

W-W OBSERVER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015 • hometownlife.com

W-W board takes 2nd look at legal fees

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

The Wayne-Westland school board is taking a closer look at its legal representation after a majority of trustees declined to approve the list of attorneys for 2015 at its organizational meeting in January.

School Superintendent Michele Harmala will bring a new proposal to the board at its February meeting after Trustees Sally Madison, Melandie Hines, board Vice-President Frederick Weaver and Treasur-

er Shawna Walker voted no on the designation of legal representation.

The decision came after Madison expressed concern about a rate increase by the district's general counsel Clark Hill. The district received a letter June 25, 2014, indicating that the per hour rate was increasing \$5 from \$225 to \$230 as of July 1, 2014, and another \$5 to \$235 as of Jan. 1, 2015.

"I'm concerned the rate increase will happen again in another year. We still have to take into consideration all the

cuts we have made," said Madison, who asked Harmala if there was a way to lock in the rates for a complete year and avoid the mid-year-increases.

"We didn't sign a contract with them; this is a fee for service, so they give notification of their rates and we determine if we want to use them," Harmala said.

Rate increase

The district has four legal firms it works with: Clark Hill, Lusk and Albertson, Thrun and Kelley Cawthorne. Clark Hill

has served as the district's general counsel since 2012, replacing Lusk and Albertson, which had represented the district for more than 20 years.

In a letter addressed to then-Superintendent Greg Baracy, Clark Hill attorneys Dana Abrahams and John Gierak noted that the firm had not raised its school rates since January 2009 and that "we believe it is appropriate to modestly increase our rates for the 2014-2015 school year."

Also taken into consideration were "the steep discounts

from our standard rates we currently provide our school clients (ranging from approximately 35 percent to 50 percent); the value we deliver to our school clients; our need to attract and retain high-caliber legal talent; our competitors' rates, and the improving economic outlook for the state, recognizing that our public school clients continue to face ongoing financial challenges."

They added that the "rates continue to represent a dis-

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Lunch has special guests

Police, firefighters invited to St. Mary

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

The conversations ranged from eye glasses to sports as Wayne police officers and firefighters joined St. Mary Catholic School students for lunch.

Commenting on a student's glasses, Officer Abe Hughes was asked if he wore glasses — only sunglasses, which he modeled for several students.

"One girl said I looked cool," said Hughes, sporting wraparound sunglasses as some of the students backpedaled on their initial opinions.

Fifth-grader Andrea Hayes also commented that Hughes' sunglasses made him look cool. She was enjoying the lunch with police and firefighters.

"I just like visiting with them and hanging out with them. They are kind of funny," said Andrea, who was having lunch with a group of classmates.

The students wanted to know how many police dogs the department has — just one, a German shepherd named Zeto.

A new tradition

This is the third year police and firefighters have



Wayne Police Officer Abe Hughes jokes with Alaina Liddell and Presley Alt about wearing sunglasses indoors.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

been invited to lunch by the students, who host bake sales to raise money for the meal.

"We're celebrating Catho-

lic Schools Week. One of our missions is service and outreach to the community,"

said Kathy Sparks, St. Mary's

principal.

"Our students want to do

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Main Street offers facade incentive program

Grants aim to benefit buildings, local economy

Owners interested in improving the appearance of their buildings can find assistance through the Wayne Main Street Façade Incentive Grant program.

Launched by the Wayne Main Street Design Committee, the grant program was created to encourage private investment in historic facades by providing financial incentives.

An informational meeting for business and building owners who are located within the Main Street district will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the Wayne Fire Station on Wayne Road, south of Glenwood.

Wayne Main Street Executive Director Lindsey Wooten will present information about the grant program, which aims to perform historically sensitive rehabilitation and dramatic improvement of facades in downtown Wayne with a goal of encouraging designs that will serve as quality examples and preserve Wayne's distinct architectural character.

The program also aims to improve the economic viability of the downtown.

The number of projects receiving grants in a fiscal year is based on program budget, with a new funding cycle beginning Jan. 1.

Grants are awarded on a first-approved, first-funded basis.

In 2015, \$10,000 is available for distribution.

Wayne Main Street Façade Incentive Grant Guidelines and applications are available at the Wayne Main Street office at 35000 Sims St. or can be downloaded at www.downtownwayne.org

For more information, contact Wooten at 734-629-6822 or stop by the office. The hours are 9:30-11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Westland digs out from massive snowstorm

By LeAnne Rogers
Staff Writer

Curbside trash and recycling collection was suspended Monday in Westland and Wayne and schools were closed for two days after a storm dumped over a foot of snow on southeast Michigan.

For Westland residents, collection resumed Tuesday and service was delayed one day for the rest of the week, similar to a holiday week.

In Wayne, the trash hauler was hoping to be caught up with collection by Friday, so residents were asked to put their trash out as usual as Tues-



On Monday, Westland residents cleared snow off their driveways while waiting for snow plows to clear neighborhood street.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



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FEES

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count of \$10 an hour from our standard school rates because our firm services the district's financing needs," both voted and non-voted. In a letter to the school board, Deputy Superintendent Jim Larson-Shidler pointed out that the \$10 increase represents a 4.4-percent increase over the district's 2013-2014 rate and that other firms — Thrun, Lusk and Albertson and Kelley Cawthorne — when contacted for their hourly rates, said there would be no increase.

District's costs

Clark Hill has handled the brunt of the district's legal work. In figures provided by Larson-Shidler, the district paid the firm \$109,517 in 2012-13 and \$99,308 in 2013-2014.

Among the other firms, Kelley Cawthorne, which handles governmental and legislative affairs, was paid \$32,000 both years; while Thrun, which handles elections as needed, received only \$200 in 2012-2013.

Lusk and Albertson handles special education matters, student discipline and board policy. It was paid \$7,656 and \$5,857 in 2012-13 and 2013-2014, respectively. The board also has a contract with the firm to develop an initial set of bylaws and policies and do yearly updates for a set amount.

Weaver told the board that he found the increase in rates "unconscionable" and asked the administration to give "good consideration" to Lusk and Albertson.

"They have served us well in the past," he said. "I'm not and have not been satisfied with the Clark Hill firm and their representation of the district. And the reason is that to raise their rates, this is a firm that represents public schools, they understand the position we're in. To raise their rates at this point is unconscionable to me."

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The copycat: friend or foe?



By Courtney Conover
GUEST COLUMNIST

Let's talk for a moment about a relatively elementary concept: Copycats.

Do they bother you? Or do they barely register on your Richter scale of consciousness?

And what really constitutes an act of coping, anyway?

Sure, if someone were to, say, invent and patent a waterproof device that would enable us to shave our legs while we condition and detangle our hair in the shower, and if I went out and reproduced the exact same thing, then that is, of course, a textbook example of copying at work.

But I'm not talking about that.

I'm talking about murkier cases. Like when you know that what the other person has/is doing/is wearing is a direct reflection of something they saw you having/doing/wearing.

I have a younger cousin who, when we were children, used to copy virtually everything I did; right down to the way I parted my

hair. She would also want to eat what I ate; wear what I wore, etc. And. It. Drove. Me. Nuts.

It is because of the aforementioned experience that I sat up and took notice of something Carole Radziwill of *The Real Housewives of New York* said during a recent Bravo marathon that blared in the background while I unloaded the dishwasher: "Imitation is not the sincerest form of flattery. Flattery is the sincerest form of flattery."

I tend to agree. But to be sure, I tried this theory on for size by way of a hypothetical scenario:

If you read my blog *The Brown Girl with Long Hair* (www.thebrowngirlwithlonghair.com — shameless plug; sorry) even somewhat regularly, you know that I review products —

some of which I've purchased and write about on my own accord because I ultimately want my readers to experience said products as well.

Let's say you went out and bought the same diaper bag I carry, followed by the exact same pair of Bogs boots, and then you informed me of this.

I'd think that's awesome! Really, I would. And I'd be — for lack of a better word — flattered.

But let's say that one of my close friends does the exact same thing. I'm not going to lie: I'd think it was ... weird.

Let's say, one day while grabbing coffee with said friend, I waxed poetic about the merits of Patagonia fleece, and then the next thing I know, her daughter has on the exact same bunting suit I bought for my daughter Kennedy.

And let's say that I wasn't trying to sell my friend on Patagonia fleece. I was simply talking about how much I liked it. Would that be

weird? Um, yes. Yes it would. Go ahead, flame away and call me shallow; I can take it.

But to be clear, the act wouldn't set me off or anything, but I would definitely characterize the behavior as mildly irritating. And, frankly, I would wonder what's next. In the words of another Bravo Real Housewife, Teresa Giudice, "Does she want to skin me and wear me like last season's Versace?"

But, let me flip the script for a moment.

While I wouldn't buy the exact item my close friend owns, I wholeheartedly admit to having bought my navy blue Birkenstock Gizehs because I saw them on Julia Roberts first.

So is the act of copying ultimately defined by whether the originator knows he or she is being copied, or better yet, encourages it?

I feel like, on the one hand, society tells us to "keep up with the Joneses," (which I believe is total bunk); but, yet,

we're somehow deemed less than if we copy.

So which is it? And furthermore, what does gender have to do with it?

I asked my husband Scott for his take on the matter, and he wouldn't be bothered in the slightest if one of his friends, say, bought a sweater identical to his or a replica of our dining room table.

Does the estrogen coursing through my veins inherently make me more sensitive to this sort of thing?

To a certain degree, aren't we all just collecting inspiration and filing away images from each other as we meander through life?

What are your thoughts on this? Is imitation really the sincerest form of flattery?

Wayne resident Courtney Conover is a mom of two and the wife of former Detroit Lions offensive lineman Scott Conover. She blogs at thebrowngirlwithlonghair.com and overshares on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thebrowngirlwithlonghair.

LUNCH

Continued from Page A1

something for our local police and firemen. It establishes a real nice relationship with them."

The students look forward to the lunch, Sparks said.

"The police and firefighters do a wonderful job interacting with the kids," she said.

"It helps our students understand social and civic responsibility and service in the community."

Wayne Police Chief Alan Maciag was talking with a couple of students about the sports they play and what they'd like to be when they grow up.

"This is a great thing. We have a great relationship with St. Mary's and this continues it," he said. "It builds strong bonds between us and the kids."

The police and firefighters weren't the only



Wayne Police Chief Alan Maciag has lunch with St. Mary's Catholic School first-graders James Hanson, Michael Villaret and Jack Near. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

special lunch guests for Catholic Schools Week. The previous day, there

was a VIP lunch in which students hosted a special person — a parent, grandparent or other person that they chose.

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Maria Sibi clears snow from her driveway along Newberry Estates Drive in Westland.



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Survivor of Human Trafficking

If you don't think human trafficking happens in your zip code, think again.

Survivor and author of "The Slave Across the Street", Theresa Flores shares her story of being a sex slave while a typical high school student in an upper-middle class suburb of Detroit. Drugged, raped,



and tortured at 15, she was trafficked for 2 years to men in their 20's and 30's, all unbeknownst to her family. Now this victims' advocate is speaking out on the reality of human trafficking in the U.S.

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STORM

Continued from Page A1

day. Due to a snow emergency, trash cans couldn't be placed in the street.

The snowfall — 16.7 inches at Detroit Metropolitan Airport — triggered snow emergencies across the metro area, including Westland and Wayne. Vehicles were prohibited from parking on residential streets until the emergency was lifted. Violators faced tickets and having their vehicles towed.

As of mid-morning Monday, Westland reported main streets had been plowed and the Department of Public Services was shifting its focus to residential streets. DPS

was running 10-16 plows simultaneously, allowing for required driver rest and continued 24-hour plow operations. DPS estimated it would complete plowing all streets by late Wednesday.

"We're encouraging all residents to comply with the parking ban during this period, as doing so increases the safety and efficiency of the plow operation," Westland Mayor William Wild said.

In addition to the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, the snow led to the closure Monday of Wayne City Hall, Westland's Friendship Center, 18th District Court and William P. Faust Public Library in Westland.

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DAN DEAN | OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
Tim Shimoura is taken down by Bill Benson on Jan. 21, 1985, at Bell Creek Park in Redford. The two were employees of Moy's Japanese Steak House in Livonia and were playing a pickup football game.



DAN DEAN | OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
The Moy's Snow Bowl was in the books Jan. 21, 1985, and players that were moments earlier pitted against one another on the frozen tundra of Bell Creek Park reunite as one team of employees to free one of their cars stuck in the snow.



DAN DEAN | OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
Tired players take a break from a pickup football game Jan. 21, 1985.

Nostalgia Project: Moy's Snow Bowl 1985



DAN DEAN | OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
Steve Dipko, QB/dishwasher at the former Moy's Japanese Steak House in Livonia, fires a pass while playing a pickup game Jan. 21, 1985, at Bell Creek Park in Redford.



DAN DEAN | OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC
Steve Dipko, a dishwasher at the former Moy's Japanese Steak House in Livonia, crosses the goal line for a touchdown Jan. 21, 1985, at Bell Creek Park in Redford.

It would have been a good day for employees of the former Moy's Japanese Steak House on Middlebelt and Six Mile in Livonia to stick to their weekly routine of going bowling as a group each Monday — the day the restaurant was closed. After all, southeast Michigan, along with most of the Midwest, was gripped in the frigid temperatures of an Alberta clipper on this particular Monday. Bell Creek Park in

Redford is a couple of thousand miles away from Stanford University in California and it was a hell of a lot colder Jan. 21, 1985. But inspired by the San Francisco 49ers'

38-16 victory over Miami in Super Bowl XIX at Stanford Stadium, a few brave employees shunned their weekly bowling outing and took part in what they dubbed

the inaugural Moy's Snow Bowl. Look for more photos or galleries in coming weeks and months as I take a nostalgic look at images that appeared in

the *Observer & Eccentric* over the years. If you find yourself pictured or a part of the events described, feel free to add comments of your memories.

Dan Dean is assistant managing editor for the *Observer & Eccentric* and was a staff photographer from 1983-98. He can be reached at ddean@hometownlife.com.

Western Wayne lawmakers on PAC leadership team

Two newly elected lawmakers from Western Wayne County — one who represents Redford and one who represents Canton — have been elected to serve as officers of the MI Women Win PAC, which is dedicated to supporting progressive women candidates seeking seats in the state Legislature.

Rep. Leslie Love, D-Detroit, whose district includes Redford, has been elected as vice-chair; Rep. Kristy Pagan, whose district includes Canton, has been elected as secretary for 2015-16.

State Rep. Marcia Hovey-Wright, D-Muskegon, has been elected to serve as chairwoman. Rep. Vanessa Guerra, D-Saginaw, is treasurer.



Love

Pagan

"I have been concerned with issues such as pay equity and assuring access to women's health all my life, and these matters have been close to my heart as a legislator," Hovey-Wright said.

"That is why MI Women Win was formed — so that we could recruit, mentor and support other women who want to serve our state and fight for full equality for women."

Hovey-Wright founded the Progressive Women's Caucus (PWC) in 2011, the year she joined the Michigan House of Representatives. The PWC has introduced legislation to promote access to women's health care, enshrine pay equity as state law and address the needs of working women, mothers and girls.

PWC members formed MI Women Win in order to encourage progressive women to seek office, so that the Legislature would hear more women's voices calling for policies that will improve the lives of Michigan women and families.

"MI Women Win is instrumental in identifying, encouraging and supporting progressive women candidates seeking seats in the Michigan House of Representatives in 2014, and I look forward to continuing that mission in the next campaign," Love said.

"Our state is home to many intelligent, determined and politically savvy women, and I will enjoy helping many of them run for and win elections in 2016."

Of the 18 Democratic women serving in the Michigan Senate and Michigan House of Representatives, 14 of them — more than 75 percent — won office. However, women are still vastly underrepresented in the state Legislature — of 148 state senators and representatives, just 31, or 21 percent, are women.

"The women candidates that MI Women

Win endorse understand the importance of issues such as equal pay and access to health care," Pagan said.

"These issues underline a woman's ability to care for and support her family.

"When a woman earns a fair paycheck and can get the medical care she needs, she helps her family build financial security — something all Michigan families need."

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Space heaters cause many home heating fires

There is no big surprise that the low temperatures we have seen earlier this month have brought out many space heaters to help warm up an area. There have been a number of fires that have displaced many families in recent weeks, and space heaters have been identified as the culprit.

Space heaters account for one-third of home heating fires, and four out of five home heating fire deaths. As you may have guessed, placing combustibles too close to



Shadd Whitehead

heaters is the leading contribution to ignition. It isn't too surprising that half of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February.

Like any heat-producing appliance, we recommend a three-foot clearance that is kept free of combustible materials. It is also important to make kids aware to stay clear of space heaters, and it is best

to keep heaters out of the main paths of travel, to reduce the chances of them being knocked over.

Check the electrical cords on space heaters, looking for any fraying or cracking. If noted, the cord needs to be replaced, as the heat from the bare wires can cause a fire to the flooring that the cord rests on. Never run cords underneath rugs or carpets as the foot traffic can rub away at the insulating cord, which can lead to bare spots that are in contact with the rug or carpet. If you need to replace

your heater, check out what types are available out there. Newer models have "tip-over" features that shut the unit off if it is accidentally knocked over.

Space heaters should only be used in rooms where there is a responsible adult who is tasked with keeping an eye on the heater. These heaters shouldn't be placed behind doors, especially a bathroom door where towels may hang too close or behind furniture where they are out of sight, which increases the chance they won't be turned off when

they should be. They should make sure that combustibles don't get placed too close to the heater, as kids may want to warm up their gloves or a blanket. The adult should also make sure that the space heater is turned off when they leave the room.

Cold weather challenges us all, and space heaters can help us warm up an area pretty quickly. Some simple rules can help us make sure we are warming up safely.

Shadd Whitehead is the chief of Livonia Fire & Rescue.

WAYNE COP CALLS

Break in

A resident of an apartment at 33033 Forest told police Feb. 1 that just before 1 a.m. she was across the hall visiting and left her door unlocked.

When she returned, she said a folder containing miscellaneous tax paperwork and items related to the Women, Infant and Child program was missing. She said diabetic supplies, including four boxes of test strips, a box of soft click lancets and a glucose meter, valued at \$350, were also missing.

Vandalism

On Jan. 31, a resident in the 4400 block of Adams Circle told police a dark, older-model Ford Focus passed his house several times at a slow speed around 11 p.m. A short time later, he heard a loud noise. He said he stepped outside and eventually heard a hissing noise from a damaged tire on his neighbor's truck, a 2009 Silverado.

By LeAnne Rogers

Larceny

A Garden City woman told police Feb. 2 that someone stole the catalytic converter from her 2001 Pontiac Montana while she was inside MJR Theater, 6800 N. Wayne Road.

Fraud

On Jan. 30, a Westland woman told police someone used her personal information to open a Verizon account, running up a \$600 bill.

An Ypsilanti woman told police Jan. 27 that someone used her credit/debit card to make a \$131 purchase at the Westland Meijer store, 37201 Warren Road, on Jan. 25. She

WESTLAND COP CALLS

Larceny

A resident of Colonial Village Apartments, 8181 N. Wayne Road, told police Jan. 28 that he ordered a Sega Saturn video game, valued at \$75, online. The U.S. Postal Service reported delivering the package Jan. 20 but the resident said he never received it.

Missing purse

On Jan. 29, an Inkster woman told police that she left her purse in a shopping cart at Kroger, 200 S. Merriman. When she returned to the store a few minutes later, she said she couldn't locate the purse in the parking lot and it hadn't been

Vandalism

A resident in the 34000 block of John Hawk and his girlfriend, told police Jan. 29 that overnight someone used black spray paint to write "dead" and "man" on each of their vehicles.

turned in to the store.

Open door

A Romulus woman told police that Jan. 29 she was at Stottemyer School, 34801 Marquette, for 45 minutes and returned to find the passenger door of her car open. She believed the car had been locked. Nothing was missing.

Break-in

A resident in the 400 block of N. Hanlon told police he returned from work Jan. 29 to find someone kicked in the side door. He said nothing appeared to be missing.

By LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Theft

A family in the 28000 block of Maplewood believes that someone entered their unlocked home Jan. 31 while they were sleeping and stole a woman's purse and a man's wallet.

The purse was in the family room where the woman was sleeping on a sofa. The wallet was on a counter.

They said that their adult children didn't have any guests visiting during the time period.

When they called Chase Bank to report stolen bank

cards, they were informed that shortly after, someone made purchases in Detroit at two gas stations and at a McDonald's restaurant.

A Dearborn Heights woman, returning to her car after shopping Jan. 31 at the Aldi store on Ford, discovered that her wallet and keys were missing.

She believes that someone snatched the items from her car while she was shopping. Her wallet contained her debit card, health card, library card, cell phone and cash.

A surveillance tape yielded negative results.

Stolen vehicle

An 18-year-old Taylor woman who was parked in front of a home in the 28000 block of Sheridan reported about 10:30 p.m. Jan. 31 that someone stole her 2004 Saturn Ion, which was parked on the street.

She left the car running with the keys in the ignition and had gone inside a home for just five minutes. When she returned, the vehicle was gone.

Inkster police later notified

the Garden City police that the car was located in front of an abandoned home in the 29000 block of Brooklane in Inkster. Inkster police said that they received an anonymous call from someone who told them where to find the car.

When the car owner retrieved the car, she said that a laptop computer that was left inside could not be found. Nothing else was taken from the car, and the vehicle sustained no damage. The keys weren't left in the vehicle.

By Sue Buck

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Blood drives honor Red Cross's first medical director

In honor of Black History Month this February and in the spirit of Dr. Charles Drew, an African-American surgeon who was the first medical director of the American Red Cross and a modern blood-banking pioneer, eligible donors as diverse as the patients who need their blood donations are encouraged to give blood to ensure a sufficient blood supply.

Blood from a donor with a similar ethnic background as that of the patient is less likely to cause complications, particularly for those patients whose chronic conditions require repeated transfusions. Sickle cell disease is one such chronic condition affecting as many as 100,000 people in the United States.

Prior to transfusion, blood type and Rh factor are matched between donated blood and the patient in need. In some cases, additional red cell markers in donated blood must be matched, as well. These markers are best found in blood from donors of a similar ethnicity.

With seasonal flu and inclement winter weather preventing many regular donors from giving, the Red Cross urges healthy, eligible donors to make an appointment to donate blood in the coming days and weeks. All blood types are currently needed to help maintain a diverse and sufficient blood supply, especially types O negative, A negative and B negative.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities include:

» Canton — 1 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Feb. 13, Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road.

» Garden City — 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Feb. 9, Suburban Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Garden City, 32850 Ford Road.

» Livonia — 6 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Feb. 12, St. Mary Mer-

cy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, and noon-5:45 p.m. Feb. 22, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road.

» Plymouth — noon to 5:45 p.m. Feb. 6, Computware Sports Arena, 14900 Beck Road; 1-6:45 p.m. Feb. 16, Church of Christ Plymouth, 9301 Sheldon, 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Feb. 22, First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 701 Church St., and 1:30-7:15 p.m. Feb. 23, VFW Post 6695 Plymouth, 1426 S. Mill St.

» Redford — 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Feb. 22, Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church, 17116 Olympia St.

» Wayne — 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Feb. 8, First Congregational Church, 2 Towne Square, and 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Feb. 16, Oakwood Hospital, 33155 Annapolis St.

» Westland — 8 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Feb. 8, St. Theodore Catholic Church, 8200 Wayne.

Donations can also be made at the American Red Cross Livonia Blood Donation Center at 36650 Five Mile Road, Livonia. Hours are 12:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

To learn more about donating blood and to schedule an appointment, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Fifth-grade trip to Lansing in 1950s still elicits memories

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Jack Bailey of Livonia remembers the early 1950s when he was at Northville's Main Street Elementary.

Bailey, 74, grew up in Northville and graduated from Northville High School in 1959. In the fifth grade, his teacher, Margaret DeKett, decided their class should fly to the state capital in Lansing for a field trip.

"She contacted two or three airlines," he recalled, including Northwest and United. Capital Airlines agreed to fly the classmates, with two trips on consecutive days to accommodate the 30-40 pupils.

Margaret (DeKett) Gyde, 89, who is now living in the Ann Arbor area, conceived the idea of flying her class to Lansing to visit the state capital. They needed money, so the class staged fundraisers.

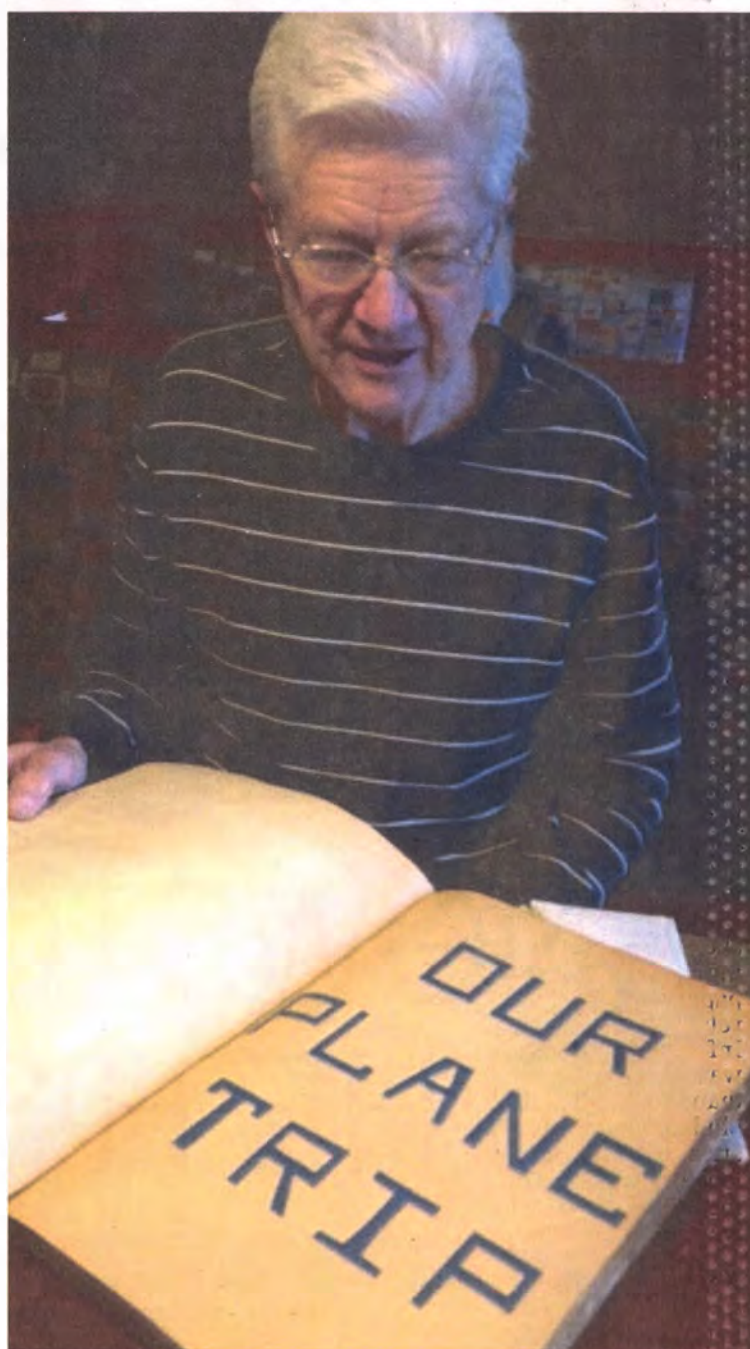
She made a scrapbook in which she pasted documents related to the project, including her letters to airlines, newspaper clippings, mimeographed parental permission forms, etc. Bailey, who now does entertaining at senior living facilities, recalled his teacher's good idea and hard work, "culminating in the whole community coming together. It could be a model in this day and age."

There were bake sales, popcorn sales and a stage show highlighting student talent to raise the needed funds. "I just remember being in awe of high government. I was more impressed flying on an airplane," said Bailey, noting airplane flight was far less common then.

His fifth-grade group faced a storm on their Lansing travel day and took the train home. There were depots in Lansing and Plymouth which helped with convenience. That was also Bailey's first train trip.

"No question about it," he said. "That was exciting to all of us."

Their principal, other teachers and parents all got involved. "It brought the com-



JOEL THURTELL

Jack Bailey of Livonia reminisces about the Northville fifth-grade field trip to Lansing in the early 1950s.

munity so close together," he said.

Margaret (DeKett) Gyde and her husband, who has since passed away, reunited with Bailey a few years back for lunch and entertainment by Bailey.

Bailey is keeping in touch

with her regularly, and now has the materials she gave him from their Lansing trip.

The Northville High 60th class reunion for his high school class is approaching, and he plans to bring the materials from the fifth-grade trip to share.



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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jerry Cross takes a break from shoveling snow in short sleeves despite the 15-degree temperature. "I'm waiting for it to get cold," he said. He lives on Starkweather in Plymouth.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Sarah Isles and 3-year-old daughter Marilyn clear snow from the driveway of their home on Roycroft Street in Livonia.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Laura Voshen takes a break from clearing snow to give a treat to her dog, Charlie. They live on Barkley Street in Livonia. The official snowfall total at Metro Airport is just over 16 inches.

SNOWSTORM IS ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

It had been an easy winter in Metro Detroit until Sunday when the area was hit with its third-heaviest snowfall in recorded history. As much as 16.7 inches of snow fell in parts of Southeast Michigan, including Detroit Metropolitan Airport, from early Sunday until 9 a.m. Monday, canceling school in most communities for two days as crews worked to clear streets. Livonia received more than 13 inches, according to the National Weather Service. *Observer* photographer Bill Bresler braved the roads, capturing several images of the historic event.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Monday morning looks pretty, unless you have to drive somewhere. This is the Coventry Gardens subdivision in Livonia.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
It's not a long slide down the hill, but Adam Peck, 10 years old, and brother Sean Peck, 9 years old, have fun in the snow.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Wayne County plows clear Joy Road.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
It's cold but sunny as Jojo Sibi clears snow from the sidewalk in front of his home on Newberry Estates Drive.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar runs in the *Observer* as space permits. Nonprofit groups and community organizations are welcome to submit news of upcoming events. Include a daytime telephone number and contact person. Email address is: ksmith@hometownlife.com.

ST. DAMIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ANNUAL AUCTION

Time/date: 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7.

Location: St. Damian Catholic School, 29891 Joy Road, Westland.

Details: St. Damian Catholic School Annual Auction presents "Super Heroes and Villains." Doors open at 6 p.m. Live auction begins at 8:45 p.m. Costume contest with a \$100 prize. Tickets are \$30 each and include buffet dinner.

Contact: www.stdamianschool.com; 734-427-1680.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Location: Westland Free Methodist Preschool, 1421 S. Venoy, Westland.

Details: The Westland Free Methodist Preschool is enrolling for classes for 3- and 4-year-old children. Enroll now and save half off the enrollment fee, a \$25 value. This tuition-based, Christian preschool offers a theme-based curriculum taught by certified teachers and includes all basic preschool academic skills along with a low child-teacher ratio, indoor gym and outdoor playground.

Contact: 734-728-3559; wfpreschool@yahoo.com.

3D PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB MEETING

Time/date: 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11.

Location: Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: See great 3D images, and learn how to make your own 3D pictures. Meetings include a 3D program, refreshment break, and a competition among members. Stereo cameras, 3D movies and educational videos are available for members to rent. The Feb. 11 meeting will feature 3D images from stereo clubs around the world. Also, members can win free photo items in a "Freebie" drawing. A 3D image competition will conclude the evening's events. The meetings are free to attend, and visitors are always welcome.

Contact: www.Detroit3D.org; Dennis at 248-398-3591.

ST. MARY MERCY BLOOD DRIVE

Time/date: 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12.

Location: St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: In partnership with the American Red Cross, St. Mary Mercy Hospital will hold a blood drive in the North Auditorium of the hospital. The public is invited to join St. Mary Mercy Hospital employees and volunteers in donating blood at the event. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.

Contact: 800-GIVE-LIFE; redcrossblood.org.

LIVONIA SYMPHONY MARDI GRAS EVENT

Time/date: 7-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13.

Location: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

Details: The evening will feature dinner and the jazz sounds of the Livonia Symphony Jazz Quintet under the direction of Assistant Conductor Carl Karoub. Enjoy the festivities of a traditional New Orleans-style Mardi Gras, 37637 Five Mile Road, PMB #398, Livonia MI 48154.

DAR MEETING

Time/date: noon Saturday, Feb. 14

Location: Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Beth Garner will speak on "For the Fun of It: The History of American Children" during the meeting of the John Sackett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

DESTINATION GRADUATION

Time/date: 5:30-8:3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Location: Franklin High School, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia.

Details: Don't feel like cooking dinner? Join a fun evening, open house style for a delicious sampling of food and desserts from local restaurants, caterers and bakeries. All proceeds go toward Franklin's Senior All Night Party. All local schools welcome.

Contact: Sharon Culbertson at 734-261-3264 or at rsulbert263@gmail.com.

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY SHOW

Time/date: 1:59 p.m. and 7:29 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21.

Location: Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt Road, Livonia.

Details: The Detroit-Oakland Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society and the Gentlemen Songsters Chorus present their 76th annual Parade of Harmony America Sings! featuring the 2008 international champs, O.C. Times, and Backbeat of Northville High School. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door.

Contact: 248-559-7082; songsters.tix@hotmail.com.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Location: Academic Pathways, 30330 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia.

Details: See what a cooperative preschool has to offer. Potty training is not required. Programs for ages 3 and 4.

Contact: 734-261-9540; www.academicpathwayspreschool.org.

COMIC BOOK, CARD, COLLECTIBLE SHOW

Time/date: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7.

Location: Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 10000 Beech Daly Road, Redford.

Details: More than 34 tables. Guests include actor/inventor Ron Baraton, a local actor who has appeared in *Oz the Great and Powerful* and *Ides of March* with George Clooney and the TV show *Detroit 187*. Admission is \$2. Age 10 and under are free. Concessions available until 2 p.m. The admission fee will be donated to the Methodist Children's Home.

Contact: 734-258-5026.

CELIAC SUPPORT GROUP

Details: The Tri-County Celiac Support Group is hosting: a Gluten Free Kids Pizza Party on Feb. 8; a general meeting with guest speaker Steven Plogsted, a clinical pharmacist, on Feb. 9; a general meeting with guest speaker Kelly Dorfman, author of *Cure Your Children with Food*, on March 30; a Gluten Free Food Fair on April 25; and a 5K Walk/Run on May 19.

Contact: 586-751-8592.

ST. GENEVIEVE OPEN HOUSE

Time/date: noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 29.

Location: St. Genevieve Catholic School, 28933 Jamison St., Livonia.

Details: St. Genevieve offers preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds and elementary school for grades K-8. Meet the teachers, tour the school, see the students work and learn about the countries they are studying. The theme is Travel Around the

Wish you were here



Livonia residents Kathy and Jerry Wolfe, right, spent Christmas in Anchorage, Alaska, visiting with their son, Senior Airman Thomas Wolfe, second from left, and his wife, Airman 1st Class Kayla Wolfe, who are both currently stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

World.
Contact: 734-425-4420; www.stgenevieve.org/school.

ONGOING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS' SUPPORT GROUP

Time/date: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Location: The Angel House, 28441 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Contact: 734-524-0720.

SENIOR CITIZEN BOARD GAMES

Time/date: 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Location: The Angel House, 28441 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Details: Cost is \$5 per person. Angel House uses the money to give \$50 gift cards to a family in need weekly. Donations are also accepted via www.theangelhouse.org.

Contact: 734-524-0380.

FRIENDS OF ELOISE

Time/date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the months of February, April, June, September and November.

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

Contact: Pat Ibbotson at 734-331-9291 or pibbotso@aol.com.

LIVING ON GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Time/date: 2-3:30 p.m. second Tuesday of the month.

Location: Oakwood Hospital-Wayne, 33155 Annapolis, Wayne.

Details: Hospice of Michigan

grief groups provide a safe and supportive environment for participants to express their feelings and better understand the grief process. These services are offered at no charge to any member of the community mourning the loss of a loved one. The group meets in Conference Room 2 on second level. Park at west entrance.

Contact: To register, call Margie Martin, Grief Support Services manager, at 734-769-5821.

LIVONIA CAMERA CLUB

Time/date: 8-9:30 p.m. the first two Thursdays September through May.

Location: McKinley School, 9100 Hillcrest, Livonia.

Details: A group of photographic enthusiasts dedicated to promotion of photography through displays, competitions, critiques and education.

Contact: Dennis Gelander, president, at 734-591-2589; livoniacameraclub.com.

LIVONIA SAVE OUR YOUTH

Time/date: First Wednesday of every month; time rotates monthly between morning (9-11 a.m.) and evening (6-8 p.m.).

Location: Livonia City Hall Annex Conference Room, 33000 Civic Center Drive, Livonia.

Details: The Livonia Save Our Youth Coalition (LSOY) exists to educate and empower the community regarding the health and safety of our young people, with a focus on the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse. The public is welcome to attend

monthly meetings — a light meal is served.

Contact: kbonanno@livoniasaveouryouth.org; 734-338-9580.

WIDOWED MEN

Time/date: 9 a.m. second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Location: Steve's Family Restaurant, 15800 Middlebelt, Livonia.

Details: Widowed men are invited to attend men's breakfast and learn about other co-ed activities.

Contact: Dick at 313-534-0399.

CO-ED WIDOWED BREAKFAST

Time/date: 9 a.m. first Thursday of the month.

Location: Richard's Restaurant, Plymouth Road at Eckles Road, Plymouth.

Details: All widowed welcome. Come and meet new friends.

Contact: To reserve a seat, call Carol at 734-464-2833.

Time/date: 9 a.m. third Thursday of the month.

Location: Annie's, at 33427 Plymouth Road, Livonia.

Details: All widowed welcome for great, reasonably priced food, good conversation and laughs.

Contact: Tom at 734-927-0610.

WESTLAND ROTARY

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

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

Details: Community Service programs and planning. Catered lunch; visitors welcome.

Contact: Jeff at 734-261-5010; www.westlandrotary.com.

Jack Demmer Ford in Wayne adds Quick Lane to dealership services

By Sue Mason
Staff Writer

Jim Kemper couldn't be happier. As service director, Kemper is celebrating the successful launch of Jack Demmer Ford's Quick Lane Tire and Auto Center at the corner of westbound Michigan Avenue and Newburgh in Wayne.

The facility, which opened Jan. 6, has serviced more than 500 vehicles, providing oil changes, tires, alignments, brakes, batteries and essential maintenance.

"So far, it's flowed really nicely," Kemper said. "It doesn't feel like 500 cars."

The Quick Lane replaces a small used car lot Jack Demmer had on the site of an old gas station. The dealership purchased three homes adjacent to the property and used a majority of the property to build the Quick Lane building. The remaining property will be developed as a warehouse for the dealership.

It took 14 months from start to finish constructing the Quick Lane. The building allows the dealership to offer the same service that had been provided at the dealership across the street, but in a larger area. It has 12 full working bays, including several for larger vehicles.

Manager Zack Levasseur and assistant manager Houston Guyton oversee a staff of seven technicians who were hired last June and put in four-six months training before the Quick Lane opened. Four have more than four years experi-



Bill Demmer, president of Jack Demmer Ford, cuts the ribbon, held by Wayne Mayor James Hawley (right) and Councilwoman Susan Rowe, at Jack Demmer Ford's new Quick Lane. Also at the ribbon cutting were Jim Demmer, vice-president, and Jack Demmer, general manager, and members of the city council.



Jack Demmer Ford's Quick Lane has serviced more than 500 vehicles since opening Jan. 6.

ence. Levasseur comes to Jack Demmer from Midas where he worked as a technician and manager. He brings "a lot of tire knowledge" to the Quick Lane, according to Kemper.

The dealership, which also is remodeling the new car showroom and expanding its used car facility across the street,

still has its shop which will do similar work as well as warranty and heavy repairs, Kemper said.

"We did the same work over there (the dealership), but we didn't have the room there for quick-service for oil, brakes and tires," Kemper said. "This now lets us offer the same service to non-Ford owners. We

offer an oil change and full inspection with quick in and out service."

"They do all this work across the street, but here we have a staff dedicated to doing just quick service," he added.

When it comes to tires, the Quick Lane also has 350 in stock. Ford decided to get into tires and sold three million last year, and with its low

QUICK LANE

Location: The corner of westbound Michigan Avenue and Newburgh in Wayne

Hours: 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

Details: Quick Lane Tire and Auto Center provides all the services cars or trucks needs most. The services are performed by factory-trained experts with no appointment necessary. The center services any make or model, using quality parts from trusted brands like Motorcraft and name-brand tires from Goodyear, Continental Tire, Michelin and more.

Contact: 734-641-6120 or www.demmer.com

price guarantee, it is competitive with other tire businesses.

"Our business is going up just by having tires in stock," Kemper said. "Service work starts with how good you are with tires."

Kemper is hoping that all of the work at the dealership, including the construction of the warehouse, will be completed by April. Once the weather breaks, Jack Demmer will have a grand opening.

Until then, Kemper is looking for business to continue to increase at Quick Lane.

"It's a calmer pace; vehicles flow in and flow out," he said.

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Rick Bloom

MONEY MATTERS

Take time to find qualified tax preparer

The IRS recently issued a warning to beware of dishonest and unscrupulous tax preparers. It specifically noted there has been a rise in refund fraud and identity theft by tax preparers.

Refund fraud is where some less than honorable tax preparers will have your tax refund deposited into their bank account as opposed to yours. Preparers have access to your sensitive information and can use it for identity theft.

In addition, some tax preparers commit fraud by claiming false deductions, unallowable credits or inflated personal deductions for a client.

The bottom line is that the taxpayer is responsible for his or her own tax return.

About 60 percent of Americans hire a professional to complete their tax returns. There are very few regulations that deal with tax preparers. Just about anyone and everyone can claim that they are a tax preparer. Because the consequences of filing an incorrect or fraudulent return are so significant, it is important to select the right preparer. Just because someone did your return last year doesn't automatically mean he or she should prepare it this year.

Preparing a return is more than just putting numbers on a page. It's also asking the right questions and having a basic understanding about how our tax laws work. A tax preparer should be dedicated to staying current on tax laws. Preparers that don't have a commitment to continuing education are preparers to avoid.

Another thing to look for in a tax preparer is one who is available after April 15. If the IRS contacts you, you want someone who can assist you. That doesn't necessarily mean that they have to be qualified to handle an audit, but they should be able to assist if the IRS requires additional information on a deduction or a credit that you have taken.

There are a couple of signs to know that you probably are not dealing with the right preparer. If the preparer doesn't ask you for any receipts or backup documentation, a red flag ought to go up. In addition, if your tax preparer does not sign your tax return or bases a fee on a percentage of your refund — another red flag.

If your preparer wants you to sign your return before it is completed or before you have an opportunity to review it, then you're dealing with the wrong preparer.

As taxpayers, we are responsible for our own tax returns whether we use a professional or not. Therefore, it is important to choose the right individual. Look at their credentials such as CPAs or enrolled agents and never be afraid to ask friends or other professionals you deal with for a referral.

Preparing your tax return is important and the last thing you want is to get in trouble with the IRS.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial advisor. His website is bloomassetmanagement.com. If you would like him to respond to your questions, email rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Courage is another secret ingredient for success

I came across an interesting article by Camille Sweeney and Josh Gosfield, authors of *The Art of Doing: How Superachievers Do What They Do and How They Do It So Well*. The article addresses the question, "What does self-awareness have to do with success?"

The answer they discovered from studying and interviewing super-successful people is that self-awareness can be as important to success as talent, persistence, dedication or luck.

Look inside. "No one's idea of a good time is to take a brutal assessment of their animating assumptions and to acknowledge that those may have contributed to their failure," said Sweeney and Gosfield. "It's easy to find pat ways to explain why the world has not adequately rewarded our efforts. But what we learned from conversation with high achievers is that challenging our assumptions, objectives, at times even our goals, may sometimes push us further than we thought possible."

It takes courage to challenge our own beliefs, and courage is another secret ingredient for success.

Be brave — and have a sunny day!

Clarity P.S. "Mistakes are always forgivable, if one has the courage to admit them."

Bruce Lee P.P.S. You can read more Sunny Notes at www.SunnyNotes.com



Clarity Patton Newhouse

A SUNNY NOTE

"But what we learned from conversation with high achievers is that challenging our assumptions, objectives, at times even our goals, may sometimes push us further than we thought possible."

The Art of Doing: How Superachievers Do What They Do and How They Do It So Well

and new readers can subscribe at www.JoinSunnyNotes.com. I appreciate your feedback and I hope Sunny Notes brighten your day.

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

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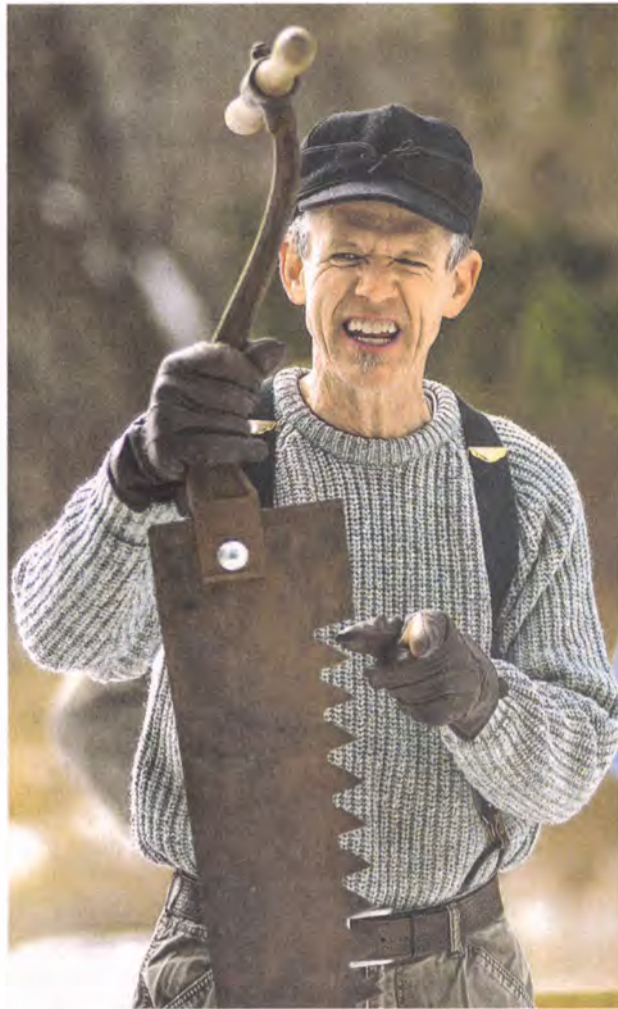
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HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Four-year-old Ethan Anderson of Brighton gets some help from his dad, Pete Anderson, as he pushes a large block of ice with a pike during Saturday's ice harvesting demonstration at Kensington Metropark's Farm Center.



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Farm Center Interpreter Chris Williams shows off a large ice saw during Saturday's ice harvesting demonstration at Kensington Metropark.



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

White Lake resident Sean Montaglione, 10, and Gabriel Puckett, 11, try their hand at ice harvesting.

Kensington ice harvesting program offers hands-on look at local history

By Laura Colvin
Staff Writer

Fans of Disney's *Frozen* had a firsthand experience of the movie's opening scene last weekend when Kensington Farm Center presented its annual Ice Harvesting program.

Those who have never seen the wildly popular animated film were welcome, too, of course, as Farm Center staff talked to visitors about ice harvesting: why were blocks of ice once cut from a frozen body of water — the Huron River, in this case — and how?

The event also offered participants a chance to do some ice harvesting of their own.

Some 100 people turned out Saturday afternoon, and another or so 20 braved the oncoming blizzard Sunday for a look in the past.

"Ice harvesting used to be big business here locally," said Kensington Farm Center Interpreter Chris Williams, who headed up the weekend events. "We had a commercial ice house just a few miles from (the Farm Center) and another in downtown Brighton."

Before introduction of refrigerators and freezers, he added, the ice harvesting business was listed as one of the "top 10

money makers" in the U.S., but became obsolete by about 1950.

Still, once every year, in late January or early February, Williams lays a grid of 2-by-2-foot squares on the frozen river to show visitors how it was done, using 5-foot-long ice saws, ice tongs and pike poles to demonstrate cutting the ice, popping out the blocks, ferrying each to the edge of the water and out of the water.

After the demonstration, visitors were invited to try for themselves.

"Those 2-by-2 blocks weight about 200 pounds apiece," said Williams, noting, ideally, ice was harvested once it was frozen to a thickness of about 12 inches. "Sometimes we've got 3- and 4-year-olds who want to try, so we'll cut it down to smaller sizes for the kids."

Williams, who boasts his own set of ice harvesting tools that were collected over the years at antique shops, estimates he's been demonstrating ice harvesting at the Farm Center for about 18 years now.

"I get a lot of personal enjoyment out of it," he said.

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HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Participants check out the ice harvesting process.

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Reservations please call Sales Office 734-953-9724
Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm
Reservation deadline February 11, 2015

OUR VIEW

Teamwork required to recover after snowstorm

So does it surprise anyone that the day after Mother Nature dumped 16 inches of snow on us, her champion season prognosticator, Punxsutawney Phil, saw his shadow, predicting six more weeks of winter?

You could say that's heaping insult onto injury, but let's face it, we're halfway through the winter season in Michigan.

Winter in the Great Lakes state is always an adventure. A few years ago, spring arrived in February; last year, we got up close and personal with polar vortexes and 94.9 inches of snow, topping the previous record of 93.6 inches set in 1880-81.

And this weekend's snowstorm – unofficially named Linus, although no one bothered to tell us that so we could be more polite in talking about it – is the third heaviest snowstorm on record in Detroit. The 16.7 inches that fell at Detroit Metropolitan Airport as of early Monday morning was topped only by 24.5 inches April 6, 1886, and 19.3 inches Dec. 1-2, 1974.

Mark Twain noted that "Climate is what we expect, weather is what we get." In Michigan, we know winter will be cold and snowy, some years more than others. We have no control over what the weather brings us, just over how we respond to it. With Linus, there were no surprises. Thanks to technology, we knew well in advance it was coming and, by the time it got here, we knew how bad it would be.

We tip our hats to our local and county road crews that did a yeoman's job clearing the roads. While we were safe and sound inside, enjoying Super Bowl Sunday, road crews were at work. City offices and schools closed and garbage collection was canceled in some communities because of Linus, but the lights were on and everyone was home, not at public service facilities.

Theirs is not an easy job and, more times than not, road crews take the brunt of criticism when streets don't get cleared in a timely fashion. That's why we also tip our hats to residents who heeded the communities' declarations of snow emergencies and moved their vehicles off neighborhood streets so plows could get through.

Shame on you to those who didn't. Your on-street parking creates a problem for the plows and for your neighbors. And don't say you didn't know. Common sense dictates that when the snow starts falling, it's best to move vehicles off the street.

We also want to remind residents and business owners to shovel their walks. Many businesses made sure their lots were cleared for their customers Monday, but many missed the sidewalks. People who walk past their businesses were forced to walk in the street. And sidewalks in residential areas also need to be cleared for children to get to school, especially at the crosswalks. Homeowners with corner lots need to clean the walk in front of their home and on the side of their property. It's especially important along busy thoroughfares that children cross to get to school.

And don't forget the fire hydrants. They tend to get lost in a major snowstorm, buried under the fallen snow and the snow removed from roadways. When there's a fire, every second counts. Fire officials recommend clearing at least three feet in all directions so firefighters can quickly gain access to a water supply during a fire emergency. That includes making sure that each hose connection is accessible and provides unobstructed access to attach a hose to the hydrant.

Linus is long gone and, according to Phil, we have six weeks' more of winter, but consider this: We made it all the way to February before getting an appreciable amount of snow. Maybe we can make it the rest of the way to spring the same way. If not, oh well, it's Michigan.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

When the sidewalks are not clear, people risk walking in the road, like this couple on the Schoolcraft service drive, west of Newburgh.

OUR VIEWS

Go Red on Feb. 6: Make a change to fight heart disease

Wearing red in February is much more than a fashion statement. It's a symbol of awareness and a call to action to join the American Heart Association's campaign against heart disease.

On Friday, Feb. 6, celebrate National Wear Red Day® with Go Red For Women. Wear red to show your support for the fight against the No. 1 killer of women – heart disease. But don't stop there. Take the time to educate yourself, as well.

According to the American Heart Association, one in three women dies of heart disease and stroke each year. The AHA notes that 80 percent of cardiac events can be prevented with education and lifestyle changes.

Janice Cosby-Bridges of Northville is this year's Go Red chair for the Detroit-area campaign. Cosby-Bridges is the chief marketing officer for Ascension Health Michigan and passionate about this cause. She reminds everyone: "You don't need to have heart disease to support Go Red."

"I'm asking you to help me raise awareness, stop the denial, reduce our risk factors and help fund research to find a cure,"



she said. "This cause is personal to me, because it's affecting our mothers, daughters, sisters and friends."

Go Red is more than a catchy phrase, it's a reminder of how we need to fight heart disease. What does it mean to Go Red for Women? The American Heart Association says it best:

G: Get your numbers: Ask your physician to check your blood pressure and cholesterol.

O: Own Your Lifestyle: Stop smoking, lose weight, exercise and eat healthy. It's up to you. No one can do it for you.

R: Raise Your Voice: Advocate for more women-related research and education.

E: Educate Your Family: Make healthy food choices for you and your family. Teach your kids the importance of staying

active.

D: Don't Be Silent: Show your support with a donation of time and money.

Go to GoRedForWomen.org to learn about how to reduce your risk, facts about cardiovascular disease and for a list of local education and fundraising events planned this month in the metro area.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile Road, Livonia, is hosting two events this month to help women prevent heart disease.

» Ladies Night Out, from 5:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, will include health screenings, massage, prizes, vendors and a presentation by Dr. Satish Madiraju, vascular medicine and endovascular medicine. The event takes place in the South Auditorium.

» Dr. Syamasundera Zampini will discuss preventing heart disease from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, in the North Auditorium at St. Mary Mercy.

Celebrate National Wear Red Day® with Go Red For Women by making a change. It could save your life.

LETTERS

In appreciation

The Civitan Club of Westland is joining Civitan clubs in the national Clergy Appreciation Week event by showing appreciation to the clergy of all faiths in their community.

We will take this opportunity to reflect on the dedication and commitment of the four chaplains on the USS Dorchester, sailing the rough North Atlantic on Feb. 3, 1943, during World War II. They unselfishly gave away their own means of saving themselves in order to save others as the ship was sinking. The four men of God (one Catholic, one Jewish and two Protestant) prayed and sang and died with 675 servicemen that day.

Clergy Appreciation Week

SEND US YOUR VIEWS

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

Web: www.hometownlife.com

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Wayne-Westland and Garden City Observer Newspapers, 29725 Hudson Dr., Novi, MI 48377-1736

Email: smason@hometownlife.com

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

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

aims to promote world brotherhood and religious understanding among all people, regardless of religious persuasion. The Civitan Club of Westland is proud and honored to send appreciation and thanks to all the

clergy and servicemen of Wayne County.

Find out more about Civitan and its commitment to community service, go to www.civitan.org or call Pat Quinn at 734-729-1993. Westland Civitan Club

GUEST COLUMN

Empower leaders at city level for real change

If our leaders on the federal and state level truly want American prosperity through jobs, education and other opportunities, they must empower leaders on the local level.

Innovation comes from cities. Problems are solved at the city level. Cities are where people live, work and play. We need our President, our Governor and our leaders at the State and Federal level to empower municipalities to move our cities forward.

Income inequality is eroding the middle class, making it more challenging for hardworking taxpayers to support a family, own a home or get an education.

As mayors, we see this struggle every day in our own communities.

This past month, as I watched both the State of the Union and the State of the State address and also attended the annual U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C., it became more clear to me that true change will happen when leaders at the local level are given the tools and resources from the federal and state level to solve problems that have landed on the doorstep of our nation's mayors.

Mayors are no longer just about making sure the trash is picked up and roads are salted. Mayors are grappling with the big picture challenges. In a U.S. Conference of Mayors/Zogby poll, nearly half of the American public believes their city is on the right track, compared to only 29 percent who think the nation is and while the American trust in elected leaders has declined, mayors rank higher among the public than the President, their governor, Congress and their state legislature.

Open source leaders

Mayors across the state are demonstrating open source leadership on a daily basis, which means they are pragmatic problem solvers who get things done. Citizens are now looking to their mayors for help and trust that we will solve a greater multitude of problems.



William Wild
GUEST COLUMNIST

I agree with the President that we need to do more to provide a higher education at a reasonable cost. His idea of offering community college tuition free is an intriguing concept that is worth exploring. However, how we will pay for this is still unclear.

I watched both the State of the Union and the State of the State address, anticipating hearing the real solutions to the real problems that we face at the city level.

What I heard were big plans with little detail.

As he starts his second term in office, Gov. Rick Snyder offered an assurance that the state balances its budget and does not live in debt. We have done just that in Westland, as Wayne County's only community with a 3-year balanced budget and I commend all elected leaders who are working to reverse years of out-of-control government spending. It is our responsibility as public servants to be fiscally sound and find ways to cut costs and not leave the next generation with a deficit while continuing to deliver clean, safe neighborhoods.

What the Governor did not say, and what I was waiting to hear him say, is how he plans to work with state legislators to fix the broken municipal funding problem. This is an outdated model that relies heavily on property tax revenue. Since 2007, most cities in Michigan have lost 40-60 percent of their taxable value. While a handful of cities, like Westland, are starting to see property values rise, it will take most cities 20-30 years to recover lost taxable value with the restraints of proposal A, a law that limits taxable value from rising more than 5 percent or at the rate of inflation, whichever is lower.

During his address, Gov. Snyder offered a plan to institute an early warning system for municipalities with the intent to move away from emergency finance managers when possible. The Governor suggested that a scorecard would be created for all local and state jurisdictions and would include financial performance. While I applaud the Governor's proposal as a recognition that a problem exists, it's a drop in the bucket given the emerging problem, and it does not address the issues that lead to cities becoming distressed.

Know problems

We know what the problems are and the shortfalls we are facing. What we don't know is how the Governor plans on solving this problem or if it is a priority of the legislature. Every city, township and county has lost revenue due to the decline in property taxes.

In Westland, we worked with our city council and unions to identify, restructure and eliminate the crisis on our own. We need the state to become an active partner in solving the bigger and long-term problems. Strong cities will help stabilize the state's population loss.

Cities look to the state for leadership that will enable us to operate more efficiently, and over the last few years we have been forced to do more with less as municipal funding declines. We need resources to come to cities directly and to be given to us with autonomy, so we have the flexibility to prioritize.

Our disintegrating infrastructure has no doubt become a priority in the state. As the Governor looks for solutions to the crumbling bridges and widening potholes, he needs to pay the same close attention to solving the funding shortfall at the city level.

If we want real change grounded in sound economics and solid plans, then city leaders need to be empowered.

William Wild is the Mayor of Westland.

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OBSERVERLAND WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

PATRIOTS REIGN



Livonia Franklin sophomore Nathan Atienza controlled the 140-pound championship match against Belleville's Brandon Bellant from the outset before registering a 15-0 technical-fall victory.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wild game dinner

The Garden City football program will host its annual "Wild Game Dinner" fundraiser on Saturday, March 14, at the Moose Lodge (upstairs), which is located at 29137 Ford Rd. in Garden City. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

A raffle will be held that will offer certificates for the following items: a Weatherby Vanguard 7-millimeter bolt action rifle (\$10 per ticket), a Remington 870 12-gauge tactical shotgun (\$7 per ticket), a Smith and Wesson MMP 9C (9-millimeter) pistol (\$10 per ticket) and several more items.

Only 100 tickets will be sold per item and winners do not have to be present. All certificates will be redeemable at the Firing Line Gun Shop in Westland.

To order tickets, send an e-mail to Garden City head football coach Scott Murray at murray@gardencityschools.com.

Churchill Hall of Fame

The Churchill Athletic Patrons and the Livonia Churchill Athletics Department will hold their 13th annual Hall of Fame Induction Dinner on Thursday, March 19, at 6 p.m. at the Italian-American Hall, which is located at 39200 Five Mile Rd. in Livonia.

This year's inductees include varsity volleyball coach Mark Grenier, athlete and coach Mike "Stick" Keller, and the Chargers' 2006-07 regional champion hockey team, which was coached by Pete Mazzoni.

Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available at 6 p.m. Introductions and a welcome statement begin at 6:30 p.m. before dinner is served at 6:45 p.m.

The official induction ceremony will take place from 7:30-9 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 each if purchased before March 1 and \$40 after that date. Tickets may be purchased in the Churchill High School athletic office.

For more information, contact Sandy Sherada at thesheredas@yahoo.com.

RU swimming

Despite fielding a roster that ran just seven athletes deep, Redford Union's boys swimming and diving team pushed Garden City to the limit last week before ultimately dropping a 93-66 decision.

Leading the Panthers' gutsy performance was freestyler Ray Samuel, who won the 200- and 500-yard events. RU back-stroker Mac Keyandwy also placed first with a personal-best time.

"Our swimmers have improved tremendously and I hope their enthusiasm attracts more young men to the program," said RU head coach Stuart Mair.

Team-wide effort powers Franklin to coveted mat crown

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Livonia Franklin wrestlers Nick Robertson and Nathan Atienza were golden Saturday, but the rest of the Patriots were money, which was the primary reason the Patriots cashed in on their first Observerland title since 2012.

All 13 Patriots scored and 11 placed as Franklin piled up 198 points to out-distance runner-up Westland John Glenn by 17.

Detroit Catholic Central placed third with 171 points, just ahead of fourth-place host Livonia Churchill (153) and fifth-place Belleville (151.5).

"This is nice because we really hadn't won anything of significance all year," said Franklin head coach Dave Chiola. "We lost the [KLAA South] division to John Glenn and we lost the city meet to Churchill. We told the kids it was going to take a team effort, and everybody did their part."

Robertson rallied from an early 4-0 deficit to upend Farmington's Jesse Jones, 10-5, in a one-minute overtime.

"When I was down 4-0, I just tried to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Displaying the poise of a senior, Westland John Glenn freshman Mike Mars won the 103-pound title.

stay relaxed and know that if I hung in there I could get back into a comfort zone," Robertson said. "Nick's been one of our best wrestlers all year," said Chiola. "He was wrestling at

a competitive weight today. When he was down 4-0, he really showed his heart." Atienza, a sophomore who won an Ob-

See OBSERVERLAND, Page B3

MICHIGAN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Striking moment: Sill set for induction

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Much like the smooth, left hand-angled break on one of her pocket-pounding, pins-scattering lane deliveries, the timing of Livonia resident Aleta Sill's induction next week into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame couldn't have been more perfect.

"There have been people affiliated with our state's USBC (United States Bowling Congress) who have been trying for years to get me inducted, but if I had been inducted any earlier, I wouldn't be going in with the amazing people I am," said Sill, one of the most successful athletes ever to compete on the Ladies Professional Bowlers Tour. "I mean, Tom Izzo! Derek Jeter! It doesn't get much better than that."

Sill, Izzo, Jeter, Detroit Red Wings great Sergei Fedorov, former University of Michigan standout and Baseball Hall of Famer Barry Larkin, retired Detroit Lions defensive tackle Doug English and Olympic swimmer, pentathlete and Livonia native Sheila Taormina will be inducted on Thursday, Feb. 12, in a ceremony held at Sound Board, which is located in De-



Livonia resident Aleta Sill is pictured with fellow Michigan Sports Hall of Fame inductee Tom Izzo during a November press conference.

troit's Motor City Casino.

Westland native Mike Modano was scheduled to be inducted next week, however, a scheduling conflict that prevents him from attending next week's ceremony will push back the hockey superstar's induction to 2016.

In many ways, Sill was the Jeter of the LPBT during a career that spanned from 1980 to 2001 - classy, highly-respected and incredibly productive.

Currently the co-owner with Michelle Mullen of Farmington Hills-based Aleta Sill's Bowling World, Sill won 28 professional

See HALL OF FAME, Page B2

PREP BOWLING

Rocket girls earn Wayne County Invitational title

By Ed Wright
Staff Writer

Judging by their performance at Saturday's Wayne County High School Tournament, members of the Westland John Glenn girls bowling team haven't let their No. 1 state ranking go to their heads.

The Rockets, who have earned Division 1 top spot in the most recent poll released by the Michigan High School Interscholastic Bowling Coaches Association, captured the 22-team event by outstriking Woodhaven, 372-347, in the two-game Baker Game-formatted final.

The Baker format requires that each team use five bowlers, each of whom bowl two frames per game.

"We were trailing going into the eighth frame of the first Baker game against Woodhaven, but Emily Dietz and Olivia Cabildo threw strikes and Julia Huren struck twice with a nine count in the 10th to give us a two-pin lead heading into the final game," said John Glenn head coach Ralph Cabildo. "It was close again in the

second game when the same three girls went strike, strike, spare to help close it out.

"The girls are happy to be ranked No. 1, but they know that the only ranking that truly matters is the one that comes out after the state tournament."

The Rockets were also bolstered by strong showings from Ashley Kolb and Jessica Pate.

Each of the 22 teams at Saturday's tournament bowled three regular games and two Baker games, vying for one of the 16 spots available in the ensuing seeded bracket competition.

The Rockets earned the No. 1 seed with a preliminary-round pin count of 3,703. Woodhaven earned the second seed after toppling 3,341 pins in the qualifying portion of the tourney, while Taylor Kennedy was No. 3 after totaling 3,333 pins.

Wayne Memorial entered the bracket round with a No. 6 seed after racking up a score of 3,235.

The Rockets dispatched

See BOWLING, Page B2



John Glenn's Ashley Kolb placed third in Sunday's Cavalier Individual Tournament.

Madonna women cagers crushed by Davenport

By Brad Emons
Staff Writer

Big stage, big game, big letdown.

That was the only way to put it Saturday afternoon for the host 23rd-ranked Madonna University women's basketball team, which was taken to school once again by Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference leader Davenport University.

The NAIA's No. 2-ranked team from Grand Rapids brought their own snowstorm into town a little ahead of schedule with a resounding 78-51 victory.

And not much has changed since the Nov. 22 meeting when Davenport beat the visiting

Crusaders 73-55.

The unbeaten Panthers, who improved to 22-0 overall and 16-0 in the WHAC, put the game away by half-time building a 36-21 advantage despite shooting only 14-of-36 from the field (38.9 percent).

The game was pretty much decided during the first 20 minutes when MU went without a field goal for over nine minutes.

Davenport, sending players in waves, used all 17 on its roster with 11 scoring led by 6-foot-3 Grand Valley State transfer Daina Grazulis, who finished with 14 points.



Graves

Kayleigh VanKeulen added 13 points, while Alex Law came off the bench to contribute 10. Brittany Johnson also had nine points and a game-high nine rebounds.

And speaking of rebounding, Davenport had double the total of Madonna's with a commanding 54-27 advantage.

"I was a little disappointed in our effort to be honest with you," said MU coach Carl Graves, whose team slipped to 14-8 overall and 13-3 in the WHAC. "I thought we were really excited and had a couple of really good practices in preparation for this game and it kind of sucked of the life out of us to see them hit a few shots. So I was a little disappointed that kind of folded up that

way."

MU was unable to solve Davenport's dragnet zone defense, which frustrated MU's leader scorer Michele Hayes, a junior guard who came into the game averaging 20.6 points per game.

Hayes, the Oakland University transfer from Inkster, shot 6-of-20 from the field and finished with 16 points.

"We weren't anticipating they'd do a lot of zone stuff, but we've seen that from them before," said Graves, whose team trailed by as many as 32 points in the second half. "But we did an awful job on the boards and they were able to get second, third, fourth and fifth opportunities to score. And you can't give a team that

talented opportunities to score like that at the basket. It's hard to keep up."

Senior forward Rachel Melcher tallied a game-high 17 points to go along with eight rebounds, while freshman Lindsey Hernden, who got off to a hot start, finished with 11 as MU led 9-3 in the early going.

"We had a great start and defensively did a great job," Graves said, "but they started rebounding the ball really well on the offensive end and ended up with 20. You can't win like that."

The loss puts the Crusaders in a second place tie in the WHAC with 20th-ranked Siena Heights (18-5, 12-3). The two teams met Wednesday night at MU.

HALL OF FAME

Continued from Page B1

titles – and was named the tour's "Bowler of the Year" in 1984 and 1985 – while earning over \$1 million in prize money in a sport that was not known for its lucrative pay days.

There is no detailed secret to her success, Sill revealed.

"I loved bowling and I practiced a lot; that was about it," she said. "Growing up [in Dearborn Heights], I played a little softball and played some musical instruments, but the thing I always enjoyed doing most was bowling. I guess you could say it was in my blood from an early age when my grandparents started taking me when I was 5.

"Bowling wasn't real cool back then. There wasn't high school bowling or collegiate bowling like there is now. If anyone knew you bowled, they probably thought you were a nerd."

Watching Sill mow down pins as a talented teenager would have proven to anyone that Sill was anything but a nerd. She was so good as a 15-year-old that she competed in adult leagues "after having my parents sign a parental consent form," she added, smiling.

Just weeks after graduating from Dearborn Heights Crest-



Aleta Sill earned over \$1 million during her two decades as a member of the various women's professional bowling tours.

wood, the 18-year-old bowling phenom joined the women's professional tour and struck early and often – although it wasn't a gold strike in savings account.

"When I first started bowling professionally, there wasn't a lot of media coverage and there wasn't a big sponsor, so if you won a tournament, you'd win like \$3,000," she said. "I won \$40,000 for the last major I won."

"It wasn't a lot of money, but I only bowled half the year and I never struggled [financially]. I was always comfortable. And I was doing what I

loved, so how can you beat that?"

While her approach and release were consistently sterling, Sill said she wouldn't have reached the level she did without a strong mindset.

"I don't know how it came about, but I've always been pretty mentally strong," she said. "When I was in a big match, I'd be a little nervous the first shot or two, but then it would just be me and the pins."

Sill's career was slowed – and ultimately curtailed – by a relentless bout of tendonitis, which she initially suffered from in her early 20s.

"While I released a ball during a tournament in 1981, it felt like a tendon snapped in my wrist," she remembered. "It actually didn't snap, but I strained it due to the stress created by a poorly-fitted ball."

Due in part to her own painful injury, Sill stresses proper ball fit to the many students of bowling – from ages 5 to 85 – she mentors at Country Lanes (where her business is located) and at the many bowling centers she travels to for on-site coaching.

"When I started out, injuries like mine were an occupational hazard, but with proper ball fitting, they don't have to be now," she said. "We videotape the bowlers we're coaching and we're always looking for little things that could cause

stress or injury."

An important lesson Sill has learned during her stellar coaching career is that no two bowlers are alike.

"Bowling styles are so vastly different; everybody's ball rolls differently down the lane," she said. "We don't use a cookie-cutter approach when we coach. Yes, there are some principles and timing everybody has to follow, but we start with each bowler's individual assets and go from there."

Along with helping young and old bowlers achieve their goals, Sill is passionate about Bowl 4 Animal Rescue, a three-month, pledge-driven fundraiser that helps support homeless animals in suburban Detroit.

The culmination of the 10th annual event will unfold Aug. 8 with a large bowling event at Country Lanes. The charity has raised \$195,000 during its first nine years.

"The homeless animal problem in Michigan continues to be an epidemic, and we want to continue to do everything we can to alleviate the problem," said Sill. "We want to spread the word to adopt, not shop, as there are a lot of animals who need to be rescued, even in purebred shelters."

Tickets for the induction ceremony can be purchased at michigansportsHOF.org or by calling 248-473-0656.

ewright@hometownlife.com

BOWLING

Continued from Page B1

16th-seeded Dearborn, 315-234, in a first-round match before rolling over Livonia Clarenceville, 362-244, in round two.

John Glenn then took care of New Boston Huron, 378-277, in a semifinal encounter before out-dueling Woodhaven in the final.

The Rockets finished second in last year's Division 2 state tournament behind Davison, which is currently ranked No. 2 by the MHSIBCA.

The tournament was hosted by Cherry Hill Lanes in Dearborn Heights.

Following Saturday's tournament, the Rockets' record was 11-0 overall and 7-0 in the KLAA Central Division. The team set a state record for a two-game total with a mark of 2,252.

Kolb shines in singles action

On Sunday, John Glenn's Ashley Kolb placed third out of 90 bowlers in the Singles Cavalier Invitational. Kolb averaged 202 over four games to earn a spot on the all-tournament team.

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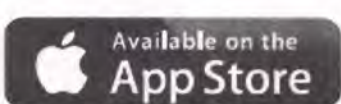
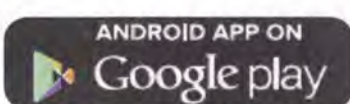
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Ocelots move to No. 3 in national rankings

Men cagers bounce back in second half to defeat Macomb, 80-64

By **Tim Smith**
Staff Writer

After a sluggish first half, Schoolcraft College men's basketball coach Abe Mashhour made a simple request of his team.

Start defending better and making something happen on offense. The Ocelots, who trailed 36-31 at halftime against visiting Macomb Community College, roared back for a 80-64 victory.

As of Tuesday, Schoolcraft (19-3 overall, 8-1 in the Michi-

gan Community College Athletic Association), moved up in the national rankings to No. 3 from No. 6.

"I asked them very nicely to start playing better defense and they did," Mashhour said. "Like I said, we switched to zone and I think that threw Macomb off a little bit."

"We did a better job of contesting shots, and we did a better job of limiting them to one shot on the defensive end."

The offense turned up the juice, too. After Schoolcraft shooters managed to hit just 12 of 30 attempts from the floor (40 percent), they canned just under 60 percent (16-27) after intermission.

"Offensively, we did a better job of attacking the basket," Mashhour said. "In the first half they only had four or

five fouls, and in the second half they had 11 or 12."

"We're a very good shooting team, but we rely on the three sometimes too much."

Providing energy

Guard Lito Booth had the hottest hand, hitting all but two of 11 field-goal tries and scoring 27 points.

Also in double figures was recent roster addition Javan Thomas, who tallied 14 points and nine rebounds as he continues to spark the Ocelots.

"Javan's been great for us," Mashhour said. "His energy is unmatched, really."

Contributing eight points each were Marcus Williams and Ja'Christian Biles, with Westland John Glenn product Dre Black adding seven.

Brandon Hicks led the Mon-

archs (10-10, 4-5) with 13 points and Chris Dorsey added 11.

Meanwhile, Mashhour added that although it is nice to be near the top of the National Junior College Athletic Association rankings, such accolades are a "byproduct" of doing the right things on the court.

"I'm very big on telling them, focus on playing better," the first-year Schoolcraft coach emphasized. "The wins will take care of themselves, the rankings will take care of themselves."

"The guys, obviously with social media, they're aware of what they're ranked. If it means something to them, makes them play harder, ... than that's great. I have no problem with it at all."

The Ocelots will visit Alpena at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Schoolcraft women win: Also on Saturday, the Schoolcraft women's basketball team earned a 51-48 win over Macomb.

The Lady Ocelots followed the same script the men cagers would follow later in the afternoon, trailing 27-21 at halftime.

A 30-21 second half enabled Schoolcraft to rally and improve to 14-7 overall and 6-3 in the MCCA.

T'era Nesbitt (21 points) and Wayne Memorial product Ashley Bland (15 points) spearheaded Schoolcraft's attack. Helping the cause with eight points was Elise Tolbert (Birmingham Seaholm) while Chelsey Wesley contributed five.

Registering 14 points each for Macomb (15-6, 6-4) were Natalie Nowak and Sydney Morgan.

Time running out with each loss for Plymouth Whalers

Tough loss to Windsor keeps Plymouth 11 points back of final playoff spot

By **Tim Smith**
Staff Writer

No longer are the Plymouth Whalers a team that controls its own destiny.

In order for the Whalers to extend their Ontario Hockey League-record playoff streak to 24 years, they'll need to pile up victories — and do a lot of scoreboard watching.

That's why Saturday's 3-2 shootout loss to Windsor before 2,506 fans at Compuware Arena was frustrating to players and coaches alike.

After both teams exchanged five dangerous shots during the five-minute overtime, Lucas Venuto scored the lone goal of the shootout to win the game for Windsor.

Scoring for the Whalers were Connor Chatham and Will Bitten, both on the power play.

"I thought the effort was there tonight," Plymouth head coach Don Elland said. "We just had a hard time scoring five-on-five. I think in our last five games, we have eight goals and one of them is five-on-five."

"We got to start to create a little more offense. We're still having a hard time getting the puck in the net."

A big reason for that was the spectacular goalkeeping of Windsor's Brendan Johnston, the game's No. 1 star with 43 saves — including several clutch stops during overtime and the shootout.

Also stellar between the pipes was Plymouth's Alex Nedeljkovic. He stopped 33 shots and was named the night's third star.

The 10th-place Whalers (16-27-2-2, 36 points) remain 11 points behind the eighth and final playoff spot in the OHL Western Conference.

Saginaw (22-23-2-1, 47 points) lost in overtime Saturday against Belleville.

Windsor (20-25-1-1, 42 points) is in ninth place.

And with 21 games to play, chances to close the gap are dwindling.

"We just got to keep playing, right?" Elland said. "It is about the playoffs, but we got

to keep getting better individually."

"Guys are playing for a lot of things here, more ice time, draft picks, contracts. We got to keep doing the right things. The effort's there and we just got to hope that if we keep putting in the effort, eventually it will start to show."

Hard-nosed Plymouth defenseman Mitch Jones, who assisted on Bitten's go-ahead goal at 11:52 of the second (along with defenseman Mathieu Henderson) to put the Whalers up 2-1, isn't about to give up now.

"The Whalers aren't a quitting team. We're in a battle to the end," Jones said. "We still have four more games against (Saginaw) ... we're just going to keep battling."

Chatham opened the scoring at 19:34 of the first, from Bitten and newcomer Ryan Moore (Troy).

But Windsor netted the equalizer at 7:37 of the second, when Venuto scored.

After the Bitten tally, the Spitfires came back to even things up yet again when Hayden McCool beat Nedeljkovic at 19:31.

"We just got to bear down on our chances," Jones said. "We had 40 shots or something like that. When it comes down to it, you just got to finish."

The Whalers were scheduled to play Wednesday at Sudbury and Thursday at North Bay. Plymouth returns to Compuware for a contest at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, against Owen Sound.

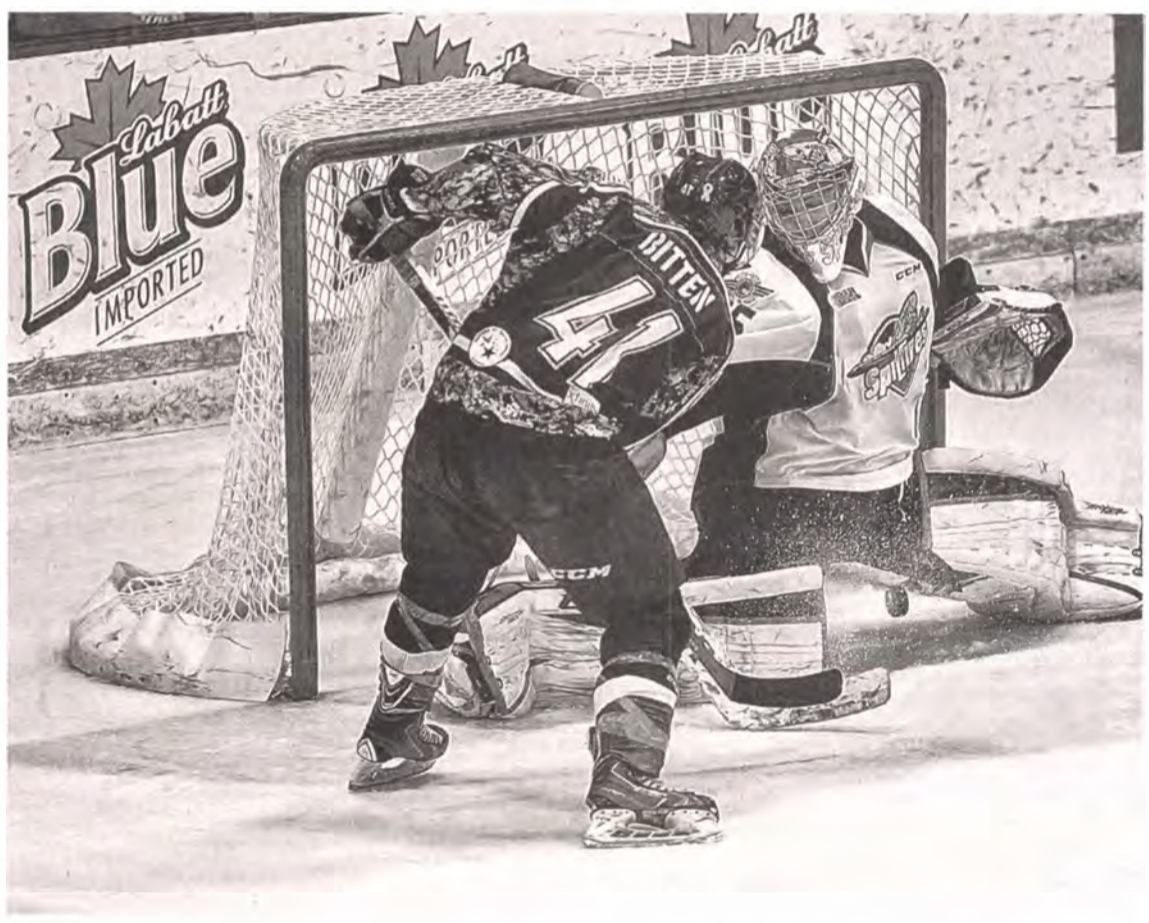
NOTE: The game was the second part of a Military Appreciation Weekend doubleheader in which the Whalers wore specially designed, camo jerseys.

The American and Canadian flags were depicted in patches worn on opposite shoulders.

Jones said he liked the design of the jersey.

About 2,700 attended Friday's 3-0 victory over Belleville.

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RENA LAVERTY | PLYMOUTH WHALERS
Plymouth Whalers forward Will Bitten scores against Windsor goaltender Brendan Johnston during Saturday's second period.

OHL board approves sale of Whalers to Flint group

The Ontario Hockey League's Board of Governors approved Monday the transfer of ownership and relocation of the Plymouth Whalers to Flint for the 2015-16 season.

Next season, the Whalers will play with a new name at Perani Arena in Flint under the ownership of Rolf Nilsen of IMS Hockey Corp.

Peter Karmanos has enjoyed 30 successful years of OHL franchise ownership — first with the Windsor Compuware Spitfires from 1984-89 and then with the Whalers (in Detroit, Auburn Hills, Oak Park and Plymouth) from 1989 to the present. The team's first season at Compuware Arena was 1997-98.

"On behalf of the Ontario Hockey League and our Board of Governors, I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by Peter Karmanos Jr., who has been a tremendous builder of our league for over 30 years and was instrumental in our first expansion to the United States," OHL Commissioner David Branch said. "We are excited to welcome Rolf Nilsen and the communities of Flint and Genesee County to the OHL family."

With the sale approved, the Whalers and their fans now begin a swan song of sorts over the next couple of months.

At the top of the list is a home schedule stacked with Western Conference rival games against Sarnia, Saginaw and Windsor — all of which are chasing a playoff position, as are the Whalers.

Plymouth currently holds the OHL league record of 23 straight postseason appearances and would like to make it 24.

Promotions abound

Current OHL stars like Connor McDavid (Erie), first-round National Hockey League draft picks Darnell Nurse (Edmonton) and Michael Dal Colle (N.Y. Islanders) will be visiting Compuware Arena over the rest of the season.

Great promotions are already planned for "The Final Countdown" of home games including Whalers fan-favorites such as the following:

- » Feb. 7: Trading Card & Autograph Night
- » Feb. 20: Mascot Madness
- » Feb. 21: Star Wars Night
- » Feb. 28: Pucks & Paws Night to benefit the Michigan Humane Society

Tickets are available through the team website or by calling the box office at 734-453-8400.

SCHOOLCRAFT BOWLING PREVIEW

THEY'RE READY TO ROLL

Schoolcraft men's and women's teams feature several bowlers with area ties

By **Tim Smith**
Staff Writer

There's a new coach in charge of Schoolcraft College's bowling program and he is steadfast about continuing the positive momentum started under its founder.

Patrick Yelsik is taking over at the helm from program originator Greg Colling and he is understandably pumped up for the 2015 season, the first in which the Michigan Community College Athletic Association will sponsor a conference schedule for men's and women's bowling in 34 years.

"Sid Fox (Schoolcraft AD) and Greg Colling worked so diligently on getting the bowling program off the ground here and building it up to what it is today," said Yelsik, who also works in the Schoolcraft athletic department. "I want to

take the ball from them and run with it and spearhead the charge in writing the program's next chapter and lead it to new-found heights."

Yelsik noted that a number of people he talks to have "no idea that Schoolcraft had an actual bowling team."

With a nucleus of men and women from Observerland-area high schools, perhaps that perception will begin to change.

The formation of the MCCA bowling conference will help make that happen.

Schoolcraft's men and women bowlers competed in previous seasons as part of National Junior College Athletic Association independent teams.

"With us being part of a conference this year," Yelsik said, "it gives us something tangible to strive for and we have our sights firmly set on

winning it and securing a berth in the (NJCAA) national tournament."

"We are focused on performing to the best of our ability each and every time out and, if we do that, the results will take care of themselves from there."

Blend of talent

Leading the men's squad will be returnees Kaylup Richards and Ricky Rutenbar, both members of Livonia Clarenceville's 2013 Division 3 state championship team.

Also back is Northville alum Colton Ma-Wu.

The Ocelots' roster includes Sam (returning after a two-year hiatus) and Ben Berger, who both were home-schooled.

"Ben Berger is shaping up as a real leader, both on and off the lanes," Yelsik said. "We are expecting big things from the

other three returnees as well."

The coach is enthusiastically waiting to see how several talented newcomers mesh with the returnees.

Annapolis grad Leon Hutchcraft is fresh off a Junior Gold Tournament spot, which Yelsik said could lead to an invite to Junior Team USA.

Other rookies include Ben Jakes (Dearborn Divine Child) and Josh Coffee (New Boston Huron).

"I will be very surprised if there is a men's team deeper than ours in the conference," he said. "We could very easily have a different (top-scoring) person at every tournament."

Women's preview

On the women's side, the Lady Ocelots will feature returning NJCAA All-American Angela Rodriguez, who placed eighth in the 2014 women's tourney with an average of 180.

Westland John Glenn product Yvette Ayers, a sophomore, returns to the fold.

Joining them will be newcomers Ella Kearney (Far-

ington), Ameera Sirhan (Canton), Bethany McCormick (Huron Valley Lutheran) and Bianca Greco (Lakeland).

"Obviously, Rodriguez will be the anchor on this side, followed by Kearney, easily one of the hardest workers on the team," Yelsik said. "We will also look to Ayers for leadership and Sirhan could be a real wild card."

Both the Schoolcraft men's and women's teams began the season last Friday at the Muskegon Community College Invitational and will host an invite at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 13, at Merri-Bowl in Livonia.

At the Muskegon tourney, the Schoolcraft men finished second to Aquinas, falling short by 97 pins (7,032-6,935). Individually, Richards and Rutenbar were eighth and ninth with scores of 812 and 798, respectively.

For the Lady Ocelots (fifth in the team standings), Rodriguez tallied 765 to take third overall. In eighth was Kearney, with a 727 total.



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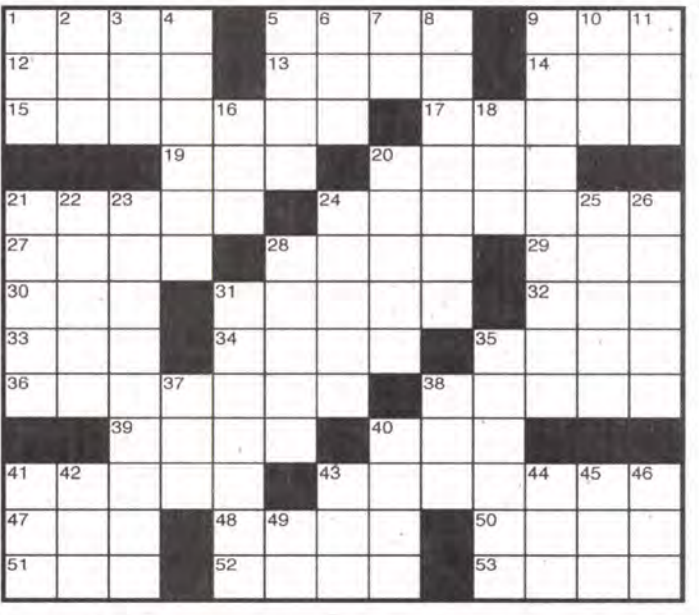
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MAKE MEALS THAT REDUCE RISK OF HEART ATTACK, STROKE



CHICKEN POT PIE

Serves 8

Note: This filling for the pie can be made a day or so in advance. Feel free to put an egg wash (one egg whisked with a tablespoon of water) on the finished pastry before baking if you prefer a sheen on your crust. This version of pot-pie is loaded with vegetables, gets rid of the cream or milk usually called for in other recipes, and the crust is trans-fat-free.

For the chicken:

2 tablespoons olive oil
6 cloves crushed garlic
1 tablespoon picked thyme leaves or 1 teaspoon dried
1 tablespoon chopped fresh oregano or 1 teaspoon dried
1 tablespoon chopped fresh tarragon or 1 teaspoon dried
1 bay leaf
1 teaspoon turmeric
2 teaspoons salt-free all-purpose seasoning
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
½ teaspoon salt
2 cups frozen pearl onions, thawed
1 cup carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
1 cup celery, cut into 1-inch pieces
1 cup shiitake mushrooms, sliced ½-inch thick
1 cup crimini or button mushrooms, quartered
4 tablespoons flour
¼ cup Pernod (optional)
3 cups low-sodium chicken stock
1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast, cut into 2-inch cubes
1 cup frozen sweet peas, thawed
½ cup chopped parsley
For the crust:
1 and ½ cups flour
½ teaspoon salt (optional)
½ cup trans fat free margarine spread
3 tablespoons ice water

Prepare the chicken. In a large sauté pan over medium-high heat, heat the olive oil until hot. Stir in the garlic, thyme, oregano, tarragon, bay leaf, turmeric, salt-free all-purpose seasoning, pepper, salt and sauté for one minute. Add the onions, carrots, celery, and mushrooms and sauté for two minutes. Stir in the flour and coat the vegetables well. Add the Pernod, if using, and chicken stock and stir to blend well. Allow the mixture to come to a simmer. Stir in the chicken and simmer for five minutes. Stir in the peas and parsley. Remove from heat and pour the mixture into a 3-quart oval casserole. Cover loosely with foil and set aside. Preheat the oven to 375F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil and set aside. To make the crust, place the flour (and salt, if using) in a medium-sized bowl and add the margarine spread, cut into 1-inch pieces. Cut the margarine spread into the flour with a fork or pastry cutter (this can all be done in a food processor) until crumbly. Avoid over-working the dough. Add the ice water and mix (pulse in a food processor) until the dough just comes together. Roll the dough between two pieces of film wrap until it matches the size of the casserole. (Hold the dish above the dough to check for correct size.) Peel off the top layer of wrap and bring the casserole next to the dough. Lift the dough by the bottom wrap and use it to help invert the crust onto the casserole. Trim the outside edges of the crust and gently press the dough so that it fits perfectly around the inside perimeter of the casserole dough. Cut eight, evenly spaced 1-inch vents in the dough as demarcations of portions and to release steam while baking. Place the casserole on the foil-lined baking sheet and bake until the crust is golden brown and the juices are bubbling, about 45 minutes. Let the casserole rest for ten minutes before serving. Serve the pie in a soup plate over a small mound of mashed potatoes.

Nutritional Analysis per serving: Calories 295; total fat 9.0 g; saturated fat 0.5 g; polyunsaturated fat 1.5 g; monounsaturated fat 5.0 g; trans fat 0.0; cholesterol 33 mg; sodium 493 mg; carbohydrates 33 g; fiber 3 g; sugars 4 g; protein 19 g.

Dietary exchanges: 2 lean meat, 1 ½ starch, 2 vegetable, ½ fat

This recipe is brought to you by the American Heart Association's Face The Fats program. Recipe copyright © 2007 by the American Heart Association. Look for other delicious recipes in American Heart Association cookbooks, available from booksellers everywhere.

Don a red apron and cook your way to a healthier heart.

The American Heart Association's Go Red For Women campaign kicks off Friday, Feb. 6, with National Wear Red Day. The Association, which also celebrates American Heart Month in February, encourages everyone to wear red to help raise awareness of women and heart disease. According to the organization, one in three women die of heart disease and stroke, although 80 percent of cardiac and stroke events can be prevented by making lifestyle changes.

Women can reduce their risk of heart disease and stroke by reducing blood sugar and stress, managing their weight, engaging in physical activities and exercise, avoiding tobacco smoke, knowing which fats raise cholesterol and which don't, and cooking heart-healthy meals.

These recipes from the American Heart Association will get you on the road to healthier eating. Find more recipes, information on portion control

and a printable daily food diary from GoRedForWomen.org.

If you're looking for an activity to help exercise away a few calories, try these Go Red For Women events:

» Take a free Zumba class, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Arab American National Museum, 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn.

» Take free classes on Feb. 13 at Pure Ryde+Pilates, 7001 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 432, West Bloomfield. Try a Floor Core & More class at 7 a.m.; PureRyde+Pilates at 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.; Barre Intensity at 9:30 a.m.; Pure Beginner Reformer at 9:30 a.m.; or Barre Intensity Express at 11:30 a.m. Sign up at 248-862-2200.

» Learn several varieties of group dances, such as the hustle, and dance the night away at "2015 Hustle Your Heart Out, 7-11:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at the student center at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti. For more information call Ebony L. Walls at 734-487-4708; ewalls@emich.edu.

—By Sharon Dargay



COOL CUCUMBER DIP

Serves 8; 2 tablespoons per serving

Crushed toasted almonds provide crunch, and the just-right seasoning blend adds zing to this unusual dip. It's convenient and stress-free for parties—you can make it up to four days in advance and serve it with colorful pre-cut vegetables.

¼ cup plus 1 tablespoon sliced almonds
¼ cup fat-free sour cream
¼ medium cucumber, peeled, seeded, and coarsely chopped (about ½ cup)
2 medium green onions, cut into ½-inch pieces
2 teaspoons red wine vinegar
1 teaspoon salt-free extra-spicy seasoning blend
In a medium skillet, dry-roast the almonds over medium-heat for 3 to 4 minutes, or until golden brown, stirring occasionally. Put 1 tablespoon almonds in a small bowl. Set aside to use as a garnish.

In a food processor or blender, process the remaining almonds for 3 to 5 seconds, or until coarsely crushed (¼-inch irregular pieces). Transfer to a medium serving bowl. Process the remaining ingredients until the desired consistency, 5 to 10 seconds if you prefer a chunky texture, 15 to 20 seconds for smooth. Stir into the crushed almonds. To serve, sprinkle with the reserved almonds.

Cook's Tip: For a decorative presentation, peel a medium cucumber in lengthwise strips about ½ inch wide and ½ inch apart, leaving ½-inch strips of peel intact. Cut the cucumber crosswise into ¾-inch slices.

Using a melon baller or the tip of a small spoon, partially hollow out the slices, making little cups with enough of one end intact to hold the filling in place. Spoon the filling into the cups.

Nutritional analysis per serving: Calories 47; total fat 2.0 g; saturated fat 0.0 g; trans fat 0.0 g; polyunsaturated fat 0.5 g; monounsaturated fat 1.0 g; cholesterol 4 mg; sodium 20 mg; carbohydrates 5 g; fiber 1 g; sugars 2 g; protein 2 g

Dietary exchanges: ½ carbohydrate

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GRILLED CHICKEN WITH STRAWBERRY AND PINEAPPLE SALSA

Serves 4; 3 ounces chicken and ½ cup salsa per serving

Grilled pineapple and fresh mint and strawberries combine with tangy lemon and a bit of hot pepper flakes to make an interesting salsa for grilled chicken.

1 teaspoon canola or corn oil
Salsa:
2 slices fresh pineapple, each ½ inch thick, patted dry
1 cup whole strawberries (about 5 ounces), diced
¼ cup finely chopped red onion
3 to 4 tablespoons chopped fresh mint leaves
1 to 2 teaspoons sugar
½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
1 medium lemon
Chicken:
4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves (about 4 ounces each), all visible fat discarded
2 teaspoons salt-free steak seasoning blend
¼ teaspoon salt

Preheat the grill on medium high. Brush a grill pan or grill rack with the oil. Heat the grill pan or rack on the grill for about 2 minutes, or until hot. Grill the pineapple for 2 minutes on each side. Transfer to a cutting board and let cool slightly, about 2 minutes, before chopping.

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, stir together the remaining salsa ingredients except the lemon. Grate 1 teaspoon lemon zest, reserving the lemon. Stir the zest and chopped pineapple into the strawberry mixture. Set aside. Sprinkle both sides of the chicken with the seasoning blend and salt. Grill for 5 minutes on each side, or until no longer pink in the center. Transfer to plates. Squeeze the reserved lemon over the chicken. Serve with the salsa on the side.

Nutritional analysis per serving: Calories 191; total fat 3.0 g; saturated fat 0.5 g; trans fat 0.0 g; polyunsaturated fat 0.5 g; monounsaturated fat 1.0 g; cholesterol 66 mg; sodium 223 mg; carbohydrates 14 g; fiber 2 g; sugars 10 g; protein 27 g.

Dietary exchanges: 1 fruit, 3 very lean meat

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SWEET AND NUTTY STIR-FRY

Serves 4; 1 ½ cups per serving

When you crave takeout but don't want to load up on saturated fat and sodium, try this quick and crunchy meatless meal-in-one.

4 ounces dried multigrain vermicelli or spaghetti, broken in half
2 teaspoons curry powder
Sauce:
2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons soy sauce (lowest sodium available)
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
1 teaspoon cornstarch
¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
½ cup fresh orange juice
2 teaspoons grated orange zest
Stir fry vegetables:
1 teaspoon canola or corn oil
½ cup thinly sliced onion
2 cups bite-size broccoli florets (about 5 ounces)
1 cup thinly sliced (not shredded) red cabbage
1 cup matchstick-size carrot pieces
½ cup unsalted peanuts, dry-roasted

Prepare the pasta using the package directions, omitting the salt and oil and adding the curry powder. Drain well in a colander.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, combine the sauce ingredients except the orange zest, stirring until the cornstarch is completely dissolved. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat and boil for 1 minute. Remove from the heat. Stir in the orange zest. Set aside.

In a large nonstick skillet, heat the oil over medium-high heat, swirling to coat the bottom. Cook the onion for 1 minute. Stir in the broccoli, cabbage, and carrots. Cook for 4 minutes, or until just tender-crisp, stirring frequently. Transfer the pasta to a serving platter. Top with the broccoli mixture. Pour the sauce over all. Sprinkle with the peanuts.

Cook's Tip: Adding curry powder to the pasta water not only imparts flavor but also provides a bright yellow color.

Nutritional Analysis (per serving): Calories 305; total fat 11.5 g; saturated fat 1.5 g; trans fat 0.0 g; polyunsaturated fat 4.0 g; monounsaturated fat 5.5 g; cholesterol 0 mg; sodium 261 mg; carbohydrates 44 g; fiber 7 g; sugars 14 g; protein 12 g.

Dietary exchanges: 2 ½ starch, 1 vegetable, ½ very lean meat, 1 ½ fat

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