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Dog attack blamed on coyotes in park

BY DARRELL CLEM
 STAFF WRITER

Doreen Gregory's heart sank when she found her bloodied poodle, 6-year-old Rudy, lying in the front yard of her Westland home.

Although she didn't see her dog being attacked, she believes what she and her neighbors already feared — that coyotes roaming their property near Hines Park have become more aggressive.

Rudy survived puncture wounds to his back and his throat, but the late-March attack has rattled nerves of

residents whose property, on Cowan near Warren, borders a wooded park area.

"It could be a kid next," Gregory, 52, said.

Neighbor Donna Ladow said she has seen as many as four coyotes roaming together on her Cowan property, not far from the historic Perrinsville Schoolhouse on Warren west of Merriman.

She had a terrible scare when she took her 5-month-old shepherd mix Zoie outside her house.

"Two coyotes came toward us, but I picked up the puppy real quickly and

ran back in the house," Ladow, 59, said. "I'm not that scared of just one of them, but they can be more dangerous in a pack."

Ladow doubts that her other dog, a 115-pound, 2-year-old bull mastiff named Louie, would offer much protection.

"Louie's a real sissy dog. He's a big baby," she said.

Some Cowan residents who live near Hines Park have fences and others don't, but they said nothing seems to keep the coyotes off their property.

"They're jumping the fences.

They're getting bold," said Gregory, who has an older fence that sags in some areas. "I think they're having babies, and they're even coming out in the daytime to hunt for food."

Ladow first noticed coyotes on her property last year. She only recently started seeing them during the day, and she estimated she has seen eight coyotes during the last six weeks.

Recent coyote sightings have occurred in urban Detroit and Chicago, and a 22-month-old child was rescued by a relative during an

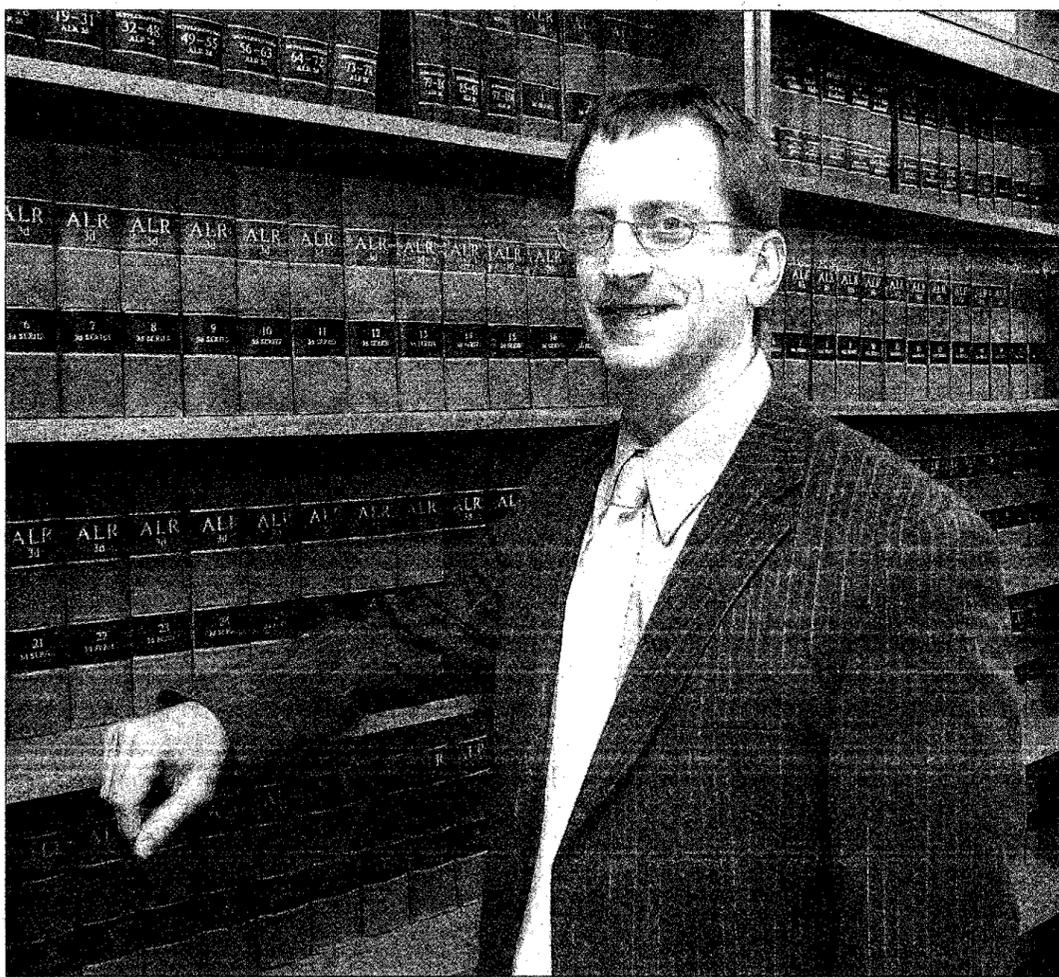


TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Doreen Gregory believes that her 6-year-old poodle, Rudy, was attacked by a coyote in her back yard, which borders Hines Park. She and others have seen coyotes on their property.

PLEASE SEE ATTACK, A6

First Citizen



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mark McConnell, assistant Westland city attorney, is the winner of the 2007 First Citizen award.

Mark McConnell has city's interests at heart

BY DARRELL CLEM
 STAFF WRITER

Westland attorney Mark McConnell credits his mother's jury duty and Paul Newman's acting as influencing his decision to become a lawyer.

McConnell was around 13 years old when Newman portrayed a down-and-out attorney

who redeems himself in *The Verdict*.

"I liked the effort he put into helping his clients," McConnell said.

He also recalls his late mother, Barbara, coming home from jury duty in Detroit.

"My mom served on a jury in federal court when I was probably in seventh or eighth

grade, and after the trial was done she told me about it, and it seemed really fascinating to me," McConnell said.

His mother took him to a federal courtroom to watch justice in action. Now, at age 38, he has earned accolades as an assistant Westland city attorney and as a community volunteer helping charitable organizations.

For his efforts, McConnell has been named Westland's 2007 First Citizen in a program sponsored by the Westland Chamber of Commerce and the *Westland Observer*.

He will be honored at 6 p.m. Friday during a dinner and ceremony with a

PLEASE SEE MCCONNELL, A4

Woman gets 90 days for taking charity money

BY DARRELL CLEM
 STAFF WRITER

An Inkster woman was slapped with a 90-day jail term Wednesday for stealing an American Cancer Society fund-raising canister from — of all places — the front desk of the Westland Police Department.

Judith Wynn, 44, was jailed by Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor larceny charge.

Wynn was arrested Tuesday for an incident that happened in March, when she and another woman went to the police department to inquire about an inmate, authorities said.

Wynn took the canister, which contained about \$11, while no one was watching. The container had been placed on the front desk by a police officer whose wife had died of

cancer.

According to police reports, Wynn took the canister from the front desk, put it to her side and slipped into a women's restroom. She then left the police station with the container hidden.

The officer who had placed the canister in the station later noticed it was missing, and police reviewed a video from a surveillance camera that captured the incident, Lt. Dan Karrick said.

"We made some still photos from the video," he said.

Another officer, Kristy Dabliz, recognized Wynn from an earlier arrest on an unrelated charge, Karrick said.

Police officers tracked Wynn to an Inkster residence where she was living. Police learned that she took the money from the canister and discarded the container on Inkster Road.

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Monit: Skills to help resolve upcoming issues

Editor's note: Five candidates — Bhagwan Dashairya, Skip Monit, Brian Mulligan, Martha Pitsenbarger and T. Cortez Span Jr. — are campaigning for two four-year terms on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education in the Tuesday, May 8, election. This is the second of five stories profiling the candidates based on their responses to questions submitted to them by the *Observer*.



Skip Monit is ready to serve four more years on the Wayne-



Skip Monit

Westland school board because he still has goals he wants to achieve.

First elected to the board in 1999, he has served as its president and treasurer, each for two years, and one year as vice president.

Monit is a 1969 graduate of John Glenn High School. He attended Michigan State University from 1969 to 1973 and Henry Ford Community

PLEASE SEE MONIT, A5

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Coming Thursday in Filter

Good Golly Miss Molly
 Still so Pretty in Pink, '80s teen queen and accomplished actress Molly Ringwald takes the shape in Sweet Charity this May.

Man faces trial on charges of stalking ex-wife

A Wayne man has been ordered to stand trial on charges of stalking his ex-wife, a Westland resident, after serving jail time for domestic violence.

Martin Wayne Montecinos, 46, faces trial following a preliminary hearing Thursday in Westland 18th District Court.

Montecinos is accused of going to his former wife's apartment, assaulting her boyfriend and calling her dozens of times with threatening messages.

He also is accused of calling her about 30 times after he was arrested and jailed anew in March.

A not-guilty plea has been placed in his court file as he awaits trial in Wayne County Circuit Court. If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to five years in prison, a \$10,000 fine and probation for life.

Montecinos remains jailed on a \$100,000 cash bond set by Westland District Judge C. Charles Bokos.

He already had served several months in jail for domestic violence before his release last August.

Gun contest aims to help end homelessness for veterans

Veteran's Haven and the Firing Line are trying to "shoot out" homelessness for veterans.

A shooting competition is scheduled the Firing Line Indoor Gun Range & Gun Shop on Monday, May 14, through Friday, May 18.

Participants can compete 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. throughout the week. Cost is a \$15 donation for

every time a participant shoots. Participants can shoot more than once with the highest score being recorded.

The Firing Line is located at 38427 Webb Drive off of Hix Road, just north of Ford Road. The Web site is www.firing-lineguns.com, which has a map locator for directions. There will be two divisions - military and non-military. People who

don't want to compete are invited to shoot just for fun.

All money raised will go to Veteran's Haven to help fight homelessness.

A sponsorship program for this event is available for businesses and individuals with three levels - sharpshooter, marksman and sniper.

For more information, call Don at the Firing Line at (734) 326-7320 or Scott at Veteran's Haven at (734) 478-0822.

Awards and prizes from the shooting competition will be presented during an Armed Forces Day dinner scheduled for 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, May 19, at the Wayne-Ford Civic League, 1645 N. Wayne Road, south of Ford.

Cost of the dinner is \$30 a

person, and it includes a buffet dinner, open bar and live entertainment. The Christy Howard Band will perform.

According to local veterans' officials, Michigan ranks eighth in the country in homeless Veterans. Veteran's Haven has helped more than 10,000 veterans with food, clothing, transportation and transitional housing.

State set to begin taking samples from park

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Soil borings in Central City Park are expected to begin within two weeks to obtain new soil and groundwater samples on the contaminated, fenced-off property.

The soil borings will be done by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality after surface-level tests - similar to studying the park with a metal detector - found underground wastes.

Geophysical maps from the surface studies have been received by DEQ project manager Beth Vens.

"I do have the geophysical maps in, and they confirm what aerial photos showed - buried wastes at some areas of the park," she wrote, in response to an e-mail sent to her office.

The tests began after it was learned that certain areas of the park, particularly the western ballfields, contained elevated levels of lead.

State investigators also found other contaminants, such as cyanide, mercury and PCBs, but those weren't at levels considered potentially harmful.

Mayor William Wild ordered the 100-acre park closed off after he became mayor in January. City and county officials publicly revealed the lead problem in November - several years after original tests indicated contamination.

The park, owned by the county and leased to the city,

was once used as a dump. Photographs published in December in the *Observer* showed 55-gallon drums and other debris.

Meanwhile, Vens said the soil borings will likely take two weeks to complete as DEQ officials try to further pinpoint the scope of the contamination. Then, results will likely be received in several more weeks, she said.

DEQ official then will talk with city and county officials in hopes of being granted per-

mission to dig some trenches in the park for further analysis.

Officials hope that all the testing and analysis of contamination will help them develop a plan to clean up the park.

It isn't known how long the park could potentially be closed off. The situation has forced officials to move some events, such as the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, to other locations.

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Program: Talk openly about bequeathing possessions

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

In the aftermath of a loved one's death, what tears families apart most often is not money. That can be divided

easily with a calculator.

It's the stuff - things like war medals, Christmas decorations and jewelry that may hold real or sentimental value.

So who gets what? The Redford Historical & Genealogical Society recently hosted a program called, "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?" based on a guide by the same name distributed by the University of Minnesota.

A former Oakland County probate judge and appraiser helped those in the audience understand the roles of their professions in settling inheritance issues.

"Most of us don't know the value of the things that we have," said Jennie Peterson of Lamplighter Appraisals in

Fenton. She suggested everyone at least take a detailed inventory of their possessions and make it clear enough for someone else to be able to follow.

If more than one person wants an heirloom, an appraiser can be called in to give an unbiased opinion of its value.

If no one wants grandma's pie plate, an appraiser can help determine its worth in the marketplace, which may at least ensure that if it is valuable it won't be sold at a garage sale for a quarter, she explained.

Former Judge John O'Brien now works as an attorney specializing in trusts, which help avoid probate.

People develop a sense of expectancy about what a dead relative would have wanted to give them, he said.

"The obvious thing is to be open and honest and bring all the people together (while you're living)," he said. Consider giving away property during your lifetime, he stated.

People writing a will can refer to a separate document that specifies how "non-title" property should be distributed, which should hold up legally, O'Brien said.

After listening to the speech, Adell Grant of Westland said, "I have to make some definite moves toward taking care of things." Grant said she has a will, but now realizes that it

should be revised.

Tom Barrett, also of Westland and a member of the Dearborn Genealogical Society, said when his parents died, he and his brother were able to settle their estates amicably.

But, he said, "you hear many cases, even with the best of siblings, where it doesn't work out."

"It's something that you have to talk about," he said.

Barrett and his wife now think they will schedule an appointment with an attorney.

"We have a basic generic will, but we're not as far along with it as we should be," he said.

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Pets on Parade

It has been said that a dog is man's best friend, but whether you are a man, woman or child any pet can become a wonderful friend. Finding information about everything pets can be found at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland.

Taking that first step in choosing just the right pet for you can be made just a little easier after reading Stanley Coren's *Why We Love the Dogs We Do: How to Find The Dog That Matches Your Personality*, Chris Nelson's *Dogs*, Selecting

The Best Pet For You: A Complete and Up-to-Date Guide or Dennis Kelsey-Woods's *Choosing The Perfect Cat*. For first time pet owners, The complete idiot's guide to choosing a pet might just be your first stop. If the traditional pet does not quite interest you, maybe a book or two about pot-bellied pigs, llamas or geckos might be in order. How about checking out Michael Taylor's *Pot-Bellied Pigs as a Family Pet* or Gale Birutta's *A Guide to Raising llamas?*

Selecting just the right name for your companion can be

challenging, too, so, Renee Cowing's, *Complete Book of Pet Names* or Rita Blockton's *Don't Call me Rover!: 5001 Names to Call Your Pet* might be a good place to start when making that all important decision. Robert Davenport's *Pets' Names of the Rich and Famous* might just attract the celebrity in all of us.

Our feathered and scale-y friends should not be forgotten, however, so check out David Alderton's *A Bird Keeper's Guide to Pet Birds*, and Robert Davies' *The Reptile and Amphibian Problem Solver: Practical and Expert Advice on*

Keeping Reptiles and Amphibians. The library can also boast of several informational videos. Put your feet up and enjoy, *How to Pick the Right Reptile for You* or *Feathered Friends: A Veterinarian's Guide to Bird Care* or perhaps, *Raising Your Dog with The Monks of New Skete*. So no matter whether your wish to share your life with a dog, cat, ferret, or iguana, your library has something just for you. Stop by or visit us on the web. Call 734-326-6123 or logon to www.westland.lib.mi.us.

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Oke supports 5-6 schools, offers positive outlook

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Greg Oke, a middle school assistant principal and father of two young boys, is seeking a one-year seat on the Livonia Public Schools board of education.

Oke said he brings a positive approach and outlook.

He called LPS an "excellent" district with "a perception issue that needs to be addressed."

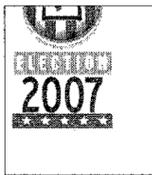
A fan of the upper elementary model, Oke said if elected



Oke

his job would be "to make everybody else see that this is a good thing too." Oke, 35, is an assistant principal in Center Line, and his wife is a teacher in Canton. They moved to the district in 2002 because of the LPS school system, he said.

Previously, Oke worked in Brandon Schools, which has an



upper elementary school. He now works in a 6-8 grade building.

"Brandon Schools was able to turn that 5-6 building into a building that focused on the individual needs of the students," he said. "I was sold on 5-6 buildings before, but getting to see up front ... really drives it home to me that 5-6

buildings are good for the children."

Asked about the size of the LPS upper elementaries, he said: "There are pros and cons to having a school with 900 students. ... I think there does need to be an effort to create smaller learning communities within those buildings."

Oke said he is sharing campaign resources with incumbents Lynda Scheel and Robert Freeman. He campaigned against the recall effort last year after board trustees voted

in favor of the Legacy Initiative to close schools and create those 5-6 buildings. The recall was voted down.

"I was fine with the Legacy Initiative when it was rolled out. I was fine with the communication on it ... We live in Westland, we didn't have children in the schools (and) we knew there were some changes coming wherever they were," he said. "Right or wrong perhaps (the Legacy Initiative) was sold a little bit as being solely a financial decision. ... that's not

what parents want to hear."

Oke said it is too early to measure the Legacy Initiative's success or failure.

"In education it takes time to fully implement something," he said.

"I don't know that you need to give it as much time as say, Matt Miller's had," he joked, "but you need to give it a couple years. In two or three years we should have a good idea if this thing is working."

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Mang wants smaller schools, more communication

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Patrice Mang, a special education teacher at Allen Park High School and mother of two elementary students, is running for a one-year seat on the school board.

"I'm running because I think we need a change. I think it's time to bring the community back together," she said.

As a teacher and an officer in her union, Mang, 41, said she understands how school districts work.

Mang said her union involvement would not interfere with her decisions at the board table. She is opposed to outsourcing permanent positions.

She is part of the group



Mang

Legacy Initiative to close and reconfigure schools.

Mang said she would like to see smaller school sizes, particularly at the upper elementary and middle school level. She added that she does not like the upper elementary model and does not see an educational benefit to it.

LPS should consider opening another school, she said. "It may involve using fund equity money," she said. "You're



going to have to find the money to do it."

The district would incur one-time costs opening a school but would save money on busing and other areas as a result, she said.

"Would opening another school bring back some of those folks who didn't leave the LPS residence but left the district?" she asked. "What could we do that would bring them back?"

Mang said she thinks a survey should be conducted to assess the positive and negative aspects of the Legacy Initiative and hear from people

who left the district because of the plan.

But Mang said she's not running to undo the changes.

"That's fiscally irresponsible. ... We can't turn back the hands of time," she said. "I think we can improve on what we have."

Mang said communication

needs to be improved.

People who ask a question at school board meetings should get a better response, she said.

"I want to see some really open, honest answers given and when you don't know the answer I want it to be stated," she said. "If they're going to take the time to show up and

ask a question they deserve some reasonable feedback and treated like they matter and I think that we're lacking that right now."

If elected, she said, "I plan to be very available to people in the community."

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AROUND WESTLAND

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Businesses can gain recognition and become a sponsor by contacting Veterans Haven public relations director Scott Romp at (734) 478-0822.

The nonprofit organization is seeking bronze sponsors for \$500, silver for \$1,000, gold for \$2,500 and platinum for \$5,000.

More details will be announced later in addition to information about ticket sales.

Entitlement seminar

A program to help seniors prepare now to handle their post-death matters will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, at the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh.

The seminar will include information on veterans' and Social Security benefits, chapel services and the advantages to planning now for a funeral.

To register call (734) 722-7628.

Quilt show

Westland Grange No. 389 will host its fifth annual quilt show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 21, at the senior Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. For an admission of just \$1, enjoy rows and rows of art quilts, appliques, wall hangings and other creations.

For more information call Sharon Strebbling at (734) 722-4857.

Bowl with mayor

Mayor William Wild is inviting the public to bowl with him at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at Vision Lanes. Cost is \$25 per person for three games of 9 pin no tap bowling, shoe rental, two pieces of pizza and a door prize ticket.

Proceeds will benefit this year's American Cancer Society

Relay for Life event in Westland.

Vision Lanes is located on Ford Road west of Newburgh. For more information, call (734) 641-8181.

Senior golf

This year's senior citizen Friendship Center golf league will begin with a meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 19, at the center, 1119 N. Newburgh. The league is open to all center members and will start golfing at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 26, at the Westland Municipal Golf Course.

For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

Hot dog day

The Friendship Center, on Newburgh south of Ford, will start firing up its grill 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays starting April 17 for Hot Dog Day. For \$2 enjoy a hot dog, pop and bag of chips.

The lunch is open to all ages. Proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event.

National prayer day

The Wayne-Westland Ministerial Association and various churches will participate in a National Day of Prayer at noon Thursday, May 3, at Westland City Hall.

For more information, call Cathy at Praise Chapel at (734) 513-5174 or Sandy at The Salvation Army at (734) 722-3660.

Teen video

A video dealing with the subject of teen dating violence will be shown 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, May 1, at The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour in Westland.

The video is titled It Could Happen To You: Into the Light, Combating Teen Dating Violence. The church is located at 29425 Annapolis Road.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, call (734) 728-3440.

Veterans benefits

Veterans and their spouses are invited to attend a program to learn about benefits possibly due to them at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at Westhaven Manor Retirement Community, 34601 Elmwood, in Westland.

Veteran benefits analyst Myron Zolkewsky will lead the program. Veterans or spouses of veterans who served 90 consecutive days in active military service with at least one day during wartime are urged to attend. Military discharge may be in any category other than dishonorable.

The program is free. To sign up, call (734) 729-3690.

Chili cook-off

The Westland Democratic Club will have its second-annual chili cook-off Tuesday, April 24, at the Dorsey Community Center, on Dorsey south of Palmer and east of Venoy.

Cooks will be there at 5:30 p.m.; tasters at 6 p.m. Cost is \$5 for tasters, who will vote for their favorite chili. Cooks also will pay a \$5 entry fee.

There will be two categories, one for candidates/elected officials and another for political activists.

Beverages and desserts will be included in the cost. Extra votes for the best chili may be cast for \$1.

All proceeds will benefit the Westland Democratic Club.

For more information call Mike at (734) 788-1550 or Nan at (734) 674-7327.

Book signings

Poet/photographer Cheryl Martin will have book signings this month, National Poetry Month. She will autograph copies of *Woman Reclining*, her chapbook series, and her children's haiku workbook 1-2 p.m.

Tuesday, April 24, at Ward Presbyterian Village in Westland and 1-5 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at Small Shops in Westland. For more information call (734) 397-

1626.

Texas Hold 'em

St. Theodore Parish, 8200 N. Wayne Road, will have a Texas Hold 'em tournament 7 p.m. to midnight Friday, May 4, with doors opening at 6 p.m. Cost is \$40 to get into the tournament.

Tickets are available only in advance; no tickets will be sold at the door. Call Ken at (734) 634-4898 or Mary at (734) 425-4421, voice mail No. 10, for tickets or information. Participants must be 18 to play and 21 to drink. There will be a 50/50 raffle and refreshments. Top prize will be \$500.

Skate park

Concrete Jungle, the Westland-based skate park, has opened for the season.

Sessions are 3:30-7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon-3:30 p.m. and 4-7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$3 for children and \$5 for adults for a session, or \$5 for children and \$7 for adults for an all-day pass.

The park is featuring bike nights 4-7:30 p.m. every Sunday in April. No skateboarding is allowed during those times. Admission is \$5 per person.

The park is having 18 and older skate nights 8-10 p.m. every Friday in April. Admission is \$5.

A skate park blast will be featured Friday, April 13, with \$1 admission all day and special prizes.

A season kickoff party is planned noon-8 p.m. Saturday, April 28, including food, prizes and live music. Admission is \$3.

Food distribution

The City of Westland will distribute surplus federal food to eligible residents Thursday, April 19.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities on between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Dorsey Community Center at

32715 Dorsey, north of Michigan Avenue and south of Palmer.

For Westland residents south of Michigan Avenue, the pickup day is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the second Monday of each month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. Call (734) 729-1737 for information.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers can collect their food at the building. They should contact the building manager for the distribution date.

Greenwood Villa residents must pick up their food items at their building.

Tuna, peanut butter and powdered milk are being offered for the month of April. The program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services.

For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Golf outing

The Westland Rotary will hold its annual golf outing Thursday, May 24, for the benefit of the Salvation Army summer camp program and Westland Rotary Charities.

The outing will be at Fellows Creek Golf Course in Canton and feature an 11 a.m. shotgun start to 18 holes of golf, lunch and beverages on the turn, balls, tees and goodies, door prizes, dinner and dessert. There also will be a skins game, and prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive for men and women, a hole-in-one contest and other tests of skill.

The cost is \$125 for individual golfers, \$450 for a foursome and \$500 for the "eagle" - a foursome and the "birdie" hole sponsorship of a sign on the course and recognition in the program. Other sponsorships available include community champion for \$1,000 and classic premium at \$300. Banquet only tickets are \$50. Registration can be completed by sending forms to Westland Rotary Golf Outing, 5854 N. Wayne Road, Westland, MI 48185 or by fax to Mary at (734) 729-5436.

For more information, call Mary Gregosky at (734) 729-5401, Jade Smith at (734) 261-5451, Dr. Kim Shunkwiler at (734) 728-5533, Mark McConnell at (734) 421-5510, Hugh Doody at (734) 710-0380 or Andrea Holmes at (734) 261-2161.

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Democratic Dinner

Presidential candidate John Edwards will be the keynote speaker at the Michigan Democratic Party's 2007 Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner Saturday, April 21, at Cobo Center in Detroit. For more information, call the Michigan Democratic Party at (517) 371-5410 or Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard at (313) 224-0902.

For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Open skating

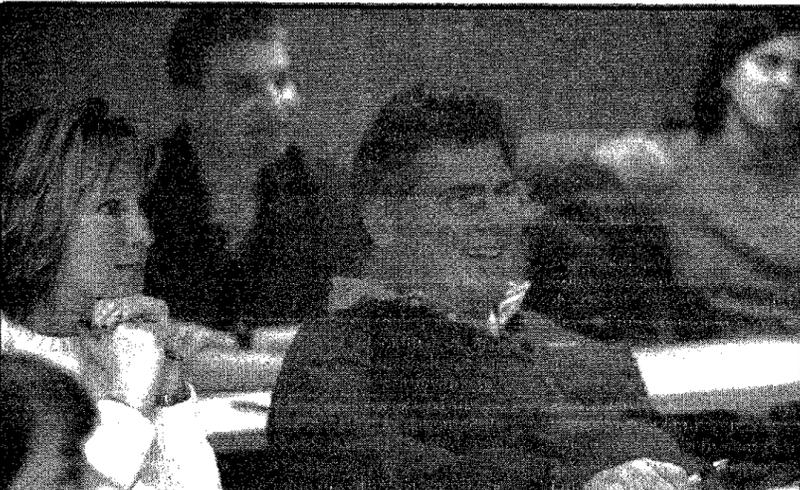
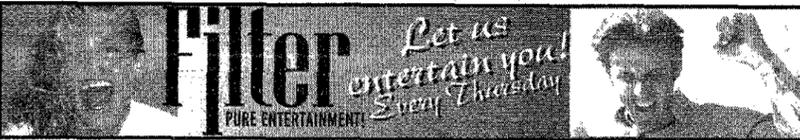
Residents can enjoy open skating noon-1:45 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday; noon-1:45 p.m. and 6-6:50 p.m. Friday; and 1-2:20 p.m. Saturday at the Mike Modano Ice Arena, 6210 N. Wildwood, just north of Ford. Admission is \$2.50 for children and senior citizens and \$3.50 for adults during the week and \$1 more on Saturday. Skate rental is \$2.50.

Mom 2 Mom Sale

St. Damian School is holding its Spring Mom 2 Mom Sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21, 30055 Joy, between Middlebelt and Merriman, in Westland. Rental is \$20 per table rental and \$5 per rack. Call Dawn at (734) 983-0221 for more information.

Bingo

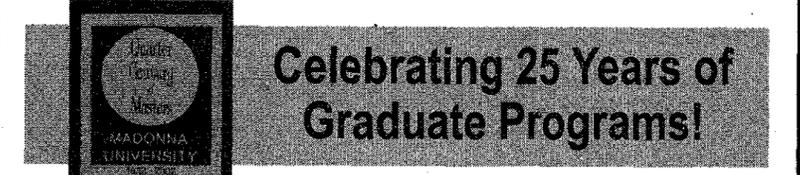
The Dyer Senior Center invites residents to play bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the center, 36745 Marquette, Westland. For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.



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MCCONNELL

FROM PAGE A1

Hawaiian Beach Bash theme at the VFW Romanowski Post 6896 on Joy Road, east of Middlebelt. Tickets are \$35 each or \$275 for a table of eight. Call the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

McConnell was nominated as First Citizen by retired Westland 18th District Judge Gail McKnight, who cited his extensive volunteer efforts.

As president of the Westland Rotary Club, McConnell has helped raise thousands of dollars for charity. The club provided hats, coats and gloves for low-income children at Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns elementary schools; helped sponsor family activities during the city's Turn Off the Violence night; and supported improvements to the Westland Historic Village Park, on Wayne Road south of Marquette.

The club also donated to a youth baseball program sponsored by the Wayne-Ford Civic League, bought backpacks and school supplies for children and supported the local Salvation Army's after-school tutoring program.

McKnight also mentioned

McConnell's role as president of S.P.A.R.K. (Sports, Parks and Recreation for Kids), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving recreational programs for Westland children.

McKnight cited McConnell's involvement in the Westland Community Foundation, the Westland Summer Festival Committee and a local Law Day essay contest for high school students. She also lauded his efforts at representing victims in countless criminal cases as assistant city attorney.

"He always has the interests of the Westland public at heart in dealing with these cases," McKnight wrote in her nomination of McConnell.

McConnell grew up in Livonia, graduated from Stevenson High School and earned his law degree from the University of Detroit School of Law. He and his younger sister, Kathy Barnes, were born to schoolteachers Jim and Barbara McConnell, although their mother quit work to raise the children.

McConnell pursued a law career because he saw it as a way to help people and because it posed an educational challenge as part of a rigorous legal curriculum.

As assistant city attorney, he

has drafted local ordinances and legal opinions, prosecuted law-breakers, negotiated plea agreements and conducted evidentiary hearings and trials.

"I like working hard and getting a good result for my client, whether it's the city or another client," he said.

McConnell spoke proudly of his involvement with the Rotary Club, saying the group also raises money to help people in poor countries with basic necessities such as clean drinking water and cataract eye surgery to help them see.

His wife, Sherry, is a labor and delivery nurse at Botsford Hospital, and she teaches nursing students at Schoolcraft College and the University of Detroit. The couple has two daughters, Allison, 5, and Grace, 3.

McConnell considers himself honored to be named First Citizen, an award bestowed to a diverse group of people such as late Westland Mayor Thomas Brown, businesswoman Margaret Harlow, historian Jo Johnson and long-time Goodfellows volunteer Mack Mayfield, among many others.

"It's a great honor to be included with them," he said.

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MONIT

FROM PAGE A1

College from 1975 to 1980. He has been employed by Sensormatic/ADT for 27 years in project management.

Monit currently is treasurer of the city of Wayne's Save Our Streets ballot question committee. He is a six-year member of the Wayne Democratic Club, a member of the Wayne Baseball Association, including 15 years as board member and eight years as treasurer, and a member of the Wayne Memorial High School Band Boosters for seven years, including two years as president.

Married, he and his wife, Kathleen, have two sons - Justin and Sean - and a daughter, Gabrielle.

In addition to goals he still wants to achieve, Monit said he is running for a third term on the Wayne-Westland school board because "I foresee that there are upcoming issues that I would like to help to resolve."

"I retain the drive and energy necessary for this position," he responded to questions provided by the *Observer*. "Due to the fact that I have three children who received their entire education in the Wayne-Westland schools, I have acquired a familiarity of how the schools operate at the ground level."

In addition to his eight years as a board member, Monit has attended numerous Michigan Association of School Boards conferences which provide speakers and seminars "that deal directly with important school issues."

He also has attended MASB classes in school board knowledge and have achieved three

levels of certification - certified board member, Award of Merit and Award of Distinction - and earned an Advocacy Skills certificate.

"These skills allow me to bring an educated background in school board knowledge to the position, in addition to the vast amount of experience attained over the years," he stated.

When asked what he sees as the role of the school board in public education, he stated that the main role of the school board in public education is to set policy for the district.

"The school board has to make the hard decisions of how to spend money to provide the best education for our students," he stated. "I see the role of the school board as being that of a 'watchdog' that assures the right decisions are made and carried out. The school board oversees the big picture of district operations, without becoming involved in micromanagement."

When asked what services he thought Wayne-Westland could share with other districts, he stated that there are four services that are common to all school districts - busing, food services, maintenance and janitorial.

"In theory, they could all be shared, if the situation was warranted. In reality, what is most sensible, is to share management of these services without seriously impacting the actual manpower," he stated. "After all, the amount of services required do not change greatly, so a reduction in manpower only serves to lessen the quality of education provided to the students."

When asked about the new high school curriculum and whether its passage should

have included the money to cover its implementation, Monit said he understands that the purpose is to better prepare students for college, but worries about students who aren't interested or capable of attending college.

"These students need to be able to prepare themselves for a vocational career that may be difficult with all the classes that the state requires for graduation, leaving them little room in their schedule for the classes they really need," he stated. "In addition, fine arts students are given less opportunity to improve their own special talents or gain knowledge in their area of expertise."

He's also concerned about students who don't have the support necessary to complete the challenging subjects and is afraid that the "possibility exists for an increasing dropout rate that exceeds the numbers we see today."

"This new curriculum should indeed come with money," he stated. "The greater need for core subject teachers and lesser need for teachers in the elective areas, will create a staffing imbalance that could make it difficult to find, and more expensive to hire, the needed staff."

When asked what one thing he would like to change about public education, Monit stated that it would be funding.

"All districts need to receive a basic amount of state funding to provide every student with a quality education," he stated. "However, each district needs to have the ability to create funding without the restrictions that the state mandates, especially when the state cannot provide districts with the funds needed to maintain programs and services."

DVD can teach towel twisting talents

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

When John Pullum folds towels, they won't fit on the closet shelf.

He turns them into elephants, puppies, swans - even a seal balancing a ball on its nose.

It's so easy that he wants everyone to learn how, so the Redford dad created two instructional DVDs.

"If you want to impress a guest, it's super, super easy to do," he said.

Pullum wants to market the DVDs to the hospitality industry, specifically cruise ships, where he first came across the folded towel creations years ago.

That little extra touch makes a guest think, "They took a second to make my stay a little bit more enjoyable," he said.

Pullum, 37, was intrigued. He wanted to learn how to make the animal shapes for his kids but found self-help books were too confusing.

"I had to learn a lot of them on my own."

A folded towel elephant takes less than two minutes to make, using a bath towel and hand towel. Pullum likes to make his

out of gray towels, embellished with plastic googly eyes, but standard white hotel towels work.

The shape gets the idea across.

To make sure the form is obvious, Pullum calls in a focus group - his kids, ages 11, 6, and 4, and asks them what they see.

Pullum is no stranger to TV and video production. A one-time class clown turned magician, he is host of the Discovery Channel's series *More Than Human*. He also travels the country as a corporate entertainer and trainer.

"I stay at a lot of hotels around the world," he said. "The hotel staff must think I'm a nut because I usually leave

my hotel room with their towels folded into various animals on the bed or bathroom counter."

For a maid who makes part of her income through tips, he said, "it's instant money for you." It's also a promotion for the hotel that will keep guests talking, he said.

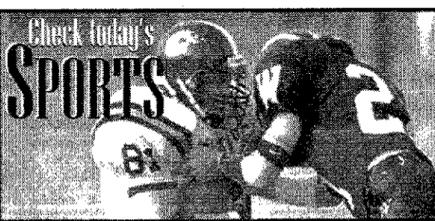
Given that he can turn a bath towel and beach towel and two pipe cleaners into a snail, Pullum was surprised at how hard a time he had creating a stingray.

"It took a long time to make that triangle with a tail," he said. "It turned out great."

The DVDs are available through the Internet at www.foldingmagic.com.

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The most common cause of swollen ankles is prolonged sitting, known to physicians as dependency. If you are in the seated position for a prolonged time, the result is a lack of blood flow from the legs back to the heart. Instead, the blood pools in the feet and ankles.

The best example is if you are seated in a plane during a flight taking 4-5 hours. Possibly you are in the middle of a set of three seats and you do not leave your seat. Chances are, that even if you are in good health, you will note swelling in your ankles. How long you can remain seated without ankle swelling depends not only on the time your legs are dependent, but on the status of your leg veins. Women, post child bearing, have leg veins less competent than before pregnancy. In later life, they are at risk for ankle swelling.

Often elderly people think they have something wrong with their circulation when the real problem is not enough exercise. People who are wheelchair bound are also prone to ankle swelling because of the prolonged time their legs are in the down position without moving.

Treatment consists of walking and learning from experiences how long you can tolerate sitting, if the swelling occurs daily, then support hose are the treatment of choice. For ankle swelling caused by dependency, water pills are not in order. Ankle swelling occurs from other causes. Congestive heart failure, kidney disease and impairment of the liver can cause swelling indistinguishable from dependency. Your doctor can evaluate and treat these other conditions as needed.

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Rudy shows the wounds he suffered during an attack in owner Doreen Gregory's back yard.

ATTACK

FROM PAGE A1

attack this month in New Jersey.

Cowan residents said they keep their garbage cans inside their garages, but they believe the coyotes are desperate for food.

"I'm concerned about people walking their dogs in the park," Gregory said.

Residents said they have gotten little advice from city, county and state authorities, who often lack resources or options for addressing the situation. Michael Robbins, marketing director for the Michigan Humane Society, said coyotes usually co-exist peacefully with humans, even in populated areas. Michigan has had no reports of coyotes attacking people.

Dan Walzak, an officer with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources law enforcement division, described coyotes as usually

timid creatures that hunt small animals such as rodents, rabbits and chickens.

"They've been in Michigan longer than we have," Walzak said. "We're living on their land, so to speak. We try to let wildlife take its course, but we do understand that people have property and they need to protect their belongings."

In some rural areas — but certainly not in populated areas like Westland — property owners can shoot and kill coyotes that are causing damage, Walzak said.

Local residents would face prosecution for firing guns, police Lt. Dan Karrick said.

"They cannot shoot on their property in Westland," he said. "It's so populated, and any round can travel up to two miles."

Moreover, Karrick said, "We can't give out traps and permits to catch an animal."

Animal control officers in Westland have said they have no means to combat a coyote problem.

Some authorities have offered advice such as fencing in property, having large dogs in the yard, keeping outdoor lights on at night and avoiding leaving garbage cans outside — many of the measures that Cowan residents already say they have tried.

"We're not involved in pest control," the DNR's Walzak said, although he said he didn't mean to minimize residents' complaints.

According to the Humane Society, the only real predators of coyotes are black bears and wolves. Although coyotes usually avoid people, those who don't can usually be scared away by loud noises.

The Humane Society also advised people to have their pets spayed or neutered because coyotes can sense animals in heat. Pet food shouldn't be kept outdoors and fruit should be kept off the ground.

Property owners also should avoid leaving their pets unsupervised, and they can deter coyotes by not putting meat in compost heaps and by adding mothballs, pepper or ammonia to their trash.

Residents like Ladow and Gregory believe further action is warranted, but they haven't gotten it.

"What's it going to take — a kid getting killed?" asked Gregory, who no longer lets Rudy go outside alone. "My poodle had blood and marks all over his body. They're tougher than most people think, these poodles. Rudy fought back. Otherwise, he wouldn't have lived."

Emerson students get on a roll learning robotics

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

For all the tools, sensors, extra parts and Legos laying around, eighth-grader Brandon Manenti insists that building and programming robots isn't that hard.

"It doesn't take a whole lot of knowledge to do the programming," the Emerson Middle Schooler said, with his laptop by his side. "It's not like you have to learn a whole other computer language."

Manenti and Mason Larkin — teammates in Emerson's competitive robotics league — were working after school trying to design an arm that would allow their robot to pick up and carry a ball.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Emerson Middle School eighth-grader Brandon Manenti gets a little guidance from technology teacher Ron Wilson on programming his robot. Manenti and other students are preparing for an upcoming robotics competition.

They fiddled with a claw, a net and some kind of metal box contraption.

"The claw is probably the easiest thing to use," Larkin said, after trying out the net.

Emerson bought nine robot kits for the after-school club. Other students worked on them in different areas of teacher Ron Wilson's industrial technology classroom labs.



Emerson Middle School eighth-grader Mason Larkin attaches a net to his robot. It's one design he's considering for an upcoming Robofest challenge where the robots must pick up and carry a ball.

But only two robots can be entered into competition later this month. The qualifying regional Robofest challenge takes place April 21 in Canton. From there, Emerson could go on to the World Robofest Championship on April 28 at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, where they would be battling teams from as far away as Singapore, using all sorts of different robot kits.

"We're hoping to do well to slide into the world competition," said Wilson, who will teach a robotics class for the first time next year. That's not bad for the school's first year of participation. "A lot of these teams have been at it for years," he said.



The members of Emerson Middle School's robotics team build their robots out of Legos, motors and sensors and program them to complete various tasks.

The robots have to go down a ramp, capture a ball and bring it back up. It's all timed, and the robots must move autonomously. That means students must figure out how to place and adjust various motors and sensors so the robot can "see," "hear" and "feel" obstacles.

Using laptops, students set up a sequence of movements, then transfer those commands to the robot's "brain" so it can move on its own. Educational software makes the technical programming look as easy as playing a computer game of Solitaire.

From an academic standpoint, students are using science and math skills.

"All of the simple machines are represented in these robots," said Eric Cassie, a seventh-grade science teacher, who said he was excited about the impact the robotics curriculum will have on other subject areas.

Next year, Emerson will offer a robotics class for seventh-graders. At least 149 students — enough for at least five classes — have expressed interest, Wilson said. The school may eventually offer an

advanced robotics class for eighth-graders, he said.

Students have asked for a robotics class for five years, he said.

"I got online and just jumped into it," Wilson said. Districts in Milford, Northville and Novi offer robotics and Lego development a "fantastic" curriculum, he said.

"It's been exciting to see the kids excited about learning."

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Cheer for the hometeam, read today's SPORTS section

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Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 24920 Trowbridge St., Dearborn, MI 48124 (313) 277-7940 on 4/24/07 at 12:00 pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

- 1082 - Mayer Sherman - boxes, misc. items
- 1162 - Thomas Bonner - bags, totes, clothing
- 1248 - Shawn Perkins - dryer, boxes, totes
- 2100 - Cole Younger - Bags, Totes, Furniture
- 2190 - Charles Dean - clothing, bags, boxes

Publish: April 8 & 15, 2007

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Personal property described below in the matter of:

- B023 - Geneva Joubert - A.C. Unit, Dresser, television
- B035 - Stephen Koons - 25 bags, a.c. units, 25 boxes
- B056 - Wendy Betz - bike, floor lamp, 15 bags
- B104 - Shawn Dornoff - computer, mattress set, couch
- B117 - Emgrid Gudger - couch, love seat, stove
- B130 - Jana Funtukis - stereo, totes, boxes
- B141 - Francis Ogini - stereo, couch
- B182 - Cecilia Anderson - television, microwave, kitchen chair
- B361 - Daniel Page - vacuum, totes, old LP records
- B374 - Celestine Young - washer, dryer, big screen television
- B381 - Romare Redden - refrigerator, coffee table, stove
- C011 - Debryl Ector - washer, dryer, stove
- C015 - Alaina Silagy - dresser, boxes, washer
- C018 - Bobby Melton - 10 refrigerators, 3 generators
- C029 - Gloria Woods - sectional couch, big screen television, entertainment center
- C039 - Ali Yassine - boxes, mattress set, coffee table
- D009 - Cynthia Karl - computer, china cabinet, stove
- E040 - Denise Hearn - 4 dressers, 2 mattress set, headboard
- F043 - Denise Beard - television, washer, dryer
- F047 - Brian Thiel - dresser, desk, boxes

Publish: April 8 & 15, 2007

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 9300 Pelhem Road, Taylor, 48180 (313) 292-9730 on 4/24/07 at 12:30 pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

- 2045 - Donna Bauer - mattress set, television, boxes
- 2077 - Chanda Stewart - boxes, dresser, totes
- 3082 - Michael Height - dressers, Yamaha 1986 Radian - Vein # JYA1J003HAQ91386
- 3098 - Debbie Ryan - boxes, toys, snow blower
- 4025 - Steven Arp - 2 bikes, 15 boxes, television
- 4057 - Barbara Koltuniak - 40 boxes, entertainment center, chairs
- 5020 - Sonya Martins - pictures, dressers, car parts
- 5043 - Yvonne Blanding - bikes, china cabinets, freezer
- 5055 - Robert Howell - 2 bags, boxes, sled
- 5079 - John Reardon - love seat, mattress, television
- 6034 - Kevin Davanzo - stove, desk, television
- 6059 - Judith Ryan - boxes, lawnmower, compressor
- 6109 - Scott Seppais - mattress, boxes, chairs
- 6119 - Sherre Roy - 30 boxes, chair, stereo
- 7027 - Gaye Shreve - china cabinet, boxes, end tables
- 7054 - Demark Bellman - bikes, lawn mower, 2 televisions
- 7057 - Kelli Hoilfield - totes, boxes, headboard

Publish: April 8 & 15, 2007

Get on the ball. Read today's **SPORTS** coverage!

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 20080 Allen Rd. Trenton, MI 48034 (248)263-3880 4/24/2007 at 1:30 pm. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

- 1004 - Jessica Verhille - television, couch, mattress set
- 1025 - Nicole Helms - mattress set, bike, television
- 1118 - Tina L. Stafford - 2 beds, boxes, totes
- 1126 - Willie F. Hodge Jr. - 2 dressers, couch, 20 boxes
- 137 - Donna Alexander - dryer, 8 totes, vacuum
- 149 - Jillian Gruber - 40 boxes, 20 totes, bikes
- 223 - Pat Mosolgo - piano
- 238 - Kimberly Sidar - stereo, boxes, bags
- 610 - Alan Bonds - stove, love seat, couch
- 622 - Corey A. Grimes - couch, mattress set, entertainment center
- 709 - James Reynolds - 3 dresser, tool box, power wheels
- 805 - Jeremy McCray - computer, love seat, stereo
- 944 - Lisa Rudzik - television, exercise equipment, 20 boxes

Publish: April 8 & 15, 2007

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
April 23, 2007

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 23, 2007 at 7:25 p.m. in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the proposed AT&T Franchise Agreement, which is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of the City Clerk, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

ALLYSON BETTIS
City Clerk-Treasurer

Publish: April 15, 2007

Michigan's future may depend on courage of three good people

As Michigan government lurches closer and closer to financial disaster, it's important to remember the very human element behind all the budgetary mumbo-jumbo and political skirmishing.

Three people are absolutely critical to any solution: Gov. Jennifer Granholm, House Speaker Andy Dillon (D-Redford Township) and Sen. Majority Leader Mike Bishop (R-Rochester).

Certainly, as Democrats, Granholm and Dillon have more in common than they do with Bishop. But their situations are different.

Now in her second term, the governor is legally prevented from running again. With U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, a fellow Democrat, seeking re-election, there is no higher office she can run for when she leaves the governor's mansion. To put it plainly, for her, the risks of being bold and decisive are relatively slight.

Dillon, on the other hand, was elected speaker by a slim majority in his own caucus (30-28) and doesn't have much maneuvering room, especially with organized labor, which was lukewarm at best toward his candidacy.

Moreover, he can serve another term after this one, and has a vested interest in maintaining Democratic control of the House. That could be endangered next year if voters perceive Democrats are behaving too rashly during this crisis.

Bishop is in an equally vulnerable position. He's the odd man out in any negotiations with Democrats Dillon and Granholm.

Moreover, he was elected majority leader by only one vote, and Lansing insiders report his caucus is largely composed of Alpha Males, many of whom think they could do a better job than he.

But once you've taken in all this calculus, it's important to recognize that all three top leaders — Granholm, Dillon and Bishop — are smart, capable and well-intentioned people. They're genuinely interested in making good policy to save our state. They are also realistic enough to know if they are too dogmatic, overtly partisan or merely ineffective, they'll quickly be blamed for disaster.

Plus, Dillon and Bishop have a good personal relationship. I can't prove it, but experience and common sense make me pretty sure that there are lots of negotiations going on privately in Lansing between our big three. They are all genuinely motivated to do the right thing, which counts for a lot.

There's also something useful in reflecting about how previous Michigan governors would have dealt with this crisis. I'm lucky enough (and old enough) to have known some of them.

Gov. G. Mennen Williams (together with his

longtime friend, state Democratic Party Chairman Neil Staebler) made the Michigan Democratic Party into a powerhouse of citizen participation.

My guess is that Williams, in office from 1949-60, would have convened a series of citizen meetings designed to give "Joe and Josephine Six Pack" a good look at the facts behind the crisis.

Then he would have listened hard for their advice.

Gov. William G. Milliken (1969-82) was a Republican, but the consummate bipartisan bridge builder. During his governorship, he created "the quadrant" — weekly meetings between himself and the top Democratic and Republican leaders of both houses of the Legislature.

They would hash things out and come to consensus solutions. Given today's situation, Milliken would have convened the quadrant and worked feverishly and almost non-stop to find common ground.

Former Gov. George Romney (1963-69) a hard-charging businessman, would have insisted on common-sense, businesslike solutions to our present crisis. He would have summoned the state's top business leaders to meet with him and top legislators.

Then he would have pushed for a top-down solution, the way he was accustomed to doing business as head of American Motors.

John Engler was also a Republican, but a very different one. As governor (1991-2002), Engler was a great combination of policy wonk (carefully hidden from public view) and bare-knuckle partisan.

Under today's conditions, he would have met first with GOP legislative and party leaders, looked six moves down the partisan chess board ... then called in the Democrats to lay out their (uncomfortable) choices for them.

My old friend, the late Ed McNamara, was mayor of Livonia and then Wayne County executive. A man disinclined to take much guff from anybody, McNamara would have invited legislative leaders from both parties into his office, locked the door and told them they couldn't come out until they'd hashed out a solution.

There is something to that last idea, especially in times of looming crisis. And I wouldn't be surprised if Granholm did something very similar in the next couple of weeks. Somebody, at any rate, better do something, and soon.

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan, and was a regent of the University of Michigan from 1987-99. He is also president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank. These opinions and others expressed in his columns are his own and do not in any way represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Phil would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnnet.com.



Phil Power

Talking about my generation: Just which is the greatest?

A few years ago, I had the pleasure of facilitating a Contemporary Books group discussion at the Plymouth District Library on Tom Brokaw's best seller, *The Greatest Generation*.

In that book, the veteran broadcast newsman paid tribute to the men and women who survived the Great Depression, fought World War II overseas and on the homefront and returned home to raise the baby boomers. I was thus intrigued more recently when I saw a book at the same library, Leonard Steinhorn's *The Greater Generation: In Defense of the Baby Boom Legacy* (Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, 2006).

Steinhorn's not so kind to the Greatest Generation, however, questioning their lack of commitment to fighting for equality when they returned home. He says far too many became the organization men of the 1950s corporations (few women there) and were uncritical of their society and its shortcomings. In particular he cites such shortcomings as white Americans turning a

blind eye to racial segregation and discrimination, as well as the tendency to pollute our environment, believing business progress to reign supreme over environmental concerns.

In his prologue, Steinhorn tells of a student of his at American University in Washington, D.C., where he teaches politics, media and American culture. The young woman, although bright and motivated, knows virtually nothing about the baby boomers and their contributions. She notes the boomers did a lot of drugs when young and then asks her professor why he would write a book about them.

So just what is the legacy of the boomers? Steinhorn argues convincingly that it includes: women's liberation; diversity on college campuses; greater acceptance of interracial dating and marriage; less pressure on gay people to hide their sexual orientation; flatter and more democratic workplaces; environmental progress; and kids being raised to think on their own rather than blindly follow elders.

Steinhorn, himself a baby boomer, acknowledges that boomers haven't done it all when it comes to social progress, and urges them as they reach retirement age to redouble efforts. Nevertheless, he points out, not having a perfect society doesn't mean we don't have a much better one.

I found one statistic particularly interesting, that women are roughly half of the managers in the U.S. workforce, considerably more than the 30 percent in Great Britain. I

hadn't considered the discrepancy would be so great, or the factors leading to it.

So who's right? Is it fair to paint the Greatest Generation with such a broad brush as being so narrow-minded and conformist? Maybe not, but Steinhorn's book is well-documented (although still highly readable). He makes his arguments persuasively, although I couldn't help but think some credit's due to the older generation that raised all of the boomers born between the end of World War II and 1964. There were and are a lot of us, and we were bound to have a significant impact on the people and institutions we interacted with.

I'd like to have another discussion at the library of Steinhorn's book, maybe with people who've read Brokaw's as well and definitely with those of different ages. One thing Steinhorn's book notes is that there's far less of a generation gap between the boomers and their Generation X children, who by and large find their parents "cool" and occasionally even take them along to rock concerts where there are special quiet rooms for parents when the noise gets to be too much.

Vietnam's a dominant theme in Steinhorn's book, and certainly that unpopular war dominated much of the generational conflict in the 1960s and early 1970s. I'm a younger boomer, so missed out on most of that, but remember well the televised images of the war brought home, a first in media history and one that had a profound influence on our generation.

Steinhorn urges aging boomers to focus their remaining years on: the environmental cleanup they started; celebrating our nation's diversity; promoting women's rights; "make power speak the truth" by getting political leaders to be forthright and thus advancing our declining social trust. Finally, he exhorts boomers to come to their own defense: their own legacy is much more than knowing how to order a tall skim double latte.

I didn't agree with all of his book, but found when I brought it up at the office it generated a lively discussion among boomers and their younger counterparts. (Not too many Greatest Generation folks left in the workplace these days, although they still have much to contribute.)

I'd recommend the book, definitely, as it generates lively discussions about different generations and their roles in American history. Steinhorn even notes the tendency of earlier generations, going back to the Revolutionary War, to question the status quo. That's not a bad thing, and in fact a vital part of democracy.

Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the *Observer & Eccentric* and interim editor for the *Mirror*. She can be reached at (248) 901-2536 or via e-mail at jcbrown@hometownlife.com.



Julie Brown

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- 5-Nights Glasgow, Scotland Friendship Tour
- 5-Nights Cree Village Ecologie Moose Factory, ON
- 5-Nights Holiday Inn Oceanfront Resort - Cocoa Beach
- 5-Nights Tropical Mansion Suites - West Indies
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7-Nights Yangtze River Cruise ART

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- Detroit Pistons Rasheed Wallace Autographed Basketball
- Detroit Red Wings Henrik Zetterberg Autographed Puck
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Asking for tax extension doesn't risk an audit

I have not had an opportunity to complete my tax return and I am concerned. I've been told that I can file an extension; however, I've been told that it increases the risk of being audited. What should I do? - T.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Dear T:
There is no reason to panic. First, filing an extension does not increase your audit risk. I have heard that urban legend for years and it is just not the case. In fact, what increases your audit risk is when you rush through your return and make mistakes. As an example, many people who do their returns at the last second fail to include income from a 1099, make mathematical errors, or just file a sloppy return. It is those items that actually increase your audit risk, not filing an extension. Therefore, my advice to you is to file an extension, then take your time to complete your tax return.

Extensions to file your tax returns are automatic. The form to use for filing an extension on your federal return is Form 4868. You can typically pick up this form at a public library or you can download one from the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov. However, it is important to recognize that when you file an extension, it is an extension of time to file your return, not to pay your taxes.

Many people are under the mistaken belief that when they file an extension, it gives them more time to pay their taxes. This is not the case. When you file an extension, you have to make sure that you estimate your tax liability and, if you are going to owe any additional money, that you pay that amount with your extension. If you file your return later and pay the additional tax liability with your extension, the IRS can assess you with interest and penalties.

In the past, when you filed for an extension, the IRS gave you four months to complete and file your return. That is no longer the case. Now, when you file Form 4868 with the Internal Revenue Service, you have an additional six months to file your return.

With regards to the state of Michigan, if you are not going to owe any additional tax liability to the state of Michigan, then your federal extension is sufficient for the state. If you are going to owe money to the state, then you have to obtain a

form from the state and make the necessary payment.

This year, taxes are due April 17 as opposed to April 15. I recognize that this date causes much anxiety with people, but it should not. If you have not started or completed your return, take your time to make sure that when you file the return it is correct. Good luck!

I have found out that a fund that I have in my portfolio is changing their managers. What do you think I should do?

- Pete

Dear Pete:

This is one of the most frequent questions that I am asked. I believe that when a manager leaves a fund, you need to consider a number of different factors. I do not believe that a fund manager departure should automatically trigger a person to sell that fund; however, I do believe that you need to assess the situation and then take an appropriate action.

The first issue to consider is to know why the manager has left. Did the manager leave because of the performance of the fund or for other reasons? Typically, mutual fund companies do not notify you as to the reason managers leave. However, by doing some research, you can generally discover this. Web sites like

www.morningstar.com generally have this type of information.

Once you determine why the manager left, then it is important to look at your fund itself. Is the fund managed by one individual manager or is it managed by a team?

If the fund is managed by a team and one manager is leaving, then generally I'm going to stay with that fund. I will closely watch that fund to determine if there are any fundamental changes, but I generally will stay with it. On the other hand, if the fund is managed by one manager and that manager leaves, then generally I'm looking at selling my investment. After all, when a new manager takes over, unless I am familiar with that new manager and their track record, I treat the fund as a new fund and my general rule is to avoid new funds with unproven track records.

Who manages your fund and how it is managed is important to the overall success of your investment. I know that me and my investment committee spend a considerable amount of time analyzing managers and their performance. I believe that who manages your fund and their style is probably the most important aspect of a fund's success. Therefore, when there is a change of management, be proactive, do your

homework, and then make adjustments as necessary. Good luck!

Dear Rick: I am going to need some money for my daughter's college education. I am thinking of taking a loan from my 401(k) plan. What do you think?

- Wendy

Dear Wendy:

On the whole, I am not a fan of borrowing from 401(k) plans. My reasoning is that this is your retirement money and I do not like to tap into retirement money unless there are no other alternatives. Therefore, in your situation, before you borrow from a 401(k) plan, I would look for some other options.

One alternative to consider is to look at taking money from your home. The advantage from borrowing money from your home is that the money is tax-deductible and even though interest rates are a little higher than they were a couple of years ago, the terms are generally more favorable than in a 401(k) loan.

When you borrow from a 401(k) plan, you typically have up to five years to repay the loan. Although the interest you pay goes back into your account, it is not tax-deductible interest. In addition, eventually when you take a distribution from your 401(k)

plan down the road, the non tax-deductible interest that you paid comes out and is subject to ordinary income tax.

Therefore, there is a tax disadvantage to a 401(k) loan. In addition, with many companies when you take a loan from your 401(k), you are no longer allowed to invest in the 401(k) until the loan is repaid. This can certainly hurt if you have a company match and you no longer would be eligible for that company match.

One other thing to consider on a 401(k) loan is that if for some reason you lose your job, in many situations the loan must be paid back within 60 days. If it is not paid back within 60 days, it is treated as a taxable distribution which can then cause you adverse tax consequences.

Therefore, on the whole I am not a fan of 401(k) loans. One other alternative is to consider a student loan. In many cases, student loans are tax-deductible and the terms are very favorable. An excellent Web site to look at student loans is www.finaid.org. Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. His Web site is www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick live from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays. WDTK-AM (1400). If you would like Rick to respond to your questions, please email Rick at rick@bloomassetmanagement.com.

Gasoline can be more dangerous than dynamite

Gasoline can be more dangerous than dynamite, due to the fact that the vapors given off by gasoline are explosive and invisible.

In addition, high temperatures might not set off dynamite, but gasoline vapors are easily ignited, even at lower temperatures. Gasoline vapors are heavier than air, allowing it to travel close to the ground,

where it can easily come into contact with ignition sources such as pilot lights, electric motor sparks and switches.

Gasoline vapors spread invisibly away from the source just like a fluid does when it is spilled. Sparks and open flame can ignite the gasoline vapors across a long distance. The vapors are always seeking the lowest point, due to their weight.

Gasoline is also very prevalent, as a staple to the garage for fueling of gasoline engines. Most garages have quite a few items that run on gasoline. By law, gasoline must be stored in safety containers with warning labels. Anyone using gasoline in any amounts should have a fire extinguisher nearby. While we recommend the "ABC" type of fire extinguisher, gasoline is



Tim Klurski

only in approved safety containers. Don't use gasoline to start your barbecue or outdoor fire pit, and never smoke when working with gasoline. If you have small children, store gasoline up and out of reach of the children. Storing it on a high shelf in the garage, or inside a locked cabinet are both good choices. As children get older, explain the uses of gasoline as well as the dangers. When fueling gas-burning engines, make sure you do it in a well-ventilated area. Roll the lawn mower outside of the garage before fueling it. If you

A Class B fuel. A garage makes an excellent place to install a fire extinguisher, and make sure your family knows how to use it. There isn't time to learn after a fire breaks out.

Gasoline is very dangerous due to its flammability and availability. Gasoline should never be stored in basements, or any other living area of the home. It should also be stored

need to add gasoline to the mower during cutting, be sure to shut the engine off and allow it to cool down first. The hot engine can act as an ignition source for the flammable vapors. All of your Livonia firefighters have, unfortunately, responded to numerous lawn mower and tractor fires.

Gasoline is useful as we do our normal routines outside the home. It also has some very dangerous properties. Make sure you, and your family, use good common sense around gasoline.

Tom Klurski is a Livonia firefighter.



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- Southwest Salad...Bed of mixed greens, vegetables, our homemade tortillas, and your choice of crispy chicken, grilled chicken or shrimp with salsa and sour cream dressing or salsa and ranch.
- Shrimp Scampi...Shrimp sautéed with butter and garlic and topped with mozzarella, Monterey jack and cheddar cheeses then baked. Served with long grain wild rice and your choice of soup or salad.
- Choice New York Strip Chibatta...8oz. Choice New York Strip smothered with grilled onions and mushrooms, topped with your choice of cheese and served on a chibatta roll with steak or seasoned fries.
- Chicken Club Wrap...Crispy chicken, ham, bacon, Swiss cheese, American cheese, lettuce, tomato and our homemade ranch dressing. Served with coleslaw and steak or seasoned fries.
- Salmon Alfredo...Pettucine noodles with our homemade Alfredo sauce topped with grilled salmon. Served with your choice of soup or salad.
- Albert's Cajun Mama...8oz. Angus beef burger served Quesadilla style with two tortillas, pepper jack cheese, grilled onions and mixed peppers. Served with Cajun mayo on the side, homemade chips and salsa. WOW!
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SPORTS

B (CPLW)

Sunday, April 15, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

Ed Wright, editor (734) 953-2108 ewright@hometownlife.com

Schoolcraft hires new hoop coach

Randy Henry, men's basketball coach at Detroit Renaissance for the 2006-07 season, has accepted the men's head coaching position at Schoolcraft College, succeeding Mike Brown.

"I'm excited about the new challenge," said Henry in a press release. "It's a chance to work with young men at the next level. Schoolcraft is a tremendous place to field a program, with a great history."

Sid Fox, Schoolcraft director of athletics, was equally enthusiastic about the hiring of Henry, who led Renaissance to a 19-4 record last season.

"Randy, by virtue of his vast experience in coaching basketball, brings to the table instant credibility and a flawless character that will catapult our program to new and innovative heights," Fox said. "In particular, his unquestionable regard and attention to human values as being paramount to the success of our program will definitely set us apart from other two-year institutions."

Henry's coaching style and direction perhaps grew out of personal experience. He played at Illinois State for legendary coach Will Robinson.

Because Henry is a veteran coach, he "understands the importance of graduation rates and the practical implications for student-athletes," Fox continued.

Henry's appointment is effective immediately, and he plans to begin recruiting efforts at once. Schoolcraft has four players returning for the 2007-08 season, and Henry said he will be seeking another seven or eight players.

In other coaching positions, Henry served as assistant coach at Renaissance, and head coach at Mercy College and Bates Academy.

He holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication from Illinois State University and serves as producer/director for the WDIV Morning Show.



WALT DMOCH

The Plymouth Whalers, pictured above celebrating following a game-winning overtime goal earlier in their OHL Western Conference semifinal series against Kitchener, ousted the Rangers, 4-1, Friday night to advance to the conference finals against the winner of the London-Sault Ste. Marie series.

It's a wrap!

Whalers skate past Rangers and into conference finals

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

On Friday the 13th, a guy wearing a goalie mask made life miserable for a bunch of teenagers at the Compuware Sports Arena.

And, no, his name wasn't Jason. It was Plymouth goalie Michael Neuvirth, whose 30 saves led the Whalers to a 4-1 victory over Kitchener in Game 5 of the Ontario Hockey League's Western Conference semifinals.

With the win, the Whalers captured the series, 4-1, and earned a berth in the Western Conference finals against the winner of the London-Sault Ste. Marie series. As of Friday night, the Knights led

the other semifinal series, 3-2.

"The key to the series was the goal-tending — Michal played a lot better than their guy did," said Plymouth Head Coach Mike Vellucci. "Michal is so consistent. He's very technical and he makes big save after big save."

No one was in a better position to appreciate Neuvirth's mastery of the crease than Whaler captain Steve Ward, the team's veteran defenseman.

"Michal makes life easier for me because he covers everything up and he doesn't give up many rebounds," said Ward, who earned the nod as the third star of Friday night's clincher. "He doesn't have to make many huge saves because he's always in good position."

Kitchener coach Pete DeBoer probably craved a Neuvirth clone just under four minutes into the contest when Ranger net-minder John Murray veered far from the goal crease during a Kitchener power-play and had the puck stripped by Whaler forward Tom Sestito, who steered the puck swiftly to the net before jamming it in to give his team a 1-0 advantage.

"That was great stuff," said Vellucci, of Sestito's ice-breaking, short-handed lamp-lighter. "That's just hard work on Tom's part. On plays like that, the goalies underestimate how quick Tommy is and what a long reach he has."

A split-second after the puck had set-

PLEASE SEE WHALERS, B3

Sidelines

Pitch, Hit & Run

Canton Leisure Services will be hosting the Pepsi Pitch, Hit & Run competition Saturday, April 21, at the Canton Sports Center, which is located at 46555 W. Michigan Ave. in Canton. Registration for the annual event begins at 10 a.m. with the competition set to start at 10:30 a.m.

The event is free for boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 14 years old. All participants must provide a copy of their birth certificate at the competition.

Each participant will compete in three contests: pitching (they will be tested by throwing a baseball at a designated "strike zone" target); hitting (each youngster will hit a ball off a tee and be scored on distance and accuracy); and running (each participant will be timed running from second base, to third and then home).

Each participant may only compete in one local qualifier. No metal spikes are allowed.

For more information, call (734) 483-5600.

All-Observer special section

Student-athletes who were selected for the All-Observer winter sports teams will be honored in a special section that will be published Sunday, April 29. The section — which will include photos and briefs bios that will focus on the honorees — will be included in every section of the Observer as well as on-line at www.hometownlife.com.

Ignition awards

Several members of the Detroit Ignition were honored with post-season awards after the team's inaugural season in the Major Indoor Soccer League.

Following are the players and coaches who were honored: Jamar Beasley (Hector Marinaro MVP Trophy and All-MISL First Team); Mark Pulisic (MISL Coach of the Year); goalkeeper Sanaldo (All-MISL Second Team); defenseman Jonathan Greenfield (All-MISL Second Team); and defenseman Nate Craft (MISL All-Rookie Team).

The Ignition opened the 2007 MISL Playoffs Saturday at Milwaukee. Game 2 is set for this afternoon at 4:35 p.m. at the Compuware Sports Arena.

The MISL Championship Game is set for Saturday, April 21, at 4 p.m. at the Compuware Sports Arena.

Coaches: Please call in

Local high school spring sports coaches are encouraged to report all of their teams' results to the Observer so that their players' achievements can be deservedly publicized.

To report results, coaches in Plymouth and Canton can call Observer Sports Editor Ed Wright at (734) 953-2108; coaches in Livonia, Westland and Wayne call call Sports Editor Brad Emons at (734) 953-2123.

Heart & soles

Local runners are ready to take on tough Boston Marathon course

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

The 26-mile-and-change route from Hopkinton to Boston, Mass., promises to be wet, cold, windy and tortuously hilly Monday morning.

But local running enthusiasts Terry Rush, Connie Scaparo, Janis Haggerty and Jennifer Lemieux — along with over 22,000 of their well-conditioned peers — will be relishing every challenging step they take along the path of the 111th Boston Marathon.

Despite forecasts that call for 40-degree temperatures, persistent showers and gusty breezes, the four local athletes are anxiously anticipating their chance to stride beside many of the elite long-distance runners in the world — at least at the outset of the race.

"The best of the best will be there, so it's like the Super Bowl of running," said Haggerty, when asked what makes the Boston Marathon so special. "Before I ran my first one last year, running in Boston had always been a dream of mine. I still pinch myself, like, 'How did I get invited to this?'"

Like everyone else wearing a numbered bib and running shoes Monday morning in Hopkinton, Haggerty qualified by meeting a stringent qualifying standard at a recent marathon. For her, it was a sub-3:50 time in the 2005 Grand Rapids Marathon in the fall of 2005. For the 41-year-old Rush, it was a sub-3:15 clocking in last year's Detroit Free Press Marathon.

"Boston is special because you have to qualify and because of the toughness of it," said Rush, a Plymouth resident who

111TH BOSTON MARATHON

When: Monday, approximately 9:30 a.m.

Where: The race starts in Hopkinton, MA and ends in downtown Boston

How far: 26 miles, 385 yards

How many runners: The maximum allowed is 22,500

Forecast: Cold, windy and rainy;

Local flavor: Among the Observerland-area runners who qualified are:

Plymouth: Kevin Galvin, age 54; Karen Holappa, 70; Terry Rush, 41; Jay Steele, 35; and Jean Weishaar, 45.

Canton: Chris Balch, 41; Aimee Cinzori, 33; Jennifer Dattilio, 25; Janis Haggerty, 41; Spiro Karras, 65; Soojin Koh, 38; Kelley Korona, 39; Jennifer Lemieux, 44; Ryan Rau, 26; Jonathan Richards, 41; Marc Robinson, 38; Daniel Sarna, 48; and Connie Scaparo, 43.

Livonia: Mary Holbrook, 30; Kevin Leddy, 47; Robert Nenciari, 47; Kristen Stempien, 28; and Gregory Unsicker, 43.

Westland: Michael Glennon, 31; Keith Hahn, 36; Lori Hahn, 30; and Ron Parent, 47.

has completed five Boston Marathons and 22 26-milers altogether. "They don't allow just anyone to enter."

1-OF-A-KIND RUN

The Boston Marathon is like no other, Rush said, because of the incredible enthusiasm displayed by the fans who line the streets — 10-deep in many spots.

"One of the most memorable parts of

PLEASE SEE MARATHON, B2



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Four area long-distance runners who will be competing in the 111th Boston Marathon on Monday gathered for a photo Thursday afternoon at the Summit on the Park in Canton. Pictured (from left) are Jennifer Lemieux, Terry Rush, Connie Scaparo and Janis Haggerty. Rush resides in Plymouth; the other three live in Canton.

THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Monday, April 16
 Churchill at W.L. Northern, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at W.L. Western, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at Salem, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Northville, 4 p.m.
 Canton at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17
 W.L. Central at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Huron Valley vs. Agape Christian at Canton's Griffin Park, 4:30 p.m.
 A.A. Huron at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 PCA at Inter-City Baptist, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18
 John Glenn at W.L. Western, 4 p.m.
 Churchill at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Salem at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 W.L. Northern at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at Canton, 4 p.m.
 Harper Woods at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Liggett, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 19
 Huron Valley at Ypsi Calvary, 4:30 p.m.
 B'ham Roeper at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 20
 John Glenn at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 Northville at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Salem at W.L. Northern, 4 p.m.
 Calvary Christian at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
 W.L. Western at Canton, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at W.L. Central, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Luth. N'west, 4:30 p.m.
 Luth. North at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 21 (all doubleheaders)
 South Lyon Tourney, 10 a.m.
 Churchill at Carleton-Airport, 10 a.m.
 Milford at Franklin, 11 a.m.
 John Glenn at Garden City, 11 a.m.
 Redford Union at Clarenceville, 11 a.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL
Monday, April 16
 W.L. Northern at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 W.L. Western at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 Salem at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Canton at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Northville at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17
 John Glenn at W.L. Central, 4 p.m.
 Divine Child at Ladywood (2), 4 p.m.
 Franklin Road at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley vs. Agape Christian at Canton's Griffin Park, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18
 W.L. Western at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Salem, 4 p.m.
 Canton at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Liggett, 4:30 p.m.
 Plymouth at W.L. Northern, 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 19
 Harper Woods at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
 Ply. Christian at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 20
 John Glenn at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 W.L. Central at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Mercy at Ladywood (2), 4 p.m.
 Plymouth at Northville, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Luth. N'west, 4:30 p.m.
 Canton at W.L. Western, 4 p.m.
 Luth. North at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
 Redford Union at Clarenceville (DH), 11 a.m.
 Birm. Groves at Churchill (DH), 11 a.m.

Wayne at Ypsi Lincoln (DH), 11 a.m.
 Canton at Anchor Bay Tourney, 9:30 a.m.
 Plymouth at Tecumseh Tourney, TBA
GIRLS SOCCER
Monday, April 16
 Churchill at W.L. Northern, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
 Canton at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Salem (CEP), 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Northville, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17
 Clarenceville at B.H. Kingswood, 4:30 p.m.
 Hamtramck at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
 Ladywood at H.W. Regina, 5:30 p.m.
 Oakland Christian at PCA, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18
 W.L. Northern at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Churchill at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 W.L. Central at Salem, 7 p.m.
 Plymouth at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at Northville, 7 p.m.
 Canton at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 19
 Luth. Westland at Clawson, 4:30 p.m.
 Mercy at Ladywood, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, April 20
 John Glenn at Garden City, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Taylor Truman, 4 p.m.
 Canton at Salem, 7 p.m.
 PCA at B'ham Roeper, 7:30 p.m.
 Latirup at Clarenceville, 5 p.m.
BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
Tuesday, April 17
 Ladywood at Divine Child, 4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18
 Clarenceville at Lutheran North, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 19
 Churchill at Salem, 3:30 p.m.
 Wayne at Franklin, 3:30 p.m.
 Canton at Plymouth, 3:30 p.m.
 Stevenson at John Glenn, 3:30 p.m.
 Annapolis, Roeper, A.P. Cabrini at Lutheran Westland, 4:15 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
 Monroe-Jefferson Inv., 9 a.m.
 Birm. Groves Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Berkley Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Elks Relays at Dearborn, 10 a.m.
BOYS TENNIS
Monday, April 16
 Wayne at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Northville at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at W.L. Northern, 4 p.m.
 W.L. Western at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Plymouth at W.L. Central, 4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18
 John Glenn at Northville, 4 p.m.
 Churchill at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 W.L. Central at Salem, 4 p.m.
 W.L. Northern at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Canton at W.L. Western, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 20
 Plymouth at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Salem at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 W.L. Central at Canton, 4 p.m.
 W.L. Northern at Salem, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at W.L. Western, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
 Holly Invitational, 8 a.m.
 Salsine Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Herald Inv. at Taylor Truman, TBA.
BOYS LACROSSE
Thursday, April 19
 PCS at Northville, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
 PCS at Flint Powers, 11 a.m.

GIRLS GOLF
Monday, April 16
 E. Lansing Inv. at Walnut Hills, 9 a.m.
Wednesday, April 18
 John Glenn vs. Franklin at Fellows Creek, 3 p.m.
 Churchill vs. Wayne at Whispering Willows, 3 p.m.
 Stevenson vs. Canton at Fox Creek, 3 p.m.
 Ladywood at A.A. Huron, 3:30 p.m.
 Plymouth at Salem at St. John's GC, 3 p.m.
Thursday, April 19
 John Glenn, Franklin at Taylor Truman, 3 p.m.
 Stevenson vs. W.L. Western at Links of Pinewood, 3 p.m.
 Ladywood vs. Riv. Gab. Richard at St. John's Golf Center, 3 p.m.
Friday, April 20
 John Glenn vs. Wayne at The Woodlands-Van Buren, 3 p.m.
 Churchill vs. Northville at Tanglewood, 3 p.m.
 Franklin vs. W.L. Northern at Idyl Wyld, 3 p.m.
 W.L. Central at Plymouth at Hickory Creek G.C., 3 p.m.
 Canton at Salem at St. John's G.C., 3 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
 Grosse Ile Invitational at Riverview Highlands, 9 a.m.
GIRLS LACROSSE
Monday, April 16
 Ladywood at Riv. Gab. Richard, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18
 H.W. Regina at Ladywood, 6 p.m.
Friday, April 20
 Troy at Ladywood, 6 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL (all doubleheaders)
Sunday, April 15
 Madonna vs. Indiana Tech at Ilitch Ballpark, 1 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17
 Madonna at Northwood, 1 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18
 Madonna at Siena Hts., 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
 Madonna vs. Aquinas College at Ilitch Ballpark, 1 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Friday, April 20 (all doubleheaders)
 Madonna vs. Rochester College at University Field, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
 Madonna vs. Siena Heights at University Field, 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 22
 Madonna vs. Aquinas College at University Field, 1 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYOFFS WESTERN CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
Sunday, April 14 (if necessary)
 Whalers at Kitchener, 7:30 p.m.
MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE PLAYOFFS-OPENING ROUND
Sunday, April 14
 Ignition vs. Milwaukee Wave at Compuware Arena, 4:35 p.m.
 TBA - time to be announced.

Canton alum McDevitt wins to earn split for Crusaders

Friday's complete-game 5-1 win over Concordia probably was a little sweeter for Madonna University pitcher and Canton alum Carl McDevitt - because it came against his former college team, Concordia.

The junior right-hander scattered eight hits and fanned five Cardinals to even his won-loss record at 2-2 as the Crusaders - despite managing a total of just nine hits for the day - earned a split of a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference doubleheader at Ilitch Ballpark in Livonia.

Concordia's lone run against McDevitt came in the sixth when Zach Johnston singled home his brother, Zane Johnston, slicing Madonna's lead to 3-1.

But MU (16-13 overall, 4-6 in the WHAC) answered in

the bottom half thanks to a two-run triple by sophomore Ryan Morrow.

The Crusaders got off to a 1-0 lead in the fourth against Concordia (11-14, 1-5). Senior third baseman Gary VanAllen doubled to left and eventually scored on a double-play grounder.

Two more runs scored in the fifth, with the big hit being a triple to right-center by junior catcher Garrett Ignasiak.

Concordia won the opener 6-2, with five MU errors and other miscues resulting in all runs being unearned against junior starting pitcher Will Kennedy (Westland/John Glenn).

The Cardinals set the tone with four runs in the third, a rally featuring a two-run double by first baseman Alex

Hoover. Madonna got on the board in the fourth thanks to an unearned run, but the Cardinals came back with two more tallies in the fifth.

VanAllen tripled in the sixth and scored on a single to center by senior right-fielder Tony Luttmann (Farmington).

Collecting the victory for Concordia was Drew Linder, who gave up one earned run and four hits over six innings. Earning the save with an inning of scoreless relief was Kyle McIntyre.

Following Kennedy to the mound for MU were senior righty Mike Hand (1.2 innings, 0 runs) and sophomore right-hander Ryan Brodowsky (1 scoreless frame). Hand and Brodowsky are graduates of North Farmington and Farmington, respectively.

MARATHON

FROM PAGE B1

the race is running through Wellesley," he said. "The girls from Wellesley College line the streets and the noise they make is almost deafening. You can hear them two miles before you get to the town."

"It gets crazy around the 22nd and 23rd mile, too, because you run by Fenway Park and the fans are usually just getting out of the Boston Red Sox game. A lot of them are usually pretty inebriated and they get pretty rowdy."

SPECIAL SUPPORT

Lemeiux, of Canton, will be running in her second consecutive Boston Marathon. The 2006 edition was memorable not only because of the thousands of fans who were present, but by the a small group of supporters who greeted her at the top of a grueling hill.

"They have these special

mats along the course and when you run past them, a computer chip in your shoe sends an e-mail or a phone message to people you know to let them know exactly where you are," said Lemeiux.

"Because of this, my family knew where I was the entire time and they were there to cheer me on at some of the toughest points in the race.

"It's a difficult course because of all the hills. You're running downhill for 17-and-a-half miles and uphill for five miles. They say it's the most demanding marathon in the world."

FIRST-TIMER

Scaparo will find that out firsthand Monday when she covers the Boston route for the first time in what will be just her second marathon.

"I really don't know what to expect," said the 43-year-old Canton resident, who, along with Lemeiux and Haggerty, is a member of the "Dirt Road Divas," a 30-plus-member running club that is based in

Canton. "I just want to complete it and be able to walk when it's over," she said, smiling.

All of the local runners made sure their pre-Boston training included plenty of ups and downs.

"I made sure I ran a lot of hills," revealed Rush. "I ran Joy Road, Ridge and Napier a lot. I also did a lot of treadmill downhill running."

"Our running group tried to make sure we ran a lot of dirt-road hills toward the end of our loops so that we'd get the feeling of going uphill at the end when we're bone tired," Lemeiux added.

Haggerty said the grueling event is made a little easier by a series of billboards that are staggered throughout the course.

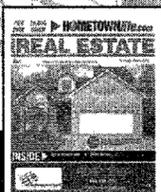
"One will say, 'Reason No. 678: Because I can,' and another will say, 'For every uphill, there's a downhill,' things like that," she said. "They're very inspirational."

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WHALERS

FROM PAGE B1

led into the net after Sestito's goal, DeBoer replaced Murray with back-up Charles Lavigne.

Was Vellucci surprised by the move?
"Yes and no," he said. "I probably would have done the same thing because he's given up those kind of goals the whole series. When you give up short-handed goals like that, it's a momentum buster."

Evan Brophy added fuel to the Whalers' momentum midway through the second period when he converted a rare penalty shot to double Plymouth's lead to 2-0. Brophy, a native of Kitchener, made a slick move right before shifting left and lifting the puck over the sprawling Lavigne.

Kitchener defenseman Jakub Kindl, a Detroit Red Wings draftee, brought the Rangers to within 2-1 with 6:16 left in the second period when he rifled a shot from the point past a screened Neuvirth. The power-play marker was Kindl's second goal of the series.

The Whalers sucked the life out of Kitchener's comeback plans three minutes later when



WALT DMOCH

Plymouth's Andrew Fournier (facing camera) was a key contributor in the Whalers' OHL Western Conference triumph over Kitchener. Fournier scored an overtime game-winner in Game 3.

Chris Terry handled a nifty pass from Dan Collins in front of the net and wristed it past Lavigne to pad the lead to 3-1. Ward also assisted on the goal.

The back-breaking goal came 9:36 into the third period when Andrew Fournier and Joe McCann hooked up on a pretty give-and-go play to improve the Whalers' lead to 4-1. Fournier started the play with a crisp pass from center ice to McCann who was streak-

ing down the right side. McCann then threaded a laser back to Fournier, who whistled the hard piece of rubber past an overmatched Lavigne.

The goal seemed to strike a nerve in the Rangers, who were called for a pair of 10-minute misconduct penalties and one game misconduct infraction over the course of the next minute.

The Whalers, who were out-shot 31-24, have made it a

habit of causing teams to lose their cool during the first two post-season series, during which they've chiseled a stellar 8-1 record.

"We have great chemistry and we don't really have a weak spot right now," Ward said, when asked about the team's roll. "Our goalie is playing great and our special teams are going good right now. When we play well on the five-on-fives, we're hard to stop."

"That was a huge win for us tonight, but we're only half-way to where we want to go. We have to keep the throttle down, get some rest and then get right back at it once we know who we're going to play next."

Vellucci stopped short of saying this year's contingent of Whalers is the best he's ever coached. But he did say they may be the most enjoyable bunch.

"They're a fun group to be around," said Vellucci, flashing a wide grin. "They're a bunch of characters. Usually, you have one or two characters on a team. I think we have 19 or 20 on this team."

"They're hard to handle sometimes, that's for sure." The Kitchener Rangers couldn't agree more.

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Kitchener rides early lead to Game 4 win

Kevin Henderson scored twice while Steve Downie and Matt Martello added single goals as the Kitchener Rangers built a 3-0 lead in the second period and went on to defeat the Plymouth Whalers, 4-2, in Game 4 of the Ontario Hockey League Western Conference Semifinals played Wednesday night before 5,948 at the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium.

Dan Collins (third of the playoffs) and Chris Terry (4) replied for Plymouth.

Special teams were the key

to the Kitchener victory as they went 3-for-12 on the power play and added a shorthanded goal. Kitchener defenseman Jakub Kindl contributed three assists and Rangers center Justin Azevedo two, all on the power play. Plymouth went 1-for-9 on the power play. Kitchener outshot Plymouth, 50-31, in the game.

Martello scored the only goal of the first period at 19:09 when Kindl's point shot missed the Plymouth goal but caromed off the back boards to Martello, stationed at the right

goal line. Martello batted the puck past Plymouth goaltender Michal Neuvirth.

Henderson scored a short-handed goal at 2:30 of the second period when Neuvirth tried to clear the puck out of his own zone from the left faceoff circle. But the puck bounced off Henderson and into the Plymouth net.

Downie made it 3-0 at 7:15 when he was set up directly in front of the Plymouth goal and made no mistake with the shot. Collins cut the Kitchener lead to 3-1 at 9:05 when he

beat Kitchener goaltender John Murray with a low shot from the left circle.

Henderson opened the third period scoring at 8:02 when he deflected Kindl's point shot from the hashmarks past Neuvirth. Terry closed the scoring at 16:16 of the period when he scored on scramble at the side of the Kitchener goal. Plymouth head coach Mike Vellucci pulled Neuvirth with 1:53 remaining in the third period, but the Whalers couldn't cut into the Kitchener lead.

Whalers' Neuvirth second in GOY voting

Plymouth Whalers goaltender Michal Neuvirth finished second in this season's Ontario Hockey League Goaltender of the Year voting, behind London goaltender Steve Mason.

Neuvirth - a second round pick (34th overall) of the National Hockey League's Washington Capitals - com-

pleted a 2.32 goals against average and led the OHL during the regular season with a .932 save percentage. Along with Jeremy Smith (Brownstown), the Whalers led the OHL in team defense this season in allowing 173 goals over 68 games.

Mason posted an impressive 45-13-1-3 record, along with a 3.20 goals against average and

a .914 save percentage, in 62 games this season. Mason was instrumental in leading the Knights to their fourth consecutive Hamilton Spectator Trophy, along with the teams fourth consecutive Holody Trophy Midwest Division Championship. Mason's 45 regular season wins is a new OHL record amongst goaltenders.

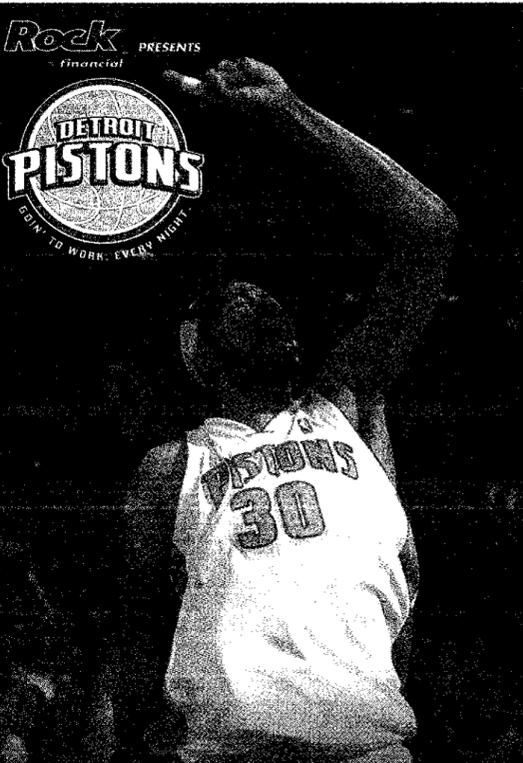
Mason received 76 points in the voting process, followed by Neuvirth, who received 43 points. Thomas McCollum of the Guelph Storm finished third with 28 points.

Mason joins some elite company with past winners including Adam Dennis, Ray Emery, Andrew Raycroft and Manny Legace.



Young ace

Glenn Plot, Jr., a 10-year-old resident of Canton, recorded a hole-in-one April 3 at the Strategic Fox Golf Course at Fox Hills in Plymouth Township. Plot, a fourth-grader at All Saints Catholic School in Canton, used a seven iron to ace the 94-yard third hole at the Strategic Fox. Glenn is the son of Glenn and Judy Plot of Canton.



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Chips sign ex-Ocelot Minnoy to scholarship

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Central Michigan University men's basketball coach Ernie Ziegler used his Schoolcraft College connection Wednesday to sign Ocelot forward Nate Minnoy.

Ziegler, a former Ocelot player, also added Cass Tech point-guard William Eddie III, son of CMU assistant coach William Eddie, Jr.

Minnoy, a burly 6-4, 265-pound forward, played one season at Schoolcraft after transferring from Purdue University where he started the first 12 games of the 2005-06 season before suffering a knee injury. During his abbreviated stint at Purdue, Minnoy averaged 10.2 points and 5.1 rebounds per game.

The Hales Franciscan High product from Chicago, Ill., averaged 22.1 points and 10.8 rebounds per game as Schoolcraft finished 23-9 overall and captured the Michigan Community College Athletic Association playoffs.

He earned NJCAA All-Region 12 and All-MCCAA honors this season.

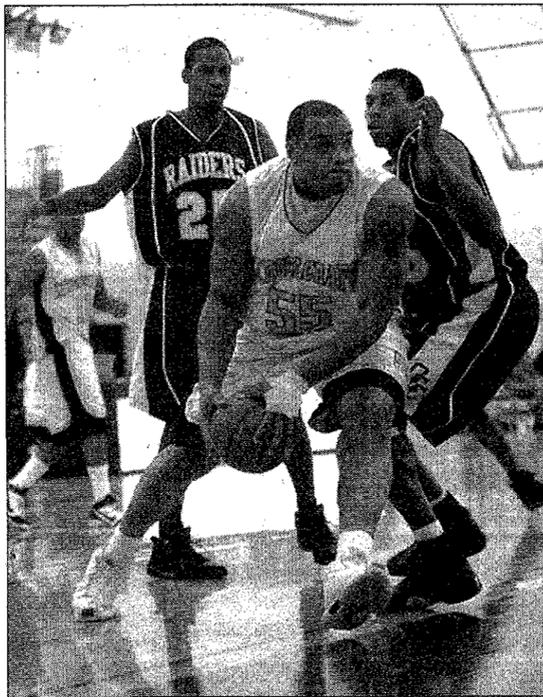
"Nate is a tremendous addition to our program," Ziegler said in a CMU press statement. "He brings a lot of the intangibles that will allow us to continue to develop a winning situation here at CMU. His leadership and toughness, along with his skill set, will enhance our program and the rebuilding process."

Ziegler, the former UCLA assistant, guided the Chippewas to a 13-18 overall record and 7-9 mark in the Mid-American Conference in his first season as head coach.

During the fall signing period, Ziegler inked 6-5 guard Chase Simon (Detroit Community) and 6-4 guard Jeremy Allen (Cass Tech).

"In light of some guys leaving our program, we were able to sign some additional student-athletes who will upgrade our talent level," Ziegler said in the release. "These two (Minnoy and Eddie III) give us more depth and will create competition at every position in practice, which is what we need to get better."

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Former Schoolcraft College basketball player Nate Minnoy (with ball) signed to play for Central Michigan University beginning in the fall.

Canton Celtic FC set to battle Ann Arbor

Canton Celtic FC will play a preliminary round game against the Ann Arbor Football Club in the 2007 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup, 7 p.m. Sunday at Saline High School.

Admission is \$1. Canton Celtic FC, managed by player-coach Dave Hebestreit, is a member of Michigan United Soccer League's First Division and includes standouts from area high schools, along with college players from Madonna, Schoolcraft and the University of Michigan.

The U.S. Open Cup is the nation's largest and oldest elimination tournament, has been contested on a national level since 1914.

Any team that is a part of a league sponsored by the U.S. Soccer Federation can enter the tournament be it of a professional or amateur status.

This year, 40 teams will

make up the U.S. Open Cup proper rounds including eight MLS teams; 10 USL Division I teams; six USD Division II teams; eight Premier Development League teams (including the defending PDL champion Michigan Bucks); and eight USASA teams, two each from four different regions including Canton Celtic.

If Canton Celtic wins its preliminary round match, the club will travel to the Region II tournament to meet champions of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa and the NPSL bid Princeton '56ers in a single-elimination weekend tournament April 21 in St. Joseph, Mich.

The two finalists will qualify for the U.S. Open Cup proper rounds.

The final of the U.S. Open Cup will be televised nationally and played June 17 in St. Joe.

Canton sweeps Dragons

Canton's baseball team extended its early-season record to 4-1-1 Tuesday afternoon with a doubleheader sweep of Swartz Creek.

The visiting Chiefs won the opener, 10-8, before snuffing out the Dragons, 5-1, in the nightcap.

Sophomore catcher/outfielder Dan Stoney was the hitting star for the Chiefs, combining to go 4-for-6 with a home run and two doubles in the twinbill. His home run in the opener gave Canton a 5-3 lead that they would never relinquish.

Senior catcher Blaine Paden also swung a hot bat for the Chiefs in the opener, going 2-for-2 with an RBI and a run scored. Ben Vaughn, William Tidwell, Kevin Delapaz and

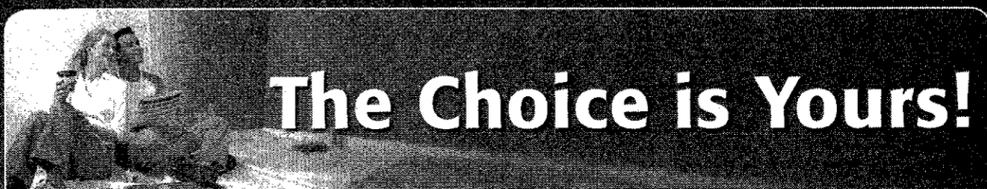
Ryan Neu all added one hit in the victory.

Junior left-handed pitcher Erik Wright improved to 2-0 after yielding two hits, five walks and two earned runs in three innings of work. Dan Milus was solid in relief of Wright, giving up three earned runs the rest of the way.

Senior pitcher Brad Barath shut down the Dragons in Game 2 as he gave up just two hits in five innings of work. Delapaz was perfect in relief over the final two frames.

Joining Stoney in the hit parade were Barath (2-for-3, RBI double), Kyle Gring (RBI double) and Mike Madias, who went 1-for-2.

Swartz Creek dropped to 2-2 on the season.



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'Rent' musical beats out the movie version

BY LAUREN ANTHONY

Ever since I was 5 years old, I have always loved musicals. I have yet to see a musical I don't like.

When I was young, I was constantly watching movie musicals like

Grease, Annie, The New Adventures of Pippi Longstocking and Labyrinth.

Now, 10 years later, I still love musicals, but tend to watch more adult ones.



lauren anthony

Last November, I watched *Rent* for the first time. It was amazing. I thought I would never see a musical I liked more than *Grease* - my favorite musical for a decade. I was wrong.

I instantly became hooked. I asked for the movie for Christmas and until then I watched it repeatedly On Demand. When I wasn't watching the movie, I was listening to the soundtrack. I had become what people call a "Renthead," someone obsessed with *Rent*.

I read the libretto, watched taped productions online, and memorized the movie.

The only thing I hadn't done was see *Rent* live on stage. When the opportunity presented itself in January, I jumped at the chance.

So on March 11, my dad took my friend, Sam, and me to the Masonic Temple Theatre in Detroit where, after three months of waiting, we would finally see *Rent* live on stage. This would not only be my first time seeing *Rent*, it was also my first Broadway musical.

The show was amazing. So much better than I ever imagined, and so much better than the movie. Being able to see the play performed and hear all the songs live was so wonderful. I was especially excited to hear some of my favorite songs from the musical such as *Christmas Bells* and *Happy New Year*. Both were left out of the movie.

All of the actors were terrific. Harley Jay was hysterical as Mark. He was so spastic and full of energy - I especially enjoyed his performance of *Tango: Maureen* with Chante Frierson. Chante Frierson was also wonderful. Her Joanne had so much attitude and an amazing voice.

Tracy McDowell, as Maureen, constantly had me laughing, and made me adore *Over the Moon*, a song I usually skip it on the DVD. She had as much energy as Harley Jay and a marvelous voice.

Ano Okera was a wonderful Angel. He really portrayed the warm and loving character excellently, and as Angel was one of my favorite characters this pleased me very much.

Declan Bennett was a pretty good Roger, he didn't seem to have a very rock-style voice, but he still sang very well and was adorable with Jennifer Colby Talton, as Mimi.

Her *Out Tonight* was great and she did very well singing both the slow songs, as well as the up-beat ones.

After the show ended I was a little upset. It all went by so quickly, but I loved it so much. We weren't done, though. In the words of a fellow Renthead, "You've got to do the door thing."

So when it ended we walked around the building and stood outside the stage door waiting for everyone to come out so we could get autographs and pictures.

We stood there for close to an hour and got almost the entire cast to sign our programs.

Sam and I also got pictures with Harley Jay, Tracy McDowell and Ano Okera.

Overall, it was one of the best experiences of my life. I'm so glad *Rent* was my first Broadway musical, it was amazing. Now all I have to do is see *Rent* in New York, and my *Rent* experience will be complete.

Lauren Ashley is a Garden City High School student at a member of the Teen Journalist program.



Claire Sloma celebrated Christmas with her German host family, the Dolls, during her year abroad.

Studying abroad

A world full of opportunities

As I sat on the plane on the way to Germany, my head was filled with never-ending questions: "Would my host family like me? Would I be able to live in a different country for a year? Why, oh, why, did I put myself up to this?"

The truth is, I was scared out of my mind. I was finally facing up to reality, but for some reason it still didn't feel real. However, as soon as I stepped off that plane and was greeted with warm smiles and shouts of joy, I began to feel 10 times



claire sloma

better.

Studying abroad was the best decision I ever made. It was a wonderful way to get out and see the real world, and to experience parts of life that are rare and unique.

While in Germany during my junior year of high school, I was introduced to a whole new culture and way of living. From September 2005 until July 2006, not only did I learn to speak the language fluently, but I also lived with a great host family and met some of the most amazing people I know - from Germany and other parts of the world, such as Brazil, Japan and Italy.



Claire Sloma, of Redford, went skiing in the Italian Alps.

I was lucky to end up in a wonderful little town called Gaggenau. It's only about an hour and a half south of Frankfurt in southwestern Germany. There are just about 30,000 people, but the town itself is full of amazing sights. I lived right by a river and the Black Forest. Every day on my walk to school, I would wander through the small downtown area, filled with little shops and markets.

Yes, I did walk to school, and a mile at that. And yes, I did have to

walk uphill on the way home. This hill was so steep that it had a bench in the middle on the way up, and another one three-fourths of the way. Try walking up that in snow!

While in Germany, I studied at an actual German school, known as Goethe Gymnasium (and no, it is not a gym. Gymnasium is basically just another word for school, like those we have in America).

There were approximately 1,000 students from grades five through 13, and they don't graduate until

they finish their 13th year. I joined one of the three 11th-grade classes, and participated in nine different subjects out of 11 throughout the week. I was with some of the most intelligent students I know.

My friends in Germany speak fluent English, and practically fluent French, Spanish, or Latin. Crazy, huh? Believe me, it was a bit intimidating at first, but learning to speak German fluently was well-respected by my friends.

It's true that it wasn't easy living away from my family and friends for a year, but it was worth it. My host family was supportive and loving. I was fortunate to have two younger host sisters and an older host brother. I only have one older sister here. I grew close to my host family and now they are more like a second family than anything.

Thanks to them, I woke up to the view of the Black Forest every morning, I learned to ski in the Alps in Italy, and I roamed the old streets of Paris.

Skiing in the Alps was probably one of the most unbelievable experiences I've had. The view, the fresh winter air and the mind-boggling amounts of diverse people were just amazing.

The fact that my host family introduced me to real Italian cooking, along with the sights, was

PLEASE SEE ABROAD, C2

Popular Garden City educator announces retirement

BY LUCY ZAHOR

Ben Alalouf is more than an assistant principal at Garden City High School. At 66, he is a role model for students there and in his driver's education classes. Teaching was not his lifelong plan.



lucy zahor

Alalouf was born in Yugoslavia in 1941. He was born in a bomb shelter while his family was on the run from the Nazis. They traveled throughout Europe on a donkey, until the

opportunity came to board a ship to the United States.

While on the ship, it was torpedoed, and everyone on board ended up in the ocean. To this day, Alalouf is the only one in his family who is able to swim.

Hanging onto a piece of debris to stay alive, his family members waited to be rescued. Once American troops arrived, Alalouf, his family, and everyone else on that particular ship, were brought to the United States. They came through Ellis Island, New York. Because the war was still going, they stayed in a refugee camp.

One day, there was a knock on the door. A woman walked in speaking English. Alalouf was not familiar with the language, though he spoke Spanish, Yugoslavian, and some Italian. He later



Ben Alalouf

discovered the woman was first lady Eleanor Roosevelt. She came to announce that war was over and gave his family a choice to stay in the United States, or move to South America. His mother choose to stay here, and

his family moved to Brooklyn, N.Y. The neighborhood that Alalouf grew up in was much like Garden City, he said, except many of the kids didn't go to school. Most kids at that time were working to make money for their family. Alalouf's father wanted a better life for his son, so he was sent to school.

Out of about 25 kids in his neighborhood, Alalouf was one of the lucky two

to graduate from high school. After graduation, he took a job at a shipping dock where he unloaded but didn't have the grades or the money. That's when he turned to his former football coach for help. His coach told him that if he took the SAT and scored high enough, he could get into a college.

Being a below-average student, Alalouf was not prepared to take a test like this. He spent the money he had saved for a car to take a preparatory class. It was enough to pass the entrance exam and get into Central Washington University for his first year. Then, he transferred to Murray State

PLEASE SEE ALALOUF, C2

Special Delivery brings a special message

BY GRACIE ANDERSON

Special Delivery is an awesome Christian band with a punk rock feel and a little turntable thrown in. The band includes Patrick Bossio, 22, and also known as Big Daddy Patty. He's the lead singer and plays bass, Daniel Bossio, or D-Boss, is Pat's 20-year-old brother. He



gracie anderson

plays the guitar. Zak Ortiz, DJ El Zako, 29, plays multiple instruments, including the keytar.

Michael Gilleran, or Mg Hammer, is 27 and plays the drums. Finally, the newest addition to the band is 17-year-old Caleb Vasquez, who also plays the guitar.

Special Delivery has a unique sound. From the start, the band wanted to be different. "We like to see surprise on our audience's faces," Zak said.

The band plays a lot of concerts and has one CD out now with another to come. They're all members of Faith Christian Assembly in Melvindale, and four of the musicians also volunteer in the youth center. Pat started the band for youth outreach. Originally called Charis, which is Greek for grace, the band has acquired a strong fan base.



Special Delivery performed for writer Grace Anderson's (pictured) birthday recently. Band members include (from left): Michael Gilleran, Caleb Vasquez, Patrick Bossio and Zak Ortiz.

"Special Delivery's CD is meaningful and rockin' mad sweet to listen to," said Rachel Pouget, 16, of Allen Park. Her favorite song is *Live For Now*.

Special Delivery bandmates are almost used to unexpected things happening at their shows — from a mosh pit dog pile to attracting crazy fans from Estonia. But nothing can top the time in Kalamazoo, when a man with sunglasses and a briefcase jumped onstage and pushed Patrick from his microphone.

"He pulled a harmonica from his briefcase and just started to play into the microphone," Patrick said.

Mike added: "We jammed with him for, like, 10 minutes. It was the longest song of our life."

Pat said: "When we were done, I asked him his name and he's, like, 'Just call me Mr. Blues.'"

Caleb noted: "After the show, he vanished. We couldn't find

SEE SPECIAL DELIVERY

When: 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 25
Where: Access Youth, Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills.
Admission: Free
Vote for the band online: www.cornerstonefest.com; www.ichthus.org; creation-fest.com.

him anywhere." "He was like Batman!" Zak added.

Patrick came up with the name Special Delivery while he was at school in Hawaii.

"I was talking to a friend of mine about cool names for bands when someone came up with our mail from our families. It said 'Special Delivery' on it, and the rest is history," Patrick said.

Zak added: "The name really said what we wanted to say — that we had a special message that we need to deliver to young people."

The band's first gig was at the members' old church, across the street from the new one. "It wasn't really a gig at all," Pat said. They had dressed up in tin foil to come out to *Mr. Robot*, but their former guitarist never showed up. "We sat there waiting for a half hour covered in aluminum foil," Zak said.

All the members of the band have a great love for music. "Everyone can relate to music, it's like a universal language," Caleb said. Some of Special Delivery's musical inspiration comes from bands like Reliant K, Switch Foot, Jimmy Eat World, All American Rejects, The Killers and The Beatles.

Another source of inspiration comes from Jesus Christ. "We wouldn't be a band with out him," Pat said.

Learn more about the band at www.myspace.com/specialdelivery or at www.specialdelivery-rocks.com

Grace Anderson is a member of the *Observer & Eccentric* Teen Journalist program and a Garden City High School sophomore.

ALALOUF

FROM PAGE C1

University in Kentucky, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

He sent applications everywhere he could, and Garden City Schools called him back. Alalouf taught at Cambridge Junior High School for 10 years. After his first year, he started teaching driver's education at Arrow Driving School in Detroit.

After more than 20 years of driving instruction, he opened his own school, Great Lakes Driving School, in 1981.

"Mr. Alalouf's driving school was really interesting," said Alaina Baker, a senior at Garden City High School. "He wasn't afraid to drive with us and taught us well about the most important aspects of the open road."

This will be his last year teaching the class. He's announced his pending retirement. At Cambridge, Alalouf also served as the vocational director and varsity football coach. In 1992, he became assistant principal at Garden City High School and has been in the position ever since.

Affectionately known by his students as "Louf," the position has come with added opportunity. In 1999 Alalouf performed as

the guardian angel, singing *Beauty School Drop-Out*, in the musical *Grease*. Although he was a little nervous about the whole thing, Alalouf said, he agreed to help the drama students and give everyone a good laugh.

"I can't sing to save my soul," said Alalouf.

By opening night, it was a hit. The play ran for three nights, but so many people were interested in it, the drama department extended the run for the following weekend as well.

Working in Garden City reminds Alalouf of the neighborhood he grew up in, he said. "This is a good, solid community with a lot of good people."

As much as he loves the kids, and this town, Alalouf said he plans on retiring in the next couple of years. Although he doesn't have any set plans yet, he has a few ideas.

He and his wife may move down to Nashville to be closer to their daughter, and watch college football. He'd also like to go on a cruise or two, and visit Greece.

Whatever he chooses to do, he will always be remembered by his students, as the one and only "Louf."

Lucy Zahor is a member of the Teen Journalist program and a Garden City High School junior.

Good Eats

Local restaurant serves up smiles



ashley j. trombley

It's springtime once again in Garden City. And this means one thing — school will be out soon, and hundreds of hungry teenagers will be free to roam the streets.

But where will they go? Maybe to a Coney Island. But don't be fooled. Plato's Place isn't your typical restaurant.

Jim Kanelopoulos founded Plato's Place in 1969. It specializes in Greek food, such as gyros, moussaka and saginaki — along with a variety of Coney Island staples, like hot dogs and hamburgers.

Thirty-eight years since it opened, Plato is still going strong. The restaurant is now owned by Bill Kanelopoulos and Andy Rekoumis. No matter the time of day, it seems like nearly every table is

occupied. Got a hankering for a Greek salad but can't make it to Garden City? Plato's Place has another location in Canton.

As it turns out both of these restaurants are in the family — the two owners are cousins. But for those of us who live in Garden City and

can afford the short trip downtown, it's located at 30090 Ford Road, across from the credit union. Call (734) 425-6611.

Here's to Plato's Place. May it be in business 40 years from now.

And as long as it's standing, there's no question that patrons are in for good service and even better food.

Ashley J. Trombley is a member of the Teen Mentorship program and a student at Garden City High School.

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ABROAD

FROM PAGE C1

already more than I had expected, but that they also took me to Paris, as well as other small French cities, was just incredible.

Paris was breathtaking, blooming with history and fashion and great little cafés. The lit-up Eiffel tower at night was one of the most beautiful things I'd ever seen, as was the Mona Lisa at the Louvre, a piece of art from hundreds of years ago. Oh, and did I mention tons of great shopping?

There is so much to see in the world and, thankfully, my host family was able to let me get hands-on experience. No matter where you go, you'll be witnessing something new. There are different festivals,

beliefs and people waiting to be discovered, opening up doors to so many possibilities.

This experience has changed the way I think and look at life, and made me into the person I am today. Almost every day I think about my year over there and, believe me, I can't wait to go back.

While sitting on the plane on the way home, after spending an unforgettable year in Germany, those taunting questions played back through my head, and all I could do was smile.

Jet-setter Claire Sloma is a senior at Redford Union High School and a member of the Teen Journalist program at the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. She earned a Daimler Chrysler scholarship through American Field Service to study abroad. For details, visit www.afs.org.

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Key Clubs gather for annual convention

BY LAUREN ANTHONY

On March 23, thousands of students from 110 high schools in Michigan all gathered at the Valley Plaza Hotel in Midland, Mich., to celebrate the accomplishments and triumphs of Key Club.



lauren anthony

The high school branch of the Kiwanis Club, Key Club is a nonprofit organization devoted to bettering communities.

Some have been involved in the effort since K-kids, the elementary branch of Kiwanis. Others just joined this year. Some are involved in sports and other school activities. Some are just devoted to Key Club.

They all have one thing in common, though - they love to help others.

The 56th annual Michigan Key Club Convention had an original theme spinning off the year and a well-known movie series, "007: License To Serve." Each Key Clubber received a convention shirt. On the front, it modeled a suit jacket with a key in the pocket. On the back was the convention's motto along with the words "Club ... Key Club."

The weekend began with a fun-filled meet and greet activity, including games like Twister and Scattergories. The Opening Session was held at 6:45 p.m. and the Great Hall was packed with students, chaperones, board members, and honorary guests all dressed in business attire.

Keynote speaker Patrick Maurer shared stories about leadership ranging from his reign as captain of his elemen-

tary school Citrus Squad (safety guards) to his disastrous day as substitute teacher.

Maurer was followed by the Presentation of Awards, which honored clubs for reaching goals. Garden City High School earned an Early Bird award, for getting dues in early.

The Key Club members were also informed of the District Project, Governor's Project, and Major Emphasis Program for the 2007-08 year.

Saturday was a day for service. Key Clubbers were split into three separate groups and would move around to various stations participating in different service projects. Members helped make trauma dolls, baby blankets, and friendship bracelets.

They wrote letters to our troops serving overseas, and packed donated food to help fight hunger around the world.

The service projects were followed by forums where students had a chance to dance, play games, and learning how to better their Key Club.

At 5 p.m., everyone donned their dressiest attire, from suits to gowns worthy of Homecoming, for the Governor's Banquet. There, more awards were given in

honor of spectacular scrap books, videos, and posters made by various clubs.

The Governor's Ball followed the banquet. Many Key Clubbers attended, dressed in their best, dancing to the music and mingling with students from other schools.

On Sunday morning, 220 delegates, two from each school, gathered in the House of Delegates to vote for the 2007-08 District Board.

This was followed by the Governor's Farewell Brunch where the new board was announced.

As the Key Club members packed to go back to their own schools, they reminisced about the past Key Club year. They also looked to the future, planning what they will do for Key Club.

Kayleigh Pinsonneault, a Garden City High School sophomore, said: "Convention was a lot of fun. It was a great way to help make a difference."

For more on Key Club, visit www.mikeyclub.org.

Lauren Anthony offered this recap as a Garden City High School student and member of the Teen Journalist program.



Students make trauma dolls for hospitals



Key Club members Alyssa Chambo, Scott New, and Andy Chambo make a fleece baby blanket during activities of the Key Club's annual convention.

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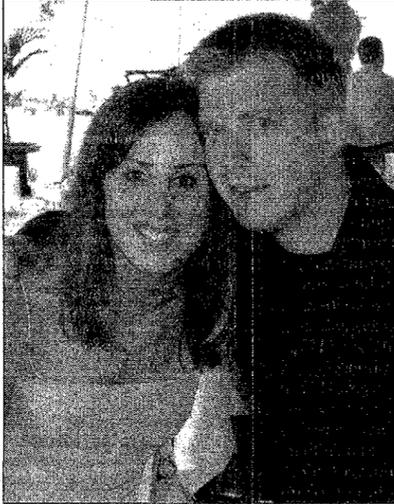
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ENGAGEMENTS



Froelicher-Jones
Hans and Joan Froelicher of Annapolis, MD, announce the engagement of their daughter, Katherine Froelicher, to Brian Jones, son of Tom and Cindy Jones of Canton. Katherine Froelicher, a 1999 Annapolis High School graduate earned degrees from Connecticut College and the London Center for International Relations. She is pursuing a juris doctorate at George Washington University.

Brian Jones, a 2000 Livonia Stevenson graduate, earned degrees from Western Michigan University and George Mason University. He is a proposal coordinator at USIS, a defense contractor. A May wedding is planned.

**Miller-Bayer**

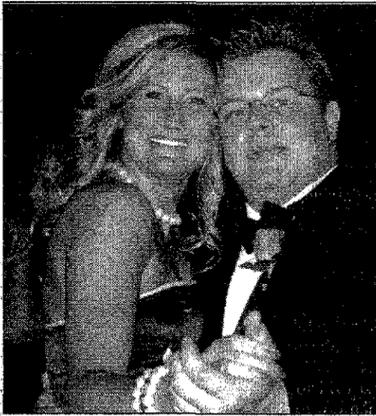
Beth Miller of Knox, Ind., and Tim Bayer of Livonia became engaged on Nov. 25, 2006. Beth, a 2003 graduate of Knox Community High School is the daughter of the Rev. Tim and Barb Miller. Beth will graduate from St. Olaf College in May with a bachelor of arts in music and an elementary education certification. She will teach in the Twin Cities this fall. Tim, a 2001 graduate of Livonia Stevenson and a 2005 graduate of Concordia University at Chicago, is the son of the Rev. Robert and Amy Bayer. Tim is completing his studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and serves Faith Lutheran Church in Oakville, Missouri. He will serve as a Student Pastor in the Twin Cities area beginning in August. The couple plan to marry on July 22, 2007, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Knox, Ind.

Lapinski-Drummond

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lapinski of Northville announce the engagement of their daughter, Stacy Anne Lapinski of San Jose, Calif., to David Michael Drummond of San Jose, Calif. The bride to be is a 1996 graduate of Farmington High School. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in education from Loyola Marymount University. She is employed as an elementary school teacher at a private school in Menlo Park, Calif. The prospective groom is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara and is employed in finance. A July 2007 wedding is planned for the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth.

**Fahner-Alexander**

Jim and Debbie Fahner of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Lynn Fahner, to John David Alexander, son of Connie Alexander of Westland. A September 2007 wedding is planned.

**Bohr-Martin**

John and JoAnne Bohr of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan Bohr, to Christopher Martin, son of Ron and Barb Martin of Canton. Megan Bohr, a 2000 graduate of Salem High School, earned her bachelor of communications degree from Michigan State

University in 2004. She is currently employed at Limited Brands Inc., as manager of the PINK store in Novi.

Christopher Martin, a 1999 graduate of Catholic Central High School, earned his bachelor of telecommunications degree from Michigan State University, graduating in 2003. He is currently employed at RHK Technologies in Troy as a marketing manager.

A fall 2007 wedding is planned at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth Township.

**Johnson-Hunley**

Mike and Cindy Johnson of Redford announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristy Marie Johnson, to Jeffrey Scott Hunley of Livonia.

Kristy Marie Johnson is a 1998 graduate of Redford Union High School and a 2003 graduate of the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a bachelor of arts degree in health policy studies. She currently works at Metro Medical Equipment in Livonia.

Jeffrey Scott Hunley is the son of Don and Jane Hunley of Northville. He is a 1998 graduate of Redford Thurston High School and is currently attending the University of Phoenix and working at Bareman's Dairy.

A May 19, 2007, wedding is planned for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills.

ANNIVERSARY

**Hansens celebrate 70th anniversary**

Loren and Mary Hansen Sr. of Canton recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with an open house for family and friends at their home.

The couple were married April 17, 1937, in Willis and have lived in the area since high school. Loren and Mary both graduated from Lincoln High School in 1935.

The couple have four children: Mabel Fischer and her husband, Louis, of Canton; Loren Jr. and his wife, Carole, of Saline; Kenneth and his wife, Phyllis, of Jackson; and Ina Cussen and her husband, Michael, of Canton.

The have 14 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

The Hansens are the former owners of Standard Printing Co. in Ypsilanti. Loren continues to enjoy growing and harvesting a large vegetable garden and maintains many apple and other fruit trees.

BIRTHS

**Heidi Rose Kasten**

Kristen Foley and Tim Kasten of Redford announce the birth of their daughter, Heidi Rose Kasten, on Jan. 4, 2007, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

Grandparents are Debbie Foley, Peter and Nancy Foley and Fred and Cathy Kasten, all of Plymouth Township.

Great-grandparents are Bob and Beth Doil of Milford, Tom and Pat Foley of Applegate and Robert and Virginia Kasten of Brighton.

**Alexander Thomas Ionescu**

Peter Ionescu and Angela Zazula of Royal Oak announce the birth of their son, Alexander Thomas Ionescu, on March 15, 2007, at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

Alexander weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 20 inches long at birth.

Grandparents are Arlene Zazula of Westland and Niculaea and Mandra Ionescu of Bucharest, Romania.



Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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**EDWARD C. COOKE**

Age 85, April 12, 2007. Beloved husband of Margaret for 61 years. Dear father of Kevin (Kimberly). Grandfather of Matthew (Megan), Elizabeth and Laura. Brother of Victoria Kareus, Adelaide Leggett and the late Clarion Cooke and Walter Cooke. Funeral service Monday 11am at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu Rodgers & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (brwn 13-14 Mile). Family will receive friends Sunday 3-8p.m. Interment White Chapel Cemetery. Memorial tributes to Bloomfield Hills Baptist Church, 3600 Telegraph Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302. View obituary and share memories at www.desmondfuneralhome.com

TERESA H. DEGENHARDT

April 10, 2007, age 92, of Frankfort, MI, formerly of Plymouth. Beloved wife of the late Clarence. Loving mother of David (Marlene), Robert (Karen), Mary (Don) McSperritt, Donald (Vickie), Teresa (Gary) Hopper, Anna (Joseph) Hamilton and the late Patricia Mishler, and the late Charles. Dear sister of Frances Grix. Proud grandmother of 29 and great grandmother of 27. Visitation will be at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd. (btwn Sheldon and Beck) in Plymouth on Friday from 3:00 until 9:00 PM. She will lie in state on Saturday at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth from 12:00 noon until the time of Mass at 12:30. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. To leave a message of condolence for the family please log onto: www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com

CONSTANCE FENTON

Of Farmington Hills, MI, died Tuesday, April 10, 2007. Preceded in death by parents, Reuben and Sophie Alburn of Minneapolis, MN. Survived by children, Cynthia Fenton of Chevy Chase, MD, and Robert L. (Aileen) Fenton Jr. of Fort Myers, FL; grandchildren, Robert L. Fenton III, Halle Marie Fenton and Olivia Paige Fenton; and a sister, Marjorie Victor. Funeral arrangements by the Hodroff Epstein Funeral Home, Minneapolis. Funeral services were held on Friday, April 13, at 3 p.m. at Temple Israel, Minneapolis. There will also be a memorial service, on Tuesday, April 17, at 12:30 p.m. at Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph Road, Bloomfield Hills. The family requests that memorial contributions be sent to the American Cancer Society or a charity of the donor's choice.

**EDWARD T. SMALLEY**

Age 91 of Farmington Hills, passed away April 4, 2007. Husband of the late Mildred. Dear father of Kenneth (Gail) Smalley, and Nancy (John) Rambow. Dear grandfather of Christopher and Sandra. Visitation will be at John N. Santeiu and Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City, on Wednesday, April 18th from 1 to 9 p.m., Memorial Service will be held April 19th at 11:30 a.m. at Santeiu Chapel.

MILDRED WERNER

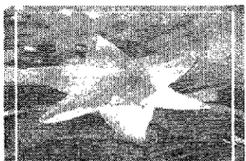
April 11, 2007 of Garden City. Beloved wife of Welden. Beloved mother of Bonnie and Gary, sister of Bonnie Raper. Grandmother of Kimberly, Scott, Nicole and Jessica, five great grandchildren and special friend Buggy. Visitation was Saturday 2-5pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 34567 Michigan Ave., Wayne. In lieu of flowers, family requests donations to Alzheimer's Association.

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7/13/31 to 4/16/06

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**MARGARET (IBROOK)
TOWER FERGUSON**

Age 93, died Sunday March 25, 2007 at Grady Memorial Hospital in Delaware, Ohio where she had resided in Delaware the last six years. She was born in Detroit, October 19, 1913 and raised in Highland Park. She was a graduate of Highland Park High School and Highland Park Junior College. She was preceded in death by her husband Leland. They were married November 13, 1933 in Rochester, Michigan. She was also preceded in death by her daughter Rosemary Goldstrom, her parents Elmer and Rose (Siess) Tower, her sister Cornelia Stroman, her nephew Charles Stroman and niece, Margaret Ann (Stroman) Barta. She is survived by two sons, Philip (Norma) of Powell, Ohio and Richard (Lana) of Guilford, Connecticut. She is also survived by eight grandchildren: Mark (Sandy) of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, Stephen (Suzanne) of Scarborough, Maine, Karen Carl (Stephen) of Ann Arbor, Erik Goldstrom of Worthington, Ohio, Andrew Goldstrom of Chicago, Kirk (Colleen), Todd (Lea) and Scott (Evette) all of New York. She is also survived by twelve great-grandchildren. Margaret was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham for 46 years and served on the Board of Deacons. A memorial service honoring Margaret's life will be held in the chapel of the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 21. The family will greet friends following the service. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made in her memory to "Camperships" Camp Skyline 1669 West Maple Rd., Birmingham, Michigan 48009. Arrangements by Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell, 515 W. Olentangy Street, Powell, Ohio.

May You
Find
Comfort in
Family &
Friends

**OBITUARY
POLICY**

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:

Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday
Wednesday Noon for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines
will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to
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or fax to:
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Sunday, April 22
at 3:00 pm

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Plymouth Christian Academy - High Academic Standards and Spiritual Values for College-Bound Students

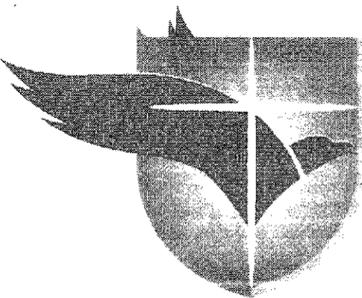
- PCA is accredited by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges
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- PCA has a preschool that is approved and licensed by the State of Michigan
- PCA has 27 athletic teams in grades 5-12 and intramural programs for grades 2-8
- PCA's student body represents over 100 local churches
- 70% of PCA's staff hold, or are working towards an advanced degree

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, April 22
at 3:00 pm

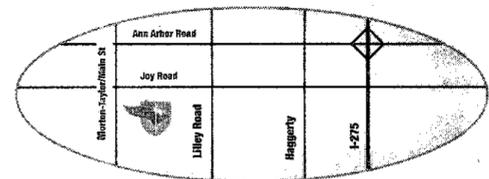
There will be a brief presentation in the auditorium at 3:00 p.m. followed by the distribution of registration materials, campus tours and teacher Q & A.



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Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

Wine and grape juice pack punch

Sarah from Rochester Hills wants the heart healthy benefits of red wine without the alcohol. She e-mails asking if grape juice packs the same healthy punch?

Sarah, both have their own unique benefits! One study shows that red wine triggers more antioxidant activity in the blood stream. The fermentation process may create flavonoids, an important antioxidant that's easier for the body to absorb. Alcohol in wine also seems to boost HDL, the good cholesterol.

But don't write off grape juice just yet! Research shows that purple juice may make platelets less likely to clump, which reduces the chance of blood clots. Another study shows that grape juice seems to have antioxidant properties similar to vitamin E. It really just depends what benefit you are after. Talk to a nutritionist for more information!

Carol from Lincoln Park e-mails for tips on making her bones their healthiest.

Carol, Vitamin K is definitely king when it comes to bone health! Research shows that high intake of the nutrient is closely associated with bone density.

Green leafy vegetables are one of the best sources of vitamin K. Scientists find that women consuming around 300 micrograms a day have greater bone density! And you don't have to eat much to reap the benefits. One cup of spinach has around 360 micrograms, brussel sprouts 235, and broccoli 113.

Vitamin K interacts with the body's chemistry to provide healthy bones. It works by allowing a particular protein to take its place in the skeletal structure. Talk to a nutritionist for more important information.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, e-mail Peter through his Web site, www.peternielsen.com. Contact him at Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

Reversing diabetes

Dr. Neal Barnard to talk about scientifically proven diet

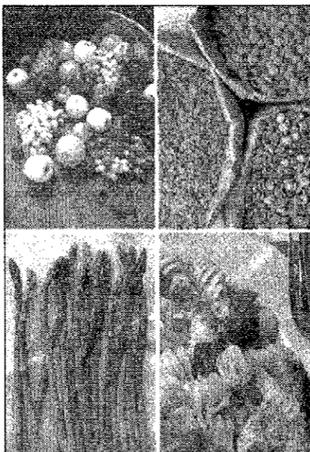
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

No more counting calories or carbohydrates for diabetics who follow Dr. Neal Barnard's new scientifically proven program for reversing the disease. In years past, patients went through hours of training to understand the complex American Diabetes Association diet to control blood-sugar levels. Not anymore.

Diabetics need only to avoid meat and animal products, and model their diet after the nutritional approach explained in *Dr. Neal Barnard's Program for Reversing Diabetes*, published earlier this year by Rodale. Barnard talks about the book at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at Four Points by Sheraton, 3200 Boardwalk, Ann Arbor, and at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at the Costick Activities Center, 28600 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For information, visit www.pcrm.org and click on tour.

Barnard is not just another physician who's written a book. His program evolved from research by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) and Georgetown University in Washington D.C. Barnard founded the nonprofit PCRM in 1985 to promote preventive medicine and conduct clinical research. The latest study was funded by the National Institutes of Health and proved that although the standard ADA diet is effective in treating diabetes, a vegan low-fat diet dramatically reduces blood-sugar and cholesterol levels in addition to promoting weight loss. The study randomly assigned individuals with diabetes type 2 to a low-fat vegan (plant based) diet or a diet following ADA guidelines for 22 weeks. Forty-three percent of the vegan group and 26 percent of the ADA participants were able to reduce their diabetes medication. The findings were published in August 2006 in *Diabetes Care*, an ADA journal.

"We're zeroing in on the cause," said Barnard, an adjunct professor of medicine at George Washington University in Washington D.C. "It's not carbohydrate or sugar causing diabetes. It's fat inside the cell. The typical diabetes diet does not address



Fruits, vegetables, beans, legumes, grains, and pasta are foods to include when following Dr. Neal Barnard's Program for reversing diabetes.

this. You get rid of the animal fat, the cell cleans out and rejuvenates.

"Most people with diabetes focus on carbohydrates. The idea is you don't eat sugar, white bread. I recommend a vegetarian diet, low in fat."

More than 20 million Americans have type 2 diabetes. Barnard attributes much of the disease to obesity. "Two-thirds of the adult population is overweight," Barnard said. "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says one in three children born today will develop diabetes in their lifetimes. Within Michigan in 1994, about 5 percent had diabetes. Now it's about 8 percent and going up and up. A diabetic annually spends \$2,000-\$5,000 on medications."

Diabetes is costly in many ways, as it leads to loss of kidney function and blindness. Barnard believes diabetics, as well as those with a family history of the disease, could benefit from not eating animal products and keeping their intake of vegetable oils to a minimum.

Barnard grew

PLEASE SEE
DIABETES, C7

3 TIMES MORE EFFECTIVE THAN OTHER DIET PLANS

Dr. Neal Barnard is one of the most respected and authoritative voices in alternative medicine today. —Andrew Weil, MD

DR. NEAL BARNARD'S PROGRAM for REVERSING DIABETES

THE SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN SYSTEM FOR REVERSING DIABETES WITHOUT DRUGS

NEAL D. BARNARD, MD

Dr. Neal Barnard lectures in Ann Arbor and Farmington Hills in conjunction with his latest book. He is the author of nine books including *Breaking the Food Seduction*, *Foods that Fight Pain*, and *Eat Right, Live Longer*.

Michigan Women's Care Now accepting patients

Board-certified Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Lan Bui, DO; Manish Jain, MD;
and Essam Khraizat, MD,
are now accepting new patients at their practice,
Michigan Women's Care in Canton.



Lan Bui, DO
Obstetrics and Gynecology



Manish Jain, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology



Essam Khraizat, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Michigan Women's Care is an Oakwood Healthcare System-affiliated practice located in a well-designed office setting where patients receive experienced and compassionate care in obstetrics and gynecology.

Features of the practice include:

- Specialists in minimally-invasive surgery
- Expertise in birth control, menopause and pap smear evaluation
- Early morning, evening and Saturday hours
- On-site lab, testing and pharmacy
- Specializing in general and high-risk pregnancy care

Michigan Women's Care is located in suite 220 of the Haggerty Professional Plaza at 2050 N. Haggerty Road in Canton.

For additional information about the physicians at Michigan Women's Care, please call 734.446.9781 or visit us on the Web at www.oakwood.org.



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DIABETES

FROM PAGE C6

up in North Dakota eating the typical bacon and egg breakfast and dinner of roast beef, potatoes and corn. Then he went to work as an autopsy assistant. During this time, he "observed firsthand the deadly effects of eating an unhealthy diet."

"You see what kills people," said Barnard, who began changing his diet while in medical school.

Today, instead of bacon and eggs, he eats a bowl of oatmeal with cinnamon and raisins, for lunch a bean burrito with jalapeno pepper and salsa, and meatless spaghetti marinara for dinner. He'll include two or three vegetables such as broccoli and spinach or sweet potato. While Barnard's proclaimed the new four food groups as grains, legumes, fruits and vegetables, he says diabetics can eat pasta, which is low in fat and has a low glycemic index, which slowly elevates blood-sugar. The book contains recipes (by Bryanna Clark Grogan) for eating in as well as out.

"I encourage people to let their doctor know they're going to make a diet change because they'll need to back off medicines as time goes on," Barnard said.

"The second step is a three-week test drive of the program. Make sure every meal is already one of the meals you like. What happens is they feel a lot better and find their tastes have changed. They find they've lost weight and blood-sugar levels have dropped."

Elaine Roth was able to cut the amount of her insulin nearly in half after taking classes based on Barnard's program. A PCRM pilot project, spun off from the research, taught diabetics the basics of the program during an eight-week series of cooking sessions that included a lesson on eating out at a local restaurant.

Roth works at Lou's Deli in Southfield, so avoiding meat has been a challenge. For Passover Seder, she mainly ate vegetables and whole wheat matzah. She said the holidays weren't as stressful as she thought. Her family has been

very supportive.

"I haven't had any meat or dairy," said Roth, of Farmington Hills, a diabetic for 10 years. "I feel better and my blood-sugar levels went way down, my blood pressure went down. I have lost weight, too."

"I bring fruit with me to the deli and make sure I eat breakfast now, a whole grain bagel or muffin, or make oatmeal the night before so I have something in my stomach when I come to work. At lunch, I have whole wheat or pumpernickel bread with a veggie burger or eat it on a bed of lettuce. My sugar levels are 110 when they used to be 170. I'm starting to feel my feet again." (Roth suffers with neuropathy, a condition related to her diabetes that causes numbness.)

Caroline Trapp, a diabetes nurse practitioner, recommends Barnard's book — not only to class participants like Roth, but her patients at Premier Internists in Southfield. As PCRM director of diabetes education and care, Trapp recently finished teaching a third series of classes and is working on finalizing a curriculum based on Barnard's book. She is hiring diabetes educators and cooking instructors for the educational program that will be presented across the country.

"I'm excited about the future for this," said Trapp, of Farmington Hills, "but people don't have to wait to take the class. Through PCRM, we have a list serve called the Get Healthy Club, a question and answer, and they sign up to participate in it."

"They can read the book and also view Dr. Barnard's lectures and cooking demonstrations with recipes on the Web site (www.pcrm.org) as well. The program requires no weighing and measuring of food or counting carbohydrates. It ultimately may lead people to seek less medical care. I've seen this now with a number patients. I feel the book should be recommended reading for patients and health care professionals and anyone who wants to avoid the disease."

For directions to the Ann Arbor lecture, call (734) 996-0600; for the Farmington Hills lecture, (248) 473-1851.

APRIL

Blood drive

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 15, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 W. 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Call (248) 476-8860. No appointment necessary.

CHADD meeting

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit Disorder meet Monday, April 16, at Way Elementary School on W. Long Lake, east of Telegraph. Parent presentation is on Medication for Children and Adolescence with AD/HD with Dr. Birget Amman, child psychiatrist. Adult group features noted author Dr. Arthur Robin speaking on Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Treating Adults with AD/HD. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m., registration at 7 p.m. No charge to CHADD members and their families, \$5 donation non member family. For details, call (248) 988-6716.

Hatha Yoga classes

5:15-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays beginning April 17 to May 22, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. To register, call (734) 655-1145. Hatha Yoga increases flexibility, energy level and strength. Includes meditation and breathing techniques. Class participants need to be able to move between a standing position to a hands and knees position with ease.

Bone marrow transplant

Educational series for individuals who have received transplants, their family and caregivers 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, and May 8, at the Troy Community Center. Topics include emotional aspects of survivorship and coping strategies, nutrition for health maintenance, resources, integrative medicine. To register, visit www.nbmtlink.org/edseries, send e-mail to info@nbmtlink.org or call (800) LINK-BMT (546-5268).

Alzheimer's update

7 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Drive, Commerce. Learn about new research and latest treatment options. To register, call (248) 937-3314. Pre-registration recommended as space is limited.

Hatha Yoga classes

Beginning and Intermediate 5:15-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays April 17 to May 22, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. To register, call (734) 655-1145. Hatha Yoga increases flexibility, energy level and strength at your own pace in a non-competitive setting. Includes meditation and breathing techniques. Class participants need to be able to move

between a standing position to a hands and knees position with ease.

Catch your breath

Women's Lung Health Conference and Luncheon begins at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 18, at the Troy Marriott Hotel. Hosted by American Lung Association, the event features speakers on topics of interest to laypersons and medical professionals including lung cancer and women, COPD, healthy homes, hazards of mainstream industry personal care and cosmetics product, tobacco marketing to women, nutrition, smoking cessation, clean air, asthma, infections, and pulmonary hypertension. Cost is \$75. For more information, visit www.catchyourbreathmi.org. For questions, call (248) 784-2012 or (248) 784-2000. Dr. John Ruckdeschel, president and CEO of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, is one of the medical experts scheduled to lecture.

Care House benefit

Italian cuisine, live auction, raffles, entertainment and karaoke 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at Penna's, 38400 Van Dyke, Sterling Heights. Tickets \$100, all proceeds go to Care House help child victims of sexual and physical abuse. Call (586) 463-0123.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Elder care living options

Information for seniors, families and caregivers on hospice concerns, estate planning options, medical and financial powers of attorney, Medicaid considerations and veteran's benefits 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at A.J. Desmond & Sons, 32515 Woodward, Royal Oak, and Tuesday, April 24, at A.J. Desmond & Sons, 2600 Crooks, Troy. No charge. For information, call (248) 362-2500.

How hormones effect weight loss

Presented by Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, D.C., N.D. 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 18, at Women's Health Boutique, 3121 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Learn how your hormones control your food cravings, body temperature, and ability to gain or lose weight. Discover how the pancreas, thyroid and adrenals influence the size and shape of your body. No charge. Call (734) 425-8588 for reservations.

Natural treatments

Treating Thyroid Disorders Naturally, presented by Dr. William H. Karl, D.C. 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at Noble Library in Livonia. If you suffer from hair loss, cold hands or feet, stubborn weight gain or unwanted pain, learn the hidden

reasons behind these health concerns and the safe, natural, effective alternatives to help yourself. No charge. Call (734) 425-8588 for reservations.

Free screenings

For head and neck cancer in the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, April 16, at Henry Ford Medical Center-Lakeside, 14500 Hall, Sterling Heights and Henry Ford Medical Center-Fairlane, 19401 Hubbard Drive, Dearborn; 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 18, and noon to 4 p.m., Friday, April 20, at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital, 6777 W. Maple, West Bloomfield; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Thursday, April 19, Henry Ford Medical Center-Fairlane, 19401 Hubbard Drive, Dearborn, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, April 20, Henry Ford Hospital, 2799 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. To schedule an appointment, call 1-888-734-5322.

TOPS

Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, the group meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight sensibly and keep it off. For more information, call Margaret at (734) 838-0322.

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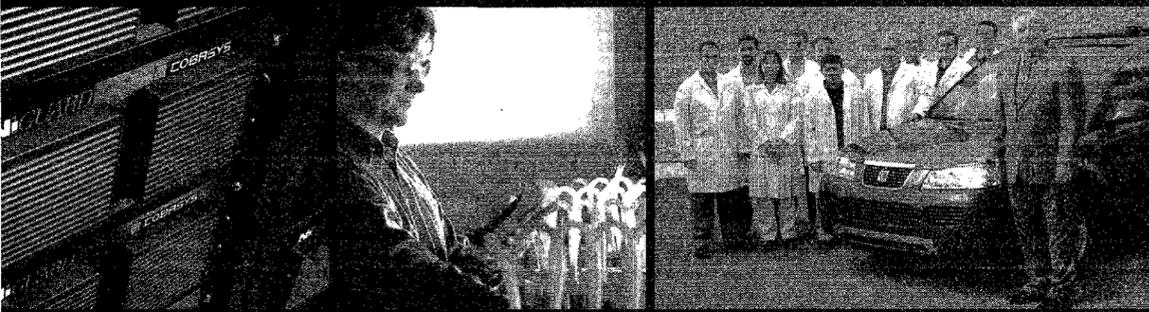


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96

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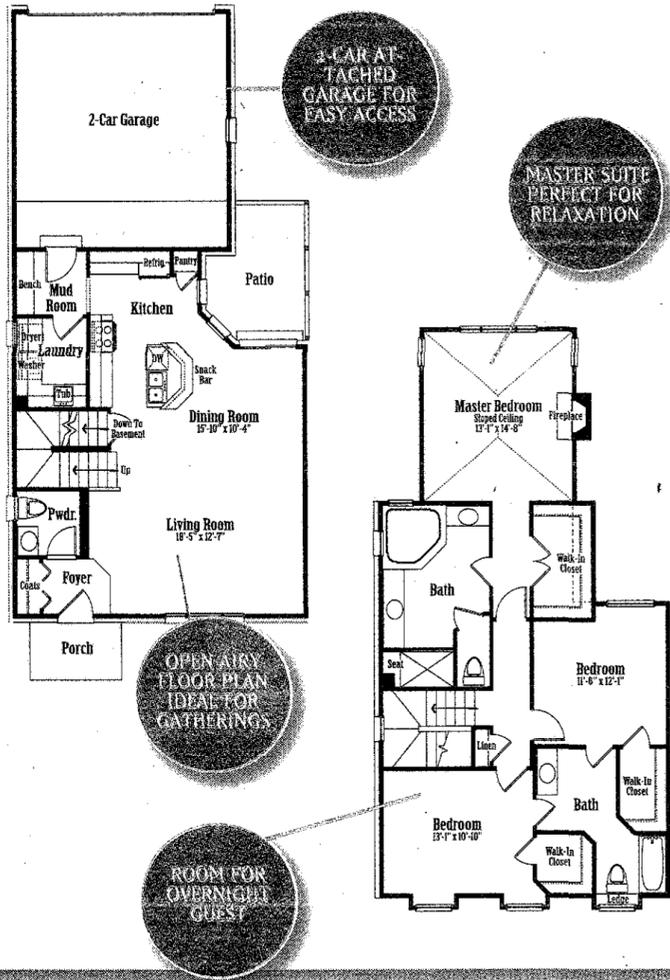
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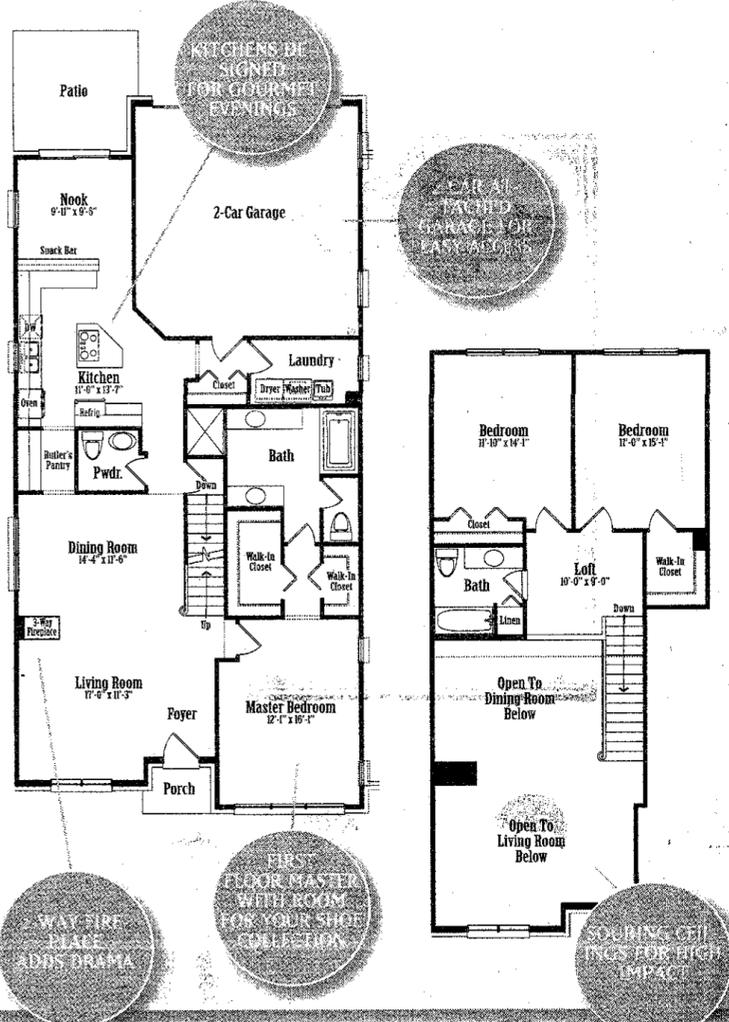
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