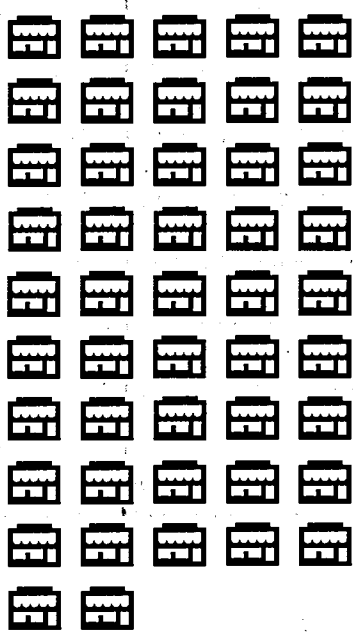




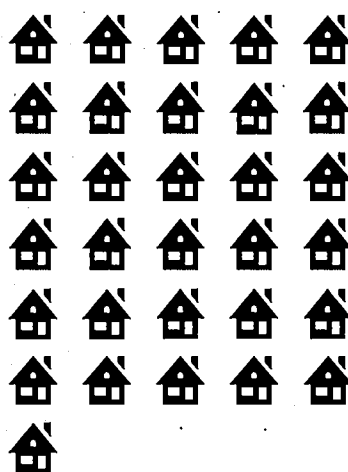
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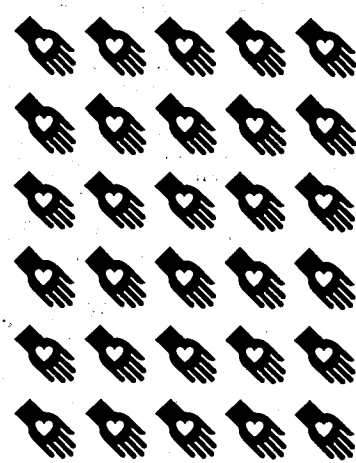
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'The most beautiful word...'

Glenn students accept challenge of performing 'West Side Story'

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Thespians at Westland's John Glenn High School are unanimous in their assessment that drama teacher Sheri Grove has provided them with a challenge in selecting *West Side Story* as the spring musical.

It marks the first time in the history of the school, that students are presenting a musical drama.

"It's going to be really exciting to see if we can pull this off," said Shannon Salisbury, one of the play's three assistant directors. "I'm glad she picked it. She said, 'This is my favorite show, it's my baby.' We know her expectations, I'm sure we'll step up to the plate and make her proud."

West Side Story will be presented at 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, April 19-21, in the high school auditorium. The retelling of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, the musical is the story of two warring New York City gangs — the Jets led by Riff and the Puerto Rican Sharks, led by Bernardo and the love that develops between Riff's best friend (and former Jet) Tony and Bernardo's younger sister, Maria.

"It's my all time favorite, I've waited my whole career to this," said Grove. "I usually let the kids choose, but I did this time."



Tommie Travis plays Riff, the leader of the Jets, in a scene from "West Side Story."



Kayla Hills and Jacob Ferguson play the star-crossed lovers Maria and Tony in John Glenn High School's production of "West Side Story."

Grove admits that the show is challenge for students, requiring them to "utilize their serious acting skills rather than their comedic skills."

"It's a challenge for them to extend their acting skills," she said. "It's also a challenge with the accents and the intensity of the emotions. But

program for the next few years, but it's huge with challenge of doing such a musical.

"The seniors have been wonderful guides and mentors," Grove said.

Salisbury as well as fellow assistant directors Jacob Ferguson and Steve Goldberg are among those seniors.

This is Salisbury's seventh play as a member of the cast — her first show was as a member of the crew — and her second time as an assistant director. She also handled those duties with last fall's production of *Alice in Wonderland*.

"I'm glad to finish my senior year on this note," she said. "As an assistant director, it lets me show off my leadership skills and show what I can give to the show, especially my musical skills."

For Ferguson is cast as Tony opposite Kayla Hills as Maria. His challenge has been both vocal and the fact that the musical is a drama.

"The songs are difficult because they have a long range," he said. "I'm having to change gears and focus. I love doing it, I love being able to do a dramatic show. It's something different and it lets me show my other talents."

Goldberg, who has been cast as Bernard, leader of the Sharks, also was an assistant director for *Alice*. It was the script that made that production a challenge, this one involves a change of face.

"As an assistant direc-

tor, I try to input my own views and visions into a play, with a drama, you have to experiment and see what works," he said. "As an actor, I'm used to comedy and waiting for punch lines. With this I have to put on an angry persona."

He added that he's never been in a show when he didn't have an accent or a dialect. As Bernardo he has to speak with a Puerto Rican accent and he's finding he's blending sometimes blending Russian and Spanish in his accent.

Sharing the director's seat with Grove is Belinda Walakonis-Semak, while Dan Fowler is the technical director. Sheri Green, Lindsey Forchione and Chloe Tooson are the stage managers.

The musical also includes several dance scenes, which have been choreographed by student Maria Idunate, Grove and her student teacher, April Priebe. Guest choreographers include Vanessa Callanan and Cody Buege.

"They're a collective effort, Maria (Idunate) has done a lot with me and my student teacher, but the cast has pitched in to. Sometimes I tell them to go out in the hall and come up with something," she said. "If I do the choreography, I'm learning, if they do it, they're learning. They learn best by doing."

"They've worked exceptionally hard," she added.

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751

SHOW TIME

What: John Glenn High School's production of "West Side Story"

When: 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 19-20, and 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 21

Where: John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland

Information: For more information and tickets, call the high school at (734) 419-2300.

the biggest challenge has been taken nice kids and making them street tough."

"They've really embraced the challenge and said 'OK, we're going to do this,' and they've done an awesome job," she added.

According to Grove, the production has attracted a lot of underclassmen which is "wonderful for the theatrical

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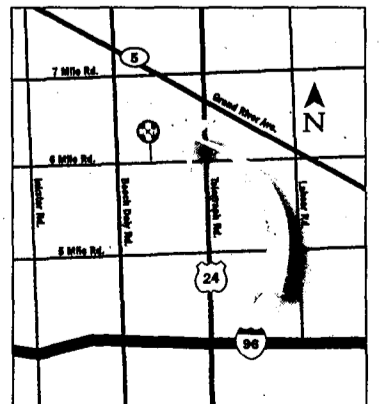
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Norwayne garden seeks donations, volunteers

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Hooked up to city water thanks to a donation from the Wayne-Ford Civic League, the Norwayne Community Garden has a wish list of other needed items and could use some more volunteers.

A wooden storage shed had topped garden coordinator Pam Carter's wish list. During a recent meeting of the Norwayne Community Citizens Council meeting, Scott Lorenz, a Norwayne landlord, agreed to build the shed and also committed to provide support for the garden one day weekly.

Before Lorenz volunteered, Carter had been looking for at least two more groups to help out with weeding, watering and similar chores at the garden, located on two

lots at the corner of Dorssey and Newago.

"They don't need to be large groups. Now that we can use hoses, watering will not be the big deal it was last year," Carter said.

Produce from the garden was provided to people receiving monthly federal food distribution and also to Norwayne residents who stopped by the garden.

"We had about a dozen families we interacted with — first the kids would come, then the parents," Carter said.

The council discussed the need for some community projects in the part of Norwayne that is west of Venoy, including a community garden. While she was supportive of additional community gardens, Carter said there should be commit-

ments of support lined up before that happens.

Still needed on the community garden wish list:

- 4-foot by 8-foot privacy fencing, 14 panels
- 14 fencing posts
- four shovels
- four rakes
- 100 kraft paper waste bags

- a rototiller
- one lawn mower
- 10 rose bushes
- 50 perennials plants
- 10 raspberry bushes

Monetary contributions can be made also. Checks should be made payable to the city of Westland; in the memo section write Norwayne Garden. Contributions can be sent to: Norwayne Community Garden, c/o Henry Johnson, 32317 Ogemaw Court, Westland, MI 48186.

lrogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428



Ken Roberts of St. Clair talks about the uniform and musket of a soldier serving in the Revolutionary War. Attendance has grown each year at the Armed Forces Day Celebration held at the Westland Historic Village and that is expected to continue with the fifth annual event Saturday, May 5.

Music added to Armed Forces Celebration

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Attendance has grown each year at the Armed Forces Day Celebration held at the Westland Historic Village and that is expected to continue with the fifth annual event Saturday, May 5.

"Each year, we've set attendance records and expect nothing less this year," said Jeff Koslowski of the Westland Historical Commission, which hosts the Armed Forces Day Celebration along with the Westland Historical Society.

From 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., re-enactors in full uniforms representing five American wars — the French and Indian War, the War of 1812, the Civil War and World Wars I and II — will make pre-

sentations and talk with visitors.

"The commission and I are dedicated to making this event solid and self-sustaining," Koslowski said. "We don't want the same thing each year. We will have different lectures and different experts."

New this year, the 5th Michigan Regimental Band, a Civil War-era group, will perform live at 2 p.m. The weapons demonstration is scheduled for 3 p.m.

"We will go out with a literal bang with the reproduction weapons demonstrations. There is no live ammunition used," Koslowski said. "The weapons are designed and fitted to fire blanks that sound and look like real ones. They (re-enactors) love to show

them off and we love to see them."

The event is free, although donations will be accepted and refreshments will be sold to benefit the Historic Village Park, which is self-sustaining.

"You can come out from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. There is something for everyone," Koslowski said.

The Historic Village Park is located on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

• The Westland Garden Club will hold a Spring Plant Exchange at the Historic Village Park from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 19. For more information, call Jo at (734) 522-3918 or Janet at (734) 728-4008.

lrogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428

Learn about Nankin Mills history

Around the time of the Civil War, Nankin Mills was more than just a grist mill; it was the focal point of the community growing up around it.

For Henry Ford who purchased the mill in 1918, Nankin Mills was personal: as a lad, he had visited the mill numerous times with his father, a Dearborn farmer. And although Henry never wanted to till the land, the mill with its water power fascinated him.

Join Nankin Mills naturalist Carol Clements at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 21, for an hourlong photo presentation on the

history of the Nankin Mills and the surrounding community. She will also look at the reasons for a mill in this area; talk about why it's "Nankin Mills" plural instead of "Nankin Mill" singular; and even discuss plans to fix up Thomas Edison's hydroelectric generator which Ford installed in the mill and enclosed in glass. There will also be plenty of time to answer

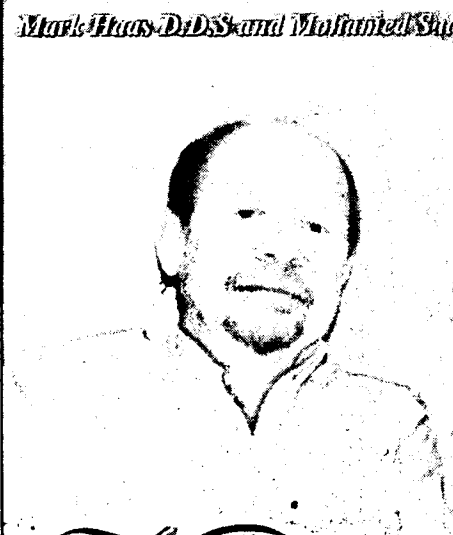

questions. Call the parks office at (734) 261-1990 to reserve a spot.

This presentation is free and geared toward adults. It's one of a series of local history seminars sponsored by The Friends of Nankin Mills, a volunteer group. To learn more about upcoming activities at the mill for children and adults, and about the Friends group, go to nankinmills.org.

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Dr. Saad received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and went on to earn his doctorate from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, where he graduated with distinction. While at U of M, he had the honor of being published in the University of Michigan's Alumni Magazine for his professional work for the State of Michigan. He was also senior editor for various dental publications designed to help students excel in their dental licensing examinations.

One of Dr. Saad's primary goals was to be a preeminent dental practitioner with regard to patient comfort. He takes great satisfaction in his ability to provide his patients with a pain-free experience. Through collaboration and training with highly recognized cosmetic dentists from around the U.S., Dr. Saad has also developed the skill and artistry required for comprehensive cosmetic makeovers. He is honored to be able to enhance his patients' appearance and provide them with a renewed sense of confidence.

He and I are extremely enthusiastic about working together to provide the community with a new attitude and excitement toward dentistry. I look forward to introducing him to you!

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Funny duo: Local native, husband present comedy at church benefit

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Los Angeles resident Kerri Pomarolli has her 20th class reunion coming up at Northville High School. She says she was least likely to be a standup comic in high school, and looks forward to performing for NHS classmates.

Another event, "Eat, Pray, Laugh," will bring Pomarolli, 38, to Northville Sunday, April 22. She and husband Ron McGehee, a Flint native, will perform at the First United Methodist Church of Northville.

"We have a lot of friends and family around so it's kind of a homecoming," she said of the trip which will likely be made with their children, Ruby, 1, and Lucy, 4. The church dinner at 5 p.m. will be catered by Genitti's of Northville, followed by the 6 p.m. comedy show, suitable for all ages.

Proceeds will support the youth mission trip for the Appalachia Service Project.

She attended Meads Mill Junior High, having moved to Northville with her family in 1988. Her parents now live in Atlanta, Ga., but often return for visits.

U-M graduate

Pomarolli earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in musical theater from the University of Michigan in 1996. She was a member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church as a child, with her mom a Southern Protestant.

"I'm not a big believer in denominations," Pomarolli said. She and McGehee find their Christian comedy reaches all: "It's a kind of thing that brings people together."

She saw McGehee perform, liked his work and had planned to match him



Former Northville resident Kerri Pomarolli will perform at a Christian comedy night Sunday, April 22, at the First United Methodist Church of Northville. She'll perform with husband Ron McGehee, a Flint native.

up with a friend. "God has a sense of humor," she said of their marriage and two young children.

The couple works as Hollywood comedians/writers/actors, and as Christians keep their performances clean. She may be at a Hollywood club Saturday night and then preaching that Sunday morning.

They're often on the road with their kids performing as a couple. They include faith-based events in their schedule.

"We share messages about our life," she said. "It's a great job. I wouldn't trade it for the world. I don't know

how many people can say 'I wouldn't trade with anyone.'"

She was at Genitti's performing last year and has spoken to Northville High students. Pomarolli and McGehee appreciate the invitation from First United Methodist of Northville.

"I'm going to be sharing some of my faith journey," she said. When she was growing up here with best friend Susie Koster, she sometimes slept over at Susie's on Saturdays and would go to the Methodist church Sunday to see cute boys — or even skip church. "Susie and I have both in

adult life reconnected to God," she said of her friend. The women pray for each other.

Tickets for the dinner and show are available Sundays and Wednesdays at First United Methodist Church of Northville, with cash or checks payable to the church. For credit card payment, contact Genitti's at (248) 349-0522. The church phone is (248) 349-1144.

Chrissy Curvin, a co-leader for the Appalachian mission trip and church member, is organizing "Eat, Pray, Laugh." Her co-leader for the trip is Brent Green.

Curvin can be reached at (734) 414-9710.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

AROUND WESTLAND

Zonta Dinner

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County is hosting a "Get to Know Us" dinner at Schoolcraft College 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, April 23.

The program will include a speaker from the Yankee Air Ladies on Women in Aviation. There will be information on what is Zonta, how the club has helped women within the community and new scholarships and upcoming community events.

The dinner will be held in the Vista Tech Center on the Schoolcraft College Campus. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

To assure adequate seating and food, reservations are required. Call Barbara by April 12 at (734) 464-0450 with num-

ber of guests who will be attending.

Zonta International is a worldwide women's service organization working to improve the status of women locally and globally.

Free Movies

Enjoy a free movie when the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army holds its monthly free movie nights, beginning Sunday, May 6, with a double feature, *Bonhoeffer* and *Dolphin Tale*.

The movie starts at 4 p.m. at the corps activity center, the corps, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer. Popcorn and concessions will be sold.

The other movie night is Sunday, June 3, with *The Adventures of Tin Tin*.

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Back in the saddle

Director returns to stage with Sondheim play

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth High School sophomore Katie Szczepanik takes the Village Theater stage Friday with the rest of the cast of the Spotlight Players' production of Steven Sondheim's *Into the Woods*.

But the Canton teenager said she probably wouldn't be if Shannon McNutt weren't sitting in the director's chair.

McNutt, the popular former director of the now-defunct Second Stage Players at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, makes her directorial debut leading *Into the Woods* for Spotlight.

It's her first directing gig since leaving Second Stage a couple of years ago.

"It's a combination of reasons, but basically I just wanted to get back into theater again," said McNutt, still a drama teacher at the Park. "(Spotlight Players) has been around a long time, they have a new way to do things and I wanted to be part of something local."

This production fits that bill. Spotlight Players is the resident artists' group at the Village Theater, and one of its most popular attractions. *Into the Woods* features a cast made up largely of Plymouth- and Canton-area actors, intertwining the plots of several Brothers'

SONDHEIM ON STAGE

What: Spotlight Players' production of Steven Sondheim's *Into the Woods*

When: April 20-22 and April 27-29; 8 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays

Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton

Tickets: \$18 adults, \$16 seniors and students under 19; by phone at the Village Theater box office, (734) 394-5300, online at www.spotlight-playersmi.org or at the door.

Contact: Call (734) 480-4945 or visit www.spotlight-playersmi.org.

Grimm fairy tales with an original story of a childless baker and his wife, who set the plot in motion by attempting to reverse a curse on their family in order to have a child.

The characters are "all on quests that begin to intertwine with each other." It's about community, about how "we're not alone," and the words are a metaphor for life, according to McNutt, a big fan of Sondheim.

"Sondheim is a god," she said. "His music has such wonderful messages. The music in this play, in particular, is very challenging."

It's McNutt's presence that drew Szczepanik to the show. The Plym-



The Princess Cinderella is played by Melissa Perry of Walled Lake.

outh High School sophomore, fresh off a role in the Park Players' production of *Nine*, plays Florinda, one of Cinderella's evil stepsisters.

"I love Miss McNutt, and she's really fun to work with," said Szczepanik, who also played Marty in a Forever After Players production of *Grease*. "Usually in shows I play the sweet, innocent character, and in this one I get to be mean. (Florinda) is different from anything else I've played."

One of the things that drew McNutt to the production was the ensemble aspect to the cast. Actors have come from theater groups around the area, many from right at home in Plymouth and Canton.

"This is an ensemble piece, which are the kinds of shows I'm drawn to, where everybody has their moment to shine," McNutt said. "There are



Lauren Norris of Canton plays the Witch in the Spotlight Players' production of Sondheim's *Into the Woods*.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

no small roles." One of the biggest roles is being played by Christine Kapusky of Canton, who plays the pivotal role of the Baker's Wife. A self-described "Sondheim junkie," Kapusky called the Baker's Wife "one of my dream roles."

"She's a very independent character," said Kapusky, an actress currently traveling with a four-person show titled *Tumbledown Town*. "(The play) carries a good message about being responsible within your community. You have to look out for each other."

According to McNutt,

the actors have learned what the play's characters learn: People have a common course, come together and find out what they have in common and realize they're not alone.

"It's really a profound message," McNutt said. "Every member of the cast has discovered it really makes us better citizens of the world, you take this journey into the woods, and you come out on the other side changed."

It's delivering that kind of message McNutt missed about being away from the theater. She

and former Park Players director Kristen Quesada left at the same time, and the Park has since merged their two groups so that only Park Players exist, though they put on multiple productions at both Canton and Salem High Schools.

But McNutt, who is still a popular drama teacher, yearned to get back on stage.

"I miss being involved," she admitted. "I don't think I could function if I wasn't involved in the arts somehow."

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Be cautious, do homework on a franchise option

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I lost my job about six months ago and my severance is about to end. I've been looking for opportunities and I've been thinking about

buying a franchise. They seem to be a good way of starting your own business. I'm not sure which kind to look at or what company. What is your opinion of franchises and do you think they are a good idea?

A: Franchises are a

lot like mutual funds. There are some good ones and some really bad ones. There are some franchises that are very fair in their dealings with their investors while there

are others who charge high fees and take advantage of their investors. Not all franchises are created the same.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

On the whole, I don't have a problem with franchises. It can be a very good way of starting a business. However, they are not necessarily the best option for an entrepreneurial person. The reason is most franchises have a variety of rules and regulations that they want their franchisees follow. Generally, an entrepreneurial individual likes to have more freedom than a franchise would allow.

For someone who likes the idea of having structure, a franchise can be a very good way of going. A good franchise provides you with the methodology and structure to be successful.

A key ingredient when looking at franchises is how strong is the

management behind the franchise. Successful franchises have an entire team behind them to help the franchisees run their business. Some franchises basically have no support team and those are ones I would avoid. I recommend that once you narrow down the type of franchise you want, talk to other franchisees and do some Internet research. In addition, it's not a bad idea to look to the Better Business Bureau for any information they may have on the franchisor (the company). The bottom line is, even before you contact the franchisor, you should have done a fair amount of research.

Once you contact the franchisor they're going to send you a variety of legal documents. Like most legal documents, these are written by lawyers for lawyers. I strongly recommend that you hire an attorney who is familiar with franchises to assist you in understanding the documents. You may be surprised as to some of the restrictions,

fees, and requirements involved in becoming a franchisee. One fee that tends to surprise many people is that some franchises will charge you an advertising fee based upon your revenue.

It is very important to research the franchise that you select. That is where the Internet is a great tool for you. I recognize that there's a lot of misinformation on the Internet, however, there's also a lot of good information that can help you in selecting the right one.

My last piece of advice: Take your time and don't rush into it. A lot of people get overly excited after hearing the sales pitch and the result is the franchise doesn't even come close to meeting expectations. Be patient, ask a lot of questions, and always proceed with caution. Good luck!

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

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Man who lost family to drunk driver inspires Project: Forgive

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Forgiveness. It is a word one man yearned for and another man knew right away he would grant. And while it doesn't make sense to many, it makes perfect sense to Gary Weinstein.

Weinstein, of Farmington Hills, who owns Weinstein Jewelers of Novi, is the one who offered up forgiveness, and Thomas Wellinger was the man who needed it.

Tragedy brought these two men together in May 2005 when Wellinger got behind the wheel of his SUV drunk and crashed into the car containing Weinstein's wife Judy and two sons, Alex and Sam.

At the hospital, the doctor gave Weinstein the news they died, and he said in that moment he realized he was alone.

But it was also in that moment that he realized he had an opportunity.

"When this happened and they were gone, in that instant I realized I was still here ... and there was no reason for me to disappear or run away," he said. "I had an opportunity in that moment to say I still am strong."

"Even right away for me, forgiveness was present."

Weinstein even told Wellinger — who was sentenced to 19-30 years for three counts of second-degree murder — as much the only time they met at the Oakland County Jail. He even posed the question back, asking Wellinger if he could ever forgive himself.

"He was remorseful," Weinstein said.

When asked why he forgave him, Weinstein said there was "no power" in blaming him. He said he is a person who lives in the moment and doesn't hold on to things. "My expression of love and care for them was complete," he said. "It can be a tough road for loss if it was not complete."

Now Weinstein hopes to help others on that road to forgiveness. And when talking about happiness, Weinstein said it has never been something he has searched out; he comes from it.

"Now I have an opportunity to be the poster child for this conversation," he said.

'Project: Forgive'

That is where filmmaker and Michigan resident Shawne Duperon comes in.

Duperon has a unique connection to the sto-



Novi jeweler Gary Weinstein keeps this framed photo of he and his two sons Sam, left, and Alex, at his Grand River Avenue business. The photo is from a musical the three were involved in just months before the two boys and his wife were killed by a drunk driver.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Novi business owner Gary Weinstein tells why he got involved in filmmaker Shawne Duperon's 'Project: Forgive' effort. Weinstein's wife and two sons were killed by an alcohol-impaired driver in 2005.

ry as her children used to baby-sit Weinstein's children and Judy was her husband's business coach. On the other side of the equation,

Wellinger was a close family friend. "I knew in that moment something miraculous was going to come of this," she said.

Now nearly seven years later, that miracle is taking shape through the creation of a movie on forgiveness called "Project: Forgive."

Duperon said Weinstein was the catalyst for the film, which she said will explore and explain forgiveness on a variety of levels. Scott Rosenfelt, who executive produced *Home Alone*, has signed on to be the co-producer. A trailer for the film can be found at www.projectforgive.com, and Duperon said they need to raise \$100,000 to fund the campaign. As of Friday, \$71,850 had been raised. Visit the website to donate, before the April 23 deadline. The budget for the film

is \$1 million, and the goal is to have it completed by the end of the year with a release in the fall of 2013.

"It's my dream come true and my life mission," Duperon said.

For Weinstein, it's all about honoring Judy, Alex and Sam.

"What my family has given me, even in this horrific loss, is to have a voice and make a difference in this world," he said.

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Schoolcraft cooking team hopes to win regional title today

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

Some of the best student chefs in the Midwest will converge on Schoolcraft College today to show off their knife skills with tournet cuts, and prepare a supreme de volaille a l'ecarlare.

Students will complete chopping and slicing of vegetables to create an oblong, almost football-shaped cut of vegetables, one of several cuts, and during a hot-dish competition, create the classic French chicken dish inspired by Escoffier.

Schoolcraft hosts the American Culinary Federation's Midwestern regional cooking competition of student teams with the hot food competition today. The competition takes place in conjunction with the 2012 ACF Central Regional Conference at the Motor City Casino Hotel, April 14-16. The school also hosted other regional competitions yesterday (Saturday), including Chef of the Year, Pastry Chef of the Year and Student Chef of the Year. Ten teams who have won their Midwestern state's titles will be competing.

The public can attend today's competition at the VisTaTech Center. The winners will be announced Monday at the Motor City Casino. The winning team of the regional competition will advance to the national competition in Orlando in July.

Creating a classic

The student team or Salon team competition consists of three phases: cold-food presentation, skills and cooking, where teams will prepare four portions of a fish starter, salad and dessert of their choice, and the pre-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Katie Kilanski and Brandon Zarb prepare a trout galantine.

assigned classical entree from Escoffier: The Complete Guide to the Art of Modern Cookery.

Schoolcraft's team of second-year students consists of Katie Kilanski, who is the team's captain; Tyler Bergquist of Canton; Michelle Collett, Romulus; Brandon Zarb, Milford; and Carla Spicuzzi, West Bloomfield. The team won the state title in February at Oakland Community College.

The Schoolcraft team has practiced since January on its dishes with assistance and over-

sight from Schoolcraft's instructors. Shawn Loving, department chair of the culinary arts department, credited the instructors for their assistance and direction of the students and their success so far. "Every one of them has had a part in this," Loving said.

Their cold plate display, "River's Treasures," was featured at the Motor City Casino on Friday. The dish featured smoked trout, terrine with walleye, grav-lax salmon and gallantine trout, which fea-

tures a forcemeat cooked sous-vide, or under pressure.

Dan Hugelier, instructor and certified master chef, assisted and directed the team with their cold plate of fish.

Bergquist worked with chef-instructor Brian Polcyn on the Great Lakes Walleye appetizer, Collett received instruction and direction from Jeff Gabriel, certified master chef, on the Artichoke Carpaccio salad; Kilanski will create the Supreme de Volaille a l'ecarlare after she worked with Hugelier, and the Tropical Flavors dessert by Spicuzzi

under the tutelage of certified master pastry chef Joe Decker.

Kilanski appreciated the assistance from the instructors. "They've given us a lot of time and attention, even during their own time," Kilanski said during a practice on Thursday.

On Sunday, the students will butcher chickens and fish, showing their knife skills in exhibiting small dice, julienne, concasse and tournet cuts, making pastry cream and dough, and "supreming" or segmenting one orange.

Zarb is the team's alter-nate, which requires him to know all of the dish-

es in case one of the team members cannot compete. "He hands us equipment and keeps on track," Bergquist said. "He can step in at any time."

Students started planning to compete in November. In January, they practiced, sometimes four or five days a week, which has evolved to five or six days a week.

"There's a lot of reps and a lot of practice involved," Zarb said.

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Secretary of State visits Livonia to promote organ donation

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

Cassandra Perry almost lost her sight.

In 2008 the Northville resident was diagnosed with Fuch's dystrophy, a cornea disease that leads to blindness. Her only option was bilateral cornea transplants.

She received the first of two transplants and noticed that a car was purple, not black that she saw during the deterioration of her vision along with the other details of items that she could not see. Perry received two corneas through two eye donors.

"I just think about what my fate could have been," Perry said through tears. "I could have missed so many things.

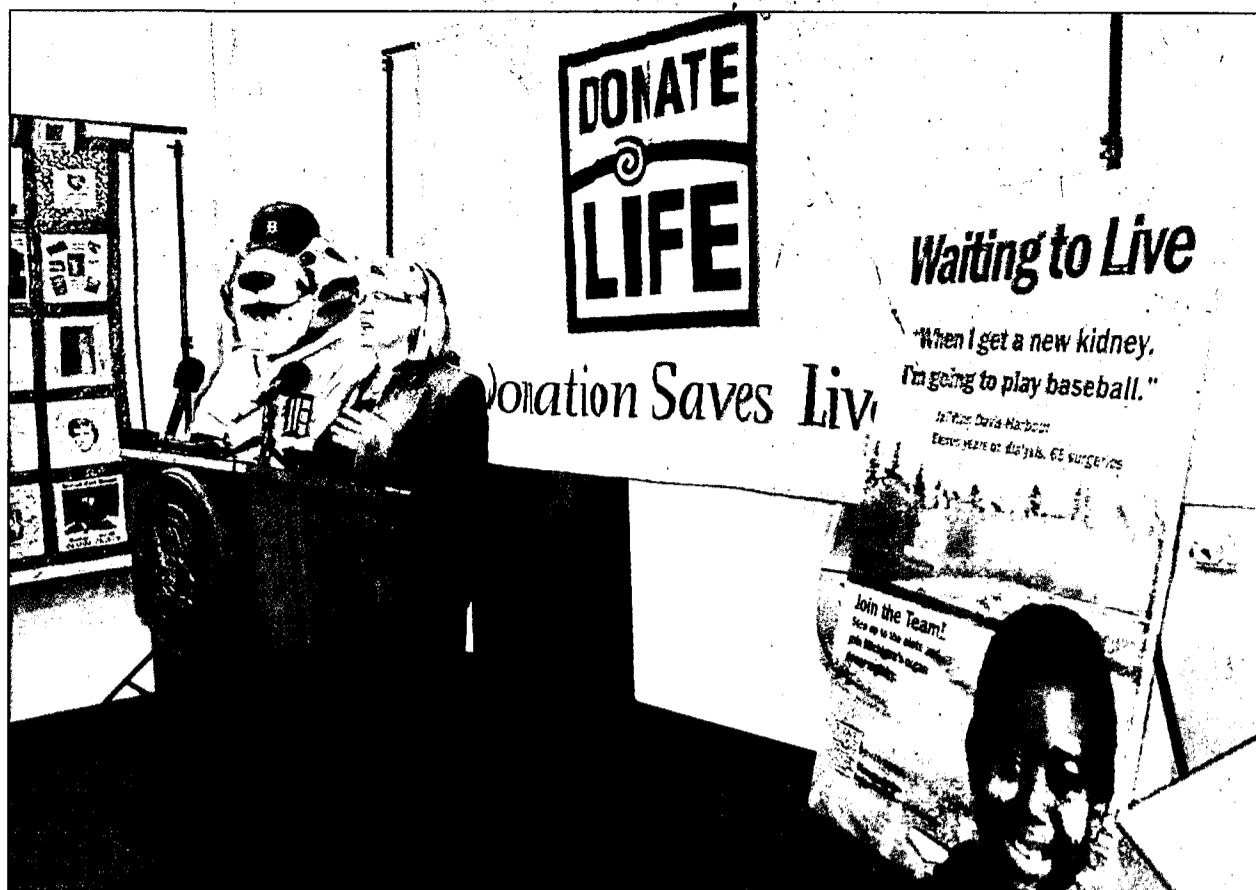
"I see more than I should. I appreciate that so very much, I really do."

Donate Life Month

Perry told her story Wednesday at a press conference at the Livonia Secretary of State office at 17176 Farmington, known as a SUPER!Center, and one of the top Secretary of State offices for organ donor sign-ups. The press conference promoted Donate Life Month and the need for potential organ donors to register, which they can do at any Secretary of State office or at the SOS site online at www.Michigan.gov/sos.

Flanked by Gift of Life Michigan and Michigan Eye Bank officials, along with Detroit Tigers mascot PAWS, Secretary of State Ruth Johnson urged residents to "Join the Team" and sign up to become organ, tissue and eye donors.

Johnson said signing up more donors was a top priority for her since she took office 16 months ago. Last year 400,000 people signed



Secretary of State Ruth Johnson highlighted the month of April as Donate Life Month at the Secretary of State office on Farmington Road in Livonia. Tiger mascot PAWS also attended the public awareness event.

up to become donors, a 25 percent increase. The Livonia office alone registered about 35 people a day, Johnson said.

Johnson encouraged staff to ask residents if they would like to register. She has partnered with organ donor advocates, promoted educational efforts and printed reminders on forms. She supported a new Donate Life Month license plate, available this summer.

"One donor can save the lives of eight people and improve the quality of life for 15 more people," Johnson said.

Last year 792 organs were transplanted. So far this year, donors' generosity has led to 118 transplants. As of March 1, 2,973 Michigan patients were waiting for a transplant.

18 a day die waiting

According to national statistics, 18 people die each day from the lack of available organs for transplant.

Johnson highlighted the public awareness campaign and introduced Jai'Wan Davis Harbour, 11, of Taylor, who has been on dialysis since he was 7 months old and needs a kidney. Jai'Wan will be featured on baseball-themed posters in Secretary of State offices around the state.

"Jai'Wan wants to follow his dream of playing baseball," Johnson said.

Jai'Wan's mother, Cherisse Davis-Harbour, said they wanted to give hope to others who like Jai'Wan, need transplants and encourage organ donation. "He wants to be able to

run and to play baseball," she said.

Jai'Wan even wants to name his new kidney, said his mother. "He wants to call it 'Pinocchio' because it will make him a real boy," Davis-Harbour said.

Rich Pietroski, CEO of Gift of Life Michigan, said that organization was appreciative of donors and secretary of state staff who ask residents if they would like to register.

'You can become heroes'

Organ donation "used to start in the Intensive Care Unit," Pietroski said. "Now transplants start right here in this office." He also referenced quilts that were displayed that day at the Secretary of State office.

"The most common word on these quilts is love, the second most common is used to describe the donors as heroes," Pietroski said. "You can become heroes today by signing up."

Bill Ryan spoke about his daughter Michelle, who 25 years ago realized that she was not registered as a donor when she renewed her driver's license. She drove back to where she renewed her license in Florida, and signed up as a donor.

"Six weeks later, she died in a car accident," Ryan said. "My daughter Michelle became a donor." Ryan now chairs the Transplant Games of America, which will be held July 28-31 at Grand Valley State University. Approximately 1,400

athletes will participate in 14 sports to bring awareness to the causes, Ryan said.

One of them is Terry Gould of Plymouth.

Gould, 59, was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy and an enlarged heart. He went through three surgeries and needed a ventricular assist device to stay alive.

Transplant Games

"I went into renal failure and received a heart transplant just in time," Gould said.

At the Transplant Games, he will be swimming in five events and playing volleyball. "I haven't felt this good in 30 years," Gould said.

The Transplant Games help bring awareness to the success stories of organ donations and survival for recipients. Approximately 112,000 Americans are waiting for organ transplants, Gould said. Seven percent die waiting for one.

"It happens every day that someone dies waiting for a transplant," Gould said. "We want people out there to sign up so people like us can live on."

Because of transplants, Gould's life continues with his wife and five children, and now, four grandchildren. "Without the transplant, I would not have been able to enjoy them," Gould said of his grandchildren.

Gould has also befriended a family to whom he is forever grateful, that is the family of his donor, a 20-year-old male, the youngest of four brothers. "We celebrate special occasions, the (transplant) games and the years together," Gould said. "They're an inspiration to everyone."



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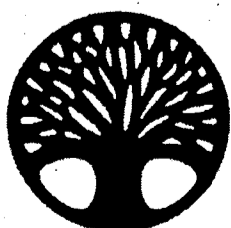
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SPORTS

RU golfers set sights on improvement

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Victories may not be abundant this spring for the inexperienced and not-real-deep Redford Union boys golf team, but that doesn't mean the upcoming season will be void of fulfillment for the Panthers.

First-year coach Brian Sloma — who has coached several other sports besides golf at RU over the past decade — has his team focused on objectives that are just as important as winning.

"This is a young and inexperienced team and we only have seven golfers, so our goals are to improve our scores from the beginning of the season to the end of the season, and to have

PREP GOLF PREVIEW

fun," said Sloma, who teaches math, business and social studies at RU. He is also a professor at Madonna University, where he teaches English as a second language.

"All of our kids have positive attitudes and they're working hard. We lost our first match to Edsel Ford — which is an established program — and we played on a pretty tough course (Inkster Valley), but the kids played as well as they could and they didn't let the difficulty of the course get to them."

Junior Kyle Gross is expected to lead the charge for the Panthers this season. He fired a season-opening 51 against the T-

Birds.

"He's our most-seasoned player," Sloma said. "He has a nice swing and he strikes the ball accurately. He keeps it in play and he's our longest hitter."

Senior Kevin Caloia, who carded a 59 at Inkster Valley, gives RU a nice 1-2 combination.

"I look for Kevin to have a good senior year," Sloma said. "We're looking for consistency and improvement out of him. I was happy with his first score. It wouldn't surprise me if he was averaging around 50 by the end of the season."

Senior Luke Buckley and junior Charlie Randall were the third and fourth lowest scorers against Edsel Ford, respectively, and should see consistent play-

ing time on the varsity.

A three-person rotation — consisting of junior Lauren Plummer (the lone girl on the team) and freshmen Luke Hebner and John Jinks — will help fill out the two remaining varsity positions on the Panthers' scorecard this spring.

"Lauren has a great work ethic and I've already seen a lot of improvement in her game," Sloma said. "And the two freshmen are doing well, too. They're our future."

The Panthers return to action Monday when they host Romulus at Glenhurst Golf Course. The opening tee shots are set for 2:30 p.m.

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GC Women's Football Academy

The Garden City High School football program will hold its second annual Women's Football Academy on Saturday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the high school.

The cost for the event is \$50, which includes six hours of instruction from members of the Garden City coaching staff, a continental breakfast, a light lunch and a T-shirt.

Proceeds raised by the academy will benefit the GCHS football program and Garden City Hospital's ongoing community education program to support women's health issues.

To print out a registration form, visit www.gccougarcountry.com.

Alumni soccer game set

Redford Union High School alumni are planning the second annual Alumni Soccer Face-Off, which will be held Friday, June 1, at 7 p.m. at Hilbert Middle School's Kraft Field.

The co-ed soccer contest will feature Team 2K+ vs. Team '90s in a rematch of last year's 3-2 victory by Team 2K+.

RUHS alumni interested in playing can register online at www.ruhsalumniaceoff.com. Registration ends May 1 or when teams are full.

Patrons can also "like" the fundraising event on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ruhsalumniaceoff to connect with event organizers Chris Jackett, Tony Mamo and Mike Dadourian, and for more information on participating as a player, volunteer, sponsor or donor.

RU needs coaches

The Redford Union athletic department currently has openings for a girls varsity basketball coach and a girls varsity volleyball coach.

If you are interested in applying for either position, contact Barb McDougall at mcdoug@redford.k12.mi.us.

MU golf team signs Teer

Madonna University men's golf coach Steve Mato announced Tuesday that he has signed Mott Community College golfer Billy Teer (Grand Blanc) to a letter of intent.

Teer earned all-state honors at Grand Blanc High School and advanced to the state finals in all four of his prep seasons. He helped the Bobcats earn a state championship in 2008 while winning the 2006 and 2007 Big 9 Conference team titles. Teer was also a three-time selection to the A/B honor roll at Grand Blanc.

At Mott, Teer helped the Bears win 2011 state and regional titles and was MCCA Eastern Conference individual champion. Teer finished in the top 10 individually in both the state and regional championships for Mott.

Clarenceville kickers edged by Liggett, 1-0

Morgan Hutson's goal with 10 minutes left in the first half stood up as Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett squeaked out a 1-0 girls soccer victory Thursday at Livonia Clarenceville.

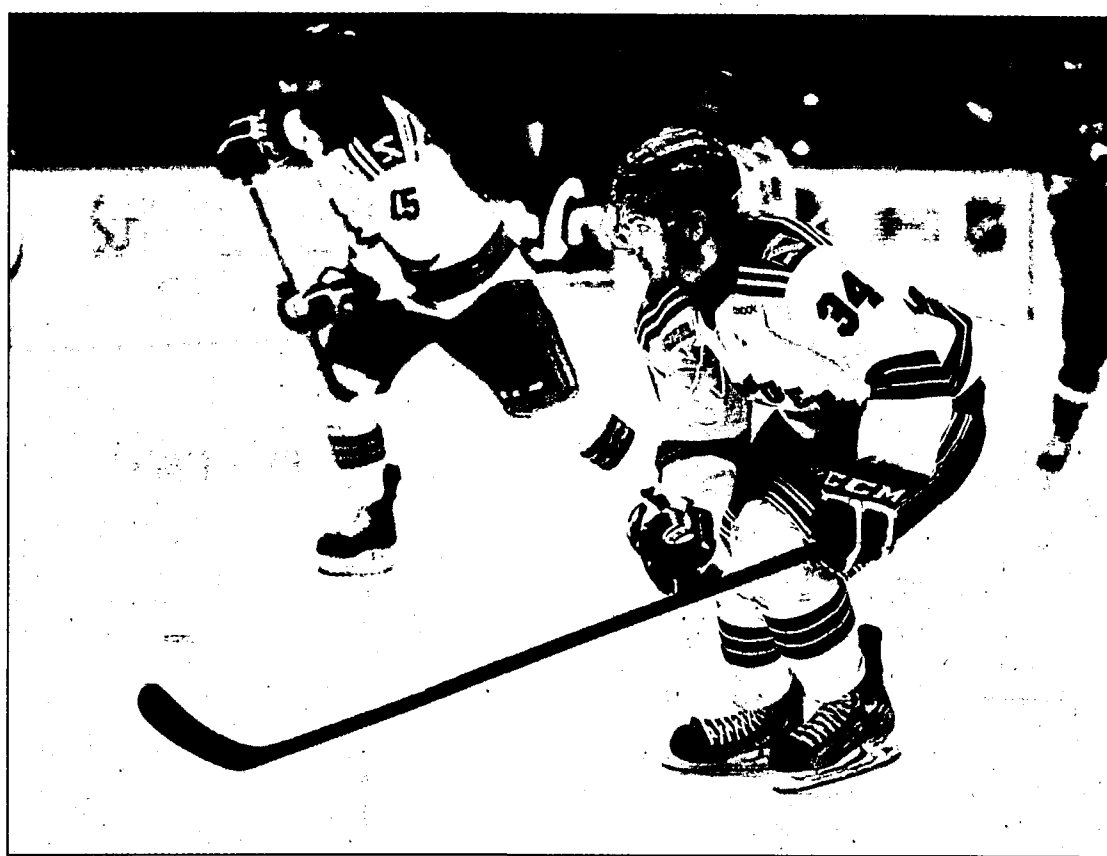
Clarenceville freshman goalkeeper Jillian Bunker was outstanding in defeat making 23 of 24 saves, while Liggett (1-0) got six saves from Beth Ottosen.

Defensive standouts for the Trojans (1-3-1) included junior Karley Flores and sophomore Summer Reddick.

Offensively, Clarenceville coach Amanda Moody singled out the play of junior Ashley Murphy and freshman Sarah Curvin.



Clarenceville's Ashley Murphy (rear) kicks a ball out of harm's way as Liggett's Gabrielle Masi provides pressure during Thursday's game.



Livonia's Max Iafrate brings a physical presence to the blueline for the Kitchener Rangers in their second-round OHL playoff series against the Plymouth Whalers.

NHL DNA

Iafrate looks a lot like dad on the ice

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Max Iafrate's hockey DNA bears some striking similarities to his father Al, who logged 799 regular season games in 12 NHL seasons.

The Livonian, who just turned 18, is a defenseman for the Ontario Hockey League's Kitchener Rangers and wears the same jersey number (34).

Max's listed at 6-foot-2 inches, 220 pounds, while Al was a strapping 6-3, 195-pound prodigy as a 16-year-old when he earned a spot on the 1984 U.S. Olympic hockey team and

played in the Winter Games in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

Both grew up in the Compuware youth hockey program where young Max spent his first OHL season with the Plymouth Whalers, only to be traded to the Rangers during the offseason in 2011.

Although the trade caught Max off-guard, he is now thriving on team that is the cradle of blue liners. Facing his ex-team in Round 2 of their OHL, Iafrate scored his second goal of the playoffs in Wednesday's 5-1 Kitchener win to even the series at 2-2 heading into Saturday night's pivotal Game 5

at Compuware Arena.

"I wasn't expecting it," said Max, who played in 62 Whaler regular season games during the 2010-11 season before getting dealt. "I got a call after the last training camp day and he (Mike Vellucci, the Whalers' head coach and G.M.) just told me they were going to try to move me. That's how it goes, I guess."

Playing for his hometown team appeared to be the perfect fit, but Iafrate is not looking back in his rear-view mirror.

Please see IAFRATE, B4

'New' Garden City hoops coach knows program well

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Technically, Michele Tyree was hired last month as the "new" girls basketball coach at Garden City High School.

But combining "new," "Tyree" and "Garden City" in the same sentence is a bit misleading.

Tyree has been involved with the Cougars' girls hoops program for close to three decades — both as a player and a coach. Most recently, she served as the junior varsity head coach for varsity mentor Barry Patterson, who announced his resignation at the conclusion of the 2011-12 season.

Tyree's staff will include her sister, Sara, and longtime assistant Ted Fournier.

"I'm excited about the opportunity," said Tyree,



Recently-hired Garden City girls basketball coach Michele Tyree (center) will be assisted by her sister Sara (left) and veteran coach Ted Fournier.

who teaches ninth-grade algebra at Garden City High School. "I enjoyed my time as a freshmen and junior varsity coach, but I'm ready and excited

about the chance to coach at the varsity level."

The Garden City girls basketball program has been a picture of stability since Garden City East

and West high schools merged in the early 1980s. Tyree is just the fourth varsity girls hoops coach since the merger. "I've learn a lot from

the coaches I played for and coached under: Dave Riley, Marshall Henry and Barry Patterson," Tyree said. "I learned a lot about the importance of always communicating with my players from Dave. Marshall always stressed the importance of academics and athletics and that the gym is an extension of the classroom. And a lot of my defensive philosophy came from Barry."

"My goal is to continue the outstanding tradition that the coaches before me established."

Cougars' opponents will continue to face pressure once next season rolls around.

"I love pressing and I'm big on man-to-man defense," she said. "Those things have

Please see COACH, B4

On a mission

Local church members bring friendship, elbow grease to Haiti

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Paul DeNapoli helped build a restroom, painted a church, cemented bricks together and planted fruit trees during trips to the Caribbean the last two years.

The retired Livonia firefighter loved every minute of his adventures, which were spent mostly in manual labor, administering basic health checks to children and making friends with his Haitian hosts.

When he returns next year to the poor island nation, he hopes to take a contingent of members from Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church with him.

He said the congregation has been a part of the Haiti project in spirit the past two years as he and Aldersgate pastor Rev. Jeff Nelson, first participated in a mission trip and then led one.

"I told the congregation it's not a one-man show. It's we, not just me when we come back to show you what we did as a church to help these people in Hai-

ti and why it's important to continue this project," said DeNapoli. "We're following in the footprints of Jesus and being leaders."

Joining a mission

Nelson was new to Redford Aldersgate when he attended a get-acquainted dinner at Paul and Debbie DeNapoli's Livonia home a few years ago. DeNapoli, aware that the new pastor had spent time in Africa on missions, suggested he go along on the minister's next trip abroad.

"He looked at me and said, okay, set it up. I said, where? He said, I don't care. Pick a spot," DeNapoli recalled the exchange. "I'm the kind of guy who doesn't reinvent the wheel. There was a group getting ready to go back to Haiti. We teamed with them on the first trip."

DeNapoli, Nelson and fellow parishioner Dale Archambeau joined a team led by a Methodist church in Wyandotte last year. This year Nelson and DeNapoli solicited members from other local churches to accompany them on a return vis-



Paul DeNapoli of Livonia works on a safety wall in Haiti.

it to Gommiers, a small seaside Haitian village that is home to a Methodist Church and school. The goal was to partner with smaller churches and help them develop their own mission leadership.

"Now we have three churches with experience that can develop a core group of their own parishioners or get other churches to go with them," DeNapoli said.

Two members each from New Beginnings United Methodist Church in Redford, Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit and Calvary United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor joined mission team.

Landing in Haiti

"When we got off the plane the first time, last

year, and I saw the kids at the school, I looked at Pastor Jeff and said, I'm hooked. I've got to come back," DeNapoli said. "The next time I came back, I thought, I'm home. It looked familiar. I knew what to expect. There were workers I had made friends with last year who remembered me. They were glad to see us."

DeNapoli, who is married and the father of two grown children, doesn't consider the mission work a "calling" for himself. "It's just something I've wanted to do. I spent 27 years on the fire department, where I was always helping people."

Because he has paramedic training, he also worked in a Haitian clinic, taking blood pressures, temperatures and check-



This year's mission group included Rev. Jeff Nelson, (left) Dale Thomas, Paul DeNapoli, Carmen Ziegler, Wendy Roe, Rev. John Pajak, Dale Titus and Rev. Beth Titus. The sign at the Jeremie airport in Haiti says "Welcome to Jeremie, city of poets."

ing pulse rates.

"They have a lot of allergies due to the dust from the roads and smoke

because they cook with charcoal," he noted.

Please see MISSION, B6

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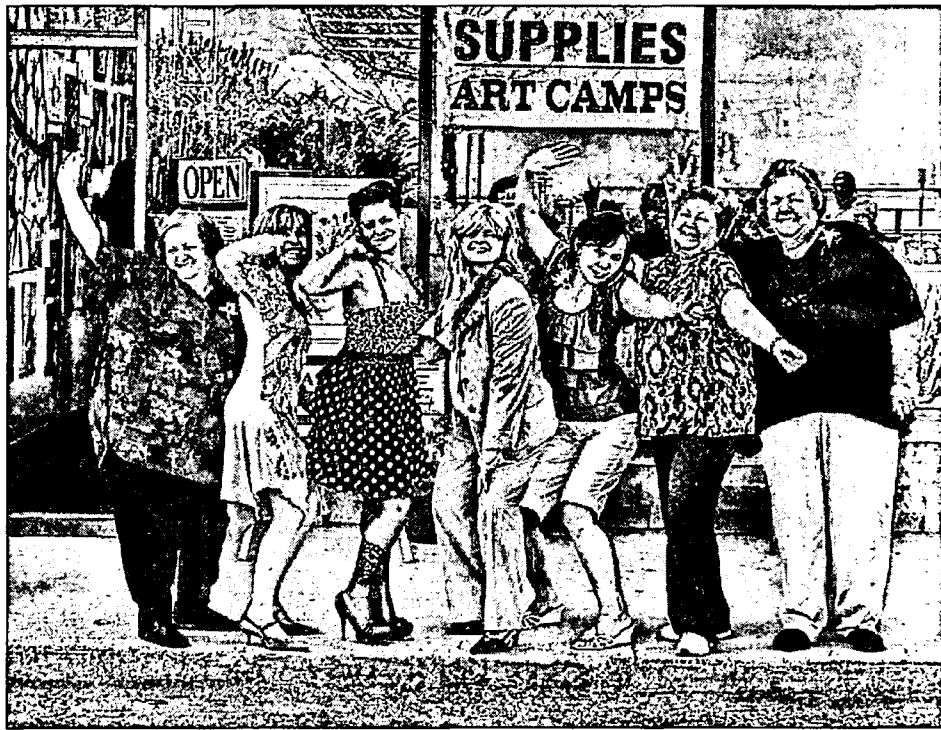
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Donna Knight, (left) Deana Salhaney, Erin Dillenbeck, Sharon Lee Dillenbeck, Liz Gulikson, Marilyn Meredith and Vivian Hewitt showed their works at the Ladies Dillenbeck Exhibition last year.

Women exhibit art at Canton studio

Sharon Lee Dillenbeck exhibit works by local female artists this month at her Canton art studio.

The 2nd Annual Ladies Dillenbeck Exhibition will run April 28-May 31 at D & M Art Studio, 8691 N. Lilley. An artist's reception is set for 2-4 p.m. Sunday, May 6.

Exhibiting artists include Dillenbeck, her daughters, Erin and Kritin, her sister, Donna Knight, and some of Dillenbeck's award winning students, Marilyn

Meredith, Vivian Hewitt, Elizabeth Gulikson, Rachel Bissonnette and Deana Salhaney. Most pieces will be for sale. The exhibit, open during store hours, will include original watercolors, oils, acrylics, charcoals, pastels and oil pastels.

For more information, call Dillenbeck at (734) 453-3710 or e-mail her at dmartist1@aol.com. Order art supplies or register for classes online at www.dmartstudio.com.

Show benefits summer jazz fest

The spring fundraiser for the Michigan Jazz Festival will feature the Gary Schunk Trio Sunday, April 22 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The show, with Schunk on piano, Bill Higgins on drums and Jack Dryden on bass, is set for 3 p.m. in the DiPonio Room in

the VisTaTech Center on campus, located on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile.

Schunk was the house pianist at Baker's Keyboard Lounge during the 1970s and early 1980s.

Tickets are \$15 and available in advance. Make check payable to

Michigan Jazz Festival, 20457 Maplewood, Livonia, MI 48152-2022. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Tickets will be mailed immediately or can be held at the door.

The Michigan Jazz Festival will be held July 15.

Road safety class key

Classroom and online courses for the AARP Driver Safety program are free to Michigan drivers during the month of May.

The course, which usually costs \$12, helps older drivers learn the new rules of the road and continue to drive safely and

remain independent for as long as possible. HearUSA is offering the classes in honor of Better Hearing and Speech Month. Participants do not have to be AARP members.

Drivers who complete the course may be eligible for auto insurance

discounts.

Local classes will be held at 4:30 p.m. May 16-17 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Register by calling (734) 655-8950 or (877) 390-8784 or visit www.aarp.org/drivesafe6 and enter promo code: MICHIGAN.

LUNCHEON RAISES CANCER AWARENESS

See fashions from Saks Fifth Avenue at Mothers, Daughters, Sisters & Friends, Thursday, May 3, at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital 6777 W. Maple, west of Drake.

The event, a fundraiser for the Francee & Benson Ford Jr. Breast Care & Wellness Center at the hospital, will run 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and include a luncheon, bou-

tique shopping and the fashion show.

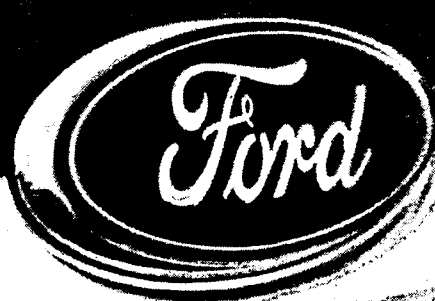
Over the past eight years, Mothers, Daughters, Sisters and Friends has raised more than \$1.6 million for the Henry Ford fund. The event will showcase amenities at the hospital, including the demonstration kitchen, Vita Wellness Center, the Live Well Shoppe and more. Event co-chairs are Flo-

rine Mark and her daughter Lisa Lis, both of Farmington Hills, and Francee Ford of Birmingham and her mother, Micki Kline of West Bloomfield.

Tickets for the luncheon begin at \$125. Seating is very limited.

To register or further information, visit www.henryford.com/mothersdaughters or call (313) 874-6138.

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

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

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

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

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

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

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American Cancer Society offers free summer camp

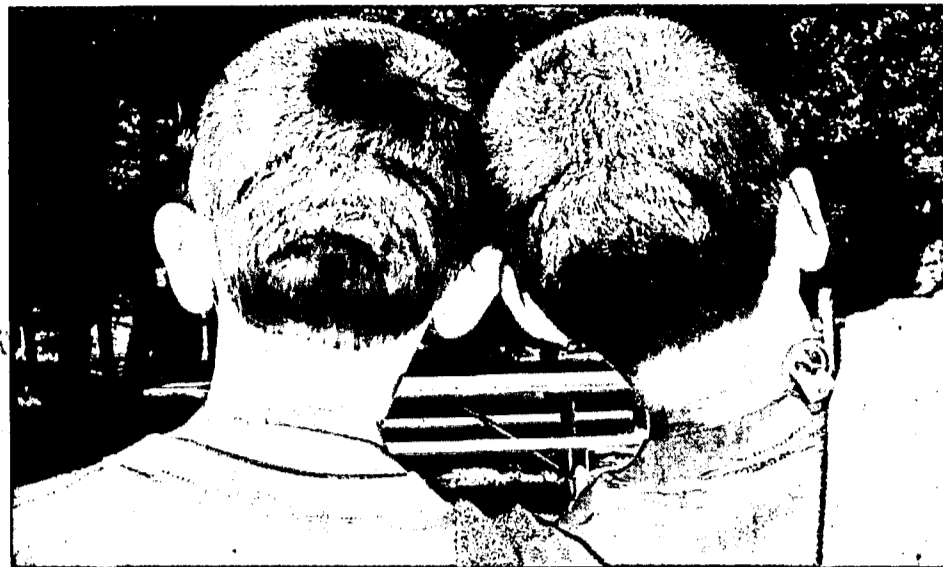
The American Cancer Society is accepting registration for summer camping programs aimed at children and teens.

"The American Cancer Society offers a camping program specifically geared toward accommodating the needs of children who are being treated for cancer, or who are in remission from cancer," stated Kathleen Wilson, program manager for the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division. "Our camping program provides the opportunity for these children to simply have fun and enjoy the experience of exercise, recreation and companionship through activities paced to meet the needs of a young cancer patient."

Cancer survivors between 4 and 15 years of age can sign up for one of two camping programs offered free of charge by the organization's Great Lakes Division.

Young Camper's Day is a one-day program for children, 4-6 years old, that is set for Sunday, June 17. Camp Catch-A-Rainbow is a week-long summer camping experience, held June 17-22, for children, ages 7-15. Both the Young Camper's Day and Camp Catch-A-Rainbow programs are held at the YMCA Storer Camps near Jackson, where children have access to activities such as swimming, horseback riding, archery, canoeing, arts and crafts, and more.

Health care professionals are available at the camp 24 hours a day, so most medical treatments,



Youngsters at Camp Catch-A-Rainbow show their camp spirit. The program is offered by the American Cancer Society.

SPECIAL NEEDS CAMPS

Here's a sampling of other camps for children with special medical needs:

- Camp Casey, a horseback riding program for children with cancer, is located in Royal Oak offers overnight mini-vacations at dude ranch resorts in Michigan; www.campcasey.org.
- The American Diabetes Association runs a camp for youngsters, age 8-16, with diabetes, June 17-29 in Fenton; www.diabetes.org
- The Lions Club Bear Lake Camp in Lapeer offers a camp for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, July 8-14 and a weekend family camp for families with deaf or hard-of-hearing youth, June 29-July 1. A session for first-time campers who are blind and visually impaired will run July 15-21. Camp for lifers is a two-week experience, July 15-28 for blind and visually impaired youth. Camp Dakota, sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation Michigan Chapter will run July 29-Aug. 3; www.bearlakecamp.org.
- The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan offers Camp Discovery for children and teens with epilepsy, June 24-28 at Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center in Augusta; www.epilepsymichigan.org.

with the exception of radiation therapy, can be done at the camp or at a nearby cancer center.

Registration applications for young cancer patients and survivors with a physician's approval, are accepted through May 28 for both camps. Get a camper application

form by calling the American Cancer Society at (800) 227-2345 or by visiting www.cancer.org/camp-rainbow.

The camps also need medical and non-medical volunteers, especially male volunteers, to assist onsite. For more information or to get a camp vol-

unteer application, call the Society or visit online.

Camp Catch-A-Rainbow is accredited by the American Camping Association and is licensed through the state of Michigan. The American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division, serving Indiana and Michigan, funds both camps.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

April

AUTISM TATTOO

Get an autism-related tattoo this month at American Pride Tattoos and the store will donate \$20 or 20 percent of the cost of the tattoo — whichever is greater — to Autism Speaks. All of the companies stores are participating in the campaign to raise awareness and support those with autism spectrum disorder. Stores are located at 155 E. Commerce in Milford and 27815 Woodward Ave., in Berkley, in addition to Waterford, Clarkston, and Pontiac.

CANCER SCREENING

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center, 4100 John R, south of Warren, north of Mack, in Detroit, will conduct free oral, head and neck cancer screenings, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Friday, April 27. A simple 15-minute screening exam can help determine if further follow-up is needed to help detect oral, head and neck cancers in their earliest stages. Space is limited to the first 100 who register. Some of the warning signs of oral cancers include a sore in your mouth that doesn't heal or increases in size; lumps or white, red or dark patches in your mouth; persistent pain in your mouth; a lump in your neck or thickening of your cheek; difficulty chewing or swallowing, moving your jaw or tongue, swelling or pain in your jaw; soreness in your throat or feeling that something is caught in your throat; pain around your teeth or loosening of your teeth; numbness in your mouth; changes in your voice or bad breath. Pre-register by 5 p.m. April 26 for screening and complimentary valet parking. Call (800) 527-6266. Onsite registration will be permitted if space is available.

NUTRITION

Annie House, registered dietitian and certified

diabetes educator at Botsford Hospital, will lead the discussion and will provide helpful nutrition tips at the Walk with a Doc free wellness event, noon, Thursday, April 19, at the Heritage Park Nature Center, on the west side of Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information or to register, call (877) 477-3621 and select option 1.

SINUS RELIEF

Dr. Warren L. Brandes, D.O., will present a free community lecture on breakthrough technology that helps those suffering from chronic sinus symptoms, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17 at Botsford Hospital's Administration & Education Center Community Room, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. The presentation will include information on balloon sinuplasty. Call (877) 477-3621 and select option 1 for more information or to register for the event.

ST. MARY MERCY

• First-time parents can get the basics of breastfeeding and baby care 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28 in classrooms 1 and 2 at the hospital. A St. Mary Mercy Hospital pediatrician will discuss infant illness and child immunization. Parents will learn breastfeeding techniques including positioning, pumping, storage and breast care. This class is open to anyone who cares for an infant. Fee is \$50 per couple. Register by calling St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1162, or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

• A blood drive for the American Red Cross will run, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, April 27 in classrooms 1 and 2 at the hospital. Schedule an appointment at (800) GIVE-LIFE or redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins will be accepted but appointments are preferred. The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

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