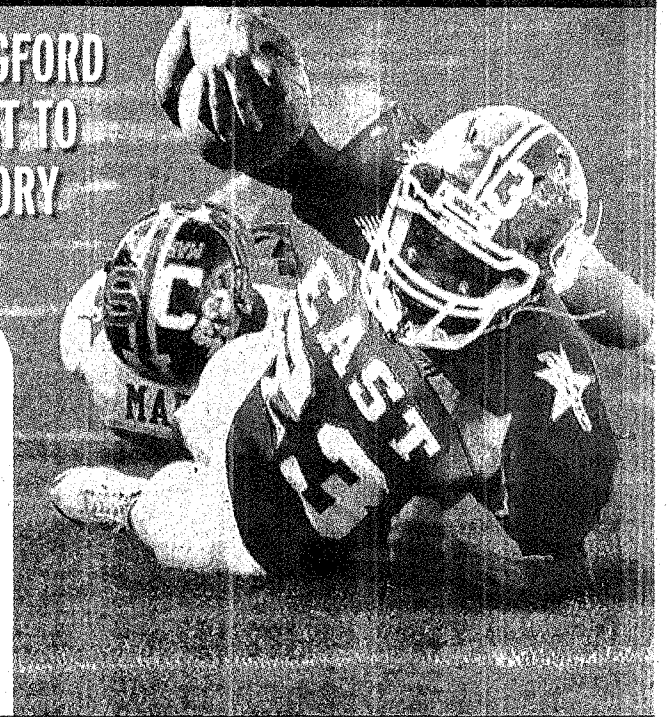


AERO MODELERS CLUB READIES FOR FUN FLY

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ROCKET'S LANGFORD LAUNCHES EAST TO ALL STAR VICTORY

SPORTS B1



THURSDAY

June 24, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric
Newspapers

Volume 46
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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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IN BRIEF



Sgt. Robert Wysong

Officer promoted to sergeant

Westland Police Officer Robert Wysong has been promoted to the rank of sergeant. Wysong worked as a police officer in Wyandotte for a brief time before joining the Westland Police Department in 1995.

Serving in the patrol division, Wysong was most recently on the day shift but will be transferred to midnights due to the promotion. A Wayne resident, Wysong has four children.

A vacancy was created in the sergeant rank with the recent retirement of Sgt. Steve Borisch.

"We were sorry to lose someone of Sgt. Borisch's caliber," said Chief Alan Ramsden. "But we are confident that Sgt. Wysong will do an excellent job. He has a tremendous track record as an officer and he's worked hard to get this promotion. The expectations are high."

Promotions within the police department are made through competitive testing involving an extensive written exam and an oral board panel. Candidates are then scored, ranked and promoted accordingly.

Westland resident receives degree

Westland resident Emily Klimevski recently earned an Associate in Science in Nursing from Excelsior College in Albany, New York.

Senator holding coffee hours

State Sen. Glenn Anderson (D-Westland) will hold district coffee hours on Monday, June 28. Anderson will be available 9-10 a.m. at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia.

From 10:30-11:30 a.m., Anderson will be at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, Garden City.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail: P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48933; phone: 1-(866) 262-7306; or e-mail: SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

City may not pay for flood damage

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland homeowners are submitting claim forms to the city for losses suffered during flooding earlier this month but likely will need to look for reimbursement through their homeowners insurance.

Close to 1,200 homeowners contacted the city about basement flooding following about a five-inch rain that

overwhelmed city and county sewers during the early hours of June 6.

"Have we found out who is at fault, the city or the county? Who is going to pay for it? I was told to turn this into my insurance company," said resident Kelly Johnson. "I'm an insurance agent. That will push up my rates for three years — I don't want to do that. I also want to know if the problem is being fixed and who is paying for that."

Under state law, the residents have

45 days to file claims with the city.

However, if there was no flaw in the city's sewer system, which is the position of Westland officials and it was effectively an act of God — excessive rain — the city would not be liable for damages or losses caused by the flooding.

"It was basically Mother Nature. We can't control the rain. There were a lot of different issues going on with this rain event," said Council President

James Godbout.

While urging residents to submit the city claim forms, Mayor William Wild said that the city's insurer and attorneys would ultimately make a decision on any reimbursements.

"First of all, I would call my homeowners' (insurer). That's what you have homeowners insurance for. I think it's pretty lousy that your rates will go up

Please see **CLAIMS, A2**



Pete Davey, project manager for Home Renewal Systems, (left) poses with Westland Community Development Director Joanne Inglis and city inspector Rick Gowan in front of a home acquired by the city and rehabilitated through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Rehabilitated home fits bill for Westland man

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Paul Landon had been looking for a home. A foreclosed house, rehabilitated and acquired through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, fit the bill.

Landon is buying a home on Palmer that has been renovated by Home Renewal Systems, one of two contractors working for Westland to rehabilitate a total of 40 vacant and abandoned

homes by December. It's on track to be the first completed and sold home for the program.

"My mom found the program for me. She saw it somewhere — I don't think people know about the program too much. I had looked for a house for about year," said Landon, who has been living with his fiancée in the basement of her parents' Westland home. "Basically, it was the fact that someone out there was trying to work with people that don't have a high income."

The NSP has income guidelines for buyers that go up to \$67,100 annually for a two-person family. "I poked around at a few mortgage companies, but they all said no," Landon said. "I did a lot of work to get my credit back up to be presentable to a bank before getting in this program. They (Home Renewal Systems) worked with me and helped guide me on fixing my credit."

During his search for a home, Landon said he also considered trying to buy a foreclosed home at auction, but

that was cost-prohibitive and the homes often need extensive repairs and other items, such as new appliances.

"I'm a very handy guy. I know the construction field. I just wouldn't have the cash to do it," said Landon, a driver for Safelite Auto Glass.

Unlike many of the homes acquired by the city for the NSP, the home Landon is slated to buy wasn't in need of a tremendous amount of work.

Please see **HOUSE, A2**

Council shuts off Kroger gas pump plan

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite a full court press by top Kroger executives, the Westland council gave a thumbs down to plans for a fueling station proposed to replace a long-vacant restaurant at Ford and Central City Parkway.

The issue for council members who voted against the site plan was approving a new automotive use in direct conflict with the Ford Road

downtown development strategy the city has been using for 12 years and had updated more recently.

"I appreciate Kroger, what a good corporate citizen and partner they are. That makes this harder to oppose," said Council President James Godbout.

In 1992, the city hired consultants HyettPalma to develop a downtown strategy, Godbout said, later having it reviewed to make sure it was still applicable. Part of that downtown

development strategy, he noted, was developing destination retail businesses, sit-down restaurants and offices.

Specifically not to be allowed were automotive-related sales and services, Godbout said. That concept was again agreed to after a design charrette in 2008 with planning consultants McKenna Associates, he added.

"We have already approved a fueling station for Kroger at

Please see **KROGER, A2**

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OE08703229

Early retirements eliminate need for layoffs

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Thanks to the retirement of 47 Westland city workers, the pink-slipping of 15 additional employees is no longer included in the 2010-11 budget adopted recently by the council.

In fact, two clerical employees would be recalled from layoff — one worker laid off in February and the other let go nearly two years ago. All of the layoffs, those that occurred and those proposed, along with the recalls were from Westland's largest employee bargaining unit local 1602 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

"The early retirements were very successful. The AFSCME retirements came in well over the numbers anticipated," said Deputy Mayor Jade Smith, who presented the amended manpower budget. "There will be nine more people going in 2011. That is not included in our projections."

As of the July 1 start of the fiscal year, the early retirements will have been taken by 16 AFSCME members who work in clerical positions, the Department of Public Services, the Building Department and parks and recreation, 13 firefighters, 16 police officers and two supervisors.

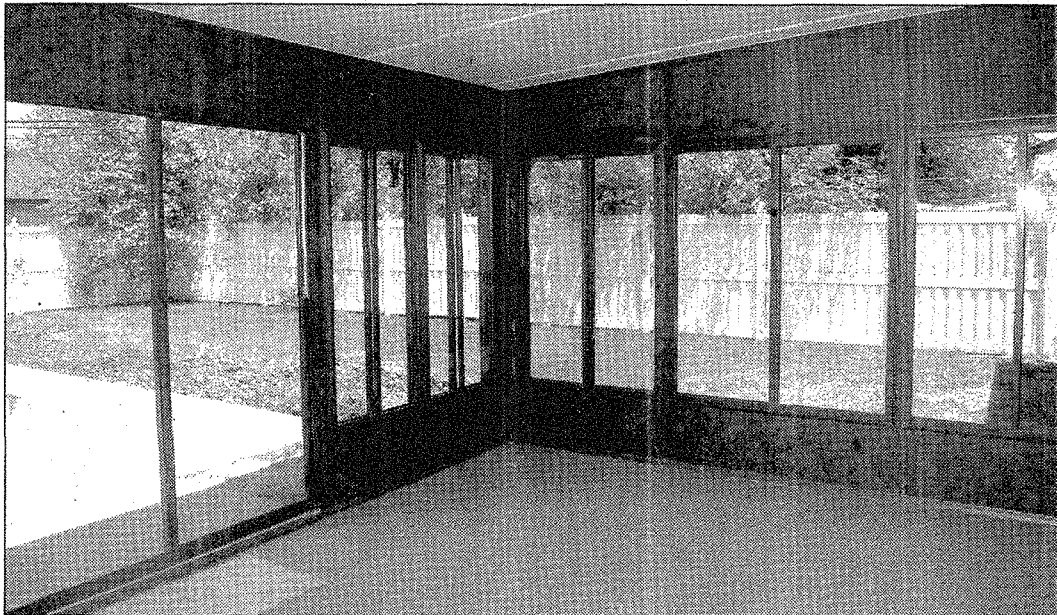
"Staffing levels are at point

where we need to fill all the clerical positions. There were six clerical layoffs in the budget and eight clerical retirements," said Smith. "Some departments have one clerical person where there used to be two or three people."

Council President James Godbout said he didn't want to give administration a blanket OK to fill positions, that the issue should be revisited during the year as the openings occur.

"We're working to get our bottom line number. Moving forward, we'll count on attrition to help us and hopefully more property taxes," said Mayor William Wild.

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A three-season room is an added benefit for this Westland home rehabilitated through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

City uses program to reduce housing density

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Part of Westland's Neighborhood Stabilization Program is reducing the high density of residential housing in Norwayne.

An example of that effort is on Oscoda Court, where the city had acquired two adjacent vacant homes.

"The home next door was demolished. The other house was originally going to be a rental property," Westland Community Development Director Joanne Inglis said. "When I saw what a good job

Scott (Guy) did with the house, I changed my mind."

Guy Construction and Home Renewal Systems have each been awarded contracts to renovate foreclosed, vacant or blighted homes under the NSP. Each company is to rehabilitate 20 homes by December.

The home on Oscoda is one of the first homes Guy Construction has completed. The three-bedroom, one-bathroom home has a new furnace and water heater. There was also some reconfiguration of the interior walls. The house is being offered for \$49,000 to income-eligible buyers.

"We'll sell it for what we can sell it for. Home ownership opportunities is one of the goals in Norwayne," Inglis said. "It definitely helps stabilize the neighborhood. We've met with a couple of residents who want to resurrect the civic association."

So far, five homes have been rehabilitated by the contractors, she said. Four families have expressed interest in the home on Oscoda Court, which was getting some exterior grading from the Department of Public Services.

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Ice arena gets energy saving upgrades

Mike Modano Arena will soon be getting some energy saving improvements.

The Westland City Council recently accepted a \$384,679 bid from Serv-Ice Refrigeration for construction of a new ice refrigeration system, dehumidification system and do HVAC upgrades at the arena. The project will be funded through an allocation from Energy Efficiency Block Grant monies.

In addition to the HVAC upgrades in the lobby area and in compliance with the

Energy Efficiency Block Grant, the ice arena will be switching its compressors from a brine/R22 system to an ammonia system. This upgrade is estimated to save the city 30-35 percent on its energy consumption costs. The compressor that is being replaced was installed in 1979.

As well as the savings that will be realized, skaters will notice a better ice skating surface. The dehumidification system also will assist in creating an ideal ice surface

and help reduce the operating costs of the ice refrigeration system.

"The upcoming compressor and other equipment upgrades are long overdue and much appreciated. Those upgrades will help us as an association promote the game of ice hockey for our youth for years to come," said Westland Hockey Association Executive Board President Greg Green.

The Mike Modano Ice Arena is scheduled to reopen in the middle of August.

CLAIMS

FROM PAGE A1

when you file a claim," said Wild. "At the end of the day, will the city fix your drywall? I don't know. It's up to our insurer."

Unlike neighboring communities which also experienced flooding, Wild said he had made a decision to call in Befor USA to help residents get their basements dry and sanitized quickly.

"We did what no other city did. Flooding can get bad quickly with bad air and mold," he said. "There were a lot of people with oxygen and seniors who had their bedrooms in the basement. We stepped in and took care of

'At the end of the day, will the city fix your drywall? I don't know. It's up to our insurer.'

WILLIAM WILD, Mayor

everyone. What else the city can do is up to the insurers and attorneys."

Carl Paine, who lives in the Cherry Hill and Newburgh area, told the council that the flood had caused \$15,000 damage including ruining his furnace. He questioned whether the water that flooded his basement was storm water or sewage.

"Rain water caused it. I can't say there wasn't sewage," said Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford, adding the sanitary sewer can be filled with rain water if the storm sewer is filled or blocked. "We aren't able to deal with that. I would recommend that you contact a reputable sewer service for that."

If the damage was caused by a backup in the sewer line on his property, Paine said, his insurance will cover the damage but not if the sewage came from outside his property.

The city is still operating its flooding hotline during regular business hours at (734) 713-3877.

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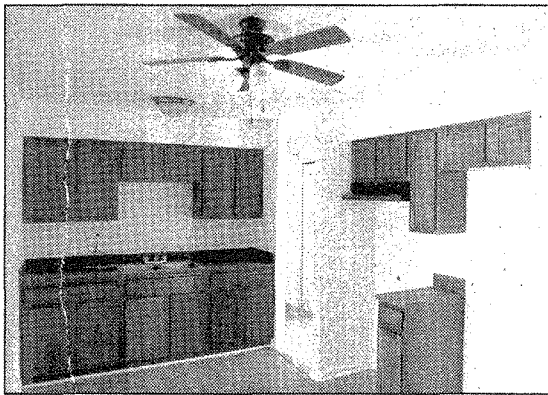
HOUSE

FROM PAGE A1

"The house actually looked like the owners had maintained it. They kept it up, but lost it," Landon said. "They showed me some different houses in Inkster, Romulus and Westland. I was in the door first on the house in Westland."

It normally takes Home Renewal Systems 45-60 days to rehabilitate homes, project manager Pete Davey said. That often means new kitchen cabinets, fixtures, repairing drywall and new flooring.

"This home was in fairly good shape. Typically, the former owners don't leave many fixtures, but in this case they had," Davey said. "The new homeowner liked the fix-



Unlike a lot of foreclosed homes, this home on Palmer didn't require extensive work before it could be offered for sale.

tures. If I thought the fixtures weren't safe, I wouldn't leave them."

Home Renewal Systems has a standard paint color — Navaho white — along with neutral carpeting and fixtures used in all the rehabilitated homes, Davey said.

"I check all the walls for insulation — they all had it — and there was good insulation in the attic," Davey said.

"We make sure the home is somewhat energy efficient."

The three-bedroom, one-bathroom house also has a new water heater, furnace and concrete driveway. The home on Palmer will be the first home rehabbed and sold through Home Renewal Systems, with a second home on Karle expected to be next.

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KROGER

FROM PAGE A1

Merriman and Cherry Hill. Each location needs to be considered on its own merits," said Godbout. "The community has needs, not just the corporation. We are not willing to throw out 12 years work."

That was the consensus of council members except for Michael Kehrer who cast the lone vote in favor of approving the site plan that called for demolition of the former Lone Star steakhouse, closed since 2006.

Rick Going, president of Kroger's Michigan Division,

and real state vice president Rick Ragsdale were among the

Kroger officials on hand at the meeting. Kroger also made their case during a council study session prior to the regular meeting.

The proposal called for a 115-square foot kiosk with five pump islands with a total of ten gasoline dispensers covered with an awning. There would have been no merchandise sold at the fueling station, only gas. The small kiosk would also provide better visibility for the store from Ford.

In his comments, Ragsdale noted Kroger had invested \$10.2 million improving

its stores in Westland since acquiring two former Farmer Jack stores. Kroger now has four stores in Westland — Ford at Central City Parkway, Merriman at Cherry Hill, Merriman at Michigan Avenue and Warren at Middlebelt.

The store at Ford and Central City Parkway was renovated last year. "We need to finish the project. We bought Lone Star when no one else

would," said Ragsdale. "The fueling station increases business and customer satisfaction. Our loyal customers can earn substantial savings."

The fueling stations are becoming like delis, Ragsdale said, with every store having one. "We want fueling stations at every store so that our customers don't have to drive across town to receive the benefits of our rewards program," he said.

Speaking in favor of the project, Kehrer said that getting rid of the Lone Star building and having a gas station that sells E85 ethanol fuel, something Kroger added to their plans in response to a resident's comments during the meeting, offset not following the development plan.

Like Kehrer, Mayor William Wild acknowledged the development vision of Ford Road 2020 but supported approval

of the fueling station.

"I still feel this is the right thing to do for this corner. Kroger is the anchor for the plaza. I feel that with the investment Kroger has made, it really solidifies the site," said Wild. "It gives us a solid anchor. Kroger is probably the largest employer in the DDA (Downtown Development Authority)."

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NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WESTLAND WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN FOR THE AUGUST 3, 2010 PRIMARY ELECTION

Please take Notice that the Primary Election in the City of Westland will be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2010.

The last day on which persons may register in order to be eligible to vote at the City of Westland Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2010, is Tuesday, July 6, 2010. Persons registering after 4:00 in the evening on Tuesday, July 6, 2010 are not eligible to vote at the General Election.

You may register at the Westland City Clerk's office or at any Secretary of State Office.

EILEEN DeHART, CMC
Westland City Clerk

Publish: June 24, 2010

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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Thursday, July 8, various items of the City Westland, Special Investigations Unit, will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction 8251 Rawsonville Road, Belleville, MI, County of Wayne, at approx. 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

| Stock | VIN | Year | Make | Model |
|---------|-------------------|------|--------|------------|
| 6861855 | YAML0179L495 | 1995 | YAMAHA | JET SKI |
| 6861897 | ZZN20092J293 | 1993 | BOMBA | JET SKI |
| 6900975 | 1G2WP12K6XF313351 | 1999 | PONT | GRAND PRIX |
| 6900439 | 1GKFK16R4VJ701212 | 1997 | GMC | K1500 S/W |
| 6900837 | 2FAFP71W0YX190113 | 2000 | FORD | CROWN VIC |
| 6875803 | 1X27H2L105743 | 1970 | CHEVY | NOVA |
| 6861942 | 114270W374658 | 1970 | CHEVY | NOVA |
| 6786263 | 3C3EL55H0TT283018 | 1996 | CHRYSL | SEBRING |
| 6900431 | 4M2DV1W9SDJ51940 | 1995 | MERC | VILLAGER |

All vehicles are sold in "as in" condition. The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed on Wednesday, July 7, 2010, from 8:30 am - 4:30 p.m. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction. Terms and Conditions will be applicable to any item sold. Registration fees apply.

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Pilots soar over model aircraft

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Al Zerber has had a lifelong love affair with radio-controlled airplanes, but then that's true for most members of the Detroit Aero Modelers Club.

The club meets at the Redford Community Center except for June through September when pilots gather at their field in Rouge Park in Detroit. The weather is too nice to waste flying time.

Zerber, a Garden City resident, became a DAM member in 1988. Back then planes flew on steel wires. Today model aircraft is radio-controlled remotely with a hand-held transmitter, and powered by electric motors and internal combustion engines.

"My dad, brother and I used to fly U control in Rouge Park," said Zerber, club membership chairman. "I was about age 10 or 12. You get addicted to RC stuff."

Zerber went on to work as an airplane mechanic in the U.S. Air Force. Today as a retiree he spends nearly every weather-permitting day at the field flying his 30 plus planes and helicopters. It can get to be an expensive hobby with planes ranging from around \$100 to \$15,000 or more for a jet with turbine engine.

"You see something, you go get it," said Zerber. "It's like a big kid in a toy box."

Members from Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Farmington Hills, and throughout the metro Detroit area will join Zerber in that toy box at the third annual Mid America R/C Heli Fun Fly Friday-Sunday, June 25-27, at the field in Detroit.

"People from all over the country are coming, 100 plus pilots, one from Switzerland," said Zerber. "It's amazing what they can do — 3D flying, precision acrobatics."

Founded in 1974, the DAM offers novice flight training. Safety plays a major role during training and flying. DAM was chartered in 1978 through the Academy of Model Aeronautics, a non-profit organization to promote model aviation as a sport and recreation activity.

"It's a lethal weapon with carbon fiber blades rotating at 2,000 RPM," said Zerber. "You want to make sure nobody's in the line of fire."

As the club's safety officer, Dennis Gazdecki makes sure the rules are followed. The Livonia man said, "People have cut fingers off trying to start aircraft. You can get hurt seriously or if it gets out of control and hits somebody, they can get hurt."



Al Gerber of Garden City, membership chairman of the Detroit Aero Modelers Club, prepares his Brio 10 Elite model airplane for flight in Rouge Park.

FUN FLY

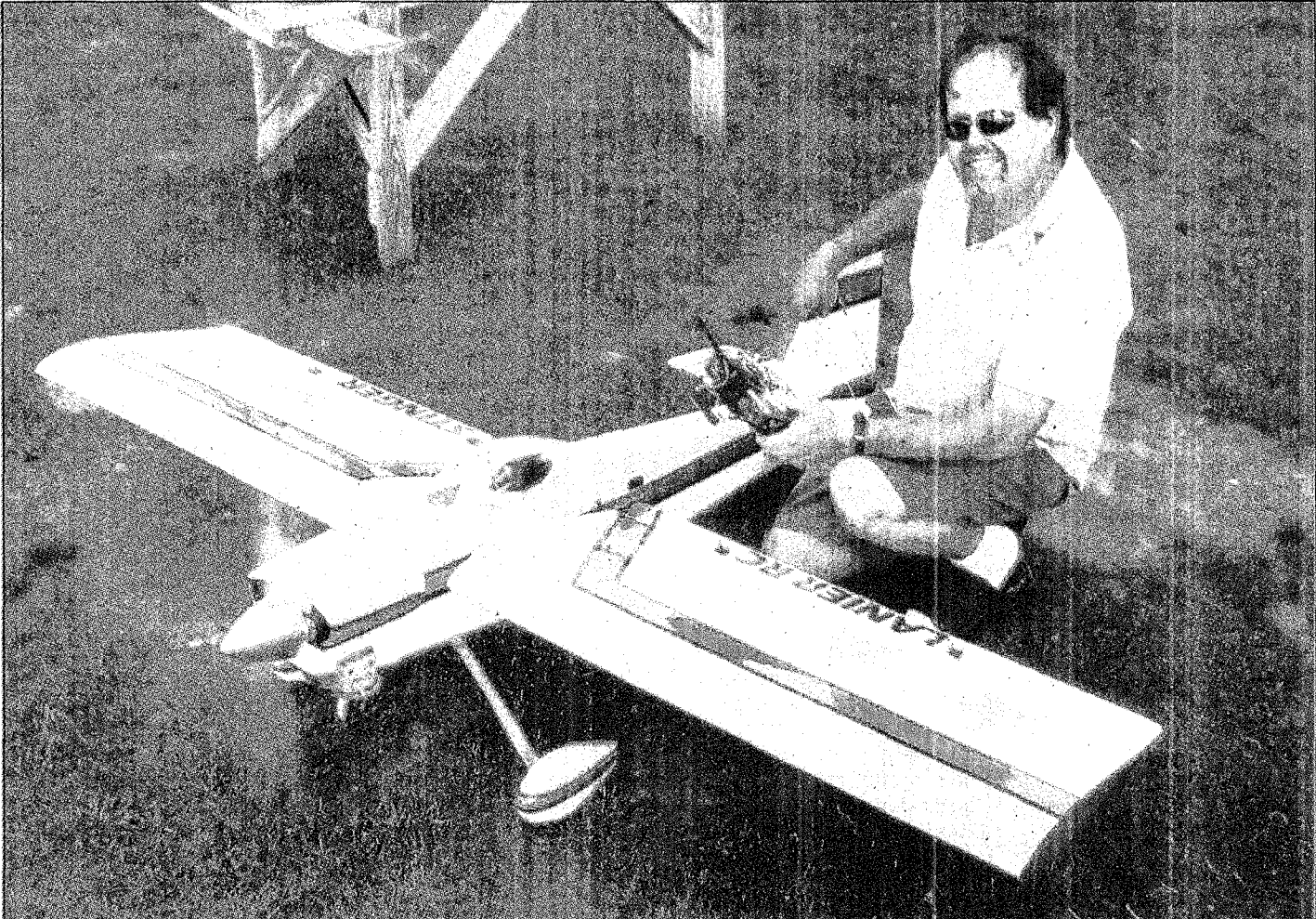
Who: Detroit Aero Modelers Club
What: 2010 Mid America R/C Heli Fun Fly
When: Friday through Sunday, June 25-27
Where: Detroit's Rouge Park at the corner of Joy and Spinoza

Gazdecki joined the club six years ago after an auto accident left him unable to work for a period of time. It was then he decided to put a plane together. Two years later Gazdecki finally took the aircraft out to the field to learn how to fly it. Today he owns 30 airplanes and five helicopters and rarely has time to fly as he's back working seven days a week.

"It's exciting. It's like a drug addiction," said Gazdecki. "There are a lot of good people out at the field, good conversation. There's always someone at the field from 9:30 a.m. to evening if not windy or raining."

A Garden City resident who became serious about flying model aircraft about 15 years ago, Donald Allen remembers the days when pilots built aircraft from kits. Planes are about 90 percent assembled when purchased today.

"I enjoy the camaraderie of the group, being outdoors in the fresh air. It's the challenge of trying to do something



PHOTOS BY DAVID L. MALHALAB

Garden City resident Don Allen has the engine revved and waiting to let 'er fly in Rouge Park. Allen flies a Lanier RC Stinger with a G62 engine - a remote controlled gas powered model plane.

MODEL FLYING EVENTS

•The Detroit Aero Modelers RC Club meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month except June-September at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford. The public is invited to attend.
•Novice flight training is available on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and 6-8 p.m. during flying season at the field in Detroit's Rouge Park.
The DAM RC Club has a number of events scheduled during the summer. Here's a list of what's happening and it's free to the public. For information, contact Darrell Bell xcellipilot@hotmail.com or (313) 399-7617. Hours are flexible for the events starting at about 9:30

a.m. and ending around 7 p.m.
•Electric Only Fun Fly Saturday-Sunday, July 17-18. \$10 landing fee.
•Giant Scale Fun Fly Saturday-Sunday, July 31 and Aug. 1, Demonstration noon Saturday.
•Annual Charity Jet Fly 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Aug. 13-14, and 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 15, at Grosse Ile Airport. All proceeds go to Naval Air Station Grosse Ile Fund and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. General admission \$10 per carload. Hosted by Flying Pilgrims R/C Club, DAM and the Midwest R/C Society.

you haven't done previously," said Allen. "A few of us are airplane nuts, some people just artists and like to build them but don't fly them. The fun thing is you're never done. There's always something more (to learn or buy)."

Allen owns about 15 planes including two biplanes, a World War II F4 Phantom,

and four helicopters. He also has a simulator on his computer to practice maneuvers. He is especially excited about the

helicopter event June 25-27.

"If you want to be impressed, you'll see helicopters do things you never could imagine," said Allen. "I have a simulator to practice and still can't do things. It doesn't cost you if you crash it. You can go online and fly with other people."

Children as young as three are invited to the field to learn about flying model aircraft.

"We even had a 7-year-old flying a helicopter," said Allen. "They know video games. It's all eye-hand coordination. It's easier to teach someone in their teens than an adult."

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Thursday, June 24, 2010

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sue Mason

Voice Mail: (313) 222-6751

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

WESTLAND COP CALLS

Bomb found

On June 19, police were called to a home in the 8700 block of Oxbow after the residents reported finding a pipe bomb. The homeowner told police that he and his adult son were removing the cover from the swimming pool, which was filled with stagnant water, when they discovered the bomb.

The man's son moved the bomb to the deck and police were called. The officer described the device as a one-inch galvanized pipe, six inches high with a partially burned wick on one end. He noted that it indeed appeared to be a pipe bomb.

The Detroit Metro Airport Authority Police were contacted and after arrival detonated the bomb at the scene. The officer reported that the device was inspected after detonation and appeared to be what is called a mole bomb, a smoke/chemical bomb used to exterminate rodents.

The homeowner told police that the only person could think of who might have placed the bomb was a Livonia man, described as having mental problems, who had repeatedly threatened him including threatening to blow up his home about two months ago.

Fraud

A Detroit man was arrested June 19 for using a stolen credit card to make purchases at Target, 35401 Warren Road. A store security officer called police when he spotted the suspect. He said that a sergeant from the Detective Bureau had recently been to the store to pick up a copy of a surveillance video showing a suspect using a stolen credit card and he recognized the suspect, who had made credit card purchases at least twice before.

The suspect had purchased an iPod charged and a television valued at \$661 using a credit card. Police arrested the man as he left the store carrying the charger — the television was to be carried to his car by store employees. The officer reported finding 12 credit cards in the suspect's wallet.

Officer was unable to locate the suspect's vehicle. A short time later, a Westland woman who identified herself as the suspect's girlfriend, came to the police department attempting to locate his vehicle. Based on information from the girlfriend, officers located the car the suspect was using — a Dodge Stratus registered to a Detroit woman. The car had an improper license plate registered to a second vehicle owned by the Detroit woman, whom the girlfriend told police was likely to have been with the suspect.

The vehicle was unlocked with the driver's window down, the officer noted, with the keys taken from the suspect matching the car. Inside the car, the officers found an additional nine credit cards in the cup holder. There was also a laptop computer, a power inverter, miscellaneous power cords, a credit card reader and two notebooks.

Officers also located credit card receipts for purchases made earlier in the day for over \$700. The vehicle was impounded. The majority of the credit cards recovered were found to be counterfeit, including the one used to make the purchases that led to the suspect being arrested. Five of the cards were actually gift cards.



Westland police have released a photograph of two suspects wanted for robbing the 7-Eleven store on Merriman and Palmer at gun point just before 10:30 p.m. June 9. One suspect is described as a black male 5-foot-11, 150 pounds, dressed entirely in white and wearing a do rag. The other suspect is described as a black male 5-foot-9, 170 pounds, dressed entirely in black and wearing a diamond stud earring in each ear. A Crimestoppers reward of up to \$1,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction the suspects. Anyone with information is asked to call Westland police Sgt. Dan Serrano at (734) 467-7914.

Vandalism

A resident of an apartment at 8131 N. Newburgh told police June 19 that someone had keyed his 2006 Chevrolet Cobalt, slashed one tired and wrote "the army sucks" on the rear window. The owner said he suspects a Wayne woman and a Westland woman are responsible for the damage due to an ongoing dispute with his girlfriend. The suspects are also aware that he is an Army reservist, the man said.

Larceny

Three GPS units, valued at \$900, were reported stolen from three trucks parked at Tom Perla Storage, 852 S. Newburgh, June 21. The vehicle owner, who has a landscaping business, told police that two vehicles were left unlocked and the third had a broken

window.

The vehicles were described as two pickup trucks and one dump truck.

Dog bite

Police were called to a home in the 8100 block of Hugh June 20 after a resident told police that her one-year old daughter was playing the with the family dog when it attacked the child for no reason. The girl was reported to have suffered numerous puncture wounds to the right side of her face. She was treated and released at Garden City Hospital shortly after the attack.

The dog, whose breed wasn't listed, was not currently vaccinated for rabies, the owner told police. The dog was surrendered to the Michigan Humane Society for euthanization and rabies testing.

—By LeAnne Rogers

GARDEN CITY COP CALLS

Break-in

The thief who broke into the King Kone Ice Cream store, 31051 Ford, before 9 a.m. June 18 left footprints on the counter. Police believe that the suspect entered through a sliding door and fled with change from the store.

The police were able to retrieve prints from the window and the counter.

Fleeing and eluding

Garden City police arrested a 28-year-old man who left the scene of an accident about 1 a.m. June 15 in the area of Florence and Henry Ruff. The Fullerton, Calif., man and his three passengers fled on foot.

When the police found located the man near the Westland Park apartments, he was described as showing signs of being under the influence of drugs as his eyes were watery and dilated. The man told police that he had taken heroin and Xanax, adding he had a prescription for the Xanax.

No injuries were reported in the accident. Police transported the man to Garden City Hospital to have his blood drawn for tests.

Vandalism

The owner of a 2009 Jeep told police that someone had broken out the back window and dented the driver's door while the vehicle was parked in the 400 block of Harrison June 15.

More vandalism A Dearborn Heights woman told police June 16 that she found the windshield cracked and a window pushed in on her Dodge Ram while it was parked in the 33500 block of Hennepin.

Property damaged

An employee at Arby's Restaurant, 30049 Ford, told police June 18 that someone backed into the menu preview board, causing \$1,000 damage. A witness said that she saw a driver in an older, four-

door sedan hit the sign but then left without reporting the accident.

Larceny

A resident in the 6800 block of Arcola told police that \$1,000 in singles was missing he after let two unknown women into his home June 16. He said the women asked if they could have a drink of water. One woman then asked to use the bathroom while her friend waited at the front door. The women, described as 25-35 years old, left in a Chevy Tahoe.

Larceny

A Saginaw woman who parked her 1994 Honda Accord at Garden City Auto Care, 28007 Ford, June 11-18 told police that someone had stolen the face plate off the Kenwood stereo.

Property damage

When the clerk at the Shell gas station, 120 Middlebelt, refused to let a patron use the telephone June 20, he said the customer then threw something and cracked the windshield of the clerk's car. The subject then fled on foot. He was described as between 30-40 years old.

Property damage

A resident in the 32000 block of Dover reported that someone had flattened the two rear tires on a 2007 Chevrolet Corvette and threw eggs at the car.

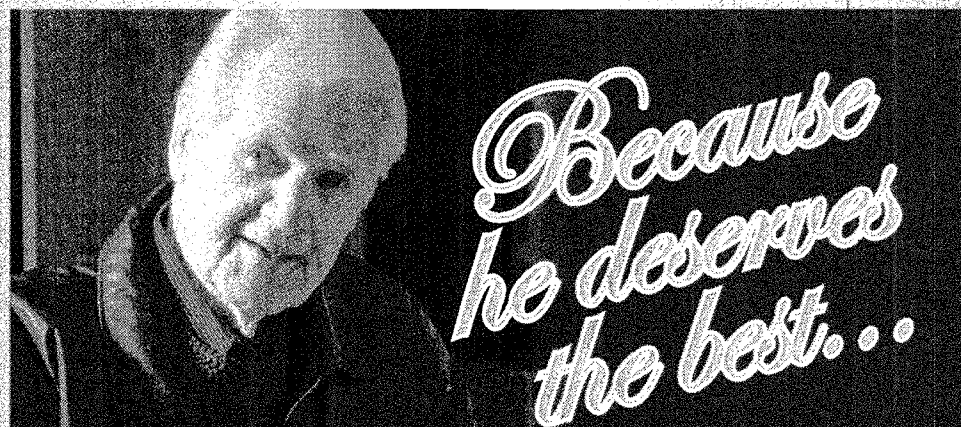
Larceny from a vehicle

Police arrested a 23-year-old Westland man found carrying a flashlight and going through cars in the 29000 block of Elmwood about 3:15 a.m. June 21. Officers reported that he had GPS units and cell phones in his possession.

Larceny

About \$15 in coins were reported stolen from an unlocked 2007 Chevy parked in the 30000 block of Rush June 20-21.

—By Sue Buck



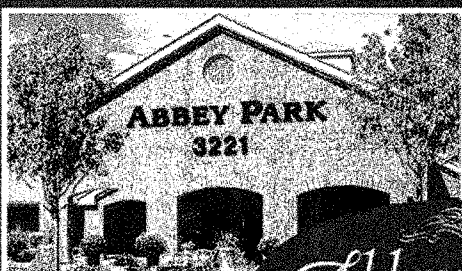
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sensory Friendly Films

Time/Date: 10 a.m. Saturday, June 26

Location: AMC Livonia 20, 19500 Haggerty, Livonia

Details: AMC Entertainment (AMC) and the Autism Society have teamed up to bring families affected by autism and other disabilities a special opportunity to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment on a monthly basis. Sensory Friendly Films® will continue this month with a showing of Toy Story 3. In order to provide a more accepting and comfortable setting for children with autism or other special needs, AMC movie auditoriums will have their lights brought up and the sound turned down, families will be able to bring in their own gluten-free, casein-free snacks, and no previews or advertisements will be shown before the movie. Additionally, audience members are welcome to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing - in other words, AMC's "Silence is Golden" policy will not be enforced unless the safety of the audience is questioned. Tickets can be purchased on the day of the event. **Contact:** cyavorcik@autism-society.org

Amateur radio

Time/Date: 8 a.m. Saturday, June 26, to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 27

Location: Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, west of Merriman, Garden City

Details: Interested in Ham Radio? The Garden City Amateur Radio Club will be operating several Amateur Radio stations at the Maplewood Center as part of a national contest called Field Day. Come and learn about amateur radio. Meet local club members and. Learn about Emergency Communications, license requirements and local classes. You don't have to be an electronics whiz to be a ham, and Morse code is no longer required.

Craft show sign-ups

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9

Location: St. Theodore Church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: The St. Theodore's Confraternity of Christian Women is accepting signups for its fall craft show. Table rental is \$25. **Contact:** Mary at (734) 425-4421, voicemail10.

Earth Angels

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

org or by e-mail to eangel1986@comcast.net

Higher Rock Cafe

Time/date: 7:30 p.m. second and fourth Fridays of the month.

Location: Wayne-Westland Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands.

Contact: www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Safe Place

Time/date: 7 p.m. Thursdays

Location: Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City.

Details: A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program.

Contact: Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995

Adult Day Services

Time/Date: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays

Location: 570 S Main St., Plymouth MI

Detail: A structured weekday alternative for adults in need of supervision. Program provides activities and discussions to meet social, recreational and personal needs unique to dependent individuals

Contact: Laurie Krause at laurie.lifecareads@gmail.com and (734) 956-2600

Metro Fibromyalgia

Time/date: 1-3 p.m. Second and fourth Thursday of each month

Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, just west of Ford in Garden City

Details: The first meeting has a speaker, the second meeting is open to discuss living with our fibromyalgia.

Contact: Lucy at (734) 462-1768, www.MetroFibroGroup.com

Menopause & More

Time/date: 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month

Location: Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: A support group for women, no registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge.

Contact: (734) 655-1100

Counterpoint

Details: Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families.

Contact: (734) 563-5005

Toughlove

Time/date: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays

Location: Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington, Livonia.
Details: Support group, newcomers welcome.

Contact: (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748

LifeCare

Time/Date: 7-9:15 p.m. Thursday

Location: 570 S. Main St., Plymouth

Details: LifeCare is a care/support/recovery groups for everyone facing life's challenges.

Contact: Lillian Easterly-Smith at info.lifecarecc@gmail.com or (734) 956-2109

EDUCATION

Willow Creek

Location: 36660 Cherry Hill in

Westland

Details: Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool offers a Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs.

Contact: (734) 326-0078

St. Damian

Location: 29891 Joy, Westland

Details: St. Damian Catholic School offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8.

Contact: (734) 427-1680, www.stdamian.com.

YWCA Preschool

Details: The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department offers quality preschool programs to children aged 2-5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available.

Contact: (313) 561-4110, Ext. 10.

VOLUNTEERS

First Step

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

Contact: (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223

Drivers Needed

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

Contact: (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208

VNA Hospice

Details: Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required.

Contact: (248) 967-8361, www.vna.org

Seasons Hospice

Details: Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to patients dealing with life limiting illness. No special skills, other than objectivity and compassion, are needed. Training provided. Volunteers are matched with patients in their own community.

Contact: (800) 370-8592

Literacy Council

Details: The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not

required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area.

Contact: (734) 416-4906

Details: Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services.

Contact: (888) 973-1145.

ORGANIZATIONS

Friends of Eloise

Time/date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December)

Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.

Contact: Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918

Writing Group

Time/date: 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of every month

Location: Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road, Wayne

Details: The Story Circle Network is made up of women who want to explore their lives and souls through life-writing, writing that focuses on personal experience through memoirs and autobiographies, in diaries, journals and personal essays. Participants should bring a notebook or laptop computer to each meeting to spend some time writing, and for those who are comfortable doing so, sharing their writing. Membership in Story Circle's National Network is optional. Participation in the group is free.

Contact: www.storycircle.org or send an e-mail to shepry@yahoo.com

Toastmasters

Location: Westland Easytalkers Toastmasters Club meets every Thursday at 6:45 P.M. in the lower level of the Bailey Recreation Center, located behind the Westland City Hall on Ford between Wayne Road and Newburgh.

Details: Toastmasters provides a supportive environment where members can overcome the fear of speaking in public. The membership is a diverse group from different walks of life.

Contact: For information, call Bill at (734) 306-3980 or Curt at (734) 525-8445.

TOPS 869

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

Location: Adams Senior Village, 2001 Kaley Ave., south of Palmer, Westland.

Details: The group is for people age 18 and older.

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

Legion Post 251

Time/date: 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month

Location: 1217 Merriman Road, between Avondale and Palmer, Westland.

Details: All veterans, male and female with a honorable discharge are welcome to join.

Contact: www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607

TOPS M128

Time/date: 7 p.m. Mondays

Location: Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, at Hunter, Westland
Contact: Pat Strong at (734) 326-3539 or Mary Lowe at (734) 729-6879

Garden City Dems

Time/date: 7 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (September through June)

Location: Room 5 of the Maplewood Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Contact: Billy Pate at (734) 427-2344

Citizens for Peace

Time/date: 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month

Location: Unity of Livonia Church on Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster, Livonia

Details: The group is dedicated to working for creation of a U.S. Department of Peace. All are welcome.

Contact: Colleen Mills at (734) 425-0079

In Harmony

Time/date: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays

Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland

Details: For men interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting
Contact: call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal

Veteran's Haven

Location: Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne.

Details: Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays.

Contact: (734) 728-0527

Silver Strings Dulcimer

Time/date: 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month

Location: Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City

Details: Musicians and listeners are welcome to stop by and visit a traditional music jam. Acoustic instruments include hammered and mountain dulcimer, guitar, banjo, fiddle, harmonica, concertina, autoharp, recorder, penny-whistle, ukulele and upright bass.
Contact: (734) 482-2902, <http://geocities.com/ssdsociety>

Garden City Kiwanis

Time/date: 12:15 p.m. Thursdays

Location: Amantea Restaurant; 32777 Warren Road, Garden City

Details: Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to bettering the world one child and one community at a time. Guests and potential new members are always welcome.

Garden City Rotary

Time/date: 12 noon Thursdays

Location: Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren Road, Garden City

Details: Community service planning, lunch and socializing are enjoyed.

Habitat for Humanity

Details: The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with

building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided.

Contact: (734) 459-7744

Annapolis Retirees

Time/date: 1 p.m. the first Monday of the month

Location: Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, Venoy at Howe in Wayne

Details: All Oakwood Retirees are welcome to attend.

Garden City Amateur Radio Club

Time/date: 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month

Location: Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Details: The club is open to people who are interested in ham radio.

Contact: Ben (W8AAA) at (734) 425-2629

Garden City Lions

Time/date: 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of every month

Location: Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Contact: Dave Fetter at (734) 425-4382

GC Garden Club

Time/date: 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month

Location: Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

Details: Everyone may attend to hear guest speakers on a variety of gardening topics and plan events around the city.

Contact: Della Haydon at (734) 427-9410

Genealogical Society

Time/date: 7:30 p.m. third Monday of every month

Location: Livonia Civic Park Senior Center on Farmington Road, south of Five Mile

Details: Beginning genealogy and computer classes start at 6:30 p.m. Guests are welcome.

Purple Heart

Time/date: 8 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month

Location: VFW Post 7575 Hall, 33011 Ford west of Venoy, Garden City

Details: Meetings are open to combat-wounded veterans.

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center

Location: 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland

Details: The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center) offers a variety of programs for older adults.

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

Dyer Center

Location: 36745 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Marquette, Westland

Details: Offers activities Monday-Friday at the center.

Contact: (734) 419-2020

Senior Fitness

Location: Maplewood Senior Center, Maplewood west of Merriman, Garden City

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

Contact: (734) 793-1870.

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Sue Mason,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor
Grace Perry,
Director of Advertising

OUR VIEWS

Safety first

Ounce of prevention keeps fun in summer

For many Americans, summer means fun in the sun. The kids are out of school, and it's time for outdoor activities like riding bikes and swimming. It's the time of year children — and adults — are most likely to be injured.

Injuries can happen in a blink of an eye, and there are plenty of things out there to cause them. From bicycles, skateboards, inline skates and swimming pools to the sun, parents need to be vigilant to keep their children safe.

Parents may think they have everything under control, but the American Academy of Pediatrics has a few suggestions on how to make this summer safe for kids. We believe they're worth sharing with our Westland readers. The last thing we want to do this summer is write stories about injuries and even deaths that could have been prevented by following a few common sense safety tips.

At the top of the AAP list is sunburn. A suntan may look cool, but a sunburn is bad news. The first, and best, line of defense against the sun is covering up, wearing a hat, sunglasses and cotton clothing with a tight weave.

The AAP says parents should have their children stay in the shade and limit sun exposure during the peak intensity hours — between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. And on both sunny and cloudy days use a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater that protects against UVB and UVA rays. Apply enough and reapply every two hours or after swimming.

When it comes to the backyard swimming pool, it's a no-brainer about not leaving children alone in or near the pool or spa, even for a moment. Adult supervision is the key.

When it comes to the backyard swimming pool, it's a no-brainer about not leaving children alone in or near the pool or spa, even for a moment. Adult supervision is the key. Use layers of protection to prevent a swimming pool tragedy. That includes placing barriers completely around the pool to prevent access, closely supervising children and being prepared in case of an emergency.

Don't use inflatable swimming aids, such as "floaties," as a substitute for approved life vests. They can give children a false sense of security. Better yet, teach your children how to swim. However, the AAP cautions that parents shouldn't view swimming lessons as "drown proofing" a child of any age.

Playgrounds are a great place to while away the hours on a lazy summer afternoon, but they also pose hazards for children. The AAP recommends that parents supervise children on play equipment to make sure they are safe.

Check to see if the equipment is well-maintained. Open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends can be hazardous and moving parts can pinch or trap any body part. Make sure metal slides are cool to prevent children's legs from getting burned. And don't allow children to play barefoot on the playground. Also make sure your home playground is safe. Falls cause 60 percent of playground injuries, so having a safe surface is critical.

Kids also are out in droves on their bicycles, skates and skateboards. One of the best ways to stay safe this summer is to wear a helmet and other safety gear when biking, skating and skateboarding, and when riding scooters and all-terrain vehicles.

According to the AAP, children need to wear a helmet on every bike ride, no matter how short or how close to home. Many accidents happen in driveways, on sidewalks, and on bike paths, not just on streets. A helmet protects your child from serious injury, and should always be worn. Studies on bicycle helmets have shown they can reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85 percent.

And even if they roll their eyes or moan and groan, talk to them about safety — the need to look both ways when crossing a street and not darting out from between parked cars.

AAP's last recommendation has nothing to do with fun in the sun, but it's well worth mentioning. Every year children are injured or killed as the result of lawn mowers accidents. It may seem like a fun thing to do, children should not ride as passengers on ride-on lawn mowers. The chance of a small child falling off and falling under the machine far outweighs the good time you might be having. A lawn mower is meant to cut grass. If you want to take a child for a ride, do it on an ATV.

If you think it's time for your children are ready to start helping with the outdoor chores, take into consideration their age. The AAP says children younger than 12 years should not use walk-behind mowers. And make note of the footwear — sturdy shoes, not sandals or sneakers, are recommended.

We urge or readers to take a long, hard look at keeping their children safe this summer. An ounce of prevention does matter. What you do now can mean the difference between a good day of fun in the sun and tragedy.

COMMUNITY VOICE

School's out for summer. What are you going to miss about it?

We asked this question at Patchin Elementary School in Westland and Henry Ruff Elementary School in Garden City.



"I think I'll miss my teachers and friends — not being able to see my teachers."

Kourtney Harris
fifth grade
Patchin Elementary



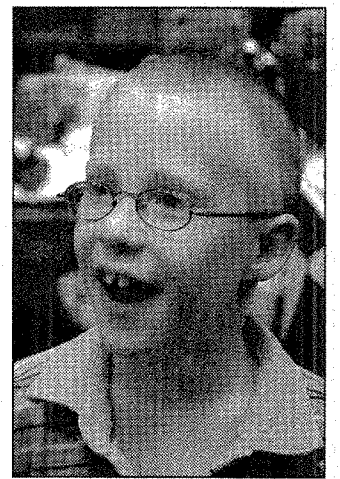
"Math and science, they're my favorite subjects, and I'll miss my friends."

Jaxson Matyjasik
first grade
Patchin Elementary



"My friends, I've got a lot."

Kaley Siber
fifth grade
Henry Ruff Elementary



"Doing multiplications."

Michael McGarry
second grade
Henry Ruff Elementary

LETTERS

Foot in mouth disease

Councilman Michael Kehrer seems to continue to put his foot in his mouth. For the record, I was not looking for an explanation as he proclaimed in his letter. I responded to a statement made by Councilwoman Bryant. This was the comment: "She and other council members elected in November were to new to be expected to come to a consensus on budget items with such short notice."

Now, Mr. Kehrer, it seems by your own comment, you are not ready either! Your little innuendo that while I was on the council, we rammed things through is far from the truth and you know that. I prided myself on knowing the budget, the budget process, making sure that what was passed was implemented properly. As you remember Mr. Kehrer, I was noted for questioning vouchers and at times stopping items from going through. In other words I knew the finances of the city quite well and still do.

When I left the council, there was one of the largest fund balances in the city's history and, sadly, it was spent, leaving our city to face potential shortfalls, and you sir have been part of the spending spree. In other words, you are part of the problem. If you think you would like to debate the finances of the city with me, more power to you, but if it would come out that I won, then you resign! I know that offer won't happen.

I did mention three people who have told Councilwoman Bryant how to vote, her mother, Judge Cicirelli, Chuck Pickering and Mayor Bill Wild. You stated that the "three advisers" see eye-to-eye on very little. The three of them made a political deal last spring. Now, Mr. Kehrer, you know that! So it seems your statement is not true. I assume you are trying to get them to support you in a re-election next year. You know one of them LEGALLY can't do

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats.

E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com.

Read or comment online:
www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

that, but there may be ways around that as there were last fall.

Mr. Kehrer, a few months ago, when employees were being laid off and financial cuts were going to be made, a longtime resident asked the council and mayor to reduce their salaries by 10 percent. After the meeting was over, you were overheard saying that you would never take a cut! Shame on you. The fact of the matter is all of you should reduce the council salary by a substantial amount. The time you spend on council business has been greatly reduced over the years. I doubt the amount of hours spent even qualify for a part-time job! You have a very bad case of FIMD (foot-in-mouth disease).

Finally, Mr. Kehrer, at the June 7 council meeting, you really went overboard in your comments in regards to veterans. You alluded that you were part of the committee that helped raise money for the Vietnam Memorial

on the lawn in front of City Hall. Mr. Kehrer, you had NO part in that whatsoever. Why would you even say something like that? The main committee members for the memorial were Gerry Huber, Dave Siggins, Michael Golden and I. There were other people like Mayor Trav Griffin, City Clerk Diane Fritz, the DPS, Bob Matzo and Mack Mayfield and Building Director Bob Fritz and many other city employees. Many residents and businesses contributed to the memorial fund.

You sir, were not part of the design, construction, or dedication. In other words you did NOTHING and you should stop making those outlandish claims. You made some other claims that people are also checking on. I do know that you have been asked on different occasions to stop "politicking" at least one VFW Post.

You did make one true statement, the Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 3323, Harris-Kehrer is named in part after your grandfather. Knowing that to be true, you qualify to be a VFW auxiliary member. After all these years you have NEVER joined and you claim to be a "big supporter of veterans"?

Also, we have not seen you at any Westland Veterans Association function in the past four years. When the Vietnam Moving Wall was here, your involvement was minimal at best. Being a supporter of veterans is more than walking in a parade or being someplace for a photo op. So your foot in mouth disease is evident. Your claims are fraudulent and for your own sake, stop making those comments. You have already caused yourself much damage in the veteran community of which I am one. Maybe you really should find someplace to treat your FIMD.

Kenneth E. Mehl

chairman, Westland Veterans Association
and former councilman

Politics have no place in picking military aircraft

Washington, D.C., has been trying for nearly a decade to ink a contract with a defense supplier to build a much needed replacement for the Air Force's current fleet of aerial refueling tankers, which are now well over 45 years old.



Dwayne A. Alons

The process followed to this point has been complex, highly political and problematic. An initial contract to lease-to-own Boeing 747 tankers was pursued only to be terminated in the end due to personnel corruption and a lack of accountability.

Next a bizarrely conducted competition ensued between French-based Airbus Industries (in conjunction with Northrop Grumman) and Boeing. Through a very political process, the contest became so tilted towards Airbus (which was briefly and solely awarded the contract) that the Government Accountability Office promptly overturned the contract.

With years wasted and political nerves wearing thin, the Pentagon has set forth a

clearer and more transparent set of criteria for the next American tanker program, known to the Air Force as the "KC-X," which reflects the true needs of the United States military.

One would think a new focus would emerge with procurement and fielding soon to follow, but now Airbus, after securing an extension to rebid (this time without Northrop), has re-entered the contest as the only other bidder against Boeing.

My son, a major in the Iowa Air Guard, is flying the very same tankers that rolled off the assembly lines more than 45 years ago — well past their design specifications. While a testament to the airmen who have kept them flying, the need for a new tanker is real and becoming urgent.

The differences between the Airbus A330 and the Boeing 767 tankers are significant in light of the needs of the Air Force and the locations they will operate from. While on paper the A330 appears to be more efficient (due to its larger size and higher payload), this apparent advantage becomes a disadvantage when you understand it is too large for many of the U.S. and allied airfields where it would need to

operate.

In addition, a fundamental requirement of air refueling is to concurrently refuel many receivers, not simply carry the maximum payload like a conventional airlift aircraft. When all aspects of the KC-X needs are evaluated, the Boeing 767 refueling aircraft is clearly the most efficient and appropriate domestically produced tanker now and in the foreseeable future.

Boeing pioneered air refueling, and remains ready and willing to build the next generation tanker with a modern and proven design. Airbus is proposing a new design with the potential for cost overruns and delays — having seen significant cost and delay issues fielding their A400M military transport aircraft in Europe.

Our airmen don't need more delays. They need a new tanker. Congress needs to finish the process and choose a winner based on merit according to the contract available.

Brig. Gen. Dwayne A. Alons (Ret.) served as a command pilot in the U.S. Air Force and as the chief of staff at Headquarters, Iowa Air National Guard. He currently serves as an Iowa state representative.

Community Garden finally planted after rain delays

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The old saying is that the third time is the charm but Westland's DTE Energy Community Garden was actually planted on the fourth try.

"The whole issue was that we couldn't due to rain — we put it off three times," said Westland Planning Director Bruce Thompson, who also chairs the city's Mission: Green program. "We had a dozen people help with planting, give or take. There was a steady flow of people."

Located behind a DTE Energy facility at 38155 Cherry Hill, Westland's Community Garden covers about one acre. It's one of 10 community gardens sponsored by DTE throughout the metro area.

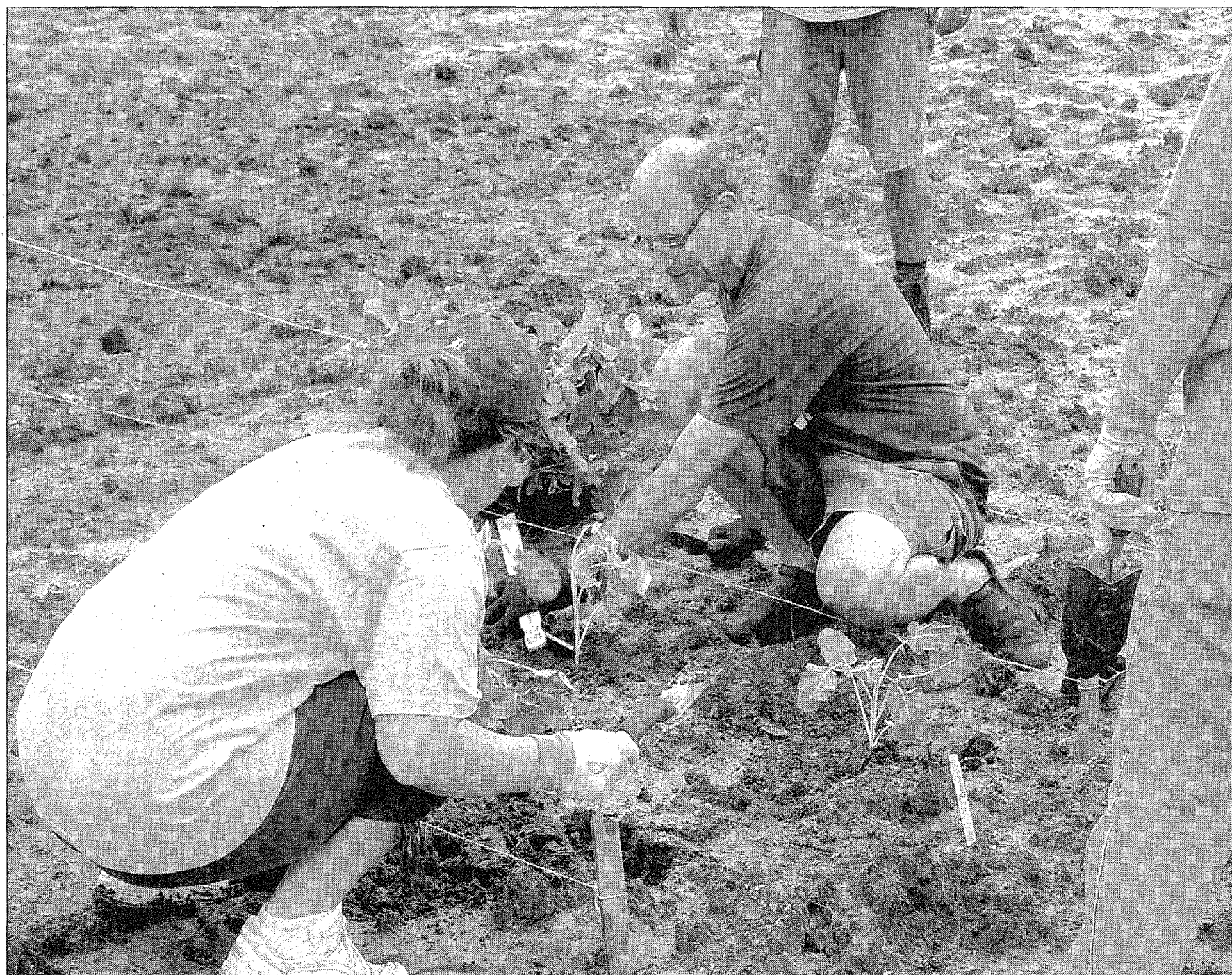
"There were all different varieties of vegetables planted — tomatoes, cucumbers and leafy vegetables like cabbage and broccoli," said Thompson. "There is a huge variety of items — I can't recognize them all. We did not plant root vegetables like carrots or potatoes that are under the soil."

The Community Garden, which will provide fresh produce for the Gleaners Community Food Bank, is essentially a volunteer effort. Volunteers are needed to help work in the garden 4-7 p.m. each Wednesday, weeding and eventually harvesting. Gleaners serves children, seniors, disabled people, working families and other individuals in need of emergency food.

"I'm putting together a new flier to target civic groups like the Civitans and Rotary, I've gotten information from the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts," said Thompson. "It will go to surrounding communities, too."

Based on experiences at DTE gardens, Thompson said public interest usually increases after the first crop has been planted.

"It's grassroots — no pun intended," said Thompson, whose family came to help with the planting.



Marc Zupmore (center), who is in charge of DTE Energy's community gardens, works with volunteers planting the Westland Community Garden. Volunteers are needed to help weed and harvest each Wednesday.

While his home garden is bedeviled with critters like moles and deer, Thompson was pleased no animal tracks were found at the community garden.

Rainy weather delayed planting the garden but Michigan summers can be hot and dry.

There is no sprinkling system at the garden, Thompson said, but arrangements have been made for the Westland Fire Department to provide some water, if needed.

"They can meter a hydrant so we can water the garden. They

would water at the highest point and drain into the garden," said Thompson. "You need to feel the site out. Some of the community gardens don't need to be watered — it depends on the soil and the drainage."

Anyone interested in work-

ing in the garden can just show up on Wednesday. Volunteers should bring drinking water, sunscreen, their own tools and gloves and wear shoes — no flip flops or sandals.

To get involved with planting, weeding, and harvest-

ing Westland's DTE Energy Garden, call Marc Zupmore at (313) 235-3579. Mission: Green also has its own Facebook page and also has information at www.cityofwestland.com.

lrogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

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Summer Festival kicks off Wednesday

Food, carnival rides, kids' games, a petting zoo, duck races and July 4 fireworks — the annual Westland Summer Festival has something for everybody.

The festival, which is celebrating "40 Years of Smiles and Laughter," kicks off 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 30, and continues through Sunday, July 4, closing with the fireworks display.

Held in the Westland municipal parking lot, the festival will also open at 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, July 1-2, and then activities begin at noon on Saturday and Sunday, July 3-4.

Throughout each day, there will be carnival rides, a midway, food concessions, a beer tent and arts and crafts. There will be a petting zoo and exotic animals on display.

There will be live entertain-

ment each evening of the festival:

- 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 30 — Swingshift.
- 8 p.m. Thursday, July 1 — Tony Phillips.
- 8 p.m. Friday, July 2 — Impact 7, Motown hits.
- 3-6 p.m. Saturday, July 3 — Topper Most, Beatles tribute, and 8 p.m. Trilogy.
- 3-6 p.m. Sunday, July 4 — Voice of the King Elvis Tribute and 7 p.m. Second Wind.

The Westland Jaycees are hosting children's events 2-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 3-4. At noon Sunday, July 4, the Westland Civitans are holding the finals of their Baby Contest.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 3-4, the Wayne Masonic Lodge will host a free child identification program at Westland Fire House No. 1, 36651 Ford,

on the east side of City Hall.

Each child who goes through the process will receive a dental impression as well as a CD containing a photo, video, digital fingerprints and their vital information. The Michigan Masonic Child ID Program provides the family with everything needed for the Amber Alert System. Parents or legal guardians of children who participate must be present and fill out a permission slip for the child to receive this service.

The July 4 fireworks are scheduled to begin about 10:15 p.m. To accommodate the fireworks, which are fired over Central City Park, Carlson south of Ford will be closed off beginning earlier in the day. There will be no parking on the street to make room for more people to view the fireworks.

Saving for college expenses should start early

It seems that all the financial news of late has been bad. However, there is some good news about tuition at a variety of Michigan universities.

College tuition over the last decade has skyrocketed. For example, since 2001, tuition at Central Michigan has increased 139 percent, Eastern Michigan 90 percent and the University of Michigan 68 percent. That is why it is good news when Michigan universities are finally paying attention to the cost of tuition and implementing a variety of cost cutting measures.

Three of Michigan's largest universities have bucked the recent trend when it comes to tuition increases. Eastern announced a tuition freeze. The U-M at Ann Arbor announced its smallest tuition increase in 26 years of 1.5 percent, and Michigan State University which had previously announced a 4.9 percent increase reduced that to 2.5 percent. For students at these universities, lower tuition costs for the

upcoming school year is good news.

Unfortunately, the good news isn't universal throughout Michigan because universities such as Michigan Tech and Saginaw Valley have announced nearly 6 percent increases in tuition. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that U-M, MSU or Eastern won't have hefty increases next year.

When I went to college, (MSU undergrad and U-M Law School) tuition was relatively inexpensive. Today, that is no longer the case. An incoming freshman at U-M will pay nearly \$12,000 per year in tuition while a typical student at MSU will pay a little over \$11,000.

College tuition is expensive and obtaining a college education is more important than ever. Rest assured that tuition cost will rise at greater rates in the future, so there is no time like today to think about saving for a loved ones college education.

It has never been easier to save for a child's education, particularly here in Michigan which has two college savings programs — the Michigan Education Trust and the Michigan Education Savings Plan.

The plans are different but they both offer a wide variety of benefits and they are not mutually exclusive.

The MET is a pre-paid tuition program. You can buy a semester, a year or even a full four-year undergrad education.

The MESP is an investment program and the money grows on a tax-free basis. When money is withdrawn and used for a qualified education expense (such as room and board, books and required fees) there are no tax consequences. The beauty of the MESP is that the money can basically be used for any public or private institution in the country.

In addition, one of the nice things about the MESP is it only has a \$25 minimum.

There is no doubt that MSU, EMU and the U-M did students a favor with regards to tuition increases. Hopefully, this won't just be a one-year occurrence and, moving forward universities will be much more fiscally responsible.

However, college costs will continue to rise and the best way to save for a college education is to start as soon as you can and do it on a regular basis.

Good luck!

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



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Foundation seeks families for exchange students

A local non-profit exchange program is inviting local families to host international exchange students for the 2010-2011 school year.

The teenage students come from over 30 countries and attend local high schools. The students have their own spending money and insurance. Host families are responsible for meals, a place to sleep and a nurturing environment.

STS Foundation has a local coordinator that will supervise the student and support the family throughout the school year. Among the incoming students requesting families are:

- Silvia is 16 years old and comes from Piedmont in Italy. She has an older brother Simonetta. Silvia lives with her parents. Her dad is a technical employee at a textile plant and her mom works at home. Silvia speaks Italian and French. She also enjoys playing the guitar, cooking, photography, listening to music, drawing and reading. Silvia also loves animals and owns a parrot, three

cats and a dog that sleeps with her. Her English teacher says that she is a sweet and polite student who seems to love learning new languages. Her favorite subjects are biology, English and Latin literature. She is an A student.

- Sevil is age 17 and comes from Solingen in Germany. Her dad is a manager and her mom is a pharmacist. Sevil has a 3-year-old brother whom she loves very much. She loves languages and speaks English, German, Latin and Turkish. Her hobbies and interests include playing volleyball, cooking, meeting friends, playing the violin, musicals and watching movies. Her parents say that she is a polite and responsible teenager who loves to cook and will be a real asset to her new host family

- Stefano is 17 and comes from Belluno in Italy where he lives with his parents and siblings. His dad is a doctor and his mom is a teacher. His favorite hobbies are playing rugby, motocross, music

and reading. He owns a cat named Baloo and a dog named Caterina. He loves watching American Football and ice hockey and hopes to go to a game with his host family in America. His teacher describes him as being a bright young man with a very pleasant personality.

- Ryan is 15 and comes from the Netherlands. He has a 13-year-old brother named Cedric. Ryan's dad is a Foreman and his mom is a beautician. He loves basketball, baseball, swimming, going to sports games, movies, fishing, walking the dog and reading. Ryan plays on his school's basketball team. His teachers describe him as being a nice polite student who has a great interest in his classes.

STS Foundation is a dedicated to intercultural exchange. For more information go online to www.stsfoundation.org or call David Keating at (800) 522-4678 or by e-mail him at david@stsfoundation.org.

AROUND WESTLAND

Festival pageant

The annual Miss Westland Summer Festival Pageant will be held 6 p.m. Saturday at the Friendship Center. This 11 Westland women will compete for the title which comes with \$1,200 in scholarship money. There is no swimsuit or talent competition but the contestants will appear in formal wear.

Everyone is invited to attend and hear the contestants respond to a question asked by the judges. Judging is based on an application, poise, personality, an essay and general appearance.

Farmers market

Fresh fruit, vegetables, baked goods, sausages and flowers will be offered at the Westland Farmers Market 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesdays through October. Look for the market on the east side of Westland Shopping Center along Wayne Road just south of Ashley's.

Cult movies

Friday Night Movies: Cult Classics

A true cult classic, John Waters' 1981 film *Polyester* will be featured at Westland's Faust Library 7 p.m. Friday. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and refreshments will be

served. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult to attend Rated R movies such as this film starring Divine and Tab Hunter.

Due to the Fourth of July holiday, there will be no movie on Friday, July 2. The summer series continues on Friday, July 9 with the futuristic thriller *Blade Runner* (R). Admission is free.

Help wanted

Westland Mayor William Wild is accepting resumes from residents interested in serving on various boards and commissions that have vacancies. Here are the boards and commissions along with a brief description:

- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority - Established in 1997, the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority uses tax increment financing to help remediate environmentally affected sites in the community. The Brownfield Redevelopment Program can provide major benefits to businesses that redevelop contaminated, functionally obsolete or blighted properties.

- EDC/TIFA - The Economic Development Corporation (EDC) provides below market rate financing for eligible firms. The Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA), under the supervision of the

EDC, implements an infrastructure improved plan within a specified district.


- Historical Commission - The commission collects, maintains and preserves any materials and documents relating to the history of Westland and Nankin Township. The commission also operates the Helen C. Brown Historical Museum.

- LDFA - The Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) is an 11-member board, seven appointed by mayor, two from Wayne-Westland Schools, one from Wayne County and one from Wayne County Community College, representing four taxing jurisdictions implements a development plan to improve a 2.5 mile section of the Newburgh Road corridor.

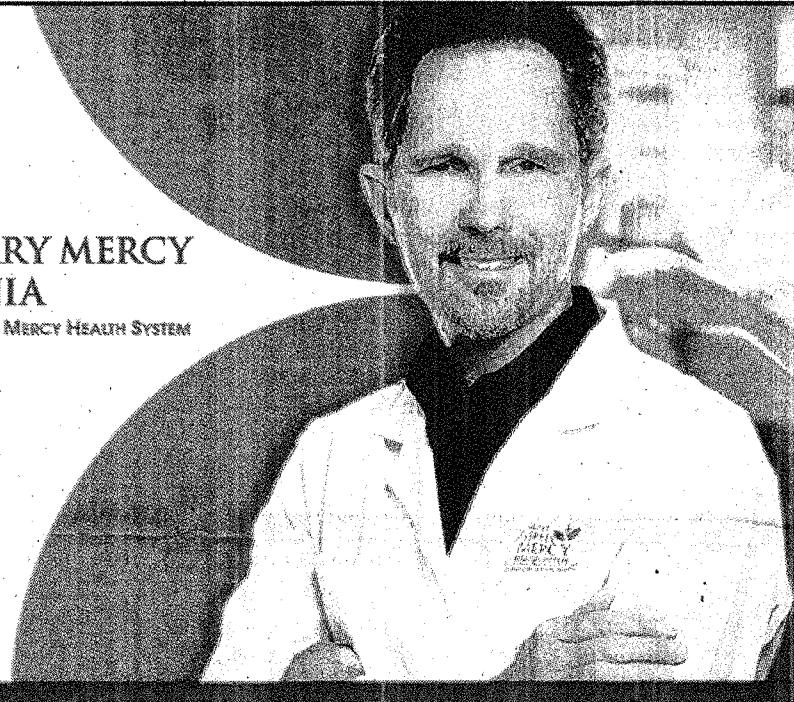
- LOCC - The Local Officer's Compensation Commission (LOCC) determines the salary of all elected officials.

- Parks & Recreation Advisory - The advisory council reviews plans and specifications for work undertaken in city parks and volunteers for programs provided by the city's Recreation Department.

Anyone interested in serving on any of these board or commission can submit their resume to the Mayor's Office, 36601 Ford, Westland, MI 48185.



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East All-Stars find Comerica to their liking

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Kevin Delapaz and Jeff Sorenson both went out with a bang in their final high school baseball appearances Monday night.

Delapaz, a senior left-hander from Canton, didn't need the Detroit River to create his own fireworks as he walked away MVP award as the East handily defeated the West,

12-2, in the annual Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Classic at Comerica Park.

Delapaz, headed to Bowling Green, was starting and winning pitcher, going three scoreless innings. He allowed only one hit and a walk while striking out three.

Delapaz, who moved to left field in the later innings, also gunned down Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central's Zak

PREP BASEBALL

Wilkerson with a perfect throw on the fly to the plate in the bottom of the eighth inning.

Wilkerson was trying to score from third on a sacrifice fly.

"It was a little sore from pitching. I pitched a few days ago, too," Delapaz said. "But you only get to play at Comerica a few times — so I let it go."

Sorenson, a first baseman-outfielder-pitcher from Livonia Stevenson, also delivered an RBI single in the eighth inning.

"I sat on the curveball and got a good hit out of it," said Sorenson, who is headed to Wayne State in the fall.

When he arrived, Delapaz was practically in awe of the Comerica Park surroundings.

"It was hard to take everything in, from the huge score-

board to the beautiful field, and all the stands," he said.

"Throughout the game I was trying to take in new stuff the whole time. It was a lot of fun.

"We have a really nice mound on my field — at Canton — but it's a beautiful mound. It was great to pitch off it."

The Canton ace admitted he had some nerves, but was pumped up when he got out to

Please see **BASEBALL, B2**

SIDELINES

Bucks rally, 3-2

Shades of the U.S. vs. Slovenia at the World Cup?

The Michigan Bucks fought back from an early 2-0 deficit Saturday to beat the Indiana Invaders, 3-2, in a Premier Development League match at Ultimate Soccer Arenas in Pontiac.

After the Invaders slipped their first two shots of the opening half past goalkeeper Mitch Hildebrandt (Livonia Stevenson/Oakland University), the Bucks fought back and trimmed the deficit to 2-1 at intermission on Kenny Uzoigwe's fifth goal of the season from Simon Omekanda in the 21st minute.

Tom Catalano's game-tying penalty kick attempt was stopped in the 89th minute, but the Bucks kept up the pressure and scored twice during stoppage time to pull out the victory against the Invaders (4-2-1, 13 points).

Newcomer John Dreshaj scored off a long throw-in from Stew Givens and Northville's Latif Alashe buried the game-winner as time expired during a mad scramble during the 93rd minute.

The win puts the Bucks, 5-2-1 (16 points) in a tie for second place with two other teams behind the first-place Chicago Fire (7-2-1, 22 points) in the Great Lakes Division of the PDL's Central-Conference.

The Bucks return to action 7:30 p.m. Thursday against the Kalamazoo Outrage (0-7-0) at Ultimate Soccer Arenas.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for youths (15 and under). Children (5 and under) are always free.

For more information, visit www.bucksoccer.com.

Warner misses cut

Former Michigan Miss Golf Shannon Warner (Livonia Churchill) missed the match play round by two strokes in the 34th U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championships held this week at The Warren Golf Course on the campus of Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind.

Warner, who just completed her sophomore year at Michigan State, shot a two-day 12-over total of 78-76-154 on Monday and Tuesday.

Warner, who played in nine events this spring for the Spartans averaging 78 per 18 holes, helped MSU to a third place finish in the Big Ten Championships and a 10th-place showing in the NCAA Central Regional.

Livonia Spree Run

The Spree Fun Run, presented by State Farm Insurance Ken Wagner Agency, will be Sunday, June 27, at the Livonia YMCA, 14225 Stark.

The event will benefit the Livonia Jaycees Michigan Junior Chamber.

If registered by June 24, the cost for the 1-mile, 5K and 10K runs is \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. Onsite registration is \$25 for adults and \$20 for students and seniors.

Registration and package pickup begins at 7 a.m. The 5K and 10K runs start at 8:15 a.m. followed by the 1-mile walk at 8:30 a.m. (Formal timing will not be offered.)

A race entry also guarantees an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast from 9-11 a.m. at nearby Edgar Arena. (T-shirt is guaranteed if registered by June 20.)

For more information, call Chris Ogden at (734) 891-1639 or visit SpreeRun.org.

Rocket in orbit

Langford stars by scoring game-winning TD

BY SEAN MERRIMAN
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Jeremy Langford had been waiting all week to display his skills on the biggest possible stage.

The future Michigan State Spartan got that opportunity Saturday at the 30th annual Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All Star Game, and he delivered in his future home.

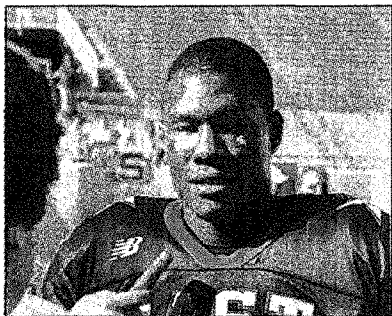
The Westland John Glenn star rushed for a team-high 42 yards and had the game-winning, 1-yard touchdown run with 14 seconds left as the East defeated the West 20-16 at Spartan Stadium.

"I just wanted the ball in my hands," said Langford, the former Rocket. "We got a good push and we really needed that. It's all very exciting."

The game looked to be a one-sided contest early as the West team held the East squad scoreless in the first half.

The first score of the game came with 3:53 left in the first quarter when Midland's Charlie Leffingwell chased down Langford deep in the back of the end zone for a safety.

After a quick three-and-out for the East team, West quarterback Jordan Beachnau from Holt and



KEVIN FOWLER | GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Westland John Glenn's Jeremy Langford is interviewed after scoring the game-winning touchdown for the East squad in a 20-16 All-Star victory Saturday at MSU's Spartan Stadium.

halfback Chris Robinson from Ovid-Elsie — two mid-Michigan stars heading to Grand Valley State this fall — combined to lead a 10-play, 64-yard drive. Robinson capped the drive with a 3-yard touchdown run for a 9-0 West lead.

"We knew what we had to do and how we had to execute. (Robinson) definitely makes my job a lot easier out there," Beachnau said. "I was telling him all week how glad I am that we are going to be teammates."

After the East team failed to convert on a fourth-and-1 at its

Please see **FOOTBALL, B2**



KEVIN FOWLER | GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Jeremy Langford (bottom) of John Glenn stretches for the goal line during the closing seconds as Jordan Goetz jumps over him in Saturday's East-West All-Star Football Game in East Lansing.

Top pole vaulters on Spree runway

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amid the carnival rides, cotton candy booths and circus shows during Livonia's Spree 60 six-day celebration at Ford Field, another event may catch the fancy of attendees.

Diamond No. 2 will become a haven Friday and Saturday for some of the state's elite and up-and-coming pole vaulters with the annual Spree Vault competition.

"We expect 50 or more to compete," said Livonia Churchill assistant track and field coach Vern Williams. "It's one of the only pole vault competitions on this side of the state."

"It should be lots of fun and the weather so far looks like it will be perfect."

A portable pole vault pit and runway will be brought in for the competition and placed on Ford Field's main softball diamond.

"It's a wood runway, 8 inches high, 130 feet long, 3 feet wide," Williams said. "To set it up only takes an hour. It's more springy. It feels better, because of that spring when you're going down the runway and take off. We keep it at the school (Churchill). We use it at the summer pole vault camp."

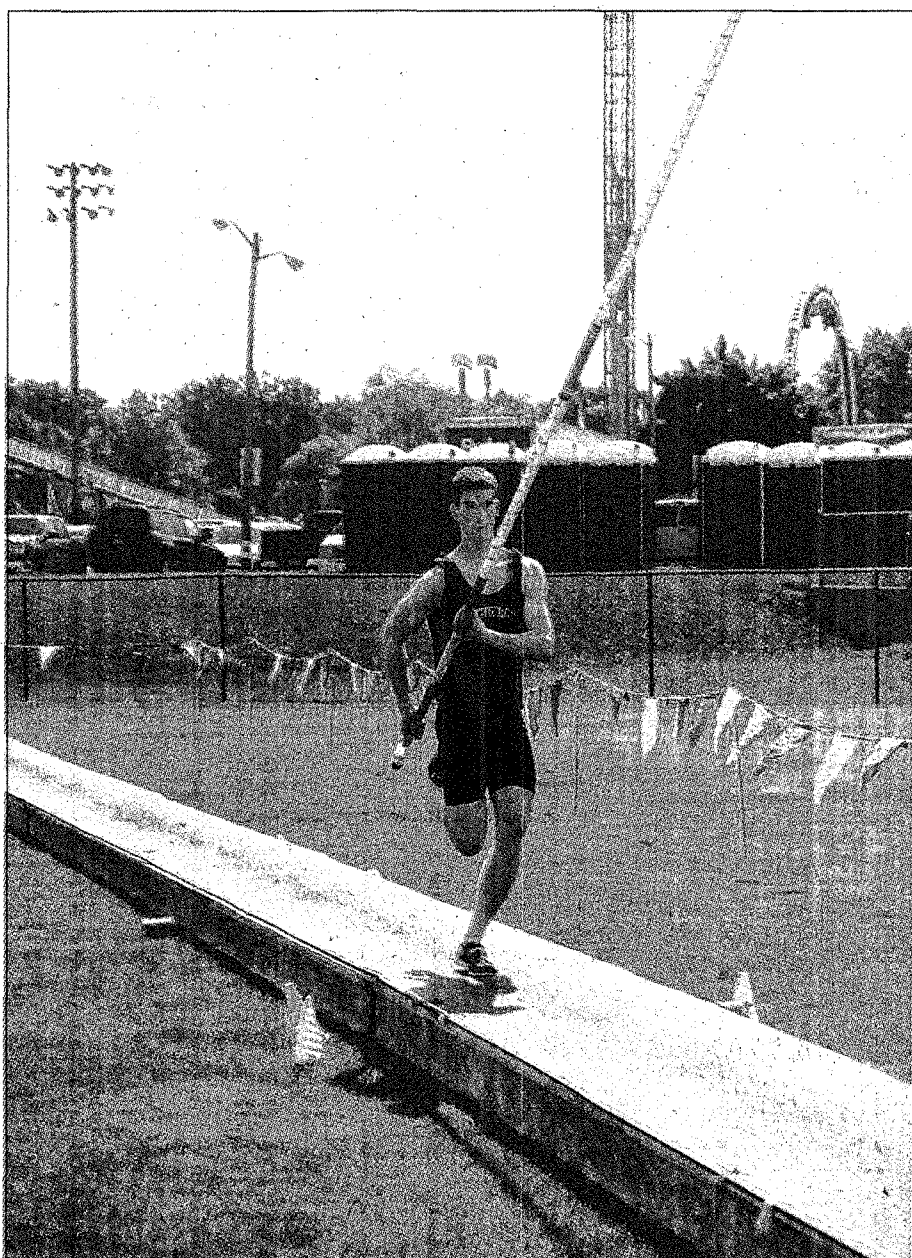
College and high school vaulters will vie for age-group titles along with open events for both men and women.

The two-day competition starts at 3 p.m. Friday with the masters age level (40-and-up) going first followed by the 14-and-under girls at 4 p.m. and the 14-and-under boys at 5 p.m.

Action continues at noon Saturday with ages 15-16, 17-18 followed by the College Open and Elite competitors later the evening.

"We decided to start a little later in the day this year so that we can have some

Please see **SPREE, B4**



BILL PETERMAN | PHOTO

Former Churchill High standout Derik Peterman, now at Michigan State, will compete again this weekend at the Spree Vault competition.

Father's Day races draw large crowd

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

The Plymouth YMCA's Father's Day Run brought more than 2,000 people Sunday morning to downtown Plymouth to participate in a variety of races.

There was a quarter-mile Trot (ages 3-4), quarter-mile Junior Jog (ages 5-7), one-mile run/walk, 5-kilometer run/walk and 10-kilometer run/walk that led up to the Morse Dental Group Triple award, decided by the runner with the best combined time from participating in the one-mile, 5K and 10K races all in a row for a 10.3-mile run.

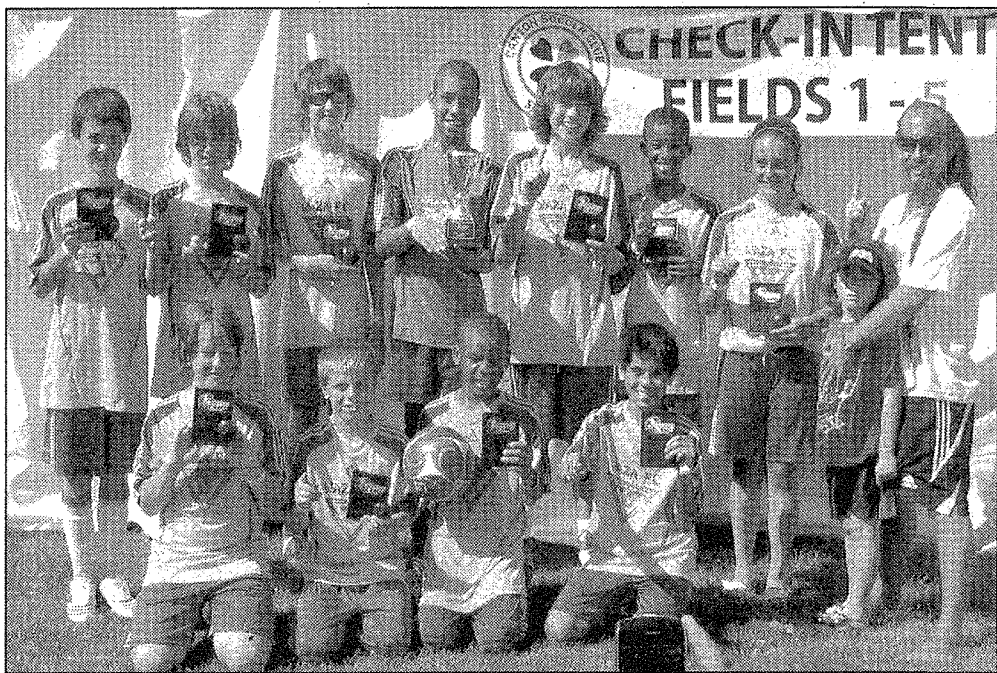
This year's MDG Triple winner was 35-year-old Clint Verran of Lake Orion. Verran, who finished with a combined time of 52 minutes, 49 seconds, also won the Triple during his one other attempt in 1997, which followed a collegiate track career at Eastern Michigan University.

Verran is scheduled to have knee surgery to repair a torn meniscus today, but plans to run in the Chicago Marathon Sept. 12.

TEST RUN

"I had the day off and it's Father's Day," he said of his

Please see **RACE, B4**



Waza '98 champs

The under-12 Waza '98 Blue team recently completed a first-place finish in the 9-vs.-9 Michigan State Development Soccer League. Waza '98 Blue also triumphed over Michigan Rush Central Swoosh, 4-3, in overtime, to capture their division Memorial Day weekend at the Canton Cup. Members of Waza '98 Blue include (standing, from left): Max Montini, Josh Johnson, James Weekley, Aaron Parker, Logan Ryan, Dominick Payne, Olivia Kondrath, Waza West Club president Mario Scicluna; (kneeling, from left) Zach Obsniuk, Troy Borawski, Josh Hall, Dylan Rushton. (Not pictured are Megan Krings and coach Dan Diac.)

BASEBALL

FROM PAGE B1

the mound.

"I'm not going to lie, there was some adrenaline there," he said. "I wanted to put on a nice show. It was nice to be able to pitch in front of an All-Star team like this. There were a lot of friends and family; it was nice to see so many people come out for me."

Sorenson soaked in all the ambiance of playing in the Major League stadium as well.

"It was a great experience, a lot of fun," he said. "It's great

to play at Comerica Park."

When Sorenson first stepped out to the Comerica Park field, he'll always remember one thing.

"Probably the scoreboard," he said. "It's gigantic."

Sorenson, who set six Stevenson career hitting and pitching records, capped his senior year by batting .427 with 12 homers and 50 RBI.

He also went 5-2 on the mound with an ERA of 1.02, including 90 strikeouts in 48 innings as the Spartans went from six wins during his junior year to 27 this spring.

"I kind of knew I wasn't going to pitch," he said. "I've

had some arm troubles lately so I didn't want to hurt myself today. That's exactly why I was playing first."

Over the weekend, Sorenson was honored by MHSBCA as both a Dream Team and first-team Division 1 All-State selection.

"It's been a great year," Sorenson said. "It's too bad we couldn't make it any farther in the playoffs, but I had a lot of fun."

"I went out and I knew I was supposed to lead the team, and that's what I tried to do all year."

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Coach's Corner makes a move

Hansen's 5-hitter bests Rams in Collegiate clash

Madonna University's Tom Hansen pitched a complete-game 5-hitter Monday night as Coach's Corner moved ahead of the pack in the Livonia Michigan Collegiate Baseball League with a 3-0 triumph over the Michigan Rams at Bicentennial Park.

Hansen, who struck out 12 and walked only two, went all seven innings as Coach's Corner improved to 11-2 in the league play.

Coach's Corner scored all three of its runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to chase Rams starter Alex Pierse, who suffered the loss.

Pierse allowed all three runs on four hits. He struck out five and walked five before giving way to reliever Cam Walker.

Steve Pelletier went 2-for-3 with two RBI to lead Coach's Corner. Drew Adamiec also added two hits and an RBI.

Aaron Cieslak went 2-for-3, including a double, for the 11-2-1 Rams.

RAMS 14-7, COBRAS 2-7: In a Collegiate League double-header Saturday, the Michigan Rams (10-2-1) won the opener and settled for a tie in the nightcap against the host NF-WB Cobras (4-8-1) at White Lakeland High School.

Brad Guenther went 2-for-3 with a triple and five RBI as the Rams rolled in a six-inning mercy, 14-2, to capture Game One.

Ben Paskus added two hits and two RBI, while Bobby Thomas went 2-for-4 with an RBI for the victorious Rams.

Cam Walker also knocked in two runs, while Aaron Cieslak and John DiLaura also collected an RBI each. Sam Ott scored three runs.

Mike Schypinski pitched 4.1 innings of hitless and scoreless relief of starter Sam Cleary to pick up the victory. Neil Zalud.

Dillon Breault suffered the loss.

In the nightcap, the Rams and Cobras played to a 7-7 draw which was stopped after seven innings because of the 150-minute times limit.

Cieslak led the Rams' 9-hit attack going 4-for-4 with a pair of triples and three RBI. Ott added two hits and an RBI, while Guenther, Thomas and Walker also knocked in runs.

Alex Andrejewski went 2-for-4

with a double and two RBI for NF-WB. Kevin Delapaz also knocked in two runs.

BLUE KNIGHTS 4, RAMS 1: Pitcher Brady Cooper proved he could go the distance - and then some - for the Blue Knights (5-7) in Wednesday's 10-inning Collegiate League win over the Michigan Rams (9-2) at Ford Field.

The former Ram, now attending Wayne State, allowed just six hits, walked five and struck two in 10 innings to pick up the victory.

Losing pitcher Alex Pierse (Wayne State) also pitched a gem in defeat. He allowed two earned runs on just one hit and six walks while striking out 13 in 9.2 innings. His no-hit bid was broken up in the ninth with two outs and one on as Bryan Mullen delivered the game-winning double scoring Eric Wrozek.

Rams reliever Joe Posler, who couldn't stem the tide, gave up three hits and one run in a third of an inning.

Andrew Ciennik and Pat Schlenke each drove in a run for the 22-and-under Blue Knights.

Aaron Cieslak went 2-for-5 with the lone RBI in the first inning for the 20-and-under Rams. Brett Mazmanian also added two hits and scored the lone run.



Storm warning

The 14-and-under Livonia Storm-Gerou girls fastpitch softball team recently finished first out of a field of 26 to win the fifth annual Livonia Storm Summer Classic, June 18-20 at Livonia's Bicentennial Park. Storm-Gerou defeated Livonia Storm-Hunter, 9-1, in the championship game of the USSSA Qualifier. They captured seven straight games while outscoring their opponents 46-6 to raise their overall record to 25-4-1. Next weekend, Storm-Gerou will play in the 14-and-under Class A division at the NSA state tourney in Lansing before competing in the USSSA World Series in late July in Orlando, Fla. Members of Storm-Gerou include (front row, from left): Kaitlyn McIntosh, Delainey O'Donnell, Elaine Gerou; (middle row, from left) Jessica Brandon, Aubrie Cragg, Casey Bias, Jacquelyn Murphy, Celeste Fidge; (back row, from left) head coach Mike Gerou, assistant coach Kevin Bias, Catherine Porter, Hanna Warren, Shannon Watson, and assistant coaches Bob Warren and Jay McIntosh.

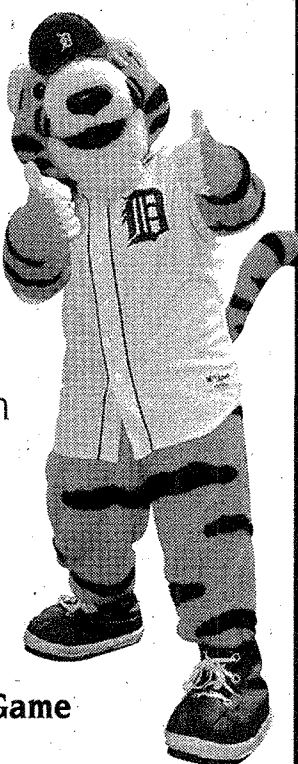


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FIRST-TEAM SINGLES
Jennifer Yen, Sr., N. Farmington: A four-year standout in the singles lineup, Yen compiled a 20-6 record this year at the No. 1 flight. She was a Division 2 state semifinalist and runner-up in the OAA White Division to Rochester's Kelsey Dieters. Yen defeated D-2 state champ Anne Marie Morin of Rochester Adams in straight sets and Dana Siegel from Andover. She won the Allen Park and North Farmington invitational. Yen was the No. 3 singles state champion as a freshman.

"She definitely became a leader for us over the past four years," coach Whitney Wasielewski said, adding Yen leads by example. "Jennifer became a much more aggressive and stronger player. She had a great year at three singles as a freshman, but she wasn't ready for one singles at that time. She developed over four years and became a strong player who was very capable and did very well at that spot."

Angelica Woods, Jr., Franklin: The junior posted a 20-3 record and reached the Round of 16 in the Division 1 state finals after a runner-up finish at the regional after beating Northville's Joanne Weber in a three-set semifinal match.

Woods' three-year record at No. 1 singles is 58-12 overall. She also earned All-Academic honors in both the Kensington Lakes Activities Association and Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association.

"Angelica is truly one of Franklin's best — she is a scholar-athlete," Franklin coach Rick Clack said. "She's the last to leave a practice or match, is honest while playing, and has all the tennis strokes needed to compete in a high level of play."

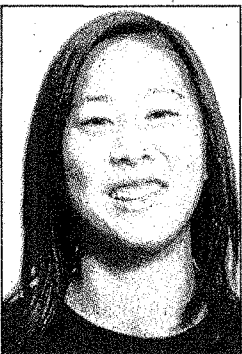
"She is mentally and physically as tough as they come and never lost a three-set match in 2010. Had she been given a better draw at 'States,' I believe she would have played into the quarterfinals at Midland."

Katie Blumberg, Sr., Farmington: Blumberg, who has played No. 1 singles for three seasons, was a regional semifinalist. She defeated Lahser's Lydia Klein and Marian's Liz Ulrich, and she went three sets with Yen, 4-6, 6-2, 1-6. Blumberg had a 16-6 record this year against some of the best competition in Oakland County.

"That means she's playing Anne Marie Morin twice," coach Gary Nicholls said, referring to the D-2 state champ from Rochester Adams. "(Justine) Ciaravino, (Kelsey) Dieters, (Samantha) Pinchoff — you name them; she's played them all."

"When you're playing one in Oakland County, especially with the kind of schedule I set up for the girls this year, it's a rough ride."

"Katie would be a tremendous doubles player, because she understands angles and variety of shots and how to mix it up. Maybe



Jennifer Yen
N. Farmington



Angelica Woods
Franklin



Katie Blumberg
Farmington



Victoria Amponsah
Farmington



Margaux Kabodian
Mercy



Akanksha Vaishnav
N. Farmington



Emily Hand
N. Farmington



Emily Jan
N. Farmington



Riva Jaddou
N. Farmington



Danielle Balsis
N. Farmington



Anna Hinrichs
Mercy



Laura Williams
Mercy

when she gets to college, she'll be able to show some of that.

"She's a good listener. She'll try to adjust her game depending on who she's playing and what she has to do. It helped to keep her No. 1 on our team for three years."

Victoria Amponsah, Jr., Farmington: Amponsah has a three-year record of 52-14 in singles play. She was 15-7 this season against excellent competition. She won a three-setter over North Farmington's Akanksha Vaishnav in the regional semis and then won the championship. Amponsah also lost a close match to Yen, 6-7, 4-6.

"What she did last year was amazing, going undefeated to the state semis," coach Nicholls said, adding the Falcons didn't have the opportunity to play at state this year.

"Here we have three killer singles players (including 23-1 Michelle Mac at No. 3), and they don't get to go to state. That's one of the unfortunate things about the way our system is set up. We ended up in a regional with five state qualifiers from last year, and there just weren't enough

points to go around.

"(Amponsah had) been strictly a power player and now she's added some variety to her game. She has become a more all-around, balanced player. With the power she already has, who knows what she'll do next year."

Margaux Kabodian, Soph., Mercy: Kabodian is a repeat selection for the first team with Yen, Blumberg and Amponsah. The No. 1 singles player helped the Marlins to a sixth-place in the D-2 state meet with a first-round victory. Kabodian was 10-9 while going up against many of the top players in her flight.

"Margaux being a sophomore is very young and very aggressive, and she has improved every year," coach Ken Stocker said. "She beat everybody she should have. In tough matches, she played tough and always had a good attitude. Even when she had a tough match, they were close games, and she came off the court and said she played well. You can't ask for a better attitude than that."

Akanksha Vaishnav, Soph., N. Farmington: Vaishnav had a busy spring, playing No. 2

singles for the tennis team, being a starting midfielder in soccer and maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She won the OAA White Division, as well as the Grosse Pointe North, Allen Park and North Farmington invitational. Vaishnav was a D-2 state semifinalist and finished with a 21-5 record.

"She improved throughout the season and peaked at the end," coach Wasielewski said. "She was only a sixth seed (at the state meet) and upset the third seed in straight sets. She lost in three sets in the semifinals. She showed she can fight to stay in matches and play with anybody in the state. She was battling injuries at the end of the season, and she stayed positive and fought through them; so I'm very proud of her."

FIRST-TEAM DOUBLES
Emily Jan (Sr.)-Emily Hand (Sr.), N. Farmington: The seniors were a doubles team for four years and had great success during their prep careers. They were 26-2 this year and 50-4 over the past two seasons. Hand and Jan were OAA White Division and regional champions, and they also won the Allen Park and North Farmington

2010 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS TENNIS

FIRST-TEAM SINGLES

Jennifer Yen, Sr., N. Farmington
Angelica Woods, Jr., Liv. Franklin
Katie Blumberg, Sr., Farmington
Tori Amponsah, Jr., Farmington
Margaux Kabodian, Soph., F.H. Mercy

Akanksha Vaishnav, Soph., N. Farm.

FIRST-TEAM DOUBLES

Emily Hand, Sr., N. Farmington
Emily Jan, Sr., N. Farmington
Riva Jaddou, Jr., N. Farmington
Danielle Balsis, Jr., N. Farmington
Anna Hinrichs, Fr., F.H. Mercy
Laura Williams, Soph., F.H. Mercy

SECOND-TEAM SINGLES

Allie Carpenter, Sr., Salem
Jessie Guindt, Fr., F.H. Mercy
Laura Gumpfer, Jr., Liv. Stevenson
Ariana Kabodian, Jr., F.H. Mercy
Michelle Mac, Sr., Farmington
Maria Vicini, Fr., N. Farmington
Emily Walsh, Jr., F.H. Mercy

SECOND-TEAM DOUBLES

Kaitlin Deisenroth, Sr., Liv. Ladywood
Megan Glowacki, Jr., Liv. Ladywood
Lisa Carlson, Sr., F.H. Mercy
Michelle Ho, Sr., F.H. Mercy
Rachel Norman, Sr., Salem
Ashley Davis, Sr., Salem

COACH OF THE YEAR

Whitney Wasielewski, North Farmington
Ken Stocker, Jake Stocker, F.H. Mercy

HONORABLE MENTION

Singles: Anna Norman, Soph., Salem; Ashley Benvenuti, Jr., Stevenson; Lindsay Stemberger, Soph., Plymouth; Ani Cooper, Soph., Churchill; Mara Karagozian, Fr., Churchill; Carmen Gaddis, Fr., Harrison; Allison Lewsley, Sr., Harrison; Stephanie Pietruszka, Jr., Ladywood; Raven Gardiner, Jr., Redford Union; Mallarie Gainer, Sr., Garden City; Jessica Jemuend, Sr., Garden City; Brianna Yankasky, Jr., Garden City.

Doubles:

Sarah Abdulhamid, Sr., and Heena Patel, Sr., N. Farmington; Val Rose, Sr., and Kristi Walker, Sr., Churchill; Kelsey Shaw, Jr., and Alyssa Muller, Jr., Mercy; Emily Plumley, Jr., and Michelle DeBeaudry, Sr., Stevenson; Kayla Davis, Sr., and Brittany Vance, Sr., Canton; Annie Mackenzie, Sr., and Iulia Fratila, Jr., Plymouth; Ashley Walker, Fr., and Mallory Rojo, Jr., Salem.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Whitney Wasielewski, N.

Farmington: Wasielewski, a former standout at Livonia Stevenson and the University of Toledo, led the Raiders to the OAA White Division championship and an eighth-place finish at the D-2 state meet.

"It has been an amazing season for North Farmington on and off the court," Wasielewski said. "My girls are a great group and I am very proud to be their coach. They are not only great tennis players, but great people who excel on the court and in the classroom. Most importantly, they have great character."

"We talk a lot about sportsmanship and work ethic, and they have done a great job with those things, which is a huge factor in why we are successful. I am honored to be selected as coach of the year, and I am honored to coach such a great team."

Ken Stocker, Jake Stocker, Mercy: The Stockers guided the Marlins through a difficult dual schedule to a runner-up finish in the Catholic League behind D-2 state co-champion Bloomfield Hills Marian and a sixth-place finish in the state tournament.

"Being as young as we were, we will just get better and better," Ken Stocker said, adding 10 of 14 girls will be back next year. "They have a great desire to be more successful than sixth place. They're starting right now, and we're looking forward to a better season next year."

JUNIOR TENNIS RESULTS

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE SPRING OPEN JUNIOR TENNIS TOURNAMENT

June 18-20 at Schoolcraft College
AGE-GROUP CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Boys 18s: Eric Gruskin defeated Adrash Reddy, 6-3, 6-4; **semifinals:** Gruskin def. Andrew Dupret, 6-2, 6-3; Reddy def. Alex Mikhail, 6-4, 6-1.

Girls 18s: Lauren Korlewitz def. Katelyn Blumberg, 5-7, 6-2, 10-8 (super breaker); **semifinals:** Korlewitz def. Amelia Parenteau, 6-0, 6-2; Blumberg def. Ally Hars, 6-4, 0-6, 19-

17 (super breaker).
Boys 16s: Pavan Rao def. Maximilian Hemmrich, 6-2, 6-2; **semifinals:** Rao def. Alex Gruskin, 6-4, 6-1; Hemmrich def. Abhay Hukku, 7-6 (7-1), 6-1.

Girls 16s: Winifred Karoub def. Lauren Hughes, 6-1, 6-3; **semifinals:** Karoub def. Nicole Kruse, 6-0, 6-0; Hughes def. Rylie Fallu, 6-0, 6-0.

Boys 14s: Jonathan Martin def. Thomas Sheeren, 6-4, 2-6, 11-9 (super breaker); **semifinals:** Martin def. Andrew Ying, 7-5, 6-4;

Sheeren def. Kevin Hurley, 6-0, 6-2.
Girls 14s: Aimee Moccia def. Kyle Lakin, 7-5, 6-1; **semifinals:** Moccia def. Camille Townsend, 6-4, 6-2; Lakin def. Natalie Holland, 4-6, 7-6, 10-3 (super breaker).

Boys 12s: Philip Wong def. Davis Wong, 7-5, 6-3; **semifinals:** P. Wong def. Sandeep Raja, 6-0, 6-4; D. Wong def. Andrei Paduraru, 6-2, 6-3.

Boys 10s: Constantin Hemmrich def. Joseph Stafford, 6-0, 6-1; **semifinals:** Hemmrich def. Kavon Rahmani, 4-6, 6-2, 10-6 (super breaker).

E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS hometownlife.com

SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

The tragedy is that less than half of those persons who are denied benefits file an appeal. Thus, many thousands of people who deserve benefits never receive them.

Those denied can appeal on their own, but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign clients to young associate attorneys with much less experience.

In addition to practicing only Social Security Disability law Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups.

Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure.

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

In a recent radio interview, attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefits).

Bieske represents clients from all over the state of Michigan. Call him at 1-800-331-3530 for a FREE consultation if you have been denied. Or if you are thinking of possibly of applying for Social Security benefits call him for FREE advice.

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RACE

FROM PAGE B1

decision to join the Plymouth race after a 13-year hiatus. "I'm going to have knee surgery this Thursday and I wanted to test out to see if I really need it."

A 20-year veteran of competitive running who has logged more than 100,000 miles, Verran finished second in both the one-mile (4:33) and 5K (15:28) races, but won the 10K in 32:48 to earn his second MDG Triple title in 52:49, four seconds ahead of 22-year-old David Brent of Monroe.

Brent defeated Verran by a fraction of a second in the 5K in 15:28 after finishing third in the one-mile, just a fraction of a second behind Verran at 4:33.

Rondell Ruff, 27, of Gallitzin, Pa., won the one-mile in 4:31, but finished third in his age group in the 5K (16:31) and fifth in his age group's

10K class (35:54). He was 10th in the overall Triple standings in 56:56.

Also placing in the top three of an overall single event were 28-year-old Northville resident Nick Allen (third in 5K in 15:40) and 23-year-old Pinckney resident Nicholas Kutzeffares (third in 10K in 32:52).

Kutzeffares was third in the Triple in 53:25, while Allen was fifth in 54:27. Troy's Christopher Hammer, 24, was fourth in the Triple in 54:00.

The women on the track were just as impressive, but Westland's Angela Matthews, 26, led the way by winning two of three races to claim the Triple title in 1:00.13. Dearborn's Erin Webster, 24, finished just behind Matthews in all three events.

The competition between the two started off close, with Matthews winning the one-mile run in 5:05, just two seconds ahead of Webster. Fenton's Lisa Veneziano, 45, finished third in 5:40.

Matthews gave herself some space in the 5K with a 17:39 run, which

bested Webster's 18:06. However, Ann Arbor's Monica Joyce, 51, came in and won the women's overall 5K title in 17:04.

Without Joyce in the 10K, Matthews won the event by nearly a minute. Her time of 37:29 beat Webster's 38:20, who was followed across the line by Clarkston's Leah Scharl, 33, who finished third in 38:34.

Veneziano finished third in the Triple in 1:03.45, followed by 60-year-old Canton resident Donna Olson (1:15.33) and 30-year-old Canton resident Jill Conte (1:17.44).

The youngest participant of the three full-length races was 2-year-old Erin McCallum of Northville, who got across the 5K finish line in 32:29. Ken Johnson of Warwick, R.I., was the oldest racer, as the 79-year old finished the 5K in 35:19.

For full results on last weekend's Plymouth YMCA's Fathers Day run, visit www.active.com/running/plymouth-mi/plymouth-ymca-fathers-day-run-2010#Results.

For more information, e-mail Williams at coachvern@livoniaspre-evault.com.

Powerlifting event

The Detroit Barbell A.P.F. Powerlifting Competition will be Saturday in front of Eddie Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon, Livonia.

Weigh-ins will be from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

The entry fee is \$60 for the first division and \$30 for each additional division.

Entry forms are available online at www.livoniaspre.com.

For more information, call (734) 642-7877; or e-mail Detroit Barbell at yahoo.com.

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Ladywood Sticks Camp

The Livonia Ladywood Sticks Camp will be from 9 a.m. until noon (lacrosse) and from 1-4 p.m. (field hockey), Monday through Wednesday, June 28-30, at the high school.

To obtain a brochure, visit www.ladywood.org (go to athletics/camps).

Tennis skills camp

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer three-week sessions of its tennis skills camps Monday through Wednesday, June 28-29 and July 5-7, at the Bicentennial Park courts, located at Seven Mile and Wayne roads.

Ages 6-8 will meet at 9 a.m. followed by ages 9-12 at 10:05 a.m. The cost is \$100 for residents or \$110 for non-residents. For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

Introduction to tennis

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer its introduction to tennis classes for ages 6-10, beginning at 6 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, June 28, 30; July 5 and 7 (Session I); and July 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 and 28 (Session II) - both at the Sheldon Park Tennis Courts, located off Plymouth Road just east of Farmington.

Another session for ages 6-10 will be offered at 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, July 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 and 28. Each class is 55 minutes. The cost is \$75 for residents and \$85 for non-residents (per session). For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

MU volleyball camp

Madonna University will offer three different sessions of summer volleyball camps including:

Advanced (elite) and general all skills

(June 28-July 1); setters and youth (July 5-8); hitters and defensive (July 12-15).

For more information, call MU women's volleyball coach and camp director Jerry Abraham at (734) 946-6664 (days) or (734) 254-0698 (evenings). You can also e-mail jabraham-211680mi@comcast.net.

Stevenson girls hoops

The Lady Spartan Basketball camp will be from 9-11 a.m. (entering grades 4-6) and from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (entering grades 7-9), Monday through Thursday, June 28-July 1, at the Livonia Stevenson High School fieldhouse.

The cost is \$60 cost. For more information, e-mail varsity girls coach Jen Knoph at jknoph@livoniapublicschools.org.

Basketball Academy

Coach Paul Tripp of The Basketball Academy is staging his summer skill development camps at St. Damian School in Westland.

The Girls' camp will be from 8-11 a.m. (grades 3-5) and 12:30-4 p.m. (grades 6-9), Monday through Thursday, June 28-July 1.

For more information and to obtain a brochure, e-mail BasketballAcademy@hotmail.com; or call 248-563-0858.

Franklin baseball

The Livonia Franklin Future Stars summer baseball camp (boys and girls exiting grades 2-8) will be from 9 a.m. until noon, Monday through Thursday, June 28-July 1, at the varsity field or inside the fieldhouse (in case of inclement weather).

The cost is \$60 (includes camp T-shirt). You must be registered by Friday, June 25. For more information, call Matt Fournier at (734) 968-0499 or e-mail mfournier2@livoniapublicschools.org.

SPREE

FROM PAGE B1

competitions during the evening time under the stadium lights," Williams said. "Of course, we're trying to draw a larger crowd by the evening when the college and elite vaulters compete."

Current Spree record holder Max Babits of Fowlerville, who set an MHSAA Division 2 state record earlier this month (16 feet, 0.5 inches), returns to defend his title after clearing 16-0 a year ago.

Babits, who comes from a long line of family pole vaulters, will compete

next season for Eastern Michigan University.

Former Churchill standouts Derik Peterman (Michigan State) and Joe Tesner (EMU) will also be in the field.

Peterman has a best of 16 feet, while Tesner has gone 15-7.

Two Division 1 girls All-Staters, Michelle Steslicki (Northville), headed to MSU, and Kaitlyn Shelar (Novi), bound for West Virginia, are also expected to compete in the USA Track & Field sanctioned event.

Canton High jumps coach Matti Kilpelainen will also compete in the men's over-60 competition.

Vaulters can still sign up the day of event each day by going online at livoniaspreevault.com



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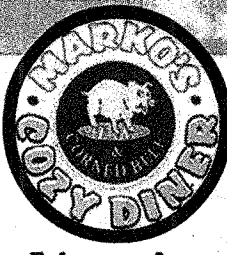
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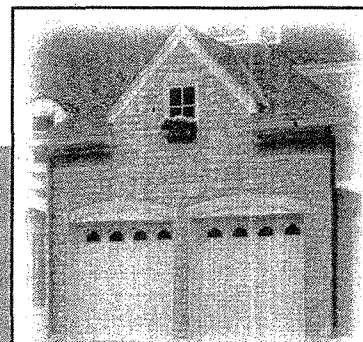


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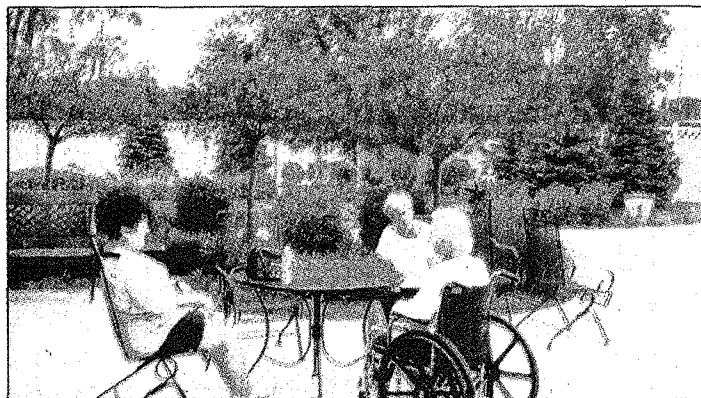
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Makeover offers residents hotel-like setting



Cathy Colombo (left) and Violet Rockwell visit with their mother Dora Pavle on the patio at the Four Seasons Nursing Home.

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Nursing centers aren't suppose to look like hotels, with flat screen TVs in each room and a granite top reception desk.

But those are some of the things Charles Dunn has been doing to make the Four Seasons Nursing Center a place families want their loved ones to be.

"I want it to have a hotel-like atmosphere," said Dunn. "It's about the quality of life, good activities and good food."

Dunn is unveiling the latest upgrade at an open house for families and friends this afternoon with the reopening of the newly remodeled Activities Center. Inez Perugia, who has called Four Seasons home since 1993, will have the honor of cutting the ribbon.

"This has been a pleasure to see the building turn around and see the families and the residents happy," said administrator Pat Lyden. "The owner is putting back into the building and putting the residents first. He's an extremely sensitive person and I really admire him for what he did."

Dunn became owner of the

FOUR SEASONS NURSING CENTER

Name: Four Seasons Nursing Center

Location: 8365 Newburgh, Westland

Owner: Charles Dunn

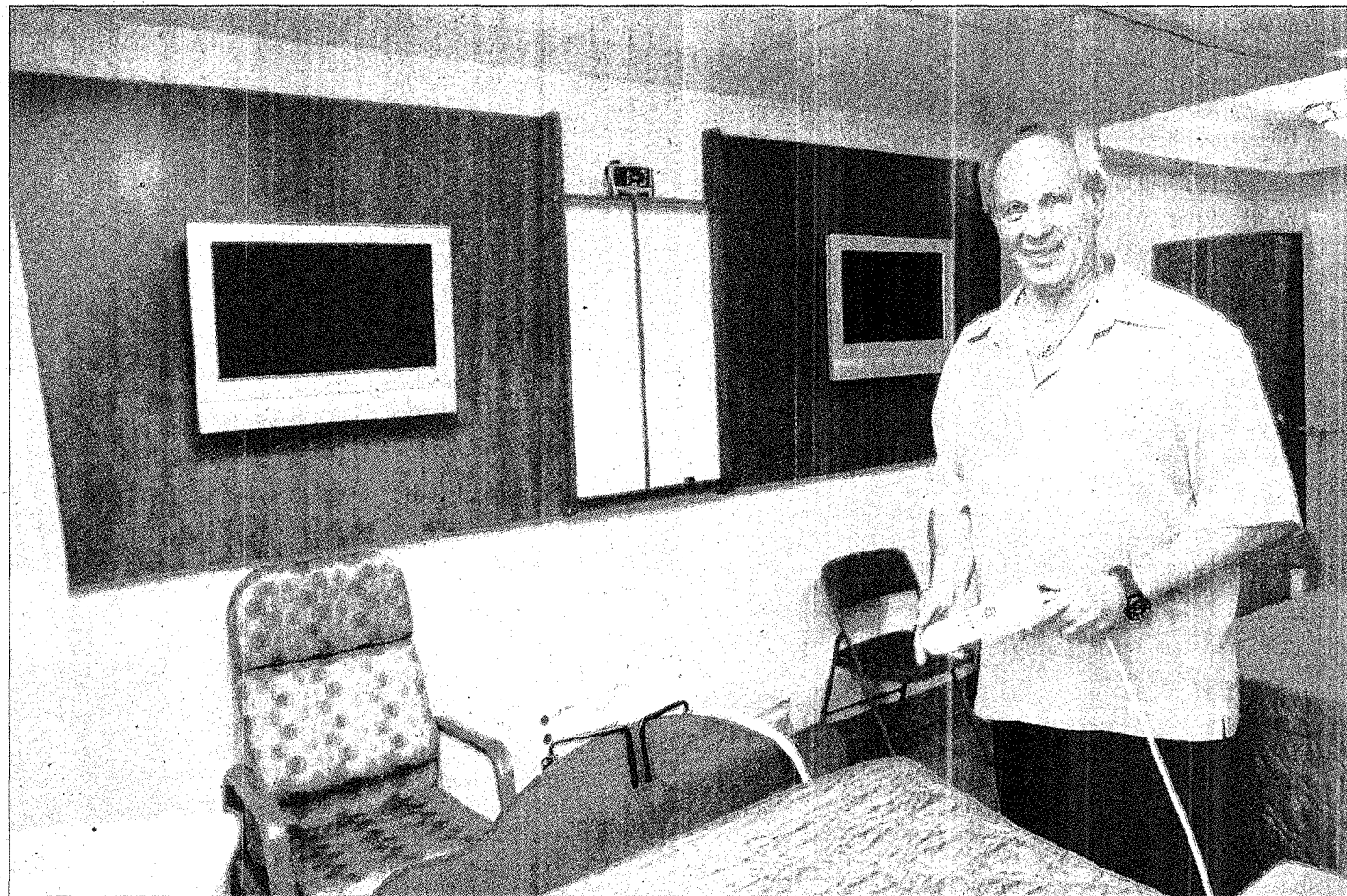
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nursing center 12 years ago. At the time, it was named Nightingale. It was in bankruptcy and on the verge of closing when he bought it in 1999. Over the past three years, he has invested more than \$1.5 million in improving the facility to erase memories of its previous name.

Four Seasons sits on eight acres on Newburgh south of Joy Road. Three of its four wings, each named for a season, have been renovated and feature flat screen TVs with DVD players and pillow speakers and bedside piped in oxygen and suction.



Owner Charles Dunn shows off the flat screen TVs with DVD players and pillow speakers that have been installed in residents' rooms as part of renovations at Four Season Nursing Center in Westland.

It has a 40-bed memory care unit, and the facility also is big enough to handle any medical condition except ventilation. It is the only nursing center in the state to offer dialysis with eight bedside units and 10 chair units, Dunn said.

The activities room also has a large wall-mounted flat screen TV with surround sound. There are kitchen areas and side-by-side refrigerators. The room opens up onto a patio that once was a rear parking lot. The area includes a covered pavilion, tables and chairs and several barbecue grills.

"Residents can relax here and take it easy, families can barbecue out and eat out here," Dunn said.

Cathy Colombo and Violet Rockwell have been the primary caregivers for their mother Dora Pavle, 96. When Oakwood Hospital said she need skilled care, one of the places they recommended was Four Seasons. After looking around, the two sisters decided it was the perfect spot for their mother.

"The food is excellent, we're very pleased with the place," said Rockwell. "We didn't

think we could move her until we walked through the doors here."

"I've driven by here many times, and as soon as I opened the door, I was in awe," said Colombo. "It's very clean, very nice."

There comments are music to Dunn's ears. It tells him he has done the right thing for the nursing center. It's also what he has done at Belle Fountain Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Riverview.

"We have all these great amenities and people come in and they don't know about them,"

Dunn said. "That's why it's so important to take a tour of the facility."

According to Lyden, the rehabilitation area is next up for the renovation, but for now residents are focusing on the activities center.

"They're all waiting with baited breath, they're all excited about getting a flat screen TV," she said. "It's great to walk into a facility that's welcoming, has activities for residents and is a clean and odor-free environment."

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BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

Merger planned

DFCU Financial, headquartered in Dearborn and MidWest Financial Credit Union, headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, have filed an application with the State of Michigan's Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation to merge the two credit unions.

After the merger, the new organization will assume the DFCU Financial name and will serve more than 218,000 members with 25 full-service branches and approximately 530 employees. It will have \$2.9 billion in assets, remaining the largest credit union in Michigan and one of the largest in the nation.

The newly created credit union will benefit from geographic market diversification through the expanded branch network, expanded products and services, continued commitment to community initiatives, increased membership

growth opportunities, and proven financial strength, leadership and operating performance. The management team will be led by current DFCU Financial President and CEO Mark Shobe.

"The merger of DFCU Financial and MidWest Financial will provide superior value to all members due to our similar member focus, brand, combined financial strength, enhanced member convenience, unique annual patronage dividend, and preferred employer emphasis," said Dr. Robert Chapman, chairperson of the DFCU Financial Board of Directors. "DFCU Financial is pleased to extend its strong financial position and Special Patronage Dividend to a wider population of members in Michigan at a time when it is most needed."

DFCU Financial has \$2.7 billion in assets. For four consecutive years, DFCU Financial has issued the largest dividend

in the history of credit unions of more than \$70 million. The credit union continually reinvests in its membership with new branches; a no-interest, no-payment Career Transition Program; and financial literacy education for all ages.

DFCU Financial operates 12 full-service branches in the Detroit area, including an office on Merriman south of Warren Road in Garden City, three branches in Lansing, and five in the greater Grand Rapids area. Anyone can join DFCU Financial. To find out how, call (888) 336-2700 or visit www.dfcufinancial.com.

MidWest Financial Credit Union is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial institution serves the Ann Arbor Area community, University of Michigan Health System employees, and local business partners. MidWest Financial has approximately 16,000 members and more than \$181 million in assets.

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SUNNY NOTE: INSIGHTS FOR BUSINESS AND LIFE

Efficiency vs. Effectiveness

Good morning Michigan! Today's topic turns up the heat on productivity by sparking a little debate about the difference between being efficient versus being effective.

Don't mistake efficiency for effectiveness.

Something I truly hate is wasting my time. Time is so precious that wasting it irks me to the point of being a personality quirk. Since childhood I've always wanted to accomplish any task as efficiently as possible (Yes, I load the dishwasher like it's an



Clarity Patton Newhouse

Olympic sport.)

But here's the point and the important message for today's Sunny Note. Being efficient is a complete waste of time unless the task being performed is relevant to the overall objective. Efficient completion of irrelevant tasks is totally ineffective! Just like driving the most efficient route to a destination is a total waste of time if the wrong address is typed into the GPS navigation.

Numerous business books address the important distinction between efficiency and effectiveness. This note is just a friendly reminder that when we plan our work or delegate to others, we should first evaluate which tasks are the most relevant. Will efficiently

performing this task help accomplish my objective or is there a different use of time that would actually be more effective?

I hope all the streetlights turn green for you today and that you have a sunny day! Clarity Patton Newhouse

P.S. "Do not squander time for that is the stuff life is made of." Benjamin Franklin

Clarity Patton Newhouse is Quality and Business Development Manager for Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury in Garden City. She writes "A Sunny Note" to brighten the day with encouraging insights for business and life. "A Sunny Note" also is published online at ASunnyNote.com for readers across America and beyond.

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Canton dance student performs ancient classical routines

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Anjali Patel has chosen her saris, one a peacock blue and the other, bright green, for her big day on Saturday, June 26.

Her invitations have been sent. The food and decorations are planned. The professional photographs are done. And guests soon will arrive from India to celebrate with her in Canton.

"We laugh sometimes. It's almost like throwing a mini wedding without the groom," said Anjali's mother, Nita Patel. "There's a lot of work that goes into it."

She and her husband, Pankaj, have been planning their 17-year-old daughter's Arangetram — a solo dance performance — for months.

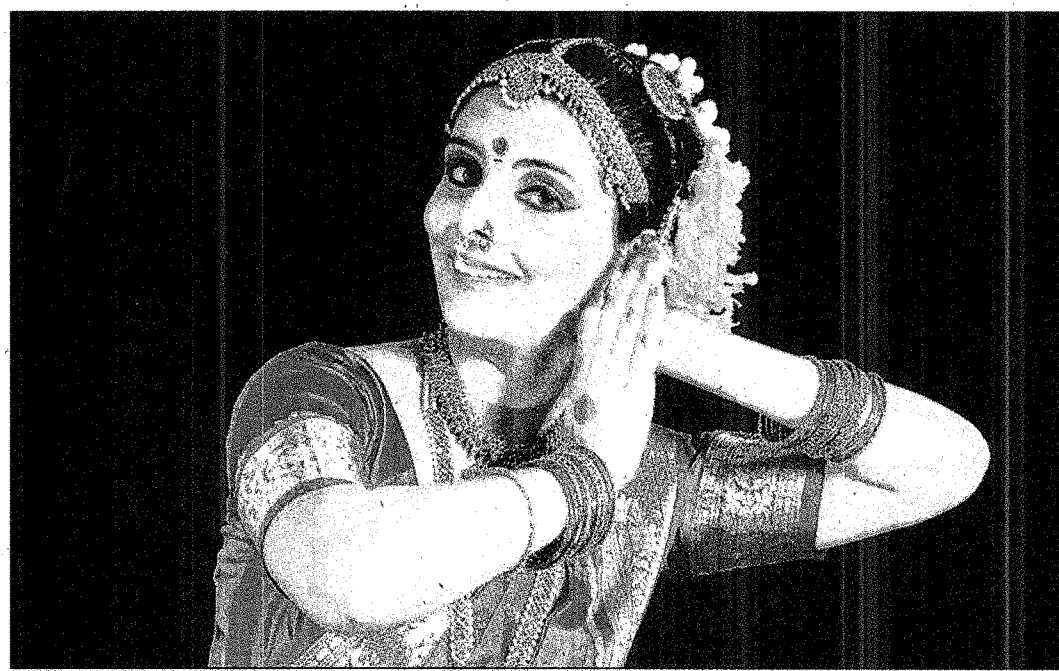
Anjali, a 2010 Canton High School graduate, has worked toward it for 10 years under the guidance of dance guru Chaula Thacker, director and founder of the Chauladevi Institute of Dance and Yoga. She's also a member of Nadanta, a dance troupe founded by Thacker.

"I started dancing ballet and tap, probably when I was 5," said Anjali, a National Honor Society student who played soccer and swam on the varsity team during high school. After discovering Bharat Natyam, Indian classical dance, Anjali dropped tap and ballet to study the ancient dances that originated in Tamil Nadu.

"It taught me more about my culture. It's really unique and I like that," she explained her interest in Bharat Natyam.



Anjali Patel, a member of the classical Indian dance troupe, Nadanta, will perform a two-hour solo program Saturday, June 26.



Anjali Patel of Canton demonstrates a classical Indian dance move.

TELLING A STORY

The three elements of Bharat Natyam are pure dance, interpretive dance and dance drama.

"In Indian classical dancing there are different hand gestures, positions, expressions and very different music," Anjali said. "Most of the dances are about certain gods in Indian culture. It's explaining about or devoting to the gods."

She'll start her two-hour solo performance with a dance called Ganeshtuti, a dedication to Lord Ganesha, the remover of all obstacles, and Shiva, the lord of dance.

Most of the eight other dances that will follow pay homage to a god or tell a story through interpretive, pure or dramatic dance.

The program also includes

a "Padam," a dance Thacker choreographed especially for Anjali.

"I talk about being a strong devotee to all gods and I also thank the audience for coming," she said, explaining what the Padam's movements are meant to convey.

Anjali attends dance classes three times a week, participates in summer dance camp and has worked on perfecting her Arangetram program for the past year.

"The past three years, after learning the dances, I've become more passionate about it. I feel like I'm fully into the dances, able to describe the stories," she said.

SOLO DANCERS

That level of dedication

separates the casual dance student from someone those working toward an Arangetram.

"People take it for granted that they'll be able to do that (an Arangetram). But no, that's not true," said Thacker, who has five students involved in solo performances this summer. "It has to come from the heart. Not from mom or dad or me or other classmates."

Students of Bharat Natyam Anjali Patel of Canton has been learning Bharat Natyam, Indian classical dance, for 10 years.

participate in several dance showcases during their years of study. Thacker uses the first showcase to select or reject dance students.

"I hate myself when I reject students, but I also don't want to degrade the quality," Thacker explained. "One hour a week in class is not enough. They learn theory, foot movements, head, eye, neck movements. There's so much to do."

Dance students take yoga classes in addition to classical training. There's meditation, stretching and posture exercises.

DETERMINED

Thacker recognized Anjali's dedication early on in her training. Although Anjali was born without a left hand, she was determined to excel at Bharat Natyam.

"I knew if she could handle this situation (her handicap) so nicely, she probably would go through the showcase and achieve what she wants," Thacker said.

Nita Patel hopes other parents will take note of Anjali's achievements.

"A lot of people, if they have kids that are handicapped, may be overly-protective," Nita said. "I think the message I want to send is to give them a chance. Maybe they will flower." Anjali said her lack of a hand is "no big deal," even in the expressive Bharat Natyam dances.

"I can do all of the steps in the dances," said Anjali, who will enter Michigan State University this fall. "And if there is anything, like with this hand, I must do, I automatically do what I can."

DSO salutes America, offers free show

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra will celebrate Independence Day for four nights at Greenfield Village in Dearborn.

It also plans a free appearance at 8 p.m., Friday, June 25, at Maple Beach in Kensington Metropark in Milford. The 18th annual Salute to America concert series runs Thursday-Sunday, July 1-4, in the Walnut Grove Historic district of Greenfield Village, located at The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd. Advance member tickets are \$19 for ages 13 and up and \$12 for ages 5-12; non-members pay \$22.50 for ages 13 and up and \$14 for ages 5-12. Tickets bought at the event are \$23 for adult members and \$15 for youth; non-members pay \$27 for adults and \$17.50 for youth.

Steven Reineke will conduct the symphony in performing popular sounds of America, including the *Star Spangled Banner*, *Moon River*, *America the Beautiful* and John Philip Sousa's *The Stars and Stripes Forever*. Each evening will conclude with the music of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* and live cannon fire followed by a spectacular fireworks finale.

Gates open at 6 p.m. and performances begin at 8:30 p.m. Attendees may bring chairs and blankets to the concerts. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. River Raisin Ragtime Revue will provide pre-concert entertainment.

The Henry Ford will offer pre-concert activities for children, including nineteenth-century lawn games and a special visit from Greenfield Village's historic baseball teams, July 1-2. Children ages 12 and under are free with purchase of an adult ticket. For more details, visit www.TheHenryFord.org.

Kensington Metropark is located north of I-96, at Kent Lake Road (exit #153). The concert is free with park entry permit. A daily permit costs \$5. Annual permits are \$25; \$15 for senior citizens. For more information visit www.metroparks.com or call (248) 685-1561 or (800) 477-3178.

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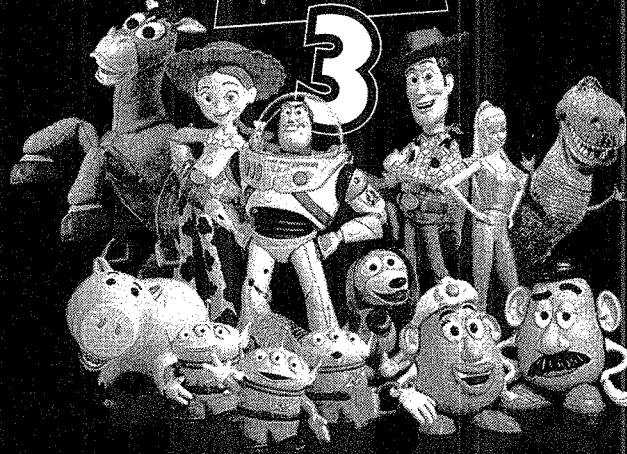
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GET OUT

ART

Art & Ideas

Time/Date: Through July 31

Location: 15095 Northville Road, south of Five Mile, Plymouth

Details: "Inner Worlds & Animals" paintings by Charles Aimone and sculpture by Joan Painter Jones, Contact: (734) 420-0775

Downtown Northville

Time/Date: 1-7 p.m. Friday, June 25, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 26 and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, June 27

Location: Streets of downtown Northville

Details: "Art in the Sun," with more than 75 artists selling their works.

Contact: (248) 344-0497

Northville Art House

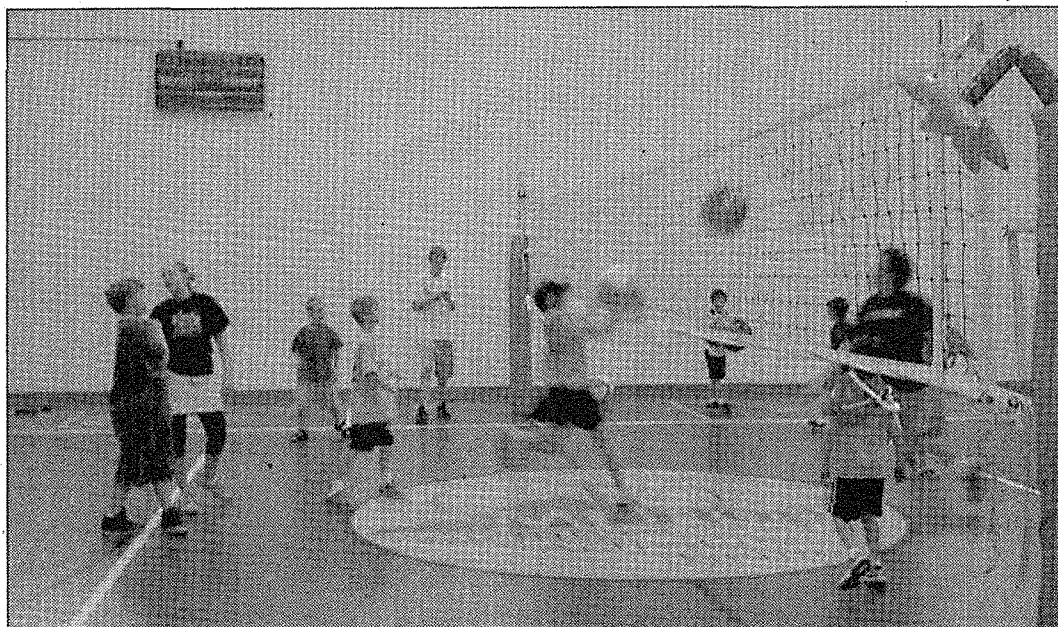
Time/Date: Through June 27; gallery hours 1-5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday

Location: 215 W. Cady, Northville

Details: "West of Center," contemporary annual all media show features works by more than 60 artists

Also on display: Photos by Northville dentist William S. Demray, through June 24

Contact: (248) 344-0497



Youngsters play volleyball during the first of several "Slam Sundays" at Mt. Hope Congregational Church, Livonia.

Bored? Head to Livonia church for fun activities

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Mt. Hope Congregational Church in Livonia is doing its part to keep youngsters busy this summer through weekly "Summer Slam Sundays."

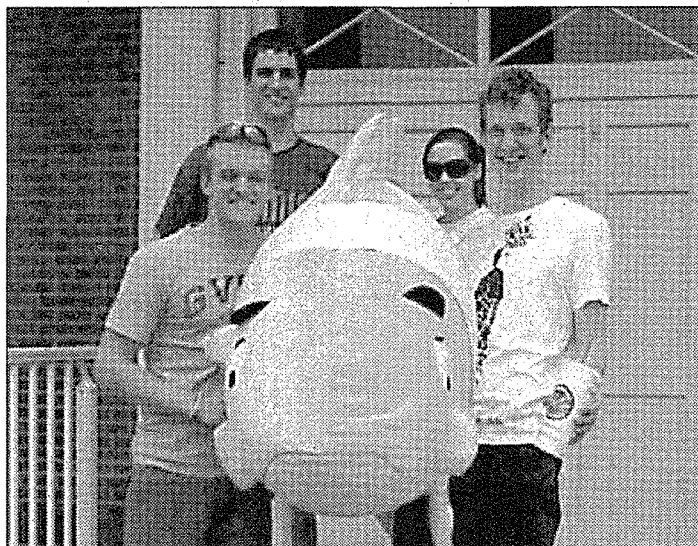
The church kicked off its new community outreach program Sunday with a tropical beach party, complete with volleyball, a cook-out, games and prizes.

"As a fun promotion, my wife found a ginormous 'Finding Nemo,' said youth pastor Justin Olivetti, referring to an inflatable toy version of the animated film character. 'We took pictures of it in different locations and posted them on Facebook.'

Youngsters and teens guessed where the fish was posed and the winner received an additional prize raffle ticket for the beach party.

"We had over 30 teens and kids come, some from the church but a lot from the community," Olivetti said, describing the first "Slam" session. "We held games, raffles, food and worship for all. Very good response from the youth who attended and we're hoping that next week will be even bigger now that grad parties and Father's Day are out of the way."

Olivetti said the program is designed to reach young-



High school members of Mt. Hope Congregational Church's youth group posed with a blow-up fish for a contest held in conjunction with the church's Summer Slam Sundays.

sters and teens beyond church membership. The sessions are geared toward kindergarten through high school.

He hopes Summer Slam Sundays will keep boredom at bay during at least a few hours each week and introduce potential new members to the church's youth groups.

The events run 5-8 p.m. Sunday, in the activity center behind Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft, Livonia.

Free hot dogs and hamburgers are served at 5 p.m., followed by games, crafts and other activities. Free prizes,

such as DVDs and video games, will be raffled every week. Here's the schedule for the remaining nine Summer Slam Sundays:

June 27 - Board/Card Game Night
July 11 - Country Fair
July 18 - Christmas in July
July 25 - Open Mic/Karaoke Night
Aug. 1 - Movie Night
Aug. 8 - Fiesta
Aug. 15 - Rodeo/Line Dancing
Aug. 22 - Pirate Cove
Aug. 29th - Comedy Night
Call the church at (734) 425-7280 for more information.

6/24/10

Passages

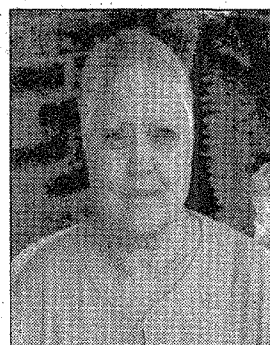
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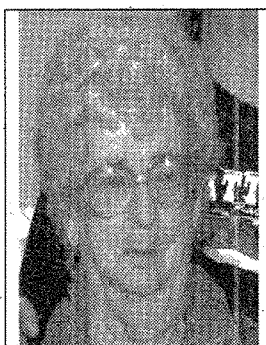
OE0669491



JESSLYN MARIE ALTIZER

Age 64 of Commerce Twp., June 18, 2010. Loving mother of Teresa (David) Kaitschuck and Kenneth (Beth) Altizer. Proud grandmother of Brandon, Kaylie, Benjamin and Zachary. Sister of George Nance, Debra (Pete) Kinser and Kimberly Nance. A Memorial Service has taken place at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Rd., Westland. Memorial contributions may be made to Karmanos Cancer Foundation.

To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com



FRANCES J. LYNCH

Age 80, June 21, 2010. Loving wife of the late Robert. Dear mother of Bryan (Jill), Bobby (Saveta), Bill, Kenny and Kim (Steven) Brown. Beloved grandmother of Michelle, Eric, Michael, Tiffany, Cory and Tyler. Sister of Audrey, Joe and Nelson Taylor. Best and dearest friend of Gladys and many others. Fran enjoyed traveling, playing cards and spending time with her family and friends. Visitation 2-9 pm Wednesday and Thursday at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile, Livonia, with Rosary 7 pm Thursday. Services Friday at St. Edith Catholic Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia with viewing at 10 am until her Mass at 10:30 am. Burial at Glen Eden. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com.

MARK RAYMOND KIRKPATRICK

Age 56, June 19, 2010, of Westland. Beloved husband of Gerri. Loving father of Kisa (Justin) Baskin. Dear brother of Wayne (Tammy). Visitation was Tues 3-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburgh Rd. (btwn Ford & Cherry Hill), Westland. Funeral Service was held Wed 11 AM at the funeral home. Interment Cadillac Memorial Gardens, West. Memorial Contributions to the family would be appreciated. To leave a condolence message for the family, visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

CHARLES E. MURTHA JR.

June 19, 2010 Age 87 of Westland. Beloved husband of the late Isabelle. Dear father of Kathleen (John) Andreas, Susan (Wayne) Lankford, Edward, Amy (Robert) Frysinger, and the late Linda Gearin. Brother of Alvin. Grandfather of ten and Great-Grandfather of thirteen. Memorial service to be held at a later date. Cremation rights were accorded. Please view memorial and send tributes at www.uhth.com.

BOB TORO

Age 60. Passed away on June 19th with his family by his side. He is survived by a very loving wife Lynne, of 43 years. A caring and supportive father of April & Kim. A wonderful rolemodel of 4 grandchildren; Jessica, Nicholas, Jordan and Dillon. Contact can be made for services at bobtoromemorial@yahoo.com he will be sorely missed. At the families request donations can be made in lieu of flowers to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in Bob's name.

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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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Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

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Farmington Hills

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For Information regarding this Directory, please call Donna Hart at 248-437-2011, Ext. 247 or e-mail: dhart@dnps.com

FOOD

Thursday, June 24, 2010

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HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

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Comment online at hometownlife.com

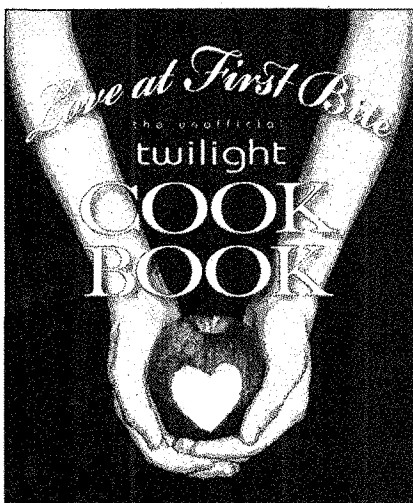
Even vampires will give these recipes a try

Twilight fans are counting the days.

There's less than a week left until *Eclipse*, the third installment in Stephanie Meyer's series about vampires, werewolves and a teenager named Bella Swan, hits movie screens on July 30.

That's plenty of time to fire up the oven and cook up a little pre-premiere party with recipes from *Love at First Bite: The Unofficial Twilight Cookbook*.

The book's second edition, released last month, contains recipes — some for dishes straight out of the series' pages — as well as cast lists for *Twilight*, *New Moon*, and *Eclipse*, a party planning checklist, Bella's prom planner, *Twilight* trivia and more.



The unofficial "Twilight" cookbook is available at amazon.com and major book stores.



Cookbook author Gina Meyers

Gina Meyers, a California-based writer best known for her pop-culture television trivia books and a cookbook inspired by the television show *Bewitched*,

penned *Love at First Bite*. Its first edition, released in March 2009, was mentioned in an episode of The NBC sitcom, *The Office* last year, when character Kevin Malone said "I cooked my way through Julie Child's cookbook and I am halfway through the *Twilight Cookbook*. I just made Edward Cullen's Cornflake Chicken."

The chicken recipe is among the *Twilight*-themed entries in the book, which is available at major book stores and Amazon.com.

Here are a few more to help get your *Eclipse* party started:



Blushing Bella

BLUSHING BELLA

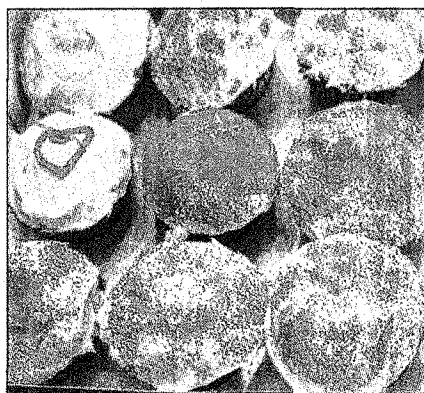
3 ounces of strawberry mango juice
3 ounces of freshly squeezed lemonade
Lime wedge to garnish

Directions: Mix all ingredients in a tall glass with ice and enjoy. Garnish with lime wedge on the side of the glass. Serves 1.

RED VELVET CAKE

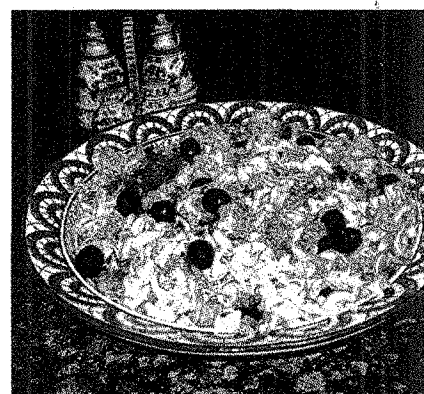
4 tablespoons cocoa powder
1 ounce liquid red food coloring
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water
1 yellow cake mix, with pudding in the mix
4 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon butter
4 tablespoons buttermilk
1 tablespoon white vinegar

Directions: Preheat oven to 325. In a large bowl, mix cocoa powder, red food coloring, and part of the water to form a paste. Next, add all of the other ingredients except the white vinegar. Blend for $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 minutes with a mixer on medium speed. Then add the vinegar and mix with a spatula. Pour the batter into a bunt or round cake pan, and bake for approximately 35 minutes. This recipe can be made into cupcakes as well.



Red Velvet Cupcakes

Adorn each cupcake or the entire Red Velvet Cake with various miniature die-cast Cullen cars, such as Carlisle's Mercedes S55 AMG, Rosalie's red BMW M3, Edward's silver Volvo S60R, Alice's yellow Porsche 911 Turbo, or Emmett's Jeep Wrangler. A replica of Bella's red Chevy pickup truck could also be added.



Tallerina

TALLERINA

3 tablespoons shortening
1 onion, minced
1 pound ground round
1 can, (26 ounce) tomato soup
1 (15 ounces) can tomato sauce
1 cup cold water
2 tablespoons salt
2 cups uncooked broad egg noodles
2 cups canned corn
1 can (6 ounces) ripe pitted olives
1 cup grated cheddar cheese
1 can (4 ounces) mushrooms,

pieces and stems preferred.

Directions: Melt shortening in a large pot on medium; add onions and cook until brown. Next, add meat and cook thoroughly. Add tomato soup, tomato sauce, noodles, water, and salt. Cover and cook over low heat for 10 minutes. Remove pot from stove and add corn, mushrooms, and part of the cheddar cheese. Stir and then pour mixture into a baking dish 1- by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inches. Cover with remaining cheese,



Mushroom Ravioli

and bake at 350 for 50 minutes.

MUSHROOM RAVIOLI

10 ounces mushroom ravioli or cheese-filled ravioli
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 ounces shiitake mushrooms, sliced
4 ounces button (table) mushrooms, sliced
1 clove garlic, minced
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brandy
1 cup heavy cream
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon nutmeg
Salt and pepper
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup grated parmesan cheese

Directions: Prepare ravioli according to package directions; drain. Next, over medium heat, pour olive oil in a skillet and cook mushrooms until tender. Add garlic and brandy, and cook for 2 minutes. Slowly stir in heavy cream and bring to a simmer. Season with nutmeg, salt, and pepper. When cream has thickened, stir in $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of parmesan cheese. Then, stir in cooked ravioli, and gently simmer for 1 to 2 minutes. Serve with parmesan, garlic bread, and salad. Makes 2 servings.

CITY BITES

Eat and learn

Farmington Hills — Learn new techniques, recipes and ways to prepare food and enjoy a freshly-prepared meal at The Longacre House Cooking Show.

Tickets for The Longacre House Cooking Show are sold until 4:30 p.m., the Tuesday before each show, at the Costick Center, 28600 11 Mile. Or call (248) 473-1800 and have a credit card ready.

On July 1, Chef Anne-Marie, will prepare Western Bar-B-Q sauce and ribs, sweet and sour green beans and fresh lemon bars.

The menu on July 17 includes Ricotta Gnocchi with Fresh Marinara Sauce, Broccoli Patties, and Raspberry Clafoutis.

Programs run from noon to 1 p.m. Each session costs \$20.

Fun, food

Tri-county — Look for free giveaways, including coloring books for kids and coupons for Tubby's Grilled Submarines, at Park-it Family Fun Nights held this summer throughout Metro Detroit.

Tubby's Grilled Submarines is a sponsor of the events, which include live music, bouncy houses, kids' activities, and a family movie under the stars.

Park-it Family fun Nights will be in Canton Thursday, July 22 and in Wayne, Thursday, July 29. For more information visit www.parkitforfun.com

Tea time

Northville — The Anglican Church of Livonia, His Church Anglican, presents "Tea at the Garden" July 17, at 18677 Fox Hollow Court, off Beck, north of Six Mile. Choose an 11:30 a.m. or 2 p.m. sitting for tea. Garden walks follow at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Bring your favorite tea cup to the event. Tickets are \$20. Call Hazel Lilley at (248) 474-5971.

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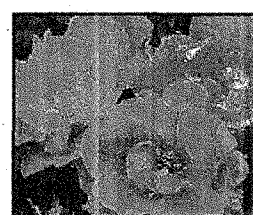
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