

WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Schools hold annual roundup
Education, A4

AROUND TOWN

Last chance

Time is running out to nominate someone as the 2009 Westland First Citizen or Business Person of the Year. The deadline is 4 p.m. Friday, April 3.

The First Citizen Award honors a person who has contributed to the quality of life in the community and made Westland a better place in which to live, work or play. Local residency isn't required, and people currently holding or seeking public office aren't eligible. The nominations should outline the individual's service, including its impact on the Westland community.

The Business Person of the Year Award recognizes a member of the chamber who stands above the rest. Nominees must own, manage or do business in Westland and cannot be an elected official. Nominations should include information about the individual's demonstrated excellence, creativity and initiative in his or her business or profession, a history of staying power, innovation and positive response to adversity, participation in activities that promote economic development and/or general interest to the community and be a member in good standing of the Westland chamber.

Nominations for First Citizen and the Business Person of the Year Award can be sent to the Westland Chamber of Commerce, 36900 Ford, Westland, MI 48185. They also can be submitted by fax at (734) 326-6040.

The annual awards will be presented at the Westland Chamber of Commerce's Spring Awards Celebration Thursday, April 23, at the American Legion Post 32, 9318 Newburgh, Livonia. The festivities will start at 6 p.m. and feature dinner and recognition of the 2009 First Citizen Award, the 2009 Business Person of the Year Award and longtime chamber members.

Tickets are \$35 per person and include the buffet dinner and open bar. They are available online at www.westlandchamber.com or by calling the chamber at (734) 326-7222.

Now open

It's official. The compost season in Westland begins Monday, March 30.

All compost - grass clippings, leaves, yard and garden waste, pruning debris and brush - will be picked up the same day as regular trash, however, it must be separated from regular household garbage by 10 feet. The compost material can be in cans with a yard waste sticker attached or Kraft-type brown bags. Plastic bags will not be accepted.

For more information on the city's compost guidelines, call the Westland Department of Public Service at (734) 728-1770 or go online to www.cityofwestland.com.

Fire official off job without pay after accident

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland Fire Chief Michael Reddy, saying he is "angry" after reading police reports alleging that Fire Marshal Chris Szpara was involved in a hit-and-run accident after consuming beer, has suspended Szpara without pay for 90 days, ordered him to receive counseling and warned all department administrators not to drive city vehicles on personal time.

"This is one of those things that puts a blemish on the department," Reddy said Friday. "It's unfortunate that he made an error, but he made a grave error. I hope he learns from it."

Reddy called the accusations "inexcusable" and said Szpara, a city employee of 17 years, could potentially face other disciplinary actions depending on the findings of an independent attorney who is expected to review the allegations.

"This is one that is really hard for me to stomach," Reddy said. "He's

going to learn from this or he's not going to be here."

Szpara, driving a city-provided Dodge Charger, is accused of pulling away from a Taco Bell on Merriman Road near Cherry Hill and hitting the side of another vehicle about 3 a.m. Tuesday. Police Chief James Ridener said Szpara, 37, admitted he earlier drank "a couple of beers."

Szpara was stopped by Wayne police, who had received word of a fleeing vehicle, and he was turned over to Westland authorities, who

have come under fire for not giving Szpara a Breathalyzer test and for giving him a ride to a relative's house. Police have said the fire marshal didn't appear drunk.

Residents who read a story in the *Observer* almost uniformly criticized the way the situation was handled in their online comments, but Ridener defended the decisions of a subordinate officer who didn't believe Szpara was drunk.

Please see **ACCIDENT, A2**

'Treasure hunting every day'



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Victoria White, a 13-year-old Westland resident and Livonia Emerson Middle School student, works at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift store as part of a service project through her youth group at St. Theodore Catholic Church.

St. Vincent de Paul thrift store offer bargains in hard times

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Shoppers feeling the economic pinch can find what Michael Saine considers a treasure trove inside the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thrift store he manages in Westland.

Consumers can find brand-name clothing, Noritake crystal, televisions, Haviland Limoges china, books, furniture, cappuccino machines, sports cards, games, wedding dresses, vinyl records and a Cinderella music box among the thousands of items neatly arranged inside the store, located in a shopping center on the northwest corner of Wayne and Hunter roads.

More important in a tough economy, shoppers pay a fraction of what it would cost them to buy the items new, and it's all for a good cause. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, with 10 stores in southeast Michigan alone,

spends 92 cents for every dollar it earns to provide food, clothing, shelter, youth camps and other services to people in need.

Under the umbrella of the Archdiocesan Council of Detroit, the local organization receives its merchandise from donors and then 'sells it to bargain-hunters who need to stretch a dollar, especially as Michigan battles a 12 percent unemployment rate.

"It's a perfect redistribution of wealth without government intervention," Saine said.

He manages the store with six employees, including assistant managers Sharonda Smiley and Barbara Flood, and volunteers like 22-year-old Westland mom Christina Peterson, who stops in two or three days a week to hang up clothes, put price tags on merchandise and help reorganize displays.

"I also shop here for my kids' clothing and toys," she said. "You can't beat the prices."

A worldwide organization, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was started 175 years ago and has operated in the Detroit area for 121 years. In this region alone, it helps some 100,000 people a year.

Saine also proudly described the charity as environmentally friendly, saying the stores "recycle" merchandise every week that might otherwise end up in landfills. Moreover, it only accepts appliances and other items that work and don't need repairs because, Saine said, it wouldn't be fair to sell broken goods that "economically challenged" patrons would have to spend money to fix.

Shoppers can find a nearly new couch for \$100, a brand-name T-

Please see **THRIFT, A3**

Homeowners group aims for new members

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A neighborhood group that formed long before Westland became a city has elected new officers and launched a new membership drive, in hopes of continuing to play a vital role in bettering the community.

The Southeast Westland Homeowners Association formed in the mid-1950s - more than a decade before Westland became a city in 1966 - and it has continued as a community group representing the historic Annapolis Park and Carver subdivisions on the city's mostly African-American southeast side.

"It was founded to organize all the residents to build a better community and encourage civic betterment," said Reasther Everett, the association's new president. "We encourage our citizens to be voters, to participate in the politics of our city and to work to make Westland an all-American city. What's good for Westland is good for our community."

The Southeast Westland Homeowners Association has often reached out to the entire city by sponsoring candidate forums and community gatherings, and Annapolis Park has earned national recognition by making the National Register of Historic Places. It became one of the first U.S. suburbs populated by blacks during an era of housing discrimination in the 1950s.

Now, the association has launched an effort to boost its membership in an area known as voting Precinct 28. It also has elected new officers including Everett as president; Ken Reeves, vice president; Lori Wilson, secretary; Connie Hill, corresponding secretary;

Please see **GROUP, A2**

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Alleged sex offenders caught in police sweep

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Garden City man charged with having child pornography on his home computer and a Westland sex offender accused



Jason Gault

of violating his probation were among those arrested by area law-enforcement agencies during a three-day sweep that ended Thursday.

Jason Gault, 35, was arraigned Thursday on 12 felony counts involving child pornography amid allegations a Wayne County sheriff deputy found "extensive, graphic" images that officials said he downloaded and shared from his home on Gilman in Garden City.

Gault, already on probation for soliciting an undercover Roscommon County deputy he believed was an underage girl, was jailed with a \$250,000 cash bond as he awaits an April 6 preliminary hearing on charges of using the Internet to commit a crime, possessing and producing child sexually abusive material, and being a second-degree habitual offender.

"This clearly indicates the compulsive nature of most sex offenders to continue their behavior," Sheriff Warren Evans said, appearing with other law enforcement officers Thursday afternoon during a press conference outside the Westland Bailey Recreation Center.

Officers had arrested at least 10 suspects and reported others to probation officials during Operation LASSO (Locating and Securing Sex Offenders), a sting

involving federal, state, county and local law-enforcement agencies in Westland, Garden City, Canton, Livonia, Plymouth, Wayne and other communities.

In Westland, 19-year-old Munroe Lamar Zirker, on probation for criminal sexual conduct, was arrested along with two other men after officers went to Zirker's home in the 2500 block of Ackley. Westland Police Chief James Ridener said Zirker ran from a car in which he and the two men - one on probation for home invasion and one wanted on a robbery warrant - were accused of having marijuana and a Tec-9 semiautomatic pistol.

Ridener identified the home invasion probationer as Demario Demetrius Pernell-Jackson, 19, and the other man as 18-year-old Calderone Pearson.

Please see **SWEEP, A2**

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ACCIDENT

FROM PAGE A1

Szpara's salary is \$83,758 a year, so he will lose more than \$20,000 under the disciplinary measures imposed by Reddy. Mayor William Wild said Friday he agrees with Reddy's decisions. "I applaud the fire chief for being proactive," Wild said. "I think it shows that we take these violations seriously."

"This behavior will not be tolerated," Wild added. No one was injured in the accident, but some *Observer* readers questioned how a fire marshal, whose job involves public safety, could leave the scene of an accident. Ridener has said the people in the other car left the scene on foot but returned, and he said it didn't appear they had been drinking. City Attorney Angelo Plakas said Friday afternoon he turned the police docu-

ments over to an independent attorney, James Nellis, who has been used by the city on occasion. Plakas doesn't want to rule on possible charges because his office has worked with Szpara on fire code enforcement cases. Plakas called it important to "do away with any appearance of impropriety." It wasn't clear when a decision on possible charges might come. Nellis worked years ago as a city attorney under some

Westland mayors, including current Councilman Charles Pickering. On Friday, Pickering lauded Nellis' reputation. "I would think that he has the knowledge of being able to determine what is right and what is wrong in terms of what took place with this incident," Pickering said. "I see this as a positive thing. I think it's a good idea to have it looked at from the outside." Like many residents, Pickering described himself as

upset by the incident and the way it was handled. "I'm very embarrassed about it, and I'm very embarrassed for the city of Westland," he said. "It just doesn't sound like it was handled properly from the very beginning." "It's not good for the city of Westland," Pickering said, "and I hope everything is transparent." Pickering said he believes an average citizen who admitted drinking beer and fleeing the scene of an accident

would be tested for alcohol. Moreover, he said he believes the incident should prompt a "serious look" at how the city allocates vehicles to employees. Reddy has described Szpara, a 1989 graduate of Westland John Glenn High School, as having made many positive contributions on his job. "Chris is a good guy," Reddy said, "but he's supposed to know better than this."

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SWEEP

FROM PAGE A1

Ridener called Operation LASSO "truly a success," and he and Evans said the sex-offender sting also netted arrests for other crimes. "This was truly a collaborative effort," Ridener said, standing next to Evans outside

the Bailey Center. Officers involved in the three-day sweep found sex offenders in violation of their parole or probation by staying in homes where young children lived, potentially putting the youngsters at risk, Evans said. Evans also described "horrific scenes of child pornography" that officers found as they went to the homes of convicted sex offenders to see whether

they were obeying their parole and probation orders. Officers also rounded up some suspects named in warrants. In the first two days of the operation, authorities went to 126 homes that focused mostly on suburban communities, following an earlier sweep in Detroit. "History has shown that this is a specific criminal population that requires intensive supervision because they tend

to re-offend more frequently," Evans said. "It's up to us in the law enforcement community to remain vigilant and to use all of the resources at our disposal to protect citizens." Evans acknowledged, however, that most of the people targeted by Operation LASSO were complying with the terms of their supervised release.

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GROUP

FROM PAGE A1

Barbara Huddleston, treasurer; and Mary Bridges, membership chair. Residents from the south-east area are encouraged

to attend the association's meetings, held at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month at a senior housing complex, The Village of Our Saviour's Manor, at Middlebelt and Annapolis roads. Annual dues for the association are \$15 a year for each

household, and residents paying their dues can pay a one-time \$3 fee to receive a membership decal to place on their doors. Everett, one of the original Annapolis Park residents along with husband Arnell, shared a copy of a letter that has been used in an effort to draw new members to the association.

should receive a good education, and our seniors should have adequate resources. Although not a requirement for membership, a number of our members serve on city boards and commissions." In closing, the letter states, "We believe that our city and neighborhood are as good as our participation, and our history shows that we have made a difference."

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THE CONSEQUENCES OF NEGLECT

If you have ever wondered what would happen if you neglected to brush and floss your teeth, a study was once undertaken in which a group of dental students were asked to give up oral hygiene for 21 days. At the end of the three weeks, all exhibited signs of plaque, gingivitis, and overt clinical inflammation. Without daily flossing, plaque (a sticky, colorless substance that forms daily on teeth) builds between teeth. In as little as two days, plaque can transform itself into a hard substance, called calculus (also known as tartar), which may only be removed with professional cleaning. Then, it may not be long before periodontal disease begins between teeth, where a toothbrush cannot reach.

Our purpose in presenting this column is to exhibit the virtues of professional care in achieving and maintaining a healthy, vibrant smile. Through a combination of proven techniques and innovative technology, plus communication and compassionate concern, we attempt to move our patients toward an optimum state of oral health. When was your last dental checkup? Now is a good time to schedule an appointment at **496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth**, for comprehensive dental care. We are located one block east of Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. **You can reach us at 734-453-9413.**

PS. Toxins produced by gingival infections can destroy the supporting tissues around the teeth, including bone, which leads to tooth loss.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Constituent hours

The staff of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, will hold office hours in several locations in December. The time is set aside so that the citizens served by the congressman have the opportunity to speak with a staff member one on one regarding any federal issue that they might have. Office hours for Tuesday, April 2, are 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Summit Senior Center, 11 a.m.-noon at the Northville Senior Center, 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Van Buren September Days Senior Center. The Tuesday, April 7, office hours are 9-10 a.m. at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Redford Community Center, 1-2 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Westland senior Friendship Center. The congressman has two offices in Livonia and Milford the district to serve constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-0314 and the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

Bowling benefit

Westland's Mission: Green, an initiative which promotes environmental wellness practices throughout the City of Westland, is on a roll - literally. The group will host its first fund-raiser on Saturday, April 4, at Vision Lanes, 38250 Ford, west of Newburgh.

ON THE WEB

For an expanded version of Around Westland, visit our online edition at hometownlife.com and click on the Westland home page.

The cost is \$20 per person and includes three games of bowling, shoes, pizza, and soda. The proceeds will help to fund materials designed to promote environmental awareness and the importance of reducing your carbon footprint.

Registration for the event begins at 11:30 a.m., bowling starts at noon. For more information, call Lori Fodale at (734) 467-3264.

In support

Skateland West is hosting a special roller skating session to support union families in southeastern Michigan 6-9 p.m. Saturday, April 18.

Show your union card and everyone in your party skates for \$1 each. Admission without a union card is \$6. Skate rental is \$1.50, inline rental \$5. Any and all union cards will be accepted. All ages are welcomed. Many games and activities are planned for the special session.

For more information, call (734) 326-2801 or go online to www.skatelandwest.com. Skateland West is at 37550 Cherry Hill, just west of Newburgh in Westland.

Easter events

Westland Parks and Recreation Department is making Easter in Westland

"egg-stra" special.

Here comes the bunny and the eggs at the annual Brunch with the Easter Bunny and the Easter Egg Scramble, both planned for Saturday, April 4.

The brunch, which is sponsored by Parks and Recreation and the Westland Civitans, is 9 a.m.-Noon at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 at 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale. The cost is \$3 for children ages 1-12 and \$5 for adults (ages 13 and older) and includes homemade hot-off-the-griddle pancakes with butter and syrup, sausage, juice, coffee, tea, and milk.

The event will also include a special visit by the Easter Bunny and Polaroid photos with the bunny will be available for \$2 each. You can bring your own camera as well.

The Easter Egg Scramble, sponsored by the Westland Jaycees and the Parks and Recreation Department, is from 1-4 p.m. at Jaycee Park, next to the Mike Modano Ice Arena, at Hunter and Wildwood. It's for youth up to age 14.

For more information the scramble, call the recreation department at (734) 722-7620.

Preschool signups

Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is currently accepting enrollment into its Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs. The preschool is located at 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-0078.

Marathon bingo

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Sgt. Stanley Romanowski V.F.W. Post 6896 is sponsoring a Marathon Bingo 2-6 p.m. Sunday, April 5, at the post home, 28945 Joy, between Inkster and Middlebelt, Westland. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. A concession will be available. For more information, call the post lounge at (734) 525-9454 or (313) 849-5283.

Scrapbooking

The Wayne Memorial Baseball Booster Club is hosting a Scrapbooking fund-raiser from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Rudgate West Clubhouse, 7040 Shawnee Drive, Romulus. The registration fee of \$25 includes a light breakfast, lunch and door prizes. The deadline for registration is April 17. Checks and money orders can be made out to Wayne Memorial Baseball. Registrations can be mailed to Wayne Baseball c/o Deborah Gush, 3001 Fourth St., Wayne, Mi. 48184. For more information, call (734) 260-9517.

Ready to skate

Westland's Concrete Jungle Skate Park is now open for business. All skateboarders and inline skaters are welcome to enjoy the peaks and valleys of the 20,000-square-foot park, which is open weekdays from 4:30 p.m. until dusk; and from noon to 4 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. until dusk on weekends.

The Concrete Jungle Skate

Park is beside the Melvin G. Bailey Recreation Center at 36651 Ford Road, behind Westland City Hall. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

Rotary auction

The annual fund-raiser, "Off to the Races" for Wayne Rotary and Wayne Recreation will be held Friday, April 24, at the Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe, Wayne.

Money raised will be divided between Wayne Rotary College and/or Technical School Scholarships for

Wayne Memorial High School youth whose parents are currently unemployed; and Wayne Recreation's upgrade of the Walz Quadruplex playground.

Live and silent auctions featuring items donated by Leo's Jewelry and Gifts, as well as mock horse races will be part of the festivities. Food will be served, and there will be a cash bar.

Tickets cost \$15 and are available from Wayne Rotarians or by calling Jeff Rutter at Wayne Recreation at (734) 721-7400, Ext 1304.

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THRIFT
FROM PAGE A1

shirt as low as \$1, Haviland Limoges china for \$1.99 a piece and wedding gowns for well under \$100 — a price that "doesn't take a bite out of Dad's pocket" as he helps his daughter prepare for her big day.

"We're not out to pick anybody's pocket," Saine said. Just recently, 13-year-old Victoria White, a student at Livonia's Emerson Middle School, stopped in the Westland store for a service project through St. Theodore Catholic Church. She helped hang up clothes and organize jewelry displays.

"It's part of my confirmation credits," she said.

Right now, the Westland store has a special Easter display, and it has a year-round section dedicated to Christmas.

"We love Christmas," said Saine, who lives in Toledo, Ohio, with wife Karen and their six daughters.

People who want to donate to the organization can take items like clothing directly to the stores or arrange to have bigger merchandise, such as furniture, picked up by calling the Society's toll free number at (877) 788-4623. The Westland store can be reached at (734) 729-3088. Much more information, including how to make a monetary donation, is available online at www.svdpdet.org.

For those who merely want a good deal, the store hours are



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Michael Saine, manager of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul store in Westland, says the store offers hundreds of treasures for penny-pinching shoppers.



First-time customers Katie Houlihan of Farmington Hills (left) and her mother, Mary Lou Houlihan of Northville, take a look at the table cloths hanging at the thrift store.

9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily except for Sundays when it's noon to 5 p.m. As Saine put it, "it's treasure hunting every day."

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EDUCATION

Seniors pack 'em up for Roundup

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's become as much a rite of spring as the annual Kindergarten Roundup in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools. Twelve hundred blue backpacks in boxes and piled high on tables at the Dyer Senior Center, waiting to be filled with school supplies meant for members of the class of 2022.

"I just love doing this because it helps the little kids get ready for school," said Phyllis Williams of Livonia, who joined more than 30 seniors in forming an assembly line to ready the backpacks for the district's Kindergarten Roundup Tuesday.

"There's so many nice things for the kids, they should be excited when they get these bags."

"It's a connection between the schools and the seniors," said Sally Perkins, executive director of elementary education. "They enjoy doing it and it a time for them to socialize."

The seniors set up an assembly line, working their way along tables, stuffing them with crayons, writing sheets for numbers and the alphabet, a Mother Goose peek-a-book, ABC book and two story books — *Oh, the Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss and *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn.

The seniors are treated to a light breakfast before their put



Edith Brill, a retired Madison Elementary school teacher, works on zipping up the new backpacks for the incoming kindergartners in the Wayne-Westland school district. Beside her, Ed Turner, Barbara Martin and many other seniors at the Dyer Center pack up items for the kindergartners.

to work. Usually, the backpacks are filled and placed in bags tagged for the different schools within a few hours, but a sticky zipper slowed the process this year.

"If I was getting paid by the hour, I'd be in trouble," said

Ed Turner of Westland who worked the head table, checking the contents and zipping the backpacks close.

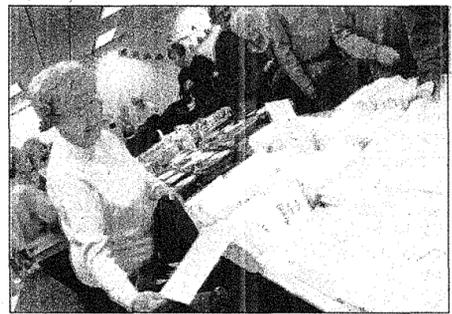
Charlotte Kirkpatrick of Westland has been helping fill backpacks since the seniors started helping five years ago.

She likes doing things for the city and the school district where her children attended the former McKee Elementary, Nankin Mills Junior High and John Glenn.

"I think this is great, when my kids started school, they didn't have this," she said. "It really gives the kids something to look forward to."

The district has been passing out the backpacks as part of the Kindergarten Roundup since 2000. According to Perkins, the district looks at current class sizes and counts from the building principals to determine how many backpacks to have ready.

"We're expecting almost 1,200 kindergartners and their parents and grandparents this year," she said. "We've had a



Charlotte Kirkpatrick of Westland fills her backpack with a Mother Goose peek-a-book and ABC book.

WELCOME TO SCHOOL

What: Wayne-Westland Community School's annual Kindergarten Roundup

When: 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, March 31. For parents who can't attend the morning program, school offices will be open 6-7 p.m. that evening for registration only. If those times don't work, parents can call the school for an appointment.

Where: At all 17 of Wayne-Westland's elementary schools

Who: Youngsters who will age 5 by Dec. 1, 2009, are eligible for kindergarten enrollment this fall. Parents must provide the child's original birth certificate with raised seal, a current immunization record and three proofs of residency, such as a current mortgage/lease agreement or tax statement, current bank statement, current utility bills or current employment record.

What: Five-year-olds won't have to wait until September to have their first school experience, they can get it at the roundup. Parents will have an opportunity to tour the school, meet the principal and kindergarten teachers, discuss the curriculum and review registration materials. Incoming kindergartners will get the opportunity to participate in an activity, visit their kindergarten classroom and receive a free school T-shirt to wear in the fall. They also will be given free backpacks, filled with school supplies, books and suggested activities to prepare youngsters for the first day of school.

What: Parents also can get information on the district's all-day kindergarten program which is offered at nine schools — John Hicks in Inkster, Wildwood, Elliott, Patchin, Jefferson-Barns, Lincoln and P.D. Graham in Westland, Walker-Winter in Canton and Roosevelt-McGrath in Wayne. There also are Champions before and after school programs available Edison, Elliott, P.D. Graham, Hamilton, Hicks, Hoover, Kettering, Madison, Patchin, Schweitzer, Stottlemeyer, Taft, Walker-Winter and Wildwood. Children from Roosevelt and Vandenberg are bused to and from Hoover for the program, while children from Lincoln are bused to and from Taft. Enrollment can be completed online at www.discoverchampions.com. For more information, call (800) 350-5034.

few years where it's gone down and a few years where it's gone up. We play it by ear, but the number has held pretty steady.

Retired Wayne-Westland teacher Edith Brill took time to walk along the tables to see what would go in the backpacks. She spent her career teaching first, second and third

grades at Madison Elementary. She still runs into former students who introduce her to their children as "the best teacher I ever had."

"I think this is great," she said. "This is something that will encourage the students."

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Retired Chief Mark Neal

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Mark graduated from Eastern Michigan University BS degree in Gen. Science and Chemistry

Former Adjunct Professor Madonna University and Jackson Comm. College

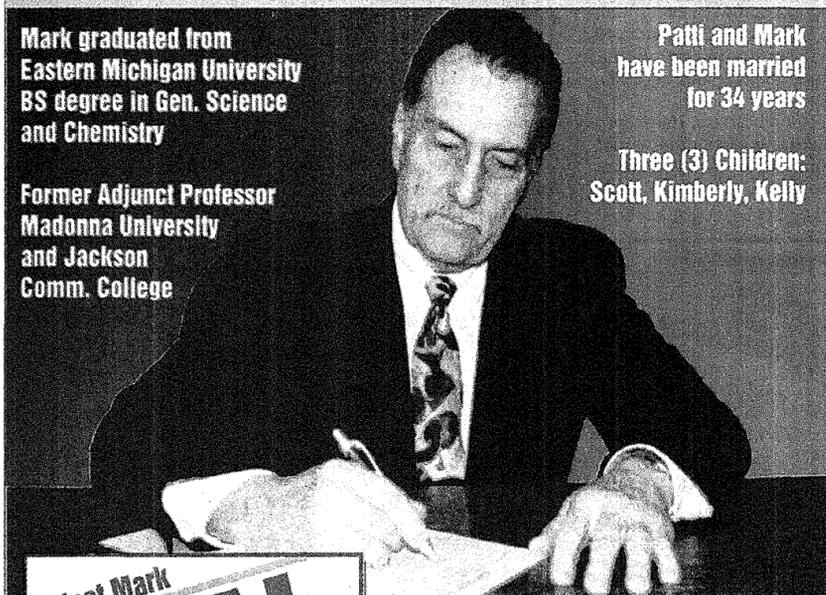
Patti and Mark have been married for 34 years

Three (3) Children: Scott, Kimberly, Kelly

Mark Neal knows the value of a good education and wants to insure that everyone has the same opportunities that he did.

Mark Neal was Union President of Firefighters local 1279 for over ten years. He progressed through the ranks to become Chief of the Fire Department. This experience has given him the insight needed to interact with the administration, unions and employees. The knowledge he gained over the years at this high level position will be invaluable in finding the best possible solutions for the complex problems plaguing the District.

Balancing a good education at a reasonable cost is not easy but can be achieved with hard work, common sense and working together.



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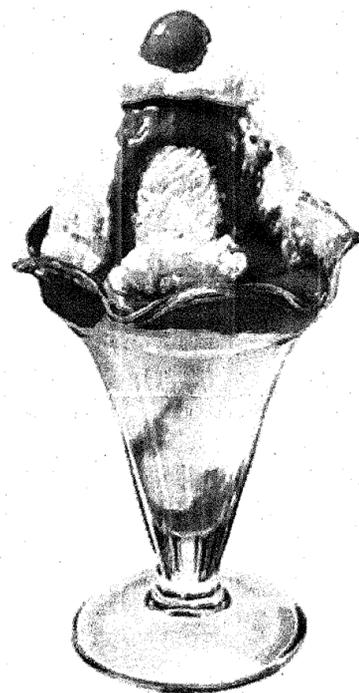
Please cast your vote for **Mark Neal** on May 5th for the Wayne-Westland School Board four year term

Mark and Patti with their seven grandchildren.

Front Row- (left to right) Xander, Alexis, Ashlyn, Dominic, Joshua
Middle Row- (left to right) Patti, Mark Back Row- (left to right) Kaylee, Zachary

Paid for by: Citizens to Elect Mark Neal - 6418 Pembroke Drive - Westland, MI 48185

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FUNDING

VOTE MAY 5TH

JOHN GOCI
FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Paid for by: Friends of John Goci
6028 Morley, Westland, MI 48185

I am a local business owner and entrepreneur, 39 years old, with a beautiful wife and four wonderful children. My eldest daughter attends Stevenson Jr. High School and her two younger sisters attend Patchin Elementary School. My son has just started preschool at Noah's Ark, in Wayne. I attended Wayne Westland schools and am a proud graduate of John Glenn High School, class of 1988. I decided to run for School Board because I am committed to seeing our children reach their full potential. When my family immigrated to the United States, I was very young and my family came here with nothing. The teachers at Patchin literally helped cloth me, educate me, empower me and make me the person I am today. I want to give back to the community that gave so much to me. I believe my personal and business experiences will bring a refreshing perspective to the School Board. I have run a startup business and raised over \$10 million in funding. I have unique insight, strong leadership skills, dedication, and the ability to solve problems effectively. I am eager to bring my skills to the School Board to improve our schools and provide the best possible environment for our children to learn and grow.

Please cast your vote for **John Goci** on May 5th for the Wayne-Westland School Board one year term

060860847

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings for the Community Calendar can be submitted by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 615 W. Lafayette - Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226, or faxed to her attention at fax at (313) 223-3318. For more information, call (313) 222-6751.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Soldier benefit
The Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund will host their fourth annual dinner May 2, at the Laurel Manor in Livonia. All proceeds go to veterans or families of fallen soldiers that are in need. The keynote speaker at the event will be Marcus Luttrell, a Navy SEAL and author of New York Times best-selling book "Lone Survivor," the harrowing story of four Navy SEALs who journeyed into the mountainous border of Afghanistan and Pakistan on Operation Redwing. A motivational story of survival, the book is also a moving tribute to the friends and teammates who did not make it off the mountain. A powerful testament to the courage, integrity, patriotism, and community that forged these American heroes, "Lone Survivor" is an incredible account of teamwork, fortitude, and modern warfare. For more information or to purchase tickets contact Ann Cornelius at (248) 346-5976 or visit www.fwsf.org

Annual Reunion
The Wayne High Alumni Association's 24th annual All Class Reunion Banquet will be 5-10 p.m. Friday, May 15, at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born, Wayne. For more information, contact Wanda Boice at (734) 326-7767 or by e-mail at waynehighalumni@aol.com.

Audition Notice
Inspire Theatre is holding auditions for the comedy "Father of the Bride" by Caroline Francke at 6:30 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, April 6-7, at the Inspire Theatre inside the Warren Road Light and Life Church, 33445 Warren Road, Westland. There are acting roles for 11 men and 7 women of all ages. For information, call (734) 751-7057 or at inspire@inspiretheatre.com. "Father of the Bride" will be presented June 5-6 and 12-13.

For union members
Skateland West is hosting a special roller skating session to support union families in southeastern Michigan 6-9 p.m. Saturday April 18. Show your union card and everyone in your party skates for \$1 each. Admission without union card is \$6. Skate rental is \$1.50, inline rental \$5. In an effort to reach out and help the struggling union families of Michigan, Skateland West is offering an evening of entertainment and family fun at a

premium discount. Any and all union cards will be accepted. All ages are welcomed and many games and activities are planned for the special session. Grab your family and friends and roll your recession worries away with Skateland West. For more information, call (734) 326-2801 or go online to www.skatelandwest.com. Skateland West is at 37550 Cherry Hill, just west of Newburgh in Westland.

Poker fund-raiser
U.S. 12 Bar and Grill, located at 34824 W. Michigan Avenue in Wayne, has a permanent poker room that runs Sunday through Wednesday every week available for local charities in the community. For more information, call John at (734) 216-1688.

Class reunion
Garden City High School Class of 1989 will hold its 20th reunion 6 p.m. to midnight Aug. 29 at Joy Manor in Westland. Tickets are \$75 now through June 1. Tickets includes, dinner, premium open bar, DJ, door prizes, picture CD and other gifts. Tickets are available for purchase at www.gardencity89.com or by contacting Paula at gchs1989reunion@hotmail.com.

Fish Fry
St. Raphael is having a Lenten fish fry is open 4:30-7 p.m. or until the fish is sold out on Fridays. Good Friday the doors open at 3 p.m. In addition to fish, shrimp and combination dinners are offered along with cheese pizza slices. Dinners include choice of potato, cole slaw, roll and butter, coffee, hot tea or milk. Carry-out orders are available. St. Raphael is located on Merriman two blocks north of Ford.

St. Dunstan's fish fry is 4-7 p.m. Fridays until Good Friday when the doors open at 3 p.m. There are shrimp and combination dinners available along with cheese pizza slices. Dinners include potato, cole slaw and roll. St. Dunstan is on Belton south of Ford, just west of Inkster Road.

St. Sebastian Catholic Church will have all-you-can-eat fish fries 4-7 p.m. Fridays during Lent, including Good Friday. Cost is \$8.50 for adults and \$4.75 for children under age 10. Dinner includes fish, potatoes, spaghetti, mac and cheese, green beans, coleslaw, roll and butter, dessert, coffee and milk. St. Sebastian Catholic Church is located at 20700 Colgate Ave., Dearborn Heights. All dinners served in the Activity Center.

The St. Robert Bellarmine Men's Club will have fish fries 4-7 p.m. or until dinners out Friday, March 27 and April 10, at the church at West Chicago and Inkster Road in Redford. Meals include fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, roll and butter, coffee, tea

or milk. Baked cod, fish sandwiches and cheese pizza also will be available. Prices are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children age 12 and under. Carry-out orders will be available.

Fish Dial-A-Ride
Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers. A nonprofit community service group, it provides door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation. Volunteers can specify days, times, and areas they're willing to drive. For additional information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

Higher Rock Cafe
The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands. Check out Higher Rock on the Web at www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660.

EDUCATION

St. Raphael
St. Raphael Catholic School, located on Merriman just north of Ford in Garden City, is now accepting open enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year for preschool through eighth-grade. Programs include 3-4-year-old preschool, technology updates and a host of extra-curricular activities. Computer labs, new classroom technology, Japanese class, and chess club are some of the school's newest additions. The school has a strong academic program and also offers religion class, weekly Mass and sacramental preparation including Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. Latchkey and bussing is available, and all faiths are welcome. For registration information or to learn more about St. Raphael Catholic School, contact the school office at (734) 425-9771 or visit the Web site at www.straphael-gc.org.

Willow Creek
Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool is currently accepting enrollment in its Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs. Willow Creek is located at 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland. For more information, call the preschool at (734) 326-0078.

St. Damian
St. Damian Catholic School at 29891

Joy, Westland, offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8. For more information or to schedule a tour, call (734) 427-1680 or check out the school's Web site at www.stdamian.com.

Academic Pathways
Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool at 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia, is currently enrolling for 2008-2009 school year. Morning sessions for the 3- and 4-year-old programs are available. Potty training is not required. There is a certified teacher. The 4-year-old program runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The 3-year-old program runs 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday mornings. For more information, call (734) 459-6689 or visit the Web site at www.academicpathwayspreschool.com.

YWCA preschool
The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department offers quality preschool programs to children aged 2+ to 5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available. For more information on these programs, or to enroll your child, call the YWCA's Education Department at (313) 561-4110, Ext. 10.

VOLUNTEERS

Karmanos Institute
The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute needs volunteers to transport cancer patients to mammogram and doctor appointments in metropolitan Detroit. Drivers are needed for Macomb and Oakland counties, Dearborn and Detroit. Volunteers must be at least 18. Mileage reimbursement is provided. Call (800) KARMANOS to volunteer.

First Step
First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program. Call (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223.

Drivers
Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. The meetings take place 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center, Farmington Road south of Five Mile. Drivers may be offered a stipend. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others may attend the meetings. Call (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208.

Dryer cited as cause of house fire

A dryer is being blamed for a fire that caused smoke damage to a home on Golfview Thursday morning.

Firefighters were called at 9:38 a.m. to the home at 6521 Golfview about a fire in the basement. The fire was put out with a portable extinguisher, and firefighters moved the appliance outside.

The homeowner told police that the dryer was being used and he noticed sparks coming

from a nearby 220 electrical circuit that was not in use. The resident had attempted to put out the fire himself and unsuccessfully tried to shut off the electricity to the sparking outlet.

Firefighters noted the interior of the dryer drum had been burned, and there was a burn spot in carpeting that had been beneath the dryer. Minor smoke damage was reported in the house.

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY BIENNIAL ELECTION CITY OF GARDEN CITY, COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN TO BE HELD TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SAID DISTRICT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the biennial election for the School District of the City of Garden City, will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009.

The last day for receiving registrations for the election will be Monday, April 6, 2009. Persons registering after 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2009, will not be eligible to vote at the May 5, 2009 election.

Under the provisions of Act 451, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976 as amended, registrations will not be taken by school officials and only persons who have registered as general electors with the appropriate Clerk of the City or Township in which they reside, or through registration at a Secretary of State driver's license bureau, are registered school electors.

At the biennial election of the Garden City School District there will be elected four (4) Members of the Board of Education for a four-year term each, ending June 30, 2013, and one (1) Member of the Board of Education for a two-year, partial term, ending June 30, 2011. The candidates for said offices to the Board of Education are as follows:

FOUR (4) FOUR-YEAR TERMS
(four shall be elected)

Michael Daniel Bachko
Laura Ewing
Patrick J. McNally
Julie Smith
Lorraine Stover
John L. Thackaberry

ONE (1) TWO-YEAR PARTIAL TERM
(one shall be elected)

No Declared Candidates

This notice is given by order of the Garden City Clerk Allyson Bettis.

Published: March 29, 2009 OE0809300 - 2/7

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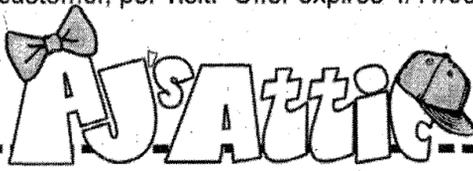


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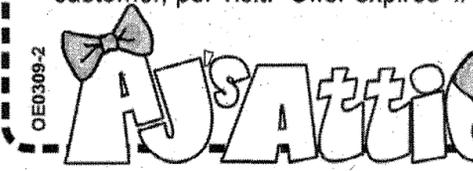
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Tax pros: stimulus plan has something for everyone

BY KURT KUBAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With less than a month to go before the April 15 tax filing deadline, local tax specialists say people should be aware of some provisions in the recently passed \$790 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that could lead to more money in their pockets.

According to Esther Strohmer, office coordinator for the H&R Block office at 46022 Michigan Avenue in Canton, the stimulus pack-

age has a little something for everyone — from first-time homebuyers and the unemployed to families and senior citizens.

Some of the benefits won't be realized until people file their 2009 tax returns, but Strohmer said people should be aware of what is out there, because there is a lot. In fact, she said they learn more ways to take advantage of the stimulus package every day.

"Our motto around here is stay tuned. What we say today might be totally different as

people take a closer look at this thing. It is complicated, but there is definitely a lot for people. And they need to be aware of it," Strohmer said.

For example, there is an \$8,000 first-time homebuyer tax credit that taxpayers can file for on their 2008 or 2009 tax returns. Then there is the tax credit that will cover the cost of the sales tax for people purchasing a new vehicle in 2009 (though they won't be able to file for that until next year).

Families can benefit in several ways. The earned income credit will provide families with three or more children additional tax relief. And there is also wider eligibility for the child tax credit that will help lower-income families.

Joan Eldridge, H&R Block's district manager for Canton, Westland, Wayne and Garden City, said people on Social Security will also receive a one-time \$250 check sometime between June and August.

"If someone collects Social Security, they will receive this check," said Eldridge, who works at the H&R Block office in the Westland Shopping Center. "However they currently receive their check, they will receive this check."

There are also several advantages for people hit hard by the economy, including those collecting unemployment compensation, who will receive an additional \$25 a week and get extended benefits. The new plan also calls for the first \$2,400 of unemployment not to be taxed.

For those who have lost jobs, there is also a federal subsidy available that will cover 65 percent of COBRA health insurance benefits for nine months.

These are just some of the programs H&R Block officials are touting. Eldridge, a Westland resident, says there will almost certainly be more.

"There's probably going to be more that trickles down to us," she said. "The bottom line is people need to ask whoever is preparing their tax returns questions. We have a lot of people coming in asking what the stimulus means to them. We like questions."



Wish You Were Here

Jeanine Girard and daughter Kaylin of Garden City chose Niagra Falls as the backdrop for their Wish You Were Here snapshot. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Westland Police Department will conduct an online public auction of miscellaneous seized and forfeited items. The auction will begin on Thursday, March 26th, 2009 and end Sunday April 5th, 2009. Interested persons should:

1. visit www.aitecanton.com
2. click on the "Auctions" tab
3. in the right column, click on the "Click here for live auctions!"

The following items can then be viewed and are offered for sale to the highest bidder:

2001 Harley Davidson motorcycle vin:1HD1CGP141K152158

All items are sold in "as is" condition. Items may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Publish: Sunday, March 29, 2009

OE0862055 - 2x5

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION FOR THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 5, 2009 FOR LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS CITIES OF LIVONIA & WESTLAND, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Please take notice that the Regular School Election of Livonia Public Schools School District will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009.

THE LAST DAY ON WHICH PERSONS MAY REGISTER IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION CALLED TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009, IS MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009. PERSONS REGISTERING AFTER 5 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING ON MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009, ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE REGULAR SCHOOL ELECTION.

To register, visit any Secretary of State branch office or your county, city, or township clerk's office. Persons planning to register with the respective county, city, or township clerks must ascertain the days and hours on which the clerks' offices are open for registration.

Candidates for the following offices will be voted upon:

Livonia Public Schools - School Board
2 - Four (4) year terms

This notice is given on behalf of the Board of Education of the Livonia Public School District, Wayne County, Michigan.

LINDA GRIMSBY
Livonia City Clerk

EILEEN DeHART
Westland City Clerk

Publish: March 29, 2009

OE0860143 - 2x5

Rescuing animals

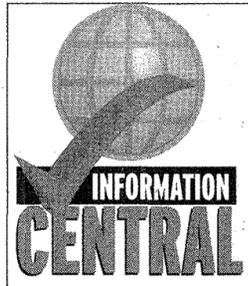
What if you were driving down the freeway one day and saw a dog running around on the shoulder? Would you stop or keep driving? What about if you saw an injured animal in your yard?

Before you answer, think about how terrifying it must be for the animal standing there with cars rushing by, not knowing how to get to safety. What if your pet got loose and found itself on a busy roadway? Wouldn't you want someone to help?

Luckily, getting involved isn't as hard as it may sound. By keeping some simple supplies in your car and at home, you can be an animal hero in no time. The Humane Society of the United States recommends keeping these items on hand in case of an emergency: Phone numbers of local animal control, a nearby shelter and an emergency veterinary clinic, cat carrier or cardboard box, collars and leashes for dogs, a heavy blanket, water bowls and water, strong-smelling foods, such as canned tuna, and an animal first-aid kit.

The most important thing is to consider your safety and the safety of the animal. Do not approach an animal that seems threatening.

Instead, call for help. Move slowly and speak calmly to avoid scaring the animal; you don't want to chase it into traffic or cause it to bite. Try to lure the animal to safety using food. If you can leash the animal, get it into a box or carrier, or even lure it into your car, do so. If you feel comfortable transporting the animal, take it to a vet or animal shelter.



And the library's Teen Advisory Board would love it if you would donate to their drive to help out the Michigan Humane Society's Westland shelter, running now through April 13. For more information, call the library at (734) 326-6123.

Highlighted Activities

Anne Feeney in Concert: 7 p.m. March 30

Join us for a free concert by songwriter and folk singer Anne Feeney. She will be performing songs of the American Labor movement and about Ireland. This is an all age's program. Call the library for more information at (734) 326-6123. No registration is required.

Finding Your Voice in Radio: 7 p.m. March 31. Ages 12 and up.

As part of our Everyone's Reading programming, join WEMU musical director and morning show host for 89.1 FM Jazz, Linda Yohn, who will speak about the experience of finding her rhythm and style as one of the area's first female jazz hosts. Visit her station at the far left end of your dial or online at www.wemu.org. Also, learn more about her at www.wemu.org/hosts.php?id=19.

Local Author Panel Discussion: 2 p.m. April 4

As part of our Everyone's Reading programming, help celebrate local authors and their books with an author reading and discussion, followed by a book signing. Hear about their various interests, how they published their books and how they found their authorial voices.

Drop-in Knitting Nights @ the library: Every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

If you really feel unable to stop and help, at least call to report the situation to someone who can help. The following numbers are from the Michigan Humane Society although you should be able to contact animal control by dialing the number for the local police: Westland - (734) 721-4195, Detroit - (313) 872-3400, Rochester Hills - (248) 852-7420, MHS emergency rescue - (313) 872-0026.

What if it is a wild animal in trouble? Just visit the Michigan Licensed Rehabilitators list at the Department of Natural resources Web site at www.michigandnr.com/dir/ to get a list of people in your area who can help.

If you would like to read some books on this topic, the William P. Faust Public Library has titles, such as "Choosing and Caring for a Shelter Dog," "Saved: Rescued Animals and the Lives they Transform" and "Canine Capers: Real Life Tales of a Female Pet Vigilante."

For more information on the Web, try www.pets911.org or www.michiganhumane.org.

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Police seek help finding suspected arsonist

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An arsonist accused of setting fire to a deck at Hunters Pointe condominiums in Westland is being sought by Westland police and fire officials.

A man who lives in the complex, located at Hunter and Yale, called for help when he heard a noise on his deck, looked outside and noticed the fire shortly before 5:30 a.m. Thursday, police Lt. Dan Karrick said.

It appeared that an accelerant had been poured on the deck, but Karrick said firefighters arrived and doused the fire before it could spread.

"There are a lot of people who live in that area," Karrick said.

Witnesses reported seeing a possible suspect fleeing the neighborhood, which is a few blocks south of Westland Shopping Center.

"We think it's a white male" who had what was described as having "long, oily hair" and who was wearing dark clothing and a hooded sweat shirt, Karrick said.

The suspect also is believed to have escaped in a silver Pontiac Grand Am.

Police are continuing to investigate the incident. Anyone who has information is urged to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600. Anonymous tips for a possible cash reward also may be made by calling Crime Stoppers of Michigan at (800) SPEAK UP.

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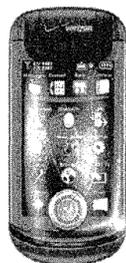
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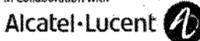
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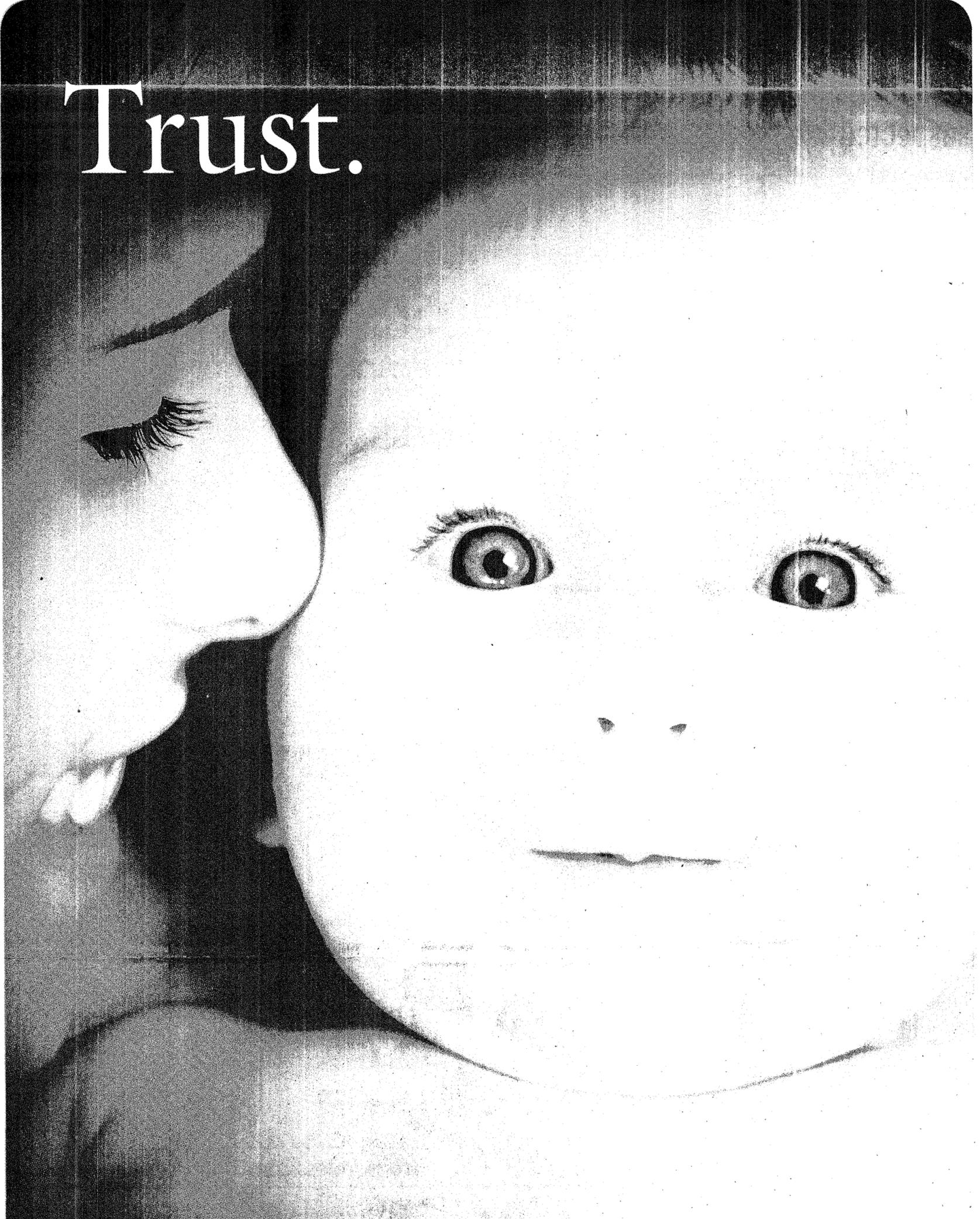
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Warriors retool lineup after '08 trip to finals



Sam Ahlersmeyer (left) is the top returnee for the Division 4 state runner-up Lutheran High Westland baseball team.

Area prep baseball preview

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kevin Wade is a realist. The Lutheran Westland fifth-year baseball coach knows duplicating last year's 2008 season will be difficult.

Last year, the Warriors finished 25-8 overall and went all the way to the Division 4 state championship game in Battle Creek, only to lose to Bay City All Saints, 2-1.

"Last year was special," Wade said. "You not only have to be good, but you also have to get breaks along the way - which we did. That doesn't mean we aren't looking for another deep, magical postseason run, but what it means is that we have to make this year special for its own reasons and determine our success based on whether or not we achieved the goals we have set before us."

Wade lost his top two pitchers to graduation, right-hander Ryan Baglow and lefty Derek Fleetham, along with standout catcher Dan Abbott.

Wade, however, has a stand-out third baseman in senior Sam Ahlersmeyer, who batted .469 with 47 RBI. He will also share the mound duties with returnees Austin Baglow, Micah Hausch, Gage Flanery and Ryan Rakovalis.

The Warriors will be among the favorites in the Metro Conference, which also includes Livonia Clarenceville (2-24).

The Trojans lost Tyler Hendrickson to a transfer, but return second-team All-Metro Conference infielder Jimmy Moody.

"Our main goal is to make this season a special one and not measure our success based upon what we did last year," Clarenceville second-year coach Dan Miller said. "If we can play consistently on defense, get solid pitching from our veterans and be smart offensively, we could have another very successful year."

The new Kensington Lakes Activities Association offers

Please see **BASEBALL, B5**

GAME WRAPS

KLAA baseball

STEVENSON 5-1, JOHN GLENN 1-2: In a KLAA Kensington Conference crossover Friday, host Livonia Stevenson (1-1, 1-0) and Westland John Glenn (1-1, 0-1) split a double-header.

In the opener, winning pitcher Jeff Sorenson helped his own cause going 3-for-4, including a double and two RBI. He went all seven innings, striking out 14 while allowing just three hits and four walks.

Jake Wilson belted a 2-run homer, while Mike Tuttle added an RBI for the Spartans.

Jake Sperry, the Glenn starter, took the loss. He gave up four runs in 4.2 innings while walking five and allowing seven hits.

Nate Bovia had Glenn's lone RBI.

The Rockets edged Stevenson in the nightcap, 2-1, in a five-inning game called because of darkness.

Steve Hickson pitched two innings of scoreless relief to earn the victory. Andrew DeLuca started, allowing one run on one hit and three walks.

Sorenson doubled in the loss, while Hickson scored the game-winning run.

CHURCHILL 14-5, S.L. EAST 5-5: Winning pitcher Jimmy Tyler went 3-for-5 with three RBI and two runs scored Friday as Livonia Churchill (1-0-1, 1-0) downed South Lyon East (0-1-1, 0-1) in Game One of the Kensington Conference crossover.

Tyler gave up three earned runs in seven innings. He walked three, struck out seven and allowed only two hits.

Ricky Scully went 2-for-2 with two RBI and three runs scored for the Chargers in the 14-5 win.

In the nightcap, play was halted after five innings (darkness) with the teams deadlocked at 5-all.

Churchill led 4-2 until the top of the fifth when South Lyon East scored three times to take the lead. The Chargers got a run back in the bottom of the fifth.

Troy Bogenschutz went all five innings, allowing just two hits and one walk while fanning 10.

FRANKLIN 6-1, SOUTH LYON 1-6: Senior pitcher Mark McRobb pitched a two-hitter, striking out 13 and walking only three in going all seven innings as Livonia Franklin (1-1, 1-0) took the Kensington Conference opener.

Tyler Barnes went 2-for-4 with two RBI in the Patriots' 6-1 win.

South Lyon won the nightcap, 6-1, as Franklin starter Dan Muller, who worked the first 3.1 innings, took the loss. He walked six and allowed four runs on five hits.

Ethan Tauriainen clubbed a 3-run homer for the Lions.

South Lyon starter Ryan Finneran limited the Patriots to three hits in the five-inning game called because of darkness.

Girls soccer

LADYWOOD 2, THURSTON 0: Alessia Vagnini scored a pair of first-half goals Wednesday as Livonia Ladywood (2-0) downed host Redford Thurston (0-1) in a non-league encounter.

Lindsay Maier assisted on the game-winner in the 21st minute, while Mary Vance set-up Vagnini's second goal four minutes later.

Ladywood goalkeeper Michele Ring made three saves to post her first shut-out of the season.

Lindsey Scupholm had 11 saves for the Eagles. "We were playing without two starters, Caitlin Szczypka (pulled quad muscle) and Alexa Hyman (sick)," Ladywood coach Ken Shingledecker said. "I thought our bench stepped up and played extremely well in their absence."

Patriot girls looking to make softball run

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A 2-1 predistrict loss last May to eventual Division 1 state champion Garden City must still linger in the minds of the Livonia Franklin girls softball team.

The Patriots, 23-10 a year ago, will rely on many of the same athletes who took the girls basketball team all the way to the state Class A final last Saturday before losing to Benton Harbor at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center.

As they were in basketball, the Taylor twins, Brittany and Briauna, will be the catalysts once again for coach Linda Jimenez's softball squad.

Brittany, a catcher, hit .526 a year ago with six homers, while Briauna, a shortstop, batted .518 with a .763 slugging percentage.

Two other basketball starters, junior third baseman Nicole Emery (.408) and sophomore second baseman Chelsea Williams, give the Patriots a solid infield.

Senior pitcher Natalie Sanborn, who went 20-6 with a 1.82 earned run average, also returns. She is committed to play next year at Madonna University.

"We have a great group of seniors who will lead by example," said Jimenez, now in her 14th season. "Our infield remains intact with the exception of first base. Offensively, we are much improved. We can play the short game - running, bunting and slapping - but also hit for power."

The Patriots will get plenty of competition from Canton and Plymouth in the KLAA's South Division.

Two area teams hoping to move up the ladder are Livonia



Brittany Taylor



Briauna Taylor

Churchill (12-21), Wayne Memorial (7-22) and Westland John Glenn (2-23).

Churchill returns sophomore pitcher Natalie Hiser, but lost senior second baseman Paula Guzik when the All-State gymnast required knee surgery over the winter.

Wayne, meanwhile, will be under the direction of new coach

Crystal Little, who replaces Wayne Woodard on the bench.

The Zebras return pitcher Taylor Krohn and senior infielder Bianca Hayes.

Glenn will bank on two returnees, senior first baseman Stacey Truskowski (.333) and senior outfielder Amanda Murakami, both serving as captains.

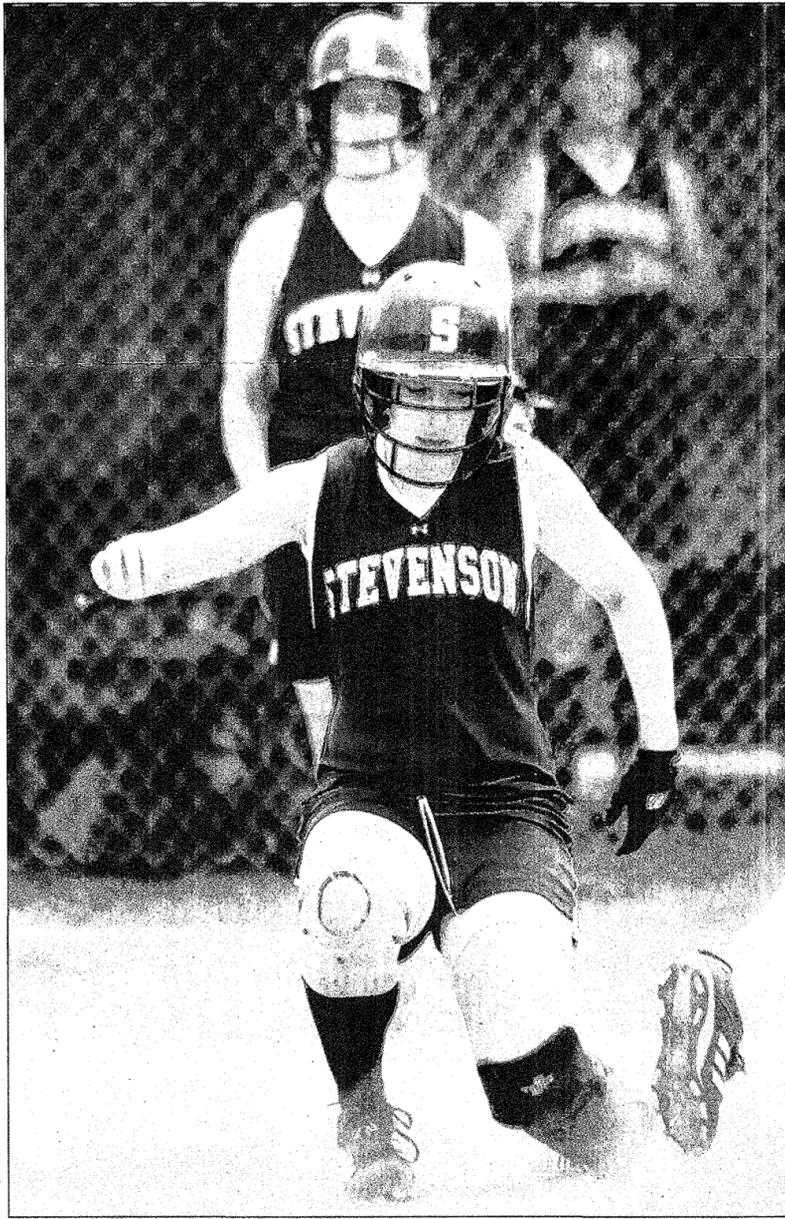
In the KLAA Central, Northville could be challenged by Livonia Stevenson (16-10).

"The KLAA is going very exciting, and challenging, league to compete in this year," Stevenson coach Rob Witherspoon said. "I am very confident in our team's ability to make routine defensive plays and challenge opposing hitters during each at-bat."

"The skill level and knowledge of the game, on the defensive side of the ball, is a strength that we are going to have to hang our hat on if we are going to have any success this year."

The Spartans return

Please see **SOFTBALL, B5**



Stevenson's Kathleen Hoehn helps anchor the Spartans' infield.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Spartans pull away in 2nd half for 5-0 win vs. Pats

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was the tale of two halves Thursday as host Livonia Stevenson pulled away with four second-half goals en route to a 5-0 girls soccer win over Livonia Franklin.

Stevenson is 1-1 overall, while Franklin falls to 0-2.

Stevenson led only 1-0 at halftime on Kayla Kimble's goal from Sami Gutkowski.

"The Franklin girls always seem to be pumped to play us, and Jen (Barker) does a nice job organizing them, particularly defensively," Stevenson coach Chris Pinta said. "We played in

Franklin's end most of the game, but it took the girls a half to figure out how to break their back line. At halftime we used Kayla's goal as an example of what we needed to do offensively in order to get behind."

Stevenson controlled the ball in Franklin's end and began creating opportunities to start the second half. With about 26 minutes remaining, Kimble hit a free kick into the box that Alex Harbowy found with her head, burying into Franklin's net, pushing the lead to 2-0.

About a minute later, Molly McConnell split a couple of Franklin players and slotted the ball past their defense towards

GIRLS SOCCER

Franklin's keeper Lexi Smith.

Looking as though it was going to roll right into her hands, Renee Boudreau came flying through the box from the weak side to touch the ball away from Smith and bury the ball into the open net for the third goal.

With 18 minutes remaining, Krysta Kane scored from Joelle Williams and Molly McConnell added the fifth goal on a nice individual effort.

"We were really able to create a lot of opportunities in the second half, and once we got

that second goal I thought we were all over their back line," Pinta said. "I'll give their keeper (Smith) some credit though, she didn't let us score easily. Anything within her range for the most part was saved, she was tough."

Stevenson goalkeepers Tara Johnston and Michelle Krawczyk split time for the shut-out. Neither faced a shot on goal.

"We held them scoreless for the first 30 minutes and held them to one for another 20," Franklin coach Jen Barker said. "After that, they were able to take advantage of our disorganization. We were doing well and working hard to compensate

early but they have smart players that were able to read through us and find ways to finish."

Barker singled out the play of her back line led Courtney Smith, Erin Roulier and Renee Berger, along with Smith.

"She (Smith) did a great job in the goal of keeping us in the game as well," Barker said of her keeper. "We're still working on organizing early and staying organized - it's early but we're learning from our mistakes. The kids are taking each game and improving on it and finding ways to make the next one better."

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Wayne golfer commits

All-Observer golfer Berlynn Beaver of Wayne Memorial, a state qualifier last fall, will sign an NAIA letter-of-intent Thursday with Concordia University.

Beaver placed seventh in the regional with a 92 and made All-Kensington Conference with an 86.

MU's Coker All-Academic

Madonna University senior forward Drew Coker (Whitmore Lake), a dietetics major, is making his second appearance on the 2008-09 NAIA Division I & Division II Men's Basketball Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete list.

Coker is two-time All-Academic selection in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and is a two-time selection to the WHAC's Champions of Character team as the student-athlete who best exemplifies the NAIA's five core values.

In order to be a recipient of the Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete award, the student-athlete must fulfill these requirements: the recipient must be a junior or above in academic standing; has been in attendance at the nominating institution a minimum of one full year and have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of nomination at the nominating institution.

Hulett named coach

Erin Hulett, Canton resident has been named varsity head coach of the Brimley High School girls softball team.

Brimley is near Sault Ste. Marie in the Upper Peninsula.

Hulett graduated from Livonia Ladywood High in 2004. She was the Blazers MVP for softball in 2004. She then played softball four years for Lake Superior State University.

Hulett will graduate in May with a degree in Exercise Science.

Baseball-softball signup

Registration for the 2009 Livonia Baseball and Softball Association (LBSA) will be from 10 a.m. until noon, Saturday, March 28 and Saturday, April 4, at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Divisions offered include High School (15- and 16-year-olds) and High School/Collegiate (ages 17-19).

Within each division two levels of competitive play will be formed including highly competitive select teams for those players currently playing for their respective high school or collegiate baseball teams, and non-select teams for youths currently not playing for their respective high school or college baseball team.

Rosters are limited so please register early.

Coaches are also needed for both divisions, so consider applying. Registration forms will be available at signup or online at www.livoniabsa.com (under forms section).

For more information, call George Coram at (248) 478-5071; or

Curt Kreutzfeld at (734) 522-5413.

AAU spikers wanted

The Crusader Juniors Volleyball Club, run out of Madonna University, is seeking a few more players to help round out their 16-and-under teams.

Those interested should e-mail Brian McClain at bgmcc1@aol.com; or call the MU volleyball office at (734) 432-5612.

Girls fastpitch softball

The Livonia Wild is seeking fastpitch 16- and 18-and-under competitive girls softball players for the upcoming season.

For more information, e-mail info@ljal.com; or call Paul Seewald at (734) 462-9378.

Need cheer coaches

Livonia Stevenson has openings for a varsity cheerleading coach and JV cheerleading coach.

For more information, call Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman at (734) 744-2894.

Steelheaders meeting

Captain John Geer of Bulldog Charters will be the featured speaker 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 7 for the Metro West Steelheaders meeting at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington Road

between Farmington and Five Mile roads.

Geer will provide up to date fishing information so you can get out in Lake Erie and catch your limits of walleye and perch.

The Steelheaders have also scheduled a swap meet so members and non-members can buy or sell any surplus fishing items. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call Bill King at (734) 420-4481.

WYAA baseball-softball

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association baseball and softball will continue from 7-9 p.m.

Wednesdays, and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays, through April 4, at the Lange Compound Building, located at 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

Baseball registrations will be offered for T-ball (ages 5-6), Coach-Pitch (7-8), Mustang (9-10), Bronco (11-12), Pony (13-14), Colt (15-16) and Palomino (17-18). The WYAA is chartered through Pony Baseball.

Registration for girls includes slow-pitch (ages 9-18) and fast-pitch (10- through 16-and-under).

The WYAA includes a fundraiser to offset the cost of the program. Participants will also be given one raffle ticket for every \$5 of paid registration

fees. Extra tickets can be used to enter the WYAA draw, or sold to recover the cost of registration.

For more information, call (734) 421-0640; or visit www.wyaa.org.

Girls fast-pitch softball

The Livonia Storm is seeking to add 10-and-under teams girls fast-pitch softball teams - must be ages 8-10 as of Dec. 31, 2008.

For more information regarding a special tryout and learn from experienced coaches, call Ken Jewell at (734) 266-9109.

Girls slow-pitch softball

Late registration for residents and non-residents for Livonia Parks and Recreation girls 10- and 13-and-under slow-pitch softball will be from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (residents) and 10:30 a.m.-noon (non-residents) beginning Saturday, April 4 (through April 21 on a first-come, first-serve basis; or until enrollment or teams are filled) - at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Fees are \$40 per child (resident open registration); \$50 (resident late registration); and \$60 (non-resident late registration). Cost includes hat and T-shirt.

Age requirements include: 10-and-under (cannot be 11 before Dec. 1, 2009); 13-and-under (cannot be 14 before Dec. 1, 2009).

Team assignments will be on May 1. The program includes eight scrimmages during the months of May, June and July. For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Football combine

The Nike Combine Training for high school football players to prepare for the 2009 season and preparation for SPARQ and NATS testing protocols is heading to Auburn Hills.

Players will be taught drills and techniques used to prepare college seniors for the NFL Combine. This training session will be on Sundays beginning April 19 at the Auburn Hills Sports Dome.

To register go to www.coach-jacksonspeed.com. For more information, call coach Jaime Jackson at (248) 535-7404.

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GIRLS SOFTBALL CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Lou Kuratko, second year.
Last year's overall record: 12-21.
League Affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).
Notable losses to graduation: Jordan Kerr.

Leading returnees: Katie Stodulski, Sr. Inf.; Rachel Ebery, Sr. OF; Taylor Kerr, Jr. OF; Katina St. Pierre, Jr. Inf.; Natalie Hiser, Soph.; Mackenzie Everson, Soph. C.
Promising newcomers: Abigail Jewell, Fr. P-Inf.; Melissa Sidor, Fr. P-Inf.
Kuratko's 2009 outlook: "Even with the graduation of only one senior, our team will be younger with the possibility of starting four freshmen and two sophomores. We also lost Paula Guzik, a senior All-Division and second-team All-Area player who is out for the season recovering from knee surgery. The girls are excited about the season and like everyone else we are optimistic about the season."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Linda Jimenez, 14th year.
Last year's overall record: 23-10.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (South Division).

Notable losses to graduation: Brittany Taylor, Sr. C (first-team All-Area; 526; Six HRs; 851 slugging; 30 SB); Brianna Taylor, Sr. SS (first-team All-Area; 518; 763 slugging; 21 SB; 3 HRs); Natalie Sanborn, Sr. P (second-team All-Area; 20-6, 1.82 ERA); Natalie Polakowski, Sr. OF; Alecia Geraghty, Jr. OF; Nicole Emery, Jr. 3B (408); Chelsea Williams, Soph. 2B; Jessica Emery, Soph. 3B; Keely Wilson, Jr. OF.
Promising newcomers: Amanda Nixon, Jr. C; Audrey Geraghty, Soph. C; Mariah Barcus, Soph. 1B; Katie Neu, Soph. 1B; Tiffany Lambie, Fr. P; Nicole Williamson, Fr. OF.
Jimenez's 2009 outlook: "We have a great group of seniors who will lead by example. Our infield remains intact with the exception of first base. Offensively, we are much improved. We can play the short game, running, bunting and slapping but also hit for power. Overall, it will be a fun season."

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Rob Witherspoon, seventh year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (Central Division).
Last year's overall record: 16-10.
Titles won last year: Public Schools of Livonia Invitational champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Jamie Johnson (second-team All-Area), Lauren Breuck, Kristina Kropf.
Leading returnees: Laura Deacon, Sr. P (7-1, 2.64 ERA; 348; 474 slugging); Kathleen Hoehn, Sr. 2B (second-team All-Area; 321); Amanda Paison, Sr. SS (274); Kristina Vlacavek, Sr. 3B (315); Emily Hollandsworth, Jr. OF-P (302); Shelby Wilson, Jr. OF-C; Nina Bonanno, Jr. 1B-OF; Sarah Smith, Soph. OF-utility; Becca Zaras, Soph. OF-utility; Katie Bone, Soph. Inf.-utility.
Promising newcomers: Anna Plumley, Jr. OF; Amanda Shaltis, Jr. OF-1B; Shannon Serylo, Soph. P-utility; Jacqueline Johnson, Fr. P-1B.
Witherspoon's 2009 outlook: "The key to this season, offensively, is to transfer the success we have had in practice, and in drills, into success

against some very talented pitchers that we will face this year. This year's softball team will compete with even more heart and dedication as the players work together and challenge each other throughout the year. We are hoping that our hard work and dedication will allow us to get better each day and compete in the KLAAs this year."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head Coach: Julie Rogers, third year.
Last year's overall record: 2-23.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (South Division).

Leading Returnees: Stacey Truskowski, Sr. 1B (captain; 333); Amanda Murakami, Sr. OF (captain).
Promising Newcomers: Sam Fox, Fr. C; Brooklyn Holbrook, Fr. SS; Brandi Holbrook, Soph. P; Allie Murphy, Soph. P.
Rogers' 2009 outlook: "This season holds great promise. With the start of the third year of our program we see considerable growth, not only as individuals but as a team. We have added and developed position players to anchor our defense. This will strengthen our communication and cohesiveness as a team hopefully supporting our offense in the process. While we are a young team our experienced players and new talent will be the keys to our success."

WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head Coach: Crystal Little, first year.
Last year's overall record: 7-22.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (South Division).

Notable losses to graduation: none.
Leading Returnees: Bianca Hayes, Sr. Inf.; Megan Callahan, Sr. Inf.; Taylor Krohn, Sr. P; Kathy Harris, Sr. Inf.-OF; Ashley Ringel, Sr. OF-Inf.
Promising Newcomers: Halee Lankton, Jr.; Ashley Odum, Sr.; Amanda Vergona, Jr.
Little's 2009 outlook: "We have a great group of hard working girls and with their continued dedication we hope to be one of the top teams in our division."

LIVONIA LADYWOOD
Head coach: Scott Combs, second year.
Last year's overall record: 20-16.
League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).

Titles won last year: Fred Pieper Tournament co-champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Alyssa Abramowski (first-team All-Area), Kyla Suchy (second-team All-Area); Jess Payne.
Leading returnees: Sarah Stempin, Sr. OF; Gina Sykes, Jr. SS (All-District); Alyssa Gietl, Jr. P-1B (All-League/All-Division); Jennifer Kelley, Jr. 2B.
Promising newcomers: Briana Combs, Fr. P; Cara Miller, Fr. Inf.; Carli SanMillan, Fr. OF; Nicki Payne, Fr. OF; Alyssa Kashat, Fr. C.
Combs' 2009 outlook: "We have a very good mix of experienced juniors and seniors, and also a very talented group of freshmen. If the players continue to buy into the system, we believe we can be a successful team. We were happy to bounce back last year and win 21 games and hope to move that number significantly higher."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Head coach: Joe DeCaire, 11th year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's overall record: 10-18.
Notable losses to graduation: Samantha Sillanpaa, Chelsea Lawler, Sarah Beattie, Danielle Maples, Karinda Cummins, Elizabeth Sinclair.

Leading returnees: Brittney Brooks, Sr. 1B (second-team All-Metro); Charmaine McQueen, Sr. UT (second-team All-Metro); Kellie Ankiel, Soph. IF; Lisa Wilson, Sr. SS; Val Sochacki, Jr. P (first-team All-Metro); Miranda Cummings, Sr. OF; Megan McLaughlin, Jr. OF; Chelsea Gehan, Jr. P; Reba Bibik, Soph. OF; Stephanie Bishop, Soph. UT; Brittany Tallman, Soph. IF; Izzy Sidon, Soph. UT.
Promising newcomers: Joanna Burling, Soph. C; Angela McAlpine, Fr. IF; Lauren Katz, Fr. OF; Rachel Grefke, Fr. OF; Samantha Riley, Fr. IF; Shannon Reynolds, Fr. OF; Courtney Brooks, Fr. OF; Anjalika Lobo, Sr. IF; Rochelle Haddad, Jr. IF; Jessica Farner, Soph. OF.
DeCaire's 2009 outlook: "We are returning eight of our nine starters from last year's team. As a coach, I am very enthusiastic about this part of our team. All the returning players know how to play the game at a varsity, competitive level. Other than our pitching and our defense being a strength, we have to depend on our youth to step up."

LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND
Head coach: Paul Guse, sixth year.
Last year's overall record: 8-15.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Notable losses to graduation: Amanda DeVries; Stephanie Christenson, Chelsea Plunkett, Kara Jackson, Megan Bollinger.
Leading returnees: Emily Whitaker, Sr. P-3B; Cathy Haller, Sr. Inf.; Carla Kryzyske, Sr. Inf.-OF; Mary Krutzcamp, Jr. Inf.-C; Allison Guse, Jr. Inf.; Emily Wilson, Jr. C-OF; Hannah Genig, Soph. 1B; Heather Pierpoint, Soph. OF; Alyssa Shirkey, Soph. Inf.; Christine Capshaw, Soph. OF.
Promising newcomers: Crystal Deel, Jr. OF; Cassie Reis, Fr. OF; Erica Killian, Fr. OF; Hannah Conley, Jr. 2B; Marissa Hahn, Fr. 3B; Lindsey Smith, Fr. OF.
Guse's 2009 outlook: "The bad news is that with no JV program and no returning sophomores we will be very young. The good news is, this is the best crop of freshman that I've ever had. It's a good thing, because three of them are starting for us. We will go as far as our pitching and defense will take us. Emily Whitaker and Allison Guse will carry the bulk of the pitching load. We are sound up the middle, but a lack of depth and experience will hurt us."

WESTLAND HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN
Head coach: Eric Ruth, 12th year.
Last year's overall record: 7-14.
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Association (Red Division).
Titles won last year: Division 4 District champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Emily Helwig (second-team All-Area), Sarah Schaffer, Nicole Smith, Brandy Nocella, Catherine St. John, Lauren Adlot.
Leading returnees: Anna Schaffer, Jr. C; Kelly Kubinski, Jr. SS; Claire Wood, Jr. 3B; Crystina Gutierrez, Sr. P; Kayla Stockdale, Sr. 2B.
Promising newcomers: Meghan Kubinski, Fr.; Cassidy Porter, Fr.; Katie Nell, Soph.; Devon Linderman, Jr.
Ruth's 2009 outlook: "I hope to finish .500 this year. We lost a core of seniors, but still have some talented hitters. If we continue to work hard in practice, we have a great deal of potential."

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BELIEVE...

Doesn't that word open up a world of infinite possibilities? We are taught to BELIEVE even before we are really aware of the meaning of the word. We BELIEVE in Santa Claus, The Easter Bunny, and don't forget The Tooth Fairy. Our parents, who watch over us, tell us we can become anything we want to be as long as we BELIEVE in ourselves and are willing to work hard enough to attain our goals.

Then it's on to school where our teachers give us the tools we need to become what we have dreamt of. All the time reinforcing our belief that "We are all created equal." Not all of us reach our intended goal. Some of us drop out of school for various reasons; the promise of a good job or we fall in love and start a family... but we still keep believing in "The American Dream."

I have lived through five wars. In 1945, I believed my father would come home safe from World War II and he did. My husband Tom was a Korean War Veteran. My children were too young for the Vietnam War and too old for Desert Storm. In Iraq, men and women, through no fault of their own, are fighting and dying for America. They hold our country dear to them and will fight to their death to be able to come home to it.

In 1955, two weeks before I married my husband, he came to my house with a new white Ford sedan and announced to me he was going to sell cars for a living. I felt that for sure we would starve to death. Well, here it is 54 years later and I am still very proud to be selling and servicing vehicles for Ford Motor Company. Why? Because I BELIEVE in Ford. I have shared the good and bad times with Ford Motor Company but I have never stopped believing.

In these current tough times, we're all affected in some way or other since we are all connected to the automotive industry. However, We have to BELIEVE in each other. Remember, everything we do starts with ourselves.

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Thank you and never stop believing.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Monday, March 30
 Novi Detroit CC at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Lathrup at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 31
 Franklin at Garden City, 4 p.m.
 M.H. Madison at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 1
 Franklin at Canton, 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 South Lyon at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 2
 Grosse Ile at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 3
 Salem at Franklin (2), 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at Wayne (2), 4 p.m.
 S.L. East at John Glenn (2), 4 p.m.
 South Lyon at Churchill (2), 4 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Wash. Christian, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 4
 Churchill at Taylor Truman (2), 11 a.m.
 Garden City at Stevenson (2), noon.
GIRLS SOFTBALL
Monday, March 30
 Franklin at Farmington (2), 4 p.m.
 Lathrup at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 31
 M.H. Madison at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 1
 Franklin at Canton, 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 South Lyon vs. Stevenson at Ladywood H.S., 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 2
 Grosse Ile at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 3
 Salem at Franklin (2), 4 p.m.
 S.L. East at John Glenn (2), 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at Wayne (2), 4 p.m.
 South Lyon at Churchill (2), 4 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Franklin Road, 4:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Luth. N'west, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 4
 Churchill at Taylor Truman (2), 11 a.m.
 Redford Union at Wayne (2), 11 a.m.

Annapolis at Luth. Westland (2), noon.
GIRLS SOCCER
Monday, March 30
 Salem at Ladywood, 5:30 p.m.
 Stevenson at Troy Athens, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, March 31
 Edsel Ford at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Ferndale at Wayne, 4:30 p.m.
 Flat Rock at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 1
 Summit at Clarenceville, 5 p.m.
 Divine Child at Ladywood, 5:30 p.m.
 Dearborn at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 South Lyon at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 2
 John Glenn at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Redford Union at Clarenceville, 5 p.m.
Friday, April 3
 Luth. Westland at Ply. Christian, 3:45 p.m.
 Garden City at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Churchill at Stevenson, 5:30 p.m.
 Ladywood at Bishop Foley, 7 p.m.
BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
Tuesday, March 31
 John Glenn at Churchill, 3:30 p.m.
 Franklin at Wayne, 3:30 p.m.
 Salem at Stevenson, 3:30 p.m.
 Blazer Inv. at Ladywood, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 2
 Stevenson at South Lyon, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Annapolis, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 4
 Patriot Relays at Franklin, 9 a.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Monday, March 30
 Stevenson at W.L. Central, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Clawson, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 31
 Franklin at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at Harrison, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Garden City, 4 p.m.
 Ladywood at Marian, 4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 1
 Harrison at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Lathrup, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 2
 Novi at Stevenson, 4 p.m.

Mercy at Ladywood, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 3
 Wayne at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Plymouth at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 South Lyon at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 4
 Stevenson at Pioneer Quad, 8 a.m.
 Ladywood at Monroe Inv., 8 a.m.
BOYS GOLF
Monday, March 30
 John Glenn vs. Edsel Ford at The Woodlands, 3 p.m.
Friday, April 3
 HVL at Oakland Christian, 3:30 p.m.
 Wayne vs. Garden City at Westland Municipal G.C., 3 p.m.
GIRLS LACROSSE
Monday, March 30
 Ladywood at Farmington, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 1
 Ladywood at Riv. Gab. Richard, 6 p.m.
Thursday, April 2
 Ladywood at Troy, 7 p.m.
COLLEGE BASEBALL
(all double-headers unless noted)
Sunday, March 29
 Madonna at Indiana Wesleyan, 1 p.m.
Tuesday, March 31
 Madonna at Indiana Wesleyan, 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 2
 Rochester College at Madonna (I), TBA.
Saturday, April 4
 Indiana Tech at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 5
 Madonna at Indiana Tech, 1 p.m.
COLLEGE SOFTBALL
(all double-headers)
Sunday, March 29
 Urbana (Ohio) at Madonna, 1 p.m.
Wednesday, April 1
 UM-Dearborn at Madonna, 5 p.m.
Friday, April 3
 Concordia at Madonna, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 4
 Madonna at Davenport, 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 5
 Indiana Tech at Madonna, 1 p.m.

Patriot girls sweep Lions in '09 opener

Apparently there's no rust when it comes to the Livonia Franklin girls softball team. The Patriots, with four starters coming off only three days of practice following last weekend's run to the state basketball finals, opened their diamond campaign Friday with a double-header sweep at South Lyon, 10-1 and 8-4. Franklin, now 2-0 overall and 1-0 in KLAAs South Division, did not make an error in either game. Pitcher Natalie Sanborn threw a two-hitter in opener, while striking out eight and not allowing a walk in seven innings. Three cagers sparked the offensive attack as Brianna Taylor led the way going 3-for-4 with an RBI, run scored and two stolen bases. Twin sister Brittany Taylor went 2-for-3 with an RBI triple, three runs and three stolen bases, while Chelsea Williams added two hits, a walk and two

PREP SOFTBALL WRAP
 RBI. "Because of their (basketball) banquet they did not officially tryout until Tuesday for a half-hour then practiced Wednesday and Thursday before Friday's game," said Franklin coach Linda Jimenez, whose team was 23-10 a year ago. "They are also very sore from softball practices because they are working different muscles. Besides that, they were still mentally drained from the basketball state tournament run. So, I gave them the weekend off." Franklin also won the second game, 8-4, as Sanborn went 3-for-5 with a double. Brianna Taylor went 2-for-4 with a fence-clearing homer, while Brittany Taylor's three-run blast in the seventh gave the Patriots some breathing room. Nicole Emery (basketball

starter) and Alecia Geraghty also added two hits apiece. Geraghty knocked in two runs, while Mariah Barcus added an RBI single. Winning pitcher Tiffany Lambie (1-0) gave up four earned runs on 14 hits in going the distance. South Lyon is 0-2 and 0-1. **CHURCHILL 9-12, S.L. EAST 1-6:** Livonia Churchill (2-0, 1-0) went two-for-two in its season opener Friday at South Lyon East (0-2, 0-1). In the first game of the Kensington Conference crossover, sophomore pitcher Natalie Hiser tossed a four-hitter while striking out 13 in a 9-1 victory. Katina St. Pierre led the offense, going 4-for-4 with two RBI. Taylor Kerr and Abbey Jewell each added two hits. The Chargers also won Game Two, 12-6, as Kerr went 3-for-4 with two RBI and three runs scored. St. Pierre added two hits, while Rachel Ely crossed home three times. Jewell, the winning pitcher, allowed four earned run on seven hits and four walks.

MU taps Emehiser as new hoop coach

Madonna University Director of Athletics Bryan Rizzo announced recently that Noel Emehiser has been selected as the Crusaders' new head men's basketball coach. Emehiser, who has been serving as the department's assistant athletic director since Oct. of 2008, will assume his new duties immediately, taking over for Myron Brown, who completed the 2009 season as the interim head coach. He replaces his father-in-law, Chuck Henry, who resigned during the season. "It is very exciting to see our all-time leading score take over the program," Rizzo said. "Noel is a highly motivated coach who will put all his energy into building a winning

COLLEGE HOOPS
 program. I am confident that we have made a great choice for Madonna University." Emehiser - whose 2,198 career points lead the Madonna record books - just completed his second season as the top assistant on the coaching staff. His work with the perimeter players has led MU to two of its most successful seasons in program history, including a berth in the 2008 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference tournament. Emehiser spent four years at Madonna and then played one year in Portugal, playing professionally with the Sporting Club of Braga.

"I am excited about being a part of the Madonna University family," said Emehiser following the announcement. "It is a great privilege to be a part of vision that the athletic department has for student-athletes and the community." Emehiser inherits a team that lost just three seniors following the 2009 season and finished fifth in the WHAC. "This is a great choice for Madonna," said former MU head coach Bernie Holowicki, who recruited Emehiser to MU as a student-athlete. "He is great with kids and is probably the best recruit I ever had at Madonna. He was not only a great player, but a great coach and a great guy."

No. 19 Crusaders sweep Rochester

The NIAA's 19th-ranked Madonna University women's softball team improved to 19-6 overall by sweeping a double-header Wednesday at home against winless Rochester College, 12-0 and 8-0. Jess Irwin (10-5) threw a one-hitter in the opener as the Crusaders rolled to a five-inning 12-0 mercy-rule win over Rochester. Irwin, the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Week for the

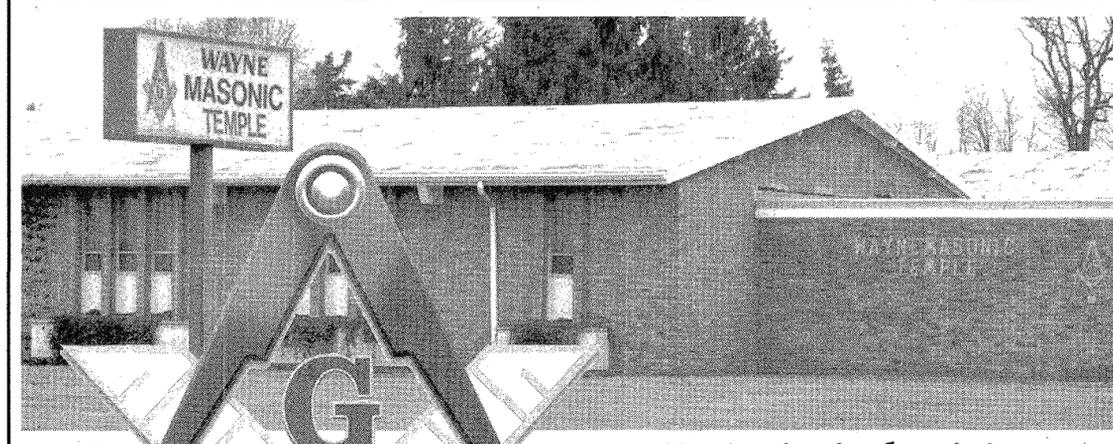
COLLEGE SOFTBALL
 second time this season, struck out 11 and did not walk a batter. Offensively, Canton's Brittney Scero led the way going 3-for-3 with a homer and two RBI. Other offensive standouts for MU included Ashley Shay, 2-for-4; three RBI; Kathleen Smiley, 2-for-2; three RBI; and Kelly Lesko, 2-for-3.

In the nightcap, freshman Hallie Minch (Garden City) improved to 10-1 by blanking Rochester on just one hit in seven innings, 8-0. Minch struck out eight and walked three. Offensive stars for MU included Tara LaMilza (3-for-3; RBI); Smiley (2-for-3; two RBI); Danielle Richardson (two hits) and Lesko (two RBI). Rochester falls to 0-10 overall.

GIRLS TENNIS RESULTS
FARMINGTON HILLS HARRISON 7 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 2
March 26 at Franklin
No. 1 singles: Angelica Woods (LF) defeated Allison Lewsley, 6-1, 6-0; **No. 2:** Chelsea Gaddis (FHH) def. Emily Wisniewski, 6-1, 6-2; **No. 3:** Britney Cooksen (FHH) def. Angela Tomassini, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2; **No. 4:** Christine Mathis (FHH) def. Rebecca Fenner, 6-0, 6-4. **No. 1 doubles:** Charlotte Rath-Lydia Miller (FHH) def. Jennifer Rellinger-Crystal Henderson, 6-0, 6-1; **No. 2:** Saki Maeno-Kelle Olson (FHH) def. Stephanie Belcher-Lindsey Fenner, 6-4, 7-5; **No. 3:** Mallory Peck-Megan Woods (FHH) def. Sarah Noffze-Jaclyn Horsell, 6-3, 6-0; **No. 4:** Maya Shulkin-Nita Nikkollaj (FHH) def. Kate Zurenko-Annie McCleod, 6-1, 6-3; **No. 5:** Angela Browning-Jaclyn Kurc (LF) def. Laura Dickey-Isha Iyer, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. **Dual match records:** Harrison, 1-0 overall; Franklin, 0-1 overall.



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 March 29, 2009 8:30 am-1:00 pm
 April 26, 2009 8:30 am-1:00 pm
 May 17, 2009 8:30 am- 1:00 pm
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 April 15, 16, 17, & 18 Watch for Details
Ladies Tea
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PREP BASEBALL CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Ron Targosz, sixth year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington Conference (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 15-17.
Notable losses to graduation: Brian Runge, Steve Jones, Shea Dwyer, Josh Matigian, Tyler Cotter, Vince Carozza, Derek Potemba.
Leading returnees: Tyler Bledsoe, Sr. C (first-team All-Area, 411 batting ave., 505 slugging, 26 RBI); Rickey Scully, Jr. 1B-3B (second-team All-Area, 392, 32 RBI, 64.3 slugging); Jimmy Tyler, Sr. P-1B (400, 4.50 ERA); Andy Szymanski, Sr. SS (.347); Devin Moynihan, Sr. OF (.302).
Promising newcomers: Ben Matigian, Soph. Inf.-P; David Harris, Jr. OF-P; Nathan Belyk, Jr. OF-P; Christian Leathley, Jr. C; Matt Kowalis, Sr. OF; Adam Lane, Jr. P; Mike Mato, Sr. Inf.-OF; Brent Mishowski, Sr. OF; Jimmy Szymanski, Sr. Inf.; Drew Servalish, Sr. C; Drew Carlson, Jr. Inf.; Tad Evans, Jr. P; Steven Hovverma, Jr. Inf.-OF-P; Troy Bogenschutz, Soph. F.

Targosz's 2009 outlook: "This season will really hinge on our senior leadership. We have 10 seniors that will be fighting for playing time when the season begins and I would expect that it will continue as the season progresses. They are all experienced players from last year's team, and that should make the competition even better. We also have some good younger players that I expect will be in the mix as the season gets going. Some of them will be role players and depending on how they play their role will determine how successful we will be this year."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Matt Fournier, third year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 17-16.
Titles won last year: Division 1 district champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Jesse Carpenter (first-team All-Area); Jeff McCullough, Anthony Andrus, David Muller, Derek LeBlanc.
Leading returnees: Garrett Gumm, Sr. Inf.-P (first-team All-Area, 472, 37 runs); Michael Basner, Sr. Inf.-OF-P (second-team All-Area); Mark McRobb, Sr. OF-Inf.; Josh Weigand, Sr. OF; Tyler Barnes, Sr. P-Inf.; Senior Brad Alderman, Sr. Inf.; Prentice Hawkins, Jr. C; Dan Muller, Soph. P-OF.
Promising newcomers: Jack Chinavare, Jr. P-Inf.; Nate Robinson, Jr. Inf.; Nick Hopson, Jr. C-OF; Will Kramer, Jr. C-OF; Kevin Bryan, Jr. P-OF; Steve Wells, Jr. P-Inf.; Anthony Creciolo, Jr. Inf.; Mike Perruzzi, Jr. P-OF; Justin Dean, Jr. Inf.; Brent Marzino, Soph. P-Inf.

Fournier's 2009 outlook: "In 2009 our team looks to build off of last seasons strong finish. We return a pretty strong core of position players that were very good offensively in 2008. We have spent a lot of time this off season and early spring on pitching and defense. We think we will be able to compete in games because of our offense, but in order to win, we are going to have to have certain guys step up on the mound while others improve defensively behind them. We have a nice group of underclassmen that will be nice role players as they grow as ballplayers."

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Rick Berryman, fifth year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (Central Division).

Last year's overall record: 9-21.
Notable losses to graduation: Sam Vomastek (first-team All-Area); Jon Samaan, Chris Summers, Eric Krauss, Grant Campbell.
Leading returnees: Jake Wilson, Sr. C (.364); Jeff Sorenson, Jr. P-OF (.350); Mike Tuttle, Sr. Inf.-P (.305); Josh Strautz, Sr. P-Inf.-OF (2-2, one save); Dave Niesyto, Sr. P; Giovanni Cairo, Sr. OF; Zeb Bacigal, Sr. OF.
Promising newcomers: Danny Sager, Jr. 2B; Dan Lopez, Jr. SS; Mark Wagner, Soph. Inf.; Tyler Lynch, Soph. Inf.-OF; Nick Anderson, Jr. P; Nick Tomasi, Jr. P-1B; Matt Shain, Jr. P; Charlie Crockatt, Jr. OF; Troy Bodtke, Soph. P-Inf.
Berryman's 2009 outlook: "It looks good as the new KLAAs scheduling format - Monday-Wednesday division games - Friday double-header crossover games along with Saturday double-headers - will test a teams' pitching staff. I feel the Spartans have a deep enough staff this year to handle the schedule. The Stevenson defense and hitting appears to be improved this year, which will result in positive outcomes as the season progresses."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Tom Wakefield, second year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 16-18.
Notable losses to graduation: Robert Fraser (second-team All-Area); Chris Kangas, Jon Gillis, Kyle Acuna, Ryan Lopez, Jase Paciocco, Mike Johnson, Don Brady.
Leading returnees: Andrew DeLuca, Sr. OF-P (second-team All-Area); Steven Wakeford, Jr. Inf.; Anthony Vettrano, Sr. Inf.; Nathan Bovia, Jr. C-Inf.; Steven Hickson, Jr. P-Inf.; Jake Sperry, Sr. P-Inf.; Steve Murphy, Jr. OF.
Promising newcomers: Andy McGrath, Jr. P-OF; Devin Crimboldi, Sr. P-OF; Caleb Clenney, Soph. OF; Derrick Ammons, Jr. Inf.; Bryan Hobbs, Jr. P-OF; Spencer Dowd, Jr. P-Inf.; Vince Creighton, Sr. C-OF; Jake Campbell, Sr. P-C-Inf.; Jade Watts, Sr. Inf.-P.

Wakefield's 2009 outlook: "We are continuing to 'build' the John Glenn Baseball program. We have taken numerous steps in the right direction during the off-season. The guys have gone through a rigorous training/conditioning program to prepare for the 2009 season. Although we do not have a lot of varsity experience, we have a group of guys that have a desire to do anything to be successful. I have tremendously enjoyed coaching this group thus far. Their work ethic and team chemistry will lead them to a successful season. I am looking forward to seeing the results of this team's dedication to baseball success."

WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head coach: Paul Cavanaugh, second year.
League affiliation: KLAAs Kensington (South Division).
Last year's overall record: 12-20.
Titles won last year: Redford Union Early Bird Tournament.
Notable losses to graduation: Tim Sigfried, Ryan Collop, Brent Patterson, Eric Schmitt, Eric Robertson, Stefan Harrison.
Leading returnees: Zeb Hancock, Sr. P-OF (second-team All-Area); Rodney Manning, Sr. P-1B; Jon Bryant, Sr. P-OF; Dominik Corridino, Jr. C; Jesse Dorrow, Sr. P-1B; Lance Gentry, Jr. 2B.
Promising newcomers: Jake White, Jr. P-3B; Shane Wilson, Soph. P-SS; Daniel Ross, Jr. OF-P; James Nutt, Jr. OF-2B-P; Shane

Kommer, Soph. P-OF-3B; Tyler McUrry, Fr. C-P-OF.

Cavanaugh's 2009 outlook: "We will have some young guys playing at some key position for us this year in their first year at the varsity level. But if we can do the fundamental parts of the game - like throw strikes and field the ball - we can have some success this season."

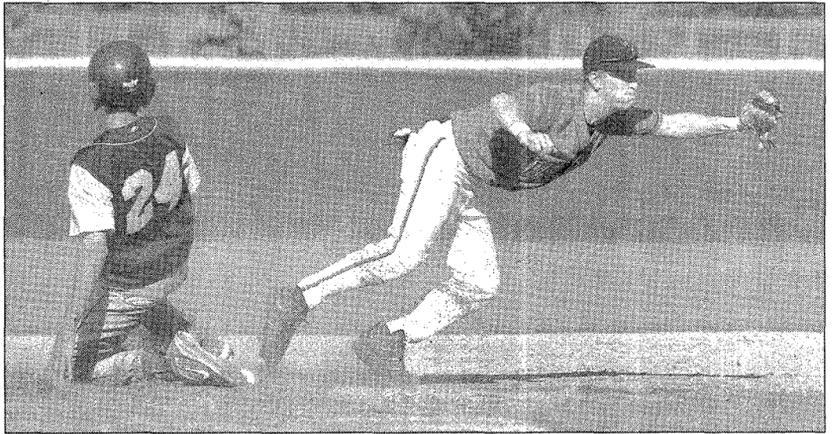
LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Head coach: Dan Miller, second year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's overall record: 2-24.
Notable losses to graduation: John McAlpine, Levan Go.
Leading returnees: Jacob Bibik, Sr. OF-P; Mike Schiffman, Jr. IF-P; Danny Schiffman, Jr.-OF; Jimmy Moody, Soph. Inf. (second-team All-Metro); Danny Blacker, Soph.-Inf.; Matt Kurdzial, Soph.-C.
Promising newcomers: Ben Gehan, Fr. Inf.-P; Damien Sanchez, Fr. Inf.-P-C; Damien Quarles, Fr. OF-P.

Miller's 2009 outlook: "We had a lot of young players playing at the varsity level last season, that are now returning with that year of valuable experience. We have some talented, baseball-savvy freshmen coming in to mix in with that returning experience to make for a promising core group of players. Our pitching staff is definitely deeper than last season, and improvement in that area will be step one to being a more competitive team. If we pitch like I think we can, make the plays on defense, and our hitters mature from last year's experience, we should improve on last season's record."

LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND
Head coach: Kevin Wade, fifth year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's overall record: 25-8.
Titles won last year: Division 4 state runner-up; regional and district champions.
Notable losses to graduation: Dan Abbott (first-team All-Area); Ryan Baglow (first-team All-Area); Derek Fleetham (second-team All-Area).
Leading returnees: Sam Ahlersmeyer, Sr. 3B (first-team All-Area, 469, 47 RBI, 15 doubles); Austin Baglow, Jr. SS-P; Micah Hausch, Sr. OF-P; Chris Barnaby, Sr. OF-C; Tony Cipolla, Jr. OF; Gage Flanery, Jr. C-P; Trevor Vosmik, Sr. 1B; Eric Schoats, Sr. 2B; Ryan Rakovalis, Sr. P-DH.
Promising newcomers: Jake Andrzejewski, Soph. P-SS; Marc Rosin, Soph. OF; Kent Krzyzski, Soph. Inf.; Taurrek Fikes, Fr. Inf.; Steve Scheel, Sr. C.

Wade's 2009 outlook: "I am excited about this upcoming season, as we start the year ranked (No. 9) for the first time in school history. We have a good mix of returning players and newcomers that we should be very competitive again this year."

WESTLAND HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN
Head coach: Matt Schaeewe, seventh year.
League affiliation: Michigan Independent Athletic Conference (Red Division).
Last year's overall record: 9-13.
Notable losses to graduation: Ryan Jones.
Leading returnees: Aaron Howell, Sr. P-SS; Richie Mamo, Jr. C-2B.
Promising newcomers: None.
Schaeewe's 2009 outlook: "Last year we had a lot of young players who got some good experience. This year we're returning seven starters. We think we'll be strong both offensively and defensively. If our pitchers throw consistently, we should have a pretty good season."



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Garrett Gumm (right) returns after helping the Patriots reach the Division 1 regional final.

BASEBALL

FROM PAGE B1



Bledsoe



Ahlersmeyer

new challenges in itself.
 Scheduling appears to be a concern as the Kensington Conference's South and Central Division will play crossover double-headers on Fridays.

The first games count toward the divisional standings, while the second games are considered non-conference.

All told, a total of 16 games - 10 within each division, along with six crossovers - will count.

"I am looking forward to starting our game schedule, so we can see how some of our players are going to react in game situations," Churchill coach Ron Targosz said. "We have been lucky enough to get outside quite a bit this spring in order to evaluate our players, so I am looking forward to getting the season going in order to see how we will compete."

The Chargers, coming off a 15-17 season, return first-team All-Area catcher Tyler

said. "This is a talented group of kids. We are anxious to see what we can put together."

Glenn lost a pair of stand-outs to graduation in Robert Fraser and Chris Kangas, but return second-team All-Area outfielder Andrew DeLuca.

Wayne reached the Division 1 district final before losing to Franklin. The Zebras, under second-year coach Paul Cavanaugh, most replace pitcher Ryan Collop, who graduated.

The top returnee is speedy senior outfielder-pitcher Zeb Hancock.

Livonia Stevenson (9-21), a member of the KLAAs Kensington Division, must replace first-team All-Observer pick Sam Vomastek.

Coach Rick Berryman is optimistic his pitching staff, led by junior Jeff Sorenson, can handle the backloaded, Friday-Saturday double-header schedule.

The Spartans will compete in the Central against Northville, Salem, Novi, South Lyon and South Lyon East.

See capsule outlook of area baseball teams.

Crusaders continue to climb in baseball polls

Off to its best start in school history, the Madonna University baseball team continued its winning ways March 22 with a double-header sweep of host College of the Ozarks, 16-0 and 14-7, in Point Lookout, Mo.

Going into Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Hoosier four-game set with Davenport over the weekend the Crusaders were 21-2 overall and jumped seven spots to No. 11 in the latest NAIA coaches poll, highest in school history.

MU was led by Ryan

Morrow, who went 8-for-9 on the day with four RBI.

In the opener, Kevin Zerbo (Farmington Hills Harrison) added three hits, while Aaron Hacias went 2-for-4 with a homer and four RBI. Zach Flavin also went 2-for-2 with three RBI.

Winning pitcher Kyle Bolton (4-1) went the distance in the five-inning mercy, allowing just two hits and two walks.

In the nightcap, Morrow went 4-for-4 with two RBI, while Hacias and Flavin each went 2-for-4 with three RBI.

Flavin clubbed his fourth homer of the season as the Crusaders out-hit College of the Ozarks (6-18) by a 17-9 margin.

MU used three pitchers with Trent Pohl (2-0) going the middle 2.2 innings in relief for the win. Starter Robert Fraser (Westland John Glenn) went the first 3.1 innings, while Andy Omilian finished up.

Morrow, who went 16-for-26 for the week (.626) with 11 RBI, was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player of the Week.

SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

two talented pitchers in Laura Deacon and Emily Hollandsworth, along with a veteran infield led by second-team All-Area pick Kathleen Hoehn, Amanda Paison and Kristina Vaclavak.

"The combination of our veteran infielders, and speedy outfielders, has the potential of taking over games," Witherspoon said. "The question that has to be answered this year is our consistency at the plate. Offensively, many of our girls have worked harder than ever this winter by dedicating themselves to weekly hitting practice since the early fall. We have added some talented hitters to a group of girls that already hit the ball pretty well."

Another area team to watch is Livonia Ladywood (20-16) under second-year coach Scott Combs, who will rely on senior outfielder Sarah Stempin, junior shortstop Gina Sykes and junior pitcher-first baseman Alyssa Gietl.

Five freshman will also figure prominently led by pitcher Briana Combs (daughter of the coach), Cara Miller, Carli SanMillan, Nicki Payne and Alyssa Kashat.

In the Metro Conference, Livonia Clarenceville (10-18) could make some noise led by junior pitcher Val Sochacki, along with senior first baseman Brittney Brooks and utility senior Charmaine McQueen.

"Our key this season will be the pitching (from Sochacki and Chelsea Gehan)," Clarenceville 11th-year coach Joe DeCaire said. "The sky is the limit for Sochacki while toeing the rubber. If she stays focused and determined, she should have a successful season, and then some."

Lutheran Westland (8-

15) was hard hit by graduation losses, but returns pitcher-third baseman Emily Whitaker, senior infielder Cathy Haller and senior infielder-outfielder Carla Kryzski.

Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (7-14) will miss second-team All-Area pick Emily Helwig, who graduated, but 12th-year coach Eric Ruth will rely on junior catcher Anna Schaffer in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Red Division.

See capsule outlook of area girls softball teams on Page B3.

PREP BOYS HOCKEY

2008-09 HOCKEY TEAMS
ALL-KENSINGTON CONFERENCE
 Northville: Alec Arthur, Sr. Def.; Wes Gates, Sr. Def.; Ted Keranen, Sr. G; Matt Kreager, Sr. Def.; Salem: Sam Ott, Sr. F; Kyle Powell, Sr. Def.; Adam Powers, Sr. G; David Russell, Sr. F; Livonia Stevenson: Cole Rochowiak, Jr. F; John Vella, Sr. F; Justin Shureb, Soph. F; Livonia Churchill: Dan Bostick, Sr. Def.; Robert Louwers, Sr. Def.; Adam Weigand, Sr. Def.; South Lyon: Chris

Eckler, Sr. F; James Stratton, Sr. G; Plymouth: Kyle Callahan, Sr. F; Luke Merdani, Sr. F; Canton: Nick Tomilenko, Sr. F; Walled Lake Western: Jeff Cartwright, Sr. F; Livonia Franklin: Tyler Barnes, Sr. F.

ALL-LAKES CONFERENCE
 Brighton: Craig Marrett, Sr. Def.; Eric Lipon, Soph. G; Jimmy Schueneman, Jr. F; Reid Sturos, Jr. F; Lakeland: Trevor Lloyd, Sr. F; Jayson Cronk, Sr. F; Sean Staples, Sr. Def.

Bobby Stevens, Jr. G; Howell: Tyler Keough, Sr. G; Brandon Marshall, Sr. F; Jordan Passino, Sr. Def.; Walled Lake Northern: Collin Elkins, Sr. F; Connor Hellembuck, Soph. G; Greg Smith, Sr. F; Hartland: Brian Depp, Sr. F; Jake Shelters, Sr. Def.; Waterford Mott: Collin Larkin, Fr. F; Jacob Parrott, Sr. F; Waterford Kettering: David Merkle, Sr. F; Pinckney: Tommy Kilgore, Jr. F; Milford: Alex Gibson, Jr. F; Walled Lake Central: Brandon Fritz, Jr. F.

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NEIGHBORS

Researcher rewarded for his devotion to aging issues

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Peter Lichtenberg hugs his son, Thomas, again and again as they sit in front of the fireplace in their Farmington home. It's obvious this time between father and offspring is cherished.

Lichtenberg works up to 75 hours a week as director of the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University, but his dedication to researching elder issues hasn't gone unnoticed. The neuropsychologist recently received two awards from peers and the State of Michigan. A special tribute and citation was signed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm for 10 years of service to the Michigan Dementia Coalition that improves the quality of life for persons with dementia and their families. A second honor, the 2008 Anthony V. DeVito II Memorial Award, came from the University of Michigan Geriatrics Center for his outstanding service, dedication and commitment to excellence in geriatrics education in Michigan.

While Lichtenberg is humbled by the recognition, his wife, Susan MacNeill, is outspoken about her husband's accomplishments which include authoring five books on dementia and related gerontology topics. MacNeill understands the devotion it takes because she works in the same field of neuropsychology.

Lichtenberg came to Wayne State University 18 years ago as an assistant professor and was promoted to full professorship in the psychology department in 2002. He earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Purdue University where he minored in gerontology. His particular area



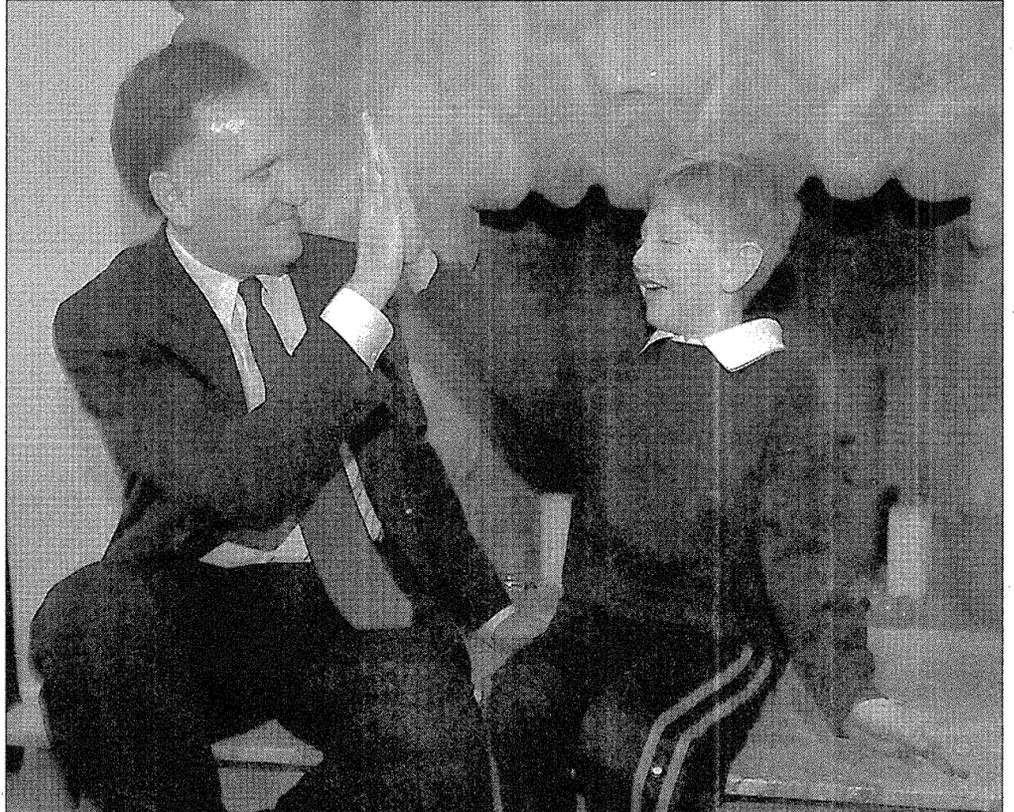
Peter Lichtenberg, director of the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University, sits at his grandfather's table in his Farmington home. Lichtenberg was recognized by peers and the State of Michigan for work dealing with aging issues.

of research involves issues related to dementia and depression.

"I think the awards are wonderful and well-deserved," said MacNeill, a neuropsychologist who's teamed up with Lichtenberg as part of her work in Beaumont Hospital's Geriatrics Division. "I look to him as an expert. When I have questions in my practice, the first person I go to is him."

MORE ELDERLY

Lichtenberg's knowledge of gerontology is evidenced in more than 125 scientific writings published in journals. One of his goals is to educate primary care physicians to detect dementia and Alzheimer's. That's especially important because in the last six years the aging popu-



PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Peter Lichtenberg, a Wayne State researcher who won awards for work in gerontology, does a "high five" with his son, Thomas, 7, at their Farmington home.

lation in the area has grown 40 percent.

"There's a huge increase because of the aging population," said Lichtenberg. "The incidence goes up after age 80 and 85. It's possible to accurately diagnose Alzheimer's 95 percent of the time. The Alzheimer's Association just came out with new estimates that the disease affects 5.3 million Americans. There's always hope for treatment. That's why the best approach is early detection. There are abnormal brain changes visible before symptoms are noticeable. Once symptoms are noticeable it's pretty far down the line."

ACTIVE PARENTS

Lichtenberg says his work with older adults is a labor of love. He talks proudly of his parents

— father Philip, 82, and mother Elsa, 80.

"Both are amazing," said Lichtenberg. "She hikes 10 miles a couple of times a week. Dad plays indoor badminton and swims. They're engaged in volunteer activities and great models for aging well."

Lichtenberg sits at his grandfather's table where he works when not at his WSU office downtown. A family man, he loves to read and play basketball with his 7-year-old son. Lichtenberg treasures the annual summer getaway to Manistee where they swim every day. He's devoted to Thomas, his daughters Sophie, 4, and Emily, 16, and his wife. The desk keeps him grounded to the task at hand — to enhance the lives of older individuals. The Institute's Art of

Aging Successfully Conference, which annually celebrates growing older by offering a daylong event for seniors age 55 and up, was on Thursday. The much-anticipated event featured sessions on everything from holistic therapies and Tai Chi to an exhibit of nearly 100 creative works that illustrate their talents.

"We want to dispel myths about aging," said Lichtenberg. "Older people are so often identified as having nothing to offer. The conference celebrates creativity and wellness. We try not to make it a disease-related conference. What we need to do as an institute needs to be translated into public awareness. There's too much focus on a cure for dementia. The public needs to know personhood remains strong. There are many vital roles they can play."

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Economy forces rethinking of retirement

What retirement? responded one man when audience members were asked if they were ready to listen to Sue Sweeney speak about redefining the topic. The lecture drew adults of all ages Monday night to Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia as part of the March "Economic Madness" series.

Linda Chomin
It probably didn't make anyone feel less uneasy about the future when Sweeney told those assembled that retirement is a recent phenomena in mankind, one that shouldn't be taken for granted. In the past, people like my grandparents worked until they were unable, many of them on farms. Today, that's changed. Employees as young as their early 50s have retired and live on a pension. The problem is not everyone is so lucky to be able to collect this money in the golden years. Many lost portions of their 401(k) plans in the financial downturn.

Let's face it. Many will not be able to retire. Social Security was never meant to sustain individuals for any length of time. The intent, when established in 1935, was to help poor, older men and women through the remainder of life, which at the time ended around 65 years. As of 2004, men were living to 75, women to 80.

"We're now seeing an economic cycle changing the conditions of retirement age," said Sweeney, who teaches in the Madonna University gerontology department, where she serves as interim chairwoman. "We have people working just to cover health care. We need to re-evaluate retirement. For many, it's not financially feasible. You can continue in or change careers, start a business. Instead of a victim posture, decide to have an engaged and meaningful life, take a positive approach."

Sweeney had the audience list the bare necessities of life, those who were important to them and groups to which they belonged. Three things that give life meaning. That was easy. My family, my job and volunteering. It's important for me to be in the community writing about people and events as well as helping to put on the annual VSA arts of Michigan festival for children and adults with disabilities, and contributing ideas for the Schoolcraft College

Recital Series as a member of the committee. Like Sweeney says, it gives you a reason to get up in the morning.

"We need to feel like we belong. We all have wisdom to share," Sweeney said. "We need to have flexibility and openness. Consider all the options out there, stay open to alternatives. You can fight change or accept it."

Living longer in this recession, which some have likened to the Great Depression, calls for creative problem solving. Sweeney told a story about when her brother died at age 34. She hadn't seen him for a while because he'd been away studying to become an orthopedic surgeon and then went on to practice medicine. She threw a party so she could learn from friends and colleagues what he was like during those years.

NETWORKING

Cynthia Scheuher calls it making lemonade out of lemons. The Plymouth woman lost her job as an accountant in December 2008 and since then has tried a number of avenues in search of employment. She saw the lecture as a way of networking. In fact, she learned about the series in networking groups at NorthRidge and Our Lady of Good Counsel churches in Plymouth. She was still a long way away from retiring, but felt many of the basics applied. Like older workers, she lost money saved for her later years, but still had a chance to recover. Her former employer had sent her to Right Management to help with resume writing and interviewing skills. She's using this time to learn.

"I'm all about finance, so I wanted to attend the lecture," Scheuher said. "This was a different age group, but the same problems — I'm going to have to work longer. That's why you have to do something you enjoy because you'll be doing it a lot longer."

At age 66, Ed Dobson was thinking about retiring as a hair dresser until he and wife Judy lost a good portion of the money the Livonia couple had been investing since the 1970s. Judy retired from the mail room at Madonna University two years ago. The two have been married 47 years.

"We're focusing on all the positives. What you can do?" Ed Dobson said. "I have no pension. People always thought they would get a pension. In my business, I hear the stories. People feel they're owed it and I don't think they are. We didn't believe in having things we couldn't afford. We always paid cash for everything."

REMAINING POSITIVE

While the lecture helped Ed think about a future without paychecks, Susan Hitchcock retired as a commercial artist and is raising a grandson on Social Security.

"I grew up with a mother who grew up in the Depression. We learned to save everything from money to aluminum foil," Hitchcock said. "Being a member of the church gives me a positive outlook. I've always seen the glass as half full. It's easier to handle things."

Hitchcock jokes about living in a HUD co-op that "if the gov-

ernment is foreclosed on we're all in trouble." A sense of humor helps as well as a positive outlook in these trying economic times. Hitchcock is surviving by shopping for food on sale and having her shoes re-heeled. She's not ashamed to say she wears clothes someone's passed on to her.

"Nothing is so bleak," Hitchcock said. "All of the people in the church have become family."

The Rev. Paul Perez was hoping the series not only helps members of the church, but surrounding communities. As director of program development at Newburg

United Methodist Church, he's working on a new series to do the same.

"We've been happy with the turnout," said Perez of Rochester Hills. "The resources have been helpful for people and for people to realize they're not alone. We're a connection point for that."

The March "Economic Madness" series concludes 6 p.m. Monday, March 30, with Rick Bloom, *Observer & Eccentric*

columnist, focusing on Investing in a Down Economy. Newburg United Methodist Church is at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, between Newburg and Wayne roads, Livonia. For information, call (734) 422-0149.

Linda Ann Chomin is the community life and health reporter for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at lchomin@hometownlife.com or (313) 222-2241.

Beginner Tai Chi Classes

Michigan Tai Chi Association

New Classes Start week of April 6th

Livonia
38121 Ann Arbor Road
734-591-3530
email: michtaichi@yahoo.com

Visit our website for days, times and other locations:
www.taotaichi.org

No pre-registration required

Arthritis Today

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

SI JOINT PAIN

"SI" is an abbreviation for the term Sacro-iliac and refers to the connection where the back connects to the pelvis.

Only the top part of the Sacro-iliac articulation is a joint, the lower part becomes fused to the pelvis with age. Thus the idea that dislocation of the SI is a cause of pain and that manipulation to put the joint back in place, is therapy for that pain, receives a skeptical response from most of the medical community.

With one exception, the reason for Sacro-iliac pain is not well understood, though a common cause is thought to be strain on the ligaments that supplement the SI articulation.

The one condition known to cause SI pain is Ankylosing Spondylitis. In this disease, the SI junction becomes inflamed and the ensuing irritation results in a painful back.

When you present to your doctor with low back pain, he will take a history to bring out any cause for back strain and do an examination that can uncover if you have Ankylosing Spondylitis. Back X-rays are not of value routinely, but if the doctor suspects Ankylosing Spondylitis as a cause of your problem, he will take an X-ray, not of your back, but of your pelvis. This film provides an excellent look at your SI joints and in most instances reveals if inflammation is present.

If you have Ankylosing Spondylitis, you will receive therapy specifically for that condition. If your pelvis X-ray is normal, heat, exercises to strengthen your back and non-steroidal medications to relieve your pain, are in order.

www.drjweiss.yourmd.com

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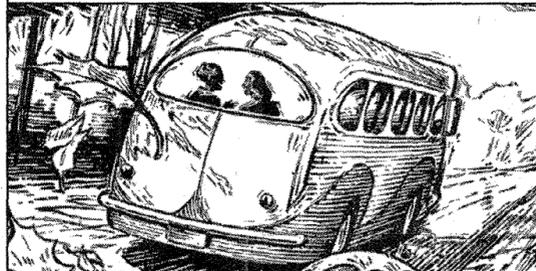
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Resources for aging well

Sue Sweeney, interim chairwoman of the Madonna University Gerontology Department, provided this list of resources for aging well. She spoke about redefining retirement Monday night at Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia.

the Second Half of Your Life on Purpose, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2004

■ Lustbader, Wendy, *Counting on Kindness: The Dilemmas of Dependency*, New York: The Free Press, 1994

AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

Established by the Older Americans Act to coordinate services for senior citizens in their geographic region, the agencies provide or fund information, referrals and services. They are a good place to start when locating assistance for older adults. The Michigan Offices of Services to the Aging allocates funds in Michigan. Visit www.michigan.gov/mise-niors.

A list of all the Area Agencies on Aging in Michigan can be found at seniors.tcnnet.org/local/michigan_area_agencies_on_aging.htm.

The Senior Alliance in Wayne County (not Detroit) offers information, referrals and access to services at www.aaalc.org.

UNITED WAY

Dial 2-1-1 for help to find resources and information, or visit uwsem.org/gethelp/index.html.

Sweeney also recommends the following books:

■ Freedman, Marc, *Encore: Finding Work that Matters in the Second Half of Life*, Westview Press, 2008, www.civicventures.org/index.cfm

■ Cohen, Gene D., *The Creative Age: Awakening Human Potential in the Second Half of Life*, Harper Paperbacks (January 2001)

■ Leider, Richard J., Shapiro, David A., *Claiming Your Place at the Fire: Living*

SAVE THE DATES!

EXCEPT FOR SIX

"This is a heartfelt and important film that takes a subject most of us would rather ignore and humanizes it.

From the dedicated doctors and caregivers to the heroic patients, this is the moving story of what will happen to all of us."

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Mon., Mar. 23, 9 - 10 pm & Sun., Mar. 29, 4:30 - 5:30 pm. View the trailer: www.hom.org

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REQUEST PROPOSALS

The Senior Alliance requests proposals to provide the following services to persons age 60 and older in Western and Southern Wayne County. Some adult day care and respite funding will include individuals 18 years of age and older. Not all services listed may result in award of contract.

- Adult Day Care
- Care Management
- Chore Services
- Congregate Meals
- Elder Abuse Prevention Services
- Home Delivered Meals
- Health Screening
- Friendly Reassurance
- Hearing Impaired
- Senior Center Staffing **May include Evidence Based Disease Prevention component
- Caregiver Education, Training & Support **May include Caregiver Conferences component
- Grandparent Caregiver Education, Training & Support
- Legal Assistance
- Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Vision Services
- Transportation Services

Service Period October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012. Bidders must provide service in one or more of the following communities. Additional criteria will be provided concerning serving residents of all listed communities.

Allen Park	Huron Twp.	Riverview
Belleville	Inkster	Rockwood
Brownstown Twp.	Lincoln Park	Romulus
Canton Twp.	Livonia	Southgate
Dearborn	Melvindale	Sumpter Twp.
Dearborn Heights	Northville	Taylor
Ecorse	Northville Twp.	Trenton
Flat Rock	Plymouth	Van Buren Twp.
Garden City	Plymouth Twp.	Wayne
Gibraltar	Redford Twp.	Westland
Grosse Ile Twp.	River Rouge	Woodhaven
		Wyandotte

The Request for Proposal (RFP) documents will be available April 6, 2009 on The Senior Alliance website at <http://www.aaa1c.org/>, please see "Doing Business with TSA/Contractor". TSA will be holding an Application Workshop on May 4, 2009 from 1:00pm-3:00pm at the Wayne Public Library and all bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. The RFP is due on May 22, 2009 by 5:00pm to:

The Senior Alliance
3850 Second Street, Suite 201
Wayne, MI 48184
ATTN: Planning Specialist For more information please call (734) 727-2031.

Publish: March 29, 2009

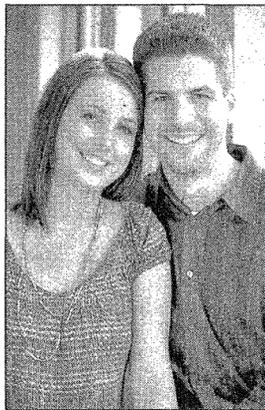
MILESTONES

Kapelanski-Marocco

Bill and Diane Kapelanski of Canton are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa, to Mario Marocco, son of Michael Marocco and Lori Martin of Commerce.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Canton High School and Walsh College and is employed by Optiva Systems, Inc. in Farmington Hills. Her fiancé, a graduate of Lakeland High School and Michigan State University, is employed by Lafarge North America in Bingham Farms.

A September 2009 wedding is planned for St. Linus Catholic Church in Dearborn



Heights, followed by a reception at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Livonia.

Liddell-Tosh

Gary and Sandra Liddell of Livonia together with Dennis and Edith Tosh of Taylor are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Emily Liddell and Dr. Eric Tosh.

The bride-to-be is a 2001 graduate of Churchill High School in Livonia and earned a B.A. and M.A. from The University of Michigan. She currently is employed as a Spanish teacher at Chelsea High School and server at Pacific Rim restaurant in Ann Arbor.

The groom is a 1999 graduate of Baptist Park High School in Taylor; a 2003 graduate of Albion College; and a 2007 graduate of Wayne State School of Medicine. He works as a resident physician in the Department of Emergency

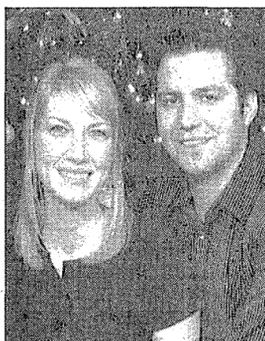


Medicine at Detroit Receiving Hospital, Wayne State University.

The couple plans to wed in August 2009 at First United Methodist Church of Plymouth.

Butterfield-Kurtoglu

Stephanie Butterfield, daughter of Christine Butterfield of Canton and the late Thomas Butterfield, has become engaged to Emre Kurtoglu, of Brownstown, son of Huseyin and Muzeyyen Kurtoglu, of Degirmendere, Turkey. The bride-to-be graduated from Canton High School in 1998 and Western Michigan University in 2003 with a degree in elementary education. The groom graduated from Golcuk High School in 1998 and from Bogazici University in 2004. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in



chemical engineering at Wayne State University. They plan to wed in June 2009 at the Dearborn Inn.

Daniel Alexander Xuereb

Steven and Katherine Xuereb of Westland announce the birth of their son Daniel Alexander Xuereb. He was born on Jan. 19, 2009 at St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor. He joins his brother, Tyler, 6; and grandparents Richard and Karen Roberts of Canton, and Frank and Gail Xuereb of Whitmore Lake. He was 4 pounds, 11 ounces, and 18 inches long.



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Help Wanted-General 5000

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Help Wanted-General 5000

Engineer

Applications Engineer-Vibro-Acoustics

ESI North America, Inc. specializing in CAE solutions is seeking **Application Engineers** for vibro-acoustics in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Responsibilities include providing first-line technical support to customers for VA One, NOVA, Foam-X and Rayon software products. Assisting with business development activities including identification of potential opportunities for software sales and consulting services contracts; pre-sales technical presentations; preparation of proposals for consulting projects; participation in trade shows and conferences; providing technical support to the sales and marketing team. Providing high quality consulting services using VA One including engineering application projects and training services for all VA products. Qualified candidates should have a minimum of a Master's degree in Mechanical or Aerospace Engineering or foreign equivalent and experience in vibro-acoustic modeling, Statistical Energy Analysis, and Hybrid FE-SEA methods. Applicants may submit a resume for consideration.

ESI Group
Attn: Lori Johnston-Feole
36800 Woodward Avenue
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Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

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A large manufacturer of automotive components seeks **Project Manager** for its Farmington Hills, MI facility, to coordinate company's design engineering product lifecycle management (PLM) system, requiring frequent technical communication in Japanese. Establish and implement project strategies and manage supplier interactions to integrate technical aspects of PLM system, including oversight of product requirements negotiations. Project PLM system performance and analyze technology and resource needs to assess continued feasibility of company's PLM system. Coordinate design engineering activities with IT, Purchasing, Quality Assurance, Engineering and Sales. Perform technical liaison between company and its Japanese parent, as well as related suppliers, buyers and engineers in order to deploy PLM system. Requires MS in Electrical Engineering or academic equivalent, and at least 3 years of applicable experience (or BS in Electrical Engineering followed by at least 5 years of progressive experience) in design and deployment of engineering information systems. Experience must include automotive product development with demonstrated skills in deploying Zuken CDS000, DS-1 ePLM, Solidworks and Teamcenter PDM, and developing and integrating custom application software to aid engineering processes for design and development of automotive electronic systems.

Send resume to:
Hilachi Automotive Products (USA), Inc.
34500 Grand River Ave.
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
ATTN:
HR 2009-DESURTEP-A

Must reference:
HR2009-DESURTEP-A

Help Wanted-General 5000

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Lawn Equipment Tech
Experience preferred. Full & Part-Time.
Call: 734-525-0980

Lawn Foreman
Must have 2 yrs exp. & chaffeur license. Canton area.
Email resume: resume4reliable@aol.com

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Earn up to \$100 per day. Undercover Shoppers needed to judge retail & dining establishments. Exp. not req. Call: 888-615-5244

Help Wanted-General 5000

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S & J Asphalt is seeking an exp., aggressive, team oriented person to be responsible for bidding residential and commercial sealcoat projects and overseeing crew scheduling, fax or email resume and salary req. to 734-721-2006 or Mickie@sjasphalt.com

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WAREHOUSE WORKERS
For Livonia DC. Pick/Pull/Pack. FT Mon-Fri. 1-10:30p.m. \$10.60/hr. Full benefits after 90 days. Must pass drug screen/background check. Use RF scanners, lift up to 50 lbs.
Email resume: stodson@tdng.com or fax: 734-743-7015

Help Wanted-Dental 5040

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Exp'd. preferred but willing to train. Full-time position for Southfield dental office. Fax resume: (248) 304-1387

FRONT DESK: Plymouth/Livonia practice. Mature, organized, knowledge of dental insurance & Dentrix. Must be flexible w/hrs. PT, possible FT. **Dental exp. need only apply.** Fax resume: 734-420-8304

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

ATHLETIC TRAINER
Full-Time at The Recovery Project, LLC an outpatient clinic specializing in neurological rehabilitation. A degree in athletic training is required. **Please send resume to: 37650 Professional Center Dr Livonia MI 48152**

Help Wanted-Medical 5060

DENTAL INSURANCE COORDINATOR
Den Tech Exp. Must know insurance billing. Friendly professional atmosphere. **Please call 734-464-3430**

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Help Wanted-Medical 5060

Patient Appointment Coordinator
KRESGE EYE INSTITUTE has an opening for an exp'd. candidate to fill the position of **Patient Appointment Coordinator** located in their Bingham Farms office. Responsibilities include: scheduling patients, verifying insurance, obtaining referrals, other duties as assigned. Qualifications: Medical front desk experience, excellent interpersonal communication skills. We offer a competitive salary and benefits package. Qualified applicants, please submit resume with salary history to: **FAX: (313) 577-8271 EMAIL: resumes@wsupp.org E.O.E**

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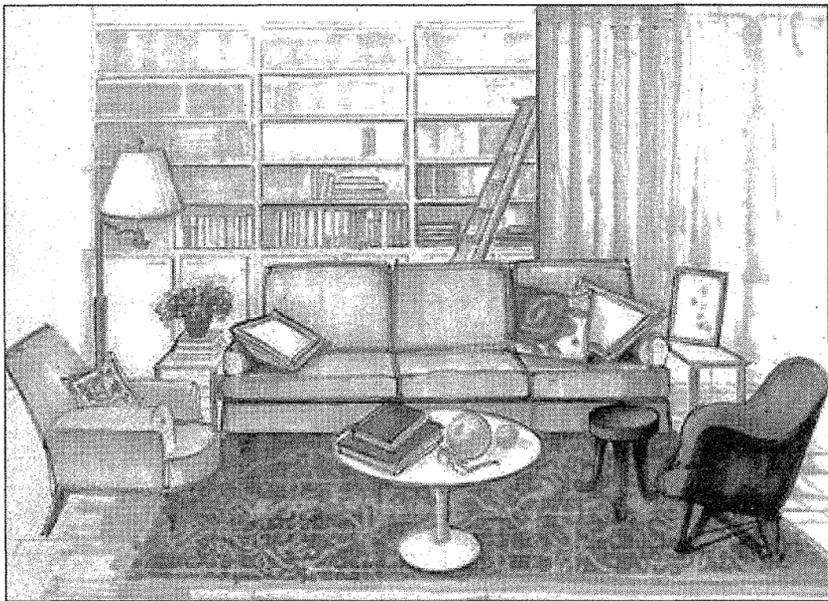
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08294901



This rendering won first place in the 20th annual Ghiordes Knot-American Society of Interior Design Student Creative Space Competition.

Learn about home buying, Roman art

A free home buyer seminar will be held from 10 a.m.-noon, Sunday, April 4, at Century 21 Hartford, 35615 Grand River Avenue, just west of Drake, in Farmington.

Topics will include qualifying for a mortgage, kinds of mortgages available, working with a buyer's agent, the \$8,000 buyers tax credit and the FHA 3.5 percent down program.

Complimentary doughnuts and coffee will be served. Register with Debbie Horner at (248) 320-5744 or e-mail to dhorner7@aol.com.

WINNING DESIGN

The Ghiordes Knot, a rug and carpet showroom in the Michigan Design Center in Troy, awarded \$800 to three college students who submitted art work to the 20th annual The Ghiordes Knot-American Society of Interior Design Student Creative Space Competition. Jacquie Jurkovic, an interior design student from the College for Creative Studies, took home the first

prize and \$400 for her rendering of one of the two competition rug choices — "Sash", a Tibetan rug from Lapchi Tibetan Carpets.

The silk and wool design is derived from the tiles on the floor and ceiling of the Taj Mahal. Jurkovic's rendering showed off the exquisite details of the carpet, according to Rhoda Goldman, showroom manager at the Ghiordes Knot.

Jurkovic found inspiration for her design from both the colors and the pattern of the rug.

Marlete Trbovich, also a College for Creative Studies student and Virgis Naujokas, a Kendall College of Art and Design student, both earned \$200 and honorable mentions for their renderings.

Eighty students Michigan universities and colleges entered this year's competition. American Society of Interior Design judges evaluated the entries based the students' ability to convey the design of the rug in a room setting they

choose and their ability to carry out the design.

ITALIAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Michael Farrell, associate professor of art history at the University of Windsor, offers a three-part lecture series, "An Exaltation of Angels: Baroque Art and Architecture in Rome," this month at the Birmingham Community House, 380 South Bates, Birmingham.

Farrell, who is director of Art House in Detroit, will include slides to illustrate his lectures.

The series costs \$89; individual lectures are \$34.

Part I, "Rome: The City as a work of Art," runs from 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, April 14; part two of that lecture is 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, April 21; and "Rome and Caravaggio," which looks at the life of Baroque painter, Michelangelo de Merisi de Caravaggio, runs 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, April 28.

Register by calling (248) 644-5832, or visit www.communityhouse.com.

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Observer Newspapers wants to know what's going on in your neighborhood. Send items to Linda Chomin, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226-3124 or lchomin@hometownlife.com.

POTTERS SHOW

Students from the Village Potters Guild exhibit at the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon at Junction from April 2-23. The show features functional and sculptural clay works by 10 students from the Village Potters Guild located at 240 N. Main in Plymouth. An opening reception will be held 6-8 p.m. Friday April 3. To learn more about these organizations visit www.plymoutharts.com and www.villagepottersguild.org.

DADDY'S GIRL

Plymouth Christian Academy is not only serving up the comedy Daddy's Girl, but free apple pie and ice cream at upcoming performances. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2; 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Friday, April 3, and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 4, at the Plymouth Christian Academy Activity Center, 43065 Joy, Canton. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$7 seniors/students, and available by calling (734) 459-3505.

The story follows Benard Muloovy, proprietor of Maudie's Diner. The laughter begins when the talking portrait of his deceased wife enlists the services of an angel to help reunite Benard with

their long lost daughter.

ART EXHIBIT AND SALE

The Livonia Artists Club is having their 48th annual Spring Exhibit and Sale 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 4, and 1-5 p.m. Sunday, April 5, in the Atrium of the Livonia Civic Center Library on Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. The club has been in existence since 1960. This year's exhibit features 100 framed and more than 100 unframed artworks, note cards and small handmade novelties. Media include watercolors, pastels, acrylics, oils, colored pencil, collage, and photography. Members Al Weber and Michael Taube demonstrate throughout the show.

The club meets at the Civic Center Library in Livonia the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Visitors and aspiring artists are always welcome. For information, call Doree Dziobak at (734) 416-1774.

CALL FOR PERFORMERS

VSA arts of Michigan's Southeast Region Committee is still looking for performers for its annual festival for children and adults with disabilities Friday-Saturday, June 5-6. This year the location is the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. Deadline for application is April 6. For information, call Connie Lott at (248) 568-0816 or e-mail connie5929@aol.com.

Performers with mental or physical challenges are invited to participate. VSA arts of Michigan is an educa-

tional affiliate of the national nonprofit based at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The organization provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities to develop through the arts.

The festival, in addition to performances, features creative arts workshops, an art exhibit and hands-on art activities. All performers will be given VSA arts festival T-shirts.

WOMEN'S TEA

Heartland Hospice has scheduled the date for the third annual Women's Tea 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at the Italian American Club of Livonia Banquet Hall, 39200 W. Five Mile. Reservations are required by Friday, April 24. Call or leave a message for bereavement coordinators Diana at (248) 915-8221 or Sherri (249) 798-0635.

Please bring a photograph or memento of your loved one to share.

LIBRARY CONCERT

The Friends of the Livonia Library host The Village Singers, a mixed voice ensemble, and The Nightingales, a select women's ensemble from Stevenson High School in Livonia under the direction of Bryon Turner 2 p.m. Sunday, May 3, at the Livonia Civic Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. Their music will include numbers from different time periods as well as Broadway. Refreshments will be served. For information, call (734) 466-2495.

Golf starting up at Willow Metropark

Willow Metropark golf course opened this weekend as soon as the frost clears. The course is at 17845 Savage Road, Belleville. This exciting, 18-hole golf course, that covers 6,378 yards with a par 71, is open, course conditions permitting. Spring rates are in effect: with cart, 18 holes for \$25, 9 holes for \$18; Senior rate is 18 holes for \$20, 9 holes for \$15. Without cart, 18 holes for \$18, 9 holes for \$13, senior rate is 18 holes for \$14, 9 holes for \$10.

Golf rates are as follows: For 18 holes the weekend/holiday rate is \$26, the weekday rate is \$22, the Seniors (over 62) and Juniors (under 17) rate is \$15, power carts are \$13 per person and \$10 for Seniors

and Juniors (weekdays only). For 9 holes, the weekend/holiday rate is \$17, the weekday rate is \$14, the Senior/Junior rate is \$11, power carts are \$8.50 per person and \$7 per person for Seniors and Juniors (weekdays only). Hand carts are \$2 per person. Golfers are advised to call in advance to confirm course conditions and tee time availability.

Rental golf clubs, golf accessories, beer, wine and food are available at the golf starter building. Coolers are not allowed on the course.

For information or to schedule tee times, contact Willow Metropark at (734) 753-4040, or (800) 23-GOLF-4; or go to www.metroparksgolf.com.

GARDEN CALENDAR

If you have an item for the garden calendar, submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Garden classes

Registration is ongoing for these continuing education classes offered by Madonna University:

■ Create a Spring Centerpiece, 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, April 1, at Village Green Florist, 33463 Eight Mile, Livonia. \$35 includes centerpiece to take home.

■ Healing Garden, Amazing Herbs, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 4,

at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft, \$24.

■ Spring Garden Design & Maintenance, 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 18, at Madonna University, \$24.

■ The User-friendly Garden, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 18, at Madonna University, \$24. Register by calling (734) 432-5804 or by visiting www.madonna.edu and clicking on continuing education.

At English Gardens

The store celebrates National Gardening Month with a weekend of free presentations, a showcase of new gardening

products, activities for children, and refreshments, Saturday-Sunday, April 4-5. Here's a sampling of free presentations that weekend:

■ Janet Macunovich, co-founder and senior instructor of the Michigan School of Gardening, talks about "improving your garden," 1 p.m., Saturday in West Bloomfield and "season-long color with perennials," noon, Sunday, in Dearborn Heights.

■ Nancy Szerlag, gardening columnist with the Detroit News, holds a Q and A on vegetable gardening at 4 p.m., Saturday, in Dearborn Heights and noon, Sunday, in West Bloomfield.

3/29/09

Passages

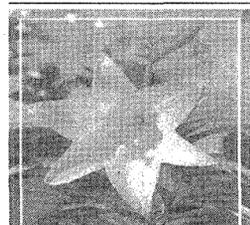
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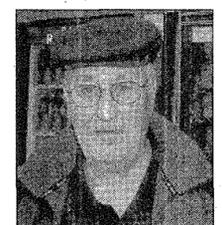
LOIS J. BUTLER

Age 83, of Fort Gratiot, MI, went to be with the Lord on Thursday, March 26, 2009 following a brief illness. She was in Wauseon, OH, and married Robert Butler on April 16, 1945. While living in the Rochester, MI area, she worked 20 years for Fisher Industries retiring in 1988. Lois is survived by her husband of nearly 64 years, Robert "Dusty" Butler; two children, Kathy (Rev. Tim) Eichberger of Port Huron and John (Linda) Butler of Waterford; four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. A service in Lois's memory will take place at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, March 29th in Faith Lutheran Church, 3455 Stone St., Port Huron preceded by one hour of visitation. Pastor Tim Eichberger will officiate. Interment will be in Greens Lakeside Cemetery, Manitou Beach, MI at a later time. Contributions may be made in Lois's memory to Faith Lutheran Church. Cremation arrangements were by Smith Family Funeral Home, 1525 Hancock St., Port Huron. To send condolences, please visit smithfamilyfuneralhome.com



THOMAS LEO JOLIAT

Age 84, of Royal Oak, died of congestive heart failure on Wednesday, March 25th at North Broward Medical Center in Ft. Lauderdale, following a short hospitalization. Mr. Joliat was the eldest son of Marcella and Leo Joliat, and husband of the late Elaine Joliat. His sisters, Celestine and Joan, and his brothers, John and Bob, preceded him in death. He is survived by his sister, Julianne (James) Dichting and his sister-in-law, Virginia Joliat. Mr. Joliat was a graduate of Catholic Central High School. Upon graduating, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force. He was trained as a navigation specialist, and re-trained mid-war to utilize emerging radar technology. In the course of his service, he guided 20 daytime B-17 missions from Ipswich, Great Britain to destroy German strategic targets. His service ended with VE Day. Among other medals, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Silver Star for his service. Upon his return to the Detroit area, Mr. Joliat was married in 1947 to Elaine O'Donnell, who died on October 17th, 1998. This union produced six children, all surviving: Jennifer (Stephen) Deckrow, Janet (Steve) Dahl, Michael (Colleen) Joliat, Judith (Ty) Stetzenmeyer, Paul (Marietta) Joliat and Marie (Larry) Cavanaugh. His children and his marriage were his proudest accomplishments. In 1957, the Joliat family settled in Royal Oak, where Mr. Joliat was a devoted parishioner of the National Shrine of the Little Flower, and an ardent booster of its schools. His life was dedicated to enriching and enjoying his hometown, and he had particular affection for the municipal golf courses. He wintered in Pompano Beach, but returned North as soon as tee times were available. His South Florida cohorts celebrated his life last Wednesday at their social hour, which after Holy Mass, was Thomas Joliat's favorite hour of the week. In 1973, he founded Michigan Air Products with Donald Kutil. Today their sons own the business, but until his death Mr. Joliat maintained active employment as a manufacturer's representative, trouble-shooter and Internet joke facilitator. Mr. Joliat's heart was deeply devoted to his friends in Florida and Michigan, and his large extended family. Especially loved were his 15 grandchildren: Jason, Laura, Megan, Patrick, Michael, Matthew, Reid, Colin, Kyle, Kate, Bradley, Emma, Jillian, Catherine, Andrew, Erin and Caitlin. New and dear to his life were great-grandchildren Mason, Lila and Elena. Rich friendships, fine health, golfing buddies, travel and his dear friend, Sharon, blessed his later years. Until the week prior to his death, Mr. Joliat was playing 54 holes of Snowbird golf a week. Funeral at National Shrine of the Little Flower, 12 mile at Woodward, Royal Oak, Monday 10 am. Friends may visit at church beginning at 9:30 am. Visitation at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 1368 N. Crooks Road (between 14-15 Mile Rds.) Sunday 2-8 pm. Prayers 7 pm. Burial in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, Michigan. Memorials appreciated to Catholic Central High School, 27225 Wixom Road, Novi, Michigan 48374 or Shrine Catholic High School, 3500 W. Thirteen Mile Road, Royal Oak, Michigan 48073.



CHARLES F. MCCARTHY

Age 80, of Lake Leelanau, died Thursday, March 12, 2009 while traveling in Scotland. Charlie was born Sept. 18, 1928 in Chicago, Illinois; he graduated from Wendell Wilkie High School, Elwood Indiana in 1947. Charlie graduated Class of 1952 from Indiana University. On Nov. 16, 1951 in Bloomington, Indiana he married Dolores McCann, his loving wife of 54 years. Charlie and Dolores moved to Lake Leelanau, Michigan in 1985. Charlie served in the United States Army in the Counter Intelligence Corps during the Korean War. After his military service, he was employed by the Shell Oil Company, responsible for choosing and purchasing land for future Shell service stations. After Shell Oil, Charlie was employed by the Ford Motor Company in their Land Development Division. He was responsible for acquiring land for Ford dealerships, manufacturing plants and offices, and later the leasing for the newly built Renaissance Center in Detroit, Michigan. Charlie was the owner of McCarthy Management of Traverse City until his retirement in 2001. He also continued consulting in real estate matters: Charlie strongly believed in helping others, and giving back to the community. He volunteered his time to numerous organizations, including The Elks Club and the Leland Township Planning Commission. He also served as Chairman of the Board for Goodwill Industries for Northwest MI. Charlie was an avid sailor and owned many boats including his favorite named the Lesley Ann after his daughter. Charlie loved many things, including sailing and traveling to many destinations around the world. But his greatest love was spending time with family and friends at his beautiful home on North Lake Leelanau. Charlie is survived by his three sons, Michael (Christine Koch) McCarthy of Birmingham, Daniel McCarthy of Grand Rapids and Patrick (Lou Ann) McCarthy of Santa Fe, TN; a son-in-law, Linus Couturier of Lake Leelanau; his siblings, Gertrude (Jim) Mays, Eileen McCarthy, sister in law, Sue McCarthy; seven grandchildren, Ashley Couturier of Lake Leelanau, Colleen and Dellen McCarthy of Santa Fe, TN, Brody Fischer, Mitchell, Hayden and Lillian McCarthy of Grand Rapids, and extended family Jane Marcinkowski and Trisha Hawthorne. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Dolores on Nov. 13, 2006, his daughter, Lesley Ann McCarthy on Nov. 16, 2002, and his siblings, Tom McCarthy and Mildred (Richard) Brunk. Services have been held. Burial will be in the spring St. Mary's Cemetery, Lake Leelanau. Memorials may be directed to Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, 1421 East 12 Mile Rd, Madison Heights, MI, 48071. Please share thoughts and memories with Charlie's family on their online guestbook at www.legacy.com/record-eagle/Arrangements are with the Martinson Funeral Home of Suttons Bay

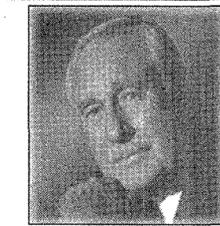


JOHN N. COLUCCI

March 26, 2009, age 78. Beloved husband of Joyce. Dearest father of Mary Anne, John G. (Mindy), Paul J. (Michelle) and Frances Colucci-Hill. Dear grandfather of Heather, Nick, Haydn and Avery. Funeral Monday 11:30 am Prayers at the Dearborn Chapel of the Howe-Peterson Funeral Home, 22546 Michigan Ave. and 12 Noon Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Visitation Sunday 3-9 pm. Rosary Sunday 7 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Eternal Word Television Network or St. Jude's Children Hospital, Memphis, TN. Interment Mt. Kelly Cemetery.

EARL M. MAYER

Age 77, March 12, 2009, of Bingham Farms. Beloved husband of the late Elsie. He is survived by many friends. Graduate of U of D Jesuit High School in Detroit, and served in the United States Army. He retired from Ford Motor Company after many years. Memorial Service at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth, Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 7pm. Memorials may be made to U of D Jesuit High School and Academy, 8400 S. Cambridge, Detroit, MI, 48221, or the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit, MI, 48207-3485.



JOHN R. McNAUGHTON, SR.

March 23, 2009, Age 82, of Bloomfield Hills. Proud veteran of the US Army serving in the European Theatre during WWII. He was the co-owner of McNaughton/McKay Electric Co. Husband of the late Sarah K. (nee. Sutherland). Dear father of Carol McNaughton Beebe, John R. III "Jack" (Rebecca nee. Schubering) and Krysta Jane McNaughton Giacobone (Andrew). Grandfather of Taylor Beebe, Sarah McNaughton and Grant McNaughton. Family will receive friends Tuesday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4-8 p.m. at A.J. Desmond & Sons (Vasu, Rodgers, & Connell Chapel), 32515 Woodward (btwn 13-14 Mile). Masonic service 7 p.m. under the auspices of Birmingham Lodge #44 F.&A.M. Funeral service will be held privately. Memorial tributes to Alzheimer's Association or The Hole in the Wall Gang, 555 Long Wharf Dr., New Haven, CT 06511 View obituary and share memories at www.desmondfuneralhome.com

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HEALTH & FITNESS

CHIP prevents obesity in children

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OSE STAFF WRITER

Dr. Paul Ehrmann knew obesity was on the rise in children but never realized the devastating impact it had later in life until receiving an e-mail from a patient. As a family physician for the last 27 years he's seen a steady increase in the numbers of overweight children and her cry for help mobilized him to action. In 2002 he held the first pilot project of the Children's Health Initiative Program (CHIP) in a Royal Oak elementary school. The five weekly workshops educated families on nutrition and exercise as well as the emotional aspects of overeating.



Dr. Paul Ehrmann created the Childhood Health Initiative Program, coming soon to the Birmingham YMCA.

On May 3, the Birmingham YMCA is offering parents and children the opportunity to experience a CHIP of a healthier nature. Ehrmann's recently released book, "Generation XL: The Childhood Obesity Pandemic," outlines the program, which is based on a community solution. In addition to Royal Oak, schools in Southfield and Flat Rock have participated in the sessions led by Ehrmann, two psychologists, a registered dietitian, local chef Annabel Cohen, and physical therapist Sherry McLaughlin, who leads the physical fitness portion.

through when exposed to negative behavior directed to them. Research bears out there's a tremendous effect on that person and shapes their personality. Behavior and lifestyle modification is the foundation of any successful health program. We focus on the trying to shape positive behavior."

Ehrmann estimates the program probably costs less than \$1,000 to produce. Donations from grocery stores, businesses and community organizations are essential.

Obesity not only affects children emotionally but physically. Ehrmann believes parents have to be role models. His opinions have been valued by the Michigan and Oakland County task forces on childhood obesity on which he serves.

"This is a professionally supervised program. These people are doing this for nothing," said Ehrmann, a West Bloomfield resident with a family practice in Royal Oak. "I'm concerned because I have the ability to watch families from babies to grandmas and grandpas and in the last 10 to 15 years noticed there's been an increase in problems with overweight. The biggest issue with children is self-esteem problems that carry

Ehrmann eventually hopes to attract grants for research and to collect data to prove the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

"It's easier to not have a problem happen than undo a problem. If it's early enough they can change their behavior," said Ehrmann, who raised three sons. "We're trying to give parents tools, to use words like fitness and nutrition instead of diet and exercise. Ultimately as parents we need to talk to our children. What better time to spend committed to family health, but parents have to do it too. This is kind

of a life program."

Ehrmann continues to explore different partnerships locally and statewide as with Dr. Keith Levick, a Farmington Hills psychologist.

Levick addresses self-esteem in the first 90-minute session. He's worked with Ehrmann in the past and developed a program on Childhood Weight Management. Back in the 1990s he predicted the problem's impact.

"Many times parents are unaware how they send messages to their kids, to eat everything off your plate and then wonder why they have a tendency to overeat or they're eating in front of television and playing video games. These behaviors are counterproductive to raising healthy kids," said Velick. "Eating is a behavior that's taught. As parents sit smoking and eating a Twinkie there's a mixed message there. They need to look at themselves. Today there are more overweight people in this country than thin people. We're finding in children Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular issues, once relegated to adults."

Tonia Reinhard joined the CHIP team because she likes Ehrmann's approach to lowering the risks caused by obesity.

The registered dietitian presents the nutrition session. As president of the Michigan Dietetic Association she stays involved with initiatives to promote healthy children. Currently CHIP is aimed at all students from third to fifth grade, but could include ages younger than 8 and older than 12 in the future.

"Dr. Ehrmann doesn't label the kids and didn't target the obese or overweight because you can exacerbate the situation in a child. Even nagging them to eat broccoli, if you're too obsessive, you can push them in a direction you don't want to go like obesity and eating disorders," said Reinhard, director of the dietetics program at Wayne State University. "The basic idea is for

moms to sneak things in without calling attention to it. If they don't like vegetables, pick fruits with a lot of nutrients vegetables have. Use puree of vegetables. And never tell a child you are putting on weight so you should lose weight. Our society has an unrealistic ideal for body shapes. Kids look at themselves and don't look like people in magazines and on TV and try restricting, which drives them to eat more the next time they're around food."

Lori Bahnmuller is excited about bringing this type of education to the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit. The Birmingham location tests the interest of the surrounding community for the CHIP program that features a session on getting moving.

"The YMCA has been in the business of family and children's health for more than 150 years. Today there are far more enticements for kids and families to stay indoors. We're trying to change the dynamics," said Bahnmuller, YMCA spokesperson. "We're also piloting a complimentary program, inviting all the graduates of the CHIP program to Y Champions, a five-week program developed by Harvard School of Public Health with YMCA of USA. It's similar to the CHIP program and takes it to next level to hopefully spark interest in living a healthy lifestyle. We want to teach kids and families to eat well, make good choices and get activity in every day. We're always delighted to try another avenue to reach kids and families to excite them about physical fitness."

For information about CHIP, visit www.chipkids.com or call (248) 563-0386.

For more information about the Birmingham YMCA CHIP session beginning May 3, call Brian Wolverton at (313) 309-9622 or e-mail bwolverton@ymcamedetroit.org.

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A community-based solution

by Paul R. Ehrmann, D.O.
Founder of the award-winning
Children's Health Initiative Program (CHIP)

The Childhood Health Initiative Program is outlined in this book by Dr. Paul Ehrmann, recently released by ML Publishing.

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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

MARCH

Free kidney screenings

This March, the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan celebrates National Kidney Month by offering free screenings to Michigan residents at high risk for chronic kidney disease, an under-diagnosed, under-treated, yet treatable disease. Due to the increasing prevalence of obesity, hypertension and diabetes, CKD has emerged as a major health threat with more than 940,000 Michigan adults estimated to be living with the disease. In Michigan, more than 12,000 patients undergo dialysis. With increased screenings, at-risk populations can be identified before they are faced with the prospect of kidney failure. Call (800) 482-1455 or visit www.nkfm.org.

Winter fitness classes

Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day Adventist School, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile. Jeanie Weaver is a certified personal fitness trainer with 30 years of teaching/training experience. The sessions infuse Pilates, functional strength training, balance work, flexibility and motivational techniques in a 90-day fitness plan. Call (248) 446-9176 or (313) 300-0957. E-mail jeanie-weaver@charter.net.

UPCOMING

Nutrition for life

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is offering classes led by St. Mary Mercy's registered dietitian Jenny Kasprzyk 5-6 p.m. each month. Topics are "Eat from the Rainbow: The Benefits of a Diet Rich in Fruits and Vegetables" on April 1, and "The Truth about Fad Diets" May 6. Free, registration required. Call (734) 655-8950.

CHADD

Children & Adults with ADD meet Monday, April 13, at Way Elementary, 765 W. Long Lake Road, east of Telegraph, Bloomfield Hills. The adult group hear from professional organizer, Deb Stanly. The parent group will hear Paul Jacobs speaking on Parenting Children with AD/HD and Oppositional Defiant Disorder. Sign-in at 7 p.m.; meeting at 7:30 p.m. Free to CHADD members; \$5 donation per non-member family with option to join. Call (248) 988-6716 or visit www.chadd.net/527.

Thyroid Cancer Support

Group meets 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, at 1641 Charlevoix Dr., Troy. The support group is free and open to all thyroid cancer patients and survivors as well as their family members and friends. Call Gwynne at (248) 740-9759.

Butterfly Ball

The American Lung Association of Michigan has rescheduled its black tie fund-raiser to 6-11 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn. Proceeds go to lung health research, education and advocacy. Tickets, \$250 per person, include cocktail reception, dinner, dancing and live auction featuring trips, dinners and a variety of experiences. Sponsorships available. Call Jessica

Jimenez, Development specialist, (248) 784-2018 or jjimenez@alam.org.

Medical symposium

The University of Michigan, Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research will sponsor the "Partners for Healthy Communities" symposium and walking dinner 5:30-8:30 p.m. Monday, May 11, at Palmer Commons. The mission of the symposium is to enhance collaboration between UM faculty, staff, students

and community members with similar interests. Free and open to the public. Dr. Vanessa Northington Gamble, a physician and noted scholar in the field of medical humanities, will speak at 5:45 p.m. regarding cross-disciplinary partnerships. For more information, visit www.mich.umich.edu/News&Events/events.html.

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