

SUNDAY
November 8,
2009

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

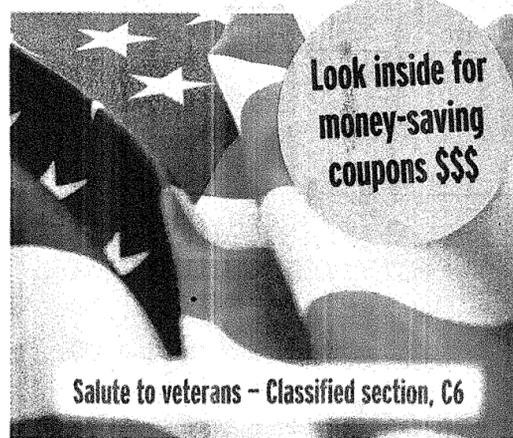
Volume 45
Number 48

75 CENTS

10 in a row: W-W wins financial awards - Education, A4

WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



Salute to veterans - Classified section, C6

AROUND TOWN

Camp time

Parents can give their kids something to do while they go shopping the day after Thanksgiving. The Westland Parks and Recreation department is holding a One on One Multi-Sport Mini-Camp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27, for children age 5-13 or in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Kids can keep their skills sharp and have fun participating in sports like basketball, soccer, volleyball, dodgeball, and kickball. The camp is designed to provide a fun and positive environment for students on the school holiday. Campers need to bring their own lunch.

The cost is \$55 for Westland residents and \$60 for non-residents. For more information, call (734) 418-3190 or visit www.1on1basketball.com/michigan.

Memories

The holiday season is upon us and we're asking readers to send us their favorite holiday memories and photos to the *Westland Observer* for the special holiday edition we are planning for Thursday, Dec. 24.

Did you get a favorite gift for Christmas, or do you have a special memory of Hanukkah? Is there a special tradition your family has that makes the season merry and bright?

Share those memories with your neighbors through us. Send your items - be sure to include a photo, if you can - to *Garden City Observer* Editor Sue Mason at smason@hometownlife.com.

Dear Santa

Santa Claus is waiting by his mailbox for youngsters' gift lists and letters. The *Westland Observer* wants to make sure Santa Claus knows what children would like this Christmas and is asking youngsters to send us letters to him.

We will publish the letters in the newspaper during December before sending them on to the North Pole. The letters should include a snapshot of the letter writer. Send Santa correspondence to smason@hometownlife.com and be sure to put Letter to Santa in the subject line. They can also be mailed to Letter to Santa Claus, c/o Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

The *Observer* will publish letters through out the month of December, so don't delay, kids. Get out the Wish Book and start making your lists.

And parents, you can send in your wish lists, too. Santa delivers to all who believe.

Prosecutor: Fatal shooting was self-defense

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

No charges will be filed against a Westland woman over the fatal shooting of her husband Monday evening, authorities said.

Jared Callender, 23, was shot three times in the bedroom of the home he shared with his 47-year-old

wife, Westland police Sgt. Michael Harhold said.

"They had a rocky relationship. There had been prior domestic problems and calls to the police department," Harhold said.

The couple married in February 2008. Callender relocated to Michigan from Florida in December 2007, Harhold said.

The couple was arguing and Callender had threatened his wife during the previous two days, Harhold said, but police weren't called.

The wife operates a hair salon and tattoo parlor from a building she owns in Detroit. The man, who was unemployed, reportedly again threatened his wife with violence when they

returned to the Westland residence from the business.

"She was in the living room when he came in and began removing clothing to take off his belt. He put the belt around her neck and was choking her," Harhold said.

This kind of assault had happened

Please see **SHOOTING, A2**

Teaching is a Hurley family tradition in W-W

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For one local family, teaching in the Wayne-Westland School District has been a family business.

Mike and Judy Hurley spent their careers in the district, now daughters Jennifer Chambers and Kristin Chiasson are following in their parents' footsteps.

Hired in 1967, Judy Hurley was the first member of the family to work for the district.

"In high school, I kind of decided I'd like to be a teacher. We had a future teachers organization," said Judy Hurley, who spent 26 years at Jefferson-Barns Elementary School and was at Schweitzer Elementary School when she retired in 2005. "I wanted a family and they tell you that you get the summer off - that's not true - so I thought it would be good."

The couple married two weeks before Judy Hurley started her first teaching assignment - they had commuted together to Eastern Michigan University. Despite graduating high school together, Mike Hurley was a year behind his wife in school. "It's a long story," he said, one that he told in 2008 when he was honored as Wayne-Westland Schools distinguished alumni.

Judy and Mike both graduated from Wayne Memorial High School, as did both their daughters and two sons.



Being an educator is a family business for the Hurleys - both Mike, a teacher and administrator, and teacher Judy are retired from Wayne-Westland Schools. Both their daughters work in the district - Jennifer Chambers (center left) is in her first year at principal of Lincoln Elementary School and Kristin Chiasson teaches at John Glenn High School.

"We met at Wayne when I shared my lunch with her. We went to the junior prom together," Mike Hurley said. "It was (Hostess) snowballs - pink ones."

Unlike his wife, Mike Hurley needed a nudge toward a teaching career. "When I was growing up, I wanted to be a train engineer. When I said I wanted to be an engineer, my

dad didn't realize I meant a train engineer," he said. "I was a regular student - not outstanding by any

Please see **TEACHERS, A2**

Westland census group plans events to improve count

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland's Complete Count Committee has developed a schedule of events to help make sure local residents are counted in the upcoming 2010 U.S. Census.

One of the questions facing the CCC is how to count Westland's homeless population - people without a fixed address who may move around within the city or to other communities.

The census will be promoted at Homeless Connect, an annual event sponsored by the Out Wayne County Homeless Services Coalition. Scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 17, at the ChristNet Center, West Mound United Methodist Church in Taylor,

the event was held last year Westland.

A CCC member, Councilmember Dewey Reeves questioned how homeless people living in Westland would get to an event in Taylor.

"We need the same event in Westland. We need a complete count. Homeless people don't need trinkets (promoting the census) - they need stuff they can use like toothbrushes and toothpaste," Reeves said. "I don't see how we will reach the homeless who aren't in shelters. This is going to be a problem - it's going to be a problem statewide."

To address that concern, Reeves and Westland Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Brookellen Swope were going to look into organizing an event for the homeless with sponsor-

ships by local businesses.

The city had already been asked by the Census Bureau staff to provide locations of homeless shelters and other places where the homeless may congregate, said CCC Chairman Bruce Thompson, Westland's planning director.

"Specific numerators will also go out," Thompson said.

Information is to be available at the Dorsey Community Center, promotional fliers and window stickers provided to businesses and city staff and volunteers trained to answer questions. Television public service announcements will also be used.

"Have a flash showing different people from all segments of the community saying, 'I'm in,'" said Reasther

Everett, president of the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association.

Getting a complete census count of people living in Westland is important to the community financially - federal and state dollars received by a community are allocated based on population.

Along with the homeless, strategies are being developed for other hard-to-reach population segments, including senior citizens and people living in apartments or condominium complexes.

The city Web site - www.cityof-westland.com - has more information about the 2010 census and links to jobs available assisting on the census.

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Youth Assistance Program gets a lift from North Bros. Ford

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland's Youth Assistance Program has received a more than \$6,000 donation from a local business.

The money was raised at an annual golf outing sponsored by North Bros. Ford, located on Ford Road.

"They're not here tonight because I didn't want to bother them. They are very humble and very giving. It's important to let people know about a business that cares about the community," YAP Director Paul Motz said, announcing the donation at Monday's

'This is a business that year after year continues to give back to the community.'

JAMES GODBOUT, council president

council meeting. "The check was presented earlier today. I wanted to thank them."

North Bros. Ford has donated more than \$80,000 to the program since 1997, Motz said, and prior to that had a presence on the YAP board of directors.

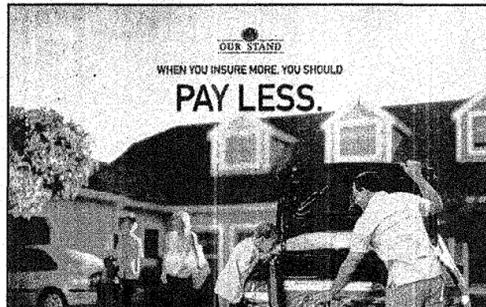
The dealership also supports the Salvation Army, the Wayne County Family Center, the Livonia YMCA and the Karman Cancer Center,

Motz said.

"I wanted to thank North Brothers for all their support to Youth Assistance and all the other charities they support. They are a shining example of a company putting some of their profits back into the community," Councilmember Michael Kehrer said.

"I also wanted to thank North Brothers. This is a business that year after year continues to give back to the community," Council President James Godbout said. "They are a true business partner in the community."

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NOTICE OF SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE WESTLAND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TO BE HELD DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 20, 2010 AND ENDING DECEMBER 15, 2010.

To all persons interested in the meetings of the Westland Zoning Board of Appeals:

PLACE:	Westland City Hall 36601 Ford Road Westland, MI 48185
TIME:	7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING DATE	DEADLINE:
January 20, 2010	December 22, 2009
February 17, 2010	January 22, 2010
March 17, 2010	February 19, 2010
April 21, 2010	March 26, 2010
May 19, 2010	April 23, 2010
June 16, 2010	May 21, 2010
July 21, 2010	June 25, 2010
August 18, 2010	July 23, 2010
September 15, 2010	August 20, 2010
October 20, 2010	September 24, 2010
November 17, 2010	October 22, 2010
December 15, 2010	November 19, 2010

The minutes of each meeting of the regular meetings listed above will be available for public inspection during regular business hours at the City Clerk's Office of the City of Westland not more than eight (8) business days after the date of said meeting.

Approved minutes of each meeting will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, at the same location, not more than five (5) business days after the meeting at which the minutes of the meeting are approved.

This notice is given in compliance with Act. No. 167 of the Public Acts of Michigan 1976.

Eileen DeHart, City Clerk

Revised 9/17/09
 Publish: November 8, 2009

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AROUND WESTLAND

Holiday Bazaar

AMVETS Post 171 Auxiliary will host a Holiday Bazaar 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at the post hall, 1217 Merriman, south of Avondale, Westland. Lunch also will be available - \$3 for a sloppy joe, can of pop, and a bag of chips. Proceeds will benefit the hospital program for veterans.

Coffee hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will hold local coffee hours in Westland and Redford Monday, Nov. 9. Anderson will be at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland 9-10 a.m. and at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway,

Redford, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48933; by phone at (517) 373-1707; or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

Surplus food

Westland's monthly surplus food distribution has been scheduled. Westland residents living south of Michigan Avenue should pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt Roads. The church telephone

number is (734) 729-1737. Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers will pick up their food at Taylor Towers and must call their building manager for their day of distribution. Greenwood Villa residents must pick up their food items at Greenwood Villa.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 19 at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey Road, north of Michigan Avenue and south of Palmer.

For the month of November, the food distributed will distribute frozen turkey breast, instant potatoes, peaches, vegetable mix, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce and possible additional items. This program is admin-

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

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

The center also has pinochle and euchre games at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and pinochle is played at 1 p.m. Fridays.

The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 419-2020.

TEACHERS

FROM PAGE A1

means. In my senior year, my dad said he thought teaching might be a good job. My dad really encouraged me. I got involved and I liked it."

Mike Hurley began his career teaching in the old Cherry Hill School District, also serving as an assistant principal and director of adult and community education. His move to Wayne-Westland Schools came when the districts merged in 1985. Five years later, Mike Hurley became principal of Vandenberg Elementary School and later moved to Taft-Galloway Elementary School.

Despite retiring in 2004, Mike Hurley continues to work as a fill-in principal.

Before her father retired, Chambers took a job as an overload aide at Taft-Galloway and also worked as a paraprofessional.

"She was at a crossroad about what she wanted to do. I got the ball rolling. She liked it. The teacher she worked with was outstanding and took her under her wing," Mike Hurley said.

Now in her first year as principal at Lincoln Elementary School, Chambers had her first permanent teaching job at Taft-Galloway.

Originally planning to get a business degree, Chiasson later changed her major to education. After a part-time position teaching in Livonia

Schools, Chiasson was hired for a full-time position at Wayne Memorial High School in 2004.

With a master's degree in counseling, Chiasson is now a part-time counselor at Wayne.

"I didn't want to go into teaching — that was the last thing I wanted after hearing the dinner conversation for years," said Chiasson, whose mother-in-law Nancy Chiasson is a teacher at Taft-Galloway.

Once she started working in education, Chambers said she felt like she fit and it was something she understood.

"We never discouraged them about teaching. People say, 'How can you encourage them to teach?'" Mike Hurley said. "Judy thoroughly enjoyed teaching and I thoroughly enjoyed teaching and admin-

istration. I felt we had tremendous impact on kids. I still enjoy working with the kids and staff"

"They encouraged us to get an education," Chiasson said.

Son Steve is trained as a chemical engineer and works as a plant manager, Mike Hurley said, but often wishes he had gone into education. The family's other son, Chris, an engineer, says he would have liked to be a history teacher, Chambers said.

"Wayne-Westland has been a wonderful district to work in and to live in," Mike Hurley said.

"The administration and other teachers are wonderful. I enjoy working with the students," Chiasson said.

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SHOOTING

FROM PAGE A1

before, the woman told police, and at some point she was able to call her ex-husband, who had lived at the home until she had remarried. The woman and her former husband have adult children but also two adopted developmentally disabled teenagers who reside at the home.

"He (Callender) was then pushing her up the stairs and into the bedroom. She said he got a gun which was stored in the bedroom and pointed it at her saying he was going to kill her," Harhold said. "She was in fear for her life."

The woman was wearing a fanny pack around her waist in which she had a .38-caliber revolver — something she carried for protection at her business, Harhold said.

"She fired once striking him

in the chest. When he raised his gun again, she fired twice more hitting him in the head," Harhold said. "She had some injuries — supportive (of her account) injuries."

Officers were able to get a statement from one of the children who witnessed the struggle on the stairs, he said. The former husband had arrived and was ringing the door bell when the shots were fired, Harhold said.

"We wrote it up and pre-

sented it to the prosecutor's domestic violence unit and they declined to prosecute," he said.

After an investigation by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office the warrant in the Callender case was denied because it was determined that she acted in self-defense, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller said.

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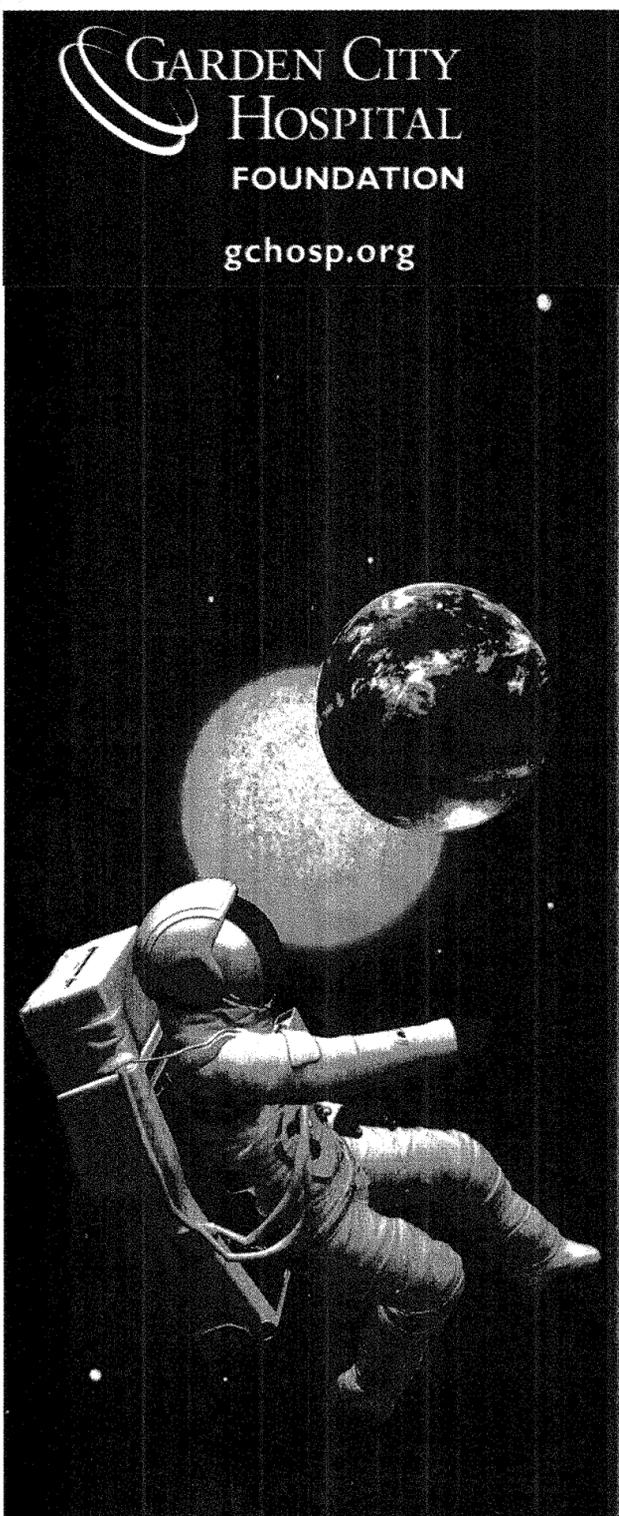
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GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Holiday show

Lathers Elementary School will hold a Holiday Craft and Vendor Show 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at the school, 28351 Marquette, Garden City. Contact Lisa at Crafter2007@yahoo.com for more information.

The winner

Dr. Brad Davis didn't get to hoist the Crystal Pumpkin this year. The honor went to Kim Arbour who blew away the competition in the VCA animal clinic's annual pumpkin decorating contest.

Arbour collected her fourth Crystal Pumpkin - the "Stanley Cup" of the competition, after receiving 79 of the 313 votes cast by the clinic's clients and visitors. Davis who started the friendly competition in 1994, finished a distant last with just seven votes.

"It's still pandering," said Davis, repeating his "campaign allegation" about Arbour's mother and baby designs.

Second was the ice cream sundae pumpkin with 73 votes, followed by Medusa, 34 votes; Plankton, 26 votes; the fire hydrant, 24 votes; the University of Michigan cheerleader, 21 votes; the apple, 15

votes; the Spiders pumpkin and Pumpkin Princess, 12 votes each; Pink Feathers, 9 votes, and the Disco Ball, 7 votes.

"I thought I might lose like McCain, I didn't think I would lose like Nadar," Davis said.

Saturday Night Live

Musicians Chris and Jeremy Kokenos will bring the "Not Our Own" to Garden City Saturday, Nov. 21, for another installment of Saturday Night Light at Garden City Presbyterian Church, 1841 Middlebelt, Garden City.

The two men have been involved with music ministry in one form or another ever since becoming believers more than 20 years ago. Their experience includes singing and playing with several worship teams, having a family band and their current "Not Our Own."

Stop by and enjoy the free performance which will be at 7 p.m. For more information, call (734) 421-7620.

Craft show

The District Knights of Columbus Winter Craft Show will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at the Knights of Columbus Immaculate Conception

Hall, 30759 Ford, east of Merriman, in Garden City Michigan.

All proceeds assist the K of C in providing supplies and gift for those less fortunate. For more information about the show, call Donna Smith at (313) 561-6840 or Gloria Staley at (313) 359-1912.

Put on a shirt

Show your colors and your support for the Downtown Garden City Santaland Parade by purchasing an official Santaland Parade or Garden City Cougar T-shirt for only \$15.

The T-shirts re available from Margo Ciecierski at Garden City Hall or at the Downtown Development Authority office on Ford Road just east of Middlebelt.

For more information, call Dan York at (734) 793-1669 or Margo Ciecierski at (734) 793-1660, or visit the Web site at www.santalandparade.com.

Accepting donations

The Garden City Lions Club is collecting used glasses and hearing aids that will be rehabilitated and provided to low-income people. Drop off donations in the Lions collection box at City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt, during regular office hours.

Recycle for cash

Drop off used ink jet cartridges, cell phones, digital cameras and similar items at City Hall. Garden City Charities, a group formed by city staff, sends the items off to be recycled by Cartridges for Kids and gets cash in return. Money raised by Garden City Charities benefits local organizations.

Shop Online

Help Garden City Schools support its staff and students whenever you shop at Amazon.com through the link on the school district web site.

Simply follow the link above, or at the bottom of any page, to enter the Amazon.com site, and a portion of any resulting purchases will be returned to Garden City Schools.

Products do not cost any more by using this link, and you do not have to do anything more than click on the link to start shopping. Please encourage family and friends who shop at Amazon.com to help support Garden City Kids through this program.

You must gain access to Amazon.com by clicking the link on the Garden City Schools Web site at www.gardencityschools.com to get credit for your purchases.

Tail Wagger's holds anniversary bowl

Tail Wagger's USA, a local non-profit organization, is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its Tail Wagger's Bowl Saturday, Nov. 7, at Woodland Lanes in Livonia.

Squads are being held at 9:30 a.m., 1 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person and includes three games of bowling, lunch or dinner, anniversary T-shirt, prizes and fun. Children can become official Pet Cadets by participating in the 9:30 a.m. squad. For only \$10 per person, kids will get the same benefits as the adults but also receive a personalized Pet Cadet Membership Card.

"With the tough economic situation that we are all in, it is with high hopes that the

community will come out and participate in the event so that Tail Wagger's can continue to support those animals in need of assistance," said founder Laura Zain, adding that she will get through the tough times and wants to raise enough money so that families can continue to rely on Tail Wagger's for pet food assistance, vaccinations, spaying/neutering and emergency assistance.

For more information on Tail Wagger's USA, visit the Web site at www.tailwaggersusa.org or to register to become a participant in the 20th Anniversary Tail Wagger's Bowl, call Zain at (734) 560-4660 or by e-mail at tailwaggers.1990@yahoo.com.

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EDUCATION



At the summit

Henry Ford Community College Honors Program students had the opportunity to attend the 2009 Tri-County Summit, recently held on HFCC's main campus in Dearborn. Participating were HFCC students Stephanie Vrabel of Taylor, Nicole Weltman of Detroit, Wayne County Commissioner Gary Woronchak and HFCC student Pam Whitlark of Westland. The event, hosted by the Wayne County Commission, featured elected officials from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and the City of Detroit. The summit featured presentations and a panel discussion that included Detroit Mayor Dave Bing, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and Macomb County Chair Paul Gielegem.

Possible school cuts to be discussed Monday

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Livonia school board will discuss possible cuts to this year's budget at a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the board office, 15125 Farmington Road.

Last month, Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced cuts in per-pupil funding to school districts that add up to \$10 million for Livonia, which has a \$160 million budget.

In the meantime, a group of Livonia parents will join a rally at the state Capitol on Tuesday protesting the cuts and presenting a petition with more than 2,500 signatures to lawmakers. The rally is being organized by Save Our Schools, a statewide group.

Also, local lawmakers are working to restore at least part of the funding.

State Rep. John Walsh on Thursday said the House passed a bill that would restore \$127 per pupil in cuts to all districts and half of the cuts to districts like Livonia and Clarenceville that receive 20j funding. The bill calls for using remaining federal stimulus money. "What that means is we won't have that money for next year," said Walsh, a Republican who represents Livonia.

Lawmakers would have to raise \$25 million to restore half of the 20j funding, Walsh said. Under discussion are freezing an increase in the earned income tax credit available to the working poor and freezing the personal income tax exemption, both of which were scheduled to increase for 2009.

"The Democratic Caucus is going to be concerned about that," Walsh said of the proposed freeze on the tax credit for the working poor.

Walsh said freezing the personal income tax exemption would cost the average taxpayer \$7 per person.

Livonia Superintendent Randy Liepa said the bill, if approved by the Senate and signed by the governor, would restore about \$5 million in cuts to Livonia schools this year.

He said Thursday's action by the House means school funding is still getting the attention it requires in Lansing.

School board members scheduled Monday's meeting in the event some or all of the cuts are not restored.

Trustee Patrice Mang called it a "what-if" discussion.

Voters approved two millage renewals Tuesday, but they don't bring in additional revenue to the district.

The district ended last school year with \$9.2 million in fund equity, according to an audit presented Oct. 26 by Yeo & Yeo of Saginaw.

That was about \$3.1 million more than expected, said Lisa Abbey, the district's director of business services.

She said the difference can be attributed to line by line belt-tightening.

Revenues for 2008-09 came in \$800,000 over what was budgeted, and expenses came in \$1.8 million under what was budgeted, a difference of about 0.5 to 1 percent.

Mari McKenzie, a principal with Yeo & Yeo, said Livonia school officials did a good job of budgeting. "As I'm going from school district to school district, I'm seeing a lot of deficits," she said.

She said the district's financial information is properly accounted for. "We found the records to be in very good shape," she said.

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

10 in a row: W-W wins financial awards

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Gary Martin may need more wall space after accepting awards for the 10th year for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

The district received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Board Officials International and Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers

Association of the United States and Canada.

"Attaining these awards has increased our financial reporting credibility not only to the district but a community as a whole," said Martin, the deputy superintendent for administrative and business services.

"Wayne-Westland is one of four districts in the state to be honored with this award," said School Superintendent Greg Baracy in recognizing Martin and his staff. "I commend you for your hard work."

The ASBO award is the highest recognition given for school district financial operations offered by the organization and is only given to districts that have met or exceeded the standards of the program.

Likewise, the GFOA certificate is the association's highest recognition given in governmental accounting and financial reporting and represents "a significant accomplishment by a government and its management." It also demonstrates "a constructive spirit of full disclosure."

Martin said participating in the ASBO and GFOA certificate of excellence programs is a "rewarding experience" that validates the credibility of the school system's operations, and measured the integrity and competence of the business staff.

He also acknowledged the efforts of his "excellent staff," including Linda Compton, senior executive director of business and operations; Sue Rawson, her executive secretary, and Angela Black, supervisor of business/purchasing.

NOVEMBER

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Investors 'last line of defense' in protecting money

Just read an article about the Madoff affair which deals with the lapses by the Securities & Exchange Commission. The federal agency that should have been regulating Madoff's activities failed miserably.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

When the scandal broke a little over a year ago, the general consensus was he used a variety of sophisticated techniques to fool federal regulators.

After reading the article, I believe Madoff was able to get away with this scheme not because he was so sophisticated, but rather, because federal regulators failed to do their job. For example, regulators admit that when it came to auditing Madoff and his business, they took his word as opposed to looking at underlying documents. What's more remarkable is that even when they caught him in a lie they failed to pursue it. The bottom line is regulators turned a blind eye to what was happening.

The real issue is how it affects you and me. As investors, we have to recognize the government doesn't have the resources to protect us. We must be our last line of defense when it comes to our money.

It is up to individuals to do the homework it takes to protect investments. That is why I believe simpler is better. The more complex an investment, the less likely the government regulators will do their job. I know that doesn't make sense, but it is sort of like dealing with the IRS. People that make a lot of money tend to have less of a risk of an audit than people who don't make as much.

Before investing your hard-earned money, make sure everything is on the up and up. It is not sufficient

that the investment is sold through a large brokerage house or even a bank. You must be involved.

That is one reason when it comes to investing money, whether my own personal account or on behalf of my clients, I live by a set of rules.

First, I won't invest in anything that I can't check out independently. I want to research an investment using

sources that don't have an axe to grind with the investment. I also never invest in anything that doesn't have a track record. I generally look at three-, five- and 10-year track records, spending the most time analyzing the five-year record.

One of the mistakes investors make is they assume if an investment is complex and difficult to understand, it's

worth pursuing. I believe the exact opposite. I don't invest in anything that I don't understand. When it comes to an investment, I want to make sure I understand how I can make money, how I can lose money, and how I can get my money out when I want it.

When it comes to any investment, costs are important. When an investment

is stuffed with high fees and commissions, it's one to avoid. Costs do matter.

Finally, when it comes to investments be reasonable. No one can double your money overnight and when returns sound too good to be true, there's a problem.

It would be nice if investing was easy. Unfortunately, like everything else in our society, it is not. However,

you would be surprised at how much better an investor you could be by being involved.

Good luck!

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

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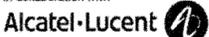
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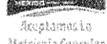
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NOVO

Fall of the Berlin Wall 20 years later

On Nov. 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall finally fell open, allowing thousands of East Germans to cross over into West Berlin after 28 years. More than 800,000 East Germans came over on the first day alone. This monumental event happened after a revolutionary wave gained momentum creating several weeks of civil unrest.

After World War II, Germany was defeated and no longer unified. Its conquerors occupied the country separately by East and West. The American, British, and French zones occupied West Germany while the Soviet Union occupied East Germany. Along with other Eastern European countries, East Germans were forced to adopt a Soviet-style Communist dictatorship. West Germans, on the other hand, enjoyed a democracy with a higher standard of living and greater freedom.

This wide gap caused hundreds of thousands of East Germans to flee to West Germany. Literally overnight on Aug. 12, 1961, East Germany erected barbed wire and roadblocks on East Berlin's border with West Berlin. Days later, work began



German Head of Party and State declared "No one intends to erect a wall."

Many families were split up and hundreds were killed trying to escape from East Germany, but it wasn't until after Mikhail Gorbachev came to power that things changed. Relationships with the West improved and a wave of freedom spread throughout Eastern Europe.

In August 1989, Hungary opened its border with Austria, allowing East Germans a back-door escape, since they were allowed to travel to Hungary. While thousands started to flee again, thousands more were protesting throughout Germany. The momentum led to more rights being granted and eventually on Nov. 9, 1989, it was declared that East Germans could travel freely to the West. The next day, people started tearing down the wall.

To learn more about the fall of the Berlin Wall, stop by the Westland Public Library. Serge Schmemmann's account, "When the Wall Came Down: The Berlin Wall and the Fall of Soviet Communism" and William F. Buckley's "The Fall of the Berlin Wall" are good places to begin. You can stop by the reference desk, call us at (734) 326-6123, or remotely search our catalog 24 hours a day at www.westlandlibrary.org.

Highlighted Activities

Bright Nights Community Forum:

Depressed Moods in a Depressed Economy - Connections between Life Events, Stressors and Mental Health, 7 p.m. Nov. 9
We all know that environmental and social factors can have an impact on our moods, but for people who have a genetic or other predisposition, stress and anxiety brought about by life situations can trigger a serious illness, such as clinical depression. The good news is that depression is very treatable. However, many people never seek treatment because they may not realize that they have depression, or because of the stigma associated with the illness.

To provide greater understanding of the ways in which life events can impact

our mental health, and how to identify when additional support may be needed, Dr. Alan Prossin of the University of Michigan Depression Center, will present a brief overview on the causes of depression, signs and symptoms and strategies for overcoming barriers to accessing support and treatment resources. This will be followed by questions from the audience and a discussion with panelists from the U-M Depression Center.

Novel Writing Month Meet-up and Write:

6-8:45 p.m. Nov. 10, teens and adults.
Meet up with fellow National Novel Writing Month writers, get help with your novel, commiserate, laugh, and churn out the pages. Laptops available in-house with valid Driver's License or State ID from 6-7 p.m. For helpful writing hints, visit www.nanowrimo.org.

Documentary Movie Night: "Autism: The Musical,"

7 p.m. Nov. 10
Join us for a viewing of the documentary film "Autism: The Musical." Director Tricia's Regan's riveting documentary follows five different families, participating in The Miracle Project (a theatre program created specifically for children with special needs) as their kids write and perform

their own musical production. The film is as much about the parents of autistic kids as it is about the kids themselves. How does one communicate with a child who won't speak? What do you do when your kid only sleeps two hours per night? How do you cope with a world that has little use or compassion for kids that are so different? No sign-up is required. Refreshments will be provided.

Open Mic: 7-8:30 p.m. Nov. 12, teens and adults

Attention artists: OPEN MIC is back!!! Let your muse run wild, coffee shop-style. Writers, poets, singers/rappers, bands, performers of all sorts are welcome. Singer-songwriter John Latini emcees. Refreshments and snacks provided.

Novel Writing Month Meet-up and Write:

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 14, teens and adults.
Meet up with fellow National Novel Writing Month writers, get help with your novel, commiserate, laugh, and churn out the pages. Laptops available in-house with valid Driver's License or State ID from 6-7 p.m. For helpful writing hints, visit www.nanowrimo.org.

Job Search Strategies: 7 p.m. Nov. 17

Join Preston Banks, president of Resume Solutions, as he discusses practical strategies to keep your job search moving forward.

Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Library: Nov. 19-22, (Preview Sale Nov. 19, Members Only)

For more information call the Library 734-326-6123 or visit our Web site at www.westlandlibrary.org

Job Seekers Lab: Every Tuesday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday 5-8 p.m. and Friday 1-4 p.m.

Have a question regarding formatting your resume, setting up an e-mail account, attaching your resume to an online application, searching for a job, or any other job related activity? Stop by the library where computers are set up specifically for job seekers. A librarian will be available to help.

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

Chess Night: Every Thursday evening at 7 p.m.

Like to play chess? Want to get better? Come to the library and play a couple of games. Bring your own board or use one of ours. Novices to Chess masters are all welcome. No sign-up required.

Information Central was compiled by reference librarian Andrea Perez. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or go online to westlandlibrary.org.

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Charge is Coming



The national banking and credit crisis followed by the near collapse of the auto industry has brought great economic challenge to the State of Michigan. As revenues shrink and families move out of the state resulting in declining school enrollments, these challenges significantly impact our schools. The Wayne-Westland Board of Education is committed to facing these economic issues while ensuring that Wayne-Westland Schools remain educationally and financially strong.

On May 18, 2009, the Board of Education passed a resolution to form a citizens' committee to make recommendations to the Board for continuing the district's tradition of academic excellence in the face of financial uncertainty. This committee—the 21st Century Schools Committee—has been working throughout the summer and fall.

WHAT ARE THE CHARGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE?

The Board of Education asked the 21st Century Schools Committee to make recommendations to the Board regarding the following tasks:

A. Review district facility use and demographics. B. Explore various learning configurations. C. Review attendance boundaries. D. Explore additional educational options for district students.

WHAT CITIZENS ARE ON THE COMMITTEE?

The committee is comprised of a parent representative from each school building in the district; high school student representatives; community members; school administrators; teachers; school district union presidents; and other stakeholders.

The 21st Century Schools Committee is composed of five teams—Instruction, Enrollment, Facilities, Finance & Human Resources, and Communications. The teams report their research and recommendations back to the entire 21st Century Schools Committee.

WHAT FACTORS WILL THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE CONSIDER IN MAKING THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS?

The committee is looking at many factors in order to make recommendations to the Board of Education. The Instruction Team is exploring grade configurations and additional educational programs which can be offered by using different grade configurations. The Facilities Team is reviewing the building structures in terms of age, capacity, parking, utility consumption, materials and other relevant information. The Enrollment Team is looking at balancing enrollment levels, geographical considerations and optimizing resources. The Finance & Human Resources Team is looking at the fiscal impact of any suggested recommendations.

WILL SOME SCHOOL BUILDINGS NEED TO BE CLOSED?

Yes. In order to live within our means, the district cannot afford to keep open buildings which are significantly under utilized.

HAVE ANY BUILDINGS BEEN IDENTIFIED TO BE CLOSED?

No. Recommendations for school closures have not yet been made by the 21st Century Schools Committee and no decisions have been made by the Board of Education at this time.

HAS THE INSTRUCTION TEAM MADE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS YET?

Yes. The Instruction Team has recommended that the Facilities Team and the Enrollment Team explore the implementation of a K-4; 5-6; 7-8; 9-12 grade configuration. The Instruction Team visited Novi Schools, Livonia Schools, Dexter Schools and Saline Schools—all of which successfully use this configuration.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF A 5-6 GRADE LEVEL SCHOOL?

• The ability to offer programs in instrumental music, foreign language, and gifted/talented to students in these upper elementary grades. • The opportunity to house 5th and 6th graders in a developmentally appropriate setting. Sixth graders remain in an elementary setting, thus their transition to middle school and high school is much easier. • Upon leaving 4th grade, 5th and 6th graders are introduced to the classmates they will remain with through high school, thus making the transition to middle school and high school much easier. • The opportunity to provide more academic collaboration and targeted professional development for staff.

WHO WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION AND WHEN?

The Board of Education is composed of elected representatives of the community. They will study the recommendations of the 21st Century Schools Committee and vote upon any changes to be adopted. In order to implement these changes for the 2010-2011 school year, the decision needs to be made in the early winter months, so that the district can schedule classes, staff buildings, and proceed with transition plans during second semester.

HOW CAN I STAY CURRENT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE?

All minutes from committee and team meetings are posted on the school district website, wwcsd.net. Just click on the 21st Century Schools logo on the home page.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Earth Angels

Details: Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/ performance non-profit group composed of kids ages 9 - 16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There's opening for girls ages 9 - 11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys, ages 9 - 12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare.
Contact: www.earthangelsontour.org or by e-mail to eangel1986@comcast.net

TOPS 869 meetings

Time/date: Mondays, weigh-ins at 5:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:15 p.m.
Location: Adams Senior Village,

2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: The group is for people age 18 and older.
Contact: The group which meets on Mondays is for people age 18 and older.

American Legion Post 251

Time/date: 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month
Location: 1217 Merriman Road, between Avondale and Palmer, Westland.
Details: All veterans, male and female with a honorable discharge are welcome to join.
Contact: www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607

St. Dunstan craft show

Time/date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7
Location: St. Dunstan Church, 1515 Belton St., south of Ford, west of Inkster Road in Garden City
Details: There will be more than 40 tables of crafters/vendors. Cash-and-carry items will be available. Admission is only \$1 which includes a free raffle ticket for the door prizes. Bake sale, snacks and food will be available for purchase throughout the show. There also will be hourly 50/50 drawings for a cash prize in addition to the door prize

raffle of items donated by all the vendors and crafters). All proceeds will be donated to the newly created St. Dunstan School Scholarship Fund.

Contact: Sheryll at vendorshow@gmail.com

Dance team

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9
Details: Come and join a new hip-hop dance team. Open to guys and girls in the 10th-12th grades from Westland and the surrounding area. There will be an informational meeting on Monday Nov 9, in Meeting room A/B at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland, (behind Westland City Hall). Get in on the ground floor of an exciting new dance group, choose the new costume and name for the group.

25th Reunion

Time/date: Doors open 5 p.m. and party runs to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8
Location: Cafe Marquette, William D. Ford Technical Center, Marquette and Carlson
Details: All Wayne County General Hospital retirees and former employees are invited to attend. A buffet meal will be served. Price is \$16 (including gratuity). Pay at the door.

Contact: Kay Shafi at (734) 427-3437, e-mail khnlit@wideopenwest.com; Dennis Abraham at (734) 721-2917; e-mail fightingirish316@sbcglobal.net, or Pat Ibbotson at (734) 331-9291, e-mail pibbotso@aol.com.

Holiday show

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21
Location: Lathers Elementary School, 28351 Marquette, Garden City
Details: The school is hosting a Holiday Craft and Vendor Show.
Contact: Lisa at Crafter2007@yahoo.com

Fish Dial-A-Ride

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

Higher Rock Cafe

Time/date: 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Fridays of the month.
Location: Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.
Details: Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands.
Contact: www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660

Contact: (734) 722-7632, www.ci.westland.mi.us

Dyer Center

Location: 36745 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Marquette, Westland
Details: Offers activities Monday-Friday at the center.
Contact: (734) 419-2020

Senior Fitness

Location: Maplewood Senior Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City
Details: The Senior Fitness Room is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Annual membership is \$50 per year or \$1 for a daily pass. Aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.
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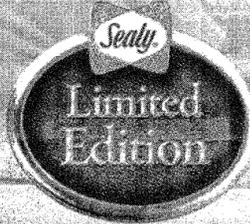
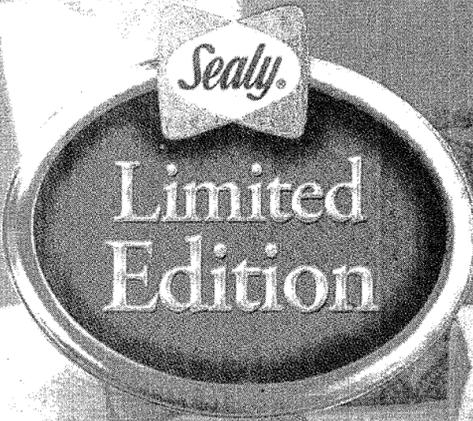
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SUNDAY

November 8,
2009

SECTION B
(WL)

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Stevenson vs. Catholic Central district football final, visit www.hometownlife.com

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HOMETOWN LIFE

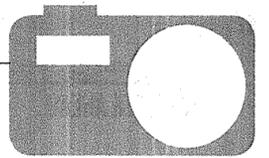


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Chargers plugged in, seize 8th straight district

Spartans battle in 3-0 loss



Churchill's Christine Maleske (9) tries to hit around the block of Stevenson's Kristine Balhorn (16) and Reina Tyl (5) in Thursday's Class A district volleyball final.

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

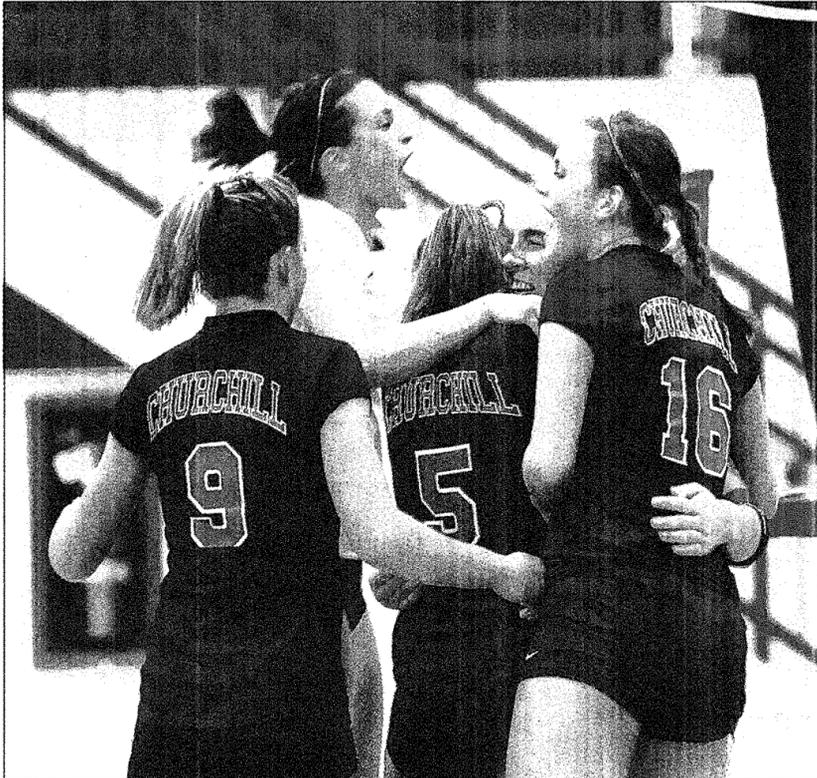
History was on Livonia Churchill's side entering Thursday's Class A district girls volleyball final with host Livonia Stevenson.

The Chargers were gunning for their eighth straight district crown, their 50th victory of the season and their fourth of the year against the rival Spartans.

Churchill accomplished all three goals with a hard-fought 25-19, 25-23, 25-8 victory, improving to 50-5 overall and earning a spot in Tuesday's regional semifinal at Hazel Park where the Chargers will face the Detroit Cody district champ at 6 p.m.

"I think the team has done well and has been competitive," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. "We've had some nice success, but there are bigger goals on the horizon. We'll focus on what we do, what we do well and try and be efficient, no matter who we play or how compet-

Please see **CHARGERS, B2**



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill players Christine Maleske (9), Taylor Kerr (white jersey), Kristine Walker (5), Sarah Suppelsa and Darcy DeRo0 (16) celebrate the Chargers' eighth straight Class A district championship.

SIDELINES

MU wins finale

The Madonna University men's soccer team won't be defending its Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference title, but the Crusaders ended their disappointing 2009 season on a winning note with a 4-1 victory Thursday at Davenport University.

The Crusaders, who missed out on a playoff berth due to a tiebreaker with the Panthers, finished the year 4-7-4 overall and 4-5-3 in the conference.

MU goal scorers included Eric Kiebert, 44th minute (from Jordan Hunt); Moses Otieno, 58th minute (from Jacob Rosiek); Mikey Iyoha, 69th minute (from Rosiek); and Mark Pikula, 77th minute (from Iyoha).

Richard Visser's penalty kick in the 65th minute spoiled the shutout bid by MU goalkeeper Steve Besk, who made four saves on the day.

Davenport, the fourth seed in the upcoming WHAC playoffs, is 7-10 overall and 5-7 in the conference.

MU spikers romp

Liz Dempsey (Livonia Franklin) had 10 kills and Katie Czarnecki added nine as the Madonna University women's volleyball team rolled to a 25-14, 25-22, 25-16 victory Thursday night at Warner Southern University (Fla.).

Setter Inta Grinvalds contributed 26 assist-to-kills for the 22nd-ranked Crusaders, who snapped a two-match losing skid and improved to 31-6 overall with the non-conference triumph.

Setter Ashley Even had 24 assists as Warner falls to 14-12 overall.

Grinvalds saluted

Madonna University senior Inta Grinvalds (Portage, Mich.) was named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District IV volleyball team announced Thursday by the College Sports Information Directors of American (CoSIDA).

Grinvalds is the fourth student-athlete in MU volleyball history to receive Academic All-District honors, becoming the second student-athlete to be named to the second team. First-team selection Natalija Tinina and second team pick Ashley Frost were selected in 2005 while the Crusaders last selection was third-teamer Lubovj Tihomirova in 2008.

To be nominated for Academic All-District honors, a student-athlete must be a starter or important reserve and carry a cumulative grade-point average of 3.30 or higher.

A nursing major, Grinvalds has started every match the last three seasons as a Crusader at setter, a streak that currently stands at 125 consecutive matches.

A three-time All-WHAC first team selection, Grinvalds broke Frost's career assists record last week by assisting on her 6,867 kill in the Crusaders match against Aquinas.

She is also an academic All-WHAC pick and was selected as a NAIA All-American Scholar Athlete in 2008.

Ladywood breezes into regional

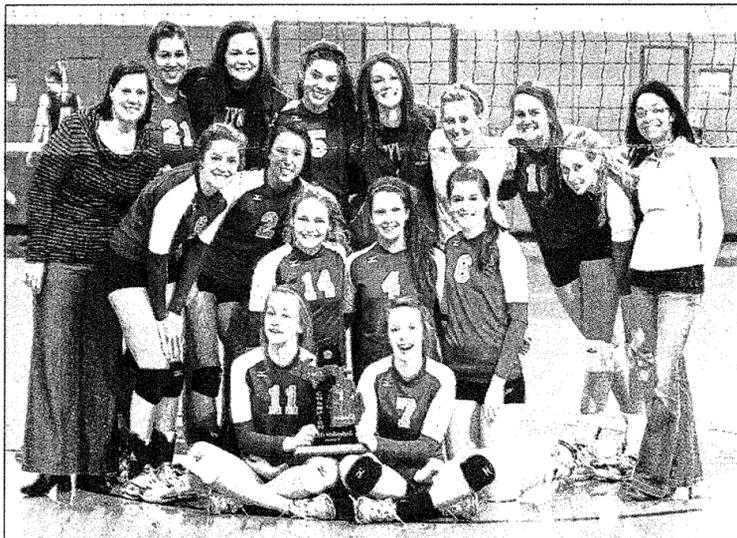
Livonia Ladywood breezed into next week's Class B girls volleyball regional with a 25-14, 25-12, 25-18 win Friday night over South Lyon East in the district championship match hosted by Livonia Clarenceville.

The Blazers, now 37-22 overall, will face Catholic League Central Division nemesis Dearborn Divine Child in the second match of a double-header beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Clarenceville. The first regional semifinal match, beginning at 6 p.m., features Riverview against Monroe Jefferson.

Ladywood, which has won eight of nine district crowns under coach Erin Craggs, got a team-high 12 kills from junior Katie Rooney and nine from senior Claire Dezelski to subdue the Cougars, who bowed out at 3-36 overall.

Senior Ashley Hines paced the defense with 17 digs, while sophomore setter Alex Hines finished with 26 assist-to-kills.

"We played them (South Lyon East) in the Ferris State tournament and we knew they would come at us in the district final," Craggs said. "We're playing well right now. Our seniors have led the entire time and Rooney has been



DENNIS BARNES

Coach Erin Craggs (far left) and her Livonia Ladywood volleyball team earned their eight district title in nine years Friday at Livonia Clarenceville by beating South Lyon East, 3-0.

attacking in the middle and getting some key blocks for us."

Ladywood has won both meetings this season against Divine Child, including a 25-18, 25-17 and 25-12 win over the Falcons in the first round of the Catholic League playoffs.

"The key is to maintain our focus because we know it's hard to beat a team three times," Craggs said.

"We'll have to execute to get through."

Blazers best C'ville

Rooney recorded nine kills and Hines collected 32 assists as Ladywood moved into the Class B district final with a 25-12, 25-16, 25-16 win Wednesday over host Clarenceville.

The Blazers also received five kills apiece from Jenny Rhodes and Cheyenne Woodall, while Kristine

Aurand served five aces.

Clarenceville (14-16-4) was led by Kat Hall (seven kills, 12 digs), Teresa Parent (eight digs) and Paige Davis (two solo blocks).

"It was a tough challenge with Ladywood," Clarenceville coach Wendy Mershman said. "Their offense is really good. They have great servers and great hitters, but our girls went out there and did their best and that's all I can ask for."

Warriors win 4th straight district title

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Put another Class D district girls volleyball title in the bank for Lutheran High Westland.

The Warriors, getting a team-high 15 kills and nine solo blocks from 6-foot-3 senior middle hitter Emilie Freeman, earned a 25-20, 27-25, 25-19 triumph Friday night over host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

Lutheran Westland, last year's state runner-up, earned its fourth straight district crown. The Warriors, 31-10-1 overall, now move into Tuesday's regional semifinal at Birmingham Roper to face the Marine City Cardinal Mooney district champion. (Game time is at 5:30 p.m.)

The Warriors trailed 24-23 in the second game before going on a 4-1 run to go up 2-0.

"We played pretty well overall," said Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade, whose team was 3-1 overall this season against the Chargers. "But if that second game goes for them, it's a dogfight. During that third game you could see it kind of deflated them."

Other standouts for Lutheran Westland included Rachel Storck (10 kills, 14 digs); Emily Wilson (seven kills); Nicole Zehel (14 digs and 20-for-21 serving with 15 points); Lauren Switzer (28 assist-to-kills); and Alyssa

Please see **WARRIORS, B2**

Glenn spikers make history by smashing Tigers

BY BRAD EMMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was a breakthrough night for the Westland John Glenn girls volleyball program in more ways than one.

The Rockets earned their first-ever Class A district championship in school history Friday with a convincing 25-5, 25-20, 25-19 victory over visiting Belleville.

You have to go to all the way back to 1986 in the old Western Lakes Activities Association to find the last time Glenn even won a division title. The only other crown came in 1978 in the ancient Northwest Suburban League.

"We talked about it this week and we knew what was on the line," Glenn fourth-year coach Julian Wargo said. "It's a huge step for our team and program. It's the culmination of hard

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

work going all the way back to summer.

"Our motto has been, 'Play hard, play smart and play together.' We have good chemistry with these kids and we have great leadership from Lauren Baker, our team captain. And all our seniors have been great. I'm pleased and honored to be their coach."

Senior outside hitter Brittani Robinson paced Glenn's hitting attack with 13 kills, while junior middle blocker Halie Baker added nine.

"Brittani had a breakout game Wednesday against Wayne and she continued that today," Wargo said. "We have no superstars, but we showed we're a very complete team."

Defensively, junior libero Brooke Zywick was all over the court, finish-

ing with 43 digs. Katie Down and Halie Baker added 12 each, while Lauren Baker had 10.

Glenn came flying out of the gate in the first game, building a 17-0 lead before Belleville could score a point.

"Basically we controlled the first game, but that was not indicative of the type of team Belleville is," Wargo said.

The Tigers, who defeated Glenn in five sets for last year's district crown, found themselves reeling from the start as coach Sam Villa burned a pair of timeouts to try and stem the tide.

"This is a game of momentum," Villa said. "I just laughed about it. I told my girls to forget about it because we had a lot of volleyball to play."

"Glenn has got a lot of attackers and we were a step slow blocking.

They have a great defense back there and they collected everything. The second game balls finally started falling for us."

But not enough balls, however, touched the floor for the Tigers, who bowed out with a 36-35 season record (in games).

Meanwhile, Glenn, 28-17-1 overall, moves into Tuesday's regional semifinal at Gibraltar Carlson to face Carleton-Airport, which is coming off an upset victory over state-ranked Temperance Bedford in the district final.

"We hope to use the energy and emotion we got from tonight," Wargo said. "What to we have to lose?"

Rockets orbit by Wayne

Halie Baker and Brittani Robinson

Please see **GLENN, B2**

All-Observer girls golfers 'state' their case

FIRST-TEAM

Maggie Lentz, Mercy: She was the leader on a team that finished eighth in the Division 2 state meet.

The junior averaged 43 for dual matches and 88.9 for tournaments. Her best nine-hole score was 39 at Walnut Creek Country Club, and her low round for 18 was an 80 in the regional at Fox Hills in which she finished second. Lentz was 16th in the state and received an All-State honorable mention.

"She broke 90 quite a few times, and next year she wants to break 80," coach Vicky Kowalski said. "Maggie was one of our co-captains; she showed great team leadership. She was the one who had to step up and play No. 1 in all our tournaments and playing against the top players in the state, and I thought she handled herself quite well."

Kelsey Murphy, Plymouth: There is no telling what this freshman can accomplish on the links by the time her prep career is over.

She's already made a major impact, having been the medalist for all of the Wildcats dual matches this season and setting school records of 34 and 77 for nine- and 18-holes, respectively.

Murphy won the Kensington Conference title with a 78 at Pheasant Run Golf Club in Canton, captured the regional championship with a 77 at Giant Oak in Temperance and placed 15th in the state, earning All-State honors.

For the year, she averaged 80 strokes per 18 holes and 40 for nine.

Plymouth coach Chris Moore praised both Murphy and All-Observer second-teamer Sarah Thompson (also a freshman) for their work ethic. "Both girls spent many hours outside of our practices to get better and work on their game."

Heidi Irvine, John Glenn: The senior, a Division 1 state qualifier, capped a stellar four-year career this fall by averaging 44 strokes per nine and 91 for 18 holes.

She was medalist in five of 11 matches and placed third with an 84 in the KLAAs Kensington Conference tournament. Irvine also shot an 84 to qualify out of the Giant Oaks regional.

Her two-day totals at the state tournament were 102-96-198.

"Heidi will be a tremendous college golfer because of her desire to improve her golf game," Glenn

ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS GOLF FIRST TEAM

Maggie Lentz, Jr., F.H. Mercy
Kelsey Murphy, Fr., Plymouth
Heidi Irvine, Sr., Westland Glenn
Adrienne Jones, Sr., Red. Thurston
Jordyn Shepler, Soph., Liv. Churchill
Patty Battersby, Sr., F.H. Mercy

SECOND TEAM

Rebecca Bubenheimer, Soph., Stevenson
Georgia Patrick, Sr., Franklin
Amanda Harris, Jr., Farmington
Sarah Thompson, Fr., Plymouth
Brenna Hammond, Fr., Mercy
Elena Vlachos, Jr., Mercy

COACH OF THE YEAR

Brian Gulick, Red. Thurston

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Canton: sr. Erin Lixie; jr. Mary Elizabeth Winther; soph. Paige Oster; sr. Megan Baumgart; **Churchill:** fr. Jaclyn Burdette; sr. Stephanie Panaretos; **Farmington:** sr. Michelle Casey; **Franklin:** soph. Alexis Smith; **John Glenn:** soph. Michelle Bishop; **Ladywood:** sr. Val DiMilia; **Mercy:** sr. Bethany Rizik; **North Farmington-Harrison:** Claire Butts; **Plymouth:** jr. Chloe Marentic; **Salem:** fr. Gabrielle LeBlanc; **Stevenson:** soph. Sarah King, sr. Andrea Burford; **Thurston:** sr. Lindsey Scupholm; **Wayne:** jr. Jane Thayer.

coach Steve Pilon said.

Adrienne Jones, Thurston: Competing in her fourth and final varsity season, Jones experienced a thrill of a lifetime by emerging as regional champion by shooting 79 and getting an opportunity to showcase her talents among the state's top golfers at the Division 2 state finals. A three-year captain in the Eagles' lineup, Jones averaged 41.5 strokes for nine holes during the season and 86.5 for 18.

"She didn't have a lot of experience before high school, so she really made tremendous strides," Thurston coach Brian Gulick said. "You could tell she had talent, but she consistently worked hard and became a very good player. Tee-to-green she is very strong. She hits the ball long and straight and has a wonderful personality for the game."

Jordyn Shepler, Churchill: The sophomore was a model of consistency all season as she led the Chargers with a 46.1 nine-hole average and a 95.3 18-hole average. Shepler, who helped Churchill

to a KLAAs South Division co-title, was medalist in seven matches.

She also took All-Kensington Conference honors placing sixth with a 91 and was 13th at the regional with a 95.

"Jordyn has nothing but a bright future ahead as she continues to improve her overall game," Churchill coach Paul Worley said of the KLAAs Scholar-Athlete.

Patty Battersby, Mercy: The other co-captain averaged 46.8 in dual matches and 96.9 in tournaments. Her best was 42 for nine holes, and she shot an 87 on the second day of the Traverse City tournament. She had a 93 at the regional and was seventh. The senior also had a 92 at a Flint tournament, 94 at the league meet (tied for 12th) and 95 on the first day of the state finals. Battersby received an academic all-state honorable mention from the coaches association.

"Patty has been a nice four-year player for us and has steadily improved every year," coach Kowalski said. "It was her second year on the varsity, and she made a big improvement from last year. It was nice to see her step up as a senior and be the No. 2 on our team this year."

SECOND TEAM

Rebecca Bubenheimer, Stevenson: The sophomore made the most of her first golf season by earning All-Kensington Conference honors with a 97.

She also recorded a 10th-place finish at the Ladywood Invitational with a 92.

"Becca is a true multi-sport athlete often leaving our match or practice to head straight to the soccer pitch and compete there," Stevenson coach Jason Delo said of the Spartans' MVP. "She worked diligently on her game throughout the season and took every event to heart, whether we were winning or losing."

"Becca also had the lowest scoring average of anyone on our team this season, and also the lowest scoring average of any player in their first year on the team in my tenure of coaching the girls team (the past eight seasons) - a truly remarkable accomplishment."

Georgia Patrick, Franklin: The senior averaged 50.1 per nine in dual matches and 101 for 18-hole tournaments.

Patrick was runner-up in the



Maggie Lentz Mercy



Kelsey Murphy Plymouth



Heidi Irvine John Glenn



Adrienne Jones Thurston



Jordyn Shepler Churchill



Patty Battersby Mercy



Becca Bubenheimer Stevenson



Georgia Patrick Franklin



Amanda Harris Farmington



Sarah Thompson Plymouth



Brenna Hammond Mercy



Elena Vlachos Mercy

Franklin Invitational with a 94 and earned All-Kensington Conference honors with a 95.

"Georgia has been an important part of our program for the last four years," Franklin coach Brian McCalister said. "She worked hard to become a competitive golfer after first picking up a club as a freshman. She was a true leader and competitor and had a desire to do well. Our program is in a better place because of her."

Amanda Harris, Farmington: She averaged 44.4 in dual matches and 94.2 for tournaments. Her best scores were 41 and 88 (in the second OAA White Division meet at Bald Mountain). Harris was a state qualifier who shot 96-93 at the Division 2 finals. Her regional score was 98.

"Amanda was solid; her scores were consistent," coach Dennis Zaleski said. "She always wanted to do better every time she played. Her goal this year was to make it to state finals. Last year she was tied for third in the regional and lost a two-hole playoff. She really wants the team to qualify next year. She already has plans to get everybody to play and qualify."

Sarah Thompson, Plymouth: Thompson, like Murphy, is a freshman who is already playing like an upperclassman. She averaged 48 for nine holes and registered an 18-hole career best of 86 at the Division 1 regional. Other achievements included finishing 10th at the KLAAs meet with a score of 93 and

placing in the top 15 at the Davison Invite, with a 96.

Wildcats' head coach Chris Moore had kudos for how both of his freshmen are so dedicated to improving.

"They were often the last to leave practice and the first to get there," Moore said.

Brenna Hammond, Mercy: Only a freshman, Vlachos represents the future of the Mercy program. She averaged 47.7 for nine holes and 97 in tournaments. Her best was a 45 at Gowanie Golf Course in Macomb County, and her low 18-hole score was an 89 in the Grosse Ile tournament. She shot 94 at the league meet and made the All-Catholic team with Lentz.

"On the second day in Traverse City, she had a 91, so right off the bat we knew we had a player," coach Kowalski said. "She was a nice addition as a freshman, and we look forward to three more strong years from her. She's a young lady I know will be working hard on her game to improve next season."

Elena Vlachos, Mercy: Vlachos averaged 48.7 in duals and 98 in tournaments, but the junior saved her best for last, shooting 91 and 88 in the two-day state meet.

"You pretty much knew what you were going to get when she went into a tournament," coach Kowalski said. "At the state final, everything clicked. She was the second-best player on our team, and she helped us get to that eighth-place finish."

"Her best dual score was 46 at Walnut Creek against Sacred Heart. Even though we lost by one stroke, she came through that day for us. Her state final just blew us away; it was just awesome. I sure hope that means good things for Elena in her senior year next season."

Brian Gulick, Thurston, coach: In his 11th season as head coach at Thurston, Brian Gulick has earned All-Observer Coach of the Year honors by producing

the school's first state qualifier and seeing vast improvement from the rest of the Eagles roster. Senior Adrienne Jones qualified for the Division 2 state finals after winning the regional crown with a sterling round of

79 and teammates Lindsey Scupholm, Meagan Nystrom and Michelle Gordon all saw their averages fall as the season went along.

"The fun thing about this group is they all worked hard at improving and had a good time doing it," Gulick said. "I try and tell the girls it doesn't matter what you shoot. The important thing is to go out and work at your game, have fun doing it, and you'll find 90 percent of the girls who are committed to that do improve. This year really didn't seem like work. It was great to see the strides they all made."

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OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

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Warrior girls harriers rule

Four top-10 finishes helped spark Lutheran Westland's victorious performance at the MHSAA Division 4 Regional girls cross country meet held last Saturday at Lake Erie Metropark.

Led by junior Sarah Maynard's fourth-place 21:10 showing, coach Alissa Hall's squad tallied a team-leading 34 points.

Sand Creek finished second with 64 and Ann Arbor Greenhills took third with 71. Following Maynard in the Lutheran Westland lineup was sophomore Erin Lyle in fifth at 22:05, sophomore Jess Rice seventh at 22:11 and freshman Jessica Drife ninth at 22:46.

Freshman Angela Morrison turned in a strong showing to finish 14th (23:24), senior Brittany Maynard came in 17th (23:40) and senior Ashley Pniewski placed 28th (24:43).

The Warriors will compete in the state finals beginning at 10:30 a.m. this Saturday (Nov. 7) at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

Canton's offense does in Pioneer, 60-24

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Bigger isn't always better in high school football, something Canton proved in its 60-24 romp over Ann Arbor Pioneer in Friday's Division 1 district final.

The Chiefs prepared all week to face a big, physical opponent at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park - with the Pioneers featuring gigantic linemen.

But Canton (10-1) had a field day, rolling up more than 500 yards offense (mostly on the ground) and scoring touchdowns on each of its first nine drives. Senior running back Adam Payter led the way with 229 yards in 16 carries and two TDs.

"It's a good thing you can be small and run this offense, like we are," said Chiefs coach Tim Baechler following the district trophy presentation. "It just provides blocking angles and you can double-team at the point of attack and it helps."

"I think it (Canton's system) hurts

a team that plays in a spread league, and it's hard to get prepared for our offense. They kind of get into a guessing game and they just couldn't guess right."

Against Pioneer's big defensive line, Canton's O-line of seniors Dakota Dark-Bird, Carter Staffield and others got low and rocked their opponents out of the trenches.

"Carter Staffield, our right tackle, he was very dominant, very physical tonight," noted Baechler.

Dark-Bird also was on his game, helping open holes for the Canton backs to scoot through.

Payter was sensational, with gains of 59, 45 and 49 yards (the latter for a TD) while junior tailback Davion Stackhouse contributed 117 yards rushing in 18 carries and three scores from inside the five-yard line.

"We had to get low," said Dark-Bird, who left the game briefly in the second quarter after rolling his right ankle. "They were big, so we had to be the lower team and apparently we were."

"We got out there and were knocking kids off the ball, coming off hard. We played with everything tonight."

And the only time Canton senior quarterback Kevin Delapaz needed to put the ball up, it came down into the hands of senior tight end Alex Dixon for a 47-yard TD catch-and-run midway through the second quarter to make it 35-14 (the Chiefs led 41-14 at the half).

"It was my first one (TD) of the year," Dixon said. "I was just trying to get open, trying to spread out so the other back could get out there too."

"But I was wide open and Kevin had a nice pass. I looked it in and kept running."

Delapaz helped his own cause with touchdown runs of one- and three yards while junior Sam Scott scored on an 11-yard end-around in the fourth.

Pioneer (8-3) could only muster about 170 yards of offense, with Canton's defensive secondary doing a number on University-of-Michigan bound wide receiver Ricardo Miller

(six catches, 85 yards, 1 TD).

That coverage, with Chiefs senior Arron Boudreaux giving Miller and senior quarterback Miles Sorise (7-for-20) fits, helped short-circuit any thoughts the Pioneers might have had of lighting it up at P-CEP.

"We played a lot of man on him (Miller) with Arron," Baechler said. "He (Boudreaux) did a great job covering him deep, he just missed a couple tackles on him. But Arron's a good player, he can run with that guy."

Probably the only mistake of note made in the game by Canton was a muffed punt return by Boudreaux in the first with the game 7-0.

The punt bounced over Boudreaux's head and he couldn't field the ball behind him. Pioneer recovered the ball at Canton's nine-yard line and scored two plays later on a run by Drake Johnson to briefly tie the game.

But Boudreaux made up for that by intercepting a pass that led to another Canton scoring drive.

Inkster QB Gardner ends Thurston's season

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The billing of great athleticism was accurate as Devin Gardner turned in an exhilarating performance.

Inkster's multi-talented signal-caller had his equally impressive running and passing skills on full display at Redford Thurston Friday night, accounting for 244 all-purpose yards and 36 points in the Vikings 50-28 victory over the Eagles in the Division 2 district title game.

"We gave a tremendous effort tonight. We just got beat by a bunch of athletes," Thurston head coach Bob Snell said after the game. "They have fast kids and we had a difficult time getting tackling angles on them. Sometimes even when we did, we didn't finish tackles."

"He (Gardner) throws the ball so

well and on the money," Snell continued. "And if you pressure him and don't get to him, he takes off and runs. It's tough to defend."

Gardner, listed at 6-4 and 205 pounds, set the tone on his team's first possession when he methodically moved the Vikings 63 yards down the field. The seventh play of that drive produced the game's opening score when Gardner stretched the ball across the goal line from a yard out. His two-point run gave the visitors a quick 8-0 lead.

The Eagles came right back and executed the game plan to perfection as they took nearly eight minutes off the clock during a 13-play, 73-yard drive. The march culminated when senior running back Desmond Martin raced in from two yards out.

However, Thurston's bid to get the

two-point conversion to tie the game up failed. It would prove to be the closest the Eagles would get all night.

Gardner led his teammates into the end zone on all three possessions of the second quarter, including an electrifying 50-yard run on the second play of the period. A 40-yard hook-up with senior wide out Jonathan Taylor on fourth-and-25 jumped the advantage to 24-6 and another 32-yard scamper with less than 10 seconds remaining staked the Vikings to a comfortable 32-14 lead at the break.

Junior running back DaShawn Bell showcased his elusiveness midway through the third period with a 45-yard touchdown run and Gardner got right back into the mix when he again teamed up with Taylor on a 28-yard scoring toss.

The Eagles weren't without solid performances of their own offensively, they just couldn't produce enough of them to stay even.

Junior quarterback Gary Kostecki showed poise directing the Eagles offense as he threw a pair of touchdown passes, both going to senior wide out Troy Bell. The first connection covered 21 yards late in the second quarter and the other was a nifty eight-yard aerial midway through the third stanza.

With the score 50-22 and time running down in the fourth period, the Eagles displayed that same character that sent them on their way to eight victories this season, including a perfect 5-0 standing in WWAC Red Division play. Kostecki played mistake-free football in marching the offense 81 yards in 13 plays.

CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS

NJCAA REGION XII CROSS COUNTRY RESULTS
Saturday, Oct. 31
at Grand Woods Park (Lansing)

WOMEN'S TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Lansing Community College, 27 points; 2. Oakland CC, 79; 3. Cuyahoga CC (Ohio), 92; 4. Jackson CC, 102; 5. Macomb CC, 106; 6. Schoolcraft College, 118; 7. Vincennes University (Ind.), 213; 8. Flint Mott CC, 217; 9. Glen Oak CC, 237; 10. Kirtland CC, no team score.

Individual winner: Cayla Nousain (Jackson), 19:20 (5,000 meters).

Schoolcraft finishers: 15. Kaitlin French, 20:28; 22. Courtney Plummer, 20:54; 29. Stacey Richardson, 21:21; 31. Jamie Wick, 21:27; 36. Lauren Ahearn, 21:41; 46. Ashley Hayden, 22:23; 56. Katherine Conklin, 23:56.

MEN'S TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Lansing CC, 23; 2. Oakland CC, 50; 3. Jackson CC, 93; 4. Macomb CC, 101; 5. Vincennes (Ind.), 122; 6. Glen Oaks, 189; 7. Kirtland CC, 193; 8. Flint Mott CC, 206; 10. Schoolcraft College, no team score.

Individual winner: Addis Habtewold (Lansing), 25:54 (8,000 meters).

Schoolcraft finishers: 65. Nathan Wise, 30:47.

HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN FRESHMAN-SOPHOMORE CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL
Nov. 3 at John Glenn

BOYS TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Canton, 41 points; 2. Livonia Churchill, 78; 3. (tie) Livonia Stevenson and Salem, 94 each; 5. Livonia Franklin, 109; 6. New Boston Huron, 137; 7. Westland John Glenn, 148.

Individual winner: Steve McEvilly (Salem), 17:09 (5,000 meters).

Franklin finishers: 4. Mike Witt, 17:58; 6. Ryan Derry, 18:06; 26. Chad Walters, 19:23; 36. Josh Beesmer, 20:22; 38. Gabe Martinez, 20:49; 41. Brian Riedy, 21:31; 42. Andrew Barnes, 21:42.

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SULLIVAN-AGBAY

Joseph Sullivan of San Jose, Calif., and Eileen Agbay of Santa Clara, Calif., were married June 20, 2009 at Mission Santa Clara de Asis, in Santa Clara, Calif.

The bride, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Filoteo Agbay of Santa Clara, Calif., is employed by Fujitsu America, San Jose, Calif.

The groom, son of Mike and Barbara Sullivan of Farmington Hills, is employed by Wigix Inc., in Oakland, Calif.

The couple took a honeymoon trip to New York City, N.Y., and have made their home in San Jose, Calif.



Sullivan-Agbay



Bone-Cox

Gary and Monica Bone of Westland are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Lauren, to James M. Cox, son of James and Ruthann Cox of Burton.

The bride-to-be is a 2008 graduate of John Glenn High School and her fiancé is a 2006 graduate of Bentley Senior High School in Burton.

The couple attends Mott College in Flint. Jennifer is pursuing a nursing career and James is pursuing a career in law enforcement.

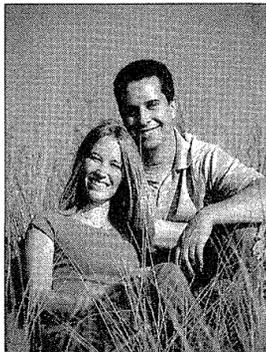
An August 2010 wedding is planned in Flint.

BAILEY-VONEHR

Keith and Teri Bailey of Farmington Hills are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Shannon, to Justin vonEhr, son of Pat and Marcia vonEhr of Holland.

Shannon and Justin met at Grand Valley State University. Shannon is in her final year of earning a degree in special education. Justin, is also in his final university year, earning a degree in criminal justice.

A December 2009 wedding is planned at St. John's Center in Plymouth.



Bailey-vonEhr

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



James and Donna Sovel in 1959

James and Donna (Wallace) Sovel of Port St. Lucie, Fla., will celebrate their 50th anniversary Nov. 14. The couple were married in 1959 at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Dearborn.

Children are Loretta Sovel of Westland, Karen White of Plymouth Township, Mark Sovel of West Hollywood, Calif., and Christine Sovel of Superior Township. They also have two grandchildren.

James retired from the FAA 15 years ago. The couple is active in their Florida community. They also reside in Westland a few months each year.

They plan to celebrate their milestone anniversary with a trip to Las Vegas, Nev., and Hollywood, Calif.



John and Virginia Pernak of Redford in 1949

60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

John J. and Virginia (Shovek) Pedrnak of Redford will mark their 60th wedding anniversary on Nov. 26. The couple were married in 1949 at St. Peter and Paul Church, Detroit.

Their children are Michael and Jeanna Pernak of Marco Island, Fla. and Sharon and Leonard Damico of Northville. They also have eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

John retired from his job as a U.S. Postal carrier 30 years ago. Virginia is a homemaker. They're active in Knights of Columbus, the retirees group and other volunteer groups at St. Robert Bellarmine Church in Redford.

The couple plans to celebrate with family at a local restaurant.

RAJAE-JUCIKAS

Mozhdeh Rajae and Dan Jucikas II announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Sharon and Sam Rajae of Canton, graduated in 2004 from Plymouth Canton High School and in May 2008 from the University of Toledo. She is employed as a registered nurse at the Cleveland Clinic.

Her fiancé, son of Vickie and Dan Jucikas of Munroe Falls, Ohio, is a 2004 graduate of Walsh Jesuit High School and a May 2008 graduate of the University of Toledo. He is employed as a retirement plan specialist for Equity Trust.

They plan to wed in July



Rajae-Jucikas

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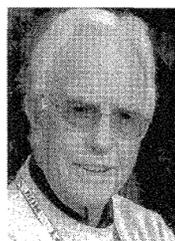
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HENRIETTA (Henny) BADER

Age 99, of Beverly Hills, MI. Wife of the late William Bader. Born Sept. 20, 1910 in Bremen, Germany. Passed away October 26, 2009. Unique and caring mother of Sonya Lepley (Jim), Arlynn Lange (Jerry) and Heidi Ingolia, Christy Scobie (Mel); grandmother of six, great-grandmother of six, great-great-grandmother of one. Mourned by all that were fortunate to have known her and we will miss you! Private memorial held at White Chapel, November 7, 2009.



ROBERT A. GOSHORN

Age 90. October 31, 2009. Former long-time resident of Farmington. Beloved husband of Nan for 61 years.

Loving father of Gregg (Bernadette), Kevin (Andrea), and Tedi Lojewski (Robert). Also survived by nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren that he cherished. Robert served during WW II as a U.S. Army Captain under General MacArthur, earning the Bronze Star. He was also a Boy Scout volunteer and a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award. Memorial Service 2:00 p.m. Friday, November 6th at Fox Run (Performing Arts Center) 41100 Fox Run Road, Novi, MI 48377. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, downtown Farmington. Memorial contributions may be made to Fox Run Scholarship Fund, Dept. of Philanthropy, 41100 Fox Run Road, Novi, MI 48377 www.thayer-rock.com



JAMES LAUGHLIN COLLINS

Jim Collins, 44, died unexpectedly and peacefully in his sleep early Sunday, October 25, 2009, at his home in Ann Arbor. He was born June 25, 1965, in Royal Oak, Michigan. He was the youngest son of Edward J. Collins of Leland, and Anne Wemmer Collins of Eureka, CA, who survive. Jim is also survived by his brother Chuck Collins (Patricia Brennan) of Jamaica Plain, MA; sister Roberta Mickelson of Trinidad, CA; stepmother Barbara Collins of Leland; stepbrothers Bruce Justusson (Elaine Matthews) of New Paltz, NY; Scott Justusson of Glenview, Ill; James Justusson of North Richland Hills, TX; and eight nieces and nephews as well as many cousins and good friends. Jim attended Bloomfield Hills public grade schools, Leland Public School, graduated from the Interlochen Arts Academy High School, and attended Beloit College where he was named to the President's List while studying ancient Greece and art. He lived for a time in Corfu, Greece, and loved sports, movies, art, travel, and his many deep friendships. Cremation has taken place. Memorials in his name may be directed to the Interlochen Arts Academy's Motion Picture Arts Division, Box 199, Interlochen, MI 49643; the Leelanau Conservancy, Box 1007, Leland, MI 49654; or the Fishtown Preservation Society, Box 721, Leland, MI 49654.



FRANCES AMELIA HAPP

Age 89, of Westland, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009, after a lengthy illness. She was born on Nov. 27, 1919, to Joseph and Julianna Page and grew up in Ecorse. She married her sweetheart James Happ on Sept. 13, 1940. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who enjoyed camping, ice skating, travel and family get-togethers. She was a member of St. Richard's Parish where she helped found the Seniors Club. She also ran the ice cream stand during parish festivals and was a cook at the weekly bingo games. She was well-known for her homemade pies, fruit cakes and candied apples she gave out to trick-or-treaters on Halloween. She is survived by her children, Robert of Chiniak, Alaska, Elizabeth (Richard) McClure of Milford, Susan (Robert) Mason of Westland, and Timothy (Susan) of Brighton; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren, and two sisters, Sr. Marie Walter Page, SSJ, and Mary LaCombe. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Happ Sr., son James Happ Jr., grandson Robert Matthew Mason, a brother, Walter Page, and a sister, Josephine Page. Visitation Sunday 3-9:00 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home 980 N. Newburgh Rd., Westland (btwn Ford and Cherry Hill). Funeral Mass 9:30am on Monday at St. Richard Catholic Church, Instate at 9:00am. Interment Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Westland. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

MARY HILL

Age 95, November 2. Formerly of Redford and Westland. Beloved wife of the late Axel Hill. Loving mother of Viola (Vern) Raben and Daniel (Wendy) Hill. Dear sister of Ann Norden and grandmother of Joshua Hill. A Memorial Service was held at St. John Lutheran Church, 13542 Mercedes, Redford. Contributions may be made to the church or to Angela Hospice.

VIRGINIA M. KANIA

November 3, 2009, age 82. Loving wife of the late Robert. Devoted mother of Debbe (Ken) Kirk, Bruce (Kathy), Rob, Carol (Mike) Jackman and Theresa (Dale) Upton. Grammy to Megan, Michael, Alex, Ryker, Anna, Michaela. Great Gramma to Kylee. Preceded in death by brother Adam. Virginia will be missed by brothers Don (Debbie) and Dennis (Geri) Protas, sister in law Jeanne Andrzejczak, many nieces and nephews and grammy nannies Cynthia, May and Viola. Visitation was Thursday 4-9 p.m. at Harry J. Will Funeral Home 37000 Six Mile (East of I275) Rosary 7 p.m. Funeral Mass was held Friday 9:30 a.m. at St Aidan Catholic Church 17500 Farmington Rd. In state 9 a.m. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Please leave the family a memorial message at: harryjwillfuneralhome.com

In Memory Of EDDIE LIEBERT

My best friend who went to be with the Lord on Monday November 2, 2009. I will always miss you until we meet again. - Bernard Miley



HELEN NUGENT LUNDY

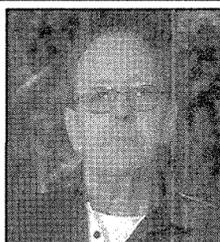
Passed away November 6, 2009 at the age of 99. She is the beloved daughter of the late William and Annie Nugent. Sister of the late Ethel (late Jerry) Gaudio. The late Nora Nugent. The late William and Virginia Nugent. Devoted mother of Joann (Jan) Wiegler and Philip (Sharlene) undy. Grandmother of Dean Wiegler, Kenneth Wiegler, Philip (Ron) Lundy, Jr. and Laura (Michael) Modjeski. Great-grandmother of Kathryn Lundy, Griffin and Jordan Modjeski. Also survived by nieces, nephews, grandnieces and nephews. She was a graduate of the first class of Mercy High School (1926) in Chicago. Funeral Services will be held Monday, 11:15am at St. Linus Catholic Church, 10300 Lawler, Oak Lawn, Illinois. Friends may visit at church beginning at 10:30am. Burial place will be Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Alsip, Illinois. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Mercy Retirement Fund, 400 W. Sullivan Rd., Aurora, Illinois 60506. To leave a condolence: www.schrader-howell.com

DOROTHEA MARTIN

November 5, 2009, age 83, of Livonia. Longtime resident of Livonia for 52 years. Retired from Livonia Public Schools. Preceded in death by her husband Leon of 60 years. Loving mother of Sally Captain and James Martin. Five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and sister of Terry Border. Visitation Monday 3-9pm at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile Road, Livonia and Funeral Service Tuesday 10am at the funeral home. Family requests donations to the American Heart Association.

JOSEPHINE E. RUPERT

Age 91 of Westland. Beloved wife of the late Henry. Dear mother of Joanne (Michael) Smith and Mary Rupert. Also survived by 2 granddaughters and 8 great-grandchildren. Predeceased by seven brothers and sisters. Private cremation services were arranged by Vermeulen Funeral Home. To leave a message of condolence, please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com



HARRY R. WILLS, SR.

October 30, 2009. Age 75, of Plymouth. Beloved Dad of Ginny (Gary) Cummins, Diane (Doug) Clinton, Harry R. Jr., (Reyna), Michael (Carolyn) Wills and the late Kathleen. Proud grandfather of 12 and great-grandpa of 5. Dear brother of Leota Mendola, Marianne Lundberg and Gloria (Jim "Pudge") Podzikowski. Interment Friday 1:00 PM at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly, Michigan. The family gathered with friends Saturday 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM for a Memorial Service at Church of Christ 9301 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

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

Deadlines:

Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday
Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson 313-496-4968 For more information call: Char Wilson 586-826-7082 or Liz Keiser 586-977-7538 or toll free 800-579-7355 ask for Char or Liz



May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.

In Loving Memory
...at the Holidays

Remember the loved ones you've lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute.

The Observer and Eccentric/Hometown Weekly newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for the holidays. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of loved ones who hold a special place in your heart.

Prices start at **\$15.00**

for a photo "In Remembrance" ad

Publication: Sunday, Dec. 20th
...in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
Thursday, Dec. 24th
...in the Hometown Weekly Newspapers
Deadline for both issues...Monday, Dec. 14th

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NEIGHBORS

New animal shelter gives room to roam, 'to love'

BY SHARON DARGAY
OGE STAFF WRITER

The outdoor dog runs are heated. The cat condos are spacious. And the clinic tripled in size. But in addition to cutting-edge improvements at The Humane Society of Huron Valley's (HSHV) new state-of-the-art animal shelter, visitors will find plenty of comfy "space to fall in love" with adoptable companions. "The goal for me was creating a healthy, low-stress environment for the animals and the people," said executive director Tanya Hilgendorf. "The old shelter was for die-hards. A lot of people were really repelled by it. It was depressing. "But you have to fall in love when you walk through that door to choose a family member. You need a warm welcoming facility to do that. I want you to choose to adopt. I don't want you picking an animal for the rest of your life because of pity. "We definitely picked up more space ... it's space to fall in love. We have little rooms you can go in with the animals. We have little walking paths. It's important to get to know the animal. It's also in setting that they'll look



Director Tanya Hilgendorf

good. They're not going to be terrified, barking, sick. They're going to be more appealing." HSHV, which services Plymouth, Canton and Washtenaw county, opened the new nearly 30,000-square-foot building a little over a week ago. When it's finished — landscaping and parking lot construction are still underway — the project will cost about \$8.6 million. A mix of donations and a county-issued bond fueled the capital campaign started a few years ago.

LONG TIME COMING

"There had been discussion

of needing a new shelter for 20 years," said Hilgendorf, who has a background in social work. She's led HSHV for 4 1/2 years. When the old facility was constructed in 1951, shelters primarily were used to warehouse strays until they were retrieved by their owners or eventually euthanized. As the animal rescue field evolved, emphasizing adoptions and animal care, the building quickly became outdated.

Deb Kern, marketing director, said there was no indoor space to visit with a potential adoptee. The facility was dark, ventilation, heating and cooling were poor, it was noisy and stressful on animals and humans alike.

"This is so friendly and inviting, you can see it in the steps of the staff," she said, comparing the new and old facilities. "Everyone has a jump in their step."

She said the volunteers welcomed the change, too. HSHV has more than 300 active volunteers. About 300 animals — more than are in the shelter — live in foster care.

"This is a great working environment. It's upbeat," said Deb Salinas of Canton. She is fostering a dog and volunteers as a greeter and customer ser-



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteers Mary McIver of Livonia, and Deb Salinas of Canton, talk. They are standing in an entrance area for Dogtown, and in front of a private room where people can spend some time with a dog they might want to adopt.

vice representative on Fridays and Saturdays at the shelter.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

She also volunteers from home, getting the word out to Canton-Plymouth area residents that HSHV takes in stays from those communities.

She placed donation canisters for the shelter throughout Canton and picks up food donations weekly from Pet Supplies "Plus" and monthly from Open Door Ministry for the shelter's Bountiful Bowls program that helps economically-stressed families and

individuals feed their pets.

"I spend a lot of time right here in Canton doing face time with vets. I get information to them, get them aware of adoptions in Canton," Salinas said. "I've been talking with trustees, getting them up and running on what our shelter does, that we are more than a shelter that recycles animals."

Salinas looks forward to more learning programs in the shelter's new education room. She'd like to see ongoing training for volunteers and a pet first aid class.

Hilgendorf envisions dog

training, summer day camps, and anti-cruelty programs at-risk high schools.

"What we really want to be is a resource to the community that supports good responsible companion care. We've got some great innovative programs."

HSHV runs a special pit-bull adoption program and a behavior hotline. Its "Safe Harbor" program allows owners in a housing crisis — because of eviction, domestic violence or disaster — to

Please see **SHELTER, B7**

HSHV AT A GLANCE

Getting there — If you're coming from the Canton-Plymouth area, take Plymouth Road west into Dixboro, turn left at Cherry Hill Road. Look for the shelter on the west side of the road. If you're coming from the Livonia or Farmington areas, take I-275 south to M-14 west to M-23 south. Exit at Plymouth Road and head east into Dixboro. Turn at Cherry Hill Road. The shelter's mailing address is 3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Shelter Hours — Adoption hours are noon to 6 p.m. daily, with the last adoption meeting at 5:45 p.m.; clinic hours by appointment only are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday-Friday and Saturday by appointment; animal intake is 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., daily.

Contact — (734) 662-5585; www.hshv.org

Service area — Plymouth, Canton and Washtenaw county for stray pick-up;



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteer Deb Salinas of Canton greets visitors and gives the animals a little TLC.

adoptions and other programs open to the general public.

The new building — At approximately 30,000-square-feet, it's nearly triple the size of the old facility, which will be demolished. Includes:

- Education room for dog training, day camps and programs that will help prevent animal abuse, homelessness, abandonment and overpopulation.
- A clinic
- A store with clothing, gifts and pet products
- Kennel area for dogs with indoor and heated outdoor spaces; visitors can touch the dogs through the cages — no glass separates them from canines.
- Cat areas include "condos" for kittens with climbing and hiding spaces; communal living areas for grown cats, as well as spacious cages with perches for individual felines.
- Comfy visiting areas for people and their prospective pets to get to know each other before adopting.



Rachel Sterling works at the shelter, cleaning the puppy cages.



People adopting animals fill out paperwork and meet with adoption counselors in this area.

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WHERE TO LOOK

In my previous column I discussed the caution needed in using the Web to obtain information on arthritis. Several readers responded with the reasonable question: What Web sources are reliable? This column will try to answer that query.

- The Web sites I recommend include the following:
- MayoClinic.com (Mayo Clinic)
 - hopkinsmedicine.org (Johns Hopkins University)
 - healthfinder.gov (government site)
 - medlineplus.gov (government site)
 - arthritis.org (Arthritis Foundation)

Each of the above includes a search field at the top of the home page where you can type in the topic that is of interest to you. The information that follows represents the best available evidence and data on a particular arthritic condition.

My advice is to review one or more of these references before going on to google a subject. You can look on the information in these sites as the foundation for your understanding of a particular condition or treatment.

Do not put much stock in what you see in advertisements. What ads present comes mainly from Madison Avenue, not the National Institute of Health. (The NIH).

If after much reading, you are confused, you should know you are not alone. In many instances, reading the medical literature, leads the inquiring doctor into a quandary.

www.drjjweiss.yourmd.com

SIMPLY SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given that on November 18, 2009 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are preferred **cash only but will except debit/credit**. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI. 48184 (734)728-8204.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A155 Ed Wilson | 2 Televisions, Shop Vac, Snow Blower |
| A209 Starlisa Neal | Television, Table, Couch |
| B126 Linda Cygan | 5 Totes, Sofa, 10 Boxes |
| B134 Celia Smith | 20 Boxes, Television, Dresser |
| B141 Linda Cygan | Vacuum, Microwave, 30 Boxes |
| C103 Avon Adam | Washer, Dryer, Refrigerator |
| C113 Wendy Miller | Mattress, Table, Couch |
| C122 Michael Grace | 30 Boxes, Totes, 10 Totes |
| D118 Catherine Borders | Table, Dresser, 4 Chairs |
| D153 Sandra Line | Power washer, Bike, TV |

Publish: October 29 and November 8, 2009

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Rescues seek MRI donations, craft show visitors

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Almost Home Animal Rescue League is seeking donations to pay for an MRI for Ava, a Rottweiler-Shepherd female mix, in its care.

Ava arrived at the group's shelter, Almost Home Animal Haven, as a stray, along with another dog, four months ago. She had been ready for adoption until recently becoming ill.

"It's just an educated guess, but I got the feeling someone dumped them. They were both overweight and the other dog, Sassy, has had many litters. They both got along with all of the other dogs," said Lisa McVeigh of Canton, an Almost Home member.

McVeigh said Ava is approximately 5 years old, with an "awesome temperament and personality."

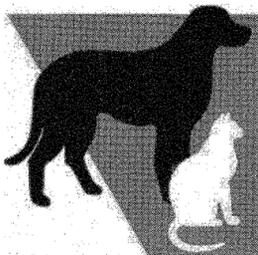
"Unfortunately Ava has recently become ill. She has had several trips to the vet, had x-rays and is now hospitalized. She is in extreme pain and we have been unable to determine the cause."

The next diagnostic step is an MRI that will show whether Ava has a soft tissue problem, such as a tumor, and then surgery, if needed.

"We'll get done whatever we have to get done," McVeigh said. "We'll take care of her but it will deplete everything we have. We'll need to replen-



Almost Home Animal Haven in Southfield is raising money for Ava's MRI.



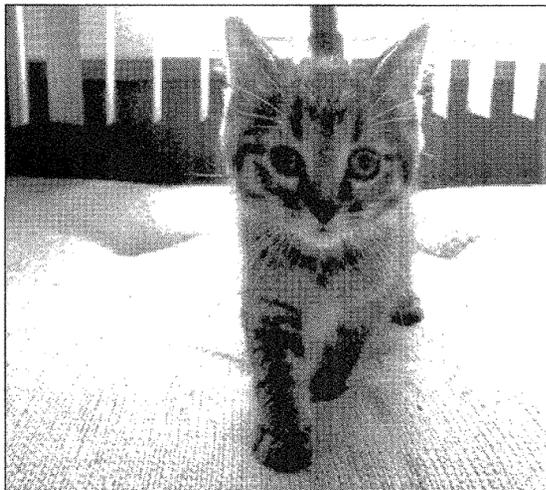
PET PROJECTS

ish it."

McVeigh estimates the cost of an MRI at \$2,000-\$3,000. Almost Home is asking for donations to help pay for the diagnostic test and follow-up treatment so that Ava can eventually be adopted into a permanent home.

"She is a very sweet and happy-go-lucky girl. She loves to be taken outside and just given one-on-one attention by the volunteers. She is so special and deserving of a better life. If we can get her pain-free and walking again, we'd be looking for someone to foster her, with the hope of someone adopting her."

Mail donations — indicating on the check that it's for Ava — or stop by in person at Almost Home Animal Haven, 25503 Clara Lane, Southfield, MI 48034. It's open from noon to 3 p.m., Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday; 3:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday; and 1:30-5:30 p.m., Saturday. Or use PayPal on the organization's Web site, www.almosthomeanimals.org. (248) 200-2695



The Country Cat and The City Kitty Rescue will hold a craft show Nov. 14 to raise money for felines.

KITTENS AND CRAFTS

The Country Cat and The City Kitty Rescue will present "It's all about Meow, Part Mew(2)!" craft show fundraiser, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Livonia Elks Lodge.

The rescue organization's founder, Ann Grenier, has been rescuing cats for almost 20 years. She is in the process of gaining 501C status for the rescue and has offered to "shave her head for a single donation of \$5,000 or \$7,500 collectively."

She says she'll do "anything" to "help the kitties."

Admission to the craft fair is \$1 which will benefit the cats/kittens taken in by the rescue. The Livonia Elks Lodge is located at 31117 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Many vendors, artists and craft exhibits will be on hand and refreshments will be sold. A 50-50 raffle and silent auction will be held to help raise money. Dr. Shera Dickie, from St Julian's Cat Care will be present for "Cat Chat." Visitors also can bring their pets or children to meet Santa Claus. Adoptable cats and kittens also will be on hand.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Volunteer Brent Holding walks Bowser. Landscaping is still under way at the shelter.

SHELTER

FROM PAGE B6

leave their pets at the shelter for up to two weeks. Cats used to living outdoors are targeted for homes with barns, under the Barn Cat program. And feral cats are trapped, neutered or spayed and then returned to the outdoors in the TNR program.

"I believe companion animals are critical for our lives. Unfortunately they end up in bad situations and become abandoned, homeless and abused ... one minute they are sleeping on someone's couch and the next minute they don't know where they are," Hilgendorf said. They deserve a healthy, comforting place to recover and find a new loving home."

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 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 online 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 ninth 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 Spicer House in Heritage Park, located off Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile 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 dem-

onstrations.

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



Make a tabletop Christmas tree at English Gardens.

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.

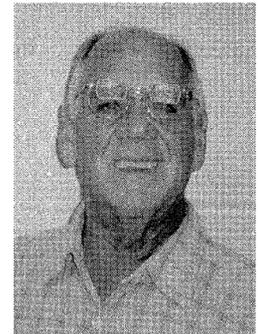
Desmond Roberts lost his license to drive. He saw Dr. Sheldon Smith of Low Vision of Michigan desperate to maintain independent driving. With telescopic driving glasses prescribed by Dr. Smith his license was reinstated.

"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.

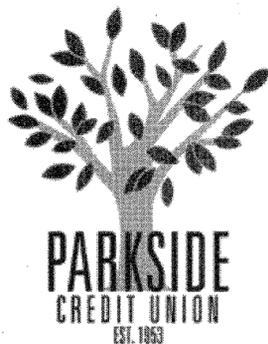
Patients and referring physicians are welcome to review their situation or schedule an appointment. We can help. Call Low Vision of Michigan to find out how.

TOLL FREE:
877-677-2020

Low Vision of Michigan

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