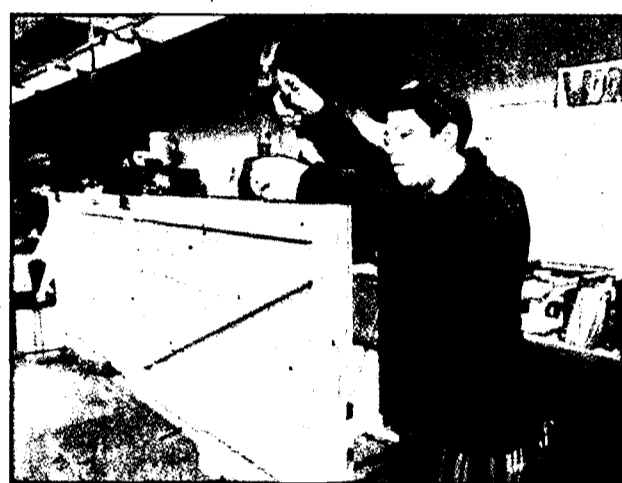
The sheds have a 65-inch square base. The door is 24 inches wide and the widow measures 32 inches wide and 15 inches high. The slanted roof has a 3-12 pitch, taking the height of the shed from 9 feet in the front to seven feet in the back. The sheds have a shingled roof and will be covered



Henry Swan (left) and Austen Ritchie work on one of several sheds the Construction trades class is selling.



Patrick Tirney paints the soffit of the shed white. They will be covered in vinyl siding provided by Siding World.



Andrew McLean works on the cutout for the shed door's hinges.

with vinyl siding that's been donated by Siding World.

One shed has already been purchased by the family of a student and will be wired for electricity with lights and outlets.

Class work

Eight of Romes' 17 classes have been involved in building the sheds, one of several projects students work on. His beginning class-

es build a model wall, then break the walls down and turn them into mini Adirondack chairs, tables, and foot stools, priced at \$15, \$10 and \$5 each.

"Real Adirondacks have longer seats, I had to consider our space so we had to shrink them down," Romes said.

Advanced students work on the bigger projects. For the sheds, they so far have done everything from the framing

and making doors to laying shingles and painting the soffits.

"Everyone has an assigned job," said senior Henry Swann. "If you don't do it, you lose points."

Swann has been in the program since his freshman year. He took the class to "learn skills I can use in life."

"The hardest thing is that there's a lot of things that go into this that you wouldn't think of," Swann said. "We had to get the roof right and we had to get the pitch right." There's a lot of angles and measuring, you have to be flawless," said sophomore Austen Ritchie. "You make one thing wrong and you can

ruin the entire project." Ritchie likes working with his hands and wants to pursue construction trades after he's out of high school. "I like this better than school work," he said.

Other projects

The students also are learning the trade by working on projects around the school. The classes are doing a new storage shed for the baseball team and redoing the inside of the concession stand across from the gymnasium. They've also gotten requests from teachers.

Several students also are working on projects for themselves or their families. One student is making planter boxes attached to a bench for his mother, another is working on a Plexiglas guitar body for himself. "There's only so much work that can be done on the sheds, so we've taken on other jobs," said Romes. "They get to learn a lot of different things. They learn to problem solve. I stress a lot of job skills in the classes."

Romes is hoping to get more time for the class next year, allowing him get the students off campus to work on jobs. He also looking at doing more around the high school like possibly replacing a sidewalk by the tennis courts.

People interested in buying a shed can contact Romes at (734) 762-8350 or by e-mail at romesa@gcity.k12.mi.us. "They're more sturdy that what you'd get at Home Depot," Romes said.

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Judge dismisses WYAA embezzlement case

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A week before a scheduled trial was to begin, an embezzlement charge against a former Westland Youth Athletic Association president has been dismissed.

Galen Huren, 47, had been accused of stealing about \$31,000 from the WYAA while serving as president from January through July 2010. Huren's attorney Mary Mahoney didn't respond

to a request for comment.

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Linda Parker granted a defense motion and dismissed the charge against Huren, which had based largely on testimony from WYAA officials. During the period when Huren was president, WYAA records showed \$31,000 in cash payments were made for registration but only \$1 in cash was deposited in the group's bank account.

"I really don't want to comment, we are meeting with the (Wayne County) prosecutor to see what they say," said WYAA President Don Haas. "We will discuss it as a Board of Directors and see what we want to do from here. It's pretty sad for this to happen to a youth athletic association and then have the charges dismissed this way."

Haas and other WYAA members were surprised when they learned the criminal charge against

Huren had been dismissed.

"We felt there was enough to at least send it to trial," Haas said.

WYAA members became aware of financial problems in 2010 when utilities at their headquarters on Farmington Road were shut off for nonpayment and other bills weren't paid or checks bounced.

"We're about 75 percent back to where we were. We paid off the bad debt. We still had to pur-

chase new equipment for the current sports," said Haas.

Along with making up the bad debt and other expenses, Haas said the WYAA building lost its roof during a bad storm last summer. Insurance covered that building damage.

"Last year was trying, to say the least. We're making our way back. It's all due to the parents and kids in the program who had faith in us to bring them back," said Haas.

"We went through a whole process of checks and balances that we put into place."

A big issue with volunteer groups like WYAA is the limited number of volunteers who have limited time available, Haas said.

"With fewer people having more responsibilities on them, sometimes things like this happen," he said.

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Police arrest two disorderly patrons

GARDEN CITY

Disorderly conduct

The Garden City police responded to two disorderly conduct calls recently.

In an incident which occurred about 11:30 p.m. Feb. 5, management at Albert's on the Alley located on Middlebelt, north of Ford, had a problem with a 24-year-old Garden City man who refused to leave the bar/restaurant.

The police arrived to find the customer yelling at the employee. The police officer arrested the disorderly man who tried to hit the employee and use pepper spray. The employee tossed the pepper spray up onto the roof.

When the police processed the man, they determined that he was intoxicated with a blood alcohol level of .241.

At 1:16 p.m. Feb. 7 at Joe D's Bar, 29242 Ford, the police arrested a 48-year-old Westland man who wanted to take a beer out of the building.

When the police arrived, they saw a group of people outside trying to stop the man from doing so. He was arrested on an outstanding Westland warrant and for interfering with a police officer because

he was uncooperative and belligerent inside the police car.

He had also given the police false personal information.

Stolen vehicle

A resident in the 31000 block of Rush reported that someone stole her 2006 Saab station wagon sometime before 10 a.m. Feb. 2.

She said that the vehicle was locked and that all keys were accounted for. The vehicle had tinted windows and aftermarket rims. The police found no broken glass in the driveway.

Theft

A resident in the 33000 block of Cherry Hill reported that sometime before 6 a.m. Feb. 2 someone stole his Leatherman tools and Tom Tom GPS unit from his vehicle which was unlocked and parked in the driveway during the night.

The man said that he didn't hear anything unusual throughout the night.

A man said that the person who stole his wallet from the glove box of his unlocked car Feb. 6 in the 30000 block of Brown used his credit cards to make fraudulent purchases.

The thief purchased gasoline from the Admi-

ral gas station in Westland and also fraudulently obtained cash advances.

Besides stealing credit and debit cards, the thief also obtained family members' Social Security numbers, he said.

Property destruction

A resident in the 28000 block of Bock planned to call AAA after he learned from a neighbor that the insurance truck wrecker was responsible for leaving deep tire tracks on his front lawn sometime before 5:30 p.m. Feb. 6.

A neighbor said that when her mother's car got stuck on their front lawn, they called AAA. The AAA truck also got stuck, she told her neighbor.

Theft

A resident in the 28000 block of Bridge who bought a Kindle in early December decided to return the e-reader because he wasn't using it much. However, he was unable to locate it.

When he called Amazon, he learned that it was re-registered to another person. He told the police that Amazon wouldn't identify that person.

By Sue Buck

Ex-boyfriend charged with home invasion

WESTLAND

Home invasion

A Shelby Township man is facing felony charges including home

invasion and assaulting a police officer after breaking into the home of his former girlfriend's current boyfriend.

Just before 6:30 a.m. Feb. 4, police were called to a home in the 33000 block of Chief Lane when the homeowner reported hearing someone in the house. The homeowner had locked himself in the bathroom.

Officers didn't find any signs of forced entry but did find a rear door unlocked and were able to enter the garage where the door to the house was ajar.

When an officer made contact with the homeowner at the front door, the homeowner was startled by the basement door shutting behind him as he opened the front door.

Officers opened the basement door and reported that a man wearing a black hoodie, black gloves and a black mask charged up the stairs at them, armed with baseball bat. The man was ordered to stop and drop the bat, but he continued up the stairs, officers said.



Jason Fox

One officer used his Taser on the suspect which caused him to stop and sit on the stairs. Officers said the man released the bat but continued to refuse to move off the stairs. Eventually, the officers dragged the suspect up the stairs in a prone position to the front door of the home where he was arrested.

The homeowner's girlfriend, who was present, identified the suspect, Jason Michael Fox, 34, as her former boyfriend. The woman told police they had broken up in December but she has had recent problems with him stalking her and vandalizing her property.

Fox, who was later arraigned in 18th District Court on charges of home invasion, larceny in a building, possession of burglary tools and assaulting a police officer with a weapon, received facial abrasions while being dragged up the stairs. A not guilty plea was entered and bond set at \$100,000 cash.

In a statement to police following his arrest, Fox told police that he had an argument with his former girlfriend and learned through Facebook that she planned to attend the Feb. 3 Detroit Pistons basketball game. Fox told police he followed the couple as they left the game to find out where the current boyfriend lives.

The burglary tools

charge stems from pieces of an automotive spark plug, something officers said is often used to break windows, and a flashlight found in Fox's possession. Fox told police he didn't need to break a window after finding a door unlocked.

When the homeowner appeared to have awakened, Fox told police decided to hide in the basement and hope he would fall back asleep. At that point, officers arrived.

Vandalism

A Westland firefighter told police he finished his shift at 8 a.m. Jan. 4 and headed home when he noticed his 2000 Ford F-150 truck was shaking. A witness flagged him down to tell him his tire was about to fall off. The firefighter discovered four of the five lug nuts on the drivers side rear tire had been removed.

Police said it was unclear whether the missing lug nuts were sabotage or an attempt to steal the tire and wheel. The truck had been parked at the fire station, 36435 Ford Road, while the firefighter was working. He told officers it was the third recent incident of tampering with vehicles belonging to Fire Department employees. The other incidents involved vehicles being ransacked and items being stolen.

By LeAnne Rogers

CITY OF WESTLAND

INVITATION TO BID

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 11:30 a.m.** for the following (no exceptions):

LAWN FERTILIZATION AND WEED CONTROL

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained at www.cityofwestland.com or from the Purchasing Office at 36601 Ford Rd., Westland, Michigan, 48185. 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 bids.

William Gabriel
City Controller

Publish: February 9, 2012

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CITY OF WESTLAND

INVITATION TO BID

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 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

Police Department Key Scan Security System Upgrade

The Westland Police Station located at 36701 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan. Questions may be directed to Police Lieutenant Jeff Jedrusik at (734) 467-3529. Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at (734) 467-3204 or at 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 bids.

William Gabriel
City Controller

Publish: February 9, 2012

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Wayne-Westland Community Schools Westland, Michigan 48185

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Wayne-Westland Community Schools will receive sealed bids for:

LAWN/LANDSCAPING SERVICES FOR SPECIFIED BUILDINGS

Bids will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when the opening of bids will be conducted in public:

Date: February 28, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. EST

Place: Board of Education
Wayne-Westland Community Schools
36745 Marquette
Westland, MI 48185
ATTN: David Kaumeyer, Senior Executive Director of Business

All bids received after the date and time stated above will not be considered and will be returned to the bidder unopened.

Bidding documents will be available at the Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education office, located at 36745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan beginning Monday, February 13, 2012 or by contacting 734-419-2048.

Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of sixty (60) days after date of receipt of bids.

Wayne-Westland Community Schools reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Publish February 9, 2012

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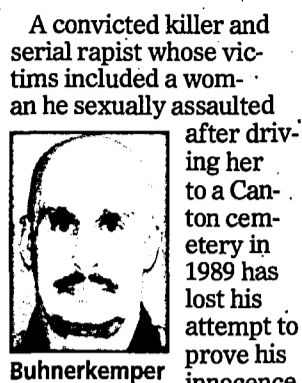
Upcoming 2012 Course Offerings

Course	Start Date	Days	Location
• Paramedic	2/25/12	Saturday's	Taylor Campus
• EMT	2/25/12	Saturday's	Taylor Campus

Late Registrants Accepted

DNA evidence supports conviction

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer



Buhnerkemper

A convicted killer and serial rapist whose victims included a woman he sexually assaulted after driving her to a Canton cemetery in 1989 has lost his attempt to prove his innocence due to DNA evidence long preserved by Canton police, authorities said.

"It's an impressive testament to the department being conscientious and taking care of evidence and doing it right," Canton Detective Sgt. Dave Schreiner said. "It's kind of nice to know that we maintained the ability to prove his guilt, thanks to us being on the job and holding onto evidence."

Canton police turned over DNA evidence for analysis after Wayne County authorities received inquiries about serial rapist and killer David Brian Buhnerkemper, now 55, from the Innocence Project, a national organization dedicated to pursuing a legal review of cases in question.

"The Innocence Project has a place in our society, and we certainly were willing to cooperate with them and abide by a court order for DNA evidence to be submitted to a lab for testing," Schreiner said. "He's in prison on our case and many others."

The latest analysis substantiated Buhnerkemper's guilt.

Life sentence

According to the Michigan Department of Corrections, Buhnerkemper is serving life in prison without the possibility of parole for convictions in 1993 and 1992 on 13 counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, one count of murder involving a Pontiac woman and one count of kidnapping.

Records indicate that a jury convicted Buhnerkemper of one rape in Canton, though he had been charged with two sexual assaults that authorities at the time said happened in Knollwood Cemetery, on Ridge south of Cherry Hill on the township's far west side.

Described as a drifter, Buhnerkemper was arrested in February 1992 at his brother's house in the 7900 block of Koppernick Road in Canton, following a lengthy investigation.

Buhnerkemper said in court at the time that he owned a 1982 Chevrolet Chevette and little else. He also told a judge he had been fired from his job with a temporary work agency that included a stint at Canton-based Yazaki Corp.

Decades old

The first Knollwood incident occurred Aug. 27, 1988, when a 36-year-old Westland woman told police she was abducted from a Dearborn shopping mall and raped in the cemetery. She had been waiting for a bus but accepted a ride.

The second incident occurred Jan. 25, 1989, and involved a 37-year-old Taylor woman who told police she was picked up by a man near Telegraph Road in Dearborn

Heights when her car ran out of gas. She said she was offered a ride to a gas station, but was taken to Knollwood and raped.

Both women eventually escaped.

Michigan Department of Corrections records indicate Buhnerkemper was convicted by a jury of the 1989 rape, along with other incidents such as the 1990 murder of a Pontiac woman, Carol Birrell, whose nude body was found in a Holly Township field near I-75.

"The woman had bite marks on her," then-Michigan State Police Detective Sgt. David Haire said at the time.

Same M/O

Schreiner said the woman whose rape in Canton led to a conviction also had bite marks.

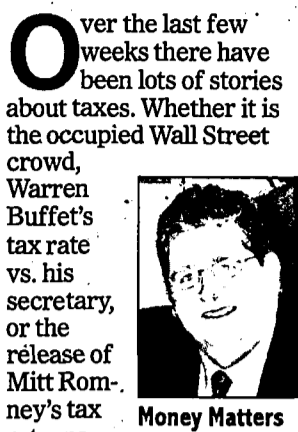
Haire said Buhnerkemper's victims talked of being bitten and of his unusual teeth, prompting authorities to get a court order to take imprints of his bite. Haire said the marks found on Birrell's back, neck and chest matched the imprints.

Schreiner said the latest developments in the case point out the importance of safeguarding DNA evidence that can now prove much more useful than in the past, due to advances in technology.

dclcm@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2238

Tax code is tough to fathom

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Over the last few weeks there have been lots of stories about taxes. Whether it is the occupied Wall Street crowd, Warren Buffett's tax rate vs. his secretary, or the release of Mitt Romney's tax returns, taxes have been in the news. Unfortunately, what has become evident to me is that there is a total misunderstanding of our tax laws. Therefore, I thought it would be important to review some of the basics so readers have a better understanding. Everyone recognize that no one, not even tax experts, understands our tax laws completely. After all, our tax laws are tens of thousands of pages long. Let's not forget they're written by lawyers for lawyers. Therefore, they are very difficult and complex to understand. However, there are some basics that help readers understand some of the conversations that are occurring.

Types of income

Much has been said about the fact that Warren Buffett has a lower tax rate than his secretary. Although this may be true, it certainly doesn't

mean that Warren Buffett pays less in taxes than his secretary. In fact, I am sure he pays more in taxes per year than most people earn in a lifetime. The confusion comes in understanding tax rates. For the great majority of taxpayers, there are two different tax rates — ordinary income and capital gains.

Ordinary income is generally income from wages. That money is taxed starting at a 10 percent bracket and eventually rises to 35 percent. However, what makes this a little more complex is that we do not pay taxes on our gross income. For example, if you earned \$75,000 in wages that does not mean you pay ordinary income taxes on that \$75,000. We pay taxes based upon our taxable income, not our gross income. Taxable income is income less any deductions and exemptions. Thus, if someone's gross income is \$75,000 their taxable income may only be \$50,000. It is important to recognize that there is a distinction between gross income and taxable income.

The other major bracket — capital gain — is based upon the taxes paid on an investment that is held for at least a year and then sold with a gain. Your capital gain rate can either be zero, five percent or 15 percent. Therefore, when Warren Buffett talks about having a lower bracket than his secretary, he is not telling you the whole story. He is comparing his capital gain bracket

to his secretary's ordinary income bracket. A fair comparison would be comparing his ordinary bracket to her ordinary income bracket or her capital gain bracket to his. What he did was compare his effective tax rate to her effective tax rate, which is something totally different.

Effective tax rate

Many times during this discussion about taxes you will hear something referred to as your effective tax rate. Basically, your effective tax rate is the total taxes you pay as a percent of your income. However, like so much when it comes to taxes, there are different ways to compute it. First, since the effective tax rate is the percent of your income, the first question is what income do you use? Do you use your gross income, which would be the \$75,000, or do you use taxable income, which would be the \$50,000 from the example outlined here. Or do you use what is considered adjustable taxable income? The next question is what taxes do you use? Do you use just federal income taxes or do you include all federal taxes such as the Medicare and Social Security tax? The bottom line is the effective tax rate can be computed a number of different ways and when you hear discussions regarding taxes and the effective tax rate, you should keep that in mind.

When taxes are discussed you will also hear the term, marginal tax

rate. Your marginal tax rate would be the taxes that you pay on your last dollar of income. For example, if someone's taxable income (all ordinary income) was \$400,000 their marginal tax rate would be 35 percent. That means the last dollar that they earned was taxed at 35 percent, however, that doesn't mean that the entire \$400,000 was taxed at 35 percent. After all, our tax rates are progressive and, therefore, part of the \$400,000 would also have been taxed at the lower brackets.

I suspect that as the presidential campaign heats up later this year, we will hear more and more discussion about taxes, tax policies and tax rates. As far as I'm concerned, it doesn't matter what side of the debate you're on. It is more important that you understand what the conversation is about and that you don't let anyone pull the wool over your eyes. We all know that numbers can be manipulated and politicians are pros at that.

My advice for lawmakers is that they shouldn't focus on tax rates and tax brackets but rather what would make things better for all of us — tax simplification. Good luck!

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



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*Based on Medicare's 2011 and 2012 Overall Plan Star Ratings. See full results at www.medicare.gov. Plan Star Ratings are assessed each year and may change from one year to the next. Health Alliance Plan is a health plan with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Rx (pdp) is a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan with a Medicare contract.

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GARDEN CLIPPINGS



Courtly crew

Members of the cast of the this weekend's production of Cinderella include Laurie Kempisty of Novi as the daughter, Helene Lusa of Livonia as the duke, Andrea Witkowski of Wyandotte as a lord, Dawn Parker of Canton as Modern Mother, Kathy Kish of Garden City as a lady of the ball from Garden City and Esther Nelson of Canton as a lord. The Plymouth-Canton AAUW will present its annual children's play 7 p.m. this evening and Friday, Feb. 8-9, and 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, in O'Leary Auditorium at Garden City High School, 6500 Middlebelt Road, north of Ford Road, Garden City. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door. Tickets are available at Perko's Shoes, 33426 W. Five Mile, Livonia; Sideways Gifts, 505 Forest Ave., Plymouth, and Fanatic U, 30409 Ford Road Garden City. For more information, visit the Plymouth AAUW website at www.aauw-pcmi.org.

Annual Auction

Come join the fun "tropical style" when St. Raphael School holds its Hawaiian Luau Auction Fundraiser 5:30-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, in the School Activities Center, 31500 Beechwood, Garden City.

The \$35 ticket includes a buffet dinner, dessert, two drinks, music and chance to win hundreds of auction items. There also will be a cash bar and silent and live auction items to bid on.

To purchase tickets or donate an auction item, call (734) 425-9771 or send an e-mail to straphaelauction@gmail.com or coordinator Lisa Choi directly at lgursky@sbcglobal.net.

Radio License Course

The Garden City Amateur Radio Club will hold a 14-week class for the Amateur Extra License.

The class will be held at the Garden City Presbyterian Church on Middlebelt Road, south of Ford Road, Garden City. Class times will be from 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, beginning Feb. 16th. The final class on May 17 will be an official FCC license exam session.

No books or manuals are required; all instructional material will be handed out in class. The cost of the class is \$10, which is the cost of the handouts.

Reserve your space by contacting Fred at 73 261-6441 or by e-mail at k8kuz@aol.com.

Parys fundraiser

The Deacons of Garden City Presbyterian Church are holding a dinner and a concert Saturday, Feb. 11, to benefit Shawn Parys who has been diagnosed in 2009 with neuro-degenerative central nervous system Langerhans cell histiocytosis with central diabetes insipidus and

periodic alternating nystagmus.

There will be a spaghetti dinner at 5:30 p.m. and a concert at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$10 and \$15 at the door. Call the church office for tickets at (734) 421-7620.

Zumba Fitness

Try calorie-burning fitness workout with Zumba Fitness classes at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City.

The class features feature rhythms set to high-energy Latin, international, and Christian music. The classes are on Thursdays through May. Registration is at 7:30 p.m., and the class begins at 8 p.m.

Attendees must be 18 years or older. Wear comfortable workout wear and bring a sweat towel and a bottle of drinking water. A donation will be taken at the door for every class to cover the cost of the certified Zumba instructor.

Enter the building through the gym doors on the north side of the facility. Arrive at 7:30 p.m. the first night of class to get registered.

For more information, visit www.MRBC.us and click on Women's Ministries, Girlfriends of Grace and Zumba Fitness for Women or send an e-mail to info@mrbc.us. Or call (734) 421-0472

Each attendee will be required to sign a liability waiver releasing the church and the class instructor from any and all liabilities related to the attendee's participation in the exercise class.

Cougars 4 Sports

Everyone is invited to gather at the Al Sultan Restaurant, 415 Inkster

Road, south of Ford Road, Garden City, from 10 a.m. until closing Thursday, Feb. 16. Stop by for lunch, dinner or a snack and 10 percent of total sales will be donated to Cougars 4 Sports. You must tell them you are part of the fundraiser for Garden City schools when placing your order.

Travel show

Party Animal Travel is having a Senior Free Travel Fair 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at Joy Manor, 8999 Joy Road, Westland.

There will be a meet-and-greet for seniors who may want to travel, but need a travel buddy. Party Animal has museum, casinos, restaurants and summer tours set up for the older and still active crowd. The cost of the fair is free and seniors could win a trip at the show.

Ready to Relay

It's time to fight back against cancer.

The sixth annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Garden City has set the 2012 event date from 10 a.m. Saturday, June 2, to 10 a.m. Sunday, June 3, at the Garden City Middle School track on Radcliff south of Ford Road.

A kickoff celebration will be held Thursday, March 8, in the gymnasium of Farmington Elementary 5-6 Campus, 33411 Marquette. Registration and refreshments will be at 6:30 p.m., with the program at 7 p.m.

So far, 16 teams and 84 participants have registered for the Garden City Relay for Life. Participants can start a team by visiting relayforlife.org or calling (800) 227-2345.

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CITY OF WESTLAND
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION
February 28, 2012

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND, County of Wayne: Notice is hereby given that a Presidential Primary Election will be held in the City of Westland on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at which time a partisan Presidential Primary will be voted upon and a ballot question for the Wayne-Westland School District which shall read as follows: Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Wayne-Westland Community Schools, Wayne County, Michigan, be renewed and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed .9922 mil (\$0.9922 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2013 to 2022, inclusive, to continue to provide for a sinking fund for the purchase of real estate for sites for, and the construction or repair of school buildings and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2013 is approximately \$1,930,000? YES or NO

STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT 278 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1964 Amending the Property Tax Limitation Act

I, RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of January 10, 2012 the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

Taxing Authorities	Date of Election	Voted Increases	Years Increase Effective
Wayne County	November 2, 2010	1 mill	2015
Wayne County Jail	August 6, 2002	1 mill	2011
Wayne County Parks	November 2, 2010	0.25 mills	2015
Wayne County Comm. College	November 6, 2009	1.25 mills	2020
Wayne-Westland School District	May, 2010	18 mills	2025
Wayne-Westland School District	February, 2003	1 mill	(non homestead only) 2012

Dated January 10, 2012

Raymond Wojtowicz /s/ Treasurer

The places of voting for the Presidential Primary Election and the Wayne-Westland School District proposal to be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012, will be as follows:

Precincts	Locations
1, 13, 18 & 19	Schweitzer School, 2601 Treadwell
2, 11, 23 & 32	Elliott School, 30800 Bennington
3 & 7	Stottlemeyer School, 34801 Marquette
4 & 8	Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road
5 & 29	Edison School, 34505 Hunter
6, 9 & 10	Adams Middle School, 33475 Palmer
12, 25 & 35	Cooper School, 28550 Ann Arbor Trail
14	Marshall Middle School, 35100 Bayview
15	Greenwood Villa, 7600 Nankin Ct.
16	Holliday Park Club House, 34850 Fountain Blvd.
17 & 37	P. D. Graham School, 1255 S. John Hix
20	Wildwood School, 500 N. Wildwood
21 & 42	Johnson School, 8400 Hix
22	Westland Meadows Club House, 30600 Van Born
24	Lutheran High School Westland, 33300 Cowan
26 & 33	Hamilton School, 1031 Schuman
27 & 36	Western Wayne Skill Center, 8075 Ritz
28	Church of Christ - Annapolis Park, 30355 Annapolis
30 & 31	Hayes School, 30600 Louise St.
34 & 38	Dyer Social Service Center, Senior Wing - 36745 Marquette
39	Landings Apartment Club House, 7000 Lakeview
40 & 41	Hellenic Cultural Center at St. Constantine Church, 36375 Joy

The polls for said election will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 8:00 p.m. on said day of election. Every qualified elector present and in line at the hour prescribed for the closing thereof shall be allowed to vote. Voting sites are ADA compliant.

Eileen DeHart, CMC Westland City Clerk

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CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE TO THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED VOTERS
CITY OF WESTLAND PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION
February 28, 2012

Absent voter ballots are available through the Westland City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan for those persons that are physically unable to attend the polls or are 60 years of age or older. The voter, before the issuance of a ballot, must complete an application for ballot.

There will be ADA compliant equipment for use at every polling place.

The last day to apply for a ballot by mail is Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Persons qualified to vote absentee may vote in person in the City Clerk's Office until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 2012.

Eileen DeHart, CMC Westland City Clerk

Publish: February 9, 2012

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Food drive

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

The center is collecting nonperishable food now through tomorrow, Feb. 10. People can drop off donations at a table by the Guest Service Desk in the mall's East Court. Bring in three items and enter to win a \$100 mall gift card. Details are available at Guest Services.

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

Valentines show

The Westland Hellenic Cultural Center is holding a '50s and '60s Valentines Show Friday, Feb. 11, featuring the Legends Alive tribute show with Full Throttle DooWop, the Everly Brothers, Roy Orbison, Gene Pitney and Cal Roberts singing the hits of The Platters.

Tickets are \$38 each and included dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the show at 8 p.m. There will be a

cash bar. For Tickets or more information, call (734) 525-3550.

Boxer Review

The Westland Veterans Association will hold a "ladies night out" with a Male Boxer Review Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. There will be drawings, raffles, 50/50 and a cash bar. Tickets are \$10 each, with limited reserved tickets available for \$20 each.

They're available by calling (734) 578-4615.

Proceeds will benefit the Veterans Memorial of Westland.

Vets fundraiser

Help support your local veterans by attending an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner 5-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at AMVETS Post 171.

The cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children age 10 and under and free for children age 3 and under. The meal include spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, drinks and des-

sert. Beer will be available for \$1 a glass and \$3 for a pitcher.

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, West-

land. For more information, call (734) 722-1343.

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.



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Founders Day Dinner celebrates all things PTA

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

They came to celebrate, and that they did at the Garden City PTA Council's 60th annual Founders Day Dinner.

Parents, teachers, administrators and city and state officials were recognized for their efforts. One teacher "was flabbergasted" at being named the 2012 Educator of the Year, and one state lawmaker was "honored" to be a part of the celebration.

"I am so happy to see all your smiling faces here to help us celebrate each other and our mutual successes," said Sue Bellows, longtime PTA activist and master of ceremonies. "Whenever we have individual successes, we all share in that success."

The evening included the announcement of the council's annual Educator of the Year award, presented to Cappi Marshall, a teacher at the Farmington Elementary 5-6 campus. Marshall was nominated by Farmington Principal James Bohm Wagner who described her as "probably the most caring, compassionate and dedicated teacher I have ever met."

Friend of PTA

The council presented state Sen. Glenn Anderson with a Michigan PTA Life Membership Award for being a longtime friend of PTA and "stumping for teens and children" while serving in the legislature.

"I'm honored to be chosen for this," said Anderson. "I had no idea. I came here to be part of your doing it right for children. I'm proud of this school district, I truly appreciate this community. You never think this is a bother or a hindrance, you are all here for the kids."

Calling it a "personal favorite," Bellows introduced Marshall as the Educator of the Year.

"This isn't something that happens to just one person, there's other people who also put in their time," said Marshall. "The silver lining in moving to so many buildings is that there were people there to help me. Without their support, I couldn't do what I do."

Among the guest speakers was Garden City Mayor Randy Walker, who thanked the parents, teachers and administrators for what they do.

"Founders Day is a reminder of the important role that PTA has in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families," he said. "Take pride in your many accomplishments and renew your commitment to be a powerful voice for our children."

Walker also shared the National Prevention Strategy Information on childhood obesity that he received at the winter meeting of the National Conference of Mayors, telling the crowd that "we must educate our children on healthy eating habits."

Also addressing the group was state Rep.



Garden City High School Principal Derek Fisher shares a picture of his son with Cappi Marshall, the 2012 Educator of the Year, during the annual Founders Day Dinner.



Garden City High School PTSA president Linda Bodnovits looks over the items available to the highest bidder in the silent auction.



Garden City Middle School Assistant Principal Larry Conn, shows centerpiece judge Stanley Szczotka, the director of student services, the explanation for their table arrangement.

Robert Constan, who presented the council with a state proclamation recognizing the superintendent, the school board, teachers and parents all do "to prepare students

for success."
"You do a great job," he said.

Successful launch

The dinner had a theme of "Helping launch students into success," and Superintendent Michelle Cline noted that it dovetailed with the districts goal of launching students into successful students.

"We have strong teachers and administrators who assess and align the curriculum with the standards, but you are a critical part of making the launch pad," she said. "Parent support is important, the PTA is critical."

School board President Patrick McNally acknowledged that the

past few years haven't been easy for parents but offered a goal that "hopefully in a few years we can take a dif-



Garden City Middle School Principal Brian Sumner tells guests that "our children need us" and that should not lose sight of the role they play as parents during the invocation at the annual Founders Day Dinner.

PTA HONORS ITS OWN

Among the awards given out at the annual dinner were given to:

- State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland — Michigan PTA Life Member Award given by the Garden City PTA Council.
- Garden City Elementary PTA President Jenna McMechan recognized volunteers Julie Forthun, Kristie Kosniewski, Doug Cary, Dave Mouradian, Fawn Salvatore, Lisa Fugitt, Stacey Kempski, Rose Amore, Tonya Letasz and Cappi Marshall and the members of the Elementary PTA Executive Board — Deborah Bowers, vice president, Lathers Early Childhood and Kindergarten Center; Shannon Chene, vice president, Memorial 1-2 Campus; Kathy McGowan, vice president, Douglas 3-4 Campus; Becky Stibel, vice president, Farmington 5-6 Campus; Amanda Williams, secretary, and Drew McMechan, treasurer.

"These guys have done so much and I get all the compliments," said McMechan. "I'm thrilled the membership campaign brought in an amazing 500 members. I'm really excited with the resurgence in interest in the PTA."

• Special award given to the late Laura Pawlukiewicz by Jenna McMechan. "Our hearts are broken since we lost Laura, she was a very special parent and a cherished volunteer," McMechan said. "She was a very special PTA member."

• Nancy Outlaw — Distinguished Service Award for showing "dedication and working on behalf of children and youth," given by the Garden City High School PTSA.

"This award is very special and you earned it," said Linda Bodnovits, the high school PTSA president.



Associate Superintendent Gary Murrell (from left) shares a laugh with Sue Bellows and former school board member Patricia Ruhland.

ferent perspective and tell this room full of people how we're spending money, not how what we have to cut."

Offering words of encouragement was Shaton Berry, Michigan PTSA president, who thanked the group for "carrying the torch."

"Thank you for providing the opportunity for parents to be involved in their students' education," she said. "You make a difference every day, never lose sight of what you do."

The dinner also featured entertainment by the Kish Celtic Band, a 50/50 raffle and the ever-popular silent auction which raises money for scholarships for Garden City High School students, and the awarding of the trophy for the best centerpieces. That honor again went to Garden City Middle Schools which created grumbling about a fix.

Playing off the space theme, the centerpieces included a space shuttle and pictures of stu-

dents as the stars. It also included an explanation that Principal Brian Sumner and Assistant Principal Larry Conn were commissioned "to rise above our own stars and search for intelligent life outside our solar system. Having conquered earthly global education, Superintendent Cline has set her sights on a new program titled 'No Alien Left Behind.'"

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751



Garden City Mayor Randy Walker (left) chats with State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, who received an honorary Michigan PTA Life Member Award at the dinner.



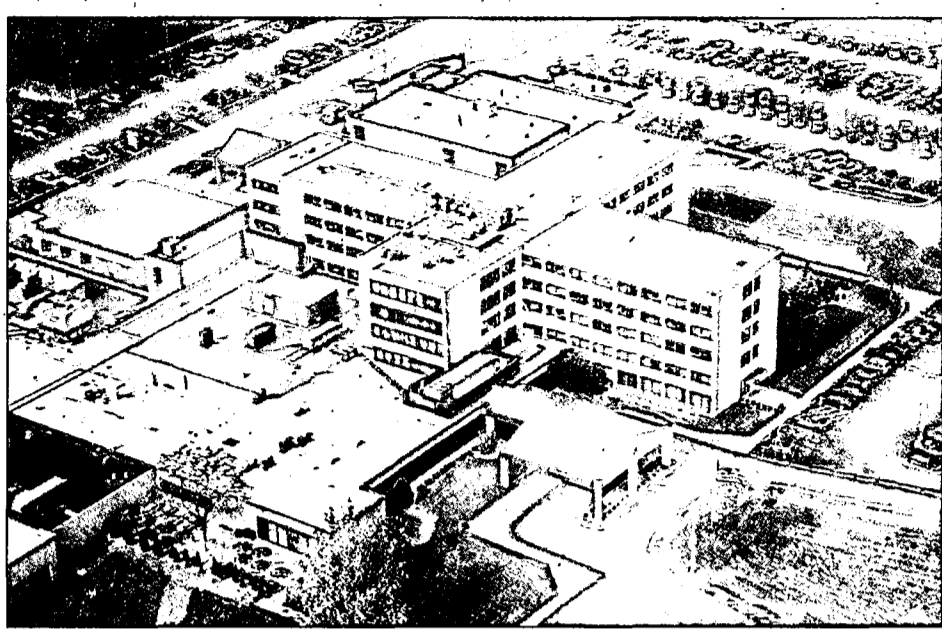
Nina Perrin and Julie Forthun were among guests at the 60th annual Founders Day Dinner.

Oakwood plans \$4 million renovation of Annapolis ER

A renovation project at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne will provide more space in the emergency department, increase the efficiency of the operation and reduce the amount of time patients will spend there.

The Oakwood Healthcare System is spending \$4 million on a year-long project to redesign and expand the emergency department at the hospital to improve the overall patient experience, said Eric Widner, division president of Oakwood Healthcare.

"This is the largest renovation project in our emergency department since the hospital opened in 1957," said Widner. "It's a continuation of our commitment to provide the highest level of care to the community. We are confident that through these changes we will improve community access to and satisfaction with emergency care services provided at Oak-



Oakwood Annapolis Hospital will undergo a \$4 million project this year to expand the emergency room department by 1,500 square feet as well as a renovation of the existing 11,000 square feet.

wood Annapolis."

The project involves an expansion of about 1,500 square feet as well as a renovation of the existing 11,000 square feet in the department. The renovation will result in a

modest increase in bed capacity and a significant improvement in design of patient flow, along with optimized patient privacy, enhanced geriatric and bariatric care safety, and greater capacity for isolation and decontamination.

It will augment the separation between the pedestrian and ambulance entrances to promote safety. The new waiting room as well as internal refinements will

support the "Start Up" and "Fast Track" initiatives, which are designed to ensure that patients are seen in a timely fashion.

"Our goal is to ensure that patients are seen earlier by an attending physician, which will result in earlier treatment, earlier relief of symptoms, earlier test results, and ultimately a shorter stay in the ED," said Liliana Mandiuc, clinical manager of the Emergency Department at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital.

The dedicated ambulance entrance will provide for an accelerated ambulance drop-off, which will help patients that require acute care receive faster treatment. The renovation will also provide a larger resuscitation room capable of accommodating two patients, which will support the pursuit of Level III trauma center verification at the hospital. The hospital last

upgraded its emergency department in 1993.

Wayne Mayor Al Haidous said he was pleased to see the investment in the hospital and the community.

"I was very excited to see such a modern way of doing business here in the City of Wayne," he said. "We are happy to have such a facility in our community."

The work will be phased in throughout the year and, through a collaborative effort between the hospital and emergency department leadership, the architects and builder, it will ensure no loss of bed capacity or reduction in ability to provide emergency care, Widner said.

"It won't be business as usual, but we have a plan," he said. "We will be very thoughtful in the execution of this project to ensure that patients will continue to receive the same high level of care."

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

New tenants

Westland is getting two new businesses in the City Center mall at Ford Road and Central City Parkway.

Mid-America Real Estate-Michigan Inc. has announced a 1,440-square-foot lease for a Dairy Queen in the Kroger-anchored shopping center.

Gabe Schuchman and Samantha Tullio of Mid-America Real Estate-Michigan Inc. represented the landlord, City Center Associates and the tenant, Dairy Queen in the transaction.

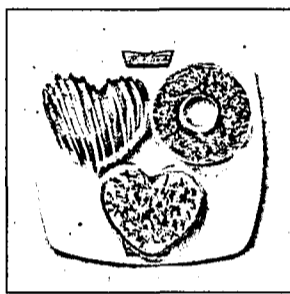
Mid-America also has announced a 2,435-square-foot lease for Moorehead Communications in City Center. Schuchman and Tullio also represented City Center Associates in the transaction.

Eat your hearts

Celebrate the season of love with Krispy Kreme's irresistible iced, drizzled and sprinkled heart-shaped treats. Available for a limited time at participating Krispy Kreme U.S. and Canada shops.

"Krispy Kreme has become a go-to Valentine's Day destination," said Krispy Kreme Corporate Chef, Ron Rupocinski. "These fun-looking and great-tasting doughnuts are perfect for Valentine's gift giving and gatherings."

Send your sweet love a Krispy Kreme Valentine e-card at www.krispykreme.com/card.



Krispy Kreme is offering iced, drizzled and sprinkled heart-shaped treats for Valentine's gift giving now through Feb. 14.

And, watch Krispy Kreme's video Valentine to its fans at www.krispykreme.com/SpreadTheLove. Available through Feb. 14, Krispy Kreme is offering the one-of-a-kind treats to share with your special Valentines:

- **Drizzled Heart:** Nothing says 'Be Mine' like a decadent chocolate iced doughnut drizzled with red icing.

- **Heart with Sprinkles:** Treat your sweetheart to a heart-shaped treat topped with white icing and romantic red and white sprinkles.

- **Chocolate Iced Glazed with Sprinkles:** A classic chocolate iced doughnut showered in red and white sprinkles for your true love.

Krispy Kreme is helping spread the love with this special Valentine's dozen offer: Get 12 free Valentine Cards when you purchase a dozen doughnuts. Each Valentine card is good for a free doughnut of choice.

Offer good for one set of 12 cards per dozen purchased while supplies last.

Krispy Kreme's heart-shaped and original glazed doughnuts are also available in assorted varieties and specially designed Valentine's Day packaging at participating grocery stores, convenience stores and mass merchants. Visit www.krispykreme.com/grocery for details.

Kohl's scholarships

The Kohl's Department Stores Kohl's Cares® Scholarship Program will award more than \$420,000 in scholarships and prizes, ranging from \$50 Kohl's gift cards to \$10,000 scholarships, to more than 2,200 young volunteers who have made a positive impact on their communities.

Nominations for kids ages 6-18 are being accepted now through March 15 at kohlskids.com. Kohl's is helping promising youth further their education at a time when college tuition continues to increase yearly - a challenge to many American families who face high unemployment and stagnant incomes.

"Through the Kohl's Cares® Scholarship Program, Kohl's recognizes young volunteers who dedicate their time, energy and passion to helping others and bettering the communities we live

in," said Julie Gardner, Kohl's executive vice president and chief marketing officer. "During a time of economic uncertainty and high tuition costs, it's important to support extraordinary kids by investing in their future. We encourage parents, teachers, neighbors and friends to nominate outstanding young volunteers at kohlskids.com."

To make a nomination, visit kohlskids.com.

Nominator must be 21 years or older. Two nominees from each of the more than 1,100 Kohl's stores nationwide will win a \$50 Kohl's gift card, and more than 200 will win regional scholarships worth \$1,000 toward post-secondary education. Ten national winners will be awarded a total of \$10,000 in scholarships for post-secondary education and Kohl's will donate \$1,000 to a nonprofit organization on each national winner's behalf.

Through the Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program, Kohl's aims to honor young volunteers who have made a positive impact on their communities. Since the program began in 2001, Kohl's has recognized more than 15,000 kids with more than \$3 million in scholarships and prizes. In 2012, Kohl's celebrates its 12th year of rewarding young volunteers.

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0608752114

Don't let technology block your view

By Clarity Patton Newhouse
Guest Columnist

The other day as I was driving home from

an unfamiliar area, I had a taste for Dairy Queen. I had to make another stop, so

while in the parking lot I used my smartphone's Google Maps app to see if there was someplace nearby to satisfy my sweet tooth.

No luck - all the enticing little listings on the map were too far out of my way. Pulling out of the parking lot in disappointment, I turned my head and right there on the other side of the

same building I'd just visited was a Dairy Queen.

The moral of the story isn't "list your business on Google," although that's a very wise thing to do. The more thought-provoking point is that even though technology connects us with people and places around the world, it can get in the way of seeing the people and places right in front of us.

Don't let technology substitute for reality. From engaging with friends and family to exploring the world around us, there's still a lot more to life than captured in even the most amazing new technology. Let's keep our eyes open - and have a sunny day!

Clarity P.S. "No matter what you've done for yourself or for humanity, if you can't look back on having

given love and attention to your own family, what have you really accomplished?"

Lee Iacocca

P.P.S. It's always great to hear from you. You can also help spread the sunshine by forwarding Sunny Notes to others. New readers can visit this link to add their e-mail address to receive Sunny Notes.

Clarity Patton Newhouse is president of Sunny Media Group Inc., located at 39209 Six Mile, Suite 165, Livonia. She writes "A Sunny Note" to brighten the day with encouraging insights for business and life. "A Sunny Note" also is published online at ASunnyNote.com for readers across America and beyond. To reach her call (734) 855-4728 or find her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sunnynotes.



Clarity Patton Newhouse

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0608752114

OUR VIEWS

Our pick

Sinking fund tax renewal deserves a yes vote

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools has worked hard over the past decade to earn the trust of residents when it comes to tax issues.

In 1998, the district asked for and won approval of a \$108 million bond issue to repair and renovate the schools. But the list was more than what could be covered by the bond issue. As a result, the district, in 2003, asked voters for a 10-year one-mill sinking fund tax, that allowed it to address those six pages of repairs.

The voters approved the request, and the last levy of that tax will come on the this summer's tax bill. As prelude to its expiration, school officials are asking district residents to approve at .99222-mill renewal on the Feb. 28 presidential primary ballot. If approved, the money would be utilized for the repair and replacement of Wayne-Westland's current educational infrastructure and protect taxpayers' investment in the students, schools and community.

The tax renewal would raise an estimated \$1.93 million a year. The money raised could only be used for what is stated in the ballot language, basically building repairs and maintenance.

The original sinking fund levy provided new media centers at elementary schools, expanded parking lots and extra gymnasium space at the high schools. This time the district will use the money to focus on major repairs. Boilers, roofs, chillers and cooling towers, exterior soffits and canopies, exterior doors and windows, elementary kitchen remodeling and expansions, parking lot upgrades and expansions and bathroom renovations are on the list.

We need only look to last month's school board meeting to see how pricey a chiller can be. The school board approved the purchase of a chiller replacement at Wayne Memorial High School. The unit, which will provide air conditioning for the high school office, mathematics, science and library areas, costs \$236,140. That purchase is coming out of the district's building and site fund.

The good part about a sinking fund is that unlike a bond issue, it isn't a loan. There is no interest to pay, so it frees up general fund money used for repairs for instruction and the students. The fund is audited by the state yearly, and if there is any discrepancy or violation, it becomes null and void.

That hasn't happened and school officials have done what they said they would do. We are confident that same will be true with this tax renewal.

Residents need to remember that this is not a new tax request, it's a 10-year renewal. It will not increase the amount of taxes they currently pay. For the homeowner with a taxable value of \$40,000, considered average in the district, it would cost \$39.69 annually.

Voters trusted the district to do the right thing with the bond issue and with the 2003 sinking fund millage request. If residents want to see how those tax dollars were spent, they need only walk into their neighborhood school and look around. What they'll see is Wayne-Westland students getting a 21st century education in buildings that are safe and secure.

The election is a presidential primary, so Wayne-Westland residents have three ways to vote — for the Republican Party, the Democratic Party or for only the millage request. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day, or residents can vote by absentee ballot. Whatever the choice, we encourage residents to be a part of the election process.

The district has been prudent in its financial decisions. Through wise money management, school officials have helped the district weather a financial storm that has engulfed the state for almost a decade. And we are confident they will continue to be just as prudent in how that sinking fund money will be spent.

We recommend a YES on the .99222-mill sinking fund renewal on Feb. 28. It is an investment in the students, the schools and the community, an investment that has helped the district meet the challenges of education in the 21st century.

COMMUNITY VOICE

What's your definition of a perfect Valentine Day gift?

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



"Flowers and a gigantic teddy bear."

Christina Veal
Westland



"A card - a funny one - and candy or homemade baked goods."

Linda Ferris
Garden City



"Probably giving personal time. It would be the best gift because you can't go out and buy it and you have to put thought into it."

James Jones
Westland



"A room for the night in Puerto Rico would be a good gift. I saw it on the Today show this morning. It was \$400 a night."

Andre Miller
Westland

LETTERS

Looking for a Model T

I am reaching out to you because you are involved in retaining the history of the early Ford automobile. I represent Friends of Nankin Mills.

One of the first in the Ford Motor Company Village Industry, the building has been restored and is in operation in a multiple services. The mill is an interpretive center, we have thousands of school children that enter the building every year. We have a speaker program that is growing. We even have a program to restore Thomas Edison's generator in the building so that kids can see how electricity was distributed in the area back in the '20s.

We feel that one thing that is lacking is an opportunity for children to be able to climb in and touch an early model car, specifically a Model T. We feel that having a car in the building that helped build parts for both the Model T and Model A that kids could climb in and feel the joy and excitement of what we all feel when we climb into our old cars. This would help spark interest in the next generation and help keep the history flowing.

What I am asking is that each of you help us by keeping your eyes and ears open for a car. We don't require a working engine, or even a perfect body and tires. This car will be cleaned up and painted and used as a hands-on display in the museum. We do have some money, but we are also a 501(c)3 and are happy to accept donations.

Please feel free to contact me either via e-mail at don@donnicholson.net. Have a great day motoring and preserving the history!

Don Nicholson
president

Don Nicholson Enterprises, LLC

Good reporting

I read your story, "Retired police officers seek answers in 1990 cold case." Good reporting job. Please let these men know that what they are doing represents the essence of human kindness and caring toward the family of the victim. Acts like this give hope for the human condition.

Carl Hildebrand
Royal Oak

Remember the staff

I would like to extend congratulations to Dr. (Greg) Baracy for his accomplishments in Wayne-Westland School District. The article that appeared in the Observer was well written and gave many accolades to the Dr. Baracy, but what about all of the teachers and principals who followed through on Dr. Baracy's plans in order to earn the advanced state endorsements he received. Let us not forget that the people who actually teach our children are often forgotten and not thanked.

I would like to write this editorial in thanks to every Wayne-Westland principal, teacher and teacher's aide who took the time and patience to teach my children and all of the other children in the district. I agree that Wayne-Westland School District is one of the best in Michigan, but it is thanks to the principals and teachers that this school district has

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226

Fax: (313) 223-3318

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com.

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

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

succeeded in teaching children and making them successful, positive citizens in our state.

I think the work that Dr. Baracy has done is wonderful, but don't forget about the actual people in the trenches every day helping these children become the smartest and most productive citizens in Michigan.

Vonda L. Newborn
Inkster

Important information

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

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

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

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

Thanks for help

Thanks to the generous efforts of Detroit-area residents, thousands of hurting children worldwide will have the opportunity to experience the joy of Christmas. Residents joined Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, to pack 30,190 shoe boxes with toys, school supplies and necessity items. These gift-filled shoe boxes are making their way — or have already made their way — into the hands of needy children in 100 receiving countries.

On behalf of our community, I would like to thank the volunteers at local collection sites and everyone who packed an Operation Christmas Child shoe box gift. For many of the children receiving these boxes, the simple shoe box will be the first gift they have ever received.

Although the Detroit-area drop-off locations are closed until November 2012, gifts are received throughout the year at Samaritan's Purse, 801 Bamboo Road, Boone, NC 28607. If you would like to

get involved year-round in helping children in need through Operation Christmas Child, go online to www.samaritanspurse.org/occ or call (937) 374-0761.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in this project. A simple gift, packed with love, can communicate hope and transform the lives of children worldwide!

Bonnie Freeman

Great Lakes Regional director
Operation Christmas Child

Be prepared

The thought of a breakdown, an engine not starting or otherwise being stranded is scary as it is, but those things happening in freezing winter weather add another level of fear. So, when the weather outside is frightful, a little advance preparation can make winter driving more delightful. An investment of an hour or so to have your vehicle checked can help you avoid being stranded in severe winter weather:

- Check the battery and charging system for optimum performance. Cold weather is hard on batteries.
- Clean, flush and put new antifreeze in the cooling system. As a general rule of thumb, this should be done every two years.
- Make sure heaters, defrosters and wipers work properly. Consider winter wiper blades and use cold weather washer fluid. Typically, wiper blades should be replaced every six months.
- If you're due for a tune-up, have it done before winter sets in. Winter magnifies existing problems such as pings, hard starts, sluggish performance or rough idling.
- Check the tire tread depth and tire pressure. If snow and ice are a problem in your area, consider special tires designed to grip slick roads. During winter, tire pressure should be checked weekly.
- Check the brakes. The braking system is the vehicle's most important safety component.
- Inspect the exhaust system for carbon monoxide leaks, which can be especially dangerous during cold weather driving when windows are closed.
- Check to see that exterior and interior lights work and headlights are properly aimed.
- Be diligent about changing the oil at recommended intervals as dirty oil can spell trouble in winter. Consider changing to "winter weight" oil if you live in a cold climate. Check the fuel, air and transmission filters at the same time.

Motorists should keep the gas tank at least half full at all times to decrease the chances of moisture forming in the gas lines and possibly freezing. Drivers should also check the tire pressure of the spare in the trunk and stock an emergency kit with an ice scraper and snow brush, jumper cables, flashlight, flares, blanket, extra clothes, candles/matches, bottled water, dry food-snacks and needed medication.

For more helpful information, visit www.carcare.org and check out the free digital Car Care Guide.

Rich White
executive director
Car Care Council

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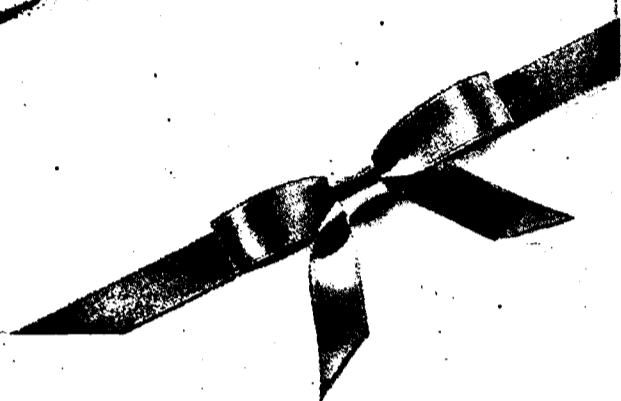
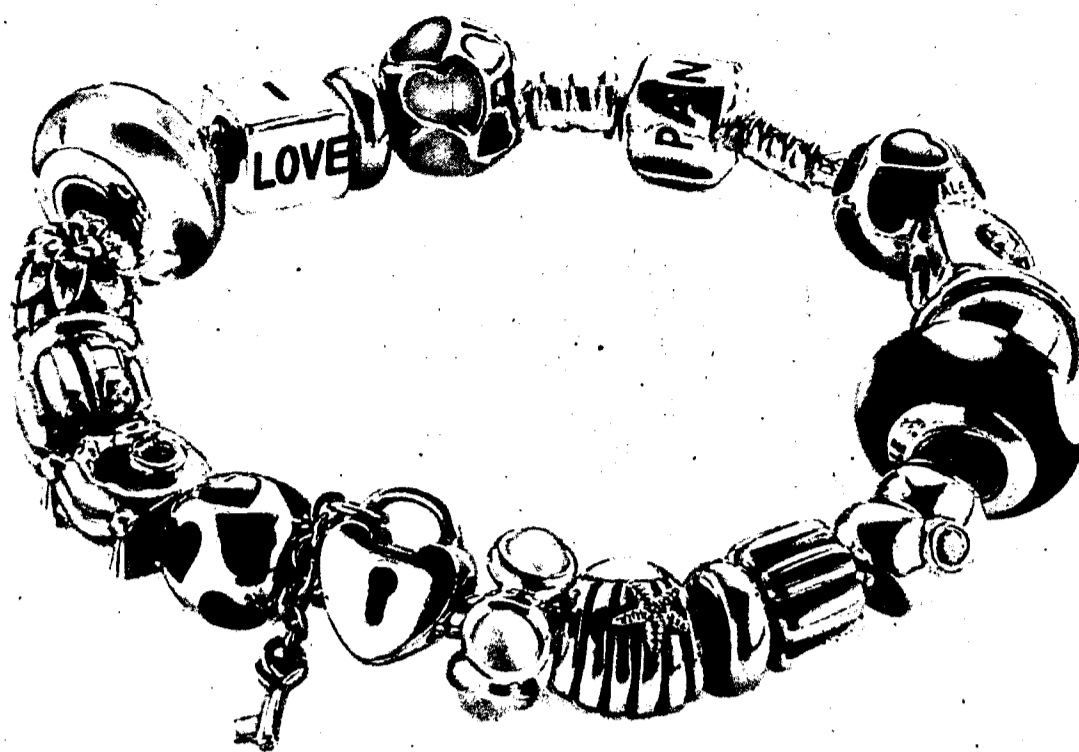
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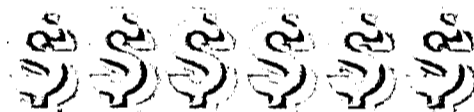
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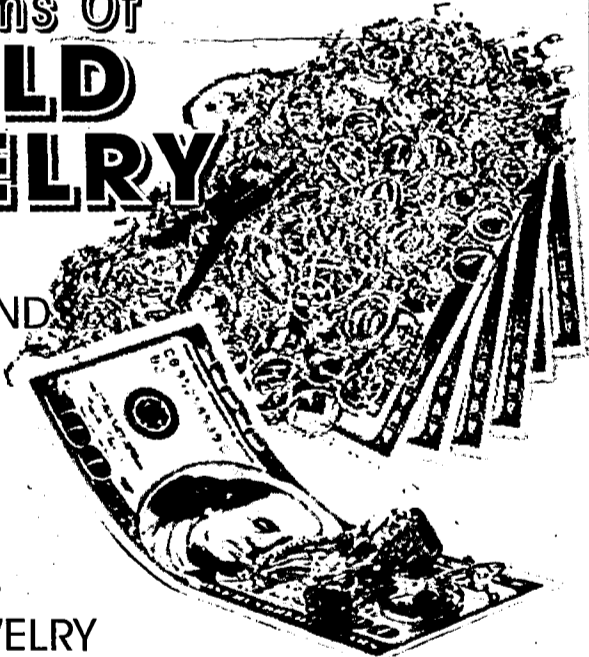
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OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

On the move

Lutheran High Westland's Taurrek Fikes (10) takes Franklin Road Christian's Tana-Nelson off the dribble in Tuesday's MIAC Red Division clash. Fikes scored 13 points in a 66-61 setback. See boys basketball roundup on page B3.

MU well-armed for '12 season

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Despite an unusually mild winter, Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger decided to get an early jump on the 2012 season.

The Crusaders, who captured a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic-Conference regular season title and finished 32-14 overall, start the season Thursday in San Diego, Calif. with a double-header against Vanguard (Calif.) and Oregon Tech.

"We lost so many games to weather last year we figured adding another trip would help us — at least add five more games," said the 16th-year coach, who earned his 450th win last season. "We're going to give it a shot. It's a little unique trying to set up your team to play on February 9, but we're doing our best at it."

And expect the Crusaders, who also have spring trips set for Feb. 17-18 (in Tennessee) and March 2-10 (in Florida), to have plenty of arms on the mound.

"I think most outsiders would look at it that pitching is the strength of our



Gooding

Hardin

team," Haeger said. "We brought six, or junior college transfers, to our program. Guys with great records who throw the ball very hard. In addition to getting (Robert) Fraser back after last year and what Jeremy (Gooding) did the year before ... and where a couple of the sophomores have come since their freshman year, we have a lot of options."

Gooding, a junior right-hander from Livonia and Dearborn Divine Child High, finished 9-0 with a 1.10 earned average last season en route to NAIA All-America honors.

"Jeremy is 19-1 in college," Haeger said. "He's put up the numbers, but we have two other kids — Josh Vandemark, a JC All-America at Glen Oaks Community College. He's a big, strong kid who throws the ball in the upper 80s and low 90s

Please see MU, B3

Lady Ocelots romp, 86-32

Domonique Jones scored 17 points to lead four players in double figures as the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team rolled to an 86-35 MCCA Eastern Conference victory Saturday at home over winless Wayne County Community College.

The Lady Ocelots, who won their seventh straight, improved to 18-4 overall and 9-2 in the conference (one game behind first-place Macomb CC).

Charlise Slater contributed eight points, while Amber Sammons and Diamond Tolliver each chipped in with 11 for Schoolcraft, which shot 50.7 percent from the field (34-of-67).

Wayne County (0-11, 0-11), suiting up only five players, got 17 points from Jasmine Butler.

Sicily Baker added 13 points and 15 rebounds, while Danielle Davis grabbed 10 boards.

Blazer icers beaten, 5-1

Jacqueline Lough scored a pair of goals Saturday to lead Plymouth-Canton-Salem to a 5-1 Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League win over host Livonia Ladywood at Plymouth's Arctic Pond.

Emily Bullock added a goal and two assists as the Penguins improved to 12-3 overall and 12-3 in the league. Nicole Natalborg and Cortny McAdoo also tallied goals for PCS.

Virginia Matherly scored for Ladywood off assists from Katie Folk and Abby Pelon to cut the deficit to 2-1 in the second period.

Penguins goaltender Kaitlyn Allard stopped 25-of-26, while Sarah Koch made 13 saves for the Blazers (7-10, 7-10).

CHS Patrons Hall of Fame

Three new members will be inducted into the 10th annual Livonia Churchill Athletics Patrons Hall of Fame induction dinner beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 22 at the Italian-American Club, 39200 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Among those to be enshrined are golf and track and field athlete Dave Kieley (1978), pom pon coach Judy Nouhan and former Churchill baseball-football coach and Stevenson High athletic administrator Roger Frayer.

Tickets, available at the Churchill Athletic office, are \$35 (if purchased by March 1) or \$40 (after March 1). Checks should be made payable to CAP (Churchill Athletic Patrons).

For more information, call Rob Suida at (313) 617-5448; or e-mail rjsuida@cmsenergy.com.

Kroll sets P.R.

Michigan State University redshirt sophomore Sara Kroll (Livonia Churchill) placed sixth last Saturday at Notre Dame with a time of 4 minutes, 44.5 seconds to better her previous indoor best of 4:46.17 set two weeks earlier in South Bend, Ind.

Franklin's individual champions at the KLAA Association meet at Howell included Gabe Martinez (119), Danny Martinez (112), Allen Steele (160) and Ryan Derry (152).



Mat quest

Pats claim four winners in KLAA meet

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Livonia Franklin had more individual champions — four — than the rest of the 24-school field en route to a third-place team finish Saturday in the KLAA Association wrestling tournament at Howell.

Brighton captured the team title with

204.5 to unseat three-time defending champion Hartland (159.5), Franklin (143.5), Westland John Glenn (132.5) and the host Highlanders (99).

Other area teams included Wayne Memorial, eighth (64); Livonia Stevenson, 14th (43); and Livonia Churchill, 22nd (6).

"I thought we wres-

tled pretty well, but it was the same old story," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "We score a lot of points from six or seven guys and lose to teams that are more well balanced. We actually had the most champs of any school and I thought we looked great in some tough matchups — we just need the other spots in the lineup to pick it up.

Maybe next year."

Among the weight class winners for the Patriots were Danny Martinez (112), Gabe Martinez (119), Ryan Derry (145) and Allen Steele (160).

Danny Martinez is now 47-1 overall, while Gabe is 45-3.

"This is a great tour-

Please see MEET, B2

Cards spoil Crusaders' Senior Day

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

When Andrea Gorski was coaching during her 11 seasons at Ladywood High School, homecourt wins in Livonia came at a regular occurrence.

But the fourth-year Concordia University women's basketball coach, now guiding the sixth-ranked team in NAIA Division II, finally got her first victory at the Madonna University Activities Center with a 68-59 triumph to spoil Senior Day for the host Crusaders.

It was the first time Concordia had ever swept MU in the season series and it was the Cardinals' first win at the Activities Center since the first season of Madonna University women's basketball in 1991-92.

"I was nervous coming in here," said Gorski, whose team is 22-4 overall and 12-2 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. "No. 1, we haven't won here in

Please see HOOPS, B2

John Glenn boys, girls show no Mercy

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

It was a clean sweep Saturday for the Westland John Glenn boys and girls bowling teams at the Farmington Hills Mercy Tournament held at Drakeshire Lanes in Farmington.

The Glenn boys, who started their tournament season back in December at Drakeshire with a win at the Farmington Early Bird, racked up 3,942 total pins to captured the 12-school field which also included runner-up Novi-Detroit

Catholic Central (3,796) and Salem (3,727).

Meanwhile, the Glenn girls edged North Farmington for the title, 3,233-3,206 with the host Marlins taking third with 3,118.

Livonia Ladywood placed 13th with a 2,744.

"In my opinion, this was our best overall performance in tournament play this year for both the boys and girls," Glenn boys coach Ron Brusseau said. "We were very consistent the entire day. It could not come at a better time as postseason play starts in a

PREP BOWLING

couple weeks."

The Rocket boys got off to a shaky start, posting their low Baker score of the tourney with a 164, but rebounded for finish with an 831 four-game set after posting scores of 228, 224 and 215.

Glenn also rolled through the match game process with a three-game set of 1,029, 1,089-1,034.

Junior Jordan Hornes was the individual winner with a 733 series on games of 222, 248 and 263.

Teammate Mitch Dean, who placed seventh, also made all-tournament with a 659 series on games of 224-247-188.

Other Glenn scorers included junior Daniel Ammons, 222-194-177-573; senior Thomas Brusseau, 205-247-452; junior Steven White, 195; sophomore Steven Brusseau, 183; junior Mark Kassab, 117; and senior Tommy Ruark, 152.

The Glenn girls posted a four-game Baker total of 667 with high of 182.

The Rockets scored 3,233 in match play led by indi-

vidual runner-up Jessica Pate, who rolled a 637 series on games of 246-201-190.

Other top scorers for Glenn included Olivia Cabildo, 176-190-157-523; Caitly Lenard, 204-167-135-506; Bre Riblett, 156-168-324; and Sarah Auldige, 184.

Salem's Kristen Larkins rolled a 679 series on games of 233-225-231 to individual first-place honors.

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BALLERT, ILO JOSEPHINE

94 passed away peacefully on February 3, 2012 at Angela Hospice in Livonia, Mich. She was known to friends and family as "Jo" and was a fixture in the Livonia Public School system from 1961 through 1987, having taught in nine different elementary and junior high schools. She loved teaching and particularly her later vocation as a Reading Specialist at Riley Middle School. Jo received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toledo and Masters of Arts in Education and Education Specialist (Special Education) degrees from the University of Michigan. Wolverine football games were always at the top of her favorite pastimes, as she and husband Al, would cheer from their end zone seats and travel to Bowl games. Jo was also very active in her church, Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church in Livonia, and served on numerous committees, prayer groups and as an elder. Jo made it a point to be an active participant in local and state politics, and to always stay informed on current event issues. Missed dearly by her children, Colby (Carol) and Josette (David) Koets, grandchildren, Steven (Katie) Koets, Sara (Kirk) Pauley, Brendan (Janie), Cassandra and Zachary Ballert and great-grandson Connor Koets. She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Albert G. Ballert, son, Albert Jr. and brother, Robert Bufler. Services were held from the Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. Interment Toledo Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be given to the church or to the donor's choice of organization in her name. Arrangements entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth. Share memories at schrader-howell.com

BROWN, LOUIS H.

February 6, 2012. Age 84 of Westland. Beloved husband of Dolores. Dear father of Deborah (Harold) Roe and Scott (Erica). Loving grandfather of 4 and great-grandfather to 2. Funeral service Thurs. 1pm at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood Rd., Westland. Family will receive visitors Weds. 2-9pm. Interment at Cadillac Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Westland. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhtfh.com

DZIESZKOWSKI, CYNTHIA ANN

of Wixom, Jan. 11, 2012; age 58. Arrangements by Simple Funerals (248) 227-1954.



FISHER, ANDREW

February 7, 2012 age 94 of Plymouth. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth. Loving father of Betty Jo Sulpher, Janice (Jim) Schultz, Elaine (Dennis) Lockhart, Daniel (Vivian), James (Nancy), Laura (Daniel) George, and the late Pamela Croft. Dear brother of Angela Thomas, Orville (Delores) Fisher, and Fay (George) Schomberger. Also survived by 12 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. Visitation Thursday 2-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. In state Friday 10 AM until the 10:30 AM funeral mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 North Territorial (at Beck) Plymouth. To share memories please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

GIBSON, MARTHA LYNN

of Royal Oak, Jan. 30, 2012; age 55. Arrangements by Simple Funerals (248) 227-1954.



KUCZEK, EDWARD A.

Born June 10, 1919 and died February 5, 2012 at the age of 92. Ed was married to Gayle for 42 years, who preceded him in death. Parents Albert and Anna and sister Lillian passed before him. Survived by sister Frances, brother-in-law Jerry, daughter Karen, many cousins and numerous friends. Ed was in the Army Air Core and was honorably discharged on February 16, 1946. He enjoyed golf, dancing and playing bridge, and spent many years at Walloon Lake and many winters in sunny Florida after retiring from Ford Motor Company in June 1981. Visitation Thursday 10 a.m. until the 3 p.m. Funeral Service at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster (South of Ford road). Family suggests memorials to Capuchin Soup Kitchen or the Carmelite Nuns.



MACDONALD, THERESA

Age 70. February 4, 2012. Beloved wife of Richard for 47 years. Loving mother of James and Karen. Dearest daughter of Mary and the late Thomas Podkowka. Sister of Helen Richards. Proud retiree from the City of Livonia DPW after 32 years of service. Visitation Tuesday 4-8 pm and Wednesday 2-8 pm with a 7 pm vigil service Wednesday evening at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 Six Mile Rd. in Livonia. Funeral Thursday, in state 9:30 am until time of Mass at 10 am at St. Colette Catholic Church 17600 Newburgh Rd. in Livonia. Visitation Saturday 10 am until time of prayer service at 12 pm at the Barry Funeral Home in Rome, New York.

MARICH, EVA MARIE

of Westland, Jan. 11, 2012; age 87. Arrangements by Simple Funerals (248) 227-1954.

NOTEBAERT, RITA

88, passed away at the loving home of her caregiver, Sheryl Christie in Williamsburg, Thursday, February 2, 2012. Rita was born April 13, 1923 in Belle River, Ontario, Canada and grew up in Detroit the cherished daughter of the late Russell and Lillian Bruckner. She was the beloved wife of the late Tom, dear sister of the late Mark (Marie) VanEvery, daughter-in-law of the late Gerard and Marguerite Notebaert and sister-in-law of Tensie Egnatios. Rita and her beloved husband, the late Thomas G. Notebaert, were married at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Detroit on May 14, 1949. They honeymooned at Traverse City's Park Place Hotel and at their cottage on Torch Lake. They made their home in Plymouth until retiring to Elk Rapids. She leaves behind their daughter, Michelle (Jerry Dietrich) Notebaert of Elk Rapids and their son Craig (Georgia) Notebaert of Plymouth. Also surviving are grandchildren, Amy (Nick) Anderson, Ryan (Sarah) Notebaert, Roth Notebaert and Carlee Notebaert and great-grandchildren, Alex Goss, Abby Goss, Mandy Anderson, Cameron Anderson, Evan Notebaert, Savannah Notebaert, Matthew Notebaert and Isabella Notebaert and several nieces and nephews. A celebration of Rita's life will be held at a later date. Memorials may be directed to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 143 Charles, Elk Rapids, MI 49629. Please visit Rita's webpage at www.lifestorynet.com to sign the online guest book and share a message or memory with her family. The family chose Life Story Funeral Home, Traverse City to handle the arrangements.

PELKEY, HOWARD E.

February 6, 2012 age 70. Beloved husband of Barbara. Dear father of Kendra (Bill) Ratliff and Blaine (Joy) Pelkey. Grandfather of Cassie, Amanda, Cheyenne, Cierra and Tyler. Brother of Jerald (Diane) Pelkey. Services were held Thursday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home. Contributions suggested to the Multiple Sclerosis Society or the American Cancer Society. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com

STOUGH, CHERIE ANN

of Arizona, formerly Harrison Twp., Jan. 4, 2012; age 29. SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com

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RELIGION CALENDAR



Ballet Emmanuel performs Feb. 15 at Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills.

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

February

BALLET

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15

Location: Hope Lutheran Church, 39200 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: Ballet Emmanuel, a professional Christian Ballet Company based out of Colorado Springs, Colo., will perform "Rain ... Hope in the midst of the storm," an original contemporary ballet concert depicting the story of the Flood from the point of view of Noah's wife. Free admission

Contact: Laci Landry at (810) 247-0422 or visit balletemmanuelcompany@gmail.com

BETHANY

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

Location: Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, Livonia

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

Contact: Chooch at (734) 697-7270

BOWLING FUNDRAISER

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26

Location: Westland Bowl 5940 Wayne Road, Westland

Details: For Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City; tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for children and include three games, shoes,

pizza, and pop
Contact: (734) 427-3660

BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19

Location: St. Theodore Social Hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: Pancakes, French toast, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, coffee, tea, juice, milk; \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, 2-10

Contact: (734) 425-4421

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

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

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth

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

Contact: (734) 453-0190

CLOTHING BANK

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25

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

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

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

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By Sharon Dargay
 O&E Staff Writer

Comedy catechism Nostalgic show benefits Redford church

Arrive late for Mary Zentmyer's performance this weekend at Thurston High School in Redford, and she'll make you apologize to the audience.

Wear a top with cleavage or a short skirt and you risk a dressing down.

Chew gum and you're guaranteed a reprimand.

And if your cell phone rings?

"I will confiscate cell phones. People get shook up. If I can figure out how to call the person back, I'll hold the phone to the mic and ask them to apologize," said Zentmyer, who has played the role of "Sister," a nun from the order of SOB (Sisters of Blarney) in the popular *Late Nite Catechism* series of interactive shows, for the past 16 years.

"There is some discipline and people eat it up. I don't think patrons like to be picked on but they like to see their friends get picked on. It's hilarious to me."

Zentmyer, who appeared in *Late Nite's* Christmas show during a six-week run last year at the Century Theatre in Detroit, will return in *Till Death Do Us Part*, *Late Nite's Catechism 3* Saturday in Redford. The show includes Sister's lessons on marriage and life, along with a *Newlywed Game*-style competition for audience members. The show is about 80 percent scripted and 20 percent improvisation.

"There's no profanity and it's good clean fun," said Zentmyer, 56, a Catholic school alumna from Chicago, Ill. She's one of several actresses from around the coun-



Mary Zentmyer makes a point in "class" while performing as "Sister" in the "Late Night Catechism" series.

try who perform the nun character for Entertainment Events, Inc., a New York company that has produced the show since 1999.

Zentmyer said audiences love the nostalgia and the interaction. Audience members who correctly answer Sister's questions might take home a prize, such as a laminated holy card.

Nostalgic show

"You're back in grammar school and I'm your

teacher. If you went to Catholic school, it's hilarious," Zentmyer explained. "And even if you didn't go to Catholic school, you still catch on, because everyone has had one tough teacher."

That's exactly the situation that Maryann and Dave Capman of Redford found themselves in when they saw one of the *Late Nite Catechism* shows years ago in Birmingham, and more recently at the Gem Theatre in Detroit.

"I went to Catholic school, so I knew what was coming. I lived it," Capman said, recalling the performance. "My husband didn't go to Catholic school and he was cracking up."

"At the Gem, she called us out of the audience. She asked us all these silly questions. You had to sit there like a student and answer the questions and if you didn't answer it right, you didn't get a lollipop. I did pretty good but I was laughing."

Perfect date night

Capman is a member of the church council at Our Lady of Loretto and suggested the church hire one of the *Late Nite Catechism* productions to help raise money for a new roof, parking lot and masonry repairs. *Till Death Do Us Part* was the perfect choice for the weekend before Valentine's Day.

"I think people will really enjoy it," Capman said. "We hope it's a good crowd."

'TIL DEATH DO US PART

What: The third interactive show in the popular "Late Nite Catechism" series with Chicago actress, Mary Zentmyer playing the part of Sister
When: 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11

Where: William F. Weber Performing Arts Center at Thurston High School, 26141 Schoolcraft, Redford

Details: After teaching countless students about the saints, venial sins, limbo and more, Sister will offer a hilarious lessons on the Sacraments of Marriage and the Last Rites, including her own wacky version of the "Newlywed Game." Proceeds benefit Our Lady of Loretto's Capital Campaign for a new roof, parking lot and building masonry repair

Tickets: \$30, available at Our Lady of Loretto, visit www.entertainment-events.com, or call (877) 386-6969

Contact: Our Lady of Loretto at (313) 534-9000

Zentmyer looks forward to interacting with the audience. She said the improvised portion of the show helps keep the material fresh and "keeps me on my toes."

She has portrayed the nun — in full habit with no makeup — in churches, "fancy schmancy theaters," black box performing spaces and even a church festival beer tent last summer in Portland, northwest of Lansing.

"I dressed in the rectory and they took Sister in a golf cart to the beer tent," she said. "It's a great gig. I get to make people laugh. How lucky is that?"

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

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

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com

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- Animated Feature Film
- Actor in a Supporting Role
- Actress in a Supporting Role
- Director
- Tie Breaker Categories
- Music (original score)
- Documentary Feature

All entries must be received by Saturday, February 25, 2012 11:59 p.m. to be considered.

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Art

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Time/Dates: 2 p.m. Sundays

Location: 5200 Woodward, Detroit

Details: Target Family Sundays, storytelling, performances, free with admission

Exhibits: Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus exhibit runs through Feb. 12 and includes 64 works. Tickets are \$16 for adults; \$8 for youth, 6-17. Other exhibits include Detroit Revealed: Photographs 2000-2010, an exhibit of 50 photos through April 8; Gift of a Lifetime: The James Pearson Duffy Collection of drawings, paintings, prints, sculptures and photographs through March 18

Contact: (313) 833-7900, www.dia.org

DIRTY SHOW

Time/Date: 7 p.m.-2 a.m. Feb. 10-11, 21 and over; noon-5 p.m., Feb. 12, 18 and over; 7 p.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 14; 7 p.m.-2 a.m., Feb. 17-18, 18 and over
Location: Bert's Warehouse Theatre, 2739 Russell Street, Detroit
Details: Exotic art exhibit with art by more than 300 artists, priced \$10-\$10,000. The show includes a film screening, burlesque performance, and more. Tickets are \$20 in advance at www.dirtyshow.org and \$25 at the door
Contact: (313) 393-3233

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY GALLERY

Time/Date: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through Feb. 24

Location: Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

Details: The work of Patricia Erickson, all original oils, is on exhibit. Erickson is inspired by nature and strives for landscapes that are rich in color

Contact: (248) 473-1856

NORTHVILLE ART HOUSE

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, through Feb. 18

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "6th Annual Member Exhibition," includes work by more than 70 artists; free admission

Coming up: Sell or donate "used art" for "Art from the Attic," 2-7 p.m. Feb. 21-22 or by appointment. Opening sale and reception is 6-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24; public art sale is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25 and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26. Opening reception tickets are \$10; public sale is free admission

Contact: (248) 344-0497

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25-May 20

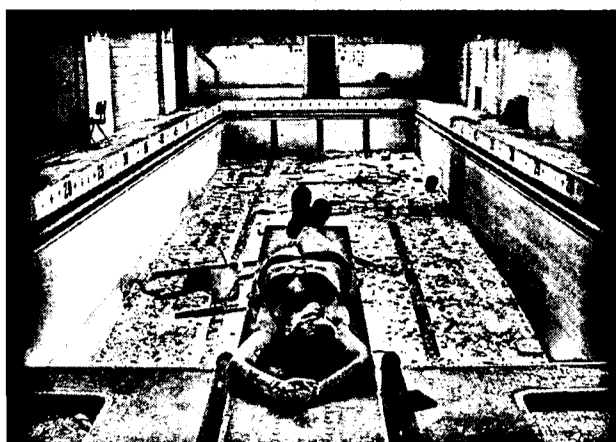
Location: University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor

Details: "Fluxus and the Essential Questions of Life," includes more than 100 works by major artists, such as Yoko Ono, Nam June Paik and George Maciunas; admission is free

Contact: (734) 764-0395

VILLAGE THEATER

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-2



Photography by Erron Reed of Westland, including this piece, will be on display at The Dirty Show, beginning Feb. 10, in Detroit. The exhibit includes works by more than 300 artists.

p.m. Monday-Friday through Feb. 24

Location: 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton

Details: "Lest We Forget: Legends of Detroit Gospel," celebrates the history of Gospel music in Detroit

Contact: (734) 394-5300 or visit cantonvillageheater.org

Comedy

GO COMEDY!

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesdays thru Sundays

Location: 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

Details: Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays

Contact: (248) 327-0575; gocomey.net

JD'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Time/Date: Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

Location: 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

Details: Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

Contact: (248) 348-2420

or www.ticketmaster.com

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB OF LIVONIA

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Mondays, open mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

Location: 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

Details: Basile, through Feb. 11; Mikey Mason, Feb. 15-16; Rich Guzzi, Feb. 17-19; Coco, Feb. 22-25; Glen Wool, Feb. 29-March 3

Contact: (734) 261-0555, www.kickerscomplex.com

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE

Time/Date: Tim Nutt, Feb. 9-11; Rocky Laporte, Feb. 16-18; Ted Alexandro, Feb. 23-25

Location: 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

Contact: (248) 542-9900, www.comedycastle.com

Dance

DANCE MONTH

Time/Date: through Feb. 18

Location: Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: Eisenhower

Dance Ensemble, 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11; Ballet Folklorico de Antioquia, 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18. Ticket prices are \$15 for Jewish Community Center (JCC) members and \$20 for nonmembers for the Michigan Five showcase; \$20 for JCC members and \$25 for nonmembers for the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble; and \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members for all other programs. Call the box office for student and workshop prices
Contact: (248) 661-1900; www.theberman.org

MOON DUSTERS

Time/Date: 8:30-11:30 p.m. every Saturday; dance lessons 7-8 p.m.

Location: Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Singles and couples dance to music of the '30s, '40s and '50s; free refreshments. Dance lessons cost \$6; dance and lessons are \$11; dance only is \$7 for guests, \$6.50 for associates and \$6 for Moon Dusters members

Contact: Joe Castrodale, club president, (248) 968-5197

Film

MARQUIS THEATRE

Time/Date: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11

Location: 135 E. Main, Northville

Details: "Anatomy of a Murder," tickets \$3

Coming up: "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World," Feb. 18, "Bye, Bye, Birdie," Feb. 25

Contact: (248) 349-8110

PENN THEATRE

Time/Date: 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 11-12

Location: 760 Penniman Ave., Plymouth

Details: "Happy Feet 2," \$3

Coming up: "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb.

17-18, and 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19; "Hugo," 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24; 4:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 25-26 and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 1

Contact: (734) 453-0870; www.penntheatre.com

REDFORD THEATRE

Time/Date: 8 p.m. Feb. 17 and 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 18

Location: 17360 Lahser, just north of Grand River Ave., in Detroit

Details: "The Apartment," tickets \$4

Coming up: "Gone With The Wind" 8 p.m. March 2-3 and 2 p.m. March 4, includes an appearance by "the Gone With The Wind answer lady," Kathleen Marcaccio

Contact: (313) 537-2560

Museums

CHARLES H. WRIGHT

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday

Location: 315 E. Warren Road, Detroit

Details: Regular museum admission is \$8 for adults, 13-61; and \$5 for youth, 3-12, and seniors, 62 and over. Members and children 2 and under are admitted free. "Moving to His Own Beat" celebrates the life and music of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, who fused traditional African high life music with classical jazz and funk, a unique sound he called "Afrobeat" The exhibit runs through April 1

Contact: (313) 494-5800

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Time/Date: 1-4 p.m. Wednesday and Friday-Sunday; current exhibit runs through June 17

Location: 155 S. Main, Plymouth

Details: "Ration Stamps & Bombers, WWII at Home" is the current exhibit. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students, 6-17

Contact: (734) 455-8940

Northville Art House accepts film entries

Reel Michigan is now accepting Michigan-made or Michigan-themed short films — 25 minutes or less including credits — as a part of Northville's Arts & Acts event June 22-24. Arts and Acts is an annual celebration of the arts in Southeast Michigan featuring art, music, film, plays and more.

Reel Michigan will accept all film genres, from student films to the experimental. Reel Michigan 2012 is the perfect platform for Michigan filmmakers to showcase their talents.

Industry speakers and possible workshops will also be part of Reel Michigan 2012. Participants in the event party this year will get a chance to mingle with local filmmakers, meet the crew from Northville Civic Center and watch as awards are given out for the best films in several categories.

"Films" will include any

project filmed with any type of camera, including digital films. All entries must be submitted on a DVD only.

Questions? E-mail to Lisa at ReelMichigan@gmail.com.

Send submissions to Reel Michigan, c/o Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady, Northville, MI 48167.

Entry fee is \$15 by April 23. Late entry fees are \$20 no later than April 27. The student filmmaker entry fee is \$10 by April 23. Late entry fee for students is \$15 no later than April 27.

Students must submit a copy of their current student ID with their entry package.

Make checks or money orders payable to Northville Art House. All entry fees are non-refundable.

For an entry form and guidelines, visit www.ci.northville.mi.us/community/artscommission/artsandacts.asp

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Monday meal makeovers

For some, Mondays may be the start of another week of the same old thing. But with a little help, Mondays can be the perfect time to make a difference in your routine. Celebrity fitness trainer and author Kathy Kaehler has teamed up with MorningStar Farms and the Meatless Monday campaign to encourage people to eat a healthier diet, one week at a time.

"My approach to lasting change has always been to start with small steps," said Kaehler. "I advise taking a weekly approach to help make diet and exercise changes manageable."

Kaehler shares these simple tips and tools for success:

- **Get Organized at the top of the week.** Use Sundays to make a grocery list, rinse and prep your vegetables for the week, and make a schedule of dinners for each night. It will take you no longer than an hour, will help you get organized, and will save time and money.
- **Go Meatless on Mondays.** Join the national Meatless Monday campaign and pledge to reduce your meat intake, one Monday at a time. It's a fun way to explore meatless eating, and there are some great meat alternative products that you can incorporate each week.
- **Themed Meals.** Planning themed meals can make eating healthy a little more exciting. Try meatballs on Monday, tacos on Tuesday and fish on Friday. Try these recipes for Sweet-and-Sour Veggie Meatballs over brown rice or Thai Peanut-Sauced Veggie Meatballs over your favorite noodles.

For recipes, coupons and more, visit www.MorningStarFarms.com.

Sweet-and-Sour Veggie Meatballs

Prep Time: 20 minutes
Total Time: 20 minutes
Servings: 14

- 2 packages (8.5 ounces each) Morningstar Farms Meal Starter Veggie Meatballs
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 4 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1/2 cup vegetable broth
- 1/2 cup red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon light-colored corn-syrup
- 2 teaspoons grated gingerroot
- 1 large red bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3 green onions, cut into 1-inch pieces

Prepare veggie meatballs according to package directions.

In medium saucepan stir together brown sugar and cornstarch. Stir in broth, vinegar, soy sauce, corn syrup and gingerroot. Cook and stir over medium-high heat until boiling and thickened. Stir in bell pepper.

In chafing dish or 2 1/2-quart crockery cooker place meatballs. Spoon sauce over top, gently stirring to mix. Sprinkle with green onions. Keep warm over low heat for up to 2 hours. Serve with cocktail picks.



Thai Peanut-Sauced Veggie Meatballs

Thai Peanut-Sauced Veggie Meatballs

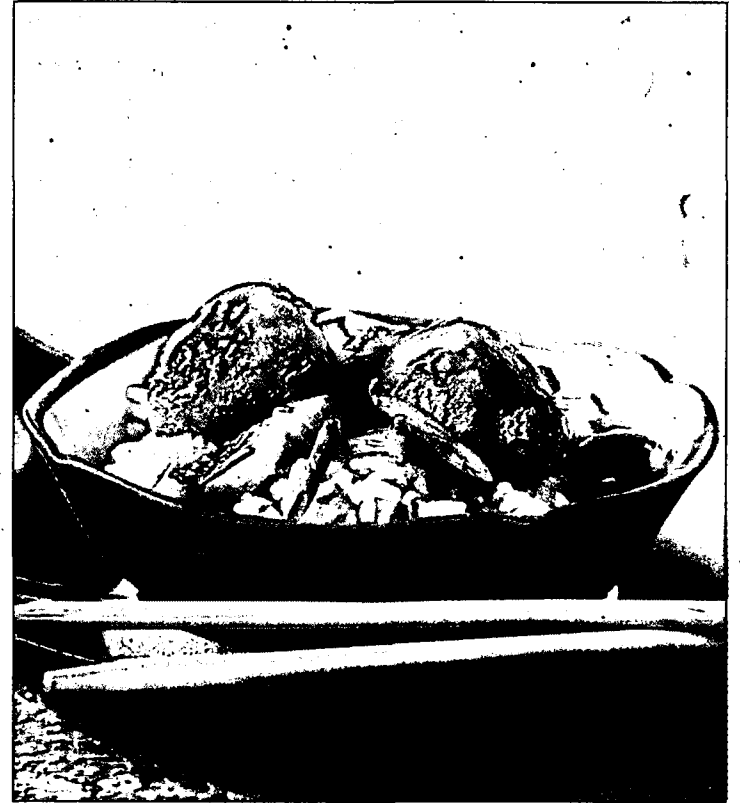
Prep Time: 20 minutes
Total Time: 20 minutes
Servings: 14

- 2 packages (8.5 ounces each) Morningstar Farms Meal Starter Veggie Meatballs
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/2 cup vegetable broth
- 1/2 cup reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 3 tablespoons chili paste with garlic (sambal oelek)
- 2 teaspoons grated gingerroot
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 3 tablespoons sliced green onions
- 3 tablespoons dry roasted peanuts

Prepare veggie meatballs according to package directions.

Meanwhile, in small saucepan whisk together peanut butter, broth, soy sauce, vinegar, chili paste, gingerroot and sugar. Cook and stir over medium heat for 3-5 minutes or until heated through.

In chafing dish or 2 1/2-quart crockery cooker, place meatballs. Spoon peanut sauce over top, gently stirring to mix. Sprinkle with green onions and peanuts. Keep warm over low heat for up to 2 hours. Serve with cocktail picks.



— Courtesy of Family Features Sweet-and-Sour Veggie Meatballs

Brewing your perfect cup of tea

Hot or iced, decaf or caffeinated, with milk or with sugar, there are a lot of ways to enjoy drinking one of the world's most popular beverages — tea. In addition to knowing your preferred way of enjoying tea, it is important to know the right way to brew it. Below are some simple tips to ensure a flawless cup.

- The perfect cup of tea starts with fresh water. If tap water is being used, let the water run for a few minutes so it's as fresh as can be.

- If you plan on serving your tea in a teapot, pre-heat the pot. This prevents cracking that could occur when boiling water is placed in a pot that is room temperature.

- Brewing time depends on the type of tea you are preparing and how strong you'd like it to be. Green tea only needs about 1-4 minutes. Black tea generally steeps for about 3-5 minutes.

- Be sure to use a tea cozy if you are keeping tea in a teapot for a while. Reheating the tea will cause the tea to have less flavor.

Going Green

Growing in popularity, and with good reason, green tea is a consumer favorite and provides a number of benefits. Research suggests that drinking two to three cups per day of green (or black) tea may help support normal, healthy vascular function. Those looking for the benefits of green tea along with the refreshing taste of superfruits can enjoy both with Lipton's Green Tea with Superfruit

flavors. This includes flavors such as Red Goji and Raspberry, White Peach and Mangosteen, and Purple Acai and Blueberry.

Here are two recipes using perfectly-brewed green tea. Find more recipes at www.lipton.com.



GETTY IMAGES

Use fresh water for the perfect cup of tea.

Warm Cinnamon-Spiked Red Goji Tea

Makes: 2 servings
Prep Time: 10 minutes
Brew Time: 3 minutes

- 2 1/2 cups water
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar or firmly packed brown sugar
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 3 Lipton Red Goji with Raspberry Green Tea Bags

Bring water and sugar to a boil in 1-quart saucepan. Add cinnamon sticks and simmer 3 minutes. Remove from heat and then add tea bags. Cover and brew 3 minutes. Remove cinnamon sticks, then tea bags and squeeze. Pour into mugs.

Ginger-Honey Mangosteen Warmer

Makes: 4 servings
Prep Time: 5 minutes
Brew Time: 3 minutes

- 4 cups boiling water
- 1 piece fresh ginger (about 3 inches), sliced
- 6 Lipton White Mangosteen and Peach Green Tea Bags
- 3 tablespoons honey or agave nectar

Bring water and ginger to a boil in 2 1/2-quart saucepan. Remove from heat and then add tea bags. Cover and brew 3 minutes. Remove ginger, then tea bags and squeeze. Stir in honey.

Courtesy of Family Features

CITY BITES

Wine tasting

LIVONIA — d.vine fine wines and Andiamo Italian Trattoria are partnering to present a tasting of small plates and fine wines, 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at d.vine fine wines, 17386 Haggerty. Cost for "A Food and Wine Pairing Straight from the Heart" is \$45.99 per person. Try 16 different wines from around the world along with appetizers, 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16. Cost is \$20 per person, \$15 per Wine Club member. Call (734) 432-3800 for reservations.

Coffee time

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN — Get a free small coffee every Wednesday through February at participating McDonald's restaurants. The offer is available from open to close at participating restaurants for in-lobby dining and at the drive-thru. No purchase necessary.

Happy hour

PLYMOUTH — Panache 447 started a happy hour this week. It features a half-off drink menu at the bar and lounge from 4-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. In addition, Panache will begin offering paired dinner tastings in their White Room, Tuesday, Feb. 21. Call (734) 386-8447. Panache 447 is located at 447 Forest Ave.

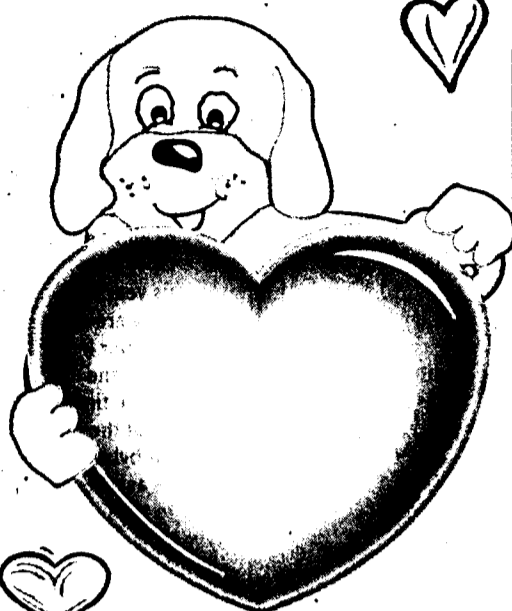
Paczkis already?

PLYMOUTH — Perfectly Sweet Cakes & Desserts is taking pre-orders for Paczkis before Fat Tuesday, Feb. 21. Call (734) 453-2253. What about Valentine's Day? Yes, it has Valentine's cookies, coffee and cake, too. It's located at 880 W. Ann Arbor Trail.

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SCOOP'S Hound Dog Highlights



Funny Valentine Contest

CONTEST:

Scoop loves to laugh. Send your clean jokes, riddles or short stories. The winner(s) will receive a family 4-pack to a Plymouth Whalers game and a Scoop t-shirt. Good Luck!

Mail to:

Scoop the Newshound
 41304 Concept Drive
 Plymouth, MI 48170

Deadline for submissions:

All entries need to be received at the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers by close of the business day on March 29th. Winners to be announced in the March Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

Scoop's Funny Bone: Riddles, Jokes, and other Funnies

- **Knock knock**
 Who's there?
Frank
 Frank who?
Frank you for being my friend!
- **What did the boy owl say to the girl owl on Valentine's Day?**
 Owl be yours!
- **What did the valentine card say to the stamp?**
 Stick with me and we'll go places!

Funny Valentine Contest

Youth Name: _____

Youth Age: _____

Youth Community: _____

Parent's information to contact winning entry:
 (Phone, email, home address) _____

Selected winners will have their name, age, hometown and photo in the next Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights.

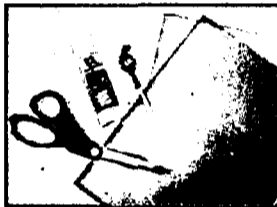
Scoop's Craft Corner

Be My Valentine

Let your friends know how much you care for them by making a special Valentine's treat.

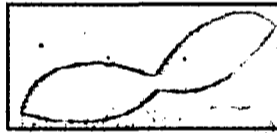
Materials Needed:

- Red, pink, and green construction paper
- Scissors
- Lollipop
- Glue stick



Step by Step Instructions:

Use red and pink construction paper to cut out a heart shape. Make sure that the heart is larger than lollipop candy.



Now let's make leaves. Fold the green paper in half and cut out a leaf shape. Keep the two sides attached making sure not to cut the seam. Write a special message to your Valentine on the heart or leaf.

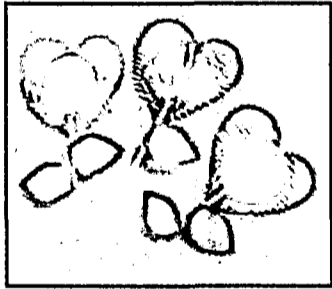
Now glue the heart to the candy wrapper. Make sure that your message is on the un-glued opposite side.

Unfold leaf shape and spread glue on it. Place the lollipop handle in the seam of the two leaf sides and press the two glued sides together to secure it around the handle.



Age Appropriate:
 5 years and older

Partners Help Needed? Yes - for younger readers



The Scoop on Health

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 www.livoniadentalgroup.com



After eating all of your Valentine sweets make sure to take care of our teeth. In recognition of the National Children's Dental Health Month take a short quiz to see how much you know about good oral care.

What should you not eat a lot of?

- Meats
- Sweets
- Vegetables



Teeth not only help you eat, but they also help you

- Taste
- Talk
- Hear



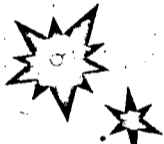
How many times a day should you clean your teeth?

- 1 time
- 2 times
- 5 times



Canine teeth are used for

- Tearing food
- Chewing Food
- Tasting Food



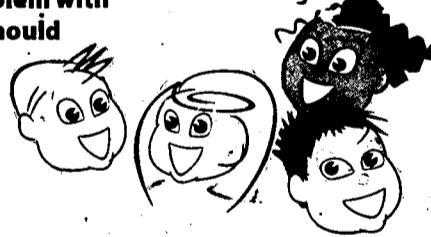
What are the last four teeth a person will get?

- Molars
- Wisdom
- Canine



If you have a problem with your teeth who should you visit?

- Your Doctor
- Your Dentist
- Your Gym Teacher



Answers:

Sweets, 2. Talk, 3. 2 times, 4. Tearing, 5. Wisdom, 6. Dentist

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Brain TEASER

Each letter has a symbol. Decode the special Valentine Day message by replacing each symbol with a letter.

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

Answer: Love is special when you share it

Join Scoop's Birthday Club!

I would like to sign up for **baskinBRobbins** Birthday Club and receive a FREE 2.5 oz. scoop on my birthday. Expect an email from Baskin Robbins with additional instructions.

*Name: _____

*Address: _____ Zip: _____

*City: _____ * Boy or Girl

*Date of Birth: _____

*Email: _____

Phone: _____

*Parent's Printed Name: _____

*Parent's Signature: _____

Scoop's Birthday Club Entry Form

Sponsored by **baskinBRobbins**
 *Required for Birthday Club

Fill out the form and have your parent's fill in their name and signature. Clip and mail, it's that easy!

Mail to: Scoop the Newshound - 41304 Concept Dr. Plymouth, MI 48170



Haiden Richmond
 Community: Inkster
 February 17

Valerie Zamora
 Community: Livonia
 February 28

Ryan Mason
 Community: Warren
 February 29

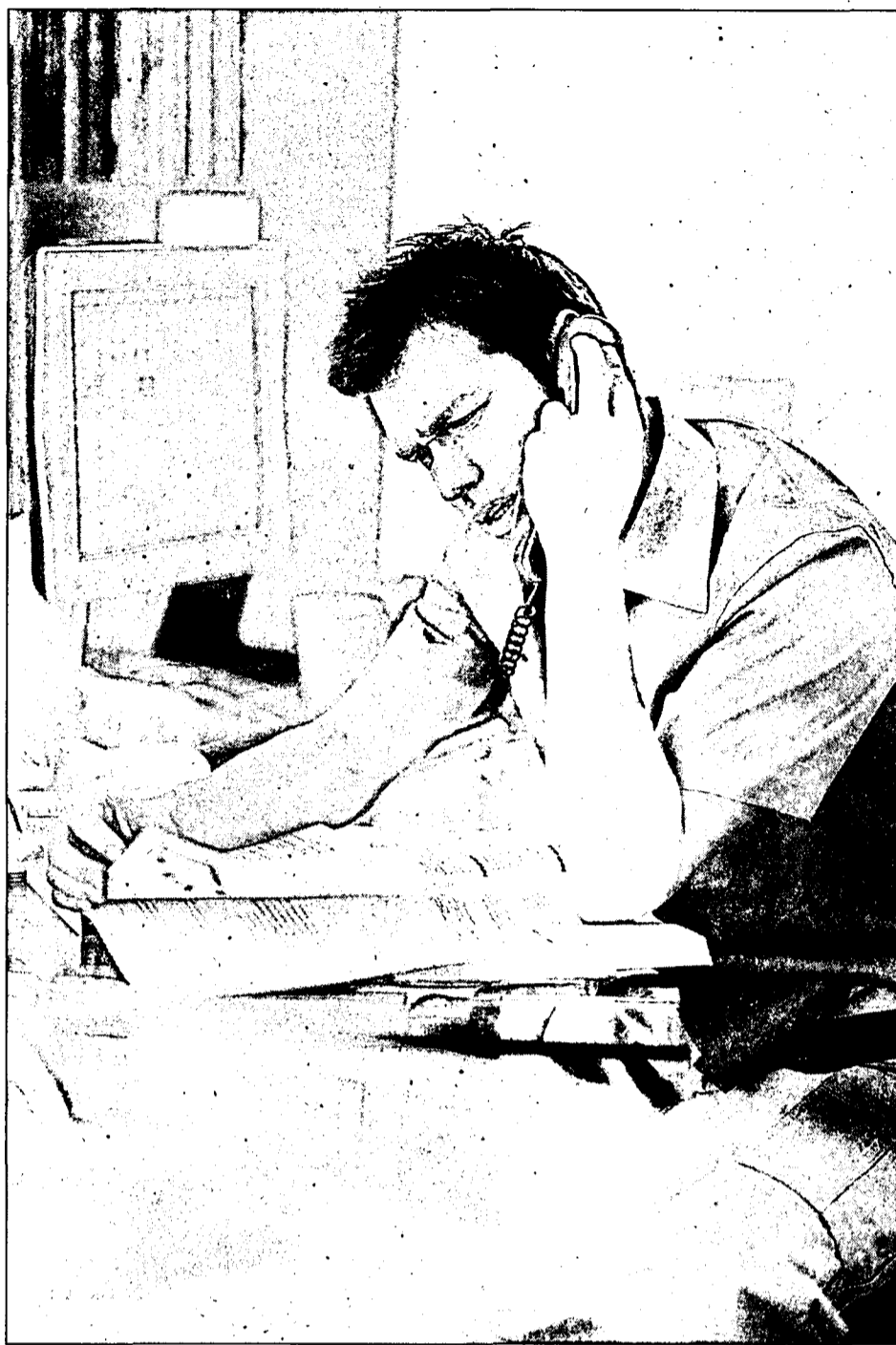
Emergency plan vital for small business

Reacting to a natural disaster or emergency not only means ensuring the immediate safety of employees, but also planning how the business will continue to function in the aftermath. Even if your business is not located in an area that is a likely target for a natural or man-made disaster, you need to be prepared for the unexpected with a comprehensive business continuation plan. The Better Business Bureau advises business owners to develop a plan of action should their business face a disaster.

Creating a disaster plan for your business is a great way to start the new year. According to the Insurance Institute for Home and Business Safety, one in four small businesses forced to close because of a disaster never reopens. Business that have a business continuity plan in place — and use it during and after disaster strikes — typically experience less damage, loss and downtime than businesses without a plan.

“If your business lacks an emergency plan, a natural disaster can turn into a business catastrophe,” said Patrick Bennett, BBB director of community relations. “But a solid emergency plan can give you a lot of peace of mind and a greater sense of security.”

After you’ve made plans to ensure the safety of your employees, BBB offers the following advice to help keep your business operating and meeting your



customers’ needs in the wake of a disaster:

•Don’t be caught off guard. Consider the different types of disasters — fire, flood, tornado, etc. — that can occur and how your business would respond differently

to being displaced for a week, a month, or longer.

•Know your surroundings. Determine alternate locations for your business to operate if you are displaced from your current build-

ing. This could mean enabling employees to work from home or finding an alternate location for your office or store.

•Prepare your staff. Identify essential staff who are core to the operations of the busi-

ness and keep a list of their phone numbers (home, work, pager, cell) and e-mail addresses that can be accessed by employees from several locations (home, Internet, etc.).

•Communicate, communicate, communicate. Devise an emergency communications plan that outlines how your business will communicate with employees, customers, vendors and other key external contacts in the days following a disaster. Contact vendors and suppliers to confirm their emergency response plan procedures. Be prepared to use alternate vendors for essential supplies and equipment. Have your back-up equipment kept in good working condition.

•Have an up-to-date inventory of your assets. Review your insurance policies to ensure that you have adequate coverage for items you cannot afford to lose. A standard policy may not cover business interruption losses.

•Store your documents safely and efficiently. Keep duplicates of personnel, payroll, payables and receivables and other essential records at an off-site location. Regularly make back-up copies of important computer files.

•Establish a succession of management for the company. Determine who will manage the company if key leaders are unavailable.

For more business tips, visit <http://detroit.bbb.org/Business-Tips-Index/>.

Yes to inspect request often best

By Robert Meisner
 Guest Columnist

Q: We live in a detached condominium and every year the Board of Directors undertakes an exterior inspection of all of the units for maintenance purposes. However, this year we received notice that they are offering an interior/exterior inspection to the interior of the unit, but that would be the financial responsibility of the individual co-owner. Our bylaws state that the association has access to the units as necessary for maintenance, repair or replacement of any of the common elements and to make emergency repairs

to prevent damage to the common elements. However, I feel that an interior inspection is an

invasion of my privacy. Would it be within my rights to refuse the interior inspection?

A: It appears from your question that they are making the interior inspection an option which you do not have to accept. If that is the case, you can obviously opt not to have an interior inspection. On the other hand, to the extent that the association believes that it needs to inspect your unit for common element problems, I think there is a good argument that that cost should be defrayed by the association. If, on the other hand, the inspection of the unit deals with problems that are within the co-owner’s responsibility to maintain repair or replacement, then that is something that should be the co-owner’s responsibility. You should determine exactly why and what is going to be the subject matter of any inspection in the interior of your unit and whether it is mandatory or not.

Q: The president of our board wants to know whether we should get involved in endorsing any local candidates for election. Do you have any comments on that?

A: The association, through its board, should, in my judgment, steer clear of endorsing candidates entirely. Endorsing a candidate and coming out on the wrong side of an election could certainly end up doing the association a disservice. The best bet is to make this announcement at a board meeting. Let the co-owners know that the association will not be getting involved in any local politics. Obviously, there may be an unusual issue which directly affects the association like an express train going through the middle of the project where some involvement by the association, either politically or legally, would be required, but that is in a rare situation.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and the author of Condo- minium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition. It is available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit bmeisner@meisner-associates.com.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS - WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of Oct. 24-28, 2011, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.

CANTON	
1621 Bentley Ct	\$284,000
46728 Doubletree Rd	\$200,000
48541 Inveraray Rd	\$350,000
2275 Lexington Cir S	\$206,000
1603 Mulberry Ln	\$153,000
48367 Rockefeller Dr	\$230,000
2260 S Lilley Rd	\$80,000
48641 Saltz Rd	\$65,000
43628 W Arbor Way Dr	\$51,000

41688 White Tail Ln	\$123,000
GARDEN CITY	
32137 Alvin St	\$85,000
33354 Alvin St	\$75,000
6963 Dover St	\$54,000
LIVONIA	
28575 Broadmoor St	\$135,000
19658 Donna St	\$125,000
29228 Elmira St	\$45,000
16888 Fairfield St	\$130,000
36212 Fairway Dr	\$280,000
14625 Flamingo St	\$148,000
14191 Houghton St	\$115,000
35174 Munger St	\$220,000
32315 Wisconsin St	\$125,000

31637 Wyoming St	\$123,000
NORTHVILLE	
16731 Carriage Way	\$114,000
40745 N Northville Trl	\$316,000
49848 Parkside Dr	\$365,000
19431 Scenic Harbour Dr	\$295,000
18525 Steep Hollow Ct	\$487,000
PLYMOUTH	
48042 Ashwood Dr	\$395,000
13743 Hilltop Dr W	\$425,000
49310 Plum Tree Dr	\$236,000
13450 Saint Andrews Sq	\$407,000
10468 Trailwood Rd	\$285,000
REDFORD	
20380 Gaylord	\$25,000

12720 Leverne	\$38,000
18368 Macarthur	\$35,000
26327 Margareta	\$46,000
9648 Sioux	\$31,000
18618 Sumner	\$21,000
8847 Woodbine	\$30,000
WESTLAND	
34216 Arrowhead St	\$86,000
33229 Creston St	\$62,000
35040 Melton St	\$77,000
8110 Pickering Pl	\$211,000
2128 S Harvey St	\$90,000
1324 Sharon St	\$30,000
1360 Shoemaker Dr	\$31,000
7475 Woodview St	\$20,000

HOME SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS - OAKLAND

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

BIRMINGHAM	
1898 Henrietta St	\$160,000
515 Lewis St	\$200,000
578 Woodland St	\$200,000
BLOOMFIELD HILLS	
4716 Overton Cv	\$370,000
69 Barden Ct	\$150,000
304 Barden Rd	\$850,000
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP	
2110 Eagle Pointe	\$133,000
422 Fox Hills Dr N	\$26,000
1189 Foxwood Ct	\$500,000
4851 Haddington Dr	\$257,000
1627 S Hill Blvd	\$75,000
1239 S Timberview Trl	\$150,000
1959 W Spinningwheel Ln	\$225,000
1401 Woodglen Ln	\$196,000

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP	
3105 Belle Terre	\$138,000
9464 Chaumont Dr	\$180,000
4942 Parkgate Dr	\$350,000
3206 Rio Vista St	\$90,000
5668 Strawberry Cir	\$369,000
6054 Strawberry Cir	\$284,000
2713 Trillium Hills Dr	\$59,000
FARMINGTON	
23631 Bicking Ct	\$70,000
34740 Whittaker Ct	\$200,000
FARMINGTON HILLS	
25832 Beecham Rd	\$188,000
25861 Beecham Rd	\$129,000
31720 Bristol Ln	\$200,000
31729 Coronet Dr	\$140,000
20824 Deerfield	\$347,000
21420 Gill Rd	\$167,000
27985 Kendallwood Dr	\$180,000
22850 Montclair St	\$118,000
35295 Quaker Way	\$271,000
29270 Stillwater	\$231,000
37871 Thames Dr	\$175,000
FRANKLIN	
27201 Gardenway Rd	\$335,000

26620 Woodlore Rd	\$300,000
Lathrup Village	
27430 California Dr SW	\$75,000
27440 California Dr SW	\$75,000
18823 San Quentin Dr	\$127,000
18160 Wiltshire Blvd	\$125,000
MILFORD	
3174 Katie Ln	\$280,000
1970 Mystic Hills Dr	\$214,000
1186 Riverside St	\$260,000
774 S Milford Rd	\$63,000
1983 Scenic Dr	\$335,000
NOVI	
24570 Bethany Way	\$310,000
25742 Buckminster Dr	\$222,000
41454 Chattman St	\$250,000
40548 Lenox Park Dr	\$230,000
40552 Lenox Park Dr	\$240,000
24335 Lynwood Dr	\$415,000
26993 Maxwell Ct	\$45,000
51158 Mayfair Ter	\$45,000
24435 Nantucket Dr	\$338,000
24826 Olde Orchard St	\$33,000
25160 Seeley Rd	\$590,000
2489 Shawood St	\$35,000

24487 Venice Dr	\$190,000
22053 Worcester Dr	\$400,000
SOUTH LYON	
61008 Evergreen Ct	\$61,000
822 Fairhaven Dr	\$235,000
23941 Prescott Ct	\$61,000
24706 Ravine Dr	\$19,000
52816 Willowbrook Dr	\$61,000
SOUTHFIELD	
21145 Glenmorra St	\$75,000
25331 Lois Ln	\$120,000
27470 Spring Arbor Dr	\$70,000
15999 W 11 Mile Rd	\$14,000
18301 W 13 Mile Rd Unit A23	\$54,000
18880 Webster Ave	\$110,000
29145 Wellington Rd E	\$39,000
WHITE LAKE	
1338 Clearwater St	\$159,000
430 Coledale Dr	\$265,000
21 Danforth St	\$330,000
255 Hurondale Dr	\$120,000
8944 Lakeview Dr	\$50,000
918 Sloane Ct	\$188,000
9384 Steephollow Dr	\$115,000
8195 Timber Trl	\$120,000

REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Career Seminar

Learn about the \$50,000 income guarantee Thursday, Feb. 16, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Keller Williams Realty, 40600 Ann Arbor Road, Suite 100, Plymouth. For more information, contact: Lesley Aiello at (734) 459-4700 or laiello@kw.com.

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage

Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. No obligation.

Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, Ext. 33.

Free Foreclosure Tours

Free Foreclosure Tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panera Bread on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. E-mail Georgia@addedvaluerealty.com or visit [sureTour.com.](http://FreeForeclo-</p>
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On Facebook

RE/MAX has launched a new Facebook page for customers and the public to get direct answers for their real estate questions from RE/MAX experts. The new site is a chance for the public to ASKREMAX and get clear, expert answers in real time. Visit www.facebook.com/ASKREMAX.

Finance Seminar

Learn how to finance

your purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple, who has more than 25 years of experience. Real estate and investment professionals are welcome. Seating is limited so call (248) 547-3006, or sign up at www.metro-mi.com. These free one-hour seminars will be 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave.,



Suite 301, Huntington Woods.

Challenging fun for ALL ages
Thursday
PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Recipe meas.
4 Blueprint
8 Come unglued
12 "Rope-a-dope" boxer
13 Slightest trace
14 Disney CEO Bob
15 Poured gently
17 Alaskan port
18 Look forward to
19 Apprehends
21 Chocolate-colored dog
23 Bread ingredi-ent
27 Wild plum
30 Omigosh!
33 - and dont's
34 Speakeasy risk
35 Prefix for cycle
36 Stop abruptly
37 Gridiron stats
38 Like a basso's voice
39 Iowa college town

DOWN

- 1 Hooray for me! (hyph.)
2 Vast number
3 Bigger than elite
4 1492 caravel
5 Building site
6 Pharaoh's god
7 Goose egg

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Grid showing answers to the previous crossword puzzle, including words like GRAB, JAW, RUFF, PURE, ESO, ERLE, SLED, WHEELED, ESTEE, LOSES, IN LAWS, PROMS, SEA, QUO, LIKE, NWT, TETE, YDS, LEA, RADAR, BULBS, LOPEZ, APPE TITE, ORAL, LONE, VAN, LINE, INST, ERA, EKED.

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9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled. Clues: 2, 7, 1, 5, 8, 1, 4, 2, 6, 7, 9, 5, 1, 9, 8, 4, 3, 8, 6, 1, 7, 4, 9.

Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at QuillDriverBooks.com

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off...

Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box...

Word Search - Hearty, Winter Foods

Word search grid with words hidden. Words listed: Casserole, Chili, Cream, Crackers, Filling, Hot, Hot chocolate, Lasagna, Oatmeal, Potatoes, Pot pie, Roast, Soup, Stew, Winter.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Sudoku solution grid showing numbers in each cell.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

Word search solution grid with words highlighted.

HOMES Real Estate section with various property listings. Includes sections for Commercial/Retail For Sale, Apartments, Homes For Rent, Duplexes, Manufactured Homes, Buy Now! (\$3,900), and Mobile Home Rentals. Listings include addresses, prices, and contact information.

THE APARTMENT SPECIALISTS advertisement featuring a city skyline graphic. Promotes rental services with text: 'Even in these trying times, we still have the best prices!'. Lists various apartment locations like Westland, Plymouth, Garden City, and Village Apts. with phone numbers.

THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MORTGAGE MONITOR table with columns for 30 Yr., 15 Yr., and Other rates for various mortgage lenders like 1st Choice Mortgage Lending, Accurate Mortgage Solutions, AFI Financial, etc.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK! 1-800-579-7355 www.hometownlife.com

