

Graduation time

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Lutheran High baseball team rolls to regionals - Sports, B1

Automobile love affairs

- Inserted section



THURSDAY
June 5, 2008

WESTLAND Observer

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City, Cintas host job fair

A company that provides uniforms for lease or purchase, in addition to cleaning supplies and other resources, will host a job fair 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 11, at the Bailey Recreation Center.

The fair, in cooperation with the city of Westland, is an effort to recruit 20-30 hourly employees to staff the company's new Westland facility at 39120 Webb Drive, which will start operations in August.

Workers "will earn competitive wages and obtain full benefits including medical, dental, vision and life insurance after 30 days of employment," according to a press release from Mayor William Wild's office.

"We are elated that Cintas has chosen to reinvest in the Westland community with the addition of this new facility," Wild said. "We also are pleased to give our residents the opportunity to obtain quality work here within our city."

As part of Cintas' Cleanroom Division, the facility will specialize in apparel service, supplies and equipment for sterile and nonsterile "clean rooms." So-called "cleanroom locations" serve customers engaged in diverse industries such as semi-conductor, pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device manufacturing.

"We are looking for high-energy people with attention to detail who take pride in their work," said Jill Somerville, who is the management, sales, and service recruiter for Cintas. "We view our employees as partners who are professional, thorough, courteous and enthusiastic."

The positions for hire entail folding, sorting and packaging uniforms. In addition, Cintas also will hire individuals with mending and seamstress skills.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brandon Temple, 13, and Justin Temple, 15, carry the Alyssa's Angels team banner in memory of their sister, Alyssa Temple, who died at age 6 of leukemia. Joining them is their cousin Geralyn Antczak, 9.

Community shows support for Relay

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was like the X that marks the spot on a treasure map, but instead, it was purple drinking cups stuck into the holes of the chain link fence to spell out the word hope.

That's what participants in Westland's ninth annual Relay For Life felt as they spent 24 hours last weekend walking around the path at Jaycee Park, raising money for the American Cancer Society.

"I try hard to raise money because I want someone else to survive, and if I have a little part, all the better," said Suzie Yeager, a 13-year, five-month breast cancer survivor.

Yeager was among the more than 600 people who participated in the event that raised \$103,000 for ACS.

"It's just shy of the goal of \$110,000," said Holly Soranno, of the ACS's Metro-Detroit Service Center. "We're still accepting donations to the teams and on the Web site (relay.acevents.org). The Web page is still live."

According to Soranno, 31 teams, up a few from last year, participated in the event, collecting donations through fund-raisers and sales during the 24-hour walk. Bringing in the most money — almost \$13,000 — was Team Red, White and Blue from American Legion Post 32 in Livonia.

RED, WHITE AND BLUE

"We have one heck of a team," said team captain Bev Smith. "I don't think anyone

Please see RELAY, A2



Matt Anderson of Garden City and his son, Luke, 3, applaud the comments made during that Westland Relay For Life. Also joining them is wife Jill, daughter Ella, 1, and son Ryan, 4. The family also participated in the Garden City Relay For Life. Anderson is a friend of Mayor William Wild and was walking with the Wild's Walkers team.

Pickering comments draw criticism from colleagues

Council passes a budget Mayor William Wild describes as focused on fiscal responsibility. See story on Page A3.

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Dropping a bombshell that riled his colleagues, Westland City Councilman Charles Pickering accused local authorities Monday of "a deliberate effort" to placate bars and restaurants by reducing the number of drunken driving arrests.

Pickering's allegations — his strongest yet on the controversy — came as he lobbied to restore two police officer positions. He said the city could afford to fill the jobs by adopting a more aggressive, revenue-raising policy toward motorists who drive drunk.

"I know we can collect the money that would support these two police officers," he said.

But critics strongly rejected Pickering's allegations, firing back at him for implying a concerted effort to ease up on drunken driving.

"I think that impugns the integrity of our police department and our police chief," council President James Godbout said, describing himself as "appalled" by Pickering's charges.

Cheryl Graunstadt, the council's president pro tem, defended Chief James Ridener and his officers against the allegations, saying they and Mayor William Wild wouldn't support such a policy.

"I know the mayor would not stand for it," she said.

Pickering had voiced concerns in May that if current trends persist, Westland's annual drunken driving arrests could plummet from 812 to an esti-

mated 600. But his charge of a deliberate attempt to soften alcohol enforcement was his strongest language yet on the issue.

Some elected officials have conceded they have received complaints from bar owners, but they denied any policy to curb drunken driving arrests.

Pickering maintained that lost revenue could amount to \$300,000, although Councilman Michael Kehrer said the city's portion would be well under \$100,000. The controversy erupted amid budget talks and cost-cutting measures that trimmed 14 positions, including two police officers, from the city budget.

Ridener indicated that Westland's past alcohol enforcement efforts may have led to fewer drivers getting behind the wheel after drinking too much. He said word has spread that drunken driving isn't tolerated here.

"Our goal is the reduction (of drunken driving), and we are reducing it," he said.

Moreover, Ridener said after Monday's meeting that police are continuing to enforce alcohol laws. Still, he said authorities have shifted some attention to crimes, such as illegal drug cases and larcenies, that have had an uptick in activity.

Kehrer, among others, have said the city can't restore two police officer positions in hopes that increased drunken driving revenues will pay for them. City officials have said all departments are sharing in painful budget cuts aimed at maintaining services while avoiding a potential financial crisis like some cities have faced.

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Westland woman, 20, healing in aftermath of car accident



Amy Adams with sons Chase (left) and newborn Price before the crash. During her convalescence, Adams has been unable to hold her sons due to the extent of her injuries.

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The survivor of a car crash that killed the father of her son, Amy Adams is trying to heal in her mother's home. It's a slow process, a painful process, but she's making her way back to health.

Tony Cosenza of Westland, 20, was killed when the car he was driving was struck broadside by another car traveling in excess of 100 mph on Five Mile Road in Livonia early in the morning

May 18. Adams, also 20 and of Westland, was injured in the crash. The driver of the car that hit them, a Livonia teenager, was treated at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia and released.

Adams is convalescing at her mother's home in Westland. So far she's been able to avoid surgery on her arm and internal organs.

"They said the arm is looking good, the alignment is right, so they're not planning to do any

surgery," she said. "They were going to put in a plate and pins but they said those could cause more problems if they don't mend right."

Similarly, as long as the internal bleeding has stopped doctors won't be considering doing surgery on her spleen. Right now she's in a lot of pain, in her arm, ribs and back, and she's immobile, which means she can't play with her two young children.

A fund-raiser will be held at the 1 Under Bar and Grill on Five

Mile Road. Entry fee is \$20 per person and that includes a game of interactive general trivia hosted by a My Trivia Live "TJ," with prizes awarded. The No. 1 prize is \$100, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third. There will also be chances to win Detroit Tigers tickets, rounds of golf at Idyl Wyld as well as other prizes.

Adams said she plans to attend the fund-raiser, but would also be attending her younger sister's commencement ceremony from Churchill High School later that

day. All of the proceeds will go to benefit Cosenza's family, Adams and the children. At the time of the accident, he and Adams were raising one child of their own as well as Adams' child from a previous relationship. The two were planning to wed in October of 2009.

For more information about the event, go to www.mytrivialive.com and click on "news."

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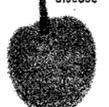
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INDEX

APARTMENTS	C2
AUTOMOTIVE	C8
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	D8
HOMETOWNLIFE	D1
JOB	C8
OBITUARIES	D4
OPINION	A8
PINK	D6
REAL ESTATE	C2
SERVICE GUIDE	C2
SPORTS	B1

Coming Sunday in Health

Studies show tart cherries may help prevent heart disease



Senior citizens celebrate health, fitness

"We are under exercised as a nation. We look instead of play. We ride instead of walk. Our existence deprives us of the minimum of physical activity essential for healthy living."
John F. Kennedy

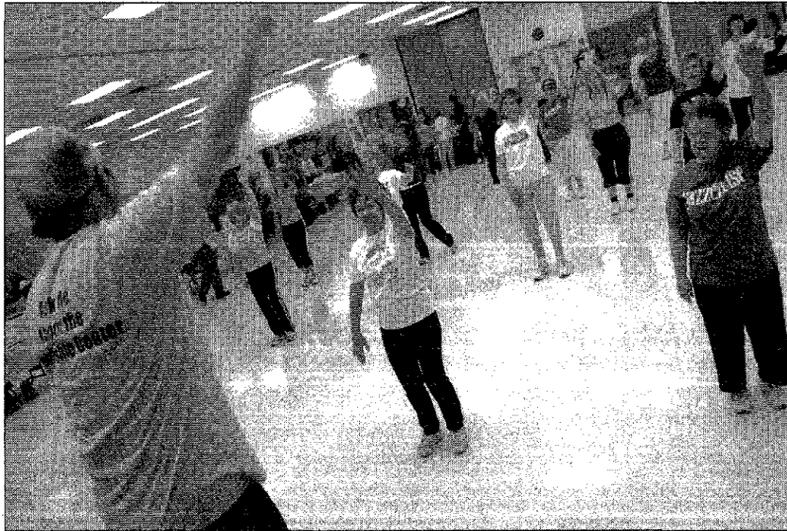
BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

No disrespect to the former president, but he might have a different view had he known a few of these active Westland senior citizens.

They walk, run, stretch, lift weights — pretty much do whatever they want, and sometimes better than young whipper-snappers half their age.

Local seniors again proved their commitment to making the most of life when they turned out last Friday for Westland's celebration of National Senior Health & Fitness Day.

In all, nearly 300 seniors passed through the doors of the city's senior Friendship Center during the four-hour event that



Seniors follow along as Jazercise instructor Robert Cassidy provides a demonstration during Friday's observance of National Senior Health and Fitness Day at the Westland Friendship Center.

featured line-dancing, walking, Jazercise and health screenings for everything from cataracts to melanoma.

"It was very, very successful," senior center Director Barbara Schimmel-Marcum said. "The seniors thoroughly enjoyed it."

Seniors topped off their exercise by visiting with 44 companies and organizations that brought information



Shirley Blaisdell of Westland (right) has her blood pressure checked by Tia Choinski, a licensed practical nurse with Riticare, during a health and fitness program.

about everything from housing options to government programs geared toward older Americans.

It was one-stop shopping both inside and outside the senior center, whether participants were getting a tetanus shot or taking a walk with exercise leader Ron Rivers in Coburn Park, behind the

Friendship Center. According to a national Web site, as many as 150,000 seniors across the nation were expected to participate in the annual National Senior Health & Fitness Day. Schimmel-Marcum has high hopes for next year's program. In fact, she said, "I'd like to see it grow every year."

RELAY

FROM PAGE A1

could beat us."

The American Legion Post supported the team by paying its sponsorship fee and providing T-shirts and food. By 5 p.m. Saturday, the team had reached the level of a purple team with more than \$10,000 raised through events like a taco dinner and a garage sale as well as Sandy Snyder's save a penny a day collection.

The Garden City resident had friends and family members, even co-workers, save a penny a day. When it was time for the relay, she presented the team with a check for \$841.12.

"It's surprising what it adds up to," said Snyder, a 13-year survivor who has battled breast cancer twice.

Joining her in the team tent was Joan Dressler of Westland, a 3 1/2-year survivor of lung cancer.

"People come and see what we're doing and come back to be a part of the team," said Dressler. "That's the kind of team we have."

Next door to Team Red, White and Blue, the Women of Westland were marketing muffins and cakes made by member Mary Denning and sticks.

"You pay \$1 for the stick and get a dill pickle free," said Joy Ebel. "A husband (Mike Seguin) of a member came up with the idea."

Pickle sales were good — the group was on its third jar of pickles by late afternoon — but it was Yeger who was bring-



Members of the Drama Queens and Followers - Jill Wefsenmoe, Sheri Kuspa of Westland and her two daughters Kristen, 10 and Julie, 11 - walk the path.

ing in more cash with her spin-the-wheel trivia game. Participants paid \$1 to answer a question about movies and spin the wheel to find out what prize they had won.

"I've had about 125 people spin the wheel already," said Yeger. "I do it because I enjoy people."

IN MEMORY OF ALYSSA

At Team Alyssa's Angels tent, people could buy scented soaps, beads and baked goods. The team had 45-50 members raising money in memory of 6-year-old Alyssa Temple, who died 1 1/2 years ago of leukemia.

According to Rhonda Temple, she and her daughter had helped come to help team captain Carol Antczak during her first Relay for Life. A month later, Alyssa died.

"She had a strep infection she couldn't fight," said Rhonda Temple. "We didn't know she had leukemia. She was gone in a day."

Antczak decided to rename the team and do the relay in

honor of Alyssa. Their goal was \$5,000, and according to the Relay for Life Web site, Alyssa's Angels had raised \$4,695.

The Westland Jaycees were doing a silent auction and a sucker pull to raise money, according to Kim Torres, president. Those who bought suckers with a color marker won items, with a diamond, DVD player and kids' choices among the offerings, the Canton resident said.

"And we're also in charge of the survivors' dinner," Torres said.

A Westland Jaycees member was just diagnosed with stage 3 Hodgkin's lymphoma, so the cancer-fighting event meant even more to the group. They've been doing a lot of fund-raisers for him.

"He's only 25, he's going to pull through," Torres vowed.

While plans have yet to be made for next year's relay, Soranno said it will take place at Jaycee Park for a third straight year.

"We may not have a date but we know it'll be the same location, we're not giving it up, not at all," she said. "It's a beautiful location, the teams are closer together and there's a lot of shade for safety purposes."

Observer staff writer Julie Brown contributed to this report.

Bottle drive

The Westland Jaycees will hold a bottle drive and collect items for the Michigan Humane Society 1-4 p.m. Sunday, June 8, at Superpetz, 34420 Ford at Wildwood in Westland. Returnable bottles and cans will be turned in for money to make a cash donation to the Humane Society. Participants also can give items from the MHS Wish List which will be available on site. For more information, call (734) 226-0400 or visit the Jaycees Web site at www.westlandjaycees.org.

Condo meeting

The Westland Condominium Organization will host a meeting with condo owners and Mayor William Wild at 7 p.m. Monday, June 9, in the clubhouse of Woodview Condominiums. The mayor is expected to address how city services are allocated to condo owners and associations including road maintenance, street lights and watering of rights of way. He also will answer questions.

WCO represents more than 52 condominium associations, and it provides a forum for networking. It also coordinates events, referrals and resources relating to contractors, property management, attorneys, insurance companies and other issues. Association board members are encouraged to bring a list of contractors, property managers and insurance providers to compare and rate for group distribution.

For more information, contact WCO President Ed Turnquist at eturnquist@sbcglobal.net or call (734) 354-8743.

Coffee Hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, June 9, at the Westland Bailey Recreation

AROUND WESTLAND

ON THE WEB

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Center, 36651 Ford.

Citizens are welcome to visit with LeBlanc and discuss issues and/or concerns. The local coffee hour takes place on the second Monday of each month.

Residents who have any comments or concerns, can also contact LeBlanc toll-free at (888)-737-5325 or at (517)-373-2576.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also will hold local coffee hours in Westland and Redford Monday, June 9.

He will be at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland 9-10 a.m., then move to Redford for a 10:30-11:30 a.m. coffee hour at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway.

Constituents who would like to attend an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48933; by phone at (517) 373-1707; or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Summer camp

The Lutheran Church of Our Savior will hold a summer camp 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 16 - July 11 at the church at 29425 Annapolis, Westland. The church also holds a community forum 7-8:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month. For more information, call (734) 728-3440.

Surplus food distribution

The City of Westland will distribute surplus federal food to eligible residents living north of Michigan Avenue 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, June 19, Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey Road, south of Palmer.

The pickup time and loca-

tion for residents living south of Michigan Avenue is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, June 9, or the second Monday of each month, at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. For information about the program at the church, call (734) 729-1737.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers may collect their food at Taylor Towers and must contact their building manager for their day of distribution. Greenwood Villa residents must pick up their food items at Greenwood Villa.

For the month of June, the distribution will include chicken chunks, instant potatoes, mixed vegetables and peanut butter.

This program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services. All food allocations, distribution sites, and dates of distribution are determined by that agency. For more information or answers to questions, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Class reunion

John Glenn High School Class of 1988 will hold its 20-year reunion on Saturday, Aug. 23 at Roma's of Garden City. Tickets are \$30 per person. For tickets and more information, visit jghs88reunion.com.

Retirement planning

Learn how to make your retirement dreams into reality at this retirement planning discussion on at 7 p.m. Monday, June 9, at the William P. Faust Public Library. Join Andrew Gagne, an associate finance advisor, to discuss what investments fit your unique dreams and goals. Find out what retirement means to you, what your personal plan is and what your options are. For more information or to reserve your seat, call the library at (734) 326-6123. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, between Ford and Warren Road.



CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, June 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, June 9, 2008 at 7:00 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 2008 Tax Levy and Rate which is on file and can be viewed in the City Clerk's Office.

CITY OF GARDEN CITY 2008 Tax Levy and Rate

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Garden City Council to authorize the 2008 Tax Millage for all assessed property in the City of Garden City for the purpose of collecting sufficient funds to meet the needs of the services performed by the City; and

WHEREAS, the levy of said millage rate must be accomplished by ordinance, and

WHEREAS, this specific enactment is not permanent in nature and need not be compiled in the City Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Garden City hereby adopt the following form for the 2008 Tax Millage Rate:

THE CITY COUNCIL HEREBY LEVIES:

General Fund Operating	13.8403 Mills
Central Wayne County Incinerator	0.0000 Mills
Judgment Debt Service	1.8171 Mills
Refuse Collection	2.7793 Mills
	18.4367 Mills

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: May 29, 2008
Post: May 22, 2008

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Thursday, June 12, 2008, various items of the City of Westland Police Department will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction, 8251 Rawsonville Road, County of Wayne, at 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Stock	Year	Make	Model	VIN
4231122	1996	DODGE	RAM VAN	2B6HB21Y6TK174921

Vehicles are sold in "as is" condition.

The referenced vehicles, as well as many others may be previewed by prospective buyers on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction. Terms and Conditions will be applicable to any item sold. Registration fees apply.

Publish: June 5, 2008

CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **June 19, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** (no exceptions will be made) for the following:

Emergency Sewer Repairs

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at (734) 467-3204 or at www.cityofwestland.com. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jade M. Smith
Controller

Publish: June 5, 2008

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ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

June 9th, 8:00 a.m.
Sparks Towing, 115 Merriman Rd., Garden City, MI

'94	Ford	1FMDU32X2RUD25591
'92	Dodge	1B7FL23XON565521
'94	Pontiac	1G2JL14TOR7534453
'97	Chevy	1G1JC1244V7301508
'91	Lincoln	1LNCM9842MY743467

Publish: June 5, 2008

City budget provides for financial stability

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Averting a financial crisis many Michigan cities are facing, a united Westland City Council on Monday adopted a \$60.6 million budget that raises water-sewer rates, trims jobs, protects services and preserves a \$1.8 million surplus.

Despite some differences, such as Councilman Charles Pickering's failed bid to restore two police officer positions, the seven-member council gave sweeping approval to Mayor William Wild's belt-tightening budget.

"I believe that the passing of this budget reiterates that the city as a whole remains focused on fiscal responsibility," Wild said in a prepared statement. "The entire process is a testament of the collective hard work and commitment on the part of the council as well as the city administration."

The vote capped a six-month process for a city budget that Wild acknowledged would be markedly different from past spending plans, due to shrinking revenues and a prolonged economic downturn. The mayor won support one week after he delivered a hopeful State of the City address.

The budget eliminates two building department jobs and leaves vacant 12 other positions, including two police officers and two firefighters. Moreover, it slashes several part-time posts and forces directors to assume responsibility for work once performed

by outside consultants and contractors.

One resident, Mark Rodriguez, continued to voice concerns that a 3.35-mill tax for the police and fire retirement system should be lowered. He has stepped up his criticism from administration officials and elected leaders.

Under the new budget plan, water-sewer rates will jump nearly 9 percent, climbing to \$6.08 per thousand gallons. The rate hike, only partly tied to increases from Detroit and Wayne County, will help pay for employee costs and repairs to an aging water system.

An average household using 22,000 gallons of water every two-month billing cycle will pay about \$66 more a year, Finance Director Steve Smith said.

However, residents will recoup about \$30 a year due to a reduced trash-disposal tax and the elimination of a drain millage, Smith said.

Council President James Godbout said he found the budget acceptable considering the city's financial position. He cited technology improvements and infrastructure to roads as areas that will need addressing as the city's finances improve.

"I think what this budget is doing is positioning us to sustain financial stability and to be able to move forward with some of these things when the economy turns around," he said.

dcllem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

4 years of JROTC pays off for 4 cadets

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Four years after the Wayne-Westland school board decided to offer a JROTC program at its high schools, graduating seniors are finding there's more to the program than wearing a uniform and saying "yes, sir."

Four Wayne Memorial High School seniors and possibly a fifth have earned ROTC scholarships. The students — Amanda Abu-lawi, Ryan Crayne, Nickole Jarvis and Andrew Pate — have received scholarships worth up to \$60,000 for a four-year degree in exchange for a four-year commitment in the U.S. Army, the Army Reserves or National Guard.

"I had no idea ROTC could provide so much for kids," said Crayne, a cadet major in Wayne High's Zebra Battalion. "I wouldn't have been able to go to a four-year university. It means a whole lot not having to pay anything."

This is the first time ROTC instructor 1st Sgt. Steven LaHaine (ret.) has had so many students receive the scholarships. In the past, it's been one or so a year up until now.

"I had a lot of interest and I'd tell them if they're interested in college and interested in the military to take advantage of the scholarship, and go into the military as an officer," he said.

Students must have at least a 3.0 average and earn at least a 19 on their ACT test, plus pass the Army PT test.

Affording college is a common theme among the four students as is serving in the military.

AMAND ABU-LAWI

There would have been no college for Abu-lawi had she not qualified for the scholarship. Her father died in a car accident in August 2005 and her older brother, Nur, had returned home to help support the family.

"She was lucky, very lucky," said her mother, Linda Abu-lawi. "Without it, she wouldn't have been able to go to college. I tell her to thank God everyday for that scholarship."

Abu-lawi plans to attend the University of Michigan-Dearborn and eventually transfer to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She's interested in behavioral sciences and technology, but would also like to try languages so when she gets out of school, she could be a translator. She's fluent in Arabic and speaks a little Spanish.

Abu-lawi discovered the program when members of the battalion visited her eighth-grade class at Adams Middle School. She saw it as interesting, challenging and something different.

During her four years in JROTC, she's been on the drill team and Raider team. She's done advance training, including summer camp in Alpena and boot camp.

"ROTC has more than lived up to my expectations and the best part is getting to know other people," she said. "ROTC is like one big family. It's made me a better person."

"Her dad would be really proud," added her mother.



Amanda Abu-lawi



Ryan Crayne



Nickole Jarvis

RYAN CRAYNE

Crayne, a cadet major, is using his scholarship to study at civil engineering at the University of Toledo. The son of Harry and Pam Crayne, he heard the program was a "really active class" and signed up for it.

"I like sports, I like competing," he said. "I like the enthusiasm, this is more about making me a good person."

He led the Raider team to national competition where it placed sixth, "due in part to Mr. Crayne keeping the team together," LaHaine said. "He's excellent, the best cadet we have."

"Being a leader, I wanted to set the example," Crayne said. "I was busy, but I tried to make every event, even if it meant sometimes saying no to a friend about hanging out because I had to set the example."

The four-year commitment



Andrew Pate

is no problem for Crayne. He'd planned on "going active" and "might go armor."

"I wanted to be close enough to come home," he said about attending the University of Toledo. "The campus is small and the ROTC program is really good."

NICKOLE JARVIS

Jarvis is a cadet command sergeant major and is active in the color guard, Raider team and honor guard. She's planning to use her scholarship for a four-year degree at Eastern Michigan University.

"ROTC was my life here, it consumed most of my time," she said. "I heard that it wasn't like your usual high school class. I tried it and I loved it. It helped me out, it made me motivated."

Like Abu-lawi, she had signed up for the Army when she

received the scholarship and as of now, her plan "is to go active" once she's done. The daughter of Bill and Rainelle Jarvis of Westland, she plans to study criminal justice and is thinking about being a military police dog handler.

"My dad was a firefighter in Taylor and I have always wanted to be a cop," she said. "I want to go into SWAT, I don't want an ordinary job."

The best thing she likes about the program is its feeling of being a family. As a freshman, you can walk in the door and have 100 friends, she said.

"We're like one big family and Andrew (Pate) is like my brother," she said.

ANDREW PATE

Pate was the battalion's top cadet, a lieutenant colonel. According to LaHaine, he "worked hard, had a lot of dedication and put in long hours."

"We were the first to start in the program," Pate said. "I had an idea about having a military career, and ROTC sounded interesting."

Pate said the program has taught him responsibility and leadership and has "made me who I am."

"The next four years of ROTC will make me who I want to be," he added.

The son of Ron Pate and Sherry Nordstorm, the Wayne resident plans to study history at Eastern Michigan University because he has to have a major. When he finishes, he'd like to concentrate on armor or aviation. But if there's a chance, he'll go for special forces.

"That's a real test of an individual, a test of their courage and bravery," he said.

LaHaine is proud of his cadets and proud of the program.

"This is the real world," LaHaine said. "They have staff officers, a logistics officer that decides what to spend thousands of dollars on. They all have different responsibilities and it's not pretend. They make real decisions that can affect others."

"The Army wants scholar athletes and that's what these four cadets are," he added.

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WOW seeks applicants for Douglas scholarship

Young women can get help with college with a scholarship being awarded by the Women of Westland.

The organization is accepting applications through June 15 for the Barbara Douglas scholarship. It's available to women who live or work in the City of Westland and are at least 21 years of age.

The scholarship honors one of the non-profit's founding members, the late Barbara Douglas. Grants are available for undergraduate study. Applicants will be judged on their academic performance, educational goals, leadership, need and residential requirements.

Interested women can submit a letter to the Women of Westland Scholarship Committee stating their proof of eligibility, reason they would like or need the scholarship, educational intentions/goals, school they are attending.

Application letters can be mailed to Women of Westland Scholarship Committee, c/o Susan Hengesbaugh, 34641 Sheridan, Westland, MI 48185-3614. The application deadline is Sunday, June 15.

WOW is an organization of professional women who work or live in the Westland and are committed to assisting women in their professional and personal development.

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City labels requests in prostitution case as 'harassment'

Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick isn't the only one who has problems with cell phone messages.

The city of Troy could as well.

Troy's city attorney said that the attorney for a Westland woman charged with prostitution involving the husband of a U.S. senator is requesting a copy of the cell phone messages of all city employees.

Lori Grigg Bluhm described the request as "harassment that would be difficult to compile."

The request is among a flurry of motions filed by defense attorney Frank A. Cusumano Jr., she said. Cusumano was unable to be reached for comment.

The city has filed counter motions, "asking not to have to comply" with all defense requests for discovery of evidence, Bluhm said.

Cusumano also has requested that the charges be dismissed, contending

that the police search was illegal because it was done without a warrant.

What Bluhm said was the first half of an evidentiary hearing was held Tuesday, when two Troy police officers were called to testify. A date for the hearing to resume has not yet been set by 52-4 District Court Judge William Bolle, who is hearing the case.

Bluhm said that the defense is expected to call hotel personnel and Thomas Athans, the husband of U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who told police that he paid Martin \$150 to perform oral sex.

The case received notoriety because Athans is married to a politician and because he was not charged by Troy police. However, police said he wasn't charged because he agreed to testify against Martin.

- By Sandra Armbruster

'Do-gooders' restore the Rouge and have fun, too

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

"We're a bunch of do-gooders."

That's how Kathy Milberg, executive director of Friends of the Rouge, describes members of her organization and the thousands of volunteers who participate in programs to restore the Rouge River and preserve the 470-square-mile Rouge Watershed.

On Saturday, about 3,000 volunteers will turn out for the 23rd annual Rouge Rescue, from Rochester to Canton. They will haul junk from the river, pull out invasive plants along the banks, put in native plants, participate in nature walks and learn about the river's rich environment.

"Rouge Rescue is an event where people can come out for just a few hours and feel really good about what they've done," said Cynthia Ross, river restoration program manager for the Friends. "They see the results, that they are part of larger effort and that what they are doing has a positive effect on the river."

Zachery Gizicki, 16, who is finishing his sophomore year at Livonia Churchill High School, is one of those who

WAYNE COUNTY ROUGE RESCUE SITES

Canton Recreation Trail - along Lower Rouge River on north side of Michigan Avenue, west of Morton Taylor, Canton, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Coventry Gardens - North Hampshire Street, east of Stamford, Livonia, 8 a.m. to noon.

Dearborn Gateway Trail - Michigan Avenue and Brady, Dearborn, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fish Hatchery Park - south of Seven Mile between Beck and Sheldon, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fordson Island - Powell Street off Heidt, Detroit, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Goudy Park - 3355 S. Wayne Road, Wayne, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Henry Ford Estate - 4901 Evergreen, Dearborn, 9 a.m. to noon.

Holiday Nature Preserve - Newburgh north of Warren, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Lola Valley Park and Bell Creek Park - 16201 Lola Valley, east of Beech Daly, Redford Township, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Meadows of Canton - Lotz Road, Canton, 9 a.m. to noon.

Moelke Park - 19422 Lathers, north of Seven Mile, Livonia, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Parkland Park - Ann Arbor Trail east of Outer Drive, Dearborn Heights, 9 a.m. to noon.

Rouge Park - Joy and Spinoza, Detroit, 8-11 a.m.

Tonquish Creek - 1160 Sheridan, Plymouth, 9 a.m. to noon.

Trinity Church - 34500 Six Mile, Livonia, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

University of Michigan-Dearborn - 4901 Evergreen, Dearborn, 9 a.m. to noon

ROUGE RESCUE

Who: Friends of the Rouge

What: Annual Rouge Rescue Event

When: Saturday, June 7

Time: Work schedules vary by site, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: 36 work sites located throughout the 47 Rouge River watershed communities (Detroit and western suburbs)

tours.

As the Rouge has become less polluted and the philosophy has changed to establishing a more natural environment, the Friends have begun to focus on education.

"We're trying to grow awareness that our everyday activities impact the water quality of the river," Ross said.

The Rouge Education Project involves students from kindergarten to 12th grade in helping test water quality and learning about the river's ecosystem.

"The Rouge Education Project is based on getting kids outside with hands-on science and increase their awareness of the environment and the things they can do to affect it in a positive way," said Emily Hughes, program director.

The program recently changed to a safer chemical testing kit, making it easier for elementary children to participate. Hughes said in addition to the water tests, participants also note the changing contours of the river and the insect life.

Another program that involves about 600 volunteers a year is the Frog and Toad survey. Volunteers are taught the various toad and frog calls and go out in the evening to lis-

ten and identify what they hear.

"It tells us about the wetlands which are critical to the health of the watershed," said Sally Petrella, volunteer monitoring program director. "It tells us a lot about diversity. The more different kinds of frogs we find, the healthier it is."

A similar program was started to monitor bugs in the wetlands.

Like other nonprofits in Michigan, the Friends of the Rouge is struggling to find ways to fulfill its mission. A federal grant of \$260,000 is a major but decreasing share of the group's \$642,228 budget, and although 3,000 will show up for the Rescue, the Friends membership is 670.

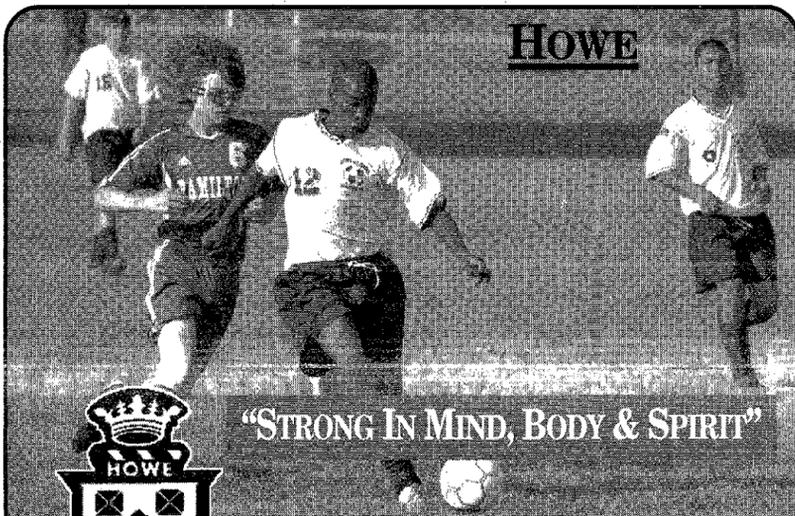
"It's joyful work we do," said Milberg. "As we move forward and the federal grant goes away, we're trying to figure out how to do it without new members."

But Milberg is confident of support because people who help "have fun."

"We did a survey and the number one reason to take of the responsibility of coordinating a site is that it's fun. That was very rewarding."

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Do homework before hiring any contractor

Summer arrives later this month and many people will begin a variety of home repairs and maintenance. It is important to review some of the basics regarding the hiring of a contractor. After all, the purpose of this column is to make sure that you have more money in your pocket. A botched home repair, on the other hand, can take money out of your pocket.

It's important to review some of the basics. If you decide to hire a professional for home repair, the most important issue is selecting the right contractor. The consequences of selecting the wrong contractor can be very expensive.

Before hiring a contractor, do an independent investigation. If the contractor supplies names of previous customers, do you think they are going to give you the name of someone who is not completely satisfied with their work? It's sort of like references on a resume. In the long run, they are not worth much.

Check out a contractor with



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

the Better Business Bureau. The BBB has been around for many years. The Better Business Bureau Web site, www.bbb.org is free and contains a wealth of information.

One nice thing about the Web site is it has information on a variety of businesses — BBB members and non-members. In addition, business members of the BBB do not receive different treatment than a non-member business.

After selecting the right contractor, don't let your guard down. One of the most important considerations is the contract. Too many consumers assume that contracts are standard and they sign without reading. The contract sets forth the terms between you and the contractor.

The contract is essential. Items that should be covered are the down payment and any

installment payments. Down payments are standard and you should have no problem putting one down. However, I would be cautious as to how much the down payment should be. A 25 percent down payment, should be sufficient in most cases. In addition, make sure the last scheduled payment is when the job is done in full to your satisfaction. The final payment should be more than a nominal payment. After all, you want to assure that the contractor will complete the job.

A home is generally one's largest single purchase. Therefore, be cautious who you hire. To save time and aggravation, spend the necessary time before the project starts to make sure that you use the right contractor and negotiate a fair contract.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:money matters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

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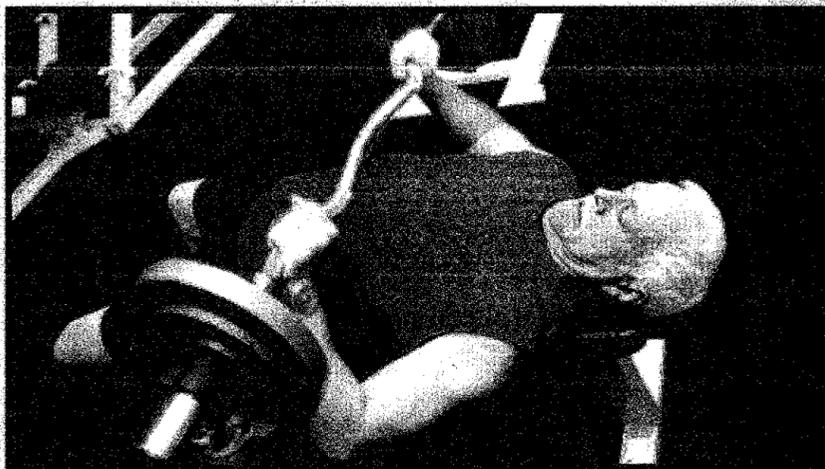
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Parents: Burger needs quality not quantity

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Christina Bair would like someone to explain to her why class sizes need to be increased at the Burger School for Students with Autism. She also wants that someone to show her the facts and figures that make it necessary.

The Canton resident is in support of an appeal of a Wayne County RESA plan that will force the countywide program to increase class sizes from five students to one teacher and one aide to seven students to one teacher and two aides.

"I just wish they had been open and had considered us in the decision," she said. "I think the people making the decision should take everything into consideration."

Bair's son, Nicholas, has been in the Burger program for 10 years. He came from a school-based program in the Plymouth-Canton school district. Burger, according to Bair, is the "best place for him because of the class ratio and the expertise of the teaching staff."

"They saw his potential, but he needed a specialized program," she said. "He couldn't say mommy at age four, now he has a wealth of language. I believe the growth is there and the growth will continue to be there because of this program. He would be overwhelmed in a larger setting."

Bair also is looking at her son's future. Saying that she will not be around for a good part of his adult life, she wants Nicholas to be able to do things and support himself as much as he can.

"My goal for Nicholas is to be a happy adult and as much of a functional contributor to society



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christina Bair of Canton believes that the Burger School for Students with Autism is where her son, Nicholas, should be. That's why she has joined other parents and staff in formally opposing a Wayne County RESA plan to increase class sizes at Burger.

as he can be," she said.

Melissa Peter's dream is that her son, Aaron, doesn't collect a Social Security check, but instead collects his own paycheck. But she believes that dream will be derailed by the Wayne County RESA plan.

"He was in a contained classroom in Crestwood and it wasn't what it should have been," said Peters. "Now, I know he's doing better and he wants to compete. The 5:1:1 is the only reason why it works."

The Garden City resident believes her son is headed in the right direction as a student at Burger, but if the program changes to accommodate the RESA plan, she said the family may have to move.

According to Peters, Aaron would have what she called "sob fests" every night, but since getting in teacher Colleen Polin's classroom, he's come out of his shell. The sob fests have stopped, and he's become "a social butterfly."

"I'm thrilled," she said. "Instead of sobbing every day at school, he wants to go to school. He comes home happy. There's a huge difference."

Peters depends on the teachers for help and says the school has the "best parent group."

"The support is there, the advice is there," she said. "I'm disappointed to be in a building like this and know what RESA wants to undo it. I'd rather have

this than take a giant step backwards."

According to Kelly Hodorek of Dearborn, the program has allowed her son, Brett, to make mistakes and to make progress. It has been a long road, but she can see a light at the end of the tunnel, she said.

"Now it's not a question of a college fund or trust fund," Hodorek said. "My son has grown in such positive ways. I don't want to see that jeopardized. I want to see him continue to grow. It's essential to me that we maintain the quality of this program."

The three women say the answer isn't adding more students to the classes, but to add more classes. They point to teacher Carol Shepard who's been with the program since it was housed in the basement of a church and question why she wasn't involved in formulating the plan.

"How can they not consider her expertise?" said Bair. "When parents aren't considered, when the people in the trenches aren't asked for input, that bothers me."

"The Burger program needs to be maintained as a good, quality option not as place to go when nothing else works," she added. "They need wiggle room in the program and I feel that will be taken away with this plan."

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Opponents say RESA plan would dilute Burger's program

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After more than a year of writing letters, speaking out at meetings and lobbying on behalf of their children, a group of parents and teachers last week formally appealed a Wayne County RESA plan that would increase student-to-teacher ratios at the Burger School for Students with Autism.

Buoyed by a recent RESA decision to drop similar plans affecting severely multiple impaired and severely cognitively impaired programs, the group maintains that the plan's increased class averages of seven students to one teacher and two aides (7:1:2) violates the state-mandated 5:1:1 ratio and increases class size by 40 percent for students with autism.

"The plan was shoved under the carpet, we didn't know about it until it was a done deal," said teacher Diane Pitt. "I feel we never had the opportunity to express our concerns to the state and to the county."

Opponents have been fighting the plan since it was approved 18 months ago. They have sent hundreds of letters, met with Wayne County Superintendent Christopher Wigent and went before the state school board to present petitions signed by more than 700 concerned parents, staffers and community members in an effort to keep the reduced class sizes to no avail. And an investigation of the plan showed that there was no violation on the part of RESA.

RIGHT DIRECTION

According to Mark Francis, RESA's director of special education and early intervention, the Burger School is the only autism program in Wayne County that has not moved to a larger class size of 6:1:1 and 7:1:2 when appropriate. While he acknowledges their right to challenge the plan, he said parents and staff need to realize that it represents the direction the federal government wants to take in special education.

"This is the only program that doesn't want to move in that

direction," he said. "If the goal set by the federal government is to move students in regular settings, then Burger needs to work toward larger group sizes so students acquire the needed social skills. If they keep it at 5:1:1, the students won't be able to develop those skills."

"They need to follow the federal program and not run it like they did 20 years ago," he added.

A countywide program, Burger School is operated by the Garden City Public Schools and has an enrollment of 330 students in 45 classrooms at its main building and another 21 at its annex at the Cambridge Center. According to Associate Director James Boogren, class size ratio will increase by one student for the 2008-09 school.

"The program is definitely unique and increasing ratios from five to six students can be significant," Boogren said. "We're looking at a 20 percent increase in our class population."

The parents and teachers maintain that the 7:1:2 ratio is a class average. At Burger, some students are in 3:1 or even 1:1 because of their impairments. It would fall on other classes to make up the difference to meet the seven students per class average. Some classes could end up with nine-10 students, they said.

"Right now I have a number of boys who are independent, you can give a plan and they'll do the work, but I have a number of students who need one on one," said Pitt. "It's hard enough to get around to everybody. This definitely will take so much more time and will impact learning."

Wayne County RESA sought and received a waiver from state Superintendent Michael Flanagan to exceed the state ratio as a way of reining in expenses. State and federal funding is flat at a time when expenses are increasing 5-8 percent, according to Francis. The plan aims to have school district cover a portion of the costs.

Locally, special education funding comes from the Act 18 millage, now at 3.368-mills following voter approval of a 1.5 mill increase in 2002. Costs not

covered by the Act 18 must be covered by charge backs to local districts. Until the tax increase, Garden City Public Schools had charge backs to its general fund averaging \$800,000 a year for the Burger program.

WILL DILUTE PROGRAM

Parents and teachers, however, maintain the county isn't looking at the autism spectrum that can range from mild to severe with other impairments. They claim that increasing the class sizes will dilute the quality of the Burger program.

"We're not saying they should get rid of the action plan, may be add an addendum or look at how it affects a center program," said Pitt.

"What we're saying is that obviously they didn't have enough information to make this decision," said teacher Colleen Polin. "They've said this won't have a negative impact on the staff, students and quality of the program. The program won't be diminished with the implementation of this plan, but how do they know this?"

Francis indicated that RESA is willing to work with school on implementing the plan, but says county officials "don't see the issues they're presenting." In fact, Francis said that on a visit to the school several months ago he saw where there instances where there could easily be a 7:1:2 ratio.

"We're looking to see what could be done, what students could be moved back to their home schools so they don't have a two-year waiting list," Francis said. "From our perspective we're looking at how they can service these students within the plan. Every program except Burger has changed and everyone is reporting successes. The problems they talk about haven't happened at other programs around the state."

Francis added that RESA "anticipates moving forward" with the plan for Burger.

"They have some awesome teachers doing an awesome job," he said. "We hope they have the expertise to make this plan work."

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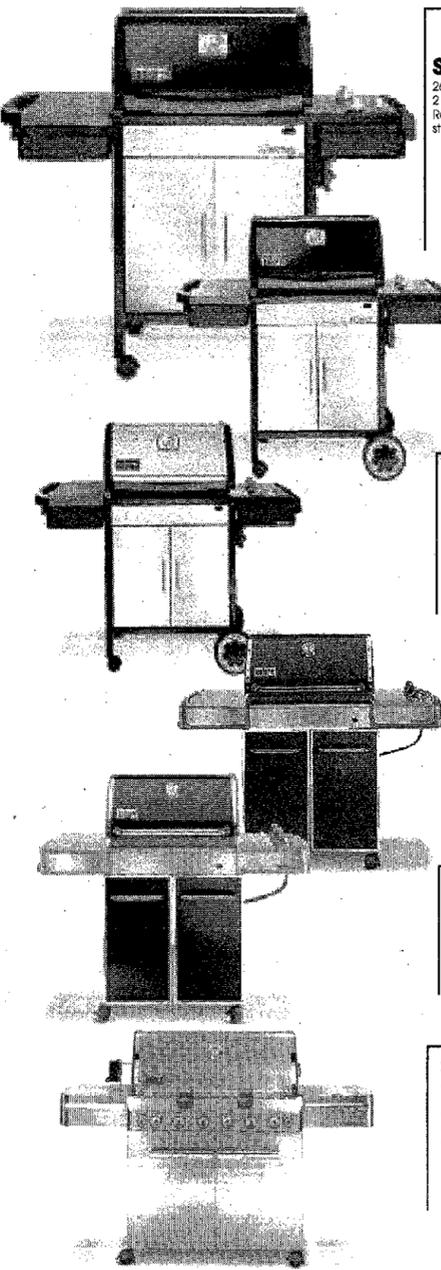
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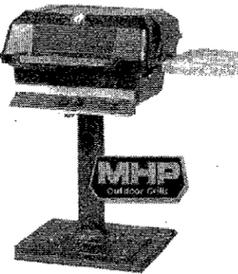
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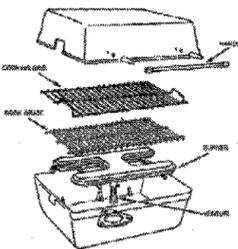
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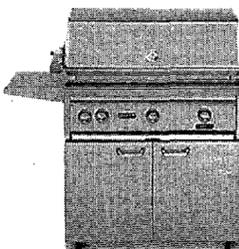
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OUR VIEWS

Park cleanup is small, but good

We're sure that Mayor William Wild hopes people heard all of his State of the City speech. But let's face it, it's hard to remember anything after his blockbuster announcement that, after almost two years, remediation is in the works for Central City Park.

Granted, it's only 12 acres of the 100-acre park, but quite frankly that news is certainly a morale boost for Westland residents who have driven by their beloved park and seen only chain link fence and the vacant playscape and baseball fields since the issue of contamination burst on the scene in November 2006.

The mayor hopes to see the first shovels in the ground by the end of summer, and while it's uncertain how long the work will take, it's still exciting to imagine the area with new soccer fields, pavilions and restroom facilities.

Central City Park is the city's crown jewel in recreation. The news that the park was contaminated with lead sent shock waves through the community and raised questions about why residents hadn't been informed of the situation sooner. The park was closed shortly after, but it was Wild who took the bold step of erecting the fence, making it off limits to everyone.

Needless to say, it's been a tough 18 months ago.

We realize that it will take time, that a shovel of dirt removed today doesn't mean the remediation will be done tomorrow. Soil borings have given city, county and state officials a glimpse at what's underneath the soil. Scrapping it away will give them a better picture of what's really there and what it will take to restore the site. This first phase in remediation is nothing more than a baby step.

Certainly, we all need to show patience, but we can't help but not do a happy dance about the announcement. Let's face it, the story was the first positive bit of ink about the park in quite awhile.

In these gloomy economic times, the mayor found something positive to talk about. We appreciate the good news.

We would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge the work the mayor and his staff has done to keep the city moving forward. It's hard to hang on to anything these days, so keeping a nearly \$2 million surplus intact speaks volumes about the effort being put forth at all levels to trim costs and do more with less.

We thank the mayor for his upbeat message. It certainly has put a smile on our face.

Rouge Rescue a great way to connect with natural world

In 1985, a group of volunteers did the unthinkable — they waded into the Rouge River and began the process of cleaning up one of the most polluted waterways in the nation, and one of the largest pollution sources of the Great Lakes.

More than two decades later, Rouge Rescue, which always takes place the first Saturday in June, has grown into an annual celebration of "our" watershed, and is a testament to what a group of people armed with a good idea can achieve.

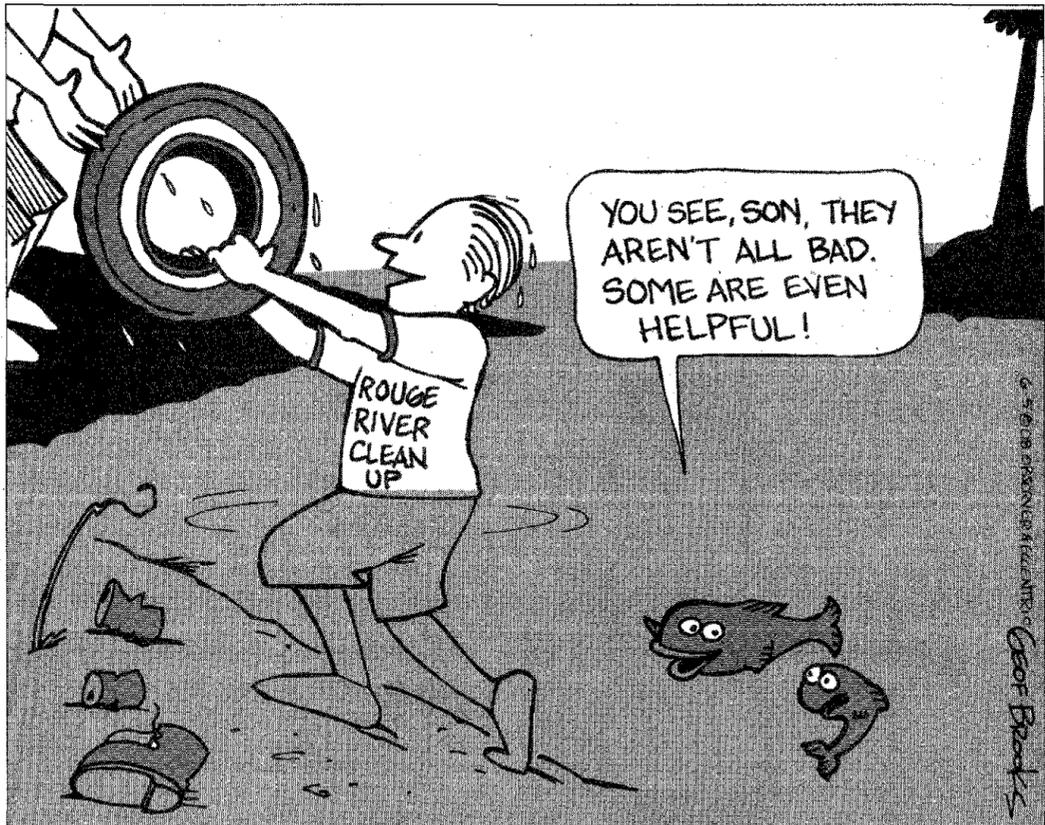
On Saturday, volunteers will take part at 36 different Rouge Rescue sites around the watershed — from Canton to Troy, from Detroit to Northville. Friends of the Rouge, the organization that helps plan the event, expects close to 3,000 participants this year. There's always room for more.

In the event's early years, volunteers would typically spend their time removing trash and debris from the river and surrounding park areas, including old cars, shopping carts and tires. In recent years, however, with much of the trash now removed, organizers have added a variety of activities, including nature walks, invasive species removal, woody debris management (opening flow, not removing log jams), planting native vegetation, bird box building and trail revitalization.

The event really has become a great way to introduce people not only to the Rouge River, but also to what is left of our region's natural areas, including the Berberian Woods section of Southfield, Holiday Nature Preserve in Westland and Canton, the E.L. Johnson Nature Center in Bloomfield Township, or even the Lower Rouge Parkway, which runs from Canton to Dearborn. "This reminds me of up north," can usually be heard when people visit these places for the first time.

Rouge Rescue has also helped change public opinion about the Rouge, which for far too long has been considered an open sewer. Unfortunately that's what it was — or, more correctly, what we turned it into. But recent efforts have had an impact, and while some downstream sections of the Rouge are still plagued by pollution issues, much of the headwater regions are pretty healthy. In fact, monitors have found trout, caddis flies and even a club tailed dragonfly — all very sensitive species that can't tolerate pollution.

So if you have a few hours Saturday, head out to one of the Rouge Rescue sites. Although you might get your hands a little dirty, the event is a great way to help restore one of our area's greatest natural resources, even though it hasn't always been treated like one. It's our river, and it is our job to protect it.



LETTERS

Thanks for the support

Parents of the 2008 John Glenn High School graduating seniors gave a Senior Party for the students on Friday, May 9. The party was a huge success.

We would like to thank all the area businesses which donated prizes, gift certificates, food and money to make the party a success. Their generosity and support of this event was greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank the parent volunteers, staff of John Glenn High School and the students who attended, as well as the parents who worked on planning the party.

This is the first Senior Party at John Glenn in many years, and we hope that we have started a tradition that will continue for years to come.

Gifts and cash donations were received from the following companies:

Fifth-Third Bank, Adrian College, Albion College, Alexander the Great, All Occasion Accessories, Alleycat Designs Inc., Angelo Plakas and Associates, Antoinette Martin (Ameriprise Financial), Applebee's, Mr. and Mrs. Greg Anderson, Ashley's-Westland, Avon at Westland Shopping Center, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Best Buy, Broad Family Chiropractic, Buffalo Wild Wings, Canton Cinema, Carinci's Pizza; Chums Do-Nut Shop, Dairy Dan, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Lions, Detroit Red Wings, Detroit Science Center, Dunkin' Donuts, Eastern Michigan University, Electric Stick, Emagine Theater, Eva's Bridal Salon, Famous Dave's, Feister Auto & RV Sales, Fitness Things, GFS Marketplace, The Gantry at John Glenn, Glo Golf, Golden Corral, Hard Rock Café, Henry Ford Community College, Home Depot, Independent Carpet One, J.R. Leinbach Technical Services, JMJ Catering, Jack Demmer Ford, Jimmy John's;

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Please patronize them. Thank you.

Sue Tamaroglio
secretary/treasurer for Senior Party

Out of touch with reality

The Westland Department of Assessment's Board of Review is obviously out of touch with the reality of the state of the housing market in Michigan. I arrived at this conclusion when we

were denied a reassessment of property assessed in 2004 that would reflect the declining value of property in 2007.

Perhaps the board should read the article in the *Detroit Free Press* of May 23, 2008, entitled "Home price index reports worst decline in its history." Also applicable, the *Detroit Free Press* article of May 23, 2008, entitled "Sales of existing homes fall 1 percent in April." The article states that "sales of existing homes fell for the eighth time in the past nine months ... The median price for an existing home dropped 8.5 percent, compared to a year ago ... Analysts predicted further price declines given the huge backlog of unsold homes."

Also see, Brieber.com (May 20, 2008), entitled "Fannie CEO sees step home price drop." The article states that "Fannie Mae's CEO told shareholders Tuesday the housing market is 'about halfway through' its crisis and home prices could fall as much as 25 percent before the worst is over ... The housing market is in its most severe slump since the Depression ... a crisis 'which we're likely to be about halfway through right now.'"

We plan to go back to the Westland Department of Assessment Board of Review next year for a reassessment. I hope the Board of Review is better informed the next time around.

Margaret C. Reilly
Westland

Wellness program needed

Recently, I read a letter to your paper which at least by implication questioned the value of wellness programs as an important component of health care. In my position as the chair of the Presbyterian Villages of Michigan (PVM) Foundation, I have seen firsthand the benefits of wellness programs in the lives of seniors.

PVM is one of the nation's leaders in promoting wellness programs to improve the health of seniors. Our program, the Bloom Wellness Program, has proven to be an effective way to help older adults remain healthy and strong in mind, body and spirit.

The program is an evidence-based model with proven approaches for reducing the effects of chronic disease, along with disability and injury among the elderly. Initial findings by the Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology indicate that program participants have improved flexibility, lower blood pressure, better mobility, lower levels of depression and improved attitudes toward exercise.

In addition to improving the quality of life of our residents, the Bloom Wellness Program has also been effective in reducing Medicare claims. In the first year of implementation of the wellness program at the Village of East Harbor, fewer residents saw the on-site physical therapist and Medicare B claims were reduced by nearly 42 percent.

The dramatic impact wellness programs have had on improving the health of PVM's seniors demonstrates the need for us to encourage people of all ages to participate in wellness programs.

We should encourage our friends and family to sign up for wellness programs that will help us reduce stress, prevent chronic disease and reduce cases of obesity.

With so many of us having hectic daily schedules, incentives for employers to offer wellness programs to their employees, like the legislation introduced by Congressman Joe Knollenberg, and which has bipartisan support, will also help individuals achieve a higher quality of life and keep them in better health. Participation in wellness programs is a key component of achieving a healthy lifestyle and now is the time to take the steps that can lead to a long, healthy life.

Robert V. Peterson
board chair,
Presbyterian Village of Michigan Foundation

Uphold the law

In March, Congress stood up to the Bush administration and their unlawful wiretapping of American citizens by refusing to grant retroactive immunity to the telecom companies, which would have effectively shut down judicial oversight.

Now, as Congressional Democrats try to reconcile their bill with the Senate version, which includes immunity, a compromise may be in the works. But the House leadership should not capitulate. The Bush administration believes that the president can disregard any law as long as they can claim that they are acting in the interests of national security. But that is not how our democracy works. The Constitution requires checks and balances and three co-equal branches of government, not a Unitary Executive.

Democrats fear that if they do not pass some kind of compromise, the Republicans will use it against them in the upcoming elections, but the fact is that the existing FISA law gives the intelligence agencies all the tools they need. Political expediency is not good enough excuse. Give us a good reason to vote for you in November. Upholding the law and defending the Constitution just might work.

Katie Jacob
Birmingham

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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QUOTABLE

"We're trying to come up with a better landscaping design to address their concerns."

— Developer Glenn Shaw Jr. about plans to amend his proposed senior citizen village he plans to build on Joy in the city's north end

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The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor (734) 953-2123. bemons@hometownlife.com

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Stevenson high jumper White wins state title

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mitchell White passed his bar exam during Saturday's Division 1 boys track and field championships held in Rockford — and it took him only three tries.

The Livonia Stevenson High senior put his name in the MHSAA honors list by capturing the high jump with a leap of 6 feet, 6 inches and become the school's first individual state champion since Hady Rahman won the shot put title in 2003. White and Detroit King's



White

Kevin Jackson both cleared 6-6, but White garnered first on fewer misses. He cleared his first two initial jumps at 6-3 and 6-5, but like Jackson missed all three attempts at 6-8. "I had to run a leg of the 4 x 100 (meter) relay and my teammate Pat York (who also qualified in the event) told me I had to hurry up and get my first jump in (at 6-8)," White recalled. "I had a couple of good

jumps (at 6-8, his season-best), but didn't make it. My legs were not the same after running the 4 x 100."

During the off-season, White trained under Romulus coach James Hall and former NFL running back and ex-Michigan player Tyrone Wheatley with the Michigan Accelerators Track Club.

"All the hard work I did over the summer — I'm happy I won, I'm excited," White said. "They really helped me a lot technique-wise as far as my over-the-bar form."

White also credits York, who

cleared a season-best 6-5 this season, for much of his success.

The two played together on Stevenson's Division 1 state runner-up football team where White was a quarterback and York a key defensive back.

"Pat made me a lot better, too, he was a driving force," White said. "He would challenge me a lot when I didn't feel like doing it in practice. We ran in middle school together. We're both competitive and he's a good teammate to have."

The day in Rockford, however, was bittersweet in some respects for the White family.

Mitchell's twin brother Myles, headed to Michigan State on a football scholarship, finished third in the long jump with a leap of 22 feet, 3.5 inches, and had won two preliminary heats (14.44 and 14.51) heading into the finals of the 110 hurdles, only to be disqualified for a false start.

"I wish he would have had a chance to run, I got mad when he got disqualified," Mitchell said.

All is not lost, however, as both will compete Saturday.

Please see **WHITE, B5**

Sidelines

St. Amant qualifies

The University of Michigan's 4 x 400-meter relay team, featuring freshman David St. Amant (Livonia Churchill), punched its ticket to the NCAA Division 1 National Track & Field Championships with a runner-up finish Saturday in the Midwest Regional in Fayetteville, Ark.

The foursome of Stann Waithe, Andre Barnes, Dan Harmsen and St. Amant posted a time of 3:05.79, only behind Mississippi State's 3:05.62, to advance to the nationals later this month in Des Moines, Iowa.

D-2 track stalwarts

Northwood University sophomore Kylen Cieslak (Livonia Churchill) and Grand Valley State University junior Kelly Gibbons (Livonia Stevenson) both earned NCAA Division II All-America honors in women's track and field.

In a meet hosted May 22-24 by Mount San Antonio College in Walnut, Calif., Cieslak came the Wolves' first All-America since 1987 when she placed sixth in the 3,000-meter run in 9:51.01 after qualifying 10th in the prelims with a school-record time of 10:03.01.

Cieslak's time bettered her own previous school mark of by 16 seconds.

Gibbons placed seventh in the 1,500 run in 4:34.46 as the Lakers took eighth in the team standings with 36 points.

McCracken hailed

Madonna University senior relief pitcher John McCracken (Pinckney), who tied a school record for saves with nine while compiling an earned run average of 1.59, was named honorable mention All-America by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

McCracken, a converted infielder, had 23 strikeouts in 22 innings as the Crusaders won the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference regular season and playoff titles.

The psychology and mental health major, carrying a 3.7 grade-point average, also was named to the NAIA's All-America Scholar-Athlete team.

Warriors roll to D-4 crown, regional next

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER SPORTS WRITER

Lutheran High Westland made quick work Saturday of two district foes to advance to this Saturday's Division 4 regional semifinal to face host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

The Warriors, now 21-7 overall, captured the District 126 title with a 7-0 triumph over host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran as pitcher Ryan Baglow allowed just one hit over seven innings.

Baglow struck out six and allowed just one walk as the Warriors will take on the host Chargers (10-10), last year's Division 4 state runner-up, in one regional semifinal.

The other semifinal pits No. 1-ranked and undefeated Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett (28-0) against Royal Oak Shrine. The finals follow at approximately 2 p.m.

"We are very happy with the way the program has developed over the past four years, but we also know that there is more out there to get," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade said. "We are hoping to compete in a very tough regional and try and make the regional final for the first time in school history and then let the chips fall where they may."

"We know we can compete with anyone, we just have to be mentally tough all day on Saturday."

Please see **WARRIORS, B2**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Garrett Gumm (right) doubles up a Wayne Memorial base runner during Saturday's Division 1 district final at Westland John Glenn.

Pats celebrate as district champs

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER SPORTS WRITER

You'd have to check an old high school yearbook to find out the last time Livonia Franklin made a regional baseball appearance.

The Patriots ended a 27-year drought Saturday dating all the way back to 1981 with a nail-biting 5-4 victory over Wayne Memorial in eight innings for the Division 1-District 16 crown at Westland John Glenn.

Franklin, 16-15 overall, advances to face Dearborn (21-11) beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday at Saline in the regional semifinals. The other matchup fea-

tures Taylor Kennedy and the host Hornets (26-9).

"It's been our goal all year even though we've had our ups and downs," said second-year Franklin coach and former Patriot player Matt Fournier. "I said that when we finally won this thing it was for all the former players and coaches — like Paul Newitt, Jim Karoub and Gerry Cullin — who had teams capable of winning it, but couldn't get past a district because they had some tough draws or faced some really good teams. We knew coming in that this was a winnable district."

In the championship final, Franklin rallied from a 4-1 deficit to send the

game into extra innings against the Zebras, who bowed out with a 10-23 overall record.

Franklin scored three times in the top of the fifth on RBI singles by Garrett Gumm and freshman Dan Muller, couple with a pair of Wayne errors.

Senior David Muller opened the top of the eighth by reaching base on a Wayne infield miscue, the eighth error of the day by the Zebras. He moved to second on Jeff McCullough's sacrifice bunt. Mike Basner and Derek LeBlanc each followed with two-out walks to

Please see **PATS, B2**



Sheila Taormina cemented her place in Olympic history as the only woman from any nation ever to qualify for in three different sports.

Pentathlete carving Olympic legacy

It's only a formality now as Livonia Stevenson High grad Sheila Taormina will soon accept an invitation to compete in the 2008 Olympic Summer Games in Beijing, China — this time in the modern pentathlon.

And for the 39-year-old Taormina, this cements her place in Olympic history as the only woman from any nation ever to qualify for the Olympic Games in three different sports.

This will be her fourth U.S. Olympic Team as she has already competed in the Olympic Games in the sports of swimming (1996) and triathlon (2000 and 2004).

The former University of Georgia All-America swimmer captured a gold medal in swimming at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, Ga., swimming the third leg of the 4 x 200-meter freestyle relay. She finished sixth and 23rd, respectively, in the triathlon at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia and

the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

According to Union Internationale de Pentathlon Modern (UIPM) rules for Olympic participation, each National Olympic Committee can be represented by a maximum of two men and two women.

As stipulated by the UIPM, each NOC has until June 15, 2008 to confirm Olympic participation.

In accordance with the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Selection Procedures for Modern Pentathlon, if more than two individuals per gender receive an official UIPM Letter of Invitation to the 2008 Olympic Games on June 1, the two highest ranked U.S. athletes (per gender) in the UIPM World Cup standings will qualify for nomination to the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team.

Taormina and 16-year-old Margaux Isaksen of Fayetteville, Ark. earned their UIPM Olympic

invitation off of the UIPM Pentathlon World Ranking for the Olympic qualifying period.

The current pentathlon world ranking list for the Olympic qualification period, which is posted on UIPM Web site www.pentathlon.org, shows that Taormina is ranked 25th, Isaksen 30th and Michelle Kelly (Chatham, N.Y.) 31st.

For the women, the tiebreaker of the UIPM World Cup standings sees Taormina ranked ninth, Isaksen in 10th and Kelly a distant third in 29th.

Taormina, who in 2004 captured the International Triathlon Union's World Championship, proved to be a quick study in the sport of modern pentathlon which she was first introduced to in June 2005. The sport features five different disciplines including running, swimming, equestrian riding, fencing and pistol shooting.

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Clarenceville's first baseman Tyler Hendrickson puts the tag onto Thurston's Brian Corner in the fifth inning of the Division 2 district semifinals. Thurston won 14-3.

Spartans' upset bid falls short; C'ville bounced by Eagles, 14-3

Livonia Stevenson nearly pulled off the upset in Saturday's Division 1 district baseball semifinal before succumbing to host Salem, 9-8. The Rocks (20-10), getting a game-tying homer from Kyle Beicken, scored two times in the bottom of the seventh to win it before losing to Canton in the championship final, 7-3. Chris Kordick was the winning pitcher in relief, allowing one run while fanning four in three innings. Sophomore Jeff Sorenson started for the Spartans, who bowed out at 9-21 overall. He allowed seven runs (four earned) with four strikeouts and two walk. Reliever Dave Niesyto, who worked the final 1.1 innings, took the loss. Sam Ott knocked in three

runs for the Rocks, while Beicken, Justin Bashi and Heath Parling added two hits apiece. Parling knocked in three runs, while Bashi and Dana Zoeben also added RBI. Justin Horger also scored twice. Jake Wilson led Stevenson's offensive attack going 3-for-4 with three RBI. Sorenson went 2-for-4 with two runs and two RBI, while Josh Strautz added two hits and an RBI. Sam Vomastek scored two runs and Jon Samaan knocked in a run. **THURSTON 14, CLARENCEVILLE 3:** In a Division 2 district game Saturday, Redford Thurston (11-9) broke open a close game with five runs in the top of the sixth and four more in the seventh to subdue Livonia Clarenceville (2-24).

Charlie Melvin pitched a complete game and homered at the plate to break a 3-3 tie in the fifth. Melvin went 2-for-5 with three RBI against the Trojans. But it was senior catcher Brian Corner who spearheaded the win, with a three-run triple in the sixth and a two-run double in the seventh. John James had an RBI single and Levan Go also knocked in a run for Clarenceville. Jimmy Moody, Matt Kurdziel, Jacob Bibik and Ramsey Haddad also added hits for the Trojans, who made four errors. Catholic League champion Dearborn Divine Child (27-10) took three innings to mercy Thurston (11-0) in the championship game, 25-6.

PATS

FROM PAGE B1

load the bases, setting the stage for Gumm's game-winning RBI single. Gumm then pitched the final inning in relief to pick up the victory, getting groundout to first to end the game with a pair of Wayne runners aboard. "We had to scratch and claw for everything we could and we were lucky to get one in the eighth," Fournier said. "We knew they (Wayne) were saving their best pitcher and it would be a dogfight." Wayne, led by junior center fielder Zeb Hancock's three doubles and two RBI, scored runs in each of the first four innings off Patriot starter Anthony Andrus to bolt out to a 4-1 advantage. The Zebras had a total of six doubles on the game, including two from Jon Bryant along with an RBI single from Dominik Corredino. But Franklin reliever Jesse Carpenter, who utilized all of his allotted 30 outs on the mound after going the distance earlier in the day in a 7-4 win over host Glenn, gave his team a chance to win with three scoreless innings of relief after taking over for Dan Muller in the fifth. Carpenter, a senior right-hander who beat Garden City, 6-3, in Tuesday's predistrict, scattered eight hits and walked two against the Rockets, who bowed out at 16-18 overall. "Jesse really had to 'bulldoze it,'" Fournier said. "It came down to his complete game and how we would utilize him for his final nine outs (for the final). I told him to keep his arm loose, no icing it, and rub a lot of Ben-Gay on it."

Wayne senior right-hander Ryan Collop, who threw a total of 112 pitches, deserved a better fate. He allowed just six hits, walked six and hit two batters over eight innings, while striking out four. Collop got out of a sticky jam in the sixth when Robertson, playing third base, snared a screaming line drive off the bat of LeBlanc and turned it into a double play with the score tied at 4-4. "He (Collop) did what we asked him to do," Wayne first-year coach Paul Cavanaugh said. "He's pitched well for us this season. He has two wins and some no decisions. He struggled with his control early in the season. "We just had a couple of bad defensive stands, but that's the game of baseball. You lose as a team. When you throw strikes and field the ball, you win the game. Even though we had (eight) errors, we were in the game. They (Franklin) got the key hit and we didn't."

each collected two hits for the Rockets, who committed two costly errors. Carpenter went all seven innings, scattering 10 hits while striking out two and walking two. "He (Carpenter) is a competitor, that's what you need," Glenn coach Tom Wakefield said. "On Tuesday (in a 6-3 win over Garden City), he threw. Today he pitched even though he didn't have his best stuff. He's a complete athlete." Glenn starter Robert Fraser gave up six runs on four hits and three walks over 4.2 innings. He fanned six before giving way to Kangas. "We were unsure of ourselves a lot of times this year and it hurt us," Wakefield said. "You have to have somebody take charge and it did not happen this year. "It's was a lot of little things. We'd fix something and something else happens — new things. We just had a tough time finishing games and completing games. We did not eliminate the big innings and it came back to bite us in the butt."

FRANKLIN 7, JOHN GLENN 4: Despite being out-hit 10-8, the Patriots earned the district semifinal win Saturday over the host Rockets. It was 1-all after four innings, but Franklin rallied for four in the fifth to take a 5-1 lead. Glenn came back with three in the sixth keyed by Jake Sperry's two-run double, but Franklin put it away in the seventh on an RBI single by winning pitcher Jesse Carpenter followed by Wayne Hawkins' RBI double. Carpenter had two hits and two RBI, while Hawkins added two hits to pace Franklin's offense. Garrett Gumm also knocked in a run. Jace Paciocco, Chris Kangas, Steve Hickson and Sperry

allowed just one hit, walked four and struck out eight. Abbott led the Warriors' 17-hit attack by going 3-for-4 with a double and four RBI. Ahlersmeyer tripled twice, scored three runs and knocked in two, while Zehel went 2-for-3 with a walk, two RBI and three runs. Austin Baglow also doubled twice and knocked in two runs while scoring two. Ahlersmeyer now holds the school record for most hits in a season (46) and RBI (41), breaking Ben Meyer's 1997 marks of 45 hits and 32 RBI. Other RBI went to Ryan

Rakovalis, Billy Meier and Chris Barnaby. Besides a school-record 21 wins, the Warriors now have established new offensive school records for total hits in a season (297), RBI (217), doubles (66), triples (17). The pitching staff has accumulated a record 186 strikeouts. Huron Valley, which finished 9-13 overall, took five innings to mercy Melvindale Academy for Business & Technology, 12-0, in the other district semifinal.

WARRIORS

FROM PAGE B1

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State-ranked Dexter ends Blazers' season

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER SPORTS WRITER

DISTRICT SOCCER

Seventh-ranked Dexter jumped out to a 3-0 half-time lead Saturday and never looked back to beat visiting Livonia Ladywood, 4-2, for Division 2 district girls soccer championship. Dexter, 14-2-2 overall, advances to the regional semifinals this week at Berkley to face the Warren Fitzgerald district champion. Dexter, a state semifinalist a year ago, got goals from Shantal Daratony (fifth minute), Erica LeBlanc (22nd minute) and Katie Marsh (30th minute) before Ladywood's

Alessia Vagnini answered in the 54th minute. Marsh notched her second of the game in the 63rd minute and Vagnini answered again for her second of the afternoon following the restart from 40 yards out. Alison Szczyzka assisted on both goals for the Blazers. "We had some defensive mistakes and they (Dexter) made us pay," Ladywood first-year coach Ken Shingledecker said. "Good teams make you pay right away. Overall, they're well-coached and well-organized. I'm very impressed. I'd

be surprised if they don't make a long run." Ladywood ends its season at 10-6-4 overall. "If somebody had told me before the season that we'd win 10 games and make the Catholic League finals I'd have been flabbergasted," Shingledecker said. "We exceeded expectations and I'm excited about next year." Goalkeeper Michele Ring (four saves), Szczyzka and Sarah Kempa all earned first-team All-Catholic League honors, while Kaitlyn Vitale, Caitlin Szczyzka and Vagnini made All-Central Division.

Professional indoor soccer league folds

The Management Committee of the Major Indoor Soccer League announced Monday that the MISL ceased operations effective May 31. The MISL Management Committee has begun formal transition planning and restructuring as they consider moves, which they believe will help lower costs and attract additional owner/operators, according to a press release distributed Monday morning

by the Detroit Ignition. A decision on the future structure of the League will be revealed in the next couple of weeks, the release stated. "We are considering structural changes that will bring us greater efficiencies, while also allowing long-term growth and expansion of the League," said John Hantz, former Chairman of the MISL, and owner/operator of the Ignition. The eight MISL clubs joined

the Ignition during the 2007-08 season were the Baltimore Blast, California Cougars, Chicago Storm, Milwaukee Wave Philadelphia KiXX, La Raza de Monterrey, New Jersey Ironmen and the Orlando Sharks. MISL Commissioner Steve Ryan resigned from his post last week. The Ignition joined the league prior to the 2006-07 season and advanced to the league title game.

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Warren Regina: Maria Butler, Sr.; Erin Dudash, Sr.

Farmington Hills Mercy: Jordan Mueller, Jr.

ALL-LEAGUE

Marian: Elizabeth Doman, Soph.; Danielle Kamanec, Sr.; Shannon Neville, Sr.; Claire Meenik, Sr.

Ladywood: Caitlin Szczyzka, Jr.; Alessia Vagnini, Jr.; Kaitlyn Vitale, Sr.

Regina: Lisa DeHondt, Sr.; Carly Mocny, Sr.

Mercy: Deidre Ratliff, Jr.

ALL-ACADEMIC

Marian: Ryan Cooney, Sr.

Ladywood: Amanda Field, Sr.

Regina: Charlotte Helminiak, Sr.

Mercy: Natalie Herzog, Sr.

FINAL STANDINGS

Central Division: 1. Marian, 10-0; 2. Ladywood, 4-3-3; 3. Regina, 3-4-3; 4. Mercy, 1-6-3.

AA Division: 1. Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard, 7-1-2; 2. Pontiac Notre Dam Prep, 6-2-2; 3. Madison Heights Bishop Foley, 2-8; 4. Dearborn Divine Child, 0-9-1.

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Cougars cruise through district

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Garden City's varsity softball team mercied two opponents Saturday en route to the Division 1 district softball title at Westland John Glenn.

The Cougars (27-6) needed five innings to mercy the host Rockets, 12-0, with senior pitcher Hallie Minch giving up no hits and one walk while striking out 15.

Brittany Holbrook was the losing pitcher Glenn, which finished the year at 2-23.

Garden City then took out Romulus 12-0 in the final, a five-inning affair that again featured Minch (23-3), who went four innings, allowing just one hit.

Finishing up with a perfect fifth was junior Katelyn Shattleroe, who had a big offensive day for the Cougars going 5-for-5 with a pair of doubles, triple and six RBI.

With the win, Garden City advanced to the regionals for the second time in three years.

The Cougars will face Lincoln Park (18-12) beginning at noon Saturday at Saline. The other semifinal, beginning at 10 a.m. pits the host Hornets against Taylor Kennedy.

DISTRICT SOFTBALL

ROMULUS 2, WAYNE 1: Jennifer Johnson threw a one-hitter Saturday as the Eagles ousted Wayne Memorial (7-22) in the semifinals of the John Glenn district.

Romulus scored both its runs in the third inning off Wayne starter Jessie Harris with a pair of singles, a fielder's choice and two errors.

Wayne tallied its lone run in the bottom of the third when Colleen Blake walked and later scored on a Kathy Harris RBI single.

Romulus center fielder Brittany Wilkewicz saved the potential tying run in the same inning by robbing Heather Henning of an extra base hit with a fine running catch.

"We had a couple chances to score," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "We hit the ball hard, but right at people."

Johnson struck out seven and walked only three for the Eagles, who avenged a double-header loss (8-1 and 13-3) to the Zebras during the regular season.

Taylor Krohn pitched four scoreless innings of relief, allowing three hits and a pair

of walks.

SALEM 2, STEVENSON 0: Freshman pitcher Brianna Lee tossed the four-hit shut-out Saturday as the host Rocks (24-7-1) ousted Livonia Stevenson (16-10) in Division 1 district semifinal.

Lee struck out six and allowed only two walks in outdueling Stevenson senior starter Jamie Johnson, who allowed nine hits, no walks and fanned four in going the distance.

Salem tallied a run in the first and added another run in the fourth.

Christina Parsons, Kelli Janiczek and Emily Meade each collected two hits for the Rocks.

Sophomore infielder Tara Sharpe collected two hits for the Spartans, who played without starting third baseman Kristina Vaclavek (broken toe).

Plymouth edged Salem, the Western Lakes Activities Association champions, 1-0, in the district final to advance to take on Northville in the regional semifinals this Saturday at Birmingham Seaholm. The other semifinal pits the host Maples against White Lake Lakeland.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ladywood's Alyssa Abramowski tries to avoid the tag by Dearborn Divine Child catcher Kristyn Santicchia during Saturday's Division 2 district girls softball final at Redford Thurston.

Ladywood drubbed in district final, 9-2

Livonia Ladywood's softball team had trouble fielding the ball Saturday in a 9-2 Division 2 district championship game setback loss to Dearborn Divine Child at Redford Thurston.

A five-run first-inning carried the Falcons to the victory and ended Ladywood's season at 20-16 overall under first-year coach Scott Combs.

Singles by Rebecca Ryan, winning pitcher Catherine Walker, Ashlyn Childs and Kristyn Santicchia coupled with three Ladywood errors led to the first-inning outburst.

The Falcons, who were swept in a pair of regular season double-headers by Ladywood, added two more in the third on a triple by Kirsten Childs and added two more in the fourth on an RBI single by Santicchia and an RBI groundout from Emily McGraw.

Walker gave up four hits, walked four and struck out eight.

Alyssa Gietl was the losing pitcher, allowing just four hits. Alyssa Abramowski collected three hits for the Blazers, including a double and RBI triple. Ladywood scored one in

the third and one in the fourth. She also had three hits in a five-inning, 13-0 district semifinal victory over Livonia Clarenceville (10-18).

Gietl allowed just one hit, while Clarenceville starter Val Sochacki suffered the loss. In the other semifinal, Divine Child mercied the host Eagles, 10-0.

The Falcons now advance to the regional semifinals this Saturday at Ladywood to face Allen Park (9-20), while Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day takes on Detroit Renaissance in the other game.

Hawks win first district title in school history

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER SPORTS WRITER

Call the Westland Huron Valley Lutheran bridesmaids no more.

On Saturday, the host Hawks captured their first district girls softball title in school history by scoring a total of 40 runs in victories over next-door neighbor Lutheran High Westland, 15-0, in three-inning mercy in the final, and Melvindale Academy for Business & Technology, 25-13, in the semifinal.

The Hawks, 8-10-1 overall under first-year coach Eric Ruth, advance to this Saturday's Division 4 regional

semifinal against host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (21-7). Game time is 10 a.m. followed by the Southfield Christian-Sterling Heights Parkway Christian matchup at noon.

The finals will start at approximately 2 p.m.

Huron Valley had reached the district final seven of the past 11 years and come up empty, but left little doubt in the championship game on Saturday as Anna Schaffer and Emily Helwig each had two hits, combined for three walks and five RBI.

Winning pitcher Sarah Schaffer allowed just two hits in three innings, a double by Stephanie Christenson and

a single by Amanda DeVries, to avenge an 18-13 loss to the Warriors during the regular season.

Starter Emily Whitaker took the loss for Lutheran Westland.

In the first game, Anna Schaffer went 5-for-6 with four doubles and six RBI as the Hawks collected a mind-boggling 28 hits against Academy of Business & Technology.

Catherine St. John contributed three hits, including a triple, double and three RBI.

Junior pitcher Crystina Gutierrez, a junior, went 6.2 innings to earn the win. Paige Sharrow finished up as the Hawks overcame nine errors.

New-look Diesels open Saturday

BY CHRISTIAN YOUNG
CORRESPONDENT

It's a new year, new staff, new league for the Detroit Diesels.

But Diesels general manager Al Seder hopes all the new faces will yield some of the same old results.

After compiling a 58-23-1 record over the last six years in the North American Football League, including five playoff appearances and two division championships, Western Wayne County's minor league football team, which plays at Livonia Franklin High School, has moved over to the regional Great Lakes Football League for the 2008 season, and has hired a whole new coaching staff.

"We're in a rebuilding year, no doubt about it," Seder said as his team is making preparations for their 2008 season opener against the Michigan Vipers, 7 p.m. Saturday at Franklin. "But we will do whatever is necessary to win."

Former Dearborn Heights Robichaud head coach Bob Yauck will be taking over a

MEN'S FOOTBALL

team that has only 16 veterans return from last year's 10-3-1 squad, with the majority of them hailing from the Observerland area.

"One thing that is good about us is that even though we are a Detroit team, we are the most diverse semi-pro team in the area," Seder said. "We have people from all walks of life, and all different types of areas."

Former All-Observer running back T.J. Dillard (Wayne Memorial) and wide receiver John Craven (Farmington High) will need to lead a young offense, and they will get help from newcomers in quarterbacks Brandon Jackson (Canton), and Jimmy Cook (Redford Union), running back Diddier Mami (Romulus), receivers Brian Aneed (Franklin) and Andy Hess (Lutheran Westland), and linemen Josh Perkovich (Canton) and Ron Quinkert (Livonia Churchill).

On defense is where the team looks to hang its hat,

with Carrey Short, a 1994 Franklin alum and former Air Force Academy player, calling the shots as the coordinator.

This unit will be spearheaded by a trio of former Wayne linemen in Bernard Evans and Christian Young, along with defensive back Absalom Goode.

Lineman Earl Blanchette is a monster in the middle, while Don Laramie (Canton) is also a valued defensive lineman. Miguel David (Westland John Glenn), as middle linebacker, will be an integral piece, and Greg Dixon, who played at Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep and Hillsdale College, will figure prominently on offense and defense as well.

After playing the Vipers, the Diesels will go on an extended road trip against the Lapeer Lions (June 14), to the Southwest Michigan Punishers (June 21), and the Northwest Ohio Knights (June 28) heading into the Fourth of July weekend, before returning Saturday, July 12 to Franklin to clash with the Lakeshore Cougars.

Rams' Sunday sweep Trailblazers

The 20-and-under Michigan Rams launched their 2008 Michigan Collegiate Baseball League season Sunday by sweeping a double-header from the 22-and-under Trailblazers, 4-3 and 3-0, at Livonia's Ford Field.

Madonna University's Shawn Little (Canton) went 2-for-4 with a double and RBI as the Rams took the first game. Ryan Abraham, Tim Cross and Aaron Wick also drove in runs for the Rams.

Winning pitcher Brett Shankin (Wayne State) allowed just one run on three hits and three walks over seven innings. He struck out seven before giving way to Derek

Mosher (Western Michigan University).

Jeff Taylor went 3-for-3 for the Trail Blazers, while Scott Phillon added two hits and an RBI.

Losing pitcher Rich Mills gave up two runs on four hits and two walks over three innings.

In the nightcap, Oakland University's Aaron Wick faced just 27 batters pitching a complete-game five-hit shutout. The left-hander struck out six.

Losing pitcher Justin Sylvester allowed two runs on six hits and walked five over four innings. He fanned four.

Offensively, Frank Persichino went 3-for-4 and

scored a run for the Rams, who improved to 2-0.

Mosher also added two hits and scored twice, while Cross and Brett Mazmanian each knocked in a run.

Tommy Jablonski and Taylor collected two hits apiece for the Trailblazers (1-2).

DODGERS 4, BLUE KNIGHTS 2: In an MCBL opener played May 28 at Livonia's Bicentennial Park, the Michigan Dodgers (1-0) scored three times in the sixth inning to turn back the Michigan Blue Knights (0-1).

Shane McCatty took the loss, while Keith Kampe went 2-for-2 with a walk and RBI for the Blue Knights. Tony Fazi also knocked in a run.

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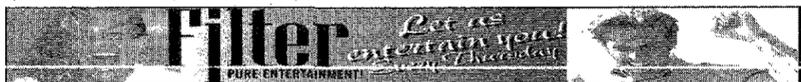
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Good looking SBF, hwp, intelligent, mature, spiritual, seeking a SM, 5'7", 40-50, physically fit, good looking inside and out, loving, who likes traveling, for friendship first leading to LTR. ☎147056

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?
Bright, spunky, pretty SF, 46, educator, outgoing, pretty eyes; wishing to meet a kind Jewish man, 45-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. ☎230694

SEARCHING FOR A MAN...
40-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 40-year-old who's bright, spunky and pretty. Only Jewish man please. ☎96237

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Sexy, mature, intelligent BF, 35, 5'5", 130lbs, seeks mature, intelligent man, for casual dating and friendship. ☎267624

LOOKING FOR SOUL MATE
Hi my name is Lois, I'm a 56-year-old widow with dark blonde hair, blue eyes, and I wear glasses. I have no children, but I have 3 cats. I enjoy reading, music, old movies, going up north, museums, historical places, quiet evenings at home, gardening and also enjoy a lot of other things and open to many more. I've got a sense of humor, and I'm a very caring and considerate person. Looking for someone with similar interests, not necessarily the same as mine. Seeking a long-term relationship and see what happens. ☎137067

SUMMER IS COMING!
BF, 45, seeks special someone to share picnics, walks in the park, quiet days at home and concerts with. I like to eat, drink, and wine. I have the blanket. ☎271006

HELLO OUT THERE
SWF, 39 years young, seeks SWM, who enjoys life's simple pleasures. I enjoy dining out, computers, movies, the parks walks, travel and life in general. Friendship first. ☎241298

BEAUTIFUL MAKEUP ARTIST
Sincere, kind SWF, 53, proportionate, 5'6", 124lbs, professional, attractive, intelligent and educated, loves music, dancing, motorcycles, outdoors, movies and creative pursuits. Seeking attractive gentleman, 42-53, with like interests/qualities, for friendship/LTR. ☎245848

HONESTY A MUST
BF, 42, 5'4", 166lbs, shapely, brown/brown, seeking an honest man, 40-50, N/Drugs, who enjoys the good things in life. I like playing, dancing, dining out, good company and working out. ☎256608

CLASSY LADY
SBF, middle-aged, attractive, enjoys dining, movies, plays and bowling, seeks a SM, 48-69, N/S, good sense of humor and good values/morals. ☎207254

BLACK BEAUTY SEEKS...
White Knight, Spontaneous SBF, 35, brown eyes, in search of adventurous, honest, attractive WM, 25-50, with great sense of humor. I enjoy movies, reading, working out, more. ☎262020

ONLY SERIOUS NEED REPLY
Voluptuous SBF, 42, would like to meet a nice, serious SWM, 35-50, who would like to become acquainted with women and who is ready, willing, and able to commit. ☎273603

LONELY VIRGO
SBF, 47, with a young heart, enjoys cartoons, music, dancing, good food, good fun. Looking for BF, 30-65, with same interests. ☎269375

BEAUTIFUL SBF...
37, seeks SWM, 30-50, who is spontaneous and knows how to have fun. Casual relationship first, maybe leading to more. ☎271683

BEAUTIFUL
BIBF, 37, beautiful, classy and open-minded, looking for BF, 25-40, race open, D/D free, H/W proportionate. You must be confident with who you are. ☎271660

HEART OF GOLD
SBF, 39, 5'6", average build, smoker, enjoys crossword puzzles, old-school lifestyle, movies, dining. Seeking athletic, active BM, 30-42, 6+, smoker, for friendship, possible romance. ☎256442

TAKE A CHANCE!
SWF, 30, middle school art teacher, likes nature, music and learning new things. ISO nice gentleman, for dating and to share life together. ☎283845

NURSE
Attractive SWF, 64, 5', 135lbs, dark hair, blue eyes, fair skin, looking for N/S, honest gentleman, 60-70, who has numerous interests including history, traveling, and home life. ☎409879

LOOKING FOR A COMPANION
Tall, attractive W/WF, 60s, enjoys good conversation, walks, playing board/card games, antiques and more. Looking for honest gentleman, 64-80, with a wide variety of interest to share all life offers. ☎230416

VERY LOVING PERSON
Looking for a spontaneous, professional male, 25-40, race open, who is willing to go and have fun. ☎273284

STILL SEEKING
SBF, 56, 5'3", 122lbs, interested in fit, good-looking, confident mate, 45-58, N/S, intelligent, sincere, down-to-earth, who wants to commit to someone special. ☎113198

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP

SBF, young, fit, outgoing, caring, nice-looking, 5'3", 156lbs, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs, clean, honest living, party retired, enjoys art, card playing, casinos, and movies. Seeking honest man 50-60, race open. ☎134425

DO YOU EXIST?
DWF, 58, 5'7", slender, very attractive, college-educated, enjoys movies, theater, sports, concerts, dining and travel. Seeking widowed/divorced WPM, 55-63, athletic, healthy, tall, N/S, D/D-free, with good sense of humor. ☎200286

HELLO THERE
Asian woman, 5'2", 180lbs, slim, attractive, health-conscious, vegetarian, N/D, N/S. Enjoys dining, movies, quiet times. Seeking clean-cut, respectful, professional/Asian or White male for dating and possibly more. ☎113901

A WOMAN OF CLASS
SWF, 68, looks younger, in search of a SWM, 62-69, who likes movies, dining, theater. Is it you? ☎271085

HIDDEN TREASURE
I'm the needle in the haystack, and there you will find true love. Seeking SM, 65+. ☎212790

FOLLOW THIS HEART
DWF, 53, 5'2", attractive, sincere, loveable, is waiting for you. Loves life in general, likes doing anything with that someone special. Call me, you won't be disappointed. ☎276729

LOOKING FOR ME?
Attractive SBF, 54, full-figured, sincere and warm, enjoys reading, cooking, walks, people. Seeking loving, good-humored, Christian gentleman, 49-57, 5'11"-6'2", employed, easygoing and kind to share all life offers. ☎246967

IT'S WORTH THE CALL
SBF, 20, 5'3", 250lbs, hard-working, student, no kids, seeking a cool guy, to chill with, get to know, have good times and see where it goes. ☎255979

FUN & OUTGOING
SBF, 18, 150lbs, brown eyes, loves walks on the beach, movies, basketball. Seeking SM, same age, for friendship or more. ☎257508

GET TO KNOW ME
BF, 5'7", full-figured, brown eyes, N/S, social drinker, looking for a gentleman, 45-60, to share good, clean fun with. ☎260756

SEEKING SAVED MAN
SBF, 27, N/S, seeks one good man, 29-51, N/S, no games, who enjoys movies, bowling, church, for friendship first. ☎265509

WHY NOT CALL?
SBF, full-figured, seeks a SM, 37-80, for friendship LTR. Call me, let's get together and get to know each other. ☎217234

HI THERE!
Mature SBF, 50, seeks sexy, handsome SWM, to develop a lasting relationship and maybe more. Let's meet soon! ☎268278

MUST LOVE WRESTLING!
Full-figured, shapely SBF, 33, lonely, seeks SWM (only) who enjoys wrestling, football, hockey, fishing, going to the movies for friendship first and maybe more. ☎258929

GET TO KNOW ME
Loving, open-minded SBF, 60, 145lbs, attractive, enjoys music, dining, concerts, travel. ISO honest, compassionate SM, 57-65, N/S, possible LTR. ☎963760

COUNTRY GIRL
Good-natured, classy, attractive, fun-loving SWPF, 46, platinum/blonde, 5'5", H/W-proportionate, enjoys travel, horseback riding, exercise, dancing. Seeking SWM, 55-65, N/S, N/Drugs, for serious relationship. If you love motorcycles call me. ☎759845

ARE YOU HERE?
SBF, 61, enjoys going out, having fun, dancing, playing, laughing, and enjoying life. Seeking an honest SWM, 55-62, with varied interests, for possible LTR. ☎269777

ARE YOU SEEKING?
DWF, 63, 5'7", Italian, brunette, attractive, well-dressed, sincere, loving, optimistic, likes theater, travel, dining, fitness. Wishing to meet N/S WM, 58-70, financially secure, easygoing, good morals, loves family, for dating. ☎630808

LADY IN THE WOODS
SWF, 50, looks younger, blonde/hazel, 5'5", average build, educated, dog lover, classy, sassy and fun, seeking compatible, outdoorsy, rugged, good-hearted male to share the good things in life. Livingston county. ☎210247

I NEED A LOVE...
to keep me happy. Attractive, classy, delightful, charming WF, 49, no kids, seeks SWM, 45+, no kids, N/S, fun, loving, caring. ☎660059

READY FOR A FRESH START?
DWF, 47, 6'5", 120lbs, long blonde/blue, well-proportioned, very feminine, attractive, self-employed. Seeking SWM, 45-57, 6'1", 225+lb, good sense of humor, energetic, traveler, outdoorsman, adventurer, manly gentleman. ☎682549

SEEKING MR. RIGHT
Classy SBF, hoping to meet mature SBM, 45-60. I'm very passionate, affectionate, loving person, who enjoys a variety of activities. If you're seeking your soulmate, why not try me? ☎985794

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
SWM, 6', 145lbs, enjoys hiking, kayaking, road trips, walking my dog, music, hanging out with friends and more. Looking for SWF, 18-42, to spend time with. ☎271027

BOATER SEEKS 1ST MATE
SWM, 48, N/S, good-looking, trustworthy, enjoys boating, good music, working out. Seeking beautiful SBF, 25-40, race unimportant, for friendship leading to possible LTR. ☎205048

A LOT TO OFFER
SBM, 38, N/S, loves walking, jogging, dinner and a movie, having fun, partying. Looking for SF, 28-70, for friendship first, maybe more. ☎278442

LAID-BACK GENTLEMAN
BM, 6', 265lbs, N/S, occasional drinker, nice sense of humor, likes dining out, bowling, some travel and having fun. If you would like to join me, please call. 30-40. ☎278843

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
WM, 5'11", 180lbs, works in construction, looking for a woman, 38-55, to go out and do things with. I enjoy racing, the water and more. ☎257001

EASYGOING
Sharp, sociable SWM, 45, with good character and pleasant personality, likes the outdoors, fishing, motor sports etc. W/MT SWF, for dating and fun times. ☎187614

SIMILAR INTERESTS?
SBM, 46, 6', 215lbs, N/S, N/D, muscular, creative, no children, enjoys writing, reading, music. Looking to meet a lady, race open, for movies, outdoors, dining and more. ☎276377

A SPECIAL GUY
DWM, 58, 5'10", handsome and secure, seeks honest S/DWF, wise sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, boating, and movies. Friendship, possible LTR. ☎259645

LOOK HERE!
Outgoing WM, 46, brown/hazel, 225lbs, likes walks, reading history, fishing, biking, all kinds of movies, bowling, horseback riding, most music sports, more. Seeking WF, 25-35, to share these interests with. ☎278709

SEARCHING FOR YOU
Affectionate DWM, 65, brown hair, N/S, D/D-free, enjoys craft shows, flea markets, movies, dining, camping. The Red Wings. ISO a special lady, 48-59, to share friendship, dates, possible LTR. ☎920969

I ENJOY LIFE

DWM, 6'2", 225lbs, two teen sons, looking for gal, N/D, N/S, medium build, who is ambitious, likes to laugh and have fun. I like walks, bike riding and more. 43-50. ☎276844

LOOKING FOR MZ RIGHT
WWM, 45, 5'11", 220lbs, is easygoing, fun-loving, enjoys a variety of activities, indoor/outdoor. Looking for LTR, with the right person. ☎266340

BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS WANTED
SBM, early 40s, seeks attractive, younger lady, 28-45, for romance, companionship, must be independent and shapely. Serious replies only. ☎684501

WEST SIDE
SBM, 36, 5'9", 150lbs, light brown eyes, smoker, seeks woman, 20-40, race open, who is open-minded. ☎260319

LOOKING FOR ME?
SM, 53, outgoing, cool, fun, honest and easygoing loves Italian/Mexican food, racquetball, camping, travel, and much more - looking for fit, fun and active lady to share talks, good times, friendship/LTR. ☎250719

LET'S GET TOGETHER
SWM, 35, homeowner, N/Kids, seeks a nice, caring woman, to share my dreams, hopes and what life has to offer. Marriage is possible if I find the right woman. ☎284788

WAITING FOR YOU
SWM, 30, 5'8", 140lbs, down-to-earth, open-minded, hard-worker, likes fishing, hunting, clubbing. Seeking SWAF, 18-40, for possible relationship. ☎278555

CUTE, CUDDLY COWBOY
Wise and kind SWM, 46, enjoys simplicity, art fairs, flea markets, festivals. Seeking the company of a lady with similar interests. ☎200459

LIFE IS TOO SHORT
Very athletic SBM, 37, 5'9", 175lbs, loves volunteer work, pets. Seeking nice-looking, fit BF, 28-36, with sweet personality. ☎274559

COUGAR LOVER
Some things do get better with age. Blue-eyed, handsome SM, mid 40s, physically fit, laid-back, good sense of humor, seeks woman, with like values, who likes travel, music, exercising, etc. ☎242480

A GREAT GUY
Good-natured, good-looking SWM, 41, energetic, versatile, fun, passionate, into boating, casinos, flea markets. Seeking conversation SWF, for conversation and connection. ☎176478

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR
WM, 63", dark/blue, easygoing, down-to-earth, enjoys sports, concerts, movies, dining out. Would love to meet an attractive female for dating. Foreign born a plus. ☎257029

GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR
WM, late 30s, 6'3", dark/blue, enjoys sports, concerts and going to movies. Looking for an attractive Latin/Hispanic female, 25-50, for dating. ☎257486

TALL, ATHLETIC
SWM, 49, 6'2", 200lbs, part-time personal trainer, brown/blue, degreed, outgoing personality, enjoys outdoors, working out, new activities, seeking friendly SF, age/location open. ☎531308

LET'S GET GOING!
SWM 40s, attractive, good shape, great listener, enjoys good conversation, friendship, sports, fun and more. Seeking SWF, who is personable SWF for dating and more. ☎128302

SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED
SBM, 46, looking for that special person for LTR, someone who enjoys walks, movies, sporting events, cuddling at home. Please be shapely, independent and know what you want in life. ☎692417

LONELY & READY
SWM, 49, average build, Italian, heart of gold, Virgo, N/S, seeks WF, 45-55, with a nice build, ready for LTR. Serious replies only. Redford Area. ☎860305

COULD IT BE YOU?
DWM, 37, 6', 230lbs, N/S, N/D, with old-fashioned values, hard-working, with varied interests, love the outdoors. ISO SF, 18-45, commitment-minded, caring, sweet and sociable. ☎160055

LOVE ME FOR ME
D/W, 48, 5'10", 160lbs, bright blue eyes, works afternoon shift, loves sports, watching movies, campfires. Looking for LTR with SWF, 45-52, who has a sweet personality. ☎272813

LOVES THE OUTDOORS
WM, 78, 5'7", 170lbs, N/S, looking for a lady around the same age, for dinner, movies, travel, tv and walks. ☎276731

THE ONE TO CALL
WM, 60, brown/brown, tall, slim, secure, would like to meet a nice, sweet, kind lady to go out and have a good time with. We'll see what develops from there. ☎277435

HANDSOME & FUN-LOVING
Sincere, fun-loving, down-to-earth SBM, 44, ISO romantic, honest, intelligent BF, 25-55, with great SOH, for companionship, possible LTR. ☎988147

HOPE 2 HEAR FROM U SOON
SWM, 43, in shape, 5'8", 170lbs, brown/brown, looking for older woman 50-60, fit and attractive, easygoing and secure, who knows how to have a good time in life. ☎251226

FOREIGN FEVER
new to michigan 39, 8'5", white male good sense of humor, enjoys sports, concerts, movies, dining out seeks foreign female for dating, possible relationship. ☎253132

LOOKING 4 A SWEET WOMAN
Hard-working, caring, warm-hearted SM, 47, enjoys dancing, dining, bowling, documentaries and comedy films, cooking, nice times home, laughs and fun. Looking for loving, happy lady to share these. Friendship/LTR. ☎253142

SEEKING EBONY WOMAN
Attractive SWPM seeking BF for dating. New to area and looking to explore the city. Sense of humor, easygoing, attractive, H/W proportionate, affectionate, established, likes to travel. ☎262579

A GOOD MAN
SM, 45, 5'8", looking for a full-figured female, 25-50, for dating, possible LTR. Race unimportant. ☎264078

GOOD MAN FOUND
Recently divorced BM, 43, 5'8", 200lbs, educated, enjoys movies, nights out, intelligent conversation, weekend trips, seeking easy going, smart, affectionate female. ☎267086

SEEKING A SLIM GOODIE
Attractive SBM, 43, 5'11", 190lbs, medium build, light complexion, N/S, seeks slender BF, 18-43, who wants to be treated like a princess! ☎267553

TIRED OF BEING ALONE
SWM, 47, homeowner, looking for some female companionship. Seeking a woman, age open, who wants to meet a good man. ☎266640

DOWN-TO-EARTH
Slim, hard-working SB/CM, 48, 140lbs, looking for a SF, 33-53, N/S, N/D, for friendship leading to marriage. ☎266674

COUNTRY BOY-AT-HEART
Hardworking WM, 6'2", 195lbs, blonde/blue, enjoys comedy movies, horseback riding, soccer, softball, camping and more. Seeking outgoing A/WF, 25-45, for dating, possibly leading to more. ☎269231

NEW TO THE AREA
SWM, 35, 5'11", 200lbs, brown/hazel, smoker, seeks woman, 25-40, for dining, movies, quiet times at home. ☎269861

LET'S MEET SOON!
SWM, 44, 190lbs, very good-looking, very fit, I have a good job, seeks nice woman, 25-44, to spend time with, leading to serious LTR. ☎247784

MUSCULAR AND ATHLETIC

Tall, athletic SWM, 48, 19" 200lbs, brown/blue, no dependents, college-educated, clean-cut, good sense of humor, outgoing, seeks friendly SF, for fun. Age/location open. ☎587640

LET'S HANG OUT
SBM, 29, 6'8", slim build, smoker, seeks nice woman, 25-28, to chill with and get to know. ☎277937

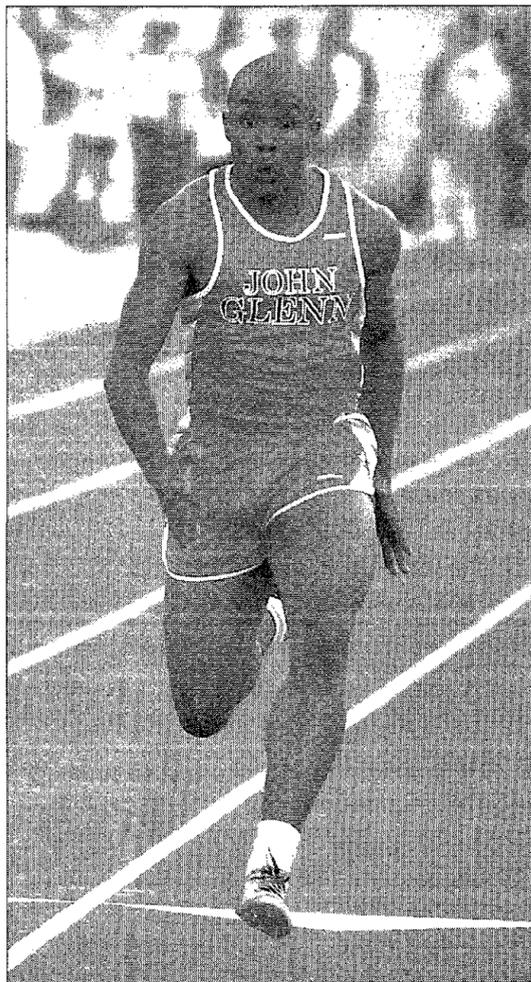
OPEN-MINDED SF WANTED
SM, 6', 185lbs, short brownish-blond/blue, muscular build, no tattoos, N/S, social drinker, loves art museums, craft shows, music, concerts, quiet times, movies, dining. Seeking slender woman, similar interests. ☎277964

WAITING FOR YOUR CALL
Affectionate SWM, 40, 5'9", 210lbs, dark brown/brown, easygoing, friendly, enjoys dining, movies, talks, walks, and waterfront talks, quiet times home. Looking for compatible lady who knows how to enjoy life. ☎238130

LOOKING FOR THE "ONE"
SWM, 61, 5'9", 170lbs, blonde/blue, degreed, veteran, N/S, N/D, Catholic, humorous, spontaneous, like music, outdoors, sports, seeks attractive, easy going SWF 45-65. ☎278705

HONEST AND SINCERE
DWM, 52, 5'10", 150lbs, likes roller skating, computers, biking, boating and some old moves. Seeking SW/HF, slim to medium build, for dating and LTR. ☎256288

GIVE ME A CALL
BM, 35, 5



MATT SCHWARTZ

Glenn senior Larry Dawkins took third in the 100-meter dash and anchored two All-State relay teams in Saturday's Division 1 state meet held in Rockford.

Rockets' fuel

Sprinter Dawkins leads Glenn's 'state' contingent

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER SPORTS WRITER

It was a highly productive day for the Westland John Glenn boys track and field team at Saturday's Division 1 state meet.

The Rockets finished 13th with 16.5 points, while Livonia Stevenson, behind state high jump champion Mitchell White, was the area's top finisher in 10th with 20. See related story.

Senior sprinter Larry Dawkins figured prominently in the Glenn effort, placing third in the 100-meter dash in 10.87 and anchoring the Rockets to a sixth-place finish in the 800 relay (1:29.97) and a tie for seventh in the 800 relay (42.81) join by the same trio of JaJuan Marks, Keshawn Martin and Corey Davis.

Glenn senior discus thrower Zach Bozigian also broke a school record with a toss of 163 feet, good enough for third place.

Meanwhile, Livonia Churchill sophomore pole vaulter Derik Peterman also stood out with a fourth-place showing at 14 feet.

Livonia Franklin's 4 x 100 relay squad of senior Darell Myree, junior Isaac Cadet, sophomore Mike Baumgardner and junior Paul Voegelé snapped a 36-year-old school record with a clocking of 42.8.

The 2008 Patriots, who were regional runners-up and Western Lakes champions, broke the mark set in 1972 by the foursome of Mike McKindles, Joe Jinnett, Ken Yuhasz and Mark Newman, which placed second in the state Class A meet in 43.2 for 440 yards (43.0 adjusted time

See complete state meet results on www.mhsaa.com

for 400 meters).

"After they won Observerland (Relays), they really started to turn it on," Franklin coach Nic Houstoulakis said.

Lutheran Westland scored 10 points in the Division 1 state meet hosted by Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern as senior Kyle Kempf took third in the 200 (23.05) and teamed up with junior Jim Rockrohr, Justin Palka and Spencer Lyle for a seventh-place in the 4 x 400 relay (3:36.06).

Lyle also took seventh in the 800 (2:02.66).

Girls All-Staters

The Division 1 girls state meet Saturday in Rockford featured three area All-State performers led by Livonia Stevenson junior school-record holder Courtney Calka, who placed fifth in the 1,600 run with a time of 5:04.44.

Grand Haven junior Rebecca Addison broke the Division 1 state mark with a time of 4:50.8.

Churchill also had two All-State performers led by sophomore Sara Kroll, who just missed the school-record in the 800 (2:17.35), and seventh-place finisher Kyndra Abron in the discus (125-8).

In the Division 2 state meet hosted by Zeeland, Livonia Ladywood sophomore Megan Yanik placed sixth in the 300 hurdles (46.85).

Meanwhile, Lutheran High Westland's Olivia Rork took eighth in the shot put (33-11.5) in the Division 4 state meet hosted by Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern.

ALL-STATE PERFORMERS

DIVISION 1 BOYS (INDIVIDUAL)

- Mitchell White (Stevenson), first place, high jump (6 feet, 6 inches).
- Zach Bozigian (John Glenn), third, discus (163-0).
- Myles White (Stevenson), third, long jump (22-3.5).
- Larry Dawkins (John Glenn), third, 100-meter dash (10.87).
- Derik Peterman (Churchill), fourth, pole vault (14-0).

DIVISION 1 BOYS (RELAYS)

- Stevenson, fifth, 4 x 100 (Austin White, Jacob Gudeman, Mitchell White, Nick Anagnostou), 42.74.
- Franklin, sixth, 4 x 100 (Darell Myree, Isaac Cadet, Mike Baumgardner, Paul Voegelé), 42.8.
- John Glenn, seventh, 4 x 100 (JaJuan Marks, Keshawn Martin, Corey Davis, Larry Dawkins), 42.81.
- John Glenn, seventh, 4 x 200 (JaJuan Marks, Keshawn Martin,

Corey Davis, Larry Dawkins), 1:29.97.

DIVISION 1 GIRLS (INDIVIDUAL)

- Courtney Calka (Stevenson), fifth, 1,600 (5:04.44).
- Sara Kroll (Churchill), sixth, 800 (2:17.35).
- Kyndra Abron (Churchill), seventh, discus (125-8).

DIVISION 2 GIRLS (INDIVIDUAL)

- Megan Yanik (Ladywood), sixth, 300 hurdles (46.85).

DIVISION 4 BOYS (INDIVIDUAL)

- Kyle Kempf (Lutheran Westland), third, 200 (23.05).

DIVISION 4 BOYS (RELAY)

- Lutheran Westland, 4 x 400, seventh (Kyle Kempf, Jim Rockrohr, Justin Palka, Spencer Lyle), 3:36.06.

DIVISION 4 GIRLS (INDIVIDUAL)

- Olivia Rork (Lutheran Westland), eighth, shot put (33-11.5)

FINAL OBSERVERLAND BOYS TRACK LEADERS

SHOT PUT

- Chris Golonka (Stevenson), 49-6
- Ed Merhi (Salem), 47-10.5
- Dana Baltazar (Salem), 47-1.5
- David Fortin (Franklin), 46-3.5
- Matt Broome (Stevenson), 46-2.5
- Sam Richards (Plymouth), 45-11
- Frankie Cain (Luth. Westland), 45-10.5
- Deon Clemons (Churchill), 45-4
- Mark Tucker (Thurston), 45-2
- Reece Boyd (Thurston), 45-1
- James Kelly (John Glenn), 44-6

DISCUS

- Zach Bozigian (John Glenn), 163-0
- Austin Hassen (Wayne) 152-4
- Chris Golonka (Stevenson), 152-0
- James Kelly (John Glenn), 149-6
- T.J. Arancibia (John Glenn), 144-4
- Dana Baltazar (Salem), 140-0
- Adam Love (Garden City), 140-10
- Matt Broome (Stevenson), 139-5
- Mark Tucker (Thurston), 138-4
- Cortney Frazier (Salem), 136-1

LONG JUMP

- Myles White (Stevenson), 22-3.5
- Keshawn Martin (John Glenn), 22-3
- Dave Simor (Stevenson), 22-0
- Billy Gutowski (Churchill), 21-7
- Isaac Cadet (Franklin), 21-2
- Marcus Bennett (Thurston), 21-1
- Ocie Lewis (Canton), 21-0
- Nate Sergison (Stevenson), 20-10.5
- Dominique Williams (Salem) 20-9.5
- Jace Bearden (Salem), 20-8.5

HIGH JUMP

- Mitchell White (Stevenson), 6-8
- Jace Bearden (Salem), 6-5
- Pat York (Stevenson), 6-5
- Zack Gaskell (Salem), 6-3
- Joey King (Clarenceville), 6-0
- Keith Zech (Canton), 6-0
- D'Juan Cooks (Churchill), 6-0
- Kyle Kempf (Luth. Westland), 6-0

AREA BOYS TRACK BESTS

SHOT PUT

- Kevin Beadle (Franklin), 5-11
- Jordan Allen (PCA), 5-11
- Keith Zech (Canton), 5-11
- Dennis Dillard (John Glenn), 5-11

POLE VAULT

- Derik Peterman (Churchill), 15-3
- Joseph Tesner (Churchill), 14-6
- Chris McGinnis (Canton), 14-4
- Brandon Larsen (Garden City), 14-0
- Ben Ambrose (Plymouth), 13-9
- Gary Lawrence (John Glenn), 13-0
- Kevin Beadle (Franklin), 12-6
- Nick Fenner (Franklin), 12-6
- John Gudeman (Stevenson), 12-6

100-METER DASH

- Larry Dawkins (John Glenn), 10.5
- Nick Anagnostou (Stevenson), 10.6
- Eric Piowar (Canton), 10.9
- Jeremy Gainer (Clarenceville), 11.0
- Malik Rich (Plymouth), 11.0
- Darell Myree (Franklin), 11.0
- Connor McKinney (Plymouth), 11.0
- Daran Carey (Churchill), 11.1
- Austin White (Stevenson), 11.1
- Paul Voegelé (Franklin), 11.1

200-METER DASH

- Larry Dawkins (John Glenn), 21.9
- Keshawn Martin (John Glenn), 22.3
- Devon Easterling (Churchill), 22.5
- Derek Buskey (Stevenson), 22.5
- Connor McKinney (Plymouth), 22.6
- Myles White (Stevenson), 22.8
- Darell Myree (Franklin), 22.8
- Kyle Kempf (Luth. Westland), 22.8
- Austin White (Stevenson), 22.9
- Mitchell White (Stevenson), 23.0
- Nick Anagnostou (Stevenson), 23.0
- Eric Piowar (Canton), 23.0
- JaJuan Marks (John Glenn), 23.0

400-METER DASH

- Derek Buskey (Stevenson), 49.7
- Billy Gutowski (Churchill), 50.7
- Connor McKinney (Plymouth), 51.3
- Nate Sergison (Stevenson), 51.4
- Marcus Bennett (Thurston), 51.5

800-METER RUN

- Brandon Grysko (Churchill), 1:58.7
- Mike Gibbons (Stevenson), 1:59.3
- Kyle Wailath (Plymouth), 2:00.6
- Spencer Lyle (Luth. Westland), 2:01.2
- Michael Schmidt (Churchill), 2:01.5
- Evan Sirena (Franklin), 2:02.6
- Brian Chambers (Garden City), 2:02.8
- Keith Zech (Canton), 2:03.0
- Nathan Wise (Churchill), 2:03.1
- Jacob Schofield (Wayne), 2:03.6

1,600-METER RUN

- Mike Gibbons (Stevenson), 4:29.9
- Kevin deBear (Salem), 4:32.7
- Mark Waterbury (Churchill), 4:33.0
- Jacob Schofield (Wayne), 4:33.7
- Spencer Lyle (Luth. Westland), 4:34.2
- Matt Lewandowski (Plymouth), 4:34.4
- Mike Krcatovich (Franklin), 4:36.4
- Craig Cowing (Salem), 4:36.6
- Derek Hoeman (Canton), 4:36.9
- Matt Devey (Salem), 4:37.3

3,200-METER RUN

- Kevin deBear (Salem), 9:43.49
- Matt Devey (Salem), 10:02.1
- Duncan Spitz (Canton), 10:03.1
- Joe Varitone (Churchill), 10:05.3
- Craig Cowing (Salem), 10:05.4
- Mike Charara (Salem), 10:07.0
- Shawn Howse (Stevenson), 10:09.0
- Jason Smith (Salem), 10:09.9
- Kyle Clinton (Canton), 10:20.3
- Evan Sirena (Franklin), 10:24.8

110-METER HIGH HURDLES

- Myles White (Stevenson), 13.9
- Marcus Bennett (Thurston), 14.1
- Renaldo Powell (Wayne), 14.3
- Dennis Dillard (John Glenn), 14.5

800-METER RUN

- John Stoddart (Garden City), 51.5
- Eric Piowar (Canton) 51.9
- Mike Hanchett (Plymouth), 52.0
- Sherif Hassanien (Canton), 52.3
- Stephen Telenko (Salem), 52.9
- Nelson Kenne (John Glenn), 52.9
- Jordan Wisniewski (Canton), 52.9

300-METER INTERMEDIATE HURDLES

- Mike Giles (Salem), 15.5
- Stuart Gregory (Franklin), 15.5
- Doniel Duhart (Thurston), 15.3
- Scott O'Connor (Salem), 15.4
- Cameron Wludyka (Franklin), 15.4
- Tim Belcher (Canton), 39.2
- Marcus Bennett (Thurston), 39.3
- Sherif Hassanien (Canton), 39.9
- Renaldo Powell (Wayne), 39.9
- Scott O'Connor (Salem), 40.8
- Stuart Gregory (Franklin), 41.5
- Dennis Swift (Stevenson), 41.7
- Marcus Bennett (Thurston), 41.7
- Will Burek (Stevenson), 42.2

400-METER RELAY

- Livonia Stevenson, 42.74
- Livonia Franklin, 42.8
- Westland John Glenn, 42.81
- Plymouth, 43.1
- Livonia Churchill, 43.7
- Westland John Glenn, 1:29.9
- Livonia Stevenson, 1:30.8
- Livonia Churchill, 1:32.1
- Livonia Franklin, 1:32.6
- Canton, 1:32.9

1,600-METER RELAY

- Canton, 3:26.0
- Livonia Churchill, 3:28.0
- Plymouth, 3:29.0
- Livonia Stevenson, 3:30.6
- Lutheran Westland, 3:34.9

3,200-METER RELAY

- Plymouth, 8:04.7
- Livonia Churchill, 8:08.8
- Canton, 8:16.7
- Garden City, 8:24.6
- Livonia Stevenson, 8:30.6

OBSERVERLAND GIRLS TRACK FIELD LEADERS

SHOT PUT

- Kyndra Abron (Churchill), 41-3.25
- Chelsea Carradine (Thurston), 37-9.5
- Ashley Price (Franklin), 36-5.5
- Olivia Rork (Lutheran Westland), 36-5.5
- Becca Bartek (Stevenson), 35-8
- Taylor Byron (Churchill), 35-3
- Maame Adomako (Stevenson), 33-8
- Brigid Molloy (Ladywood), 33-4.5
- Ryan Anderson (John Glenn), 32-1
- Shannon Getchen (Churchill), 32-1.25
- Savannah Haig (Franklin), 32-0

DISCUS

- Kyndra Abron (Churchill), 131-6
- Savannah Haig (Franklin), 107-1
- Colette Federa (Stevenson), 106-11
- Shannon Getchen (Churchill), 106-2
- Ashley Benton (Salem), 104-2
- Ryan Anderson (John Glenn), 103-6
- Maame Adomako (Stevenson), 100-1
- Ashley Hall (Clarenceville), 98-3
- Ashley Price (Franklin), 97-11
- Becca Bartek (Stevenson), 96-9

HIGH JUMP

- Liz Holloway (Franklin), 5-2
- Emily Quint (Franklin), 5-2
- Cierra Yettes (Churchill), 5-2
- Shannon Hogg (Ladywood), 5-1
- Emilie Freeman (Lutheran Westland), 5-0
- Jaclyn Griebek (Churchill), 5-0
- Lindsay Lipa (Canton), 5-0
- Julie Jonsgma (Luth. Westland), 4-10
- Kayla Jones (Thurston), 4-10
- Stephanie Lozano (Canton), 4-8.25

LONG JUMP

- Stephanie Okolo (Plymouth), 17-8.25
- Chanel Payne (John Glenn), 17-2
- Ashley Montgomery (Glenn), 16-5
- Chelsea Pashnick (Stevenson), 16-1
- Jill Morton (Plymouth), 15-11.5
- Meci Martin (Thurston), 15-10
- Monica Hardy (Franklin), 15-8
- Marci Kovsky (Stevenson), 15-5
- Kelly Tapella (Franklin), 15-4.5
- Linda Ling (Salem), 15-3
- Paige Regular (Salem), 15-3

POLE VAULT

- Emily Quint (Franklin), 10-0
- Michelle Blackstone (Stevenson), 10-0
- Meghan Powers (Franklin), 10-0
- Jamie Maringhi (Churchill), 9-6
- Eren Ural (Churchill), 9-4
- Beah Knisely (Plymouth), 8-6
- Sharon Rayford (Churchill), 8-6
- Lisa Black (Stevenson), 8-6
- Alicia DiMauro (Churchill), 8-3
- Jennifer Olmstead (Churchill), 8-2
- Rachel Storck (Lutheran Westland), 8-0

100-METER DASH

- Stephanie Okolo (Plymouth), 12.15
- Ashley Parker (John Glenn), 12.2
- Deja Wright (Salem), 12.4
- Chanel Payne (John Glenn), 12.8
- Sarah LaBerge (Churchill), 12.8
- Nikkie Johnson (Thurston), 12.8
- Rochelle Woods (Wayne), 13.0
- Olivia Hernandez (Franklin), 13.1
- Katie Morasso (Ladywood), 13.1
- Lindsay Lipa (Canton), 13.1
- Paige Regular (Salem), 13.1
- Ciera Williams (Canton), 13.2

200-METER DASH

- Ashley Parker (John Glenn), 25.4
- Stephanie Okolo (Plymouth), 25.9
- Sarah LaBerge (Churchill), 26.3
- Becky Adamcheck (Stevenson), 26.8
- Chelsea Carradine (Thurston), 26.9
- Olivia Hernandez (Franklin), 26.9
- Deja Wright (Salem), 27.0
- Monica Hardy (Franklin), 27.0
- Katie Morasso (Ladywood), 27.3
- Molly Hirst (Franklin), 27.4
- Megan Vitale (Ladywood), 27.4

400-METER RUN

- Ashly Bukowski (Franklin), 1:01.9
- Megan Vitale (Ladywood), 1:02.0
- Ashley Miracle (RU), 1:03.0

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD BESTS

SHOT PUT

- Rachel McFarlane (Churchill), 1:03.1
- Samer Aoude (Churchill), 1:03.2
- Deja Wright (Salem), 1:03.3
- Christy Tappan (Stevenson), 1:03.4
- Katie Glynn (Stevenson), 1:03.5
- Ashley Parker (John Glenn), 1:03.6
- Seneca Scott (Franklin), 1:03.7

800-METER RUN

- Sara Kroll (Churchill), 2:17.38
- Courtney Calka (Stevenson), 2:21.4
- Rachel McFarlane (Churchill), 2:22.0
- Kelly Hahn (Plymouth), 2:24.8
- Kelley Determan (Salem), 2:25.7
- Ashley Miracle (RU), 2:25.9
- Megan McPherson (Franklin), 2:26.2
- Katie Glynn (Stevenson), 2:28.9
- Nicole Zehel (Lutheran Westland), 2:30.5
- Emily Clairmont (Churchill), 2:31.6

1,600-METER RUN

- Courtney Calka (Stevenson), 5:01.5
- Rachel McFarlane (Churchill), 5:04.1
- Sara Kroll (Churchill), 5:14.8
- Kelly Hahn (Plymouth), 5:25.5
- Megan McPherson (Franklin), 5:26.7
- Nicole Zehel (Luth. Westland), 5:31.3
- Julia Kenney (Ladywood), 5:35.5
- Nicole Zehel (Lutheran Westland), 5:36.3
- Victoria Tripp (Salem), 5:38.7
- Sarah Opyke (Stevenson), 5:39.7

3,200-METER RUN

- Rachel McFarlane (Churchill), 11:08.6
- Courtney Calka (Stevenson), 11:24.4
- Molly Slavens (Plymouth), 11:50.6
- Courtney Plummer (Garden City), 12:04.0
- Christina Joss (Stevenson), 12:10.5
- Julia Kenney (Ladywood), 12:23.5
- Kim Vexell (Churchill), 12:27.4
- Lauren Ahern (Plymouth), 12:27.4
- Victoria Salterian (Stevenson), 12:33.1
- Michelle Verellen (Churchill), 12:33.1

100-METER HIGH HURDLES

- Megan Yanik (Ladywood), 15.4
- Brittany Gentile (Stevenson), 15.6
- Margarita Lazarevska (Churchill), 15.8
- Mallory Lukas (Churchill), 16.3
- Becky Adamcheck (Stevenson), 16.7
- Jaclyn Griebek (Churchill), 16.9
- Jen Mueller (Franklin), 17.4
- Ashley Hoener (Canton), 17.5
- Mandy McManus (Plymouth), 17.7
- Madeleine Vala (Salem), 18.0
- Sam Campbell (Franklin), 18.0
- Rachel Storck (Luth. Westland), 18.0

300-METER LOW HURDLES

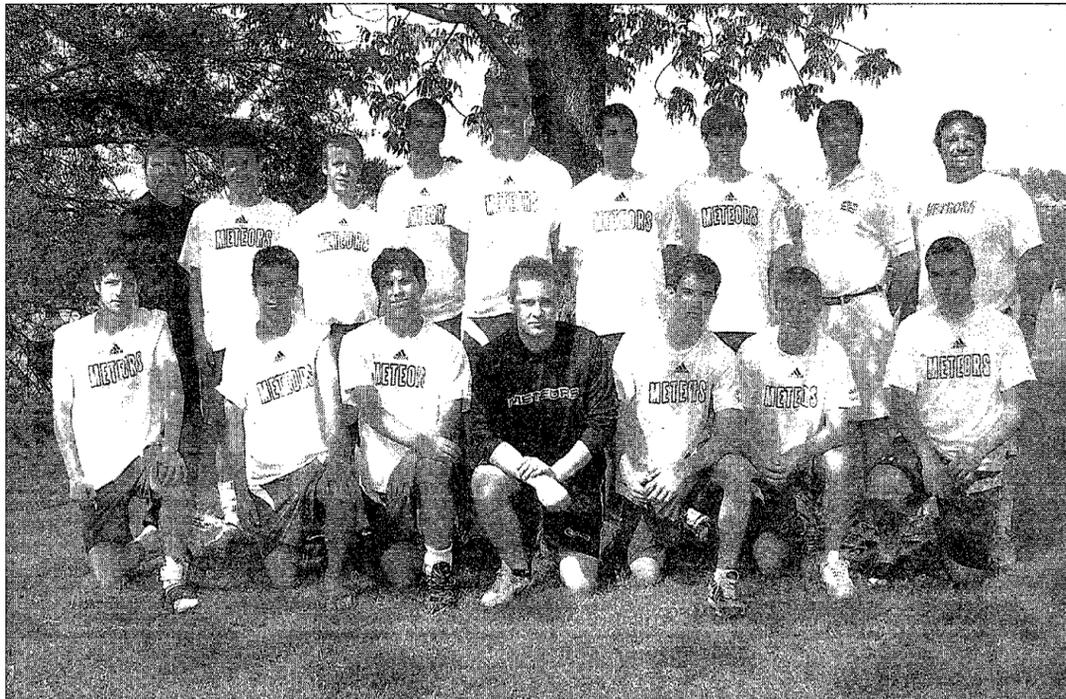
- Megan Yanik (Ladywood), 46.5
- Becky Adamcheck (Stevenson), 46.8
- Brittany Gentile (Stevenson), 48.5
- Seneca Scott (Franklin), 48.8
- Mallory Lukas (Churchill), 49.2
- Madeleine Vala (Salem), 49.9
- Meci Martin (Thurston), 49.9
- Margarita Lazarevska (Churchill), 50.8
- Brittany Haist (Garden City), 51.4
- Jaclyn Griebek (Churchill), 51.9

400-METER RELAY

- Westland John Glenn, 49.4
- Reedford Thurston, 51.65
- Canton, 51.7
- Plymouth, 51.7
- Livonia Franklin, 52.0

800-METER RELAY

- Westland John Glenn, 1:45.6
- Reedford Thurston, 1:47.4
- Livonia Franklin, 1:48.6
- Livonia Churchill, 1:49.7
- Livonia Ladywood, 1:50.3



Warrior Classic champs

The Livonia Meteors Premier, an under-17 boys team, posted a 4-0-1 record to capture the Gold Division at the adidas Warrior Soccer Classic held recently in Dayton, Ohio. On May 26, the Meteors defeated North Stars Soccer Club of Pittsburgh, Pa., 4-0, in the championship match. The Meteors reached the finals with a 5-0 victory over the Fort Wayne (Ind.) Citadel '91 following a 1-1 draw with the Dayton (Ohio) Galaxies FC Elite, and wins over the Team Ohio (Dublin) FC, 3-1, and the Fairfield (Ohio) FOSC Blitz, 2-1. Goalkeeper James Leffler (White Lake Lakeland H.S.) yielded just three goals in five tournament games, while top scorers included Kendal Snow (Livonia Stevenson), six goals and one assist; Ricky Chrzasz (Stevenson), two goals and three assists; and David Simer (Stevenson), three goals-one assist. Rounding out the Meteors' squad is Nick Anagnostou, Joe Didomenico, Nate Sergison, Bob Smith, Brady Thom and Tyler Vines, all from Stevenson; Matt Regan, Drew Sieber and Ben Zukowski, all of Livonia Churchill; Steve Trapp, Livonia Franklin; Joe Bellino, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central; Ron Berger, Garden City; Jordan Turner, Walled Lake Northern; and Hassan Zaidan, Dearborn Fordson. The head coach is Bob Regan, assisted by Mark Vines and Jeff Sieber. The team manager is Chris Trapp. The Meteors are trained by Rich Block (Lutheran High Westland) and Devon Stenrose (Churchill 2004).

SPORTS ROUNDUP

WYAA football signup

The Westland Youth Athletic Association begins its 50th year of football with 2008 season registration from 7-9 p.m. each Wednesday and 10 a.m. until noon on Saturdays at the WYAA's Lange Compound, located at 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Both the Meteors (1st year) and Comets (37th year) offer age groups for 7-8 (Junior Freshman), 8-10 (Freshman), 11-12 (Junior Varsity) and 13-14 (Varsity).

The cost is \$175-\$195. Non-residents are welcome at no extra fee. You must provide a current photo and new players must have a copy of their birth certificate. The age cut-off is Sept. 1 of the current year and there are weight restrictions for each age level.

For more information, including the WYAA's play for free program, call the Comets' Mark Simkow at (734) 731-11-76 or the Comets' Keith DeMolay at (734) 516-9269; or Galen Huren of the Meteors at (734) 716-6047.

You can also visit www.wyaa.org; or call the WYAA office at (734) 421-0640.

WYAA cheerleading

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association cheerleading for the Meteors and Comets squads will be from 7-10 p.m. Wednesdays; also 10 a.m. until noon each Saturday at the WYAA's Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Openings are available for both units' squad for Junior Freshman, ages 7-8; Freshman, 8-10; Junior Varsity, 10-12; and Varsity, 11-14. Non-resident are welcome at no extra fee.

The cost is \$135 for freshman, JV and varsity; or you will receive 27 \$5 raffle tickets (sell all 27 and there is no cost). The cost for instructional is \$115 (you will receive 23 \$5 raffle tickets (sell all 23 tickets and the cost is free).

For more information, call the Meteors' Kathy Henderson at (734) 968-3272; or the Comets' Caryn Timbs at (734) 722-5806.

You can also call the WYAA's Lange Compound during regular business hours at (734) 421-0640; or visit www.wyaa.org to inquire about the 2008 cheer for free program.

Bucks 2-for-1 tickets

Any tickets holder for the Michigan Bucks soccer team's Premier Development League divisional game Saturday, June 7, against the Cleveland Internationals will be able to get in free on the Tuesday, June 10 Open Cup game against the Cleveland City (Ohio) Stars of the United Soccer Leagues Second Division.

Both games are set for 7:30 p.m. at the Ultimate Soccer Arenas.

Cost is \$14 for VIP, \$10 for adult reserved; and \$5 for youth reserved.

For more information, visit www.buckssoccer.com.

Parkinson 5K Run-Walk

The Michigan Parkinson Foundation 5-kilometer run-walk will be at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 8 at Maybury State Park, located off the Eight Mile Road entrance west of Beck, in Northville Township.

Race day registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Entry fees will be \$15 (all runners); \$30 (family); \$5 (12-and-under walkers); and \$10 (ages 13 to adult).

To register online visit www.parkinsonsmi.org; or for more information, call (800) 852-9781.

18-and-over baseball

Those 18-and-over interested in forming a summer baseball league, approximately four-to-five teams for a 12-to-15 game season at Carleton-Airport's Kurtansky Field, should contact Jason Baas at (734) 652-8586; or e-mail jbaas23@hotmail.com.

Stevenson needs coaches

Livonia Stevenson is seeking coaches for the following sports: girls assistant swimming and diving (experience necessary to coach diving); boys assistant swimming and diving (experience necessary to coach diving); JV cheerleading head coach for fall sideline and winter competitive seasons (experience necessary to coach at the high school-level MHSAA format).

For more information, e-mail Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman at lhyman@livonia.k12.mi.us.

Men's fastpitch softball

Openings remain for the Men's Downriver Fastpitch Softball League held at the Southgate Civic Center with the tentative starting date for the eight-to-nine game regular season on Wednesday, June 4 through Aug. 20; followed by the league tourney starting Aug. 23.

The cost is \$550 per game. For more information, call Frank Vilardi at (734) 925-3969.

Advanced archery class

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer a six-week advanced archery class (ages 10 and up) from 6-7:30 p.m. Mondays through July 2, at the archery range, located on Glendale Avenue off Farmington Road (between I-96 and Plymouth Road).

The fee is \$30. You can register at the Parks and Recreation desk located in the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

You must have completed the introduction to archery class to participate.

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

Archery introduction

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer its introduction to target archery classes from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, June 7 and Aug. 23 at the archery range, located off Glendale Avenue off Farmington Road (between I-96 and Plymouth Road).

The fee is \$12 for residents and \$14 for non-residents. Children 9-and-under must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration will be at the Parks and Recreation desk located in the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

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

Shoot to Score

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation Shoot to Score competition for ages 10-and-up will be from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, June 21 at Archery Range, located on Glendale Avenue between I-96 and Plymouth Road (just north of the viaduct).

Registration will be at the Parks and Recreation office, located inside the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

The fee is \$8 for the competition, which test a variety of specialty targets including balloons, sporting clays and the infamous ping pong shot. Prizes will be awarded to the top finalist in different classes for youth, teen and adult age groups.

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

Intro to tennis

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer its three-week Introduction to Tennis II for ages 6-10 from 10-10:55 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 8 through July 24 (Session II); and July 29 through Aug. 2, at the Bicentennial Park Courts, located at Seven Mile and Wayne roads.

The fee is \$75 (resident) or \$85 (non-resident) per session. Tennis racquets will be provided to those who do not have their own.

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

Run Drugs Out

The second annual Run Drugs Out of Town Run, with proceeds going the Livonia Save Our Youth Task Force, will be Saturday, June 14 in Hines Park in Westland.

On-site registration begins at 8 a.m. followed by the 1-mile family run-walk at 9 a.m.; and the 5- and 10-kilometer run-walk at 9:10 a.m.

The event includes Champion Chip timing for the 5- and 10K U.S.T.A.F. certified course. The registration fee includes T-shirt, lunch (featuring Stucchi's Ice Cream) and raffle prizes.

For more information, visit www.justsayrun.com.

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Golf Guide

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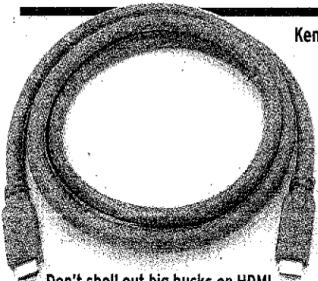
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Don't shell out big bucks on HDMI cables for your HDTV. You can find them for as little as \$10 when you shop online.

Don't overpay for HDMI cables for your HDTV

Question: I need an HDMI cable to connect a cable box, PlayStation 3, upconverting DVD player, or other device to my HDTV. Do I really need to spend \$40, \$60, or even \$80?



Tech Savvy
Rick Broida

Answer: Absolutely, positively not. Numerous studies have concluded that pricey video cables from Belkin, Monster, and other vendors perform no better than cheap, no-brand equivalents. If you pay more than \$10 or \$20 for an HDMI cable, well, you've

been gouged.

Online stores including Meritline (meritline.com), Monoprice (monoprice.com), and Newegg (newegg.com) offer six-foot HDMI cables for as little as \$8 shipped. I've found similarly good deals on eBay.

You may hear a different story from electronics-store salespeople, but I promise you that where HDMI cables are concerned, it's okay to go cheap.

Question: What the heck is Twitter, and why should I bother with it?

Answer: Twitter (twitter.com) offers friends and family members an innovative way to keep in touch. Some people love it, others despise it.

I'm on the fence.

Here's how it works. First, you sign up for a Twitter account, which is free. Second, you invite people you know to "follow" you, meaning they'll receive any messages you send. At the same time, you can follow others, meaning you'll receive their messages.

These messages are meant to be short—no more than 140 characters. You can send them via the Twitter site, your instant-messaging program, or your cell phone.

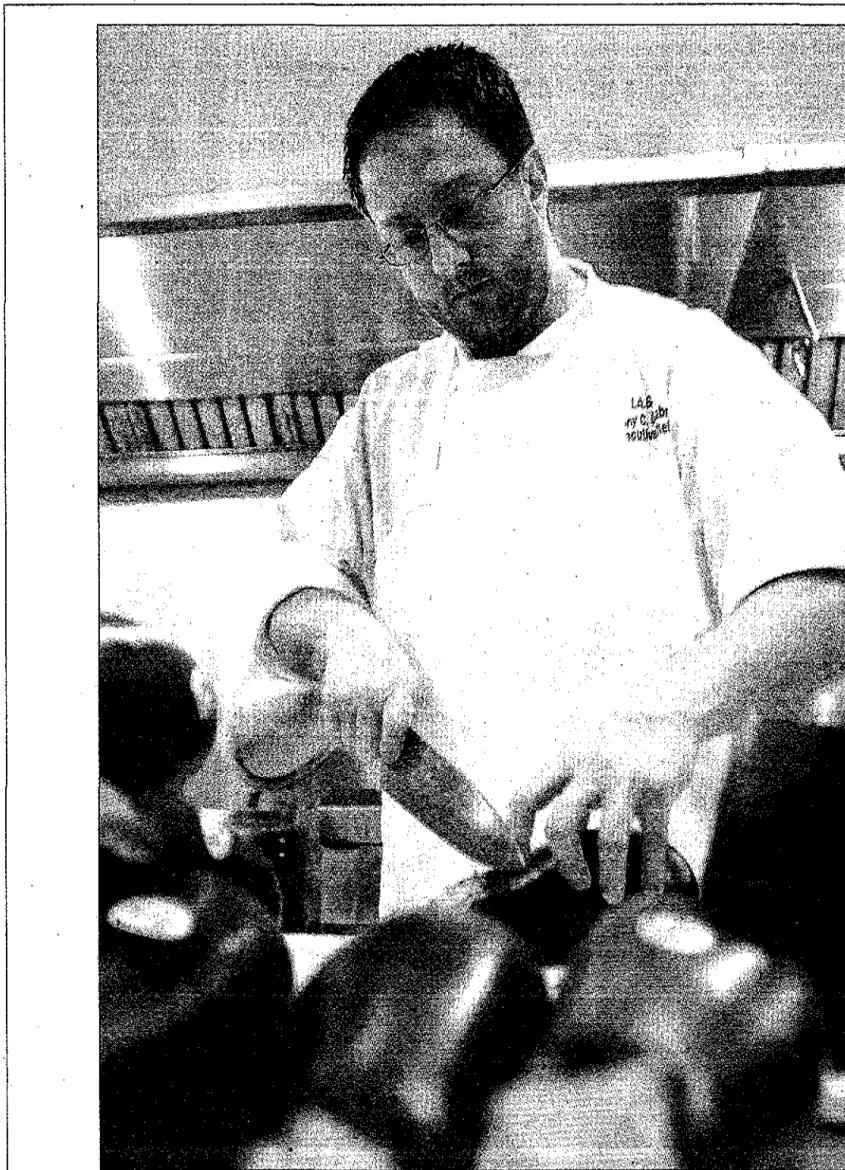
The best way to understand Twitter is by example. Suppose you've just welcomed a newborn into your family and want to share the good news.

Instead of calling all your friends and relatives, one after the other, you could send a single Twitter message: "Norma Rae, 7 pounds, 6 ounces. Mom and baby doing great."

All your "followers" would immediately receive the message (via phone, instant message, etc.).

Thus, think of Twitter as a way to blast snippets of information to multiple people. Want to know more? Read my recent

Please see **TECH, D2**



New executive chef Anthony Calabrese prepares some eggplant at the Italian American Banquet Center of Livonia.

Chef seasons, sharpens skills in tackling Italian cuisine

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Anthony Calabrese's upbringing was strictly Italian.

Walk into his childhood home and you might sniff the aromas of meatballs, osso bucco or marinara sauce simmering on the stove.

Growing up in Canada and eventually relocating to Michigan with his parents to Canton, he learned about Italian foods through his parents Ellen and Carlo Calabrese.

"We hardly ever ate out," Calabrese said. "They always cooked and they are both tremendous cooks. My mom (who is French Canadian) learned about

'I want to get back to basics here, and not reinvent the wheel, but make good simple Italian food with quality being number one and some authenticity to it.'

ANTHONY CALABRESE, executive chef

Italian dishes from my dad's grandmother. My dad makes pizza every Friday.

"Sometimes I'd help out with mom's Caesar salad or dad's clam sauce."

Calabrese followed that interest captured at a young age, working at restaurants and banquet facilities, attending culinary school, then working at fine

restaurants. There he learned about Asian flavors and French techniques, then returned to his Italian roots as the new executive chef at the Italian American Banquet Center in Livonia.

Catering and the banquet facility job is a "totally different change of pace," Calabrese said.

"I want to get back to basics here, and not reinvent the wheel, but make good simple Italian food with quality being number one and some authenticity to it," Calabrese said.

Calabrese, who is now 30, started at Laurel Manor at 15, creating salads as a prep cook, waiting, clearing tables and

Please see **CHEF, D2**

ACCENTS

SELECT MICHIGAN ON SATURDAY

Papa Joe's Gourmettrion of Rochester Hills will be hosting the Select Michigan Taste Festival 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, June 7 to celebrate home grown and produced foods and food products.

Customers can taste locally grown and made products, and meet the farmers who grow and harvest produce. They can learn about the benefits of consuming locally grown foods.

Other highlights of this festival include live dance performances from L.A. Dance Studio of Lake Orion, and appearances by Miss Michigan and Miss Apple Queen. Chef Aaron Cozaad of the Clarkston Café will be giving live cooking demonstrations with tastings to follow, along with children's activities, and live music.

Papa Joe's chefs, under the direction of Executive Chef William Hall, will be cooking and sampling Michigan grown and made products throughout the market. Some of these products include: Mucky Duck dressings of Walled Lake, Elena's Pasta of Auburn Hills, Moos Organic, Germack nuts, Krane's and Lake Granola, Aunt Mid's Salad Dressings, Detroit Spice Company, Garden Fresh Gourmet Salsas of Ferndale, Schul's coffee of Grand Rapids, Zingerman's breads of Ann Arbor, and many more.

There will also be a sampling of the many great beers and wines made in Michigan using Papa Joe's Enomatic wine system.

Papa Joe's Gourmettrion is located at 6900 Rochester Rd. in Rochester Hills. Call (248) 853-6263 for more information.

HILLER'S AIMS AT ALS

Hiller's Markets, is helping in the fight against Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis by teaming up with ALS of Michigan to raise money for ALS research, and patient and community services. ALS is commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease.

The newest store, which opened in May at 3010 Union Lake Road in Commerce Township, has launched an in-store campaign to support ALS research. Cashiers there are collecting donations from customers as they check out. Customers will sign their names on specially designed \$1 bill placards with Lou Gehrig's photo on them. These will be placed on the "Wall of Hope." Hiller's Markets and ALS of Michigan will present the donor a small souvenir Lou Gehrig "baseball card" with information on the baseball legend and the ALS organization.

ALS is a neuromuscular disease that affects 30,000 people nationwide, including more than 1,000 in Michigan.

Consistency is Rodney Strong's mantra

With 1,000 acres of estate vineyards located in four different Sonoma County appellations and director of winemaking, Rick Sayre, who has been with the winery for 30 years, Rodney Strong Vineyard's middle name is consistency.



Focus on Wine
Ray & Eleanor Heald

Sayre discussed that consistency with us in a recent interview. "We plant each grape variety in the best climate and soil for ripening and ultimate flavor expression," Sayre said. "In Alexander Valley, we grow cabernet sauvignon because it needs the warmth of that American Viticultural Area. Pinot noir and chardonnay like cooler climates so we have planted them in the Russian River Valley and Sonoma Coast AVAs. We also have chardonnay planted in the Chalk Hill AVA."

The variety of vineyard locations offers tremendous versatility in making wines. Chardonnay, as an example, can be a

blend of grapes from three AVAs or can be from a single AVA or a single vineyard within an AVA.

WINEMAKING PASSION

Sayre began his wine education in the 1970s under the tutelage of the late Andre Tehelisteff. Sayre still attributes his passion for winemaking to his experience with Tehelisteff. "It's so important to be aware of everything. Andre taught me that a winemaker must live with his wine, from walking the vineyards, to the careful craft of guiding wine into the bottle. Even the smallest details have an effect on quality."

One detail that Sayre has studied is the interaction of oak with wine. On one of his many trips to France, he visited several cooperage houses, brought his knowledge back to California and installed an in-house cooperage at Rodney Strong Vineyards where he fine-tuned the barrel toasting technique for use in aging his wines.

At this point in his career, Sayre is particularly proud of the program of sustainable farming in the vineyards.

These techniques are safe for the environment and for the vineyard workers. Third party verification by the California Association of Winegrape Growers ensures that the winery follows sustainable guidelines.

In an effort to be "green," the winery has installed photo-electric panels on the roof which provide 40 percent of the winery's power needs during harvest.

WHAT TO BUY

Try the following: 2006 Chalk Hill Chardonnay (\$20), 2005 Russian River Valley Reserve Chardonnay (\$35), 2005 Jane's Vineyard Russian River Reserve Pinot Noir (\$45), 2004 Alexander Valley Estate Cabernet Sauvignon (\$25), 2005 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$50) and 2005 Symmetry Alexander Valley Meritage (\$60).

The Healds are contributing editors for the internationally respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine, spirits, and restaurants for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focusonwine@aol.com.

WINE PICKS

Get Eco-chic!

Due to glass bottle production and transport, wine's carbon footprint is high. That's why environmentally conscious wine drinkers have gone to BIBs (Bag-in-Box) packages. Yet, not all BIBs contain high quality wine. Without hesitation, we say that Boho Vineyard 2006 Central Coast Chardonnay \$24/3L (or 4 standard bottles) is the highest quality, best buy on the market for summer sipping. Once opened, the wine stays fresh in the refrigerator for three weeks and longer.

Summer's first steaks on the grill scream for great cabernet sauvignon:

Pick of the pack: 2004 St. Francis Sonoma County \$24, rich and full-bodied, is more than a steal at this price.

Outstanding: 2005 Black Coyote Reserve, Napa Valley \$65; 2005 Shafer One Point Five Napa Valley Stags Leap District \$70; 2005 Terra

Valentine Spring Mountain District Yverdon Vineyard \$70

Excellent: 2005 Sbragia Andolsen Vineyard Dry Creek \$35; 2005 Terra Valentine Spring Mountain District Wurtele Vineyard \$58; 2005 Paul Hobbs Napa Valley \$75; 2005 Fisher Vineyards UNITY, available at Troy Capital Grille only; \$18 by the glass and \$64 per bottle.

Very Good: 2005 J. Lohr Hilltop Vineyard \$35; 2005 Terra Valentine Spring Mountain District \$38; 2005 Merryvale Napa Valley \$50; 2005 Joseph Phelps Napa Valley \$54; 2004 St. Supery ELU \$65; 2004 Clos du Val Stags Leap District \$70; 2005 Pine Ridge Stags Leap District \$80

Wallet Friendly: 2006 Redwood Creek \$8; 2007 Bulletin Place, South Eastern Australia, \$10

If a retailer does not stock a specific wine we recommend, ask that it be ordered from the distributor or order it direct from the winery.

West Coast travel continues with some good finds

To continue with my recent escapade in Los Angeles ... I've made two trips there within this past month to see all worth seeing.

Both times, I flew Northwest Airlines. Once again, I tried to choose my seat, and once again Northwest puts its passengers in the last rows, middle seats, unless they pay an extra \$25-\$30 each way.



Lana Mini

We're not talking Exit Row. We're talking extra money just to avoid a seat in Misery Alley.

I opted for the misery this time. And opted to pay \$7 for a flimsy vegetable tray. My fault for not planning ahead - could have had the decent sushi in the Northwest terminal.

To save money in Los Angeles, I found a rental car through Thrifty -- 10 days for \$250. Not bad considering it's peak travel season.

I also found (oh, do I want to share this secret? Sure, I will!) an amazing apartment/hotel directly on Venice Beach called Venice Suites (www.venice-suites.com).

For \$150 you can get an airy, fresh studio apartment with a full kitchen, hardwood floors, modern decor and a rooftop patio that includes lawn chairs and barbecue grill. Splurge \$100 more on the weekend (price varies) for ocean view.

Plenty of restaurants, beach street artists, bars, cafes and shops within walking distance.

The Venice Suites is, without a doubt, the best place to stay for the money in the Venice/Santa Monica area. The only downside is the parking lot is a few streets away, but a walk in LA isn't such a bad thing.

After my last visit there, I raved about Piccolo Restaurant, 5 Dudley Avenue, Venice, which I claimed as one of the best Italian restaurants in the country. My visit there wasn't as exciting this time - the menu is now unchangeable. Last time the chefs accommodated my vegan requirements and created a beautiful pasta with arugula. This time, they would only offer a salad minus Parmesan shavings. The fennel soup however, was great, but I wanted more for dinner than soup, small salad and a glass of Chianti for almost \$50.

Duke's in Malibu (although not intimate like Piccolo) is nice for its patio on the ocean's edge.

HI, OJAI

The highlight was my pat-myself-on-the-back discovery in Ojai, California, located about 90 fast minutes north east of Los Angeles toward Santa Barbara. The mystical little town that means "Valley of the Moon" is known for its spas, spiritual atmosphere, vast green mountainous views and the quiet little art district. It's home to celebrities who want a quiet life blended with sophistication:

Reese Witherspoon, Tim Burton and Johnny Cash have all resided there.

The lovely hotel that I found, The Emerald Iguana Inn, is on my Top Five list of the most enchanting affordable places I've slept in worldwide. Visit www.emeraldiguana.com. The rooms are listed by names rather than numbers such as the Grasshopper, the Lily pad and the Gecko. I stayed in the Raven cottage that included full kitchen, plush robes, two huge bedrooms, three queen beds, ceramic flooring, original works of art and furniture, Persian rugs, velvet curtains all surrounded by lush gardens, extensive stone work, crystalline spa and breakfast each morning by the pool. There were hummingbirds and butterflies outside my door. It cost \$380 a night to sleep three people, but rooms go as low as just \$149.

I ended my trip taking taxis, twice, from Venice to Hollywood at \$45 each way, so that I could have a drink at The Green Door, one of the city's current "you have to be someone to get in" nightclubs. Luckily my friend who knows the doorman is strikingly handsome. Sounds pretentious, but it's charmingly sexy with French accents and is a place for people who want low-key vibes rather than some of the louder Hollywood spots.

Lana Mini is a staff writer with the Observer & Eccentric and Mirror newspapers. She can be reached at (248) 901-2572 or lmmini@hometownlife.com.

HOME CALENDAR

If you have an item for the home calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to K Abramczyk@hometownlife.com.

The Birmingham Showhouse

"An ideal home created from a woman's perspective," Sept. 18-21, benefits Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, sponsored by Wellington Chase Homes and Michigan Design

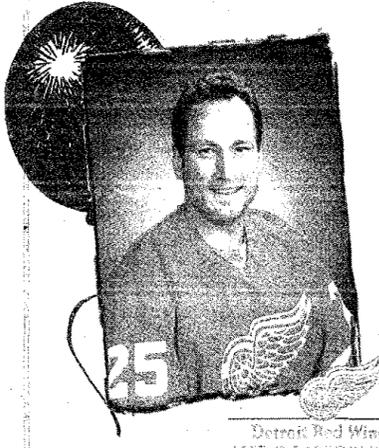
Center, also open Sept. 25-28, 4,580-square-foot English Arts and Crafts style, developed by women with products exclusively from MDC, visit michigandesign.com or Showhouse Web site at birminghamshowhouse.com.

Participating publications:

- Detroit Free Press
- The Detroit News
- Observer & Eccentric
- THE MIRROR NEWSPAPERS
- PRESS ARGUS
- WEEKLIES HOMETOWN

CATHOLIC PARISHES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION'S PLYMOUTH BRANCH

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION JUNE 5TH, 6TH, AND 7TH



Detroit Red Wings ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

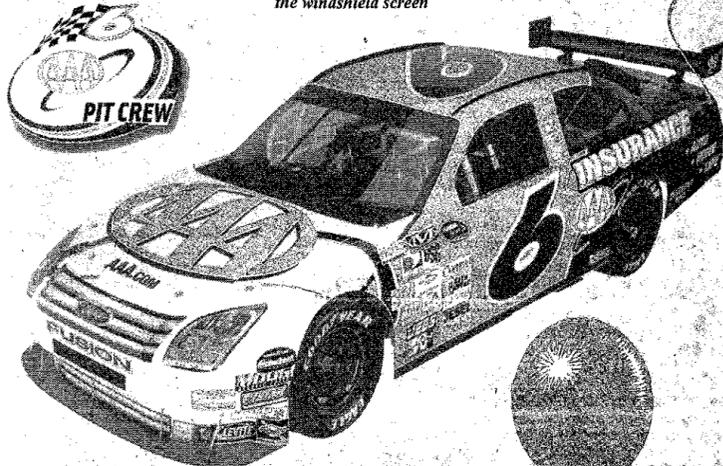
Saturday
Meet
Detroit Red Wing Legend
JOHN OGRODNICK

Recently named as one of the top 30 Red Wing players of all time and member of the Dream Team by the Detroit Free Press

Get your free autograph from this
NHL All-Star
from 10 am - noon

Thursday & Friday
12 pm - 6 pm
See the #6 AAA FORD
FUSION RACE CAR
ON DISPLAY

Plus, take a ride in the Race Car Simulator
Experience the sound and visual effects from the computer generated simulation of a NASCAR Race as you navigate around a track projected on the windshield screen



Friday-2:30 pm
Plymouth Township Fire Platoon #3 and
Police Officer Jamie Senkbeil

Bring the kids after school on Friday to meet the folks who help protect our community. Look inside a real fire truck and sit inside a squad car!

ALL 3 DAYS:

Enjoy refreshments, games and activities for the kids, balloons and daily prize drawings* including \$100 Gas Cards.

Catholic
Parishes
Federal Credit Union

8817 Sheldon Road
Northwest corner of Sheldon & Joy Road
(734) 432-0212

www.catholicparishesfcu.org

Faithfully serving our Catholic Community by helping members get ahead financially.



NCUA

*No purchase necessary. You must be at least 18 years old and complete an entry form available at our office located at 8817 Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 on June 5th, 6th, and 7th. One entry per person, per day. Odds of receiving a prize will be determined by the number of entries received. Winners will be notified by phone. Prizes are subject to income taxes.

A decade of growth

Jain Temple celebrates 10th anniversary

BY STACY JENKINS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

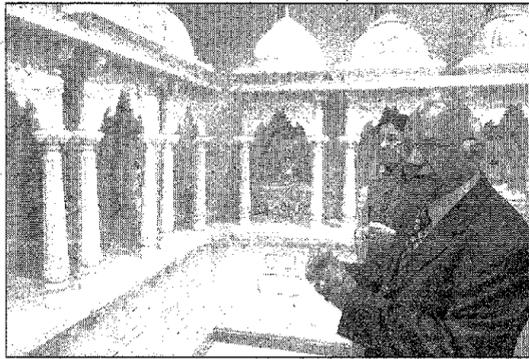
Bhavaha Mehta has seen growth — physical and spiritual — since Michigan's only Jain temple opened its doors a decade ago.

"We've all grown, spiritually, so much," said Mehta. "I've learned more here in 10 years than I did in 20 years in India."

The Farmington Hills woman is a member of the Jain Society of Greater Detroit and she will help celebrate the Jain Temple's 10th anniversary during the weekend of June 13.

Arvind Shah of Troy started the Jain Society of Greater Detroit in 1975. He grew up in Bombay, India, and moved to the United States in 1971. His 90-member Jain Society gathered at his home in Taylor at that time.

They built the temple on



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Founding member Arvind Shah, right, speaks about the growth he has seen in the organization since its inception in 1975 as he and Farmington Hills resident Bhavaha Mehta talk about The Jain Society of Greater Detroit.

12 Mile in Farmington Hills in 1998 and membership has grown steadily.

"It's a great achievement for the Society to pull together 464 families," said Shah.

The temple has a children's program, with 125 children and an active youth group. Education and spiritual growth happens every day of the week at the Jain Temple. Shah said

many students have come from the University of Michigan to study the temple's architecture and to learn about Jainism.

"And people come from other states," said Shah. "This is the largest prayer hall in America."

The 25,300-square-foot temple has 24 hand-carved marble statues, imported from India. These idols represent personal qualities Jain members strive



Dhirajba Desai worships along the 24 hand-carved statues inside the Farmington Hills temple of The Jain Society of Greater Detroit.

to achieve, with nonviolence and multiplicity of viewpoints being the two founding principles.

"These are the biggest gifts of Jainism to the world," said Mehta. "We think of (the idols) as our angels that help us further ourselves in our religion."

The idols, called Tirthankaras, have symbolic markings that evoke thoughts of strength, sacrifice, pride,

shelter from harm, surrender, teaching, obedience, among others. They represent the conquering of all desires and the attainment of infinite knowledge and wisdom.

Jainism is one of the world's oldest religions and has about six million members all over the world, but mostly in western India. There are about 100,000 Jains in the U.S. and Canada, with

larger populations in Chicago and Cincinnati. Jains are highly accomplished, educated and prosperous people. Historically, their contribution to arts, science, literature, philosophy and architecture far exceeds their small percentage of population in India and abroad, according to Shah.

To learn more about the Jain Society, visit online at www.jain-temple.org.

RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

JUNE

Catholic singles potluck picnic

For unattached single Catholics, ages 30-59, noon Sunday, June 8, at Lower Huron Metro Park, Belleville. Bring your own beverage (no alcohol) and a dish to pass. Cost \$5/person plus park entrance (\$4/car). RSVP to Kathleen by June 6 at (734) 657-7750 or

CatholicSinglesNYE@comcast.net.

Parish revitalization seminar

Sponsored by Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) 1:30-3:30 p.m., Saturday, June 7, at St. Thomas Orthodox Church, 29150 10 Mile, Farmington Hills. Entitled Demythologizing Church Growth: Five

Common Myths about Church Growth, and How We Can Overcome Them, conducted by the Rev. Jonathan Ivanoff, secretary of the Department of Evangelization of the Orthodox Church in America. The seminar is an introductory session. If it generates sufficient interest, the COCC will sponsor a complete series of seminars on the subject of parish revitalization. No charge. To reserve a seat, call (734) 422-0278 or send e-mail to paschabooks@sbcglobal.net.

Vacation Bible school

This year will be held with a camping setting 9:15 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, June 16-20, for all children ages 3 to 12, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. Theme is Jesus, Our Forever Friend! Parents may register their children by filling out the online form at www.holycrosslivonia.org. Children could also register Monday, June 16. Visitors welcome.

Fund-raiser

Follows the 9:30 a.m. Sunday, June 8 service, potluck and silent auction to raise money for a church member, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. For reservations, call (734) 421-7249.

Antique/classic car show

Presented by Crosspointe Meadows Church, featuring cars from the Ford and Mercury Restorers Club noon to 3 p.m., Sunday, June 8, at the church on Meadowbrook Rd. south of 13 Mile. Free hot dogs, brauts, hamburgers, chips, pop, and water, free raffle for fun prizes. As part of the Car Show, visitors are welcome to take a tour of the church's new location. For more information, call (248) 669-9400.

Patriotic pops concert

7 p.m. Sunday, June 8, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Ward Chancel Choir and Orchestra, Handbells, Ensembles and Children's Choir present American favorites and a salute to U.S. Armed Forces. Child care provided through age 4. No admission charge. For details, call (248) 374-7400.

Summer camp

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Early Childhood Program is currently taking registrations for Summer Camp from June 9 to Aug. 22. The center is open 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday for ages 18 months to 12 years. For more information, call (734) 513-8413 or drop 14175 Farmington Road, north of I-96, Livonia.

Farmington Aglow Lighthouse

With Cynthia Kahn, director of Ethnic Ministries at Faith Lutheran Church, Troy, 7 p.m. Monday, June 9 (doors open 6:30 p.m.), at the Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Rd., between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For information, call (810) 227-9103 or (248) 497-7755.

Strawberry festival

5-9 p.m. Friday, June 13, on the grounds of Garden City Presbyterian Church on Middle Belt, one block south of Ford Rd. Fresh strawberries, a variety of cakes, ice cream and beverage for \$4. Items can be purchased separately. Old-fashioned bake sale features home made strawberry items plus jellies, pies, cakes, cookies, breads. Assorted crafts including yard decorations for sale along with handmade baby items, jewelry and afghans, an assortment of games and toys for children. Call (734) 421-7620.

Evolutionary presentation

Rev. Michael Dowd, author of the new book, Thank God for Evolution, (Viking/Penguin), brings his cosmic gospel back to the Detroit-area. Dowd, America's Evolutionary Evangelist, gives a 90-minute presentation, Thank God for Evolution: How The Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World, at the 10 a.m. Sunday service June 15, and 7 p.m. Monday, June 16, at UU Farmington, 25301 Halsted, Farmington. Call (248) 478-7272.

Rainforest adventure

Vacation Bible School 6-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 16-20, at King Lutheran Church, 9300 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Ages 3 through sixth

grade welcome. Theme relates crafts, songs, games, snacks and Bible study. Registration is \$10, due by June 4. For more information, call (248) 767-4966.

Cosmic City

Vacation Bible School 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, June 16-20, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth. A fun-filled free event for kids entering kindergarten through entering sixth grade. Call (734) 459-9550, ext. 26.

Vacation Bible school

6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 16-20, dinner begins at 5:45 p.m. followed by Bible stories, crafts, games and worship, Friday night is Family night and everyone is invited for water games, a live band, creative crafts, and snacks, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Theme is Outrigger Island. Call (734) 464-6722 pre-register online at www.5milechurch.org.

Summer daycamp

Offered by Ward Church in Northville for children entering grades 1-6, from June 18 to Aug. 24. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with extended care available at an extra cost. Campers will participate in one field trip per week with additional local outings and weekly water days. Daily elective classes will include sports, drama, music, and foods. SHINE is a fully-licensed daycare through the State of Michigan Department of Human Resources. Weekly full-time registrations range from \$135 to \$165. Information available at wardchurch.org, or by calling (248) 374-5975.

Sprout time

Preschoolers and Toddlers ages 1 to Pre-K and their parent are invited to join Bell Creek Community Church for bible stories, music, crafts 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, June 19, June 26, July 10, and July 17, at McKinley Elementary School, 9101 Hillcrest, Livonia. Bring a lunch and have fun. For information, call (734) 425-1174 or e-mail jen@bellcreek.org.

Summer music ministry

Thursday, June 19 (People's Ringers from Milan), and July 10 (Sci Ridge Brass Quintet), dinner at 6 p.m. for \$6, concert at 7 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730. Hymn sings May 25, July 6, Aug. 10, Sept. 7. Family Choir all ages are invited to sing at 9 a.m. rehearsal and then morning service June 22, July 27, Aug. 24, and Sept. 7. All are welcome to music events.

Third Un-Annual Art Show

Does art have Buddha nature? 7-10 p.m. Friday, June 20, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday June 21, at Still Point Zen Buddhist Temple 4347 Trumbull Avenue (at Canfield), Detroit. A portion of proceeds support Still Point. All welcome. Artists include Still Point members, invited guests and juried artists. Poetry reading opening night 9-10 p.m. under the stars (weather permitting). For details, call (313) 645-9860 or (313) 580-6825, or send e-mail to stillpointart08@gmail.com.

Bethany Suburban West

Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9:30 a.m. Saturday June 21, at Leon's 30149 Ford Rd., Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Call (734) 513-9479.

50th anniversary celebration

Former members and friends are being invited back to Grace Moravian Church in Westland 10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 22. A pot luck dinner will follow the service at 31133 Hively. If you are planning to stay for the meal, call Beverly Moore at (734) 722-4102. The Moravian denomination celebrates 550 years since it was founded in 1457. On July 13 former pastor Rev. Allen Bergmann will be the guest speaker. A pot luck follows that service as well.

Vacation Bible school

Friendship Trek 9-11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, June 23-27, at Ward Church, Northville. "Uncle Jerry" Jacoby, nationally known for his Good Stuff school assemblies, will share humor, stories and songs. Other activities include inflatables, crafts, games, music. Free and open to children entering grades K-7. For families needing all-day activity, Ward offers SHINE daycamp with drop-off hours available as of 7 a.m. and lasting until 6 p.m. SHINE daycamp is \$115, and requires pre-registration. Information at wardchurch.org.

Water works park

9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, June 23-27, at Ward Church, Northville. "Uncle Jerry" Jacoby, nationally known for his Good Stuff school assemblies, will share humor, stories and songs. Other activities include inflatables, crafts, games, music. Free and open to children entering grades K-7. For families needing all-day activity, Ward offers SHINE daycamp with drop-off hours available as of 7 a.m. and lasting until 6 p.m. SHINE daycamp is \$115, and requires pre-registration. Information at wardchurch.org.

Clothing bank

Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank is open 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of every month at the church, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy, between Haggerty and Lilley. The Clothing Bank is open to everyone in the community who is in need of new or like-new clothing. Donations are also accepted. For information, call (734) 404-2480 or visit www.CantonCF.org.

Seekers of spiritual intelligence

Beacon Hill Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) examines the disciplines of spirituality in action during the 1 p.m. Sunday worship service in June at St. Michael Lutheran Church Chapel, 7000 N. Sheldon, south of Warren, Canton (enter through the south double doors next to the play area) For information, call (313) 402-6900 or (313) 806-PRAY, send e-mail to beaconhillccdc@aol.com.

UPCOMING

Rummage sale

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 10-12, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Vacation Bible school

9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, July 14-18, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Cost \$25 for the first child, \$20 for each child thereafter. Call (734) 464-0211.

Vacation Bible school

July 14-18, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$25 for first child, \$20 thereafter, includes music CD. Call (734) 464-0211.

Grandparents/kids weekend

July 25-27, at FaHolo Camp & Conference Center, Grass Lake, sponsored by ReMarried Ministries of Ward Church. The event is a retreat for grandparents and grandchildren, and includes two nights lodging, five meals, inspirational teaching by Barbara George-Howard, a wagon ride and bon fire, water blob and trampoline, go carts, initiatives, and lots of fun. Costs are \$283 per grandparent

Please see **CALENDAR, D5**

Passages
Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances
1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232
e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com
View Data On-line: www.hometownlife.com

CLARA J. GADDE
Age 92, Farmington, MI, passed away May 30, 2008. Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI

JOYCELYN MEYERS (Stockfish)
Age 78. Lived in Westland for a short time, formerly lived in Detroit, passed away May 25, 2008. Private ceremony was held at UHT Funeral home in Westland. Mother of five.

ADELINE CLARK BARNES
Age 81, died at her home in Birmingham, May 30, 2008. Mrs. Barnes was born March 28, 1927, in San Diego, California. She was active in St. James Episcopal Church, Girl Scouts, AAUW, Stoneycroft Hills Club and the Village Club. Adeline is survived by her husband of 57 years, Frank, children, Martha, Webb and Jane and grandchildren, Joshua and Alessa. Memorial service at St. James Episcopal Church, 355 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, Saturday, June 14th at 11am. Memorials appreciated to St. James Friends of Music, 355 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, 48009. Arrangements entrusted to: Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors 248-435-0660

NEIL ELSILA
Age 65, formerly of Redford Township and Southfield, and a 1959 graduate of Redford Union High School, died May 20 at his home in Jacksonville, FL, surrounded by family and friends. Elsila attended Michigan Technological University, then worked for General Motors. From 1976 until his death, he lived and worked in Jacksonville, first as an executive for the Phoenix Group and then as president of PG Management Inc., both real-estate-management firms. He retired last year before being stricken with cancer. Survivors include his wife Janet Elsila, daughters Megan Elsila, Amy Elsila, and Sarah Zottola, and sons Jason Elsila & Jeremy Zottola. Also surviving are brother David Elsila, an editor of the Redford Observer in the 1960s, and sister Sandra Blackwell, both of the Detroit area, and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by parents Edward and Sylvia Elsila, long-time Redford Township residents, and by his first wife Carol. A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held at the family home in Ponte Vedra, FL on June 8. Memorial contributions may be made to Community Hospice Foundation, 4114 Sunbeam Rd., Suite 101, Jacksonville FL 32257 or to the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, 1515 Holcombe Blvd., Houston TX 77030.

SARA FRANCIS WASDIN
Age 77, of Plymouth, passed away May 27, 2008. Masters Funeral Home, Palatka FL, 386-325-4564

Let others know...
When you've lost a loved one, place your notice on our website and in "Passages"... a directory located in every edition of your hometown newspaper.

Observer & Eccentric
Call 1-800-579-7355

WILLIAM F. VON GLAHN
June 1, 2008. Age 92 of Plymouth. Loving husband of the late Florence. Beloved father of Jeffrey, Tom (Ursula) and Nancy (Bob) Metzger. Proud grandfather of Lorraine, Michael (Heather), Maddy Metzger and Joey Metzger. Dear great-grandfather of Chloe, Amelia and Lily. Mr. Von Glahn graduated with honors from New York University, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He later received his Masters Degree from Wayne State University. Bill was very active in the Plymouth Community. He bowled and golfed in several area leagues. He was a frequent bridge player at the local Senior Center. He was also very active in the Plymouth Kiwanis, Optimists Club, and Past Director of the Senior Tax Preparation Program. The family will gather with friends Friday 10AM until the 12 noon Memorial Service at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth 45201 N. Territorial Rd., Plymouth. Memorials may be made to the Plymouth Community Foundation. To view obituary or leave a message of condolence, log on to: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

ROBERT G. SIEFERT
May 30, 2008, age 76. Beloved husband of Betty for 49 years. Loving father of Cynthia Bonczyk (John), Peggy Griffin (John), Trudy Lampen (Lowell), Barbara Nelson (Bob), and Sarah Cohen (Dan). Grandfather of Molly, Sarah Jane, and Andrew Bonczyk, Heidi and Gretchen Geisler, Duffy, Meggi, and George Lampen, Tyler, Abby, and Elise Nelson, Charlie, Caroline, and Jack Cohen. Memorial Service 10 AM Saturday, June 7, at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W. Long Lake, Bloomfield Hills. Memorial Tributes to Quest for Breath, University of Michigan, Internal Medicine Development, 3100 Taubman Center, Spc 5368, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48109, or Kirk in the Hills Outreach. A. J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

In Memory Of

DONALD KRAFT CURRIE
Born May 30, 1931
Died June 7, 2004 from Melanoma

"Step one you say we need to talk
He walks you say sit down it's just a talk
Between the lines of fear and blame
You begin to wonder why you came
Let him know that you know best
Cause after all you do know best
Try to slip past his defense
Without granting innocence
Lay down a list of what is wrong
The things you told him all along
And pray to God he hears you
As he begins to raise his voice
You lower yours and grant him one last choice
He will do one of two things
He will admit to everything
Or he'll say that he's just not the same
And you'll begin to wonder why you came."

We love and miss you today as much as we did 4 long years ago,
With love, Your wife, Leni
Sons, Jim, Matt (Leslie) and Daniel
Grandson Owen Kraft Currie

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE D4

couple or \$154 per person, fgrandchildren ages 6-17 \$90 each, 5 year olds free. Call (248) 374-7400.

Vacation Bible school
Registrations due July 27 for Aug. 4-7 VBS (3-years to fifth grade), at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. The theme is God's Big Backyard and focuses on service to others. Call (734) 422-0149. Cost \$10.

Tiny Tots Preschool
Now enrolling for 2008-2009, openings for 3 and 4-year olds at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Cost \$25 for the first child, \$20 for each child thereafter. Call (734) 464-0211.

ONGOING

Time change
Come to hear about the love of Jesus Christ for you 9:30 a.m. Sundays (May 25 to Sept. 7) at Faith Lutheran

Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. For information, visit www.livoniafaith.org.

Sunday worship
The early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia is at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive.

Reformed Protestant services
The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism are preached by the Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton. For information, call (734) 402-7186, send e-mail to sean.humby@att.net, or visit www.members.aol.com/rsiworship/detroit.html.

Sanskrit chanting
An ongoing, weekly class taught by Ania Kopczynski, 7-8:30 p.m.

Thursdays, at Renaissance Unity, 11200 E. 11 Mile, Warren. No pre-registration required. A free-will collection is taken at the session. For information, call (586) 353-2300 or visit www.renaissanceunity.org.

Church schedule
Garden City Presbyterian Church continues its 10 a.m. Sunday worship service with traditional hymns, scripture readings and choral music (fellowship follows). Youth Sunday School and nursery care also available at 10 a.m. Adult Sunday School at 8:30 a.m. Informal gathering 6 p.m. every Sunday with scriptures and discussion at the church on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford Rd. Call (734) 421-7620.

Single Place Ministry
Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org. Cost is \$5.

Prince of Peace Church
Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every

Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

Tai chi and strength classes
Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drops in welcome. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Church offerings
Riverside Park Church of God, Sunday worship is at 10 a.m., Wednesday bible classes (child through adult) at 7 p.m. Youth outings held monthly. The

senior group (age 50 plus) has lunch together every month. The men get together for breakfast the first Saturday of the month plus we offer choir practice for all singers. All visitors welcome. The church is at 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth Road, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for details.

Church services
Want a unique church experience? Join in Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. for a service that will lift your entire family, but be prepared for what will happen after just one service at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh (corner of Plymouth Road), Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for information.

Thursday fellowship dinner
All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$6. Call (313) 534-7730.

Thrifty store
Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W.

Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Tai Chi class
Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance.

Living Water series
Mark McGilvrey leads a 10-week video series called H2O starting 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722. The group is open to men and women who would like to review the basic teachings of Jesus who claimed to be living water.

Your Invitation To Worship

BAPTIST UNITED METHODIST LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

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Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday Children, Youth and Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Clarenceville United Methodist
20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
248-474-3444
Pastor Beth Librande
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Sunday School 11:00 AM
Nursery Provided

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313-937-3170
9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch.
11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship
www.redfordaldersgate.org

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96
734-522-6830
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional
Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am
Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413
Staffed Nursery Available
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Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creedon

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First Sat. 11:00 a.m.
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Rev. Marsha H. Woolley
Visit our website: www.newburgumc.org

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Wednesday Evening Service 7 p.m.
Education Hour 10:45 a.m.
Christian School
Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade
For more information call 313-937-2233

St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church

St. Genevieve School - Pre-K-8
29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220
(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)
MASS: Tues. 7 p., Wed., Thurs. 9 a., Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a
St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church
32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616
(between Merriman & Farmington Roads)
MASS: Mon. 8:30 a., Fri. 8:30 a., Sat. 6 p., Sun 9a

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church
33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135
(1 block west of Vaux) Phone: 734-524-0880
Pastor: Eddie Petreaca
Meetings on Saturdays for:
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Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m.
Bible Studies English & Spanish (All Ages) 11:00 a.m.
Wednesdays:
Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

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The WMUZ Word Station
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Memorial Day through Labor Day Weekend
www.risenchrist.info

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Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M.
Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M.
NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 453-0196

PRESBYTERIAN

Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire
Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall
36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia
Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI
734-453-0970
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Reading Room located at church
Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
734-453-0970

St. James Presbyterian Church, USA

25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730
Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm
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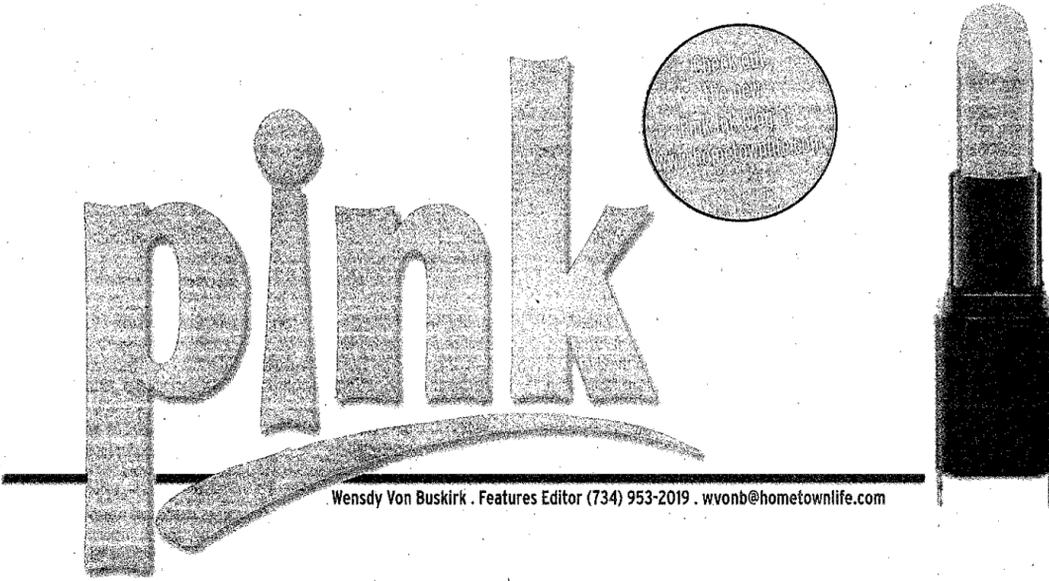
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A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
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Jill Hegdal, Pastor
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For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication.

To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121



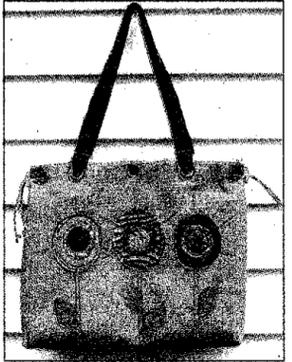
Wendy Von Buskirk . Features Editor (734) 953-2019 . wvonb@hometownlife.com

pink picks

Wear It!
A paper-thin summer scarf

Tote It!
Magic Bag Lady Bags by Michele Kramp of Canton at Wyandotte's Biddle Gallery

Kick It!
Switch Flops at High Wire Girls — change the straps for brand new looks



See It!
Forgetting Sarah Marshall at Magic Bag's Brew 'n' View on June 12

Hear It!
Narrow Stairs by Deathcab for Cutie

Shop It!
Moda Repeat in Farmington Hills

Eat It!
Rotisserie chicken from Hiller's

Drink It!
Homemade sun tea

Fitness boot camp comes to a park near you

FARMINGTON HILLS — Boot camp classes are one of the newest trends to get in shape, build stamina and lose two to four pounds of body fat per week. Farmington Hills based Platoon 5 Xtreme Training is offering boot camp classes to people who want to get fit in a fun and challenging environment. Each session lasts four weeks with two to three 50-minute classes per week.

Platoon 5 gives participants the opportunity to get into the best shape of their lives by incorporating "basic" training exercises such as push-ups, pull-ups and sit-ups with weight training and lots of cardio options.

Owner and certified fitness trainer Mona Contardi takes her troops to the extreme by doing interval training with hills, stairs, ladders and cones.

She incorporates games and challenges to create a team environment and make the intense workouts fun and exciting.

"There is no doubt that my workouts are challenging, but even new recruits leave feeling refreshed and energized. My goal is to get you fit and keep you fit," Contardi said.

Although on the tougher side, Platoon 5 workouts are tailored to fit all fitness levels, providing modifications and substitutions when appropriate.

Contardi's boot camp is a comprehensive fitness program specially designed to guarantee quick and lasting results — lose body fat, rev up metabolism, tone muscles and increase endurance.

Platoon 5's results-driven boot camp takes workout results to the next level.



Contardi

Registration is taking place now for the June 9 session. Classes are offered at various days and times. For more information contact Mona Contardi at (248) 890-6702 or visit the Platoon 5 Xtreme Training website at www.p5xt.com.

Face It!
ck Calvin Klein Delicious Luxury Creme Lipstick in Fusion

Click It!
My new "Pink Ink" blog at www.hometownlife.com

DVD It!
Grace is Gone

Tivo It?
Living Lohan or Denise Richards: It's Complicated

Local expert offers lip tips

BY CARA BROOKS
GUEST COLUMNIST

CANTON — Lipstick is the first kind of makeup I was attracted to — as a little girl.

I remember sneaking into my mom's makeup drawer and applying her red lipstick.

The color was so bright that even though I tried to take it off before dinner, there I sat at the table with my bright red lips.

Later, my friends and I would sneak a tube of lipstick to school, put it on, and then wipe it off before we got home. Nowadays, I know women who say they feel naked without lipstick.

The mouth is an immediate attention-getter and the effect lipstick can have is amazing. From provocative to conventional, selecting the right shade can be great fun.

In addition to finding the right color, it's essential to apply lipstick to maximize its impact.

LIP LESSON:

For the first step, prep your lips with a conditioning treatment like Merle Norman Luxiva Lip Revive. Next, line the lips, keeping to the natural lip line.

Then, fill in the entire mouth with the pencil.

Next, take a retractable lip brush and fill in the entire mouth with color up to the same edge as the lip pencil.

Finally, blot with a single ply of tissue.

Re-apply and blot again — this absorbs excess oil yet leaves the pigment (good for a smudge-proof, long-lasting effect).

LIP TIPS:

■ Putting powder over the top of the first coat of lipstick, then applying a second coat

will help it to last longer.

■ Play with the balance of your face by using dark colors on the eyes, like Merle Norman Luxiva Eye Shadow in Chocolate, and light colors on the mouth like Merle Norman Age Defying Lip Color Pick Ice with SPF 15, or vice versa. See how it changes the proportion of your features.

■ Some prefer to line the lips with a neutral lip pencil, even if the lip color over that is a bright shade. This way the finished mouth looks more natural and if the color fades, the layer underneath is not a bright orange or red.

Cara Brooks owns Merle Norman Cosmetics Studio of Canton, 3100 N. Lilley Road. Call (734) 981-4776.



Merle Norman Sheer Lip Liner Pencils



Samantha, Carrie, Miranda and Charlotte return to the fashion runways in "Sex and The City: The Movie," now in theaters.

Fashion fans take a cue from 'Sex and The City'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

As *Sex and the City* fans and fashionistas well know, the wardrobe, labels and accessories worn by our four favorite New York women were considered as much stars as Sarah Jessica Parker herself.

And the long-awaited film, which opened May 30 in area theaters, carries on that fashion-forward eye candy attitude.

For six seasons culminating in the 2004 finale, Carrie, Samantha, Charlotte and Miranda embodied four closer-than-close female friends all seeking love and loving life in Manhattan. And each of the women has been characterized by her own personal style. As Director Michael Patrick King brings us back to that familiar apartment window, where Carrie Bradshaw spins her tales on a sleek Apple laptop, we get a glimmer of where the girls now stand.

Carrie, sporting a body-conscious white dress adorned with a gigantic white and gold flower remains as cutting edge a fashionista as ever. And of course she's still in love with Mr. Big (Chris Noth). The question remains — will they or won't they get married? A gifted, gilded gown from Vivienne Westwood herself seems a promising start.

Samantha Jones (Kim Cattrall), as brazen as ever, arrives on the scene in a red structured suit reminiscent of any frock Sue Ellen might've worn in Dallas. It signifies strength and independence, as she's still dating young Hollywood star Smith Jerrod (Jason Lewis) and has no intentions of tying the knot.

The film splices in tell-tale one-liners from the show's successful reign, giving insight into each character. As such we find workaholic attorney Miranda Hobbes (Cynthia Nixon), stunning in a gold gown, balancing her job with motherhood and a troubled

marriage. And prim-and-proper Charlotte (Kristin Davis), donning a classically tailored red dress with cap sleeves, is still married to Harry (Evan Handler) and raising their adopted daughter Lily. According to Carrie "three books and three years later we still feel like those four single girls."

Fashionwise, there is barely anything retro about the film at all, except for a brief montage of Carrie's frocks from the '80s. The wardrobe, her signature Manolos and Louis Vuitton bags are front and center, here and now. Bright colors pop. Samantha favors look-at-me yellow. Charlotte shines in pure white and earthy tones and layers give red-headed Miranda her edge.

Meanwhile Carrie trots around Manhattan in hefty brown Grecian-inspired heels with a sparkling structured bag in the shape of the Eiffel Tower across her arm. She pairs a black leather studded belt with everything from

outfits to billowy coats to cinch her tiny waist. As fearless as ever, she's constantly sporting a long strand of pearls draped from her neck and she proves a racer back or even a backless dress is no reason to forgo a bra — as long as it's a cute one.

Hairstyles range from tightly-coiffed buns to loose and tousled, sometimes adorned with a braided headband. Miranda's precision-cut fiery bob reflects as much about her analytical personality as Charlotte's long chocolate brown layers say about her girlish charm. In accessories, hoop earrings seem to be a staple in gold as do bangle bracelets — lots of them. As with the series, we have Costume Designer Patricia Field to thank for the fashion-infused look of *Sex and the City*. Love or hate the outfits, as always, they're sure to leave an impression.

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