

HOLLYWOOD PAYS A VISIT TO RED HOLMAN DEALERSHIP, A3

SUNDAY
July 11, 2010

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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WESTLAND OBSERVER

hometownlife  n

TEAM LOOKING FOR 6TH CHAMPIONSHIP
SPORTS, B1

IN BRIEF

Food distribution

The July schedule for Westland residents to receive surplus federal food has been established.

Residents living south of Michigan Avenue pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. For information, call (734) 729-1737.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, July 22, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, between Glenwood and Palmer.

Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers pick up their food at Taylor Towers and must call their building manager for their day of distribution. Greenwood Villa residents also pick up their food items at Greenwood Villa.

For the month of July, applesauce, pinto beans, carrots, grape juice, mushroom soup, tuna, shredded cheddar cheese, a frozen meat and possible additional items will be distributed. For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Free H1N1 flu shots

The traditional influenza season is over so thoughts of catching the flu are probably the furthest thing from everyone's minds, but consider this: It was a year ago, the H1N1 swine flu pandemic broke out and captured the world's attention long into the summer and fall months.

The massive H1N1 awareness from last year has faded, but not that bug. The H1N1 flu is not seasonal and in our very transient society, can hit the Michigan population again at any time.

"We want to do whatever we can to keep the virus at bay as much as possible," said nurse Deborah Riddick of the School Community Health Alliance of Michigan. "While everyone in the health community is grateful the most recent strain wasn't as deadly as first predicted last year, H1N1 still causes very serious illness."

Due to the fact the most vulnerable to the H1N1 flu are school-age children, the vaccine is available on a regular basis at the Oakwood Healthcare Center at Lincoln Elementary School, 33800 Grand Traverse, Westland, where it's free for the school children and their families. Call (734) 728-2423 for more information.

The shots also are available 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 14, at Inkster High School, 3250 Middlebelt, and 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. July 28 at Romulus High School, 9650 S. Wayne Road.

All wet

Kids, adults beat the heat at pool, park

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When you're hot, you're hot. Just ask Robin Adams.

The Westland grandmother was at the Bailey Recreation's outdoor pool Thursday with her grandchildren, cooling off as the temperature climbed above 90 degrees.

"My air conditioning is out at my condo, it always happens at the worst time of the year," she said.

While her grandchildren — Emma Stanchina, 6, and her brother, Mateo, 8 — frolicked in the water, Adams hung on the edge of the pool.

"It's nice, the water is almost too warm, but it's beautiful," she said. "It's better than sweating at the condo. We'll stay here for a while and then go home and take a nap."

"It's great, the best part is swimming," Emma added.

According to lifeguard Megan Prough, people have been flocking to the pool and the nearby splash park as the temperatures rose.

"It seems when it gets hotter, we get more people," she said. "A majority of the day, it's just kids, but it balances out with adults and families in the evening."

The pool's lifeguards rotate duties throughout the three-hour session. Prough spent the first hour of her shift in the lifeguard chair, watching swimmers like Lynette Brock of Detroit, who was there with her brother, Lincoln Newborn, niece Vashunda Newborn and her children, Christopher and Crystal Glover.

"It's worth it," Brock said of the drive. "All the other pools were crowded and had long lines."

The heat wasn't the only reason Brock had taken the family swim-



Nathan Sweetland of Westland beats Thursday's heat playing at Westland's H2O Zone splash park.

ming. DTE had been intermittently interrupting her air conditioning. "It feels good, very comfortable," she said.

Prough was waiting to jump in the pool to cool off when her chair sitting shift was over and was drinking water and Gatorade to stay hydrated.

"I'm wearing (SPF) 45 sunscreen, but my tan this year seems to be my freckles attaching to each other," she said.

At the H2O Zone in Tattan Park, adults joined children playing among

Please see **PARK, A2**

Teen face 7 charges in festival shooting

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Belleville man is facing seven felony charges after a shooting at the Westland Summer Festival.

Justin Michael Morgan, 18, was arraigned Friday in 18th District Court on two counts of assault with intent to murder, two counts of assault with intent to do great bodily harm, two counts of felonious assault and one charge of felony firearm.

A not guilty plea was entered for Morgan, who was being held in lieu of \$500,000 cash bond. His preliminary examination is scheduled for Thursday, July 22.

An 18-year-old Canton man was struck by one of three shots fired in the carnival area around 11 p.m. July 4 just after the fireworks display ended, police said.

The other victim in the complaint is a male friend of the injured man, who is also believed to have been an intended target of the gunshots, Westland police Lt. Greg Angelosanto said.

"We believe there had been brief prior physical altercations that apparently started over one person stepping on another's shoes," Angelosanto said.

Please see **CHARGES, A2**



Justin Morgan

Westland man faces eighth charge in CSC case

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An additional charge of first-degree criminal sexual conduct has been brought against a Westland man based on testimony during his preliminary examination Thursday in Westland 18th District Court.

That makes a total of eight felony charges against Brandon

Lee Fedosky, 20, who is charged with sexually assaulting a young girl over a period of at least two years. He was ordered bound over to Wayne County Circuit Court for trial following the preliminary examination.

Held in lieu of \$500,000 cash bond since his arrest in mid-May, Fedosky was originally charged with one count each of first-degree, second-

degree and fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct, two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, one count of committing a sex crime with a computer and one count of distributing obscene material.

A not guilty plea was entered for Fedosky, who is charged with sexually abusing the girl, now 14, since she was 12 years old. The girl reported the

alleged incidents to a school counselor, who in turn contacted Westland police.

A Frumin Court resident, Fedosky was described as a friend of the girl's family. In a statement to police, Fedosky reportedly said he felt bad about the situation because of his relationship with the victim's family.

Based on the girl's testi-

mony about the alleged sexual assaults, the Wayne County prosecutor asked the court to amend the complaint to add another charge of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, which requires penetration.

Arraignment at circuit court is scheduled for Thursday, July 15.

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James: Alternate view on county commission

A longtime Westland politician is hoping to challenge Democrat Joan Gebhardt in the Wayne County Commission's 12th District. David James faces Michael Case, also of Westland, in the August Republican primary.

James points out that "current commission is nearly

unanimously Democratic

— which is not necessarily a bad thing — but I would like to be able to offer an opposing or alternate viewpoint of issues that come before the commission. That could and would, I think, help spark creative problem solving and discussion."

"The Wayne County Commission is the legislative

arm of our county government, and I feel much more could be done at this level to help residents and taxpayers in District 12," he said in response to an *Observer* questionnaire. "I would like to see more tax funding returned to services in our area, particularly road repairs and services to our senior citizens."

Observer: What do you see as the most pressing issue facing Wayne County?

Please see **JAMES, A2**



David James



ELECTION 2010



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INDEX

APARTMENTS ... C3
AUTOMOTIVE ... C5
CAREER BUILDER ... C1
COMMUNITY LIFE ... B5-6
CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... C2
OBITUARIES ... B7
HEALTH ... B8
REAL ESTATE ... C2
SPORTS ... B1

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JAMES
FROM PAGE A1

Without doubt, it is the incredible decline in our property values caused by the accelerating rate of mortgage foreclosures. That rate is not decreasing, but is predicted to increase dramatically by the end of the year.

The greatest investment most people ever make is in their homes and the building of equity — while the county is losing tax revenue from this declining revenue base — these homeowners are facing financial ruin.

We must find ways to cut county spending to match our revenue stream and yet find ways to fund services residents depend on now more than ever.

Observer: What is your main goal if elected, and how do you plan to accomplish it?

My main goal is to, when

appropriate, offer an alternate viewpoint to the strongly Democratic commission while finding solutions to our problems. While I am a Republican, I am also a strong believer in People before Politics. That is, I believe in the best idea or solution no matter which party it comes from.

My goal is present a fresh, different view of the current problems that face the commission as tax revenue spirals downward. I believe we can do more, with less, if we are creative and cooperative in our thinking.

Observer: What qualifies you to serve in this position?

My experience in municipal government as both an elected official and a volunteer have given me a strong procedural basis and understanding of the commission workings and authority. As a licensed Realtor and builder, I fully understand how severe the impact of the foreclosure crisis is on tax revenue — and to

DAVID JAMES

Name: David James
Age: 52

Employment: Self-employed
Family: Single
Education: 1976 graduate of Bay City Western High School in Auburn, Mich.; attended Delta Community College in Bay City and Harter Theological Seminary in Livonia; received his professional Realtor's license in 1990

and professional builder's license in 1994

Community involvement: Wayne-Westland Community School District Board of Education, treasurer/trustee, 1995-99; Westland Planning Commission, 1996 to 2000; Westland City Council, 1999; Nankin Transit Authority, 1999, and Westland Parks and Recreation Board, 2008 to present

families.

And most importantly, I have maintained my belief that there are solutions to these problems. I have not given up my autonomy to the system or my ability to solve problems as so many seem to have done.

Observer: Why should voter choose you over the other candidates to serve on the county commission?

Voters should look at me as the only candidate who will actually represent them — and only them. I have no

other issue, no political IOUs, owe no favors either financial or political. I understand the problems firsthand and am determined to find solutions that do more good than harm for the general public.

And even more than the professed "independent" candidates, I am the only one determined to put the welfare and needs of the people who vote for me above politics or self-aggrandizement or ambition.

CHARGES
FROM PAGE A1

The shooting victim, whose femur was shattered, requiring a metal rod to be implanted in his leg, reportedly didn't know the gunman. Police identified the suspect on videotape that had been recorded periodically during the festival.

"We got a description of the guy and found someone on the video that was possibly him. We took that to school officials," Angelosanto said. "Wayne-Westland Schools officials identified him as a

(Westland) John Glenn High School student."

Once police had a name for the suspect and obtained a photograph of him, Angelosanto said the victim was shown a photo lineup from which he identified the shooter.

Westland detectives set up surveillance at a Belleville residence Thursday. A short time later, the suspect emerged carrying a handgun under a towel, police said. Detectives identified themselves and ordered the suspect to drop the weapon, police said. The suspect ran, but was taken into custody after a short foot chase, police said. However,

police reportedly have not recovered the semi-automatic handgun used in the shooting.

Westland Police Chief Alan Ramsden praised the efforts of the Westland Detective Bureau in making the arrest.

"Our detectives were tenacious in their investigation. This was like finding a needle in a haystack," he said. "To have a crime of that magnitude committed in a crowd of that magnitude and have the suspect in custody in less than three days; I can't say enough about what they did. They're the best."

Estimated attendance at the annual fireworks display vary, but most exceed 100,000

people.

"I am saddened by the shooting that occurred Sunday (July 4) evening at the fireworks and in light of the circumstance that occurred, the city of Westland will be assessing and re-evaluating the annual fireworks display, which has grown to one of the area's largest," Mayor William Wild said. "The city of Westland prides itself on being family friendly for our residents and non-residents alike. We will do everything in our power to make sure this annual event stays that way."

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PARK
FROM PAGE A1

the dragon and the helicopter Allison Gidley was sitting in the shade while daughter Brianna and son Jonathan played in the water.

"We've come here at least three times, but we stayed away during the festival," she said. "The kid love it, they love the one in Canton. I'm glad the mayor built it. He's very kid-friendly."

Gidley planned to let the kids play in the splash park and at neighboring Play Planet for about 1 1/2 hours before taking them home to their air-

conditioned house.

"I bought a big baby pool at Northside (Hardware) so the kids can go out and soak in it," she said. "I go in it, too, when it's hot."

Karen Kasparek of Dearborn Heights, with son Nick, was among the adults enjoying the splash park. It was their first time at the H2O Zone and they gave the area a thumbs-up.

"I think it's a beautiful park. There's something here for the little kids and something for the big kids," she said. "It's more fun than a pool, you don't have to worry about your kids going off the deep end."

"I liked the big barrel," Nick



Seth Lamdart of Garden City takes aim with the splash park's water gun.

"He can't walk, but he can enjoy the water," Theisen said. "He likes anything that doesn't soak him."

Theisen also praised the design of the splash park with its interactive elements.

"They did a really good job on this, I'm glad they did," he said. "The interaction makes kids think."

Even though the heat wave has subsided, forecasters are predicting temperatures in the mid- to high 80s today, enough to bring out more families to the pool and splash park. There's a charge for the pool, however, the splash park is free of charge.

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Hollywood pays a visit to Red Holman dealership



Gerard Butler can be seen talking to a member of the film crew inside the Red Holman dealership in Westland where scenes from "Machine Gun Preacher" were filmed.

Hollywood came Wednesday to Westland and movie buffs turned out to watch.

"I was excited to get a glimpse of Gerard Butler," said Amy Alstermark of Redford, who was with her niece Lola Tomsett at the dealership. "I was driving by and saw nothing, so stopped, got out and walked over. We held out for 45 minutes, but I couldn't sacrifice her to the heat."

Butler was filming scenes from the upcoming release of *Machine Gun Preacher*, based on the true story of Sam Childers, a missionary in southern Sudan who has made it his life's work to defend and protect the innocent children of the Sudan region by any means necessary.

Alstermark, who had been babysitting her niece at her mother's house in Canton, wasn't upset about losing \$20. It was the price she paid to get a just a glimpse of the Hollywood hottie.



Amy Alstermark with niece Lola Tomsett of Redford Gerard Butler at the Red Holman dealership in Westland Wednesday morning, wait to catch a glimpse of a movie star.

Productions was shooting a scene from the movie at Red Holman at Tuesday's city council meeting.

"It's a closed set, so we can't get in," said Wild. "There are more 100 people on site. We appreciate them using Westland. They will use local restaurants and hotels."

The announcement caught the attention of Bud Somerville who was at the meeting. The Westland resident has had a bit of exposure on the big screen. He was an extra in the Rob Schneider-Jenna Dewan movie *American Virgin* and can be seen in two scenes in the movie, which was filmed in Detroit a few years ago.

"The reason I went was because it's rare for any studio to film in Westland, so I jumped on it," he said. "I was there for about 3 1/2 hours. It was interesting to watch."

Somerville stood outside the dealership for about 3 1/2 hours waiting for Butler and was able

to snap pictures of him as he arrived. Ironically, he used the camera he won from being an extra for *American Virgin*.

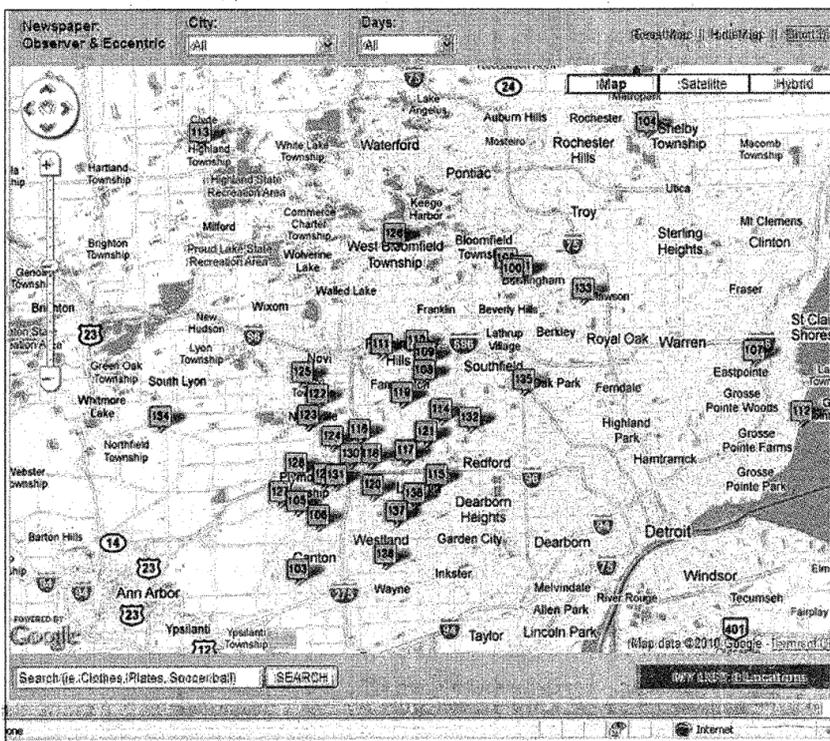
Somerville had taken a couple of shots from across the street and then walked over to the dealership. About 15 minutes later, a grey Suburban pulled up with Butler in the front seat.

"They wouldn't allow any pictures to be taken, so I walked across the street, put the super zoom lens on and got the shots," he said. "I also got to shake hands with him. He was pretty nice. I told him I loved his movie, *Law Abiding Citizen* with Jamie Foxx."

Butler is playing the role of Childers in the film, which is directed by *Kite Runner* and *Monster's Ball* director Marc Forster.

Scenes also were shot at the Schoolcraft College's Radcliff Center in Garden City.

— By Sue Mason



Online garage sale map makes bargain hunting easy

Garage sale treasure hunters now have an easy way to make the most out of their day. We've added an innovative garage sale mapping feature to our website — hometownlife.com — that allows users to not only see exactly where the best sales are taking place, but also create a custom map that makes getting to them much easier.

The days of writing down addresses and plotting a course from one sale to the next are over because our new feature does all the work for you.

To get started, simply go to

hometownlife.com and click on the garage sale map located below the main carousel of stories. A map showing the location of each sale will open in a new browser window. From there, users are able to select the sales they want to go to and generate a custom map that routes the easiest way from location to location.

The garage sale map is proving popular with our online readers, too, as hits have tripled since its debut two weeks ago. That means anyone who wants to advertise a garage sale

in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and *Hometown Weeklies* may do so with the added confidence of knowing a growing number of bargain hunters are turning to hometownlife.com to make sure they don't get lost along the way. For a look at the current listings, go directly to the map at this link: <http://www.hometownlife.com/article/99999999/CLASSIFIEDS01/100610002>.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Used book sale

The Friends of the Westland Library will hold their first ever mini used book sale in the Friends Shop 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 22. Prices are two hard covers for \$1, eight paperbacks for \$1 and three large paperbacks for \$1.

The library is on Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren Road. Money raised help fund library programs for all age groups.

Vacation Bible schools

For the first time, the Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church is offering a vacation Bible school that includes a program for preschool children in addition to one for children 5-13 years old.

Raindrops to Rainbows is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 19-23, and will feature a weather station, a science laboratory and a puppet show in addition to the Bible stories, crafts and snacks. There is no cost or obligation.

Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church is at 33144 Cherry Hill. For more information, call (734) 524-0880 or visit its website at www.CherryHillFellowship.com.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is holding a vacation Bible school, "High Seas Adventure," 9 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday, July 12-16, for children ages 3-10. The cost is \$10 per family.

The church is at 37775 Palmer, Westland. For more information, call (734) 722-1735.

Wrestling camp

The Glenn Wrestling Program will hold its annual "Rocket Camp" 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 19-23 in Gym 4 of John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette Westland.

The camp is open to high school students. It costs \$100 and includes a T-shirt. Registration is 9:30 a.m. Monday, July 19.

There will also be a Youth Camp 1:30-3:30 p.m. July 19-23 for kindergarten through eighth-grade, also in Gym 4 of high school. The cost is \$50 and includes a T-shirt. Registration

is 1 p.m. Monday, July 19.

Registration forms are available online at www.glennwrestling.com. For more information, contact Coach Bill Polk at rocketwrestling@gmail.com or Judy at (734) 634-4595.

Summer Concert Series

Westland's 2010 Summer Concert Series is underway. All of the concerts begin at 7 p.m. on Thursdays at the pavilion behind the William P. Faust Library on Central City Parkway north of Ford.

Upcoming concerts include folk music with gospel music with Mary Wynn on July 15, folk/blues music by Peter Madcat Ruth on July 22, Latin jazz music by the Lynn LaPlante 7, July 29, country music by the Waco Band on Aug. 5 and R&B by the Tyrone Hamilton All-Stars on Aug. 12.

The free concert series is funded in part by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Humanities Council.

VA consultation

Are you entitled to federal benefits from the Veterans Administration? Are you applying for federal benefits from the VA? Are you fighting for an increase of benefits from the VA? If you answered yes to any of the aforementioned questions, Project SALUTE from the University of Detroit Mercy has the answers.

On Monday, Sept. 13, at 7:30 p.m., at PLAV Post #166, 39375 Amrhein (at the corner of Echols) in Livonia, free individual consultations will be provided along with a complete presentation of available disability and pension benefit matters. Bring your DD-214 (discharge papers), recent rating decisions and any other documentation which will help attorneys understand and evaluate your current position.

Keep walking

In the mood to walk, but don't like the weather? Westland Shopping Center has the answer - mall walking.

Westland Shopping Center opens its doors before usual operating hours for people who want to walk for exer-

cise. Walking begins at 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Enter through Arcade 2 by Olga's Kitchen on the northeast end of the mall. All other doors are locked until approximately 8:30 a.m. On Sunday all doors are opened at 10 a.m.

Westland Walkers also hold a meeting at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Community Room on the lower level. Call (734) 425-5001 to check when a meeting has been scheduled.

It's easy to become a member of Westland Walkers. Just fill out a registration card available at the Customer Service booth in East Court. Return it to the Customer Service Associate or put it in the Walkers Box located on the side counter.

Westland Shopping Center is at Wayne and Warren roads in Westland.

Free wash

Need a car wash? Stop by Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church at 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, July 31. The church is holding a free car wash for the community.

Class reunion

John Glenn High School Class of 1975 will hold its 35th reunion Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Livonia Marriott. Reservations and tickets came purchased online at www.jgh-class75.com. For more information, contact Loren Zeidman at (248)877-0909 or by e-mail at l_zeidman@americancredit1.com.

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.

Open House

McKinley Co-Op Preschool will hold an open house 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 28, at 6500 N. Wayne Road, Westland. The preschool offers programs for toddlers ages 2-5 years. For more information, call (734) 729-7222.

Vacation Bible schools

It's going to be a "High Seas Expedition" vacation bible school at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City 6-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 6, and 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7. A \$5 donation is requested but not required. Call (734) 427-3660 for registration and additional information.

For the first time, the Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church is offering a vacation Bible school that includes a program for preschool children in addition to one for children 5-13 years old.

Raindrops to Rainbows is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 19-23, and will feature a weather station, a science laboratory and a puppet show in addition to the Bible stories, crafts and snacks. There is no cost or obligation.

Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church is at 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City. For more information, call (734) 524-0880 or visit its website at www.CherryHillFellowship.com.

Coffee hour

Join the Friends of the Garden City Library for their coffee hour 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 20, in the library inside the Maplewood Community Center, on Maplewood west of Merriman. Membership in the Friends is not required.

VA consultation

Are you entitled to federal benefits from the Veterans Administration? Are you applying for federal benefits from the VA? Are you fighting for an increase of benefits from the VA? If you answered yes to any of the aforementioned questions, Project SALUTE from the University of Detroit Mercy has the answers.

On Monday, Sept. 13, at 7:30 p.m., at PLAV Post #166, 39375 Amrhein (at the corner of Echols) in Livonia, free individual consultations will be provided along with a complete presentation of available disability and pension benefit matters. Bring your DD-214 (discharge papers), recent rating decisions and any other documentation which will help attorneys understand and evaluate your current position.

Flea markets

The outdoor flea market season is in full swing at the Straight Farmhouse where people can sell their goods between

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

9 a.m. and 2 p.m. the second and third Saturdays of the month.

Spaces are available inside the farmhouse for \$15 which includes the table. Outside spaces are \$10 and sellers have to bring their own tables. Sellers can register and pay the day of the sale.

The flea market helps support the Straight Farmhouse, home of the Garden City Historical Museum, and the Maplewood Center. The markets run through Sept. 18.

For more information, call (734) 793-1850.

Schools of Choice

Schools of Choice applications for the 2010-2011 school year are currently available on the Garden City Public Schools' website at www.gardencityschools.com. They will be accepted through Friday, July 23, for positions in kindergarten through 11th grade.

Grade openings include six for kindergarten, 12 for first grade, 17 for second grade, five each for third and fourth grade, three each for fifth and sixth grade, 10 each for seventh and eighth grade and 15 for ninth through 11th grade.

For more information about schools of choice, call Student Services at (734) 762-6342.

Preschool enrollment

Garden City Preschool housed in Lathers School has fall openings for children who will be age 3 or 4 by Dec. 1, 2010. There's morning classes two days a week for three-year-olds and morning and afternoon classes two or three days a week for four-year-olds.

The tuition-based program runs for 34 weeks. FIA families welcome. For more enrollment information, call Linda at (734) 762-6362.

The program is also hiring early childhood staff. For staffing information, contact Sonya at (734) 762-8440.

Shop online

Help Garden City Schools support its staff and students whenever you shop at Amazon.com.

Simply follow the link at the bottom of the district's Web site - www.gardencityschools.com. A portion of any resulting purchases will be returned to Garden City Public Schools. Products do not cost any more by using the link, and residents don't have to do anything more than click on the link to start shopping.

Donations sought

Have a used video, book or DVD you looking to pass on? Well, consider donating it to the Garden City Library which is looking for donations of books, videos and DVDs in good condition. For more information, call the library at (734) 793-1830.

Straight Farm House

The Garden City Historical Museum is open at its home at the Straight Farm House, 6221 Merriman.

The Friends of the Museum are continuing their fund-raising efforts, selling engraved brick pavers and renting the Grande ParLOUR for social and business occasions.

The bricks are \$50 for the 4-inch by 8-inch size that has up to three lines. The 8-inch by 8-inch bricks are \$75 and have room for up to six lines of text.

The Lathers General Store is open from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, offering a variety of collectibles and gift items. Call (734) 838-0650 for more information or visit www.sfonline.org.

Office hours

Need to talk with Garden City Mayor Randy Walker? You'll find him Tuesdays at Garden City Hall. Walker will hold office hours 4:30-6 p.m. Residents can schedule an appointment by calling Administrative Assistant Margo Ciecierski at (734) 793-1660.

Recycle for cash

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

At the market

Stop by the Garden City Farmers' Market to buy by fresh Michigan products and connect with local farmers and the community. Prestige Eyewear will be doing face painting at the market on July 21, beginning at 10 a.m.

Market hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. rain or shine. The market is located at the northeast corner of Ford and Middlebelt in the Garden City Town Center Plaza. For more information, call the Garden City Chamber of Commerce at (734) 422-4448.

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Summer school helps young pianists

Schoolcraft College's Summer Piano School is offering two two-week sessions this summer, each focusing on a different area of specialty, for local school-age pianists.

Tuition is \$310 for each session and students new to the Schoolcraft College Summer Piano School will need to audition in advance. For more information or to schedule an audition, call (734) 462-4403.

The Piano Concertos and Chamber Music session will run Monday-Friday, July 12-22. The session provides school-age pianists with the rare opportunity to rehearse and perform with a professional string ensemble.

Students who plan to attend the Piano Concertos and Chamber Music camp must have one movement of a concerto already memorized and be ready to rehearse with a string ensemble. During the first week of the session and on Monday, July 19, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., participants will benefit from individual coaching sessions and instruction in music theory and history, skills and technique development, and the opportunity to rehearse with an orchestra.

session will include dress rehearsals at 4 p.m. and evening performances at 7 p.m. the evenings of July 20-22.

The Solo Piano and Piano Duets session will run Monday-Friday, July 26-Aug. 6. Sessions for students at the elementary grade level will be in session 9 a.m. to noon each day. Those students who perform at the intermediate or advanced level will be in session 1-4 p.m. each day.

Students will learn in small groups. Composition, theory, rhythm and music history will be covered. Through various games and activities, and by performing in duets, sightreading and keyboard skills will be emphasized and students will learn tips for improving their technique.

The two-week session will culminate in an evening recital on Aug. 6.

More information about Schoolcraft College's Summer Piano School and other music programs can be found online at www.schoolcraft.edu/music.

Schoolcraft College offers classes at the Livonia campus, Haggerty Road between Six and Seven Mile, at the Radcliff Center in Garden City and online at schoolcraft.edu.

Realtors offer valuable service in today's tough market

Q: Dear Rick: I recently retired and my wife and I have decided to move out of state to be closer to our kids. We would like to move sooner rather than later. We want to sell our home to save the real estate commissions. My wife doesn't like that idea. What do you think? Our house is paid off.

A: Congratulations on retiring. I hope you and your wife have many decades enjoying the fruits of your labor.

A few years ago, it was relatively easy to sell your house by yourself. In today's market, homes are sitting for long periods of time and mortgages are no longer easy to get. The real estate market is much more difficult than it was a few years ago.

The short answer is of course you can sell your house on your own. However, the issue is whether it is a smart move.

Let's look at what a good Realtor does. He/she helps you properly market your home. This may include setting a realistic price or recommending certain repairs or improvements or even some cosmetic changes to your



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

home. A good Realtor knows what buyers in today's market want.

Another job of the Realtor is to bring qualified buyers to your home — buyers who can qualify for a mortgage and can afford your

home. You want to deal with serious home buyers.

A few years ago, there were more buyers than sellers. That is no longer the case. Sellers have numerous options available and a good Realtor helps direct them to you.

The key to selling your home on your own is to honestly look at whether you have the attributes and the patience to sell the home. You can, by using the Internet and reading different articles, determine what things need to be done to your home to make it readily sellable. The downside is you can read 10 different articles and get 20 different opinions.

The other issue is can you attract qualified buyers to your home? In the old days, it was relatively simple. In today's savvy world, buyers look at a number of different places.

Another issue Realtors assist with is who you let into your home to view it. Unfortunately, many in our society take the opportunity to visit homes, not to buy them but for other purposes. There is always a security factor that you have to take into consideration.

Lastly, the Realtor also makes sure that all the i's have been dotted and the t's crossed.

Whether that means checking on the buyer to make sure that they have been approved for the mortgage or that title work or inspections have been done. You can do this on your own, however, it is a commitment.

If someone has the time and is willing to do some homework about selling a house, it can be done. However, it's important to recognize that it's not easy.

Either way you choose to sell the house, you will need an attorney. A real estate attorney should be the first individual you

retain. Before signing any documents, make sure an attorney has reviewed them.

Even the agreement you sign with your Realtor should be reviewed by an attorney. In any real estate transaction, whether you're buying or selling, it is important to retain the services of a real estate attorney.

Since you are moving out of state, make sure to have an attorney in your new state review estate planning documents. You may find that little changes are needed but it is important to have those documents reviewed.

In today's difficult real estate climate, selling one's home is challenging but not impossible. The money saved by not using a Realtor can be substantial, however, weigh the cost vs. your time, energy and frustration in trying to sell your home.

Good luck!

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

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County auditor general raises concerns about budgeting process

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Wayne County Office of the Auditor General has put the Wayne County Commission on notice that it needs "to get control over budget deficits otherwise the county could be facing a takeover by the State of Michigan" like the Detroit Public Schools and the city of Pontiac.

The gloomy prediction was part of a Budget Sensitive Issues Consulting Report presented at a June 28 budget retreat, hosted by the Wayne County Commission's Committee of



Boike

Chair Edward Boike Jr. in making the five-page report public.

"As we embark on a budget process for Fiscal 2010-11, we are looking at a projected deficit in excess of \$266 million," he said. "I felt it was imperative to keep the residents and taxpayers fully informed of the urgen-

cy of the critical decisions the Legislative Branch must make in this once-a-year opportunity to act in the public interest."

Boike released the report as part of the commission's appropriations ordinance which includes a section on transparency. The concerns raised in the report will be presented to the commission's audit committee when it meets at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 13, he said.

According to Auditor General Willie Mayo, the county has been in a "deficit spending mode since fiscal year 2003 and still has not addressed the root problems." In fact, the deficit increased from \$114.2 million to \$215.4 million as of Sept. 30, 2009, including \$10.6 million from the general fund.

The county is under a state-mandated five-year deficit elimination plan and must show that it has "adequate budgetary funding for 2010-11 to decrease the deficits."

Based in cash flow projections by the Office of Management and Budget for the second quarter of 2009-10,

the county will need to continue borrowing for 2010-11 to meet ongoing operating expenses, leading Mayo to say that it's "indicative of management's inability to re-engineer operations or downsize expenditures to a level based on future projected revenues."

Mayo has recommended that the commission ask Management and Budget to provide a list of core and non-core services by department along with their related costs and use the list to determine that all essential service receive priority funding.

"The committee could adopt a budget based on the Charter and other mandated programs and services (core) and then allocate the balance to noncore or nonmandated services," Mayo said in the report. "A list of core services will expedite the decision making process as to which programs and services that are absolutely necessary to fund and those that are discretionary."

He also has recommended that the commission hold revenue

conferences, similar to what the state does, to discuss available sources of revenue to fund county programs and operations and that the commission consider adopting the concept of "Zero Based Budgeting" for certain service funds — Management and Budget, Personnel, Corporation Counsel, Department of Transportation and Building and Grounds. A ZZB is a method of budgeting in which all expense must be justified for each budget year.

"ZZB starts from a 'zero base' and every function within the department or area is analyzed for its necessity and costs," he said. "Budgets are then built around what is necessary for the upcoming period regardless of whether the budget is higher or lower than the previous year."

His other recommendations include:

- Holding meetings with the executive branch to discuss the reliability of revenue projections before the actual budget is prepared and submitted by the county executive.

- Evaluate all potential additional revenue opportunities, such as fees and fines, administrative fees, advertising on government property, as well as making it a priority to adequately fund net revenue producing activities.

- More closely monitoring the tax revenues being retained by local Tax Increment Financing Authorities and have the commission do a review of the 33 communities with TIFAs "to determine if the county can share in future TIFA property tax revenue and/or exercise the option to deny funding for certain development projects."

Mayo estimates that some \$21.3 million in county tax revenue was captured by TIFAs during fiscal 2008-09.

He plans to continue to keep residents informed as the budget process moves forward. Additional updates also will be posted on the commission's website at waynecounty.com/comm.

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

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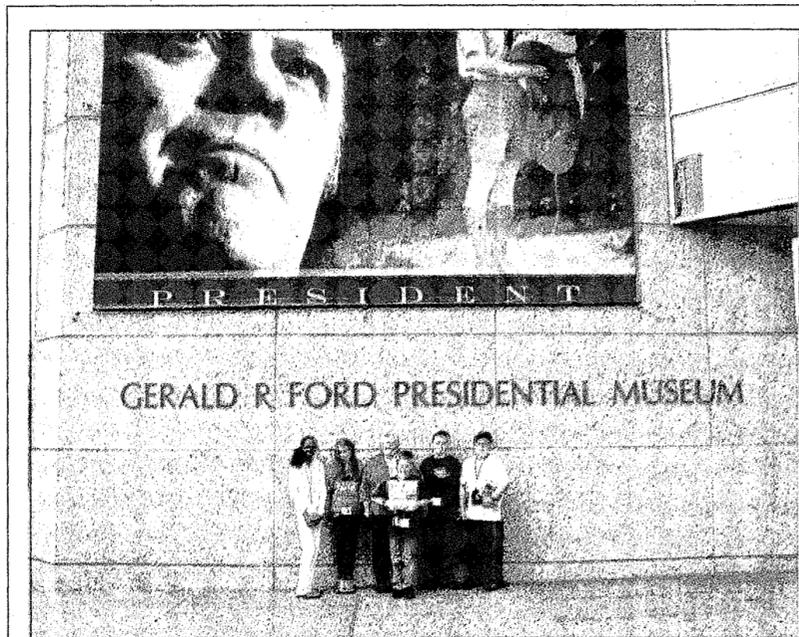
Vacation Bible schools

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to noon, July 12-16
Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer, Westland.
Details: High Seas Adventure Vacation Bible School for ages 3-10. Cost is \$10 per family.
Contact: For information, call (734) 722-1735.

Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 19-23
Location: Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City
Details: The Raindrops to Rainbows vacation Bible school includes a program for preschool children in addition to one for children 5-13 years old. It will feature a weather station, a science laboratory and a puppet show in addition to the Bible stories, crafts and snacks. There is no cost or obligation.
Contact: For more information, call (734) 524-0880 or visit its website at www.CherryHillFellowship.com.

Mental health program
Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 28
Location: Oakwood Heritage Hospital, 10000 Telegraph, Taylor
Details: National Alliance on Mental Illness Metro is presenting a program on mental health education and legislative issues parents, professionals, and caregivers, anyone who wants to learn and understand more about mental illness. The topics of discussion include Signs and Symptoms, Stress, Dual Diagnosis, Dealing with the Difficult, Communications and Legislation Issues Impacting Mental Health. The speakers will be Milton Mack, chief Wayne County probate judge and Leon and Mary Ellen Judd of NAMI Metro. The program is free of charge and a light lunch and certificate of attendance will be provided. The program is sponsored by Oakwood Heritage Hospital.
Contact: Reserve a spot by Aug. 19, by calling Mary Ellen at (248) 348-7197 or by e-mail at tamera.varkas@oakwood.org

River Cruise fund-raiser
Time/Date: 2-5 p.m. Saturday, July 17
Location: depart from the dock behind the Portofino Restaurant at 3455 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte.
Details: The S.S. Columbia Project will host its second festive fund-raising cruise on the Detroit River aboard the MV Friendship. The cruise will serve as an official reunion event for former Bob-Lo Crew members and employees. Guests are invited to bring memorabilia, share their fond memories and reminisce about America's oldest surviving passenger steamer as they view the beloved Bob-Lo boats, Columbia and Ste. Claire. During the cruise, guests will feast on complimentary pizza delivered by the J.W. Westcott II mailboat while toasting the slow steady progress in restoring the Columbia to its former glory. Boarding begins at 1 p.m. Suggested donation is \$35



Wish You Were Here

Students in Vicki Reaves sixth-grade class at United Christian School in Garden City pose in front of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids to say Wish You Were Here. The group - Tierra Russaw of Westland (from left), Bailey McGeorge of Westland, Reaves of Garden City, Joshua Troop of Westland, Matthew Scott of Westland and Gabe Wilson of Garden City - visited the museum on May 22. If you go on a trip or a vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

per person.
Contact: Additional information about the cruise and the S.S. Columbia can be found at www.sscolumbia.org or by calling (212) 228-3182.

Golf outing
Time/Date: 8 a.m. Sunday Aug. 1
Location: The Strategic Fox, Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center, 8768 N. Territorial, Plymouth
Details: Check-in starts at 8 a.m. and the shotgun start is at 9 a.m. for NAMI Metro's 2010 Skins and Pins Shootout. Cost is \$85 per player or \$320 for a foursome and includes 18 holes with cart on The Strategic Fox, Brunch in the Golden Fox Clubhouse immediately after golf, a Gift Bag for all golfers, closest to the pin prize winner on every hole, Hole in One contest to win a Two-Year Lease on a new car, \$25 Skins on every hole, carrying over to the 18th hole and special contest holes. Brunch only tickets are available for \$25 per adult and \$10 for children ages 3-12. For more information, visit Skins and Pins online at www.skinsandpins.org.
Contact: Leon or Mary Ellen at (248) 348-7197, Tony Mitchell at (313) 550-2117 or Vince Toia at (734) 634-6360.

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, voicemail 10.

Earth Angels
Details: Earth Angels, a children's entertainment/performance non-profit group composed of kids ages 9 - 16 years old, is currently looking to fill spots. There's opening for girls ages 9 - 11, with at least two years of dance experience, and boys, ages 9 - 12 with no experience needed just an interest in performing. The group delivers a high energy show made

up of choreographed dance routines spiced with theatrics and lip-synching to the great Oldies music of the '50s and '60s as well as some current fare.
Contact: www.earthangelsontour.org or by e-mail to eangel1986@comcast.net

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

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

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.
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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 sheprey@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.

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Beach books and much more

Adult readers like to mix it up in summer

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Whether it's "beach books" or a 500-page tome, local adults read in the summer.

Marilyn Kwik, department head for adult services at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, said the third in a trilogy by the late Stieg Larsson of Sweden is popular. Readers there are asking for his *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*.

"It's a mystery," Kwik said of the book involving computer hacker Lisbeth Salander, a Swedish character.

Also popular in Westland is *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, a fiction title involving two black maids in early 1960s Mississippi and a young white woman just graduated from Ole Miss. Kwik also sees adult patrons asking for author Charlaine Harris' work, which ties in with the *True Blood* TV series.

"All of her books are very popular," Kwik said of the vampire series, the latest of which is *Dead in the Family*.

Rebecca Skloot's *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* is a nonfiction title that tells of an African American woman's cancer cells being cultured without her permission. That one is popular at Westland among readers.

"I've heard good things about the Carol Burnett autobiography, too, memoir. That's pretty popular."

Kwik finds adults seek both "beach books" in summer and more substantial fare. Some like to use summer to get through a weightier tome they've always meant to read.

"Come to the library," she urged. "Let us know what you're looking for."

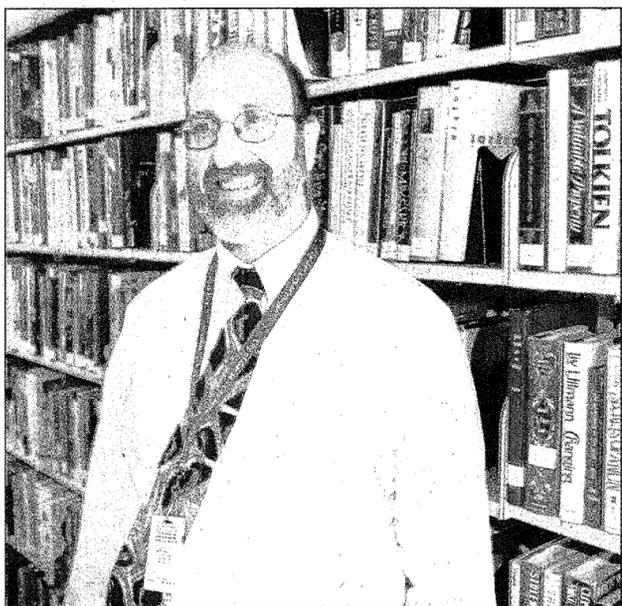
James Lenze, Garden City Public Library director, sees a lot of those books going out as well.

"The best sellers, of course, are always moving well," he said. *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* is popular in Garden City.

"Charlaine Harris has been very popular lately," he said of the vampire series. Also circulating well in Garden City is John Sandford's *Storm Prey*.

"It's a thriller," Lenze said. "They do seem to go for the lighter stuff in the summer."

Circulation climbs in the summer at Garden City's library, but that's attributed to young people in the summer reading program.



According to Garden City Library Director James Lenze, "The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest" is one of the popular books at the library this summer.

"Every time's a great time to read," Lenze concluded as encouragement.

Sue Patterson, adult services librarian at the Plymouth District Library, is encouraging people to participate in the adult summer reading program at her library, which she's coordinating. A number of area libraries have similar programs for adult readers.

The Stieg Larsson books are popular, Patterson said, including the first two of the trilogy, *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* and *The Girl Who Played With Fire*. Among mystery fans, Janet Evanovich's latest, *Sizzling Sixteen*, is doing well in Plymouth.

Also popular in Plymouth is *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.

"That may be the one we have the most holds on now," Patterson said.

Laura Bush's autobiography, *Spoken From the Heart*, is also popular. Another nonfiction title sought in Plymouth is Michael Lewis' *The Big Short* on the financial meltdown. Readers also enjoy the humorous essay collection by Chelsea Handler *Chelsea Chelsea Bang Bang*.

Patterson doesn't see all seeking beach fare in the summer.

"Not necessarily," she said. "I think it depends what's out."

Some readers like memoirs, some books on the financial crisis and some on wars in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Sebastian Junger wrote a book, *War*, on Afghanistan that's generating interest in Plymouth. Some readers seek the memoirs

of Christopher Hitchens, *Hitch 22*, a journalist and author who's a political ideology pundit.

Glenn Beck, a conservative commentator, has tried his hand at fiction with a new thriller, *The Overton Window*.

"This is his first work of fiction," Patterson said of the book, which is generating some interest.

At the Canton Public Library, Karen Stark, adult services librarian, agreed the Stieg Larsson books are popular, especially the newest. Readers are also asking for Elizabeth Gilbert's *Eat, Pray and Love*.

"The movie's due out in August," she said of that nonfiction title in which Gilbert traveled through Italy, India and Indonesia. She'll be played by Julia Roberts in the movie.

Stark said books related to Canton's summer reading theme, "Setting Sail," do well, including Michigan authors and travel. Janet Evanovich's *Sizzling Sixteen* is popular in Canton.

"There's still a ton of holds on that," Stark said.

A book recommended by Oprah Winfrey, Jeneen Roth's nonfiction *Women, Food and God*, is doing well. A fiction title that's big in Canton is Robert Goodrick's *The Reliable Wife*, the tale of a Midwestern mail order bride in the early 1900s who's not all she seems.

Stark finds people reading a variety in the summer, and noted books on CD do well for car trips.

"That would be mainly fiction," she said.

The start of the parking wars

On July 16, 1936, the first parking meters were installed in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Surprisingly, parking meters were created not to earn money for the city, but to free up parking spaces. In 1935, a man named Carl C. Magee patented the device to combat the lack of available parking in downtown Oklahoma City. His thinking was that fewer workers would pay to park all day, leaving spaces open for shoppers and tourists.

The first meters cost a nickel per hour, while today's meters in downtown Oklahoma City only give parkers three minutes for a nickel, six minutes for a dime and 15 minutes for a quarter.

North Dakota is the only state that bans parking meters on public streets.

As of 2006, the city of Detroit contained 3,935 meters. Taking this number into account, if drivers use even half the city's meters and put in a quarter each, that's nearly \$492 revenue for the city per day. In 2006, the city replaced 175 coin-operated meters with computerized pay stations. One pay station can serve up to 10 parking spaces at a time, and people can pay with cash or a credit card.

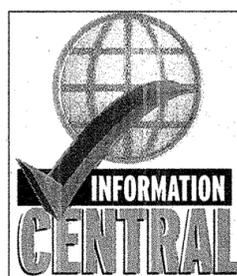
For more interesting facts and statistics on almost anything, consult the book "Freaky Facts," or try "Famous First Facts" by Joseph Cain or "Lightening Never Strikes Twice and Other False Facts" by Laurence Moore.

To find out more, visit the Public Library of Westland or call the Reference Desk at (734) 326-6123. You can also search the online catalog at www.westlandlibrary.org.

Highlighted Activities

Fight Foreclosure One-on-One Counseling Session: 5-8 p.m. July 12

Homeowners can schedule a private, 30 minute, one-on-one meeting with a foreclosure counselor, from the Wayne County Fight Mortgage Foreclosure Program. Call (734) 326-6123 or stop by the library to schedule your appointment. The Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Program is a no fee, Wayne County program providing you an expansive network of certified counselors who will help you avoid or manage a mortgage foreclosure. Space is still available. Additional dates have been scheduled for July 26, Aug. 9 and



Aug. 23.
Songwriter Workshop: 7 p.m. July 13, age 18 and up, Week 2 session.

Join singer-songwriter John Latini for a three-week course in song writing. Each week will build on the last and will cover a different aspect of writing and performing your own songs.

Felting Fun - Making Mittens: 7 p.m. July 13

Learn how to create mittens from recycled sweaters! Hobby Lobby instructor Kris Rechtzigel will discuss methods of felting wool, using patterns, and project assembly. You'll be working on your own pair of mittens. Bring your own sewing machine or know basic hand-sewing techniques. Space is limited, so reserve a seat by stopping by the Reference Desk or calling (734) 326-6123.

Summer Concert Series: Mary Wynn, 7 p.m. July 15, age 14 and up, Library Pavilion.

Join us for an evening of gospel music with acclaimed singer Mary Wynn and her gospel choir. "Take one look and listen to the heartfelt lyrics and warm embracing melodies of a true child of God with a smooth voice capable of great range and feeling." Seating is limited so bring a chair, if you're late. For a complete list of Summer Concert performers, stop by the library or check out www.westlandlibrary.org.

Friday Night Movie Cult Classics: 7 p.m. July 16

This week's selection is "The Gods Must Be Crazy" (Rated PG). A Sho in the Kalahari desert encounters technology for the first time in the shape of a Coke bottle. This is an after-hours program. Library doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Information Central was compiled by Young Adult Librarian Liz Waun. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or visit westlandlibrary.org.

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Tying the knot:
The second time
around, things are
a bit different
COMMUNITY LIFE, B5



Ambrose embarks on dual A.D. role in WW

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Greg Ambrose is now wearing two hats.

That's because he'll be overseeing athletics at both Wayne Memorial and Westland John Glenn high schools.

The new dual position, held originally by Glenn athletic director Brian Swinehart, was consolidated for the 2010-11 school calendar year because of budget cuts.

Ambrose, who has been Wayne's A.D. since 2006, was reassigned to an assistant principal's job at the same school, but recently moved back into athletics after Swinehart announced he was leaving for a similar position in Walled Lake overseeing sports at Central, Western and Northern highs.

Ambrose began his double-duty on Tuesday and is still working out all the parameters.

The plan is to either work half days at each high school, or spend three days one week at one school and two at the other, then alternating each week.

"It's still a work in progress as far as when and where, it all depends where the need is," Ambrose said. "I don't have all the details worked out yet."

"The biggest part is the transition and maintaining the same things at John Glenn. It's like adopting another family. They have to get used to me and I have to get used to them. Right now is a familiarity thing and I'm working on accessing everything I'll need."

Ambrose was scheduled to meet with Swinehart on Thursday and be briefed.

"We'll have an assistant A.D. in each building," Ambrose said. "Kathy Stellema will be at Wayne and Ron Staples is at Glenn. Each position has an extra hour of release time. That was taken care of by Brian (Swinehart)."

Ambrose arrived at Wayne-Westland after spending four years as an athletic administrative building coordinator at Farmington High under district-wide A.D. Dennis Noe.

Ambrose, a graduate of Rochester H.S. and Alma College, taught 15 years in the Farmington Public Schools where his wife Bonnie also is employed as a para professional. His daughter Caroline will be a junior at Michigan State.

Ambrose said he has all fall coaching positions in place at both high schools with the exception of boys cross country and boys varsity basketball at Wayne (where Wayne Woodard resigned last month after 10 seasons).

"Wayne (Woodard) did some really nice things for our kids," Ambrose said. "I've got some applications, but it's a matter of getting through them and finding someone. We're falling behind right now because of the timeline. I had hoped by this point we'd have someone, but it hasn't happened because of vacations and so forth."

bemons@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6851

'Fast Eddie II'



The Fast Eddie II is named for owner Jim Sechler's late brother and driver Dan Kanfoush's son. Sechler and Kanfoush have won five straight APBA championships with the Fast Eddie II.

Hydroplane racing team goes for sixth national championship

BY DAN O'MEARA
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Jim Sechler of Farmington Hills and his team have won five consecutive national championships in hydroplane racing and are working on their sixth.

Sechler, the owner of the Fast Eddie II, and driver Dan Kanfoush are again the current leaders in the American Power Boat Association's one-liter modified class.

They hope to add to their season point total when they go for a sixth straight win at the Quake on the Lake July 17-18 on Pontiac Lake in Waterford.

"Every year it gets harder and harder to win with the competition," Sechler said. "At the last race in Syracuse (N.Y.), the best we could do was third."

"It used to be it was relatively new and everyone else was coming up to speed. Now, there are four or five boats every race that can win. We're hoping to win, but we're going to have to see."

Sechler recalled a race several years ago when the team didn't have the right set-up and was late on the start. "We gave up a few miles per hour



Jim Sechler

but still won the race, because we had enough speed on the boat," he said. "Now, if you make one small mistake, you can go from first to third really quick."

That hasn't happened very often to Sechler, 47, a product design engineer for TRW who likes to tinker with

engines in his garage and has an integral role in making the Fast Eddie II go.

Sechler and his team have set 14 world records in their class. There are only four possible records based on the length of the race courses, but they keep breaking their own records, Sechler explained.

All APBA races are five-mile races. The number of laps depends on the length of the course. The Quake on the Lake will consist of five laps on a one-mile course.

The event also will be a charitable fund-raiser for the Rainbow Connection, which is similar to the Make-A-Wish Foundation that grants special requests for children.

Sechler's team can earn another 400 points next weekend. There will be a qualifying heat and a final heat both days, and each heat is worth 100 points.

In the last five years, the Fast Eddie II has won 196 of 210 heats. Teams can enter a possible 30 events each season, but the national championship is based on the best 15 races.

Please see **RACING, B2**

The Buck Stops Here

Goalkeeper Hildebrandt proves quick understudy

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Mitch Hildebrandt would be a perfect candidate for the TV show, "The Apprentice."

And after serving two years as an understudy to starter Steve Clark, the Oakland University goalkeeper wouldn't need an interview with Donald Trump.

Just give him the position. Hildebrandt, a Livonia Stevenson grad, is coming off a stellar season in his first year as a starter with the Golden Grizzlies. The 6-foot-1, 205-pound redshirt sophomore led OU to a 9-5-3 overall record, including a 5-0-1 mark in the Summit League.



In 17 games, Hildebrandt allowed just 13 goals and made 94 saves (.879 percentage). He finished with seven shutouts, including wins over nationally-ranked Dayton and Michigan.

For his efforts, he was also named first-team All-League and Summit League Defensive Player of the Year.

Hildebrandt has continued his stellar play so far this summer with the Michigan Bucks of the Premier Development League.

Please see **KEEPER, B2**



MICHIGAN BUCKS | PHOTO

Livonia Stevenson grad Mitch Hildebrandt (far left), who will be red-shirt junior this fall at Oakland University, was named Premier Development League Goalkeeper of the Week after posting his fourth shutout of the season.

SIDELINES

All-State netters

North Farmington led the way as several area girls earned postseason All-State recognition by the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association.

In Division 2, North senior Jennifer Yen took All-State honors in singles, while teammate Akanksha Vaishnav, sophomore, was honorable mention.

The Raiders' senior doubles team of Emily Hand Emily Jan also made All-State.

In Division 1, Livonia Franklin junior Angelica Woods earned honorable mention in singles.

MHSTCA Regional Coaches of the Year included Barb Lehman (Canton) and Lin Ware (Salem) in Division 1-Region 3; and Whitney Wasielewski (North Farmington) in Division 2-Region 11.

Here's Johnny

NHL goaltending great Johnny Bower made a lot of stops during his Hall of Fame career, and he'll make another one 2 p.m. Sunday. That's when Bower will make an appearance at Perani's Hockey World in Livonia.

Bower, whose best seasons were with the Toronto Maple Leafs during the 1960s, will sign any item for \$15. Perani's is located at 19330 Middlebelt Rd., between 7 and 8 mile roads. For more information, call (248) 476-8100.

Waza FC at nationals

Five area soccer players are members of the under-16 boys Waza FC East Black that will compete in the U.S. Youth Soccer national championship tournament July 21-25.

Jake Finkbinder (Farmington), Adriel Neely (Farmington Hills/Detroit Country Day), Ashwin Vaishnav (Farmington Hills/North Farmington), Jeff Thomas (Livonia/Churchill) and Cameron Roberts (Redford/U-D Jesuit) are among the 17 boys from Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties who comprise the team.

Waza FC East Black was the runner-up to the Grand Rapids Crew Juniors at the June regional tournament in Beavercreek, Ohio.

Since the Crew Juniors had already qualified by winning the U.S. Youth Soccer National League, Waza FC also advanced to the national event in Overland Park, Kan.

In regional pool play, Waza FC edged Omaha (Neb.) FC Elite, 2-1; tied Chicago Fire, 1-1; and defeated Javanon (Ky.), 3-1.

Waza FC defeated Cleveland FC in overtime in a semifinal game, 3-2, but lost to the Grand Rapids team in the final, 1-0.

Glenn football camp

Westland John Glenn will stage a football camp for incoming grades 11-12 from 9 a.m. until noon July 12-14.

The camp is open to the public. You do not have to attend Glenn High School. For more information, including camp fee, call Glenn coach Tim Hardin at (734) 620-0063.

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RACING

FROM PAGE B1

"When you're actually working toward a national championship, it's really not your goal," Sechler said. "The goal is to go out and do the best you can every single race."

"Right around the end of July, you evaluate your season and decide if you're in a position to win high points. So far we've been in that position."

Anything can happen, Sechler said, adding a bad streak of luck could put him and the Fast Eddie II team on the beach.

"We don't reflect so much on what we've done as what we plan to do," he said. "That's how our team philosophy has always been, and it seems to work really well for us."

"The real indicator is going to be the next three weeks. We have the Western Division, the Quake and the world championships. If we do well, we'll be in pretty good shape. If we falter and the competition beats us, then we're going to be in a little trouble."

In the spirit of brotherhood and camaraderie, Sechler added he enjoys helping others in his racing class despite the growing competitiveness of the sport.

"It's kind of a small class; yet, we're experiencing more growth than any other class in our inboard category," he said. "Some of my best friends are



Pictured left to right are Allen Baskett, co-chairman of the Governor's Cup race in Celina, Ohio; Celina Mayor Sharon LaRue, Lynne Kanfoush, Fast Eddie II owner Jim Sechler, driver Dan Kanfoush, Eddie Kanfoush, crew member Tim Collins and race co-chairman Tom Saddler.

my biggest competitors. "The guy I'm going to Seattle with (July 9-11) and who's taking both boats on a single trailer is one of my chief competitors. Yet, we're really close friends, and I built his engine."

"It's gratifying to know I'm helping the class and helping other teams get up and running."

In the six years since he began racing for points in earnest, Sechler has seen engines in the one-liter class change

from the bigger, automobile size to the kind used in personal watercraft and snowmobiles.

"They're so much lighter," Sechler said. "There are a lot fewer components in them. They make a lot of power for their size."

"We switched from a four-stroke motor to a two-stroke in 2004, and we've never looked back. If you want to be competitive in the class, that's what you have to run."

Sechler, who is sponsored by

Metro Aircraft Instruments in Pontiac, lets Kanfoush of Niagara Falls, N.Y., do all the driving. He derives his enjoyment from the behind-the-scenes work.

"When I used to race cars, I enjoyed it a lot," he said. "The only difference was you started with a car you bought from a dealer. Some factory built that car."

"Most boats are hand-built, and everybody has an idea on what works. It seems there are

so many more variables. To figure it all out is kinda difficult. If things go well and we did our homework, we're successful; if not, we go back and work harder."

"As an engineer who likes to take an idea from paper to water, it's a nice exercise. The proof is in the result, so you get instant feedback if you're successful."

Sechler and his fellow members of the Fast Eddie II team have had a lot of that.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Wayne-Westland soccer

Registration for the fall 2010 Wayne-Westland Soccer League (ages 4-19) will be held through Friday, July 30.

There will also be a co-ed adult league offered this fall.

For registration information, call (734) 467-5260, or visit www.wssoccer.com.

Falcon garage sale

The Farmington High School cross country teams will have a three-day garage sale July 15-17 at 33455 Alta Loma, Farmington.

The sale starts at 9 a.m. each day and coincides with the annual Founders Festival in downtown Farmington.

Alta Loma is located two blocks south of Grand River Avenue and west of Farmington Road.

Summer track meets

Dearborn Divine Child High School will stage a series of youth and adult summer track meets each Wednesday, July 14, 21 and 28.

Field events start at 5:30 p.m. followed by running events at 6 p.m. The cost is \$4 per athlete.

Age groups include: Sub-Bantam (born 2002); Bantam (2000-01); Midget (1998-99); Youth (1996-97); Intermediate (1994-95); Young (1992-93); Open (ages 19-29); Sub-Masters (30-39); Masters (40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70-and-up).

For more information, call Randy Williams at (313) 283-4618; or e-mail maddogsports@aol.com.

Pride needs coaches

The Plymouth-Canton Pride is taking coaching applications for all ages for the 2010-11 fast-pitch season.

Experienced coaches are needed for 10-, 12-, 14-, 16- and 18-and-under teams with an emphasis on college exposure.

Those interested can e-mail a resume to: j4olszewski@sbcglobal.net. Applications are also online at www.eteamz.com/PCPride. You can also send a resume to: Jon Olszewski, 48465 Antique Road, Canton, MI 48187.

For more information, call (313) 570-0800.

Franklin needs coaches

Livonia Franklin is seeking a freshman girls volleyball and freshman girls competitive cheer coach for the 2010-11 seasons.

For more information, call Franklin athletic director Ron Hammye at (734) 744-2889.

Micro-Soccer Shootout

The University of Michigan men's soccer team will stage its 19th annual 3-vs.-3 Micro-Soccer Shootout Saturday, July 10 at UM's Mitchell fields in Ann Arbor.

The cost is \$100 per team with a four-game guarantee.

All under-7 team registration fees will be free for the first 10 boys and girls teams to register.

Registrations, due by July 1 or dropped off by July 5, can be obtained at www.umsoccer.com.

For more information, call (734) 647-1201; or e-mail ldurkee@umich.edu.

St. Mary Mercy 5K

Registration is on for the fourth annual St. Mary Mercy Hospital Embrace Life 5-kilometer run-walk for Cancer on Sunday, Sept. 12.

The race begins at 9 a.m. on the St. Mary Mercy Hospital grounds, located at Five Mile and Levan roads.

The cost is \$22 for runners-walkers who register on or before Sept. 3 (race T-shirt guaranteed). It's \$27 for those signing up after Sept. 3.

Awards will go to the first-, second- and third-place overall male and female finishers in each age group of the 5K.

Following the 5K, a Community Open House will from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. offering music, games, food and health information and screenings. You can register online at Active.com or by visiting stmarymercy.org.

SPORTS CAMPS

Youth grid camp

Powerhouse Gym of Farmington Hills will sponsor a youth football camp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, July 24, at Harrison High School.

The camp is part of an effort to re-establish ties between the Farmington Rockets and Harrison football programs, according to Tim Mumford, manager of Powerhouse Gym and a former Harrison player.

The camp is open to all players in the 7-14 age group, however. The cost is \$35. Lunch and a Powerhouse Gym T-shirt are included.

The camp instructors will include the Harrison coaching staff, former Detroit Lion Ron Rice and former MSU and Harrison star Mill Coleman.

There will be a cheerleading camp the same day at Harrison, too.

For more information and registration, contact Mumford at 248-875-9962.

Summer cheer camp

The North Farmington High School Summer Cheer Camp for boys and girls ages 5-12 will be from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, Aug. 2-6.

The cost is \$100 per child. You must register by Friday, July 23, to receive a free T-shirt. Campers must bring a bag lunch.

All participants will be invited to cheer with the varsity cheerleaders at the first home football game.

For more information, contact varsity cheer coach Amanda O'Neill at either amandaoneill@yahoo.com or 734-624-8252.

MU volleyball camp

Madonna University will offering a hitters and defensive camp, Monday through Thursday, July 12-15, at the

Hildebrandt still has two seasons remaining at OU, but has the skills to give pro soccer a try.

"Mitch has the package to go to the next level, whether it's ULS, MLS or perhaps somewhere in Europe," Parsons said. "He has the potential to land somewhere."

"But when you're going from college to pro there's a risk involved. You get a lot of doors slammed in your face, but a guy like Steve Clark kept at it. He really wanted it."

The PDL, a league of top collegiate and post-college players, is a stepping stone, according to Hildebrandt, who is majoring in Sociology with a concentration in Criminal Justice at OU.

"My dream always be pro soccer player," he said. "I definitely don't know if I'm going to have to go to Norway, but if I have to go, I'll be chasing the dream, I guess."

"The PDL is such a pro league. With owners and coaches it's about winning. It gets you taste of next level, but it's still summer league."

"I enjoy soccer. You never know who's watching. That why you want to come out and perform every game. College is different. You're representing a school. You're with the same guys six or seven months. It's like a brotherhood."

Hildebrandt dabbled in baseball as a youth, but quickly found himself between the pipes.

The apprenticeship began early.

"I started out in soccer playing on brother's (Mike) team," he said. "He (Mike) is five years older. I played goalie because I was smaller than everybody else. He's where I got my passion for soccer. I played the field for awhile, but when I was 10 or 11, our goalie didn't show up for game. They put me in, and I've been there ever since."

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KEEPER

FROM PAGE B1

He recently earned PDL. Goalkeeper of the Week, a national honor, after blanking the Cincinnati Kings, 3-0, on Wednesday, following an 11-save performance in a 0-0 draw on July 1 against the first-place Forest City London (Ontario). Hildebrandt has four shutouts so far this season for the 7-3-2 Bucks.

"When I recruited him coming out of high school and club soccer, I saw a good, solid, steady goalkeeper with athleticism and good hands," said Bucks coach and former longtime OU coach Gary Parsons. "He had the experience as well, and had a good background."

"He's worked hard. He's got a big body and a frame with the potential to put on weight, but he's trimmed down and it shows in his game. He's quicker."

Hildebrandt was red-shirted his freshman year and backed up Clark for two seasons. He also backed up Clark last summer with the Bucks.

Clark, meanwhile, is now playing professionally in Norway.

Hildebrandt appeared in just two games for OU in 2008, but was unexpectedly thrown into the fire after Clark was red-carded in the Summit League championship match.

It was quite an initiation.

"I was still trying to get warm on the bench, I remember it was a frigid, cold day and I was still cold when I took off my warm-ups," Hildebrandt recalled.

With Clark suspended the next game, Hildebrandt was pressed into duty and performed well in the first-round of the NCAA College Cup where he blanked Ohio State. But unfortunately the Golden Grizzlies did not advance, eventually losing in a shootout on penalty

kicks.

"It was an awesome experience," Hildebrandt said about his two-year apprenticeship at OU. "I couldn't have a better person to be behind. I learned so much from him (Clark). Confidence and work ethic is the major thing learned from him."

"I saw the game I played in high school, but here (at OU) it was a different game. Sitting behind Steve, I learned what it becomes to be a college and pro keeper."

Getting a taste of the big time, the former All-State keeper, who helped spur Stevenson all the way to the 2007 Division I state finals, was ready to take over the starting duties after Clark's playing eligibility was exhausted.

"Knowing I was going to start the next year, my whole frame of mind going in was to gain confidence, and playing in the PDL definitely helped," he said. "Also going into that year it was Eric Pogue's first year. We talked and we were kind of in same boat. It was his first year as head coach and my first year as goalkeeper, and we both fed off it."

As he entered his first season as a starter, Hildebrandt took the advice of his old college coach.

"Like Gary (Parsons) said, 'Just don't make mistakes,'" Hildebrandt added. "You're going to let in goals here and there. In college, nobody is going to go through a whole season and not give up a goal. You just want to be solid and be mentally there each game."

In his first season as Bucks coach, Parsons stresses a more cerebral approach to the game during the PDL campaign.

"With all my players, it's about making good decisions all the time," he said. "It's a big key to Mitch's game, whether it's coming out off his line or his distribution. It's constantly becoming a smarter player. And it generally comes with experience that usually make them smarter."

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Turner's triplicate a hearty feat

During the past season, it was business as usual for most league bowlers. The scoring was hot while the weather was not. One of the more memorable feats was that of a teen bowler in the Country High School League.



Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison

His name is Ryan Turner, age 17, and all he did on a recent morning at Country Lanes in Farmington Hills was to shoot consecutive games of 268-268-268. That equals an 804 series and the triplicate also might possibly be the highest by a youth in the Detroit area, ever. There are no records on hand to confirm or deny such a record score, but triplicates themselves are a rarity regardless of the score bowled. If any youth bowler has ever bowled a higher triplicate, I'd like to hear about it.

There was another outstanding performance as 76-year-old Larry Norville of Livonia ran up an 803 series with games of 237-297-269 in the Woodland Guys & Dolls League at Woodland Lanes in Livonia.

Larry has been bowling since the early 1960s. He didn't carry a 200 average until he turned 70 and he was averaging 199 when he bowled the 803. He had only one open frame in his three game set and at one point had 16 strikes in a row.

This just goes to show that bowlers can attain outstanding scores, young and old alike. We have seen a resurgence in high scores in recent years, a result of better equipment, more bowlers taking coaching from the pros and being able to adjust quickly to varying lane conditions. There are more 300s bowled in our area, but an 800 series is a score that fewer bowlers are ever able to see next to their name.

Thousands of bowlers travel from the four corners of our nation to compete in the USBC (formerly the ABC) Open Championships held in differing venues every year. Reno, Nev., is this year's site.

While bowling well can win a few hundred or, even a few thousand dollars, one guy came home with over \$10 million in winnings before he even got to the lanes. John Johnson of Golden, Colo. put \$20 into an airport slot machine and minutes later was the winner of the \$10,422,754.08 Megabucks Megajackpot.

And he hadn't even taken his ball out of the bag yet. "The Biggest Little City in the World" has become a special destination for the 36-year old Johnson as three of his six USBC Open Championships have come at Reno's National Bowling Stadium and while in town for the 2007 event, he and his wife, Stephanie were married.

Al Harrison is a Southfield resident, a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America and a member of the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame. He can be reached by e-mail at tenpinalley710@yahoo.com.

Redford's WGCC to play host to annual MICSAs Finals

BY JIM TOTH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After more than seven decades the Michigan Inter-Club Swimming Association continues to peak the interest of competitive swimmers during the summer months. And now in its 71st year of existence, MICSAs — the oldest swimming association in the country — will send its 12 club members onto Western Golf & Country Club (WGCC) July 23-25 to participate in the 2010 MICSAs Swim Finals.

The three-day event at WGCC in Redford will feature some 1,400 youngsters, ranging in age from 6 to 17, showcasing their pool talents as they seek supremacy in their respective events.

And just announced Thursday by WGCC, Angels' Place — which provides people-centered services, including homes and professional support for persons with developmental disabilities — has been selected as part of the club's philanthropic mission for this year. WGCC will donate 10 percent of its Market Square entry fees — collected from Michigan-based sponsors displaying their goods, services and offerings inside the club's Market Place — to Angels' Place in its quest to help people in need.

"The members and staff at WGCC are looking forward to hosting this year's MICSAs Swim Finals," Jason Iding, PGA professional, general manager and COO of WGCC said. "It's a great opportunity for the Club to showcase our exceptional facilities, as well as benefit the community. WGCC hopes to serve as an example to other businesses by giving back and helping those in need — in this case, Angels' Place."

"The individuals Angels' Place serves will be with us for life - on average over 40 years," said Angels' Place Director of Development Barbara Urbel. "That is a commitment we can't take lightly. We will be their family until the end of their days."

"We are so grateful to Western Golf & Country Club for helping us raise funds to insure these homes and services will carry on."

Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods has a had a stranglehold on winning the event, finishing first as a team the past six years. Lochmoor Club enters this year's competition as a heavy favorite again after splashing through the dual meet portion of the schedule undefeated.

Joining talented swimmers from Lochmoor and host WGCC, will be young tankers representing Birmingham Athletic Club, Country Club of Detroit, Dearborn Country Club, Detroit Golf Club, Detroit Yacht Club, Great Oaks Country Club, Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club, Grosse Pointe Hunt Club, Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, Oakland Hills Country Club, Plum Hollow Country Club and Red Run Golf Club.

Friday's competition will begin at 11:30 a.m. with warm-ups for swimmers in the 8 & under and 9-10 age groups. Events will run from approximately 1-4 p.m.

Saturday will see warm-ups for swimmers in age groups 11-12, 13-14 and 15-17 begin at 9:30 a.m. Events will begin at 11 a.m.

Sunday's Final Events day will see the Opening Ceremonies take place at 11 a.m. and competition beginning at noon.

Cost is \$5 daily for adults and \$3 daily for youngsters 17 and under.

Bucks earn critical win vs. Cincinnati Kings, 3-0

The Michigan Bucks got a much-needed victory in their third and final trip to the state of Ohio during the regular season with a 3-0 Premier Development League men's soccer triumph Wednesday night over host Cincinnati Kings at Town & Country Sports Complex.

PDL Goalkeeper of the week Mitch Hildebrandt (Livonia Stevenson/Oakland University) registered his fourth shutout of the season in recording his seventh win of the season as the Bucks improved to 7-3-2 (23 points) in the Great Lakes Division of the PDL's Central Conference.

That puts the second-place Bucks in a three-way tie for the final playoff spot with the Chicago Fire Premier and the Dayton Dutch Lions.

But it was a costly victory as the Bucks' leading scorer Kenny Uzogwe, who has nine goals, was ejected with his second yellow card in the 70th minute and missed Saturday's home showdown against the Chicago Fire Premier (7-3-2).

The visitors struck early when newcomer Gilles Nziengui headed home a corner kick from Stefan St. Louis in the 13th minute for a 1-0 lead.

In the 52nd minute, St. Louis dribbled through three

Cincinnati defenders and slotted a neat shot past Kings goalkeeper Corey Whisenhunt.

At 2-0, Bucks coach Gary Parsons added some defensive substitutions, but kept the attackers headed towards the goal. In the 79th minute Max Touloutte would score his first goal of the year when he took a long Hildebrandt punt and would convert for the 3-0 final.

The loss drops Cincinnati to 5-5-2 (17 points).

If the Bucks win their final four matches, they are assured of at least one of the two division spots for the Central Conference semifinals to be played the weekend of July 30-31.

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REDFORD TOWNSHIP SOFTBALL

Men's - Upper (Thursday)

Sandy/Jack/Tom	6	1	0	12
Detroit Drama	6	2	0	12
Michigan Heat	4	4	0	8
Sandy/Aurora	3	5	0	6
JJ's Jags	3	5	0	6
The Avengers	1	7	0	2

Men's - Lower (Thursday)

Hal's Auto	8	0	0	16
Crusaders	7	1	0	14
Longshots-Jamie	5	3	0	10
Stables-Mike	5	3	0	10
Horizon	5	3	0	10
Sandy/Shawn	5	3	0	10
The Hitmen	4	4	0	8
Redford Moose	3	5	0	6
The Juicers	3	5	0	6
Mikula Chiro.	2	6	0	4
The Rebels	1	7	0	2
Off Base	0	8	0	0

Men's - Upper (Friday)

MLBD	8	0	0	16
Gabby's	8	1	0	16
Fat Kats	5	3	0	10
Double J	5	4	0	10
Hit Squad	5	4	0	10
Allen Decor	5	4	0	10
Colonial H&C	3	5	0	6
Keford's Tow	3	5	0	6
White Rhino	3	5	0	6
Badnewsbeer	1	7	0	2
Morningwood	0	8	0	0

Men's - Lower (Friday)

Foul Balls	7	0	0	14
Old School	6	2	0	12
Hitters	5	1	1	11
Sport Gambler	5	3	0	10
Timberwolf	4	2	0	8
Fat Kats 2	4	3	0	8
JC Distributor	4	3	0	8
Phillies	4	4	0	8
IPS	3	4	1	7
Don Massey	2	5	0	4
Rusty Gloves	1	5	0	2
Burton Tree	0	6	0	0
Transformer	0	7	0	0

Women's - Upper (Monday)

BMW Doctors	9	0	0	18
LadyBlue	7	3	0	10
Sand's Lounge	7	3	0	10
Gabby's	5	5	0	10
St. Val's	2	6	0	4
Morse M&S	2	7	0	4
Telway Tow	1	9	0	2

Women's - Lower (Monday)

Yardbirds	9	1	0	18
Redford B&G	8	2	0	16
Livewires	6	2	0	12
Duffy's	6	4	0	12
Scat. Sunshine	2	7	0	4
SB W/Attitude	1	8	0	2
NW Fellowship	1	9	0	2

COED - Upper (Tuesday)

The Truth	6	1	2	12
Stables-Tom	5	3	1	11
Oak. Plumbing	5	3	1	11
Stables-Mike	4	5	0	8
Crusaders	4	6	0	8
PITA	4	6	0	8
Gabby's	3	7	0	6

COED - Lower (Tuesday)

Doc's Sport	10	0	0	20
Frm. Hills COG	8	2	0	16
Sandys/Kelly	7	3	0	14
Sandys/AITLK	7	3	0	14
Strange Brew	5	4	1	11
Uncray-Denise	4	6	0	8
Brew Crew II	4	6	0	8
The Saints	4	6	0	8
Uncray-Patrik	3	7	0	6
Redford Moose	2	7	1	5
Liquid Chaos	0	10	0	0

COED - Upper (Wednesday)

College Park	10	0	0	20
Cant. Comp.	6	3	0	12
John's Team	5	5	0	10
Btrzup/Sandys	4	5	0	8
Hjt N' Run	4	6	0	8
One Under	4	6	0	8
Doc's Sports	3	7	0	6
Buf. Wild Wings	2	7	0	4

COED - Lower (Wednesday)

UNC.Rays-Andy	10	0	0	20
Ray's Team	7	1	0	14
Emptypitchers	6	3	0	12
Thoro-Bredz	5	4	0	10
Don Lors Elec.	5	5	0	10
Angry Rhinos	4	5	0	8
8 Second Ride	2	6	0	4
Bryan's Team	2	8	0	4
Tom's Tree Service	0	9	0	0

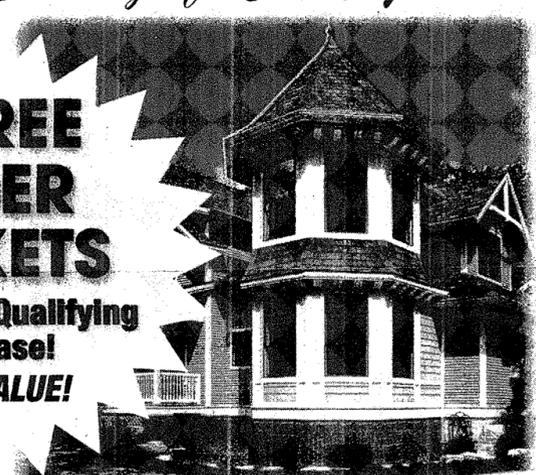


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Whalers add 2 picks to fill import quota

The Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers picked up two players last week in Canadian Hockey League Import Draft.

With the 41st overall selection, the Whalers took 17-year-old right winger Rickard Rakell, who played last season for AIK in Sweden.

Skating for the J-18 and J-20 teams of AIK in 2009-10, Rakell scored 28 goals and 17 assists for 45 points over 38 games. He also played in international competition for Sweden, scoring eight goals with three assists for 11 points in 19 games last year during three tournaments.

With the 50th pick, Plymouth added 17-year-old defenseman Dario Trutmann, who played last season for EV Zug in Switzerland.

Trutmann scored right goals with 15 assists for 23 points and 78 penalty minutes during 28 regular season while contributing a goal and an assist in 10 playoff games.

The 6-foot, 183-pound Trutmann scored five assists in six games in international competition last year. He is eligible for the 2011 National Hockey League Entry Draft. "We like both players," said Mike Vellucci, the Whalers' President, General Manager and head coach. "They should fit right in with our team. We look for both of them to be impact players, right away."

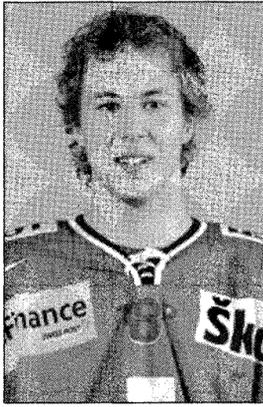
The 6-foot, 185-pound Rakell, who hails from Stockholm, is also eligible for the 2011 National Hockey League Entry Draft.

"I'm very excited to be coming to Plymouth," Rakell said in a phone interview. "It's going to be fun. I'd don't copy any one player, but I would say I'm a physical play-



WHALERS PHOTO

Rickard Rakell of AIK Sweden was the 41st selection in the CHL's Import Draft by the Plymouth Whalers.



Dario Trutmann

er with a good shot. So many Swedish players play for the Red Wings, it's an inspiration. They are very successful."

Rakell was succinct when speaking about his attraction

to the CHL.

"I think it's the best junior league in the World," he said. "And my goal is to reach the National Hockey League."

Trutmann expressed the same sentiments about the CHL.

"It's the best junior league in the World," the Swiss player said in a phone interview. "It's a dream to be playing in it. I pattern myself after Mark Streit, a Swiss who plays for the New York Islanders."

CHL teams are allowed to carry two imports of their roster.

With veteran defenseman Michal Jordan signing with the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes, Rakell and Trutmann fill Plymouth's Import quota.

Both are expected to report to Plymouth's training camp in late August.



Flying high

The Garden City Cardinals Bronco team has done a lot of celebrating following its championships performances in the Upper Division League Playoffs and the inaugural GCYAA 12U House League Tournament. Competing in the Upper Division League Playoffs, the Cardinals went a perfect 3-0 in the single-elimination format, while in the league tourney the team posted a 2-1 record in pool play before going a perfect 2-0 in the championship round. Pictured above are Cardinal team members (back row, left to right) Brendan 'BB' Brandau, Noah Greene, Connor Gawne, coach Mike Waronek, Trent Wallace, manager Mark Barikmo, coach Randy Dunn, Essa Abulawi, (front row, l-r) Trevor Dunn, Kevin 'KB' Banasiak, Kevin Brewer, Brady Spehar and Bryan Browne.



Reds capture house crown

The 12-and-under Reds won the South Farmington house league baseball championship with a 13-12 victory over the Cardinals on June 25. The members of the Reds team are (front row, left to right) Craig Crawford, Andrew Brown, Andrew Clark, Langston Beamer, Sasoun Tcholakian, Lucian Gumma, (middle row) William Stefan, Andrew Jalbert, Bailey Benoit, Lawrence Beamer, Justin Woodcock, (back row) Chad Hoffman, coach Terri Wilder, manager Bill Brown, Mher Tcholakian and coach Dennis Hoffman.

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COMMUNITY LIFE

Sunday, July 11, 2010

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Tying the knot: The second time around, things are a bit different

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Weddings the second time around tend to be smaller with less of the glitz associated with the first one.

Gina Tait, owner of Events 2 Remember in Farmington Hills, says most brides who walk the wedding aisle for the second time are calmer than first timers.

"When they marry for the second time, a lot of the times, it's for the right reasons," Tait said.

Her client, Yolanda Smith of Detroit, plans to marry in October.

"You are more mature the second time around," said Smith, who was married for seven years. "You understand what is important and not to sweat the small stuff. A lot of times the reasons for being married when you are younger is the dream — the home, the husband and the kids. The second time around you are focused on peace of mind, love and companionship. And those are the things you look for and find."

The most common question second time brides ask is whether it's OK to wear white, said Christi Henderson, owner of Affordable Events by Chris in Livonia.

"All the etiquette rules are out the window," she said. "You can do what you want. The brides have already had the princess wedding. The big focus is on the party and the reception. It seems like the second weddings are much lighter. The focus is on the actual marriage and the celebration that follows."

The couple places emphasis on making sure children from previous marriages feel included. The children, no matter what their ages, are often cast as focal points of second marriage ceremonies.

Laura Bommarito, owner of What an Event in Plymouth, said she planned a



Please see **TYING, B6**

Tips on blending families

Getting married a second time often means uniting children from past marriages and that can be just as tricky or more than trying to make the marriage work.

Since one out of two Western marriages ends in divorce, people trying to bring children of different marriages together have a lot of company. Some 66 percent of marriages and living together situations fail when children are actively involved, according to statistics from the Stepfamily Foundation.

Throw into the mix trying to deal with ex-spouses, ex-in-laws, new stepchildren and all the problems of everyday life. Instead of families blending, they can easily divide into factions. Here are some strategies to help.

- Make each member of the new blended family feel loved and wanted.
- Help the child, young or old, decide whether they will "have" to call this new person dad or mom.

- Talk about how everyone in the new family will get along on a daily basis.

- Ask yourself whether one set of children are making more sacrifices than the other.

- Try to be a good example to the child that true love can exist even if it didn't work out with his/her mom/dad.

- Make a real effort to understand the children personally by regularly asking what is going on in their lives; know what their favorite food, color and television show are?

- Make sure you agree with your new spouse about rearing rules and apply them evenly to all the children.

- Don't call the child my "step" daughter or son to others because that automatically separates the two of you.

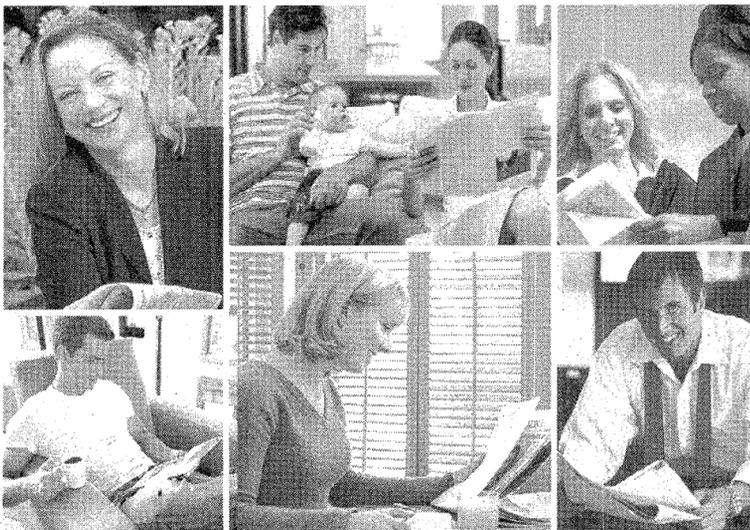
- Timing is important. Don't jump into a second marriage before you and the child deal with the loss of the spouse.

- Above all, BE PATIENT.

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USES AND ABUSES OF MRI

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As a result the operation can proceed smoothly and the surgeon can act without delay. The patient has the proper repair and remains under anesthesia for the least amount of time needed.

However, a physician will not obtain an MRI for every swollen joint or persistent muscle pain. In many instances of arthritic pain, an x-ray will give the physician the information he needs to make a diagnosis. If a question arises whether pain comes from a fracture, no imaging is better than an x-ray. The same holds if the physician believes a knee problem reflects osteoarthritis. No imaging trumps weight bearing x-ray films of the knee.

Remember, that MRI is expensive, usually costing \$1,300 or more, and requires that the patient go to a center with MRI equipment. In contrast, an x-ray costs \$35, with the equipment in the doctor's office.

Also, keep in mind that an MRI is not perfect. If a patient hurts, and the MRI shows no abnormality, the conclusion is not that there is nothing wrong. Rather, the result shows the MRI did not pick up the impairment.

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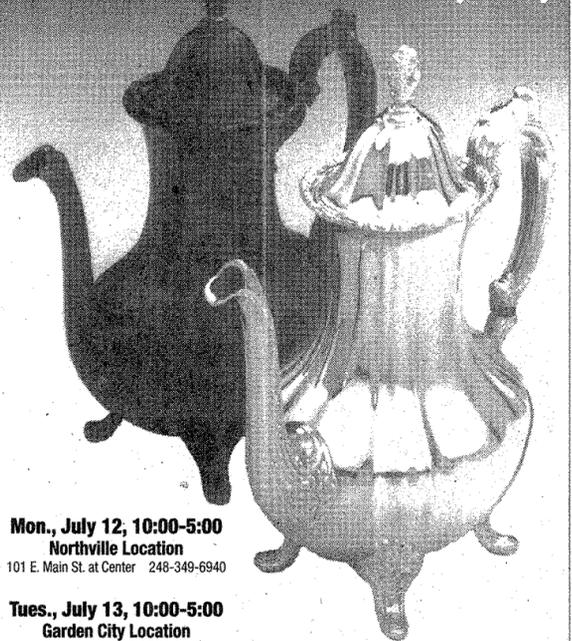
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Yolanda Smith and DeShawn Bean have set an Oct. 1 wedding date. Gina Tait, owner of Events 2 Remember in Farmington Hills is the wedding planner for the event.

See cars at senior living community

Botsford Commons Senior Community will hold its sixth annual classic car show from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, July 30. The event will feature cars of every size from the golden years of production and a free outdoor concert featuring

Party On DJ. Reservations are required for car exhibitors, and can be made by calling Botsford Commons at (248) 426-6951. Botsford Commons is located at 214-50 Archwood Circle, between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake

Road, in Farmington Hills. Botsford Commons Senior Community is a non-profit corporation providing housing and service options for seniors. For more information visit the website at: www.botsfordcommons.org

TYING

FROM PAGE B5

wedding for a couple who each had a daughter from a previous marriage. At the ceremony, they gave each girl — who happened to be about the same age — a matching necklace, which symbolically united them in sisterhood.

Kathy Byrum, owner of Dream Weddings and Event Planners in Canton, said, "Quite often they will involve all of the children. They will have them be more a part of the wedding. I've seen fathers have their sons as the best man."

CEREMONY

Couples who are walking down the aisle for the second time also tend to focus less on the reception and more on the ceremony, she added.

"It's more about how we can make sure the children are included," Bommarito added. "The ceremony takes on a whole different level of importance to unify the family and make the children feel special."

There are a lot of variables that will affect the low key rule for second marriages. For instance, if it's the first wedding for either the bride or the groom there likely will be more traditional "tie the knot" festivities.

Also, older couples tend to play down receptions on their second trip down the aisle, according to the experts.

Landan Vick, a DJ and owner of Masters of Ceremony Productions in Novi, has worked for couples on first-time weddings and the same brides and grooms on their second marriages.

Rather than big reception halls, the venue for second weddings are often in private rooms of restaurants or even the couple's home, Vick said.

"They're normally older couples and the receptions tend to be a little smaller," he added. "There's no more than 100 people compared to 150 plus at first weddings."

The guest list might not include every relative who came to the first wedding.

Women marrying for the second time will just as often wear white as first-timers, according to Maria Choi, who works at LaSposa Bridal studio in Farmington.

And then there's always the question of whether it's appropriate to accept gifts at second-time weddings. Wedding planners say one way to handle that is to say, "please, no gifts" or

ask for a donation to a favorite charity on the invitation.

PERSONAL

Smaller receptions create a more intimate atmosphere for the couples, as well as the guests, according to David McKnight, owner of Emerald City Design in Farmington Hills.

"Hosts want to interact with their guests and offer an experience that they may never have had before," McKnight said. "The style of the invitation is typically a finer design including an invite for a wedding weekend and having multiple events throughout."

Some people who are trying marriage for a second time want their ceremony and reception at destination spots, like the ultra-romantic beach side event in Jamaica, Hawaii, Paris and Venice. An exotic locale will definitely set it apart from anything that happened at the first marriages.

"A lot get married on cruises and come back to Michigan and have a party about a week later," Vick said, adding that the average length of receptions for first timers is usually six hours compared to second timers who tend to wrap up the festivities in three hours or less.

"Whether we have created a nice dinner party, or themed event — the experiences are best described as being detailed, sophisticated and understated," McKnight said.

Many couples who have been married before hire help the second time, Byrum said.

"They see the need in the value of a planner, because they've done it before and they can see how difficult it is to do it yourself," she said.

The Rev. Jan Raney, a Livonia marriage officiant, is often called when couples are without a religious affiliation.

She's been part of weddings involving second marriages at homes, wedding chapels, in restaurants, parks, the beach and even a swinging bridge in Romeo.

"I'll go anywhere," she said. "The first wedding is all about the bride and the fantasy and she wants all the attention on her and the second marriage — it's all about the couple, their hopes and plans and dreams for the future. The focus is not on her, it's moved to them as a couple and more toward family than friends," said Raney.

Quoting one bride who was getting married a second time, Raney said, "Friends can change, but your family doesn't change. They are there for you and that's what we want for our mar-

REUNION CALENDAR

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Birmingham Seaholm

Class of 1970
40-year reunion, 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 18 at The Community House, in Birmingham. Visit www.seaholmclassof70reunion.com for information and to register contact information.

Bloomfield Hills Andover

Class of 1970
Reunion planned 7 p.m. Aug. 14 at the Heathers; contact Cis Sloan Stokas at Quintop@aol.com.

Bloomfield Hills Lahser

Class of 1990
20-year Class Reunion Weekend is Aug. 6-7, with a meet & greet, family picnic and reunion party. For tickets and additional information, contact Matt Fox at sublime71@yahoo.com.

Dearborn Lowrey High School

Classes of 1949-51
A joint reunion of all three classes will be held Sept. 26 at the Warren Valley Golf Club in Dearborn Heights. Call Peggy Webster at (313) 383-4699, Bob Rock at (313) 274-8370 or Shirley Vonn at (313) 291-6069. Or e-mail to yan-keesouthern@hotmail.com.

Dearborn Heights Haston High

Class of 1965
45-year reunion, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. July 24; Contact Pat Beadle-Kopczyk, 3334 Kneeland Circle, Howell, MI 48843, at (517) 552-1182 or e-mail to her at patkopczyk@aol.com.

Detroit Cody

Classes from 1950-1969
Annual picnic for all '50s-'60s Cody Comets and friends, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 22, Nankin Mills Pavilion, at Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive, Westland. BYOB and bring a chair; organizing committee will supply music and memorabilia. The Optomystics will perform. Door prizes, hot dogs, bottled water, T-shirts and sweatshirts, tassels and music CDs will be available. Free parking for classic cars. No need to register — just show up. Classmates.com will have information and photos from past picnics. Call Phil Varilone at (313) 562-3579 or Jerry Marszalek at (313) 532-0134.

Class of 1965

Looking for graduates from the January and June classes for a September reunion. For more information call Tim Dunning at (248) 879-2148 or e-mail to timdunning@wow-way.com or call Chris Snopkoski Nashlen at (734) 261-3116.

Detroit Mackenzie

Class of 1962
Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

Class of 1960

50th reunion will be held Oct. 16 at The Marriott in Livonia.

For more information contact: Tim Yarde at (248) 573-7147 or Russ and Judy (Mackinder) Sarns at (734) 464-7166.

Detroit Pershing

Class of 1960
50th reunion festivities in September will be held at the Doubletree Guest Suites Fort Shelby in downtown Detroit. For more information call Sherry Forbush (Sharon Bailey) at (248) 994-0664 or Joan Harrington (Mazey) at (734) 595-7508.

Farmington High School

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

Class of 1980

30-year reunion, 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 17, Dunleavy's Pub & Grub, 34505 Grand River, Farmington. Contact Kelly McDonald at kelly_fhs1980@yahoo.com and Farmington High School Michigan Class of 1980 on Facebook

Garden City High School

Class of 1960
Mini-reunion luncheons held the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. in the banquet room in the Plymouth Denny's on Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275. Call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or send e-mail to GCHS.MCMLX@yahoo.com.

Garden City East

Class of 1964
Picnic, Aug. 21, in Garden City Park. For more information e-mail Karen Medwid Berry at karber@comcast.net or Teri Friedman at terifriedman@gmail.com

Garden City West

Class of 1970
40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9 at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Westland. Dinner and DJ included for \$50 per person. Classmates from the classes of 1968-1972 also invited to attend. For more information, call Larry Conn at (734) 788-5254.

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1980
Reunion Friday July 30. Call Ron at (734) 834-2566 or send an e-mail to info@livoniafranklin1980.com

Livonia Stevenson

Class of 1975
35th reunion, 6 p.m. Saturday, July 24, at Fellows Creek Golf Club, 2936 Lotz, Canton, includes buffet, cash bar and DJ. Attire is dressy/casual. Cost is \$30 per person through PayPal or by check in advance or \$40 at the door. Send checks to Stevenson Class Reunion, 115 Continental Road, Cornwall, N.Y. 12518. Send PayPal payments to payments@institutionalmarkets.com Send e-mail correspondence to stevensonclassof75@yahoo.com. (845) 534-2228

Class of 1990

20-year reunion, Saturday, July 24. RSVP by July 1st for discounted tickets. Visit www.LivoniaStevenson1990.classquest.com for more details.

Plymouth-Canton, Plymouth-Salem

Class of 1980
Joint 30th reunion with golf outing Sept. 3 and evening gathering, Sept. 4. For more information and to register on its Web site visit <http://home.comcast.net/~1980cantonsalem/site/> Contact the reunion committee at 1980cantonsalem@comcast.net.

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July tour showcases 10 ponds, yards

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
CORRESPONDENT

Ponding seems to breed ideas. Ron Kardynski started with a 1,000-gallon water garden in the back yard of the Westland home he shares with wife Sue. The couple are avid ponders. They recently tore their first pond out, but before doing so relocated their 14 koi to a small pool so they could eventually expand the fishes' swimming hole to 8,000-gallons. On Saturday, July 17, the couple is looking forward to solidifying plans for the new pond while touring 10 homes with water features in the Royal Oak, Oak Park and Pleasant Ridge communities. The Kardynskis are members of the Michigan Koi and Pond Club (MKPC) presenting the walk from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$5 children ages 5-15 with an adult. Call the

Kardynskis at (734) 646-7607 for tickets. "In the past we had homes in Northville, Rochester, very large ponds. People commented 'this is too big for my yard,'" said Ron Kardynski. "Royal Oak is a very trendy community with smaller lots. These water gardens people make the best use of their available space."

One home spotlights the owners' rail-roading hobby with a duplicate of Loon Lake Railroad. In addition to the 7,000-gallon pond with koi a set of train tracks run through the area.

"A few of the homes have very limited grass. It's garden and pond," said Kardynski. "One home has 30 to 40 bonsai plants that open to his pond, another has 3 ponds that the family is treating as a memorial to the mother who died of breast cancer a year ago. She loved ponding."

The Kardynskis have been in ponding

since 2000.

"A pond is something I always wanted," said Kardynski. "My parents had a tiny pond. Sue and I went on a walk and came home and laid our hose out (in the shape of a pond). By joining the club we learn from other people and their mistakes. When you talk to pond people they always refer to 'my first pond' because the first one is never big enough."

Upon purchasing wristbands for the tour, a booklet will be given with a description of each yard and a map to the homes. KOI Cops (MKPC members) will be at each location to answer questions. Tour wristbands and booklets can be purchased on the day of the tour at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center at 3500 Marais, two blocks north of 13 Mile, between Crooks and North Main. For information about the club and walk, visit www.mkpc-se.com.

MILESTONES

Gibbs-Stearns

Jennie Rose Gibbs of Chicago, Ill., and Christopher James Stearns of Chicago plan a July wedding at Cleveland InterContinental Hotel and Conference Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Their parents are Karen and AJ Sperli of Westlake, Ohio, Arnold Gibbs of Orlando, Fla., and James and Carol Stearns of Redford.

The bride-to-be graduated from Westlake High School and Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in English in 2006. She completed a master of science degree in education and social policy in 2009 at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. She teaches secondary English classes at Dunbar Vocational Academy in the Chicago Public Schools. She is also the girls cheer-leading coach at Dunbar. Her fiancé is a 2001 graduate of



Thurston High School, Redford, and a 2006 graduate of Michigan State University, with two bachelor's degrees, one in finance and the other in advertising. He is a self-employed sales account manager.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. Feel free to send a related photo in jpg form.

JULY 1-7

Congregation Beth Ahm

Time/Date: 12:30-2 p.m. July 3, 10, 17 and 24

Location: 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield

Details: "Back to the Sources," lunch and study series will explore the world of Rabbinic text, including Torah commentaries, Talmud, Midrash, and Aggadah. Each session will be self-contained and can be attended separately. To help plan for food and seating and ensure enough copies of study materials for Back to the Sources, advance registration is requested. However, walk-ins will be accommodated

Contact: (248) 851-6880 or e-mail director@cbahm.org

JULY 8-14

Canton Christian Fellowship

Time/Date: 5-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 14

Location: 41920 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty

Details: Clothing Bank will be open. Clothing is free

Contact: (734) 927-6686, (734) 404-2480 or visit CantonCF.org

Christ the King Lutheran

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. July 12-16

Location: 9300 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Vacation Bible School, "Baobab Blast," for preschool through grade six. No registration fee

Contact: (734) 421-0749 or register at www.ChristTheKingLivonia.com

Concordia Lutheran School

Time/Date: 6-8 p.m. July 13 and Aug. 11

Location: Grades K-4, 20805 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills; grades 5-8, 9600 Laverne, Redford

Details: Open house for the school, a tuition-based, congregation-supported, association school that offers Christian education. The school is accepting enrollment now for grades K-8

Contact: (313) 937-2233 or (248) 474-2488

Orchard United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., July 12-16

Location: 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills

Details: Vacation Bible School, "High Seas Expedition," is open to all children, age 4 through those who have completed fifth grade. Each day includes singing, games, yummy snacks, experiencing Bible adventures, crafts and more. The fee before July 1 is \$25 per child (family maximum of \$65) and includes a CD and an iron-on transfer for a solid color T-shirt

Contact: Julie Wright at (248) 626-3620 or (248) 626-3620

St. James Presbyterian Church

Time/Date: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., July 8-10

Location: 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford

Details: Thrift store clearance sale;

all items, except those marked "firm," that are \$1 or more are half off. Kathy's Bake Sale also will be open during the sale

Contact: (313) 534-7730

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

Time/Date: 7 p.m., July 12 and Aug. 16

Location: 30900 Six Mile, Livonia

Details: Workshops are designed to help people in employment transition build a network and use their resources to find that next good job. Workshop leaders are available to work one-on-one with anyone looking for work.

Contact: (734) 422-6038

JULY 15-21

Livonia Church of Christ

Time/Date: Deadline for contributing books is July 18

Location: 15431 Merriman, Livonia

Details: The church is conducting a used books drive for Gods Helping Hands, an organization in Rochester that helps needy families with clothes and food. It's accepting trade paperbacks, hardcover fiction and non-fiction, movie DVD's and books on CD (must contain artwork and case), gently used children's books, textbooks (copyright 1998 or newer) mass market paperbacks (copyright 2004 or newer). No dirty, moldy, water-damaged books, books with excessive highlighting or writing, pages missing, excessive damage to cover, or encyclopedias or magazines will be accepted. Place donations under the awning. These donated items will be traded to Tithingbooks.com for food for needy families.

Contact: (734) 427-8743

JULY 22-28

Christ Our Savior Lutheran

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m. July 26-29

Location: 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia

Details: Soccer mini-camp for boys and girls, 5-12, of any skill level. Learn and develop the proper skills and knowledge of the game. Fee of \$10 per student includes instruction, snacks, and soccer ball to take home. Students may bring their own soccer ball or shin guards if desired. Items are not required to enroll.

Contact: Linda Hollman, outreach director, at (734) 522-6830; FAX: (734) 522-5949; register at christoursavior.org

His Anglican Church

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. serving and 1 p.m. walk or 2 p.m. serving and 3:30 p.m. walk, July 17

Location: The Livonia church is sponsoring the event at 18677 Fox Hollow Court, off Beck north of Six Mile, in Northville.

Details: "Tea at the Garden" and raffle includes tea, a garden walk and raffle. Tickets are \$20 per person. Two quilts, \$500 and more will be raffled at 4 p.m. Raffle tickets are six for \$5 or \$1 each

Contact: Joan Peterson at (734) 421-9464

ONGOING

AWANA

Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays

Location: Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills

Details: AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade

Contact: (248) 426-0096

Classes/study

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month

Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia

Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.

Contact: Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@att.net

Livonia Unity

Time/Date: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.

Location: 28660 Five Mile, Livonia

Details: Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions

Contact: (810) 813-4073 or gary@energeticarts.org

Men's Bible study

Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 p.m.

Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491

New Life Community Church

Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays

Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville

Contact: (734) 846-4615

Our Lady of Loretto

Time/Date: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

Location: Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

Details: Scripture study

Contact: (313) 534-9000

St. Andrew's Presbyterian

Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Wednesday and 10:30 a.m. Thursday

Location: 26701 Joy

Details: Wednesday study/discussion group focuses on relationship with God and that of other religious groups and philosophical and scientific issues that might impact faith. Thursday group examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor Larry Hoxey

Contact: (313) 274-3820

Seeds of Mercy Mission Home

Time/Date: 7 p.m., every Friday

Location: 21819 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

Details: Bible study

Contact: Nicole Christ at (313) 531-1234

Ward Presbyterian

Time/Date: 7 p.m., Mondays

Location: Room A101, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville

Details: Learner's Bible study is held

Contact: (248) 374-5920

Clothing bank

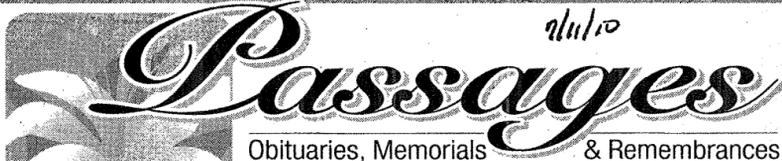
Location: Canton Christian Fellowship

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., fourth Saturday and 5-6:30 p.m., second Wednesday

Location: 41711 Joy, between Lilley and Haggerty

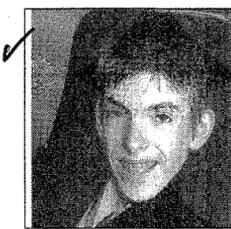
Details: Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank offers free clothing (men, women and children) for those in need

Contact: (734) 404-2480, visit www.CantonCF.org or send e-mail to info@cantoncf.org



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ALAN FRANCIS OMIILIAN

Age 22 of Plymouth, July 5, 2010. Beloved son of Robert and Gwen. Loving brother of Andy and Lili. Dear grandson of Marian Omilian and Francis Larkin. In state Friday 12 Noon until the 1 PM funeral mass at Catholic Central High School Chapel, 27225 Wixom Road, Novi, MI 48374. Visitation Wednesday 4 - 9 PM and Thursday 2 - 9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon & Beck) Plymouth. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Muscular Dystrophy Association, or to Angela Hospice. To share memories please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

AUDREY A. BURGESS

Age 74, passed on June 25, 2010 in Louisville, KY. Audrey was a loving & devoted wife of 55 years to Herbert L. Burgess, wonderful mother to Jeff Burgess, Jim Burgess, Cindy Kerns and Jason Burgess. Also survived by her mother, Helen Hollenbeck; brothers Jack and Walter Bullock, and a superb grandmother to Justin Kerns, Tucker Burgess, Renee and Mallory Burgess. Audrey worked many years in retail, enjoyed dressing up at Halloween and her favorite time of year to work was the chaos and spirit of Christmas. Her hobbies included camping, fishing, bowling, ceramics, puzzles, yard work, and Needlepoint. Neighbors would often see "Mrs. Harley" riding her mini bike around Crystal Lake to fish at one of her favorite spots! Memorial Service will be held on July 24, 2010 at Crystal Lake Clubhouse, LaGrange, KY. Please contact family for more details. Donations can be made to American Cancer Society. Oldham County Funeral Home, LaGrange, KY entrusted with arrangements.



BETTY AMOROSE RUSSELL

Age 79, July 6, 2010. Dear wife of James J. and the late Savino Amorose. Beloved mother of Vicki (Harvey) Fyke, Scot (Ruth) Amorose and Brian (Angela) Amorose. Grandmother of 13. Great grandmother of 12. Loving sister of Joanne Clark, Joyce Klock, Janice McCullough, Terri Taylor-Pearce, Jack Helmer, Jerry Helmer, Dennis Helmer, Duane Willmore and the late Mary Hillner. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Arrangements by John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd. (bet. Ford Rd. and Cherry Hill). www.santeiufuneralhome.com

DONNA G. DURIGON

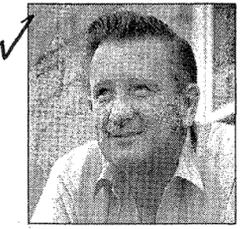
July 7, 2010, age 63, of Canton. Loving mother of Karen. Dear sister of Russell (Jan) Beardsley and Ken (Mary) Beardsley. Donna taught elementary school for 41 years in the Van Buren school district. Funeral Monday 11am at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (btwn Sheldon & Beck). Visitation Sunday 2-9pm. Memorials may be made to the American Lung Association. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com.

HENRIETTA NEDROSCIK

Age 89, of Farmington Hills, MI. Passed away July 7, 2010. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, Farmington, MI.

LARRY J. NELSON

Age 55, of Tecumseh, passed away unexpectedly July 3, 2010. Larry was born December 25, 1954 in Detroit, Michigan the son of John and Marlene (Schrack) Nelson. On July 1, 1977 he married Birute Theresa Zubrickas in Livonia, MI. He was a graduate of Stevenson High School and Schoolcraft College. He had a passion for buying and selling antiques, and loved the thrill of the hunt. He was involved in the family business for most of his life most recently The Hitching Post in Tecumseh. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and son. His generous heart knew no boundaries and will be sorely missed by his family, friends and the antique community. Larry is survived by his wife, Theresa; children, Christopher, Julia and Andrew; granddaughter, Olivia; parents, John and Marlene, brothers, Eric and Ken; sister, Lori and numerous relatives and friends. Funeral Services will be 1:00 P.M. Thursday, July 8, 2010 at the J. Gilbert Purse Funeral Home, Adrian with the Rev. Fr. Daniel Wheeler officiating. Burial will follow in Brookside Cemetery, Tecumseh. Visitation will be 4-8PM. Wednesday, July 7, 2010 at the funeral home. Condolences to the family may be made online at www.pursefuneralhome.com



LLOYD EDWARD DASHER

Age 82 of Sevierville, TN, passed away on June 15, 2010 at LeConte Medical Center in Sevierville. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Gwen Dasher of Sevierville, TN; sons, Wayne Dasher and wife, Cathy of Novi, Michigan and Dennis Dasher of Detroit, Michigan; sister, Joyce Mate and husband, Joe of South Gate, Michigan; grandchildren, Kim Hamlin and husband, Jim, Michael Dasher and wife, Michelle; great-grandchildren, Ryan and Madison Hamlin, Kylie and Troy Dasher; 13 nieces and nephews. Memorial service will be held at then Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses, 32070 W. Seven Mile Rd., Livonia, MI at 2pm on Saturday, July 17th. www.rawlingsfuneralhome.com



MARGARET M. CALLAHAN

Age 88, July 2, 2010. Beloved wife of the late Clarence L. Dear mother of Sheila (Dan) Arguelles, Susie (Bob) Cytacki, Kathy Hicks, Molly, Michael and Peggy (Gary) Golasa. Survived by a huge and loving family including 11 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. Sister of George (Mickey) Cochran. Funeral Services were Monday July 5 at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or donors@stjude.com www.santeiufuneralhome.com

Age 88, July 2, 2010. Beloved wife of the late Clarence L. Dear mother of Sheila (Dan) Arguelles, Susie (Bob) Cytacki, Kathy Hicks, Molly, Michael and Peggy (Gary) Golasa. Survived by a huge and loving family including 11 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren. Sister of George (Mickey) Cochran. Funeral Services were Monday July 5 at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or donors@stjude.com www.santeiufuneralhome.com

THERESA G. OLEXA

Age 77, July 5, 2010. Loving wife of the late Clarence. Dear mother of Deborah (Wesley Hall) and Michelle (Matthew) Brown. Grandmother of Veronica, Colleen and Annaclare. Beloved sister of Dorothy Selke and Delores Williams. Gerry loved being outdoors and especially working in the yard. She adored all Pomeranians, especially her baby Taft. Arrangements by Harry J. Will Funeral Home, 37000 Six Mile, Livonia. www.harryjwillfuneralhome.com

THOMAS E. PILURAS

A memorial gathering will be held at Nankin Mills Picnic Shelter in Hines Park on July 30th, 2010 to celebrate the life of Thomas E. Piluras, class of 1972, Churchill High School. Please stop by and share any memory you may have of Tom. 6:00pm until Dusk. The family is asking that any donations made will please be sent to: Providence Hospice of Snohomish County, 2731 Wetmore, suite 500, Everett, WA 98201

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

OBITUARY POLICY

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

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

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Char Wilson 313-496-4968

For more information call: Char Wilson 586-826-7082 or Liz Keiser 586-977-7538

or toll free 800-579-7355 ask for Char or Liz

OE08658429

HEALTH

Sunday, July 11, 2010

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

Class focuses on kids with diabetes

The Pediatric Endocrinology Department at the University of Michigan is offering a class for grandparents, teachers, baby sitters, step-parents, and others interested in learning about how to care for a child with diabetes.

The new class will meet from 1-4 p.m., July 29, at the Danto Auditorium, in the Cardiovascular Center at the University of Michigan Medical Center, located at Fuller and East Medical Center Drive, in Ann Arbor. It will teach the skills needed to care for a child with diabetes.

The class will be an interactive and educational session with plenty of time to practice and time to ask questions.

The cost is \$15 per person and covers the handouts that will be given at class and light refreshments.

It will cover such topics as Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, insulin pens, syringes, and pumps, calculating insulin doses, nutrition, exercise, low blood sugar, glucagon, glucose monitoring, A1C, urine ketones, and complications.

Call (734) 764-5175 with questions. Make checks payable to the University of Michigan and send it to Pediatric Endocrinology, Attn: Caregiver Class, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, D1205 MPB, SPC 5718, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

JULY
Eye exams

The Coburn-Kleinfeldt Eye Clinic will offer free eye examinations for senior adults from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, July 15, at 33400 W. Six Mile, at Farmington Road, in Livonia. Board-certified physicians and staff members will screen for glaucoma, cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, and other eye conditions which are more common among older individuals. The exam is free and patients will be examined in the order of their arrival. A limited supply of free eye drops for glaucoma will be distributed at the screening. Free parking is adjacent to the clinic building, which is wheelchair-accessible, and free refreshments will be served. Patients are asked to bring two canned goods or other non-perishable food items that will be donated to Help's on the Way, a local non-profit organization that provides food to the needy in the Detroit area. (734) 421-2020

Caregiver class

Learn the skills necessary to care for a child with diabetes, 1-4 p.m. July 29, at the Danto Auditorium, in the Cardiovascular Center at the University of Michigan Medical Center, located at Fuller and East Medical Center Drive, in Ann Arbor. The Pediatric Endocrinology Department at the University of Michigan is offering a class for grandparents, teachers, baby sitters, step-parents, and others interested in learning about how to care for a child with diabetes. The cost is \$15 per person and covers the handouts that will be given at class and light refreshments. Call (734) 764-5175 with questions. Make checks payable to the University of Michigan and send it to Pediatric Endocrinology, Attn: Caregiver Class, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, D1205 MPB, SPC 5718, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

Physical Therapy

Find out how physical therapy can help relieve back, knee and shoulder pain while keeping joints and muscles strong and healthy, at a free community seminar presented by Beaumont Hospital. The one-hour seminar will be led by a Beaumont physical therapist and a Beaumont doctor. The program is scheduled for 2-3 p.m., July 29 and 6-7 p.m., Aug. 2, at the hospital, located on Woodward Ave., and 13 Mile in Royal Oak. Register at (800) 663-7377.

ONGOING

Fitness classes

Exercise classes for men and women continue through April at the Metropolitan Seventh-Day



Eating for heart health is among topics covered in local classes.

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

Overeaters Anonymous

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

Breast cancer support group

Meets 6:30-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the Atrium of Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile (use south entrance off Levan Road), Livonia. Call (734) 655-1100, or visit www.stmarymercy.org.

Caregivers support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of

each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Metro Fibromyalgia

Meets the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 2055 Merriman, Garden City. For more information, call Lucy at (734) 462-1768.

Wayne metro caregiver support

Are you a caregiver of an aging parent, spouse or relative? Wayne Metro's Caregiver Support Groups offer assistance to those struggling to find or give quality care to loved ones. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m.-noon, at the Kay Beard Building on Michigan Ave., Westland. Meetings are also held at the Village of Redford on Six Mile. The morning group meets 10 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday of the month; the evening group meets the fourth Thursday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Adult care may also be available. Call Nancy Coman at (313) 843-2550, Ext. 233.

Parkinson Support

Western Oakland Parkinson Support Group meets 7-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month except January, July and August, at Farmington Hills Baptist Church, 28301 Middlebelt, between 12 Mile and 13 Mile. Enter at rear of church. For information, call (248) 433-1011.

CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call (248) 937-3314.

Arthritis support group

2-3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at the Krieger Center, DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. Enter the building via the South Garden entrance. Registration not required.

Tai Chi classes

At 165 E. Square Lake, Bloomfield Hills (7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday), and 38121 Ann Arbor Road (11 a.m. Wednesday, and 7 p.m. Monday-

Thursday. Presented by nonprofit Michigan Tai Chi Association in Livonia. For details, call (734) 591-3530.

Recovery, Inc.

The support group meets at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at Prince of Peace Church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc. is an international, non-profit, self-help, community-based organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail marthapaul@sbcglobal.net. Self-help meetings in Livonia run 7:30 p.m. Mondays, St. Matthew's Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile; 1:15 p.m. Thursdays, Mt. Hope Congregational Church, 30330 Schoolcraft; and 2:30 p.m. Sundays at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard. Call (313) 561-2521 or visit www.recovery-inc.org. No charge, contributions collected.

Low vision support group

Meets 1-3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main. For information, call Ellen Stross at (734) 453-0750, Ext. 232.

Arthritis Foundation programs

Winter classes begin for warm-water and land-based exercise programs, Tai Chi, and a six-week series that offers keys to successful arthritis self-management, in Canton, Redford and Westland. Call (800) 968-3030 or visit www.arthritis.org.

Health enhancement classes

Classes for exercise (including yoga), CPR and childbirth, and support groups for cardiac, cancer, stroke and diabetes patients; eating disorders; Alzheimer's caregivers; and the hard of hearing. The classes are part of an array of offerings at Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Blood pressure (free) and cholesterol (\$5) testing are also available noon to 2 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month in Garden City Hospital lobby. No registration required. The hospital also offers free blood pressure testing for senior citizens every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center. For information, call (734) 458-4330. Free mask fitting clinic

For CPAP and BiPAP users, most insurances cover new supplies every year; try a new style of mask and learn how to get one 5-6 p.m. every Wednesday, at the Garden City Hospital Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. No appointment needed. For information, call (734) 458-4330.



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