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MORE THAN JUST DINNER - IT'S AN EVENT, PAGE B6

Did You Remember? **Spring forward** to Daylight Saving Time Started today at 2a.m.

SUNDAY March 13, 2011

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IN BRIEF

Coffee Hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10 a.m. Monday, March 14, at the at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Citizens are welcome to visit with LeBlanc and discuss issues and/or concerns. The local coffee hour takes place on the second Monday of each month.

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

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also will hold a district coffee hour 9-10 a.m. Monday, March 14, at the William P. Faust Public Library on Central City Parkway, north of Ford.

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

Car seat check

The Westland Police Department in partnership with the Westland Fire Department will hold a Car Seat Inspection Event Saturday, April 9, at the Westland Fire Station at 36435 Ford Road.

The 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. event will be registered and certified by Safe Kids Metro Detroit and Children's Hospital of Michigan, which will provide certified Child Passenger Safety technicians.

"I am excited that the Westland Police Department will be able to offer the citizens some expert advice on the installation and use of the various child restraint systems for vehicles," said Westland Police Chief Alan Ramsden.

Several replacement seats from the Grosse Ile Police Department and Children's Hospital will be provided to families who are in need of a car seat.

First Readers

March is Reading Month and first-graders from throughout the community are getting an introduction to the William P. Faust Public Library through its First Readers Program.

Now in its 11th year, the early introduction to library services helps school children understand all that their library has to offer. Stories, songs and rhymes are used in interactive ways to make the First Readers Program fun and informative, according to children's librarian Bernadette Dwyer. Children learn to distinguish between fiction and nonfiction text. They are coached in how to care for books and encouraged to be responsible when borrowing library items.

For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Skilled traders: Residents get help with TimeBank

Norwayne Community Citizens Council partners with the Greening of Detroit for a community garden. See story on Page A2.

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Say you're someone who likes to cook but isn't too crazy about mowing the lawn - the Norwayne Community Citizens Council is working to set up a system that would let people trade on

their strengths.

The group is working to establish a TimeBank, a program that lets participants trade an hour of doing something at which they have skills for an hour of some work they need done. Once established, the TimeBank would be open to residents all over Westland.

"It would be all over the community," said Hank Johnson, who chairs the Norwayne Community Citizens Council. "Essentially, you match a

need and skill. A person with a need can barter one hour of service," he said. "If you took someone to the doctor and it took 2-1/2 hours, maybe that person would clean your house for 2-1/2 hours."

With a time bank, the exchange doesn't have to be directly between the same individuals. A person banks the time they drove, cooked or made repairs, then can obtain the same amount of service they need from another participant. Professional ser-

vices also can be included.

"It's all computerized with web-based accounts, the only ones who can access your information are people in your time bank," said Westland Community Development Director Joanne Inglis. "I'm told it takes three to six months to get it established. You get the word out, go to churches and community groups. I talk about the program in the city newsletter this

Please see **TIMEBANK, A2**

'Nice to get thanked'



Mary Denning (right) of the Women of Westland congratulates 2011 Westland ATHENA Award winner Judy Ellis, the executive director of First Step.

First Step's Judy Ellis receives 2011 ATHENA Award

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Judy Ellis admits she's usually not speechless. But that's how she found herself when she learned she was the Women of Westland's 2011 ATHENA Award recipient.

"I'm extremely touched to receive this, it couldn't have happened at a better time," said Ellis, the executive director of First Step, an agency working with the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver. "It's a very powerful

reminder of what I have done and what I am doing."

Ellis received her award at the Women of Westland's seventh annual Chocolate Fantasy Ball Feb. 5. She was nominated by her associate director, Theresa Bizoe, who credited Ellis with taking First Step from "a small agency founded in Westland to a thriving nonprofit meeting the needs of women and children throughout Wayne County."

Along the way, she "has touched the lives of nearly 200,000 women, children and men who have come through the door of First Step for help," said Bizoe.

"Judy has spent her career helping women and their children overcome adversity," she added. "She has worked to provide supports and resources to help victims of violence to transform their lives. She has mentored hundreds of staff, many of who have had long and successful careers with First Step and in service to the community."

LEADING THE WAY

Ellis started with First Step as a volunteer when the agency was housed in

Please see **AWARD, A2**

Hotline welcomes pothole complaints

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Just about the time Michiganders start looking forward to winter ending, the pothole season gets into full swing.

Westland residents can report their most hated potholes through a new pothole hotline on the city website www.cityofwestland.org under the Department of Public Services or by calling DPS at (734) 728-1770.

"We didn't want people not knowing where to call about potholes," said Westland DPS Director Kevin Buford, who also is appearing in a WLND public service announcement about the hotline. "It's better if you can address an issue before it becomes a huge problem."

So far, residents are responding to the hotline.

"We've had quite a few calls and people leaving us e-mails," said Buford. "The majority are ones we knew about and were in the process of addressing."

There were a few potholes reported that DPS wasn't really aware of like Sutton Street.

"We didn't know there was as much winter damage as there was," he said.

DPS crews are making cold patch repairs to the potholes. A number of streets which have been the subject of pothole reports are also among streets

Please see **POTHOLES, A2**

Residents find problem with snow removal efforts

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

At a time when many people are hoping the last heavy snow has fallen, two residents brought snow removal complaints to the Westland council.

Greenwood Villa resident Alvin Henderson, who uses a motorized wheelchair, said that the sidewalks along Warren and Wayne roads aren't being cleared after snowfalls. And if sidewalks are cleared, he said there are other obstacles.

"Some of the drives on Warren plowed the snow up over the sidewalk. I'm curious as to who is responsible (for clearing sidewalks," said Henderson. "I'd like the city to make sure the

sidewalks are maintained."

Property owners are responsible for clearing snow from sidewalks, said Department of Public Services Director Kevin Buford, adding the city is responsible for enforcement of that ordinance.

"We'll look at the properties and put them on a list to maintain. Sidewalk maintenance is very important to the city," said Buford.

Councilman Michael Kehrer commented that he had mentioned the problem with uncleared sidewalks following the last two snowfalls.

Another resident, Rick Elliott said that he had recently talked with Buford and Mayor William Wild about his complaints on how

Please see **SNOW, A4**

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INDEX

APARTMENTS ... C3
AUTOMOTIVE ... C5
CAREER BUILDER ... C1

COMMUNITY LIFE ... B5
CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... C2
OBITUARIES ... B8

HEALTH ... B10
REAL ESTATE ... C2
SPORTS ... B1

Groups plan for community garden in Norwayne

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Starting this spring, Westland expects to have a second community garden — this one located in Norwayne.

Establishing a community garden had already been one of the goals set by the Norwayne Citizens Council. Now, the group will be partnering with the Greening of Detroit for the garden, which would be located on two vacant lots on Newaygo Court and Grand Traverse.

"For the first and maybe only time, they are doing a garden outside Detroit and have chosen Norwayne," said Hank Johnson, who chairs the Norwayne Citizens Council.

The garden will be discussed with Greening of Detroit at the citizens council meeting 5 p.m. Monday at the Dorsey Center. Representatives from groups getting involved in the garden, such as Ss. Simon and Jude Catholic Church, Ekklesia and Moving Forward Sober Living, will be on hand.

"We're all coming together

mainly to let Greening of Detroit know that we have support for the community garden," said Johnson.

Established in 1989 to improve the quality of life in Detroit through reforestation of neighborhoods, boulevards and parks through tree planting projects and educational programs, Greening of Detroit has expanded its outreach to include a broader scope of greening activities ranging from full park restoration to the creation of community and family vegetable gardens.

"We would earmark food from the garden for Norwayne folks who have a demonstrated need," said Johnson, who is working with Westland Community Development Director Joanne Inglis to help identify food recipients, possibly those who receive federal food commodities.

"I'm very excited about this," said Inglis. "The Greening of Detroit was at a SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments) meeting I attended with (Councilman) Adam Hammons and we got to

hear about it."

The garden will bring the two lots full circle. Westland acquired two blighted homes on Newaygo Court through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Instead of just demolishing the homes, they were first used for an Urban Search and Rescue training exercise sponsored by the Westland Fire Department.

Another partner in the garden is the Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, which Johnson said would like part of the garden produce to be donated to Gleaners Community Food Bank.

Westland's first Community Garden, started last year, provided produce to Gleaners. Located behind a DTE Energy facility on Cherry Hill, that garden covers about one acre. During the first year, 2,229 pounds of produce was raised and donated.

For more information, attend the meeting Monday or call Johnson at (734) 444-8344.

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TIMEBANK

FROM PAGE A1

month."

TimeBank, which has nearly 20 local chapters in communities including Lathrup Village, Royal Oak and Southfield, aims at letting people barter for needed services but also to provide an increased sense of community by neighbors helping neighbors.

"People can sign up to participate or to be on the planning committee," said Inglis. "The Norwayne Citizens

Council has set establishing a time bank as one of their goals along with a community garden and community cleanup in the spring."

Both Inglis and Johnson said they were excited about getting TimeBank established in Westland, along with efforts moving ahead with the community garden and spring cleanup.

"I'm very excited that we're seeing real interest in developing the community. Norwayne was never designed to be temporary housing - only the people who were assigned to the housing were temporary,"

said Johnson, referring to World War II factory workers who lived in Norwayne. "People confuse that and think the housing was designed to be temporary. It's exciting to be see people educated on that."

For more information on TimeBank, visit www.mitimebank.org. More information on a local time bank will be available when the Norwayne Citizens Council meets 5 p.m. Monday at the Dorsey Center on Dorsey east of Venoy or contact Inglis at jinglis@cityofwestland.com.

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AWARD

FROM PAGE A1

small house next to Nankin Mills. At the time the vice president of her father's real estate company, she gave that up to work as executive director of First Step. She helped to build it into \$2.4 million program with offices in Plymouth, Redford and Wayne and programs in cities like Westland and more than 45 staff members, as well as a new shelter scheduled to open next month.

Along the way, she has been recognized as an Alternative for Girls Role Model and Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of the Huron Valley Council. She received the Wayne County Council Against Family Violence Spirit Award and 2003 SHERA Award from the Michigan Collation against Domestic Sexual Violence for demonstrating outstanding leadership in the work to end

WESTLAND RELAY FOR LIFE

Lia Sophia
Time/Date: 2 p.m. Sunday, March 13
Location: AMVETS Post 171, 1217 Merriman, south of Cherry Hill, Westland

Details: Bring a friend or two and support Team AMVETS 171 in "fishing for a cure." The team will receive 15 percent of the total sales. The sale will be in the club room.

Avon Fundraiser

Time/Date: Now through July 31
Details: Support Team AMVETS Post 171 by ordering your Avon products online. Go to jfinfrock.avonrepresentative.com and click on online events to place your order. Be sure

to use the promotional code of AMVETRELAY2011. Team AMVETS will earn 30 percent of total sales now through July 31. Products will be home delivered.

Bowling benefit

Time/Date: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, June 4, check-in is at 4 p.m.
Location: Town N Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: Enjoy some Cosmic Bowling and help Team AMVETS Post 171. Cost is \$20 of adults and \$15 for children age 13 and under for bowling, pizza and pop. There also will be 50/50 and basket raffles and door prizes.

violence against women in Michigan.

As the winner of the McGregor Fund's Eugene Miller Fellowship, she is preparing to take a six-month sabbatical to study vicarious trauma. Her goal is to set up a program at First Step to help the staff deal with the secondary trauma they experience while working with victims. "If you don't work through the trauma, you can have symptoms yourself," said Ellis. "We have to help them so they can be healed and not feel that they have to leave the field after a few years. Listening to their clients and bumping up against the barriers the victims hit, they can have their own sense of and feelings of hopelessness."

Ellis decided she wanted to change things for women when she was in real estate and saw where women weren't. Very few women were vice presidents of a company and she found she had to work harder to gain the confidence of the people she worked with.

MAKING CHANGES

In the early years at the helm of First Step, she was one of very few female CEOs of nonprofits and found herself bumping up against a wall. A founding member of Zonta of Farmington/Novi Area, she credits Beverly McAllister and Carol O'Malley from Oakwood Healthcare with helping her "find her way."

"This has never been a job," said Ellis. "I felt I had something to offer and that this was where I was supposed to be and where God wanted me to be because I have a talent for making the world a better place for women."

After 30 years with First Step, Ellis knows that the time will come to hand her "baby" off to the next generation. It is, she said, "now a teenager" and she has a wonderful staff that can carry on her work. She plans to start her sabbatical within the next week, but will be back for the opening of the new shelter next month.

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POTHOLES

FROM PAGE A1

for which the city has applied for federal funding to pay for reconstruction. For instance,

Wildwood between Cherry Hill and Ford, Central City Parkway from Ford to Warren Road and Hix between Ford and Warren Road are streets Westland would like funded.

The DPS telephone is answered 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

weekdays but voicemail messages can be left after hours and on weekend. The pothole reporting online also includes a link to a Google map showing where pothole complaints have been recorded.

The other big issue with residents now are calls that their sewers are backing up. In fact, Buford estimated about 99 percent of those calls are found not to be an issue with the sewer but with the weeping tiles that run around the perimeter of the house.

"There is a drain around the basement floor — the weeping tiles — and people never clean them out. We try to educate people about that," he said.

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This photo of the Franklin High School Bel Canto Choir was taken during the taping of its performance for Detroit Public Television's Celebrate America program.

Franklin choir to perform on TV

The Franklin High School Bel Canto Choir, under the direction of Marilee Olsen, will perform on Detroit Public Television at 8 p.m. Tuesday. The choir will sing *On Eagles Wings* as part of Celebrate America, a national program designed to give youth a life-enhancing opportunity by showcasing their talents on public television. Students take the experience with them on DVDs and CDs to transfer to college and job applications. Franklin will be one of 10 Detroit-area schools featured. This is the second year Franklin's Bel Canto Choir has performed on Tim Janis' Celebrate America program. Olsen chose *On Eagles Wings* in memory of Chelsea MacLean, a choir student from the class of 2009 who died in 2007. The song was one of Chelsea's favorites, and it was sung at her funeral. The pearls the Bel Canto Choir wears are donated to the choir each year from Chelsea's

memorial fund. Members of the Bel Canto Choir must pass an audition. The choir does a December community tour that includes Botsford Kidney Center, American House, St. Robert's School, Four Chaplains Nursing Care Center and the Clements Circle Holiday Sing A Long at the Wilson Barn. It also has a fall choir camp as well as a 40-year tradition of singing in concert at St. Anne's Church on Mackinaw Island the weekend before Memorial Day. The choir's next performance is a Triad Concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17, in the Franklin gym. This concert includes the Cooper Upper Elementary Choir, Emerson Middle School Choir and all the Franklin choirs including the Franklin Chorus and Cantando Chorale. The Bel Canto Choir's Spring Concert is at 7 p.m. Friday, May 20, in the Franklin auditorium.

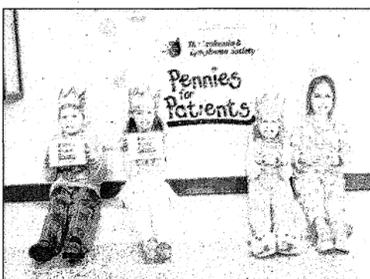
Edison students collect coins to find a cure

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It's called Pennies for Patients, but it was more than pennies that end up in student's canisters at Edison Elementary School. Youngsters at the Westland school spent two weeks last month, collecting money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, filling their individual and classroom banks with coins and cash to raise more than \$1,250. "We're not surprised," said PTO Vice President Mary Biber. "Historically, the Edison family has always been very generous, but with these economic times, we're floored by their generosity." This was first time the school participated in the national service learning program in which kids collect spare change to help those afflicted with blood cancer. The Edison PTO was contacted by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society about participating in the program and the idea received the full support of the PTO board and Principal Sandy Kingston. "Mrs. Kingston was very supportive of this," said Biber. "She gave us bulletin board space to promote it and allowed me to talk to teachers about it. However, the day I was suppose to do that it snowed and there was no school." According to Biber, each child was given an individual coin canister to take home. When they were brought back, along with the pennies, there were a lot of \$1 and \$5 bills. Halfway into the two-week campaign, the school had



Showing off the classroom containers collected on the last day of the Pennies for Patients fundraiser at Edison Elementary are Sierra Weaver (from left), Christina Barchini, Chris Cybulski, Ryan Erickson, Hannah Bourdeau, Raven Nelson and Spencer Lampley.



Kindergartners Collin Hicks, Madison Sullivan, Sophia Biber and Zoey Wallace show their collection boxes for Pennies for Patients, a fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

fourth-graders helped collect the classroom coin boxes on Fridays. The boxes were labeled and then taken to a Coin Star location where the money was counted and carefully recorded. Stephanie Mueller's fourth-grade class collected the most, \$270, and later this month those students will be treated to a pizza party courtesy of the LLS and Hungry Howie's. Finishing second was Sullivan's class which brought in \$149. And even though the collection drive ended more than two weeks ago, money is still coming in.

raised \$580. The money raised is used by LLS to further its mission to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality

of life of patients and their families. To spur donations, classrooms competed against each other to see who could raise the most money. Tim Sullivan's

SNOW

FROM PAGE A1

DPS crews are plowing after snowfalls. In particular, Elliott wasn't happy with snow that ended up piled on crosswalks and driveways after plows have

been through. "DPS seems to feel job one is clear every residential street ASAP. The street is not much use when you can reach it because the driveway is plowed over," said Elliott. "The crosswalk is piled up nearly the height of my shoulder. All the neighbors I talked to agreed

that DPS needs to do better." When DPS crews plow the street, snow will go back into approaches and driveways, Buford said. "I know when we come out that happens. We don't put the snow there to unnerve or disturb anyone," he said. "Our goal is to clear streets

so first responders can get to every home and residents have access. There is no other way to clear the streets without putting snow into approaches." Following each snow emergency, Buford said the city receives calls asking for driveway approaches cleared. "We can't do it, it's impossible," he said. "We're plowing the intersections the same way

we have the 18 years I've been here. We try to clear out the walkway approaches at intersection. I hope the majority of residents appreciate our services. We work 24-7." The city will work harder on snow removal, Mayor William Wild said, adding that this year had been difficult with the amount of snow that accumulated without thaws in

between storms. "We'll take a look at it. We will do a better job with sidewalks. The Fire Department is now doing some enforcement and will enforce (sidewalk clearing), especially if they are repeat offenders," said Wild. "We have residents who haven't shoveled their driveways yet."

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How does a family know the time is right for hospice?



Meet Michelle Hall, RN and Case Manager with In-House Hospice at Four Seasons.
Hall's initial evaluation of a patient allows her to care for hospice patients by controlling symptoms such as pain, nausea and vomiting, but also anxiety and restlessness.

"My job is to identify the needs and develop a plan to alleviate symptoms as much as possible. At Four Seasons I have a very good working relationship with staff and physicians as well." The In-House Hospice team includes an RN Case Manager, social worker and spiritual support from nondenominational chaplains. Certified nurse assistants help with personal care like bathing and companionship. Music and massage therapy is also available. "We're basically there for the patient, but also for family to understand the disease process," said Hall.

Hospice has changed since Hall's grandmother died of cancer 20 years. "There was hospice available but it's grown," said Hall, a graduate of Schoolcraft College's nursing program.

Dorothy Bell-Ruth, a nurse practitioner and RN who has completed advanced education, has professional and personal experience with hospice. Her mother, Patricia, entered Four Seasons' In-House Hospice after breast cancer treatment. "My mom went through chemo and it exacerbated her Alzheimer's. She declined pretty quickly." In-House Hospice at Four Seasons provided support to Patricia as well as the family.

"Four Seasons takes over the management of the care," said Dorothy. "My mom had the PA (physician assistant) who treated her along with physicians. A nursing assistant came in several days a week just solely for mom."

Dorothy is a big proponent of palliative care and hospice. "I work in a critical care unit and often that is the course of action that needs to be taken," said Dorothy. "It's a wonderful program. When we can't cure, we provide comfort. At a certain point in illnesses, there's nothing more we can do medically. We need to make them comfortable."

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Dennis Bielskis and John Spencer at the site where the wall will be displayed.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Church youth worker honored by employer

Jason Adams of Garden City was honored by his employer for his service as a youth pastor at Bethel Community Church in Livonia.

Adams received the Employee's Reaching Out award Feb. 18 from Masco Cabinetry, where he works as a project manager.

The annual award recognizes employees who connect to the communities in which they live and work. This year eight Masco Cabinetry employees were nominated.

As part of the award, Adams received a glass statue and a check for \$1,000 for the charity of his choice. Adams will donate the check to his church.

Adams' involvement as a youth pastor for the past 10 years earned him the award. His ministry has impacted more than 350 youth. Recently, he began volunteering as the youth pastor at the Bethel Community Church.

"The success of any organization is based on people like Jason Adams — someone who is a team player and motivates everyone around him," said Karen Strauss, Masco Cabinetry president. "We are very pleased to have such a community-driven employee in the ranks and part of our team."

Pastor Rick Beaudrie of Bethel Community Church said he has never seen a man with as much drive as Adams has. "Jason is the real deal," he said. "I'm excited to work with him and mentor him."

Adams created the "Driven Youth" program at Bethel Community Church. The group focuses on faith building and building the life skills youth today need so that they have a clearer direction in an often-confusing world. Adams helps youth build life skills through computer training, college choice assistance and counseling. Participation in the youth building "Driven Youth" program nearly tripled in the first few months of development.

"He genuinely cares about kids and wants to see their lives change," Beaudrie said. "The problem with Jason is staying ahead of him. I have to pull back on the reins of his love for teens' life and family in order to assure continued success."

Adams, in receiving the award, encouraged others to volunteer. "You get back more than you'll ever give," he said. "You always see me smiling. You can do that, too, when you share yourself in your communities as well."

Canton first state stop for Vietnam wall

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

In its first trip to Michigan, the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall is coming to Canton's Liberty Fest in June, culminating the tireless efforts of local veterans and their supporters.

The V-shaped memorial — not to be confused with others such as The Moving Wall — will stand 6 feet tall and stretch 288 feet across ballfield No. 3 on the north side of Heritage Park.

The wall, three-fifths the size of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., contains 58,227 names of Vietnam troops who died serving their country.

CRYING EYES

"When you see those names, it brings tears to your eyes and a lump to your throat to think of all these men and women who died," said John Spencer, a 66-year-old Vietnam veteran and Canton resident.

Spencer and Vietnam veteran Dennis Bielskis, members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Plymouth-Canton Chapter 528, discussed the project on a cold, overcast Thursday morning as they stood near the Heritage Park site where the wall will stand.

"The people I've talked to are all excited about this," Bielskis said.

The traveling wall is expected to draw large crowds from across southeast Michigan. Bielskis said the wall comes to Canton 11 years after The Moving Wall was here for Liberty Fest.

An opening ceremony is expected to occur about 6 p.m. Thursday, June 16 — the second day of Liberty Fest. A closing ceremony is tentatively set for 5 p.m. Sunday, June 19, the day after Saturday night's festival-ending fireworks show.

Greg Welsh, the Florida-based wall manager, said Thursday he hauls the aluminum wall in a 32-foot trailer pulled by a Ford F-350 truck,

and the memorial is assembled on site.

"This is our first trip to Michigan since we built the wall," Welsh said.

VETS FUNDRAISING

Veterans raised money to build the wall in 2005, and Welsh said it was publicly unveiled in April 2006 in Florida.

VVA Chapter 528 orchestrated the local effort, which Bielskis said comes 11 years after The Moving Wall made a local stop. Local veterans have raised the \$10,000 they need for the project, including a \$4,000 donation from the Canton-based America's Most Wanted Car Club, a Liberty Fest regular.

"A lot of their members come from the same generation we come from," Bielskis said.

Donations also came from VVA Chapter 528, the Plymouth-based Mayflower Lt. Gamble VFW Post 6695 and the Canton Veterans Memorial Association, among others.

Spencer chairs the traveling wall committee, and Bielskis serves as vice chair along with Al Dorey. Other committee members include Joe Agius, Gary Boucher, Bill Boudreau, Gordon Dorey, Ted Enright and Gary Pritchard, and they have had help from other supporters.

However, Bielskis said volunteers still are needed to help while the traveling wall is in town. To get involved, send him an e-mail to dbielskis@att.net.

While the wall is in Canton, veterans expect to have an hours-long reading of all the names listed on the memorial, though a precise time isn't yet known. Because the wall elicits somber emotions among many people who see it, organizers decided to put the memorial on ballfield No. 3, on the far north end of Heritage Park.

"It's the farthest away from the festival carnival," Spencer said. "We're trying to keep it away from the noise."



Employee Jason Adams received a \$1,000 check from Masco Cabinetry President Emily Luttenbacher (left) for his service as a youth pastor in Livonia. The award presentation was attended by his sister, Emily Luttenbacher, and his wife, April Adams (right).

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Police: Illegal use of her charge card tops \$2,500

Warrant arrest

Garden City Police arrested a 27-year-old Canton Township driver of a 2001 Lexus about 6:45 a.m. March 8 after they found that he had two outstanding warrants.

Dispatch alerted the police to a car that had been parked in the 100 block of Ross for about 20 minutes. Two men were asleep inside the car. The engine was not running, but the lights were on.

The police had difficulty getting accurate information from the driver because he said that his last license was from New Jersey. The passenger was released at the scene.

Credit card fraud

A woman who lives in the 100 block of Greenwood reported March 1 that someone gained illegal use of her Discover credit card and spent \$2,500 in convenience checks without her permission or knowledge.

She said that she needed to file a police report.

Suspended license

The police arrested a 25-year-old Inkster man for driving a 2000 Lincoln on a suspended license at Warren Road and Craig.

He was first spotted in the Merriman and Maplewood area with his car's high beam and fog lights on. He ran a red light and failed to dim his lights after the police stopped him.

During the traffic stop, the police found out that he had traffic offense warrants and a warrant for child neglect from the Oakland County Friend of the Court.

Illegal Weapon

Two people were arrested during a traffic stop about 9 p.m. March 6 on Ford Road near Helen.

When the police ran the

GARDEN CITY

license plate, there was a message that Redford Township police said the car was involved in a fleeing and eluding incident and that all occupants should be questioned and identified.

The police arrested the 26-year-old Garden City female resident and her 33-year-old male passenger who had a cane with a sword in it, considered a concealed weapon. The woman had a suspended license.

Police also found narcotics paraphernalia, including two syringes, Zig Zag papers and a roach clip in the center console of the 2004 Pontiac Grand Am.

Drunk driving

A 25-year-old Garden City man was arrested for drunken driving after he lost control of his 1999 Buick Regal, ran off the road and struck a tree in the 6600 block of Schaller.

The driver admitted to drinking two beers and two drinks prior to driving. His car was impounded and the police released the female driver at the scene.

The police arrested a 51-year-old Garden City woman for drunken after she rear ended a Chevy Impala, driven by a 32-year-old Garden City woman, and left the scene of an accident without stopping about 6 p.m. March 4 at Maplewood and Merriman.

The police stopped the Explorer driver at Ford and Merriman where she said that she intended to stop and turn around but the traffic was bad.

The suspect, who said that she was bipolar, registered a blood alcohol level of .10 which is over the legal limit.

By Sue Buck

Livonia man arrested for filing false report

Break-in

Police were called to an apartment at Willow Creek Apartments, 37434 Hix Place, March 7 when the owner arrived home to find the front door had been forced open. The master bedroom and family room were reported to have been ransacked.

The missing items, valued at \$5,100, included two semi-automatic handguns, a video game system, a plasma screen television, two laptop computers, a digital camera, perfume and jewelry box.

False police report

A Livonia man was arrested early March 8 for filing a false police report that his car had been stolen. The man initially told police that he had been at a gas station on Venoy in Westland when he went inside with the car left running. He said he saw two males get into the vehicle and flee southbound. The man told police he chased his vehicle on foot until he lost sight of it.

After spotting the vehicle, he said he began walking in the direction where he thought the suspects had gone and eventually located his 2002 Chevrolet Cavalier in the northeast corner of Venoy-Dorsey Park. The vehicle was stuck in a large puddle of water that was collected over a grassy area. He said the suspect fled as he approached.

Officers were skeptical of the story noting the vehicle was in the middle of a large puddle approximately 40 feet in diameter. The puddle was frozen and undisturbed around the vehicle, which officers said appeared to have been parked in the water for an extended period of time.

When officers asked the man if gas station surveillance video would show the suspects taking his car, the man said it would but wasn't able to say which gas station he had been at or take officers there. He eventually told police he had loaned the car to someone, who he knew by a nickname and couldn't reach. The second man returned and reported the vehicle had been left stuck in the puddle.

The Livonia man told

WESTLAND

police he lied because he didn't want to get into trouble.

Break-in

Just before midnight March 8, officers were dispatched to a possible home invasion in process at an apartment in the River Bend Apartments, 6882 Merriman. When he arrived, an officer saw a male in the basement storage area through a window. As he approached he noticed fresh pry marks on an apartment door. A woman exited a neighboring apartment to tell the officer that someone had buzzed to be admitted into the building. She doesn't just let people into the building and said she looked out to see two males had already entered the building.

One man went to the third floor while the other stood on the landing and made a comment she didn't understand. After she went back inside her apartment, the resident said she heard noises outside her door like someone trying to force open an apartment door. When she looked out the door peep hole, she said one of the suspects was standing with his back towards her to block her view.

While talking to the resident, the officer said he spotted the suspects run out and get into a black late 1990s or early 2000 model Chrysler. Westland and Garden City officers checked but were unable to locate the suspects.

Police suspect that another break-in occurred just prior to officers being called about this incident. Two televisions, valued at \$900, were reported stolen from an apartment at Riverbend Apartments, 30979 Warren Road, March 8. The resident called police after returning to find her door had been forced open.

Larceny

A Plymouth woman filed a report on March 6 on behalf of her father, 91, about a ring missing from his apartment at American House, 39201 Joy. She said remodeling was being at his unit on Feb. 22, so her father sat in the lobby until the work was completed.

The cabinets were being refaced and cabinet drawers were emptied on the floor. The daughter told police she helped her father put items back into the drawers but noticed a white gold ring with diamonds on a white gold chain necklace valued at \$1,200 was missing.

She said the family had searched the entire apartment and believed the ring had been stolen.

Vandalism

About 4 a.m. March 7, a resident of the Landings Apartments, 6926 Lakeview, told police someone had shot out the window of her door-wall. She said that just prior to the shooting, she had seen two males standing together smoking across the pond east of her unit. It wasn't clear if they were connected to the shooting. The resident said she had heard crashing noises before knowing that it was doorwalls being shot.

A second resident at 6932 Lakeview also reported her doorwall shot out, along with a vacant unit in another building. Officers recovered pellets indicating 00 buckshot from BB or pellet gun had been used.

Counterfeit bills

The owner of Biggy Coffee, 37644 Ford, told police March 5 that while counting the cash drawers, he discovered two counterfeit \$20 bills which had the same serial number. He said he reviewed the security video and identified possible suspects - a woman who purchased coffee with a \$20 and a man who did the same five minutes later.

Bad Check

A Wayne woman was arrested March 5 for attempting to cash a counterfeit check at New Regal Market, 1520 S. Merriman. An employee took the check and the woman's driver's license but used the Internet to find the \$750 check was issued by a non-existent business in Plymouth. The routing number was also invalid.

The woman told the employee that she worked at a Subway in Livonia. She apparently began to realize the check wasn't going to be cashed and asked for her license. When the employee kept the license, the woman

left. The employee said the suspect left in an older vehicle which had an older woman and two small children as passengers.

Officers went to the address listed for the woman, who had a warrant for her arrest in Westland, but no one was there. Wayne Police later alerted Westland officers that the suspect vehicle was in the driveway and officers returned to arrest the woman.

The woman, 20, told police she was alone with her son and nephew, both 3. She was allowed to call her sister to take custody of the children before she was arrested.

Mail box destroyed

Police were called to a home in the 1400 block of Crown March 6 after a resident reported that a "Drano Bomb" had destroyed his mail box.

A plastic two-liter bottle used to make the bomb was severely melted. The resident said he heard the bomb go off about 1 a.m. He said it was the third time in the last year his mail box had been bombed.

Stolen vehicles

A Redford woman told police March 4 that her 1998 Ford Crown Victoria had broken down on Feb. 16 and was left at Woodcrest Apartments, 8363 Woodcrest. She said she returned to the apartment complex on March 2 but the vehicle was gone.

An employee in the leasing office told the woman the vehicle had been towed but the woman said the tow company denied ever having the vehicle on their impound lot.

The woman said she returned to the leasing office. Eventually it was confirmed that the tow driver had been sent out but the driver reported a person identifying themselves as the vehicle owner had paid to have the car towed to an address in Detroit.

The woman said she had no idea who had the car towed.

On March 7, a resident in the 34000 block of Beechnut told police that about 6 a.m. she started her vehicle and left it running to warm up. About five minutes later, she said the 2001 Chevrolet Malibu was gone.

By LeAnne Rogers

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Member of the 'bar'

Bartender 'flips' way to world competition

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton bartender Andy Hool wows his fans inside the T.G.I. Friday's on Ford Road as he easily juggles liquor bottles and tin mixers, tossing them high in the air and sometimes catching them behind his back.

"I can flip three or four, no problem," said Hool, 31, better known by his customers as Andy Bro.

Hool's skills have earned him an expenses-paid trip to Dallas, where he and nine other bartenders from the United States, Hungary, Sweden, Peru and Japan will compete Monday in T.G.I. Friday's World Bartender Championship.

It's a sport called flairing, and Hool certainly does it with flair.

"He's amazing," said friend and customer Angie

Kauffman, who plans a trip to Dallas with her husband, Andy, to support her favorite bartender.

MIDWEST CONTENDER

Hool, a former Livonia resident and the only Midwest contender in the contest, will compete in categories such as flairing, a speed round for mixing drinks and a knowledge test that draws from 150 cocktail recipes.

Hool earned one of 10 spots in the world competition after he advanced from a contest at the Canton bar to capture a regional title in Dearborn and a divisional championship at the Friday's at the Mall of the Americas in Bloomington, Minn.

"It's pretty cool. I'm pretty proud of it," he said Tuesday. "I love doing this. It's just like a sport. It takes practice."

As a child, Hool recalls being the boy on the sidelines while other athletes excelled at football and baseball.

"I was never the star," he said.

Now he has found himself in the spotlight for a sport that T.G.I. Friday's is lobbying to have included as an Olympics

event. And he's on places such as YouTube.

Hool attended St. Michael School in Livonia and is a graduate of Catholic Central, then in Redford. His parents, Gerald and Elizabeth Hool, still live in Livonia.

FAN FAVORITE

Hool now lives in Canton with his longtime girlfriend, Erica, and their 2-year-old daughter, Payton. He has worked for Friday's for four years and has been a bartender for two years and six months.

For the last few weeks, fans of Hool and other world championship contenders have been voting for their favorite bartenders online at www.world-btc.com/finalists. And while Hool hasn't garnered the most votes, it won't matter Monday as a panel of judges independently decides the world champion.

Bartenders are competing for a top prize of \$10,000 and an airplane propeller, often used in Friday's decor, with their name on it. At his employer's expense, Hool plans to catch a flight to Dallas along with his general manager, Tony Sieczkowski, and



HEATHER DUEITT

Andy Hool, alias "Andy Bro," competed against seven other contestants in the Divisional Bartending Championship last month in Minneapolis.

co-worker Vanessa Boatright.

Hool admits he has broken more than a few bottles, mostly at home, as he perfected his flairing skills. But now he's a pro — this Andy Bro — and he's ready to take the D, as in Detroit, to Dallas for a contest he said is supposed to air Monday evening on Direct TV.

"I'm very excited about going," Hool said. "I've been practicing my flairing, and I'm ready."

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

Allocation is foundation of a good portfolio

Q: Dear Rick: I've been investing for about five, or six years and have followed your advice about using mutual funds and building a diversified portfolio. My current allocation is 50 percent in a couple of bond mutual funds and the other 50 percent in stock funds. In the stock funds I have 60 percent in large company U.S., 20 percent in small company U.S., 5 percent in real estate and 5 percent in international. Do I have enough invested internationally? Currently, the 5 percent is invested in large company international. Does it make sense to continue to have a real estate fund in the portfolio? I also would appreciate any other suggestions. I consider myself an average-risk investor and I am looking long term. I don't think I will need the money for at least 15 years.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

A: In reviewing your situation, I believe changes are needed. The first change I suggest is in the overall allocation of the portfolio. You are 50 percent equities and 50 percent fixed income. Generally this type of allocation calls for a conservative, short-term investor. You are a moderate, long-term growth investor and the overall allocation (50/50) does not match your situation.

I suggest a 60/40 split between stocks and bonds or even a 70/30 split. I've always been a believer, and all the independent studies confirm, that the key for a successful portfolio is to have the right allocation. Remember, in establishing an allocation, age isn't the relevant factor. It's what you are trying to achieve as an investor that is the key.

You are correct about your international exposure. We no longer live in an American economy, we live in a world economy and that's why it's

important to have a portion of your portfolio allocated to international companies.

In your situation, a good target allocation for international investing would be about 20 percent of your entire portfolio.

It is no longer sufficient to have only one international fund investing in large foreign companies, you need more. Similar to investing in the United States, your portfolio of international funds should be diversified. My recommendation is to have three different types of international funds. I suggest approximately 10 percent of the portfolio invested in large company international, with 5 percent each in small company international and emerging market funds. These three funds will work together to provide you with the appropriate international exposure you need.

Whether you should retain the real estate fund, my answer is yes. Real estate is a good diversifier. I recognize what has happened to the real estate market, however, have you seen how some of these funds have performed? When we think of real estate, we tend to only think about the residential market, which is completely different than the commercial market.

In addition, real estate funds invest in more than properties, they are investing in every aspect of the real estate industry.

One of the most important elements of a successful portfolio is the right allocation — it is the foundation of a portfolio. Always make sure that the allocation of your portfolio is adapted to your individual situation.

Good luck!

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

Anderson blasts vote to expand financial managers' powers

State Sen. Glen Anderson, D-Westland, is voicing his opposition to several pieces of legislation voted on by the Senate on Wednesday that would greatly expand the power of Emergency Financial Managers who are appointed to try and fix cities, townships, and public school districts who have fallen into insolvency.

Anderson voted against the bill because he feels it gives sweeping, unchecked power to appointed officials, who are unaccountable to the public.

"This legislation gives Emergency Financial Managers a vast and danger-

ous expansion of powers, undermining local authority and voters, while establishing little oversight to ensure that they actually help these financially strained communities," said Anderson. "They will have the power to unilaterally send teachers packing, cut local police and fire, and receive virtually unlimited salaries that will exceed even the Governor, all on the taxpayers' dime."

Senate Democrats introduced a number of amendments that would restrict EFMs and enact safeguards to protect against potential abuses of power. An amend-

ment was introduced to cap the salary that EFMs could receive to compensate them for their services and would have capped their salary at the same level as is paid to Michigan's governor.

Anderson introduced an amendment that would have required EFMs to disclose their personal finances to ensure that they do not take that position with an inherent financial interest. The amendment, along with 16 other Democratic amendments, was defeated.

According to state Democrats, the legislation will have an even more devas-

tating impact because of the governor's budget recommendation and its implications for local school districts and municipalities. The governor plans to cut statutory revenue sharing expenditures, money that directly funds local police departments, firefighters and other vital services, by 34 percent relative to the previous fiscal year.

Anderson represents the 6th State Senate district which includes Livonia, Westland, Garden City and Redford Township. He serves as the Democratic vice-chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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Chefs take Scout cookies up a notch at annual gala

Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan will host its third annual Cookie Gala, a celebration of one of America's most beloved sweet treats - Girl Scouts Cookies - 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, at Detroit's Atheneum Suite Hotel.

Tickets are \$75 each or \$130 for a pair, if purchased by March 23. After that date, tickets are \$100 each or \$170 per pair. Tickets are available online at www.gssem.org/cookiegala or by calling (313) 870-2562.

Cookie Gala features Girl Scouts cookies kicked up a gourmet notch by some of metro Detroit's best chefs. Chefs create delectable desserts and appetizer recipes using Girl Scout cookies, and compete to have the best Cookie Gala recipes. This year, 14 restaurants and bakeries from throughout the metro area will compete.

Chefs spend weeks creating, testing and re-testing their top secret Cookie Gala entries. Each is assigned a Girl Scout cookie from which they create their own recipe. During the gala, attendees including celebrity guest judges taste and rate each of the recipes and choose the best for 2011.

"This year, we've got Tagalongs, which are little more challenging than the Do-Si-Dos we had last year, but we're testing different recipes and we'll come up with something good," said Matt Kouri, executive chef at The Hill Seafood and Chop House in Grosse Pointe Farms. The Hill Seafood and Chop House won the 2010 Cookie Gala Presenting Sponsor award.

"We're a bakery, cookies are definitely in our repertoire and it's challenging to find new ways to use them," said pastry chef Debbie Meyers of Sweet and Savory Bake Shop in Oxford. Last year's entry, Pomegranate Cranberry Cheesecake with Cranberry Apple Compote, won the bakery the CEO's Choice Award.

"I'm hoping my idea for this year's Lemon Chalet Crèmes turns out the way I'm imagining it will."

Also participating in the 2011 Cookie Gala are 220 Restaurant, Birmingham (Trefails), Andiamo Detroit Riverfront (Thin Mints), Atheneum, Detroit (Samoas), Fifty One-O-One, Dearborn (Do-Si-Dos), The Lark, West Bloomfield (Lemon Chalet Crèmes), Ocean Prime, Troy (Do-Si-Dos), Mosaic, Detroit (Dulce de Leche), Redwood Lodge, Flint (Tagalongs), The Roostertail, Detroit (Trefails), St. Clair Inn, Port Huron (Thank U Berry Munch), Holiday Market, Royal Oak (Thin Mints) and Gold'n Crust Bakery, Warren (Samoas).

Chefs from each of the participating restaurants will compete to win any of the Cookie Gala awards: People's Choice, Presenting Sponsor, Judges' Choice and CEO's Choice. Members of Girl Scout Troop 43799 from Grandview Elementary in Livonia will be choosing the winning restaurant as the first ever Girls' Choice award.

Ford Motor Company is the presenting sponsor of the 2011 Cookie Gala. Additional sponsors include Blue Cross Blue Shield Michigan, Budco, Clark Hill PLC, Comerica Bank, Commonwealth Financial Network, Dawda, Mann, Mulcahy and Sadler PLC, Delta Dental of Michigan, Elder Automotive Group, Hartland Insurance, Hylant Insurance, Motor City Electric, Preferred Moving and Storage and Quicken Loans.

Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan serves nearly 40,000 girls and adult volunteers in Oakland, Macomb, Genesee, Lapeer, St. Clair, Sanilac, and parts of Livingston, Monroe and Wayne counties, including Garden City, Westland, Wayne, Livonia and Redford. GSSEM provides a girl-led, girl-centered, fun-filled quality leadership experience.

Time management: Is it for you?

There are many days when there just doesn't seem to be enough hours to get everything done and then there are those days that just seem to drag on and on. And no matter how much time you have, the work seems to keep piling up. So how do you get everything done in a shorter amount of time? The answer may be in learning how to better manage your time and be more efficient.

Mismanaged time can account for higher stress levels which can affect your overall health and life outlook. The Mayo Clinic suggests the following strategies to help your organizational skills, both at work and home:

- Plan each day.
- Prioritize your tasks.
- Say no to nonessential tasks.
- Delegate.
- Take the time you need to do a quality job.
- Break large, time-consuming tasks into smaller tasks.
- Practice the 10-minute rule (work on a dreaded task for 10 minutes each day).
- Evaluate how you're spending your time.
- Limit distractions.
- Get plenty of sleep.
- Have a healthy diet and exercise regularly.
- Take a time management course.
- Take a break when needed.

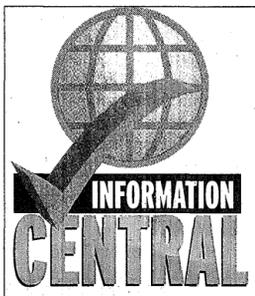
Some books that are at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland may help you achieve this include "The Power of Less" by Leo Babauta, "100 Ways to Simplify Your Life" by Joyce Meyer, "1000 Best Quick and Easy Time-Saving Strategies" by Jamie Novak, "Getting Things Done" by David Allen, "Done!" by Don Aslett, "The Productivity Handbook" by Donald E. Wetmore and "The Personal Efficiency Program" by Kerry Gleeson.

Your thought for the day: There are 1,440 minutes in a day and 29,020 days in an 80-year lifetime. Take control of your time and make this year the year you do what you want. (Linda Francis, author of "Run Your Business So It Doesn't Run You")

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday, or visit us any time westlandlibrary.org.

Highlighted Activities

Green Jobs Training Information



Session: 1 p.m. March 14

Learn about free training opportunities to prepare you for a green job in your future. Marie Guerra, Regional Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEPTP) representative, will explain how you can take advantage of this free training opportunity. Funding for this training is provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment ACT (ARRA). No reservations are necessary. For more information, call (734) 326-6123 or visit the library and speak to a librarian. Training is available only for Wayne County residents.

Afternoon Movie Classics:

"Treasure of the Sierra Madre," 3 p.m. March 15, Ages 12 and up
Tough hombres and gun fights amid unbridled scenery. Join us as we explore the drama and grandeur of classic Western films from the American Film Institute's top 100 movies from the last 100 years. Today's selection is "Treasure of the Sierra Madre" starring Humphrey Bogart, with Walter Huston and Tim Holt. No registration necessary.

Writers Workshop: 7 p.m. March 15, adults and teens age 15 and up

Do you have a piece of writing that you need help with? The Writers Workshop critiques individual's writing in a workshop setting. All genres (fiction, poetry, memoir, etc.) accepted. We will tell you what is working with your piece, as well as what needs improvement. You must attend one session before your writing will be reviewed. To register, visit the Reference Desk or contact andy.schuck@westlandlibrary.org.

Sheila Landis Trio - Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, the First Lady of Song: 7 p.m. March 15, adults and teens

Join us for a special (and free!) Women's History Month concert, featuring renowned Detroit-area jazz

and blues vocalist Sheila Landis and her trio, as they perform the group's "Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, the First Lady of Song." Come and hear one of Michigan's true vocal treasures. Artist CD signing to follow. Call (734) 326-6123 for more information or to sign up. Walk-ins are welcome.

Adult Book Discussion Group: 7 p.m. March 15

This month we are discussing "Little Bee" by Christopher Cleave. Andrew and Sarah O'Rourke are journalists with careers that are putting their marriage in a rut. In order to reinvigorate their passion, the couple decides to retreat to a Nigerian beach. They soon hear that a small native village down the beach is being attacked by guerillas from the Nigerian government.

Yoga for Beginners - Morning Class: 10 a.m. March 16, adults and teens

Join Lois Gannon of evolve yoga studio in Ypsilanti as she leads a beginning Hatha yoga class. Interested parties should bring a yoga mat, if possible. Wear loose clothing. One of four morning classes this month. Sign up at the Reference Desk or call (734) 326-6123. Space is limited.

Yoga for Beginners - Evening Class: 5 p.m. March 16, adults and teens (Earlier evening start time this week only)

Join Lois Gannon of evolve yoga studio in Ypsilanti as she leads a beginning Hatha yoga class. Interested parties should bring a yoga mat, if possible. Wear loose clothing. One of four evening classes this month. Sign up at the Reference Desk or call (734) 326-6123. Space is limited.

Adult Literacy Tutor Information Night: 6:30 p.m. March 16

Find out how you can get involved and share your love of reading with an adult in need. There are currently no adult literacy agencies that service the Westland area and we are exploring what kinds of services we can provide. This is a fantastic volunteer opportunity that will make a great difference in someone's life. We will go over different types of training options and what's necessary to become a tutor - just 2 hours a week. No formal training in education is required and you don't have to make any commitments right away. Just show up and find out what adult lit-

eracy is all about! If you are unable to attend this information session and are still interested in adult literacy tutoring opportunities, give us a call at (734) 326-6123 or stop by the Reference desk and ask for Kristy.

Documentary Movie Night: "At the Death House Door" 7 p.m. March 16

Join us for a viewing of the documentary film, "At the Death House Door." Carroll Pickett served as minister to death row inmates at a Texas penitentiary for 15 years, believing that the death penalty was just. Then he met inmate Carlos de Luna. As he talked with de Luna and recorded his conversations on the day before de Luna's execution, Pickett came to believe that de Luna was innocent. Unlike Hollywood movies, de Luna was executed anyway, sending Pickett on a gut-wrenching quest to uncover the facts surrounding the poor man's highly questionable arraignment. No registration necessary.

Open Mic: 7 p.m. March 17, ages 12 and up

It's your turn to take the mic as we clap and laugh and sing and roll through the winter version of Open Mic. Contact the Reference Desk to sign up or just show up ready to perform. Singers, bands, poets and performers of all types encouraged. Local folk-rocker Dave Boutette emcees.

Friday Night Movies: "Toy Story 3," 7 p.m. March 18, ages 12 and up

Love movies? Join us as we watch projected Oscar nominees for the 2011 awards. Tonight's movie is Golden Globe nominee "Toy Story 3," starring Tom Hanks, Tim Allen and Joan Cusack. Refreshments available. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., movie starts at 7 p.m.

Career Management Series - Job Searching Workshop: 1 p.m. March 19

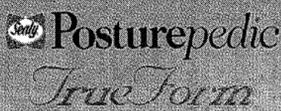
Join Preston Banks of Resume Solutions to learn new and practical strategies to keep your job search moving forward. Walk-ins are welcome.

Computer classes are offered all year long. Contact the library at (734) 326-6123 to find out more.

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

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DANCE MARATHON

steps up with major fundraiser, B5

Taking it to the limit: St. Mary eludes Chargers

Churchill falls in four OTs, 5-4

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Nothing may ever duplicate the epic 1-1, eight-overtime tie between Orchard Lake St. Mary Prep and Marquette in the 2008 MHSAA Division 1 boys hockey state championship final.

But this one came ever so close Wednesday night at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube as St. Mary got a goal from Luke Rodgers with 5:07 in the fourth overtime to oust upstart Livonia Churchill, 5-4.

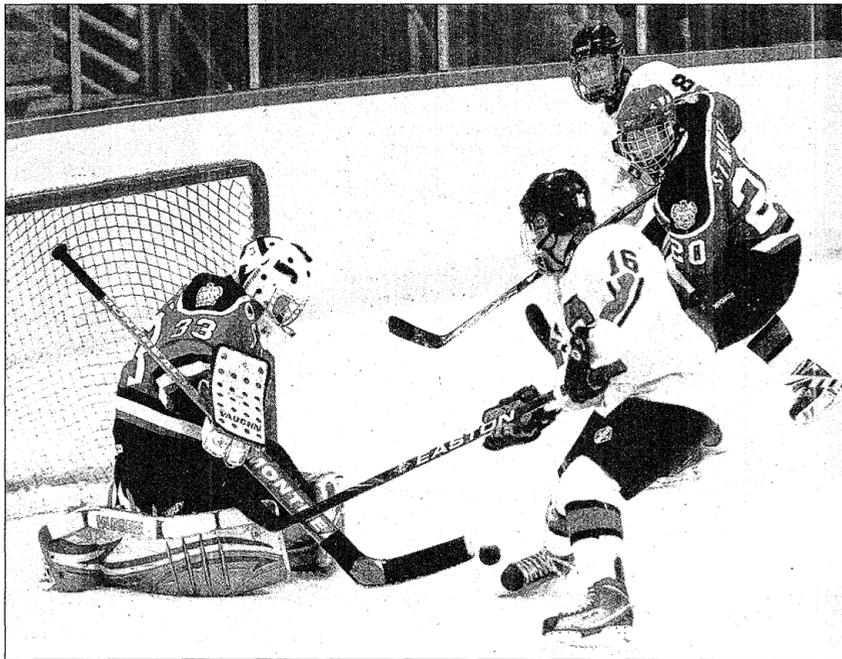
St. Mary improved its overall record to 19-9 and earned a spot in Friday's state semifinal against East Kentwood (19-8-1) at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

Churchill, meanwhile, bows out at 15-11-2 overall. Rodgers tallied the sudden-death goal when he took a pass out of the left corner boards on a two-on-one play from teammate Matt Sweet, and beat Chargers netminder Alex Estes from point-blank range for the game-clincher.

That came after St. Mary forced the first of four eight-minute overtimes with 3:52 remaining in regulation, when Alan Boozer poked home a bouncing puck on a rebound with Sean Harrington assisting.

"You're taught to put everything on net in that situation and you never know about a bounce," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "I don't know if it hit somebody or got a bounce, or hit him (Estes) first, or how it played out. It was a smart play on their part. It's one of those things where let your guard up for a second and sometimes it can come back and bite you."

Boozer's goal forced what is believed to be the second longest game in St. Mary history, according to Brian Klanow,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill's Riley Brown (16) takes a swipe at the puck in front of Orchard Lake St. Mary goaltender Drew Delke (33) during Wednesday's Division 1 quarterfinal. St. Mary's Alex Fasan (20) and Churchill's Devin Smythe (8) also converge on the play.

Please see **HOCKEY, B2**

SIDELINES

MU battery hailed

The Madonna University duo of pitcher Jess Irwin and catcher Ashley Shay were honored as the inaugural 2011 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference's Pitcher and Player of the Week (ending March 6).

Irwin, a senior right-hander from Monroe, helped lead the Crusader to a perfect 6-0 week, picking up three wins along the way with a 0.37 earned run average.

She struck out 26 hitters in 19 innings of work.

Shay, a senior from Garden City (Dearborn Divine Child), moved closer to the all-time home run record at MU with five long balls as part of 10 extra base hits while going 14-for-20.

The Crusaders catcher hit .700 and slugged a staggering 1.700 during the six-game stretch.

CHS Hall of Fame

The Livonia Churchill athletic patrons will stage their ninth annual Hall of Fame induction dinner at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at the Italian American Club, located at 39200 Five Mile, Livonia.

Among the inductees will be former football and track coach Bob Armstrong, baseball and hockey player Ron Griffin (1976) and the 2005 and 2006 varsity gymnastics teams coached by Christa Hinderliter and Kelly Grodzicki.

Tickets are \$40 each. For more information, call Neal Houghan at (734) 634-5524 or e-mail nhoughan@seasons.org.

Girls pom clinic

Livonia Pom will stage a clinic for girls in grades three-eight from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 26, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, Livonia.

The cost is \$20 (includes clinic T-shirt). For more information, or to download a registration form, visit www.livoniapom.com.

LBSA registration

The Livonia Baseball and Softball Association will stage its 2011 summer baseball registration from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 19 and 26, at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Two divisions will be formed for both high school age (15-16) and high school-collegiate age (17-19).

Within each division, there will be highly competitive select teams, along with nonselect teams. Rosters and teams are limited. Managers and coaches are also needed.

Registration forms are available at the sign-up or online at www.livoniabsa.com (under forms section). For more information, call George Coram at (248) 478-5071 or Curt Kreutzfeld at (734) 522-5413.

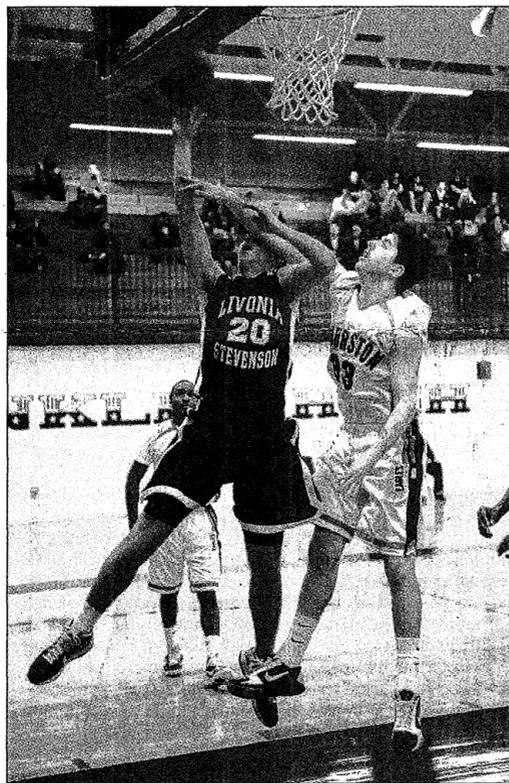


PHOTO BY THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Thurston's Mitchell O'Brien (right) picks up a foul against Stevenson's Austin Bumpus during Friday's Class A district final at Livonia Franklin.

District champs

Supporting cast picks up slack in Stevenson win

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Armed with above-the-rim skills that can make a 10-foot-high basket seem like a Little Tikes hoop, 6-foot-9 sky walker Jalen Reynolds often steals the spotlight for the Livonia Stevenson boys basketball team.

But when Reynolds was forced to take a seat with four fouls during crunch time of Friday night's Class A District final against Redford Thurston, a host of teammates stepped out of the shadows to lift the Spartans to a 68-57 victory.

Led by the clutch efforts of senior guard Anthony Barley (21 points), Thurston forged a 49-47 lead when Reynolds picked up foul No. 4 with 7:26 left in the game.

That's when a trio of seniors - CJ Mwila, Jonathan Campbell and Charlie Swingle - stepped up to lead a 21-8 Stevenson surge.

Mwila canned a pair of huge

jumpers - one from beyond the three-point arc with 3:25 that upped his team's lead to 60-55 - Campbell buried three fourth-quarter treys and Swingle applied some velcro-like defense on Barley.

"Our seniors did a great job after Jalen had to sit in the fourth quarter," said Stevenson head coach Mike Allie, whose 19-3 will take on Detroit Southeastern in a regional semifinal 6:30 p.m. Monday at Detroit Cass Tech High School.

"CJ hit a big three and really controlled the tempo of the game in the fourth quarter. Charlie did a great job defensively on their No. 24 (Barley). That kid is a heckuva player and Charlie worked him hard in the fourth quarter. Charlie made him work for everything."

"Campbell is the one who kept us in the game. He made some big 'threes' at the end. I thought there were times tonight when we didn't execute very well, but when it mattered the most down the stretch, the seniors put us on their backs

and led us to a victory."

The Eagles played like a well-oiled machine for the first three quarters and carried a 49-44 lead into the final eight minutes.

But fatigue seemed to get the most of coach Brian Bates' underdogs in the game's waning moments when the true jumpers that were finding twine early in the contest started clanging off the front of the iron.

"Number one, they picked up their defense," Bates said, when asked for the reasons for his team's fourth-quarter downfall. "I give Stevenson a lot of credit for that. We ran out of gas, too. The shots we were making in the first half were coming up short in the fourth quarter."

"I couldn't be more proud of this team. They played with a lot of heart and gave it everything they had."

Although Reynolds was mired in foul trouble for a good

Please see **CHAMPS, B3**

Upstart Pats nearly pull off shocker, but fall in 2 OTs

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you do the math, the Livonia Franklin boys basketball team figured to be a 36-point underdog Wednesday night in its district semifinal at home against Livonia Stevenson.

The Patriots, beaten by 41 and 32 points in two previous meetings against Stevenson, nearly pulled off one of the most astounding upsets in

BOYS HOOPS

recent Class A district memory before succumbing in double overtime, 40-36.

The Spartans, who improved to 18-3 overall, survived and advance to Friday's district final to face Redford Thurston.

Franklin bows out at 6-16 overall. It was a low-scoring affair throughout the 32 minutes of regulation play.

The Spartans led 16-7 at halftime and 21-15 after three quarters before Franklin pulled even at 30-all when Tino Thomas canned a pair of free throws with only nine seconds remaining in regulation.

The Patriots then were on the verge of pulling off the shocker when sophomore guard Tyrone Rayford, a recent call-up from the JV, went to the foul line with only nine seconds to go in the first four-minute OT.

Rayford split a pair to knot the count at 34-all and the Spartans didn't get off a quality attempt on the ensuing trip down forcing another OT.

That's when 6-foot-9 Stevenson center Jalen Reynolds, the Xavier University signee, asserted himself, scoring five of his game-high 17 points to give Stevenson the win.

Senior point-guard C.J. Mwila, the

Please see **HOOPS, B2**

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Tigers chew up Wayne in district

Jamie Pearson and Marquis Saulsberry scored 14 points apiece Wednesday as Belleville advanced in the Class A boys basketball tournament with a 46-25 victory over Wayne Memorial in the district semifinals at Taylor Truman.

The Tigers, who improved to 13-8 overall, took on state-ranked Romulus, 21-1, for the district crown Friday at Truman.

Belleville led 26-10 at half-

BOYS HOOPS

time before Wayne (3-18) pulled to within 10 in the second half, but could get no closer.

Freshman Torry Cooper scored six for the Zebras.

PLY. CHRISTIAN 63, HURON VALLEY 46: In the Class D district semifinals Wednesday, host Plymouth Christian Academy (6-15) advanced to the Friday's championship game by ousting Westland Huron Valley Lutheran

(6-14).

Mick Noel scored a game-high 23 points for the victorious Eagles, who also got 16 points and 11 rebounds from Eric Jipping.

Andy Barber scored 15 points for the Hawks, who trailed 32-22 at halftime and 46-32 after three quarters.

Brothers Ryan and Shawn Schaffer added 14 and 12, respectively.

The Eagles shot 16-of-25 from the foul line, while Huron Valley made 12-of-23.

HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

team's second leading scorer who was stymied most of the night, also came alive with five of his seven points in the second OT.

Reynolds finished with 17 rebounds and five blocks, while Carey Cobb came off the bench to score eight for the Spartans.

Sophomore point guard Jake Erme led the Patriots in scoring with 14 points.

Thomas, the 6-4 transfer from Detroit Allen Academy, finished with eight points, seven rebounds and eight blocks before fouling out in the second OT.

"That helped us when Tino fouled out," Stevenson coach Mike Allie said. "That's the best I've seen him play on both ends of the floor."

Senior forward Blake Lukas chipped in with seven points for the Patriots, who made 14-of-23 free throws on the night.

"We were very patient with our delay continuity offense," Franklin coach Jeremy Rheault said. "We wanted to take great shots."

"Defensively we used Rayford on C.J. (Mwila) and we used multiple zone defenses. I thought Tino's (eight) blocks were outstanding. He did a great job and we were always aware of Reynolds."

Stevenson connected on 8-of-13 foul shots.

"Our preparation wasn't very good and that's a direct reflection of the coaching," Allie said. "Franklin did a great job defensively. They used multiple defenses and we weren't used to that. The type of zone they ran affected us, but we could have executed better and done

a better job of being focused.

"We we did not shoot well from the beginning of the game until the end of the game. I was frustrated and the kids were frustrated and we did not face adversity very well."

It was almost a repeat of last year's state tournament meeting between the two teams when the underdog Patriots beat Stevenson in the championship final to earn their first district crown in 34 years.

"I'm proud of the way we executed our game plan," Rheault said. "We had a great week. We've had a lot of adversity this year, but we've come so far in improvement and that's what you want in a team."

"But still comes down to skill level and the kids know that."

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



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill's Brad Milks (23), Steve Klisz (9) and Jake Otto (13) celebrate after a goal in Wednesday's Division 1 state quarterfinal at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube.

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

who coached in the 2008 final that was declared a co-title.

"I don't know how much time was left in that fourth overtime, but it would have gone to four-on-four after that," Klanow said. "So obviously, we pushed the limits again."

In each of the three overtime periods, Churchill got at least one quality scoring chance, with the best coming with 4:37 remaining in the third OT, when Mike Kutek's backhand glanced off the right goal post.

Meanwhile, Estes came up with some timely saves of his own, none better than his acrobatic pad stop on Connor Lyons with just over seven minutes remaining in the third OT.

"He was huge," Mazzoni said of his junior netminder, who made a total of 30 saves. "Down the stretch — the last six, seven, eight games — he has played really well and our team had gotten confidence off of that. And he was a big reason why we were still playing tonight. Hopefully that will carry him over to a solid senior year for him."

Churchill got on the board first, just 1:11 into the first period, when Mike Rybinski scored from Michael Gambino.

That's when Klanow decided to make a goaltender change, opting for senior Drew Delke in favor of starter Austin Julvezan, a junior.

"It was just a gut feeling," Klanow said of the switch. "It's not necessarily what the goalie is doing. You just pump a little blood early. We just did it and it ended up working out in our

favor."

The first period was a free-wheeling affair, featuring odd-man rushes on both sides and a total of 25 shots between the two teams.

Boozer tied it at 1-1 for the Eaglets on a power-play goal at 13:10 of the first period on a four-on-two break after the Chargers got caught in a line change. Ryan Foe and Sweet assisted.

In the second period, Churchill scored three times to a take 4-3 advantage.

Kutek tallied on a power play at 4:40 to make it 2-2, tipping in a shot from the point from Steve Klisz and Ben Proben.

Sophomore Riley Brown then made a nifty deke at 7:01 and got another Churchill goal from Cam Benson. Klisz then followed at 13:24 on a laser shot from the left side off an assist from Devin Smythe to make it 4-3.

St. Mary countered during the same period on Cooper Anstett's power-play goal from Mitchell Vanderburg and Matt Latham at 3:58, followed by Vanderburg's goal at 13:28 from Latham.

"I just think it was one of those games," Klanow said. "It wasn't a real strong game for us. I think they (Churchill) played very well. They stuck to their game plan. We weren't playing smart. We weren't filling lanes tonight."

Churchill appeared to be on the verge of an upset as time wound down during the final period, but the Eaglets managed to get the equalizer.

"It was just a tough game," Klanow said. "In a playoff series you're not going to play every game great. It's games like this you've got to find ways, you've got to fight. Good teams find

ways to win and we did that tonight."

Then came the four overtimes.

"They were certainly getting to a point where they were getting tired," Klanow said. "We started to notice in the third overtime we started dropping our fourth line in a little more. Ultimately one of those players ended up scoring the game-winning goal — Rodgers. He's one of our main players for us. It was difficult finding ice time ice time tonight. You've got three lines. These lines were clicking and you hate to break them up. You're scrapping and fighting trying to find ice for some of these guys. Typically you run four lines, but when you get down to this situation, you've got to shorten the bench a little bit."

Meanwhile, Mazzoni continued to make quick line changes, but the effects of an extra 26 minutes, 57 seconds ultimately took their toll.

"We were starting to cramp up," Mazzoni said. "The shifts were definitely getting shorter. We were starting to make more mental mistakes and turnovers. Fatigue definitely played a factor in our end."

Despite the loss, Mazzoni gave his team plenty of accolades.

"I'm so proud of these kids," he said. "They worked their butts off. I thought we had a pretty good game plan. We executed pretty well, for the most part. They poured their hearts and souls into it. Nobody was thinking we'd have a chance to go to overtime, or whatever it was. That's a real tight-knit group of kids in there. I proud to say I'm their coach."

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL REGIONAL TOURNAMENT DRAWS CLASS A
at DETROIT CASS TECH
Monday, March 14: University of Detroit-Jesuit vs. Detroit Cody, 5 p.m.; Livonia Stevenson vs. Detroit Southeastern, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 16: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the state quarterfinals, Tuesday, March 22, at the University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall vs. Saline regional champion.)

MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL
Sunday, March 13
(RussMatt Inv. at Chandler, Ariz.)
Madonna vs. Dickinson St. (N.D.), 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 15
Madonna at Central Michigan, 3 p.m.
Thursday, March 17
Madonna at Goshen (Ind.), 4 p.m.
Saturday, March 19
Madonna at N'western Ohio (2), 1 p.m.
Sunday, March 20
Madonna at N'western Ohio (2), 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Thursday, March 17
Madonna at IU-Southeast (2), 3:30 p.m.
Friday, March 18
(Lindsay Wilson, Ky. Classic)
Madonna vs. Union (Ky.), 3 p.m.
Madonna vs. Montreat (N.C.), 5 p.m.
Saturday, March 19
(Lindsay Wilson, Ky. Classic)
Madonna vs. Reinhardt (Ga.), 9:30 a.m.
Madonna vs. Campbellsville (Ky.), 11:30 a.m.
Sunday, March 20
(Lindsay Wilson, Ky. Classic)
Madonna vs. Martin Methodist (Tn.), 10 a.m.
Madonna vs. Lindsey Wilson (Ky.), noon.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

WYAA fastpitch softball

Registration for the Westland Youth Athletic Association 2011 girls fastpitch softball for all ages will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays and 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays at the Lange Compound Building, located at 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford).

Age groups offered include: 8-10, 11-12, 13-14 and 15-16. Games for 10-, 12- and 16-

and-under will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while 14-and-under games on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The WYAA provides trainers for pitching and hitting instruction with indoor winter practices and on-site batting cage.

Teams will play league games and tournaments in preparation for high school competition.

For more information, call (734) 421-0640; visit www.

wyaa.org (Facebook/WYAA softball); or e-mail busymichiganadad@gmail.com.

Senior golf meeting

The Livonia Senior Men's Golf Association will stage its annual registration and business meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 16 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads.

The LSMGA is open to all men ages 59 and up regardless of residency.

The \$25 membership fee includes lunch at the awards banquet. Single golfers are welcome.

For more information, call Tony Amadori at (734) 261-4718.

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Storm rules tourney

Livonia Storm recently captured the six-team Vengeance Field Tournament held in Chesterfield Township with a 3-0-1 record. Storm defeated Vengeance in the finals, 3-1, after wins over the Lookouts, 5-1, and Wild Cards, 8-0, to along with a 0-0 tie with Vengeance. Storm pitchers allowed just two runs in four games, highlighted by a combined no-hitter and 1-hitter. The Storm defense also threw out 5-of-8 base stealers. They also hit .363 as a team with a .411 on base percentage and made good on 16-of-18 on stolen base attempts. Members of the Storm include (front row, from left): Jordyn Fryz, Allen Park Cabrini; Nicole Salloum, Livonia Churchill, Casey Bias, Churchill; (middle row, from left): Sam Bellovary, Garden City; Kate McIntosh, Garden City; Elaine Gerou, Plymouth; (back row, from left) Jessica Brandon, South Lyon; Catherine Porter, Canton; Hanna Warren, Canton; and Shannon Watson, Canton.

CHAMPS

FROM PAGE B1

chunk of Friday's game, he still managed to register monster stats. The long-limbed high-riser scored 17 points and pulled down 17 rebounds. His first basket just over a minute into the game was his most spectacular: A rim-rattling dunk off an alley-oop feed from Mwila.

"We just tried to keep him outside as much as we could and keep a hand in his face," Bates said. "If he gets within five feet of the basket with the ball, he's going to dunk it."

Barley was Reynolds' equal throughout the night, raining in five triples to go with several thread-the-needle assists.

"Anthony played his heart out tonight," said Bates. "He played his best basketball all season in the district."

Thurston's protect-the-paint strategy was reflected in the Spartans' shot selection. Stevenson hoisted up 32 triples, sinking nine.

Campbell shook off a mid-game shooting slump to finish with 19 points. Mwila scored 11 and junior Austin Bumpus added 10.

"That was Austin's best game of the season," Allie praised. "He came through when we needed him the most."

Barley scored 21 points through three quarters, but went scoreless in the fourth thanks to the defensive efforts of Swingle, a 6-1 senior.

"Without our best player on the floor, we all had to give it that extra effort to lock down on 'D' and get the 'W' at the end," Swingle said. "My coach just told me it's my senior year, I've got to give heart and effort, could be my last game so I got in and locked him (Barley) down."

"I guarded him most of the game. He got going in the first half with the zone (defense) and then we went in man (defense), and the coaches told me lock him down, do what I could, and I got him."



PHOTO BY THOMAS BEAUDOIN

Stevenson's Carey Cobb (with ball) gets trapped by Thurston defenders Rashod Pryor (left) and Devin Ryles (right) during Friday's Class A district final at Livonia Franklin.

Barley was complemented by the strong play of 5-7 sophomore Xzavier Bowen and 6-1 junior Eric Wilson, both of whom netted 10 points.

"We thought Xzavier would be able to have a good game tonight because of the way Stevenson plays defense," Bates said. "They come out and try to deny and he's great at breaking down defenses with his dribble and penetrating skills."

Thurston jumped out to a 16-10 after one quarter before Stevenson stormed back to knot the game at 30-all at the half.

The Eagles tied the game

with 3:25 left on a pair of Bowen free throws, but Stevenson closed the game on a 13-2 run, during which Mwila and Campbell both knocked down triples."

Stevenson made 7 of 17 free throws. Thurston drained all six of its free throws.

"We started this season kind of rough; it took us a while to come together as a team," said Bates, whose squad finished 12-11. "Even though we got beat tonight, I couldn't be more proud of this group of young men. They played their best basketball at the end."

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MU bounces back from 1st setback

The Madonna University women's softball team played a triple-header Friday as part of the Tucson (Ariz.) Invitational Games and fell for the first time in 13 games to Robert Morris (Ill.), 4-3, in Lincoln Park.

But the 17th-ranked Crusaders rebounded in their second game of the triple-bill with a 2-1 win in eight innings over 15th-ranked Olivet Nazarene (Ill.) behind senior pitcher Jess Irwin's 11-strikeout performance.

Irwin improved to 7-0 on the year with the win.

Offensively, catcher Ashley Shay (Garden City/Dearborn Divine Child) her hot hitting in the desert trip with three more hits and the game-winning sacrifice fly RBI.

MU, 13-1 overall, concluded its trip with a late Friday night game against the University of Great Falls (Mont.)

Thursday summary

The Crusaders posted two more two more victories Thursday on their Arizona spring tour.

In the opener at the Julie Reitan Complex in Tucson,

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

MU defeated Judson College (Ill.), 4-1, as senior pitcher Jess Irwin scattered three hits and seven walks in seven innings.

The Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Week struck out 11 in raising her season record to 6-0.

Garden City's Hallie Minch paced MU's 9-hit attack going 3-for-4.

Arielle Cox added two hits and an RBI, while Tara LaMilza knocked in a pair of runs.

The loss dropped Judson to 4-2 overall.

LaMilza and Erin Mayes each drove in three runs as MU downed Iowa Wesleyan, 12-4, in a five-inning mercy.

The Crusaders exploded for 10 runs in the opening inning with Minch adding two hits and two RBIs.

The loss dropped Iowa Wesleyan to 3-4 overall.

The Crusaders' current win streak ties for the second best start in program history - eclipsing last year's 10-0 start - and is only bettered by the 2006 team's 15-0 start.

Wednesday summary

The Crusaders racked up two more victories over Park University (Mo.), 4-0 and Trinity International (Ill.), 8-2, at the Reitan Complex.

Against Park (3-4), senior right-hander Jess Irwin threw 5-hitter to pick up her fifth win of the year. She struck out 12 and walked only one.

MU, which scored twice in the first and third innings, got two hits apiece from Jackie Barley, Hallie Minch and Erica Landess.

Landess knocked in two of the four runs, while Ashley Shay (Garden City/Dearborn Divine Child) and Arielle Cox added one each.

In the win over Trinity (1-10), Minch got the win with a 5-hitter. She struck out five and walked only two.

The Crusaders pounded out 10 hits led as Amber Rafko belted her third homer of the year, a 2-run blast, while Tara LaMilza notched her first, a solo shot.

Barley, the lead-off batter, went 3-for-4 with two RBIs. Minch also helped her own cause going 2-for-3 and scoring twice.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Matt Kay (Canton) added an RBI single during the 3-run outburst, while Brad Lineberry (Plymouth) walked with the bases loaded to force home another run.

Reliever Travis Schuba converted the save opportunity in the bottom of the 10th by retiring the Northwestern side in order as MU won its fifth straight to improve to 8-6 overall.

Jeremy Gooding (2-0) went the first nine innings to pick up the victory. He scattered eight hits, struck out six and did not allow a walk. Only two of the five runs were earned.

Kay and Lineberry each went 3-for-4, while Victor Barron went 3-for-6 with two RBIs to pace MU's 15-hit attack.

The loss dropped Northwestern to 4-7 overall.

In the opener, right-hander Robert Fraser (Westland John Glenn) pitched a complete-game 6-hitter for MU.

Fraser struck out three and walked three.

Jeff Bultinck paced MU's 11-

hit attack going 3-for-4 with three runs scored and two RBIs.

Mike Gansser, Billy Hardin III and Pelletier each added two hits.

Hansen goes all 9

Madonna University got the bats going and Tom Hansen pitched a complete game Wednesday by scattering 12 hits as the Crusaders beat Trinity International (Ill.), 7-4, at Austry Park.

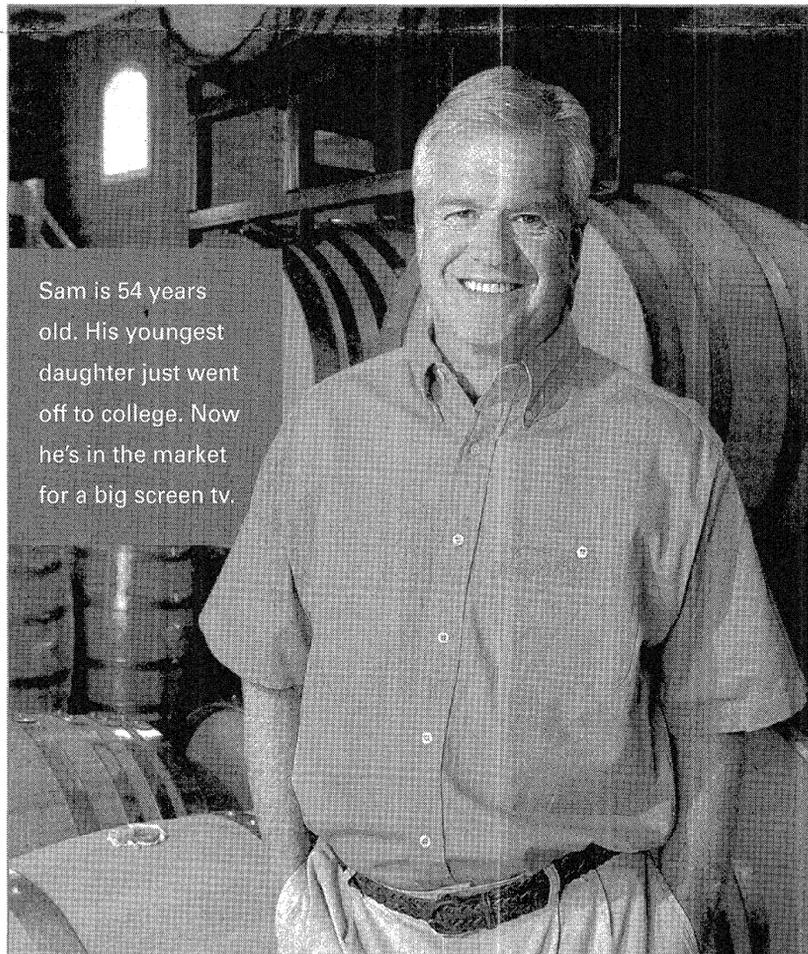
Hansen (1-1), a junior left-hander from Rochester Adams, worked all nine innings allowing four earned runs on two walks and four strikeouts.

Losing pitcher Jeff Baird also went the distance allowing five earned runs on nine hits. He struck out three and walked three.

Right fielder Matt Kay (Canton) led the Crusader hitting attack going 2-for-4 with a triple and two RBIs.

Alex Charles also added two hits and knocked in a run along with Jeff Bultinck, Drew Adamiec, Steve Pelletier and Alex Charles.

William Smith went 3-for-5 to pace Trinity (3-6).



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Jaguar boys champions

The Livonia St. Genevieve boys basketball team (grades 3-5) recently captured the Catholic Youth Organization division title with a 9-1 record. Members of the Jaguars include: Evan Bradford, Troy Campbell, David Command, Nick Knoph, Chris Mikonczyk, Nick Moniuszko, J.T. Morgan, Amiel Vincent, Christian Zapata and Quentin Zapata. The head coach is Nick Carignan. He was assisted by Steven Hart and Kraig Moniuszko.



Jaguar girls 1st

The Livonia St. Genevieve girls basketball team (grades 5-6) recently captured the Catholic Youth Organization division title with a 9-1 record. Members of the Jaguars include: Natalie Bradford, Katie Brick, Haylee Butka, Breanne Campbell, Julia Cercone, Haley Hebrner, Emily Long, Erin McAteer, Brenna Molloy, Mary Clare Pollock, and Katelyn Seger. The head coach is Dennis Butka. He was assisted by John Hebrner, Bill Pollock and Mike Trossell.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Hunter safety class

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer a hunter safety class (ages 10-and-up) from 5-9:30 p.m. Friday, March 18 and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the corner of Five Mile and Farmington roads.

Space is limited and advance registration is required. You can sign up at the Parks and Recreation office inside the Livonia Community Recreation Center at 15100 Hubbard.

The fee is \$10 and participants must attend both classes.

Any person born on or after Jan. 1, 1960 must receive this certification in order to obtain a hunting license. Children ages 11-and-under must be accompanied by an adult.

Topics that will be covered also include legal requirements and equipment use. (Bring a bag lunch.)

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

WYAA baseball signup

Baseball registration for the Westland Youth Athletic Association will be 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road and west of Venoy).

The WYAA has openings for all age groups, including: Co-ed T-Ball (5-6), Co-Ed Machine Pitch (7-8), Mustang (10-and-under), Bronco (12-and-under), Pony (14-and-under), Colt (16-and-under) and Palomino (18-and-under).

Mustang, Bronco, Pony, Colt and Palomino age divisions involve local travel with inter-locking leagues with other cities.

For more information, call (734) 421-0640 during normal business hours (or leave a message) or visit www.wyaa.org.

Steelheaders meeting

The Metro-West Steelheaders monthly meeting

will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 5 at the Livonia Senior Center, located at the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads.

Meetings are free and open to the public. No reservations needed.

Captain Jerry Lee will be one of two featured speakers. He has over 30 years of fishing and guiding experience on the Great Lakes.

Among the topics include use of lead-core, rotators, cut bait, in-line boards and the latest down-rigger savvy. His presentation also includes tips and tactics to consistently boat limits of fish for his customers on a daily basis.

Captain Chip Wright will also unveil the latest from Wolverine Tackle, which produces the world famous Silver Streak lures.

For more information, call Jim Robertson at (734) 383-2790.

Girls slow-pitch signup

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and

Recreation will stage open registration for 2011 girls 10- and 13-and-under slow-pitch softball until enrollment reaches 160 participants in each division for those living in the Livonia or Clarenceville public school districts.

Registration forms are available at local schools or be picked up at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Late registration for school district residents is from 9 a.m. until noon beginning Saturday, April 9, at the Rec Center. Non-resident signup starts at 9 a.m. Monday, April 11 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Open registration fees are \$40 (resident) and \$50 (non-resident), while late registration fees are \$50 (resident) and \$60 (non-resident).

For more information, call (734) 466-2410 (option No. 2).

5000-5980

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Apply in person at any DFCU Financial Branch Office. Credit record in good standing required.

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Senior Engineer Automotive Thermal Management/HVAC

Mindware Engineering, Inc. has openings for Senior Engineers - Automotive Thermal Management & HVAC at its facility in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Job duties include: simulations of conduction, convection, and radiation heat transfer to identify underbody/underhood vehicle parts/components at thermal risk; underhood & underbody cooling & thermal management simulations; aero-acoustics analysis of HVAC system; simulating combustion process and chemical kinetics in an automotive engine; and working with Design and Systems Teams to reach solutions that meet program objective.

Position requires: Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering or related field, or foreign education equivalent and experience in the following:

- CFD simulations of automotive vehicle underbody & underhood for predicting airflow through various heat exchanger;
- simulations of conduction, convection and radiation heat transfer to identify underbody/underhood vehicle parts/components at thermal risk;
- performance of aero-acoustic analysis on HVAC system to identify sources of noise and recommend design changes to reduce the noise;
- simulation of combustion process and chemical kinetics in an automotive engine.

Applicants should send resume to: **Lori Johnston-Foote Human Resources** 32605 West 12 Mile Road Suite 350 Farmington Hills MI 48334

Candidates should include reference number MW012011 with their submission.

Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)

Warehouse Casual Order Selector

Syco Detroit has several openings for Casual Order Selectors. The Casual Order Selector will work in the warehouse pulling orders by the case. This is a warehouse position and involves lifting and stacking cases in excess of 75 lbs., being on your feet for an extended period and potentially working in excess of 8 hours in a shift.

For consideration, please submit resume via email to hr@del.syco.com noting: Casual Order Selector in the subject line of the email. EOE

Help Wanted-General 5000

Senior Engineer - Automotive Thermal Management

Mindware Engineering, Inc. has openings for Senior Engineers - Automotive Thermal Management at its facility in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Job duties include: simulations of conduction, convection, and radiation heat transfer to identify underbody/underhood vehicle parts/components at thermal risk; underhood & underbody cooling & thermal management simulations; aero-acoustics analysis of HVAC system; simulating combustion process and chemical kinetics in an automotive engine; and working with Design and Systems Teams to reach solutions that meet program objective.

Position requires: Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering or related field, or foreign education equivalent and experience in the following:

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Help Wanted-Medical 5060

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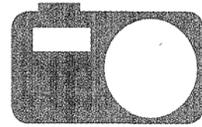


PHOTO GALLERIES

hometownlife.com

Marathon effort: Students stand up for good cause

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Alex Gortat plans to take a few more precautions this year before engaging in the biggest student activity on campus at the University of Michigan.

"I should have hydrated more," said the Livonia resident and U-M sophomore, recalling her first experience with the school's annual 30-hour dance marathon. "You are supposed to wean yourself off caffeine or you'll crash during the marathon."

Gortat, a Franklin High School graduate, managed to stay on her feet last year by heading to bed early the night before, changing shoes five times, and keeping the event's goal in mind — fundraising to help families with children in pediatric rehabilitation at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor and William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

Student marathon teams are paired with a family at the start of the fall semester and stay in touch with them throughout the year. Most families also attend the dance marathon, which will be held March 26-27 this year.

"The first time you meet is at pumpkin carving," said Tejas Joshi, U-M junior and a Plymouth High School graduate from Canton. "Meeting the family and kids is really inspiring. Some of these kids can't climb a tree, which is something every child does at some point. Seeing them enjoy their childhood without these things is inspiring. You learn about the family's struggles but are there with them at the same time."

Both Joshi and his sister, Priya, a U-M freshman, are



Smiles abound amid participants of the 30-hour marathon last year.

DANCE MARATHON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

What: The largest student-run nonprofit organization at the university raises funds for families with children in pediatric rehabilitation at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor and William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Its major fundraiser each year is a 30-hour dance marathon.

When: The dance marathon starts at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 26 and runs to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 27

Where: The Indoor Track and Field Building, 1150 S. State Street, Ann Arbor

Details: The public may cheer the dancers on during the event or make donations, but must also stand on their feet when they visit. No chairs are available during the 30-hour event. Dance teams engage in a variety of activities during the overnight marathon. The event culminates in a massive line dance performed by all participants

Donate: Visit www.dmum.org; e-mail to dmum.info@umich.edu

involved in Dance Marathon of the University of Michigan, (DMUM), the largest student organization on campus.

Joshi, a biomechanical engineering major, joined the group his freshman year after attending an information session with his roommate. The two now are co-chairs on the executive board, a central planning team for the event.

BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

"I liked the dynamic of everyone there and what they stood for. And I liked the social aspect," he said.

The organization enables new students to make friends quickly on the big campus. Joshi said some of his closest friends are DMUM members.

Gortat first heard about DMUM while she was at



Students chart up how much money was raised at last year's dance marathon.

Franklin. A best friend's brother was involved in the organization and a DMUM representative talked about the event at a Michigan Association of Student Councils conference that Gortat attended.

The psychology-business major signed on her freshman year. This year she is co-captain of a dance team.

"The great thing is you can become as involved as you choose to be," she said.

Last year her team was paired with an elementary school-aged youngster who used a wheelchair. This year, her new team keeps in touch with an 18-year-old who has cerebral palsy.

"We try to get to know him throughout the year. We write



U-M students perform a line dance at last year's dance marathon.

letters to him and we see him at the family events."

BOOSTING SPIRITS

That personal connection helps boost morale as the marathon stretches into its final few hours.

So do the myriad activities that keep students busy. Throughout the night they

learn portions of a line dance that comes together at the end of the marathon. They can shoot hoops, study, rub tired feet, eat, stretch, visit the morale-boosting spirit tent, watch performances, meet with their families and compete in team activities.

"There are no chairs in the building and no clocks. No one can have phones. It makes the time go by faster. While you are there it doesn't feel like 30 hours," Gortat said.

Joshi said staying awake for long time periods is "normal" for college students.

"It's more mental than physical, really," he said. "But just knowing you're doing it for a child who struggles every day with simple tasks, it's nothing compared to that."

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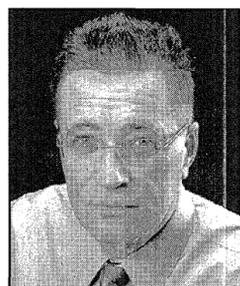
SOCIAL SECURITY

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

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

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

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



In addition to practicing only Social Security Disability law Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups. Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure.

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be

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

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

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

www.ssdfighter.com

Find fish dinner, more on Fridays at local churches

The Friday menu at Our Lady of Loretto, a Catholic congregation, claims the church serves "The finest fish fry in Redford" during Lent.

Parishioner Murry Muscat offers even higher praise, saying the annual tradition creates "the best fish fry dinners on earth."

But don't mention that to Ray Johnson, chairman of St. Genevieve Church's fish fry. He says the Livonia church serves "delicious and affordable meals" at its all-you-can-eat Lenten dinners.

"We have added a few items this year including fish nuggets and steamed vegetables," Johnson wrote to the *Observer*. "We also offer a different seafood special every week. This special is prepared in our separate grilling area and features either Salmon or Shrimp."

But what about the table setting?

"One of the things that really sets us apart is that we use china plates and real silverware, with servers who continually bus tables," says Mark Steinhauer, chairman of St. Michael the Archangel's annual fish fry in Livonia.

"The last guy in line gets a table and place setting as tidy as the first folks did."

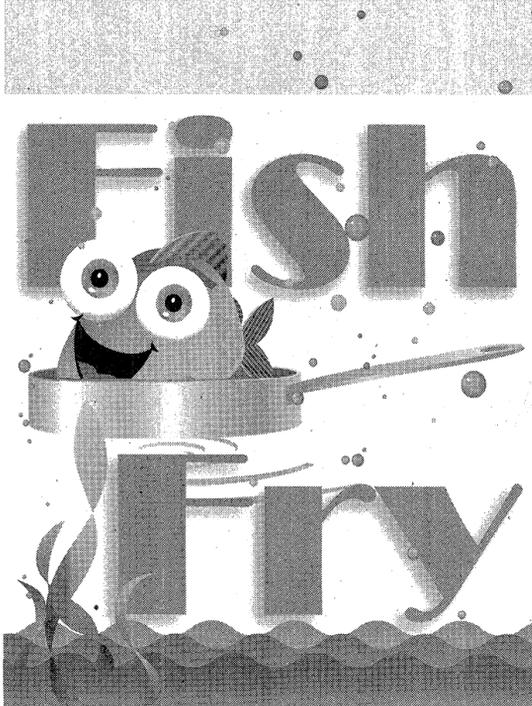
Whether you like baked or fried, cod, salmon or shellfish, china plates or paper, you're likely to find something that pleases your palate at a church dinner Fridays during Lent.

Here's a sampling of local dinners:

- Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church, corner of Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford: 4-7 p.m. every Friday during Lent. It offers seven different dinners, ranging from \$4 for macaroni and cheese and \$5 for a fish sandwich to \$8.50 for shrimp with cocktail sauce, dinner roll, fries and coleslaw. The menu also includes orange roughly, salmon, clam strips, a seafood platter and combination dinner. You just want fish & chips? The two-piece dinner is \$7 and one-piece is \$5.75. Both come with fries, cole slaw, tartar sauce and dinner roll. The church's a la carte menu includes pierogies \$4; clam strips, \$3.50; breaded shrimp, \$1.50; batter-dipped fish, \$3 and pizza, \$2. Diners can order sides, such as onion rings, hush puppies and clam chowder and a variety of beverages. (313) 534-9000

- Sts. Constantine & Helen Church's Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy, west of Wayne Road, Westland: 5-8 p.m. every Friday in March and April. The buffet dinner features fried and baked cod and fried calamari. Cost is \$8.95 for adults and \$4.95 for children under 10. (734) 525-3550

- Saint Dunstan Catholic Church, 1515 Belton, west of Inkster Road and south of Ford Road, in Garden City: 4-7 p.m. all Fridays of lent,



including Good Friday, April 22. Fish may be ordered fried or baked. All dinners include fries or baked potato or macaroni & cheese and a choice of salad or cole slaw, along with a roll, coffee, tea or milk. A one-piece fish dinner costs \$5.25; two pieces are \$6.75; three pieces are \$7.75; shrimp dinners and combo dinners are \$8 each. The church also offers pizza, french fries,

baked potatoes, salad and mac & cheese as sides. Dessert and pop also are available. (734) 425-6720

- St. Genevieve Church, 28933 Jamison Ave., Livonia: 4:30-5 p.m. is senior early bird; 5-7 p.m. is regular serving time, every Friday before Good Friday. The church offers all-you-can-eat fried and baked fish. Each meal includes New England Clam

chowder or soup of the day, baked potato or French fries, coleslaw, roll, punch, and coffee. The menu also includes macaroni & cheese, cheese pizza, and a weekly seafood special. A selection of soda pop and desserts are sold extra. A different seafood special is available each week and includes scalloped potatoes, vegetable medley a bowl of soup or chowder and cole slaw. Both dine in and carry out meals are available. Prices are \$6 for the senior early bird; \$10 for weekly specials; \$8 for all-you-can-eat fish for adults; \$7 for seniors; \$5 for children, 12 and under. (734) 425-4420

- St. Michael the Archangel, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia: 4:30-7 p.m. Fridays of Lent except for Good Friday. All-you-can-eat Atlantic cod is fried or baked and hand-dipped in a secret-recipe batter. It's accompanied by macaroni and cheese, fries, green beans, cole slaw, rolls, and choice of beverages. Prices are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and take-out orders, and \$4 for kids, 3-11. Children under 3 eat for free. (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200, or visit www.livoniastmichael.org.

- St. Raphael, 31530 Beechwood Street, west of Merriman, north of Ford Road, in Garden City: 4:30-7 p.m. or until sold out. Good Friday hours are 3-7 p.m. or until sold out. The menu includes hand-battered premium Icelandic haddock.

Dinners include choice of potato — fries or mashed — cole slaw, and roll. Coffee, tea or milk included with dine-in orders. Prices are \$8.50 for fish, shrimp or combo dinners; \$7 for fish sandwich plate; \$3 for a slice of cheese pizza meal or \$4 for a two-slice meal. Pop, bottled water and iced tea also available. (734) 427-1533

- St. Robert Bellermine, located at W. Chicago and Inkster Road, in Redford: 4-7 p.m. or until dinners run out, every Friday during Lent. The menu includes all-you-can-eat cod and fries dinners which include a choice of fried or baked fish, fries or rice pilaf, cole slaw or vegetable, dinner roll and beverage for \$8. Seniors, 60 and older pay \$7 and children under 12 pay \$4. Weekly specials are \$10. The mac & cheese dinner, which includes a vegetable, cole slaw and a beverage, is \$6. A la carte pizza and mac & cheese also is available. Carry-out dinners don't include a beverage. (313) 937-1655

- Ss. Simon and Jude Parish, 32500 Palmer, Westland: 4:30-7 p.m. Fridays of Lent excluding Good Friday. The menu includes baked or fried fish or shrimp dinners; choice of fries or baked potato, cole slaw, dinner roll, dessert and beverage. Grilled cheese sandwiches and mac & cheese also is available. Adults pay \$7, children under 10 pay \$5. (734) 722-1343.

REUNION CALENDAR

Belleville High School Class of 1971

Planning 40th reunion in 2011. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail BHS.1971@yahoo.com. If on Facebook join the group by searching BHS reunion 1971 40th sign up site; also on CLASSMATES/REUNIONS.

Dearborn Fordson Class of 1971

The 40th reunion is planned for Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Tickets are on

sale now for \$52 per person for dinner and open bar. Send a check payable to Fordson '71 Reunion to 16124 Golfview, Livonia, MI 48154. For more information go to Facebook, Classmates.com or the Web page at Fordson71Reunion.com.

Dearborn Heights Robichaud Class of 1961

50th class reunion Sept. 24, 2011 at the Dearborn Hills Golf Course. All classes are welcome as Robichaud High School also celebrates its

50th anniversary. Contact Bill Haskin at billsmustangs@msn.com; (734)595-4927 or Nancy at wolon@aol.com; (248) 529-6461.

Detroit Cody Class of 1961

50th reunion Aug. 27, 2011, at Hellenic Banquet Center, Westland. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail codycomet61@gmail.com. Or call Connie Callear Majeske at (734) 425-7094 or Bernie Lekki Grudzien at (734) 522-3167.

Caution: Near tragedy caused by a recalled refrigerator

A few days ago my wife Valorie received an e-mail that informed her that the air pressure in one of her car's tires was low and that was followed by a warning on the dashboard telling



Appliance Doctor Joe Gagnon

her the same thing. For an old fellow like me it is beyond belief that all of this can be done. How do they do these things and isn't it amazing? How is it that an appliance manufacturer can't do the same when it comes to products that fall under the recall list?

It is reported that there are currently in American homes 195 million major home appliances that have been announced as being defective and possible fire hazards. That number is staggering and most homeowners don't even know they have a defective product in their house. Like the following e-mail I received, they may find out the hard way.

Janis writes: "My friend told me of your recent show and the discussion about refrigerator fires. We have just finished the last of the clean up and painting caused by a Jenn-Aire refrigerator. It was a recall list ... the relay switch was faulty. We woke up at 5 a.m. one morning to find black smoke in the living room and kitchen and family room. Not knowing what the cause was, we immediately called the fire department and they honed in on the refrigerator. It took

I think you would have to hire a guy like Geoffrey Fieger to get a new refrigerator from the manufacture. In 2009 Maytag announced a recall of some 1.9 million of their refrigerators which fall under different brand names, Jenn-Aire being one of them.

four strong firemen to pull it out of the wall and we began to clean. I have been cleaning much more than I thought, as the black soot is so staining. My home insurance has covered the cost of clean up, duct cleaning, wall washing and painting and carpet cleaning. I have been cleaning the interiors of cupboards and contents and the removal and replacing of all the art work etc. for the painters and cleaners. I want a new refrigerator and the Jenn-Aire people told me there was a recall and that is that. Can I get anything from this? I don't know if the refrigerator will survive this breakdown. I would appreciate your opinion, thank you. Janis."

MY REPLY

I think you would have to hire a guy like Geoffrey Fieger to get a new refrigerator from the manufacture. In 2009 Maytag announced a recall of some 1.9 million of their refrigerators which fall under different brand names, Jenn-Aire being one of them. The relay which is connected to the compressor is catching fire and it is possible to ignite the wall behind the refrigerator. In that case it would have been much worse than what you are going through. You might not have sent me this e-mail. The shame of all this is that homeowners across this country

did suffer tragedy from this problem but we will not hear about it. Law suits will go on, Maytag will pay damages and others will suffer the same consequences for years to come. It's as if the manufacturers use the famous line from the movie, "Gone with the Wind." Frankly Janis, I don't give a damn!

Now, if I built an appliance it would be called a GAGNON refrigerator and I know that many homeowners throw away the registration card rather than send it in, so I would invent something as simple as a beeper with a red light the blinks whenever my appliances were to be discovered with a life-threatening safety defect. I would hit a button at the factory which would in effect make every home aware, "We have a problem."

Now, if I was a judge in our country's court system, I would tell an appliance company president that he is responsible for so many fires and so many deaths and so much damage every year that he will spend the next 20 years locked up in prison. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. Saturdays on WAAM 1600 and Sundays at 2 p.m. on WDTK 1400. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to appldr@twm.rr.com.

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

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Email your GOOD NEWS (include a photograph too if that helps to tell your story) to: goodnews@hometownlife.com.

Tell us your story in 150 words or less (attach photos in a jpg format as large as possible and be sure to identify everyone in the photo).

Deadline is the last day of each month.

Kids can mark St. Patty's Day, too

Everyone is a little Irish come St. Patrick's Day, and children are no exception. While kids can't indulge in some of the spirits-induced revelry that accompanies the festivities this holiday, there are many things little ones can do to have a good time on St. Patrick's Day.

Dress in green: Encourage kids to dress and accessorize in all shades of green. For even more flair, they can use face paint to draw shamrocks on their cheeks and hands.

Crafts: From paper four-leaf clovers to homemade lepre-

chaun hats and belt buckles, children can get in the spirit by fashioning crafts that correspond with the theme of the day.

Treasure hunt: Send little leprechauns in search of gold at the end of the rainbow. Like an Easter egg hunt, hide gold-wrapped chocolate coins around the house and set kids off to find the treasure.

Blarney Stone toss: Play a game of "hot potato" to Irish music using a garden rock to serve as the "Blarney Stone." When the music stops, the person holding the stone is

disqualified.

Coin toss: Set up a pot or hat and see how many coins each child can toss into the hat. The one who gets the most in the hat wins.

Freeze dance: Play Irish music and children have to "freeze" when the music is shut off. If someone moves, he or she has to sit out.

Baking specialties: Invite the kids to help bake some delicious treats, such as cupcakes with green frosting or Irish soda bread.

Courtesy of Metro Creative Services



Rescued dogs and their companions await a training session.



Brenda Woody works with rescued dogs on obedience before they are adopted.

Dog rescue planning fundraiser for new building

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

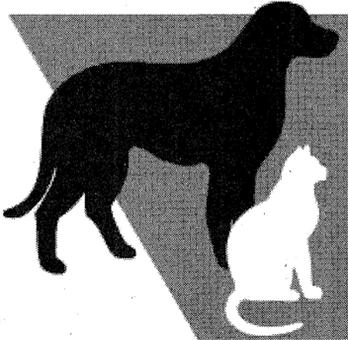
Brenda Woody of Westland runs a dog rescue with a twist — all of her charges take obedience training before they head to their new homes.

Her foster families train with their dogs and anyone who adopts must participate in free classes with Woody's Better Life Canine Center or show proof that they have signed up for training elsewhere.

"The biggest thing we do is training and rehab. We have some strong trainers. They all have different philosophies, but they all work together," said Woody, whose trainers donate their services to the group.

"I try to focus on the dogs that are in front of me and turn them into superstars."

Woody trains some of her rescued dogs at the exercise facility for humans — Better Life Fitness Center in Redford



PET PROJECTS

— that she and her husband own. She also has rented training space at Me and My Shadow, a dog swim and fitness center in Garden City.

"I always have about five or six dogs traveling with me," she said, adding that she also trains dogs at her home.

Next month she'll move obedience sessions into Better Life Canine Center's new location in Livonia. She and her 30-plus volunteers are working to get the building at 36855 Schoolcraft in shape for its first major fundraiser, Push for Paws, from 2-6 p.m. Saturday, March 19. The event, which will raise money for monthly rent, will include a silent auction, raffle, food, DJ, face painting, adoptable dogs, a parade of dogs in costume and more. Supporters also can donate to the nonprofit organization through its Web site at www.betterlifecaninecenter.com

Woody plans to create a

"homey environment" for the group's training and home prep program.

"The atmosphere will be really nice. The building has four bathrooms and two showers. I'd like to have a nice couch and dining room table, a bed and dresser," she said.

NEED FOR SPACE

The new building will enable Woody to concentrate all efforts in one place.

"We're growing by leaps and bounds and my space is limited right now," she said, explaining the need for a new location.

"If someone calls and they've taken a dog of the street, I can't put it into a foster home immediately. I need to evaluate the dog, take it to the vet and then put it in the proper foster home," she said. "For the first 36 hours I keep them with me. I sleep in the living room with them the first two or three days until the dogs becomes peace-

ful and balanced and then we move forward with obedience training."

Strays and relinquished dogs make up most of the group's adoptable canines. Woody offers free training sessions to dog owners who consider giving their furry companions to the group because of behavior problems. She said the obedience sessions avert many of the dog surrenders.

GETTING TRAINED

"We had a call from someone who said their hound dog had bitten their son. We found out it was a nip and the parents admitted the kid was constantly climbing onto the dog and they weren't correcting it. I have a trainer lined up to work with them for free," Woody said. "We have tons of those kinds of situations. People call with fundamental issues and they need guidance."

Woody started rescuing

strays on her own some 15 years ago. She organized the nonprofit organization and recruited volunteers three years ago.

"My husband had a dog when I met him. I had never bonded with a dog before — my family always had country dogs," she said. "I couldn't imagine having a dog in the house. If I saw hair on someone I thought, oh, gross."

"But here I am today, the 'dog woman.' It took me two weeks and I fell in love with that dog. It was a blessing because I had been wrapped too tight before that."

Woody hopes her organization with its emphasis on obedience training, can serve as a role model for other rescues.

"I want to help other rescue groups and get on the same page with this. What we're doing needs to be happening in all cities."

DOGS OF THE WEEK

Janey and Kleaner are two new dogs from Florida offered for adoption by Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption. Janey is a retired racing Greyhound who is learning how to be a companion animal. At her foster family's home she is learning to play with toys and is sleeping on a cozy bed for the first time. She's 4 years old with a brindle coat.

Kleaner is also a retired racer from Florida. He's 2 1/2 years old and has a beautiful blue coat.

If you're interested in adopting Janey or Kleaner, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739 or visit www.greyheart.org.



Kleaner, a retired racer from Florida, is looking for a permanent home.



Janey is learning to be a pet in a family home.

WAYNE STATE'S SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TO PLAY

The Wayne State University Symphony Orchestra will perform at 4 p.m., April 3, at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, located at 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills.

Comprised of undergraduate and graduate students in the orchestral performance and music education programs at the Wayne State University, the WSU Symphony Orchestra is the premier orchestral ensemble in the WSU Department of Music.

This program will showcase some of the gifted winners of the university's 2011 Concerto Competition. It will also feature two favorites of classical music lovers around the world: Tchaikovsky's deeply lyrical Serenade for Strings and the stirring Reformation Symphony of Felix Mendelssohn.

A native of the Island of Crete, Kypros Markou is Professor of Music and Director of Orchestral Studies at Wayne State University, music director of the Dearborn Symphony Orchestra, and, most recently, the founder and conductor of the metropolitan Detroit area's newest chamber music ensemble, the Detroit Camerata. Maestro Markou has con-

ducted orchestras throughout Europe and America, including engagements with the Moravian Philharmonic of the Czech Republic, the National Romanian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Krakow Philharmonic of Poland, the Orquesta Sinfonica de Concepcion in Chile, the Rochester Philharmonic in New York and the Cyprus State Orchestra.

Markou has held conducting posts with the Cyprus Radio Orchestra, the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic, and the Somerset Summer Music Festival in Pennsylvania. He served as director of the University Orchestra at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and as associate conductor of the New England Conservatory Symphony. No tickets are required for this outstanding event. Donations will be collected and used to fund the musicians: recommended minimum: \$10 per person, \$25 per family.

First Presbyterian Church is located at 26165 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills, at the northwest corner of 11 Mile and Farmington Road. Ample free parking is available on site, and the entire facility is barrier free and handicap accessible.

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Livonia Home Improvement Show

New Event!

Come and get great ideas for improving your home!

Saturday, March 26, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Churchill High School
Admission is FREE!

This show will feature a collection of carpenters, electricians, concrete specialists, roofers, landscape designers, and other home improvement experts.

Plus, students from the Livonia Career and Tech Center will provide do-it-yourself project tips.

A few booth spaces remain. For details call the Livonia Chamber, 734.427.2122

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Check out the numbers in today's Sports section



MILESTONES
GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

William C. and Patricia A. (Holcomb) Tank of Westland marked their 50th wedding anniversary March 7. The couple married in 1961 in Farmington.

Their children are Janet of Clare, William of Westland and Patricia, who is deceased.

Their five grandchildren are Michelle, Tracy, Jennie, Scott and Jessica. They also have three great-grandchildren and one on the way.

The couple celebrated their milestone anniversary March 5 at the Salvation Army in Westland.

William and Patricia Tank of Westland on their wedding day in 1961.

LYNN A. HALL

Age 55 of Plymouth, suddenly March 6, 2011. Loving wife of David. Beloved mother of Lisa (Darrin) Burek, Kristina and Amanda. Dear daughter of Janet (Gordon) Hodson and Angelo Calcaterra. Dear sister of David Calcaterra. Dear sister in law of Susan Hall. Dear daughter in law of Bill Hall. Visitation Wednesday 4-9 PM and Thursday 1-9 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W Ann Arbor Road, (btwn Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth. In state Friday 10 AM until the 10:30 AM Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel, 47650 North Territorial, (corner of Beck) Plymouth. Interment St. Hedwig Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Mercy High School, 29300 W Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48336.

To share a memory please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com

FLORENCE E. CLIXBY

Age 93, lifelong resident of Canton, passed away on March 8, 2011. Only child of William and Annie Avery. Retired cafeteria worker for the Wayne School District. Beloved wife of the late Robert T. Loving mother of Judith Cannon. Proud grandmother of James Thomas Cannon, Barbra A. (Brian) Reis and Lydia Hackett. Great-grandmother of Heather and Sarah and their extended families. Preceded in death by her children William Clixby, Thomas Robert Clixby and Patricia Jo Ann Crossmyer and also by her granddaughter Karen Ann Cannon Mosby. Funeral service Friday 10:00am from the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home 280 South Main, Plymouth. Visitation Wednesday and Thursday from 4-8pm. Interment Sheldon Cemetery. Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society or Michigan Humane Society. Share memories at: schrader-howell.com.

LUCILLE B. HULSE (LOU ANN)

Passed away on February 28th, 2011 at the age of 80 years old. She was born on February 3rd, 1931 in St. Clair, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her parents, Minnie and Donald R. Becker and sister, Ruth Virginia Urquhart. She is survived by her husband of nearly 57 years, Walter S. Hulse, Jr., daughters, Catherine A. Thompson (Richard), Sara H. Kehs (Kevin), Ellen H. Permoda (Richard); son, Walter S. Hulse III (Helene); grandchildren, Jennifer L. Kehs, Charles J. Kehs (Jennifer), James M. Kehs, Matthew S. Bomberg, Gregory M. Bomberg, Megan C. Permoda, Amy M. Permoda, Jill F. Permoda, Courtney S. Hulse, Amanda M. Hulse; and great grand daughter, Olivia M. Kehs. Lou Ann attended Western Michigan University and was active in the Delta Zeta Sorority. Early on she worked in retail as an assistant buyer and manager in both Detroit and St. Clair, Michigan. Later, Lou Ann was a homemaker and served on many committees for school functions and events and was also a Girl Scout Leader. Lou Ann served on two Guilds in her church; she was active in both Michigan and Alabama Chapters of PEO; and a Board Member of the Birmingham (Michigan) Town Hall. Lou Ann loved to travel with her husband, Walter. She was very talented at needlepoint and made numerous gifts for everyone. Lou Ann loved to spend time with her 10 grandchildren and entertain family and friends. A family graveside service will be held in June, 2011 in Lansing, Michigan. Those wishing to make a memorial in Lou Ann's honor, the family would like to suggest you make a tribute/memorial donation to the Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org) or The Salvation Army (www.salvationarmyusa.org) in honor of Lucille B. Hulse.

Laura Lee Curtisinger

Age 76. Born March 31, 1934 to Mary and Joseph Trappano. Survived by daughter Karen, son-in-law Paul, daughter-in-law Laura and grandson Dylan. Married to the late Gerald Eugene Curtisinger, had two children, the late Jerry Curtisinger and Karen Curtisinger. Devoted wife, mother and grandmother who always put family first. A vivacious woman with a great sense of humor, extremely independent, feisty and strong. Before leaving work to raise her children, Laura was a bookkeeper at a bank in downtown Detroit. Loved by all who knew her. Visitation will take place on Thursday, March 10, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Higginson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville (734-697-9400). Funeral service will take place on Friday, March 11, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit, Michigan. www.hnhome.com

THOMAS L. FOX SR.

Age 85, of Ellenton, FL passed away Sunday, March 6, 2011. He was born in Akron, OH February 18, 1926 and moved to Birmingham, MI in 1942. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946 aboard a Destroyer Escort in both the Atlantic and Pacific Theatres of War. On October 7, 1944 he married Dorothy Jean Olin of Birmingham. After the Navy he worked for 4 years in the parts department of a Dodge-Plymouth dealer, and then joined the Birmingham Fire Department where he retired in 1982 after 32 years and moved to Ellenton. He was a member of the Ellenton United Methodist Church. Survived by his wife of 66 years Dorothy; two children, Barbara Ann (Chuck) Fleischer of Grand Prairie, TX and Thomas L. (Terry) Fox Jr. of Fenton, Michigan; six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and several nephews and nieces. Visitation is Friday, March 11, 2011 at 9:00am with memorial service to follow at 10:00am. Mansion Memorial Park and Funeral Home, 1400 36th Avenue East, Ellenton. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Sheriff's Youth Ranches, P.O. Box 2000, Boys Ranch, Florida 32064.

DOROTHY M. KOLODZIEJCZAK

Age 85, March 5, 2011. Beloved wife of the late Anthony for 54 years. Loving mother of Anthony (Sharon), Ramona (George) Barnum, Thomas (Sharon), Charles (Donna), Betty (Dennis) Grim, Patrick (Cary), and Michael (Cherie) Kolodziejczak. Cherished grandmother of 24; great-grandmother of 18. Dorothy was preceded in death by her grandson, Jesse. A Funeral Service was held on Tuesday at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Downtown Farmington. www.thayer-rock.com

LORETTA N. KUDEK

March 6, 2011, of Westland, Michigan. Loving Wife of the late Ronald, Sr. Dear Mother of William Cecil Longbeam (Theresa), Loretta Gale Armstrong (George), Lawrence Thomas Longbeam (Patty), & Ronald Steven Kudek, Jr. (Shari), 11 Grandchildren & four great-grandchildren. Visiting Friday 3-9pm. Funeral Services Saturday 10am at Harry J. Will Funeral Home 34567 Michigan Ave. Wayne, Michigan. Contributions to Shriners Hospital Appreciated.

3/13/11 38

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SIDNEY LEPLER

Age 83, of Farmington Hills, MI. Passed away March 9, 2011. Arrangements by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.

VIVIAN MARGARITA LIEDL

Passed away Feb. 18, 2011, at age 87. She was born Sept. 19, 1923, in Detroit, and graduated from Redford High School in 1941. Vivian earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Detroit College of Commerce and Finance at night while working for J.L. Hudson, and worked for Detroit Edison from 1950 to 1984. She was active in her retirement, volunteering at the Village Herb Society at Henry Ford's Greenfield Village, the Redford Suburban League and Kenwood Women's Club. A lifetime learner, Vivian enjoyed visiting museums and local historical sites and dollmaking. She worked tirelessly as a Trustee to build the Redford Township District Library in 2004, served as a board member for 16 years, and was treasurer of the library's Friends group for 25 years. She is survived by her brother Louie Liedl, sister and brother-in-law Barbara and Francis Marta, 14 nieces and nephews and 16 grandnieces and nephews. She will be interred at Roseland Cemetery in Berkley, MI.

THOMAS PATRICK O'ROURKE

Age 75, died peacefully on March 7, 2011, with his family by his side. Visitation will be on Thursday, March 10 from 4-9 p.m. and Friday, March 11 from 2-9 p.m. at Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main Street, Plymouth. Funeral mass will be at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, in Plymouth on Saturday, March 12 at 1:00 p.m.; visitation will begin at 12:30. Thomas was the youngest of six children, born on February 22, 1936 to Mary and James O'Rourke. He was a student at both St. Cecilia School and Catholic Central before graduating from St. Cecilia in 1954. On May 3, 1974, Thomas married his love, Mary Ellen Daly. Together, they were tenderly devoted to their four children. Thomas Patrick, in true Irish form, enjoyed conversation and camaraderie as a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Gaelic League. Thomas is survived by his wife of 36 years, Mary Ellen O'Rourke (Daly); sister, Marge Gilboe; four children and their spouses, Katie and Scott Moore, Molly and Steve Guikema, Tom and Colleen O'Rourke, Erin and Justin Allen; and eight grandchildren, Ella, Aidan, Jack, Megan, Danny, Colleen, Maggie, and James Thomas (due July 2011). He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Mary O'Rourke; brother, James O'Rourke; sisters, Marie O'Rourke, Dorothy Rosso, and Jane Gallagher. Tom's warmth will forever shine on your windowpane. A rainbow is certain to follow this rain. The hand of this great man will always be near you. And fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

JOHN W. MCCUISTON

Died peacefully February 25, 2011, at Fox Run Retirement Living in Novi. He was 92 years old. Mr. McCuiston was born October 9, 1918, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to Minnie (nee Hermany) and Edward McCuiston. Mr. McCuiston served proudly as a Major in the United States Marine Corps during the Second World War. In 1981, he retired from Bethlehem Steel Corporation, where he had spent 41 years in the Detroit sales office. In his last 20 years with Bethlehem Steel, he served as the District Manager of sales. Mr. McCuiston was a member of Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills and a life member of Orchard Lake Country Club. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend, he was deeply loved and will be sorely missed. Mr. McCuiston is survived by his wife, Barbara, his sons, Douglas (Sally) McCuiston and Bob (Nadine) O'Brien, his grandchildren, Chris (Jenny) McCuiston, Andrew McCuiston, Patrick McCuiston, Elizabeth (Byron) Busath, Erin O'Brien, and Sean (Diane) O'Brien, and seven great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Helen (nee Hursh) McCuiston, his second wife, Elizabeth O'Brien McCuiston, and his son, John W. McCuiston, Jr. A Memorial Service was held at Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills. Mr. McCuiston's cremated remains are interred at the American Heart Association, 3816 Payscale Circle, Chicago, Illinois 60674.

WILLIAM R. SAUTER

Age 86, of Livonia and North Ft. Myers Florida; passed away on March 6, 2011. Survived by his wife Dorothy and daughter Marilyn (Gregory) Baroni; grandchildren Dawn (Scott) Lehman, Craig (Kathy) Crawford, Jr., Amy (David) Murray; great-grandchildren Serena, C.J., Alexis, Kacey; brothers and sisters James (Jo) Sauter, Helen (Don) Frasier, Elizabeth (Jim) Gunning along with many nieces and nephews. William was preceded in death by his sister Lucille (Carle) Palmer and brother Russell (Joanne) Sauter. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be directed to Angela Hospice, c/o memorial donations, 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48154 or American Cancer Society, c/o Memorial Department, 20450 Civic Center, Southfield, MI 48076. Arrangements entrusted to: Pixley Funeral Home Godhardt-Tomlinson Chapel, Keego Harbor (248) 682-0200

DOROTHY I. SAVAGE

Age 84, March 9, 2011; longtime resident of Farmington; and retiree from the City of Farmington Hills. Beloved wife of the late Robert (d.1989). Loving mother of Sandi (Chuck) Dodson, Terry, Steve (Valinda), Kevin (Cherie) and Thomas (Peggy). Cherished grandmother of ten grand and nine great-grandchildren. Dear sister of Ruth Dennen. Funeral Mass Monday, March 14th, 10AM (in state at 9:30AM) at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 23615 Power Rd., Farmington. Visitation Sunday 2-8PM at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home, 23720 Farmington Rd., (btwn. 9-10 Mile Rds., just N of Grand River), downtown Farmington, 248-474-5200. Memorial tributes suggested to the Salvation Army or the American Heart Association. heeney-sundquist.com

THOMAS PATRICK O'ROURKE

JOSEPH W. WILLIS, Jr.

Age 90. March 6, 2011. Preceded in death by his beloved wife of 61 years, Louise Willis and his dear son, Joey Willis. Survived by loving daughter Cheryl (Sherry) and Ron Williams. Dearest grandfather of Joe "Buddy" Williams (fiancée Gerri McGow) and Cristin Williams (fiancée Steve Gnagey). Dear brother-in-law of Peggy Smith and Vera Weaver. Dear uncle to several nieces and nephews and great uncle of many. Dearest friend of co-caregiver Mike Camilleri. He was owner of C&J Fasteners for 35 years. Also he was a lifetime member of Lola Valley Lodge #583 and lifetime member of Eastern Star Kindness Chapter #523. He enjoyed magic, playing cards and collecting many, many things including Santa Clauses and playing cards. Donations may be made to Angela Hospice. Funeral Services were held Wednesday at the Neely-Turowski Funeral Home 30200 Five Mile Rd. Interment Grand Lawn Cemetery. www.neely-turowski.com

JANET I. CHAPIN

May 20, 1945 to Mar. 11, 2009

Within my book of memories are special thoughts of you, and all the many nice things you so often say and do, and as I turn the pages and recall each single thought I realize all the happiness that knowing you has brought. When I recall these memories as I go along life's way, I find they grow more precious still with every passing day!

I will Love You Forever! Bruce

BRIAN HINZMAN

Mar. 16, 1981-July 27, 2007
Happy 30th Birthday

We wish we were celebrating your birthday with a surprise party, but we only have our memories now. You are forever in our hearts.

Love, Your family and friends

In Memory Of

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU: AVOID WEDDING NIGHTMARES

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) suggests that brides, who spend months and thousands of dollars planning for that perfect wedding, read contracts carefully and check vendors for complaints.

"We receive complaints regularly about wedding misadventures, from the brides dress being ruined by a dirty limo to not receiving photos of that special day," stated Patrick Bennett, Better Business Bureau director of community relations.

Unfortunately, complaints about bridal vendors are all too common. Last year, more than 300 complaints were filed with the BBB about bridal shops, wedding photographers, wedding planners and other suppliers. That doesn't count the 108 complaints about disc jockeys, banquet facilities and transportation companies.

The organization cautions couples to beware of one-day specials, discounts for advance payment and hidden costs as they meet potential vendors. It advises them to read contracts and ask questions before signing anything. Be wary of vendors that ask for most of the fees in advance. Ask about refund policies.

Some common problems: Extra fees: Some caterers, hotels or reception venues try to charge extra for "plate splitting," "cake-cutting" or "corkage" fees, especially if you bring in a cake or liquor purchased from another source. Ask whether any fees apply beyond the cost per person, gratuities or room rental, if applicable. Find out whether there are extra charges for champagne toasts, special linens, chair covers, a raised head table or display stand for the cake.

Dresses that don't measure up: Brides have complained to the BBB about bridal shops ordering the wrong sizes and colors of gowns as well as dresses that arrive too late for timely alterations. Others complain that stores cut designers' labels out of sample gowns to make it difficult for brides to comparison shop, an unfair and deceptive practice. Make sure your order specifies new merchandise, sized to fit you and your bridesmaids. Call the shop to remind the staff of your schedule if you don't take or the promised time.

Wedding transportation problems: Complaints about limousine service include poor customer service and rigid cancellation policies. Don't rely on brochures when you hire a limo company. Ask whether the company actually owns the vehicle you want. Get details in writing. Ask how the company handles problems if you aren't satisfied and what they will charge if you need the vehicle longer on your wedding night. Don't pay the entire amount in advance.

Musician switch: Brides shouldn't rely on a web site, demo tape or phone conversation when hiring a band or other music service. Find out where you can hear the musicians play before you hire them. Ask who will actually perform at the reception and get a written commitment from the band or musician, including the amount of time they will play and what it will cost to extend the time the night of the event.

Photographer issues: Find out when and how pictures will be delivered, whether you will have the option of getting all the images on a DVD or CD, how much time you will have to choose the pictures and whether other members of your family or wedding party will have access to the pictures.

Floral changes: Fresh flowers are a perishable commodity and the final bouquet or arrangements may need to change depending on what's available on the wedding day. Make sure you spell out a minimum size or number of stems in each bouquet or arrangement. Ask how the florist will handle any last-minute substitutions and charges, especially if the value of the flowers actually used is markedly different from what you had agreed upon.

For more information or a report on an individual business, go to www.bbb.org or call (248) 223-9400.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shamrock Shuffle

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 16

Location: Activities building at 31530 Beechwood, off Merriman and north of Ford, Garden City

Details: The annual Shamrock Shuffle card party costs \$8 and includes dessert, coffee blarney bags, table and door prizes. Hot dogs, sloppy joes, submarine sandwiches and Maurice salads will be available for purchase. Tickets are available at the Parish Center.

Contact: For more information, call (734) 427-1533.

Mardi Gras Party

Time/Date: 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. Friday, March 18

Location: Wayne Community Center, 4635 Howe at Annapolis in Wayne

Details: The Wayne Chamber of Commerce is presenting a Mardi Gras party, featuring Cool2Duel Dueling Piano Show. The doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. and goes to midnight. General admission is \$15 per ticket or get a group of friends together for a table of 10 for \$120. There will be food for purchase and a cash bar for adults age 21 and over. Limit is 40 Tables - 400 people.

Contact: For tickets, call the Wayne Chamber at (734) 721-0100.

Acting auditions

Time/Date: March 26, April 16 and 30 and May 14

Location: Fair Haven Assembly, 876 Beech Daly, north of Cherry Hill, Dearborn Heights

Details: Fair Haven Assembly in Dearborn Heights will be hosting an acting competition for anyone 18 to 27 years old. The auditions begin on March 26 and will be limited to 200 contestants. The best 48 will advance to judging on April 16, followed by the top 16 on April 30 and ends on May 14 with eight finalists. Prizes include a "behind-the-scenes" tour of the three Masonic Temple theaters, paid acting roles for finalists, and a cash bonus for the winner. There is a \$30 participation fee that is used for the costs of the competition and for the donation to help Convoy of Hope. The deadline to apply is March 19, and only the first 200 people get to compete.

Contact: For more information, go to fairhavenag.org/, click on "News/Events" on the left side, and then scroll down and click on "GIGA 2011 Competition" near the bottom or by e-mail at info@communications4you.com.

Book Talk

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 15

Location: Madonna University Library, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia

Details: Author John Gallagher discusses his book, "Reimagining Detroit: Opportunities for Redefining an American City." Program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Contact: For information, call (734) 432-5703.

Widowed Women

Date: Monday, March 14, 21 and 28

Location: Toast Restaurant, 28340 Ford Road, just west of Inkster Road in Garden City

Details: All widowed women are invited to come to a Widowed Friends on Mondays in March at the Toast Restaurant to establish friendships, plan activities, share ideas and discuss what is offered.

Contact: Reservations are requested for each week you plan on attending.

Contact: Laura at (734) 992-8238

Play auditions

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, March 14-15

Location: Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main St., Plymouth

Details: The plot of "Lips Together, Teeth Apart" revolves around a gay community in Fire Island and two straight couples who through monologues unheard by others, reveal a desperate sense of individual isolation. The play is a blend of searing drama and poignant comedy. It's directed by Craig A. Hane.

Contact: Call (734) 582-9688 or visit the website at www.justgobarefoot.com.

Healing Weekend

Time/Date: Friday-Sunday, March 11-13

Details: A Beginning Experience, a healing weekend for widowed, separated and divorced adults who wish to let go of the past and create a peace-filled future is being offered by trained teams of people who have "been there." All faiths are welcome.

Contact: For details call Laura at (586) 247-5032 or go online to www.beginningexperience.org.

Crafters wanted

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

Location: St. Damian Parish, 29891 Joy, Westland

Details: St. Damian Parish is looking for crafters for its Spring Craft show. Cost is \$25 per table.

Contact: Call (734) 421-6130 or send an e-mail to cjnelius@att.net for more details.

American Legion

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

Location: Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: American Legion Westland Post 251 meets at the VFW hall the first Tuesday of each month. The post welcomes all veterans male and female who have been honorably discharged.

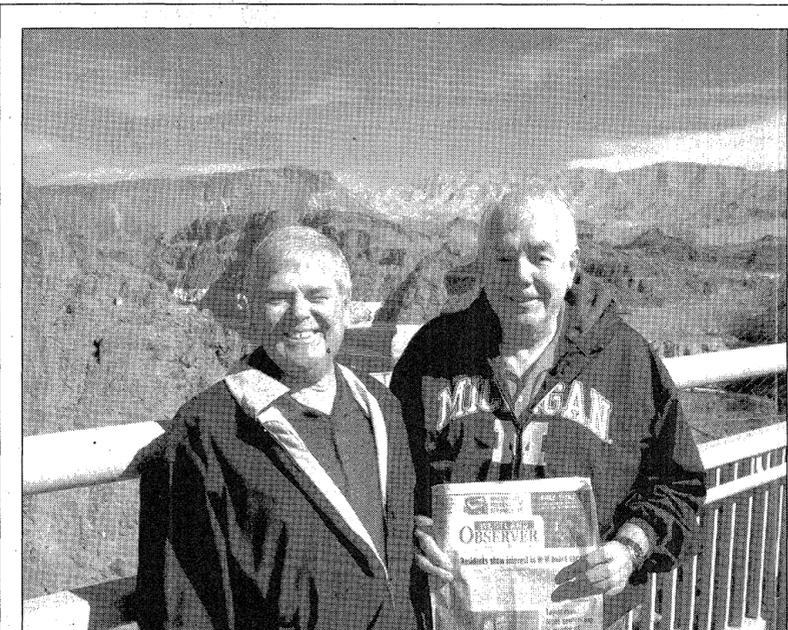
Contact: Bill Acton at (734) 326-2607, Ron Nickels at (734) 455-3415 or visit the website at www.post251.com or www.post251.org.

Angela Hospice

Time/Date: 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24

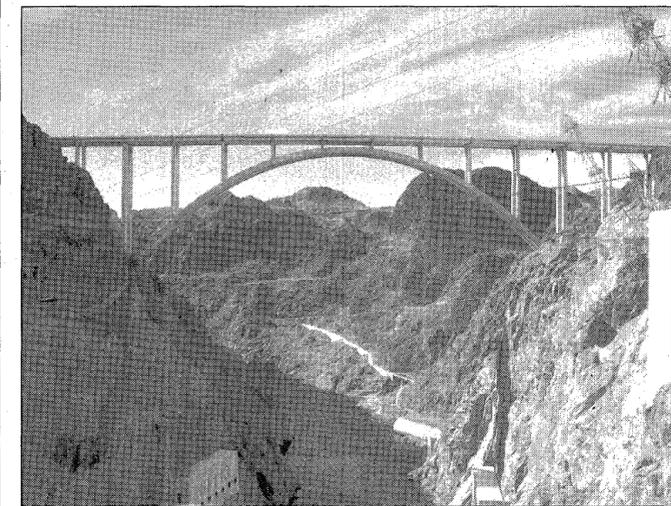
Location: Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia

Details: Designer purses full of gift certificates, donated by Emmy-winning actress Mariska Hargitay, star of "Law and Order: SVU," NBC's "The Today Show" co-host Kathie Lee Gifford, popular WDIV-TV Channel 4 news anchor Carmen Harlan and WOMC 104.3 FM's "Sunday Brunch"



Wish You Were Here

Dick Clark (left) and "Corky" Hays made sure they had their Observer with them on a trip to Las Vegas in February. The two men took a side trip to the Hoover Dam and posed on the newly opened (fall of 2010) Hoover Dam Bypass bridge to say "Wish you were here." The bridge is just up river from the dam and is one of the longest - 1,900-foot span - and highest - 890 feet above the river - concrete arch bridges in the Western Hemisphere and the 14th tallest bridge in the world. The bridge was named after "Mike" O'Callaghan and Pat Tillman and "everyone should Google their remarkable stories," according to Patt Hartford. "The views from both the dam and the bridge were absolutely breathtaking," Hartford said, adding that "while showing off the Observer Newspaper, we actually ran into people from our area that recognized the newspaper!" The weather was perfect and a good time was had by all. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason as a jpg at smason@hometownlife.com or by mail to her attention at 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.



The bridge at the Hoover Dam is named after "Mike" O'Callaghan and Pat Tillman.

host Stacey DuFord will be raffled off during Angela Hospice's fourth annual women's event, "Laughter Lifts You Up!" Guests will enjoy a gourmet meal with dessert and a wine, beer and soda bar. A fashion show of designer purses will entertain guests before the night's main act, comedian Debi Gutierrez. All proceeds from the event benefit grief support and counseling programs offered by Angela Hospice, free to the community for all ages. Reservations are \$45 per person and are available through March 21 or until sold out. Tickets for purse raffle also can be purchased. Winners need not be present to win.

Contact: Call Contact Barb Iovan at (734) 953-6045 or by e-mail at biovan@angelahospice.net.

Fish fry

Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. every Friday

Location: Monaghan Knights of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Road, between Seven and Eight Mile roads, Livonia

Details: Dinners cost \$8.95 per person.

Contact: For details and reservations, call (248) 476-8383.

Juried Craft Show

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 9

Location: Eton Senior Center, 4900 Pardee, Dearborn Heights

Details: Vendors can visit the Eton Senior Citizen Center to pick up an application for the crafts show between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Application deadline is March 4. The show will feature jewelry, edibles, art wear, wood, personalized items, paper and glass. Food will be available for purchase and there will be a raffle. The show benefits the Dearborn Heights Senior Citizen Program.

Contact: For more information, call (313) 277-7765.

Fish Dial-A-Ride

Details: Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is seeking volunteer drivers and phone messengers.

Volunteer drivers, using their own

vehicles, designate days, times, and areas they are willing to drive. Volunteer phone messengers arrange client rides with our volunteer drivers one day each week from the comfort of their home. Fish Dial-A-Ride of Western Wayne County is a not-for-profit community service that provides free door-to-door rides to non-emergency medical and other necessary appointments for senior and disabled residents of Garden City, Livonia, and Westland who are unable to drive and have no alternative transportation.

Contact: For more information, call (888) 660-2007 and leave a message.

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

VOLUNTEERS

First Step

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

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

Drivers Needed

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

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

VNA Hospice

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

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

Seasons Hospice

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

Contact: (800) 370-8592

Literacy Council

Details: The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area.

Contact: (734) 416-4906

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

Contact: (888) 973-1145



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AROUND WESTLAND

Food commodities

The City of Westland has established the day, times and locations that residents may obtain surplus federal food for the month of March.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey Road, south of Palmer.

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

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

For the month of March, apple juice, applesauce, frozen beef roast, black-eyed beans, mashed potatoes, shredded mozzarella cheese, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti pasta and possible additional items will be distributed. For more information, please call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Dinner-theater

Inspire Theatre will be serving up a heaping helping of Elvis when it presents Graceland, dinner-theatre musical tribute to the King of Rock 'N' Roll, Saturday, April 2.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for the one-night-only event. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and includes "C.C. Rider" chicken or "Tupelo" tilapia, "Roustabout" rice, "Viva Las Vegas" vegetables, "Suspicious Minds" salad, an "American Trilogy" of beverages and "Graceland" cake.

Tickets are \$25 for the dinner and show, which will be presented at the theater inside Warren Road Light and Life Church, 33445 Warren Road, east of Wayne Road, Westland.

Tickets are available by calling (734) 751-7057 or online at www.inspirationtheatre.com.

Lenten Fish Fries

The Men's Auxiliary of the Romanowski VFW Post 6866 is holding fish fries on Fridays during Lent.

Hours are 4-7 p.m. Dinners cost \$7 each and include fish (baked or fried), potato (fries or baked) or macaroni and cheese, homemade coleslaw and bread and butter. There will be a cash bar with beverages. Carry-outs also will be available.

The post is at 28945 Joy Road, east of Middlebelt, Westland.

• St. Saint Damian Parish in Westland is holding Lenten fish fry on Fridays now through April 15.

Church members will be serving fish dinners 5-7 p.m. Fridays, March 11, 18 and 25 and April 1, 8 and 15. There will be no fish fry Good Friday, April 22.

A one-piece fish dinner is \$4.50, two pieces for \$6 and three pieces for \$7. Baked fish or shrimp (five pieces) din-

ners cost \$7, with a pierogi (five pieces) dinner costing \$6. Dinners include fries, tartar sauce, coleslaw, roll and drink. Side orders include macaroni and cheese, \$2.50, and fries, \$2; desserts also are available.

St. Damian Parish is at 30055 Joy Road, east of Merriman.

St. Pat's Feast

Maxwell's Arts and Treasures will be the site of a St. Patrick's Day feast Thursday, March 17, presented by the local Plymouth-Westland Grange.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the family event that includes entertainment and a dinner of corn beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes and cole slaw.

Tickets purchased before March 11 are \$10 for adults and \$4.50 for children. After March 12, they will be priced at \$12 and \$6.50. Preregistration is encouraged because of limited seating. Call (734) 427-5300, Ext. 7, or (734) 722-7620 for more information.

Maxwell's is at 32416 Industrial Dr., north of Ford, Garden City.

Metro Fibro Group

The Metro Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group will meet 1-3 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, south of Ford Road, Garden City.

The guest speaker will be Ronda Violi, a registered nurse and a life, business, and retreat coach. Because of her experience as a nurse and having chronic pain for 10 years while in her 20s, she understands the importance of taking good care of yourself when you have a chronic illness.

The group also is hosting a seminar/workshop 1-5 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at the church. Dr. Howard Schubiner from Providence Hospital, and author of Unlearn Your Pain, and Dr. James Dowd, rheumatologist, and author of The Viramin D Cure, will be the speakers.

The seminar/workshop costs \$40 per person.

The group has no dues but donations are accepted and appreciated. For more information, visit the website at www.MetroFibroGroup.com or call Ruthann at (734) 981-2519.

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, March 18. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

The center also has pinocle and bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and pinocle is played at 1 p.m. Fridays.

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

Glow skate

Enjoy some glow-in-the-dark fun at Westland's Mike Modano Ice Arena 8-9:20 p.m. for Friday Glow Skate. The cost is \$3 for kids and \$4 for adults. Skate rental is \$3.

The arena also offers open skating 1:30-3:20 p.m. Saturdays. The cost is \$4 for kids, \$5 for adults and \$3 for skate rentals.

The arena is at Wildwood

and Hunter, east of Wayne Road. For more information about ice arena programs, call (734) 729-4560.

AARP Tax Preparation

The Westland Friendship Center is now taking appointments for anyone in the community who wishes to have their taxes prepared free of charge. The center is an E-file site only. Appointments are necessary.

Generally, the tax return service offered through AARP is for simple returns. Those individuals with lengthy returns, many rental properties or investments are encouraged to have a CPA or professional firm complete their returns. There is no age or income requirement. The site manager has discretion over what returns they are willing and able to complete.

Taxes this year will be done on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Call for an appointment. Unfortunately, the preparers are only on site during the day the center offers the service so any tax question regarding a return must be taken by a staff person, and returned by a preparer at their convenience.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call (734) 722-7628.

Weatherization help

Weatherization Assistance is a home energy conservation program providing services to low-income residents. Families receiving weatherization services can expect heating costs to be reduced 20-25 percent, amounting to about \$300 saving per year.

Eligible projects include such things as floor insulation, storm windows, window repair/replacement, programmable thermostat, furnace and duct repair or replacement and roof repairs.

Wayne-Metropolitan Community Action Agency manages the Weatherization Program for Wayne County, including the city of Westland. Contact Jeff Boyd, weatherization director, at (734) 284-6999.

Lions Club

The Westland Lions Club meets at 11:45 a.m. the second Monday of the month and at 6:15 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month at Logan's Roadhouse on Ford in Canton. For more information, call Debbie Dayton at (734) 721-4216.

American Legion

The American Legion, Westland Post 251, meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. All veterans, male and female with an honorable discharge are welcome to join. Visit the post Web site at www.post251.org or call (734) 326-2607 for more information.

CFL bulb recycling

Westland residents can recycle CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Bulbs) or other fluorescent bulbs for free at Home Depot at 39875 Ford, east of I-275, and IKEA at 41640 Ford, west of I-275. For more information, call Home Depot at (734) 844-7300 and IKEA at (734) 981-6300.

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Story time

The Garden City Public Library is currently accepting registration for its spring installment of Preschool Story Time.

"Let's Get Buggy" will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesdays, March 23 through April 27, in Room 3 for the Maplewood Center. The story time is free of charge and is for preschoolers ages 3-5.

Sign up at the library or call (734) 793-1830 to reserve your spot.

Free classes

The Garden City Public Schools is offering free Community Education Leisure classes Monday, March 21, to Monday, March 28, at Cambridge High School, 28901 Cambridge, east of Middlebelt.

For more information on the free program and to register for classes, call Cambridge High School at (734) 762-8430.

Do the shuffle

The annual St. Raphael Shamrock Shuffle card party will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, in the church activities building on Merriman, two blocks north of Ford in Garden City.

The \$8 admission ticket includes dessert, coffee, blarney bags, table and door prizes. Hot dogs, sloppy joes, submarine sandwiches and Maurice salads will be available for purchase. Tickets are available at the Parish Center.

St. Raphael is at 31530 Beechwood, off Merriman and north of Ford. For more information, call (734) 427-1533.

Metro Fibro Group

The Metro Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group is hosting a seminar/workshop 1-5 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at the church. Dr. Howard Schubiner from Providence Hospital, and author of Unlearn Your Pain, and Dr. James Dowd, rheumatologist, and author of The Viramin D Cure, will be the speakers.

The seminar/workshop costs \$40 per person.

The group has no dues but donations are accepted and appreciated. For more information, visit the website at www.MetroFibroGroup.com or call Ruthann at (734) 981-2519.

Open house

Garden City Co-Op Preschool is holding an open house 6-7 p.m. Monday, April 11, at the preschool, housed in the Garden City Presbyterian Church at 1841 Middlebelt, south of Ford.

Parents can bring their children to meet the teacher and see what will be offered for the 2011-2012 school year.

Preschool enrollment

Garden City Preschool is currently taking names for its mailing list for fall 2011.

Registration for the four-year-olds begins Wednesday, March 30, at Lathers Early Childhood and Kindergarten Center, 28351 Marquette at Harrison, Garden City. Registration for the three-year-olds begins Wednesday, April 6.

Contact Jeannine at (734) 762-8550 for more information. Non-residents welcome.

Breaking the Boundaries

Tickets and table space is available for the West Suburban Area Council of Chambers' annual Breaking the Boundaries business expo 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 24, at Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft, west of Inkster Road, Livonia.

The event brings together business professionals from the Canton, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Greater Farmington Chamber, Lakes Area, Livonia, Plymouth, Redford, Southern Wayne County Chamber of Commerce for the expo. There will be a speaker at 5 p.m. talking about "How to Work the Room" followed by the expo 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Space for the expo is limited. A full table costs \$50, a half table \$25. Space is limited available on a first come, first serve basis. Appetizers and a cash bar will be provided. Cost is \$10 per person and a reservation is a must.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call the Garden City Chamber of Commerce at (734) 422-4448.

Get flocked

Garden City High School's Project Graduation 2011 wants to make folks feel special by having their "cheerful flamingos" pay a visit have come to pay. They will typically stay only a few days, but they have been known to take flight early and land on a lawn of your choice for a small fee of \$15, which is less than what that special someone paid to flock you.

It's a chance to return the Flamingo Flocking Favor.

Optional Flocking Insurance is available to protect you from any future flockings. The policy amount is \$15 and good for the 2010-11 school year.

A word to the wise: Sometimes the flamingos have nothing to do and get bored, so, without notice they will take off for some random flocking. Again, the flamingos will only stay a few days, but when they act like that it's unclear how much fun they are having or how long they will stay.

You can insure a timely departure with a donation to Project Graduation. All Flocking Funds go to Support Garden City High School Project Graduation. Give PG's Flocking Specialists a call at (734) 612-5274 or (734) 904-3643 or send an e-mail to gardencityprojectgrad@yahoo.com.

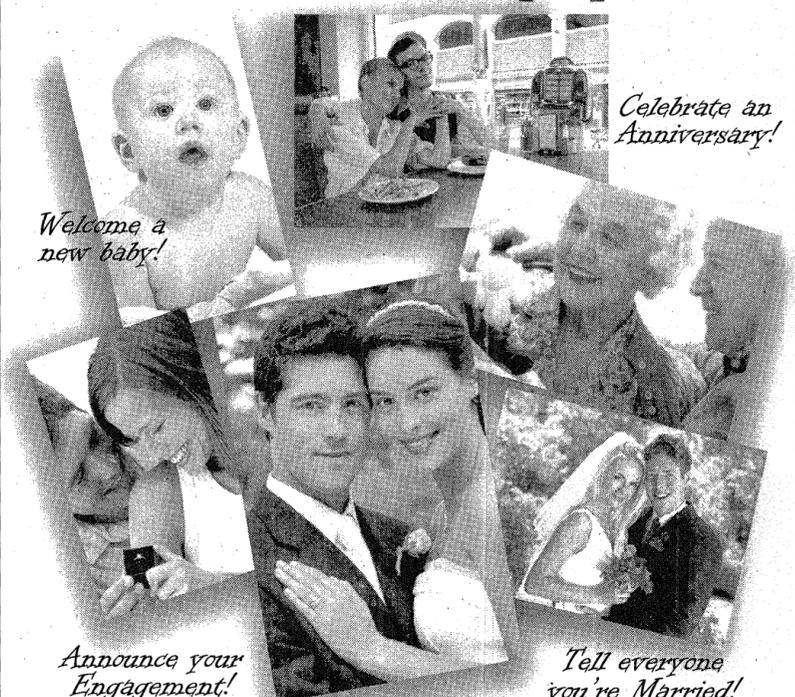
Museum fund-raising

The Friends of the Museum are continuing their fund-raising efforts, selling engraved brick pavers and renting the Grande Parlor 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.

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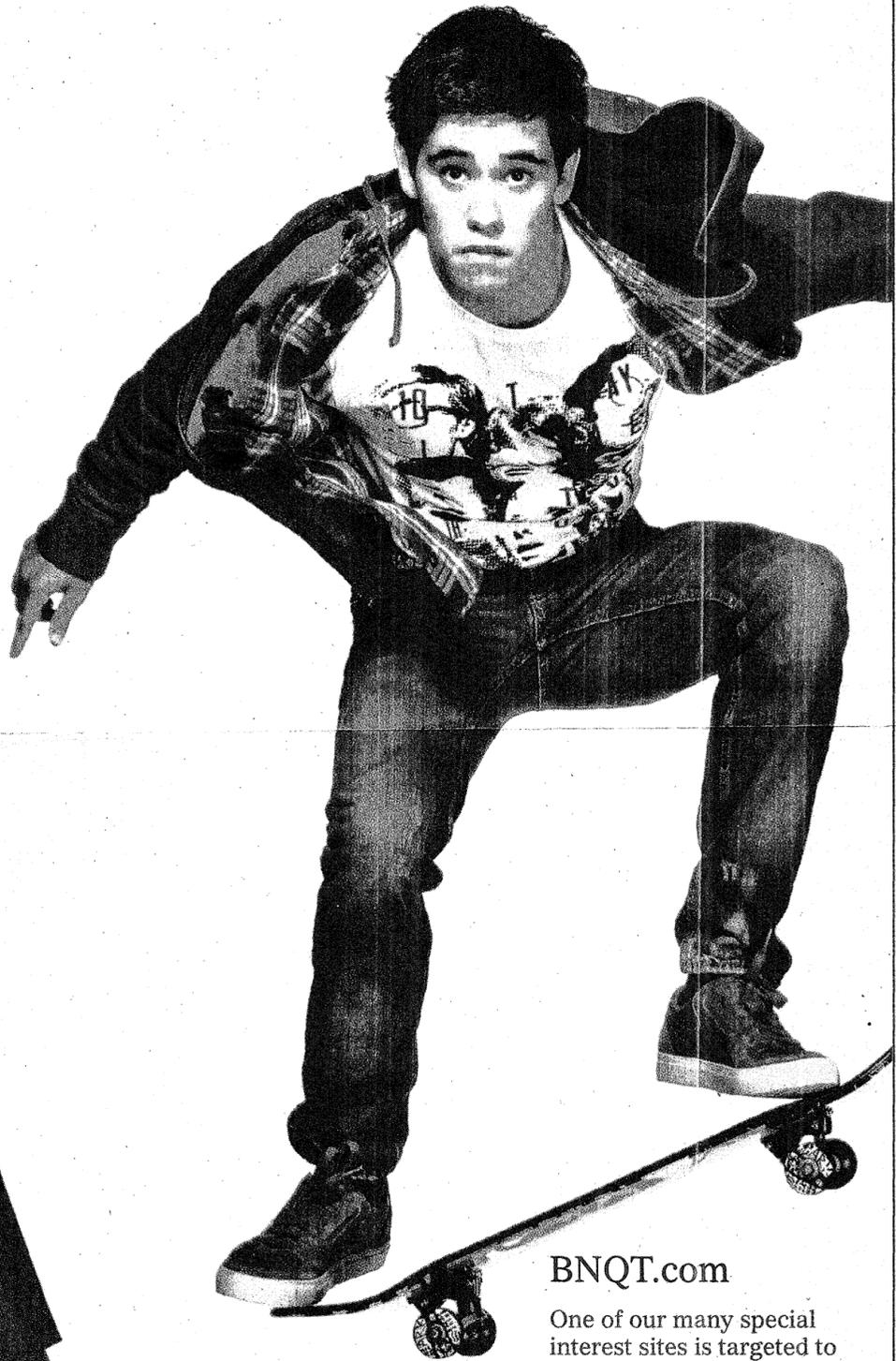
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HEALTH

Sunday, March 13, 2011

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Comment online at hometownlife.com

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

MARCH

Training classes

The American Red Cross is offering nurse assistant, home health aide and patient care tech training classes at multiple classroom sites including 20319 Middlebelt, Livonia. For more information, as well as class dates and times, call the American Red Cross at (313) 576-4130 or (313) 576-4120.

St. Mary Mercy

St. Mary Mercy Hospital offers these programs in March:

- Donate blood from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 17, in the auditorium. The hospital's 2011 blood drive theme is "Be an All Star and Donate Blood." Five blood drives will be held over the year. March's theme is, "College Basketball." Donors will receive a basketball-themed digital clock. To schedule an appointment call (800) GIVE-LIFE or visit redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are preferred.
- The Marian Women's Center at St. Mary Mercy Hospital will offer a Sibling Tour, 10-11:30 a.m., Saturday, March 19. Good sibling preparation can minimize a child's feelings of anxiety and jealousy with the coming of a new baby. Aimed at children, 1-13. There is a \$10 fee per family. Pre-registration is required. Call (734) 655-1162.
- A prenatal breastfeeding class runs 7-9 p.m. March 24 in Classrooms 1 and 2 at the hospital. The class is designed for expectant mothers between the seventh and eighth month of pregnancy. The class will focus on the benefits of breastfeeding for infant, mother, and family. Cost is \$25 per couple. Call (734) 655-1162 or register online at stmmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."
- A class in CPR runs 6-9 p.m. March 29 in the Community Outreach Department, Classroom 10. The class is being offered through a partnership with the American Heart Association. Instructors will train participants using the American Heart Association's "Friends & Family CPR" course. They'll learn CPR and choking techniques for infants, children, and adults. There is a fee. Call the Community Outreach Department at (734) 655-8950 to register.

The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

Diabetes Caregiver Class

Grandparents, school personnel, baby sitters, stepparents, and others interested in learning about how to care for a child with diabetes will learn about insulin pens, syringes, calculating insulin doses, nutrition, exercise and other topics in this class, 1:30-4:30 p.m. March 21, at the University of Michigan Medical Center Auditorium, 1500 E. Medical Center Drive, Ann Arbor. The class will be an interactive and educational session with plenty of time to practice and time to ask questions. The cost is \$18 per person and covers the handouts that will be given at class, the cost of parking, and light refreshments. Register by calling (734) 764-5175.

APRIL

Bariatric surgery

The Michigan Bariatric Institute presents an educational seminar 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 7 at St. Mary Mercy Livonia, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Dr. Tallaf Zeni, director of Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgery, and Dr. Jacob Roberts, a bariatric surgeon, will make presentations. For more information, call the Michigan Bariatric Institute at (877) WHY WEIGHT.

Teens and drugs

"Teens Using Drugs: What To Know and What To Do," a free, ongoing, two-part workshop series, will be presented in two parts next month in the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. Part one, "What To Know," runs 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday April 5. It will provide information on understanding

and recognizing teen substance abuse problems. Part two, "What To Do," runs 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesday April 12. It will provide information on what should and should not be done when a teen substance abuse problem is suspected or identified, and will include a recovering teen speaker. The programs are free and open to the public. (734) 973-7892; www.teensusingdrugs.org

ONGOING

Aquatic classes

The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the Arthritis Foundation have partnered to offer aquatic classes designed to ease the pain of arthritis. Classes are held 10-11 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday at the Farmington branch; 1:45 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at the Livonia branch; and 2-3 p.m. Wednesday and Friday, at the Birmingham branch. All classes are offered to members and nonmembers of every age and participants do not need to know how to swim to participate. To join, interested individuals can contact their local YMCA branch or visit www.ymcadetroit.org.

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.

Bipolar support

Depression Bipolar Support Alliance meets 6:30-8 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday at Lincoln Behavioral Services Center, 14500 Sheldon Road, Suite 160B, Plymouth. It is accessed through the Plymouth Executive Park driveway north of M-14. It is a self-help group for people suffering from depression and bipolar disorders. Meetings are open also to family members. All DBSA leaders are professionally trained and attend two trainings for every year to update their skills in leading the group. Call Nancy at (734) 536-3457 or Katrina (734) 837-7700 with questions.

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 groups

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.

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.

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.

Hospital offers less invasive surgery for the esophagus

Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak is one of only a few hospitals in the United States performing total minimally invasive esophagectomy to treat esophageal cancer and various benign and pre-cancerous disorders of the esophagus.

A total minimally invasive esophagectomy is a procedure performed entirely through 1-centimeter incisions in the upper abdomen and chest. A long, thin camera is inserted, and the surgeon, operating with the aid of a video screen, uses specialized instruments to remove the diseased esophagus and bring the stomach into the chest, to replace the removed section of the esophagus.

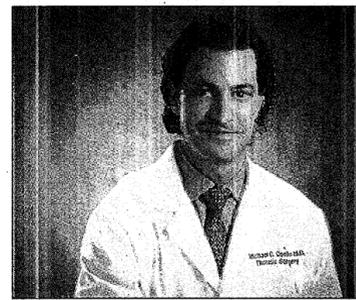
This less invasive approach offers many advantages. Smaller incisions minimize post-operative problems with pain, swallowing and pneumonia. Complication rates and recovery time are reduced compared to standard techniques involving a series of large incisions in the abdomen, chest and neck.

Dr. Michael Coello, co-director of Beaumont's Center for Reflux and Esophageal Cancer Prevention and assistant

professor of surgery at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, is one of four highly specialized thoracic surgeons at Beaumont, Royal Oak trained to perform total minimally invasive esophagectomy.

"Our goal is to perform not only a good, sound operation for cancer, but also to do it in a way that is easier on the patient with less pain and a quicker recovery. We hope to improve survival for people diagnosed with esophageal cancer by reducing complication rates and recovery time, and allowing patients to better tolerate aggressive multimodality therapy - a combination of surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy," Coello stated.

The esophagus has the fastest growing incidence rate of all cancers in the western hemisphere. Gastroesophageal reflux disease, or GERD, which is becoming more prevalent in the United States, is a major risk factor for the development of esophageal adenocarcinoma, a particular type of cancer that has increased 350 percent in recent years. According to the American Cancer Society,



Coello

esophageal cancer accounted for 16,640 new cases and 14,500 deaths in 2010.

Beaumont's comprehensive cancer program combines the expertise of Beaumont Hospitals with the knowledge and experience of physicians in the Beaumont Oncology Network, the largest group of oncology specialists in the state. The Beaumont Cancer Institute is one of only 47 Community Clinical Oncology Programs in the country designated by the National Cancer Institute to provide patients with access to leading-edge cancer clinical research trials.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Beaumont's Physician Referral Service at (800) 633-7377.

Four different tests screen for colon cancer

The thought of colon cancer screening makes most people feel uneasy and embarrassed, but experts at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center say choosing to ignore it could cost you your life.

More than 140,000 Americans will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer in 2011 and more than 49,000 will die from the disease, according to the American Cancer Society.

Routine colon cancer screening can save your life.

March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month, but raising awareness of the disease and the importance of life-saving screenings is a yearlong effort for Dr. D. Kim Turgeon, associate professor of internal medicine at the University of Michigan Medical School.

"We could prevent more than 90 percent of colon cancers if everyone had a colonoscopy," says Turgeon. "The thought of a colonoscopy makes people uncomfortable, but it really shouldn't. There are a variety of tests and preparations available to be able to individualize colonic screening to each person's needs. What's most important is to be screened."

Colorectal cancer is the second

leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States, but a screening can identify colorectal cancers earlier, when the disease is easier to cure. In many cases, a screening can prevent the disease because doctors can find and remove polyps before they develop into cancer.

Screening for colon cancer should begin at age 50 for people of average risk. Those with certain risk factors, such as a family history of colon cancer or a personal history of inflammatory bowel disease, may need to begin screening earlier and should talk with their doctor.

Screening guidelines from the American Cancer Society include

four different tests that find polyps and cancer:

- Flexible sigmoidoscopy: A flexible, lighted instrument is used to examine the rectum and the lower third of the colon

- Colonoscopy: Considered the gold standard, in which a longer, flexible and lighted instrument is inserted into the rectum and around the large intestine. If colonic polyps are found, this instrument can be used to remove them

- Double-contrast barium enema: A series of X-rays of the colon and rectum

- CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy): A CT scan of the colon and rectum

Additional tests that mainly find cancer include:

- Fecal occult blood test, which checks for blood in the stool
- Fecal immunochemical test, a newer test that also checks for blood in the stool

- Stool DNA test, which looks for abnormal sections of DNA in the stool

To help raise awareness about the disease, Turgeon will answer questions about colon cancer during a live web chat starting at noon on April 13.

For more information about colon cancer or the live chat, visit www.mccancer.org/colon or call the U-M Cancer AnswerLine at (800) 865-1125.

Arthritis Today
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TREATING ARTHRITIS

What is the best treatment for osteoarthritis? The answer is difficult because of the way osteoarthritis develops. The condition occurs because of the wearing down of cartilage, the material at the end of bone that allows for a smooth and low friction joint connection.

The look of osteoarthritis is thinning of cartilage and the appearance of fissures in the cartilage that remains. Inflammation plays a small role; pain comes from pressure on the bone because of loss of the cushioning effect from full thickness cartilage.

Medications such as the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs have limited use as osteoarthritis is not characterized as inflammatory. Steroid medications such as Medrol or prednisone are not indicated for the same reason that the loss of cartilage is not related to inflammation.

No medicine developed to date has the ability to stop wear and fissuring of cartilage. Doctors use non-steroidal drugs for the pain relief these medications give but sustained freedom from pain is not possible; patients must use these drugs on a daily basis. Steroid injections may give relief for days to weeks, but inevitably the osteoarthritis pain returns.

The best relief appears to come from exercise which strengthens surrounding muscles and absorbs impact on bone.

In older people with osteoarthritis, the doctor must be quite careful in choosing a drug to fight pain. The usual medications can harm the liver, stomach, and kidneys, while narcotics can bring on dizziness, nausea and constipation.

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Simple Kidney Cysts

A cyst is a closed pocket of tissue and can form anywhere in the body. Cysts that form in the kidneys usually contain fluid. One or more cysts may develop on small tubules in the kidneys. The simple cyst is not an inherited condition and become more common as people age. Nearly 30 percent of people over the age of 70 have at least one simple kidney cyst.

Most often, simple cysts do not cause symptoms or harm the kidney. In some cases, however, pain can occur when cysts enlarge and press on other organs. Sometimes cysts become infected or suddenly start to bleed. Less often the cysts impair kidney function. People with simple cysts are often found to have high blood pressure, although the cause-and-effect relationship is not well understood.

Kidney cysts are found by taking pictures of the kidneys using (CT) scans and ultrasonography. When simple cysts are found but no complications are present, no treatment is needed.

If cysts cause symptoms, treatment may be needed. One procedure involves puncturing the cyst using a long needle inserted through the skin. The doctor uses ultrasonography to guide the needle to the cyst. The cyst is drained and then filled with a solution containing alcohol to make the tissue harder.

If the cyst is large, surgery may be needed. Most procedures can be performed using a laparoscope, which allows for a smaller incision and quicker recovery. The surgeon drains the cyst then removes or burns away its outer tissue. For more information or to schedule an appointment call

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