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Golden event

The community is invited to join the Westland Chamber of Commerce in celebrating its 50th anniversary at a gala Friday, April 20, at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland.

The gala will start with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m., followed by a family-style dinner, featuring chicken cordon bleu and roast beef, at 7 p.m. and entertainment by Steve King and the Dittilies from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets for the gala are \$40 per person and \$320 for a table of eight. Tickets are available at the chamber office, 36900 Ford Road, east of Newburgh.

Call the chamber office at (734) 326-7222.

Teen panel

Young people ages 13-17, are you interested in helping to plan fun events for teens, shaping decisions about Wayne County Parks and the activities that are offered? Do you enjoy working with other youths and adults?

If you said yes to these questions, then consider interviewing for the Wayne County Parks Youth Advisory Board.

Wayne County is looking for energetic, diverse teens for the Youth Advisory Board. Wayne County Parks is seeking input on programming and park issues for county parks, including parks along Hines Drive, Elizabeth Park, Bell Creek Park, Inkster Park and Crosswinds Marsh.

Applications must be received no later than May 12. If the application is selected, interviews will take place at Nankin Mills at 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland.

To receive an application, contact Wayne County Parks at (734) 261-1990 or e-mail Kim at khealy@co.wayne.mi.us.

Rain barrels

What better way to help make Westland a greener place to live than installing a rain barrel or compost bin at your home?

The Alliance of Rouge Communities will hold another rain barrel/compost bin sale. This event will be held at Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21. To guarantee your rain barrel/compost bin for pickup April 21, pre-order it online at www.allianceofrougecommunities.com

The deadline to pre-order is April 16.

INDEX

Community Life..... B5
Crossword Puzzle..... C3
Education..... A4
Health..... B10
Homes..... C2
Jobs..... C1
Obituaries..... B9
Services..... C2
Sports..... B1
Wheels..... C4

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WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Westland officer involved in shooting at Inkster apartment

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Michigan State Police are continuing to investigate a shooting early Friday morning involving Westland and Inkster police officers that left an Inkster man hospitalized.

"We don't have all of our reports yet and nothing from Inkster (police)," said Westland Deputy Police Chief Dan Karrick.

The shooting occurred around 1 a.m. Friday at the Denby Terrace Public Housing complex in the 4500 block of Moore Court located near Inkster Road and Annapolis in Inkster.

The Westland officer was handling a run at Henry Ruff and Annapolis, the latter being the boundary between Westland and Inkster, when a run involved shots fired was dispatched for Inkster police, Karrick said.

"Our officer was in the area when the shots fired run came in, so he went down there," said Karrick.

The suspect, 26, had apparently been shooting a semiautomatic pistol and was involved in a domestic violence incident prior to police being called, Karrick said.

Officers exchanged gunfire with the man outside the complex and he was shot three times, Karrick said, once by the

Inkster officer and twice by the Westland officer. There was a foot chase although it wasn't initially released at what point the man, who was listed in critical condition, was shot or the type of injuries he received.

"When the officers engaged him, he was running through the neighborhood with a gun," Karrick said.

Once the state police and Inkster police complete their criminal

investigation into the incident, Karrick said Westland will conduct an internal investigation to make sure departmental procedures were followed. The officer, a 21-year veteran, wasn't scheduled to work again until Monday but will likely remain off the job until being medically cleared to return to work, according to Karrick.

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Home improvement

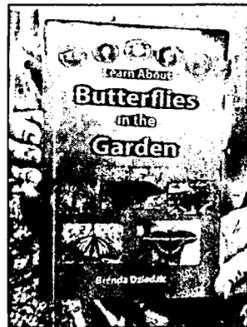


BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brenda Dziedzic talks about her plans for the butterfly habitat.

Butterflies find new digs at Barson's

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer



Brenda Dziedzic published a book about butterflies and gardens last year.

Like most people, Brenda Dziedzic grew up, got an education and went to work. She also loved nature.

"My whole life, I was interested in nature. I thought, 'I wish I could see all those butterflies I saw as a kid,'" said Dziedzic, whose love of butterflies has led her to give lectures, write a book and now to develop a butterfly habitat at Barson's Greenhouse.

"Last fall, I had just published my book and I thought how else could I educate people. That led to the butterfly house. It will teach the whole

life cycle."

With a June 1 opening date scheduled, Dziedzic has been planting butterfly-friendly plants inside a 31-foot by 60-foot greenhouse structure located on the north side of Barson's, located at Maplewood and Merriman. The structure is covered with plastic now but once the temperatures are consistently warm, the plastic will be rolled back to expose the screens covering the habitat.

Butterfly talk

A Westland resident, Dziedzic has had a long relationship with Barson's

Please see BUTTERFLIES, A2

Store, protesters face off over puppy sales

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Each Saturday since the beginning of the year, a group carrying signs and leaflets has been gathering in front of Westland Dog Food Co. to protest the sale of puppies — animals they charge are bred at puppy mills.

"We always ask the stores if they can switch to a humane model of just adoptable pets. We have asked over 100 Michigan stores to take the pledge and over 100 stores have agreed," said Pam Sordyl of Puppy Mill Awareness of Southeast Michigan.

Store owner Steve Fourment disputes the allegations that the dogs he sells are from overcrowded, unsanitary kennels, noting his breeders are federally licensed and inspected, along with his store being licensed by the state.

"The standards are quite rigid. I'm licensed in Michigan. Everything we do is legal and lawful. Most of the puppy mill footage is decades old," Fourment said. "We've been here for 40 years and plan to be here another 40 years. We stand on

Please see PROTEST, A2



Members of Puppy Mill Awareness of Southeast Michigan have been protesting in front of Westland Dog Food Company in an effort to get the company to stop selling puppies.

Westland State of City address set for April 24

City finances, including the proposed mergers of the Westland and Wayne fire departments and parks and recreation departments will be among the topics of Westland Mayor Wild's 2012 State of the City Address.

The public is invited to attend the speech at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, at the Friendship Center, 1119 S. Newburgh. Wild will discuss his new two-year balanced budget which has been presented to the council.

In addition, Wild will discuss planned improvements for the recently remediated Central City Park and make a major announcement on a celebrity headliner for this year's Blues, Brews & Barbecue Festival.

The doors will open at 5 p.m. and seating is limited. Following the address, guests are invited to stay for light refreshments provided by the William D. Ford Career Technical Center's Culinary Arts Program.

If you are unable to attend the event, you can watch it beginning 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, on the city's website at www.cityofwestland.com or on the city's government access channel, WLND, Channel 12 on Comcast, Channel 10 on WOW and Channel 99 (Westland) on U-Verse.

Boy Scouts spruce up seniors' greenhouse

Members of Boy Scout Troop 1736 showed up bright and early Wednesday at the Westland Friendship Center with saws, hammers, measuring tapes, nails and stain to start on their renovation of the center's greenhouse.

Earlier in the year, Nick Williams had called Director Barbara Marcum about doing

an Eagle Scout project for the center. Elated that the Boy Scouts had thought about the center and selected it, Marcum said she was more than eager to discuss what Nick might have in mind for the greenhouse, which was in significant disrepair.

When an Eagle Scout project begins, the Eagle Scout first iden-

tifies an organization that needs help. The next step is to plan and design the project and take the project to the Eagle Board for approval. Lastly, the materials have to be priced and then donations sought to help pay for the materials. The Westland Rotary was a significant contributor, helping fund the project for the

Friendship Center.

A project took six to eight hours to complete. The boys involved with the project were: Nick Moskall, Joshua Hardy, Quentin Williams, Zack Williams, A.J. Guzik, Tony Quillen, Michael Gibson, Devin Gibson, Tyler Mulligan, Eric Pohl, Ethan Miller, Cameron Barsy, Ethan Moskall, Zachery Boland,

Jeremy Harper, Christian Irvin and Nathaniel Griffith-Wrone. The adults supervising the project were: Kevin Hardy, Brian Mulligan, David Schofield, Darleen Boland, Jamie Williams, James Harper and Steven Leitner.

Learning the importance of community service and experiencing the satisfaction of com-

pleting a project such as this, is not only a lesson in life, but also an opportunity for personal growth, Marcum said.

The seniors will enjoy working in the newly renovated greenhouse, and will remember the effort the boys put forth to make the center a better place, Marcum said.

"Thank you, Boy Scouts!" she added.

BUTTERFLIES

Continued from page A1

— a longtime customer, she gave her first butterfly talk there in 2004 and gathers seeds from butterfly attracting plants in her yard to start plants that can be sold at the greenhouse.

"We sell butterfly plants. The attraction is so unique. Everyone will love it," said Debbie Barson, who owns and operates the greenhouse with her husband Joe. "We've supported Brenda for years. We jumped on this opportunity."

With host plants and butterflies native to Michigan, the habitat will provide enjoyment and learning for visitors about the whole life cycle of butterflies.

"We all like stores and houses but more and more areas are dug up. People put in insect resistant plants. That doesn't help butterflies," said Dziedzic. "And it hurts the songbirds — mama birds feed their babies insects. We need those to help the birds and the amphibians."

Some years ago when Dziedzic decided to fill her yard with plants that would attract butterflies, she said she headed to Frank's Nursery with a



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brenda Dziedzic plants butterfly-friendly plants in the habitat.

list of plants.

"There was a lady there and she crossed off all the plants on my list. She started telling me all these native plants," Dziedzic said. "In the spring, she dug up several types of plants. When I had my first two Monarch (butterfly) eggs. I raised my first two Monarchs from caterpillars and I was hooked."

Sharing plants

While she has taken classes, much of Dziedzic's knowledge about butterflies has been gained through her own work and observations over the years. When she started giving her talks and networking with other butterfly aficionados, she would share plants from her yard.

"The network got

too big — there would have been no plants at my house. I give all my seeds to Joe (Barson) and he grows them in the nursery," said Dziedzic.

Many of the butterfly attracting plants sold at Barson's are grown in their nursery but Debbie Barson said they buy a few others such as tropical milkweed.

"I think it's going to be beautiful. People will be amazed and thrilled. We get Monarchs on the property. People stop to see them," Barson said. "I can't wait to see it."

The Barsons gave up 40 feet of yard and two cyclone fences to accommodate the butterfly house. "This is a dream of mine coming true," Dziedzic said.

irogers@hometownlife.com (313) 222-5428

AROUND WESTLAND

Open Houses

St. Damian Catholic School in Westland is holding an open house 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17. St. Damian offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and half and full day kindergarten through grade 8. For more information, call (734) 427-1680 or go online to www.stdamian.com.

St. Mary Catholic School is holding a Kindergarten Round-up and Open house for prospective families Tuesday, April 24. The round-up sessions will be 10-11 a.m. and 6-7 p.m. The open house will be 6-7 p.m. at the school, 34516 Michigan Ave., east of Wayne Road, Wayne. For more information, call the school at (734) 721-1240.

Surplus food

The City of Westland will be distributing surplus federal food at the Dorsey Community Center 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 19, for residents living north of Michigan Avenue. Senior citizens living in Taylor Towers will pick up their food at the apartment complex and must call their building manager for their day of distribution.

For the month of April, frozen ground beef, spa-

ghetti, spaghetti sauce, peaches, dried plums, tomato soup, raisins and possible additional items will be distributed. For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Anniversary auction

St. Mary Parish in Wayne is celebrating its 150th anniversary with an auction, "A Night on the Town," at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 21, in the Parish Activity Center, 34516 Michigan Ave., Wayne.

There will be a silent auction, live auction, raffles, music and more. The cost is \$25 per adult (age 21 and older) and includes strolling buffet, dessert and two beverages. Pre-registration is necessary and can be completed by calling the parish office at (734) 721-8745 or visit the website, www.stmarywayne.org, and clicking on the Auction Gavel for forms and more information.

Free Zumba

Put on your comfortable clothes, grab a water bottle and head over to the Bailey Recreation Center where Westland Youth Assistance is offering free Zumba fitness

classes 6-7 p.m. Friday, April 20.

Space is limited. To reserve a spot call (734) 467-7904.

The Bailey Center is at 36651 Ford, behind Westland City Hall.

Spaghetti dinners

The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, April 27. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and dessert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

The center is holding game night at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26. It also has euchre and bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays and pinochle is played at 1 p.m. Fridays.

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

Help support local veterans by attending a spaghetti dinner 1-4 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at AMVETS Post 171, 1217 Merriman, north of Palmer, Westland.

The dinner includes spaghetti with sauce — with or without meat — salad, garlic bread or hot dinner roll, drinks and dessert. A cash bar will be available.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children age 10 and under and free for children age 3 and under.

PROTEST

Continued from page A1

our reputation. I want the consumer to know we are offering healthy puppies."

Having protesters in front of a store is a last resort, said Sordyl, who

earlier led protests in front of a Westland Petland store at Ford and Wayne roads. That store subsequently closed, although Sordyl said that isn't her group's intention.

"We started going there every Saturday for six months straight. That paid off. People knew us," Sordyl said. "I send let-

ters and make calls. If there is no response or they say no, I do a public awareness campaign and protest. We start with a couple of weekends, then do a public awareness campaign. We don't go away."

Fourment doesn't have plans to go anywhere, either. Founded in 1968 and family-owned, Westland Dog Food began as a kennel producing championship Field Trial beagles. The dog food business began when a special formula food was developed

working with Cornell University — a formula sold exclusively at the Westland store.

"We have a full-service vet who takes care of our dogs. We ask a lot of questions of first-time puppy buyers. We try to match their lifestyles with the right dogs," said Fourment, who points to a bulletin board crowded with photos of dogs sold by the store and their owners. "It's heartwarming. My customers think they (the protesters) are misguided."

It's ironic that his store is being targeted, Fourment said, when a bigger concern should be the unlicensed and unregulated home breeders where the majority of dogs are purchased nationwide.

"Those kinds of people are not accountable. We offer a one-year guarantee. People know where to find us," Fourment said.

The protesters legally can be on the public sidewalk, but Westland police have been called when a large banner was staked into the public right-of-way and traffic was impeded. Citing unsigned threatening letters sent

to out-of-state breeders he uses and an e-mail sent by a man affiliated with Sordyl's group, Fourment said he was concerned about his personal safety and that of his business.

"I have no idea about a letter. Those (breeder) addresses are public on the USDA website," Sordyl said, adding that would not be the type of message her group would send. "Our goal is not closing a store — it's adoption. We like the mom and pop stores. We want them to succeed."

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ARTICLE IV. - WEEDS [74]

To the owner or occupant or any person or persons, firm or corporation having charge of any land in the City of Westland:

Notice is hereby given that all noxious weeds growing on any land in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, must be cut and destroyed if said weeds reach the height of 8 inches between the dates of April 15, 2012 through December 31, 2012 for properties with parcel numbers 001 0001 000 000 through 084 9999 999 999.

Any person failing to comply with this notice on or before the date mentioned shall be liable to the imposition of penalties set forth in section 1-8 of the Westland City Code, and shall be liable for all expenses incurred by the city in destroying said noxious weeds, which expenses, if unpaid by the owner or occupant, shall be spread against the property on the next county and school tax roll, or the next general city tax roll.

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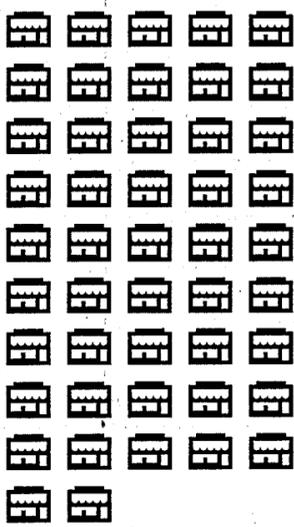
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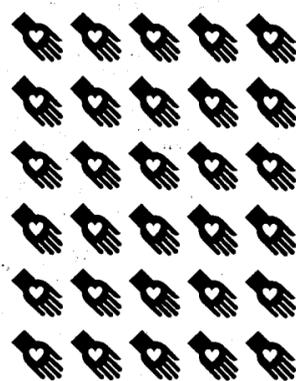
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'The most beautiful word...'

Glenn students accept challenge of performing 'West Side Story'

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

Thespians at Westland's John Glenn High School are unanimous in their assessment that drama teacher Sheri Grove has provided them with a challenge in selecting *West Side Story* as the spring musical.

It marks the first time in the history of the school, that students are presenting a musical drama.

"It's going to be really exciting to see if we can pull this off," said Shannon Salisbury, one of the play's three assistant directors. "I'm glad she picked it. She said, 'This is my favorite show, it's my baby.' We know her expectations, I'm sure we'll step up to the plate and make her proud."

West Side Story will be presented at 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, April 19-21, in the high school auditorium. The retelling of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, the musical is the story of two warring New York City gangs — the Jets led by Riff and the Puerto Rican Sharks, led by Bernardo and the love that develops between Riff's best friend (and former Jet) Tony and Bernardo's younger sister, Maria.

"It's my all time favorite, I've waited my whole career to this," said Grove. "I usually let the kids choose, but I did this time."



Tommie Travis plays Riff, the leader of the Jets, in a scene from "West Side Story."



Kayla Hills and Jacob Ferguson play the star-crossed lovers Maria and Tony in John Glenn High School's production of "West Side Story."

Grove admits that the show is challenge for students, requiring them to "utilize their serious acting skills rather than their comedic skills."

"It's a challenge for them to extend their acting skills," she said. "It's also a challenge with the accents and the intensity of the emotions. But

program for the next few years, but it's huge with challenge of doing such a musical.

"The seniors have been wonderful guides and mentors," Grove said.

Salisbury as well as fellow assistant directors Jacob Ferguson and Steve Goldberg are among those seniors.

This is Salisbury's seventh play as a member of the cast — her first show was as a member of the crew — and her second time as an assistant director. She also handled those duties with last fall's production of *Alice in Wonderland*.

"I'm glad to finish my senior year on this note," she said. "As an assistant director, it lets me show off my leadership skills and show what I can give to the show, especially my musical skills."

For Ferguson is cast as Tony opposite Kayla Hills as Maria. His challenge has been both vocal and the fact that the musical is a drama.

"The songs are difficult because they have a long range," he said. "I'm having to change gears and focus. I love doing it, I love being able to do a dramatic show. It's something different and it lets me show my other talents."

Goldberg, who has been cast as Bernard, leader of the Sharks, also was an assistant director for *Alice*. It was the script that made that production a challenge, this one involves a change of face.

"As an assistant direc-

tor, I try to input my own views and visions into a play, with a drama, you have to experiment and see what works," he said. "As an actor, I'm used to comedy and waiting for punch lines. With this I have to put on an angry persona."

He added that he's never been in a show when he didn't have an accent or a dialect. As Bernardo he has to speak with a Puerto Rican accent and he's finding he's blending sometimes blending Russian and Spanish in his accent.

Sharing the director's seat with Grove is Belinda Walakonis-Semak, while Dan Fowler is the technical director. Sheri Green, Lindsey Forchione and Chloe Tooson are the stage managers.

The musical also includes several dance scenes, which have been choreographed by student Maria Idunate, Grove and her student teacher, April Priebe. Guest choreographers include Vanessa Callanan and Cody Buege.

"They're a collective effort, Maria (Idunate) has done a lot with me and my student teacher, but the cast has pitched in to. Sometimes I tell them to go out in the hall and come up with something," she said. "If I do the choreography, I'm learning, if they do it, they're learning. They learn best by doing."

"They've worked exceptional hard," she added.

smason@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-6751

SHOW TIME

What: John Glenn High School's production of "West Side Story"

When: 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, April 19-20, and 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 21

Where: John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland

Information: For more information and tickets, call the high school at (734) 419-2300.

the biggest challenge has been taken nice kids and making them street tough."

"They've really embraced the challenge and said 'OK, we're going to do this,' and they've done an awesome job," she added.

According to Grove, the production has attracted a lot of underclassmen which is "wonderful for the theatrical

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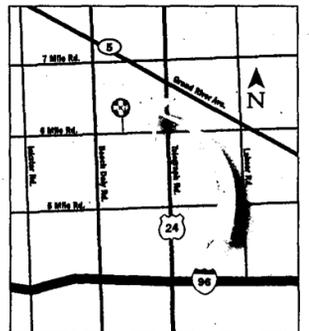
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Ken Roberts of St. Clair talks about the uniform and musket of a soldier serving in the Revolutionary War. Attendance has grown each year at the Armed Forces Day Celebration held at the Westland Historic Village and that is expected to continue with the fifth annual event Saturday, May 5.

Music added to Armed Forces Celebration

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Attendance has grown each year at the Armed Forces Day Celebration held at the Westland Historic Village and that is expected to continue with the fifth annual event Saturday, May 5.

"Each year, we've set attendance records and expect nothing less this year," said Jeff Koslowski of the Westland Historical Commission, which hosts the Armed Forces Day Celebration along with the Westland Historical Society.

From 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., re-enactors in full uniforms representing five American wars — the French and Indian War, the War of 1812, the Civil War and World Wars I and II — will make pre-

sentations and talk with visitors.

"The commission and I are dedicated to making this event solid and self-sustaining," Koslowski said. "We don't want the same thing each year. We will have different lectures and different experts."

New this year, the 5th Michigan Regimental Band, a Civil War-era group, will perform live at 2 p.m. The weapons demonstration is scheduled for 3 p.m.

"We will go out with a literal bang with the reproduction weapons demonstrations. There is no live ammunition used," Koslowski said. "The weapons are designed and fitted to fire blanks that sound and look like real ones. They (re-enactors) love to show

them off and we love to see them."

The event is free, although donations will be accepted and refreshments will be sold to benefit the Historic Village Park, which is self-sustaining.

"You can come out from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. There is something for everyone," Koslowski said.

The Historic Village Park is located on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill.

The Westland Garden Club will hold a Spring Plant Exchange at the Historic Village Park from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 19. For more information, call Jo at (734) 522-3918 or Janet at (734) 728-4008.

rogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428

Norwayne garden seeks donations, volunteers

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Hooked up to city water thanks to a donation from the Wayne-Ford Civic League, the Norwayne Community Garden has a wish list of other needed items and could use some more volunteers.

A wooden storage shed had topped garden coordinator Pam Carter's wish list. During a recent meeting of the Norwayne Community Citizens Council meeting, Scott Lorenz, a Norwayne landlord, agreed to build the shed and also committed to provide support for the garden one day weekly.

Before Lorenz volunteered, Carter had been looking for at least two more groups to help out with weeding, watering and similar chores at the garden, located on two

lots at the corner of Dorssey and Newago.

"They don't need to be large groups. Now that we can use hoses, watering will not be the big deal it was last year," Carter said.

Produce from the garden was provided to people receiving monthly federal food distribution and also to Norwayne residents who stopped by the garden.

"We had about a dozen families we interacted with — first the kids would come, then the parents," Carter said.

The council discussed the need for some community projects in the part of Norwayne that is west of Venoy, including a community garden. While she was supportive of additional community gardens, Carter said there should be commit-

ments of support lined up before that happens.

Still needed on the community garden wish list:

- 4-foot by 8-foot privacy fencing, 14 panels
- 14 fencing posts
- four shovels
- four rakes
- 100 kraft paper waste bags

- a rototiller
- one lawn mower
- 10 rose bushes
- 50 perennials plants
- 10 raspberry bushes

Monetary contributions can be made also. Checks should be made payable to the city of Westland; in the memo section write Norwayne Garden. Contributions can be sent to: Norwayne Community Garden, c/o Henry Johnson, 32317 Ogemaw Court, Westland, MI 48186.

rogers@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-5428

Learn about Nankin Mills history

Around the time of the Civil War, Nankin Mills was more than just a grist mill; it was the focal point of the community growing up around it.

For Henry Ford who purchased the mill in 1918, Nankin Mills was personal: as a lad, he had visited the mill numerous times with his father, a Dearborn farmer. And although Henry never wanted to till the land, the mill with its water power fascinated him.

Join Nankin Mills naturalist Carol Clements at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 21, for an hourlong photo presentation on the

history of the Nankin Mills and the surrounding community. She will also look at the reasons for a mill in this area; talk about why it's "Nankin Mills" plural instead of "Nankin Mill" singular; and even discuss plans to fix up Thomas Edison's hydroelectric generator which Ford installed in the mill and enclosed in glass. There will also be plenty of time to answer

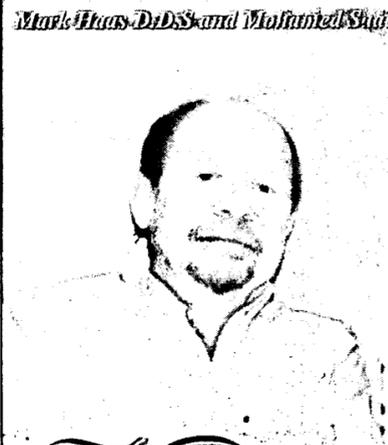
questions. Call the parks office at (734) 261-1990 to reserve a spot.

This presentation is free and geared toward adults. It's one of a series of local history seminars sponsored by The Friends of Nankin Mills, a volunteer group. To learn more about upcoming activities at the mill for children and adults, and about the Friends group, go to nankinmills.org.

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Dr. Saad received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and went on to earn his doctorate from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, where he graduated with distinction. While at U of M, he had the honor of being published in the University of Michigan's Alumni Magazine for his professional work for the State of Michigan. He was also senior editor for various dental publications designed to help students excel in their dental licensing examinations.

One of Dr. Saad's primary goals was to be a preeminent dental practitioner with regard to patient comfort. He takes great satisfaction in his ability to provide his patients with a pain-free experience. Through collaboration and training with highly recognized cosmetic dentists from around the U.S., Dr. Saad has also developed the skill and artistry required for comprehensive cosmetic makeovers. He is honored to be able to enhance his patients' appearance and provide them with a renewed sense of confidence.

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

Upcoming Events

WIDOWED MEN AND WOMEN

Time/Date: 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 11

Location: Corsi's Italian Restaurant, 27910 W. Seven Mile, three blocks west of Inkster Road, in Livonia

Details: Widowed of all ages are welcome to attend a social hour at 5 p.m. and an Italian buffet dinner served promptly at 6 p.m. at Corsi's. Cost is \$14 and includes the buffet, beverage, dessert, tax and tip. Pay at the door (cash only - exact amount). Stay for cards, games, and conversation in a safe and friendly setting until 9:30 p.m. No walk-ins or late comers as they cannot accommodate for seating or meals without reservations. Respond by April 4. Call again to cancel.

Contact: For reservations, call Cookie at (248) 357-2183, Pat at (248) 545-8348 or Carol at (248) 946-0300.

FLEA MARKET

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 19

Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, Cherry Hill between Wayne Road and Newburgh, Westland

Details: Do you have things you're looking to clear out of your house? Do you have craft items you would like to sell? Do you have antiques you don't want anymore? Do you have a business such as Tupperware, Party Lite or Creative Memories that you would like to promote? This is a great opportunity to cleanup, clear out, and promote your small business. It's an outdoor event, rain or shine. Cost is \$20, non-refundable, to secure you a

parking space. Food concessions will be available.

Contact: Call Sharon Garcia to sign up at cackles55@gmail.com or (734) 637-2662.

BOOK SALE

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 19, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 20-21

Location: Caroline Kennedy Library, 24590 George St., at the corner of Fenton, across from the Dearborn Heights City Hall, three blocks west of Telegraph and two blocks north of Ford Road

Details: The Friends of the Dearborn Heights Libraries are holding its 2012 Spring Book Sale Thursday-Saturday, April 19-21. Thousands of fiction and non-fiction books, hardcover and paperback, video tapes, CDs, and DVDs are available. All proceeds are to support programs at Caroline Kennedy and John F. Kennedy Jr. Libraries.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

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

Location: Lower level Classroom 2 of the Allan Breake Medical Office Building at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City

Details: Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, family members, friends and caregivers of persons afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders are invited to join the free monthly support group. The group will provide mutual aid, support and the opportunity to share problems and concerns.

Contact: Call (734) 58-4330 for more information.

For Seniors

FRIENDSHIP CENTER

Location: 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland

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

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

DYER CENTER

Location: 36745 Marquette, between Wayne Road and Marquette,



DAVID L. MALHALAB / M NEWS SERVICE / MNS PHOTO

New location

The Plymouth Stamp Show, Michigan's largest such show, has a new home. The West Suburban Stamp Club's 43rd annual Exhibition and Stamp Dealers Bourse will be held in Westland at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, east of Newburgh Road. Show times are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 29. The show, which had been held at the Central Middle School in Plymouth, will have more than 40 local and national philatelic (stamp) dealers. It offers a chance for those that have stamp or cover collections to have them appraised or to sell them. For more information, go online to www.plymouthshow.com or www.thewssc.com.

Westland

Details: Offers activities Monday-Friday at the center.

Contact: (734) 419-2020

SENIOR FITNESS

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

Details: The Senior Fitness Room is available to those age 50 and older. There's an annual membership is \$55 per year or get a daily pass for \$1. Senior aerobic classes are held 8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Drop in for \$3 per day.

Contact: (734) 793-1870

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

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

HEARTLAND HOSPICE

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

SUPPORT GROUP

Time/Date: 7-8:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month

Location: American House III, 35700 Hunter, Westland

Details: Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance is sponsoring a support group that provides support and guidance for families caring for an older person.

Contact: Chris Goldberg at (734) 629-5004. Call to confirm meeting, if coming for the first time.

For Your Health

W-W NAMI

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month

Location: St. Johns Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland

Details: The Wayne-Westland affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) provides support and information for individuals and families dealing with mental illness.

SAFE PLACE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursdays

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

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

Contact: Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995

ADULT DAY SERVICES

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

Location: 570 S. Main St., Plymouth MI

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

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



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Funny duo: Local native, husband present comedy at church benefit

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Los Angeles resident Kerri Pomarolli has her 20th class reunion coming up at Northville High School. She says she was least likely to be a standup comic in high school, and looks forward to performing for NHS classmates.

Another event, "Eat, Pray, Laugh," will bring Pomarolli, 38, to Northville Sunday, April 22. She and husband Ron McGehee, a Flint native, will perform at the First United Methodist Church of Northville.

"We have a lot of friends and family around so it's kind of a homecoming," she said of the trip which will likely be made with their children, Ruby, 1, and Lucy, 4. The church dinner at 5 p.m. will be catered by Genitti's of Northville, followed by the 6 p.m. comedy show, suitable for all ages.

Proceeds will support the youth mission trip for the Appalachia Service Project.

She attended Meads Mill Junior High, having moved to Northville with her family in 1988. Her parents now live in Atlanta, Ga., but often return for visits.

U-M graduate

Pomarolli earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in musical theater from the University of Michigan in 1996. She was a member of Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church as a child, with her mom a Southern Protestant.

"I'm not a big believer in denominations," Pomarolli said. She and McGehee find their Christian comedy reaches all: "It's a kind of thing that brings people together."

She saw McGehee perform, liked his work and had planned to match him



Former Northville resident Kerri Pomarolli will perform at a Christian comedy night Sunday, April 22, at the First United Methodist Church of Northville. She'll perform with husband Ron McGehee, a Flint native.

up with a friend. "God has a sense of humor," she said of their marriage and two young children.

The couple works as Hollywood comedians/writers/actors, and as Christians keep their performances clean. She may be at a Hollywood club Saturday night and then preaching that Sunday morning.

They're often on the road with their kids performing as a couple. They include faith-based events in their schedule.

"We share messages about our life," she said. "It's a great job. I wouldn't trade it for the world. I don't know

how many people can say 'I wouldn't trade with anyone.'"

She was at Genitti's performing last year and has spoken to Northville High students. Pomarolli and McGehee appreciate the invitation from First United Methodist of Northville.

"I'm going to be sharing some of my faith journey," she said. When she was growing up here with best friend Susie Koster, she sometimes slept over at Susie's on Saturdays and would go to the Methodist church Sunday to see cute boys — or even skip church. "Susie and I have both in

adult life reconnected to God," she said of her friend. The women pray for each other.

Tickets for the dinner and show are available Sundays and Wednesdays at First United Methodist Church of Northville, with cash or checks payable to the church. For credit card payment, contact Genitti's at (248) 349-0522. The church phone is (248) 349-1144.

Chrissy Curvin, a co-leader for the Appalachian mission trip and church member, is organizing "Eat, Pray, Laugh." Her co-leader for the trip is Brent Green.

Curvin can be reached at (734) 414-9710.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

AROUND WESTLAND

Zonta Dinner

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County is hosting a "Get to Know Us" dinner at Schoolcraft College 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, April 23.

The program will include a speaker from the Yankee Air Ladies on Women in Aviation. There will be information on what is Zonta, how the club has helped women within the community and new scholarships and upcoming community events.

The dinner will be held in the Vista Tech Center on the Schoolcraft College Campus. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

To assure adequate seating and food, reservations are required. Call Barbara by April 12 at (734) 464-0450 with num-

ber of guests who will be attending.

Zonta International is a worldwide women's service organization working to improve the status of women locally and globally.

Free Movies

Enjoy a free movie when the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army holds its monthly free movie nights, beginning Sunday, May 6, with a double feature, *Bonhoeffer* and *Dolphin Tale*.

The movie starts at 4 p.m. at the corps activity center, the corps, 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer. Popcorn and concessions will be sold.

The other movie night is Sunday, June 3, with *The Adventures of Tin Tin*.

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Back in the saddle

Director returns to stage with Sondheim play

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Plymouth High School sophomore Katie Szczepanik takes the Village Theater stage Friday with the rest of the cast of the Spotlight Players' production of Steven Sondheim's *Into the Woods*.

But the Canton teenager said she probably wouldn't be if Shannon McNutt weren't sitting in the director's chair.

McNutt, the popular former director of the now-defunct Second Stage Players at the Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, makes her directorial debut leading *Into the Woods* for Spotlight.

It's her first directing gig since leaving Second Stage a couple of years ago.

"It's a combination of reasons, but basically I just wanted to get back into theater again," said McNutt, still a drama teacher at the Park. "(Spotlight Players) has been around a long time, they have a new way to do things and I wanted to be part of something local."

This production fits that bill. Spotlight Players is the resident artists' group at the Village Theater, and one of its most popular attractions. *Into the Woods* features a cast made up largely of Plymouth- and Canton-area actors, intertwining the plots of several Brothers'

SONDHEIM ON STAGE

What: Spotlight Players' production of Steven Sondheim's *Into the Woods*

When: April 20-22 and April 27-29; 8 p.m. Fridays, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays

Where: Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton

Tickets: \$18 adults, \$16 seniors and students under 19; by phone at the Village Theater box office, (734) 394-5300, online at www.spotlight-playersmi.org or at the door.

Contact: Call (734) 480-4945 or visit www.spotlightplayersmi.org.

Grimm fairy tales with an original story of a childless baker and his wife, who set the plot in motion by attempting to reverse a curse on their family in order to have a child.

The characters are "all on quests that begin to intertwine with each other." It's about community, about how "we're not alone," and the words are a metaphor for life, according to McNutt, a big fan of Sondheim.

"Sondheim is a god," she said. "His music has such wonderful messages. The music in this play, in particular, is very challenging."

It's McNutt's presence that drew Szczepanik to the show. The Plym-



The Princess Cinderella is played by Melissa Perry of Walled Lake.

outh High School sophomore, fresh off a role in the Park Players' production of *Nine*, plays Florinda, one of Cinderella's evil stepsisters.

"I love Miss McNutt, and she's really fun to work with," said Szczepanik, who also played Marty in a Forever After Players production of *Grease*. "Usually in shows I play the sweet, innocent character, and in this one I get to be mean. (Florinda) is different from anything else I've played."

One of the things that drew McNutt to the production was the ensemble aspect to the cast. Actors have come from theater groups around the area, many from right at home in Plymouth and Canton.

"This is an ensemble piece, which are the kinds of shows I'm drawn to, where everybody has their moment to shine," McNutt said. "There are



Lauren Norris of Canton plays the Witch in the Spotlight Players' production of Sondheim's *Into the Woods*.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

no small roles." One of the biggest roles is being played by Christine Kapusky of Canton, who plays the pivotal role of the Baker's Wife. A self-described "Sondheim junkie," Kapusky called the Baker's Wife "one of my dream roles."

"She's a very independent character," said Kapusky, an actress currently traveling with a four-person show titled *Tumbledown Town*. "(The play) carries a good message about being responsible within your community. You have to look out for each other."

According to McNutt,

the actors have learned what the play's characters learn: People have a common course, come together and find out what they have in common and realize they're not alone.

"It's really a profound message," McNutt said. "Every member of the cast has discovered it really makes us better citizens of the world, you take this journey into the woods, and you come out on the other side changed."

It's delivering that kind of message McNutt missed about being away from the theater. She

and former Park Players director Kristen Quesada left at the same time, and the Park has since merged their two groups so that only Park Players exist, though they put on multiple productions at both Canton and Salem High Schools.

But McNutt, who is still a popular drama teacher, yearned to get back on stage.

"I miss being involved," she admitted. "I don't think I could function if I wasn't involved in the arts somehow."

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Canton expands cultural celebration

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Canton plans to celebrate its cultural and artistic diversity by weaving together musical performances, art shows, stage productions, a historic home tour and other events amid efforts to boost the community's reputation as a vibrant, creative hub of southeast Michigan.

What started as the second annual Canton Acts of Culture Week already has mushroomed into a 10-day event, April 27 through May 6, sponsored by the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts & Heritage.

"It's bursting at the seams," said Jill Engel, executive director of the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities. "We're going to do it every year. It's important that we learn about each other's cultures."

Former commission leader ReGina Shamberger spearheaded last year's debut Canton Acts of Culture, and the group, now chaired by local artist Sharon Dillenbeck, has rolled out myriad ways the community can embrace the latest effort. Some events are free; others are not.

Anchoring the event,

the Michigan Philharmonic follows up last year's Bollywood show by performing Asian music during "From Canton To Canton: The Music of China" - acknowledging how this community took its name from the China province, said Nan Washburn, music director and conductor.

The concert happens 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, April 30, at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, preceded at 6 p.m. by a reception and silent auction to raise money to support local arts efforts. The concert also features the children's dance troupe of the Chinese American Cultural Center, student violinists from the Canton Chinese School and Chinese pipa master Mr. Tian. For more information including tickets, go to www.cantonvillageheater.org or www.michiganphil.org, or call (734) 394-5300 or (734) 451-2112.

Another highlight centers on the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools' fourth annual K-12 Art Show, 4-8 p.m. Saturday, April 28, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday, April 29, inside the Plymouth High School cafeteria. It showcases over 2,000 pieces of student artwork from 25 school locations, along



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Peg Stevens (right), a Canton Leisure Services employee, speaks with Jill Engel, executive director of the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities, and local artist Sharon Lee Dillenbeck of D&M Art Studio for a local cable program to promote the second Canton Acts of Culture week.

with student performances, desserts prepared by the district's culinary arts program, a silent artwork auction and an awards ceremony.

Amy Morgan, the school district's visual and performing arts coordinator, said the art show has been expanded from one day to two this year, another example of the burgeoning Canton Acts of Culture Week.

"It puts the students' art in a larger context. They get to see their work alongside all the other kids' work," Morgan said.

Numerous other Canton Acts of Culture events

are listed at www.cantonfun.org, along with ticket information. Among the events:

• A weeklong silent auction at The Village Theater occurs April 27-May 5, allowing visitors to bid on hotel packages, artwork, golf outings, theater tickets and restaurant passes to help raise money for the Partnership for the Arts & Humanities. The auction raised \$2,300 last year but was only one day, coinciding with the Bollywood concert.

• Dillenbeck plans to assemble the art of local women for a champagne reception 2-4 p.m. Sun-

day, May 6, at D&M Art Studio, in the Golden Gate shopping center on Lilley south of Joy. The Ladies Dillenbeck Exhibition features for-sale original watercolors, oils, acrylics, charcoals, pastels and oil pastels. The exhibition continues through May.

• The Park Players Theatre Co. perform *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* 7 p.m. April 27-28 at Canton High School.

• Tours of the historic Bartlett-Travis House in Cherry Hill Village are set for 1-4 p.m. April 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 29, 9:30-11:30 a.m. April 30, May 2 and May 4, and 1-4 p.m. May 5.

• Kandee G, a Florida-based motivational speaker and radio talk show host, appears at 7:30 a.m. Friday, May 4, for a continental breakfast at The Village Theater. She inspires people and companies to reach their potential.

• The Plymouth Community Arts Council has a benefit including history, art and musical experiences 6-10 p.m. April 27 and 7-10 p.m. April 28.

• Michigan Philharmonic musicians perform "Classical Gas: Music of the 1960s and 1970s" during a wine-tasting event 7:30 p.m. April 28 at Tipping Point Theatre in Northville.

• The Canton Public Library hosts photogra-

pher Rick Lieder, author of *Step Out Gently*, 7 p.m. May 1 in the Purple Room. His book is a study of backyard creatures accompanied by poetry and pictures.

• "A Night on the Town" by Cherry Hill Singers happens 8 p.m. May 4 at The Village Theater and includes some of the best of Broadway.

• The Spotlight Players' *Into the Woods* - billed as a fractured fairy tale involving Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Prince Charming and a witch who raps - occurs 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 27-29 at The Village Theater.

• St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon in Plymouth, offers "Resounding Art in a Sacred Space." The 7 p.m. May 4 event includes Italian organ virtuoso Eugenio Fagiani performing on the church's Gabriel Kney pipe organ.

• The annual Family Fishing Derby is set for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 5 at Heritage Park, where ponds will be stocked with rainbow trout. It's open only to Canton residents.

• The Canton Concert Band performs what is billed as a European tour spring concert 8 p.m. May 5 at The Village Theater.

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Be cautious, do homework on a franchise option

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I lost my job about six months ago and my severance is about to end. I've been looking for opportunities and I've been thinking about

buying a franchise. They seem to be a good way of starting your own business. I'm not sure which kind to look at or what company. What is your opinion of franchises and do you think they are a good idea?

A: Franchises are a

lot like mutual funds. There are some good ones and some really bad ones. There are some franchises that are very fair in their dealings with their investors while there

are others who charge high fees and take advantage of their investors. Not all franchises are created the same.



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

On the whole, I don't have a problem with franchises. It can be a very good way of starting a business. However, they are not necessarily the best option for an entrepreneurial person. The reason is most franchises have a variety of rules and regulations that they want their franchisees follow. Generally, an entrepreneurial individual likes to have more freedom than a franchise would allow.

For someone who likes the idea of having structure, a franchise can be a very good way of going. A good franchise provides you with the methodology and structure to be successful.

A key ingredient when looking at franchises is how strong is the

management behind the franchise. Successful franchises have an entire team behind them to help the franchisees run their business. Some franchises basically have no support team and those are ones I would avoid. I recommend that once you narrow down the type of franchise you want, talk to other franchisees and do some Internet research. In addition, it's not a bad idea to look to the Better Business Bureau for any information they may have on the franchisor (the company). The bottom line is, even before you contact the franchisor, you should have done a fair amount of research.

Once you contact the franchisor they're going to send you a variety of legal documents. Like most legal documents, these are written by lawyers for lawyers. I strongly recommend that you hire an attorney who is familiar with franchises to assist you in understanding the documents. You may be surprised as to some of the restrictions,

fees, and requirements involved in becoming a franchisee. One fee that tends to surprise many people is that some franchises will charge you an advertising fee based upon your revenue.

It is very important to research the franchise that you select. That is where the Internet is a great tool for you. I recognize that there's a lot of misinformation on the Internet, however, there's also a lot of good information that can help you in selecting the right one.

My last piece of advice: Take your time and don't rush into it. A lot of people get overly excited after hearing the sales pitch and the result is the franchise doesn't even come close to meeting expectations. Be patient, ask a lot of questions, and always proceed with caution. Good luck!

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

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Man who lost family to drunk driver inspires Project: Forgive

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Forgiveness. It is a word one man yearned for and another man knew right away he would grant.

And while it doesn't make sense to many, it makes perfect sense to Gary Weinstein.

Weinstein, of Farmington Hills, who owns Weinstein Jewelers of Novi, is the one who offered up forgiveness, and Thomas Wellinger was the man who needed it.

Tragedy brought these two men together in May 2005 when Wellinger got behind the wheel of his SUV drunk and crashed into the car containing Weinstein's wife Judy and two sons, Alex and Sam.

At the hospital, the doctor gave Weinstein the news they died, and he said in that moment he realized he was alone.

But it was also in that moment that he realized he had an opportunity.

"When this happened and they were gone, in that instant I realized I was still here ... and there was no reason for me to disappear or run away," he said. "I had an opportunity in that moment to say I still am strong.

"Even right away for me, forgiveness was present."

Weinstein even told Wellinger — who was sentenced to 19-30 years for three counts of second-degree murder — as much the only time they met at the Oakland County Jail. He even posed the question back, asking Wellinger if he could ever forgive himself.

"He was remorseful," Weinstein said.

When asked why he forgave him, Weinstein said there was "no power" in blaming him. He said he is a person who lives in the moment and doesn't hold on to things. "My expression of love and care for them was complete," he said. "It can be a tough road for loss if it was not complete."

Now Weinstein hopes to help others on that road to forgiveness. And when talking about happiness, Weinstein said it has never been something he has searched out; he comes from it.

"Now I have an opportunity to be the poster child for this conversation," he said.

'Project: Forgive'

That is where filmmaker and Michigan resident Shawne Duperon comes in.

Duperon has a unique connection to the sto-



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi business owner Gary Weinstein tells why he got involved in filmmaker Shawne Duperon's 'Project: Forgive' effort. Weinstein's wife and two sons were killed by an alcohol-impaired driver in 2005.

ry as her children used to baby-sit Weinstein's children and Judy was her husband's business coach. On the other side of the equation,

Wellinger was a close family friend.

"I knew in that moment something miraculous was going to come of this," she said.

Now nearly seven years later, that miracle is taking shape through the creation of a movie on forgiveness called "Project: Forgive."



Novi jeweler Gary Weinstein keeps this framed photo of he and his two sons Sam, left, and Alex, at his Grand River Avenue business. The photo is from a musical the three were involved in just months before the two boys and his wife were killed by a drunk driver.

Duperon said Weinstein was the catalyst for the film, which she said will explore and explain forgiveness on a variety of levels. Scott Rosenfelt, who executive produced *Home Alone*, has signed on to be the co-producer.

A trailer for the film can be found at www.projectforgive.com, and Duperon said they need to raise \$100,000 to fund the campaign. As of Friday, \$71,850 had been raised. Visit the website to donate, before the April 23 deadline.

The budget for the film

is \$1 million, and the goal is to have it completed by the end of the year with a release in the fall of 2013.

"It's my dream come true and my life mission," Duperon said.

For Weinstein, it's all about honoring Judy, Alex and Sam.

"What my family has given me, even in this horrific loss, is to have a voice and make a difference in this world," he said.

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RETIREMENT COMMUNITY || INDEPENDENT AND ASSISTED LIVING

Schoolcraft cooking team hopes to win regional title today

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

Some of the best student chefs in the Midwest will converge on Schoolcraft College today to show off their knife skills with tournet cuts, and prepare a supreme de volaille a l'ecarlate.

Students will complete chopping and slicing of vegetables to create an oblong, almost football-shaped cut of vegetables, one of several cuts, and during a hot-dish competition, create the classic French chicken dish inspired by Escoffier.

Schoolcraft hosts the American Culinary Federation's Midwestern regional cooking competition of student teams with the hot food competition today. The competition takes place in conjunction with the 2012 ACF Central Regional Conference at the Motor City Casino Hotel, April 14-16. The school also hosted other regional competitions yesterday (Saturday), including Chef of the Year, Pastry Chef of the Year and Student Chef of the Year. Ten teams who have won their Midwestern state's titles will be competing.

The public can attend today's competition at the VisTaTech Center. The winners will be announced Monday at the Motor City Casino. The winning team of the regional competition will advance to the national competition in Orlando in July.

Creating a classic
The student team or Salon team competition consists of three phases: cold-food presentation, skills and cooking, where teams will prepare four portions of a fish starter, salad and dessert of their choice, and the pre-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Katie Kilanski and Brandon Zarb prepare a trout galantine.

assigned classical entree from Escoffier: The Complete Guide to the Art of Modern Cookery.

Schoolcraft's team of second-year students consists of Katie Kilanski, who is the team's captain; Tyler Bergquist of Canton; Michelle Collett, Romulus; Brandon Zarb, Milford; and Carla Spicuzzi, West Bloomfield. The team won the state title in February at Oakland Community College.

The Schoolcraft team has practiced since January on its dishes with assistance and over-

sight from Schoolcraft's instructors. Shawn Loving, department chair of the culinary arts department, credited the instructors for their assistance and direction of the students and their success so far. "Every one of them has had a part in this," Loving said.

Their cold plate display, "River's Treasures," was featured at the Motor City Casino on Friday. The dish featured smoked trout, terrine with walleye, grav-lax salmon and gallantine trout, which fea-

tures a forcemeat cooked sous-vide, or under pressure.

Dan Hugelier, instructor and certified master chef, assisted and directed the team with their cold plate of fish.

Bergquist worked with chef-instructor Brian Polcyn on the Great Lakes Walleye appetizer, Collett received instruction and direction from Jeff Gabriel, certified master chef, on the Artichoke Carpaccio salad; Kilanski will create the Supreme de Volaille a l'ecarlate after she worked with Hugelier, and the Tropical Flavors dessert by Spicuzzi

under the tutelage of certified master pastry chef Joe Decker.

Kilanski appreciated the assistance from the instructors. "They've given us a lot of time and attention, even during their own time," Kilanski said during a practice on Thursday.

On Sunday, the students will butcher chickens and fish, showing their knife skills in exhibiting small dice, julienne, concasse and tournet cuts, making pastry cream and dough, and "supreming" or segmenting one orange.

Zarb is the team's alternate, which requires him to know all of the dish-

es in case one of the team members cannot compete. "He hands us equipment and keeps on track," Bergquist said. "He can step in at any time."

Students started planning to compete in November. In January, they practiced, sometimes four or five days a week, which has evolved to five or six days a week.

"There's a lot of reps and a lot of practice involved," Zarb said.

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Secretary of State visits Livonia to promote organ donation

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

Cassandra Perry almost lost her sight.

In 2008 the Northville resident was diagnosed with Fuch's dystrophy, a cornea disease that leads to blindness. Her only option was bilateral cornea transplants.

She received the first of two transplants and noticed that a car was purple, not black that she saw during the deterioration of her vision along with the other details of items that she could not see. Perry received two corneas through two eye donors.

"I just think about what my fate could have been," Perry said through tears. "I could have missed so many things.

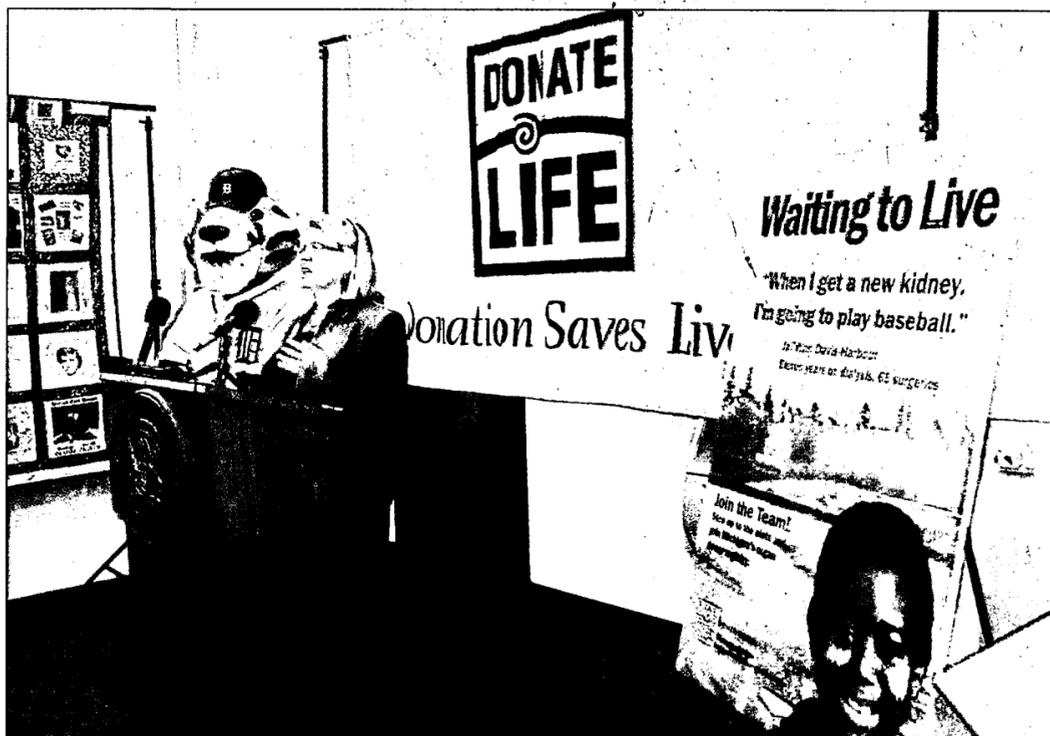
"I see more than I should. I appreciate that so very much, I really do."

Donate Life Month

Perry told her story Wednesday at a press conference at the Livonia Secretary of State office at 17176 Farmington, known as a SUPER!Center, and one of the top Secretary of State offices for organ donor sign-ups. The press conference promoted Donate Life Month and the need for potential organ donors to register, which they can do at any Secretary of State office or at the SOS site online at www.Michigan.gov/sos.

Flanked by Gift of Life Michigan and Michigan Eye Bank officials, along with Detroit Tigers mascot PAWS, Secretary of State Ruth Johnson urged residents to "Join the Team" and sign up to become organ, tissue and eye donors.

Johnson said signing up more donors was a top priority for her since she took office 16 months ago. Last year 400,000 people signed



Secretary of State Ruth Johnson highlighted the month of April as Donate Life Month at the Secretary of State office on Farmington Road in Livonia. Tiger mascot PAWS also attended the public awareness event.

up to become donors, a 25 percent increase. The Livonia office alone registered about 35 people a day, Johnson said.

Johnson encouraged staff to ask residents if they would like to register. She has partnered with organ donor advocates, promoted educational efforts and printed reminders on forms. She supported a new Donate Life Month license plate, available this summer.

"One donor can save the lives of eight people and improve the quality of life for 15 more people," Johnson said.

Last year 792 organs were transplanted. So far this year, donors' generosity has led to 118 transplants. As of March 1, 2,973 Michigan patients were waiting for a transplant.

18 a day die waiting

According to national statistics, 18 people die each day from the lack of available organs for transplant.

Johnson highlighted the public awareness campaign and introduced Jai'Wan Davis Harbour, 11, of Taylor, who has been on dialysis since he was 7 months old and needs a kidney. Jai'Wan will be featured on baseball-themed posters in Secretary of State offices around the state.

"Jai'Wan wants to follow his dream of playing baseball," Johnson said.

Jai'Wan's mother, Cherisse Davis-Harbour, said they wanted to give hope to others who like Jai'Wan, need transplants and encourage organ donation. "He wants to be able to

run and to play baseball," she said.

Jai'Wan even wants to name his new kidney, said his mother. "He wants to call it 'Pinocchio' because it will make him a real boy," Davis-Harbour said.

Rich Pietroski, CEO of Gift of Life Michigan, said that organization was appreciative of donors and secretary of state staff who ask residents if they would like to register.

'You can become heroes'

Organ donation "used to start in the Intensive Care Unit," Pietroski said. "Now transplants start right here in this office." He also referenced quilts that were displayed that day at the Secretary of State office.

"The most common word on these quilts is love, the second most common is used to describe the donors as heroes," Pietroski said. "You can become heroes today by signing up."

Bill Ryan spoke about his daughter Michelle, who 25 years ago realized that she was not registered as a donor when she renewed her driver's license. She drove back to where she renewed her license in Florida, and signed up as a donor.

"Six weeks later, she died in a car accident," Ryan said. "My daughter Michelle became a donor." Ryan now chairs the Transplant Games of America, which will be held July 28-31 at Grand Valley State University. Approximately 1,400

athletes will participate in 14 sports to bring awareness to the causes, Ryan said.

One of them is Terry Gould of Plymouth.

Gould, 59, was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy and an enlarged heart. He went through three surgeries and needed a ventricular assist device to stay alive.

Transplant Games

"I went into renal failure and received a heart transplant just in time," Gould said.

At the Transplant Games, he will be swimming in five events and playing volleyball. "I haven't felt this good in 30 years," Gould said.

The Transplant Games help bring awareness to the success stories of organ donations and survival for recipients. Approximately 112,000 Americans are waiting for organ transplants, Gould said. Seven percent die waiting for one.

"It happens every day that someone dies waiting for a transplant," Gould said. "We want people out there to sign up so people like us can live on."

Because of transplants, Gould's life continues with his wife and five children, and now, four grandchildren. "Without the transplant, I would not have been able to enjoy them," Gould said of his grandchildren.

Gould has also befriended a family to whom he is forever grateful, that is the family of his donor, a 20-year-old male, the youngest of four brothers. "We celebrate special occasions, the (transplant) games and the years together," Gould said. "They're an inspiration to everyone."



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RU golfers set sights on improvement

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Victories may not be abundant this spring for the inexperienced and not-real-deep Redford Union boys golf team, but that doesn't mean the upcoming season will be void of fulfillment for the Panthers.

First-year coach Brian Sloma — who has coached several other sports besides golf at RU over the past decade — has his team focused on objectives that are just as important as winning.

"This is a young and inexperienced team and we only have seven golfers, so our goals are to improve our scores from the beginning of the season to the end of the season, and to have

PREP GOLF PREVIEW

fun," said Sloma, who teaches math, business and social studies at RU. He is also a professor at Madonna University, where he teaches English as a second language.

"All of our kids have positive attitudes and they're working hard. We lost our first match to Edsel Ford — which is an established program — and we played on a pretty tough course (Inkster Valley), but the kids played as well as they could and they didn't let the difficulty of the course get to them."

Junior Kyle Gross is expected to lead the charge for the Panthers this season. He fired a season-opening 51 against the T-

Birds.

"He's our most-seasoned player," Sloma said. "He has a nice swing and he strikes the ball accurately. He keeps it in play and he's our longest hitter."

Senior Kevin Caloia, who carded a 59 at Inkster Valley, gives RU a nice 1-2 combination.

"I look for Kevin to have a good senior year," Sloma said. "We're looking for consistency and improvement out of him. I was happy with his first score. It wouldn't surprise me if he was averaging around 50 by the end of the season."

Senior Luke Buckley and junior Charlie Randall were the third and fourth lowest scorers against Edsel Ford, respectively, and should see consistent play-

ing time on the varsity.

A three-person rotation — consisting of junior Lauren Plummer (the lone girl on the team) and freshmen Luke Hebner and John Jinks — will help fill out the two remaining varsity positions on the Panthers' scorecard this spring.

"Lauren has a great work ethic and I've already seen a lot of improvement in her game," Sloma said. "And the two freshmen are doing well, too. They're our future."

The Panthers return to action Monday when they host Romulus at Glenhurst Golf Course. The opening tee shots are set for 2:30 p.m.

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GC Women's Football Academy

The Garden City High School football program will hold its second annual Women's Football Academy on Saturday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the high school.

The cost for the event is \$50, which includes six hours of instruction from members of the Garden City coaching staff, a continental breakfast, a light lunch and a T-shirt.

Proceeds raised by the academy will benefit the GCHS football program and Garden City Hospital's ongoing community education program to support women's health issues.

To print out a registration form, visit www.gccougarcountry.com.

Alumni soccer game set

Redford Union High School alumni are planning the second annual Alumni Soccer Face-Off, which will be held Friday, June 1, at 7 p.m. at Hilbert Middle School's Kraft Field.

The co-ed soccer contest will feature Team 2K+ vs. Team '90s in a rematch of last year's 3-2 victory by Team 2K+.

RUHS alumni interested in playing can register online at www.ruhsalumnifaceoff.com. Registration ends May 1 or when teams are full.

Patrons can also "like" the fundraising event on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ruhsalumnifaceoff to connect with event organizers Chris Jackett, Tony Mamo and Mike Dadourian, and for more information on participating as a player, volunteer, sponsor or donor.

Clarenceville kickers edged by Liggett, 1-0

Morgan Hutson's goal with 10 minutes left in the first half stood up as Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett squeaked out a 1-0 girls soccer victory Thursday at Livonia Clarenceville.

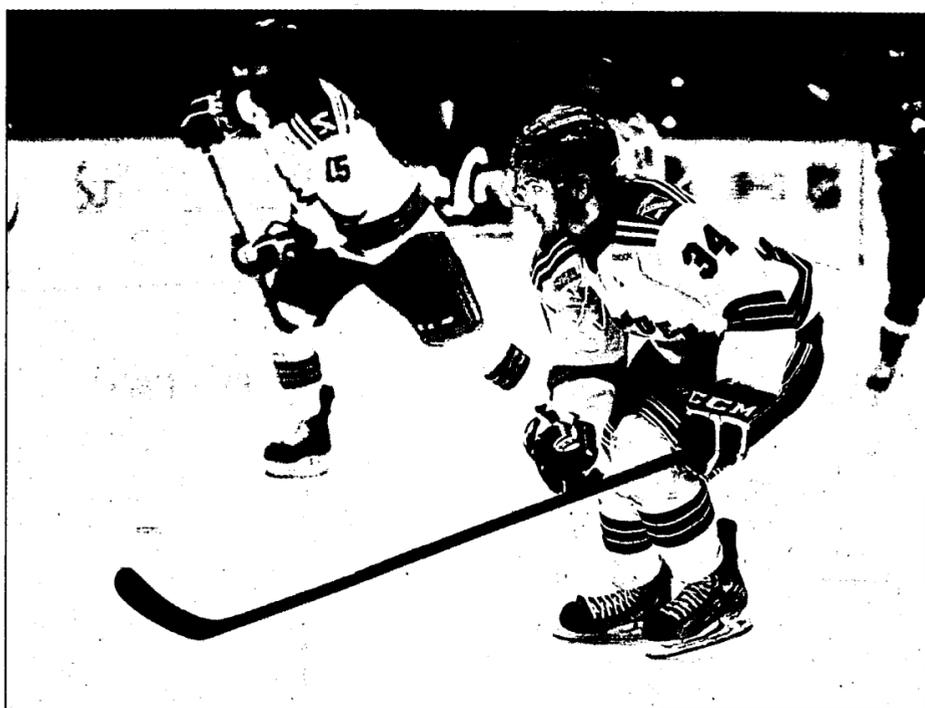
Clarenceville freshman goalkeeper Jillian Bunker was outstanding in defeat making 23 of 24 saves, while Liggett (1-0) got six saves from Beth Ottosen.

Defensive standouts for the Trojans (1-3-1) included junior Karley Flores and sophomore Summer Reddick.

Offensively, Clarenceville coach Amanda Moody singled out the play of junior Ashley Murphy and freshman Sarah Curvin.



Clarenceville's Ashley Murphy (rear) kicks a ball out of harm's way as Liggett's Gabrielle Masi provides pressure during Thursday's game.



Livonia's Max Iafate brings a physical presence to the blueline for the Kitchener Rangers in their second-round OHL playoff series against the Plymouth Whalers.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

NHL DNA

Iafate looks a lot like dad on the ice

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Max Iafate's hockey DNA bears some striking similarities to his father Al, who logged 799 regular season games in 12 NHL seasons.

The Livonian, who just turned 18, is a defenseman for the Ontario Hockey League's Kitchener Rangers and wears the same jersey number (34).

Max's listed at 6-foot-2 inches, 220 pounds, while Al was a strapping 6-3, 195-pound prodigy as a 16-year-old when he earned a spot on the 1984 U.S. Olympic hockey team and

played in the Winter Games in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

Both grew up in the Compuware youth hockey program where young Max spent his first OHL season with the Plymouth Whalers, only to be traded to the Rangers during the offseason in 2011.

Although the trade caught Max off-guard, he is now thriving on team that is the cradle of blue liners. Facing his ex-teen in Round 2 of their OHL, Iafate scored his second goal of the playoffs in Wednesday's 5-1 Kitchener win to even the series at 2-2 heading into Saturday night's pivotal Game 5

at Compuware Arena.

"I wasn't expecting it," said Max, who played in 62 Whaler regular season games during the 2010-11 season before getting dealt. "I got a call after the last training camp day and he (Mike Vellucci, the Whalers' head coach and G.M.) just told me they were going to try to move me. That's how it goes, I guess."

Playing for his hometown team appeared to be the perfect fit, but Iafate is not looking back in his rear-view mirror.

Please see IAFATE, B4

RU needs coaches

The Redford Union athletic department currently has openings for a girls varsity basketball coach and a girls varsity volleyball coach.

If you are interested in applying for either position, contact Barb McDougall at mcdougall@redford.k12.mi.us.

MU golf team signs Teer

Madonna University men's golf coach Steve Mato announced Tuesday that he has signed Mott Community College golfer Billy Teer (Grand Blanc) to a letter of intent.

Teer earned all-state honors at Grand Blanc High School and advanced to the state finals in all four of his prep seasons. He helped the Bobcats earn a state championship in 2008 while winning the 2006 and 2007 Big 9 Conference team titles. Teer was also a three-time selection to the A/B honor roll at Grand Blanc.

At Mott, Teer helped the Bears win 2011 state and regional titles and was MCCA Eastern Conference individual champion. Teer finished in the top 10 individually in both the state and regional championships for Mott.

'New' Garden City hoops coach knows program well

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Technically, Michele Tyree was hired last month as the "new" girls basketball coach at Garden City High School.

But combining "new," "Tyree" and "Garden City" in the same sentence is a bit misleading.

Tyree has been involved with the Cougars' girls hoops program for close to three decades — both as a player and a coach. Most recently, she served as the junior varsity head coach for varsity mentor Barry Patterson, who announced his resignation at the conclusion of the 2011-12 season.

Tyree's staff will include her sister, Sara, and longtime assistant Ted Fournier.

"I'm excited about the opportunity," said Tyree,



Recently-hired Garden City girls basketball coach Michele Tyree (center) will be assisted by her sister Sara (left) and veteran coach Ted Fournier.

who teaches ninth-grade algebra at Garden City High School. "I enjoyed my time as a freshmen and junior varsity coach, but I'm ready and excited

about the chance to coach at the varsity level."

The Garden City girls basketball program has been a picture of stability since Garden City East

and West high schools merged in the early 1980s. Tyree is just the fourth varsity girls hoops coach since the merger.

"I've learn a lot from

the coaches I played for and coached under: Dave Riley, Marshall Henry and Barry Patterson," Tyree said. "I learned a lot about the importance of always communicating with my players from Dave. Marshall always stressed the importance of academics and athletics and that the gym is an extension of the classroom. And a lot of my defensive philosophy came from Barry."

"My goal is to continue the outstanding tradition that the coaches before me established."

Cougars' opponents will continue to face pressure once next season rolls around.

"I love pressing and I'm big on man-to-man defense," she said. "Those things have

Please see COACH, B4



Jason Zhang Salem



Victor Zhang Canton



E. Gensheimer Farm.-Harr.



Nick Griwicki Salem



Adam Liakos Plymouth



Nick Leshok N. Farm.



G. Borregard Farm.-Harr.



John Ferrara Stevenson



J. McNamara Stevenson



Jake Wasko N. Farm.



Tyler Roshak Farm.-Harr.



D. Crompton Thurston



C. Kopitz N. Farm.



C. Dillon Salem



D. McNeece N. Farm.



Bn. Bielicki Stevenson



Jay Jin Canton



J. Wakeford John Glenn



G. McNamara Stevenson



Bd. Bielicki Stevenson



A. Simion Canton



M. Carlson Canton



Ethan Gell N. Farm.



Brody Clarke N. Farm.

Observerland swim talent is second to none

FIRST-TEAM INDIVIDUALS
Jason Zhang, 200 free, Salem: Zhang did it all for the Rocks during his junior season, which is why he was named the team's Most Valuable Swimmer.

He capped it all off at the Division 1 finals at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Natatorium.

There he finished 16th in the 100-yard backstroke (55.65 seconds) and qualifying in the 200 freestyle, 200 individual medley, 100 free and 50 free.

"Jason Zhang is 'Mister Any Event' for Salem swimming," veteran coach Chuck Olson said. "Whatever event he is asked to compete (in) for the team he has the ability through preparation to deliver with state level results."

Owner of a 4.16 grade-point average and perfect score on the ACT test, he will be team captain in 2012-13.

Victor Zhang, 200 IM, Canton: The senior capped off one of the best careers by any Canton swimmer. Zhang was named all-state and All-American for the fourth and second time, respectively, both in the 200 IM.

At the D1 finals, he finished third in the 200 IM with a time of 1:50.23. He also was all-state in the 100 backstroke, placing second (50.86) and as part of the sixth-place 400 relay.

He won the 200 IM (1:51.65) and 100 butterfly (50.43) at the conference meet, where he also was part of two winning relays.

"Victor's a great competitor and racer," Canton coach Dave Le said. "It was always fun to watch him race. I look forward to see him continue to do well in college swimming."

Eric Gensheimer, 50 free, Farmington-Harrison: Gensheimer had an outstanding senior season, leading the Phoenix to the OAA White Division crown and earning all-state honors. He finished fourth in the 50-yard freestyle at the D-1 state meet with a school-record time of 21.53. Gensheimer also scored in the 100 freestyle, taking 13th place (48.19). His best time in that event was 47.53 leading off the 400 freestyle relay. He is the OAA White champion in the 50 and 100, and he also helped the Phoenix win both freestyle-relays.

"Eric is a very motivated and determined swimmer," coach Brian McNeff said. "He came into the season with some specific goals and did what was necessary to achieve them. He worked hard every day and listened to everything (assistant coach) Driska (McCullough) and I told him to work on. He was a great leader of the team and will definitely be missed next year."

Nick Griwicki, diving, Salem: Griwicki, part of Salem's 1-2 punch in diving with Charlie Dillon, finished 10th at the Division 1 finals with 356.50 points. It was his second straight year in the finals.

Following a sixth-place finish (352.80) at the KLAAs Kensington Conference meet, the senior co-captain and scholar athlete (3.45 grade-point average) was named to the all-conference first team.

He also won Salem's Coaches Award for contributions to team success.

"Nick Griwicki had an outstanding senior year," Olson said. "He's a great teammate and leader."

Adam Liakos, 100 fly, Plymouth: Determination to be the best possible swimmer helped the senior move to the next level for the Wildcats.

"Adam decided to become a complete swimmer at the end of his junior year," Plymouth coach Doug Schade said. "And he worked really hard in the off-season to make sure that he was better than ever coming back for his senior year."

"He certainly accomplished that goal on our team this year."

At the D1 prelims, Liakos finished 32nd in the 100 fly (54.56) and 28th as part of the 200 medley relay.

Liakos, who is looking to swim at a D2 or D3 college, set school records in the 50 free, 100 fly (53.29) and has the fastest splits in the 400 relay (23.32) and 200 relay.

Nick Leshok, 100 free, N. Farmington: Leshok finished fourth in the 100 freestyle in the Division 2 finals with a personal best of 47.15, which was just shy of Jonathan Kershaw's school record of 46.74. Leshok also placed third in the IM at the same meet with a time of 1:55.28 and did break Karl Kozicki's record (1:56.13). He is the OAA Red champion in the 100 freestyle and was second in the IM.

"Nick had a great season, coming off a freshman year when he scored at the state meet to be all-state in two events," coach Mike Harfoot said. "He's just a hard worker. He shows up every day at practice ready to go, looking to improve."

"Nick is a swimming junky. He really is a student of the sport and he really loves it. He's a great kid to coach, and I look forward to two more years with him."

Grant Borregard, 500 free, Farmington-Harrison: Borregard is an outstanding backstroke, but he opted for the 500 freestyle at the state meet. He showed his all-round

2012 ALL-AREA BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

200-yard freestyle: 1. Jason Zhang, jr., Salem; 2. Jake Wasko, soph., North Farmington.

200 individual medley: 1. Victor Zhang, sr., Canton; 2. Tyler Roshak, soph., Farmington-Harrison.

50 freestyle: 1. Eric Gensheimer, sr., Farmington-Harrison; 2. (tie) Dylan Crompton, sr., Redford Thurston; and Calvin Kopitz, sr., North Farmington.

One-meter diving: 1. Nick Griwicki, sr., Salem; 2. Charlie Dillon, soph., Salem.

100 butterfly: 1. Adam Liakos, sr., Plymouth; 2. Danny McNeece, soph., North Farmington.

100 freestyle: 1. Nick Leshok, soph., North Farmington; 2. Brandon Bielicki, sr., Livonia Stevenson.

500 freestyle: 1. Grant Borregard, soph., Farmington-Harrison; 2. Jay Jin, sr., Canton.

100 backstroke: 1. John Ferrara, jr., Stevenson; 2. Joey Wakeford, sr., Westland John Glenn.

100 breaststroke: 1. Jake McNamara, sr., Stevenson; 2. Grant McNamara, soph., Stevenson.

RELAY TEAMS

200-yard medley: 1. Livonia Stevenson (jr. John Ferrara, sr. Jake McNamara, soph. Bradley Bielicki, sr. Brandon Bielicki), 2. Canton (sr. Victor Zhang, sr. Jay Jin, sr. Adrian Simion, jr. Mike Carlson).

200 freestyle: 1. North Farmington (sr. Calvin Kopitz, sr. Ethan Gell, soph. Jake Wasko, soph. Nick Leshok), 2. Canton (sr. Victor Zhang, sr. Jay Jin, sr. Adrian Simion, jr. Mike Carlson).

400 freestyle: 1. Canton (sr. Victor Zhang, sr. Jay Jin, sr. Adrian Simion, jr. Mike Carlson), 2. North Farmington (sr. Calvin Kopitz, soph. Jake Wasko, soph. Brody Clarke, soph. Nick Leshok).

CO-COACHES OF YEAR

Brian McNeff, Farmington-Harrison; Bob Harding, Westland John Glenn

ability by finishing fifth, setting a school record and swimming an area-best time (4:39.46). The sophomore dropped seven seconds his previous best in the prelims (4:42.25), and he cut another three seconds and moved up three places in the final. Borregard also competed in the IM at the state meet, and he was a key member of the freestyle relays. He is the OAA White champion in the IM and backstroke.

"Grant came prepared to work hard every day," McNeff said. "No matter what I threw at him, he did it. His goal was to be all-state this year and he was. And he did it in an event he didn't have too much experience. He is a great swimmer; I think he still has a lot more time to drop."

John Ferrara, 100 back, Stevenson: The junior took third in the Division 1 state meet's 100 backstroke (51.32) along with an 11th in the 200 IM (1:58.04).

Ferrara added Kensington Conference titles in the 500 freestyle (4:48.37) and 100 backstroke (52.54).

"After a very successful sophomore year John continued dropping time all year for us," Stevenson coach Jeff Shoemaker said. "He is a very versatile swimmer and will swim anything when asked. He was an integral part of all our relays this year."

"His year-round training paid off this year as he came into season in good shape."

Ferrara set the school record in the 100 backstroke and ranks among the fastest backstrokers in the nation, which entitles him to All American honors.

"I am really looking forward to watching all the continued success John will have during his senior year," Shoemaker said.

Jake McNamara, 100 breast, Stevenson: The senior placed 10th in the state finals in the 100 breaststroke (59.77) and was also a state qualifier in the 200 IM (2:02.1).

"Jake is a very accomplished state level swimmer," Shoemaker said. "This year he was able to break the 1:00 mark in the 100 breaststroke which puts him on a very short list of swimmers at Stevenson."

At the Kensington Conference meet, McNamara was champion in the 100 breaststroke (1:00.77) and added fourth in the 200 IM (2:01.97).

"His leadership ability and excellent academics made Jake a very well liked and respected captain," Shoemaker said. "Without a doubt Jake will be successful in his future endeavors. His swimming accomplishments made it possible for Jake to get recruited by a number of institutions and he will be able to continue his swimming career at the collegiate level."

FIRST-TEAM RELAYS

200 medley, Stevenson: John Ferrara, Jake McNamara, Bradley Bielicki and Brandon Bielicki placed sixth in the Division 1 state finals with a time of 1:37.47 after posting a preliminary clocking of 1:37.46.

Three of the four members — Ferrara, a junior; Bradley Bielicki, a sophomore, and Brandon Bielicki, a senior and anchor leg — also teamed up with sophomore Grant McNamara for a first in the Kensington Conference meet (1:38.93).

"I knew this relay had great potential at the beginning of the season," Shoemaker said. "The medley consists of all four strokes and we had three of the four legs returning from last year's third-place finish. We lost our butterfly leg of Kellen Schoff and he proved very hard to replace. In the end we went with sophomore Bradley Bielicki and certainly proved himself. John Ferrara, Jake McNamara, and Brandon Bielicki swam the remaining three legs for the second straight year."

"Two of the four members have graduated and will be hard to replace. Using our tradition and hard work, I'm sure we will once again

return with an all-state medley relay."

200 freestyle, North Farmington: Calvin Kopitz, Ethan Gell, Jake Wasko and Nick Leshok went 1:26.62 in the state final to finish fifth and set a school record. Their time was the fastest in the area. The Raiders were second in the OAA Red.

"We got a sense how fast the 200 could go when we swam at MISCAs," Harfoot said. "It was the first time it was stacked (with the four best swimmers); it went 1:28 and none of them were rested yet. We were hoping to break the school record (1:28.0) at state, and we had four guys determined to do that."

400 freestyle, Canton: Before the season began, seniors Victor Zhang, Jin and Adrian Simion and junior Mike Carlson set a lofty goal, coach Dave Le said.

"These four swam together all season and had their sights set on a top-eight finish at the state meet," Le noted.

In the 400 free relay they were successful in that quest, becoming Canton's first ever all-state relay team thanks to a sixth-place finish at the D1 finals at EMU. They clocked in at 3:12.50.

"But the quartet had plenty of accomplishments during the year, most impressively at the conference meet. They finished first at South Lyon East with a time of 3:12.8 — establishing team, pool and conference records simultaneously."

SECOND-TEAM INDIVIDUALS

Jake Wasko, 200 free, N. Farmington: The sophomore finished 16th in the D-2 finals with a 1:49.5 swim, but he posted his best time the previous day in the prelims (1:47.9), which ranks among the best in the area. Wasko also swam the butterfly at state.

"Jake is a very hard worker and is very talented," Harfoot said. "He's starting to gain more self-confidence. He doesn't understand how could he can be. He puts in the same hard work as Nick and trains very hard. He came into his own this year. His 200 at the state meet was just phenomenal."

Tyler Roshak, 200 IM, Farmington-Harrison: Roshak was a state qualifier in the IM and swam one of the area's top-10 times. He is the OAA White Division champion in the butterfly and was fourth in the IM: He was a member of the second-place medley relay team and was instrumental in the Phoenix winning the division title.

"Tyler is another hard worker," McNeff said. "I think he even surprised himself at times at what he did this year. He has set some very high goals for what he wants to accomplish in swimming, and he has already started the work to accomplish those goals. His ceiling is very high as to what he can get done."

Dylan Crompton, 50 free, Thurston: The senior closed out his late-starting high school swimming career by becoming one of the most-prolific sprint performers in school history. After not swimming competitively until half-way through his sophomore year, Crompton flourished, combining natural athletic skill with an admirable work ethic. In addition to helping set school relay records, he holds the mark for the 50- and 100-yard freestyle races.

"Dylan was the hardest worker in the pool," said Thurston coach Tom Giummo. "He's a smart swimmer always willing to stay after and work on something new and work to improve himself. What he has done in such a short amount of time was out of this world. He's a great representative of Thurston: an excellent student-athlete who I was proud to have coached."

Calvin Kopitz, 50 free, N. Farmington: Kopitz finished ninth in the D-2 state meet with a 21.69 time, which is the second fastest in school history and is close to Matt Zal'd record of 21.54. It was the fifth fastest on the final day, but Kopitz was locked in

the consolation heat.

In the same meet, he anchored the medley relay in 21.20 and led off the 200 freestyle relay in 21.73. His leadoff time of 48.15 in the 400 relay would have scored in the open 100. In the OAA Red meet, Kopitz was third in the 50 and seventh in the 100.

"Calvin was a good sprinter his freshman and sophomore years," Harfoot said. "He turned it on last year and turned into a very good sprinter. He put the work in and became an elite sprinter this year."

"He swam year-round for the first time, and it helped him coming into the season. He had a head start and it really paid off for him."

Charlie Dillon, diving, Salem: The sophomore finished 14th in the D1 finals with a mark of 325.50.

At the KLAAs conference meet, he took fourth (380.15) and was selected to the all-KLAAs second team for his season-long excellence.

Dillon, who carries a 3.24 GPA, also was honored by the team, winning the Most Improved Award.

"Charlie Dillon showed as a sophomore that hard work and dedication with talent will find success at the D1 state meet," Olson said. "Now, he has the experience and talent to be a strong contender for all-state honors the next two years."

Danny McNeece, 100 fly, N. Farmington: McNeece finished 16th in the butterfly (55.11) at the D-2 state meet, but his prelim time of 53.95 puts him third among the best fliers in the area. He was 11th in the OAA Red. McNeece also swam the IM at state.

"Danny is another hard worker," Harfoot said. "He works on the technical aspect, trying to be as fast as he can. He was a little up and down this year. He went back and forth, so we were really pleased he had a good meet that first day at state and got into scoring position."

Brandon Bielicki, 100 free, Stevenson: The senior was the Spartans' top sprinter this season placing 14th in the Division 1 50 freestyle (22.07) and qualifying in the 100 freestyle (18th in 48.17).

"This year he not only participated, but he was able to score in one of the fastest state meets of all time," Shoemaker said. "He was the anchor on our all-state medley relay (sixth place) and also a member of our scoring 400 freestyle relay (12th place)"

Bielicki added a fourth in the 100 freestyle (49.65) and a fifth in the 50 freestyle (22.62) at the Kensington Conference meet.

"He swam all four years for us and was an exceptional captain this year," Shoemaker added. "He is very powerful in the classroom and without a doubt he will be successful in anything he decides to do. His replacement will be very difficult for next year."

Jay Jin, 500 free, Canton: Versatility enabled the senior to excel in a number of individual events and relays for the Chiefs.

At the D1 finals, he took 14th in the 200 IM (1:58.70), took 39th in the 100 fly and was part of the 200 medley and 400 free relays.

His time of 4:58.10 in the 500 free was fifth-best among Observerland swimmers.

Jin was part of the victorious 200 and 400 free relays at the conference meet.

"He's always willing to do any event that the team needed him to be in," Le said. "He was willing to help some of the younger swimmers on the team with their stroke technique."

Joey Wakeford, 100 back, John Glenn: The senior, headed to the University of Michigan, capped a stellar career with a fifth-place finish in the Division 1 state finals in the 100 backstroke (53.66) after going a personal-best 53.27 in the prelims.

Wakeford also took a third in the backstroke (55.42) along with a sixth in the 100 butterfly (55.79) at the Kensington Conference meet.

"Joey can swim any event," Glenn coach Bob Harding said. "He led the team to undefeated dual meet season, a first in school history, and first-ever division (KLAAs South) crown. As a freshman Joey did not qualify to the state meet, did so as a sophomore, scored as a junior, and earned all-state honors as a senior."

Wakeford, the team MVP and two-year captain, also helped Glenn qualify for the state meet in the 200 freestyle relay (1:31.82) and place fifth in the Kensington Conference meet.

"Wakeford, who carries a 3.69 grade-point average, will be attending the University of Michigan next fall."

Grant McNamara, 100 breast, Stevenson: The sophomore was a state qualifier in the 100 breaststroke (1:00.16) where he finished 16th overall.

McNamara was also a state qualifier in the 500 freestyle (5:00.42).

"Last year Grant had some huge time drops and was able to qualify for the state meet as a freshman," Shoemaker said. "This year Grant once again had a successful year and

made two individual state cuts. Having most his success in the breaststroke, he was also asked to swim the distance events throughout the year."

At the Kensington Conference meet, McNamara took third in the 500 freestyle (4:57.94) and added a fourth in the 100 breaststroke (1:02.11).

"Grant was our youngest individual state qualifier and has two more years to swim at Stevenson. We are expecting great things from him in his second half of his high school career."

SECOND-TEAM RELAYS

200 medley, Canton: The quartet of Zhang, Jin, Simion and Carlson brought skills and leadership to every event they performed individually or as a relay team.

According to Le, to help the Chiefs at the conference meet, "both Mike and Adrian were willing to give up an individual event to swim all three relays."

They placed eighth that day with a time of 1:46.18 but eclipsed it at the D1 finals, completing the race in 18th place with a team record time of 1:39.26.

"All four swimmers were very versatile so it took us most of the season to come up with the right combination," Le added.

200 freestyle, Canton: At the Kensington Conference meet — bookended by record splits by lead-off man Zhang (20.98) and anchor Carlson (21.74) — the Chiefs established pool and conference marks with their first-place time of 1:28.01.

Zhang, Jin, Simion and Carlson turned in "a dominating performance," Le said.

That was the relay team's best time in that event, second only to the 1:26.62 turned in by North Farmington among Observerland squads.

400 freestyle, North Farmington: Kopitz, Wasko, Brody Clarke and Leshok combined for a 3:13.46 time in the state final, breaking a school record that had stood for two decades. Their time also clinched an all-area team berth. The same four were third in the OAA Red.

"Honestly, we were surprised how fast we went at the state meet," Harfoot said. "We thought, if everything went well, we could get down to 3:15. All four of them surpassed their best times and had a good day."

"It's not often you get all four relay members to have personal best days together. It just clicked the second day, and they did a tremendous job working as a team and breaking that school record (3:13.74)."

CO-COACHES OF THE YEAR

Brian McNeff, Farmington-Harrison: McNeff led the Phoenix to an outstanding season in his first as head coach. The unified Farmington-Harrison team was undefeated in OAA White Division dual meets and won the

all-schools meet to capture the overall championship. The Phoenix placed ninth in the Oakland County meet and 18th in the Division 1 state meet. McNeff has coached the Farmington girls previously, and he has also coached at

Northville High School.

Bob Harding, John Glenn: The sixth-year coach guided the Rockets to an undefeated dual meet season (7-0) along with their first-ever KLAAs South Division meet championship.

Glenn's Joey Wakeford also earned all-state honors in the 100 backstroke and the Rockets' 200 freestyle relay team of Cody Hodges, Dave Vader, Josh Wakeford and Joey Wakeford also qualified for the state meet.

Harding, a former swimmer at Eastern Michigan University under

Mike Jones, taught and coached for 32 years at Southfield High before moving over to Glenn.

"During my six years at John Glenn we have come from a team with only about 15 athletes to

BEST BOYS SWIM TIMES

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY
 Livonia Stevenson 1:37.46
 Canton 1:39.26
 Salem 1:40.27
 North Farmington 1:41.43
 Farmington-Harrison 1:42.48

200 FREESTYLE
 Victor Zhang (Canton) 1:44.10
 Jason Zhang (Salem) 1:47.83
 Jake Wasko (N. Farmington) 1:47.90
 Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 1:47.92
 John Ferrara (Stevenson) 1:48.12
 Jay Jin (Canton) 1:48.29
 Grant Borregard (Farm. Unified) 1:48.45
 Josh Wakeford (John Glenn) 1:50.29
 Mike Stover (Wayne) 1:51.33
 David Olson (Farm. Unified) 1:51.77

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY
 Victor Zhang (Canton) 1:50.23
 Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 1:55.28
 John Ferrara (Stevenson) 1:57.17
 Jay Jin (Canton) 1:58.54
 Grant Borregard (Farm. Unified) 1:59.11
 Jason Zhang (Salem) 2:00.33
 Jake McNamara (Stevenson) 2:01.97
 Tyler Roshak (Farm. Unified) 2:04.30
 Danny McNece (N. Farmington) 2:05.33
 Bradley Bielicki (Stevenson) 2:06.62

50 FREESTYLE
 Victor Zhang (Canton) 20.98
 Eric Gensheimer (Farm. Unified) 21.53
 Dylan Crompton (Thurston) 21.68
 Calvin Kopitz (N. Farmington) 21.69
 Brandon Bielicki (Stevenson) 22.02
 Jason Zhang (Salem) 22.02
 Mike Carlson (Canton) 22.06
 Ethan Gell (N. Farmington) 22.45
 Adam Liakos (Plymouth) 22.59
 Jerry Bai (Salem) 23.00

ONE-METER DIVING
 Charlie Dillon (Salem) 380.15
 Nick Griwicki (Salem) 373.20
 Ryan Kilgore (Canton) 357.60
 Nick Nader (N. Farmington) 316.95
 Connor McManus (Plymouth) 296.40
 Eric Rathgeber (Stevenson) 278.20
 Ainsworth Orr (John Glenn) 272.85
 Brian Atiyeh (Stevenson) 272.25
 Jay Krebs (Canton) 264.95
 Jessee Damesworth (Stevenson) 259.30

100 BUTTERFLY
 Victor Zhang (Canton) 50.43
 Adam Liakos (Plymouth) 53.29
 Danny McNece (N. Farmington) 53.95
 Jake Wasko (N. Farmington) 54.05
 Jeremy Wellman (Salem) 54.13
 Ian Landau (N. Farmington) 54.22
 Tyler Roshak (Farm. Unified) 54.87
 Jay Jin (Canton) 55.00
 Luke Crompton (Thurston) 55.12
 Joey Wakeford (John Glenn) 55.79

100 FREESTYLE
 Victor Zhang (Canton) 45.18
 Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 47.15
 Eric Gensheimer (Farm. Unified) 47.53
 Calvin Kopitz (N. Farmington) 48.15
 Brandon Bielicki (Stevenson) 48.17
 John Ferrara (Stevenson) 48.41
 Dylan Crompton (Thurston) 48.48
 Mike Carlson (Canton) 48.87
 Jake McNamara (Stevenson) 49.19
 Jason Zhang (Salem) 49.24

500 FREESTYLE
 Grant Borregard (Farm. Unified) 4:39.46
 Victor Zhang (Canton) 4:40.19
 John Ferrara (Stevenson) 4:48.37
 Grant McNamara (Stevenson) 4:56.08
 Jay Jin (Canton) 4:58.10

Jason Zhang (Salem) 4:58.64
 Jake Ferguson (John Glenn) 5:00.36
 Matt LaPorte (Stevenson) 5:03.72
 Mike Stover (Wayne) 5:04.68
 Matthew Peters (Farm. Unified) 5:09.84

200 FREESTYLE RELAY
 North Farmington 1:26.62
 Canton 1:28.01
 Farmington-Harrison 1:28.13
 Westland John Glenn 1:31.82
 Salem 1:31.98

100 BACKSTROKE
 Victor Zhang (Canton) 50.86
 John Ferrara (Stevenson) 51.32
 Joey Wakeford (Glenn) 53.27
 Jeremy Wellman (Salem) 54.55
 Jason Zhang (Salem) 54.69
 Grant Borregard (Farm. Unified) 55.37
 Jay Jin (Canton) 56.25
 Adrian Simion (Canton) 56.75
 Joe Paris (N. Farmington) 57.16
 Cameron Earls (Plymouth) 57.77

100 BREASTSTROKE
 Jake McNamara (Stevenson) 59.77
 Grant McNamara (Stevenson) 1:00.06
 Victor Zhang (Canton) 1:00.12
 Nick Leshok (N. Farmington) 1:01.52
 Turner Solterman (Salem) 1:03.56
 Tom O'Donohue (Stevenson) 1:03.79
 Jay Jin (Canton) 1:03.84
 Drake Veit (Garden City) 1:04.43
 Smaran Bhaktawara (Salem) 1:05.23
 Ethan Gell (N. Farmington) 1:05.34

400 FREESTYLE RELAY
 Canton 3:12.11
 North Farmington 3:13.46
 Livonia Stevenson 3:14.87
 Farmington-Harrison 3:16.88
 Salem 3:23.66



Erica Katz awaits the throw to get Jessica Fischer out at first base.

C'ville outlasts Wayne in slugfest

On Friday at Livonia Clarenceville, the host Trojans upended Wayne Memorial, 14-10, to even their record at 2-2. Jodi Ankiel paced the winners' torrid hitting attack with a 4-for-4 effort. She also scored two runs. Angela McAlpine (two hits, four RBI) and Nicole Kurdziel (2-for-2, three runs, two RBI) also played well for the Trojans, who struck for five runs in the second inning and six in the fifth. Wayne lead-off hitter Shelby Hooper was a tough out all afternoon, going 3-for-4 with two runs. Megan Macek had two hits and two RBI for the Zebras. Winning pitcher Jaki Bateman scattered eight hits and a walk. She struck out two. "We almost had the mercied, then we lost our concentration," said Clarenceville coach Joe DeCaire. "I was not happy with the defense, but I was happy with Jaki. She's our third pitcher. We hit the heck out of the ball and that saved us. We're a young team and hopefully we'll learn from this."

Clarenceville unloaded for 17 hits Thursday to chalk up its first girls softball victory of the season with a 16-5 triumph over visiting Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood. The Trojans scored 11 times in the second inning to take command and never looked back as freshman Emily Schwartz, the winning pitcher, helped her own cause by going 3-for-3 at the plate, including a double. Schwartz allowed five runs on eight hits, three walks and a pair of hit batters to pick up her first varsity win on the mound. She had a pair of strikeouts. Other offensive standouts for the Trojans included McAlpine (three hits, two runs); sophomore Mikala Kieling (2-for-3, one run); and Ankiel (two hits, two runs). Shortstop Crystal Jackson went 2-for-4 with a double for the Cranes (1-2). Cranbrook starter Amanda Duperron-Sperling went four innings, giving up all 16 runs on 17 hits. She hit three batters and struck out four.

Rockets split pair with EF

Westland John Glenn's baseball team is keeping busy during spring break week. On Thursday, the Rockets split a double-header against host Dearborn Edsel Ford, winning the opener, 7-3, before falling in the nightcap, 7-4. Brandon Smeltzer delivered a two-run double and Danny Croft added a two-run single in the third inning to put the Rockets ahead 7-0 in the first game. Glenn jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first as Daniel Ammons and Adam Singleton each knocked in runs. Smeltzer, who also drew a bases loaded walk in the first, finished with three RBI, while Singleton added two and Ammons one. Winning pitcher Zach Quinn worked the first 5½ innings allowing two runs on four hits and four walks. He struck out four before giving way to reliever Kyle Hunter, who got the final four outs while allowing one run. In the second game, Edsel Ford's DeAndre DeGraffenreive belted a three-run first-inning double to propel the Thunderbirds to the victory. Edsel Ford (6-2) used three pitchers with starter Ryan Flum going the first three innings allowing one run on three hits. Kevin

PREP BASEBALL

Belvitch and Ryan Gilbert each worked two innings to close out the victory. Smeltzer, the Glenn starter, gave up seven runs over the first five innings. Croft finished up. Ammons and Chase Bovia each knocked in a run for the Rockets (2-5), who were outright 9-7.

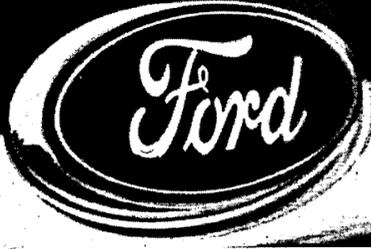
CRANBROOK 9, C'VILLE 1: Jake Rosen went 2-for-4, including a triple and four RBI to propel Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (4-1) to a victory Thursday at Livonia Clarenceville (1-1). Winning pitcher Alex Roed helped his own cause with a pair of doubles and RBI. Jacob Chapman also went 2-for-3 with an RBI. Roed went all seven innings, allowing just four hits and three walks while striking out 12. Clarenceville starter Eric Trotter was tagged for seven runs on seven hits and four walks over the first 3½ innings. Reliever Ben Gehan worked the final 3½ innings, allowing two runs on five hits and three walks while fanning five. Damien Sanchez collected two of Clarenceville's four hits and Zach Devon broke up Roed's shutout bid with an RBI single in the bottom of the seventh.

MU men's soccer team inks pair of ex-Ocelots

Madonna University men's soccer coach Eric Scott announced Tuesday that he has signed Schoolcraft Community College products Doug Beason and Philip Strachan to letters of intent. The duo joins Aaron Schapman and Keith Swistock who both signed earlier this year. A 5-foot-9 forward from Northville, Beason spent the last two seasons at Schoolcraft under former MU women's coach Rick Larson and led the Ocelots to the Michigan Community College Athletic Association and NJCAA Regional championships in 2011. Prior to his time at Schoolcraft, Beason lettered in soccer at Northville High School, earning team most valuable player and third-team all-state honors as a senior. During his club days, Beason led the Michigan Wolves to the 2010 state title. "Doug is going to give us a lot of versatility up front," said Scott. "He likes to link up with midfielders and get behind back lines. His timing and locations around the box are excellent and he has tremendous energy and pace. Doug is a character guy with a great family. I think he will fit in nicely with our program." Strachan, who prepped at Livonia Clarenceville, is a 6-1 defender who spent the past two seasons at SC alongside Beason. During his high school days, Strachan earned three all-conference honors from 2008-10 and an all-area selection as a senior.

"Phil is a great combination of speed, physical power and technical ability," added Scott. "He is coming off a great season at center back for Schoolcraft — giving up seven or eight goals all season — that went 22-0-1. He'll provide us with many options in the mid-field and back line and will be a tremendous leader for us over the next two years. He has fantastic character and has shown to be willing to step up and get involved. We are looking forward to having him." The Crusaders are coming off of a trip to the 2011 NAIA National Championship and their third Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference title in the last five years heading into 2012.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

PREP BASEBALL
Monday, April 16
 Church. at W.L. Western, 4 p.m.
 Lincoln Pk. at Frank., 4:30 p.m.
 C'ville at S.L. East, 4:30 p.m.
 Summit at L. W'sld, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17
 Thurston at N. Farm., 4 p.m.
 Steve. at Garden City, 4 p.m.
 Frank. at W. Bloom., 4:30 p.m.
 C'ville at H. Wds., 4:30 p.m.
 Parkway at L. W'sld, 4:30 p.m.
 Oak. Christ. at HVL, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18
 S.L. East at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 South Lyon at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Northville at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Romulus at RU, 4 p.m.
 Dearborn at Thurston, 4 p.m.
 Belleville at Garden City, 4 p.m.
 HVL at Macomb, 4:30 p.m.
 Annapolis at C'ville, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 19
 Ferndale at RU, 4 p.m.
 L. W'sld at Inter-City, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 20
 Church. at Plymouth (2), 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Wayne (2), 4 p.m.
 Steve. at S. Lyon (2), 4 p.m.
 Canton at Glenn (2), 4 p.m.
 GC at Edsel Ford, 4 p.m.
 Thurston at Belleville, 4 p.m.
 RU at Fordson, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 21 (all double-headers)
 Thurston at Inter-City, 10 a.m.
 RU at Berkley, 11 a.m.
 C'ville at Wayne, 11 a.m.
 Romulus at L. W'sld, noon.
GIRLS SOFTBALL
Monday, April 16
 Church. at W.L. Western, 4 p.m.
 RU at Cranbrook, 4:30 p.m.
 C'ville at S.L. East, 4:30 p.m.
 L. W'sld at Liggett, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17
 S.L. East at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Steve. at Allen Park (2), 4 p.m.
 Mercy at Ladywood (2), 4 p.m.
 C'ville at H. Wds., 4:30 p.m.
 HVL at Macomb, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18
 South Lyon at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at Glenn, 4 p.m.
 Northville at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Dearborn at Thurston, 4 p.m.
 Romulus at RU, 4 p.m.
 Belleville at Garden City, 4 p.m.
 Annapolis at C'ville, 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 19
 L. W'sld at Inter-City, 4:30 p.m.
 Southfield at C'ville, 5 p.m.

Friday, April 20
 Church. at Plymouth (2), 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Wayne (2), 4 p.m.
 Canton at Glenn (2), 4 p.m.
 Luth. W'sld at HVL (2), 3:30 p.m.
 GC at Edsel Ford, 4 p.m.
 RU at Fordson, 4 p.m.
 Thurston at Belleville, 4 p.m.
 Marian at Ladywood (2), 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 21 (all DHs unless noted)
 Mercy Invitational, 8 a.m.
 C'ville at Franklin Rd., 10 a.m.
 Glen at A.A. Huron, TBA.
GIRLS SOCCER
Monday, April 16
 C'ville at Fordson, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, April 17
 Churchill at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 L. South at L. W'sld, 4:30 p.m.
 Thurston at C'ville, 6 p.m.
 Canton at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at S. Lyon, 7 p.m.
 Plymouth at Glenn, 7 p.m.
 L'wood at N.D. Prep, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 19
 Wayne at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
 L. W'sld at Bapt. Park, 4:30 p.m.
 S'west. at Thurston, 4:30 p.m.
 Richard at Ladywood, 6 p.m.
 Churchill at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Plymouth at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Dearborn, 7 p.m.
Friday, April 20
 Luth. Westland vs. Cabrini at Millward Park, 4:30 p.m.
 Hamtramck at RU, 6 p.m.
 Garden City at Dearborn, 7 p.m.
 Farm. at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Steve. at Country Day, 7 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
 Thurston at Trojan Inv., TBA.
 Ladywood at Forest Hills Northern Inv., 10:30 a.m.
BOYS GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
Tuesday, April 17
 Canton at Churchill, 3:30 p.m.
 Frank. at Plymouth, 3:30 p.m.
 Steve. at S.L. East, 3:30 p.m.
 Wayne at John Glenn, 3:30 p.m.
 Thurston at GC, 3:30 p.m.
 RU at Annapolis, 3:30 p.m.
 Ladywood at Mercy, 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 19
 C'ville Tri-meet, 4:30 p.m.
 L. W'sld at Annapolis, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
 Ypsilanti Invitational, 10 a.m.
 W.L.W. Stafford Relays, 10 a.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Monday, April 16
 Southfield at RU, 4 p.m.
 John Glenn at S. Lyon, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 17
 Churchill at Wayne, 4 p.m.
 Plymouth at Franklin, 4 p.m.
 Stevenson at S.L. East, 4 p.m.
 Canton at John Glenn, 4 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18
 Steve. at Farmington, 4 p.m.
 GC at Thurston, 4 p.m.
 Crestwood at RU, 4 p.m.
 Ladywood vs. Divine Child at Schoolcraft College, 4 p.m.
Thursday, April 19
 John Glenn at Churchill, 4 p.m.
 Franklin at Canton, 4 p.m.
 Novi at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
 Wayne at Plymouth, 4 p.m.
 Ladywood at DCD, 4:15 p.m.
Friday, April 20
 GC at Annapolis, 4 p.m.
 Robichaud at RU, 4 p.m.
 Thurston at Crestwood, 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
 Monroe Invitational, 8:30 a.m.
 Churchill, Franklin, Edsel Ford at Stevenson, 9 a.m.
BOYS GOLF
Tuesday, April 17
 Churchill vs. Franklin at Whispering Willows, 3 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18
 Belleville at Garden City, 3 p.m.
 Edsel Ford at Thurston, 3 p.m.
 Dearborn at RU, 3 p.m.
Thursday, April 19
 Churchill vs. Wayne at Whispering Willows, 3 p.m.
 HVL vs. Univ.-Liggett at Idyl Wyld G.C., 4 p.m.
Friday, April 20
 Thurston at Dearborn, 3 p.m.
 RU at Belleville, 3 p.m.
 Churchill vs. John Glenn at Fellows Creek, 3 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
 MIAC Meet at Bald Mtn., 1 p.m.
 Pinckney Invitational, TBA.
GIRLS LACROSSE
Tuesday, April 17
 Richard at Ladywood, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 18
 Ladywood at Regina, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
 L'wood at Okemos, 1:30 p.m.
COLLEGE BASEBALL (all double-headers)
Sunday, April 15
 Madonna at Davenport, 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 21
 Madonna at Ind. Tech, 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 22
 Madonna at Ind. Tech, 1 p.m.
COLLEGE SOFTBALL (all double-headers)
 Madonna at Aquinas, 1 p.m.

IAFRATE

Continued from page B1

"It wasn't ideal, I guess," Max said "Maybe I wish I went to a different place to help my development out. But I know I'm in the best place to develop as a defenseman in Kitchener, so I'm happy with that."

And Max quickly extinguished any anxieties of being on the opposite side of the ice when going against the Whalers, which has only intensified during the playoffs. "I got over that the first two games playing here in the regular season ... like the nerves and stuff, and not trying to do too much and getting emotional with the other guys," Max said. "I'm past that."

In 62 OHL regular season games this season, Iafrate scored six goals and added 10 assists while getting only 97 minutes in penalties.

Al Iafrate, who once played for the OHL's Belleville Bulls, believes the trade was a blessing in disguise.

"You walk into Kitchener's arena, and in the rafters you'll see - (Larry) Robinson, (Scott) Stevens, (Paul) Coffey - and soon to be it will be (Ryan) Murphy," said Al, referring to Murphy, a 2011 first-round pick of the Carolina Hurricanes. "It's a breeding ground for defensemen, and me being a player that played in the Ontario League ... in my opinion, if you're going to walk away from a full college scholarship like he had to a lot of really good schools, why not experience how the fabric of hockey as a Canadian? It always has been and it's been woven into the fabric of their society."

Playing alongside the highly-skilled Murphy has proven to be an added bonus.

Both Max and Murphy are represented by the same agent, Ian Pulver. "Murph's been my mentor all the time I've been here," Max said. "All the guys have welcomed me nicely, and I'm just watching some great defensemen in front of me play. That's helping me a lot."

The NHL Draft will be in June and Max won't go as high as his father Al did in 1984 (when he was taken fourth overall in the first round by Toronto). But the move to Kitchener has improved his stock. Max is now ranked No. 70 (up from No. 78) among North American skaters that were released recently by the NHL's Central Scouting Bureau final rankings.

"I think anybody that picks him is really going to be happy because there's not a lot of big defensemen that can skate," Al said. "The draft is always a crap shoot. Look a Torey Krug (from Livonia and Michigan State), for instance. There was 30 NHL scouts that passed on him six times and they all still have their jobs. In the last three years there were



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia's Max Iafrate has found a home with the OHL's Kitchener Rangers after being traded from the Whalers.

a lot of defensemen that were drafted that aren't playing."

Krug, a defenseman, signed as a free agent with Boston just two days after MSU was eliminated in the NCAA Tournament.

"In the last four years, there's 20 defensemen drafted that are playing," Al Iafrate said. "He (Krug) hadn't been drafted and actually Chicago and Boston end up bidding for him. The draft's the draft. I think there's golden opportunities to be a free agent ... that's an unbelievable situation."

Al Iafrate scored 152 goals and added 311 assists during his NHL career while making two All-Star games. Max is more of a defensive defenseman, while Al was a talented puck mover and skater.

Playing in the OHL can't but help Max, who's just completing his second year and could potentially could play three more seasons in OHL (including as an overage). Max attended Stevenson, but is finishing up his high school studies this summer after being home-schooled in Kitchener where he's been able to set his own curriculum and pace of study.

"It's his decision, his life, his dream," Al said. "Make no bones about it, the best 16-to-18 year-olds in the world play in that league. There's not even a league that's close."

"College hockey is great, but they're not 16. The OHL has the lick on college because they get the kids when they're 16. College has wait until they're 18. So if you want to play against the best 16-, -18 and 19-year-olds in the world, the OHL is where it's at."

"As a defenseman, there's always a kid you're playing against that's a first-round pick - always - whether it's a 'D-man' or forward. If you're going to play major Canadian junior hockey, why not experience in its entirety? There's 9,000, 10,000 at a (Kitchener) game. And there's a pathology and

history of defensemen there."

Al Iafrate, who currently works for Base Hockey LP, a stick manufacturer based in Vancouver, B.C., takes a great deal of satisfaction in watching one of his own develop as a player.

"I'm as proud of a dad of my kids as anybody with Meg (his daughter) and Max," he said. "It's his decision. His thing was that if he didn't make that (U.S. Junior) development team (in Ann Arbor), he was going to go to the OHL. If he did, he was going to go to college. He didn't make it and it was an easy decision for him. I gave him my opinion and my two cents, but I'm glad he followed his heart."

"It's great he's following his dream because you're going to have to for sure. I love the way he thinks and the person that he is. I'm real proud and honored to be his dad."

So what traits as hockey players separate Max from Al?

"He's inherently tougher and meaner, but I was just a freak of nature skate-wise," Al said. "He's got a cannon (shot), no doubt about it."

Al Iafrate, who played four different NHL teams before retiring in 1998, knows the highs, the lows and the pitfalls. You constantly being evaluated, even at a young age.

"It's a great sport, but it's a tough sport," he said. "The demands put on these kids are unbelievable. From the time they're 14 or 15 it's unbelievable. The process is unreal as far as what a guy goes through. They only have their families because everybody is going to doubt you. Even when you're in the league (NHL) for 10 years and have all kinds of accolades ... look at Steve Yzerman. Up until his 13th season or whatever, everybody was doubting him. Then all the sudden they won a Stanley Cup and he was untouchable. He was a great player the whole time."

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COACH

Continued from page B1

been pretty consistent at Garden City over the years."

Although this past season's leading scorer, Justice Dean, is graduating, Tyree is enthusiastic about the returning cast.

"We have a great group of girls coming back," she said. "They're talented and they're all great at accepting their roles. Mintia Whitaker is an outstanding defensive play-

er, Abby Joseph was one of the best freshmen we've had here in a while and Cassea Bear is small for a center, but she has the heart of someone who is 6-3. We're looking for Julene Pummill to step in as one of our main ball-handlers and outside shooters and Liz Gazley is such a team player. I really like the group we have coming back."

One objective on Tyree's agenda is to get involved in building up the city's younger athletes.

"Since we don't have

a feeder system in the city, a lot of girls don't start playing basketball when they're young," she said. "I'd like to put together some clinics or camps for girls as young as third and fourth grade so we can introduce them to the sport early and let them see how much fun it is."

Tyree played for the Cougars' junior varsity squad in 1987 and on the varsity during the 1988 and 1989 seasons.

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On a mission

Local church members bring friendship, elbow grease to Haiti

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Paul DeNapoli helped build a restroom, painted a church, cemented bricks together and planted fruit trees during trips to the Caribbean the last two years.

The retired Livonia firefighter loved every minute of his adventures, which were spent mostly in manual labor, administering basic health checks to children and making friends with his Haitian hosts.

When he returns next year to the poor island nation, he hopes to take a contingent of members from Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church with him.

He said the congregation has been a part of the Haiti project in spirit the past two years as he and Aldersgate pastor Rev. Jeff Nelson, first participated in a mission trip and then led one.

"I told the congregation it's not a one-man show. It's we, not just me when we come back to show you what we did as a church to help these people in Hai-

ti and why it's important to continue this project," said DeNapoli. "We're following in the footprints of Jesus and being leaders."

Joining a mission

Nelson was new to Redford Aldersgate when he attended a get-acquainted dinner at Paul and Debbie DeNapoli's Livonia home a few years ago. DeNapoli, aware that the new pastor had spent time in Africa on missions, suggested he go along on the minister's next trip abroad.

"He looked at me and said, okay, set it up. I said, where? He said, I don't care. Pick a spot," DeNapoli recalled the exchange. "I'm the kind of guy who doesn't reinvent the wheel. There was a group getting ready to go back to Haiti. We teamed with them on the first trip."

DeNapoli, Nelson and fellow parishioner Dale Archambeau joined a team led by a Methodist church in Wyandotte last year. This year Nelson and DeNapoli solicited members from other local churches to accompany them on a return vis-



Paul DeNapoli of Livonia works on a safety wall in Haiti.

it to Gommiers, a small seaside Haitian village that is home to a Methodist Church and school. The goal was to partner with smaller churches and help them develop their own mission leadership.

"Now we have three churches with experience that can develop a core group of their own parishioners or get other churches to go with them," DeNapoli said.

Two members each from New Beginnings United Methodist Church in Redford, Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit and Calvary United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor joined mission team.

Landing in Haiti

"When we got off the plane the first time, last

year, and I saw the kids at the school, I looked at Pastor Jeff and said, I'm hooked. I've got to come back," DeNapoli said. "The next time I came back, I thought, I'm home. It looked familiar. I knew what to expect. There were workers I had made friends with last year who remembered me. They were glad to see us."

DeNapoli, who is married and the father of two grown children, doesn't consider the mission work a "calling" for himself. "It's just something I've wanted to do. I spent 27 years on the fire department, where I was always helping people."

Because he has paramedic training, he also worked in a Haitian clinic, taking blood pressures, temperatures and check-



This year's mission group included Rev. Jeff Nelson, (left) Dale Thomas, Paul DeNapoli, Carmen Ziegler, Wendy Roe, Rev. John Pajak, Dale Titus and Rev. Beth Titus. The sign at the Jeremie airport in Haiti says "Welcome to Jeremie, city of poets."

ing pulse rates.

"They have a lot of allergies due to the dust from the roads and smoke

because they cook with charcoal," he noted.

Please see MISSION, B6

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Stamp collectors gather in Westland for annual show

The West Suburban Stamp Club will present its 43rd annual "Plymouth Show" Saturday-Sunday, April 28-29 at a new, larger location — the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, in Westland.

The show, which previously was held at Plymouth Central Middle School, will run 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission and parking are free.

Nearly 40 vendors will offer stamps, covers, cachet covers, and supplies for both new and experienced collectors. The dealers will come from nine states and Canada. A cachet maker's bourse is planned for Saturday and representatives of the United States, United Nations and Nordica postal services will be on hand to sell their current stamp and postal stationery issues.

The "Plymouth Show" is a qualifying national show in the APS "World Series of Philately." The grand award winner will be eligible to compete in the August Champion of Champion exhibition at STAMP-

SHOW 2012 in Sacramento, Calif. and will receive a framed duck drawing by wildlife artist Larry Hillard. In addition to the Grand Award, a reserve grand award, the customary five levels of medals, and numerous special awards will be presented.

A panel of accredited American Philatelic Society (APS) judges will determine the exhibition award levels at the show.

Exhibitors will get a chance to ask judges questions about awards and get help on how to improve their exhibits at 11:30 a.m. Sunday. It's also an opportunity for future exhibitors to learn the ins and outs of exhibiting.

"Stamps in Your Closet" sessions are scheduled from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. both exhibit days. The sessions are patterned after the successful APS national show *What's in Your Attic*. Experienced collectors and dealers will help identify and provide guidance on a collection's worth.

The show also will offer "how to" classes to small groups of beginning collectors. The young collector will receive the basic collecting tools,

free stamps and tips to start a collection, as well as an invitation to visit the show bourse and attend a club meeting. Classes are scheduled at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday and 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday. Space is limited. Preregistration is suggested at <http://www.thewssc.com/YouthProgram.html>.

In conjunction with the show, the club will sell a cachet cover with special cancel honoring Owney the Railway Mail Service mascot. Covers are available at the show or by mail for \$3 or \$5 for both show dates. To order by mail send a check or money order plus a No. 10 self-addressed stamped envelope to WSSC, Box 700049, Plymouth, MI, 48170.

The West Suburban Stamp Club meets the first and third Friday of each month at the Plymouth Historical Museum at Main and Church streets in Plymouth. Doors open at 7 p.m. and meetings include a social time, a program and 25-lot stamp auction.

For more information visit www.plymouthshow.com.



Wendy Roe plants a fruit tree in honor of her late sister, while the Rev. John Pajak (left) of New Beginnings United Methodist Church in Redford and the Rev. Jeff Nelson of Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church watch. They and other members of their missionary team planted 150 trees during a trip to Haiti this year.

MISSION

Continued from page B5

In addition to planting fruit trees this year, the mission team built a safety wall — designed to keep children from wandering into the street — in front of the school. They also painted the church.

With no electricity and no modern mixers, volunteers stirred cement on the ground and used a bucket brigade to move it along to the safety wall construction.

"I brought them tools. I gave (a Haitian friend) a hammer. You would have thought I had given him a bar of gold."

Planning is key

DeNapoli said successful mission trip planners iron out all details in advance of travel. That includes finding out exactly what they're expected to accomplish abroad.

"You have to have an understanding of what you're doing and how you

can help the people," he said, adding "You're not telling them what to do. They know what needs to be done."

Beyond the bricks and mortar projects, the mission work is about people at its essence, Nelson noted in a written report to his congregation.

He pointed out that 78 percent of Haitians earn less than \$2 a day, more than two-thirds have no formal jobs and half of primary school-age children don't go to school.

"We don't come to help change Haiti," he wrote. "We can't. We come to help Haitians help Haitians make the changes they want for their country. We are partners."

Although no date is set, DeNapoli and Nelson plan to make a formal presentation to the congregation about the trip. The 44th Detroit Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, May 17-20 at Adrian College, also will include information on mission trips, including projects in Haiti.

Paul DeNapoli of Livonia attracts a young friend while volunteering in Gommier, Haiti.



Guest lecture highlights prayer breakfast

Tickets are still available for the 38th annual Livonia Community Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, May 3.

The annual event is planned for 7 a.m. in Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft, between Middlebelt and Inkster

Road. Doors open at 6:15 a.m.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and include a full breakfast and program. Tables of 10 also are available. Ticket orders and information on tables and sponsors are available by calling Sally Butler at (248) 476-9427.

Dr. Paul L. Maier, professor emeritus at Western Michigan University, will be the guest lecturer. With the topic, "How We Got the Bible," Maier, a graduate of Harvard University and Concordia Seminary, retired in April 2011 after 50 years as one of the most popular pro-

fessors and experts in ancient history and early Christianity at WMU. He holds a doctor of philosophy degree and also pursued post-graduate studies as a Fulbright scholar at the Universities of Heidelberg, Germany and Basel, Switzerland.

The prayer breakfast also will feature the Tyndale Artists Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Jerry Smith. Scripture readings by local clergy and local leaders along with audience responsive prayer are part of the annual event, which is patterned after the National Prayer Breakfast held annually in Washington, D.C.

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LaShawn assists with all paperwork, easing the burden on families and patients. "It can be confusing to residents and families," said LaShawn. "I spend a lot of time and go over every detail. It's a lot to handle, especially if it's your first time placing a loved one."

Few families are aware that Medicare pays for the first 20 days at 100 percent, then co-pays for days 21 to 100. Depending on whether a patient has supplemental insurance, out-of-pocket expenses could be zero. If there is no secondary coverage, LaShawn encourages the patient to apply for Medicaid.

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In contrast, persons with rheumatoid arthritis may have great difficulty grasping a glass, holding dishes and doing common writing tasks such as signing a check. Many people with rheumatoid arthritis, despite previous training in touch typing, must use a hunt and peck approach to their key pad because of the effect of rheumatoid arthritis on their fingers.

The difference in function between the osteoarthritic hand and a rheumatoid arthritis hand occurs because of the different nature of changes the two conditions create. In osteoarthritic hands the main change is loss of joint function in the digits and knuckles. The hand has sufficient capacity to move reasonably well despite the loss of full function.

In rheumatoid arthritis the joints are inflamed. Not only is the joint damaged but the inflammation causes the joint to react with pain when an action of the finger results in pressure or torque on the joint. The finger may not appear greatly swollen or distorted to an onlooker as the pain response resides deep in the joint. But the pain is there. The pain, not the distorted joint limits motion.

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Donna Knight, (left) Deana Salhaney, Erin Dillenbeck, Sharon Lee Dillenbeck, Liz Gulikson, Marilyn Meredith and Vivian Hewitt showed their works at the Ladies Dillenbeck Exhibition last year.

Women exhibit art at Canton studio

Sharon Lee Dillenbeck exhibit works by local female artists this month at her Canton art studio.

The 2nd Annual Ladies Dillenbeck Exhibition will run April 28-May 31 at D & M Art Studio, 8691 N. Lilley. An artist's reception is set for 2-4 p.m. Sunday, May 6.

Exhibiting artists include Dillenbeck, her daughters, Erin and Kritin, her sister, Donna Knight, and some of Dillenbeck's award winning students, Marilyn

Meredith, Vivian Hewitt, Elizabeth Gulikson, Rachel Bissonnette and Deana Salhaney. Most pieces will be for sale. The exhibit, open during store hours, will include original watercolors, oils, acrylics, charcoals, pastels and oil pastels.

For more information, call Dillenbeck at (734) 453-3710 or e-mail her at dmartist1@aol.com. Order art supplies or register for classes online at www.dmartstudio.com.

Show benefits summer jazz fest

The spring fundraiser for the Michigan Jazz Festival will feature the Gary Schunk Trio Sunday, April 22 at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The show, with Schunk on piano, Bill Higgins on drums and Jack Dryden on bass, is set for 3 p.m. in the DiPonio Room in

the VisTaTech Center on campus, located on Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile.

Schunk was the house pianist at Baker's Keyboard Lounge during the 1970s and early 1980s.

Tickets are \$15 and available in advance. Make check payable to

Michigan Jazz Festival, 20457 Maplewood, Livonia, MI 48152-2022. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Tickets will be mailed immediately or can be held at the door.

The Michigan Jazz Festival will be held July 15.

Road safety class key

Classroom and online courses for the AARP Driver Safety program are free to Michigan drivers during the month of May.

The course, which usually costs \$12, helps older drivers learn the new rules of the road and continue to drive safely and

remain independent for as long as possible. HearUSA is offering the classes in honor of Better Hearing and Speech Month. Participants do not have to be AARP members.

Drivers who complete the course may be eligible for auto insurance

discounts.

Local classes will be held at 4:30 p.m. May 16-17 at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. Register by calling (734) 655-8950 or (877) 390-8784 or visit www.aarp.org/drivesafe6 and enter promo code: MICHIGAN.

LUNCHEON RAISES CANCER AWARENESS

See fashions from Saks Fifth Avenue at Mothers, Daughters, Sisters & Friends, Thursday, May 3, at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital 6777 W. Maple, west of Drake.

The event, a fundraiser for the Francee & Benson Ford Jr. Breast Care & Wellness Center at the hospital, will run 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and include a luncheon, bou-

tique shopping and the fashion show.

Over the past eight years, Mothers, Daughters, Sisters and Friends has raised more than \$1.6 million for the Henry Ford fund. The event will showcase amenities at the hospital, including the demonstration kitchen, Vita Wellness Center, the Live Well Shoppe and more. Event co-chairs are Flo-

rine Mark and her daughter Lisa Lis, both of Farmington Hills, and Francee Ford of Birmingham and her mother, Micki Kline of West Bloomfield.

Tickets for the luncheon begin at \$125. Seating is very limited.

To register or further information, visit www.henryford.com/mothersdaughters or call (313) 874-6138.

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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.

Attorneys J.B. Bieske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges.



subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bieske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups.

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi can often make a winning difference at the application stage. And, if an appeal is necessary they have won several hundred cases before a court date is even set.

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.

In addition to practicing only Social Security disability law attorney Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the

Attorneys Bieske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If they represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

Bieske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-3530 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits.

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REUNIONS

CENTERLINE

CLASS OF 1977

35-year reunion, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 18 at Ernie's in Clinton Township. \$25 per person. E-mail to dhs1977@hotmail.com.

DEARBORN HEIGHTS ANNAPOLIS

CLASS OF 1982

For information about the 30-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 20, at Fr. Patrick O'Kelley Knights of Columbus in Dearborn, visit the "AHS Class of 82" page on Facebook, or contact Diane Goodreau at dianeshofield@sbcglobal.net or (313) 363-0523; Jim Linaras at godofouzo@yahoo.com; or John Zadikian at zman6754@aol.com.

DETROIT CODY

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for Classmates from January and June graduations for 50th reunion, 6 p.m. Sept. 29, at the Holiday Inn, 17123 Laurel Park Dr. North, Livonia. Call Neal and Barb Gehring at (248) 568-2254; NGBG@comcast.net.

DETROIT MACKENZIE

CLASS OF 1962

50th reunion, Friday, June 1. For more information e-mail mackenzie1962@gmail.com or phone Mavis (Higgins) Farrand at (734) 675-5675 or Sandy

(Tumbull) Dillaha at (734) 281-8595.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1962

The 50th class reunion will be held Saturday, Sept. 22 at Farmington Hills Holiday Inn, 37529 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills; (248) 477-7800. The \$60 per person cost includes a welcome reception from 2-5 p.m. and an evening dinner dance with cash bar. Cocktails will be at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations deadline is Sept. 1. For more information call Michele Cook Hoffmeyer at (602) 290-6006 or e-mail to russmichele@yahoo.com. Check Classmates and Facebook FHS Class of 62 Reunion pages for more information.

CLASS OF 1967

Organizers of the 45th reunion on July 21 are looking for classmates. Send your e-mail address to Susan (Himmelsbach) Whitaker at S.whittaker@comcast.net or Fred Gregg at fredge1@comcast.net to receive a reunion packet.

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL

EAST

CLASSES OF 1968-1973

Reunion Sept. 22. Looking for classmates. Check out the "Garden City High School (East) Reunion 2012" on facebook.

Or e-mail to Cindy Eads Frens at irish4200@hotmail.com, Debi Cassidy Haller at debi.haller@gmail.com, Doris Fugaban Williams at doris1226@wowway.com, Lee A Gilligan at ee.gilligan@att.net, Sue Cook at stasselmyer@charter.net, Suzie Wright Rogiero at suziero-giero@yahoo.com, Jackie Kalifut at jackiedeson@gmail.com or Jeff Fordell at jeffrexfordell@comcast.net.

LINCOLN PARK HIGH

CLASS OF 1962

50-year reunion for January and June graduates is set for 6 p.m.-midnight, Saturday, Sept. 15, at the Marriott Hotel, located at Six Mile and I-275 in Livonia. For more information or to RSVP e-mail Marilyn Roy Snyder at Marilyn@MarilynJSnyder.com, or call (586) 215-9445.

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971-75

The classes are joining together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4. Reunion organizers are searching for classmates from those years. Send your name, address, phone and e-mail to nhs40yearreunion@gmail.com. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information.

REDFORD THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for

reunion on Sept. 8. Contact: nikkivestberg@yahoo.com or Sue (Hughes) Morman at (734) 414-9941 for more information.

CLASS OF 1972

40th class reunion planned for 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12 at Mama Mia's restaurant, located on Plymouth Road west of Inkster Road in Livonia. Dinner served at 7 p.m. Advance payment is \$23 per person and includes a two-course dinner with "fixens" and a cash bar. To reserve a spot, send your check payable to Rick Bennett, 42021 Waterwheel, Northville Township, MI 48168. Or pay via PayPal and send to rickbennett@peoplepc.com

WAYNE MEMORIAL

ALL CLASSES

Wayne High Schools Alumni Association 28th All Class Reunion Banquet will be held 5-10 p.m. Friday, May 18, at Wayne Tree Manor, 35100 Van Born, Wayne. Dinner served at 6 p.m. The organization will honor the class of 1962. For more information call Wanda Boice at (734) 326-777 or www.waynehighalumni@aol.com

CLASS OF 1957

Looking for classmates for the 55th class reunion to be held May 19. For more information, contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or pollygirl219@aol.com. Or call Richard Smith at (248) 747-6817.

Gay couples can plan wedding at April 29 expo

"Celebrate the Power of Love: A Wedding Expo for Same-Sex Couples" returns to Livonia Sunday, April 29, with vendors, 30-minute workshops, film shorts and a special appearance by actors from The Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale. The expo, presented by Pride Source Media Group, the Detroit Marriott Livonia and Comerica Bank, last year drew 300 guests.

"People came to the event not only to meet with vendors but also to socialize with other attendees. The atmosphere was fun and social and everyone stayed right until the end," stated Julie Emerson, catering sales manager at the Detroit Marriott Livonia. The hotel initiated the event partnership with Pride Source after it received two inquiries in a month from same-sex couples that had lost confirmed bookings when venue managers discovered their orientation. The expo will run from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the

hotel, 17100 Laurel Park Drive. Vendors will include caterers, jewelers, salons, photographers, officiants, churches, florists, gift registries, clothiers, printers, travel agents and entertainers.

Admission is \$10 at the door. A limited number of free passes are available for those who register online at www.pride-source.com.

"Michigan may not let same-sex couples legalize their relationships but we will continue to celebrate and honor them," said Jan Stevenson, Pride Source co-publisher.

"The average American wedding costs \$20,000. If 1,000 metro Detroit same-sex couples got married this year, they could generate \$20 million in additional sales for the businesses smart enough to market to them. You don't have to be a gay business owner to take advantage of that buying power. You just have to respect your customers - and that's good business for anybody."

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BARTENDER: American Legion, Post 147 in Northville. No exp. necessary. Contact Bill: 734-558-4083 BARTENDERS Livonia Elks Club. Call btwn. 10-3pm, Mon-Fri. (734) 425-2246 Cook: Breakfast/Lunch, FT Exp'd. Downtown Plymouth. \$9/hr. Days & Wkends. Bode's Corned Beef 734-453-1883

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Milestones



Gulkewicz-Campau

Katherine Gulkewicz and Robert Campau of Royal Oak announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Candace and Michael Gulkewicz of Canton, attended Plymouth-Salem High School and Michigan State University. She is employed by Team Detroit Advertising.

Her fiancé, son of Colleen Barkham of Oakland Township and Thomas Campau of West Bloomfield, attended Rochester Adams High School and the University of Michigan. He is employed by Campbell-Ewald Advertising.

A June 2012 wedding is planned in Goodison.



Hudson James Rodriguez

Hudson James Rodriguez was born April 4, 2012 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Hudson joins his parents, Michael and Melissa Rodriguez, and siblings, Caleb, 6, Brooklyn, 4, and Presley, 2, at home in Superior Township.

Proud grandparents are Michael and Mary Ann Dziekan and Israel and Isabel Rodriguez, all of Canton.

PATIENTS SELL PLUS-SIZE CLOTHING

Post-operative bariatric patients will sell gently-used, plus-sized clothing from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the South Lobby of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, located at Five Mile and Levan in Livonia.

Sizes will range from 14-32 for women and 40-60 and up to 5XL for men.

"We have about 25 sellers, the lobby will be packed with clothing racks from these sellers," said Paula Magid, bariatric program director, in an e-mail to the *Observer*. "We had less sellers last year, and could barely fit all of the clothing racks in. The sale is held by the Michigan Bariatric Institute Support Group, and they keep the proceeds, after the costs of running the sale.

"It is an awesome event for MBI and the community."

The Michigan Bariatric Institute offers three options for bariatric weight loss surgery, performed at St. Mary Mercy Hospital by board-certified surgeons. Options are laparoscopic gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy and adjustable gastric banding. Bariatric surgery is a laparoscopic surgical approach to treating obesity, resulting in minimal pain, less scarring, shorter hospitalization and recovery time.

For more information, call the Michigan Bariatric Institute at (877) Why-Weight. It's located in the Marian Professional Building, Suite 311, 14555 Levan, Livonia.

GARDEN & NATURE

Butterflies

"Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at Nankin Mills Nature Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. The meeting topic is "Butterfly Garden Enhancements." Participants will learn how to create and install accessories and enhancements for their butterfly gardens.

Admission for non-members is \$3. Questions? Call (734) 326-0578 or visit www.sembabutterfly.com.

English Gardens

Learn the basics of composting to recycle yard waste into soil at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 21. Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield; (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

Garden seminar

Professional gardener, author, educator and speaker, Janet Macunovich, will lead a free seminar on creating an allergy-friendly garden, 6-

8 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, in Botsford Hospital's Community Room, at the A&E Center, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. She'll offer gardening suggestions and strategies to minimize allergic reactions. Reservations required. Call (877) 477-3621.

Tomato, pepper plants

Wayne County Master

Gardeners will sell heirloom tomato and pepper plants they've grown, 9-11 a.m. May 12 in the News Herald parking lot, One Heritage Drive, Southgate and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Wayne County Extension Office Parking lot, 5454 Venoy, Wayne. Proceeds from sale help to support community gardens and food pantries in Wayne County. For information, e-mail to mgwwcorg@gmail.com.

Passages

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ARMSTRONG, TODD MICHAEL

Died March 13, 2012 at his home in Larned, Kansas. He was born February 10, 1967, at Ann Arbor, Michigan, the son of Robert E. Armstrong and Vivian Maureen Clark. Todd grew up in Plymouth, Michigan but had been a resident of Larned, Kansas since 2007. In school he played baseball, basketball and soccer. In the 1990's he was an active marathon runner. He was a graduate of Motech in Detroit, Michigan. He was a machinist by trade, his expertise was in precision diamond wheel grinding. He worked a number of years for Schuff Steel in Phoenix, Arizona, and worked at Golden Valley Cop and Blattner Manufacturing, both of Rozel. Survivors include his mother, Maureen Armstrong, Plymouth, Michigan, dearest brother, Eric Scott Armstrong, Plymouth, Michigan, father, Robert Armstrong, North Palm Beach, Florida, previous wife and friend, Cindy Jack, Pawnee Rock, grandmother, Jean Miller, Pawnee Rock, grandfather, George Clark, Topeka, also uncle Bob Miller, Larned, and last but not least his cat, Pretty Boy. He was preceded in death by maternal grandparents Edward (Bill) and Virginia Miller and paternal grandparents Buryl and Marie Converse Armstrong. An informal memorial service will be held on April 21, 2012, 2pm-5pm at the Michael Brusca residence at 625 Irvin St., Plymouth, MI



CHAPPELL, ROBERT J., JR.

Age 81. April 8, 2012. Beloved husband of the late Joyce for 36 years. Loving father of Gary (Joan) Chappell and Deborah (Grady) Burgess. Cherished grandfather of Brandon, Amanda, Christina, Jennifer, and great-grandfather of Dillon Dixon. Bob was a proud Korean War Army Veteran, and long time member of the following Farmington organizations: Masonic Lodge No. 151, Elks Lodge No. 1986, Area Goodfellows, and Senior Center. Funeral Thursday 10 AM, April 12th at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, 33603 Grand River Ave. (1 blk. W. of Farmington Rd.), Downtown Farmington. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan or the Shriners Hospitals for Children. www.thayer-rock.com



KING, KENNETH L.

Suddenly passed away Monday, April 9, 2012, while visiting his daughter and her family

in Ashburn, VA. He was 80 years old. Born July 9th, 1931 in East Tawas, MI. Ken spent most of his early years living in Detroit, and spent summers at his grandparent's farm near Cummins, MI. In the late 1940's, Ken's family moved from Detroit to East Tawas, where he helped his father build and open "The King's Market" on US-23, where he worked during high school. Ken graduated from East Tawas High School in 1951, and was drafted into the Army, where he served for three years, including an extended tour of duty in Japan. After discharge from the military, Ken and his new bride Nancy (Miller) of Tawas Township settled in Detroit. Ken started a dry cleaning pickup and delivery business in Detroit in the early 1950's, going door to door to serve his customers. A genuine "people person", Ken's positive attitude, wit, and charm served him well. His small pickup and delivery service eventually grew to become 3-Way Cleaners, with plants and branch stores serving several Detroit suburban areas. This business ran successfully under Ken's guidance for over 50 years. In the mid 1960's, Ken and Nancy moved to Farmington Hills, MI, where they raised their four children. Ken was always proud of the fact that his children developed good work ethics, and often reminded them of job openings in dry cleaning to motivate their collegiate studies. The family spent many summer weekends at his cottage near Tawas, often entertaining relatives and friends. Nancy passed away in 1998, and Ken retired in 2002. After retirement, he married Barbara Kendall, a former high school friend, and moved to Tawas City. Kenny's first love was entertaining and engaging with people. He thoroughly enjoyed life, loved to tell stories, and had a great number of friends. Those fortunate enough to know Ken will always miss him. He was a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Freemason, and a former member of the Redford Jaycees. Ken is preceded in death by Nancy, his wife of 45 years, and his parent's Clarence and Ruth King of Tawas City, MI. He is survived by his 2nd wife Barbara Kendall of Tawas City, MI. Ken is also survived by his four children, their spouses, and eight grandchildren: Randall and Barbara King, of Lake Charles, Louisiana (grandchildren: Maggie and Sarah); Karen and Mark Testere of Ashburn, VA (grandchildren: Alex and Isabella); Lisa and Anthony Cortese of Oconomowoc, WI (grandchildren: Anthony, Joseph, Vincent, and Michael); Julie (King) and John Pump of Portland, OR; sisters: JoAnn Burrell of East Tawas, MI, and Dorothy Klenow of Tawas City, MI. Kendall family: Gregory and Laura Kendall (Owen) and David Kendall (Shannon) of Tawas City, MI. Visitation: Friday, April 13, 2012 from 2pm - 4pm, 6pm - 8pm at Buresh Funeral Home, 416 Whittemore Street, Tawas City, MI 48763. Funeral: Saturday, April 14, 2012, 10am at Christ Episcopal Church, 202 W. Westover Street, East Tawas, MI. Information: 989.362.8191 or www.bureshfuneralhomes.com. Thank you to all doctors and caregivers as well as the comforting support of all Ken's extended network of family and friends.



LAZORKA, THOMAS "TOM"

Age 51 April 10, 2012. Beloved husband of Laurie. Dearest father of Adam, Tyler and Parker. Loving son of the late Ted and Stella Lazorka. Loving son-in-law of Bill and Melba Woodby. Dear brother and brother-in-law of Ted (Linda) Lazorka, John Lazorka, Dennis Lazorka, Mike (Laurie) Lazorka, and Tim (Denise) Lazorka, Scott (Peggy) Woodby, Don (Pam) Woodby. Dearest uncle and great-uncle of Brad (Cassandra) Lazorka, Mike (Deanna) Lazorka, Colin, Logan, Shelby, Nicholas, Ben, Luke Lazorka, James Lowe, Sara Woodby, Ian Woodby, and Gabriel Rister. Memorial Service Friday, April 20 at 11:00 am. at St. John Neumann Catholic Church 44800 Warren Road, Canton. Followed by a "Celebration of Tom's Life" at Plymouth Cultural Center 3:00 to 7:00 pm, 525 Farmer Street, Plymouth. Memorial contributions may be directed to either "Tom Lazorka for Hockey" P.O. Box 701194 Plymouth MI 48170 or Angela Hospice 14100 Newburgh Road, Livonia MI 48154. www.angalahospice.org



LEWELLEN, MILLICENT "MILLY" CHAPMAN

Age 81, of Bellaire and Plymouth, passed away peacefully, Monday, April 9, 2012, surrounded by her children and siblings, at her daughter's home in Bellaire. She was born December 14, 1930, in Detroit, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Youngs) Chapman. She grew up in Detroit and Birmingham. Milly attended Monticello and DePauw Universities, where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi Sorority. On November 17, 1951, in Birmingham, she married William (Bill) Lewellen, who preceded her in death in November 2007. While Bill was employed at Cadillac Motor Car Division, they enjoyed many opportunities to travel the world. She was a devoted wife and strong support while the family was relocated a number of times around the country. Milly enjoyed knitting, needlepoint, reading, gardening, and her pets. She also loved to spend time with her family and was a loving mother and grandmother. She will be remembered for being a sweet lady, always with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye. Milly is survived by her children William Jr (Barbara) Lewellen of Arlington Heights, IL, Geoffrey (Kimberly) Lewellen of Waunakee, WI, Julia (Ed) Pietrowicz of Bellaire, brother John P. (Sarah) Chapman of Lansing, sister Gwen Kirby of Clawson, and grandchildren Jennifer (Will) Weidman of Arlington, VA, Christine (Adam) Davis of Fishers, IN, Michelle Lewellen of Waunakee, WI, Lauren Lewellen of Waunakee, WI, and Paul Pietrowicz of Brighton. The family received friends Friday, April 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Bellaire Chapel of Mortensen Funeral Home. Funeral services were held Sat. Apr. 14, 2012 at 1 p.m., also at the funeral home. Interment followed in Lakeview Cemetery, Bellaire. Memorial contributions may be directed to either the Alzheimer's Association www.alz.org or the Cancer Research Institute www.cancerresearch.org. Please sign her online guestbook mortensenfuneralhomes.com.



MALIK, ANTHONY

Dies at 97. Remembered with love for a lifetime of wit, humor, and appreciation of the good things in life, Anthony (Tony) Malik passed away April 7th, Holy Saturday at 11:47 p.m., 2012, in Beverly Hills, Florida. Son of Frank and Mary Malik, Tony outlived his 10 brothers and sisters, with whom he was very close. Tony, an Army veteran of WWII, returned home to begin Malik Heating, a heating and cooling business with brother Carl in Westland, MI. Gifted with many skills, but known and perhaps memorialized most for his talent as gardener extraordinaire; Tony's fruit, vegetable, and flower garden at his Westland, MI home, are remembered fondly by his family and friends with whom he shared not only his life, but also the fruits of his love and labor. Cherished memories and stellar moments of his life, generously recalled by his remaining family as well as his devoted companion, Barbara Slade, will continue to reverberate throughout time. At 97 years young, one can only imagine the quality of life Anthony Malik must have enjoyed.

RYAN, VIRGIL R., JR.

Livonia, MI (formerly of Pinckney). Age 80, died April 7, 2012 at his home. He was born December 16, 1931 in Pontiac, MI the son of the late Virgil Ray and Fannie (Johnson) Ryan Sr. Virgil proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force. He was employed with General Motors as a parts supervisor until his retirement in 1991 and was a member of Community of Christ in Plymouth. On July 28, 2007 Virgil married Karen Miller, she survives. Additional survivors include his children; Debora (Eddy) Ziviski of Brighton, Diane (Garry) Simkiss of Plymouth, Ronald (Pamela) Ryan of Canton and Russell (Wendy) Ryan of Mt. Savage, MD, nine grandchildren and several great grandchildren with more on the way. He is preceded in death by his late wife of 52 years Beverly. A Christian Farewell was held at Community of Christ in Plymouth, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to Outreach International, American Diabetes or Community of Christ. Please leave a Message of Comfort to Virgil's family by calling 877-231-7900 or visit his guestbook at www.borekjennings.com.



ZABORSKY, ROBERT S.

Age 85, of Ann Arbor. Loving husband of Carolyn. Beloved father of John (Anita) Morrison, Pamela (Charles) Warner, and Lisa (Christopher) Seiler. Proud grandfather of David Warner, Amy Warner, Rachel Morrison, Sarah Morrison and Calista Seiler. Dear brother of Eleanor Nicholls. Dear uncle of Jeffrey Even. 35 Year member of Kiwanis Club of Plymouth. Funeral service Saturday 1 PM at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd (btwn Sheldon and Beck), Plymouth. Visitation Friday 2-8 PM. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Memorial contributions may be made to Plymouth Kiwanis Foundation, or American Cancer Society. To share a memory, please visit: vermeulenfuneralhome.com

May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



American Cancer Society offers free summer camp

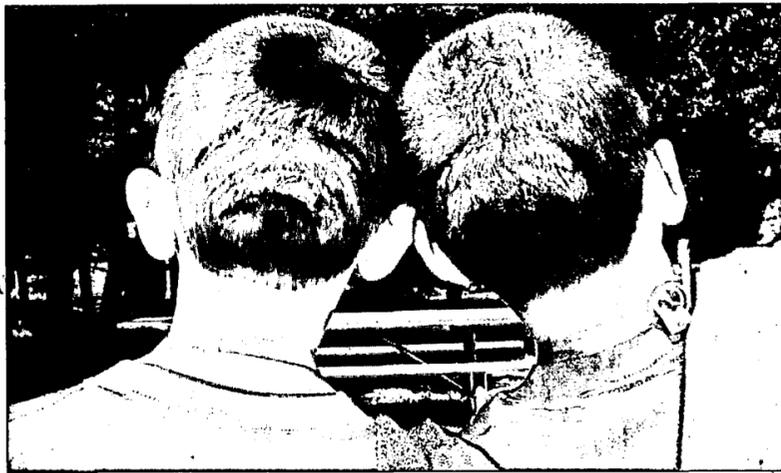
The American Cancer Society is accepting registration for summer camping programs aimed at children and teens.

"The American Cancer Society offers a camping program specifically geared toward accommodating the needs of children who are being treated for cancer, or who are in remission from cancer," stated Kathleen Wilson, program manager for the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division. "Our camping program provides the opportunity for these children to simply have fun and enjoy the experience of exercise, recreation and companionship through activities paced to meet the needs of a young cancer patient."

Cancer survivors between 4 and 15 years of age can sign up for one of two camping programs offered free of charge by the organization's Great Lakes Division.

Young Camper's Day is a one-day program for children, 4-6 years old, that is set for Sunday, June 17. Camp Catch-A-Rainbow is a week-long summer camping experience, held June 17-22, for children, ages 7-15. Both the Young Camper's Day and Camp Catch-A-Rainbow programs are held at the YMCA Storer Camps near Jackson, where children have access to activities such as swimming, horseback riding, archery, canoeing, arts and crafts, and more.

Health care professionals are available at the camp 24 hours a day, so most medical treatments,



Youngsters at Camp Catch-A-Rainbow show their camp spirit. The program is offered by the American Cancer Society.

SPECIAL NEEDS CAMPS

Here's a sampling of other camps for children with special medical needs:

- Camp Casey, a horseback riding program for children with cancer, is located in Royal Oak offers overnight mini-vacations at dude ranch resorts in Michigan; www.camp-casey.org.
- The American Diabetes Association runs a camp for youngsters, age 8-16, with diabetes, June 17-29 in Fenton; www.diabetes.org
- The Lions Club Bear Lake Camp in Lapeer offers a camp for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, July 8-14 and a weekend family camp for families with deaf or hard-of-hearing youth, June 29-July 1. A session for first-time campers who are blind and visually impaired will run July 15-21. Camp for lifers is a two-week experience, July 15-28 for blind and visually impaired youth. Camp Dakota, sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation Michigan Chapter will run July 29-Aug. 3; www.bearlakecamp.org.
- The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan offers Camp Discovery for children and teens with epilepsy, June 24-28 at Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center in Augusta; www.epilepsymichigan.org.

with the exception of radiation therapy, can be done at the camp or at a nearby cancer center.

Registration applications for young cancer patients and survivors with a physician's approval, are accepted through May 28 for both camps. Get a camper application

form by calling the American Cancer Society at (800) 227-2345 or by visiting www.cancer.org/camp-rainbow.

The camps also need medical and non-medical volunteers, especially male volunteers, to assist onsite. For more information or to get a camp vol-

unteer application, call the Society or visit online.

Camp Catch-A-Rainbow is accredited by the American Camping Association and is licensed through the state of Michigan. The American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division, serving Indiana and Michigan, funds both camps.

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

April

AUTISM TATTOO

Get an autism-related tattoo this month at American Pride Tattoos and the store will donate \$20 or 20 percent of the cost of the tattoo — whichever is greater — to Autism Speaks. All of the companies stores are participating in the campaign to raise awareness and support those with autism spectrum disorder. Stores are located at 155 E. Commerce in Milford and 27815 Woodward Ave., in Berkley, in addition to Waterford, Clarkston, and Pontiac.

CANCER SCREENING

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center, 4100 John R, south of Warren, north of Mack, in Detroit, will conduct free oral, head and neck cancer screenings, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Friday, April 27. A simple 15-minute screening exam can help determine if further follow-up is needed to help detect oral, head and neck cancers in their earliest stages. Space is limited to the first 100 who register. Some of the warning signs of oral cancers include a sore in your mouth that doesn't heal or increases in size; lumps or white, red or dark patches in your mouth; persistent pain in your mouth; a lump in your neck or thickening of your cheek; difficulty chewing or swallowing, moving your jaw or tongue, swelling or pain in your jaw; soreness in your throat or feeling that something is caught in your throat; pain around your teeth or loosening of your teeth; numbness in your mouth; changes in your voice or bad breath. Pre-register by 5 p.m. April 26 for screening and complimentary valet parking. Call (800) 527-6266. Onsite registration will be permitted if space is available.

NUTRITION

Annie House, registered dietitian and certified

diabetes educator at Botsford Hospital, will lead the discussion and will provide helpful nutrition tips at the Walk with a Doc free wellness event, noon, Thursday, April 19, at the Heritage Park Nature Center, on the west side of Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. For more information or to register, call (877) 477-3621 and select option 1.

SINUS RELIEF

Dr. Warren L. Brandes, D.O., will present a free community lecture on breakthrough technology that helps those suffering from chronic sinus symptoms, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17 at Botsford Hospital's Administration & Education Center Community Room, 28050 Grand River Ave., Farmington Hills. The presentation will include information on balloon sinuplasty. Call (877) 477-3621 and select option 1 for more information or to register for the event.

ST. MARY MERCY

• First-time parents can get the basics of breastfeeding and baby care 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28 in classrooms 1 and 2 at the hospital. A St. Mary Mercy Hospital pediatrician will discuss infant illness and child immunization. Parents will learn breastfeeding techniques including positioning, pumping, storage and breast care. This class is open to anyone who cares for an infant. Fee is \$50 per couple. Register by calling St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Marian Women's Center at (734) 655-1162, or register online at stmarymercy.org and click on "classes and events."

• A blood drive for the American Red Cross will run, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, April 27 in classrooms 1 and 2 at the hospital. Schedule an appointment at (800) GIVE-LIFE or redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins will be accepted but appointments are preferred. The hospital is located at 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

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