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AROUND TOWN

Blood drive

The Westland Police and Fire Departments are out for blood — and for a very good reason. On Monday, June 22, residents will have a chance to save lives while supporting their favorite public servant during the city's fifth annual "Battle of the Badges" blood drive.

The blood drive will be 2-8 p.m. at the Bailey Recreation Center in the civic center complex on Ford west of Wayne Road. Residents can help by making a blood donation appointment online at www.givelife.org or by calling (734) 467-3261.

The Red Cross is projecting a 3,500-pint shortfall in blood donations this year due to the economy.

4-H workshop

Michigan State University's 4-H Extension in Wayne County is reaching out to youngsters interested in a craft workshop, hosted at the Wayne County Fair, 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, June 30.

The 4-H program is trying to involve kids in the local fair by entering projects they have worked on. The workshop will have three crafts for each child to complete. They also will be given information on 4-H and how to enter those projects into the 2009 Wayne County Fair.

A fee of \$2 will cover these crafts and snacks for youngsters age 5 and up who may be interested. There are only 30 spots available so sending the money in ahead of time will ensure reservation. Send payment to Laurie Rivetto, Wayne County 4-H Extension, 5454 Venoy, Wayne, MI 48184. For more information, call Rivetto at (734) 727-7236.

Get e-news

Readers can stay plugged in to their hometown news with a free electronic newsletter. The *Garden City Observer* offers Today's Headlines — an e-mail newsletter that will automatically send the latest news via e-mail to anyone who signs up at hometownlife.com.

To sign up, click on the e-newsletters tab on Hometownlife.com (top left of the home page). E-newsletters for all *Observer & Eccentric* and *Hometown* publications will be available, as well as special editions for entertainment and local business news.

Getting the newsletter is easy. The first thing you have to do is become a member of our Web site by going to Hometownlife.com and clicking on the link Become a member, which is just above the main carousel of stories. Once you are a member, click on the E-newsletters tab at the top left of the homepage to sign up.

The *Observer Newspaper* editions will offer e-newsletters Thursday and Sunday. Local business and local entertainment newsletters will come out once a week.

E-newsletter subscribers will be entered into weekly drawings for Emagine Theatre movie passes, concert tickets at The Palace and DTE Energy Music Theatre and gift certificates for dinner at restaurants throughout western Wayne and Oakland counties.

Nankin Mills Village plan gets extension

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A one-year extension on a site plan for a controversial mixed use development along Joy has been approved by the council.

Developer Glenn Shaw requested the extension for the proposed Nankin Mills Village located on the south side of Joy, just west of Wayne

Road near the Hellenic Cultural Center.

"As you are aware, we ran into problems with financing. I'm working on a joint venture with a company that does this type of project," said Shaw. "We're looking at all the options and what is best for the entire parcel. Before it was me (working) alone. This company does senior housing with dining, etc."

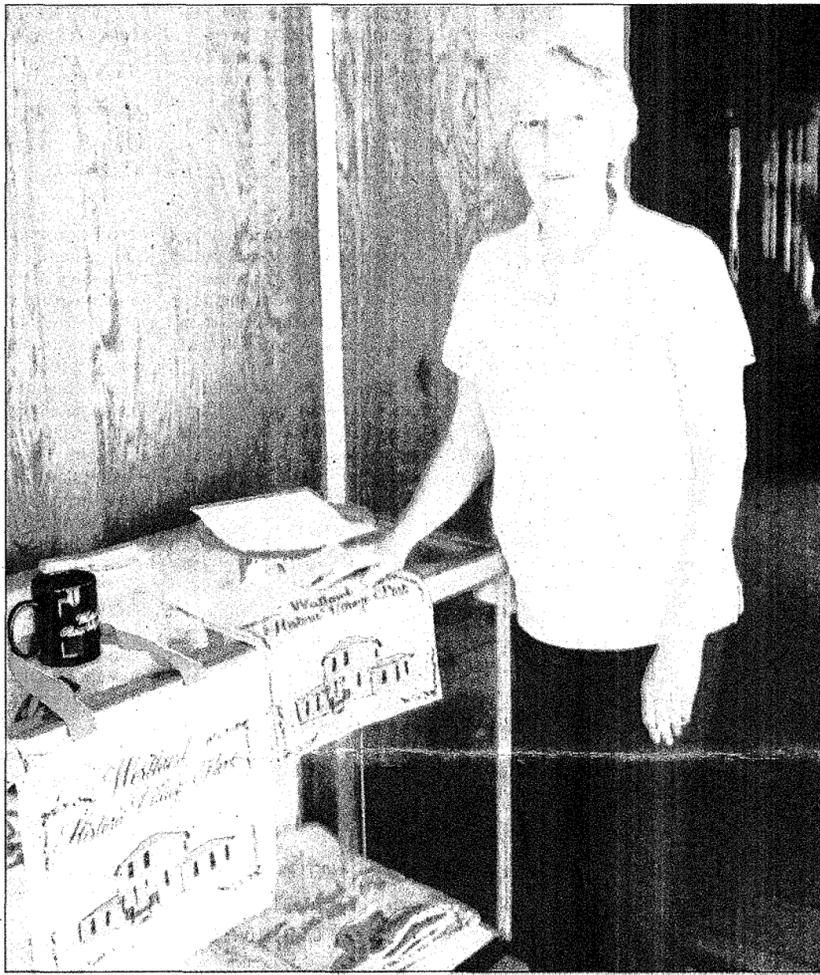
As proposed, Nankin Mills Village included detached and duplex condominiums and a three-story independent living facility on land that had been zoned for single family residential use. Adjoining homeowners were unhappy with the project, citing concerns about the size of the project, the density, traffic flow and impact on property values.

"We've put the apartments next to

the church and houses next to houses. The duplexes are now single family homes," said Shaw, adding he'd had two meetings with neighboring homeowners.

Voting against the site plan extension were council members Cheryl Graunstadt and Robert Stottlemeyer, both of whom had also voted against

Please see **EXTENSION, A2**



Westland Historical Commission member Georgia Becker shows off items available at the gift shop inside the Octagon House, which open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except holidays.

Historic Village Park gets gift shop

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Fans of Westland Historic Village Park can show their support with shirts, mugs and other items at the new gift shop inside the Octagon House.

The commemorative items are all contained in a glass display case but it's a start and only part of the efforts at the park on Wayne Road which has six buildings on site.

There are T-shirts, sweat shirts and polo shirts, tote bags, post cards, mugs and a book on Eloise, later the Wayne County General Hospital. All have the Westland Historic Village Park logo, except for the book.

"We can order the shirts and tote bags in any color and the shirt sizes go up to XXX," said

Georgia Becker, a Westland Historical Society member. "And the book, it's great. It has information under all of the photos."

The gift shop is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except holidays, when the Westland Historical Museum is open.

"Once we get the (historic) houses done, we would like to expand the shop and sell things to promote us," said Westland Historical Commission member Jo Johnson.

Constructed in 1870-80, the Octagon House was originally located on Newburgh south of Warren where the Clyde Smith produce market was located. The house was built by a Smith relative.

The home was later moved to Warren Road

Please see **GIFT SHOP, A2**

Fire service offers citizens academy

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Those procrastinators who wanted to participate in the Westland Fire Department Citizen Fire Academy have extra time to get their applications submitted.

That's because the dates for the Citizen Fire Academy, the first time the Westland Fire Department has offered the program, have been pushed back to July 31, Aug. 1-2 and Aug. 7-9. The new application deadline is July 15.

"We had a couple of problems finding the original dates conflicted with schedules," said Assistant Fire Chief Scott Neal. "There is graduation and parties with students. The instructors wanted it after July and before school starts, so that's why we have the new dates."

The 32-hour academy is open to anyone over age 18 who lives or works in Westland. It is designed for adults to learn more about the fire department organization and operations. Up to 17 participants will be accepted. Part of the application process is submitting an essay about their purpose for attending the academy.

"It's not to weed people out, it helps me determine what the applicants want from the academy and the agenda topics," said Neal. "Some of the applicants have some interest in the fire service as a career, others want to know as part of the community. We want to share both sides."

While the Westland Police Department has offered a citizen academy, this is a first for the fire department although Neal said he'd like to see it become an annual offering. The Van Buren Township Fire Department has provided a model for the citizen academy in the area, he said.

Along with increasing awareness about fire department operations, Neal said the academy also will give the participants practical safety information.

Some of the topics to be covered by firefighter instructors will include apparatus, bunker gear demonstration, breathing apparatus demonstration, vehicle extrication/vehicle fires, home safety, CPR and Technical Rescue Team Demonstration/HAZMAT.

"If someone wants to go into the fire service as a career path, I'll meet with them one-on-one," said Neal. "Some of the applicants are high school kids. It's up to them but part of the interest on my end is to groom people for the fire department."

Applications are available at the city Web site at www.cityofwestland.com or by calling (734) 467-3182 for more information.

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Tony Award winner credits W-W schools with his success

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Greg Jbara, a former Westland resident, recently won a Tony Award for his role in *Billy Elliott*, and on his Web site he thanks the Wayne-Westland schools that prepared him early on.

Playing the role of Jackie Elliot, the dad, Jbara won best performance of a featured actor in a musical.

"I would not be a working actor today were it not for the amazing opportunities the Wayne-Westland Community Schools provided in the arts and academics," Jbara said in an e-mail interview. "Every

possible discipline from fine arts to performance in speech, instrumental and vocal music was available for me to experience kindergarten through 12th grade."

"The grade school gifted programs, junior high and high school sports programs, All-City Vocal and Instrumental Music Programs and, of course, all the teachers and faculty challenged and inspired me on a day to day basis," he added. "I am grateful to have grown up a student in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools."

His experience is wide ranging and includes film, television, Broadway, Off Broadway and recordings. They vary from being a Mel Gibson look-alike to guest starring on *Monk*, *All My Children*, *Without a Trace*, *West Wing* and enough other appearances to fill a few pages.

He was born Sept. 28, 1961, at Annapolis Hospital in Wayne and grew up in his parent's Westland home. He went on to the University of Michigan School of Music and finally to the Juilliard Theater Center in New York.

The training opened doors to appearances in a number of movies like *Crocodile Dundee* and allowed him to work shoulder-to-shoulder with stars the likes of Kevin Kline. His resume lists his special skills as being able to master all dialects, tap, jazz, all brass, flute, bass, percussion, carpentry and stagecraft.

He credits a lot of his success to local mentors.

HIS MENTORS

"I can honestly say that

Please see **JBARA, A3**



Jbara

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AROUND WESTLAND

In concert

The 2009 Concerts in the Park Series continues Sunday, June 28, with the easy listening music of Pam & Scott.

The free concert starts at 6 p.m. at Performance Pavilion behind the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford. The concert series is sponsored by the Westland City Council with cooperation of the Westland Parks and Recreation Department.

Coffee hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson will hold district coffee hours on Monday, June 22, in Livonia and Garden City to meet with constituents. No appointment is necessary. The senator will have a 9-10 a.m. gathering at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia, followed by a 10:30-11:30 a.m. get-together at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City.

No coffee hours held during the month of July. They will resume in August.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with the Senator but are unable to attend can contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing,

MI 48933, by phone toll-free at (866) 262-7306 or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Give a listen

Stop by the football stadium at Wayne Memorial High School Wednesday and Thursday to hear and see the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps from Rosemont, Ill.

The group will be at the school rehearsing for Drum Corps International competition at the University of Toledo Thursday evening. Corps rehearsals will take place throughout the day and evening on June 24 and during the day on June 25 in preparation for the competition.

For more information about the rehearsal days or the competition, e-mail Matt Diroff, Wayne Memorial band director, at diroffm@wccsd.net.

Book sale

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County will hold their used book sale Friday-Sunday, June 26-28, at the Westland Shopping Center, Wayne and Warren roads, Westland. There will be a preview 6-8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 25, and cost \$3.

Hours will be 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. June 26-27 and 11 a.m. to

5 p.m. June 28.

Most books and magazines will be priced at \$1 or less; videos, CDs and DVDs will be individually priced. To donate, call (734) 421-4420.

Citizens academy

Applications are now being accepted for individuals who want to learn more about how the fire department in Westland is organized and operates.

To participate in the 32-hour program, applicants must be 18 years or older and either live or work in Westland. Sessions are approximately three-four hours in length and will be held on July 31, Aug. 2, 7 and 9.

The deadline to submit an application is July 15. For more information, call (734) 467-3182 or visit the city

Web site at www.cityofwestland.com.

Wrestling camp

The Glenn Wrestling Program will hold its annual "Rocket Camp" 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 20-24 in Gym 4 of John Glenn High School. The camp is open to middle school and high school students. The cost is \$50 and includes a T-shirt. Registration is 9:30 a.m. Monday, July 20. Registration forms are avail-

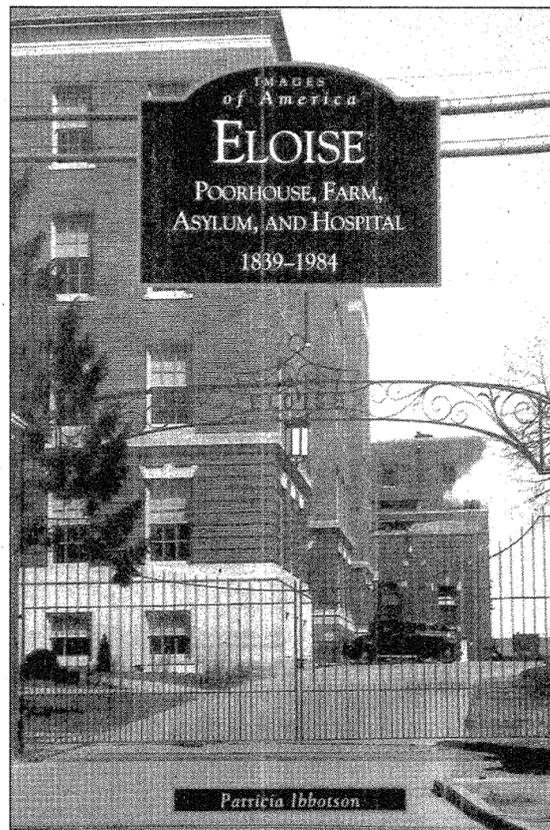
able during Road Rockets 5:30-7 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, which is held in Gym 4 or online at glennwrestling.com. For questions, contact Coach Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595.

Golf outing

The John Glenn High School Wrestling Program will hold its 12th Annual Golf Outing Fund-raiser Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Warren Valley Golf Course. The cost is \$85 for golf, cart, lunch at the turn and dinner. Dinner only guests are welcome, cost is \$25. Contact Coach Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595 for more information or to make reservations. More information also is available online at glennwrestling.com. Hole sponsorship and donations are being accepted. All donations are welcome!

Preschool sign-ups

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.



A book on Eloise, later Wayne County General Hospital, is available at the Westland Historical Village gift shop.

GIFT SHOP

FROM PAGE A1

when it was owned by the Guthrie family, who added to the original octagonal-shaped house. Being in the lumber business, the Guthries naturally added extensive wood work to the addition.

The Octagon House is available for small weddings.

"We've had a couple of weddings here. The stairs are decorated. It's nice because you get to see the bride's face," said Johnson, adding another wedding is scheduled for August.

The Octagon House is available for wedding rental on Friday evenings and Saturdays at various times.

Upcoming events at the museum complex will include an antique appraisal by the

DuMouchelle Gallery, a program by the Petticoat Ladies and a Sept. 3 old-style baseball game when the visiting Greenfield Village LaDeDahs take on the local Zippity Doodahs.

The museum complex includes the Felton Farmhouse, a typical Michigan farmhouse built in the 1850s, and the Collins House, which stores the commission's historical archives. The archives include information on local cemeteries, area schools past and present, census of the 1800s, limited death records from the County Poorhouse (Eloise), history of Nankin Township, and the City of Westland.

For more information, call (734) 326-1110.

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EXTENSION

FROM PAGE A1

the original site plan and rezoning.

"I won't support this and I didn't support it before. Even with one year, I don't see the economy improving, unfortunately for you," said Graunstadt.

"I won't support this. I wanted it fixed for a long time and it's not fixed yet," said Stottlemeyer.

Although he had earlier opposed the project, Councilman Charles Pickering voted in favor of the one-year extension.

"The developer relied on the council approval of the site plan last year. It's only fair to let him continue with it as it was adopted," said Pickering. "If it comes back, it will give a lot more opportunity to question it. The extension is a formality. What comes back may be more to our liking and the liking of the residents."

Resident Rosemarie Rembisz, who lives on adjoining Grey Street, told the council that she still isn't satisfied with the proposed development. Rembisz was the leader of a failed attempt to recall Mayor William Wild and Councilmen James Godbout, Michael Kehrer, Bill Johnson and Dewey Reeves who have voted for the development in 2008.

Some of the changes made to the project after complaints from residents included alter-

ing the layout so the new homes would have backyards abutting existing rear yards of homes on Grey Street and changing the roof line on the three-story building to two-stories at either ends.

Under the city zoning ordinance, site plans expire after one year, if no building permit has been issued. A single one-year extension can be granted by the council under the ordinance.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
PURSUANT TO STATE LAW A SALE WILL BE HELD AT:
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#502	Darius Gilkey
#653	Ricardo Soto
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#1105	Allissa D. Miller
#1315	David Gruska
#1443	David Gruska
#1409	Melvin Turner

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2009-10 BUDGET

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 29, 2009 at 6:45 o'clock in the evening at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District will hold a public hearing to consider the district's proposed 2008-09 budgets.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2009-10 budgets until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2009-10 budgets including the proposed property tax millage rates is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan.

The property tax millage rates proposed to be levied to support the proposed budgets will be a subject of this hearing.

This notice is given by order to the Board of Education.

Robert J. Freeman, Secretary

Publish: June 18 & 21, 2009

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CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 12 06/15/09

Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Graunstadt, Johnson, Kehrer, Pickering, Reeves, Stottlemeyer
118-Appr. minutes of 6/1/09.
-Appr. Westland Shopping Center to host Boat Show on 6/16/09-6/30/09.
-Appr. deadline to pay summer taxes to 8/31/09.
-Appr. bid for bay doors at Fire Station #5 to Complete Door Systems, amt. \$13,588.50.
-Appr. bid for SCBA for Fire Dept. to Breathing Air Systems, amt. \$47,676.60.
-Appr. bid for roof at Fire Station #5 to M.W. Morss Roofing, amt. \$21,126.00.
-Appr. bid for roof at Dorsey Ctr. to M.W. Morss Roofing, amt. \$39,435.00.
-Appr. 3 yr. contract with Davey Golf Course, amt. 79,900-1st yr. & 81,000-2nd yr. & 81,000-3rd yr.
- Approved 1 yr. contr. bet. MSB & City for Golf Course Mgmt. amt. \$146,618.00.
- Approved 1 yr. contr. bet. MSB & City for Crossing Guard Mgmt. amt. \$92,000.00.
-Approved 1 yr. contr. bet. MSB & City for Ice Arena Mgmt, amt. 143,850.00.
- Intro. Budg. Amend. 2009-10; General Fund; am't \$1,209,200.
- Waive proc. to intro. & adopt Budg. Amend. 2009-10.
- Adopt. Of Budg. Amend. 2009-10; General Fund; am't \$1,209,200.
- Adopt. Ord. 29-W-26-16, to amend Ch. 46, Sec. 46-1(48), 46-1(49)c & 46-1(49)d of City Code to amend rates for Municipal W & S & Indust. Waste Control Charges.
-Intro. Ord. 248-A-63, rezone CB-4 & CB-2 to CB-3, PID 002-99-0079-000 & part of 002-99-0078-000, NE corner Middlebelt & Ann Arbor Trail.
-Appr. contract with Ken P. Bucilli, LLC, Infrastructure Services, amt. not to exceed \$150,000.00.
119-Held pub. hearing on SRF project.
120-Adopt. Prep. Res. of Final Project Plan for SRF and auth. K. Buford as rep. for project.
121-Appr. spec. land use, 5717 E. Executive Dr., PID 028-99-0006-708, w. of Executive Dr., north of Ford, e. of Hix.
122-Appr. rev. site plan for prop. ext. renovations, 32911 Warren Rd., PID #033-01-0040-000, SW corner of Wayne & Venoy.
123-Appr. 1 yr. ext. to appr. site plan, Nankin Mills Village PUD, part of PID #017-99-0048-700 & PID 017-99-0027-000, -0028-000, -0029-000, -0047-001, -0047-002, south side of Joy, east of Newburgh.
124-Appr. 1 yr. ext. to appr. site plan, 539 N. Wayne Rd., PID #048-01-0019-000 & -0020-000, west side of Wayne Rd., north of Cherry Hill.
125-Conf. re-appt. W. Wild as Del. to CWCSA, term to exp. 6/30/10.
126-Conf. re-appt. K. Buford as Alt. Del. to CWCSA, term to exp. 6/30/10.
127-Conf. re-appt. of S. Durante to Library Bd., term to exp. 6/20/14.
128- Appr. checklist: \$ & Prepaid: \$ Mtg. adj. at 8:25 p.m.
Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

James Godbout
Council President

Eileen DeHart, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: June 21, 2009

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EDUCATION

ACHIEVERS

The Comcast Foundation has recognized the outstanding community service and academic achievements of senior **Callie Goodin** of John Glenn High School with a \$1,000 college scholarship.

The 2009 Comcast "Leaders and Achievers" Scholarship Program, one of the Comcast Foundation's signature community investment programs, honors students who have demonstrated leadership skills, academic achievement and a commitment to community service.

"This year's Leaders and Achievers scholarship recipients here in Michigan include a wide array of incredibly talented and driven individuals," said Tom Coughlin, senior vice-president, Comcast Michigan Region. "These young people are true leaders in their schools and in

their communities. They share Comcast's commitment to giving back to the Michigan communities in which we live and work and we are proud to support them as they take the next step in their education."

A resident of Westland, Goodin plans to attend Schoolcraft College and is among 122 young people from across the state to be honored this year by the Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program.

Junior **Keely Mog** of Westland was among 35 students inducted into Delta Mu Delta National Honor Society for Business Administration at Northwood University. Students must have a 3.45 grade point average, accomplished 90 credits and be approved by the

academic dean and dean of students to join the society.

Anna Rowe of Wayne received her bachelor of social work degree during commencement ceremonies May 2 at Adrian College.

Seven CADD students from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center in Westland won awards at the 2009 MITES (Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society). The students entered their drawings in six different categories and won first, second and third in three categories.

The state award winners were:

- **James Dutchak** - first place, CAD Photo - Realistic Rendering / IVD Car, and second place, CAD Promotional Product Image / IVD Car.

- **Andrew Larson**, first place, CAD Rendering - Manual / Mustang.

- **Kevin Sample**, first place, CAD Promotional Product Image / Workshop, and second place, CAD Photo-Realistic Rendering / Workshop

- **Shane Trantham**, second place, CAD Rendering - Manual / RC Car, and third place, CAD Pictorial Assembly Drawing / RC Car.

- **Andrew Janos**, third place, CAD Exploded Pictorial Assembly Drawing / Stirling Engine.

- **Anthony Toth**, third place CAD Photo-Realistic Rendering / Typewriter, and third place, CAD Promotional Product Image / Typewriter.

- **Cody Hubbert**, third place, CAD Rendering - Manual / Engine.



Moms Sherry Wells and Rita Garrett, holding posters and rattling noise makers, show support for the student readers.

Readers' reward: A grand parade

It was a parade the likes of which certain sports heroes in Detroit didn't get to experience this year. People holding up signs and cheering as their "heroes" paraded by.

Welcome to P.D. Graham Elementary's very own victory parade, a celebration of students' achievement in the accelerated reader program.

Accelerated reader is a computer-based program in which youngsters read selected books and then answer questions, checking on their

reading level and comprehension. The number of correct answers earns them points toward their goal.

The parade came at the end of the school year. Students paraded through the Westland school's halls as teachers, staff and parents cheered them and waved banners recognizing the number of points students earned throughout the year. No amount was too small to recognize and all were worthy of applause and the rattling of noise makers.



The Detroit Red Wings many not have gotten their victory parade this year, but they were at P.D. Graham in spirit with students like Quinn Arbour wearing their jersey for the Accelerated Reader parade.



Olivia Gatto wears her reading hat for the parade.

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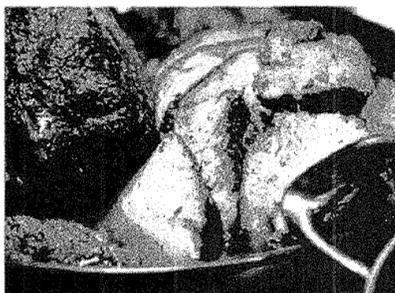
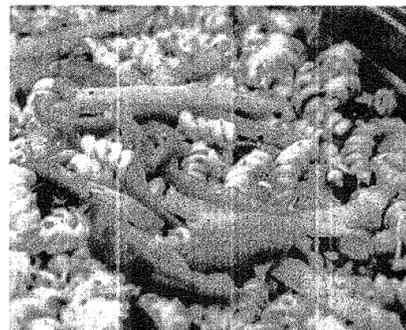
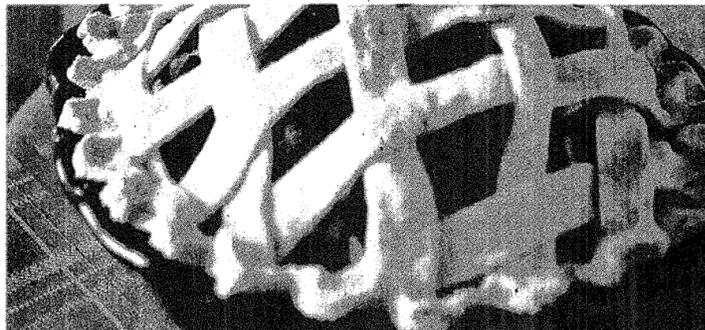
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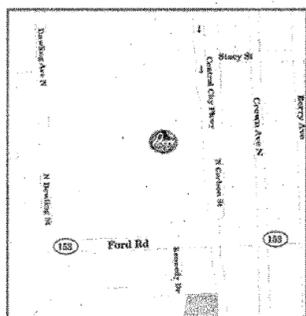
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Cheer for the hometeam, read today's **SPORTS** section



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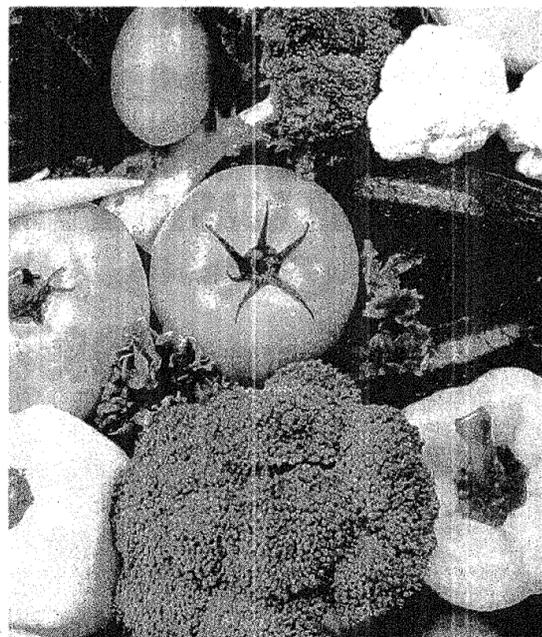
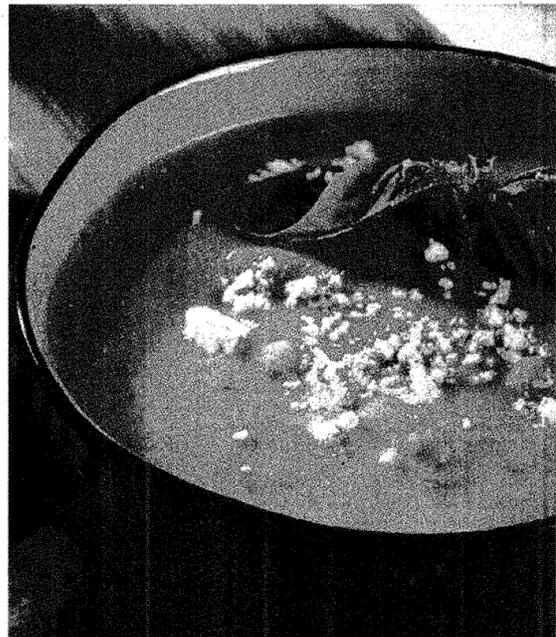
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Young Champions All Stars take aim on national title

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A group of youngsters from Westland and Canton are aiming high in cheerleading. Members of Westland Young Champions' All Stars, they're getting ready to compete for a national title after placing first in the state in Division 4.

"It's a nice group of girls. They're a well-rounded team, they fit together like a puzzle," said coach Danielle Santo. "They all get along fantastical-

ly. They're very caring to each other within cheer and outside cheer."

The team ranges in age from 9 to 16 and is part of the Westland Parks and Recreation Department's Young Champions, a division of Cheer America. They practice once a week at the Bailey Recreation Center.

According to Santo, the girls have been working hard in a quest for a state championship. They've done well at regionals, but never seemed to make the

top spot at state competition.

"They did some difficult moves that raised the bar at the state competition," said Santo. "Some old coaches came and saw them and said they had improved 100 percent. They couldn't believe how fantastically they pulled together as a team."

'FEARLESS'

The team has three fliers — Kelly Davis and Kelly Coffin of Westland and Becca McForley of Canton — who Santo describe as "fearless."

The team also includes twins Morgan and Mackenzie Parrent, Jessie Gilmer, Kaitlin Koval, Kayley Riker, Rio Santo, all of Westland, Danielle Hart of Madison Heights, Bryanna Olsen of Dearborn Heights, and Aiyanna Perkins of Detroit. The assistant coach is Tara Krolowski.



The Westland Young Champions All Stars pose with their coaches for a victory photograph after winning the state championship last month. They're now preparing for national competition in Grand Rapids in late July.

Santo has plenty to say about each girl and what they bring to the team.

About her fliers, Santo praised Davis, a fairly new to the Champions program, for doing split stunts. She's the only one at state competition to perform the stunt "that's very

hard to do." Coffin is the team member who "really tries the hardest," while McForley is the "daredevil."

The twins are an added bonus with their work and commitment to practice and competition, while Gilmer and Koval, the bases for stunts, "are a great pair, they complement each other."

"It's amazing how they work together," she said.

Riker has incorporated some stunt skills in her mounting skills "that are fantastic, and Rio Santo, Santo's daughter is a versatile cheerleader. She is an excellent back spotter and base."

Hart, the team's "power-house jumper," is new to the team this year.

"I actually think she was one piece of the puzzle needed to complete the team," said Santo about Hart. "She filled a hole in the team."

Santo describes Perkins as a "fantastic performer" who's "good at everything she does." Olsen has been with the team from the start when she lived in Canton. Her dance abilities shine in competition.

TEAM EFFORT

Santo also has praise for her assistant coach who takes the girls' confidence level and keeps them motivated and for parents Kim Coffin and

Charlotte Spiteri. Coffin runs the team and works with parents, keeping Santo connected with the girls, while Spiteri handles the conditioning work.

The team will compete in the national competition in Grand Rapids on July 25 where they'll go against some 35 other Division 4 teams from around the country. Santo has high hopes of the team winning.

"They're all performers, when it comes to competition time, they thrive," she said. "They don't have the jitterbugs. Once they're put in the situation of a competition the things I complain about at practice go away."

And the program's Division 3 team also is making news, winning a third place in regionals and a second in state competition.

"It's a huge accomplishment, they've never placed in regionals before," Santo said. "I had one little girl say, 'Now we have to place first in nationals and we'll have a first, second and third.'"

While the Division 4 girls prepare for a trip to nationals, they're also fund raising to go to cheer camp for Division 4 teams in August. The goal is to raise \$4,800, "to make sure everyone can go," Santo said.

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2009 PRIVATE WEEDS							
PAR_NUM		PAR_NUM		PAR_NUM		PAR_NUM	
001 99 0003 000		026 99 0028 002		042 03 0885 313		081 01 0123 303	
001 99 0004 000		026 99 0030 700		042 03 0896 004		081 01 0125 303	
001 99 0005 000		027 03 0013 000		042 99 0005 000		081 01 0280 303	
001 99 0006 000		027 03 0027 306		043 01 0083 300		081 01 0281 303	
001 99 0007 000		027 04 0016 304		043 01 0118 000		081 01 0283 303	
001 99 0008 000		028 04 0037 002		043 02 0277 000		081 01 0284 303	
001 99 0009 000		028 99 0010 000		043 99 0002 000		081 01 0286 303	
001 99 0010 000		028 99 0012 701		045 01 0298 000		081 01 0287 303	
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007 01 0602 005		032 03 0810 000		048 99 0031 000		070 01 0022 001	
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010 01 0568 001		034 01 0001 004		049 01 0007 301		070 01 0026 001	
010 01 0571 001		034 01 0015 000		051 99 0056 000		070 01 0027 001	
011 99 0003 000		034 01 0016 000		051 99 0058 000		070 01 0028 001	
013 01 0557 000		034 01 0018 000		051 99 0060 000		070 01 0029 001	
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015 99 0008 004		035 99 0002 000		054 99 0011 003		073 01 0001 000	
015 99 0008 009		036 99 0001 002		054 99 0012 002		073 03 0384 000	
016 99 0007 003		036 99 0004 001		057 03 0273 004		073 03 0385 000	
016 99 0008 002		038 01 0001 000		057 98 0029 000		073 03 0388 000	
018 99 0014 000		038 01 0023 008		058 01 0024 002		073 03 0396 000	
018 99 0015 703		042 02 0444 000		060 02 0025 000		073 04 0696 000	
019 99 0004 702		042 02 0445 000		060 05 0156 000		074 06 1153 000	
020 99 0007 007		042 02 0446 301		061 01 0116 303		074 06 1154 000	
021 99 0001 711		042 02 0447 300		061 01 0119 303		074 06 1155 000	

2009 PRIVATE WEEDS		2009 PRIVATE WEEDS		2009 PRIVATE WEEDS	
PAR_NUM		PAR_NUM		PAR_NUM	
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074 06 1212 000		083 05 0316 332		NEWBERRY	
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074 06 1213 003		083 99 0025 701		VALLEY VIEW	
074 06 1213 004		083 99 0028 000			
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082 04 0130 000		084 02 0786 001			
083 01 0802 000		BROOKFIELD			
083 01 0803 000		BROOKFIELD			
083 02 0007 302		BROOKFIELD			
083 02 0033 303		CHERRY HILL			
083 02 0057 303		PLA			
083 02 0058 303		COVINGTON			
083 02 0060 303		ESTAT			
083 02 0061 303		COVINGTON			
083 02 0066 301		WEST			
083 02 0082 000		COVINGTON			
083 02 0112 000		WEST			
083 02 0113 000		COVINGTON			
083 03 0168 000		WEST			
083 03 0191 000		MARLEE			
083 05 0281 318		WOODS			
		NEWBERRY			

Notice is hereby given that all noxious weeds growing on any land in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, must be destroyed on or before the 15th and 30th days throughout the months of May, June, July, August, September and October of 2009. Any person failing to comply with this notice on or before the dates mentioned shall be liable to the imposition of penalties set forth in Section 106-97 of the Westland Code of Ordinance and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the City in destroying said noxious weeds, which expenses, if unpaid by the owner, occupant, or agent, shall be spread against the property on the next County and School tax roll or the next general City tax roll.

Kevin L. Buford
Director, Department of Public Service
City of Westland
www.kbuford@cityofwestland.com

Publish: June 21, 2009

ORDINANCE NO. 29-W-26-16
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 46, SECTIONS 46-1(48), 46-1(49)c, and 461(49)d OF THE WESTLAND CITY CODE TO AMEND THE RATES FOR MUNICIPAL WATER AND SEWER AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE CONTROL CHARGES

THE CITY OF WESTLAND ORDAINS:

Section 1. That paragraph (a) of the portion of Section 46-1(48) of the Westland City Code entitled "Water consumption charges (Section 102-91)" shall be amended to provide as follows:

"a) Per 1,000 gallons per quarter or any fraction thereof \$3.07"

Section 2. That paragraph (c) of the portion of Section 46-1(49)c of the Westland City Code entitled "Sewage disposal rates (Section 10

Let the sun shine

The summer solstice officially begins at 1:45 am EDT June 21. On this day in the Northern Hemisphere, the sun rises and sets farthest north on the horizon which results in the maximum amount of daylight for the year.

With the warmer weather and longer days, many people prefer to spend the majority of their time outside soaking up the sun's rays. According to the American Cancer Society, most of the more than 1 million cases of non-melanoma skin cancer diagnosed yearly in the United States are considered to be sun-related. Sunshine is great for the mind and the body, but caution should be exercised in the amount of sun exposure.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov) offers these sun safety action steps:

- Do not burn.
- Avoid sun tanning and tanning beds.
- Generously apply sunscreen.
- Wear protective clothing.
- Seek shade.
- Use extra caution near water, snow and sand.
- Watch for the UV index.
- Get vitamin D safely.

You can also get healthy sun tips from the medical research databases, such as Health and Wellness Center and Medline, on the William P. Faust Public Library Web site (www.westlandlibrary.org). All databases can be accessed at the library or at home.

If you're interested in the physical properties, like sunspots, of the sun the

library has an assortment of titles in the astronomy section. Some titles you might want to consider include Steele Hill's "The Sun," Pam Spence's "Sun Observer's Guide," Tom Folley's "The Book of the Sun," Rudolf Kippenhahn's "Discovering the Secrets of the Sun," Mark Littmann's "Totality: Eclipses of the Sun" and Gary Mechler's "The Sun and the Moon."

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday. The library is closed Sundays during the summer.

Highlighted Activities

Introduction to eBay: 8:30 p.m. June 23

Have you heard about eBay but don't really understand what it's used for? Or maybe you know how it works but still aren't exactly sure how to go about earning money from things you may no longer need. Carol Kamm, owner of the eBay consignment store iSold It, will talk about eBay, what it is, how it works, and how it can work for you.

Documentary Movie Night: "The 11th Hour," 7 p.m. June 23

Join us for the documentary film, "The 11th Hour," which focuses on the myriad of sins perpetrated against the environment (pollution deforestation over-mining resources) the reasons behind it, and concludes with a spirited discussion of solutions offered by a crack team of scientists, designers and thinkers. All are welcome (children age 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult). No registration is required.

Memoir Writing for Older Adults: 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, June 24, Westland senior Friendship Center.

Have you ever wanted to write your

stories down but never had a chance? The Library and the Westland Friendship Center are offering a free eight-week session at the Friendship Center to jumpstart your writing, strengthen memories, and build friendships. This class will meet weekly at the same day and time and ends Aug. 12th. Sign up at the Friendship Center or the Reference Desk. Space is limited.

Science Fiction Book Club: 7 p.m. June 24

Join us for a discussion of Kim Stanley Robinson's "Red Mars." The first installment in Robinson's award winning trilogy is an action-packed and thoughtful tale of the exploration and settlement of Mars - driven by both personal and ideological conflicts - in the early 21st century. Copies of the book are available at the Reference Desk.

Open Mic: 6:30-8 p.m. June 25, teens and adults.

Need a spot to let your muse run wild, coffee shop-style? Join other local artists as they read, rap, sing, act, dance, and soliloquy for the betterment of your senses. Poets, writers, musicians, and performers encouraged to show us what you've got! Singer-songwriter Dave Boutette emcees. All audience members welcome.

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

Join the Library's Adult Summer Reading Program, "DIY @ Your Library." Programs, prizes, and reading!

Information Central was compiled by reference librarian Susan Hanson. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.



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Symposium looks at children's mental health

A rare public appearance by Michigan State Board of Education President Kathleen Straus is just one feature of this year's Children's Mental Health Symposium being held on in Redford Monday, June 22.

Straus will be joined at the 2009 rendition of the annual symposium by a slate of speakers that includes renowned children's mental health authors Ross Szabo and Wendy Byard and Detroit Public School's director for school social work services, Arezell Brown.

This year's symposium will take place in the auditorium of Thurston High School

in Redford and is entitled "Reducing the Stigma: Opening the Door to Communication and Services to Kids in School."

The symposium will run from 9 a.m. to noon, with registration beginning at 8:45 a.m.

Phil Cavanagh, the former Wayne County Commissioner, is once again the coordinator of the event and will be on hand to facilitate.

"The stigma associated with being a child with a mental illness is something I'm very passionate about combating," Cavanagh said. "Both children and parents need to be aware of the signs of mental illness,

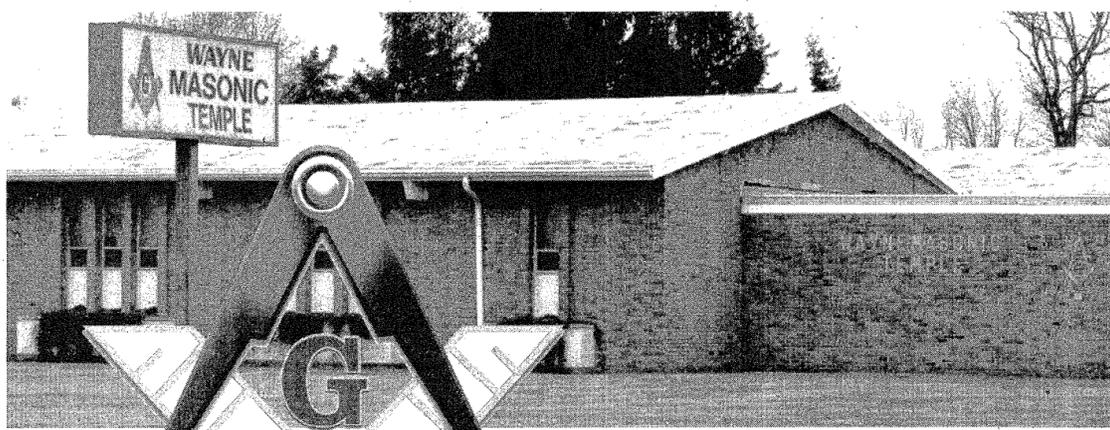
but they also need to be aware that steps can be made to assist them, if an illness is detected or diagnosed."

Other speakers and panelists include Carrie Banks Patterson from the Detroit-Wayne County Children's Mental Health Agency, and Kim Hunt and Ninoska Neives, both of whom represent the Southwest Detroit Association for Children's Mental Health and the Wayne County System of Care.

The symposium is free of charge. To reserve a seat, call (313) 286-3325 or by e-mail at symposiumsrsvp@yahoo.com.

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Some of the Local and Statewide projects we sponsor are:

- Michigan Child ID/Program
- Beacon Reading Project Volunteer Readers
- Scholarships/Student Assistance
- Pathways Senior Living Facility & Youth groups

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- ...look for more in life than just financial success?
- ...believe that a man has a responsibility to act with honor in everything he does?
- ...believe in God and allowing others to believe in "their" God?
- ...believe you have a responsibility to leave the world a better place than you found it?
- ...believe it is better to give than receive and show a willingness to help your neighbors?
- ...strive to be a good citizen and feel a moral duty to be true to the nation we live in?
- ...believe men should show compassion and goodness of heart toward human values and strive to lead a brotherly life?

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Hiring attorney is essential when filing for bankruptcy

Q: Dear Rick: I read your column about bankruptcy. After doing some soul searching I've decided that it would be the best course of action for me. I have talked to a couple of attorneys regarding bankruptcy and they have quoted me a fee that appears to be the going rate. A friend of mine told me about an Internet site where you can do your own bankruptcy and at a fraction of the cost. What are your thoughts on someone filing their own bankruptcy?



Money Matters

Rick Bloom appears to be the going rate. A friend of mine told me about an Internet site where you can do your own bankruptcy and at a fraction of the cost. What are your thoughts on someone filing their own bankruptcy?

A: I think it is a lousy idea for people to handle their own bankruptcy.

Bankruptcy is a federal procedure which is administered by the federal courts. When you file for bankruptcy you are dealing with federal rules and procedures that are complex and sometimes difficult to navigate. If you fail to dot all of the "i"s and cross all of the "t"s, you may find you did not get the results you desire and that could lead to problems. After all, your creditors, whether they are a charge card company or a bank, are going to have lawyers represent them. You are at a severe disadvantage if they have an attorney and you don't.

I realize that hiring a bankruptcy attorney is expensive but it is essential. It would be nice if bankruptcy was simply a matter of filling out a few forms. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Particularly, when it comes to sheltering assets from creditors, there are a variety of options you can choose from. A good bankruptcy attorney helps you make the right choices. In addition, when you go to court you want someone who is experienced in that forum and who will represent only you. That is exactly what a good bankruptcy attorney should do.

I recognize that bankruptcy attorneys do not come cheap. However, there are ways to reduce your costs. I recommend contacting your local bar association if you are having trouble paying for an attorney. Generally, the local bar association can assist in finding a qualified attorney at a reduced cost.

I recently read an article regarding individuals who were representing themselves in a variety of court matters.

Unfortunately, the end result for the majority of those people was less than favorable. Too many people believe that the judge will help an individual who appears without an attorney. Although, on the whole judges do try to assist individuals who appear on their own, there is only so much they can do. After all, in any procedure the judge

is required to be impartial. Therefore, any assistance is limited. Every judge that I have ever spoken with always agrees that it is a mistake for an individual to represent themselves. In fact, there is an old saying in the legal business which is, "an attorney who represents himself has a fool for a client." I think it is great that you

talked to the attorney about fees and that you received some competitive prices. You have every right to know when you hire an attorney how he/she will charge you. In many cases the attorney should be able to provide you with a flat fee or a good faith estimate as to the total fees you will be required to pay. I know sometimes it is

uncomfortable to discuss fees. However, every good attorney I know never hesitates to talk fees with their clients. If your attorney does not want to talk about fees and costs and makes you feel uncomfortable about the conversation then it probably means that you're dealing with the wrong attorney. I would like to wish all

fathers a Happy Father's Day, particularly my dad, Mitch, the greatest father a son could have.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money_matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com

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SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS, NEIGHBORS

SECTION B

HOMETOWN LIFE

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Marcos, Bell receive Raider Cup awards

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Erica Marcos and Brandon Bell are the 2009 recipients of the Raider Cup awards, recognizing them as the top female and male athletes in the North Farmington High School senior class.

The awards are also based on the athletes' overall school and community involvement.

Both participated in three sports and were active in extracurricular activities throughout the school year.

Marcos competed in diving, gymnastics and track and field, earning a total of 11 varsity letters. She was a state qualifier in all three sports and a team captain in two.

She was a two-time state qualifier in diving, and she sometimes swam a relay for the Raiders, too.

Marcos was an all-around gymnast, meaning she competed in all four events. She quali-



Erica Marcos



Brandon Bell



Erica Marcos, who earned 11 varsity letters at North Farmington, is the winner of the Raider Cup among senior female athletes.

fied for the regional every year and the state meet once.

In track and field, Marcos owns the school record and was a three-time state qualifier in the pole vault. She also competed in the long jump, high jump and hurdles.

While maintaining a 3.8 GPA, Marcos participated in the Summer in the City clean-up program, was a member of the NFHS Captain's Club and played the flute and piccolo in the school's symphony band.

Marcos will attend the University of Michigan, majoring in biology and science. She

will be a preferred walk-on with the track team, joining her sister, Andrea, the 2006 winner of the girls Raider Cup Award.

Bell competed in football, basketball and baseball. He will attend Western Michigan University and will be a preferred walk-on with the football team.

"It's a great honor, because there

were a lot of great candidates this year," Bell said of his selection for the Raider Cup. "As I look back, I'm glad I stuck with three sports, because at times I was thinking about dropping one. But I'm glad I stuck with all three."

Bell earned eight varsity letters — half of them in baseball in which he was the starting

center fielder on the varsity team throughout his high school career.

He was a two-way starter in football, carrying the ball many times from the tailback position and playing inside linebacker on defense.

In eight games, Bell led the Raiders in all-purpose yards and scoring. He averaged 4.5 yards per carry and nearly 27 per kick return. An All-OAA White Division player, Bell was North's leading tackler with 66, including four for loss.

In basketball, Bell's athleticism fit well with North's aggressive, trapping, scrambling style of defense. His dribbling and shooting abilities were assets offensively.

Bell was a leader in Dunckel Middle School's Boys Only Leadership Development Program, and he served on the diversity committee at North and the African-American Student Network.

SIDELINES

Bucks edge Fever

Kenny Uzoigwe's bicycle kick goal in the 78th minute proved to be the difference Thursday as the host Michigan Bucks edged the Fort Wayne (Ind.) Fever, 2-1, in a Premier Development League soccer victory at Ultimate Sports Arenas in Pontiac.

The Bucks led 1-0 in the first half on Jake Stacy's second goal of the year off an assist from Piotr Nowak.

The Fever, which had ousted the Bucks in the US Open Cup last month, evened the score at 1-1 in the 58th minute on a goal by Keith Detel off a one-time cross from Chas Perry.

The high energy of the Bucks' fresh legs then paid off in the 78th minute when Uzoigwe scored another one of his patented high profile goals for what would turn out to be the game-winner.

Tony Walls found Uzoigwe with his back to goal at the top of the 18. With two defenders on his back, Uzoigwe chested the incoming pass, headed it one time to set up the acrobatic, over-head kick.

The second-place Bucks, 6-2-1 (19 points) in the PDL's Great Lakes Division, return to action 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Ultimate Soccer Arenas vs. the Forest City London (Ontario), 3-0-3 (13 points).

Football camp

The Plymouth Wildcats football team is holding its Youth Camp June 22-24 at the PCEP Turf Stadium for players interesting in honing their linemen or passing skills.

There will be two sessions of the camp, being run by coach Mike Sawchuk. For those going into grades 5-9, sessions will be 5-7 p.m. each day; players entering grades 10-12 go 7-9 p.m.

Please go to www.plymouthwildcats.com for camp brochures and more information. Sawchuk can be reached at (734) 582-5696.

Learn to skate

The Arctic Edge Ice Arena in Canton is offering eight weeks of learn-to-skate sessions, beginning Tuesday, June 23.

Classes are 30 minutes each with 15 minutes of free time and are grouped by age and ability.

Parents can register children at the Arctic Edge, 46615 Michigan Avenue, or call (734) 487-7777 for more information.

New CAHA site

The Canton Amateur Hockey Association recently unveiled a new and improved Web site for the 2009-10 season.

The site has all the information anyone might need about CAHA teams, leagues and coaches for next year as well as brand new online registration.

Check it out at www.cantonhockey.org.

Bulldogs put bite on diamond opposition

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

No deficit is too large, no lead too small — they're the Motor City Bulldogs and they beat them all. Well, nearly all.

The Garden City-based U11 boys baseball team has compiled quite a season to date, winning 22 of 24 games (a loss to the Livingston Storm and tie with the Detroit Bees being the only blemishes) and already solidifying a berth in next month's Baseball Player's Association World Series to be held in Warsaw, Ind.

"We're having quite a year," voiced Bulldogs assistant coach Ken Montroy. "The kids get along, the parents get along - we just have a nice nucleus going for us and that certainly has a lot to do with our success."

The Bulldogs, the core of which has been together the past three seasons, were granted a spot in the July 21-26 World Series following their recent sweep of four games at the BPA Gold Cup Qualifier held in Jackson, MI. The tournament championship was one of two this season for the Bulldogs - the other coming at Saline Summer Slam.

The Bulldogs, first-year members of the Northwest Suburban League, opened play at the BPA Qualifier with a resounding 12-0 triumph over Dansville, and followed that up with a lopsided 13-1 decision over Adrian. Their stiffest test came in game three where Grand Rapids-based Around the Horn Stampede Black opened up a quick 6-0 lead after one inning, only to see the determined Bulldogs bounce back and bite their opponents, 10-9, to gain a shot at the tourney title.

Please see BULLDOGS, B3



All-Area softball team

Plymouth infielder Beth Heldmeyer, one of the area's top players again this season, was a sparkplug for the Wildcats, who won a district title. See page B2 for the All-Observer softball team.

Rapid fire frenzy

Area trio to join region's top shooters on state range

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Some say it's like golf — only with different targets, different equipment, different obstacles and a different degree of adrenaline.

It's the competitiveness among individuals that likens the little-known sport of practical shooting with the popular game of golf, and three area sharpshooters will be deeply involved this weekend in one of the sport's most prestigious events.

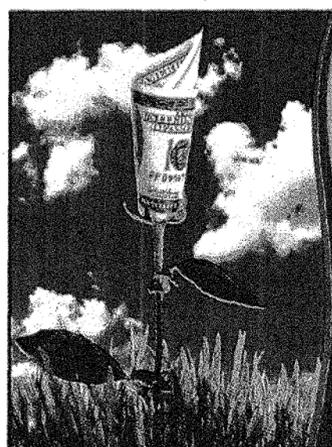
The Area 5 Championship, presented by the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) and sponsored by Infinity Firearms, is being contested at the South Kent Sportsman's Club in Dorr, MI, through Sunday. Nearly 280 shooters are slated to display their marksmanship over 12 challenging stages and sending more than 50,000 rounds downrange.

"This is the biggest competition I'll see," expressed Garden City native Rob Gaffney, who along with Roy Neal of Plymouth and Dave Maurice of Canton, have their sights set directly on knocking down enough targets in a limited span of time. "For an area match around here to have so many big dogs then, yes, this is a prestigious event."

Practical shooting measures the ability to shoot accurately and rapidly with a full-power handgun, rifle and/or shotgun. Speed, accuracy and power form the three sides of the triangle and each match measures a shooter's ability in all three areas.

Shooting stages, called courses, are obstacle-laden and require as many as 30 shots to complete. Scoring measures points registered per second and weighs the score to compensate for the number of shots fired. Points are deducted for misses, thus lower-

Please see SHOOTERS, B3



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Talented softball players abound in Observerland

FIRST-TEAM PLAYERS

Briana Combs, Fr. P, Liv. Ladywood: The freshman hurled the Blazers all the way to the Division 2 state finals while posting an overall record of 36-4.

In 285 innings, Combs finished with 305 strikeouts and posted an earned run average of 0.37 en route to All-Catholic, All-District, All-Region and first-team Division 2 All-State honors.

Combs also batted .324 in the ninth spot in the batting order.

"Briana is one of the best conditioned athletes I have ever been around; she trains to compete seven days a week, tirelessly," Ladywood coach Scott Combs said. "Her teammates tease her that she never wants to lose, even in a drill. Her abilities and competitiveness on the mound allowed us to play with the best programs."

Briana Lee, Soph. P, Salem: The sophomore pitcher made an all-around impact, going 17-6 with a 0.84 earned-run average, striking out 218 batters in 133 2/3 innings and chipping in on offense with a .369 average and six home runs.

Lee was the Rocks' defensive MVP and was named to the All-KLAA and All-Region teams. She

"In just two seasons she has struck out almost 450 batters," said Salem coach Bonnie Southerland. "That's pretty amazing in itself. She has the potential to really make a name for herself. The next two years should be pretty interesting."

Brittany Taylor, Sr. C, Liv. Franklin: The senior catcher led the 32-6 Patriots in several offensive categories from the leadoff spot, including runs (58), hits (63), doubles (13) and stolen bases (32).

She also batted .485 with two triples, five homers and 23 RBI. Her on-base average was .566 and her slugging percentage .731.

During her illustrious career, Taylor batted .493 with 226 hits, 18 homers and 103 stolen bases.

Taylor made All-KLAA, All-District, All-Region and Division 1 honorable mention All-State.

"Brittany brought positive energy every single day," Franklin coach Linda Jimenez said. "Her presence behind the plate was exciting to watch as was her base running. Besides her outstanding softball skills, she's a great role model. The Taylor twins will be greatly missed. They have left Franklin High a better place."

Megan Lawrence, Jr. 1B, F.H. Mercy: Megan Lawrence: A junior first base-



Briana Combs
Ladywood



Briana Lee
Salem



Brittany Taylor
Franklin



Megan Lawrence
Mercy



Beth Heldmeyer
Plymouth



Briana Taylor
Franklin



Mary Cox
Salem



Stacey Klonowski
Plymouth



Taylor Cummings
Farmington



Stephanie Arnold
N. Farmington

man, Lawrence started drawing lots of interest from college coaches after an outstanding season in which she batted .438 with 42 hits (10 doubles, two triples and a home run). She scored 20 runs and knocked in 18. She made just three errors and had a .995 fielding percentage. Her slugging percentage was .615. Lawrence made the all-state first team after being named all-Catholic and all-region.

"Megan is a very competitive individual," coach Jack Falvo said. "She expects a lot of herself, and we could always count on her to be a gamer and to compete. She has improved tremendously, and we expect, with her and the other returning seniors, to be the core of our team next year."

Beth Heldmeyer, Sr. 2B, Plymouth: Heldmeyer's consistency in the field and at the plate played a big role in Plymouth's 32-10 season, which reached the Division 1 regional final.

She batted .496 and was rewarded by being selected to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams.

"Beth is a very valuable player to us," said Plymouth coach Val Canfield. "Just having her and Stacey Klonowski up the middle is a dynamic duo. Beth is real aggressive defensively and she is a real powerful contact hitter."

Heldmeyer will go to Sienna Heights, where she will run cross country, Canfield noted.

Briana Taylor, Sr. SS, Liv. Franklin: The senior shortstop, a first-team All-State selection in Division 1, led the Patriots with 13 homers (school-record), three triples and 41 RBI.

Taylor batted a team-best .508 with an on-base average of .551 and a slugging percentage of .893. The clean-up hitter also finished with 62 hits, eight doubles and 14 stolen bases.

For her career, Taylor batted an identical .493 along with her twin sisters Briana with a total of 215 hits, 16 homers, 73 stolen bases and 119 RBI.

Defensively this season, she finished with 110 assists (school record) and 51 putouts with only seven errors (.958 fielding average).

"She has unbelievable range at shortstop," Jimenez said. "Her strength and agility make her perfect for the position, but you can't help be impressed with her soft hands."

"Briana is also a first-class young lady who was well-respected by her teammates and coaching staff."

She is headed with her twin sister to Grand Valley State on a basketball scholarship.

Mary Cox, Sr. SS, Salem: Her coach, Southerland, issued high praise for the senior shortstop by calling her "one of the most all-around student-athletes I have coached" in her 25-year career.

Cox again spearheaded the Rocks in her second season as team captain, ripping 50 hits and knocking in 30 while batting .442 out of the key No. 3 spot in the lineup. When needed, the team leader helped out as a reliever and played crisp defense.

"(She's an) extremely hard worker and achiever," Southerland noted. "You could see this by her awards."

Cox won the Salem Rock Solid Award, collected her second Salem Golden Glove and was named to the All-KLAA and All-District squads.

Stacey Klonowski, Jr. SS, Plymouth: The junior shortstop, like Heldmeyer, was a driving force for the Wildcats as they marched to the regional final.

Klonowski batted .476 and was picked to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams in recognition of her outstanding all-around season.

"Stacey is just an unbelievable player and I'm glad she's returning for her senior year," Canfield said. "She is real consistent, has a powerful arm and makes the hard plays look easy. Plus, she has a powerful bat and is a key hitter with runners in scoring position."

Taylor Cummings, Sr. SS, Farmington: Cummings was a four-year varsity starter, the first three at second base before moving to shortstop this year. She led the Falcons (20-19) with a .439 batting average. In 39 games, she had 54 hits with seven doubles and a home run. Cummings scored 28 runs and drove in 33 as the team's No. 3 hitter. Her on base and



Miranda Rysdorp
Canton



Cara Miller
Ladywood



Shannon Pietruszka
Garden City



Ali Robinson
Farmington

slugging percentages were .482 and .520, respectively. She is an all-OAA Red and all-region player.

"When it came down to the clutch moments, she was the player I wanted up to bat," coach Stefanie Volpe said. "There was never a time I didn't trust her with the bat. She's a great kid and a smart ballplayer. She was a leader on the field. She was a captain, so the kids looked up to her; the younger kids responded to her."

Stephanie Arnold, Sr. SS, N. Farmington: A four-year starter who spent two seasons each at second base and shortstop, Arnold helped the Raiders win the OAA White Division championship (20-0) and finish 29-7 overall. In 36 games and 112 at-bats, she batted .410 with 46 hits, which included 13 doubles, one triple and six home runs. Arnold scored 46 runs and had 36 RBI. She had just nine errors at the busiest position on the field for a .907 fielding percentage.

Her on base score was .508. Arnold is also an academic all-state player.

"She had one of the best individual seasons I've ever seen here at North," coach Dave Brubaker said. "She has a great deal of power, and she has a great eye for the ball. She did everything extremely well, and that was good for the team. She played hurt most of the year with a sore arm, but she didn't let it affect her. She was a gamer; she went out there and played hurt, and I attribute that to how much she loves the game."

Miranda Rysdorp, Sr. OF, Canton: Chiefs head coach Jim Arnold knew what kind of performance he could expect every game out of Rysdorp, a strong-armed outfielder with a potent bat.

Rysdorp batted .481, with 16 extra-base hits and 26 runs, a catalyst behind many of the Chiefs' rallies. She was named to the All-KLAA, All-District and All-Region teams and was the Canton batting champion.

"She has speed as well as a strong arm," Arnold said. "She had two putouts at first from center field."

Shannon Pietruszka, Sr. OF, Garden City: Although the end result wasn't the same as last year when the Cougars captured the Division I softball title, the individual performance turned in by this senior outfielder was just as spectacular. Competing in her third varsity campaign, Pietruszka batted .342 with a slugging per-

centage of .425 after clubbing 25 hits. She scored 22 runs, drove in 12, stole eight bases and fanned only nine times.

"Shannon has been a very strong outfielder for us the past three seasons," Garden City coach Barry Patterson said of Pietruszka, who will attend Marygrove College and play volleyball. "She was again our team's sparkplug. She just always seemed to get everyone going."

Cara Miller, Fr. OF, Liv. Ladywood: The freshman center fielder led the Blazers' hitting attack with a .390 average with 21 doubles and 25 RBI.

The tall and rangy Miller made All-Catholic, All-District, All-Region and honorable mention All-State honors in Division 2.

"Cara is simply a tremendous athlete and a tremendous person," Scott Combs said. "Her work ethic is impeccable. When we moved her to cleanup in the order, we moved as a team to a new level. Cara hit a three-run homer in our first game of the year to win it, and set the pace from then on."

Ali Robinson, Sr. OF, Farmington: As the leadoff batter, the senior center fielder was adept at getting on base. She had 60 hits (all but one singles) and a .429 batting average. Robinson, who accepted an offer to play at Madonna University, was 22-of-23 on stolen bases, scored 33 runs and contributed 11 RBI. Her on base and fielding percentages were .448 and .931, respectively.

"Any time she was on base, she was a threat," coach Stefanie Volpe said. "She can make a lot happen; she can drop it down and beat it out or slap it past you. Her speed is her biggest weapon. She was my fire, my spunk. As the leadoff hitter, she's the one who got the game going. Even if she got out, she was jumping in the dugout, trying to encourage and get the troops fired up. That's why she won the Coaches Award. When we weren't in the dugout, she was our other half (of the coaching staff)."

COACH OF THE YEAR
Scott Combs, Liv. Ladywood: The second-year coach guided the Blazers to a 37-8 overall record and a berth in the Division 2 state finals before losing to Niles, 4-0. Ladywood earned district and regional tournament titles. The Blazers also captured the Catholic League's Central Division and was runner-up to Allen Park Cabrini in

2009 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SOFTBALL FIRST TEAM

Briana Combs, Fr. P, Liv. Ladywood
Brittany Taylor, Sr. C, Liv. Franklin
Megan Lawrence, Jr. 1B, F.H. Mercy
Beth Heldmeyer, Sr. 2B, Plymouth
Briana Taylor, Sr. SS, Liv. Franklin
Mary Cox, Sr. SS, Salem
Stacey Klonowski, Jr. SS, Plymouth
Taylor Cummings, Sr. SS, Farmington
Stephanie Arnold, Sr. SS, N. Farmington

2009 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SOFTBALL SECOND TEAM

Natalie Sanborn, Sr. P, Liv. Franklin
Amy Dunleavy, Jr. P, Canton
Katie Severson, Fr. P, N. Farmington
Erin Rodes, Sr. C, Plymouth
Laura McKelvey, Sr. C, N. Farmington
Jordan Searcy, Sr. C, Liv. Ladywood
Hilmarie Verda, Fr. 1B, Garden City
Alysa Giehl, Jr. 1B, Liv. Ladywood
Chelsea Williams, Soph. 2B, Liv. Franklin

HONORABLE MENTION

Carol Ann Sexauer, Soph. SS, Canton
Sarah Sanders, Sr. SS, Redford Union
Blanca Vasovski, Jr. SS, F.H. Harrison
Heidi Schmitt, Soph. 3B, Salem
Amanda Burnard, Sr. 3B, Plymouth
Hannah Atkinson, Sr. OF, F.H. Mercy
Laura Deacon, Sr. A-L, Liv. Garden
Katelyn Shattler, Sr. A-L, Stevens

COACH OF THE YEAR

Scott Combs, Liv. Ladywood

COACH OF THE YEAR HONORABLE MENTION

Canton: Jesse Larner, Samantha Partain, Kaitlyn Mattson; Churchville: Katie Stodulski, Taylor Kerr, Katina St. Pierre; Clarencville: Charmaine McQueen, Val Sochacki, Brittany Brooks, Lisa Wilson, Stephanie Bishop, Miranda Cummings; Farmington: Kim Toth, Katie Rankin, Kaitlin Lock, Lindsay Liwak; Franklin: Nicole Emery, Natalie Polakowski, Jessica Emery, Mariah Barcus; Garden City: Ashley Lynn, Kelsey Susalla; Harrison: Michelle Westcott, Emma Williams, Arisa Nagasaki; John Glenn: Stacey Truskowski; Ladywood: Jennifer Kelley, Gina Sykes, Julie Bushart, Courtney LaValley, Carl SanMillan, Sara Stempin; Lutheran Westland: Emily Wilson, Cathy Haller; Mercy: Katherine Garry, Brittany Stallworth, Ellen Panetta; N. Farmington: Karleigh Creighton, Amelia Mittelbrun, Eileen Tausch, Katie Creighton, Megan Young; Plymouth: Jillian Brennan, Lauren Smith, Jessica Bondy; Redford Union: Kim D'Arcangelo, Tory Hebler, Sarah Sanders, Danielle Sweeney; Salem: Christina Parsons, Emily Pitcoke; Stevenson: Shelby Wilson, Kristina Vaclavik; Thurston: Becca Burgess, Kara Laskos, Bre Taylor; Wayne: Hailee Lankton, Kathy Harris.

the A-B Division playoffs. One of the Blazers' biggest accomplishments was winning the Michigan Stars Classic against several state-ranked teams.

"We played the toughest schedule possible to prepare for the state tournament," Combs said. "We have only one thought process in practice — quality not quantity."

"The players have bought into my insistence on either doing it right or we don't move on. We have short practices, never more than 90 minutes. The players decided at the start of the year to practice seven days a week, and we had fun every day."

Combs played four sports and lettered 11 times at Battle Creek Harper Creek H.S. He went on to Kalamazoo College where he played baseball and basketball, earning eight letters. He has a law degree from the University of Detroit and a private practice in Novi.



Scott Combs
Ladywood coach

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Area golfers set to play in Michigan Amateur

BY MARTY BUDNER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After a year's absence because of back problems, Bill O'Connor is eagerly looking forward to playing again in the Michigan Amateur.

The 98th edition of the tournament is scheduled for June 23-27 at Spring Meadows Country Club in Linden. The 128-player field engages in two rounds of stroke play with the top 64 advancing to match play.

"It's the biggest Amateur event in the state, and you always want to do well in it," said O'Connor, a 1985 Brother Rice graduate.

"If you can win your state Amateur once in your lifetime, that is something you can always take with you," he said. "It's something to be proud of and have a feather in your cap, so to speak."

The 42-year-old O'Connor has played in 17 Michigan Amateur tournaments dating back to 1992, missing only last year's event.

A Birmingham resident and member of Oakland Hills Country Club, O'Connor has advanced to the Sweet 16 round of the tournament five

MICHIGAN AMATEUR FACTS

WHAT: 98th Michigan Amateur sponsored by the Golf Association of Michigan

WHEN: June 23-27, 2009

WHERE: Spring Meadows Country Club (Linden, MI).

FIELD: Starting field of 128 amateurs for stroke play. Top 64 qualify for match play.

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND: Saturday, June 27 (Semifinals and Finals, Match Play, Tee times start at 8 a.m.)

DIRECTIONS: Take US-23 to exit 79 (Silver Lake). Go west to Ripley Road. Go north on Ripley Road to the club.

INFORMATION: 1-810-735-4363 (Spring Meadows Pro Shop)

times, with his best finish coming in 1993 at Travis Point Country Club in Ann Arbor. O'Connor advanced to the semifinal round that year, losing to eventual champion Del de Windt of Bloomfield Hills on the 17th hole.

His golf resume also includes Michigan Mid-Amateur play, where he's finished in the top 10 on nine different occasions. He was the Michigan Mid-Amateur runner-up in 2004.

O'Connor was the Horton Smith Championship runner-up in 2002. He's played on nine state Fuller Cup teams and a dozen Atlas Trophy

teams. He's been a seven-time Golf Association of Michigan honor roll member.

O'Connor plans to play the Spring Meadows Country Club course at least once in preparation for the upcoming Amateur. He believes his game is starting to improve following his time off from back surgery in 2007.

"I've been able to practice more than I have in the past couple of years with having a bad back," he said. "I'm excited and I think I have a chance to do well. I should be able to make match play and we'll see what happens from there."

"It's mostly a young field to

AMATEURS ON THE LINKS

The following golfers from the Observer & Eccentric's coverage area have scheduled tee times in the 98th Michigan Amateur:

PLYMOUTH: Bill Zylstra; Chad Johnson; Adam Hogue.

LIVONIA: Michael King; John Proben; Tommy Lucko; Patrick Alger; Kevin Janasik.

FARMINGTON HILLS: Matt Malloure; Mike Beals.

BIRMINGHAM: Sazan Bardha; Bill O'Connor; Stephen Jones; David Hall.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS: Matt Alessi; Gene Gizzarelli; Eric Spencer; Brett Hudson; J.C. Wilhelm.

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP: John Berg; Nick Moran.

BEVERLY HILLS: Mark Hamilton.

SOUTHFIELD: Ron Jona.

ROYAL OAK: Joe Carroll.

begin with, and there will be a few of us mid-ams who will go out and play well, and hopefully I'm one of them."

SHOOTERS

FROM PAGE B1

ing the final score. All of this occurs in approximately a three-minute span.

ON THE RADAR

Gaffney, Neal and Maurice, all are experienced shooters having more than five years each competing in the ever-growing sport. They will be using pistols familiar to them in their bid to achieve high scores and continue their trek upward in terms of classification.

Neal, 37, currently holds down 'A' classification, and with another outstanding performance this weekend, could move into the Master category.

"It takes a ton of practice and discipline to be successful in this sport," said the Redford Thurston graduate, who was introduced to practical shooting in 1998 and became obsessed with it by 2000. "After I got out of the military, I was looking for an adrenaline sport. I discovered it and it really became contagious."

"I've been a hunter and fisherman most of my life, so I like the outdoors," said Maurice, 46, currently a 'B' class shooter who is zeroing in on 'A' status. "I saw it on TV and thought it would be fun to try. What I had to do was learn how to shoot a pistol pretty well, so I went to the shooter's range and took training sessions. I started working and practicing and really enjoyed it."

There is a lot of skill involved in knocking down targets, but the real rush, all three agree, comes in the form of athleticism and the level of competition put forth.

"I just like the competition," said Neal, whose weapon of choice will be a custom-made Strayer-Voight Infinity (SVI). "I don't care if we're playing for tiddlywinks, we're playing for money and for pride when we're out there. This weekend happens to be for a little more."

WHAT A RUSH

Handling a firearm while on the move poses the greatest obstacle for these competitors. And like any other sport - whether driving a golf ball, negotiating a turn at 200 miles per hour or completing a marathon - to be successful takes a great work ethic, poise and concentration.

"Practical shooting is a fast and furious pistol sport," said Maurice, who often is dressed in a polo shirt, shorts and football spikes, along with the mandatory safety glasses and ear protection during his time on the course. "The sport does a lot to teach you how to shoot effectively and technically correct. My thrill is being confident I'm pretty well trained in how to handle a gun."

"This sport is high-speed decision-making with a gun in your hand," described Neal. "We do all the things your mom told you not to and I think that's what makes it so addictive for many."

The fun isn't limited to the happenings on the course or the range either, as socializing plays a big role in attracting new faces to the sport.

"I competed in an Indiana Sectional and the people there were a scream," said Gaffney, a 'C' class participant who will also be firing a SVI model. "The sport is a lot fun because it is competition, but the social gathering is something that is very important and fun, too."

Whatever the results, Neal, Gaffney and Maurice are in agreement the experience will outweigh that of any other competition based on the caliber of participants.

"If you have an ego, you're going to get crushed because you're rolling the dice with the best in the world," Neal said.

Macker tourney makes only metro-area stop

BY DAN O'NEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If basketball is your game, as either a player or spectator, the Gus Macker 3-on-3 Tournament June 27-28 in Southfield will be of interest to you.

"The Macker" is part of the second annual Southfield Sports Festival and is the only one scheduled to take place in metro Detroit this year.

Bill Waterhouse, director of Southfield parks and recreation, expects a repeat of last year when about 100 teams participated in the city's first Macker tournament.

He estimates a crowd of nearly 3,000 people will attend the two-day event. There is no charge for admission.

"We had a good time last year," Waterhouse said. "I think everybody enjoyed it. We had good weather. It's always weather-dependent when you have an outdoor event."

"We enjoyed putting it on. We're hoping it will be at least that and exceed that this year."

"If you participate, it's good competition. If you want to be a spectator, come out, enjoy the weekend and see some pretty good basketball."

The Macker organizers are still accepting online registrations and will probably do so until the last possible time, according to Waterhouse.

Teams can register at www.macker.com; click on Southfield to go to the correct site.

There will be five youth age divisions (10 and under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16 and 17-18), one adult division (19 and older) and a wheelchair division open to all ages.

Each team is allowed a maxi-

mum of four players. The team fee is \$128 and includes a T-shirt for each player and a minimum of three games.

All games will be played in the Southfield Municipal Complex parking lot at 26000 Evergreen Rd. between 10 and 11 mile roads and just south of I-696.

The tournament times are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 27, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 28. Restrooms and concessions will be available.

BULLDOGS

FROM PAGE B1

With momentum clearly on their side, the Bulldogs needed only three innings to score 12 runs and dispose of the Michigan Elite, 12-0.

Montroy, of Garden City, and Ken Hollenbeck, of Westland, serve as assistants on the staff, while Dallas Kidd and Rob Moyers, both of Garden City, share the head coaching duties.

"Dallas has stepped in this year and done a fantastic job," Montroy said. "He's from the old school and he teaches the kids like they need to be coached."

"We're fortunate because we do have a great nucleus of players and they like to compete," Montroy went on. "We never

feel like we're out of a game. We were down 6-0 in the first inning and came back to win. We haven't lost since Mother's Day weekend. It's a pretty good situation we have going right now."

Talent can be found all around the diamond as the Bulldogs' 2009 roster is comprised by Vinnie Bakerian (Garden City), Sammy Hollenbeck (Westland), Brendan Wetmore (Westland), Travis Kidd (Garden City), A.J. Montie (Livonia), Robbie Moyers (Garden City), Jordan Pressley (Romulus), Jarid Latham (Garden City), Cody Montroy (Garden City), Donovan Sheridan (Garden City), Frankie Luscka (Garden City) and Jacob Ledesma (Dearborn Heights).

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NEW PATIENTS

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Get creative

The Livonia Public Library and the Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) are offering a Teen Art Camp for students 12 years and older.

Two sessions will be held at the Civic Center Library: 7-8:30 p.m., Monday, July 20 and 2-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 22.

Local artist Lin Baum will teach the class, with a focus on an introduction to representational drawing in pencil. VAAL will provide the art supplies. There is no charge for the class.

Students entering seventh grade and up can sign up for the Sandburg Teen Summer Art Camp offered at the Sandburg Library in Livonia.

This class is taught by Julie Cooper, fine artist and teacher. The cost is \$45.

The sessions run one week, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday, Aug. 10-14. Students will create a large canvas acrylic painting.

There is no residency requirement for either program. To make a reservation to attend either program, contact Patti Goonis at (248) 893-4010.

Divorce support

Attorney James J. Harrington III will discuss divorce proceedings with emphasis on pre and post custody issues at the next meeting of the Divorce Support Group at Schoolcraft College's Transition Center. The group will meet from 7-9 p.m., in room 225 at the McDowell Center, Tuesday, June 23.

The Divorce Support Group is open to anyone contemplating, in the process of or having difficulty adjusting to divorce. There is no fee to attend the group and registration is not required.

A certified divorce financial planner from Divorce Solutions is available for consultation from 5-7 p.m., the first Monday of the month at the Transitions Center. Clients are served on a first come first served basis. Sign in begins at 4:30 p.m. The service is free.

Attorney Laure Reyes Kopack from the firm of Creighton, McLean & Shea, is available for free consultation from 5-7 p.m., the second Monday of the month and attorney Marie Pulte is on hand the third Monday of the month. Sign in beginning at 4:30 p.m.

For more information about the Divorce Support Group call the Transitions Center at (734) 462-4443.



Jerry Young and Lyla Young

60TH ANNIVERSARY

Jerry Young and Lyla (Hall) Young, of Farmington Hills, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 25.

The couple was married June 25, 1949 in Detroit. Jerry is retired from General Motors and Lyla worked for Farmington Public Schools. Their children are Cindy Primer, Jerry Young, Jr., Pam Schultes, Judy Chimner, Craig Young, Todd Young, Lou (Bunny) Hozeska, Jennifer Young. They have 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The couple will celebrate with a family picnic in the park.

MILESTONES



Marilyn Joyce and Donald Siebert on their wedding day in 1959.



Marilyn Joyce and Donald A. Siebert

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Donald A. and Marilyn Joyce (Head) Siebert of Gwinn, formerly of Livonia, marked their 50th wedding anniversary Feb. 14. The couple married in 1959 at Dunning Park Bible Chapel in Redford. Donald is a 1949 graduate of Highland Park High School and worked for Chrysler in various jobs over 35 years, retiring from the Chrysler Engine Plant in Trenton.

Marilyn is a 1955 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School. A Cleary Business College graduate, she worked for Bower-Freeman and Bower in Ypsilanti.

After marrying, the couple lived in Wayne for three years before moving to Livonia, where they raised three children. After 34 years in Livonia, they moved to Gwinn, where Donald drove a school bus for eight years and Marilyn ran her own day care business. They are now retired.

The couple is active at Lake Superior Christian Church and has been involved with Upper Peninsula Bible Camp and Little Lake Gospel Chapel. Marilyn enjoys crafts, piano, singing in choir, Bible studies and is a member of a study club in Gwinn. Donald is a member of an amateur radio

club. They enjoy supporting Gospel causes together.

Their children are Craig (Cathie) Siebert of Plymouth, Davis Siebert of Dearborn Heights, the late Amy Siebert, Dona Joyce (David) Dillon of Fort Worth, Texas. They have nine grandchildren.

They celebrated with family and friends at Tailwinds, on the old Sawyer Air Base in Gwinn. Cheryl (Young) Mounsey of Gladstone, who served as the flower girl in their wedding, and her husband, Dennis, also took them to dinner in celebration of their milestone anniversary.

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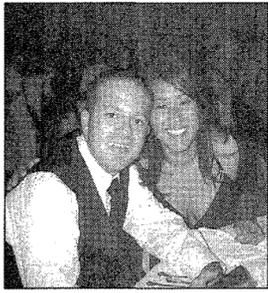
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MILESTONES

Women can get free job search help

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER



Edwards-Reddy

EDWARDS-REDDY

Jeannine Edwards and James Patrick Reddy announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Donald and Tuk Su Edwards of Canton, is a 2000 Salem High School graduate and a 2005 Wayne State University graduate with a bachelor's degree in biology. She's pursuing a bachelor's degree in secondary education at Eastern Michigan University and is in a residency program at Detroit Medical Center. She coaches girls and boys soccer at Canton High School and works at Dairy Queen in Canton.

Her fiancé, son of Patrick and Carole Reddy of Plymouth, is a 2000 Canton High School graduate and a 2006 Eastern Michigan University graduate with a bachelor's degree in science education. He teaches at Agape Christian Academy and coaches boys basketball at Canton High School.

The wedding will be held in July 2009 on the beach at Lauderdale by the Sea, Fla. The reception will be held at Sea Watch in Lauderdale by the Sea, Fla. A second reception will be held in Canton.

The JVS Women To Work program has long been helping women find employment after they've been home with family responsibilities and out of the paid workforce. A summer Women To Work program will be held 9 a.m.-noon Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting Tuesday, July 7 and wrapping up Aug. 6. An informational meeting from 9-11 a.m., Tuesday, June 30, kicks off the free five-week program, at the Jewish Vocational Service office in Southfield.

Participants also must be available at other times to complete an assessment and for individual meetings with Judy Richmond, JVS employment specialist.

The program helps women (men are also eligible) with job search basics such as resume writing and interviewing skills. Also covered are job search strategies and stress management. Those interested in participating should call Richmond at (248) 233-4232.

"It's intended for people who are able to begin work immediately," said Richmond.

The program draws women from the northern suburbs, as well as western Wayne County.

"I've had people as far away as Howell and Lake Orion. It's typically Detroit and the northern suburbs.

"We're seeing more people," she said, noting that layoffs have hit workers hard in southeastern Michigan. "People have to be perhaps more persistent in terms of the job resource connections they make. It's important to be realistic."

Highly motivated job-seekers will find work, she said. JVS employment specialists and career development pros can help new graduates who "may have to look in a new direction or explore other avenues."

Richmond is pleased to see career information offered even at the high school level. It's a good idea to make some career decisions while still in school, Richmond said. She pointed out that some young people graduate from college without clear career goals.

"It takes some career counseling to help people in those decisions."

This is the first time in recent years that JVS has offered a summer Women To Work program. The current economic climate has created more need for women to return or enter the workforce for the first time, Richmond said.

Charter One Bank sponsors Women To Work. "We're glad that's continuing," she said of the bank's support.

JVS main offices are at 29699 Southfield Road, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile, in Southfield.

REUNION CALENDAR

The Reunion Calendar runs Sundays in the paper as space allows, and online in its entirety at www.hometownlife.com. Submit your announcement at least two weeks in advance to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Birmingham Groves

Class of 1969
40th high school reunion, 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 24, 2009, at The Community House in Birmingham. Contact Sue (Dickson) Carlson at (248) 737-1398 or grovesclassof69@aol.com for more information.

Brighton High School

Class of 1989
Planning a July 25 reunion, with buffet dinner, DJ and cash bar, at Barnstormer Entertainment Complex in Green Oak Township. Tickets \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. Contact Kelley (Doan) Simpson at (269) 375-5773 or at k4kelley@yahoo.com, or see groups. yahoo.com/group/brightonclassof1989.

Clarenceville High School

All Class Reunion
10 a.m. to park closing, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2009 at Kensington Metropark, 2240 West Buno, Milford at South Martindale, Shelter T. Bring a dish to pass for 1 p.m., potluck lunch. BYOB for adult beverages in non-glass containers. To help cut cost, feel free to bring a package of burgers, hot dogs, and buns. This invitation includes everyone who attended the Livonia Clarenceville School system. Staff and faculty also welcome. For more information, contact Walter Ragland II at wragland2@hotmail.com or (269) 720-5679.

Dearborn Fordson High School

Class of 1964
45th Reunion 6 p.m. to midnight (dinner at 7 p.m.) Aug. 8, 2009, at Stitt American Legion Post #232, 23850 Military, cor-

ner of Telegraph and Warren, Dearborn Heights. Cost is \$25 in advance, \$27 at the door. Casual attire. Beer, pop and DJ provided. BYOB and wine. RSVP and send payment by July 23, payable to Sylvia Skelton, 1607 Edwin, Westland, MI 48186. For information, contact (734) 326-3964 or silly1021@comcast.net, or Barb Weide at (734) 416-9176.

Dearborn High School

Class of 1969
40th Reunion, 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009, at the Knights of Columbus O'Kelley Hall, 23663 Park Street, Dearborn, 48124. Tickets are \$45 each. For information, call Tom Gillespie at (313) 418-6070 or e-mail Maryann (Taylor) Manduch at mmanduch@wideopenwest.com.

Dearborn Heights Riverside

Class of 1967
42-year reunion is planned for Sept. 18-19, 2009. Event includes: Friday night graduate-only get-together with pizza and salad (\$10) at DeLuca's, 27424 W. Warren Road, Westland; Saturday night dinner at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Road, Westland. Tickets for Saturday event are \$35 per person. Contact Gerry Porta for more information at (734) 718-9401 or gwiatr@gmail.com.

Detroit Henry Ford

Class of 1969
July 25 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Tickets are \$65 per person, \$120 per couple, and include dinner, beer, wine, pop and cash bar. DJ and photographer. Looking for classmates. Call Nancy Sylvester Wampler at (734) 718-5428 or e-mail to jnwampler@yahoo.com

Detroit Blessed Sacrament

Class of 1952
Planning a high school reunion on June 27, 2009. Looking for classmates. Call Shirley Boots at (734) 525-8746.

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.

Classes at Madonna

Madonna University's Office of Continuing Education and Professional Studies is offering a class called "User Friendly Garden" that is ideal for gerontology students or anyone working with the elderly. Participants will learn simple and inexpensive ways to adapt a garden to someone with disabilities and/or age-related changes in physical abilities. Class meets 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, June 27. Cost is \$24.

The class meets in room 1003 in the academic building on the Madonna University Livonia campus, 36600 Schoolcraft, at Levan. (734) 432-5804 or visit <http://www.madonna.edu/pages/officecontinuinged.cfm>.

Contest

The deadline to enter the Farmington Garden Club's 23rd Good Neighbor Garden Contest is July 1. The contest is open to all residents of Farmington and Farmington Hills. Judging will be July 6-10. Gardeners who are entered will be told which day the judging will take place at their gardens. The first, second and third place winners will receive a gift certificate from Steinkopf Nursery. Entry forms are available at farmingtongardenclub.com and at Steinkopf Nursery. You may also send gardeners name, telephone number and location of garden to FGC, 34621 Beechwood, Farmington Hills, MI, 48335-4010. If the garden is not your own, get gardener's permission to enter the garden. For more information, call (248) 474-0866.



Stewart-LaPrairie

STEWART-LAPRAIRIE

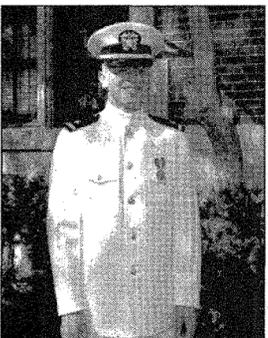
Meghan Stewart and Ryan LaPrairie announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Jeff and Sherrie Stewart of Farmington Hills, is a 2007 graduate of Western Michigan University and currently works as a docent for Detroit Zoological Park.

Her fiancé, son of Cathie LaPrairie of Ortonville and Pierre LaPrairie of Troy, is a 2006 graduate of Grand Valley University. He's employed by the Bureau of the Census, Detroit.

A June 2009 wedding in Royal Oak is planned.

MILITARY MILESTONE



Braden Schrock

Braden Schrock

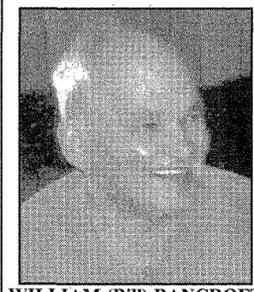
Braden Schrock, of Farmington Hills, graduated from the University of Michigan in aerospace engineering and was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy on May 1, 2009. He began the first stage of his training in EOD (Explosives Ordnance Disposal) at Dive School in Panama City, Fla., on May 14.

6/21/09

Passages

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WILLIAM (Bill) BANCROFT

Age 81, of Livonia, passed away at St. Mary's Hospital of Livonia on Sunday, June 14th, 2009. Papa has gone home to join Nanny (Louise) his loving wife who preceded in death. Also to join his brother Joe and sister Adele Moran. Papa leaves a daughter Pat Cuda, the pride of his life granddaughter Jenny Lee (Jen Jen) DeGorsky, (Greg) and three great-grandchildren Jonathan, Samantha and Joseph. Papa's nieces are Nancy Clark, Diane Drugach, and nephews are Mike, Robert and John Moran. There are many other extended family members which Papa was always so thankful for that were a big part of his life. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 23rd at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly (1-75 North to exit 108, turn left onto the highway heading south and follow signs to cemetery). Papa served in the USMC 1947-51. He remained a Marine throughout his life with a strong love of his country and a man of strong faith. In lieu of flowers, memorial to the Michigan Humane Society will be appreciated. On-line condolences may be left at: www.haleyfuneraldirectors.com

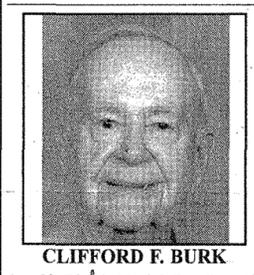


KATHLEEN "Kathy" P. GOUDREAU

Age 69, of Northville, MI, passed away suddenly in the early morning hours of Saturday, June 13, 2009 at Providence Hospital as the result of a heart attack. Her loving family was with her when she went to be with the Lord. Kathy was raised in St. Ignace, MI by her parents, Bernard and Gertrude Crouch. She graduated in 1957 from La Salle High School. She started college at Northern Michigan University but left to marry her high school sweetheart Wilbur "Pudd" Goudreau and to raise her children. They moved to the Detroit area and she began her career in her 20's selling Rubbermaid and Tupperware. In 1981 Kathy and her husband opened Kamar Office Products in Pontiac, MI. She devoted endless hours to building a successful business and worked so hard until the very end. When Kathy wasn't working she enjoyed travelling with her family, especially taking trips to Disney World with her grandchildren. She enjoyed her collection of Beanie Babies, Santa Bears, and dolls. Shopping at TJ Maxx was a favorite pastime. Kathy gave a lifetime of generosity to her family, friends, employees, and even strangers. She was a very strong and proud woman who was loved deeply by her family and friends. They will miss her more than words can express. She leaves to cherish her memory her husband of 51 years Wilbur; daughters Carol Goudreau, Roxanne (Jeffrey) Fesko, and Angela (Ryan Terry) Goudreau; grandchildren Amanda, Christian, and Cassie; father Bernard Crouch; sister Bonita Meade; brothers Terry (J.A.) Crouch, Daniel (Stephanie) Crouch, and Brian (Lisa) Crouch. Also surviving are many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, her beloved dog Coco and cat Rumor. Kathy was preceded in death by her son Robert Paul, her mother, her brother Bill and sister Penny. Friends and family may visit Wednesday, June 17, 2009 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held Thursday, June 18, 2009, 11 a.m. at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. 122 W. Dunlap, Northville. She will be laid to rest at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, or Michigan Humane Society.

GEORGE CLIFFORD BRYDGES

Age 66, of Farmington Hills, passed away Saturday, June 13, 2009. Burial will be 10:00am Friday, June 26, 2009 at Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Rd., Holly. Online condolences and tributes may be posted on the obituaries page of: www.sharpfuneralhomes.com

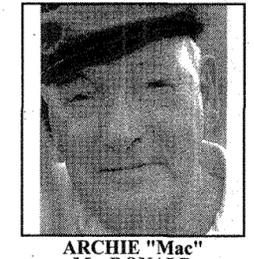


CLIFFORD F. BURK

Age 89. Died in Novi, MI on June 18, 2009. Husband of the late Agnes (McNamara). Loving father of Clifford Jr. (Bonnie) of Bloomington, IN, Patricia of Oscoda, MI, Catherine (Richard) Young of Plymouth, MI and the late David (Nancy) of Grandville, MI. Grandfather of Sean, Kelly Ryan and Sarah Daily, Kristen Micallef, Keith and Lauren Young. Great-grandfather of Madison, Emily, Addison, Allison and Connor. Mr. Burk graduated from Parma Schaeff High School in 1937, served four years in U.S. Army Air Corps, in WWII. He began working for DeLuxe Check Printers in the Cleveland Plant in 1946 and served as plant manager of the Detroit Plant from 1959 until retiring to Charlotte, NC in 1983. He was a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus. He returned to Novi in 1993 and became active in Church of the Holy Family and their Knights of Columbus Council #11811. Visitation at O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home, 41555 Grand River, Novi (248) 348-1800, Saturday 5-9pm and Sunday 2-4 and 6-9pm. Instate at Holy Family Church, 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, Monday 10am with funeral liturgy at 10:30am. Online sympathy message at: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com

TRISHA JULIEN

Age 44, passed June 6, 2009. Beloved daughter of Douglas & Eva, dearest sister of Heather, Amanda, Nicole, Cheryl, Margaret & Vickie; one niece Alisa. Cremation has taken place, with final resting at Canton Cemetery.



ARCHIE "Mac" MACDONALD

Born November 8, 1925, passed on to tell his stories to a new audience on June 9th, 2009 at 7:58pm in Raleigh, NC. Born in Detroit, he served eight years in the Navy during WWII & made life long friends on the USS Buckley DESI. He married Margaret Bork in 1954, settled in Garden City, MI & raised two children in a house full of laughter. He drove trucks, worked at Detroit Metro Airport in the Fire & Police Depts, retiring from Airport Operations. They all travelled together when Mac wasn't making windmills, wishing wells, fixing someone's car or with friends at local hangouts. He was preceded in death by his parents, three siblings & his first wife of 40 yrs, Margaret Mac Donald. He is survived by his second wife, Alyce Mac Donald; daughter, Victoria Mac Donald; son, Dean Mac Donald (& Katie); grandchildren, Heather Kingery (& Matt), Renée Mac Donald & Max Wickham; sisters, Flora (& Jim), Margaret Ann, Barbara, Anne (& Fraser), Evelyn; brothers, Murdoch, Hugh (& Gail Marie), Neil (& Teri), Grant (& Karin); & numerous stepchildren & step-grandchildren. No services will be held in MI, if you would like to remember "Mac", you may leave your thoughts, messages or condolences at: www.archiemacdonald.wordpress.com

THERESA A. RINGHOLZ

June 14, 2009, Age 56 of Westland. Beloved wife of Michael, Dear mother of Joseph (Christina), Terry, and Shaun (Angie). Daughter of Virginia and the late William Helfrich. Sister of Gail Hassel and Richard Strain. Grandmother of Michael, Shayler, Drake, Amelia, and Haley. Services at The Uht Funeral Home, Westland, Thursday, June 18, at 11:30am. Visitation at the funeral home Wednesday, 3-9pm. Cremation rights were accorded. Please view memorial and send tributes at: www.uhtfh.com

Let others know...

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

Observer & Eccentric

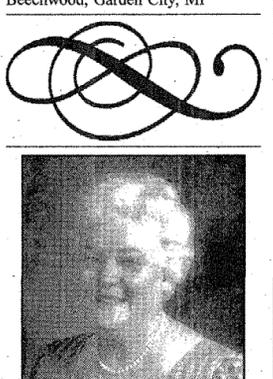
Call 1-800-579-7355

STANLEY TELMAN

Age 95, passed away June 14, 2009. Beloved husband of Sophie for 72 years; dear father of Don (Mickie), Ray (Rhonda), and the late Diane (John) Breintebach; dearest grandfather of Mark, Teri, Ashley, and Kristen; and great grandfather of Tori and Donovan; also survived by sister Anita Conser. Funeral services will be 10:30 am at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile, Livonia. The family appreciates memorial contributions to the Livonia Rotary Charitable Trust, PO Box 51964, Livonia, MI 48151. Please share a memory with the family at: www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

JOSEPH WEGZYN

Age 88, passed June 13, of Garden City. Beloved husband of the late Bunny. Loving father of Mark (Mary) and David (Colleen). Grandfather of Matthew, Michael, Mark Luke and Maximilian. Brother of Cass and the late Stella. Services will be held on Monday, June 29 at 10am in St. Raphael Catholic Church, 31530 Beechwood, Garden City, MI



FRANCES WIMSETT "Wimpy" FORESTER

Died in Southfield on Sunday, June 14, 2009. Age 88. Wife of the late "Tiny", George Wayne Forester, Jr. (1920-2001) for 55 years. Life-long resident of Birmingham, Michigan. Born Frances Marion Wimssett on April 20, 1921 at a house her parents were renting in Birmingham which is four houses north of her residence for the last 49 years on Pierce Street. She was the only child of the late Nellie Elizabeth Smith (1894-1954) of Clarkston, Michigan and the late George Leo Wimssett (1894-1942) of New Haven, Kentucky. Frances was educated in Birmingham at Barnum Elementary School and graduated from Birmingham Baldwin High School in June of 1939. She was a member of the Baldwin school bands, playing the saxophone which two of her children later played. Frances began working at Michigan Bell Telephone Company as an operator in 1939, eventually becoming an assistant chief operator and then head clerk. At the First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham on April 10, 1946 she married her beloved "Tiny" - George Wayne Forester, Jr., the last of six children of the late Mary Elizabeth Clift (1890-1957) of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and the late George Wayne Forester, Sr. (1885-1951) of Detroit, Michigan. After her marriage, Frances continued to work part-time at Michigan Bell helping with monthly accounting and statistics. She was very proud to be asked to come back to work full-time during 1950 to help with what was called "the cutover" - the change to dial telephone service in the Birmingham area. After that was completed, Frances left Michigan Bell to start preparing to raise what would be a large family. Three years later her children began arriving at an almost alarming rate. By the summer of 1953 Frances and George had built a small summer cottage on the water on Saginaw Bay near Caseville, Michigan. Their six children were born from 1953 to 1962 so two more bedrooms were added to the cottage in the 1950's. The family spent many happy summers there, she and the children from June through Labor Day and George driving up almost every weekend and for vacations. Frances was active in Baldwin Elementary School, Barnum Junior High School, and Seaholm High School in a variety of roles. Her children were involved in many sports, drama, and music in school and outside of school and she made every effort to attend as many games, meets, and performances as she could to support them. Frances was a voracious reader and very knowledgeable about what happened locally and globally. She was a strong supporter of all the Detroit sports teams and loved to watch any team or individual sport - tennis, golf, the Olympics - on television. There can be no mistake that Frances raised her children with help from George. Her children and grandchildren, all Foresters, sorely miss her and honor her memory. Steve (Kathy Nunez) and daughter Mackenzie and son Jack of Dearborn, Greg (Lisa Boynton) and son George of Metamora, Randolph (Rochelle Rosenthal) and daughter Ivy of Birmingham, Thom (Lauretta Gambino) and sons Mike and Tom, Jr., of Royal Oak, Nancy of Portage, and John (Elaine Staley) of Oak Park. She is survived by two sisters-in-law, Helen Forester Seiden of Florida and Imalee Forester Halsey of Michigan. Frances is mourned by her many nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren. She was a person who never failed to keep in touch with her family and the people she knew. Frances is greatly missed by the many people whose lives she touched. Service of remembrance was held Thursday, June 18th. Interment Greenwood Cemetery. Memorial tributes to The National Audubon Society, or Leader Dogs for the Blind, or The Lighthouse Preservation Society, view obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

NEIGHBORS

Pursuing her passion

Redford woman turns job loss into opportunity

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

When Beverly Moody of Redford was laid off from work few months ago, she knew she'd never find another job quite like the one she had.

An animal-lover since childhood, Moody had gotten used to bringing Oliver the pit bull mix, one of her four dogs, to the office with her. As the public relations director for Leader Dogs for the Blind, she had been surrounded by canines at work, both those of other employees and the dogs in training.

"It was heavenly. I was so happy, but I had set the bar so high at job satisfaction, I knew if I left and worked for a PR agency or in hospital PR, I knew I'd never be that happy again."

In spite of the poor economy and the fact that her husband had been laid off from his job as an events planner the previous month, Moody took the plunge into entrepreneurship and started her own pet-sitting, dog-walking and obedience business called Sit, Stay, Play!

She is based at home but travels throughout Western Wayne and South Oakland counties, meeting clients where they live.

"I didn't know anything about business, but there was this wonderful alignment of coincidences," said Moody, an East Lansing-area native who has worked for a variety of nonprofit organizations in metro Detroit since graduating from college.

A coworker had given her husband a gift to use the services of Right Management, a national leader in job outplacement, career coaching and leadership development. They also offered advice on self-employment and starting new businesses.

"I was able to do a two-day seminar and learn about creating a business plan," Moody said. "I knew I'd do pet sitting, dog walking and obedience."

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Moody has competed with two of her dogs in obedience. One has participated in agility and two have worked as therapy dogs. All four mixed breed dogs were rescues. She also adopted three cats.

"I've always loved all animals ever since I was little. I grew up with a white dog, Taffy, and she never left my side. I was always glued to her. We had a cat when I was little. I went to horseback riding camp. I'd see strays in the street and say, 'we need to get them and bring them home.' My father told me 'one day when you grow up and get your own house you can have as many dogs and cats as you want.' I guess I've done that."

As a pet sitter, Moody visits and cares for animals in their homes while their owners are gone on vacation or even simply working late.

A standard visit runs 20 minutes, although that can be lengthened or other services, such as dog walking, obedience lessons or extra play time can be added. Moody describes her obedience technique as "positive, motivational training."

SPECIAL SERVICES

"Since I had a cat with kidney failure I learned to administer sub-Q fluids. I am offering to do that for free," she said. The process entails placing a needle, attached to a drip line and fluid bag, under the cat's skin. Cats with advanced kidney disease sometimes require hydration by this method.

"I'm also offering muscle conditioning exercises. That's wonderful for larger dogs, to build up muscles in the back. They do that by learning spins, weaving in and out of your legs, jumping up and touching your hand."

"My goal when I leave the house is that the pet will be tired and happy."

Moody also offers Sit, Stay Play parties designed for three or more individuals who want to train their dogs in a group setting.

"It's a casual, fun atmosphere. If there are more than four dogs, I'll have another instructor with me."

Moody is certified by the American Red Cross in pet first aid and CPR. She's also insured and bonded. To learn more about her services and fees, visit www.sitstayplaywithbev.com.



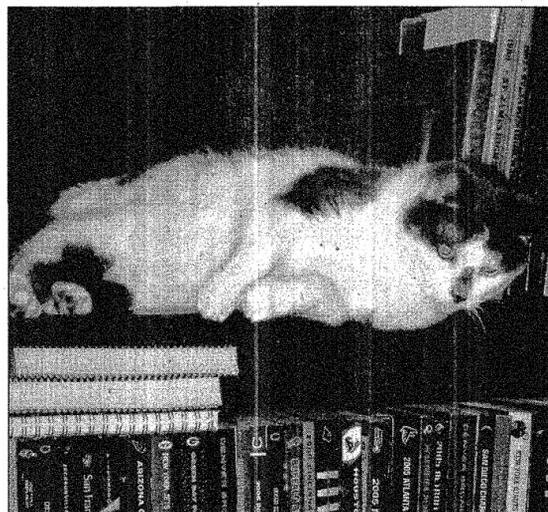
Beverly Moody of Redford and her dog, Giuseppe, compete in obedience. He earned his first obedience title at his first trial.



PET PROJECTS

Pet Projects is a series of occasional stories about animals.

If you've got a story idea about an upcoming pet-related event, an animal welfare issue, volunteer opportunity, rescue organization, play group, trend or business, we'd love to know about it. Send to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Or mail to 615 W. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226



One of Beverly Moody's cats, Peter, lounges on a bookcase. Clients who are apprehensive about administering sub-Q fluids to their own cats will get help from Moody. She'll do it for free in honor of Peter.

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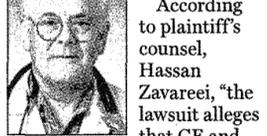
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Education, awareness can help save lives

On May 19, 2009, a lawsuit was filed against the General Electric Company and Samsung Electronics, Inc., in connection with GE-branded microwave ovens. The lawsuit seeks certification of a nationwide class on behalf of persons who have owned a GE-branded microwave oven manufactured on or after Jan. 1, 2000.



Appliance Doctor
Joe Gagnon

According to plaintiff's counsel, Hassan Zavareei, "the lawsuit alleges that GE and Samsung were responsible for the design, manufacturing, branding, marketing, and sale of microwave ovens that contained a defect that made the microwave ovens unreasonably dangerous. Because of the defect, the microwave ovens are susceptible to activating on their own, leading to smoke and

potentially extensive fire damage. We also allege in the complaint the defendants were aware of the defect no later than 2002 but failed to take the necessary corrective measures or to warn consumers."

The lead plaintiff, Timothy Hennigan, purchased a GE-branded microwave oven in February 2001. In June 2008, Hennigan's microwave began running completely on its own, causing the emission of sparks and smoke. As a result, his home suffered smoke-related damage, and his microwave oven could no longer be used. Through their investigations, lawyers for the putative class have uncovered dozens of reports of similar incidents across the country, including incidents that led to hundreds of thousands of dollars in property damage and pet fatalities.

The complaint seeks, among other things, compensatory damages, restitution, and a permanent injunction.

The lawsuit is captioned Hennigan, V General Electric Co. & Samsung Electronics

America, Inc., and was filed in federal court in the Eastern District of Michigan. Plaintiff is represented by the Washington, D.C. law firm of Tycko & Zavareei LLP, and the Miller Law Firm of Rochester. A copy of the complaint can be downloaded from the Tycko & Zavareei LLP Web site, www.tzlegal.com.

Upon reading the above, a trigger goes off in my head and causes all sorts of reserved emotions. I picture the woman who approached me some years ago to tell me her 21-year-old daughter had died in her apartment which had caught fire. She came home from work and took a cat nap and never woke up again. The fire department blamed the microwave oven and the insurance company said that the young lady was cooking something and went to sleep. The woman told me her daughter would never do anything like that and she couldn't even get

anyone to inspect the microwave oven. Oh, how I remember her tears as she spoke with me.

Just before I wrote this column I went to the Google search engine and looked up recalls on Samsung Microwave Ovens. Jumping out at me are the recalls on microwaves installed in RV and camper trailers. It's now summertime in Michigan and think of all the little ones that are going to be traveling with their parents. I pray that everyone installs a smoke detector in their kitchen as well as their campers and travel homes. The way they're making products overseas these days a little awareness can go a long way. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twmi.com

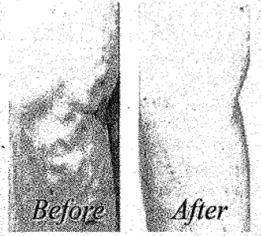
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MORE ON LOW BACK PAIN

Over a lifetime, most people will experience one or more episodes of low back pain. Over 90% of these episodes are self-limiting. That is, over time, the body will repair the damage that occurred, and the individual can return to the posture, pace, and way of life that was his or her custom before the back pain came on.

The catch phrase in this scenario is "over time." In the case of low back pain, the discomfort can last for months. In particular, the problem of extreme stiffness in the morning, lasting for hours, and of prolonged discomfort after arising from a chair or getting out of a car after a long drive, are back disabilities that are the first to come and the last to leave.

Thus, when back pain lingers, and ordinary walking and arising becomes an annoying, even an alarming chore, the obvious step is to see the doctor and get a prescription, a month or more of physical therapy or sophisticated treatment such as back injections.

The alternative is to wait as long as six weeks since in most instances the pain will resolve. Exceptions to waiting include pain that travels down the leg, pain not relieved by resting on the back or side, low back pain accompanied by fever, and intense low back pain that exerts a crippling effect.

Patients seeing their doctor early in their episode of back pain, often are disappointed. The doctor usually does not take x-rays and sends the patient home on small doses of Vicodin. However, that approach represents good medical care. The person receives what is needed for pain but the option for more investigation remains open if the discomfort does not resolve as expected.

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Presented by **Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.**

SMOKELESS NOT HARMLESS

A recent study shows that use of snuff and chewing tobacco by adolescent boys in this country has surged over the past few years. According to a report from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, there has been a 30 percent increase in the rate of smokeless tobacco use among boys aged 12-17 years over a recent five-year period. This finding is worrying on at least two important fronts: First, smokeless tobacco is as addictive as cigarettes and does not assist in weaning oneself from smoking. Second, using smokeless tobacco products increases the risk of oral cancer. Because dentists are usually the first to see signs of oral cancer, they have a stake in preventing it.

Breaking the smokeless tobacco or cigarette smoking habit now can greatly reduce your risk of developing oral cancer in the future. One of the most important things we can provide you with is education. Teaching you good oral hygiene, however, is only the first part. The rest is up to you. We'll help you keep an eye on your dental health beginning with a thorough oral exam. Call us at **734-453-9413** for an appointment here at **496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth.** We are located one block east of Kellogg Park in downtown Plymouth. New patients are always welcome.

P.S. Chewing tobacco and snuff contain 28 cancer-causing agents.

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Hospital 'Healing Garden' boon for cancer patients

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Gerry Kruse used to watch cars and people go by as he underwent chemotherapy at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. But these days the Plymouth Township man has another option — looking out the windows at a scenic park-like setting with a fountain, pond and plants.

"It makes it its own pleasant environment, something to look it while you're getting your medicine. It is an improvement," said cancer patient Kruse, who likes that visitors now have a place outside with benches.

The "Healing Garden" was donated by George F. Riley as an enhancement to the Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, which has been open about three years. Farmington Hills resident Riley is a local businessman and philanthropist.

"His family has had care here," said Sara Stauffer, director of major gifts and special events at St. Mary Mercy. "His children were born here. He was raised on the Felician property." Riley's father was the electrician on the Felician Sisters' mother-house grounds in Livonia.

"He believes in the mission of St. Mary Mercy," she said.

Riley said in a statement: "We are pleased to be able to make this gift available to an institution that is so vital to our community, and to help make a difference to families in need of support." Additional information on Riley's foundation can be found at www.therileyfoundation.org.

In 1998, George, 77, and his wife, Dolores, founded the Riley Foundation, a Farmington Hills-based charitable organization that focuses on making children's lives better.

The Rileys first reached out to benefit children and families at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church and School, the family's home parish.

Funds helped build the Family and Early Childhood Center and improved facilities in the school, as well as the church building. A sculpture of Jesus with children is on the school grounds, in memory of the Rileys' son who died in a car accident at age 15.

The St. Mary Mercy garden, named for Riley, was dedicated June 11 and is part of the capital campaign to advance cancer care and treatment at the center.

"Because healing and peace can be found in nature it was a way he could give back to our patients and families," Stauffer said.

Family members and friends visiting patients receiving chemotherapy can enjoy the gazebo, fountain and benches outdoors. Patients can also go outside, depending on their course of care. Stauffer noted some patients are there two-four hours, making the outdoor setting particularly welcome.

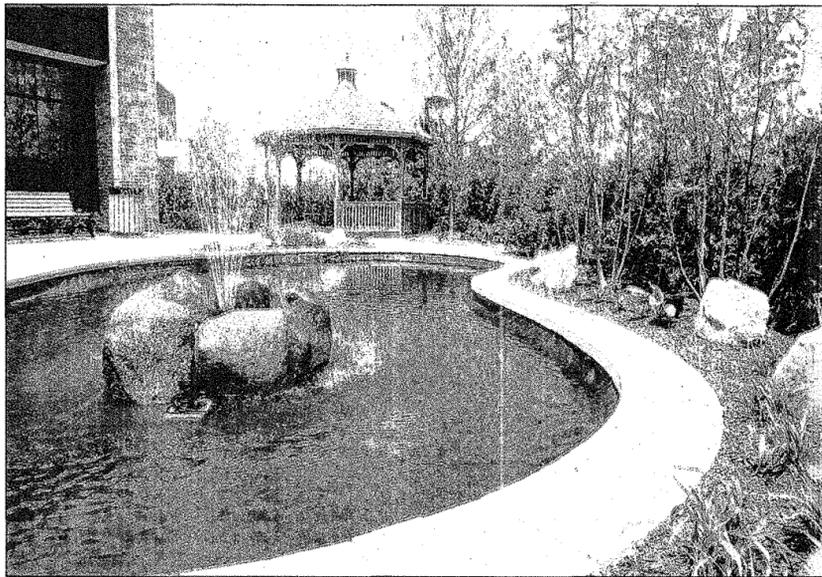
"People love it," she said of the garden, dedicated during a cancer survivor session. "People are excited to be able to share this. Family members are thankful. We're very blessed to have his generous philanthropy."

Registered nurse Michelle Zolotarevsky of the Our Lady of Hope center watched the progress as the garden went in.

"It's awesome," she said. "For it to come to life now, it's beautiful."

Even in the short time the garden has been open, Zolotarevsky has seen patient stress levels drop.

"It brings a smile to their face because it's beautiful scenery," she said. "It takes



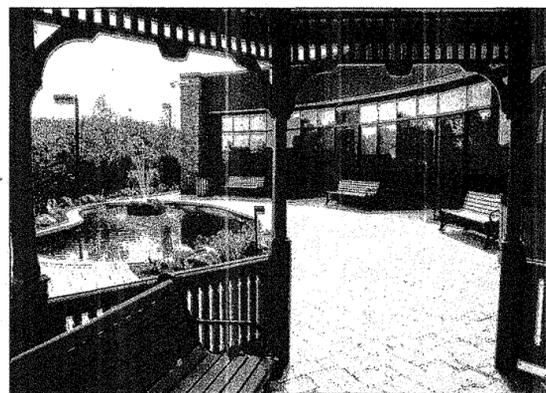
PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The new pond and gazebo are visible from the cancer center.

away their stress."

Being able to go outdoors when not getting treatment, for lunch or to read, also helps.

"We have the gazebo they can sit under if it's a hot day," Zolotarevsky said. She's already noticed patients are less likely to pull their window shades down.



The pond as seen from the gazebo. Patients receiving chemotherapy sit in the area behind the glass.

Get in shape at Cardio Concert Club

If you're a fan of old time rock 'n' roll and like to walk and stroll, register for the Cardio Concert Club offered by Canton Leisure Services during the summer Thursday concert series.

Participants will complete 30 minutes of cardio exercise during the live performances, which start at 7:30 p.m. and run to 9 p.m., at the amphitheater in Heritage Park, located just west of the Canton Administrative Office at 1150 S. Canton Center, Canton. All attendees will be entered into a weekly drawing for music-themed gifts and incentives. Cardio

Club members who make it to at least seven concerts will be entered into a grand prize drawing at the end of the summer.

The walking program started Thursday, June 18, and continues through Aug. 6.

All fitness levels and ages may attend. The registration fees are \$10 for Canton residents and \$12 for all non-residents.

"We hope that people who already join us for the Thursday Night Concert Series will be encouraged to walk a few laps while they enjoy the music, and that walkers who

haven't experienced our popular weekly music experience yet will like what they hear," stated Jennifer Provenzano, a Canton Leisure Services Recreation specialist.

The Thursday Night Concert Series will feature many bands, including The Backbeats on June 25, Export on July 2 and Jump Street Swing Band on July 9.

For more information on the Cardio Concert Club, the Thursday Night Concert Series and for many more ways you can stay active all summer long, visit cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5460.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JUNE 22-28

The key to health

7 p.m. Tuesday, June 23, at Whole Foods, 7350 Orchard Lake Road., West Bloomfield. The key to restoring health naturally will be discussed. Limited to 20. For reservations, call (734) 756-6904. Presented by Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, chiropractor/holistic physician.

Lumbar Spinal Stenosis

Learn about getting relief from this medical condition that is caused by gradual narrowing of the spinal canal, at an educational event, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 24, at Botsford Hospital's Administration Building, Community Room, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. This is an opportunity for

patients with spinal stenosis to meet with an expert and learn more about management and treatment. (877) 477-DOC1

Melanoma Forum

Free forum, 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, at ComfortSuites-Wixom, 28049 S. Wixom Road, Wixom. Discussion will include: identifying melanoma, differences between melanoma and skin cancer, melanoma stages, treatment options and more. Organized by Kim's Klub, an organization created in honor of a 39-year-old wife, mother and Canton resident who died after a seven-month battle with melanoma. Register at www.kimsklub.com or call Leslie Garoufalas at (248) 953-0884.

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