

SUNDAY
May 9, 2010

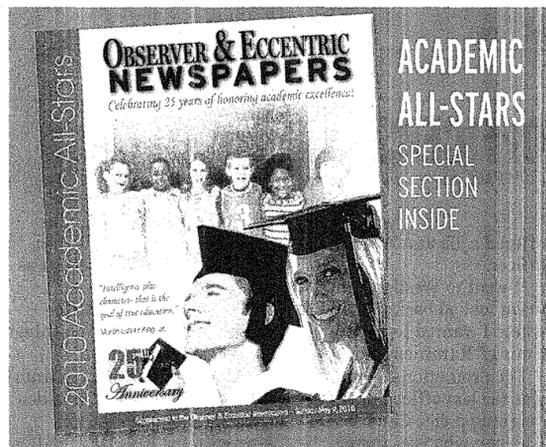
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Newspapers

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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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AROUND TOWN

Stuff a Van

The Westland Jaycees are sponsoring Stuff a Van event noon to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 15, at the Petco store at 32725 Warren Road, west of Wayne Road, for the benefit of the Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland.

The Jaycees hope to collect items on the center's wish list which include such things as nonclumping cat litters, carrot top greens, fresh leaf lettuce and parsley for rabbits, dog treats and rawhide chews, fleece fabric, paper towels, peanut butter, wooden rodent houses and rodent toys and treats, Kaytee natural Timothy hay for rabbits and small animals and clean, used towels and small blankets.

The Jaycees will have a copy of the wish list available at Stuff a Van. A complete list also can be found online at www.michiganhumane.org.

For more information, call the Jaycee hotline at (734) 226-0400.

Offer congrats

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is proud to announce our 25th year of Academic All-Stars. Each year, we select the best and brightest high school students from our coverage area and honor them in a special publication.

Family, friends and teachers can offer their congratulations on our Facebook page. In addition, hundreds of All-Stars have been chosen over the years and we would like to find out what they are up to these days.

If you were an All-Star or know one, feel free to get in touch with us. Tell us what you've been doing since your All-Star recognition. And offer your words of wisdom to this year's team.

Post an update to our Facebook page or e-mail Web Editor Larry Ruehlen: lruehlen@hometownlife.com.

Senior driving

The Southeast Westland Homeowners Association and the American Association of Retired Persons is hosting a Drive To Stay Alive program for senior citizens 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, May 11-12. The program, \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members, will be held at Our Savior Manor, on Middlebelt at Annapolis.

For information or to register, contact Reasther Everett at (734) 595-4533.

Council, mayor differ on cuts to contractors

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland council members weren't happy with the results of what Mayor William Wild calls hardball negotiations with contractors, including the Westland Youth Assistance Program and WLND cable television.

For his part, Wild wasn't happy about the council's position.

"I sat down with both contractors to negotiate with the contracts," said

Wild, during a recent council budget study session. "If we do anything, I feel we will be negotiating against ourselves. There were tough negotiations with the others (employee bargaining units). Then I can't put on kid gloves to deal with contractors."

Youth Assistance Director Paul Motz and WLND Director Craig Welkenbach have existing contracts which were approved by the council, noted Council President James Godbout. Unlike the city department

heads, the contractors are not mayoral appointees and do not have the same type of salary or benefit packages.

"The mayor didn't want to extend these contracts but he extended the employee union contracts (as part of concessions). If the contractors had the cojones, they could tell the mayor to pound sand," Godbout said.

Agreeing that the city had tough negotiations with the American Federation of State, County and

Municipal Employees union, Godbout said that negotiating didn't appear to have taken place with the contractors, including the Municipal Services Bureau which operates the municipal golf course and Mike Modano Arena.

"My understanding, and I got it from all three parties, was that they (the contractors) came in for their budget and were told 'Here is your

Please see **CONTRACTORS, A2**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD



Don Ratchgeber (left) congratulates son-in-law Alan Ramsden on being promoted to Westland police chief.

Police department gets new command officers

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Early retirements to help the city's budget resulted in 14 promotions for Westland police officers last week, including swearing in of a new police chief.

A member of the department since 1991, Alan Ramsden had been deputy chief for more than three years before receiving the department's highest rank. Promoted to fill the deputy chief slot was Dan Karrick, who also has more than 19 years experience with the department, most recently as Detective Bureau lieutenant.

During the ceremony, three sergeants — Scott Murray, Steve Bachand and Chris Benson — were promoted to lieutenant. The nine officers promoted to the rank of sergeant were Thomas Lessnau, David Hochstein, Randy Thivierge,



Westland's new Deputy Police Chief Dan Karrick.

me a ticket before I was mayor. I deserved it," Mayor William Wild said during the promotion ceremony.

Wild recalled that Ramsden was one of the first Westland police officers he met after starting his political career. Ramsden was serving on a Political Action Committee

Dan Serrano, Kyle Dawley, Jason Blanchard, Richard Novakowski, Jack McIntosh and Steve Jaworski.

"Officer Serrano has the distinction of being the last officer to write

for a police union and interviewing candidates. "He asked me straight out if I'd support him for chief. I said absolutely," Wild said, drawing laughs from the packed audience at the Bailey Recreation Center.

Ramsden is the first Westland police chief to have been born and raised in Westland, Wild said. A 1980 Livonia Franklin High School graduate, Ramsden, 47, earned a teaching degree from Western Michigan University and taught social studies in the Dearborn School District before putting himself through the Washtenaw County police academy.

After working part time as an officer with the Northville Police Department, Ramsden was hired by the Redford Police Department. Three months later, Ramsden was

Please see **OFFICERS, A2**

Williams balks at plea deal in death of wife

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Scheduled to enter a guilty plea on a charge that he murdered his wife, George Williams had changed his mind when he stood before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Craig Strong.

That means Williams, 33, will be back in court Monday when he is scheduled to stand trial on a charge of first-degree murder in the Sept. 27 death of his wife, Sarah, outside Chatters Bar and Grill.

The plea bargain called for a sentence of 22 to 30 years in prison rather than the mandatory life in prison with no chance of parole that would come with a first-degree murder conviction.

A barmaid at Chatters, Sarah Williams, 28, had been strangled but also suffered severe blunt force trauma including severe head injuries and a large abrasion on her back consistent with being dragged.

The couple, married just over one year, was reported to have been arguing and were considering a split.

Members of Sarah Williams' family, including her uncle, newly sworn in Westland Police Chief Alan Ramsden, went to court to the hearing.

"I think the sentence is too light as a family member," said Ramsden. "My family chose to live in Wayne County."

Ramsden plans to attend the trial Monday when it's possible that Williams may actually enter a plea.

"If he takes a plea, I want to hear it," said Ramsden. "He'll have to say what he did. My niece (Sarah's younger sister) wants to be there, and I want to be there for my niece also."

Williams' former wife, with whom he has two children, had testified earlier that Williams called her and told her he had killed Sarah Williams. The former wife went to Chatters and found the fatally injured Sarah Williams, who was survived by a daughter. The former wife called 9-1-1. George Williams had fled and later was arrested in Toledo.

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W-W supports county tax proposal

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland school officials have decided to support a proposal by the Wayne County Regional Educational Services Agency to seek voter approval of 1.9-mill tax levy.

The school board voted 6-1 with Trustee John Goci voting no, to back the tax request that could raise \$4.7 million in much needed revenue for the district.

"This is the only opportunity we have to increase our revenue," Superintendent Greg Baracy told the school board. "We have to let the county pursue a county-wide enhancement millage, if we want to help ourselves. This would give our constituents a say if they want to do something to sustain education."

According to Baracy, the tax

levy, if approved, would cost residents with a \$100,000 home about \$95 a year. In Wayne-Westland, it would generate \$4.9 million of which \$4.7 million would come back to the district based on the number of students.

"It's almost a wash, an even-stein," said Baracy. "We're not considered a giving district. If it passes, we will receive additional revenue. If it doesn't, we stay where we are at and wait for the state."

Under Proposal A, only intermediate districts are permitted to make tax requests. RESA will need the approval from districts representing 51 percent of the county's students to get the proposal on the Aug. 3 primary ballot.

Several weeks ago, RESA officials indicated they needed support from at least two of three

large districts — Plymouth-Canton, Livonia or Dearborn — to give the measure a shot. Livonia recently voted not to support it, while Dearborn board members disliked the idea and didn't vote on it. Plymouth-Canton has delayed its decision until it can hear what residents have to say.

"I ask what you want to do," Baracy said. "This would raise a modest amount to get us through the next few years which we know could be more devastating."

The district has closed six elementary schools, reconfigured its elementary program and is seeking pay freezes and increased contributions from employees from the superintendent on down to trim at least

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OFFICERS

FROM PAGE A1

offered a job as a Westland officer.

"I went to Westland and never looked back. I knew where I wanted to be. It is timing," Ramsden said.

The promotional ceremony was the last official duty for outgoing police Chief James Ridener, who was among those taking the early retirement package.

"You can certainly say that Jim Ridener left at a time of severe changes in manpower. Those changes are being forced upon me," Ramsden

said.

"We have 15 less officers — that's 20 percent of the department. That will be the big challenge, to get us through tough times so citizens can see as little effect as possible.

"We're going to have to think of new ways to do things and be more efficient."

Along with his degree from Western Michigan, Ramsden also has completed training with the FBI, DEA and staff and command school at Eastern Michigan University. He and his wife Julie have two daughters, Haley, 13, and Clare, 11.

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CONTRACTORS

FROM PAGE A1

number. Have a nice day," said Godbout. "That was the negotiation. We don't have revised contracts for Youth Assistance or cable — just a letter. Council approves those contracts."

Wild had cut the \$229,000 Youth Assistance budget by \$30,000, adding he didn't want the program to rely on the city's general fund.

"Youth Assistance is an incredible program, Paul does an incredible job," said Wild. "We need to have that program to have incentives to get grants and pull in money. With our lobbyist, I feel the \$30,000 is a reachable goal."

Youth Assistance, which has a deputy director and office manager in addition to Motz, receives \$69,000 from the city's general fund — the rest of their funding comes through grants and from Wayne County.

"We shouldn't be cutting this program. I don't think this will be an incentive," said Councilwoman Christine Bryant. "They have huge incentives — they love our kids. They work above and beyond now."

As a Westland Youth Assistance board member, Councilman Michael Kehrer said that he wanted council to know that Motz and his staff aren't paid very well without the benefits package provided to city staff.

What mayor has proposed for contractors

Here are changes that were proposed with three city contractors:

- The Westland Youth Assistance budget of \$229,000 had a proposed cut of \$30,000. That could result in the program — which had a director, deputy director and office manager — losing one employee.

- About \$69,000 of the Youth Assistance budget comes from the city's general fund. The balance come from Wayne County, grants and other sources.

- The WLND/Communications Department budget is cut from more than \$500,000 to \$266,000 in the proposed budget. A printer who worked for the city in the department has retired and that work will be contracted. Including director Craig

Welkenbach, the department started the fiscal year with six employees. One producer has been laid off and two additional layoffs would be expected under the proposed budget. Former Miss Michigan Ashlee Baracy was recently hired as a communications coordinator.

By no longer having a separate cable budget and making it part of the general fund budget, unspent franchise fees would be additional revenue for the general fund.

- The Westland Municipal Golf Course and Mike Modano Arena are operated by the Municipal Services Bureau, which is headed by an appointed board. The council approves a contract with MSB, whose employees are not city employees. Under Mayor William

Wild's proposed budget, the contracts for the arena and golf course were reduced \$146,000. Longtime golf course director Brian Gabbart was laid off, something the MSB board was told after the fact.

The position of Construction and Maintenance Superintendent in the Department of Public Works was being eliminated. Wild had initially planned to create a new position of assistant parks and recreation director to oversee the arena and golf course.

After discussions with council, Wild decided not to create the new position and moved the former superintendent Brian Harnos to supervise the golf course and arena as an MSB employee.

PROPOSAL

FROM PAGE A1

\$12 million from its budget to make it through the next few years without cutting programs.

Goci, however, told his colleagues that more needs to be done.

"We have to start showing fiscal responsibility," said Goci. "I have a hard time asking voters for more money, unless we cut salaries. Your (Baracy) salary is up there with the governor's, your deputies are up there, too. I understand what people are going through, I have had some financial setbacks myself."

It was the second time dur-

ing last week's meeting that Goci brought up Baracy's wages. The first time related to Baracy's evaluation, which Goci also opposed.

"This is supporting a Wayne County initiative and, as superintendent, I would be remiss not to give the opportunity to our constituents to decide," Baracy told Goci. "This would be a huge help to our children and our school district."

Wayne RESA has indicated it needs the decision of school districts in the county by May 18 to place it on the August ballot. If that happens and it is approved by a majority of voters in the county, it would be levied from 2010 through 2014.

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"They have a very cheap bare bones medical insurance, no optical, no dental, no retirement or 401k," Kehrer said. "A lot of their grants are based on three employees and the number of intakes. If you reduce their budget to the point of layoffs, there will be less intakes, less grants."

In the case of WLND, the operation is funded through cable franchise fees and had a budget of more than

\$500,000. By folding that separate cable budget into the general fund, any unspent revenue would remain in the general fund.

That budget would be cut to \$266,000. Wild noted that WLND's role had included supervision of a printer, who has retired, along with the discontinuation of the city calendar.

"I just don't think it is fair to negotiate one-on-one. It is very uncomfortable," said

Bryant, after asking if there were attorneys or other representatives involved in the negotiations with the contractors.

Going back to further negotiate with the contractors would set a bad precedent, Wild said.

The council will likely have another budget study session before it is adopted, according to Godbout.

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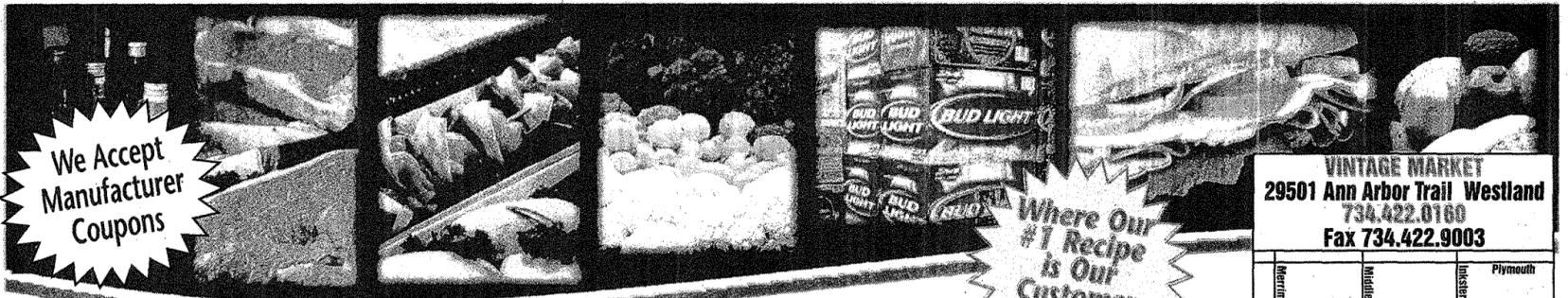
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- 3 lbs. Chicken Parts
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- 2 lbs. Italian Sausage

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EDUCATION

Right and wrong

Law Day allows students to experience judicial process

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland's 18th District Court made a house call, so to speak, when the judges, attorneys and defendants took a bus ride to Adams Middle School for the court's annual Law Day Program last week.

Geared for eighth-graders, the two-hour program let students see what happens when laws are broken.

"The judges and their staff do a well-rounded job in picking the cases," said Chief Probation Officer Chris Raymond. "It gives the kids a realistic view of the court system."

The program was held at Adams Middle School and included drunken driving, retail fraud, drug possession, assault and battery, trespassing and domestic violence cases. The court used the Westland Youth Assistance and Parks and Recreation buses to transport attorneys and their clients to the school, where they met with prosecuting attorneys before appearing before either Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli or Mark McConnell.

"It's actually the best way to provide security for the schools," Raymond said of the bus service.

The courtroom was set up in the school cafeteria, and each judge handled 15 cases.

"It's a great learning opportunity for students to learn about Michigan law and also see firsthand the penalties and consequences for violating those laws," said Cicirelli.

According to Raymond, the program is kept to two hours to keep students focused on what's happening. A preteaching guide is provided to inform students about the court process and how it works.

"I think it's important for the public to see the legal process in action and it's even more important for the youth of the community to see the serious consequences of violating the law," McConnell said.

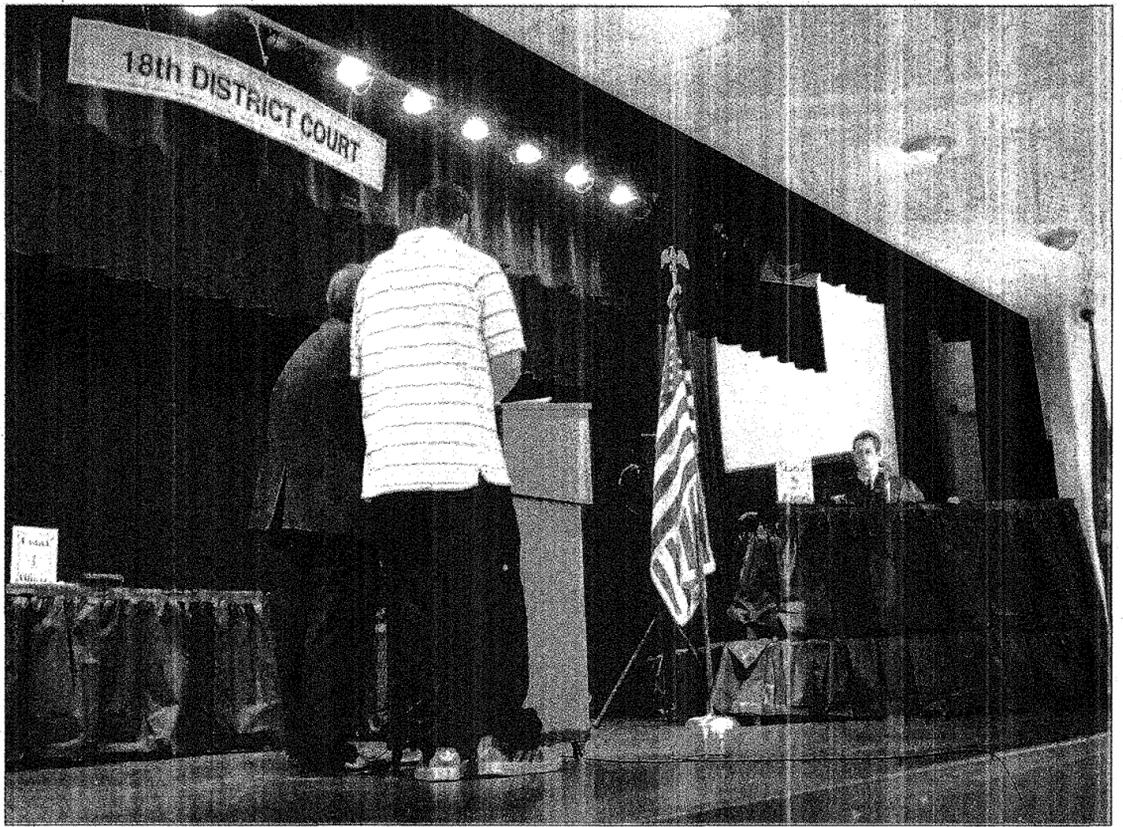
Law Day was started by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1958 as a celebration of individual human rights in response to the Russian May Day, a celebration of communism.

Former District Court Judge Thomas Smith brought the program to Westland in 1979 as an essay contest in which the winners were recognized at a special breakfast.

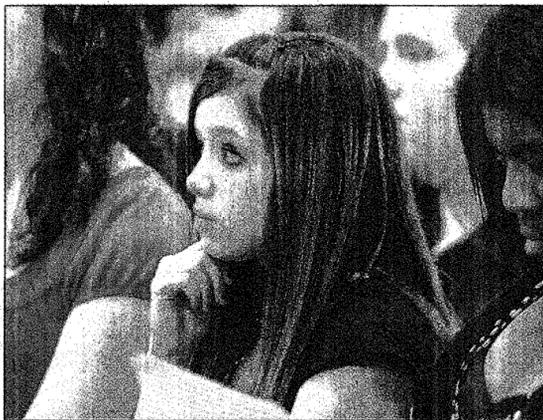
The format of having students hear real cases involving the 18th and Wayne's 29th District courts started in 1988 and was held for high school students at John Glenn High School. In 1994, the junior highs were added, but the focus shifted completely to middle school in 2002.

"We focus on eighth-graders because it's a pivotal time in their lives," Raymond said. "They're being exposed to a lot more in society and are making decisions. We want to educate them on what happens when they make poor decisions and everything that goes with that decision."

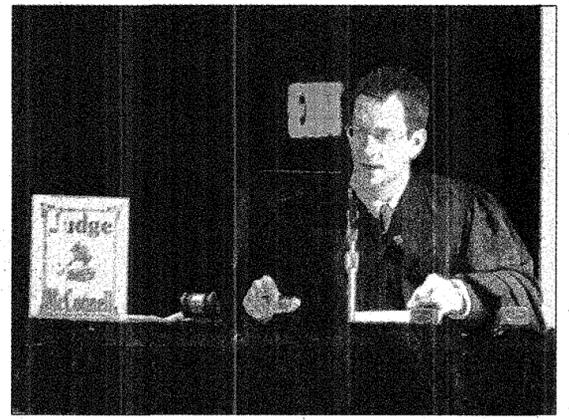
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A defendant and his attorney appear before Judge Mark McConnell as part of Westland's 18th District Court's annual Law Day program, held at Adams Middle School.



Eighth-grader Sarah Wilson listens to what is happening during the court proceedings.

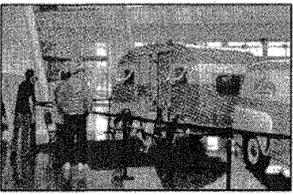


District Court Judge Mark McConnell addresses attorneys during a case heard during the Law Day program.

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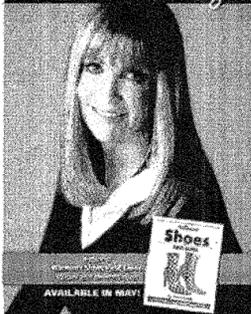
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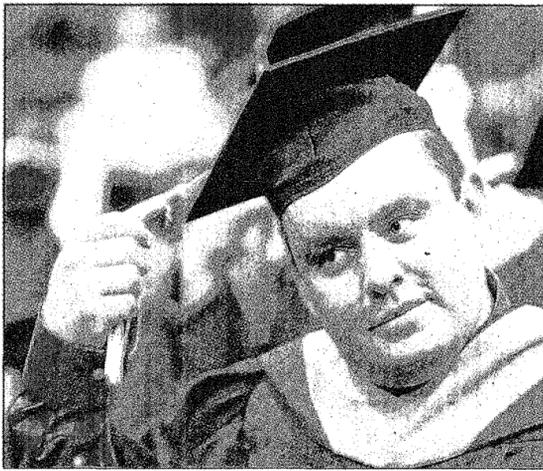
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Business grad April Sawyer receives her diploma from Board Chair Michael Obloy. April lives in Canton.



Jesus Ramirez, of Livonia, switches the tassel on his mortarboard from right to left, to signify that he is now a graduate.



Leslie Banks celebrates receiving her diploma. She is from Redford.

Madonna celebrates 63rd commencement

Look for more photos at hometownlife.com

Madonna University conferred degrees upon 958 graduates May 2 in a commencement ceremony at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

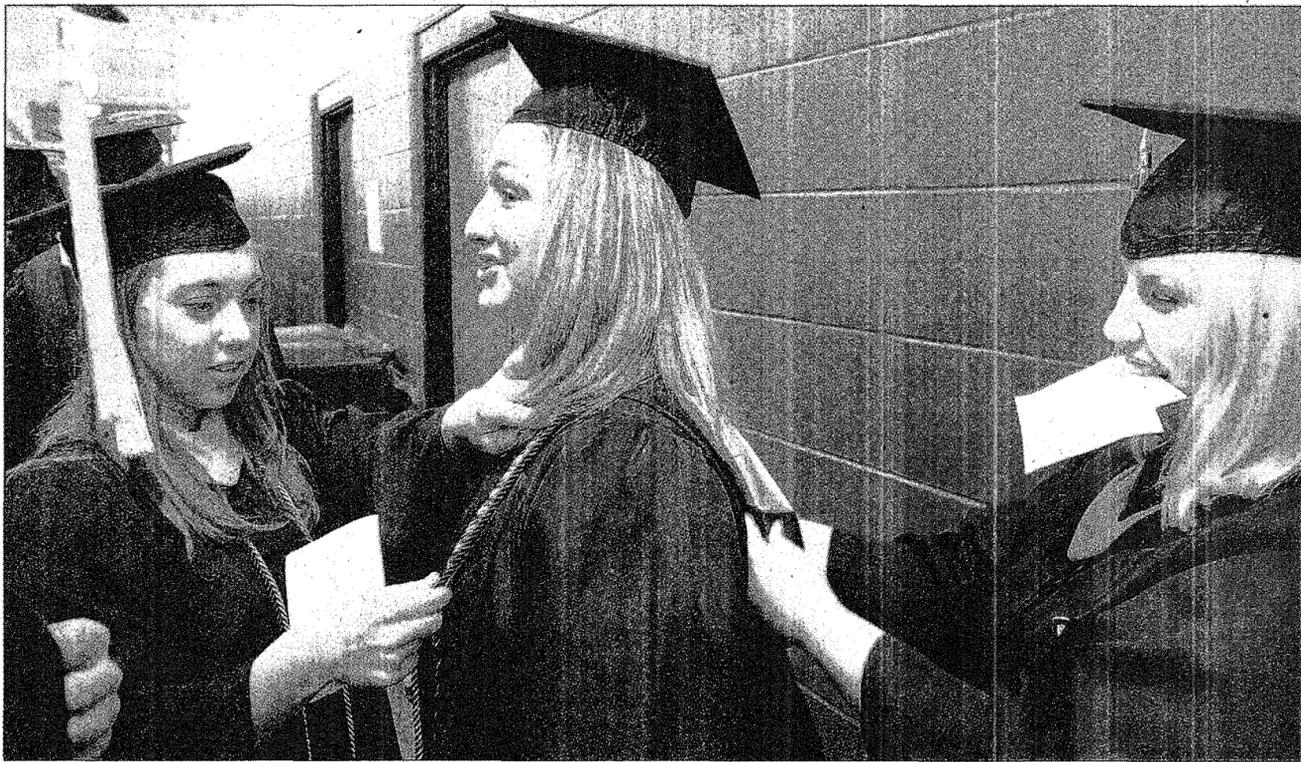
Nearly 765 students received bachelor's or associate's degrees, with the remainder earning a master's degree.

Honorary doctorate degrees were awarded to C. David Campbell, president of the McGregor Fund, and Lu Hongjun, president of Shanghai Institute of International Finance. The Distinguished Alumna Award was presented to Sister Marie Ann Stamm, professor of religious studies.

Presiding over the 63rd commencement ceremony was Madonna University Provost and Vice President for Academic Administration Ernest I. Nolan.

As part of commencement, all graduates and their families were invited to a Graduation Mass April 29, at the Felician Chapel, in Livonia where Archbishop Allen Vigneron, Archdiocese of Detroit, served as celebrant. A reception hosted by Sister Rose Marie Kujawa was held in the University Center dining room immediately following the Mass.

Madonna University is an independent, coeducational, Catholic liberal arts university sponsored by the Felician Sisters of Livonia.



Sarah Tupacz and Victoria Giesler of Canton help Heather Lacaria of Livonia, get ready for the processional.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



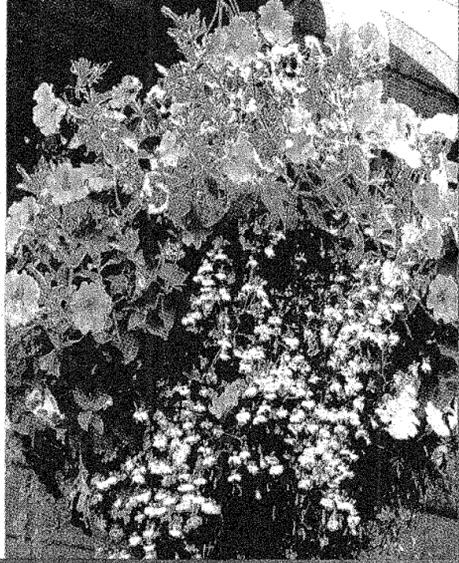
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'Finally': Habitat women help build her first home

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Each time Michele Story and her family moved into a different rental home, she recalls a request from her young daughter to paint the walls.

Story will be able to paint and decorate however she likes after her newly constructed home is ready in July. Her home is the first of three new construction homes on Donnelly that are being constructed by Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County.

"The most exciting thing is that I will finally be a homeowner. I thought I would always be Section 8 (federal housing assistance)," said Story. "We were always moving due to the landlords wanting too much money or not doing what they were supposed to do. I'm a homeowner, finally."

On Thursday, Story was on hand for the ceremonial ground-breaking for her new four-bedroom home and to help raise the walls along with the largely female contingent on hand for Habitat Women Build Week.

Along with making a down payment on their Habitat home, buyers in the program have to put in 250 hours of sweat equity although not necessarily on their own homes. Before the walls went up on her home, Story had already worked 100 hours on homes for others.

"When I first went and painted, it was the first time. One of the crew leaders had to show me what to do. It was a rebuild," said Story, a single mother of five children and night shift cleaner at The Henry Ford for 10 years.

Among the women volunteering at the Donnelly house were sisters Sherri and Laurie Karol of Canton. This was the first Habitat home Sherri Karol had worked on, joining her sister who is a veteran volunteer.

"My aim is to bring as many people as I can to help. My sister is with me," said Laurie Karol, who works at a substitute teacher in school districts including Wayne-Westland.

The sisters were donating their time in honor of their late father Rodney Karol, a mechanic who had been mov-



Alice Dent, executive director Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne, introduced Michele Storey, who will be the owner of the new home on Donnelly.

ing into construction. Sherri Karol got emotional talking about the Habitat for Humanity program.

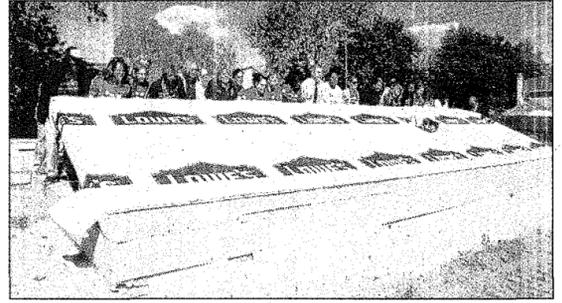
"I wanted to do something with my sister. We'd built a couple of homes with our father. This is a tribute to him using a skill he taught us for good," said Sherri Karol. "It's been great. It makes me want to cry thinking of people who need homes and things that we take for granted. It's really humbling."

Habitat for Humanity began more than 30 years ago as a

faith-based organizations committed to eliminating poverty housing, said Alice Dent, executive director of the western Wayne organization.

Under an agreement with Westland, Habitat will rehabilitate or newly construct seven homes. On Donnelly, the city acquired a foreclosed blighted home which was demolished and its large lot divided into three new building sites.

"We're continuing this wonderful partnership. We're not only celebrating Women Build



Volunteers including Westland Mayor William Wild lift the first wall at new construction home being built by Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne home on Donnelly.

Week but also affordable housing in Westland," said Mayor William Wild. "One of my first questions with the (federal) Neighborhood Stabilization Program was if we could use it with Habitat for Humanity. That was our first contract under NSP."

Noting one of the goals of Women Build was to encourage women to take an interest in the construction trades, Wild said he was sure women of Westland would not disappoint.

A sponsor of the program, Lowe's has committed \$20 million of support to Habitat for Humanity over five years, Dent said.

"People have a misconception

— we don't give houses away. We give hand up, not a hand out," said Dent, noting Habitat provides a 20-year interest free mortgage to the applicants who meet the home ownership criteria. "There were \$6.5 million in property taxes paid on Habitat homes in the last year in Michigan."

Once Women Build Week is over today, volunteers will continue working on the home under the supervision of crew leader mainly on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity, call (734) 414-0324.

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Wayne-Westland accepts schools of choice requests

Wayne-Westland Community Schools will begin accepting applications Monday, May 10, from non-resident families for Intra-County Schools of Choice for kindergarten through the fourth-grade for 2010-2011 school year.

Applications will be accepted through Aug. 23, at the district's Administrative Offices at 36745 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, in Westland. Applications are available to download by clicking on the district website at www.wwcsd.net/intra-county-schools-of-choice/ and clicking

on Intra-County Schools of Choice application link under Resources. There also is a Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on the same page.

The district will have 11 K-4 schools for the 2010-2011 school year, providing up-to-date technology and resource centers. It also is offering all-day kindergarten in every K-4 school which have achieved Adequate Yearly Progress under the U.S. Department of Education's No Child Left Behind Act.

For more information, call the school district at (734) 419-2083.

Library closed

Westland's William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, will be closed on today (Sunday) in observance of Mother's Day. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, May 10.

Plant exchange

On Saturday, May 15, the Westland Garden Club will host their Spring Plant Exchange 9 a.m. to noon at the park. Club members maintain the plantings at the Historic Village Park, located at 857 N. Wayne Road.

For information about the plant exchange, call Jo at (734) 522-3918 or Maureen at (734) 728-1232.

Used book sale

The Friends of the William P. Faust Library of Westland will hold a used book sale

Thursday-Sunday, May 13-15, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford, Westland.

Thursday will feature a preview for friends members from 3- to 7 p.m. People can join the group to take advantage of the early shopping.

The sale will open to the public on Friday, May 14. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Saturday will feature a Go Green \$6 Bag Sale, \$6.00. Shoppers must bring their own brown paper grocery bag or comparable-sized reusable bag to participate. Sunday will feature a Bag Day Sale for \$4. Regular prices are \$1 for hardcover books, DVDs and CDs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, 25 cents for small paperbacks, videos, cassettes and records

and 10 cents for magazines. A green reusable Friends bag also will be available for \$2. Money raised from the sale helps fund programs at the library for all ages.

Coffee Hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, May 10, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Citizens are welcome to visit with LeBlanc and discuss issues and/or concerns. The local coffee hour takes place on the second Monday of each month.

LeBlanc also invites residents to join him and Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt for refreshments and an informal fireside chat 6-8 p.m. Monday, May 10, at the library.

Residents who have any comments or concerns, can also contact LeBlanc toll-free at (888) 737-5325 or at (517)-373-2576 or send an e-mail to richardleblanc@house.mi.gov.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will hold local coffee hours in Westland and Redford on Monday, April 12. 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 toll-free at (866) 262-7306; or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Memorial Day

The annual Memorial Day ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday, May 31. The ceremony will take place on the front lawn of Garden City Hall.

This year's guest speaker is LTC David Hayes of the U.S. Army's 177th Military Police Brigade. Pastor Bob McDonald from Fair Haven Baptist Church will conduct the invocation and benediction.

Lunch will be served at the American Legion Hall on Middlebelt, north of Warren Road, after the ceremony.

Any organization that wants

to present a wreath should contact Margo Ciecierski (734) 793-1660.

Blood pressure check

Senior citizens can get their blood pressure checked free of charge at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 19, the Maplewood Community Center, located on Maplewood, just west of Merriman.

The staff of Garden City Hospital's Community Services offers blood pressure testing, free of charge, on a bi-weekly basis to senior citizens at the center. For more information, call (734) 458-4330.

Blood Drive

Garden City Middle School is holding an American Red Cross Blood Drive 2-6 p.m. Thursday, May 20, in the gymnasium. To sign up for a blood donation appointment, go online to www.redcrossblood.org and use the code GCBulldogs.

For more information, call Assistant Principal Larry Conn at (734) 762-8400.

Book donations

The Friends of the Garden City Library are accepting books, videos, CDs, DVDs and cassettes in good condition for

their upcoming Slightly Used Book Sale. Materials can be dropped off at the library inside the Maplewood Community Center during open hours.

Residents who have heavy boxes can go in the library and ask for a book cart. Receipts also are available for tax purposes. A partial state income tax credit is allowed for donations to a public library.

The Friends of the Garden City Public Library is a non-profit organization that gives financial support to the library and its programs. Membership starts at \$5 and applications are available at the library.

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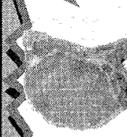
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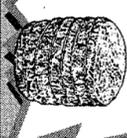
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Saying goodbye to Ernie

Westland man is first to bid adieu to 'an incredible man'

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For 54-year-old Bud Somerville, the trip to Comerica Park Thursday was to say goodbye to a baseball icon ... and a friend.

The Westland resident had met Ernie Harwell so many times over the years, that the late Harwell called him by his first name.

"He was an incredible man," said Somerville. "When he was at the stadium, he was there walking around, coming up to people and talking to them like they were his neighbors and friends. If the whole world acted like Ernie Harwell, there would be no problems."

Somerville was among thousands of Detroit Tiger fans who filed past Harwell's casket while he was in state at the ballpark just a few feet from a life-sized statue of the Hall of Fame broadcaster. Harwell died Tuesday of cancer at age 92.

Somerville had headed to the stadium Wednesday night and expected to see a crowd when he



Among Bud Somerville's favorite photos is this autographed snapshot of himself and his son David, who was seven years old, and Ernie Harwell.

arrived around 11:30 p.m. Instead, Somerville became somewhat of a celebrity among the news media. He was the first person to line up and wait for gates to open at 7 a.m. Thursday.

"I wanted to make sure I would be able to see him, I wanted to be there," he said. "It was important to me. There was no way I could not go."

He spent the wee hours of the morning sharing stories with other fans who showed up as well as being interviewed by members of the Detroit print and television

media as well as journalists from such cities as Grand Rapids, Flint, Saginaw, Toledo and even Boston.

"I started to tell everyone I never wanted to be first again," Somerville said of his newfound notoriety.

Somerville first met up with Harwell in the 1960s at the old Tiger Stadium. He shook his hand and got an autograph. After about



Bud Somerville had a smile for Channel 4 report Paula Tutman, but the smiles turned to tears when he saw the Ernie Harwell's casket brought into Comerica Park Thursday.

the 15th time of meeting him, Harwell started calling him by name.

His fondest memory is getting the opportunity to sit in Harwell's chair in the broadcast booth. Somerville and his family were invited by the Tigers to the game just before his son, Ryan,

who was in the Air Force, left for Saudi Arabia. They were on the field during warm-ups, meeting the team when Harwell and fellow Tigers broadcaster Jim Price walked out of the dugout and onto the field to talk to the family.

"Ernie and Jim told us, 'When you're done, come up to the press

box,'" Somerville recalled. "We couldn't wait for batting practice to be over."

The family went to the press box to see Harwell's view of the stadium. Somerville told the veteran broadcaster that he was right, he did have "the greatest seat in baseball."

"Ernie said, 'But you're not sitting in it,'" Somerville said. "I sat in it and held the microphone. It was incredible. He did have the greatest seat in baseball."

Somerville also recalls being at the Tigers tribute to Ernie Harwell in September and hearing his farewell speech. He calls Harwell's brief statement a "modern day version of Lou Gehrig's speech."

Somerville has a portion of his basement "man cave" devoted to Ernie Harwell, with many of his pictures of him and with him framed and ready to hang on the wall. He admits he will miss the man.

"I'm glad I went," he said. "The Tigers outdid themselves for Ernie. They did a tremendous job."

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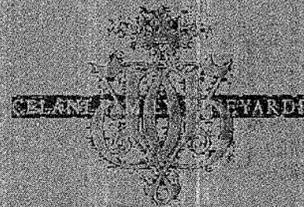
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No pushovers

State runner-up Blazers off to 11-2 softball start

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Ladywood, last year's state finalist in Division 2 girls softball, has only two blemishes on its record so far this season — both courtesy of the Catholic League's Central Division.

The Blazers are off to an 11-2 start overall and are 6-2 in the Central, but find themselves a game out of first place behind 7-1 Farmington Hills Mercy after splitting a double-header on Tuesday against visiting Birmingham Marian.

Ladywood sophomore All-State pitcher Briana Combs racked up 30 strikeouts on the day and allowed just one hit over 14 innings, but Marian came away with a split by winning the nightcap, 1-0, after losing 9-0 in the opener.

Marian scored an unearned run in the sixth after two runners reached base on strikeouts followed by a passed ball.

Rachel Burtka, who got the start in Game Two, allowed just two hits to pick up the victory.

"We hit four balls right in front of the fence — we probably have the biggest park around — bigger than most college fields," Ladywood coach Scott Combs said.

In the opener, Ladywood had a total of 17 hits with Jenny Rohn, Alys Gietl and Julie Bushart each collecting three and driving in two runs apiece. Gina Sykes added two hits in the win.

Combs, a right-hander, tossed her 10th no-hitter of her career, missing a perfect game after hitting a Marian batter in the first inning. She had a total of 17 strikeouts.

Last weekend, the Blazers got in only two games at the Michigan Stars Tournament in Sterling Heights at Liberty Park because of rain. They won their pool by defeating Walled Lake Central, 2-1, in 10 innings, and St. Clair Shores Lakeview, 3-0.

On April 30, Combs and Mercy ace Casey Nieto matched pitch-for-pitch in a Central Division double-header. Both threw for Scott Combs on his



Ladywood's Christina Butkiewicz puts her bat on the ball during last week's double-header against Bloomfield Hills Marian.

Compuware summer league team.

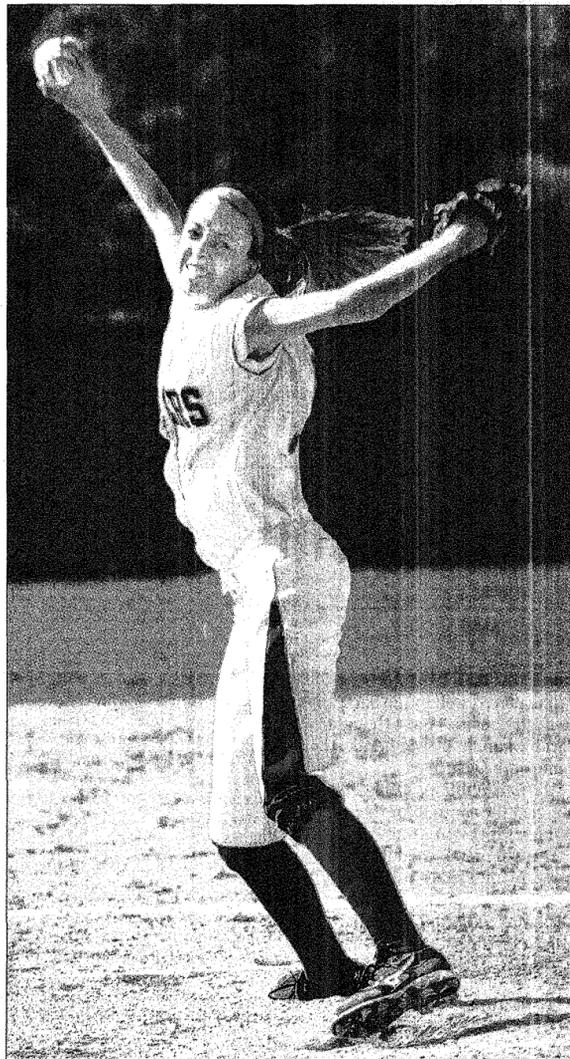
Nieto, a sophomore, struck out 15 and allowed just two hits as the Marlins scored twice in the top of the eighth to take the opener, 2-0.

Combs fanned 13 in the loss, but responded to her first loss of the year 3-hit shutout to go along with eight Ks in the nightcap as Ladywood earned a 3-0 victory.

"People are coming after us and we'll be seeing all the number one pitchers," Scott Combs said. "But we're where we want to be playing a tough schedule because it can only help us when we get to the state tourney."

Ladywood, however, got in only one game because of rain in the Mattawan Tournament (April 24). The Blazers defeated Niles Brandywine, but never got the chance to take on the host Wildcats, ranked No. 2 in Division 1.

"We've had nine games rained out so far," Scott Combs said. "Right now we're just trying to any find teams to play because we're hitting the heavy part of our schedule."



Ladywood sophomore pitcher Briana Combs racked up 30 total strikeouts, allowed just one hit and hit another batter over 14 innings, but the Blazers settled for a split last week with Marian.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SIDELINES

Haeger adds pair

Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger announced the signing of two players for next season including Ryan Lech, a middle infielder from L'Anse Creuse North, and Paul Lobur, an infielder-catcher from Madison Heights Lamphere.

"We are fortunate in that we only lose five seniors from this year's team and unlike in past seasons where we may have had to go out and get a ton of kids, we can be selective with this year's class and bring in kids that will make an impact for us quickly," Haeger said.

As a junior, Lech batted .400 with 23 RBI and 12 doubles. He also won five games on the mound with a 1.64 earned run average en route to All-District honors. He is a two-time All-Academic selection and helped his Anchor Bay Angels capture the 16-and-under USSSA state title in 2008.

Lobur is a four-year varsity player and two-time All-Macomb Area Conference Gold Division pick.

Shoulder surgery limited Lobur to just 15 games as a junior, but a .471 average and 14 RBI earned him All-District honors. This past fall Lobur earned second-team All-MAC honors in football. He is also a member of the nationally ranked South Oakland A's travel program.

Blazers burn Irish

Junior Alexa Burns had five goals and four assists, while senior Gaby Meyer added three goals and three assists Wednesday as Livonia Ladywood rolled to a Catholic League girls lacrosse victory at Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard.

The Blazers improved to 6-4 overall, while Gabriel Richard falls to 1-8.

Sophomore Rana Freij and junior Lauren Perugi faced a total of 16 shots and combined for 10 saves in net for the victorious Blazers.

WYAA Pony reunion

The Westland Youth Athletic Association will stage its opening day ceremonies at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 15, at Marshall Middle School. The WYAA plans to honor the members of the 1990 Pony State Championship team during those ceremonies.

If you were a team member or coach of that team, visit www.wyaa.org or call Keith DeMolay at (734) 516-9269.

Patriot golf outing

The ninth annual Patriot Club Golf Outing, a four-person scramble to support Livonia Franklin High athletics, will be Sunday, May 16, at Tanglewood Golf Club, 53503 10 Mile Road, South Lyon.

The cost is \$100 per golfer (\$30 for dinner only).

Registration starts at noon (free range balls available) followed by a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

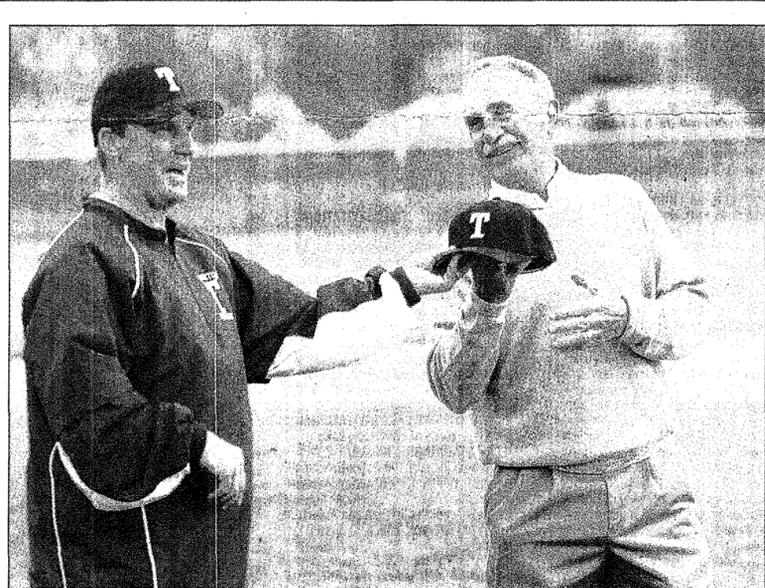
Included in the cost is 18 holes (with cart), steak dinner, door prizes, numerous contests, along with sponsor prizes.

For more information, call Ron Hammye at (734) 744-2655.

April Fools Ace

This was no April Fools joke.

On April 1, Livonian Donald Lynch, 59, used a 9-iron to ace the 129-yard, No. 4 hole at Mystic Creek (Meadows Course) in Milford.



OBSERVER STAFF PHOTO

Hats off to Emil

Current baseball coach Bob Snell (left) gives Emil Majeski a Thurston baseball cap during Friday's field dedication. The retired coach and longtime Livonia resident guided the Eagles to the state Class B baseball championship in 1984. See story on B4 or visit www.hometownlife.com

Minch homer propels MU in WHAC tourney

Down to its final strike of the game, the No. 23-ranked Madonna University softball team got a dramatic 2-run homer from sophomore Hallie Minch in the top of the seventh inning to rally from a 5-0 deficit to claim a 6-5 win over second-seed Davenport University on Thursday night in Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference playoffs at Bailey Park.

The Crusaders, who beat Indiana Tech earlier in the day, 5-1, advance to Monday's championship game in Battle Creek. They will await the winner between Davenport and University of Michigan-Dearborn. (Game time is 2 p.m. at Bailey Park with a second game, if necessary, immediately following.)

Against Davenport (45-15), MU trailed 5-0 after four innings before mounting a

comeback with one run in the fifth, three more in the sixth and two in the seventh.

Minch and Arielle Cox each collected two hits in the victory. Brittney Scero, Ashley Shay, Kelly Lesko and Cox also drove in runs.

Winning pitcher Jess Irwin (27-4) overcame a sluggish start to pick up the win. She struck out 12, walked four and allowed five earned runs on six hits.

Heather Brusokas went 2-for-3 with a pair of homers, her 11th and 12th of the year, to go along with five RBI for the Panthers.

In the first game, Irwin went all seven innings, allowing eight hits and one walk in the victory over Indiana Tech (35-22).

Tara LaMilza, who homered, and Shay each had two hits and two RBI in the victory.

Rally caps: Hawks soar to comeback win over PCA

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A five-run seventh inning Thursday gave Huron Valley Lutheran an 11-7 win over host Plymouth Christian Academy to pretty much clinch the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division baseball title.

But PCA coach Joe Bottorff said the way the Hawks have rallied to defeat his team in the late innings for the second time in a week will only crank up the motivation dial if the teams meet in the postseason.

"Unfortunately it probably means the conference for them (Hawks) since they're undefeated and we have two losses," said Bottorff following the contest. "We still have second place to play for. ... We still have the districts."

"These guys are in our district and we might get another shot at 'em and if we can do it then that would be pretty sweet."

The winning rally, fueled by back-to-back RBI singles by Bryan Gruenewald (4-for-5, 2 RBI) and Shawn Schaffer (2-for-4, 3 RBI),

started with a leadoff walk to Tyler Waganan.

But the key play was a pop up in foul territory that PCA catcher Dan Slater lost in the sky and couldn't track.

Had Slater squeezed the foul, there would have been two outs and three on base. Instead, Alex Harris walked to score the first run of the frame, making it 7-7. "Our catcher didn't get a lot of communication from his pitcher (on the pop up)," Bottorff said. "He was saying 'Where is it?' but no one was telling him. Hey, Ethan (Walker) almost made another great play from first base, he almost got it."

As it was, Walker had a superb game, doubling off the fence for two runs in the first and hammering a homer over the centerfield fence in the fifth to give PCA a 7-6 edge. It was Walker's first fence-clearing blast of the season.

"Ethan had a great game," Bottorff said. "As an individual effort you can't ask for more."

Walker also started the game on the mound, but needed to be

relieved in the fourth after a single by Gruenewald knotted the score at 5-5.

According to Hawks coach Matt Schaeve, whose team improved to 8-1 overall and 7-0 in the MIAC Red, it is gratifying to see how his team never gives up in any game.

"The last couple games we've had to play from behind and we just stuck with it," Schaeve said. "They've done a real good job."

About the leadoff walk jump-starting the deciding seventh, the coach noted that his team seems to have the mindset needed for comeback victories.

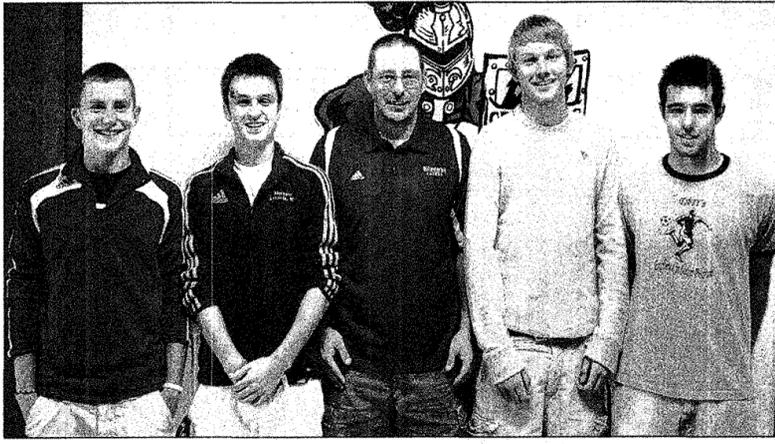
"I think they're thankful they have a second chance and they try to make the most of it," Schaeve said.

PCA (4-8, 4-2) got off to a quick, 3-0 lead thanks to a string of four hits in the first against Hawks starting pitcher Schaffer.

Dan Slater singled and stole second and scored on a ground-rule double by Matt Dodson — who went 4-for-4 on the day.

Please see **BASEBALL, B4**

Huron Valley Lutheran's Alex Harris makes contact in Thursday's MIAC Red Division victory over Plymouth Christian Academy.



Crusaders' new recruits

Rookie Madonna University men's soccer coach Eric Scott (middle) recently announced the signing of four new players to NIAA National Letters of Intent...

Ladywood romps with 'New Kid on the Block'

BY BRAD EMONS OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Both Livonia Ladywood girls soccer coach Ken Shingledecker and his sophomore forward Kelly Capoccia delivered on Thursday.

Just before the Catholic League Central Division matchup with visiting Warren Regina, Shingledecker and his wife Nikki gave birth their second good luck charm, Lucas Gerard Shingledecker.

Capoccia, meanwhile, delivered on the field, scoring all four goals as the Blazers posted a 4-0 victory.

"I'm extremely pleased with how we bounced back from the (Bloomfield Hills) Marian game," said Shingledecker, referring to Tuesday's 6-2 loss to the state-ranked Mustangs.

Three of Capoccia's goals came in the first half off assists from Paige Brennan (sixth minute), Shea McParlane (10th) and Dominique Sarnecky (32nd).

GIRLS SOCCER

Sarnecky then assisted on Capoccia's fourth goal in the 58th minute.

Maddie Reed had to make just two saves to post the shutout for the Blazers, who improved to 5-3-4 overall and 3-2-4 in the Central.

Taylor Marchin had five stops for the Saddlelites, who fall to 4-5-2 overall and 2-4-2 in the division.

LUTH. NORTH 3, CLARENCEVILLE 0: Goals by Courtney Kottenko, Abbey Meisel and Alaina Brouckaert carried host Macomb Lutheran North (6-3-1, 3-1) to a Metro Conference victory over visiting Livonia Clarenceville (3-5-1, 2-2).

Goalkeeper Katie Tucker made three saves en route to the shutout for the Mustangs.

LUTHERAN N'WEST 2, LUTH. WESTLAND 0: In a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference match Wednesday, Red leader Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest improved to 4-0 in the division with a victory over host Lutheran High Westland (2-5-2, 2-3-1).

Taylor Wiemer stood out in the field, while Angela Morrison turned in an outstanding effort in goal for the Warriors, according to coach Sara Schafer.

GIRLS TRACK RESULTS

DUAL MEET RESULTS LIVONIA FRANKLIN 87 CANTON 50

May 4 at Canton Franklin 1sts: Meghan Lark, pole vault (9 feet); Jen Mueller, long jump (15-9.5); Savannah Haig, shot put (30-9); discus (96-0); Seneca Scott, 100-meter hurdles (16.5); 300 hurdles (48.3); Megan McPherson, 800 (2:22.8, breaks school record); 1,600 (5:38.0); Jessica Thomas, 200 (28.3); 800 relay (Scott, Natalie Modes, Mueller, Kathryn Chinavare), 1:53.1; 400 relay (Jackie Lane, Modes, Mueller, Chinavare), 5:31.2; 800 relay (Liz Holloway, high jump (4-10); Modes, long jump (15-5.5); Nicole Price, shot put (29-9); discus (87-0); Mueller, 100 hurdles (17.9); Chinavare, 100 (13.4); 200 (28.4); Mallory Church, 400 (1:05.6); 3rds: Colleen Gallagher, pole vault (6-0); Ashley Gruden, shot put (25.5.5); Brittany Milican, discus (82-3); Thomas, 100 (13.4); Megan Wickens, 1,600 (5:53.8); Kelly O'Brien, 300 hurdles (52.4); Dominique Jordan, 800 (2:42.6); Madeline Herman, 3,200 (13:37.6).

Dual meet records: Franklin, 3-1 overall, 3-1 KLAASouth Division; Canton, 1-3 overall, 1-3 KLAASouth.

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 70 PLYMOUTH 67

May 4 at John Glenn John Glenn 1sts: Aubrie Scott, long jump (15 feet, 4.5 inches); Tyjia Carson-Calloway, high jump (4-8); Andrea Gordon-McClain, shot put (32-10); E'Aijsha Guster, 100-meter dash (12.59); Abbey Wright, 1,600 (5:50.95); Stephany Brown, 400 (1:00.36); 800 (2:31.6); Eber Ogboaku, 300 hurdles (52.46); 400 relay (Guster, Rheana Allen, Brandy Jackson, Scott), 51.48.

Dual meet records: John Glenn, 2-2 overall, 2-2 KLAASouth Division; Plymouth, 2-2 overall, 2-2 KLAASouth.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL 118 WAYNE MEMORIAL 19

May 4 at Churchill Churchill 1sts: Miller, shot put (31 feet, 8.5 inches); Maleske, discus (100-0); Cochran, high jump (4-11); Heinzelman, long jump (14-8.5); Krueztzman, pole vault (8-6); Fedrigo, 100-meter hurdles (19.61); Okechukwu, 1,600 (6:18.9); 3,200 (14:231.7); Kelly, 400 (1:02.3); Jarvis, 300 hurdles (51.5); Azar, 200 (2:50.6); 3,200 relay (Jenna Szuba, Azar, Okechukwu, Zoski), 11:32.3; 800 relay (Kelly, Crossman, Jarvis, Heinzelman), 1:48.7; 400 relay (Crossman, Heinzelman, Catalano, Cochran), 52.4; 1,600 relay (Dusablon, Julia Szuba, Jarvis, Van Amberg); 2nds: Ling, shot put (31.65); Norscia, discus (96-7); McDonnell, high jump (4-11); Julia Szuba, long jump (13-8.25); Tomala, pole vault (8-6); McCall, 100 hurdles (19.63); 300 hurdles (55.7); Heinzelman, 100 (12.97); Azar, 1,600 (6:19.8); Dusablon, 400 (1:06.9); Jenna Szuba, 800 (2:52.2); 3rds: Eshelman, shot put (29-5.5); Bartig, discus (95-9); Pomrenke, pole vault 97-0; Farnstrom, 100 hurdles (19.65); 300 hurdles (58.3); Kelly, 200 (27.6); Zoski, 3,200 (15:32.4).

Wayne 1sts: Woods, 100 (12.7); 200 (26.0); 2nds: Long, 200 (27.5); Lopez, 3,200 (15:16.6); 3rds: Lalita, high jump (4-3); Long, long jump (12-6.5); Safford, 800 (3:17.9).

Dual meet records: Churchill, 4-0 overall, 4-0 KLAASouth Division; Wayne, 0-4 overall, 0-4 KLAASouth.

NOVI 83, LIVONIA STEVENSON 55

May 4 at Novi Stevenson 1sts: 3,200-meter relay (Carleigh Gallagher, Brenna Gabrielson, Nicole Collins, Sam Hamill), 10:32.1; Victoria Sefarian, 1,600 (5:40.8); Becky Adamcheck, 400 (59.7); 1,600 relay (Adamcheck, Stephanie Batshon, Jordan Verleye, Gabrielson), 4:18.9; Jade Burkett, discus (90 feet, 1 inch); Bridget Koessler, high jump (4-11); 2nds: Verleye, 400 (1:04.9); long jump (15-0.75); Gallagher, 800 (2:33.6); Sefarian, 3,200 (13:01.0); Kayla Branton, discus (88-8); Monika Rudis, high jump (4-9); Alex Kitts, pole vault (9-0); 3rds: Erin Erickson, 200 (28.9); Kallyn Klaff, shot put (28-3); Marci Kovsky, high jump (4-9).

Dual meet records: Novi, 4-0 overall, 4-0 KLAACentral Division; Stevenson, 1-3 overall, 1-3 KLAACentral.

FARMINGTON LILLY MERCY 85.5 LIVONIA LADYWOOD 42.5

May 4 at Mercy Ladywood 1sts: Megan Yanik, 100-meter hurdles (15.7); 300 hurdles (45.3); 100 dash (13.1); Teresa Wojnarowski, discus (106-4); Meredith Houska, 1,600 (5:43.8); Megan Vitale, 800 (2:24.3); 1,600 relay (4:13.0).

Ladywood's dual meet record: 1-3 overall, 1-3 Catholic League (Central Division).

MIAC JAMBOREE

May 4 at Lutheran Westland TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Lutheran Westland, 219; 2. Birmingham Roeper, 58; 3. Plymouth Christian, 56; 4. Newport Lutheran South, 51; 5. Auburn Hills Oakland Christian, 48; 6. Westland Huron Valley Lutheran, 10.

Lutheran Westland 1sts: Emilie Freeman, high jump (5 feet); Rachel Storck, pole vault (7-0); Alyssa Shirkey, discus (93-5); Nicole Zehel, 3,200-meter run (12:42.3); 400 relay (Megan Lohn, Marcella Flury, Beth LaRose), 58.95; 800 relay (Alyssa Flury, Erin Hardin, Amanda Terranella, Freeman), 1:56.4; 3,200 relay (Sarah Maynard, Erin Lyle, Brittany Maynard, Jess Rice), 11:29.5.

Lutheran Westland's dual meet record: 15-0 overall.

WEST BLOOMFIELD INVITATIONAL

May 1 at West Bloomfield TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Rochester, 83; 2. Lake Orion, 74; 3. (tie) Livonia Churchill, 44.3; 4. Northville, 44 each; 5. Monroe, 29.3; 6. Troy, 29; 14. Livonia Stevenson, 8.6.

Churchill 1sts: Sara Kroll, 1,600-meter run, 4:56.0 (school record); Senclair McDonnell, high jump, 5-0; 3rds: Taylor Byron, shot put, 36-2; Kerrigan Riley, 3,200, 11:40.4; Lindsey Krueztzman, pole vault, 8-6; 4ths: Bethany Pilat, 3,200, 11:52.5; 5ths: 1,600 relay, 4:16.6; 6ths: (tie) Ashley Cochran, high jump, 4-9.

WHITMORE LAKE INVITATIONAL

May 1 at Whitmore Lake TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Milan, 170; 2. Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard, 109; 3. South Lyon, 106; 4. Lutheran Westland, 85; 5. Adrian Madison, 76; 6. Whitmore Lake, 35; 7. Michigan Collegiate, 23; 8. (tie) Plymouth Christian and Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes, 9 each; 10. Detroit Community, 2.

Lutheran Westland 2nds: Emilie Freeman, high jump (4 feet, 11 inches); Alyssa Shirkey, discus (103-0); Nicole Zehel, 1,600-meter run (5:36.6); 800 (2:32.5); 3rds: Rachel Storck, 100 hurdles (18.9); 4ths: Storck, high jump (4-7); 1,600 relay (Freeman, Alyssa Flury, Amanda Terranella, Zehel), 4:31.1; 5ths: Terranella, 300 hurdles (52.7); Freeman, 400 (1:04.9); Erin Lyle, 3,200 (13:20.7); 800 relay (A. Flury, Erin Hardin, Terranella, Freeman), 2:28.2; 6ths: Shirkey, shot put (26-11); Hardin, long jump (14-0); Storck, 300 hurdles (53.8); Terranella, 100 hurdles (18.4); Sarah Maynard, 3,200 (14:15.3); 400 relay (Megan Lohn, Marcella Flury, Schwartz, A. Flury), 56.7.

0-0 tie suits Churchill coach

Livonia Churchill girls soccer coach Dave Hebestreit came away encouraged despite a 0-0 deadlock Thursday with host Plymouth.

"It was a tie, but it was a step in the right direction," said Hebestreit, whose team is 3-6-1 overall and 3-2-1 in the KLAASouth Division. "We played well for 80 minutes and it was really a team effort. Everyone out there did a little more than what they've been doing. We've gone back to some basic stuff and maybe we've righted the ship."

The Chargers had potential game-winning goal off a corner kick disallowed because of goalkeeper interference in the box.

Churchill, missing two starters because of injury, allowed just one shot on goalkeeper Kaylie Secord the entire game.

The Chargers had five corner kicks to Plymouth's two.

"Kelsey Rothermel was a difference maker at center back and Megan McDonald,

KLAASOCCER

who didn't feel well before the game, played well in the back," Hebestreit said. "And I thought Sarah Bauman played her best game of the year."

Marissa Williams also notched the shutout for the Wildcats (6-1-4, 4-0-2).

The Chargers' scheduled game 7 p.m. Friday at Walled Lake Western was postponed until May 21 because of lightning and storms.

NOVI 2, STEVENSON 0: An "own goal" was all that the state-ranked Wildcats (7-1-2, 5-0-1) needed Thursday to beat Livonia Stevenson (5-4-2, 2-4) in a KLAACentral Division clash.

"The goal came 30 seconds into the game, it hit off the knee of one of our defenders and inside the far post," Stevenson first-year coach Chris Grodzicki said.

Novi tallied its second goal in the 55th minute.

"We played well when we were down 2-0 and that's unfortunate,"

Grodzicki said. "But when we were down 1-0 we did not fight. We're not scoring goals against good teams. That's 'Soccer 101' when you're not competitive."

Stevenson's Michelle Krawczyk made four saves, while Novi's Gabby Gauruder posted the shutout.

JOHN GLENN 2, FRANKLIN 1: Jenna Williams came back from injury to score a pair of first-half goals Thursday as Westland John Glenn (3-6-2, 1-3-2) downed KLAASouth Division foe Livonia Franklin (0-11-1, 0-5-1).

Devin Lombard and Alejandra Zarate each assisted on the goals by Williams.

Andee Samborski was in goal for the Rockets. Her shutout bid was spoiled in the second half on a goal by the Patriots' Alejandra Mesa.

Franklin goalkeeper Lexi Smith made nine saves. The Patriots also received "aggressive and smart play" from freshman Natalie Desataul, according to coach Dean Kowalski.

CANTON 8, WAYNE 0: In a KLAASouth Division match Thursday, the first-place Chiefs (7-1-3, 5-0-1) rolled to an eight-goal mercy rule win over Wayne Memorial (2-8-1, 1-4-1).

'Have A Ball' Summer League NOW FORMING! Each bowler has option of receiving a new ball when league is paid in full! TOWN 'n' COUNTRY LANES WESTLAND 9 PIN NO TAP FRIDAY NIGHTS - 10:30 pm Doubles & Singles • Leagues Start Week of May 10th

20/20/20 DAYS PRIZES \$20,000 SPONSORED BY PNC 20-DAY GIVEAWAY FOR 20 GREAT SEASONS ENTER AT PALACENET.COM Prizes awarded daily through May 22. All entries will be registered to win the grand prize of \$20,000! Visit palacenet.com for daily prizes, contest details and rules.

THE WEEK AHEAD PREP BASEBALL Monday, May 10 Churchill at Novi, 4 p.m. Franklin at Northville, 4 p.m. Plymouth at Stevenson, 4 p.m. John Glenn at Salem, 4 p.m. Wayne at South Lyon, 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 11 Oak. Christian at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 12 Canton at Churchill (2), 4 p.m. John Glenn at Franklin (2), 4 p.m. S.L. East at Stevenson (2), 4 p.m. Wayne at Plymouth (2), 4 p.m. Thursday, May 13 Luth. Westland at S'field Christian, 4:30 p.m. (Metro Conference Playoffs) Clarenceville at Cranbrook, 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 14 W.L. Western at John Glenn (2), 4 p.m. Wayne at W.L. Northern (2), 6 p.m. Luth. Westland at Willow Run, 4 p.m. Huron Valley at Taylor Baptist, 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 15 (all double-headers unless noted) Huron Valley at Ypsi Calvary, 10 a.m. (Livonia City Tourney at Ford Field) Stevenson vs. Franklin, 10 a.m. Clarenceville vs. Stevenson, noon. Championship final, 2 p.m. Consolation final at Franklin, 2 p.m. GIRLS SOFTBALL Monday, May 10 Churchill at Novi, 4 p.m. Franklin at Northville (2), 4 p.m. Plymouth at Stevenson, 4 p.m. John Glenn at Salem, 4 p.m. Wayne at South Lyon, 4 p.m. Luth. North at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 11 Ladywood at Mercy (2), 4 p.m. Ply. Christian at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m. Luth. Westland at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 12 Canton at Churchill (2), 4 p.m. John Glenn at Franklin (2), 4 p.m. S.L. East at Stevenson (2), 4 p.m. Wayne at Plymouth (2), 4 p.m. Clarenceville at Harper Wds., 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 13 Luth. Westland at McC. Christian, 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 14 Churchill at Farmington (2), 4 p.m. W.L. Western at John Glenn (2), 4 p.m. Ladywood at Warren Regina (2), 4 p.m. Cranbrook at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m. Taylor Baptist at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 15 (all double-headers unless noted) (Livonia City Tourney at Ford Field) Churchill vs. Clarenceville, 10 a.m. Franklin vs. Stevenson, noon. Championship final, 2 p.m. Consolation final at Franklin, 2 p.m. GIRLS SOCCER Monday, May 10 Redford Union at Wayne, 4 p.m. S.L. East at Clarenceville, 5 p.m. Ladywood at Royal Oak, 7 p.m. Franklin at Chubbuck, 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 11 Luth. Westland at Birm. Roeper, 4:30 p.m. Plymouth at Wayne, 4 p.m. Garden City at Clarenceville, 5 p.m. John Glenn at Canton, 7 p.m. Northville at Stevenson, 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 12 Luth. Westland at Luth. South, 4:15 p.m. Thursday, May 13 Churchill at Wayne, 4 p.m. Plymouth at John Glenn, 4 p.m. Franklin at Canton, 7 p.m. Stevenson at South Lyon, 7 p.m. Friday, May 14 Lakeland at John Glenn, 4 p.m. Country Day at Stevenson, 5:30 p.m. Luth. Westland at Redford Union, 5:30 p.m. (Metro Conference Playoffs) Clarenceville at Lutheran North, 6 p.m. BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD Tuesday, May 11 Franklin at Canton, 3:30 p.m. Canton at Churchill, 3:45 p.m. John Glenn at Wayne, 3:45 p.m. S.L. East at Stevenson, 4 p.m. Clarenceville at Lutheran North, 4:30 p.m. MIAC Jamboree at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 13 Redford Union at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 14 Kensington Conf. Meet at Novi, 3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 15 River Rat Relays at A.A. Huron, 9:30 a.m. Warrior Inv. at Luth. Westland, 9:30 a.m. BOYS GOLF Monday, May 10 W. Wayne Inv. at Walnut Creek, 11 a.m. John Glenn vs. Canton at The Woodlands, 3 p.m. Wayne vs. Plymouth at Fox Hills G.C., 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 11 Stevenson vs. Northville at Fox Creek G.C., 3 p.m. Wednesday, May 12 Churchill vs. Wayne. John Glenn vs. Plymouth at The Woodlands, 3 p.m. Franklin vs. Canton at Idyl Wild G.C., 3 p.m. Stevenson vs. South Lyon at Coyote G.C., 3 p.m. Friday, May 14 Wayne County Inv. at Dearborn C.C., 9 a.m. Saturday, May 15 MIAC Tourney at Lutheran N'west, TBA. GIRLS TENNIS Monday, May 10 Ladywood vs. Notre Dame Prep at Schoolcraft College, 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 11 Northville at Churchill, 4 p.m. Stevenson at Wayne, 4 p.m. South Lyon at John Glenn, 4 p.m. S.L. East at Franklin, 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 12 Ladywood vs. F.H. Harrison at Schoolcraft College, 4 p.m. Thursday, May 13 Garden City at Franklin, 4 p.m. Friday, May 14 Wayne at Redford Union, 4 p.m. Saturday, May 15 Kensington Conf. Tourney at Novi, 9 a.m. Catholic League Tourney, TBA. MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL Monday, May 10 (WHAC Playoffs) Hitch Ballpark) Madonna vs. Concordia, 10 a.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL Monday, May 10 (WHAC Final at Battle Creek's Bailey Pk.) Madonna vs. UM-Dearborn-Davenport winner, 2 p.m. If necessary, 4 p.m. TBA - time to be announced. BOYS GOLF RESULTS LIVONIA STEVENSON 154 NOVI 163 May 5 at Walnut Creek G.C. Stevenson scorers: Dante Cicchelli, 35 (medalist); Christian Debay, 39; Adam Giordano and Tom Cullum, 40 each; Drew Mossioan, 42; Adam Laporte, 49. Novi scorers: Tyler Manning, 36; Sam Palmer, 37; Jason Carless, 43; Brad Kozinski, 44; Kyle Edwards and Johnny Walker, 45 each. Dual match records: Stevenson, 3-3 overall, 3-3 KLAACentral Division; Novi, 2-4 overall, 2-4 KLAACentral. PLYMOUTH 149 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 157 May 5 at Fox Hills (Woodlands) Plymouths scorers: Kyle Rodes, Josh Heinze, Ryan Bauer, 37 each (tri-medalists); James Bryans, 38; Ryan Rirckhoff, 39; Justin Bauer, 42. Dual match records: Plymouth, 4-0 overall, 4-0 KLAASouth Division; Churchill, 3-3 overall, 3-3 KLAASouth.

Back-to-back gems lift Chargers

Livonia Churchill upped its girls softball record to 14-6 overall with a double-header sweep Wednesday of host Wayne Memorial.

The Chargers, who improved to 6-2 in the KLAAs South Division, took the opener, 10-0, as Natalie Hiser pitched a two-hitter while fanning 12.

Andrea and Abby Jewell each collected two hits for the Chargers. Maggie McGowan also walked twice and scored a run.

Shelby Hooper and Edina Whittenberg had the only hits for Wayne.

In the second game, Missy Sidor struck out 13 and allowed only one hit to earn the 8-0 shutout.

Mackenzie Everson contributed three of Churchill's 10 hits and drove in a pair of runs.

Sidor also collected two hits. Tani Kenyon had the lone hit for the Zebras, who fell to 0-8 in the KLAAs South.

CANTON 10-11, FRANKLIN 0-8, KLAAs South Division leader Canton (14-0,

KLAAs SOFTBALL

8-0) completed its sweep of visiting Livonia Franklin (13-8, 2-6) in the nightcap of a twinbill by scoring three runs in the top of the eighth.

Alyssa Boucher came on in relief of starter Amy Dunleavy to get the victory.

Franklin collected 11 hits led by Nicole Emery's fencing clearing 3-run homer off Dunleavy to knot the game at 8-all.

Freshman Maggie Leins and freshman Afton DeWyse each had two hits in the loss. Bailee Keese added a 2-run single.

Sophomore Tiffany Lamble (9-7) took the loss, allowing five earned runs on 12 hits and two walks.

Franklin committed five errors in the setback.

Canton won the opener in a five-inning mercy, 10-0, as Dunleavy fired a 2-hitter. She struck out 10, walked one and hit two batters.

Emery and Keese each doubled in the loss.

Lamble took the loss before giving way to Nicole Williamson in the fifth inning. The Patriot duo gave up a total of 15 hits, but only six runs were earned.

STEVENSON 11-6, NOVI 3-8: In a

KLAAs Central Division encounter Wednesday, visiting Livonia Stevenson (15-9, 4-4) and the host Wildcats (4-7, 2-6) divided a double-header.

Stevenson took the opener, 11-3, with a 13-hit attack led by Katie Bone's 3-for-4 effort with two runs scored.

Shelbie Wilson added two hits and two RBI, while winning pitcher Jacqueline Johnson and Nina Bonanno each contributed two hits and one RBI.

Johnson went all seven innings, allowing six hits and no walks.

Novi starter Rebecca Richter, who gave up six runs on seven hits and two walks in five innings, suffered the loss.

Maddy Sinkovich had two hits for the Wildcats.

Taylor Scott went 4-for-4 with a pair of doubles, while Sinkovich added three hits, including two more doubles, in an 8-3 Novi triumph in Game Two.

Becca Zarras and Wilson each had two hits for the Spartans, who committed four errors.

Richter scattered eight hits over seven innings to earn the victory, while Johnson was charged with all eight runs on 18 hits to go along with six strikeouts.

On Monday, Canton's Amy Dunleavy hurled a no-hitter and CarolAnne Sexauer went 2-for-4 in a 6-0 victory over the visiting Spartans.

Back in business

Schurig's shutout gives Rockets 1st baseball win

Westland John Glenn baseball scorekeeper Keith DeMolay may have summed it up best.

"There is Joy in Mudville" today," he said following the Rockets' 4-0 victory Wednesday over visiting Plymouth to snap a 14-game losing streak in the nightcap of a KLAAs South Division double-header.

Rob Schurig pitched a complete-game 2-hitter to pick up the victory. He struck out five and walked only two.

Glenn, which now stands 1-14 overall and 1-11 in the division, scored all four runs in the fourth inning thanks to RBI singles by Andrew McGrath, Spencer Dowd, Caleb Clenney and Schurig.

Shane Anderson, who started the 4-run rally with a triple, went 2-for-3 and scored what proved to be the game-winning run off Plymouth starter Andy Dodge.

Plymouth (11-9, 4-7) captured the first game of the twinbill, 6-1, behind the 5-hit pitching of Mike Nadratowski. The Plymouth starter went six innings, fanning four and walking only two.

Rich Gugliemi went 2-for-4 with a double and RBI to lead the Wildcats, while Matt Priebe also drove in a run.

Glenn starter Colton Lipinski gave up four runs on three hits and two walks in 4.1 innings.

Schurig knocked in the lone run for the Rockets.

CHURCHILL 9-4, WAYNE 4-5: In a KLAAs South Division double-header Wednesday, Livonia Churchill (12-7,

KLAAs BASEBALL

8-4) took both ends against host Wayne Memorial (5-10, 4-8).

Churchill won the opener, 9-4, as Ben Matigian and Joe Williams each collected two hits and knocked in two runs. Drew Loudon also went 2-for-3 and scored twice for the Chargers, who out-hit Wayne 10-8.

Winning pitcher Steve Hovemale went the first five innings, allowing four runs on seven hits and six walks. Reliever Tad Evans finished up with a pair of scoreless innings.

Tyler McCurry, who went 1.1 innings in relief of starter Zach Lloyd, took the loss.

Shane Kommer and Shane Wilson each had two hits for the Zebras.

In the second game, which was called after six innings because of darkness, Matigian went the distance to pick up the victory. He scattered nine hits, walked two and fanned two.

Wayne starter Jake White, who gave up 10 runs on nine hits and four walks in four innings, took the loss.

Hovemale led Churchill's 13-hit attack going 2-for-3, including a 3-run homer in the fourth inning. He finished with four RBI.

Sean Servalish added two hits, two RBI and scored three times, while Williams doubled twice and knocked in a run.

Lance Gentry and Kommer each had two hits for Wayne, while Wilson added two RBI, including a solo homer in the first inning.

CANTON 8-5, FRANKLIN 3-1: KLAAs South Division leader and state-ranked Canton (15-3, 10-2) received a pair of complete games on the mound Wednesday in a double-header sweep of visiting Livonia

Franklin (8-11, 4-8).

Ben Staley went all seven innings in the opener, limiting the Patriots to five hits and striking out eight in a 8-3 Canton win. He did not allow a walk, but hit two batters.

Joel Trudell, the losing pitcher, went six innings, allowing five earned runs on six hits and five walks. He was the victim of four Patriot errors.

Joe Galanty had 2-run triple and Andrew Tidwell went 3-for-3 to pace the Chiefs.

Jack Chinavare and Steven Wells each had RBI triples for the Patriots.

In the nightcap, Tidwell allowed just three hits over seven innings and struck out 10 in a 5-1 Canton triumph.

Tidwell walked only one in going the distance.

Seth Tschetter paced Canton's 8-hit attack with a pair of doubles, RBI and two runs scored.

Chinavare, the losing pitcher, collected two of Franklin's three hits. He also went all seven innings on the mound, allowing five earned runs and walking five.

NOVI 11, STEVENSON 1: In a battle for first place Wednesday in the KLAAs Central Division, the state-ranked Wildcats (14-4, 9-2) got a grand slam from catcher Nick Regnier to win the opener of a double-header against visiting Livonia Stevenson (15-3, 8-3).

Regnier's blast came in the third inning of the six-inning mercy. He finished with two hits along with teammates Kevin Zak and Mason Nogami.

Jeff Sorenson had the lone RBI for the Spartans, who entered the week ranked No. 3 statewide in Division 1.

The second game, meanwhile, was suspended by darkness in the top of the seventh with the teams tied at 10-all. The game will be resumed at 4 p.m. Thursday at Novi.

Clarenceville surges by Zebras for win

Livonia Clarenceville posted another signature baseball win Thursday, rallying for seven runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to defeat visiting Wayne Memorial, 10-7.

The Trojans, enjoying their best season in years, improved to 12-10 overall.

The sixth-inning comeback started when the Trojans cut the deficit to 7-5 on back-to-back RBI singles by Damien Quarles and Jimmy Moody. Eric Trotter then followed with a 2-run single to tie it.

After a walk to Ben Gehan, Matt Kurdziel came through with a bases loaded 2-run single to put the Trojans ahead to stay. Gehan then scored an insurance run on a wild throw to third base while advancing on a wild pitch.

Gehan, the winning also had an RBI double and RBI single (along with Dan Schiffman).

PREP BASEBALL

Gehan came on to pitch two scoreless innings in relief of starter Damien Quarles to give the Trojans their sixth straight win.

Shane Kommer took the loss for the Zebras (5-11).

LUTH. WESTLAND 14, LIGGETT 5: On Thursday, Lutheran High Westland (11-4, 7-1) overcame six errors with a 13-hit attack to beat host Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett (10-5, 5-3) in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division game.

Gage Flaney paced the potent offense going 4-for-5 with a double, RBI and three runs scored.

The Warriors put it away with a 10-run third inning to take a 13-3 lead and chase Liggett starter Joseph Simon.

Other offensive standouts for Lutheran Westland included Tony Cipolla (3-for-5, two runs); Marc Rosin (2-for-5, three RBI); Taurrek

Fikes (2-for-4, two RBI, three runs); Jake Andrezejewski (2-run single) and winning pitcher Austin Baglow (RBI double).

Baglow allowed just five hits, walked six, hit one batter and struck out four in six innings.

CLARENCEVILLE 10, OAK PARK 4: Mike Schiffman let his bat and his arm do all the talking Wednesday, propelling host Livonia Clarenceville (11-10) to non-conference win over Oak Park.

Schiffman, the winning pitcher, gave up two earned runs on just four hits over six innings. He struck out 12 before giving way to reliever Jimmy Moody, who came on in the seventh inning to strike out the side as the Trojans improved to 11-10 overall.

Schiffman also did his part at the plate, going 3-for-4 with a triple, double and three RBI.

Eric Trotter also added three hits, including a 3-run triple in the fourth inning. Damien Quarles also added an RBI double in the fifth. Other runs batted in went to Dan Schiffman and Matt Kurdziel.

Crusaders tie win mark in sweep

The No. 11-ranked Madonna University baseball team tied the program record for victories in a season on Thursday with a sweep of Rochester College.

MU, now 43-7 overall, took the opener, 7-0, before completing the sweep with a 5-4 walk-off win in the nightcap at Ilitch Ballpark to close out the 2010 regular season.

MU's 43 wins this season ties the 1993 squad for the most victories in school history. The Crusaders have now posted 30 or more wins in the last seven seasons and the 43 triumphs are the most since the 2005 team registered 40.

Dan Harder's RBI single scored

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Steve Pelletier in the bottom of the seventh to complete the sweep.

Harder went 2-for-2, while Mike Gansser added two hits and an RBI.

MU used fourth pitchers with Kyle Bolton going the final two innings to improve to 8-0 overall.

In the first game, MU racked up 13 hits as lead-off man Ted Toune went 3-for-3, including his ninth homer of the season, to go along with two RBI.

Jeff Bultinck went 2-for-4 with three RBI, while Spencer Sarel

contributed two hits.

The Crusaders used three pitchers - John Ballarin, Jeremy Gooding and Sam Haldane - to combine for the 6-hit shutout.

Ballarin went the first three innings followed by Gooding, who went the next three to improve to 8-1 on the year.

The two combined for eight strikeouts and no walks.

Rochester falls to 16-31 overall.

MU, winners of its last 23-of-26 games, will open the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference play-offs beginning at 10 a.m. Monday against Concordia University at Ilitch Ballpark.



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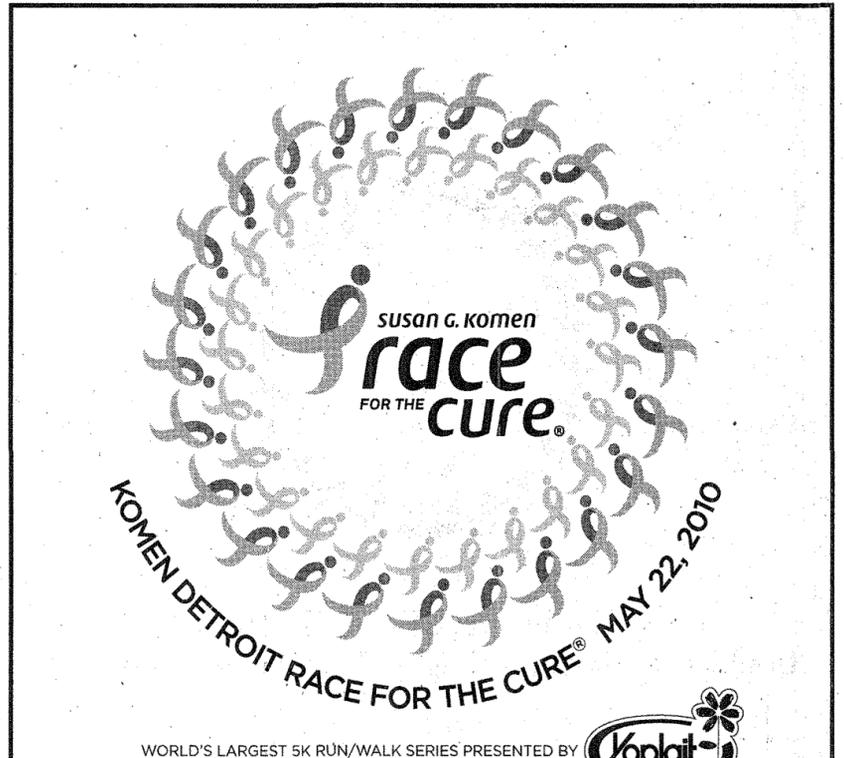
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GIRLS TENNIS RESULTS

WHITE LAKE LAKELAND 5 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 4
No. 1 singles: Paige Fallu (LC) defeated Rachel Adriansen, 6-3, 1-6, 6-1; No. 2: Balilee Mahayak (L) def. Nicole Kruse, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; No. 3: Malysa Herbert (L) def. Ani Cooper, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6; No. 4: Lindsey Seabastiel (L) def. Mara Karagozian, 7-5, 6-7, 6-1.

GRAND BLANC 9 LIVONIA CHURCHILL 0
No. 1 singles: Sabrina Dass (GB) defeated Paige Fallu, 6-1, 6-0; No. 2: Mycki Kujaczski (GB) def. Nicole Kruse, 6-0, 6-0; No. 3: Ruchi Ahluwalia (GB) def. Ani Cooper, 6-0, 6-2; No. 4: Angali Hannan (GB) def. Mara Karagozian, 6-0, 6-0.

WESTLAK JOHN GLENN 4 GARDEN CITY 4
No. 1 singles: Jessica Gemeund (GC) defeated Latina Yacks, 6-2, 6-2; No. 2: Christina Dork (GC) def. Sabrina Lawrence, 6-2, 7-5; No. 3: Louissa Villaroman (WJG) def. Mallarie Gainer, 6-1, 6-3; No. 4: Jamatha Johnson (WJG) def. Briann Yankasky, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

Welcome to Majeski Field
Thurston baseball diamond renamed to honor longtime coach

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER
The baseball field at Redford Thurston High School received a name change Friday afternoon and this time corporate America was not involved.

In the age of ballparks and arenas renamed in deals with the business world, Thurston turned to one of its own by honoring the legendary Emil Majeski — who coached in one capacity or another from the moment he arrived on the scene in 1963 until his retirement in 1999 — with the renaming of the baseball diamond behind the school as Majeski Field.

“This is quite an honor,” the legendary Majeski said following a ceremony which saw dozens of former players, school administrators, family and friends join the celebration. “I never expected any of this. All those years, I just enjoyed coaching. I enjoyed coaching the kids because they were receptive to coaching. They were good baseball players and I always had the best seat in the house to watch outstanding kids play baseball.”

players, but was always so easy to work with that it was almost as if working independently.”

Majeski, who resides in Livonia, said his love for baseball began at a very early age. Growing up in a tiny town some five miles outside Port Austin in Michigan's Thumb area, Majeski would arrive home after completing chores on his parents' farm and often would find his mother glued to the radio listening to the broadcast of Detroit Tiger games.

“I really wanted them to win every game,” Majeski said. “I never got the chance to play Little League, but when I got to high school I played baseball and then I got the chance to play a little again when I went into the service stationed at Fort Devens (Mass.).”

From there, Majeski went on to Eastern Michigan University, where he suited up for the Hurons football team from 1959-61. After teaching one year at Willow Run High School, Majeski made his way to Redford, where he would start out as an assistant football coach before taking over head coaching duties with the baseball team.

“He was an awesome coach,” said John Hoffmeyer, a 1996 Thurston grad, who along with his twin brother Arthur felt honored to be in attendance for their old coach. “Coach was very into fundamentals. Even as I was talking with him just five minutes ago, he was still preaching fundamentals to me. He really took us under his wing as a baseball coach, and golf coach, and took care of us on and off the field.”

“When we had class with him and, as soon as we got in, if we brought up baseball we were free all day,” Arthur continued. “He would talk baseball all day. He was a great coach and my brother and I are here for that reason.”

When told of the Hoffmeyers' presence, Majeski had plenty of praise for them as well. “Those twins won the regional title for us in '96,” Majeski recalled. “Art was a first team all-stater as a pitcher and John was a great catcher. They made it fun for all of us and were real competitors.”

“There were certainly plenty of memorable baseball seasons under Majeski's guidance, none more so than the 1984 campaign in which the Eagles brought home the Class B state championship. In fact, that crowning achievement remains the only state championship of any kind in school history.

“We were considered a Cinderella team that year because we were only a 15-5, 15-6 team going into the districts,” said Majeski, who in 1991 was inducted into the Michigan Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. “We won a lot of one-run games and then faced Wyoming Park, ranked No. 1 in the state all year, in the finals. We went out and played the perfect game and beat them 2-1.”

According to Dr. Linda Hicks, superintendent for the South Redford School District, honoring Majeski originated through idle conversation among individuals who had high regard for him.

“Everybody thought it would be a great way to show appreciation for his commitment and dedication to the students and the community,” Hicks said. “Look around here at all the support. And for somebody to even come here from Atlanta, Georgia, to be a part of this says a lot for him.”

BASEBALL

FROM PAGE B1

Following with a single was Jon Slater and Walker bashed a two-run double off the fence in left to make it 3-0. But Huron Valley scored four runs in the fourth for a 4-3 edge. A rising liner off the bat of Andy Barber (2-for-5) sailed over the head of PCA center-fielder Josh Johnston for two of those runs.

ing the fourth and fifth, as the Eagles held serve. In the fourth, Dodson doubled to left-center to score a run and make it 6-5. An error — one of five committed by PCA — tied the game at 6-6 in the fifth but Walker's home run off Huron Valley reliever (and winning pitcher) Barber restored the one-run lead for the Eagles. That's how the game remained until the fateful seventh. “They got a couple guys on, strung some base hits together,” said Bottorff, about the winning surge. “Every hit they got the louder their dugout got, it builds.” Facing a huge deficit in the

bottom of the seventh, leadoff hitter Walker tried to stoke a PCA rally with a shot to the gap in left-center. But Huron Valley center-fielder Ivan Bell flagged the ball down to dampen PCA's hopes. The Hawks as a group played much stronger defense than the home team did. “We've been pretty good on defense the whole year, they've really got their heads in the game and they're thinking what play could come next,” Schaewe said. “We've got pretty good speed in the outfield and so I'm really happy with what they did.”

Majeski entered the South Redford School District as a teacher at Thurston High in 1963. Through is tenure, which concluded 36 years later, Majeski taught business, coached football, golf and, most notably, baseball. “Who better to get this honor than coach Majeski?” asked Thurston Athletic Director Al Chambo, who was instrumental in the dedication process. “Baseball was his baby and he took care of this place (the diamond) like it was his front yard. Being an A.D. as many years as I have, everybody has a complaint about a coach. But you never heard that about Emil. “It's pretty amazing,” Chambo added. “He dealt with all kinds of kids, didn't necessarily get the best

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NEIGHBORS

Not bugged by acting: Seniors prove they've 'still got it' on stage

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Joanna McKay hadn't performed since high school when she joined a community theater troupe a few years ago.

But at 73, the Canton woman, like the other actors in Still Got It Players, possessed life experience, a plus when developing characters for the stage.

"You're never too old. Whatever dreams you have, as long as you have the fortitude to move around, you can do anything you want," said McKay, now 76.

That enthusiasm and life experience sets senior actors apart from the pack, says Debbie Lannen, who directs Still Got It Players, a performance group for age 50 and up.

"They're a unique group to direct. What's nice is they do have experiences that are totally different from kids. They've been through it," Lannen said. "When one of the characters says he enlisted in the army in 1965 and another (mentions) Vietnam, of course these guys remember that. They lived through it."

Lannen, former performing arts coordinator for Novi and a seasoned director, convinced Spotlight Players in Canton to take the Still Got It Players under its wing last year. The troupe's first show was in August 2009. It's gearing up for its second production, a set of four one-act plays, Wednesday-Saturday, May 12-15 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill,



"Dinner Plans" features Pat Watson, (left) Madeline Carpenter, Bella Glenn, and Caroline Zamarka.

Canton. Show times are 1 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday, 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, 19-59; \$13 for seniors, 60 and up and students under 19; and \$12 per ticket for groups of 15 or more. They're available by phone at (734) 394-5460, online at www.canton-mi.org/village theater, or at the door.

The one-act plays are *How to Marry the Minister*, *Dinner Plans*, *The Committee* and *At Half Time*.

"They are hilarious," Lannen

said. She selects plays that both an older audience and senior cast will enjoy.

"Choosing a play can be hard — just the actual logistics of being on stage. The last time around we had them on a platform, but they were used to working on a flat floor. We had one lady in her 80s, we had to make sure we had a stage hand there to help her down."

Working with elderly actors requires some adjustment in staging, as well as the performance material. Lannen prefers shorter plays because the

material is easier to memorize.

"The first one we did last year went off very well. The seniors who auditioned and were involved loved it. Most came back and re-auditioned this time."

"It's a new concept. Whenever there's a senior group in the area, they seem to do musical revues and the senior might only be in one or two numbers in a two-hour show. We went with acting. This way, they have more to do in an actual production. We might do a full length play at



Lanna Collins, (left) Lee Thomas and Robin Hoover rehearse "How To Marry the Minister."

some time, but if we do we'll stick to a farce."

McKay, who plays a "grouchy" member of a senior women's basketball league in *At Half Time*, said she loves keeping active and is involved in everything from playing cards to Wii bowling to the Red Hat Society. Family and friends will watch her perform this week, like they did last year. She also performed with the now defunct senior troupe at the Summit in Canton for a few seasons.

She said "the thrill of being on stage and having a big family so a lot of people are there" compels her to continue acting. She loves hearing grandchildren say "Do it again, Grandma."

Tom Strock, 70, also of Canton, worked with the Summit senior players for a few years before joining both Still Got It Players and the Spotlight

Players. Before that he'd acted in high school plays.

"I thought it was nice to portray different characters when I was in high school so long ago. I always thought, watching films on TV, it's kind of neat being an actor. They are able to play different characters and remember lines. I thought it's a wonderful profession," said Strock, who worked in the insurance industry for 31 years.

He portrays a man eager to join a senior housing complex in *The Committee* this week and plans to continue acting.

"It's enjoyable to take on a new role and meet up with people you've known from other productions."

To learn more about auditioning for a Still Got It Players show, visit www.spotlightplayersmi.org and click on Still Got It.

Livonia actors perform reader's theater

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Patti Wachtel promises that "everyone will recognize themselves" in the humorous readings her cast of senior actors will perform Friday, May 14 in Livonia.

Diva and Drama Queens, the Livonia Civic Park Senior drama group, will read three short comedies, including "Ladies at Lunch" which offers a mix of recognizable characters from "the whiner" to the perfectionist.

The free Reader's Theater performance starts at 1 p.m. and runs about a half hour at the senior center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Reserve a spot by calling (734) 466-2555.

Wachtel, a recreation director at the center, selected reader's theater scripts that are written specifically for a senior cast and audience.

"I was new to the center last year and wanted to add programs. I added creative writing and I threw it (reader's theater) out there to see if they'd jump at

it. And they did," said Wachtel, who has experience in community theater.

The cast, which ranges in age from "late 50s" to 91, is costumed and uses props.

"We carry the script and have action," Wachtel explained. "I have two men and six women. One man came to bring his friend for the play and he was going to sit and read while she

practiced, but he read twice and he was hooked.

"It's really neat because they are bonding as a group. They practice one day a week for about an hour and a half. It's different from community theatre where you're practicing every night."

As of last week, 50 friends and family members had signed up to see the show.

Wachtel said the group will take the summer off and tackle new reader's scripts in September for a fall performance.

Activities, including Diva and Drama Queens, at the Civic Park Senior Center are open to all seniors. There are no residency requirements. Center hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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CURRENT TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Doctors treating rheumatoid arthritis have an usually large number of therapeutic choices. Over fourteen drugs fit into the class called Disease Modifying Anti Rheumatic Drugs (DMARDs) that is, medications with the ability to halt the arthritis.

Experience shows that two medications - methotrexate and a drug from the Anti-TNF group - form the combination most likely to stop rheumatoid related inflammation.

The problems with using methotrexate + an Anti-TNF are twofold. One is the possible side effects. They include susceptibility to tuberculosis, gastritis, possible increase in the risk of cancer, particularly lymphoma, hepatitis, rash, mouth sores, and an increased change of developing spinal cord conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis.

The second problem is the cost. Methotrexate is inexpensive, a three month supply of the injectable form is \$34. Unfortunately, the Anti-TNF runs between \$1500-\$2200 a month, or nearly \$24,000 a year. Patient assistance programs exist to help patients with inadequate funds and/or health insurance policies insufficient to carry the expense. However, these assistance programs have limits on what they offer.

Furthermore, the physician must monitor the methotrexate and Anti-TNF combination by laboratory tests on a four week basis. This surveillance brings added expense. Finally, the requirement that the patient see the doctor on a monthly basis carries a cost that cannot be ignored even if it cannot be calculated.

Until medical science develops good therapy that also includes low cost with less risk, doctors must direct treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in a narrow line between side effects and expense.

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MILESTONES



Helen Slivka is surrounded by her great-grandchildren. Jordyn Barnes of Plymouth is pictured left and Brook Dolkowski of Canton, right. Gathered behind her are Alexys Kraus (left), Courtney Dolkowski, Brittany Dolkowski, Justin Dolkowski, Aaron Dolkowski, holding Jake Barnes of Plymouth, and Troy Dolkowski, all of Canton.

CELEBRATING WITH FAMILY

Helen Slivka of Dearborn Heights celebrated her 95th birthday, Dec. 25, 2009, with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her daughters are Patricia Kraus and Nancy Dolkowski, both of Canton.

"She considers herself very lucky and loves them all," Dolkowski said, adding that the nine great-grandchildren range in age from 21 to 2 1/2.

JUNE WEDDING PLANNED

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Horton of Plymouth are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer, to Michael Maurer, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Maurer of Plymouth.

Both Jennifer and Michael are Plymouth-Canton Educational Park graduates. Jennifer graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in special education and teaches at Tonda Elementary School in Canton. Michael also graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in business



Horton-Maurer

hospitality and works for US Foodservice.

A June 2011 wedding is planned.

OCTOBER WEDDING PLANNED

Alison Barney and Eric Sadi announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of John and Karen Barney of Farmington Hills, is a Harrison High School graduate. She attended Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I., and earned a bachelor's degree in fashion merchandising from Laboratory Institute of Merchandising in New York City, N.Y.

She currently is product development manager at Jones Apparel Group in New York City.

Her fiancé, son of Michael and Meg Sadi of Greenwich, Conn., earned a bachelor's



Barney-Sadi

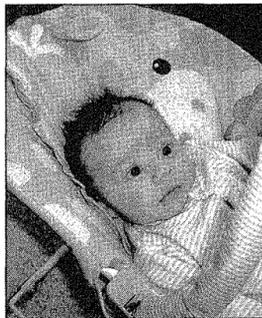
degree in communications and is working on his MBA at University of Connecticut. He is assistant vice president of leasing at Simon Property Group in New York City.

An October 2010 wedding is planned in Monroe, Conn.

COLIN DAVID SARNS

Colin David Sarns was born March 16, 2010, at University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Proud parents are David and Bianca Sarns of Westland. Grandparents are Ron and Maryann Baase of Willis Township and Russ and Judy Sarns of Livonia. Mariam Mackinder of Novi is Colin's great-grandmother.



Colin David Sarns

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com

NATIVE PLANTS

Carol Clements, Nankin Mills naturalist, will point out native Michigan plants, including those that have a special attraction for butterflies, during the next meeting of the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association, 7 p.m., May 19, at Nankin Mills, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. Wear appropriate clothing. Parking on Hines Drive. and Ann Arbor Trail. \$3.00 for non-members. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com.

GARDEN WALK

Visit six gardens with soothing waterfalls and ponds, unique art and ornamentation, and a diverse array of magnificent plants, trees, and shrubs at the Ann Arbor Garden Walk, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., June 12. Tickets for the 20th annual event are on sale at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, among other locations. They cost \$12 for adults, and \$3 for students K-12. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the Walk at any of the gardens, at a cost of \$15 per adult, and for \$3 students K-12. The ticket includes a map of the garden locations; participants can visit the gardens in any order and at their own pace. Descriptions of the featured gardens, and additional pictures, are online at www.annarbortfarmandgarden.org/events/garden-walk.

In Loving Memory

This Special Mother's Day!

Genaldine "Gennie" Ministrelli
May 30, 1927 - Feb. 12, 2010
You will always be our shining star. We love you and miss you every minute of everyday. Your unconditional love, hugs, kisses, laughter, beautiful smile, loving spirit and gentleness will be in our hearts and lives forever. Love, Hugs and Kisses, Your Loving Family XOXO

Jennie Christine Sandell
June 8, 1933 - November 15, 2009
Your family misses you greatly this Mother's Day along with each and every day that passes.
- Diane, Dennis, Ed, Joni and your loving husband, Bill.

Kay 'Marcenu' Dowd
Oct 26, 1948-Mar 15, 2005
We can't believe it has been 5 yrs since our Mom, Gram Gram and friend has been gone. We are forever saddened by the milestones she has missed & will continue to be absent from in this life. It hasn't been the same without you! We love & miss you MOM!!! Love, Brenda, Jack, Angie, Stacy, Mike, Danielle, Nate, Caden & Abby

Betty Sobkowiak
Aug. 29, 1935 - Aug. 31, 1995
You are in our hearts and memories everyday.
We Love and Miss You.
Your Loving husband John and children Deborah, Susan, Nancy, Judith, Robert, Patricia and Catherine

Gwyneth Pletzke
Aug. 8th, 2009
Happy Mother's Day Mom!
We miss you everyday!
Love Always,
Your Family

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DELOS F. (FRED) HAMLIN, JR.
82, of Pentwater, died unexpectedly in Venice, Florida on April 26, 2010. Fred was born on March 21, 1928 in Farmington, Michigan to Delos F. Hamlin, Sr. and Mildred E. (Hartz) Hamlin. After graduating from Farmington High School in 1945, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy for two years where he spent one year in office training at Colgate University in New York. He then attended and graduated from Michigan State University with a business degree in 1950. At the start of the Korean War, Fred enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as a First Lieutenant, was Squadron Adjutant with the 376th Bombardment Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, and graduated from flight school in 1952. On June 22, 1952, Fred married Patricia A. McCarthy in Fort Worth, Texas. He was then stationed in Japan where he flew B-24's during the Korean War. At the end of the war, Fred and Pat moved back to Farmington where he worked as a sporting goods salesman for a couple of years. In 1957, Fred took over the bowling business established by his father known as Farmington Lanes. For many years, Fred was instrumental in the growth and development of youth bowling when he established an after-school program where he taught thousands of elementary school children the sport of bowling. In 1969, Fred was named Proprietor of the Year in recognition for having the most sanctioned youth bowlers in the State of Michigan. It was also in 1969 that he, Pat and his five children discovered Pentwater during a family camping trip, purchased a cottage on Pentwater Lake and made it their summer home. In 1972, they joined the Pentwater Yacht Club and for several years Fred was head of their junior sailing program. Fred was also a member of the Pentwater Men's Service Club. In 1984, Fred retired from Farmington Lanes and made Pentwater his permanent home. Not one to sit idle, in 1987 he purchased another bowling center in Whitehall, Michigan until 1994. After 39 years together, Pat preceded Fred in death on November 22, 1991. He then married Mildred (Millie) Petersen on December 4, 1992. Fred took great pride in overseeing and managing the family's 1,900 acre deer camp, also established by his father, in Clare, Michigan. He was a passionate proponent of land, forest and wildlife management and conservation, and so that it would remain in its natural state in perpetuity, he placed the property with the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy. In recognition of his other conservation efforts, he was named Conservationist of the Year. He also enjoyed gardening, cooking, playing Bridge and reading. Fred will be greatly missed by his wife Millie; children Barbara (John) Manak of Hart, Robert (Cathy) Hamlin of Muskegon, James (Donna) Hamlin of Fowlerville, Linda Harris of Hartland, and Steven Hamlin of Muskegon; sisters Ruth (David) Clark of Muskegon and Jane (Tony) Byers of Catonsville, MD; grandchildren Michael and Amber Hamlin, Troy, Alex and Tricia Harris, Mark Wite and Miesha (Brian) Landers; great-grandchildren Christopher Hamlin, Allena Wite and Jackson and Sophia Landers; step-grandchildren Kristen Walter and Corey and Collin Bradford; stepsons Mike (Val) Petersen, Mark (Connie) Petersen and Marty Petersen; step great-grandchildren Mira Lee, Layne Brooks and Estella Petersen, and many other family members and friends. A memorial service for Fred will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. at the Centenary United Methodist Church in Pentwater with Father Sam Morrison officiating. Burial will take place at a later date in Clare.

CATHERINE M. ANDERSON (nee. RODRIGUEZ)
May 16, 1927-May 1, 2010 following a multiple year battle with brain cancer. A resident of Bloomfield Hills, Catherine was born and raised in New York City and was the first in her family to earn a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Queens College in New York. Shortly after graduation, Catherine pursued a career in actuarial services, working for a large insurance company in New York before relocating to Michigan with her husband, Robert Anderson. Shortly after their arrival in the Detroit area, Catherine focused her attention on the fashion industry, becoming a widely recognized runway model and commentator for more than four decades with credits in industrial and commercial films as well as broadcast media where she was regularly featured on a variety of programs. She was an accomplished swimmer and demonstrated interests and athletic abilities in a number of sports, including skiing, golf, flying and equestrian activities, which she shared and enjoyed with her family and friends. A classically trained dancer, singer and performance artist, Catherine continuously held a deep appreciation for the arts. She was a member of several arts organizations throughout Michigan and frequently volunteered her services at local and community theatres. She was also a member of the Red Hat Society. Wife of the late Robert S. Dear mother of Elise Anderson, Stephanie Clugston (William) and the late Patrice Retzlaff. Grandmother of William and Matthew Clugston. Services will be held privately. Family suggests memorial tributes to the American Cancer Society, A.J. Desmond & Sons 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

ISABEL ISHERWOOD
Age 95, Passed away May 3, 2010 at home in Garden City. She was preceded in death by loving husband, Edward. Beloved mother of May Rourke, James and Robert. Dear grandmother of Dennis & Kathy, and great-grandmother of Ashley & Bailey. The family would like to thank the caring staff of Angela Hospice. Private funeral services were held, with burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West. Please share a memory on the on-line guestbook at www.rgrharris.com.

LOIS MARTENS
Age 73, of Fulton and Gun Lake died January 27, From 1970-81, she resided in Livonia and was a member of Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church. She was graduated from Schoolcraft College in 1975 and the University of Michigan in 1980. Lois practiced as a registered nurse at Grace Northwest Hospital from 1975-81. Her survivors include her husband of 52 years, Ron, and three children, Alan Martens, Camille Subject and Nathan Martens. Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m on Sunday, May 23 at the First Presbyterian Church of Richland. Please visit: www.avinkrecreation.com for a complete obituary, share a memory or send condolences.

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

NATHAN LaMONICA
Age 39. Passed away suddenly on May 5, 2010. Beloved son of Samuel Jr (Debra) & Margaret. Dear brother to Samuel III (Theresa) & Lance (Maria) & step-sister Melanie. Proud uncle to Samuel IV (Wendy) & Daniel (Maggie). Special friend to Erin. Family will receive friends at Fred Wood Funeral Home, 36100 5 Mile Rd. Livonia, Monday 2-9pm. Funeral Service at Funeral Home Tuesday 11am. The family would appreciate donations to Michigan Humane Society or Rescue Group of choice. Please visit online guestbook fredwoodfuneralhome.com

STEPHEN R. MATHERS
Age 60, passed away April 4, 2010 at his home in St. Petersburg Florida. Loving Father of Stephanie, Kimberly and Benjamin Mathers. Beloved son of Robert and Shirley Mathers. Dearest brother of Michael Mathers (Annette), Cindy Smith (Brian) and Jeffery Mathers (Allyson). Dear uncle to one niece, three nephews and 6 great nieces and nephews. Dear friend of Pamela. Mr. Mathers, a longtime resident of the Detroit area, was a graduate of Michigan State University where he received a degree in mechanical engineering. Family will be receiving friends Saturday May 22, 2010 1-4pm with a Celebration of Life Service at 2pm, Walnut Creek Country Club, South Lyon, MI. Arrangements entrusted to Girrbach-Krasun Funeral Home (Southgate Chapel) 15748 Fort St.

MARJORIE A. HOAG
A long time resident of Redford Township and Livonia, passed away on March 24, 2010 in Boise Idaho. She was born September 21, 1928 in Detroit. She grew up mostly in Flint, Michigan and graduated from Flint Junior College. She went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in English from Wayne State University and a Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Michigan. She worked for 25 years in Detroit area libraries and was the head librarian in Dearborn Heights and Redford Township. She was preceded in death by her son David. She is survived by son Steve, daughter in law Lisa, sisters Susan Hammond and Carol Vargo, and brothers Herb Shubick and Bill Shubick. A memorial service will be held on May 15 at 1PM at Holy Cross Lutheran Church at 30650 Six Mile Road in Livonia. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, make donations to the Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society.

ELIZABETH J. HULL
Age 86, of Redford Twp., passed away May 6, 2010. Visitation Tuesday, May 11 from 4-7pm with a memorial service at 7pm at Casterline Funeral Home, Inc. 122 W. Dunlap, Northville.

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.)

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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

BARBARA ELLEN TERBERG
Age 81 of Plymouth, May 4, 2010. Beloved wife of Edwin. Dear mother of Paulette (Thomas) Duggin, Raynette (Timothy) Blome, Jeffrey, Richard (Karen), Robert (Julie), and Scott. Also leaves sister-in-law Nancy (Roger) Suttiff. She was preceded in death by infant daughter Barbette. Proud grandmother of eleven, and great-grandmother of twenty. Family and friends will gather Saturday May 15, from 10 AM until the 11 AM memorial service at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth MI 48170. Memorial contributions to the church would be appreciated by the family. To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

Community unites to fight rare disease

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Judy Nissan hopes to raise \$50,000 in less than three months.

That's a lofty goal for most people, but the Canton wife and mother of three is driven by a passion to save her loved ones' lives.

Her husband, Clay, and oldest daughter, Sydney, 10, have been diagnosed with a rare disease called hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT), also known as Osler-Weber-Rendu syndrome. Her youngest child, Jared, 7, is showing symptoms and only time will tell if her youngest daughter, Sierra, 9, will display signs of the hereditary disease.

"Emotionally, financially and physically, it's devastating when it comes into your family," Nissan said. "The hard part is knowing that there is a cure out there, but when you're only raising pennies every year ... it could take forever before we see anything. There's no federal funding for it."

Described as "the silent killer" HHT affects about 50,000-70,000 individuals in the United States and 1.2 million worldwide, according to the HHT Foundation International. The multi-system blood vessel disorder results in death or disability for 20 percent of the affected population. Half of the children with a parent afflicted by the disease inherit the gene.

According to the foundation, an individual with HHT forms blood vessels that lack the capillaries, which connect arteries and veins. That means arterial blood under high pressure flows directly into a vein without first having to squeeze through the very small capillaries. As a result, the place where an artery is connected directly to a vein tends to be a fragile site that can rupture and result in bleeding. The abnormal site is called a telangiectasia if it involves small blood vessels. It's called an arteriovenous malformation (AVM) if it involves larger blood vessels.

Telangiectases tend to occur on the skin and the mucous membrane that lines the nose. AVMs usually occur in the



The Nissan children of Canton

HHT FUND-RAISERS

- **Saturday, May 15:** Party from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Cherry Martini, 50296 Cherry Hill, Canton to raise funds for the HHT Foundation. Donations accepted at the door with a \$5 minimum cover charge. The night will feature drink specials, 50/50 raffle, a prize raffle, DJ, and dancing. RSVP by calling (734) 306-0342 or via e-mail at avanbrussel@me.com
- **Friday, May 21:** Pay \$25 for three games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and pop at Wayne Bowl, 36900 Michigan Ave., Wayne. Call Joe Wallen at (248) 824-0797 or Scott Gilbert at (734) 718-5916 for registration information
- **Wednesday, June 16:** Eat at Buffalo Wild Wings, 41980 Ford Road, in Canton and 20 percent of your bill will be donated to HHT Foundation
- **Monday, June 21:** Golf at Bello Woods Golf Course, 23650 23 Mile, Macomb to raise funds for the foundation. Registration is at 9 a.m., with a shotgun start at 10 a.m.; cost is \$100 per golfer or \$400 per team. The day includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch, dinner, drink tickets, door prizes and raffle. Register by June 1. Call Jeff Babisz at (586) 738-6408 or Jeff Paquette at (734) 558-543 or e-mail to jbabisz@comcast.net or gogolf@comcast.net
- **Saturday, Aug. 7:** Participate in the Walk-A-Thon for HHT. The event begins at 9 a.m., in Heritage Park, Canton and includes opening ceremonies, the walk, performances by Central City Dance, entertainment and food and T-shirt sales. Learn more at www.ourhopeholdsthecure.org

internal organs, such as the intestines, stomach, lungs, liver and brain and can cause hemorrhage, stroke and death.

Nissan's husband has AVMs from the disease in his intestines, esophagus, mouth, nose and liver. He has had multiple surgeries to try and control the progression of this disease and receives regular infusions

to counteract the blood loss. Sydney suffers from nose bleeds and shows evidence of the disease in her lungs.

"You can't get an MRI scan every day, but if you have one (AVM) growing it can be fatal," Nissan noted. "I look at my kids every day and Clay every day and they look healthy, but if one of those rupture ..."

The family initially didn't realize the disease was hereditary. Clay's mother died at age 57 from HHT "but I truly believe she didn't know the extent of it," Nissan said. "My husband became sick in '04 and was hospitalized. That's when he was officially diagnosed.

"For me, a lot of it is that you feel hopeless, because it's in your whole family."

To battle those feelings of despair, Nissan started a new fund-raiser, "Hope Holds the Cure," a walk-a-thon to benefit the HHT Foundation. She enlisted the help of friends, like Amy VanBrussel, also of Canton, to make the walk on Aug. 7 a success.

VanBrussel and others plan several "grassroots" fund-raisers this month and in June to make Nissan's \$50,000 goal a reality before the walk even begins.

"The walk-a-thon will be a celebration by that time. We will have all the money raised," VanBrussel said. "We're hoping to increase awareness and a part of our mission is to look outside our group and enlist support from the community. It's nice to see how generous people can be."

Donations also are accepted on the group's Web site at www.ourhopeholdsthecure.org.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

MAY

Stroke program

Learn about prevention, diagnosis and treatment of strokes, 10:30-11:30 a.m., May 11, in the auditorium at Providence Hospital, 16001 W. 9 Mile, Southfield. An optional tour will follow the lecture of the Bi-Plane Interventional Suite showing the latest technology in diagnostic imaging. The presenter will be Dr. Matthew Holtzman, neurologist on staff at Providence Hospital and Providence Park Hospital. To reserve your seat, call St. John SeniorLink at (888) 751-5465.

Fibromyalgia support

The Metro Fibromyalgia & CFS Support Group will hold its Fibromyalgia Awareness Day luncheon 1-3 p.m., Thursday, May 13, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City. The luncheon is open to anyone with fibromyalgia, chronic pain or individuals seeking a support group to help them deal with fibromyalgia. For more information, visit www.MetroFibroGroup.com

Asthma screening

Laurel Park Place in partnership with the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and specialists from the University of Michigan Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, present a free asthma screening day 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 15, at Laurel Park Place, 37700 6 Mile, in Livonia. Visitors will have the opportunity to take a simple breathing test and fill out a short questionnaire in order to assess whether they have asthma or not, and to discuss the results with U-M asthma specialists. For more information call (734) 232-2154.

Botsford Commons

The senior living community will present "Living the Fullness of Life," 7-8 p.m., Thursday, May 20, in the Town Commons Dining Room, 21300 Archwood Circle, between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Road, north of Eight Mile, in Farmington Hills. Margaret K. Lightner, president of Botsford Commons Senior Community, kicks off the session with comments on living to life's fullest in a continuum of care retirement community. Her presentation is followed by: "Healthy Aging" with Dr. Annette Carron, geriatrician and medical director of the Botsford Senior Assessment Center; "Brain Fitness" with Diane M. Zide, executive director of senior living services at Botsford Commons; and "Getting Your Documents in Order; Community Resources" with Dawn Doyle, supervi-

sor, social services. Dessert and beverages also will be served. For more information, call (248) 426-6951.

St. Mary Mercy Hospital

Julie Ader will present "Women and Stress: Healthy Responses to Life's Demands" from 7-8:30 p.m., Thursday, May 20 in the hospital auditorium. She'll focus on healthy alternatives to dealing with positive and negative stress that women encounter. The presentation also includes bone density, blood pressure and massages from 5:30-7 p.m. A \$5 goodwill donation is requested to benefit the Marian Women's Center Programs. To register, call (734) 655-1182. Or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

JUNE

Hemophilia Foundation

The Foundation's "Swinging for Smile" Charity Golf Outing, runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., June 7, at Fox Hills Golf Club of Plymouth. Proceeds go to HFM's Camp Bold Eagle and Eagle Outpost, for children with bleeding disorders. The event costs \$50 for dinner only per person, \$190 for golf and dinner per person or \$750 for a golf and dinner package for four. Contact Dawn at (800) 482-3041 for more information.

ONGOING

Fitness classes

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

Overeaters Anonymous

Meet 7 p.m. Thursdays in the Courtyard Room at Unity of Livonia Church, 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads, Livonia; and 7 p.m. Sundays at the Marion Professional Building at St. Mary's Hospital, 14555 Levan at Five Mile, Livonia, in Classroom 1. Call (313) 387-9797. Anyone who wants to stop eating compulsively is welcome. For more Greater Detroit Overeaters Anonymous information, call (248) 559-7722 or visit www.ooa.org.



Independence Village

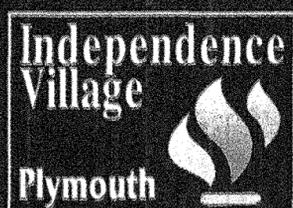
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