

SUNDAY

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Newspapers

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75 CENTS

Daylight-Saving Time - Did you remember to turn your clock back?

WESTLAND OBSERVER

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The city official said the personal information of residents who sign up for Nixle will not be shared or sold to anyone — not even the city.

Residents can sign up for Nixle online at www.cityofwestland.com. Click on the Nixle challenge count-down clock.

Hurry, time is limited and every new user counts.

Leaf pickup

The leaves are definitely dropping and residents ready to sweep them to the curb are reminded that the city's leaf pickup program has been cancelled.

Instead of being raked to the street, leaves can be bagged and put out at the curb for pick up on residents' normal garbage collection day. Up to 20 brown compost bags may be put out per week for collection.

For information, call the Department of Public Service at (734) 728-1770.

50th year

The sounds of Mexico will fill the sanctuary of Ss. Simon and Jude Church when current and former parishioners gather Saturday, Dec. 12, to celebrate the Westland church's 50th anniversary.

The celebration will begin with a mariachi Mass at 4:30 p.m. celebrated by Most Rev. Bishop Daniel E. Flores. Mariachi music will be by Salvador Torres & Mariachi Mexico 2000.

A dinner-dance will follow at 6 p.m. with music by trademark. The dinner will feature a Mexican combination plate — cheese enchilada, chicken flauta, beef burrito, rice and beans — catered by Las Brisas of Detroit. The cost is \$12 for adults. For children age 10 and under, a chicken nuggets and french fries dinner will be available for \$6.

Dinner-dance tickets must be purchased by Dec. 6. No tickets will be sold at the door that evening, and there will be no admission without a ticket.

There also will be a grand raffle drawing with \$5,000 in prizes to be given out. The drawing will be at 9 p.m.

Ss. Simon and Jude Parish is at 32500 Palmer, west of Merriman. For more information and tickets, call (734) 722-1343.

Light turnout expected for Tuesday's election

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There will definitely be new faces seated on the Westland council after voters go to the poll Tuesday.

Incumbent Mayor William Wild is unchallenged on the printed ballot. Jeffery Hayton and Angelo Stocchi have both filed to run as write-in candidates for mayor.

Three school districts have spot on ballots, see story on Page A2

In the council race, voters will fill four open seats from a field of eight candidates that includes one veteran council member. Along with incumbent Dewey Reeves, the other council candidates include Christine Cicirelli Bryant, Sam Durante, Janet

Frederick-Wilson, Adam Hammons, Meriem Kadi, Kenneth Mehl and Mark Rodriguez.

Current council members Cheryl Graunstadt, Charles Pickering and Robert Stottlemeyer didn't seek reelection. The top three vote getters will earn four-year terms, while the fourth-place finisher gets a two-year seat.

Clerk Eileen Dehart expects about

12 percent of Westland's 60,132 registered voters will cast ballots in Tuesday's election — about average, for a city election.

"There are more than 4,000 absentee ballots out and more than 3,000 have been returned. We may end up with more absentee ballots than people going to the polls," said DeHart,

Please see **ELECTION, A2**



Holding a flyer about a fund-raiser in memory of her sister Laura Horn Williams, Kristy Buchakian is surrounded by her sisters friends Deana Goins (left), Tina Franciso and Tammy Davis. Proceeds of the benefit Sunday, Nov. 8 will go to Williams's daughter Mariah Neil, 7.

Friends celebrate slain woman's life with music

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sarah Horn Williams is remembered by friends and family as someone who was always positive, not one to dwell on the negative.

Those friends, who have organized a Sunday, Nov. 8, fund-raiser to benefit Williams' 7-year-old daughter Mariah Neil, want their efforts to have a positive focus.

"We want people to remember how Sarah lived, not how she died," said Tammy Davis, a friend

MUSICIANS FOR MARIAH

What: Musicians for Mariah, the Sarah Horn (Williams) Memorial Benefit features music by 35 bands at five bars located in Westland, Garden City and Wayne. There also will be 50/50 raffles and other drawings.

When: 1-9 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8

Where: The bars and bands are Scratch at the Last Chance, 27758 W. Warren Road, Westland; Don't Ask at Bumpers Bar

and benefit organizer. "She never focused on the negative."

Most recently a barmaid at Chatters Bar and Grill in Westland, Williams,

and Grill, 8631 N. Newburgh, Westland; Yankeeville at the Ford Road Bar, 35505 Ford, Westland; Willy Grimm Band at Mr. G's, 28937 W. Warren Road, Garden City; and Out of the Woods at Stockdale's on the Avenue West, 34830 Michigan Ave., Wayne.

Tickets: \$10 donation per person for admission to all of the venues. Shuttle service will be available during the event.

28, was found unconscious in the business parking lot during the early hours of Sept. 27. She died later at an area hospital, having been strangled

and suffering severe head, facial and internal injuries as the result of being struck by a vehicle. Her husband of one year, George Williams, 33, has been charged with first-degree murder in her death.

"There is nothing we can do for Sarah, but we wanted to do something for her daughter. Sarah was probably loved more than any person you would meet," said Tina Francisco, another of her friends working on the fund-raiser. "It was just who she was — her smile, her personality. Even if she was mad at a customer, she'd chew them out with a smile."

Another friend, Deana Goins, grew

Please see **FUND-RAISER, A2**

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Hearings delayed for suspects in home invasion

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Preliminary examinations were adjourned for three men charged with holding a family hostage while robbing their Westland home in September and a fourth defendant was ordered bound over for trial.

Scheduled to appear Thursday before Westland 18th District Court Judge Mark McConnell were Adam Brent Mastaw, 25, of Westland and Detroit resident Geraud Raymond Austin, 22. They are charged with multiple felonies, including home invasion, being a felon in possession of a firearm and larceny.

The homeowners and a teenage son were kept bound and gagged at gunpoint as their home was robbed. Among the

items stolen were nearly 50 guns which had been collected by the homeowner.

At the request of defense attorneys, the preliminary examinations for Mastaw and Austin were adjourned until Thursday, Nov. 5. Mastaw and Austin are accused of being the two masked gunman who entered the home in the area of Ford and Newburgh late Sept. 26.

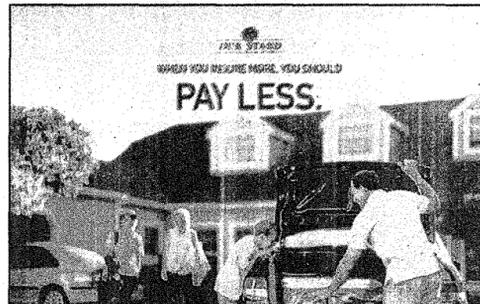
Mastaw is also charged with three counts of armed robbery, three counts of unlawful imprisonment, auto theft, carjacking and arson, the latter charges stemming from the theft of a vehicle from the homeowners. The Dodge Durango was later recovered, burned, in Detroit.

The third defendant appearing in 18th District Court was

Leonard Hren, 47, of Detroit, who is charged with home invasion, 38 counts of receiving and concealing stolen firearms and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Police recovered 38 guns identified as stolen from the Westland home in an Inkster storage locker leased by Hren.

After waiving his preliminary examination and being bound over to Wayne County Circuit Court for trial, Hren's attorney Susan Hubbard asked McConnell to consider a reduction of his \$2 million cash bond — the same bond set for Mastaw and Austin. Hubbard noted that Hren has mental health issues and that he currently receives Social Security disability payments due to his

Please see **HEARINGS, A2**



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Vacant building gets makeover for medical office, urgent care

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A site plan for improvements to allow a medical office to occupy a currently vacant building on Wayne Road has been approved by the Westland council.

Improvements planned for the building at 1203 S. Wayne Road, on the east side of the street south of Avondale, include renovating the exterior utilizing the existing brick, a new masonry dumpster enclosure at the southeast corner of the property and a six-foot screening fence at the rear of the property. The existing non-conforming parking also will be eliminated under the site plan.

"I'm happy to bring this to you. The petitioner is making a large investment in the community," said Planning Director Bruce Thompson.

Representing applicant Justin Liyanage, architect Denny Krestel said 3,300 square feet of the 6,149-square foot building would

be used for a family medical practice and urgent care center which will be open weekdays until 6 p.m. and noon on Saturdays.

"The balance of the building is lease space - we hope medical use. We tried for a complete new look," said Krestel.

There will be additional landscaping along Wayne Road where there is now parking, Krestel said, with new screening fence along the adjoining residential property replacing a chain link fence.

"This is a marked improvement. We welcome it. It makes a huge improvement to that area," said Council President James Godbout.

The council also approved a site plan for Chase Bank, 31311 Cherry Hill, to allow an additional drive-up ATM to be installed.

"They have the stacking space (for vehicles) and all of our departments have signed off," said Thompson.

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Three school districts have spot on ballots

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There are boxes of four different ballots — color-coded — in Westland Clerk Eileen DeHart's office in anticipation of the general election Tuesday.

The reason for the different ballots comes down to school district boundaries. All Westland voters will receive ballots containing the mayoral and council candidates, along with two proposed city char-

ter amendments and a Wayne County millage renewal question.

Some voters will also be asked to consider school millage proposals and elect board of education members.

Westland residents living in the Livonia Public Schools district will vote on two millage renewal questions: 18.45 mills for operations and 1.12 mills for a building and site sinking fund. The millage is levied on each \$1,000 of taxable value.

If approved, each would be renewed for five years. The operating millage would generate approximately \$30.2 million in 2011. The sinking fund would generate approximately \$6 million.

Part of Precinct 28 in the south end of Westland has approximately 300 voters who live in the Taylor School District. Those voters will help fill two seats on the Taylor board of education. Three candidates, Linda Newsome, Jeremy Waechter and Mary

Moore, are seeking the two seats.

Precinct 31 includes a small number of Westland residents who live in the Garden City Schools district. Those voters are being asked to consider approving a 0.5-mill to fund a building and site sinking fund for 2009 and 2010.

The sinking fund would generate approximately \$366,300 in 2009.

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ELECTION

FROM PAGE A1

who expects precinct workers will have a rather quiet election day.

Precinct 31, which includes residents in the Garden City School District, may draw a few more voters, DeHart said, since it has a millage

proposal for a building and site sinking fund on the ballot.

In addition to electing a mayor and council members, all Westland voters will consider two proposed amendments to the Westland City Charter. One amendment, if approved, would allow candidates to pay a \$100 filing fee as an alternative to filing nominating petitions.

The second proposed charter amendment would move the filing deadline to run for city office to 12 weeks prior to the election instead of the current seven weeks. That would put the city requirements in line with state law.

"The (Michigan) attorney general said even if voters were to reject this, we still have to follow state law," DeHart said. "If voters

approve this amendment, the charter is a cleaner document. Both these questions are kind of a no-brainer."

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Registered voters are required to show valid photo identification when they vote or sign an affidavit attesting to their identity.

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FUND-RAISER

FROM PAGE A1

up with Sarah, who was a 1999 Livonia Franklin High School graduate.

"I knew her my whole life. She was full of life. She loved everyone, no matter the class, race," Goins said.

When her mother Brenda Ramsden died of scleroderma

in November 2002, Sarah took over raising her sister Kristy Buchakian, who is 10 years younger.

"She was everything to me," said Buchakian, who was still living with her sister when she died. "She had just started going to Schoolcraft College (with plans to be counselor)."

Both Mariah and Buchakian, who graduated last spring from Franklin and is now studying accounting at Schoolcraft

College, are now staying with their aunt Shelly Schaffer.

The fund-raiser will be held 1-9 p.m. at five area bars — the Last Chance, Bumpers, Stockdale's West, Ford Road Bar and Mr. G's. A \$10 donation per person gets an admission to all five venues where a total of 35 bands will perform. There will be hourly raffles and recorded music between the bands' sets.

"All the bands have donated

their time and the bars have donated food for a buffet," said Davis, who works at the Last Chance and sings with the band Don't Ask. "Sarah loved karaoke — she loved to sing *Red Neck Woman*. We'll sing it. Between the bands, we'll play her favorite songs. It will be a huge celebration of who she was and what she was all about."

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HEARINGS

FROM PAGE A1

mental health problems.

McConnell declined to reduce the bond, but agreed that Hren should be referred for pretrial screening including a review of the bond.

Since the homeowner kept his gun collection displayed in the home's basement which had a steel entry door, police had said the home was targeted by someone familiar with the contents. Police had identified Hren, a cousin of the female homeowner, as the person who set up the robbery. The fourth defendant,

Robert Lawrence Kirby, 24, of Detroit was charged with three counts of receiving and concealing stolen firearms, being a felon in possession of a firearm and felony firearm. Three guns identified as stolen from the Westland home were recovered at Kirby's home in Detroit.

As a result, charges against Kirby were filed in Detroit

36th District Court. His preliminary examination was also scheduled Thursday, but adjourned until Friday, Nov. 6. A \$50,000 cash bond was set for Kirby, who like the other three defendants remain jailed after being unable to post the bond.

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Anderson to host movie for veterans

In recognition of the tremendous sacrifice and service of America's military veterans, State Sen. Glenn Anderson, in cooperation with AMC Theaters of Livonia, is hosting the second annual Veteran's Day Movie Celebration.

This year's event will feature a free screening of the film *Valkyrie*, starring Tom Cruise. "I am proud that the community can come together again to offer this important recognition for those men and women among us who have sacrificed so very much," said Anderson. "Last year's event was a huge success and I am sure that this year's event will be even better. It's the least that we can do for our

veterans who deserve to be recognized every day for what they have given to their country." The movie will be shown at 3 p.m. Veteran's Day, Tuesday, Nov. 11, at the Livonia AMC 20, 19500 Haggerty Road, north of 7 Mile Rd.

Anderson has made veterans' issues a priority during his tenure. He has proposed legislation providing significant property tax relief for Michigan's veterans and offered a proposal that resulted in a one-stop Web site for veterans' services. This year he successfully added language in the higher education budget to allow recipients of the new GI Bill to be eligible for in-state tuition rates in Michigan.

In addition to the free screening, concessions will be provided free of charge, courtesy of AMC Theaters of Livonia. Seating is limited and a reservation prior to the event is required for admission. Veterans can save a seat for themselves and one guest by contacting Michelle Makarewicz in Anderson's office by e-mail at mmakarewicz@senate.mi.gov or by calling toll free (866) 262-7306.

Concert to benefit injured veterans

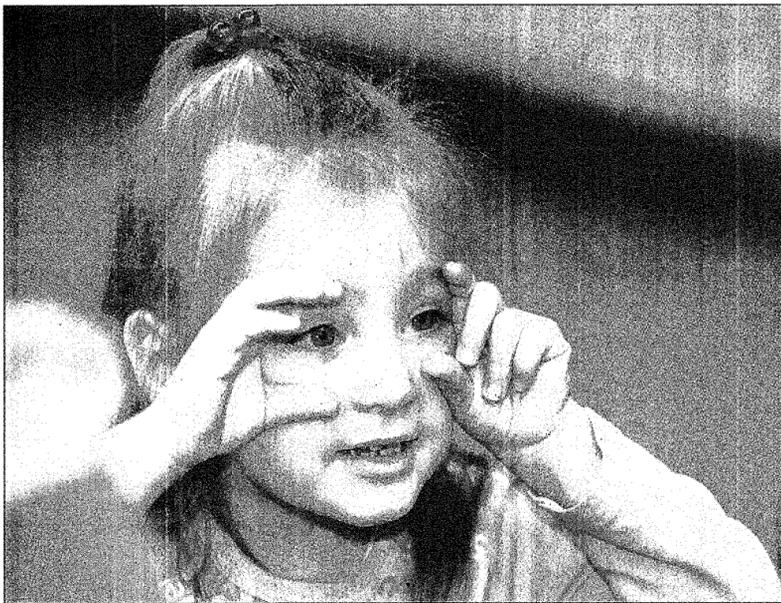
A concert to benefit injured veterans and their families through four military veterans' charities will be held Friday, Oct. 30, at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The "Heroes Benefit Concert," as it's called, will feature the Magic Bus band playing popular music of the late 1960s and honoring all veterans for their service and sacrifice.

"We're proud to be able to use our love of music to raise money and give back to those men and women who've given so much for the freedoms most people take for granted every day," said Mark Harrington, lead singer and the band's founder. "The music we play is from an era where our returning Vietnam veterans weren't given the respect they

deserved. That lack of respect is what motivated us to create the tour, which today honors all our veterans."

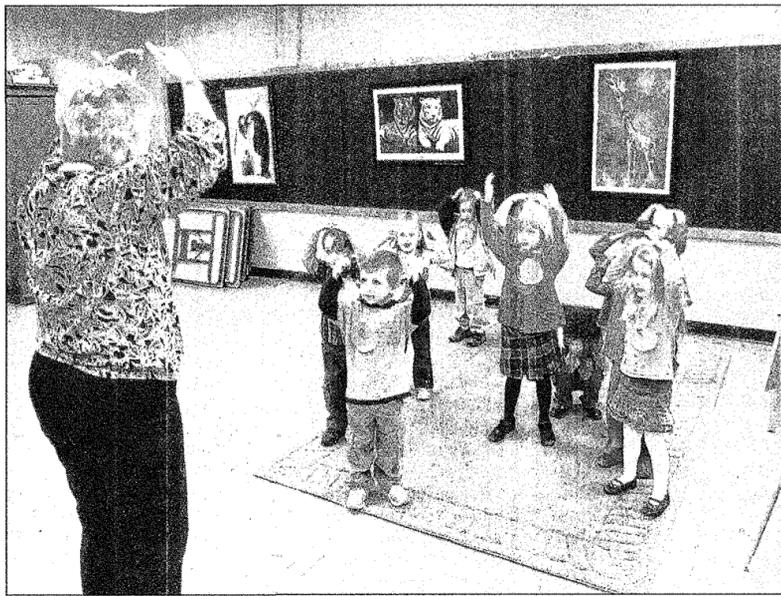
The event is open to the public, and both military and civilian families are encouraged to attend. Doors will be open 6 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased at the door. Laurel Manor is at 39080 Schoolcraft Road.

The charities benefiting from the concert are the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Fallen and Wounded Soldiers Fund, Operation Never Forgotten and the Brain Injury Association of Michigan Veterans Program. For more information, email Rick Briggs at veterans@biami.org.

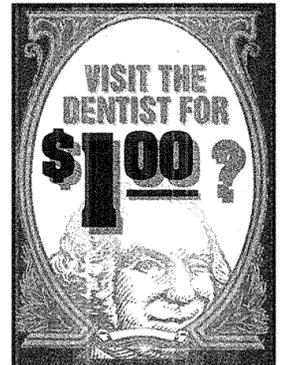


Stories galore

Youngsters got a jump on learning at the Garden City Public Library's Preschool Storytime. A popular activity with youngsters age 3-5 and conducted by library assistant Janet Smith, the six-week program included stories, flannel board stories, circle games and finger play like Kenzie Mattoney using her fingers to pretend she has binoculars to better see the preschool storytime.



Library assistant Janet Smith leads the youngsters in a game of "Simon Says."



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EDUCATION

Glenn students sleuth way through 'The Butler Did It'

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

So what do you say about a play that's titled *The Butler Did It*, but nowhere in the script or the cast list is there a butler to be found?

Drama Director Sheri Grove's answer is that it's a mystery comedy that has a "compelling and interesting story line."

"All the characters are mystery writers," she said. "They all bring an interesting character to the table and all have an interest in solving the mystery. When you put it together, you have a comedic combination."

Students at John Glenn High School will present *The Butler Did It* at 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 5-7, in the auditorium.

The play is a spoof of English mystery plays. Miss Maple, a society dowager known for her imaginative weekend parties, played by Shannon Salisbury, invites a group of detective writers to her eerie manor, where they take on the personalities of their fictional characters. Miss Maple has arranged for all sorts of amusing incidents for her guests, but when an actual murder takes place, the writers soon realize that they are marked for death.

The cast includes a scholarly clergyman, Father White, played by Tyler Scott Claus; a seedy gumshoe named Chandler Marlowe, played by Cody Buege; and Rita, the social secretary who carries around a hatbox. She's played by Julianna Stewart. The trio are pulling double duty in the production, joining Grove as assistant directors.

All 11th-graders, they were

'THE BUTLER DID IT'

What: 'The Butler Did It,' a spoof of English mysteries with a decidedly American flavor finds Miss Maple, a society dowager noted for her imaginative weekend parties, awaiting a group of detective writers invited to eerie Ravenswood Manor, where she's arranged all sorts of scary and amusing incidents. Then a real murder takes place and the guests realize they're all marked for death. When they're not busy tripping over the clues, the zany sleuths trip over one another.

When: 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 5-7

Where: In the auditorium of John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland

Tickets: \$5 for students and children and \$7 for adults. They're available at the door, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

selected for the posts after submitting essays why they wanted the job.

"I want to be powerful, I want people to listen to me," Buege said. "And it worked."

Buege has been doing plays since third grade. He's in his third show at Glenn and is coming off his show-stealing role of Ryan in last spring's production of *High School Musical II*. He's not surprised he got the assistant director's job, but he's happy he got it.

"I think I said I wanted to work under my favorite director in my essay," he said. "Mrs. Grove knows I'm dedicated to



Mystery writer Chandler Marlowe, played by Cody Buege, tries to find out who's on the telephone in a scene from the John Glenn High School production of the mystery comedy, "The Butler Did It." Listening are Rita, played by Julianna Stewart, and Peter Flimsey, played by Justin Walker.



Shannon Salisbury plays society dowager Miss Maple, while Sarah Mellas plays mystery writer Lulu Fan.

drama."

"He's extremely talented, but we have to keep him grounded," Grove said.

While Buege was looking at power, Claus has been wanting to be one after seeing what other students did. He has to admit that overall the experience has been good.

"They've been mean and friendly at the same time," he said. "It's easier to know exactly what's happening, when you're on stage, you can give better direction. You're more involved,

you know what needs to be done on stage."

Stewart was looking for a more well-rounded experience in theater when she wrote her essay, not just on stage but on the other side of the footlights. The experience "has been better than I expected," she said. "Everything has been good."

"It's more than I thought it would be," she said. "I get to do a lot of things I don't normally get to do."

The cast has been rehearsing in costume to get into their characters. Buege wears a Mickey Spillane-style trench coat and hat and has an exaggerated New York accent — "I thought the accent would fit him," he said. Claus is using a cane and carrying a battered briefcase for his elderly character.

And Stewart wears a severe looking suit with monster shoulder pads she found at a resale shop.

"She plays a frumpy secretary and when I saw this, I thought it would fit," she said. "My mom offered to take them (shoulder pads) out, but I told her no."

Rounding out the cast are Sarah Toarmina, Sarah Mellas, Steve Goldberg, Kimmie

Schepers, Justin Walker, Jessica Pesenecker, Nikki Urban and Harold E. Sullivan.

The production crew includes Melissa Cover, Sherry Green, Leanna Miller, Megan McDougall, Paul Porter, Bayley Prater, Rachel Peel, Gianna Blannon, Chloe Tooson, Kirk Harding, Beth Kwiecinski, Alex O'Jibway, Chris Boyce, Brett Bratcher, Sam Kingston, Amy Wilcock, Shaun Salisbury, Angela Blay, Alex Hamlett, Megan Krushlin, Andrea Bessinger, Vania Rivera, Steven Mirabitor, Corey Kelly, Greg Gaskin, Holly Sutherland, Dayra Williams, Brittany Cox, Alex Hamlet and Ashlie Harpster.

The cast has been rehearsals for three weeks after losing a week to not having the script, and the crew has been working Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays to get the set ready for opening night. Grove knows the show will come off without a hitch.

"They've really dug their heels in to get it done," Grove said. "I'm confident the show will come together. I have a real talented group of actors and crew members."

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

Symposium looks at online learning

The online classroom is changing. What was once primarily accessed by young adults, online learning is fast becoming the way to make a job market transition and even graduate from high school. As online classes become larger and more diverse, it's imperative for community colleges and universities to continue improving these courses.

"Best Practices in Online Education" can help educators meet these expectations. The eighth annual Symposium for Excellence in Online Learning runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at Macomb Community College University Center, Center Campus, 44575 Garfield Road in Clinton Township.

Educators will hear from a panel of students from area community colleges their recommendations on what's working and not working with online classes. A panel will look at trends in K-12 education online initiatives and a faculty panel will discuss engaging online students. Featured will be Matt Roush, WWJ-Newsradio 950's technology editor, Great Lakes IT Report.

Kevin Krason, president and founder of Biznet.com; Karen Kelley from Cisco Systems and Bruce Umpstead, the director of the Office of Educational Technology and Data Coordination, Michigan Department of Education, will also be featured speakers.

The Alliance for Excellence in Online Education is sponsoring the event along with Macomb Community College, Northwood University and UCompass.com/educator. The cost is \$100 for alliance members and \$150 for the public and includes continental breakfast, breakout sessions, luncheon, and a vendor showcase. Registration can be completed online at www.a4eoe.org.

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Growing church tries to 'lead by example'

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Canton church that started as a small group meeting in Alex Rahill's back yard in 2002 has grown into an 800-member congregation worshipping inside a 21,000-square-foot brick building near the northwest corner of Haggerty and Warren.

It's called lifechurch, but don't be fooled by the small "l" in its name. "There's something big going on inside those walls," 26-year-old member Jeff Packer of Canton said.

Packer and others describe lifechurch, part of the rapidly growing Evangelical Covenant Church, as a welcoming place where they can dress casually, talk frankly about real-life problems and watch a rock band perform Christian and secular songs. Rahill, the lead pastor, incorporates the music into his sermons to get his message across.

"I don't have to put on a front

and be somebody I'm not," Packer said. "It's hard to show up on a Sunday without having something tug at your heart."

Just in time for Halloween, a band performance of Michael Jackson's *Thriller* is coming to the Sunday, Oct. 25, services.

Rahill, 46, said lifechurch draws members from Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, Westland, Redford, Garden City, Farmington, Dearborn and other communities. After its backyard beginnings, the congregation leased space in elementary schools before moving in April to a site that formerly housed a construction firm and warehouse.

The stylishly decorated church houses a vast worship area and stage, a cafe, basketball goals, children's rooms for age-appropriate activities, and a place where nursing mothers can comfortably tend to their newborns while watching services on a television screen.

"We look kind of like Starbucks. We try to create a



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pastor Alex Rahill, in the auditorium of the church, talks about the contemporary music used in worship services.

barrier-free facility to God," said Rahill, who has four children with wife Marcie.

Rahill and five other pastors try to be relevant in ministering to their largely youthful congregation, unemployed auto work-

ers, foster parents, debt-ridden families, recovering substance abusers — anyone who needs help or inspiration.

"We've had marriages healed here," Rahill said. "The church is a place where people can find

friendship and meaningful relationships, a place where they can be real."

Although lifechurch is a Christian church, Rahill said people who have no religious background or who aren't sure what they believe are welcome.

"People are allowed to belong before they believe," he said.

Rahill said lifechurch started out mostly as a congregation of teens and people in their 20s. "Then they started bringing their parents."

Some services incorporate rock and popular music, and Rahill said the performance of *Thriller* will include smoke machines and dancing. He said even someone as talented as Michael Jackson had struggles in life, and Rahill examines the lyrics in popular songs to teach his congregation.

"Whatever the song is, we piggyback on that theme," he said.

Sunday services are at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m., and a third service at 12:30 p.m. will begin on

Nov. 1.

The church teaches by example. Rahill said congregation members drive in a mobile soup kitchen to deliver food to the homeless in Detroit, a city where lifechurch also has a sister church, Messiah Church.

"Church is not a product you consume, but a commitment you engage in," Rahill said.

To that end, services may include not only rock music, but videos, drama and props. One time, Rahill started up a motorcycle and drove it across the stage to demonstrate how people need to turn a key in their own lives in order to move forward.

"This church is so real," said 23-year-old member Jennifer Kompoltowicz of Plymouth. "I've been to churches before where I leave and wonder what they were talking about. When I go to lifechurch, I can apply it to everyday life. It helps me learn to be a better person."

dcclem@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2238

GARDEN CITY HOSPITAL WELLNESS PROGRAMS

Garden City Hospital, at 6245 Inkster Road, offers a weekly schedule of health and wellness programs for residents. The lineup includes:

MONDAY, NOV. 2

Childbirth Education

Time: 6 p.m.
Details: Class run time is 2 1/2 hours. There is a \$60 fee. Medicaid is accepted. A refresher course also is available.

Contact: (734) 458-4330 for more information or to register

TUESDAY, NOV. 3

Get Up and Move

Time: 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
Details: The exercise program is designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect complement to your diet program. Fee is \$30 per month.

Contact: (734) 458-3242.

Diabetes Self-Management

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Details: A comprehensive series, participants learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. Physician referral is required. There is a fee, but reimbursement is available by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans.

Contact: (734) 458-3481

Blood Pressure Check

Time/Date: noon-2 p.m. first Tuesday of the month

Location: Garden City Hospital Lobby from noon to 2 p.m.

Details: No registration is necessary.

Contact: (734) 458-4330

Strength and Stretch

Time: 2 p.m.

Details: A non-aerobic exercise class designed to help strengthen and define muscles, as well as increase flexibility. Fee is \$30 per

month.

Contact: (734) 458-3242

Yoga

Time: 4 p.m.

Details: The four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Cardiac Rehab.

Contact: (734) 458-3242 to register.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4

4

Free blood pressure testing

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Maplewood Community Center on Maplewood just west of Merriman.

Details: For senior citizens

Contact: (734) 458-4330

Diabetes Support Group

Time: 2 and 6 p.m.

Details: Hear guest speakers and get involved in discussions about new diabetes information by attending this group. The group meets the first Wednesday of the month.

Contact: (734) 458-4330

Mask Fitting Clinic

Time: 5-6 p.m.

Location: Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland.

Details: Free CPAP and BIPAP mask fitting. No appointment is needed.

Contact: (734) 458-3330

CPR -Infant/Child

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Garden City Hospital's Health and Education Center, located at 6701 Harrison, just north of Maplewood

Details: Approved by the American Red Cross, the class provides hands-on CPR training to those who care for children. There is a \$40 fee.

Contact: Community Education at (734) 458-4330

Eating Disorders Support

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Details: For individuals with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive and binge eating disorders. Men, women and teens invited to attend.

Contact: (734) 458-4330

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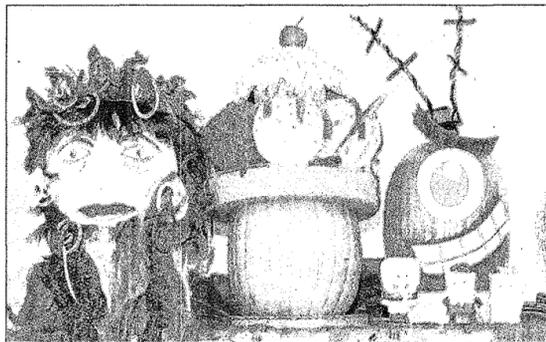
Garden City Hospital's

18th Annual Fall Fundraiser

a success.



Friendly contest puts pumpkins and creativity to the test



Medusa, an ice cream sundae and Plankton from *SpongeBob SquarePants* are among the pumpkin characters entered in the contest.

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Pandering to the public? Tampering with entries? Stuffing the ballot box? It may sound like smoke-filled room politics, but at the VCA animal clinic in Garden City, it's the friendly banter surrounding its annual pumpkin contest.

Since 1994, members of the staff have decorated pumpkins and then asked clients and the public to vote for their favorite one. The winner gets their name on the Crystal Pumpkin, "the Stanley Cup" of the contest, and a Baskin-Robbins gift card, or an ice cream treat, if Dr. Brad Davis wins ... which isn't all that often.

"I've won twice. I should have won more, but there's a lot of cheating going on to keep me from winning," the Westland resident said. "Mine are actually the best."

Davis cares for the animals that come into the clinic. His kind and caring demeanor changes to highly competitive around this time of year as he puts on a full-court press to win the Crystal Pumpkin. His nemesis of late is Kim Arbour, a technician supervisor, who has won the Crystal Pumpkin three of the last four years.

"I do cute and cuddly, it's all about mom and baby animals," the Westland resident said. "The clients really seem to like the cuteness, but Dr. Davis says it's not original."



A oblong pumpkin lent its shape to a mother penguin for Kim Arbour's entry.

"She will tell you she that's what people like, but she's just pandering to the public," he said. "My pumpkins are unique."

Over the years, an elaborate set of rules has evolved, many aimed at keeping Denise Toney from "cheating."

Toney maintains her innocence, however, Davis claims she tampers with his designs, making them inoperative. Two years ago, he did a butterfly with movable wings which stopped working. Toney claimed it needed new batteries, Davis claimed otherwise.

"I think she did a dance around my pumpkin and caused it to not work," Davis said when his disco ball pumpkin initially failed to spin on its plate.

There's 11 pumpkins in this year's contest, all care-



Dr. Brad Davis wears white gloves to hold the Crystal Pumpkin, an award that Kim Arbour has won three of the last four years for her cute and cuddly looking mother and baby animals designs.

fully measured to make sure they would fit in their allotted display area on a special platform above the display of dog and cat food. There's Arbour's mother and baby pumpkins, Toney's princess and Dr. Marilyn Begney's ice cream sundae, not to mention Medusa, a fire hydrant that has a case of rotting pumpkin, Plankton from *SpongeBob SquarePants* and one covered in spiders.

One pumpkin is covered in pink feathers with a photograph of Davis peeking out

from behind a pink Christmas tree. The work of Laura LaPere, Davis claims it's an attempt to steal votes from his entry.

"It's clever because people will vote for it, thinking it's mine," he said.

The poll closed at the end of business on Halloween and the ballot box was turned over to the auditing firm of "Davis and Associates" — a.k.a. Dr. Davis — which counted the votes during trick-or-treating that evening.

"In my opinion, I'm the only

one who is the most trustworthy person here," Davis said.

The winner will be announced at the monthly staff meeting Wednesday and comes with charts, graphs, you-name-it statistics on the voting.

"I break it down like a baseball nerd," Davis said.

The winner's name is engraved on the Crystal Pumpkin in time for the meeting. And in true Stanley Cup style, the white gloves are needed to handle it.

The contest has become such a tradition that people who

have moved away come back to see the designs, even "Bill, our retired mail carrier." On average, some 200 votes are cast.

Davis is smelling victory in this year's contest.

"I tell you realistically I'm almost assured of being the winner," he said. "My pumpkin is mesmerizing."

Arbour thinks otherwise. "I think it's going to be pretty close," she said. "I don't think I'll be first, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed."

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Toddlers find treats at Westland library

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An elephant was wandering around the library last week and nary a book was knocked from the shelf. That's because the elephant was toddler Shaylee Szaraz, who came to trick or treat with her fellow storytime pals.

"She's a pretty slow elephant," said her mother Amy, who with her young son Nathan in a stroller, followed Shaylee to five trick or treat stations set up in the library.

The Tuesday morning Toddler Tales storytime at the William P. Faust Public Library had a very definite Halloween theme, with youngsters invited to come in costume to hear stories like *Five Little Pumpkins* and sing songs like *The More We Get Together* before heading out to get their treats.

"The toddlers are my favorite," children's associate Cari Fry said.

Fry came prepared to entertain the group, asking if she should wear her dog, flower or angel hat. She settled for a headband adorned with bats that wiggled when she shook her head.

He props also included orange circles on sticks that followed the life cycle of a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch to a Halloween jack o' lantern to a pumpkin pie.

"I love Halloween ... and Christmas is good, too," she told the children, who were given glow-in-the-dark trick-or-treat bags and instructions to find the five little pumpkins in the library. Of course, they had help. Fry was at the front of the line, making sure the trick or treaters found the pumpkins.

"Every time you see a pumpkin, there will be someone who works at the library who will give you a treat," she said.

For Szaraz, toddler's storytime is a "wonderful, cheap



Shaylee Szaraz was dressed as an elephant for the trick or treating.

educational program" for her children.

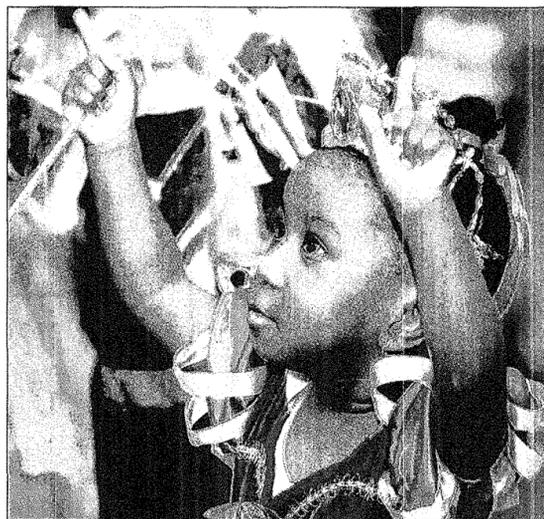
"There's no a lot of activities for toddlers at a low cost and this is one of the few things I can bring both children, too," the Canton resident said. "It's also a really nice way to meet

moms."

The library offers a variety of storytimes. They include:
• Toddler Tales with two sessions at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tuesdays through Tuesday, Nov. 10, in Community Room B. The interactive program is



Dragonfly Rory Maciejewski wonders what other treats may be had as mom Kelly and library page Cindy Goy look on.



Kendall Witherspon as Snow White does a little dance during the storytime.

for a parent or caregiver with children 18 months to 3½ years old. Enjoy 20 minutes of listening to stories, singing songs and learning finger plays.

• Preschool Storytime at 10:30 a.m. Thursdays

through Thursday, Nov. 12, in the Children's Activity Room. Preschool Storytime is designed for independent children, 3½ years old to 5 years old, who are not yet in kindergarten. Readiness involves



Children's Associate Cari Fry shows toddlers what happens to a pumpkin after Halloween as part of the storytime activities.

listening to stories, learning fingerplays and songs.
• Family Time Storytime at 7 p.m. Mondays through Monday, Nov. 9, in Community Room B. Geared for the whole family, the storytime includes stories, rhymes, songs and occasional crafts or guest readers. Children under age 6 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information on children's program, call the library at (734) 326-6123.

smason@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6751

Mazel tov, Congregation Beit Kodesh

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

As they prepare to celebrate their 50th anniversary, members of Congregation Beit Kodesh like to think of themselves as the House of Miracles.

If it weren't for miracles, how else could they keep the synagogue going with no staff and no full-time rabbi?

Services are held by learned members of the congregation and a paid cantor who conducts High Holy Day services. Everything else is done on a volunteer basis by members of the congregation's 39 families who live mostly in Livonia. Others come from Canton, Farmington Hills, Milford, Northville, Novi, Oak Park, Redford, Southfield, Wayne, Westland, West Bloomfield and White Lake.

Phyllis Lewkowicz, a founding member and past president who has held many volunteer positions, chuckled and said: "Boy, do we have hopes for the future — just to stay around. We're probably the only all-volunteer synagogue in the state. We pay nobody. Everybody does what they can."

Of the 39 families, 30 are over 65.

The future lies in the youth of the congregation, according to Lewkowicz and a few other synagogue members who gathered recently to talk about the anniversary. The youth may be small in number, but the commitment to the institution remains strong.

"This small synagogue located in the heart of Livonia is not just any old synagogue," said Elizabeth Stein, 19. She is a fourth-generation member and her mother, Sally Stein, serves as president. Beit Kodesh is the first conservative congregation in metro Detroit to elect a woman president. Elizabeth's father, Larry, is very involved at Beit Kodesh where he and other volunteers deliver groceries to senior citizens throughout the area.

"To me it has more meaning than a place to go worship," Elizabeth Stein said. "It is a home, a family, a safe haven, and an emotionally attached part of my heart."

'A GIANT SECOND FAMILY'
For 50 years this congregation has held strong in a busy world of "the bigger and the better" by keeping its small-town charm alive in a fairly large city, Elizabeth Stein said.

Her great-grandparents moved to Livonia from Detroit, like so many others who migrated from the inner city to the suburbs in the 1950s. At that time, the congregation was renting the basement of a church to hold services.

Stein's grandparents, Phyllis and David Scherman, then started to attend the synagogue with their children, which included Elizabeth's mother, Sally.

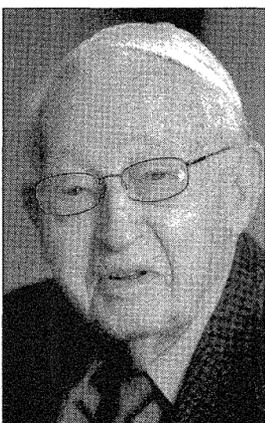
David Scherman is a Holocaust survivor who finds it too painful to retell his experiences during World War II.

"The members at Beit Kodesh come from all walks of life and life styles," Elizabeth Stein said. "But, despite that difference we all have two things in common, the love for our religion and for our synagogue. Our members are a loving, caring support system and a giant second family to all of us."

The youngest member of Congregation Beit Kodesh is 4-month-old Ryan Maxwell Diskin. The oldest member is 96-year-old Sam Raick.



Samuel Raick is the oldest member of Congregation Beit Kodesh. Sally Stein is currently president.



Samuel Raick, at 96, is the oldest member of Congregation Beit Kodesh.

"I enjoy the company that I have here," said Raick, a bright-eyed, quick-witted gentleman.

SMALL BUT EFFECTIVE

Beit Kodesh is the only conservative congregation in western Wayne County. It is affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

At one time, there were more than 200 families at Beit Kodesh, but many members moved to Southfield and West Bloomfield, Lewkowicz said.

In response to the declining membership, two years ago, Beit Kodesh and Bet Chaverim in Canton combined Sunday school programs. Classes are held at Beit Kodesh in Livonia. The congregation also provides bar and bat mitzvah classes and students participate in the Matzos Factory at the Jewish Community Center.

One of the benefits of being small, Phyllis Scherman said, is that everyone knows and supports each other in good and bad times.

Even with this small group, the spirit of giving to those in need has always been a driving force, especially among the synagogue's Sisterhood. The group sponsors many volunteer activities including "Soldiers Angels," a Jewish chaplaincy program that sends packages to service men and women for various holidays.

Food is taken monthly to Yad Ezra, a kosher food bank in Oakland County; members deliver food to shut-ins; a fix-it program for the elderly is held annually and a program at Livonia's Frost Middle School is under way to collect six million buttons in memory of Holocaust victims. The program is intended to draw attention to the need to ban stereotyping. A mural will be



This photo is from a Purim party in 1960.

made with the buttons.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Over the years, the congregation has suffered obstacles, including the desecration of the building with swastikas and hate messages in October 1984. But, from that came good. Charles Costa, a Detroit businessman and politician, sandblasted the words away for free and there was an outpouring of support from local Christian denominations saying they abhorred that behavior and wouldn't tolerate that kind of message.

A few years earlier, in 1980, the synagogue was also robbed of its valuable silver breast plates.

The congregation began in 1958 and was incorporated in 1959. The first Shabbat services were held at a Clarenceville elementary school and were moved to members' homes and other various locations until 1963 when land on Seven Mile and Osmus was purchased. In 1967, they moved to their current location on Seven Mile between Farmington and Merriman.

Over the years, Congregation Beit Kodesh had three full-time rabbis, Rabbi Nathaniel Steinberg, Rabbi Martin Gordon and Rabbi Craig Allen.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Hoping to build, or at least maintain, their numbers, they welcome Jewish faithful to attend weekly services.

Many younger generation Jews are married to people of different faiths, Lewkowicz said, and she wants them to know they're still

welcome.

"We hope to get more young people," Lewkowicz said.

At Beit Kodesh, everyone knows your name and there are many leadership opportunities available to new members, says Rabbi Jason Miller, Rabbinic Adviser, in his welcome letter on the congregation's Web site. Beit Kodesh is best described by the Yiddish word heimische — small, cozy and inviting, he says.

Jeff Kirsch, director of education, calls Beit Kodesh "a warm and inviting place for friends and family to worship, to learn, celebrate and socialize together."

Elizabeth Stein, who attends Western Michigan University, looks forward to what the next 50 years will bring to Beit Kodesh, which she calls "this wonderful place of prospering Jewish culture."

"I am sure that with the close-knit loving family of a congregation the next 50 years for Beit Kodesh will sparkle like its first 50 years," she said.

Added her grandmother, Phyllis Scherman: "No matter how gloomy something looks, if you have faith it will come back. Even though we are small in numbers, we are mighty in all our accomplishments."

Congregation Beit Kodesh is at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman roads, in Livonia.

For more information about its weekly and holiday services, Sisterhood, social action and other programs, call (248) 477-8974 or visit www.beitkodesh.org.



Phyllis Scherman started attending Congregation Beit Kodesh when it was renting the basement of a church to hold services.

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CITY OF WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC NOTICE

The following appeals will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

Petition #2687-Sunoco Station-7730 N. Wayne Rd.
Request for a non-conforming sign variance and a 23 sq. ft. price sign area variance from Ordinance 248 in order to replace the existing non-conforming sign panels with new digital message reader sign panels that would total 43 sq. ft. of price signage; whereas Section 15:3.6(b)(5) states that a non-conforming sign cannot be changed to any extent without bringing the sign into conformance with current Zoning Ordinance standards and Section 15:6.9(b) states that the price signage on a free-standing service station sign cannot exceed 20 feet.

Petition #2690-Men's Wearhouse-7040 N. Wayne Rd.
Request for a non-conforming sign variance from Ordinance 248 in order to replace a 4' x 20' panel in the existing non-conforming free-standing sign located at the site; whereas Section 15:3.6(b)(5) states that a non-conforming sign cannot be changed to any extent without being brought into conformance with current Zoning Ordinance standards.

Publish: November 1, 2009 OE08676390 2x4.5

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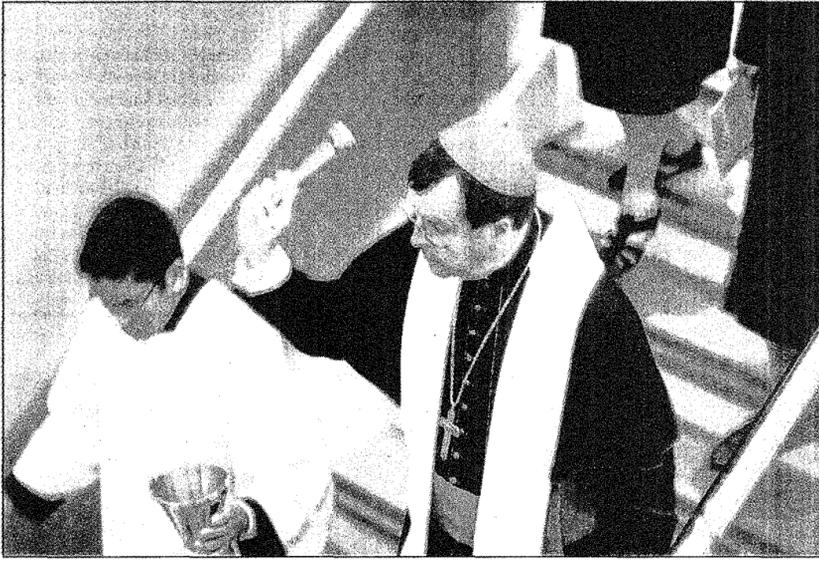
BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

As Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron of the Archdiocese of Detroit walked around sprinkling holy water on Madonna University's new Franciscan Center for Science and Media, rain drops fell outside onto the building's green rooftop.

"I think God approves," joked John Akouri, master of ceremonies for the dedication of the university's first stand-alone building constructed in more than 40 years and Livonia's first LEED-certified building.

Vigneron led the blessing and dedication, attended by Adam Cardinal Maida and Edmund Cardinal Szoka, Madonna students, faculty, trustees and donors.

The 60,000-square-foot building features recycled and renewable materials, a partial green roof, energy-saving windows and lighting, a restored 13 by 7-foot stained glass window from a Detroit church, motion-sensitive sinks, dual-flush toilets, waterless urinals and a chemical-free cooling system. The building is



Archbishop of Detroit Allen Vigneron walked the halls and rooms of the Franciscan Center, blessing the facility with holy water.

even cleaned with citrus-based cleaners.

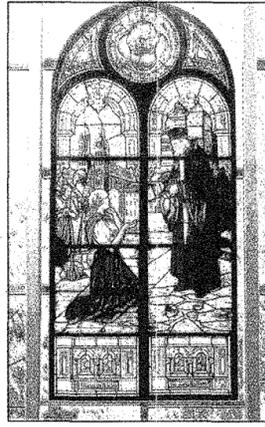
The building reflects the university's Franciscan value of reverence for creation, according to Sister Rose Marie

Kujawa, Madonna's president.

The building houses the university's growing science and media programs, state-of-the-art laboratories, broadcast and cinema production studios,

classrooms, lecture hall, student gathering area and cafe.

Vigneron said science, technology and the media are fitting areas of study for students at a Catholic and Franciscan



A large stained glass window comes from St. John Cantius, a closed Detroit church. The work depicts St. John Cantius and the miracle of the jug.

university.

"Everything has its place in God's creation," he said, adding that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Maida and Szoka unveiled renderings of Cardinals Square, a garden plaza that will be built in spring 2010. Szoka said it was a great

honor and blessing to participate in the dedication.

"We are all very proud of Madonna," he said, adding it has evolved from a small girls college in 1937 to "an important and substantial university."

Sister Rose Marie thanked all involved for their participation in seeing the new "cathedral of learning" come to fruition. She called it "good, green, gorgeous and growing."

Student Leslie Banks, a senior from Redford majoring in graphic design, said she is proud of the new building. "I'm pretty passionate about being green," she said.

Megan Drabek, a junior from Monroe who's studying public relations, said she was impressed with the dignitaries who attended — "from judges to cardinals."

She said the new building is beautiful. "I like the openness of it."

The building, which was open for classes in September, was designed by the SmithGroup and constructed by Clark Construction Co.

ksmith@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2098

AROUND WESTLAND

Indoor golf

The outdoor golf season ends today, Nov. 1, at the Westland Municipal Golf located at 500 S. Merriman, but don't put the golf clubs away just yet. The indoor golf simulators at the golf course offer state-of-the-art graphics and the newest software so players can "realistically" golf all year round.

For more information, call (734) 721-6660.

Thanksgiving tickets

The deadline is Monday, Nov. 2, for seniors to purchase tickets for Thanksgiving Dinner, which takes place noon-3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at the Westland senior Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

The menu includes turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberries, vegetables, tossed salad/dressing, rolls and butter and pumpkin pie for dessert.

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

Election closures

City offices will be closed election day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, however, the Westland City Clerk's Office will be open for election business only.

The Bailey Recreation Center, William P. Faust Public Library and 18th District Court will be open.

Constituent hours

The staff of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, will hold office hours in several locations in

November. The time is set aside so that the citizens served by the congressman have the opportunity to speak with a staff member one on one regarding any federal issue that they might have.

Office hours for Tuesday, Nov. 3, are 9-10 a.m. at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Redford Community Center, 1-2 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Westland senior Friendship Center. The Thursday, Nov. 5, office hours are 9-10 a.m. 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Summit Senior Center, 11 a.m.-noon at the Northville Senior Center, 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Van Buren September Days Senior

Center.

The congressman has two offices in Livonia and Milford the district to serve constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-0314 and the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

Bowling benefit

The Plymouth-Westland Grange will hold a bowling benefit for Autism 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, at Town 'n' Country Lanes on Wayne Road at Avondale in Westland. The event is for both adults and children. The cost is \$7. To pre-register, call Jeff at (734) 673-4033 or send an e-mail to plymouthwestland.grange@ymail.com.

Bowling fund-raiser

The John Glenn High School

Wrestling Program will hold its first annual Bowling Fund-raiser Sunday, Nov. 22, at Vision Lanes on Ford Road in Westland. The cost is \$20 for three games of bowling, shoes, pizza and pop. For further information or to register on-line, visit the Web site at glennwrestling.com. For more information, call Judy at (734) 634-4595.

Yoga classes

The Bailey Recreation Center is offering yoga classes. All levels of ability are welcome, and participants don't need to be strong, flexible, in shape, or relaxed for the class, however, attendance will improve these qualities and probably many more.

The class is for those 13 years and older and are offered 7-

8:30 p.m. Thursdays or 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Upcoming sessions are Saturday, Oct. 31-Nov. 21, and Thursday, Nov. 19-Dec. 17.

The cost for a four-week session is \$20 for Westland residents per session and \$25 for non-residents. For more information, call the Bailey Center at (734) 722-7620.

American Legion

The American Legion, Westland Post 251 meets at 7 p.m. first Tuesday of each month at the AMVETS Post 171 on Merriman Road between Avondale and Palmer. All veterans, male and female with a honorable discharge are welcome to join. Visit the post Web site at www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607 for more information.

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Investors need to understand tax implications

It is important for investors to stay informed. Whether it is a tax law change that affects investments or a change in a portfolio management team, it is important to stay informed.

In today's ever changing world, that may be difficult, therefore focus on what is important to you.

One item of importance to mutual fund investors is how those funds are taxed — particularly, at this time of year.

Every investment is taxed a bit differently. Typically, with mutual funds held in a taxable account, there are a number of tax consequences that are important to understand. As with an individual stock or bond, there are dividends and interest paid throughout the year. These items are taxed to shareholders at their ordinary income tax bracket. In addition, when you sell the mutual fund there are tax consequences.

There is another way that you pay taxes on mutual funds which is particularly important this time of year. The profits that funds make throughout the year, by buying and selling securities are distributed to taxpayers, typically at the end of the year, and that money is generally taxed as a capital gain.

What makes this distribution so important is that it is not prorated throughout the year. In other words, if the capital gain distribution is made Dec. 1, it doesn't matter when you bought the fund, you are taxed on the capital gain distribution.

Capital gain distributions are not relevant when talking about retirement accounts such as IRAs and 401(k)s. These accounts grow on a tax-deferred basis, so capital gain distributions are irrelevant.

Where capital gain distributions make a significant impact is for someone who purchases a mutual fund between now and the end of the year. If you wait to purchase the fund until after it makes its capital gain distribution, there is



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

necessarily the case. Most mutual

no tax liability. Therefore, it is important to use caution this time of year.

In the past it was difficult to determine when mutual funds made capital gain distributions. In today's world, that is not

fund companies now provide that information on their Web sites. If the information isn't on the Web site, contact the company directly.

Most mutual funds will make capital gain distributions in late November or early December.

Many people believe they can avoid some tax liability by selling a mutual fund before its capital gain distribution and then repurchasing it immediately afterward. Unfortunately, this strategy does not work. Therefore, if you've

owned a mutual fund throughout the year, don't sell it merely to avoid the capital gain distribution because it will not save you on taxes.

Many people who avoid investing in mutual funds cite the tax consequences of capital gain distributions as a reason to avoid them. Although I have no problem with being smart and efficient with taxes, I never want to let the tax tail wag the dog. What is important to understand about

capital gain distributions is the money is taxed at your capital gain rate, which is your lowest bracket. Presently, the maximum capital gain rate is 15 percent. In addition, with a mutual fund you do not pay higher taxes, you pay the tax earlier than if you have an individual stock. With an individual stock, when you sell is when the capital gains are due. With mutual funds, you pay that tax year by year. In the long run, you're not talking about a significant amount

of money and the benefits that mutual funds offer — professional management, diversification, instant liquidity and opportunities to reinvest dividends and capital gains — far outweigh the tax consequences.

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

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SUNDAY

November 1,
2009

SECTION B
(WL)

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For coverage of CC vs. Franklin, Glenn vs. Detroit Southeastern, visit hometownlife.com

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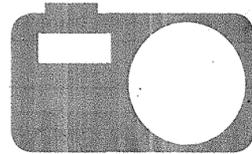


Photo galleries

Online at hometownlife.com

Stevenson harnesses Mustangs in playoff opener



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson's Austin White (23) gets loose down the sideline with Northville's Dan Stern (54) and LaDarrius McLaurin (90) in hot pursuit.

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When Livonia Stevenson jumped out to a 14-0 advantage early in Friday's first-round Division 1 playoff game, it looked like another easy night for the host Spartans.

But as former Indiana University coach and ESPN football analyst Lee Corso likes to say: "Not so fast, my friend."

Stevenson had downed the Mustangs in a Week 5 meeting, 31-0, but the rematch in the Region 2, District 2 opener was much closer as the Spartans grinded out a 21-7 victory over their fellow KLAACentral Division foe.

Stevenson, which has won eight straight, improved to 8-2 overall, while the Mustangs bow out at 6-4. And with the win, the Spartans were scheduled to face either Novi-Detroit Catholic Central or Livonia Franklin in next week's district final.

Just 3:29 into the second half, Stevenson put two touchdowns on the board, including a 1-yard run by Austin White (following Bryan Koessler's interception at the Northville 42) and Brendan O'Hara's 22-yard pass to Stephen Pollard.

Northville, meanwhile, committed three first-half turnovers.

Will Burek's fumble recovery off an errant Northville pitchout resulted in Stevenson's third score of the first half — a 20-yard pass from O'Hara to Pollard, the latter whom tight-roped the back of the end zone with only 37 seconds left until intermission.

"The credit has to go to Stevenson," said Northville coach Matt Ladach, whose team trailed 21-0 at half-time after Tyler Jarosz booted his third straight extra point. "They were prepared well and ready to play. They took it to us early."

The Mustangs, however, regrouped at intermission and made things interesting in third quarter thanks

SIDELINES

Men's college hoops

D.J. Baisden scored a game-high 24 points and grabbed 10 rebounds Friday night to lead host Spring Arbor University to a season-opening 76-55 men's basketball win over Madonna University.

Rob Boss added 14 points for the victorious Cougars, who advanced to Saturday's championship game against Robert Morris (Ill.) in the Jamieson-Allen Insurance Agency Tip-Off Tournament.

MU, making just 31 percent of its shots from the floor (18-of-58), got a team-high 13 points from freshman guard Kevin Henry and 11 from senior forward Leroy Allen.

The Crusaders, who trailed 28-19 at intermission, also shot a dismal 12-of-24 from the free-throw line.

Spring Arbor, meanwhile, shot 48.2 percent from the floor (27-of-56), including 8-of-17 from 3-point range (47.1 percent).

Women's college soccer

Amanda Dudiak's goal in the 66th minute proved to be the difference Wednesday afternoon as host Cornerstone University pulled out a 2-1 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference victory over Madonna.

Cornerstone improved to 5-8-3 overall and 4-5-2 in the WHAC, while MU falls to 5-12 and 4-7.

Amy Vander Bent's goal in the 31st minute staked the Golden Knights to a 1-0 advantage before MU's Kaila Moore's answered with an unassisted goal in the 59th minute to knot the count at 1-1.

MU goalkeeper Chelsea Gregg (Livonia Clarencville) made eight saves in the defeat, while Davenport counterpart Julia Bruining made 10 stops.

College volleyball

In Friday's quarterfinal round of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association Tournament, host Kalamazoo Valley CC ousted Schoolcraft College in four games, 25-20, 15-25, 25-19, 25-17.

The loss drops the Lady Ocelots, the fourth seed in the MCCA's Eastern Conference, to 21-16 overall.

Kalamazoo Valley, the top seed in the MCCA's Western Conference, improved to 33-6 overall.

Schoolcraft returns to action Friday, Nov. 6 in the NJCAA Division II District E tournament hosted by Grand Rapids CC.

The Lady Ocelots will face Owens (Ohio) Tech in the opening round at 6 p.m.

Collegiate golf

The champion Madonna University men's golf team reaped several postseason honors by the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, including first-team honors for juniors Brett Quittiquit and Jimmy Uelmen.

Westland's Steve South (Livonia Franklin) made honorable mention All-WHAC, while Justin Taurence made All-Academic and Champions of Character teams.

Coach Steve Mato was named WHAC Coach of the Year.

Lakeland upends Churchill for KLAAC championship

Eagles' tall front row too much

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Backed by a boisterous home crowd, the White Lake Lakeland girls volleyball team didn't disappoint in capturing the school's first-ever Association-wide title in the Kensington Lakes.

The Lakes Conference champs put on an impressive performance Thursday night in carving up defending KLAAC champion Livonia Churchill in three straight games, 25-20, 33-31, 25-14.

It was a rematch of last year's KLAAC final as Lakeland, 30-11-3 overall, used a decided height advantage on the front row to subdue the 47-5 Chargers, the Kensington Conference representative.

Maggie Hannon, a 6-foot-2 junior middle blocker, and Stephanie Lock, a 5-11 junior outside hitter, each had 12 kills to pace the victorious Eagles.

Kelsey Brown, a 6-foot middle blocker, added seven solo blocks. Lakeland had a total of 13 blocks

on the night, while Churchill finished with only three.

"Obviously we're very excited, I'm proud of the girls," Lakeland first-year coach Jen Nighwander said. "Churchill is a good team, but our girls listened to the scouting report and got it done."

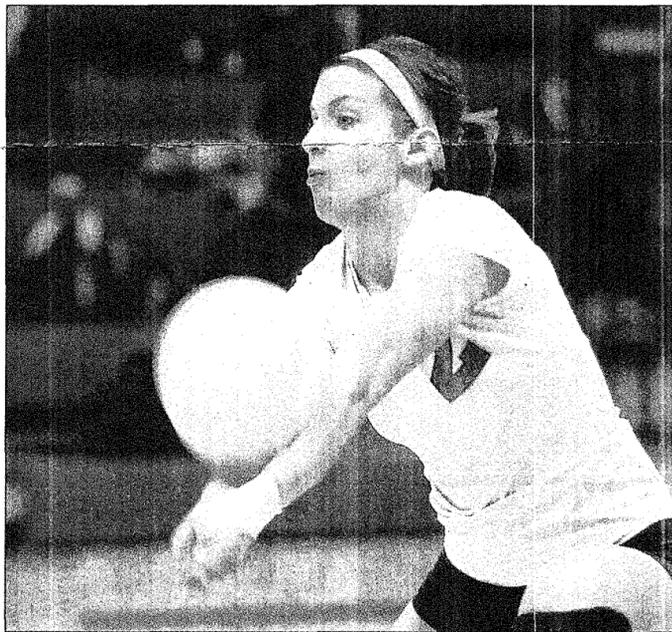
"Churchill is an outside-hitting driven team and our middle blockers were able to close better than the last time we played them."

Many of Hannon's 12 kills were a result of rapid arm swings from a 90-degree angle on sets just off the net.

"She (Hannon) has improved dramatically this season," Nighwander said. "It's hard to defend her. We also have a great setter (Lauren Maxwell) to get her the ball. I also thought our number two (Stephanie Lock) had a very good match."

Maxwell, a senior, finished with 26 assist-to-kills, while junior libero Rose Deren spearheaded the defense with 16 digs.

Please see **CHURCHILL, B4**



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill's Kara Kempinski digs one out during Thursday's KLAAC championship match at Lakeland.

Backs against wall

Short-handed Ocelots down to 9 players

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With the 2009-10 just around the corner, the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team finds itself already behind the eight-ball.

An incident a week ago from a physical altercation resulted in the dismissal of five players and two assistant coaches (see related story).

Third-year Schoolcraft head coach Randy Henry is trying to keep the program on course, but he is down to nine available players and has no assistant on the bench entering Monday's season opener at home against Jackson Community College. (Tip-off is at 7 p.m.)

"I can't get into what happened," said Henry, a former Illinois State player who is 10-48 in his two seasons with the Ocelots. "It's tough, but I just have to forge ahead and move forward. I can't do anything about the past. I just have to go with the players I've got."

So who's left? It will be an entire roster of

COLLEGE HOOPS

freshmen for the Ocelots.

Among those slated to start include John Acuff, a 6-foot-2 guard from Warren Lincoln; Gregory Morgan II, a 6-0 guard from Redford Thurston; Trevor Zaeny, a 6-4 swingman from Allen Park; Marcel Stewart, a 6-5 forward from Detroit Community; and Aaron Felsner, a 6-6 center from Allen Park.

Guard play remains the biggest concern for Henry.

"We'll do things by committee," Henry said. "Acuff is a real athletic who plays the point or the two spot. But he will have to handle the ball some. He sees the floor better than most guys."

Morgan is a tremendous shooter who has to be better defensively. Stewart has a good stroke and a great offensive player, but he's got to get tougher as a rebounder."

Rounding out the Schoolcraft roster is Adam Creech, a 6-foot guard from Wyandotte; Gerald

Bowler, a 6-4 forward from Detroit Cody; Dwayne Rogers, a 6-5 forward from Detroit Winans Academy; and Duggan Quinn, a 6-8 center from Novi.

"Creech can shoot the ball," Henry said. "He's a great anticipator who plays the (passing) lanes well. He'll get some steals."

"Bowler is a strong kid, a rebounder, while Rogers can get up-and-down the floor."

"Quinn hurt his knee last year at Novi and at first he couldn't get up-and-down the floor, but his conditioning is getting better."

Despite a nine-man roster, Henry said the Ocelots will pressure opposing backcourts all 94 feet.

"We'll use three different presses," said Henry, who is coming off a 7-22 season, including a 4-14 mark in the MCCA's Eastern Conference. "We'll try and disrupt the offensive flow with multiple looks. The biggest thing we'll try and do is mix and match."

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Incident costs S'craft 5 players, 2 assistants

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Less than a week prior to its season opener, two assistant coaches and five players have been dismissed from the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team following an incident following a team practice on Oct. 24.

According to an official statement released Wednesday by Schoolcraft Communications Coordinator Michelle Gaynier, men's basketball assistant coaches Myron Butler and Deajada Smith have both resigned.

Names of the five dismissed players were not released.

When contacted Tuesday night by *The Observer*, Schoolcraft athletic director Sid Fox denied that head coach Randy Henry, who is 10-48 in his two seasons with the Ocelots, had resigned.

The former Detroit Renaissance High coach

and morning producer for Detroit's WDIV-TV referred all comments regarding the matter to Gaynier.

"Head coach Randy Henry was not present during the incident and is not facing disciplinary action," Gaynier's statement said. "The incident involved a physical confrontation among players while two assistant coaches were present."

"After interviewing the players and coaches involved, college administrators concluded that the incident constituted a violation of the college's student code of conduct as well as codes of conduct outlined by the Michigan Community College Athletic Association and the National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association."

Schoolcraft, coming off a 7-22 season, now enters Monday's home opener against Jackson Community College with less than 10 players.

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Fall softball champs

The 14-and-under Livonia Storm captured all six games to win the ASA Canton Fall Showdown championship, Oct. 17-18, at Victory Park. The tournament title came in dramatic fashion as the Storm rallied with two-out in the bottom of the seventh on a 2-run double down the right field line to defeat Vengeance. The Storm qualified for the ASA World Series the previous weekend by finishing runner-up at the Lady Irish Fall Tournament in Toledo, Ohio. Members of the Storm include (front row, from left): Kaitlyn McIntosh, Jessica Brandon, Aubrie Cragg, Jacquelyn Murphy and Catherine Porter; (back row, from left) head coach Mike Gerou, assistant coach Bob Warren, Celeste Fidge, Shannon Watson, Elaine Gerou, Hanna Warren, Casey Bias, assistant coach Jay McIntosh, Delaine O'Donnell and assistant coach Kevin Bias.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson quarterback Brendan O'Hara (18) launches a pass with teammate Johnny Pauley (33) protecting against Northville rusher LaDarrius McLaurin (90) during Friday's state playoff opener.

STEVENSON

FROM PAGE B1

to the efforts of 5-foot-7, 160-pound senior running back Brett Smith, who led all rushers with 206 yards on 19 carries.

Smith's electrifying 66-yard TD run with 9:26 left in the third perked up the Mustangs, who cut the deficit to 21-7 following Jake Robideau's PAT.

And after Paul Gibson pounced on a Stevenson fumble at his own 30-yard line, Northville had even more life with 8:11 remaining in the third quarter.

The Mustangs drove down to the Stevenson 11 on the ensuing series, only to be thwarted when Koessler picked off his second pass of the night at the goal line on fourth-and-eight with only 13 seconds left in the third.

After Stevenson went three-and-out to start the final quarter, Northville once again threatened, driving down to the Spartans' 2.

But after taking a 9-yard loss and forced into a fourth-and-goal situation from the 11, Dan Mills' pass into the end zone fell incomplete.

Stevenson then ran out the clock as White, who finished with a team-high 117 yards on 19 carries, racked up three first downs, while backfield mate Johnny Pauley, who added 107 on 11 attempts, picked up the other.

"Our kids made plays defensively when they had to," Gabel said. "I thought offensively we played well the first half. We had the (five) penalties, but despite that, we moved the ball. We did not have the ball much the second half, but that last drive was something for us."

Stevenson had a total of 312 yards, including 255 on the ground. O'Hara was an efficient 5-of-6 passing for 57 yards. The Spartans had 17 first downs.

Northville, meanwhile, finished with 255 yards with all but 16 coming on the ground.

Smith, meanwhile, gave the Spartans fits and was a one-man show in the second half.

"He (Smith) made us miss and he had a good game," Gabel said. "He played well. The 66-yard run was a huge play. I don't want to take anything away from him, but we had some poor tackling. And then he got his confidence."

The Mustangs used two

quarterbacks, Mills and junior Mike Wegzyn, who were a combined 4-of-17 for only 16 yards and three-interceptions. (Stevenson's Jordan El-Sabeh also picked off a Mills pass during the first quarter.)

"Our plan the second half was to use both quarterbacks," Ladach said. "It was the best opportunity to get our offense moving."

"We almost ran a completely different offense. The last time we tried to run at them and they outmuscled us. They're big and strong inside. We changed our blocking angles and ran a lot of misdirections, but unfortunately it didn't get us a win."

"A lot of what Brett (Smith) did tonight, he did on his own. Stevenson defended us well, but he made things happen."

Northville's defense also did a commendable job holding down White, the 6-0, 190-pound senior tailback committed to Michigan.

"He (White) is the type of back that can also be patient," Ladach said. "He can nickel-and-dime you, too. Stevenson has a good offense. We did a pretty good job, but obviously we didn't do enough."

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CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

LIVONIA FRANKLIN PATRIOT CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL

Oct. 29 at Nankin Mills

BOYS TEAM STANDINGS (grades 11-12):

1. Northville, 15; 2. Canton, 59; 3. Livonia Churchill, 61; 4. Livonia Franklin, 113.

Individual winner: Alex Kanya (Northville), 17 minutes, 34 seconds (5,000 meters).

Franklin finishers: 28. Erik Czech, 20:37; 29. Justin Wizinsky, 21:19; 34. Justin Bohlen, 21:49; 35. Kevin Riedy, 21:51; 37. Bill Crandall, 23:47; 38. Kevin Lindsay, 25:51; 39. Muntadhar Al-Hassuni, 26:31.

GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS (grades 11-12):

1. Northville, 22; 2. Livonia Churchill, 35; 3. Salem, 86; 4. Canton, 112 (won tie-breaker); 5. Franklin, 112; 6. W.L. Northern, 7; Ladywood (NTS); 8. Garden City (NTS).

Individual winner: Alexis Hickson (Churchill), 21:14.8 (5,000 meters).

Other Churchill finishers: 6. Kayla Szado, 21:56.4; 7. Jessica Raisanen, 22:04.7; 10. Jenna Szuba, 22:14.2; 11. Megan McDonald,

22:15.0; 22. Melissa Roe, 22:56.3; 30. Erika First, 23:22.1; 33. Maddy Jiga, 23:59.0; 35. Kelly Twigg, 24:07.8; 37. Evran Ural, 24:17.4; 55. Amanda Adams, 25:59.6; 62. Whitney Bucher, 26:50.2; 63. Molly Kurasik, 26:52.6.

Franklin finishers:

14. Christa Mott, 22:27.4; 17. Victoria Church, 22:39.8; 25. Meghan Lark, 23:13.9; 26. Nikki Kaledas, 23:18.3; 42. Dina Spaji, 24:35.1; 43. Courtney Stadler, 24:40.9; 44. Jackie Horsell, 24:43.0; 45. Karen Kalinski, 24:43.7; 46. Carly Giles, 24:44.7; 56. Jane Taylor, 26:09.9; 57. Sarah Budziak, 26:12.8.

Ladywood finishers:

38. Siobhan Aldridge, 24:20.2; 39. Mercedes Black, 24:23.0; 47. Lauren Micallef, 24:49.8.

GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS (grades 9-10):

1. Salem, 23; 2. Northville, 61; 3. Livonia Churchill, 66; 4. Canton, 116; 5. Livonia Ladywood, 118; 6. Livonia Franklin, 149.

Individual winner: Lisa Hamel (Northville), 20:59.8 (5,000 meters).

Churchill finishers: 4. Vivien Okochucwa, 21:33.0; 11. Lisa McMullen, 22:10.3; 16.

Allesandra Iadipalao, 22:35.3; 18. Allison Murray, 2:47.8; 24. Alexandra Pomrenke, 24:12.4; 38. Jennifer Bourlier, 27:25.0; 40. Abigail Haod, 28:23.4; 47. Gabriella Portis, 36:33.0; 49. Maria Zarkin, 39:46.2.

Ladywood finishers:

15. Alexandra Darr, 22:31.2; 23. Megan Riethmiller, 24:07.2; 27. Carlee Faber, 24:55.2; 34. Sarah Wickman, 26:28.5; 35. Brenna Wright, 26:49.5; 37. Ally Mozeleski, 27:16.4.

Franklin finishers:

17. Jane Modes, 22:41.1; 28. Sara Turner, 25:01.6; 42. Hajer Al-Hassuni, 29:17.7; 45. Sara Burgess, 31:30.0; 48. Theresa Savage, 39:10.0.

BOYS TEAM STANDINGS (grades 9-10):

1. Northville, 40; 2. Canton, 42; 3. Salem, 77; 4. Churchill, 89; 5. Franklin, 111.

Individual winner: Steve McEvilly (Salem), 17:34.

Franklin finishers:

4. Ryan Derry, 18:01; 19. Chad Walters, 19:38; 31. Gabe Martinez, 20:27; 32. Josh Boesmer, 20:31; 37. Andrew Barnes, 21:05; 45. Mitch Wittenberg, 22:13; 50. Josh Robertson, 22:49.

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SUN, NOV. 8 1:00 PM

WED, NOV. 11 7:30 PM

MILITARY SALUTE NIGHT

THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL DISTRICT TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS

CLASS A
at **LIVONIA STEVENSON**
Monday, Nov. 2: (A) Livonia Churchill vs. (B) Redford Thurston, 5 p.m.; (C) Livonia Stevenson vs. (D) Redford Union, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 4: Garden City vs. A-B winner, 5 p.m.; Livonia Franklin vs. C-D winner, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 5: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances regional semifinal Tuesday, Nov. 10 at Hazel Park vs. Detroit Cody district champion.)

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Monday, Nov. 2: (A) Inkster vs. (B) Belleville, 5:30 p.m.; (C) Westland John Glenn vs. (D) Romulus, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 4: Ypsilanti vs. A-B winner, 5:30 p.m.; Wayne Memorial vs. C-D winner, 7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 6: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances regional semifinal Tuesday, Nov. 10 at Gibraltar Carlson vs. Carleton-Airport district champion.)

CLASS B
at **LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE**
Monday, Nov. 2: (A) Livonia Ladywood vs. (B) Detroit Communication & Media Arts, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 4: (C) South Lyon East vs. (D) Willow Run, 6 p.m.; Livonia Clarenceville vs. A-B winner, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 6: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinal Tuesday, Nov. 10 at Clarenceville vs. Dearborn Divine Child district champion.)

CLASS D
at **ALLEN PARK INTER-CITY BAPTIST**
Thursday, Nov. 5: Detroit Westside Christian Academy vs. Allen Park Inter-City Baptist, 5:30 p.m.; Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. Lutheran High Westland, 7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 6: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinal Tuesday, Nov. 10 at Birmingham Roeper vs. Marine City Cardinal Mooney district champion.)

GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING
Friday, Nov. 5
Kensington Conf. Diving at Novi, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 6
Kensington Conf. Finals at Novi, noon.

BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY MHSAA FINALS at MIS (Brooklyn)
Saturday, Nov. 7
Division 3-4 Girls, 10 & 10:30 a.m.
Division 4-3 Boys, 11 & 11:30 a.m.
Division 2-1 Girls, 1:30 & 2 p.m.
Division 2-1 Boys, 2:30 & 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
Tuesday, Nov. 3
Madonna at Indiana Tech, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 5
Madonna at Warner Southern (Fla.), 6 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 6
(NJCAA District E Tournament at Grand Rapids CC)
Schoolcraft vs. Owens (Ohio), 6 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 7-8
NJCAA District E Tourney at Grand Rapids CC, TBA.

MEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Wednesday, Nov. 4
Madonna at Davenport, 4 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 7
NJCAA Central District final, TBA.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER
Saturday, Nov. 7
NJCAA District D final, TBA.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Monday, Nov. 2
Jackson CC at Schoolcraft, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 4
Kalamazoo Valley at Schoolcraft, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 7
Huntington (Ind.) at Madonna, 6 p.m.
(Eric CC Invitational, Buffalo, N.Y.)
Cuyahoga (Ohio) vs. Seneca (Ont.), 3 p.m.
Schoolcraft vs. Erie CC (N.Y.), 5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 8
Erie (N.Y.) Invitational, 1 & 3 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Nov. 6
Jackson CC at Schoolcraft, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 7
Madonna at Eastern Michigan, 2 p.m.
Lansing CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

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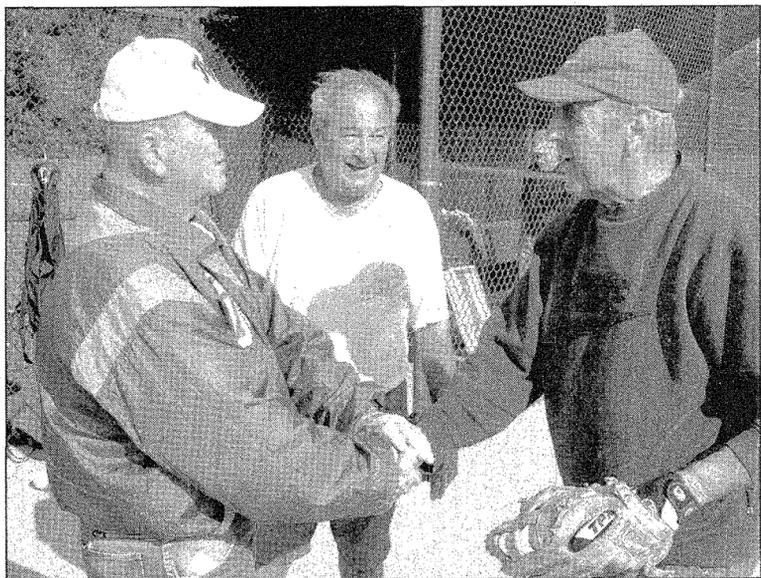
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Camaraderie is the name of the game every Wednesday as shown here by (from left) John Finch of Livonia, Bud Welcher of Westland and Livonia's Tom Tomkiewicz.

OLD-TIMERS DAY

Softball-loving senior citizens stay in the game

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Miron Stolaruk took a healthy swing at one of Don LaMay's pitches and held up his hand.

"Wait a minute," said Stolaruk, a 76-year-old from Canton who is nicknamed Mike. "All I do is swing and I get winded."

LaMay, 76, served up some consolation before letting another offering go toward Stolaruk.

"Take your time," Livonia's LaMay said. "No one's in a hurry."

After catching his breath, Stolaruk smacked a hard grounder into left field at Plymouth Township Park.

He was smiling again. It's all part of the Wednesday morning routine for a bunch of guys in their 70s and even early 80s who convene from spring until the snow flies at the park to play some softball.

LaMay, who graduated in 1951 from long-defunct Livonia Bentley, was the guy who in 2007 initiated the weekly sessions at the McClumpha Road-Ann Arbor Trail facility.

ANYTHING GOES

With the third year of the informal softball group ending soon, anywhere between 10-20 guys come out.

They do some stretching with physical trainer Stephanie Montero and then take to the diamond.

Depending on how many turn out, their Wednesdays entail anywhere from batting practice to actual games.

Every week has plenty of banter, not to mention lunch at a nearby coney island.

"I try not to miss it," said Canton's Bob Mosher, who at 69 is one of the youngsters of the group. "The guys here are pretty die-hard."

Other regulars include Westland's Bud Welcher and Dick Horie and Livonia's Bill Lloyd — all in their mid-70s.

Horie and Lloyd played baseball at Bentley with LaMay, but they couldn't make it to the park on this

particular day. Neither could the group's elder statesman, 83-year-old Rick Price of Plymouth.

"We have a guy (Price) who is 83 years old," LaMay said. "He just had eye surgery, so he has to watch getting out in the sun."

SOMETHING NEW

The Plymouth Park venture began after LaMay and others felt they needed a new softball outlet.

In recent years, many of them had played in a 65-and-over softball league at Victory Park in Canton. That league suddenly was becoming too competitive for the older guys.

So LaMay got the green light from Plymouth Twp. public service coordinator Susan Vignoe to use the fields.

Then, all that was needed was recruiting buddies who like him have played ball (baseball in their younger days) since they were kids.

"For most of us, what's important is to come out, play ball and have a good time," LaMay said. "So I told the guys that I'd try to start an over-75 league."

Interest in his plan didn't take off immediately.

"But then I took the names off of all the rosters I had who were over 75, or weren't able to play or weren't playing anymore," LaMay added. "I asked them to come on out here and we'll do whatever."

MIXING IT UP

For them, it's the perfect way to blend athletics and exercise with friendship and camaraderie.

"We just come out and if there's enough for a game we play a game," said Mosher, a retired manufacturing engineer at Visteon. "If not, we just hit balls and that's what we're doing today."

With a laugh, Mosher added, "We don't have enough for one team, let alone two."

Swinging at pitches and shagging fly balls isn't quite as much fun as playing a game. But Stolaruk, a former teacher in Livonia

Public Schools, still can't wait for Wednesdays to roll around.

"It does help to get you going," Stolaruk said. "We could use more guys coming out here. We've been practicing, but we need a few more to have games."

Westland's Ernie Dinatale, 76, enjoys the Wednesdays, but stops short of saying the softball makes him feel young again.

"I feel like an old man," he cracked.

Dinatale trotted out to the softball field after a couple of hours of swimming and cardiovascular exercises at a nearby gym. He recently had both knees replaced.

But he still plans on playing in a competitive softball league this winter in Florida, where he'll stay sharp until the LaMay group reconvenes in 2010.

DOING ENOUGH

And as long as the grizzled veterans stay in the game, that's fine with LaMay.

"I'm concerned about getting these guys off the couches," he said. "Instead of sitting home watching TV right now, they're out here playing ball."

No matter the turnout, there's always room for more. There's always a spot for somebody who finds out about LaMay's group, as Mosher did in 2008.

"I hadn't played for 50 years until last year," Mosher said. "Some of them have played all their life and are now in the 70s."

"Here's a place where we're pretty much on the same page. ... We can all do a little, we can run a little, we can throw a little, hit some."

As it turns out, a little is just enough for these softball seniors to keep the flame of youth alive.

It's not too late to start planning for the 2010 season. Anybody who is interested in joining the group should e-mail Don LaMay at bentleydon@sbcglobal.net.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

Schoolcraft boots Kellogg, 6-0

Masato Morioka notched a hat trick, while Bim Ogunyemi contributed two goals and two assists to propel the fifth-ranked Schoolcraft College men's soccer team to a 6-0 victory Wednesday over visiting Kellogg Community College.

The Ocelots, now 14-1-1 overall, will face Owens CC (Ohio) on Saturday's NJCAA Division 1 Region 12 semifinal hosted by Cuyahoga CC (Ohio).

Ogunyemi, a sophomore midfielder from Lake Orion, figured in the first four Schoolcraft goals including what proved to be the game-winner by Masato Morioka in the 24th minute.

Ben Lightner also scored for the Ocelots, who exploded with five unanswered goals in the second half after leading 1-0 at

MEN'S SOCCER

intermission. Other assists went to Dane Laird, Ryan Lemasters, Drew Kidder and James Dutcher.

Other standouts for the Ocelots, who outshot the Bruins 17-2, included the Carver brothers, Dave and Joe, along with sophomore midfielder Yaya Toure.

Adrian Motta (Livonia Churchill) played the first 80 minutes in goal for the Ocelots before Ian McDonald-Wilkins finished up to post the shutout. The pair combined for two saves as Schoolcraft finished 8-0 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association.

Kellogg ends its season

2-14 overall and 0-8 in the MCCA.

DAVENPORT 3, MADONNA 0 (MEN)

Aaron Lee had a goal and assist Wednesday night as Davenport University (6-7-3, 4-6-1) ended a modest two-game winning streak for host Madonna University (3-7-3, 3-5-2) in Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference action at Livonia Franklin High School.

All three Panther goals came in the second half — Gerard John Williams (from Lee) in the 68th minute; Lee (from Duvar Minto), 73rd minute; and Alex Boehm's eighth of the season (from Ricco Mulero, 75th minute).

Davenport goalkeepers Kevin O'Brien and James Gilpin each played 45 minutes to combine on the shutout. Gilpin had three saves in the second half.

WHAC Defensive Player of the Week Steve Besk (Northville) stopped 3-of-6 shots on goals for the Crusaders.

ALL-KLAA BOYS SOCCER

2009 ALL-KENSINGTON LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION BOYS SOCCER TEAM GOALKEEPERS

Walled Lake Northern: Mitchell Thompson, Soph.; Walled Lake Western: Blake Hunter, Jr.; Milford: Beau Prey, Jr.; Walled Lake Central: Michael Erickson, Sr.; Waterford Mott: Dean Dzieliet, Sr.; Livonia Stevenson: Conner Burton, Sr.; Brighton: Mark Binkley, Sr.; Salem: Sasa Miskovic, Sr.; Plymouth: Kyle Brindza, Jr.; Novi: Tom Duquette, Sr.

DEFENDERS

Churchill: Adam Bedell, Sr.; Erik Bird, Sr.; W.L. Northern: Mike Ankoviak, Jr.; W.L. Western: Alec Lanigan, Sr.; Milford: Kale Howell, Sr.; Wayne: Kevin Glass, Sr.; Livonia Franklin: Dillon Debeliso, Jr.; South Lyon: Curt Green, Sr.; Stevenson: Adam Dabkowski, Sr.; Canton: Connor Furgason, Soph.; Brighton: Kenan Hatfield, Sr.; Salem: John Krutty, Sr.; Hartland: Jack Berry, Sr.; Andrew Fiebertz, Sr.; Pinckney: Zach Fosket, Jr.; Westland John Glenn: Robert Hurst, Sr.; Grand Blanc: Ryan Keener, Sr.; Aaron Tuck, Sr.; Nic Castanos, Sr.; Northville: Brandon Cameron, Sr.; Nick Peper, Sr.; Plymouth: Dan Jasewicz, Sr.; Novi: Brian Herron, Jr.

MIDFIELDERS

Churchill: Stephen Foster, Jr.; Ian Guerin, Sr.; Tim Devine, Sr.; W.L. Northern: Kyle Rutz, Jr.; Austin Rogers, Sr.; Michael Aravas, Sr.; W.L. Western: Nick Lewin, Sr.; Adam Wright, Sr.; W.L. Central: Andrew Crimmins, Sr.; Mott: Caleb Mathers, Jr.; South Lyon: Mike Rickard, Sr.; Canton: Yusef Bazzy, Sr.; Brandon Tolinski, Sr.; Brighton: Andrew

Winship, Sr.; Zach Roggenkamp, Sr.; Taylor Mazurek, Jr.; Salem: Lachlan Savage, Sr.; Dan Martin, Jr.; Pinckney: Cory Briggs, Sr.; Andy Johnson, Jr.; South Lyon East: David Wusten, Sr.; John Glenn: Troy McGuigan, Jr.; Nelson Kenne, Sr.; Grand Blanc: Zach Carroll, Soph.; Carter Brochu, Jr.; Lakeland: Sean Carrigan, Sr.; Matt Salicciolo, Sr.; Northville: Fatai Alashe, Jr.; Joey Zywoli, Jr.; Plymouth: Vinh Nguyen, Sr.; Andrew Yoder, Jr.; Novi: Jon Bauer, Sr.; Jon DeLeon, Jr.; Howell: C.J. Axer, Sr.

FORWARDS

Churchill: Max Washko, Sr.; W.L. Northern: Brandon Tsuru, Jr.; W.L. Western: Kyle Aisheskie, Jr.; W.L. Central: Chad Russell, Jr.; John Alonzo, Jr.; Waterford Kettering: Scott Christopher, Sr.; Franklin: Jordan McGuire, Soph.; Canton: Mitch Posuniak, Sr.; Stevenson: Chris Sergison, Sr.; Salem: Alex Tramel, Sr.; Hartland: Cody Bodziak, Sr.; Pinckney: Jake Giese, Sr.; Grand Blanc: Eddie Nassar, Sr.; Lakeland: William Schwartz, Jr.; Northville: Dave Hammond, Sr.; Doug Beason, Sr.; Plymouth: Nick Russ, Jr.

HONORABLE MENTION

Churchill: Tyler Varney, Nick Wood, Jacob Kobylarz; Canton: Matt Edwards, Jon Dugan, Kai Walther; Plymouth: Joe Klonowski, Steven Jahn, Mike Ambrose; Franklin: Sean Clark, Ryan Tikey; Wayne: Doug Malcolm, Alex Balli, Kevin Diehl; John Glenn: Zach Redden, Luciano Kenle, Renato Mucca; Northville: Bobby Kruse, Dan Yutsy, Matt VanHouten; Novi: Chase Jabbori, Chris Park, Doug McGinn; Salem: Tommy Halewicz, Mohammad Pourmandi, Evan Antich; S.L. East: Ethan Mancos, Matt McGinnen, Nick

Mancuso; South Lyon: Alex Enfroy, Jordan Selva, Jacob Prudhomme; Stevenson: Zach Cooney, Charlie Swingle, Camden Iwakso; Lakeland: Naveed Firoozgan, Sean Deters, Ben Lang; W.L. Central: Matthew Cataldo, Adam Coric; W.L. Western: Raul Garcia, Brett Headle, Ryan Clark; W.L. Northern: Evan Kowalski, Nick Naife, Yanni Silvestri; Mott: David Gannon, James Kennedy, J.D. Clemence; Kettering: Scott Salek; Brighton: Jacob Clapper, Nick Schroder, Grant Chong; Grand Blanc: Vince McKeoun, Kyle Benton, Corey Cunningham; Hartland: Ian Lovern, Kyle Schmidt, Tyler West; Howell: Brandon Mobbs, Phil Lyon, Jamison Vogt; Milford: Drew Newell, Adam Fancher, Dylan Polcyn; Pinckney: Spencer Stuhldreher, Travis Stevens; Patrick Cude.

FINAL STANDINGS

KENSINGTON CONFERENCE
South Division: 1. Churchill, 9-0-1; 2. Plymouth, 7-2-3; 3. Canton, 6-3-4; 4. John Glenn, 4-5-1; 5. Franklin, 2-8-6; Wayne, 0-10.
Central Division: 1. Northville, 7-1-2; 2. Salem, 6-2-2; 3. Novi, 3-2-5; 4. Stevenson, 4-4-2; 5. South Lyon, 3-5-2; 6. S.L. East, 0-9-1.
LAKES CONFERENCE
West Division: 1. W.L. Northern, 8-1-1; 2. W.L. Western, 7-2-1; 3. (tie) W.L. Central and Lakeland, 4-2-2 each; 5. Mott, 4-6-6; Kettering, 0-10.
North Division: 1. (tie) Grand Blanc and Brighton, 8-0-2 each; 3. Pinckney, 5-5-4; Hartland, 4-6-5; Milford, 2-8-6; Howell, 1-9-9.
CHAMPIONS
Kensington Conference: Churchill.
Lakes Conference: W.L. Northern.
Association: Churchill 4, W.L. Northern 0.

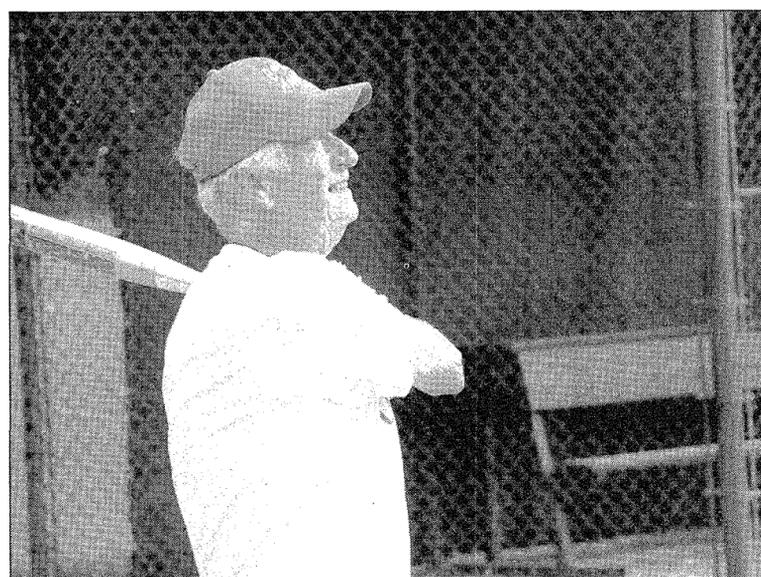
GIRLS SWIM RESULTS

GROSSE ILE 97 LIVONIA LADYWOOD 73
Oct. 29 at Livonia Comm. Rec. Center
200-yard medley relay: 1. Grosse Ile (Maddie Tuinier, Alex Hornby, Kira Gates, Elizabeth Campbell), 2:02.75; 2. Ladywood (Brianna Wilson, Caleigh Griffin, Maddy Pelon, Jessica Arabi), 2:04.42.
200 freestyle: 1. Libby Huber (GI), 2:02.75; 2. Heather Pijor (LL), 2:04.42.
200 individual medley: 1. Tuinier (GI), 2:24.69; 2. Griffin (LL), 2:36.23; 3. Wilson (LL), 2:37.57.
50 freestyle: 1. Pelon (LL), 27.86; 2. Alaina Stevenson (LL), 25.58.
100 butterfly: 1. Pelon (LL), 1:11.19.
100 freestyle: 1. Gates (GI), 56.63; 2. Stevenson (LL), 1:04.35.
500 freestyle: 1. Pijor (LL), 5:47.75.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Grosse Ile (Gates, Catherine Vollmerhausen, Emily Clemons, Huber), 1:54.16; 2. Ladywood (Arabi, Griffin, Stevenson, Pijor), 1:55.29.
100 backstroke: 1. Tuinier (GI), 1:06.33; 2. Wilson (LL), 1:08.99; 3. Arabi (LL), 1:14.71.
100 breaststroke: 1. Griffin (LL), 1:15.89; 3. Kimberley Solak (LL), 1:21.72.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Grosse Ile (L.B. Brown, Farrah Juilin, Campbell, Abby Guthrie), 4:21.88.
Ladywood's dual meet record: 4-7 overall.

LIVONIA LADYWOOD 122 MADISON HTS. BISHOP FOLEY 47
Oct. 26 at Warren Cousino
200-yard medley relay: 1. Ladywood (Brianna Wilson, Caleigh Griffin, Maddy Pelon, Jessica Arabi), 2:09.04; 3. Ladywood (Lia Andreassi, Kimberley Solak, Maris Ryckman, Monica Thibodeau), 2:25.77.
200 freestyle: 1. Heather Pijor (LL), 2:13.54; 2. Nicole Munson (LL), 2:29.34.
200 individual medley: 1. Samantha Rushlon (BF), 2:34.00; 2. Griffin (LL), 2:36.2; 3. Wilson (LL), 2:38.38.
50 freestyle: 1. Pelon (LL), 29.25; 2. Alaina Stevenson (LL), 30.9.
100 butterfly: 1. Rushlon (BF), 1:10.41; 2. Pelon (LL), 1:12.47; 3. Andreassi (LL), 1:22.19.
100 freestyle: 1. Stevenson (LL), 1:10.47; 2. Alyse Samoray (LL), 1:16.32.
200 freestyle relay: Ladywood (Griffin, Stevenson, Thibodeau, Pijor), 2:05.44; 2. Ladywood (Samoray, Amy Kobylarz, Andreassi, Munson), 2:11.32.
100 backstroke: 1. Wilson (LL), 1:10.44; 2. Arabi (LL), 1:15.07; 3. Ryckman (LL), 1:28.81.
100 breaststroke: 1. Griffin (LL), 1:18.91; 2. Solak (LL), 1:23.28; 3. Kobylarz (LL), 1:24.87.
400 freestyle relay: 1. Ladywood (Arabi, Pelon, Pijor, Wilson), 4:22.18; 3. Ladywood (Stevenson, Thibodeau, Andreassi, Munson), 4:40.29.
Ladywood's dual meet record: 4-6 overall; 3-3 Catholic League.

LIVONIA STEVENSON 112 HARTLAND 74
Oct. 22 at Hartland
200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Ashley Gordon, Sarah Cauzillo, Ashley Reed, Savannah Hatt), 2:00.18; 3. Stevenson (Shaelyn Dolinski, Allison Kellahan, Sara Stemen, Florentyna Joswik), 2:05.24.
200 freestyle: 1. Kaylee Dolinski (LS), 2:02.13; 2. Emilee Montini (LS), 2:08.13.
200 individual medley: 1. Hatt (LS), 2:16.59; 3. Cauzillo (LS), 2:23.61.
50 freestyle: 1. Ashley Gordon (LS), 26.09.
1-meter diving: 1. Caria McNamara (LS), 257.10 points.
100 butterfly: 1. Avery Evenson (H), 1:01.54; 2. Hatt (LS), 1:02.13; 3. Stemen (LS), 1:07.59.
100 freestyle: 1. K. Dolinski (LS), 57.59.
500 freestyle: 1. Ashley Montini (LS), 5:42.5.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Hartland (Sarah Smith, Corinne Newsome, Jocelyn Reinert, Evenson), 1:47.79; 2. Stevenson (Kayla Perchall, S. Dolinski, E. Montini, K. Dolinski), 1:49.31; 3. Stevenson (Joswik, Brenna Gabrielson, Aiden O'Dowd, A. Montini), 1:54.26.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 105 WALLED LAKE STEVENSON 81
Oct. 22 at W.L. Western
200-yard medley relay: 1. Western (Eri Ikari, Chelsea Rauss, Krystine Fergonara, Samantha Hudson), 2:08.7; 2. Glenn (Kennara Burke, Casey Peterson, Lindsey Bessinger, Jordyn Davis), 2:13.4; 3. Glenn (Kate Moran, Jennie Humbach, Rachael Alholinna, Brooke Graham), 2:13.9.
200 freestyle: 1. Khiry Sparks (WJG), 2:08.6; 2. Kalli Aloisi (WJG), 2:17.9.
200 individual medley: 1. Humbach (WJG), 2:33.3.
50 freestyle: 1. Hudson (WLW), 26.1; 2. Peterson (WJG), 26.7; 3. Bessinger (WJG), 29.3.
1-meter diving: 1. Sophie Daugherty (WLW), 219.90 points.
100 butterfly: 1. Aloisi (WJG), 1:12.0; 3. Burke (WJG), 1:22.8.
100 freestyle: 1. Hudson (WLW), 56.8; 2. Peterson (WJG), 57.9; 3. Kaitlyn Smith (WJG), 1:04.5.
500 freestyle: 1. Rachael Alholinna (WJG), 5:58.8.
200 freestyle relay: 1. Glenn (Aloisi, Davis, Graham, Peterson), 1:55.7; 2. Glenn (Smith, Bessinger, Asha Wright-Ford, Sparks), 1:56.1.
100 backstroke: 1. Alholinna (WJG), 1:13.0.
100 breaststroke: 1. Sparks (WJG), 1:14.8; 3. Bessinger (WJG), 1:24.5.
400 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Aloisi, Humbach, Smith, Sparks), 4:11.8; 3. John Glenn (Wright-Ford, Moran, Davis, Chelsea Yax), 4:49.0.
Dual meet records: John Glenn, 4-3; Western, 0-7.



Don LaMay, a Livonia Bentley alum, gets in his swings during a recent session of the informal softball group.

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Vellucci propels Spartan spikers

Kelly Vellucci recorded nine kills, nine digs and 11 assists Thursday as Livonia Stevenson downed host Walled Lake Northern in a KLAAs girls volleyball cross-over, 25-22, 25-19, 20-25, 25-18.

Vellucci and Kristen Balhorn also served four aces apiece.

Other contributions for the Spartans, now 27-20-2 overall, included Monika Rudis (eight kills), Shelbie Wilson (21 digs), Claire LeBlanc (16 assists), Coley Favaro (four blocks) and Jordan York (10 digs).

The Knights fall to 32-11-4 overall.

Franklin bests Vikings

Amanda Borieo led the way with 11 kills and six aces Thursday as Livonia Franklin defeated host Walled Lake Central in three games, 23-11, 25-17, 25-13.

Other standouts for the Patriots, now 10-22-2 overall, include Chelsea Williams (nine kills), Liz Holloway (eight kills, four aces), Nicole Williamson (13 digs), Raquel Garza (five aces) and setter Rachael Kapchus (22 assists, four aces).

The loss drops Walled

VOLLEYBALL

Lake Central to 3-26 overall.

CLARENCEVILLE 3, S. CHRISTIAN 0: Livonia Clarenceville gained a little momentum heading into state tournament play this week by knocking off Southfield Christian in convincing fashion Thursday on Senior Night.

The Trojans held off the Eagles in all three games 25-23, 25-29 and 25-22 as seniors Kat Hall, Theresa Parent, Morgan Tressler, Ashley Devon, Megan McLaughlin, Ashley Welch and Paige Davis combined efforts to help their teammates finish regular-season play 14-15-4 overall.

"We started strong and we finished strong," Clarenceville head coach Wendy Merschman said. "It was a good showing by all the girls."

Hall paced the heavy-hitting attack with 10 kills. She also came away with nine digs and had two solo blocks.

Tressler and McLaughlin each supplied six kills, Davis had four kills, Parent collected eight digs, Devon tallied four aces and six digs and Welch contributed 26 assists and seven digs.



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill coach Mark Grenier tries to rally his team following a timeout during Thursday's KLAAs championship setback to host Lakeland.

CHURCHILL

FROM PAGE B1

"We'd get lucky sometimes, but our philosophy is that the ball doesn't drop without an effort," Nighwander said.

Churchill had chances on four different occasions to close out the second game and squaring the match a 1-all, but

the Eagles refused to buckle.

"This the third time playing Lakeland and they outplayed, outscored and served better than us," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. "We did not hit well and had too many errors. But everything goes to Lakeland. Give them all the credit. They took it to us and deserved it."

Senior outside hitter Sarah Suppelsa had 14 kills, while Cierra Yetts added nine, but the

Chargers got only seven other kills from three other players.

"The first game we were pretty bunched up," Grenier said. "It took awhile for us to settle down. It's something we can work on and talk about."

"The second game was competitive, but they took the sails out of us. It was too little, too late."

The two teams split a pair of matches Sept. 19 at the Flushing Invitational, but in the third

meeting the long-armed red-head became a larger-than-life figure on the front row.

"She (Hannon) stepped up and scored some big points," Grenier said. "She put the ball in places we couldn't get. She had a great match."

Churchill's Taylor Kerr had a game-high 27 digs, while setter Cory Urbats finished with 28 assists.

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A Human Service Agency serving homeless & at-risk youth in Detroit seeks:

SOCIAL WORKER:
FT responsible for delivering residential services through supervision & daily case management to youth who reside in the program within framework of the Mission Statement. Master's degree in Human Services field & previous exp required, MSW preferred. Must be able to work afternoon & evening hours. Salary \$28-\$32K + excellent benefits.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR:
FT to assist Managers in carrying out the day-to-day responsibilities of residential programs in order to fulfill the Mission. As a member of CHM you will be responsible for upholding policies, procedures & codes of conduct and ensuring that the needs of our youth are being met. Bachelor degree in Human Services field & exp in residential programs required. Master's degree in Human Services field preferred. Must be able to work all shifts. Salary \$32-\$40K + excellent benefits.

MANAGER - Community Centers:
FT responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operation of the Center in order to fulfill the Mission by providing services that meet the needs of school & community youth. Ensures that all policies & procedures are followed in the spirit of the Mission. MSW and previous management exp required. Salary \$42-\$52K + excellent benefits.

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Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

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Full time, Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30pm. Life/health ins. exp. preferred. Skills in Microsoft Word & Excel. Pleasant speaking voice. Bingham Farms agency. Fax resume to Mr. Stenman at 248-647-6523

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Help Wanted-Medical 5060

Assistant Division Director of Mental Health

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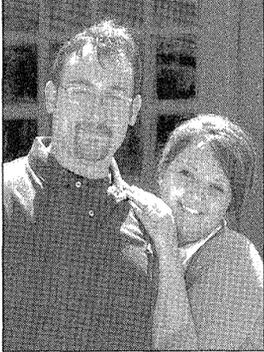
MILESTONES

Melaragni-Considine

Ingrid and Mike Melaragni of Livonia and Judy and Barry Considine of Redford Township are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Julia Melaragni and Robert Considine.

The bride-to-be graduated from Ladywood Catholic High School and the groom from Thurston High School. They are both graduates of the University of Michigan.

A late fall wedding is planned.



Melaragni-Considine

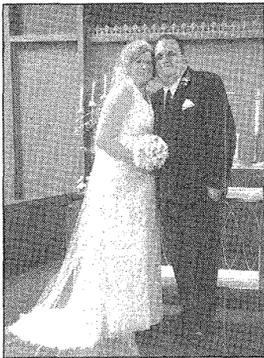
Barker-Cislo

Jennifer Lynn Cislo of Belleville and Craig Daniel Barker of Northville were married June 27, 2009, in Britton. The Rev. Amy Mayo-Moyle officiated.

The bride, daughter of Clyde and Linda Cislo of Milan, graduated in 1996 from Milan High School. She earned an undergraduate degree in 2000 from Eastern Michigan University and a master's degree in 2007 from Spring Arbor University. She teaches sixth grade in Monroe Public Schools.

The groom, son of Daniel and Virginia Barker of Livonia, graduated in 1996 from Adlai E. Stevenson High School, in Livonia. He earned an undergraduate degree in 2000 from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in 2004 from Marygrove College. He teaches history in Livonia Public Schools.

The bride's attendants were: Janel Tucker, friend of the bride, Matron of Honor; Jodi Westrick, cousin of the bride and Jennifer Barker, sister of the groom, bridesmaids; Emily Cislo and Madelyn Cislo, both nieces of the bride, acolytes; Caroline Cislo, niece of the bride, flower girl; and Emma



Barker-Cislo

Barker, niece of the groom, Bible bearer.

The groom's attendants were David Wallace, friend of the groom, best man; Geoffrey Zmyslowski, friend of the groom and Brian "Rocky" Barker, brother of the groom, groomsmen; Benjamin Cislo, nephew and Godson of the bride, ring bearer; and Geoffrey Cislo, brother of the bride, Andrew Cislo, brother of bride and Eric Muraszewski, cousin of the groom, ushers.

A reception was held at the Michigan League, Ann Arbor.

The couple took a honeymoon trip to California's and Oregon's coast.

They reside in Northville.

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.

At English Gardens

■ Make a holiday wreath, 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 5; fee is \$24.99. The store will supply everything needed to create a beautiful 24-inch holiday wreath. Choose from a design in red and gold, or red and ivory. Participation is limited. Sign up in the store or on-line at www.englishgardens.com.

■ Make a table top Christmas tree at 7 p.m., Nov. 12; fee is \$34.99. The store will supply everything needed to decorate a two-foot table top tree. Designs are available in red and silver or red and gold. Participation is limited. Sign up in the store or on-line at www.englishgardens.com.

■ Holiday "how to" weekends will be held noon to 4 p.m., Nov. 14-15 and Nov. 21-22. Experts will conduct 15 minute demonstrations on a variety of topics, including: Make a bow, magnificent mantles, holiday lights, holiday wreaths, top 10 tips for lifelike trees, decorating a Christmas tree, holiday light tips and decorating an entrance.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313)278-4433; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

Holiday Tables

The Farmington Garden Club presents its 9th Annual Holiday Table Exhibition 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14 and noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 15, at the historic Spicer House in Heritage Park, located off Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile Roads in Farmington. Tickets are available for \$5 at Steinkopf Nursery, 20815 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills, and the day of the event at the Spicer House. There will be a Complimentary Coffee Shoppe with refreshments, a small gift shop and some hands-on demonstrations.

The Farmington Garden Club is devoted to the development of all phases of gardening, the betterment and beautification of the community and the protection and preservation of natural resources. The group also studies the fine art of flower arranging and gardening. Each meeting includes a program on garden related topics, instruction on flower arranging, or environmental subjects. The club meets at noon the first Monday of the month at the Spicer House in Heritage Park. Guests are welcome. For more information visit farmingtongardenclub.com.



Dale and Kathryn Groff

60TH ANNIVERSARY

Dale and Kathryn (Sockow) Groff of Canton celebrated their 60th anniversary Oct. 28. The couple wed in 1949 in Plymouth. Their children are Bill Groff of Canton, Gail Cousins of Ohio and David Groff of Tennessee. They also have seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The Groffs planned to celebrate their anniversary with friends in Florida.



Brady James DelCarmen

Brady James DelCarmen was born Dec. 4, 2008, in Gurnee, Ill.

Proud parents are Jeff and Brigid DelCarmen of Gurnee, Ill. Grandparents are Mike and Barbara Sullivan of Farmington Hills and Drs. Jaime and Evelyn DelCarmen of St. Louis, Mo.

REMEMBER THE SACRIFICES OF AMERICA'S VETERANS

The Observer & Eccentric will be publishing a special Veteran's Day page honoring the service of Veteran's, past & present.

MARY SMITH, Navy (2009) Thank you for protecting our freedom! We love you and miss you and hope to see you home soon. Love Mom, Dad & Janie

Publication Dates: Thursday, November 5th in the Hometown Weekly Newspapers - Sunday, November 8th in all the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers Deadline: Friday, October 30th

We join the rest of the nation on Veterans Day in remembering the sacrifices of American's veterans and expressing our appreciation of their service.

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AMY JO STEWART

Age 43 of Livonia, October 25, 2009. Dear daughter of James and Barbara Stewart of Bellaire. Loving sister of Craig (Linda) Stewart, Traci Stewart and Linda Namie. Cherished long time partner of Larry Kuriwachak. Dear aunt of Stephanie Stewart. She will be missed by her faithful pets Alivia, Zenith and Sabrina. Private cremation services were arranged by Vermeulen Funeral Home. To share memories, visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

JANE E. FINLEY

October 23, 2009 of Plymouth. Jane was born Jan. 29, 1928 to Charles and Eva Jane (Petersen) McCabe. She graduated from St. Benedict's Catholic School. On June 27, 1949 she married Foy Smith Finley and they enjoyed 56 years of marriage. Together they raised six children: Mark, Marikay (Craig) Reidsma, Steven (Rhonda), Susan (Don) Honaker, Ronald (Dianne) and Craig (Natalie). Jane was preceded in death by her husband Foy, her parents Charles and Eva, one brother William McCabe, sisters Patricia Burke and Dorothy Heimiller, and one grandson Isaac Honaker. Jane is survived by her sister Carol (Jack) Gaffkey, her six children, twenty grandchildren: Ryan, Emily, Nicole, Shayne, Emilia, Julia, Andrew, Alec, Sarah, Isaac and Erinn Finley, Brett and Scott Reidsma, Sanquez Cole, Shanika, Noah and Alana Honaker, Aisslyn Wilson, Clarissa and John Bullington and nine great grandchildren. Jane enjoyed family, playing euchre at the Friendship Station in Plymouth Township, cooking for her many family dinners, and keeping in touch with friends. She will be sorely missed and always loved by those who were fortunate enough to know her. Visitation was held Monday with a Funeral Service Tuesday at Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth. To share a memory please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



WILLIAM J. RICHARDS

December 20, 1919 to October 25, 2009. William was born in Davison, MI to Mildred (Dynes) and Fred Richards. He attended school in Flint, MI and graduated from General Motors Institute with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1941. He was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II from 1943 through 1946. He served aboard the USS Shamrock Bay (aircraft carrier) as a catapult and assistant flight deck officer in the Pacific and Atlantic theatres. Bill married E. Lenora Thompson, from Pontiac, MI, in 1946. They raised two children in Livonia, MI: Ronald (Janet Pletcher) of E. Lansing, MI and Nanci (Steve) Taylor of Crystal Lake, IL. Lenora passed away in May 1998. His sister, Doris Richards, PhD, preceded him in death in July 2000. William was a career engineer. He began employment, after the war, with GM Coach in Illinois. In 1958, he accepted employment with the Ford Motor Company in the Transmission and Chassis Division in Livonia. He retired as Resident Engineer of that facility in 1984. At his retirement, his peers lauded him as one of the finest and most gifted mechanical engineers with whom they had the privilege to have worked. Bill was a tinkerer. His basement workshop was his creative lair. He spent countless hours designing and crafting items of wood or metal; repairing mowers to fan motors which he had retrieved as "cast-aways" from neighboring curbsides. Bill also restored a 1946 Chevrolet pick-up truck that had been in the family and used on a gladiola farm near Traverse City, MI. The restored truck was the recipient of several blue ribbons in local and regional car shows. He began summer vacations on Lake Huron in Harrisville, MI in 1958. He purchased land and began building a second home on "The Bluffs" in 1973. Together, Bill and Lenora built the house as a labor of love. It remained Bills proudest achievement. Bill leaves behind his many special friends at the Livonia Senior Center, where he danced on Wednesday afternoons to live "Big Band" music and his most special and favorite partner, Bernie Tinn. A private memorial service will be held with the family. Bill's remains will join with those of his beloved Lenora in Lake Huron. The family requests memorial gifts only to Alcona Humane Society; 457 W. Traverse Bay Road; Lincoln, MI 48742 or The Salvation Army. For online condolences go to: ChapelinthePinesFuneralHome.com

BERNARD C. YELCHO

Age 73, of Farmington Hills, MI, passed away October 23, 2009. Arrangements: Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, MI



ETHEL FELICIA KROLKOWSKI-KELLER

Age 104, Livonia's oldest resident. Beloved wife of the late Anthony F. (1962) and Joseph (1995). Loving mother of Marie (Walter) Bobrowski, Arlene Williams (Farris Thomas). Proud grandmother of 18 and great-grandmother of many more. Also survived by many other loving family and friends. Preceded in death by her son Anthony (1921) and daughter Frances Szakaly (2005). Member of The Daughters of Isabella-Tekakwitha Circle #924, Life Long Member of the Felician Sisters, and Female Auxillary for VFW Woodrow Wilson Post 6896, Polish Legion of American Veterans #2545, worked 35 years for the International Co-op Restaurant, Detroit. Funeral Service was Thursday St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh Rd., Livonia. Memorial Contributions to Donor's Choice. Arrangements were provided by Fred Wood Funeral Home (Rice Chapel), 36100 5 Mile Rd., Livonia. Please visit on-line guestbook www.fredwoodfuneralhome.com

JUNE A. TURNER

May 12, 1930 - October 27, 2009 of Pawleys Island, SC, formerly of Plymouth, died of multiple systemic failures following a number of years of ill health. A complete obituary can be accessed at: goldfinchfuneralhome.com

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

LISA (FLAMME) MIHM

October 8, 2009. Age 46 of Florida, formally of Livonia. Beloved wife of Matthew, mother of Mason, step-mother of Matthew Jr. She is survived by her parents Albert and Patricia Flamme, brother Dennis, sister Lynda and several nieces and nephews. Memorial Mass on Nov. 5th at 10:30am at St Thomas A'Becket Catholic Church, 555 S. Lily Rd., Canton, MI. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to American Cancer Society

MARGARET A. FOURNIER

Age 78, October 25, 2009. Beloved wife of David "Mike". Loving mother of Lee (Eric) Sandweiss, Julia Dougherty, Michael (Lee), Patricia and David. Dear sister of Elizabeth Harrison. Proud grandmother of Michael Lee, Ethan, Noah, Timothy and Patrick. Memorial visitation was Thursday 6 p.m. until the time of memorial service 8 p.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W 11 Mile Rd. (4 blks. E of Woodward), Royal Oak. Memorials to American Diabetes Association appreciated. Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

NORMA ROBERTS

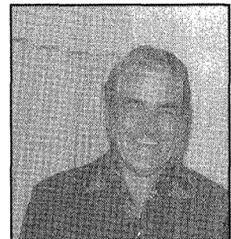
Age 92, October 28, 2009 of Dearborn. Beloved wife of the late Joseph. Loving mother of Marjorie Roberts, Mary Beth (Edward) Fest and Jeffrey Roberts. Dear sister of Robert Sandberg. Also survived by two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Visitation on Tuesday November 3, 2009 at the Henry Ford Village Chapel. In state 12:00 p.m. until time of service at 1:00 p.m. Arrangements by the Dearborn Chapel of the Voran Funeral Home. Obituary/Guestbook at: www.voranfuneralhome.com

RAY A. MATTSON

Age 67, of Livonia, MI passed away October 28th, 2009. Arrangements: Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River, Ave, Farmington, MI

TAMMY J. SMITH

October 27, 2009 Age 46 of Westland. Dear wife of Charles. Loving mother to Jonathan and Sarah. Beloved sister to Nancy (Donald) Martin and Ted (Becky) Winekoff. Funeral services from The Uht Funeral Home, Westland, Thursday 1pm. Visitation was at the funeral home Wednesday from 5-9pm. Burial will take place at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Westland. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhtfh.com.



LOVING MEMORY IN DONALD H. JOHNSON 1928-2007

Don, it's been 2 years & I think about you everyday. You were my first & last love. We all love & miss you! Your wife Gerie, children Don (Susanne), Joe (Pam); grandchildren Erica, Donnie, Joey, Sidney & Brandon

LENORA NORINE WILSON

Age 78, of Canton, October 30, 2009. Beloved wife of Frank. Loving mother of Michael (Pamela) Wilson, Linda (Jack) Dalton and Michele (Thomas) Kinor. Dear grandmother of Teresa, Michael, Nicholas, Angela, John, Matthew, Amanda, Alex and great-grandmother of Timothy, Whitney, John Franklin II, Ashley, Brittany, Brian and Zachary. She is also survived by her brother Norman (Betty) Fulmer. She was preceded in death by her parents Arthur and Norine Fulmer, 10 brothers and 1 sister. Funeral service is Monday, 3:00 PM at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Visitation is Monday, 11:00 - 3:00 PM. Entombment in Michigan Memorial Park michiganmemorialfuneralhome.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS WEEKLIES

NEIGHBORS

The 'club'

Work colleagues maintain 55-year friendship

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Nancy Braden of Plymouth Township and Barbara Krauss of Westland have been friends since 10th grade at Mackenzie High in Detroit.

But Krauss isn't among Braden's top 10 Facebook friends. In fact, she didn't make the list at all.

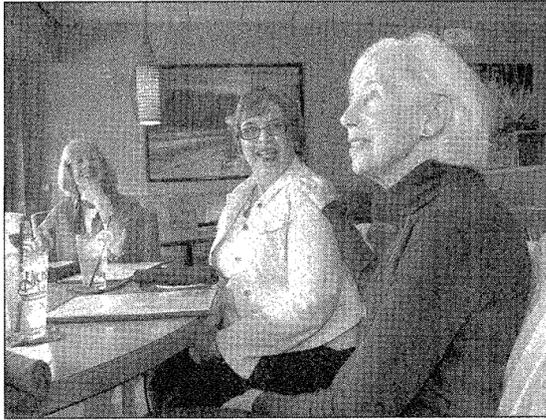
Neither did Janet Conway of Livonia, Pat Hildebrand of Birmingham, Marilyn Lindow of Troy or Rose Pierce of Farmington.

Friends since 1954, the "club" as they called themselves in early days, celebrates friendship the old-fashioned way — in person with lots of laughter and good times.

"There are six of us and we all worked together at National Bank of Detroit (Puritan-Livernois branch). We're in our 70s now," Braden said. "This is the first time I've enticed them to Plymouth."

The group meets quarterly, usually at a restaurant as they did recently at E.G. Nick's in downtown Plymouth. Braden invited the Observer along to sit in on the conversation and discover what makes this 55-year friendship tick.

"We worked in the bank and we worked together. I don't think I've ever seen anyone closer than that," Pierce



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nancy Braden of Plymouth (left) Janet Conway of Livonia and Pat Hildebrand of Birmingham, have been friends for more than 50 years.

recalled.

"There was a lot of mutual respect and I think work ethic," Conway added, recalling their early days together in the early to mid 1950s. "We were very supportive of each other."

"We all got married pretty close and we all started having babies," Lindow said.

COMMON INTERESTS

They remained friends even after leaving the bank to raise their children and move from Detroit to the developing suburbs. Their husbands all got

along well, and the kids sometimes played together. There were couples parties, "kiddie" gatherings at Christmas and plenty of "gals only" outings.

"Those kiddies are probably closer to 50 give or take," Conway noted. Between the six, there are 21 children in the 40- to 50-plus age range, some with kids of their own.

Four of the women are widows. Conway and her husband have been married 51 years; for Hildebrand and her spouse, it's 54 years.

Please see **CLUB, B7**



Rose Pierce of Farmington, (standing left) Barbara Krauss of Westland, and Marilyn Lindow of Troy, along with Nancy Braden, (seated left) Janet Conway of Livonia and Pat Hildebrand of Birmingham, friends for more than 50 years, met recently at E.G. Nick's in Plymouth.

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 - Question and answer session.

Tuesday, November 3, 2009
Providence Hospital – Southfield Medical Building Room 8C

Wednesday, November 18, 2009
Providence Park Outpatient Center (SE entrance) Room A

Wednesday, December 2, 2009
Farmington Hills Medical Center Conference Room

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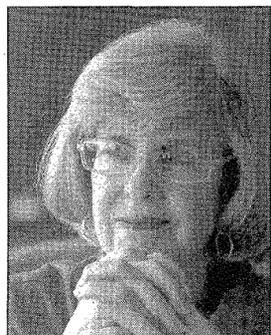
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Barbara Krauss of Westland



Nancy Braden of Plymouth

How hot is your kitchen range?

A few weeks ago I informed you of problems that Barb Bennett was having with her Frigidaire range which was under a nationwide recall. I'm pleased to know that Barb



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

finally had her range repaired after waiting for a month and a half before a service technician came to her home. With 200,000 of these smooth top ranges needing a factory fix, it make take

Frigidaire the next 20 years to get them all fixed. This story prompted Lesley to send me the following e-mail:

"I'm writing about my Classic Amana Range ACS3350AS. I feel that it is defected and very dangerous to have in my home. In May of 2006 my husband and I had purchased a new home. Our new home came with new appliances. I've been having on-going problems with my oven. I've had A&E Factory, AHS Repair out to my home numerous times. My complaint is that the oven door does not seal properly, the top of the stove and the knobs are extremely hot, that it is untouchable to handle. I've burned myself numerous times. And having three little children safety is important to me.

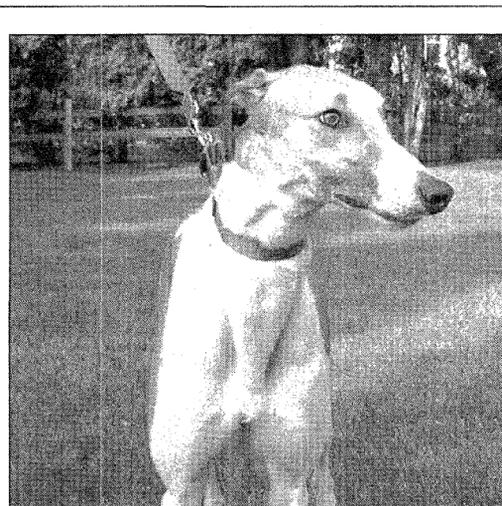
"On Sept. 10, 2007 I had a technician to my home. I had over \$858.43 worth of problems to my oven. I felt that was a red flag when the oven was only a year old. The oven let so much heat out that my oven control buttons actually melted. The hinge on the oven door was replaced and the oven control was replaced. The oven control membrane was replaced and so was the door gasket. The list goes on and on.

In March 2008 I had another technician out for the same problem and on his invoice it reads, 'outside of unit is still very hot, cannot touch knobs.' He said the outside surface and knobs were 188 degrees. I remind you the stove temperature was set at 350 degrees. Could you imagine what it would be like if I was cooking all day? I have many repair invoices with the same problems every time — never fixable. I'm still having problems with my oven door and the light now won't go off. I've spoken to my builder who says there's nothing he can do.

Bottom line, my Classic Amana range is a danger in my home. I feel that Amana should step up to the plate and handle this serious situation. Please help me inform others if there are other similar situations."

Thank you Lesley and I must say that this is not the first I've heard of these sorts of problems. I've read on the Internet of others who have almost identical problems such as yours. The outside surface temperature on kitchen ranges has been a big concern of mine for several years. I've written articles in the past about little children have been treated for burns suffered while their little hands touched the stove during their first walking experiences. This sort of problem reflects very poorly on the quality of our major appliances of today. It seems to be acceptable in the industry that a surface temperature can be as high as 168 degrees. Hopefully your communication on this problem may shed some light towards the manufacturers and I'm sure you have helped others prevent their little children from suffering burns from a kitchen range.

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.rr.com



Prime

ADOPT A GREYHOUND

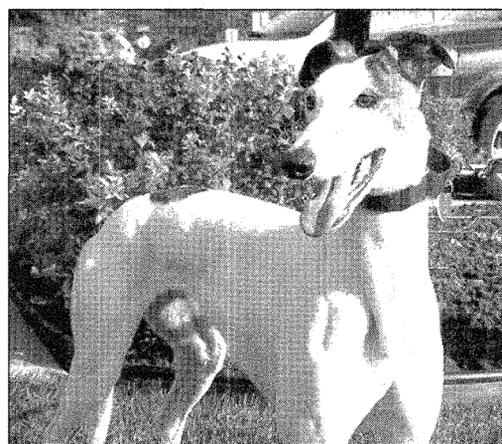
Diamond and Oliver "Prime" are two of five dogs the Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption picked up from Dairyland Greyhound Park in Kenosha, Wis., last week.

Here's what volunteers say about them: Diamond is a gorgeous little 2-year-old, female greyhound with a beautiful white coat with some brindle markings. She's very easy going and loves to play with toys.

Oliver (Prime) is a very handsome gentleman. He's 2 and is a very happy dog with a calm disposition. He's white with some red markings on a beautiful coat.

Both Diamond and Oliver are looking for their "Forever Homes." If you want to meet them, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739. Check out the group's Web site at www.greyheart.org for more photos.

The organization holds a meet and greet from noon to 4 p.m., today, Sunday, Nov. 1, at Canton PetCo, 43435 Ford Road, Canton. www.greyheart.org



Diamond

CLUB

FROM PAGE B6

Braden and Krauss have travelled together. Conway and Hildebrand were neighbors for a while.

And during the 15 years that the group didn't routinely meet, they kept their bonds alive through cards and phone calls.

"When you get to the years when your children are in hockey and all the activities, there just isn't time," Conway said, explaining the hiatus. "When they are infants it's not hard to break away as long as they are being cared for while you're away."

RECONNECTING

When Conway ran into Braden at a grocery store three years ago, they decided it was time for the group to begin meeting in person again.

"Everyone was more than happy to resume these get-togethers. We were ready to reconnect. Life does change as you get into your 70s. Friendship is so important as we get older," said Conway, who "flunked retirement" and works part-time at RSV, a gift and paper store in downtown Plymouth. She also volunteers at Angela Hospice.

"We fell right back into place. And it is quite amazing because we're all very different. We have different interests and personalities."

ENJOYING THE DIFFERENCES

Braden, who earned a teaching degree while raising her family and is now retired from the classroom, said common

memories helped to cement a lasting friendship.

"We shared our youth together. We have a never ending conversation about husbands gone or still with us or children. The conversation never lags," she said. "Now we're interested in the differences as much as the commonalities."

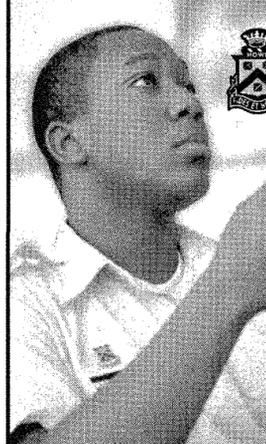
Memories, stories and gentle ribbing wove easily throughout the conversation during their lunch at E.G. Nick's. When Hildebrand mentioned the word "chicken" in conversation, Conway egged her on with a "speaking of chickens, shouldn't we go there?"

Hildebrand has told the story many times before — at age 12 she worked in a chicken store killing fowl — but provoked genuine laughter when she added "I said a Hail Mary for every one."

"I think all of our personalities are easy to get along with. No one puts on airs," Krauss observed. "We're just down to earth people. You take people as they are and enjoy hearing what they've been doing. This is a great group of ladies. I just enjoy seeing them."

The group mentioned a few ideas for maintaining lasting friendships:

- Try not to be judgemental about other people
- Be happy for others
- Stay close — send a card, make a phone call to tell someone you're thinking about them if you can't visit in person
- Try to reconnect with friends because time moves swiftly
- Enjoy your differences as well as common interests



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<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, November 5 5:30-7 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ Plymouth-Canton Montessori School <i>(Preschool & Kindergarten)</i> 45245 Joy Road, Canton (734) 459-1550 www.pcmontessori.org</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, November 8 1-3 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♥ Dearborn Heights Montessori Center <i>(Preschool through Grade 8)</i> 466 N. John Daly, Dearborn Hts. (313) 359-3000 www.dhmontessori.org</p>
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Unique glasses help vision impaired see better

Low vision doctors Sheldon Smith and Donald Haiderer prescribe spectacle aids for the visually impaired.

Vision loss is devastating, stealing independence and quality of life. The good news is many determined people have begun to fight back.

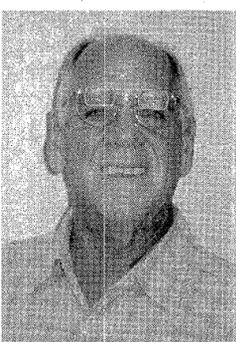
Desmond Roberts lost his license to drive. He saw Dr. Sheldon Smith of Low Vision of Michigan desperate to maintain independent driving. With telescopic driving glasses prescribed by Dr. Smith his license was reinstated.

"My life ended at my front door, but this gave my life back," said Roberts. "You saved my life."

David Welch sought to read without hand magnifiers and drive with confidence. The doctor prescribed one pair for driving and another for

reading. "No other specialists helped me like Dr. Smith," said Welch, moved to tears by seeing better.

"Today we make glasses that noticeably improve sight," said Dr. Smith. "They can be taken anywhere, unlike electronic table-top magnifiers. And unlike magnifiers, spectacles are hands free."



David Welch with driving glasses

"We prescribe surgical quality telescopes for sight loss," said Dr. Don Haiderer of Low Vision of Michigan. "They are custom focused for simplicity

of use so your eyes see the best they can. Details look bigger, closer and easier to make out."

Urgency is critical to success. Prompt treatment gives better outcomes. There is no advantage in waiting to get worse. Whether reading or driving, the best time to start is early, with milder devices. If necessary, using stronger devices comes easier after mastering mild ones.

We help people with mild, moderate and severe vision loss. Every situation is unique. Special reading glasses start at \$600 and custom telescopes start from \$1800.

Patients and referring physicians are welcome to review their situation or schedule an appointment. We can help. Call Low Vision of Michigan to find out how.

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IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

OPEN HOUSE

First Step is inviting families to its new facility in Wayne from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7. The facility is First Step's fourth location in the metro Detroit area and will focus on surrounding communities.

The open house will feature a free pancake breakfast, a tour of the new building, and a variety of kids' activities. First Step representatives will be available to answer questions about services the new facility will provide.

"First Step has a large family of supporters, volunteers, donors, staff and friends that make our work possible," stated Judy Ellis, executive director. "This open house is to thank them for their support and to invite everyone to tour our new facility, and what better way to celebrate than with a free pancake breakfast!"

The event will be held at 4400 S. Venoy, Wayne. For more information call Theresa Bizoe at (734) 416-1111 or e-mail to tbizoe@firststep-mi.org. Visit First Step's Web site at: www.firststep-mi.org. First Step's mission is to reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence and to provide services to individuals affected by these crimes. The goal of First Step is the prevention of violence through education, advocacy and intervention.

BEER TASTING

The Friends of the Rouge will hold a beer tasting fund-raiser 1-3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 8, at Liberty Street Brewery, 149 W. Liberty, Plymouth.

Brewmaster Joe Walters, a long-time supporter of the Rouge will be on hand to describe his beers. Michigan beer guru Rex Halfpenny of the Michigan Beer Guide will guide participants through the tasting and inform participants about brewing in the Rouge River watershed and the Michigan craft beer renaissance.

The cost is \$30 per person and \$25 for Friends of the Rouge members.

All proceeds will support Friends of the Rouge, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River. The fee includes tastes of eight beers, one pint, pizza and popcorn.

Register by sending a check to: Friends of the Rouge, 4901 Evergreen Road, 220 ASC, Dearborn, MI 48128 by November 2. Call Sally Petrella at (313) 792-9621 or e-mail monitoring@therouge.org with any questions. Visit the Friends of the Rouge Web site at www.therouge.org for more information about the group.

Friends of the Rouge promotes restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River through monitoring, cleanups, restoration projects, tours and workshops.



Four generations

Jennifer (Carbott) Bouren holds her son, John 'Jack' Matthew Bouren, born Aug. 3, 2009. Bouren grew up in Livonia and graduated from Ladywood High School. With her are her baby's great-grandmother Eileen Murphy of Livonia and grandmother, Bridget Carbott of Livonia.

Zoo, Salvation Army join forces in drive

The Detroit Zoological Society and the Salvation Army will conduct a drive to collect used clothing and household goods during two weekends in November at the Detroit Zoo.

Donors can drop off used but usable clothing and household goods at the Salvation Army truck in the zoo's front parking lot beneath the landmark water tower Nov. 7-8 and Nov. 14-15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A tax receipt will be available upon request at the time of donation. Contributions to the donation drive can be made without payment to enter the zoo; regular admission and parking fees apply for those visiting the zoo.

Donations to the Salvation Army's Thrift Stores generate total funding for the organization's Southeast

Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center's 180-day residential rehabilitation program for adults. The program provides food, shelter, education and counseling services to those re-establishing their lives free from alcohol and chemical dependencies. For more information, visit www.SalArmyThrift.com or call (866) GIVE-TOO.

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TOO BROWSE OR NOT TO BROWSE

One aspect of health care today is the ongoing campaign that urges individuals to become "the informed patient." That idea is that if you are ill, you should go to the library, the Web, or even watch television ads so you will learn enough to "participate" in your care, and be a "stakeholder" in decisions concerning your health.

This zeal for the informed patient brings out a less than enthusiastic response from physicians caring for persons with arthritic complaints. On the one hand, the patient who comes to the office with a perspective of the possible cause for the pain, and the likely treatments, make the doctor's job of explanation far easier than would occur with the uninformed patient.

However, the misinformed patient especially one who is proud of the information that he or she gathered, presents a far more difficult task for the physician than the uninformed patient.

First, the only way a physician can counter bad, usually Web based, information is with the Web. Providing the patient with Web based counter material is time consuming for the physician. Second, the patient often comes with requests that are closer to demands than to recommendations. Usually, these "requests" are for blood work, x-rays, MRI's or bone scans that are costly and not in order. Giving in to the patient rather than using clinical judgment riles a physician, but arguing the matter upsets both physician and patient. It is the risk of conflict that causes physician second thoughts on the informed patient.

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<p>Mubashir Sabir, M.D. General and Bariatric Surgeon 26850 Providence Pkwy Ste 460 Novi Phone: 248-662-4272 27483 Dequindre Ste 204 Madison Heights Phone: 866-823-4458 www.stjohnweightloss.com</p>  <p>Fellowship trained in bariatric surgery at University Medical Center at Princeton and performing bariatric and general surgery since 2005, Dr. Sabir offers a full range of surgery services to his patients. His special interest is bariatric surgery which he offers as part of St. John Weight Loss, a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence.</p>	<p>Madhuri Gudipaty, M.D. Obstetrics and Gynecology 26850 Providence Pkwy Ste 500 Novi Phone: 248-662-4388 www.womensdocs.com</p>  <p>Dedicated to providing comprehensive women's health care including pregnancy, child birth, menstrual problems and menopause management with an emphasis on wellness through annual physicals, pap smears, breast exams, and preventive medicine.</p>	<p>Susan Lyons, M.D., Ph.D. Oncology and Hematology 47601 Grand River 2 South Novi Phone: 248-344-2000 22301 Foster Winter Drive Ste 200 Southfield Phone: 248-552-0620 www.newlandmedical.com</p>  <p>Dedicated to providing optimal, state of the art and progressive care for cancer and hematologic conditions. Combines vast research and clinical experience to provide maximal benefit for her patients while focusing on quality of life.</p>



PROVIDENCE

Local artists give women's heart health a boost

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The red dresses on display at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills make more than a fashion statement. They're also designed to raise awareness of heart health.

The American Heart Association exhibit, continuing through the end of December, is part of the Red Dress campaign that spreads information about the frequency of heart attacks in women. It features five half-scale red dresses that were entered into competition, including the winning design by Inga Lenz, a 2006 Farmington Harrison High School graduate, and Marisa Cristina Vendittelli, a 2006 Troy High School graduate.

"We knew we wanted to make a little bubble dress, something cute and fun. The skirt kind of looks like a bubble," Lenz said. They purchased the fabric first, and were required to use red.

"It just all came together eventually. It wasn't a thought out process before." Both designers were pleased with the result. "When we made the big one, it looked even better. It's comfortable to wear, actually."

The women also made a regular-size dress of the design.

"We're pleased to see that art can be used in such a good way to communicate the dangers of heart disease to women," said Nancy Coumoundours, cultural arts supervisor for Farmington Hills.

Shelley Rusinek, Go Red for Women director for the American Heart Association, arranged the exhibit's visit to Farmington Hills. "We thought it was exceptional," Rusinek said of students' work.



Marisa Cristina Vendittelli (left) and Inga Lenz designed the winning dress, on display at the Costick Center. Lenz is a 2006 graduate of Farmington's Harrison High School.

ARTS COMMUNICATE

The dress competition is sponsored by the International Academy of Design and Technology. Student designs are nominated by the school's faculty.

"The arts are one of the most effective communication devices available and, in this case, help spread awareness of heart attack to both the public as well as the students," said Julie Patterson, Fashion Design Program chair, in a statement.

Rusinek said the educational traveling exhibit focuses on heart disease as the No. 1 killer of women. The students also created regular-size dresses for the February 2009 AHA luncheon at the Detroit Marriott in

the Renaissance Center.

"We encourage students to get involved, submit their pieces of work," Rusinek said, adding the competition was first held in 2004 and has been followed by other educational exhibits.

WINNING DESIGNERS

Lenz and Vendittelli got their assignment from the AHA.

"It was great," Lenz said of the work. "It's just so important to do something for a good cause like that." The dress will tour and be seen.

"It'll get more attention than just fliers that are lying around somewhere. That is much more rewarding than winning," Lenz said.

She recently graduated from

the International Academy of Design and Technology and works for Marlaina Stone, a couture jewelry designer based out of Royal Oak.

Vendittelli also is a recent graduate of the International Academy of Design and Technology. She is working toward her master's degree at Istituto Marangoni in Milan, Italy.

The Costick Center is located at 28600 W. 11 Mile, at Middlebelt (east of Mercy High School), in Farmington Hills.

Rusinek of the AHA said libraries, companies and others are welcome to host the Red Dress exhibit. She can be contacted with such inquiries at (248) 936-5807.

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. Got a photo of your graduating class? Maybe a prom photo or some other special moment? Send it along, too, as a jpg attachment.

Detroit Pershing

Class of 1960

50th reunion festivities in September 2010 will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

Detroit St. Brigid

Class of 1959

Planning a reunion and looking for classmates. Contact szonyek@att.net with any information about classmates.

Farmington High School

Class of 1970

Planning reunion in 2010. Seeking classmates. Join the group on Facebook by searching Farmington High School Class of 1970 Reunion. Or e-mail Carla Campbell Lehn at dblehrn@aol.com.

Fordson High School

Class of 1984

25-year reunion, 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Nov. 28, Burton Manor in Livonia. Cost is \$65 per person and includes dinner, dancing/DJ, and full bar. A photographer will be on-site taking and selling group and individual photos. Invitations will be mailed out in October. E-mail Michele (Tonna) Belczak at michelebel@sbglobal.net or Melanie (Monaghan) Scharboneau at mscharboneau@yahoo.com to provide current mailing address.

Garden City High School

Class of 1960

Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCLX@yahoo.com.

Dearborn Heights Haston High

Class of 1965

45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 24, 2010; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail to her at patkopczyk@aol.com

Ladywood

Class of 1984

25th reunion, Dec. 26; for information e-mail to Sara Czarnecki Levitsky at saralevitsky@comcast.net

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"They cut off my credit line!"

"They increased my rate!"

UDM legal expert highlights help in getting veterans' benefits

BY JULIE BROWN
O&E STAFF WRITER

Project SALUTE works to assist low-income veterans with denied federal disability and pension claims obtain their benefits. It's a program of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

The program was highlighted Tuesday, Oct. 20, in a presentation at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland. Joon Sung, visiting assistant clinical professor for the Veterans Law Clinic, spoke that evening.

"Veterans can call directly if they don't want to go to a site," said Sung, noting UDM's law school hosts a number of clinic site visits for low-income veterans statewide. The number is (313) 596-0262.

The clinic started two years ago, said former Westland resident Sung, a graduate of Boston College's law school. "It teaches the students to give back and serve those in need."

Law students and volunteer attorneys help veterans with their benefits. The clinic was founded in response to the scant help available for veterans with disability benefits, he said. Often, veterans have trouble knowing what benefits they can obtain.

"Our first goal was to recruit attorneys, pro bono attorneys." They work without pay.

A mobile law office was created, with plans for the Westland library and Westland Rotary to host it at the library after Jan. 1, 2010. "We hope to come back to do those individual consultations with veterans," Sung said.

Medical care offered through the Department of Veterans Affairs is generally good, although news stories have focused on



ion to link the disability to their service. The standard is that it's linked "as likely as not."

He discussed the defoliant Agent Orange used in the Vietnam war. Veterans who served Jan. 9, 1962, to May 7, 1975, are generally eligible as the chemical has led to skin conditions, cancer and other illnesses. In the past, it could be tough to get medical support for the claim, Sung said.

Congress passed a law of presumptive service connection for Agent Orange in the late 1980s, he said. Gulf War syndrome began to appear in the early 1990s, including fatigue, appetite loss, gastrointestinal symptoms and others. It's now also considered service-connected.

Sung also highlighted secondary service connection, such as when a foot broken in military service leads to back problems. He said the VA system is not intended to be adversarial to veterans, although its ability to help is limited.

"This is a program for low-income veterans, individuals who are financially needy," Sung said of the monthly VA pension payment to veterans unable to work. Some have been in car accidents or other situations not directly tied to military service.

He touched on other sources of help, such as veterans service officers associated with the American Legion and similar organizations. Counties may have staffers who specialize in working with veterans.

Sung concluded by saying there's no time limit in filing for veterans' benefits, and cases can be reopened for claims with new evidence.

poor care, he said. Sung outlined requirements to obtain care, with conditions needing to be service-connected.

He recommends those with questions go to a VA facility and apply. Monetary benefits can accrue to those who left the service "under conditions other than dishonorable."

The disability must be current and diagnosed, he said. Chronic conditions, such as cancer, are also compensable.

Sung, who focuses on veterans and consumer protection law, noted post-traumatic stress disorder is up about 30 percent among current veterans.

"This is a very common condition," he said. It can include Vietnam-era veterans who raised families and held jobs but now have difficulty as their time is less occupied.

Benefits are often denied by the VA, he said, noting veterans need a medical opin-

Dentists 'give back' with free services

Endodontist (root canal specialist) Dr. Todd Ester of Canton, who has practices in Southfield and Ypsilanti, performed free root canals for Detroit residents last week as part of the "Save a Tooth" event at the University of Detroit Mercy Dental School's Endodontics Clinic.

He was among the more than 20 Southeast Michigan endodontists who volunteered their time and expertise to 50 Detroit residents who otherwise would have no access to dental care.



Ester

received root canal treatments at no charge in the University of Detroit Mercy Dental School's Endodontics Clinic.

Because root canals must be followed by skilled dental care

The region's first ever "Save a Tooth" volunteer effort took place Tuesday-Wednesday, Oct. 27-28. Pre-screened Medicaid-eligible patients

Though they donated their time as individuals, all participating root canal specialists are members of the Michigan Association of Endodontists. The University of Detroit Mercy donated the facilities.

"It can be difficult for an

to ensure the successful complete restoration of the tooth, patients were placed in the care of dentists from the Covenant Community Care dental partnership after completion of their free "Save a Tooth" root canals.

endodontist to volunteer services to help people in need, but through our partnerships, we've found a way," said root canal specialist Dr. Steve Shoha, whose practice is located in East Pointe. "Regardless of the patient's financial status, saving a tooth through a root canal is the healthiest option and is pain-free thanks to new technology."

Visit the Michigan Association of Endodontists Web site at www.michendo.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

NOV. 2-8

Tribute event

General Motors Vice Chairman and senior adviser Bob Lutz will be "roasted and toasted" at the Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter's annual fund-raiser and tribute, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, at The Ritz Carlton Hotel in Dearborn. "An Evening of Roasting & Toasting in Honor of Bob Lutz" will begin with a cocktail reception leading into dinner, followed by the roast. A silent auction will be held throughout the evening. Tickets are \$300 per person. The \$500 patron ticket also includes admission to a VIP cocktail reception, premium dinner seating and recognition in the program. Corporate sponsorships are also available. For additional information or to buy tickets, call (248) 649-2891. Proceeds from tickets sales and the silent auction will benefit the Arthritis Foundation, Michigan Chapter's research into the prevention, control and cure of arthritis. www.arthritis.org.

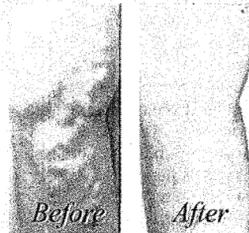
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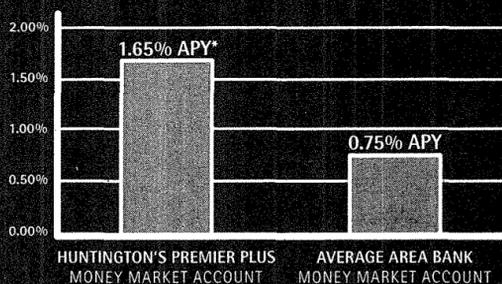
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