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Food for Fines

The Food for Fines at the William P. Faust Public Library is nearly two weeks old and it's coming up short of its goals for the program, according to Reference Librarian Andy Schuck. So far, more than 350 food or bath items have been donated and almost \$500 in fines have been forgiven.

The goals for the month of March are 2,000 food items collected and more than \$3,000 in fines forgiven.

"So we have our work cut out for us, but we can still do it," Schuck said. "Head over to our circulation desk, if you have fines, and receive \$2 off for every non-expired (dated July 2012 or later) food item."

And residents who'd just like to give can call the circulation desk for a list of some high-demand items. The program is only good through March, so hurry in.

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City seeks grant for park project

By **LeAnne Rogers**
Observer Staff Writer

Just as applications are being accepted for Farmers Market vendors, Westland is about to submit its own application for funds to make Central City Park improvements, including a plaza area to host the market.

If the council approves the application Monday, Westland will seek funding from the Department of Natural Resources for a \$500,000 project

— \$200,000 provided as a local match.

"The application is for the upcoming funding cycle so they would tell us (if the request is approved) in September or October," Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski said.

The proposed project includes construction of six state-of-the-art soccer fields, a restroom facility, three picnic shelters and a plaza area for special events, includ-

ing the Farmers Market. The concrete plaza area would consist of an amphitheater and a custom design shelter covering the majority of the plaza area.

"It's a whole series of criteria they use for scoring. We have received three grants in 11 years," Kosowski said. "This is such a big-ticket item. We're asking for a lot of money. In their scoring, they (the DNR) like things with trailways, rivers and lakes."

Since Central City Park doesn't have those all those natural characteristics, Kosowski said council is being asked to up the local match in an effort to help the grant application.

"Usually, it's a 25-percent match. We're asking for a 40-percent match to help with the grant application," he said.

The grant application deadline is April 2.

The Farmers Market, which moved last year to the City Hall parking lot,

will open May 29.

"We held back two weeks on the opening because last year the farmers didn't have crops," Kosowski said.

"We're working for more vendors this year. Farmers, baked goods, all kinds of Michigan grown products and services."

For information, e-mail at parks@cityofwestland.com.

rogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428

Still losing

Westland pastor Allen "Buddy" Shuh is still in the hunt to be NBC's *The Biggest Loser* winner after shedding another eight pounds in the popular reality weight loss show last week.

Even though he had a stress fracture, Shuh was able to get his weight down to 281 pounds, putting him at a 122-pound loss since the show started 11 weeks ago.

The connections pastor at Journey Community Church, Shuh is among the eight contestants vying for the title of *The Biggest Loser* and the \$250,000 grand prize.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jan Konopka of Westland says the little ones are biting, as he spends some time fishing on Newburgh Lake.

**Spring has sprung,
but is it here to stay?**

By **Sue Mason**
Observer Staff Writer

Spring doesn't officially start until Tuesday, but the unseasonably warm temperatures of late have people already outdoors enjoying the parks, paths and playgrounds and the links. Residents have been able to

pull out their clubs and getting in nine holes at Westland's municipal golf course.

"Actually we open on April 1, but because of the warm weather, we decided to try and capitalize on it," said manager Brian Harnos. "We've been getting a pretty steady stream of golfers."

Harnos said the staff has had to speed up some of their opening day duties and "are doing them on the fly" with the early opening.

"Hopefully, this will be one continually warm patch," he said.

Please see **WEATHER, A2**

**Community
garden vies
for \$2,500**

By **LeAnne Rogers**
Observer Staff Writer

Click "like" and help raise money for the Norwayne Community Garden which will soon begin its second year.

The volunteer-run garden is in the running for a \$2,500 grant from the Raising Organic Family Farms website. And an additional \$500 is available for the People's Choice winner. To support the Norwayne Community Garden, go to <http://raisingorganicfamilyfarms.com/pamela-carters-story/> and click like. It's limited to one vote per ip address but votes can also be cast from smart phones. Voting will continue through Saturday, March 31.

"The grant money would be awesome, it would give us what we need to get through the season," said garden coordinator Pamela Carter. "We really want to purchase two solar-powered water pumps - I can't carry four gallons of water at a time."

Started nearly a year ago, the garden of 20 raised beds is located at Dorsey and Newago Court on two lots where blighted homes were cleared using Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds. Produce was provided to families participating in the federal surplus food program and also any Norwayne resident interested in getting some of the fresh vegetables and fruit.

Please see **GARDEN, A2**

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Parents of dead infant to undergo new competency exams

By **LeAnne Rogers**
Observer Staff Writer

A defense request for independent competency examinations for a couple accused of abusing and killing their infant son was granted at a hearing Thursday in Westland 18th District Court.

Judge Mark McConnell allowed 45 days for the additional psychiatric examinations of Inkster resident Antonio Pepalonia Brandon, 22, and Nicole Susanne Roberts, 18, of Westland. The pair had already

undergone state-conducted forensic examinations which found both defendants competent to assist in their defense, in terms of criminal responsibility and competent to waive their Miranda rights following their arrests.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Andrea Hutting objected to the defense request for additional forensic examinations. The original issue was the defendants' inability to communicate and assist their attorneys with their defense, she noted.

"The forensic reports are that both have a solid understanding of the court proceedings, who we are and our roles," said Hutting.

While McConnell commented that he may agree with Hutting, he said he would grant the defense request in the interest of fairness and justice since both are considered not guilty at this point.

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

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

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

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

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WEATHER

Continued from page A1

The golf course is on Merriman south of Cherry Hill. Harnos recommends that golfers call the course at (734) 721-6660 for tee times and more information.

Likewise, the hope is to have the popular Concrete Jungle Skate Park at the Bailey Recreation Center open this weekend for the season.

At Barson's Greenhouses in Westland, owner Joe Barson is ready to plant seeds, but is already hearing requests for impatiens and vegetable plants.

"This is Michigan, we're going to have five inches of snow next month," said Barson, adding that frost free day — the last chance of damaging frost — is May 15.

This month's balmy weather definitely is a far cry from the predictions made for March



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nice weather means that it's time for a picnic in Hines Park. Toni Williamson of Westland and her 3-year-old son Rocco enjoy the sunshine on the banks of Newburgh Lake in Hines Park.

2012 by *The Old Farmer's Almanac*. The publication, often quoted for its weather predictions, had peg temperatures for March at 38 degrees, 2 degrees above the average, and a snowfall of 2 1/2 inches, a half inch below average. And for the week of March 13, the predication was for snow, then flurries and cold.

Obviously, that's not quite the case and local weather prognosticators are saying that temperatures in the Detroit metropolitan area will remain in the 70s right through next weekend. However, this is Michigan, and, as we all know, the weather can change in a blink of the eye.

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EXAMS

Continued from page A1

defense table separated by one empty chair, the pair didn't look at each other or speak during the hearing.

An autopsy found that Kayden Brandon died Dec. 5 from asphyxia and blunt force trauma to the chest. Police and Fire Rescue were called to a unit in the Westland Meadows mobile home park just before 5 a.m. about a baby not breathing. Kayden was not responsive and pro-

nounced dead a short time later at an area hospital.

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

The autopsy showed bite marks on the baby.

Brandon told police he also struck the baby on chest in an effort to stop him from crying or would squeeze the infant tightly to his chest.

In a statement to

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

The surviving twin had a broken femur and ribs which police said resulted from being swung by his legs. The boy is now being cared for Roberts' brother and his wife, who live in Redford.

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GARDEN

Continued from page A1

The garden doesn't have a direct funding source but relies on support from a variety of groups and individuals. Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agen-

cy is expected to provide some plants for the garden.

"What they give us won't be enough with 20 beds. I've started tomato seeds and another volunteer has started tomatoes, peppers and other things," said Carter. "I hope other sources will also provide some plants. Last year, we sold sponsorships for the raised beds, the dirt and fence."

Carter had back surgery not too long ago and another volunteer has been undergoing cancer treatment, so the sponsorship program hasn't gotten a lot of attention recently.

"We have some money left over from last year. We need to look at fundraising and discuss it a bit more," said Carter, a preschool teacher who lived in Westland but relocated to Norwayne after becoming involved with the garden.

The solar-powered water pumps are a priority for the garden since there is no irrigation or running water on the site.

There two very large tanks that the Westland Fire Department keeps filled with water.

"Because there isn't a pump, we get a gush of water and scoop it out or a trickle out of the hose. The solar-powered pumps would give us water pressure," Carter said. "When it's 90 degrees out, you need to water a lot. That was when it was hard to get volunteers to water. My daughters were out there in evening getting eaten alive by mosquitoes. I won't forget the mosquito spray again."

A garden cleanup is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 31. A cold crop planting is tentatively set for Saturday, April 21, with the hot crop planting scheduled for Saturday, May 12.

Anyone interested in volunteering or donating to the Norwayne Community Garden can contact Carter at pacarter718@att.net.

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Roger Fox, a nationally Registered and Licensed Respiratory Therapist, works with Four Seasons' physicians and health care team caring for patients with breathing disorders including congestive heart failure, COPD, emphysema, pneumonia, pulmonary fibrosis, and tracheostomy. Recent renovations of the facility included installation of in-wall oxygen in patient rooms.

Pat Lyden, RN and Four Seasons' Administrator said, "You typically find people with respiratory therapy credentials in a hospital. Four Seasons is on the cutting edge."

"Most facilities don't offer in-wall oxygen," said Roger Fox. "It's a luxury not offered everywhere and why we're able to care for some pretty special patients."

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Canton goes viral for TIGER support

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton hopes to rally area residents to support a major lobbying blitz intended to help secure \$18 million in federal dollars to reshape the traffic-snarled, accident-prone I-275/Ford Road area.

Amid support from neighbors such as Westland, Canton has created a website where area motorists fed up with Ford Road traffic congestion can find ways to contact key federal and state officials who can potentially influence the bipartisan effort.

Disappointed yet undeterred by three rejections, area officials believe residents can help sway federal officials to approve a fourth-round grant dubbed TIGER, or Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, intended to spur jobs and fix road problems.

"The residents are going to be key to making this happen," state Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, said. "That's going to be critical."

Website help

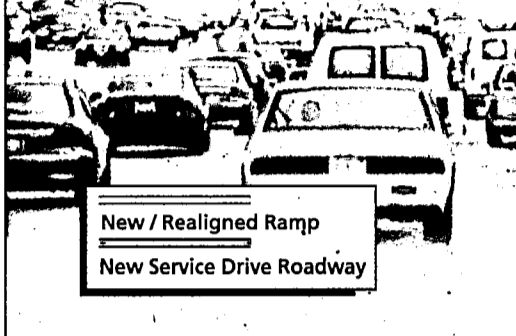
The website, www.tiger4canton.com, charts 2,378 crashes that occurred during the last six years along Ford from Canton Center to east of I-275. It also contains videos showing a proposal to ease traffic problems.

Area officials such as Westland Mayor William Wild strongly support efforts by Canton and the Michigan Department of Transportation to secure the federal grant.

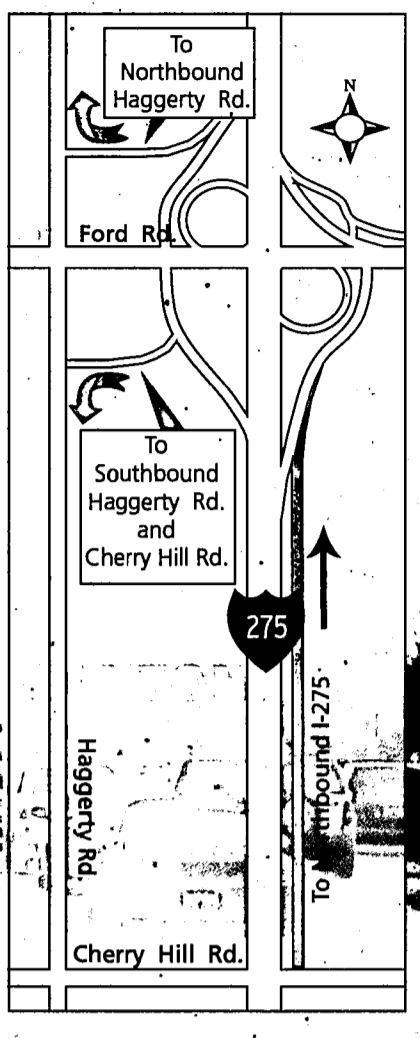
I-275/Ford Rd. Recommended Enhancement Concept

Features:

- 1 Access to Northbound I-275 from Cherry Hill Rd. without use of Haggerty Rd., bypassing Ford/Haggerty intersection.
- 2 Access from Southbound I-275 to SB Haggerty Rd. and Cherry Hill Rd. without use of the Ford/Haggerty intersection.
- 3 Access from Southbound I-275 to NB Haggerty Rd. without use of the Ford/Haggerty intersection.
- 4 Potential for improved access to development parcels east of I-275, relieving congestion at Ford/Lotz intersection.



New / Realigned Ramp
New Service Drive Roadway



"A lot of our folks use that interchange every day on their way to work in the morning and on their way back," Wild said.

The most-touted fix involves adding two new ramps, or slips, from the southbound I-275 exit to allow motorists to access Haggerty Road, either northbound or southbound, without traveling on Ford. The same plan calls for a northbound service drive, just east of the interstate, from Cherry Hill to north of Ford Road.

MDOT already has initiated a new study to further explore that proposal and others.

"We don't care how they fix it," Canton Township Supervisor Phil LaJoy said. "But they've got to fix it."

Officials from the Plymouth, Livonia, Van Buren Township and other communities have previously endorsed efforts to fix the troubled interchange.

Wild said the northbound service drive would greatly benefit residents who live in the

Cherry Hill Road area. "We have a big residential component down

there," he said, and a new service drive "would definitely help our traffic patterns a lot."

Safety issue

Colbeck has said efforts to steer commuters away from Ford Road would improve access to the Ford commercial strip by people who want to shop there — but who may avoid the area due to traffic bottlenecks.

Not only is traffic congestion a safety issue, he said, "it's an economic issue."

Wild said efforts to reshape the I-275/Ford area would be far less costly than building a new interchange at Warren or Cherry Hill. Much like Canton, he said, traffic crashes have increased over the years at Westland intersections such as Ford-Hix and Ford-Newburgh.

"Those are high-accident intersections," Wild said, "and they have been for years."

MDOT officials and the Michigan Legislature have supported efforts to fix the I-275 interchange but, amid state budget woes, they would prefer to secure federal dol-

lars to pay the bulk of the cost.

However, Colbeck said he has been told the state will pay the project's remaining \$4 million tab if the TIGER grant is approved.

"Once we get the approval from the federal government, we should be good to go," he said.

LaJoy, Colbeck, Wild and others have said they will promote www.tiger4canton.com as a way for area residents to make their voices heard. The website even offers a sample letter and provides the following contacts:

- Secretary Raymond H. LaHood, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC, 20590.
- U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Michigan, (202) 225-8171.
- U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Michigan, (313) 226-6020.
- U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, (313) 961-4330.
- MDOT Director Kirk Steudle, (517) 373-2090.

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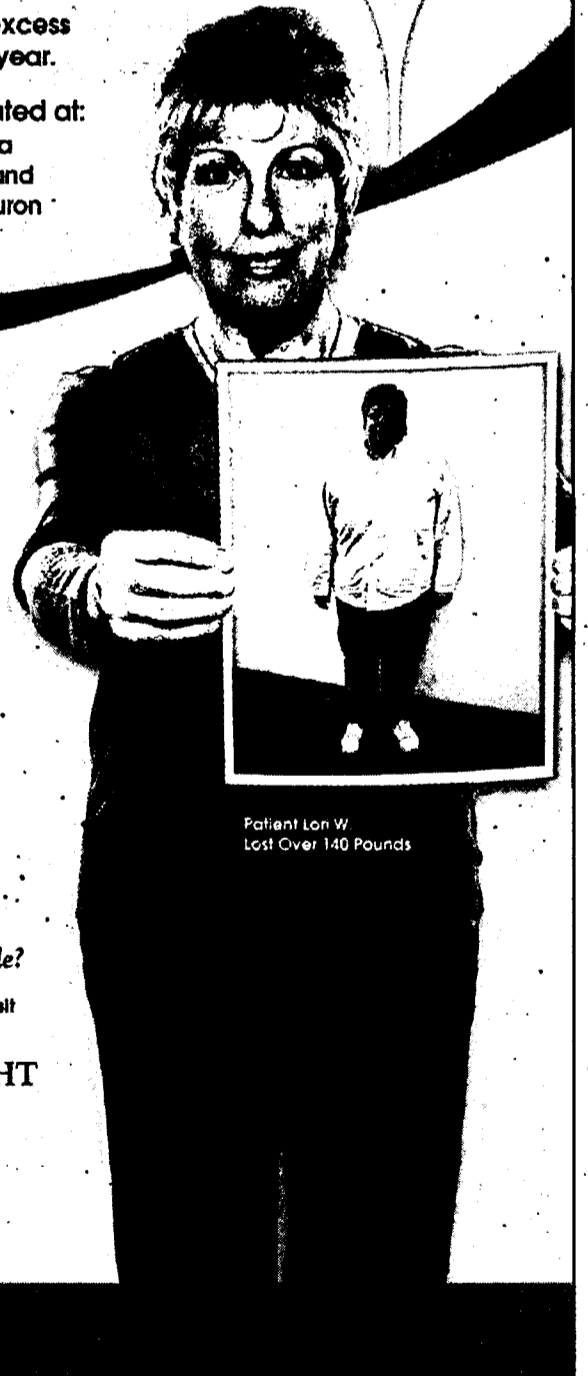


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W-W ready to select legal counsel

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

The administrator in charge of Wayne-Westland's administrative and business services has urged members of the school board to look closely at the references of four law firms interested in serving as the district's legal counsel.

"You asked and we did reference checks, I urge you to look very seriously at those checks," said Deputy Superintendent Jim Larson-Shidler. "People put on their best face for questions that are pretty general, but there is some pretty interesting information from people in other districts in these checks."

Larson-Shidler's comments came at the end of two days of interviews of the law firms - Dickin-

son Wright, Collins and Blaha, Clark Hill and the district's longtime legal counsel, Lusk and Albertson - which presented their case for why they are best suited to represent the district.

A decision could come as soon as the board's regular meeting Monday (March 19).

The board decided to seek proposals from law firms with experience in public school law after declining to reappoint Lusk and Albertson as the district's legal counsel during its organizational meeting last July. The firm has represented the district for more than 20 years. At the time, Board Vice-President John Goci had expressed interest in bidding out the contract "to see what the market has to offer."

Committee work

A board committee comprised of Middel, Goci and Trustee Thomas Buckalew spent several months developing requests for proposals that attracted 12 responses. Board members reviewed the documents and rated the law firms. The responses also were weighted as to what was important to the district. The top four firms were interviewed.

"We wanted to see if there was something better out there and to ascertain if we were getting the best bang for our buck, now you have until next Monday to formulate a decision," Middel told her fellow trustees following the interviews.

The board also heard from Kelly Bohl, the senior executive direc-

tor for human resources, John Albrecht, executive director of student and legal affairs, and John Mills, senior executive director of special education, who urged the trustees to keep Lusk and Albertson as the district's law firm.

Each pointed to the skills they have developed to deal with issues and questions as result of working with the law firm. Bohl said she hoped the board would "reaffirm" the selection of Lusk and Albertson, while Mills "strongly" urged it.

"I like Bob Lusk," said Albrecht. "I have worked with one attorney as an assistant principal, principal and department director for 10 years and, honestly, I believe I have abilities that I now don't I have to call him. My rec-

ommendation is to keep Lusk and Albertson."

Process questioned

In setting up a framework for the interviews, the board provided the firms with copies of general questions they would all be asked prior to the meetings. They did not receive copies of the follow-up questions. However, Nancy Froerich questioned the validity of the process after discovering the interviews done Monday evening were airing on the district's cable channel Tuesday morning.

"The administration was unprofessional in broadcasting those interviews eight hours before the next round," said Froerich. "That actually could have given and unfair advantage to the two firms this evening."

The administration could have compromised the process."

School Superintendent Greg Baracy told Froerich that the administration was not involved in the process.

"Only one interview aired at 9 a.m.; it's unfortunate that it could happen, but it might not have happened had we been involved in the process," he said.

Trustees meet at 7 p.m. in the board meeting room at the district's administrative offices, 36745 Marquette, west of Wayne Road. It also will hold a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. to review board policy changes and hold a public hearing on the proposed bullying policy.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Open House

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is holding an open house 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 22, at 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland.

Willow Creek Co-op Preschool has been offering a quality preschool environment for children for 40 years. The preschool offers parent-tot classes, young 3's classes, 3- and 4-year-classes and an enrichment class.

For more information, contact the preschool at (734) 326-0078 or go online to www.willowcreekpreschool.com.

Red Wings raffle

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 that currently 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, west of Wayne Road, or any Rotary members. 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.

Surplus food

The City of Westland will be distributing surplus federal food at the Dorsey Community Center 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 22, for residents living north of



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

True colors

It may have been Detroit's annual St. Patrick's Day parade, but the Wayne Memorial High School Zebra Marching Band stayed away from green and wore their dress uniforms to entertain the crowds as they marched down Michigan Avenue last Sunday.

Michigan Avenue.

For the month of March, apple cranberry

juice, cream corn, mixed fruit, peanuts, pears, raisins, salmon and possi-

ble additional items will be distributed. Questions can be answered by calling the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

The program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services. All food allocations, distribution sites and dates of distribution are determined by that agency.

Spaghetti dinner

Help support local veterans by attending a spaghetti dinner 5-8 p.m. Friday, March 23, at AMVETS Post 171, 1217 Merriman, north of Palmer Westland.

The dinner includes spaghetti with sauce - with or without meat - salad, garlic bread or hot dinner roll, drinks and dessert. A cash bar will be available.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children age 10 and under and free for children age 3 and under.

Relay for Life

The AMVETS Post Relay for Life Team is holding a PartyLite Show noon Saturday, March 23, at 36417 Glenwood, east of Newburgh, Wayne.

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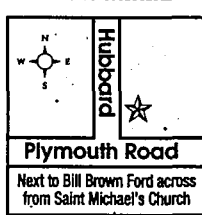
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Hearing adjourned for former teacher

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

As other potential criminal charges still loom against former Wayne-Westland school teacher Brandon Lee Tomblin of Canton, he appeared Friday in 35th District Court following allegations he was involved in inappropriate behavior toward a 16-year-old boy.

Tomblin's preliminary hearing was adjourned until March 30, however, after 35th District Judge Michael Gerou recused himself and said another judge will have to conduct the proceedings because Tomblin, 26, is the son of Gerou's sister-in-law.

Tomblin could face 20 years in jail if he is convicted of one count of child sexually abusive activity, two counts

of using a computer to commit a crime and two counts of distributing sexually explicit material to children.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Brian Surma declined to comment Friday on other potential charges against Tomblin. "I can't speak to that," Surma said.

Defense attorney Robert Mullen also declined to comment on Tomblin's case.

Wayne-Westland Community Schools Superintendent Greg Baracy has said Tomblin had partial teaching assignments at Wayne Memorial High School, where he taught vocal music, and at Franklin Middle School, St. Michael's Lutheran School and Hicks Elementary School.

Tomblin remains jailed with a \$75,000/10 percent



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brandon Tomblin appears in court with defense attorney Robert Mullen.

With his family members watching, Tomblin appeared briefly in court Friday only to learn that his preliminary examination would be delayed.

Few details have emerged about the case, though Miller released a statement in early March saying the charges arose after "a mother reported a complaint alleging inappropriate behavior of Tomblin toward her 16-year-old son."

Baracy has said Tomblin has resigned and is no longer affiliated with Wayne-Westland schools. Moreover, Baracy asked parents, students and district employees not to speculate on rumors until the investigation has been completed.

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bond, though he could be released with \$7,500. Assistant Wayne Coun-

ty Prosecutor Maria Miller has said that, even if Tomblin is released, he

would be placed under house arrest with an electronic tether.

Son to stand trial in death of elderly mother

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A Westland man has been ordered to stand trial on a charge of second-degree murder in the death of his elderly mother, who died after being assaulted.

Marvin Christopher Phillips, 44, was back in Westland 18th District Court Thursday for a preliminary examination on a charge of second-degree murder in the death of his mother, Tommie June Shaw, 86. A not guilty plea was entered on his behalf.

Phillips had already waived his preliminary examination and was ordered bound over for trial on three charges of abusing a vulnera-



Phillips

ble adult and an assault charge in the Nov. 4 incident. Shaw was hospitalized and underwent treatment

for blunt force trauma injuries to her head before dying Dec. 25. Her death resulted in a warrant being issued against her son, charging him with murder.

Candice Taylor testified that she lived a couple of doors away from Shaw in private entrance apartments located on Cottrill at Palmer. For about a year, Taylor said she visited Shaw at her apartment weekly and also spoke with her on the telephone.

That relationship changed, Taylor said, after Phillips moved in with his mother.

"There was a gated barricade to the front entrance (of Shaw's apartment) with a pit bull," said Taylor, who identified Phillips as the dog's owner.

After having limited contact with Shaw for a couple of months, Taylor testified that around 11 a.m. on Nov. 4, she heard someone turning the knob on her locked front door trying to enter.

"I thought it was maybe one of my kids who had missed the bus," she said. Instead it was Shaw, who Taylor described as barefoot, cold and bruised — the whole left side of her face was severely

bruised.

Once she brought Shaw inside and called 9-1-1, Taylor said she talked to the injured woman — in fact, she recorded video of the older woman telling her what had happened.

"She said Marvin Phillips did it. He hit her across the head as hard as he could. She said it started in the morning before he left for work," Taylor said. "She (Shaw) said he was supposed to be getting ready for work and started abusing her."

The other witness to testify at the hearing was Wayne County Medical Examiner Dr. Carl Schmidt who performed an autopsy on Shaw. He ruled Shaw's death a homicide due to blunt

force head trauma. Part of Schmidt's findings were based on reviewing records of her medical treatment after she was assaulted Nov. 4.

"What often happens with the elderly is that there is a cardinal event that leads to their demise. Most often, that is a broken hip," said Schmidt. "This was a head injury that led to her failure to thrive. At 86 with a cardinal event like trauma to the head and then medical treatment, it is reasonable to conclude that if not for the injury she'd be alive."

The physical problems Shaw had — fluid in the lungs, evidence of food being aspirated into lungs and a bed sore — all stemmed from the dam-

age from the blunt head trauma, Schmidt said.

Judge Mark McConnell ordered Phillips to be bound over for trial on the second-degree murder charge. Jailed in lieu of \$1 million cash bond, Phillips has a lengthy criminal record dating back to 1991, including carjacking, receiving stolen property and multiple charges of driving under the influence of a controlled substance, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections. Most of the charges list Phillips as having completed parole/probation and being discharged without improvement.

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Girl Scouts celebrate 100th with video contest

Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan (GSSEM) celebrated its 100th birthday on Monday, March 12, by inviting metro Detroit Girl Scouts - past and present - to join the party and share their best Girl Scout memories on Facebook.

The top three vote getting video submissions will win a year supply of Girl Scout cookies, two tickets to GSSEM's annual Cookie gala, a gourmet Girl Scout cookie recipe competition, or a Girl Scouts 100th anniversary prize pack.

"If you did an awesome service project with your troop, or if you were a top cookie seller in your day, or have a special Girl Scout camping memory, we want to hear about it," said Denise Dalrymple, CEO of GSSEM. "This is your chance to share your great Girl Scouts memories with fellow Girl Scout alumnae. Participating in Girl Scouts has shaped the lives of millions of women, and whether you are currently active, or were 20, 50, or 70 years ago, the 100th birthday is a great time to celebrate being a part of this incredible movement."

Dalrymple said the Council hopes that sharing fond Girl Scout memories will also inspire former Girl Scouts to reconnect with the organization.

"We have great volunteers, but we always need more," she said. "Girls need caring, supportive mentors to help them develop into the leaders we know they can become. Adults can do that by volunteering as troop leaders, or serving on a GSSEM planning committee, or advisory board. Who better to advance girl leadership than those who already know the impact that Girl Scouting has on a woman's life?"

In January, GSSEM



Juliette Gordon Low (center), the founder of the Girl Scouts of the USA, stands with two Girl Scouts, Robertine McCleendon (left) and Helen Ross in an early photograph.

launched its local 2012 is the Year of the Girl initiative. The goal of this initiative is to engage individuals and organizations in the cause of girl leadership, and to create balanced leadership between men and women in one generation.

The best videos will be featured throughout March and April on GSSEM's Year of the Girl micro website, yotg.gssem.org, where people can sign up to Take the Pledge to support girls, learn more about volunteer opportunities with GSSEM, or donate to support the organization's mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

GSSEM's 'Share your Story' event on its GSSEM's Facebook page continues until March 23, 2012. The best videos will be announced on Monday, March 26. To upload vid-

eos, visit www.facebook.com/gsseem.

As part of the celebration, the council also has announced that 100 GSSEM Girl Scouts will march in America's Thanksgiving Day Parade alongside a specially designed 100th birthday cake float. This is the first year that Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan will participate.

"We are pleased that we are able to partner with The Parade Company to develop this very special part of our year-long 100th anniversary celebration," said Dalrymple. "America's Thanksgiving Day Parade is one of our region's most beloved events, and GSSEM is proud to be a part."

The Parade Company will design the float and portions of the Girl Scouts

costumes for the parade. The Parade Company will also choreograph a special dance routine the 100 Girl Scouts will perform as they walk the parade route. Prior to the parade, Girl Scouts will also get to help decorate the float, and attend special tour events.

"The Parade Company is proud to be affiliated with the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan" said Tony Michaels, president and CEO of The Parade Company. "With all the good things they do in the community, they are a great addition to America's Thanksgiving Parade, Detroit's largest community event!"

For information about GSSEM's 100th anniversary celebration events, log on to www.gssem.org/100th.

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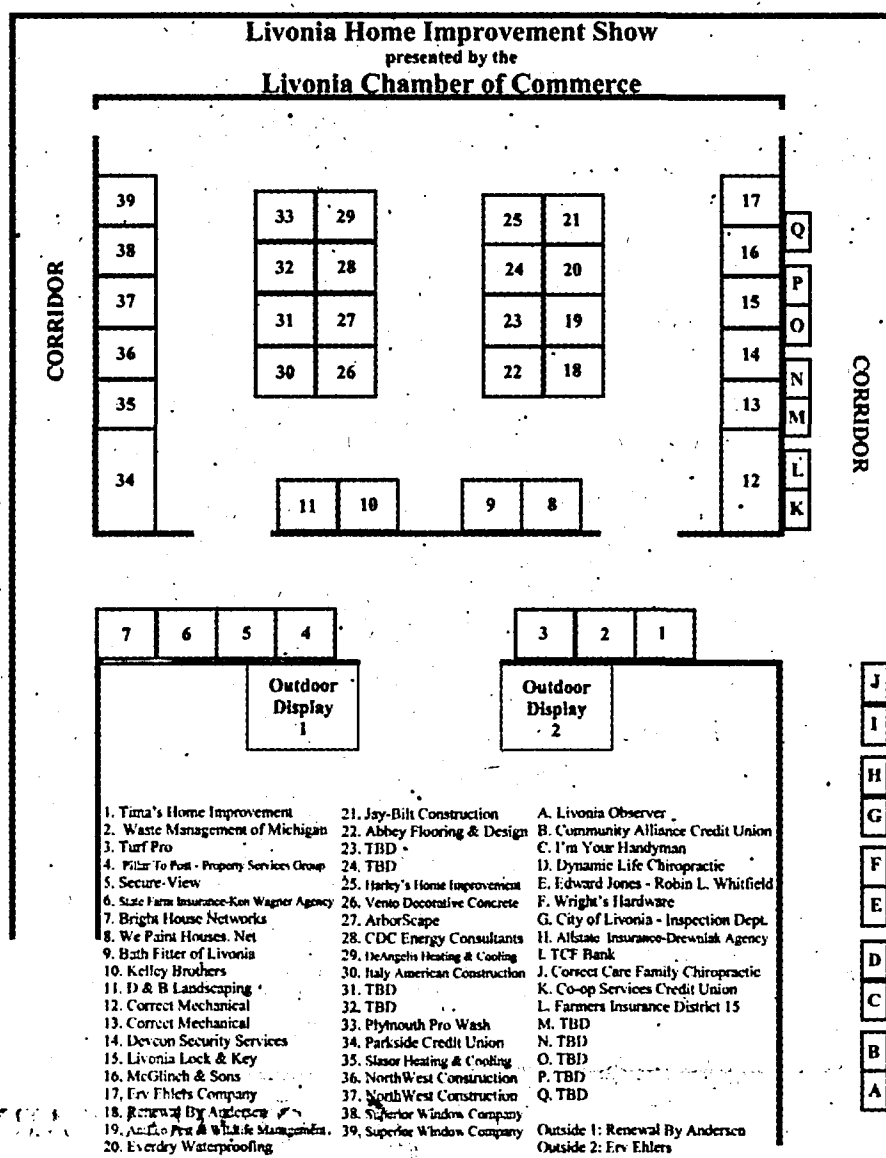
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K-9 military veterans celebrated at memorial event

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

They were known as Puddy, Sir Nippy II and Baby Buttons, Gypsy Baby, Baby Sugar and Butch — just for starters.

Hundreds of four-legged, tail-wagging K-9 soldiers, each credited with saving an average of 140 lives during their years with the U.S. military.

More than 100 veterans and others recently gathered at a muddy, headstone-laden field in Lyon Township in appreciation of these and other service dogs — including those on active duty, the retired and the deceased. In recognition of Gov. Rick Snyder's proclamation that designated March 13 as K-9 Veterans Day, an hour-long ceremony was held at the War Dog Memorial pet cemetery at the corner of 11 Mile and Milford roads.

"This is to show our respect and to honor our K-9s, past and present," said U.S. Army Phil Weitlauf, one of the event's speakers. "Not only are they our best friends, they've also become our best protectors."

Since 1942, the U.S. military has utilized service dogs; police departments, FBI, border patrol and other organizations fol-



U.S. Army Veteran Ken Reynolds is surrounded by fellow veterans and service dogs at the War Dog Memorial as he shows off a proclamation designating March 13 as K-9 Veterans Day.

lowed suit.

Weitlauf, second vice commander of Milford's American Legion Post 216, noted that use of military K-9s has tripled since Sept. 11. And at last, he said, people are starting to realize the vital roles of "these incredible animals."

"They were unsung heroes in the past. Hopefully in the near future we will remove the word 'unsung,'" he said.

Weitlauf and fellow U.S. Army Veteran Ken Reynolds of Farmington's American Legion Post 346 organized the event. Reynolds is credited with securing the

governor's proclamation and is working to get all states in the country to establish March 13 as K-9 Veterans Day. So far, six other states have done so — and held similar ceremonies last weekend.

"This is a great day for our K-9 handlers and our K-9 war heroes. We salute every handler and salute the dogs as well because they really deserve this," he said.

Reynolds said he was quite impressed with the turnout.

"It's fabulous, just fabulous," he said.

'A blessing'

Another featured

speaker, Dave Hizer, was filled with emotion as he talked of serving with military K-9s in Vietnam — and the heart-wrenching policy, since changed, of leaving the dogs behind after the war.

"Their only concern was saving lives," Hizer said. "But they were considered a piece of equipment. This memorial is truly a blessing — not only to myself but to all the war dogs that saved people's lives. We have not been giving credit for these heroes."

A color guard from the Farmington Post flanked the War Dog Memorial during the program,



Vietnam veteran Jim Lemke plays TAPS in honor of the K-9 military veterans.

along with flag lines from the Milford AMVETS and Operation Injured Soldiers.

The crowd was made up of plenty of local people as well as out-of-state residents — many with service dogs in tow — such as veteran Joe Kelly Sturm who traveled six hours from Louisville, Ky.

"There's only a few of these (dog memorials) around," said Sturm, accompanied by his German Shepherd, Bezio, a retired U.S. Marine Corps K-9. Bezio served in Iraq from 2005-2008 before Sturm adopted him.

Plenty of support

Staff Sgt. Allison Price, on active duty with the U.S. Army and a military dog handler, came from a base in New Jersey for the ceremony "just to

show my support."

One of her dogs, Rudy, is trained in explosive detection and was by her side recently during a mission at an undisclosed location, she said.

"I couldn't have asked for a better partner," she said. "And I think it's amazing that we can take dogs' natural abilities and train them to find bombs and drugs and people."

Livonia resident Debby Ferris said she attended on behalf of her son, Matthew Ferris, a U.S. Marine recently injured in Afghanistan, now recovering in Texas. He's also a military K-9 handler.

"It's important to him, it's important to me. I'm here to represent him," Ferris said.

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County panel to get public's input on ethics ordinance

The Wayne County Commission's Special Committee on Ethics will hold a public hearing in connection with the newly proposed Ethics Ordinance at 10 a.m. Thursday inside the auditorium of Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive.

The Special Committee on Ethics, chaired by Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt (D-District 12), has been preparing the county's first comprehensive ethics ordinance since the continuation of the Ethics Task Force. In addition to Gebhardt, that

membership included Vice Chair Alisha Bell (D-Detroit) and commissioners Diane Webb (D-Garden City), Tim Killeen (D-Detroit) and Ilona Varga (D-Lincoln Park).

Present members of the Special Committee on Ethics include Gebhardt,

Bell, Commission Chairman Gary Woronchak (D-Dearborn), Vice Chair Pro-Temp Laura Cox (R-Livonia) and Commissioner Irma Clark-Coleman (D-Detroit).

"By conducting this public hearing we will receive public input and hear many of the concerns coming from our constituents," Gebhardt said. "This will allow the committee to process

this information and continue to take the necessary steps in resolving many of the issues that have generated a recent fury in Wayne County."

Controversy has surrounded the county since late September when it was revealed that its former economic development director received a severance payment of \$200,000 when she left her county job to become

CEO of Metro Airport.

The furor that followed resulted in the termination or resignation of high-ranking appointees in the administration of County Executive Robert Ficano. The new airport CEO returned the money and later was fired from the airport position.

Federal authorities continue to investigate the county in the wake of the severance scandal.

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**WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD
A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN
AMENDED AND RESTATED BROWNFIELD PLAN FOR
THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6800 N. WAYNE ROAD,
6510-6594 N. WAYNE ROAD AND 35000 HUNTER AVENUE,
CITY OF WESTLAND, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS IN THE CITY OF WESTLAND:

The Westland City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 2, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. in Council Chambers located at City Hall, 2nd Floor, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan to consider the adoption of a resolution approving an Amended and Restated Brownfield Plan ("Brownfield Plan") for the property located at 6800 N. Wayne Road, 6510-6594 N. Wayne Road and 35000 Hunter Avenue, Westland, Michigan, parcel IDs 034-99-0003-705, 034-99-0001-002 and 034-99-0001-703 (the "Property"), pursuant to and in accordance with Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended. The Property is located on Wayne Road at and north of Hunter Avenue, south of Warren Road and is currently operated as a movie theater, commercial property and a former church and residential structure.

All maps, plats and a copy of the proposed Brownfield Plan are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the City of Westland Clerk's Office, Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan.

All aspects of the Brownfield Plan are open for discussion at the public hearing. All interested persons desiring to address the City Council shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard in regard to the approval of the Brownfield Plan.

This communication serves as notice of the City's intent to consider approval of the Brownfield Plan for the Property.

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com.

Upcoming Events

FISH FRY

Time/Date: 4:30-7 p.m. every Friday in March. Location: First United Methodist Church, 3 town square, Wayne.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Location: St. Mary Catholic School, 34516 Michigan Ave., Wayne. Details: St. Mary School is currently registering students for the 2012-2013 school year.

LAUGHTER BENEFIT

Time/Date: 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22. Location: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road Livonia.

counseling programs for all ages. Contact: For more information about Angela Hospice events or programs, visit www.AskForAngela.com.

SPRING BLING

Time/Date: 5-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 29. Location: Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis in Wayne.

CRAFT SHOW

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 24. Location: St. Linus Church Hall, 6466 Evangeline at the corner of Hass in Dearborn Heights.

GARDEN TALK

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24. Location: Wild Birds Unlimited, 41816 Ford Road, Canton.

Westland

Details: Do you have things you're looking to clear out of your house? Do you have craft items you would like to sell?

Contact: Call Sharon Garcia to sign up at cackles55@gmail.com or (734) 637-2662.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. second Wednesday of the month. Location: Lower level Classroom 2 of the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building at Garden City Hospital.

Contact: Call (734) 58-4330 for more information.

TAILWAGGERS

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Saturday, March 31. Location: UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Details: Space is still available for participants that would like to put their chili to the test in Tailwaggers popular Chili, Hoops and Hounds event.

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

For Seniors

FRIENDSHIP CENTER Location: 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Details: The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center) offers a variety of programs for older adults.

Contact: (734) 722-7632, www.ci.westland.mi.us

DYER CENTER Location: 36745 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Marquette, Westland. Details: Offers activities Monday-Friday at the center.

Contact: (734) 419-2020

SENIOR FITNESS Location: Maplewood Senior Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City. Details: The Senior Fitness Room is available to those age 50 and older.

Contact: (734) 419-2020

\$55 per year or get a daily pass for \$1. Senior aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Drop in for \$3 per day.

Contact: (734) 793-1870

Volunteers

FIRST STEP

Details: First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers.

Contact: (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223

VNA HOSPICE

Details: Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life.

Contact: (248) 967-8361, www.vna.org

SEASONS HOSPICE

Details: Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to patients dealing with life limiting illness.

community.

Contact: (800) 370-8592

LITERACY COUNCIL

Details: The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills.

Contact: (734) 416-4906

HEARTLAND HOSPICE

Details: Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties.

Contact: (888) 973-1145

SUPPORT GROUP

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. Location: American House III, 35700 Hunter, Westland.

Details: Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance is sponsoring a support group that provides support and guidance for families caring for an older person.

Contact: Chris Goldberg at (734) 629-5004. Call to confirm meeting, if you are coming for the first time to participate.

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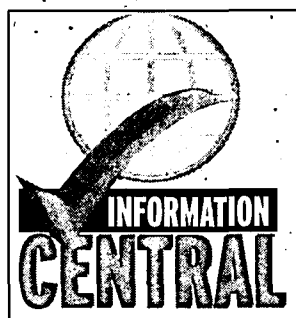
NORTHVILLE ANIMAL HOSPITAL (Formerly Millstream Animal Clinic)

HOBBY LOBBY Canton Ford Road at Lilley, west of Ikea

The Great American Meatout is March 20

If you're like me, you're starting to realize that while a red meat-based diet is tasty, it is not the healthiest way to live. Many other Americans have begun to realize this (just think of the most recent Harvard study) and are changing their habits. For others like me still on the fence, the Great American Meatout (meatout.org) is an event designed to promote just such an alternative (this year it is celebrated on March 20).

Started in 1985, the Meatout itself seeks to promote a more plant-based diet, substituting fish, fruits, vegetables and whole grains for red meat, as well as to show



the numerous options available now in mainstream grocery stores and restaurants for people who choose this lifestyle.

The Meatout is certainly making headways because of national trends towards healthier diets, with 30 million Americans having recently explored meat-free diets and one in

five teens thinking vegetarianism is "cool." The Meatout has several ardent celebrity supporters, too, including Alicia Silverstone, Ed Asner, Bob Barker, Mary Tyler Moore, Kevin Nealon and Tony LaRussa.

If you like the idea of meat-free diet but can't commit to a full lifestyle change, Meatout organizers have created Meatout Mondays, an e-mail campaign designed to give subscribers "recipes, product suggestions, health news, encouragement, and inspiration" (meatout.org). Just head to the website (www.meatout.org) for more information or stop by the library, if you would like

help.

If you would like more information about the Great American Meatout, check out their website. The library has many books and resources, including *The Kind Diet* by Alicia Silverstone, *Food Rules* by Michael Pollan and *Food Matters* by Mark Bittman. If you would like more information about meatless or vegan diets; visit the Westland Public Library's Reference Desk, call us at (734) 326-6123 or visit us online at www.westlandlibrary.org.

Highlighted Activities

Adult Book Discussion Group: 7 p.m. March 20

Olive Wellwood is an author of children's books and the matriarch of her family. She writes chilling tales for young readers that hint at her own family's dark secrets. *The Children's Book* follows the Wellwood family from the late 1890s through World War I. The characters in the story are in complex relationships that create devastation in their aftermath. The story focuses on issues of women's suffrage, war, politics and political movements, progress, art, relationships, and family dynamics. Limited number of available copies are located at the Reference Desk.

Writers Workshop: 7 p.m. March 20, age 16 and up

Do you have a piece of writing that you need help with? The Writers Workshop critiques individual's writing in a workshop setting. All

genres accepted. We'll tell you what is what is working with your piece, as well as what needs improvement. You must attend one session before your writing will be reviewed. To register, visit the Reference Desk or contact andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org.

Zumba Dance Party: 7:30 p.m. March 20, Adult and teens

Join Lisa English for a Zumba® Dance Party. Zumba fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program. Be sure to wear comfortable clothing and low tread shoes. All fitness levels welcome. Space is limited. Sign up for no more than two sessions at a time. Call the library or check our website for more dates. westlandlibrary.org/events

Documentary Movie Night: *Bhutto*, 7 p.m. March 21

Adults Celebrate Women's History Month with the story of Benazir Bhutto. Born into one of a wealthy and politically important family sometimes referred to as the "Kennedys of Pakistan," Benazir Bhutto was the first female Prime Minister elected to lead a Muslim country. Her assassination in 2008 shook the world of Islamic politics and turned her into a political martyr, as well as a symbol for democracy in the Middle East.

Yoga for Beginners: 5:45 p.m. March 22 and 10 a.m. March 23, Adults and Teens

Join Lois Gannon of evolve studio (Ypsilanti) for beginning yoga class. Lois will bring mats for all participants

unless you have one like to use. Class size is limited so we ask that participants sign up no more than four classes at this time. Sign-up at the Reference Desk.

Friday Night Dinner and a Movie: 6 p.m. March 23

Join us as we continue to celebrate Academy Award nominees and winners from March through May. As an added bonus, we are offering our ever-popular Dinner and a Movie alternative. Tonight's movie, *The Descendants*, is about "a land baron who tries to reconnect with his two daughters after his wife suffers a boating accident." (imdb.com) Tonight's dinner will be provided by local favorite, Thai City. Menu will include three dishes, spring rolls, refreshments and dessert. Doors for the dinner open at 6 p.m. Cost will be \$10.

Snacks and refreshments served. Trivia and prizes. Doors for the movie-only attendees will open at 7 p.m. The movie will start shortly after. This movie is Rated R.

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

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

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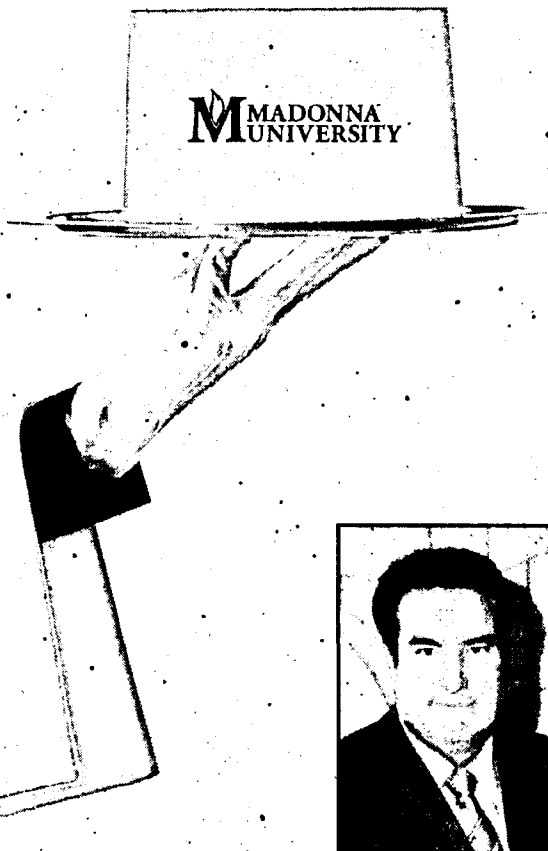
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Choya Jordan

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Pet-A-Pet, Inc. is looking for enthusiastic, friendly pets and their owners to visit facilities one hour a month at the Garden City Hospital Rehab. Pets must be up to date with vaccinations, proof required. Visits are at 3:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Call Mickie Hickey at (734) 522-0036 for more information or to sign up.

Mom2Mom Sale

Spring cleaning is here. Time to clean out your kids' closets and drawers. Don't know what to do with the things they've outgrown or never even got a chance to

wear?

Sell them at the Garden City Middle School's Spring Mom2Mom Sale or, come shopping at more than 75 tables to find great deals on new and gently used baby and kids clothes as well as maternity clothes, toys, shoes, games, videos/DVDs, books, bikes, strollers, cribs, swings, bouncers, etc.

The sale is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday April 21. A concession stand will be open throughout the day as well as a bake sale. Admission is only \$1, strollers welcome. All proceeds go to the GCMS PTSA. Garden City High School is located at 6500 Middlebelt Road

(between Ford Road and Warren) in Garden City.

Tables are \$25 for an 8-foot table, including space for a standard size clothes rack or small shelf that you provide. For a table agreement or more information, e-mail Sheryll at gcmom2mom@hotmail.com or call (734) 367-0898 and leave a message.

Charity bowl

The Garden City Lions Club is holding a bowling benefit 6-11 p.m. Saturday May 19, at Town & Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road, Westland. The cost is \$15 per person and includes three games of 9 pin no tap, pizza, pop, raffles and shoe rental.

For more information please contact Cindy at (313) 407-0239, Larry at (734) 660-0920, Terry at (734) 686-8786 or Vicky at (734) 502-7951. Call now to reserve your team of four or come by yourself and they will team you up. Either way it's a night of fun entertainment.

Relay for Life

The third annual Relay for Life dinner dance from 5 p.m. to midnight Saturday, March 24, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Road, east of Middlebelt, Westland. The cost is \$15 per person and includes dinner, dancing and select beverages. There will be entertainment, a DJ, prize drawings and more. Doors open at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Teen gets 'Hunger Games' gig

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

If you need a question answered about the movie, *Hunger Games*, which opens Friday, chances are Montgomery Jones can answer it.

So when talk show host Wendy Williams was looking for young correspondents to cover its opening, and asked for videos to audition, Jones was right there.

With two videos — the first of which she did in one take — Jones earned herself one of the two spots Williams was giving away. On a recent airing of Williams' show, Jones got the news she'd been chosen.

"I love *Hunger Games* and Wendy Williams," said Jones, the daughter of Kerry and Theo Jones of Canton. "What sets me apart from other fans is that I know a lot about the movie franchise. I've been following Lionsgate's decisions regarding casting, product endorsements, and the unique way that they have marketed the movie for over a year."

Jones found out about Williams' contest while making her normal rounds of *Hunger Games* sites. She did her first video in a single sitting, and put together a second, higher-energy video based on what producers requested. The show paid for Jones trip to New York for the announcement (Jones and Georgia native Kara Murphy



PHOTO BY ANDER KRUSBERG FOR "THE WENDY WILLIAMS SHOW"

Wendy Williams (left) lets Kara Murphy of Georgia and Montgomery Jones of Canton know they won the slots as "*Hunger Games*" correspondents.

were chosen), then sent both girls to Los Angeles to interview the movie's stars.

The movie is based on Suzanne Collins' *Hunger Games* trilogy, which follows a nation called Panem, which rose from the ashes of civil war. *Hunger Games* follows lead protagonist Katniss Everdeen into a fight-to-the-death challenge against "tributes" from Panem's 12 districts.

Jones, who returns to the Williams show Wednesday for the airing of her coverage, loves the books because its about more than one person, and more than one theme.

"(Katniss) is a symbol for a movement bigger than herself," said Jones, who first read *Hunger Games* in 2008 and figures she's converted some 25 people to *Hunger Games* fans. "There's more at stake than her

happiness, people are dying. I have found more and more parallels between the citizens of Panem and some people in our world today."

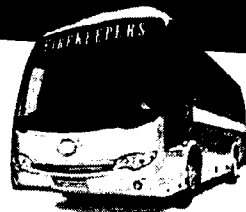
Kerry Jones isn't surprised her daughter won the right to cover the movie for Williams' show. She said Montgomery fights for causes she believes in and has passion and drive.

"Once she makes up her mind, step aside and watch her go," Kerry Jones said. "I'm absolutely thrilled for her. She has been such a huge fan ... she always wants to travel and she adores meeting new people and experiencing new things so this amazing opportunity beautifully merges many of her passions."

"The Wendy Williams Show" airs weekdays in national syndication, on BET at midnight and has been renewed on Fox thru 2014. Visit www.wendyshow.com for local listings.

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Plymouth - Tues. March 20 thru Sat. March 24 / 9am - 6pm / **Comfort Inn** - 40455 Ann Arbor Rd Plymouth (At I 275)
Canton - Tues. March 20 thru Sat. March 24 / 9am - 6pm / **Comfort Suites Inn** - 5730 Haggerty Rd (S. of Ford Rd-Across from IKEA)

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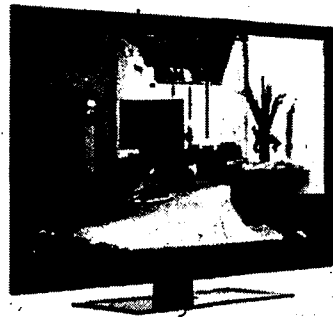


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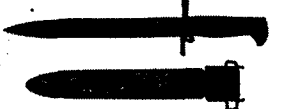
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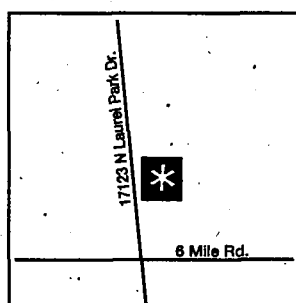


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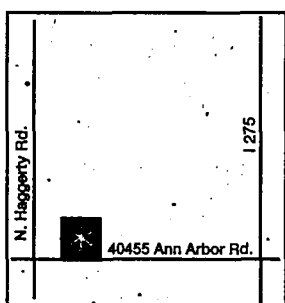
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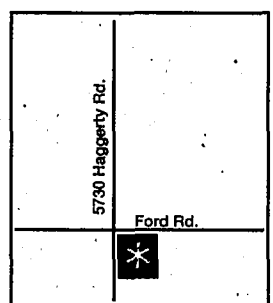
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Winding up a sterling career

MU's Minch going out in style

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

After spinning out high-velocity softballs for close to 13 years, Hallie Minch's incredibly-productive windmill will be shutting down once and for all sometime this spring.

And you won't find too many hitters shedding a tear.

Since embracing the sport of fast-pitch softball at the age of 9, the 22-year-old senior at Madonna University has been a high-achiever, to put it mildly.



Minch

Last week, the former Garden City High School star was named the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference's "Pitcher of the Week" after delivering a two-hit shut-out against No. 9-ranked Shorter (Ga.) before blanking No. 6-ranked Belhaven (Ala.) for six innings until eventually winning, 7-2.

Minch chiseled out a stellar 5-2 record and 2.02 earned-run average during the Crusaders' weeklong spring-break trip.

As her competitive softball career winds down to its final weeks, Minch has set her sights on forging ahead as opposed to getting overcome with nostalgia.

"I guess it's been a little sentimental for me, knowing this is my last year of playing competitively," Minch admitted. "But to be honest, I'm more focused on the rest of this season and going out with a bang."

Following three seasons as a

full-time outfielder and complementary hurler behind Madonna ace Jess Irwin (now an assistant coach with the Crusaders), Minch is enjoying her more-prominent mound role this year.

"I've always liked pressure, so, yeah, I guess you could say I like being the No. 1 pitcher," she said. "I like the responsibility that goes with it."

Impressive arsenal

When hitters step into the batter's box against Minch, they'd better not be guessing on a pitch.

If they do, there's a four-in-five chance they'll be wrong.

"I throw five pitches: a fast-ball, change-up, screw-ball, curve-ball and rise-ball," Minch revealed. "My best two pitches are probably my screw-ball and change-up, but I'm confident with all five."

"My catcher, Kristen Drabek, calls my pitches. We have pretty good chemistry and we're in sync as far as what pitches she calls."

Minch is multifaceted once she steps on the diamond. When it's not her turn to pitch, she plays a solid outfielder and is a tough out from the left side of the plate.

"I enjoy pitching and hitting evenly," she said. "When one or the other isn't working well, I try not to let it affect the rest of my game."

Entering Friday's double-header against St. Catharine (Ky.), Minch was hitting a robust .291 with four RBI.

Please see MINCH, B2



TIM BUSCH

Garden City native Hallie Minch was named the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference's Pitcher of the Week last week. The senior helped lead the Cougars to a Class A state softball title in 2008.

Redford rec hoop final game set

The Dirty Dozen will square off against the Quiet Storm in this afternoon's 5 p.m. championship game of the Redford Township recreation basketball playoffs.

The game will be played at Hilbert Middle School.

The top-seeded Dirty Dozen rolled into the title match-up by dispatching fourth-seeded All Sport, 85-78 in Sunday's semifinal game. Lionel Sullivan continued his sweet shooting as he registered 36 points to lead the winners. Carlos Metlock added 23 and Jessie Bunkley contributed 19.

All Sport's Mike Beatty was Sullivan's equal as he also poured in 36. Lloyd Coles added 15 and Fred Browder chipped in 12.

No. 3 seed Quiet Storm barely survived a gallant effort by No. 2 seed Run N' Gun, 64-63, in Sunday's other semifinal encounter. Marcus Barton and Darryl Gay both tallied 16 for the victors. Gerald Binford (14 points) and Phil Jones (13) also played well for the Storm.

Run N' Gun's balanced attack was paced by Brian Woodland (17 points), Linzee Bennett (15) and Dewey Rambiri (15).

RU JV girls soccer tryouts ongoing

It's not too late for Redford Union student-athletes who would like to try out for the school's junior varsity girls soccer program.

Potential players who are interested in giving soccer a shot should contact JV head coach Matt Kornacki at (313) 516-4119 or taztrouble316@aol.com to get information on the team's next practice.

MU's Naubert lauded

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) announced the 2011-12 Division II Men's Basketball All-America teams as selected by the All-America committee and Madonna University sophomore Bobby Naubert (Livonia/Stevenson) was selected to the honorable mention team.

A 5-10 guard, Naubert averaged 15.0 points, 6.41 assists and 3.9 rebounds per game in leading MU to an 18-13 overall record and a 12-6 mark in the WHAC, good for third place.

Livonia's Krug nets CCHA honor

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

When it comes to putting somebody out on the blue line, first-year Michigan State University hockey coach Tom Anastos will stake his reputation on junior defenseman Torey Krug.

Selected Thursday night in Detroit as the Central Collegiate Hockey Association's Player of the Year, along with being named the CCHA's Best Offensive Defenseman for the second straight year, the Livonia native has made the Spartans relevant again and in consideration for an NCAA Tournament berth (as an at-large team).

"The real good players perform well, but the great players are those who are able to

impact those around him and make those players around them better," Anastos said of his captain. "And that's what he (Krug) does."

Krug became only the second defenseman and the fifth in NCAA history to lead his conference in scoring. The 5-foot-9, 175-pound Krug scored 12 goals and added 21 assists to tie Notre Dame forward T.J. Tynan for the CCHA scoring title.

"I played forward growing up, so I think it made the transition to defense a little easier to be offensive," said Krug, who attended Churchill High School until his senior year before playing for the Indianapolis Ice of the North American Hockey League. "And obviously I'm a smaller guy. As you move up into the hockey world you have to be really, really good at one

thing to make yourself useful. Otherwise, obviously you're going to be replaced by another big guy who can play defense.

"I felt I was very comfortable in my own zone and obviously and coach (Anastos) isn't scared to put me out there when the game's on the line. I'm very confident in my defensive abilities now and it's always something you work toward."

Krug is the fourth MSU player to win the coveted CCHA award. He is also among 10 finalists for the NCAA's Hobey Baker Award.

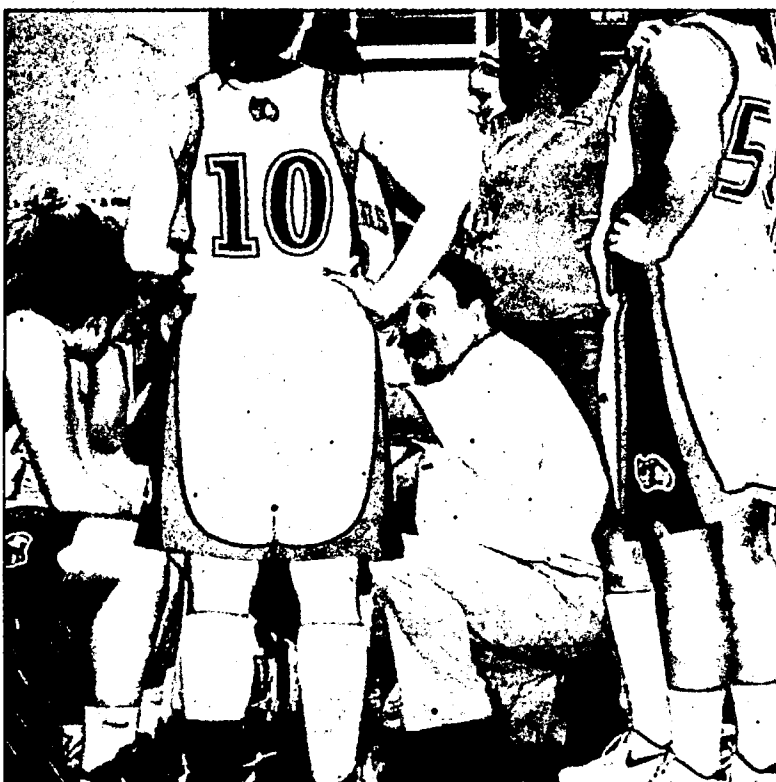
"Obviously it's a great honor and privilege to be put on the list with a bunch of other guys who have won the award in years past," Krug said. "It was definitely a surprise. There

Please see KRUG, B2



MSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Michigan State University defenseman Torey Krug, a Livonia native, was named Central Collegiate Hockey Association Player of the Year.



ED WRIGHT

Garden City girls basketball coach Barry Patterson strategizes during a time out in the Cougars' Class A district opener Feb. 27 at Livonia Ladywood. Patterson resigned as the team's coach later that night.

End of an era

Patterson's 28-year hoops run ending

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Barry Patterson's roots are in Wayne and his home is in Northville.

But the longtime coach's heart and soul are planted firmly in Garden City.

That, more than anything, is what made Patterson's recent decision to step down as head coach of the Garden City girls basketball team that much more difficult.

A fixture in the local coaching community since taking over the reins of the Cougars' junior-varsity girls hoops team in 1984, Patterson — the head varsity girls basketball coach at GC since 2000 — let his team know he was resigning moments after

the Cougars' Class A district setback to Redford Thurston on Feb. 27.

"A lot of tears were shed in that locker room," said Patterson. "I'm an emotional coach to begin with, so to have to deliver that news was tough."

"I went to high school at Wayne Memorial and I live in Northville, but when I meet someone and they ask me where I'm from, I tell them Garden City. That's how much I love this community."

Patterson actually filed his resignation paperwork in the weeks leading up to the season.

"Barry will be missed, that's for sure," said Garden City athletic director Rob Phillips. "He's

Please see PATTERSON, B2

Coaching clinic

The Michigan Youth Athletic Association (MYAA) will host its fourth annual football coaching clinic March 23-24 at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100 Merriman, Livonia.

Among the invited speakers are University of Michigan head coach Brady Hoke and Detroit Catholic Central head coach Tom Mach.

The registration fee for the two-day event is \$50. A staff of 10 will receive a discounted rate of \$400.

The clinic will be held 5-9 p.m. on March 23 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 24.

For more information, visit www.miyaa.org.



TIM BUSCH

Madonna University senior Hallie Minch contributes at the plate and on the mound for the Crusaders.

MINCH

Continued from page B1

Pre-Madonna fame

Minch was a four-year standout at Garden City. As a senior, she was one of the primary architects in the Cougars' first-ever Class A state championship. "Hallie was certainly one of the main catalysts that year," remembered Garden City head coach Barry Patterson. "Just as importantly, though, is that along with being a great player, she's an ambassador for Garden City softball. She gives the city's young kids someone to look up to, and she still returns and pitches batting practice for us once her season is over." "I loved playing softball at Garden City," she said. "I have great memories from those years. It

seems like it was just yesterday." Minch looks forward to a mini-reunion when Madonna faces WHAC rival Concordia. The Cardinals' roster includes her former teammates, Karen Greficz and Breanna King. "It's fun to see them," she said. "When they come up to bat, though, I try not to look them in the eye." A business administration major, Minch is on course to graduate in the spring of 2013. "I haven't pin-pointed exactly what I want to get into yet," she said. "Probably something in the field of marketing." Minch is the daughter of Mark and Patricia Minch of Garden City.

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KRUG

Continued from page B1

were two other candidates that were very deserving of winning it. First thought that popped up into my mind was that my teammates deserve all the credit in the world for it. You can only be successful and confident, and willing to work, as the guys around you do. I give all the credit in the world to them." Despite being swept last weekend by Miami of Ohio in the opening round of the CCHA playoffs, MSU stands 19-15-4 overall after going 15-19-4 in Rick Comley's final season as coach. "The big reason our team has made a big step this year from last year is because of his performance," Anastos said of Krug. "He's a phenomenal player. He's got the key intangibles. But separates him to me is his mental toughness, his selflessness, and I call it his 'compete' level. He's a very competitive kid and looks for ways to get better and make those around him get better every day." Krug's plus 18 rating, which ranks eighth nationally, is more evidence that he's an all-around defenseman. "We wanted to make our team have more of an offensive mindset," Anastos said. "Torey certainly loves to play offense and certainly he was an offensive defenseman, but I think he's a good defender as well. I tell him all the time: 'You're just not an offensive defenseman.' He takes pride in the defensive part of his game. I'd put him out in the last minute of a game to protect the lead as much as I'd put him out in the last minute of a game to score a goal." "He's a very reliable and compatible person in virtually every situation." Krug was named the Spartans' captain during his sophomore year and retained the role under the new coach. And he continues to be the straw that stirs MSU's drink. He tied for third in power-play



MSU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Michigan State University's Torey Krug was also named the Central Collegiate Hockey Association's Top Offensive Defenseman.

goals (7) and owns the fourth-most game-winning tallies (3) in the CCHA as well. Krug plays in excess of 29 minutes per game, and plays in all situations. "As good as he is as a hockey player, and as a leader on our team, he's even a better kid," Anastos said. "He does all the right things. He represents the school really well. He's a good student. He cares about his teammates. He's just a really good kid." MSU will learn on noon Sunday if it will go to the NCAA Tournament and Krug is pulling for all the conference 'favorites' to pull through. But whatever happens, he is confident the Spartans are headed in the right direction. "Overall this season has been pretty successful," Krug said. "As a Spartan hockey program we're trying to change the culture. We want to become winners. We want to become a team that is playing great hockey at the right time. Unfortunately, the last few years we haven't been playing our best hockey come March, which is play-off time, but that's something we want to change. Throughout the course of the year I've been very lucky to be with the group of guys we've had. Over the last couple

years we've matured and gained a lot of confidence. We're playing a different style of hockey these days. It's made my job as a captain a lot easier. We're definitely growing as a team and we'll continue to grow as a team." The transition to a new coach has also been smooth. "It's been incredible playing for Tom Anastos," Krug said. "I think the main thing that sticks out to me is his commitment and compassion for Michigan State University. When Mark Hollis (MSU's athletic director) was searching for a new head coach, one of the things that was important to him, and to everybody that was involved in the process, was to get a Spartan in that position. We have that and Coach Anastos is extremely passionate for this university and he knows what it's like for us as players to play against teams like Michigan, Ferris (State), Western Michigan... he knows a lot in that regard." Krug's stellar collegiate career, which includes three straight all-CCHA selections, could be coming to a close even though he has one more season of eligibility. It is more than likely the NHL will come calling once the season ends. Krug, however, has put those thoughts on hold. "Right now I've just been going through the process," he said. "We're practicing every day and my mind is still focused on our team. It's a situation where I'll talk it over with my family. Obviously I'm using all my resources at Michigan State, whether it's ex-pros or our coaching staff, my teammates, and former teammates who have left school early. "I'll use all my resources, and when that time comes, I'll be able to sit down and think about it a little bit more. But right now my mind is focusing on getting into that (NCAA) tournament and winning a couple games."

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PATTERSON

Continued from page B1

a great motivator, a great leader. He was a tough coach, but he was a very

fair coach. "We knew this was going to be his final season, but he didn't want that to take away from the girls' accomplishments. That's just the kind of person he is." The process to replace Patterson is ongoing, Phillips said. Patterson will continue to coach Garden City's highly-respected softball team — at least for one more season. **Solid results** Despite leading teams that were often under-sized and out-quickened, Patterson led the Cougars to several notable achievements, including a run to a Class A regional final in 2004. "Coaching-wise, I felt my strength was being able to motivate my players," said Patterson. "But the past couple of seasons — for whatever reason — I wasn't able to connect with my players like I had in the past. I still love coaching and I knew this wasn't going to be easy, but I decided before the season that it may be as good of time as any to step away."

Disney-like ending

Patterson's career was iced by a storybook ending, courtesy of his undermanned final team. After three significant underclass contributors from the 2010-11 squad opted not to return — and another quit a few weeks into the season — expectations were diminished, to say the least. But after struggling off a shaky start, the Cougars thrived, winning the Western Wayne Athletic Conference's Red Division with a perfect 10-0 record. "I can't even put into words how enjoyable this year's team was to coach," Patterson said. "They made it fun to come to practice every day. And they had fun, too, which is what matters most." Patterson said he has cherished the relationships he has built throughout his high school basketball coaching career. "I have developed friendships with so many great people — players, people I've coached against, my assistant coaches and the athletic directors I've been for-

fortunate to work with," he said. "I love Garden City, I really do. It's like, when we get together for an event — whether it's going to a Lions' game or whatever — it's not just three or four people go, it's 13 or 14." Patterson's not sure who his successor will be, but he'd give a strong nod to Michele Tyree, his longtime assistant and someone he coached in the late 1980s. "I think she'd do an outstanding job," said Patterson. "She knows the game and the returning players all know her and are comfortable with her." Patterson retired from his full-time job at United Parcel Service a few years ago following 30 years with the company. "Even though I worked at UPS all those years," he said, "I've always considered myself primarily as a coach more than anything else. I've been doing it for most of my adult life. "It's not going to be easy for me, especially once next season rolls around. But I put a lot of thought into this decision and I'm at peace with it."

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Sacred ground

Visit to Tiger Stadium site refreshing

On the same patch of earth where Mickey Stanley used to gracefully run down 420-foot fly balls, a man hit golf balls (ungracefully) with a pitching wedge late Monday afternoon.

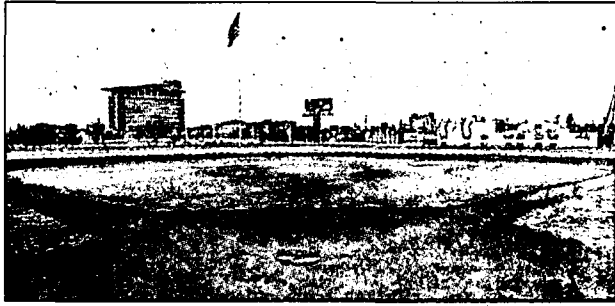
And just a few feet from the on-deck circle on which Kirk Gibson and Al Kaline routinely took mighty practice cuts, a broken beer bottle and an empty pack of Kools lay.

I picked them both up and tossed them in the trash.

It was the least I could do to help spruce up the sacred site that had served as the stage for so many of my most-cherished childhood (and adult) sports memories.

Must-see opportunity

As soon as I knew I'd be covering a Class A regional basketball game Mon-



ED WRIGHT

The field on which legends once roamed sparks childhood (and adulthood) memories for all who visit.

day afternoon at Detroit Cass Tech High School, I decided I was going to take a few minutes afterward to stop by and check out the site of the former Tiger Stadium, which sits just a five-minute drive from the school.

The last time I had stepped anywhere near the corner of Michigan and Trumbull was the night of Sept. 27, 1999, when my now-22-year-old son, Erik, and I attended the stadium's final game.

I can't remember the final score of that contest (I know the Tigers won), but I can vividly recount Robert Fick's dramatic home run that bounced off the roof in right field before disappearing into the night — and the sight

of the thousands of flash bulbs going off as Todd Jones delivered the very last pitch.

The entire night was made up of scenes straight out of *The Natural*.

As I drove to the site, my expectations of what I would see and how I would feel once I saw it were low and unsure, respectively.

I knew it would not be pretty — kind of like seeing Joan Rivers with no makeup for the first time — but my curiosity was ramped up higher than a Cecil Fielder home run.

Once I arrived, I was pleasantly surprised.

No, the infield wasn't country-club manicured. And the pitching rubber was curled and distorted

by the winter weather. But I found the place uplifting.

It's impossible for a longtime Tigers fan to step on that turf and not be flooded by fond memories.

You find yourself looking around at where the legendary bleachers used to rest, and remembering where you sat at your first game (upper deck, first-base line, 1968, Earl Wilson beamed an Angel in the head) and your last (third-base line, front row, just behind the bullpen).

You stand next to home plate — the same hallowed ground once occupied by Babe Ruth, Reggie Jackson and Norm Cash — and let your imagination get the best of you.

If you haven't visited the site, I strongly recommend doing so — and soon.

One day it's sacred ground; the next day it could become the foundation for a condominium complex.

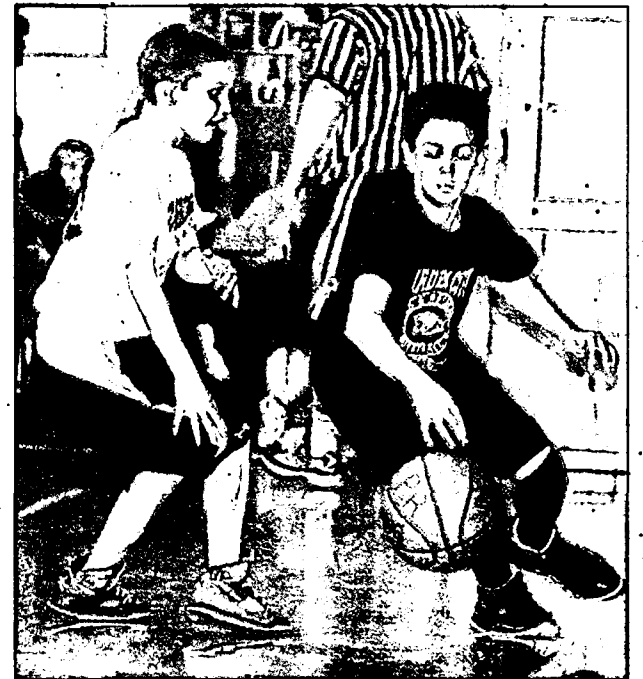
Ed Wright is the sports editor for the Redford and Garden City Observers. He can be reached at (734) 578-2767 or ewright@hometownlife.com.

All-out hustle



ED WRIGHT PHOTOS

The action was non-stop Thursday night in the Burger Center gymnasium as a pair of Garden City after-school basketball fifth- and sixth-grade basketball teams squared off. The program's middle-school league post-season playoffs will commence Tuesday at Garden City Middle School.



Whalers' bid for OHL title comes down to finale

The Plymouth Whalers defeated host Sault Ste. Marie 5-3 on Wednesday and entered their final game with a chance to at least grab a share of the Ontario Hockey League overall and Western Conference titles.

Plymouth (47-17-2-1, 97 points) received an assist in the championship quest when Wind-

sor defeated London 2-0 on Thursday. The Knights defeated Sarnia 3-2 on Friday and also have 97 points entering Saturday's game against Erie.

The Whalers, meanwhile finished the regular season with Saturday night's home game against Sarnia.

Whoever wins the Western Conference will

be the top seed for the OHL playoffs. Plymouth already is champion of the West Division.

In the win at Sault Ste. Marie, the Whalers were sparked by forward and Farmington Hills product Alex Aleardi's three-goal hat trick. The performance gave Aleardi 36 goals, second on the team to forward Stefan

Noesen, who has 37. Plymouth built a 5-0 lead after two periods and managed to ward off a late rally by the Greyhounds.

Other goal scorers for the Whalers were forwards Mitchell Heard (29th) and Jamie Devane (23rd).

Making 27 saves to pick up the win was Plymouth goalie Scott Wedgewood.

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CYO cage champions



The Livonia St. Edith Varsity No. 2 team posted a 10-0 record en route to a Catholic Youth Organization divisional title. Team members include (front row, from left): Abby Danger, Brianne Maas, Alyssa Maas, Claire Doyle, Diane Senkowski; (top row, from left) coach Megan Szczyпка, Erin Hult, Jackie Green, Alyssa Randall, Julie Rozek, Kelly Newman, Sara Wollenweber, coaches Erin Szczyпка Ken Szczyпка.

St. Gen boys first



The Livonia St. Genevieve Jaguars, a fourth- and fifth-grade boys basketball team, recently earned their second straight Catholic Youth Organization divisional title with a 10-0 record. Team members include: Ibrahim Alrabady, Evan Bradford, Troy Campbell, Connor Carrigan, David Command, Nick Moniuszko, J.T. Morgan, Jacob Valdes and Quentin Zapata. Mike Trosell is the head coach assisted by Kraig Moniuszko.

Jags champions



The Livonia St. Genevieve Jaguars, a seventh- and eighth-grade girls basketball team, recently earned a Catholic Youth Organization divisional title with a 9-1 record. Team members include: Natalie Aguirre, Natalie Bradford, Haylee Butka, Julia Cercone, Colleen Nemes, Jessica Schoenfeldt, Cheryl Setlock, Aleena Thomas, Abby Zwicker and Emily Zwicker. Dave Setlock is the head coach, assisted by Jen McNeff, Joe Nemes and Dennis Butka.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Pom Pon clinic

A clinic for the two-time state champion Livonia Middle School Pom team will be from 8:45 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24 at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Included in the \$25 cost is a pom clinic T-shirt.

Girls currently in grades 3-8 residing in the Livonia Public School district will learn pom basics, kick line and a full pom routine taught by the current Livonia Pom team members.

For more information, e-mail livoniapom@gmail.com.

WYAA baseball

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association baseball will be from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m.-noon Saturdays at the WYAA Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

The WYAA offers leagues for T-Ball (ages 4-6), Coach-Pitch (7-8), Mustang (9-10), Bronco (11-12), Pony (13-14), Colt (15-16) and Palomino (17-18).

Opening day is Saturday, May 12 with practices starting in early April for all teams except Colt and Palomino, which begins in June.

For Colt-Palomino information, call Keith DeMolay at (734) 722-1251.

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

Bowhunters

The Southeast Michigan Bowhunters Chapter Safari Club International will stage its 21st annual fund-raiser Saturday-Sunday, March 23-24, at Laurel Manor, Livonia.

The event will feature over 50 exhibitors.

For ticket information, call Richard DeLisle at (248) 345-1986; or visit www.scibowhunters.com.

For other information, call Mike Willis at (248) 709-1370; or e-mail mwillstroy@hotmail.com.

Youth baseball

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage late registration for its 2012 co-ed instructional T-ball (ages 5-6) and coach-pitch (ages 7-8) baseball from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 31 at the LCRC (for Livonia and Clarenceville Public School district residents only).

Non-resident registration will begin at 9 a.m. Monday, April 1 at the LCRC's

Parks and Recreation office and will run through April 30 on a first-come, first-serve basis (or until teams are filled).

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

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

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

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

Stevenson pom

Tryouts for the Livonia Stevenson girls pom pon squad, open to all grades 8-11, will be from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Monday-Tuesday, April-May 30 (clinic to learn routines with kickline) and from 4:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, at the high school.

Please wear a plain white T-shirt, black pants and shorts, tennis shoes and bring water.

In order to try out, you must have a valid physical exam dated on or after April 15, 2011.

For more information, e-mail Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman at lhyman@livoniapublicschools.org.

Archery range

Registration to obtain a pass for the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation archery range is underway at the Parks and Recreation desk, located at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard, Livonia.

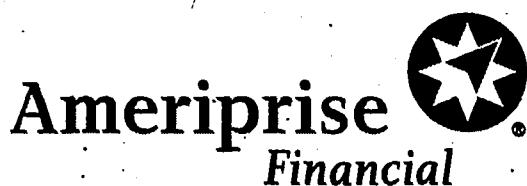
The range will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, April through Oct.; 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sundays, May-Oct.; 4 p.m. until dusk, Tuesdays and Thursday, Sept.-Oct.

Resident season pass rates are \$25 (individual); \$35 (two members); \$45 (three members); and \$55 (four or more members).

Non-resident season passes are available for \$40 (individual); \$50 (two); \$60 (three) and \$70 (four or more).

Daily resident rates are \$4 (adult) and \$2 (17-and-under). Non-resident daily fees are \$6 (adult) and \$4 (17-and-under).

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.



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Growing with God: Catalyst ministry sparks faith of twentysomethings



Members of the Northville Christian Assembly's Catalyst Young Adult Ministries meet in the home of Art Thomas in Plymouth Township.

By Julie Brown
 O&E Staff Writer

James Loruss, 21, of Novi is a senior at Madonna University, studying film music scoring. He's a regular with Catalyst Young Adult Ministries of Northville Christian Assembly.

"The Holy Spirit," Loruss said of his attendance at the 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday sessions at evangelist Art Thomas' home in Plymouth Township. "It's just good communion and good fellowship."

At parties, he's offered drugs and alcohol, and finds attending Catalyst helpful with handling that. "It's where I connect mostly with my church friends. It makes it easy to say no," Loruss, who is single, said.

Thomas is an evangelist with the church on Six Mile as his home church. He earned an associate's degree in early childhood development from Schoolcraft College.

"That's why I work with young adults," joked Thomas, 27, who has ministerial credentials through Assembly of God. He's married to Robin, who's active in the ministry, and the couple has a 1-year-old son Josiah and another child due in late September.

Reaching out

Catalyst has met about two and a half years at their home, as well as other homes, the church and restaurants. It's aimed at those post-high school through their 20s, with the oldest an early 30s.

"The high schoolers

all have youth groups," Thomas said. "The young adults tend to drift off."

A recent Thursday session included a time of prayer and Scripture reading from Isaiah. "It's kind of structured and kind of free-flowing," Thomas said.

He likes to begin by asking, "What's God been doing in your life?"

They've had music but don't usually.

"We've got people in all stages," Thomas said. "It's a very volatile time for people," he said of that stage of life, when career, relationships and faith questions often dominate.

Rebecca Hunt, 27, of South Lyon is single and works as a secretary at the church, which about three-quarters of the group attends. "We've



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

As pastor Art Thomas (left), speaks, Michael Kimling Jr. gives a friendly pat on the head to Thomas' wandering tyke, Josiah, during a meeting of Northville Christian Assembly's Catalyst Young Adult Ministries.

known Rebecca since we were all in youth group together as teenagers," Thomas said.

She agreed it's a great experience. "It really just encourages me to stay committed in my walk with Christ. It helps me grow in my walk with Christ."

She learns more about the Bible, adding "There's always more to learn." She's interested in cre-

dentials for writing spiritual books.

"I just really like the diversity of our group, the age differences," said Hunt, who also appreciates the openness.

'Grown so much'

Marie Quaranto, 30, of Canton is single and works as a nanny. She's a longtimer like Hunt. "I love this group," Quaranto said. "I feel like

I've grown so much since I started coming here." She finds she's grown in knowledge, boldness and more.

"The way I perceive events has changed," said Quaranto, who sees "more of God's hand in my life."

Jeff Holloway, 29, of Westland is recently married and a security offi-

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MHS is distributing certificates that are redeemable at its Westland, Detroit or Rochester Hills clinics for the health services, valued at \$220-\$335. There are no pet owner eligibility restrictions based on income or residence, but the dogs

must be a pit bull-type dog, such as an American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Cane Corso and Presa Canario.

"There are definite challenges facing the breed," said Kevin Hatman, public relations coordinator. "Every single rescue out there is seeing a large number of Pit Bulls. And with the stigma about the breed, there are adoption challenges. We're trying to target the problem at the source."

Pit Bull-type dogs make up about 35 percent of MHS' canine intake. Hat-

man said the organization finds homes for about 100 every year.

Certificates are available by calling MHS at (248) 283-1000, Ext. 127. MHS' Cruelty Investigation and Rescue teams that operate in Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park also will distribute them.

Hatman said MHS hopes to expand the program's reach by giving certificates to several animal rescues that will in turn distribute them to others. Those groups include Animal Care Network, the Buster Foundation, C.H.A.I.N.E.D., Detroit Bully Crew and

the Friends of the Dearborn Animal Shelter.

For information about other MHS programs, visit www.michiganhumane.org.

Chili dogs

If you love eating chili, helping dogs and playing hoops, you'll want to reserve Saturday, March 31 for the annual Chili Hoops and Hounds event presented by Tail Waggers' 1990, a Livonia-based animal welfare group.

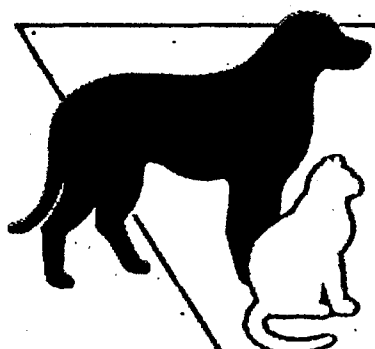
The fun (and eating) runs from 1-5 p.m. at UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road, located next to Kickers/Joey's

Comedy Club, in Livonia.

Taste samples for \$1 each or buy an all-you-can-eat chili wristband for \$15 and help determine the "People's Choice Award." Honors also will go to the "Best Tasting Chili" and "Best Table Decoration."

This family event will include an inflatable, interactive basketball challenge, face-painting, magic, entertainment and more.

For more information about Tail Waggers' 1990 visit www.tailwaggers1990.org.



PET PROJECTS

By Sharon Dargay

Screening program adds gluten, food allergy testing to its schedule

United Health Organization (UHO), the non-profit group that coordinates community-wide health screenings, will kick off an expanded schedule of tests on March 23.

Its screening program at 45 sites in Michigan runs through May 12.

"This year we're encouraging participants to begin anew. It's never too late to make a fresh start in pursuit of a healthier lifestyle," stated Ifetayo B. Johnson, executive director of UHO and Project Healthy Living, in a press release.

Many of the basic screenings for fitness, obesity, hypertension, vision and hearing remain free of charge. New blood screenings include a cereal allergy panel for \$20, food allergy panel for \$20 and Michigan region respiratory allergy panel for \$30. A four-hour fast is recom-

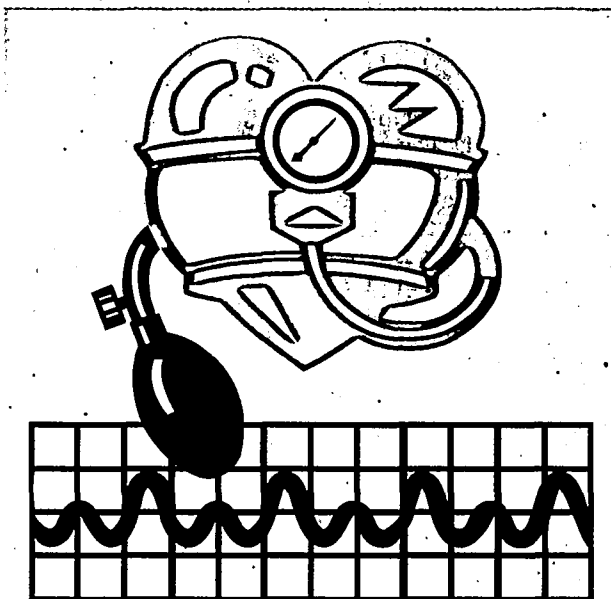
mended before testing.

Individuals can pre-register to be screened at their preferred location using Fast Track, UHO's online registration system. All Project Healthy Living events are free and open to the public. Participants must be at least 18 years, or accompanied by a guardian.

Telemedicine, a personalized healthcare service via audio/video teleconferencing, will be tested at selected sites in the metro-Detroit area during Project Healthy Living.

For more information about UHO, Project Healthy Living, its events, fee schedules, screenings, locations and times, call the hotline at (313) 531-9108 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday, or visit the website at www.projecthealthyliving.net.

UHO will kick off the program from 10 a.m. to



4 p.m. March 23 at Baker College in Allen Park.

Local testing sites include:

- 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 30 at the Costic Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills
- Noon to 6 p.m. April 2

and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 3-4, at Westland Shopping Center, 35000 W. Warren, Westland

- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 11 at the Livonia Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

GARDEN & NATURE

Library series

The Redford Township District Library, 25320 W. Six Mile, offers a free series of gardening classes, 6:45 p.m. Monday, through March 26. Topics are trellises, arches and vertical plantings, March 19; and spring gardening — do it the right way, March 26. Advanced Master Gardener LeRoy Wolff is the instructor. Register at adult reference desk, or call (313) 531-5960, Ext. 103.

Butterflies

"Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) celebrates its 5th anniversary, 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 21, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Includes refreshments and a program to highlight the events and growth of this local group of butterfly gardeners. Parking on Hines Dr. or Ann Arbor Trail. \$3 for non-members.

The group also meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 18 at Nankin Mills. The meeting topic is "Butterfly Garden Enhancements." Participants will learn how to create and install accessories and enhancements for their butterfly gardens. Admission for non-members is \$3. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com.

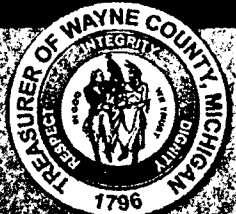
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Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield, (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

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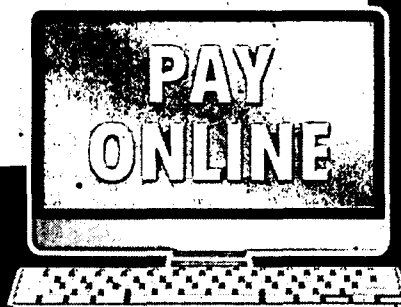
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Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

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

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com

Popular event sells out, but raffle sale continues

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Ann Peczynski of Livonia, her sister and friends will get together Thursday for a "girl's night out."

They'll share their time together with more than 900 other women at an annual event that celebrates laughter and raises money for Angela Hospice's bereavement programs.

"It's a fun event. It's a woman's event. It's a positive event," said Peczynski, who has attended "Laughter Lifts You Up," since it began five years ago. She initially attended the gathering, which includes a comedian, food and raffles at Laurel Manor, because she works in the business office at Angela Hospice in Livonia and wanted to support the nonprofit organization. Since then the outing has become a girl's night out tradition for herself, her sibling and friends.

"I think word of mouth has spread through the years," Peczynski said. "I look at it as everyone could use a little laughter in their life."

She's not surprised tickets sold out a week before the event.

"We had to add more tables. We're at capacity," said Barbara Iovan, Angela Hospice events director. "It has grown considerably over the years. This is 100 more (tickets) than last year."

Iovan said "save the date" reminders went out to past attendees in January. The majority of women who attend the March 22 event will arrive in groups, although individuals are welcome, too.

Although event tickets are gone, supporters can buy raffle tickets through Wednesday, March 21, for baskets of gift certificates that offer their own "night out" or "day on the town" experiences.

Tickets cost \$5 each or \$10 for three. Winners



Enjoying "Laughter Lifts You Up" last year are Deborah Marvay (left front row) of Canton, Rozanne Fleszar of Novi, Toni Clark of Commerce Township, Kelly Thomas (left back row) of Livonia, Sandy Minidis of Wyandotte, and Marge Aramian of Northville.

don't have to be present to win the "Girls on the Go" gifts, valued at a total \$2,300; the "Girls Goin' Shopping" basket, worth \$1,964; or the "Girls in the Groove," package, valued at \$1,680.

"They are wonderful packages. We have all kinds of experiences ... Meadow Brook Theatre, Westland shopping center, many wonderful restaurants, salons," Iovan said. "We have a wonderful package from Laurel Manor, Silver Tree Yoga, The Henry, which is a nice hotel in Dearborn, and Henry Ford Museum."

Raffle proceeds also

go toward bereavement programs that are available for free to the general public. That includes group and one-on-one counseling.

"We have programs for children and loss of spouse support groups. We have a group for loss due to suicide. We have a quilters group. We have heartstrings, for the loss of a child under 25."

Raffle ticket forms — and a complete list of businesses that have donated to the gift baskets — are available from the Angela Hospice website at www.angelahospice.org. Or call Iovan at (734) 953-6045.

Although Laughter Lifts You Up has become Angela Hospice's largest fundraiser, Iovan said it's not just about fundraising.

"It really is kind of a thank you to people in a way," she said, adding, "It's a great event."

Save the date for Angela Hospice's next fundraiser, its 24th annual golf outing, 9:30 a.m. Monday, May 14 at Fox Hills in Plymouth. Cost is \$185 per person and includes a continental breakfast, use of the driving range, a barbecue lunch, golf with a shotgun start at 11 a.m., silent auction, raffles, and dinner.

BOWLING NIGHT BENEFITS SCHOLARSHIPS

Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. is offering a way for you to have fun, while benefiting students at the same time.

Its scholarship fundraiser, Bowling for Dollars for Scholars, will begin with registration at 6 p.m. Friday, March 23, at Plaza Lanés, 42001 Ann Arbor Road East, Plymouth. Cost is \$20 and includes two games, shoes and pizza.

Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M. meets at 7 a.m. Tuesdays at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, (PCAC), 774 N. Sheldon, Plymouth. It awards six to seven scholarships annually.

Buy tickets in advance by calling the PCAC at (734) 416-4278 or by calling the Rev. Dorian McGlannan at St. John's Episcopal Church, at (734) 453-0190. Tickets are available at both the arts center and the church.

Arthritis Today

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



EXERCISE

When a doctor talks to a patient with arthritis about activity the patient should undertake, the instructions are different from what a cardiologist would advise a heart patient or an internist suggest to a diabetic.

A cardiologist wants his patient to engage in vigorous activity that puts a slight strain on the heart. The idea is that the effort should both challenge and strengthen the heart to pump with more power and for an extended period.

An internist needs the diabetic to take on an activity program throughout the day. Then the body can utilize insulin at a low but continuous level that replaces the highs or lows of blood sugar that occur with long periods of sitting and intermittent eating.

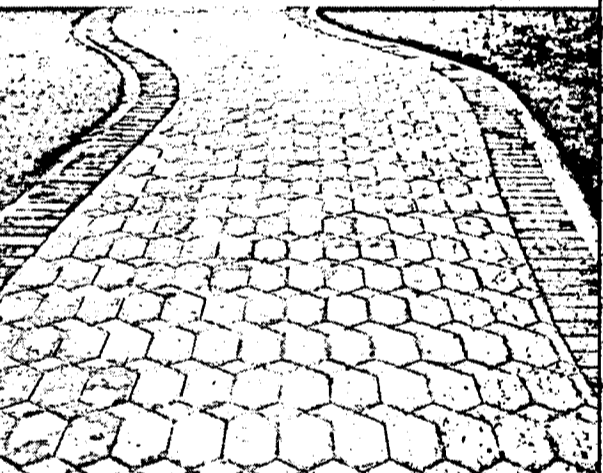
In contrast, a physician on advising exercise to a person with osteoarthritis of the knee will concentrate not on power but on constancy. The rule is: keep walking. How far a person walks or how long he or she stays on the trail or treadmill does not matter. What counts is to keep going in a steady manner. This type of ongoing and mild strain is what joints can handle best and muscles adapt to readily. The result is an increase in strength and endurance.

For patients with Fibromyalgia instructions are the same as for individuals with arthritis, with one exception: persistence. For a patient without Fibromyalgia, daily exercise means four to five times a week. For a patient with Fibromyalgia daily exercise means seven days a week. The patients with Fibromyalgia need more because the activity is not just to build muscles but is the medication that treats the condition itself.

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- Elizabeth Goldman Plymouth
- Emmitt McGowan Redford
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REUNIONS

DEARBORN HEIGHTS, ANNAPOLIS

CLASS OF 1982 For information about the 30-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 20, at Fr. Patrick O'Kelley Knights of Columbus in Dearborn, visit the "AHS Class of 82" page on Facebook, or contact Diane Goodreau at dianeschoffield@sbcglobal.net or (313) 363-0523; Jim Linaras at godofouzo@yahoo.com; or John Zadikian at zman6754@aol.com.

DETROIT MACKENZIE

CLASS OF 1962 50th reunion, Friday, June 1. For more information e-mail mackenzie1962@gmail.com or phone Mavis (Higgins) Farrand at (734) 675-5675 or Sandy (Turnbull) Dillaha at (734) 281-8595.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1967 Organizers of the 45th reunion on July 21 are looking for classmates. Send your e-mail address to Susan (Himmelspach) Whittaker at s_whittaker@comcast.net or Fred Gregg at fredge1@comcast.net to receive a reunion packet.

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL EAST

CLASSES OF 1968-1973 Reunion Sept. 22. Looking for classmates. Check out the "Garden City High School (East) Reunion 2012" on facebook.

Or e-mail to Cindy Eads Frens at irish4200@hotmail.com, Debi Cassidy Haller at debi.haller@gmail.com, Doris Fugaban Williams at doris1226@wowway.com, Lee A Gilligan at ee.gilligan@att.net, Sue Cook at stasselmyer@charter.net, SuzieWright Rogiero at suzierogiero@yahoo.com, Jackie Kalifut at jackieidelson@gmail.com or Jeff Fordell

at jeffreyfordell@comcast.net LINCOLN PARK HIGH

CLASS OF 1962 Planning for 50-year reunion, set for Sept. 15, is under way.

For more information or to RSVP e-mail Jean Badoud-Riddell at fictionweaver@sbcglobal.net, Marilyn Roy Snyder at Marilyn@MarilynJSnyder.com, Jim Barton at jbarton@genesisfinancial.com or Carol Jehle at jehlecarol@yahoo.com

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971-75 The classes are joining together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4. Reunion organizers are searching for classmates from those years. Send your name, address, phone and e-mail to nhs40yearreunion@gmail.com. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information.

REDFORD THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1962 Looking for classmates for reunion on Sept. 8. Contact: nikkwestberg@yahoo.com or Sue (Hughes) Morman at (734) 414-9941 for more information.

WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1957 Looking for classmates for the 55th class reunion to be held May 19. For more information contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or pollygirl219@aol.com. Or call Richard Smith at (248) 747-6817.

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Oleson at joleson@sbcglobal.net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or e-mail to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@aol.com.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alex O'Connor, (right) prays with other members of the Northville Christian Assembly Catalyst Young Adult Ministries.

GOD

Continued from page B5 cer for Domino Farms. He'd like to be a pastor and is working on a master's degree in pastoral ministry at Madonna. "I would probably say encouragement," Holloway said. "It challenges me to have a deeper relationship with God." Jared Dietrich, 28, of Livonia will teach English overseas, and is married. "We're here to support each other," he said. "For me, it's great just to be with other like-minded people." Also joining in the discussion that recent Thursday was Annisa McElhenny, 18, an Oakland Community College student who wishes to become a nurse, and is the daughter of the Northville Christian Assembly pastor. The young adults were joined by Art Thomas' parents, Gaylord and Linda Thomas, formerly of Plymouth Township and now living in Wears Valley, Tenn. The senior Thomases were in town for a celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, and joined in the discussion with the younger Christians.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

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Milestones

Filip Joseph Avery

Filip Joseph Avery was born Feb. 26, 2012, at Providence Hospital, Novi.
He joins his parents, Michael and Marta, and brother, Dominik, 2 1/2, at home in Northville.
Grandparents are Jeni and Lyle Avery of Salem Township and Barbara Solak of Poland.



Great-grandmother is Aurilla B. Steele of Plymouth.

Vaughn Walden Brodie

Vaughn Walden Brodie was born at 8:20 a.m., March 8, 2012, in Kirkland, Wash., to proud, first-time parents, Scott and Kate Brodie.
Scott is a 2002 graduate of Livonia Stevenson and a 2006 graduate of Michigan State University. His parents are Mark and Theresa Brodie of Livonia.
Other grandparents are



Mike and Marie McPhee of Potterville. Vaughn weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces and measured 21 1/2 inches long.



Richard and Margo Panko of Canton with their daughter, Kim, and her fiancé, David Grevell, celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary in Brisbane, Australia.

45th wedding anniversary

Richard and Margo Panko of Canton celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary Feb. 4 with their daughter, Kim, and her fiancé, David Grevell, in Brisbane, Australia. The Pankos were married in 1967 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Saginaw. The couple met on a blind date in 1966 at Central Michigan University's homecoming. Margo, a Central Michigan graduate, had just returned from teaching in Germany for two years. It was love at first sight and they were married four months later. Both of them received their master's degrees from Eastern Michigan University.
Richard taught in Dearborn Heights as a secondary school vocation teacher and retired early

in 1988. After retirement he ran his own auto business until Margo retired from Central Middle School in 1999 after 38 years of teaching in California, Germany, Livonia, Saginaw, Brighton, and Plymouth.
The couple enjoys traveling in their motorhome across Canada and the U.S. and spending two months every winter in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.
Margo participates in water aerobics, yoga, and Bible study when she is home. Richard is a pilot and instructor.
Their children are Jeff, Cathy, and Kim. They also have two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.
Richard and Margo have been involved in Marriage Encounter and say the secret to their long marriage is communication.

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McDonald-Neher

Kelly McDonald and Jonathan Neher announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Bret and Sandy McDonald of South Lyon, is a 2003 graduate of South Lyon High School. She graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and early education. She teaches kindergarten at the Global Educational Excellence Academies in Ypsilanti.



ern Michigan University and is employed as a substitute teacher as well as a food broker for Neher Sales Marketing.

A June 2012 wedding is planned at St. Joseph Church, in South Lyon, with a reception to follow in the Diamond Room at The Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi.

Jensen-Gruin

Jennifer Jensen and Alex Gruin announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Al and Fern Jensen of Livonia, graduated from Stevenson High School in Livonia and Michigan Technological University. She works for Life Time Fitness in Centennial, Colo.



sylvania. He works for Life Time Fitness in Colorado Springs, Colo.

A September 2012 wedding is planned in the Environmental Discovery Center at Indian Springs Metropark, in White Lake.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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



ADAMS, JOHN "JACK" H.

From Dennis, MA, age 71, died peacefully at home on March 4, 2012, surrounded by loved ones. Born August 25, 1940 to John W. Adams and Eleanor Adams (Fairbanks), he grew up in Grafton, MA and attended University of Massachusetts. He spent most of his career as the President and CEO of Clark Sales, LLC, a manufacturers' representatives company based out of Farmington Hills. He is survived by three daughters; Jean-Michelle Adams of Huntington Beach, CA, Abigail Perry Adams and Jennifer Dixon Adams-Mundy and her husband, Kevin, all of Boston. He is also survived by his brother, David Adams and his wife, Beverly, and two sisters; Abigail Adams and her husband, R. Brian Hennessy, and Elizabeth Adams. Jack enjoyed the outdoors often finding time for gardening, fishing, and the Cape Cod Bay in Massachusetts. He had a long standing connection to Cape Cod, where he spent many summers throughout his life. He returned full time to be near family and friends in the last year of his life. Among many other attributes, he will be remembered for his jokes, storytelling, and adaptations of favorite quotes including, "Life is a journey, not a destination." He was a strong, resilient, and personable man who will be deeply missed. A private memorial service will be held this summer. Contributions in Jack's memory can be made to Hospice of Cape Cod, 765 Attucks Ln., Hyannis, MA 02601.

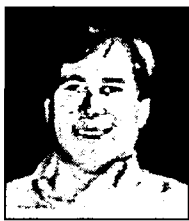


ELLIS, KATHRYN JEAN

1924 - 2012. Jean would have been 88 years old on March 25. She was a sweet, caring woman who raised five children; a very kind and loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. She was the loving wife of more than 40 years of Russell W. Ellis, who predeceased her in 1986. She passed away peacefully on March 12, 2012, surrounded by family. Born in Detroit, Jean was the daughter of Allan and Mabel Hedley, who both had emigrated from Ontario, Canada. She graduated from Farmington High School in Michigan and attended nursing school in Barrie, Ontario. While there, she met Russ at Wasaga Beach, Ontario, as he was serving in the Canadian Army and based nearby. They married in Stayner, Ontario, in 1943. As the war ended, they lived for a short time in Windsor, Ontario, before moving to the Farmington area where they settled and raised their children. Jean was primarily a homemaker, though she worked for a short time as a nurse and later as a bookkeeper in Russ's real estate business. She was also a member of First United Methodist Church of Farmington since 1947. She loved spending time with family, grandchildren and friends, traveling, music and reading. She believed in the power of faith and positive thinking, as well as the value of tolerance. For more than 40 years, she enjoyed many happy and peaceful times at the family cottage at Belmont Lake, Ontario. Jean is survived by her children, Joan, Judith, William (Theresa), Robert (Lisa) and David (Eileen); sisters, Margaret Schlack and Patricia Eisenlord; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; six nieces and nephews. A Memorial Service will be held 11:00 a.m. Friday, March 16th, at the First United Methodist Church of Farmington, 33112 Grand River Ave., Farmington, MI 48336. The family will receive friends for visiting from 9:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. in the Markham Room of the church. In lieu of flowers, donations are suggested to First Step, firststepmi.org. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington. www.thayer-rock.com

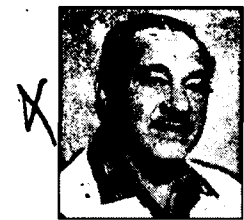
BELSLEY, LOIS

Passed away on March 10, 2012 at age 87. She was the beloved wife of the late Benjamin Belsley for 56 years. He predeceased her February 20, 2002. Loving mother of Larry (Elaine) Belsley, Linda (John) Reardon, Jeanie (Patrick) Allen, Steven (Patti) Belsley, and Sally (Ron) Blaszczyk. Dear grandmother and Great-grandmother of many adoring grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral service will be held today at the Apostolic Christian Church of Livonia Thursday March 15, 2012 at 11:00AM. Memorial donations may be made in her name to the Woodhaven Retirement Community, 29667 Wentworth, Livonia MI 48154.



BOSTON, ROBERT (BOB) CHARLES

Of Naperville, IL (formerly of Farmington, MI), passed away on Friday, March 2, 2012. Bob was born April 26, 1955, in Oak Park, Illinois. He grew up in Farmington and graduated from FHS in 1973. He graduated Grand Valley State in 1986 with a degree in Communications. Bob was employed by Canteen Coffee and was Regional Sales Manager for Wells Bloomfield Coffee Equipment Company. He had a passion for Formula One Racing and Bruce Springsteen. He wanted to be remembered as a kind soul-which he was. Robert was preceded in death by his dad Charles E. Boston, Jr. and brother Thomas E. Boston. Bob is survived by his daughter Kelli; grandson Charlie; mother Jean M. Boston; sister Sue (Robert) Hutera; brother Jim Boston and sister-in-law Karen (Rick) Boston Wright. His nieces Kelly, Sara, Megan, and Anna, as well as his nephews Keith, David, Boen and Jacob, will miss his unique perspective on life. So, too, will Bob's cousin Terri Maddox and her family and dear friends Phil and Lou Ann Jaime. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



GARRIS, GORDON G.

March 11, 2012. Age 85. Loving companion of Peggy Vella. Loving father of Gordy, Susan Irish, Gregory (Donna), Gerylann, Nancy (Bill) Wilcox, Geoff (Ashley) and Gary (Charisse). Also survived by 14 grandchildren and 10 Great-grandchildren. He worked at Otis Elevator. Funeral Saturday 10 a.m. from the Chapel of L. J. Griffin Funeral Home, 7707 Middlebelt Road, (at Ann Arbor Trail). Family will be receiving visitors Thursday 6-9 p.m. and Friday 12-9 p.m. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at griffinfuneralhome.com



Happy 31st Birthday, Brian
March 16, 1981
We love and miss you very much. Love, Your family



COLEMAN, Thomas M.

Age 67, of Westland, MI, passed away March 13th, son of Malcolm and Margaret Coleman. He married Paula Coleman (Taylor) Sept. 24th, 1967 and she survives. He is also survived by two sons, Donald Thomas (Michelle) Coleman and Sean Patrick (Angela) Coleman; his grandchildren: Kyle Thomas, Thomas Paul, Carrie Ann; one sister: Sharon (Orval) Flick; many nieces, nephews and his faithful dog Buba. He was preceded in death by his parents and one son Ronald. Arrangements at Puse Funeral Home, Adrian, MI. Viewing and funeral service will be held at St. Simon & Jude Catholic Church, Westland, MI. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.



HOOVER, ADA ILENE "ADALENE"

Age 96, March 9, 2012. Beloved wife of the late William Hoover. Loving mother of Vickie (Sam) Smoker and Joyce (Doug) Wells. Dear grandmother of Jeremy (April), Joe (Nicole) and Daniel (Jennifer). Great-grandmother of Lucas, Ella and Zoe. Interment was held at Parkview Memorial Cemetery. A Celebration of Life will be held. Contact Joyce for details. Memorial donations may be directed to Samaritan's Purse International Relief. Please share a memory at www.rggharris.com

JACOBS, BETTY J.

Of Wayne March 10, 2012 age 90. Beloved wife of the late George K. Loving mother of Doreen (the late William) Roe, John (Marilyn) and Deborah Gillette. Dearest grandmother of Stacy Gillette and Mark Thurber. Dear great-grandmother of Anabelle Davis. A memorial gathering will be held Saturday, March 17th from 1:00 until 3:00 at the Uht Funeral Home, 35400 Glenwood St. Westland. Please visit and sign a tribute at www.uhtfh.com.



KLEKNER, MALVINA

Age 91 of Livonia. Beloved wife of the late Roland S. (Olga), and Thomas. Dear grandmother of Carolyn, Christina, Danielle, and her mother Catherine. Preceded in death by her two brothers in Hungary. Malvina enjoyed friends, sewing, gardening, baking, world travel, and her cherished cat. Visitation will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home-Rice Chapel 36100 5 Mile Rd. Livonia (E. of Levan) Thursday from 1-9PM with a 7PM Rosary. Funeral Friday at Holy Cross Hungarian Roman Catholic Church, Detroit, MI. In-State 10:00AM, Mass 10:30AM. Interment Holy Sepulchre Catholic Cemetery. Please share memories at Fredwoodfuneralhome.com



PEABODY, CONSTANCE (Connie) JOSEPHINE (McCABE)

Age 89, died on March 16, 2012. A funeral mass will be celebrated at 1:30 PM Monday, March 19, 2012 at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 600 N. Adelaide Street, Fenton with Rev. Fr. David Harvey celebrant. Interment will be at a family ceremony at a later date. Visitation will be at St. John's Church 12:30 PM until the funeral mass. Connie was born in Windsor, Ontario October 13, 1922 daughter of Dr. L.G. and Teresa (Roesler) McCabe. She had 3 brothers and 2 sisters. Connie attended St. Mary's Academy and Holy Name College in Windsor and trained and worked as a medical technician at Grace Hospital, Detroit, Michigan. In 1944 she married Bob Peabody of Birmingham Michigan where they lived and operated the family fruit orchard. In 1960 they moved to Fenton to continue the orchard business. Connie loved the fruit business which she co-owned with her husband. Connie was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, St. Ann's Guild, the Fenton Art Guild and Bayview. She is survived by nine children: Mary Soper, Rob Peabody, Janet (Paul Perrault) Koehs, Katherine/Kitty Hendrick, Connie (Dan) Cobley, Bill Peabody, Paul (Pam Merrill-Myers) Peabody, Rachel Peabody, Jim (Patty Smith) Peabody; 19 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Connie and her family led an active life including camping, downhill and cross country skiing. She was a Girl Scout leader and participated in the St. John's resettlement group, the Befrienders and was a member of the Holy Name church choir in Birmingham and the St. John's choir in Fenton. She was a member of Fenton Art Guild, the Garden Club and Bayview. Activities that continued throughout her life include her love of reading, travel and painting. Led and nurtured by Connie, the Peabody home was a place of pulsating exuberance, challenging discussion and lively activity. There was always room at the table for one more person. Her family and friends were touched by Connie's graciousness and her love of life. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you support your local museums, farm stands and farmers' markets. Arrangements by Sharp Funeral Homes, Fenton Chapel, 1000 W. Silver Lake Rd., Fenton.
Friends may share an online tribute on the obituary page of: www.sharppfuneralhomes.com.

MACKENZIE, GORDON

Best friend and loving husband for 60 years to his dearly departed wife Marion, father to three boys, Blair, John, and David, and grandfather to beautiful granddaughter Erin, died peacefully at his home in Naples Florida. A Visitation was held at Fuller Funeral Home, 1625 Pine Ridge Road, Naples, FL 34109 on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A Service took place at the Bower Chapel at Moorings Park on Thursday, March 15, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. Committal to Naples Memorial Gardens for entombment was held after the Service. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions in honor of Gordon can be made to the Founders Fund Inc at The Club at Pelican Bay, 707 Gulf Park Drive, Naples, FL 34108. For online condolences, please visit www.fullerfuneralhome.com

PERRY, ELIZABETH

Age 80, died March 9, 2012. Visitation was on March 12 at Phillips Funeral Home. Funeral March 13 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, South Lyon.
www.phillipsfuneral.com

STEINLAUF, EDWARD

79 of Bartow, FL passed away on Saturday, March 10, 2012. A native of Michigan he moved to Bartow in 1997 after retiring. Edward was a Army Korean War Veteran. He was preceded in death by his wife Margaret and he is survived by Debra Medland (Thomas), and Elaine Jennings (John). Three grandchildren Jason Claypoole (Jessica), Brian Jennings and Lindsay Jennings. The remains of Edward and his wife Margaret are being placed at rest at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.whiddenmcleanfuneralhome.com



TATUM, JOANNE MAE

March 10, 2012 age 81 of Canton. Loving wife of the late William Edward. Dear mother of Diane (Bill) Dowlin, Scott (Gail) and Randy (Tammy). Proud grandmother of Erin, Jordan and Erika. Funeral service Friday 1 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 West Ann Arbor Road (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. Visitation Thursday 3-9 PM at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to Arbor Hospice, American Cancer Society or The Michigan Humane Society.
To share memories please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

WRIGHT, PEARL R.

Age 89, of Hillsdale, passed away Sunday, March 11, 2012, at the McGuire Skilled Nursing Facility in Hillsdale. She was born on July 14, 1922 in Hilham, Tennessee to William & Ova (Dale) Bilyeu. She was married August 7, 1948 to Gerald L. Wright and he preceded her in death Nov. 11, 1993. Pearl retired in 1949 from the Ford Motor Company. She was a graduate of Dearborn High School. She was one of the original, "Rosie the Riveter". In her younger years she enjoyed swimming, dancing and bowling with her sisters. In her later years Pearl enjoyed bingo, gardening, painting and talking politics. Surviving are three children, Pamela (Gregory) Podsiad of Osseo and Sandra (Michael) Gee of Lavonia and Gerald (Gleanna) Wright Jr. of Merkle, Texas; 13 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and 1 great great-grandchild also survive. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, a son James and a daughter Patricia Diane, 3 sisters and 2 brothers. Funeral services for Pearl Wright will be Wednesday, March 14, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., at the VanHorn-Eagle Funeral Home in Hillsdale with Dr. Daniel Pann officiating. Interment will take place at South Lyon Cemetery in South Lyon, Michigan Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. The family will receive friends for visitation Tuesday evening from 6-8 p.m., at the funeral home. Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Cancer Society.
www.eaglefuneralhomes.com.

May you find comfort in Family and Friends

Trade couch for court during March Madness

Consumed by March Madness?

The Society of Vascular Surgery suggest that arm chair hoopsters put their tournament brackets aside and pick up a basketball between now and the national collegiate men's basketball championship on April 2.

"Instead of simply cheering, try some fancy footwork," said David H. Stone, M.D., a member of the Society for Vascular Surgery. "Participate in March Madness by shooting a few hoops."

For a person weighing 150 pounds, 30 minutes of basketball can burn off:

- 153 calories shooting hoops solo
- 204 calories during an informal game
- 272 calories during a five-on-five game of basketball

"Your vascular system will have a great work out," Stone said. "Vigorous exercise such as basketball pumps your blood and lowers your blood pressure. This helps to keep your

weight down. These are all positive health benefits."

For the slam-dunk of vascular health:

- Participate in 30 minutes of exercise daily. This may reduce the risk of stroke, the fourth leading cause of death in America according to the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention's 2010 National Vital Statistics Report. In 2010, 137,000 Americans died of stroke.
- Eat healthy.

- Don't smoke.
- Maintain a healthy body weight.

The lack of regular physical activity results in 250,000 deaths annually according to a report in the medical journal, *Circulation*. Least physically fit individuals have a mortality risk 4.5 times higher than physically fit persons.

Non-invasive vascular disease screening tests and medications are available. For vascular health information, visit: VascularWeb.org.



Partnership promotes home medical monitoring

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Huron Valley Ambulance has expanded its in-home health monitoring service, HVA LifeLink to St. Mary Mercy Hospital, which is offering the program as "Mercy LifeLink" to its patients.

"This is our first partnership with a hospital," said Joyce Williams, public affairs manager for the Ann Arbor-based ambulance provider. "It is new for St. Mary Mercy and the partnership is new. St. Mary Mercy has a senior ER and this is a value-added service. They can talk to seniors about it while they are in the ER."

Individuals who buy the service pay a one-time \$25 set-up fee and \$27.90 monthly. They receive a pendant or bracelet that includes a call button and a communications console that includes a powerful speaker. When patients press the button after experiencing an accident or medical emergency, the system, which is tied into the home phone line and an electrical outlet, dials a preprogrammed responder, such as a neighbor, friend, family member or the Mercy LifeLink call center.

Nicole Karbacz, program coordinator, said the monitoring device has a 300- to 400-foot range. A patient can be outside of their home and successfully activate the system if they are in range.

"If they are inside the house and they press the button, they typically are able to communicate back and forth with the dispatchers," Karbacz said. "The value added to our system is that it's a 911 dispatch center. The people who answer the phones are medically trained. They know what questions to ask."

The call center can dispatch an ambulance if necessary. If the call comes from a customer in Plymouth, Plymouth Township or one of the other communities that HVA serves, it sends one of its ambulances. If it comes from another city, such as Livonia, that HVA doesn't serve, it can dispatch the appropriate ambulance provider.

Williams views Mercy LifeLink as an extension of the "buy local" concept because its call center is local. Bigger services with a national reach typically send calls out of state, she said.

"We're customer service oriented," added Karbacz, noting that a LifeLink representative installs the monitoring console in the home. "We want to make sure they understand what the buttons are on the panel, what the benefits are. We want to make them comfortable with it."

David Spivey, president and CEO of St. Mary Mercy Hospital said in a press release, that the new Mercy LifeLink system is designed to "keep patients safe, healthy and living independently."

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

March

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL

• Get Up and Move, an invigorating exercise program, aims to help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or get you started for the first time. It meets at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, 27 and Thursday, March 22, and 29. Fee is \$30 per month; for more information-call (734) 458-3242.

• Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind through yoga, 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 20 and 27 and 6:30 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday, March 21-22 and 28-29. Wednesday-Thursday classes are held at the Westland Specialty Center, 35600 Central City Parkway, Westland. Tuesday classes meet at the hospital in Garden City. Garden City Hospital is located at 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City.

PAP TESTS

The University of Michigan Health System will offer free Pap tests from 1-4 p.m., Saturday March 24 at the Briarwood Building 2, Suite B, 400 E. Eisenhower Pkwy., Ann Arbor. Women over 21 who have not had a Pap test in the last two years, and who do not have health insurance that covers such tests, may register by calling the U-M Cancer Answer Line at (800) 865-1125.

HEART WALK KICK-OFF

Anyone interested in becoming a team captain for the American Heart Association's 2012 Metro Detroit Heart Walk on May 12, at Ford Field in Detroit, may attend the Team Captain Kick-off, 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22 at the American Heart Association office, 40 Oak Hollow, suite 220, Southfield. RSVP or get more information by calling Kathryn Brennan at (248) 936-9508 or e-mail her at Kathryn.Brennan@heart.org.

April

April

MICHIGAN BARIATRIC INSTITUTE

The Michigan Bariatric Institute offers a free educational seminar, from 6-7:30 p.m., April 5 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at 36475 Five Mile in Livonia. For more information call (877) 949-9344.

Ongoing

AQUATIC CLASSES

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

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