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SUNDAY
July 1, 2007

WESTLAND Observer

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U.S. Army Staff Sgt. William Boettcher was the grand marshal in Thursday's parade. The Iraq War veteran represented all members of the armed services.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Something special

Iraq War veteran leads Summer Festival Parade

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Three years after he came home from Operation Iraqi Freedom, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. William Boettcher led a parade Thursday through his hometown of Westland.

Boettcher, 25, served as grand marshal of a parade that launched the 37th Westland Summer Festival, which will culminate on the Fourth of July with fireworks exploding over fenced-off Central City Park.

"I'm happy to do this," Boettcher said, before the parade left the Wayne-Ford Civic League, winding north on Wayne and west on Ford to the City Hall festival grounds. "I'm happy to represent all the military branches. It's kind of humbling."

Somewhere on the parade route, his wife, Crystal, and 4-year-old son Tristan watched.

Please see **PARADE, A3**



Aiden Verbison, 3, takes part in the Westland Summer Festival parade with the Cub Scouts of Pack 865 of Westland Thursday evening.

Shuttles are best bet for parking

Thousands of people believe the Westland Summer Festival is the place to go in a city that bills itself as the place to be.

The problem is where to park - particularly for the Fourth of July fireworks show that will erupt at dusk Wednesday over Central City Park, near the main festival grounds by City Hall.

Very limited festival park-

ing will be available on the perimeter of the fenced-off park, specifically off of Carlison between Ford and Marquette. Ever that will be closed off on the Fourth.

As always, some motorists will park in business parking lots near festival grounds, but they could be ticketed if owners complain to police.

The best bet, according to

Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski, will be to park at one of three locations where shuttles will move the crowd to and from the festival. Those spots include John Glenn High School, on Marquette west of Wayne; the Westland public library, on Central City Parkway

Please see **PARKING, A3**

CVS manager identifies man as store robber

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man, identified by a local CVS store manager as the suspect in an armed robbery, will face trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Pierre Rene Bonds, 41, will face trial following testimony Thursday during a preliminary hearing in front of Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos.

A store manager identified Bonds in a holdup that happened at 7 a.m. April 29 at the CVS store at Warren

and Venoy roads in Westland, police Sgt. Ed Price said.

The same employee had earlier picked out Bonds in a police lineup, authorities said.

Bonds also is facing charges for CVS robberies in such communities as Farmington Hills, Southfield and Allen Park, Price said.

With Westland as his first stop for criminal charges, Bonds was jailed after Bokos set a \$5 million cash bond during a June 18 arraignment. A not-guilty plea was entered for the defendant.

Before his arrest, Bonds had been living at River Bend Apartments, less than a mile east of the CVS store at Warren and Venoy.

According to Price, Bonds had been placed under surveillance after authorities released his picture to the news media and received a tip accusing him of being the suspect. Bonds was watched by the multi-city Metro Street Enforcement Team, Westland's Special Investigations Unit and the South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium, Price said.

Authorities obtained a search warrant for the River Bend apartment and recovered evidence that police said was used to get warrants against the defendant.

Bonds had been on parole for bank robbery before his arrest.

He will face trial in the Westland case on charges of armed robbery and two firearms-related felony counts.

If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

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Restaurant blaze causes heavy damage

A Westland restaurant will remain closed indefinitely because of a fire that erupted Thursday night after customers and employees had left, Fire Chief Michael Reddy said.

The fire inside American Cherry Dining, on Wayne between Cherry Hill and Avondale, started about 10:30 p.m., Reddy said. The cause of the blaze wasn't known Friday.

"The place was closed for the night, and no one was inside," Reddy said.

The fire started in a back-room area and then spread to the ceiling and roof, where insulation and other materials caused it to smolder, the chief said.

Neighbors said firefighters remained on the scene after 1 a.m.

"Because it was a smoldering fire, the smoke damage throughout the place was pretty significant," Reddy said. "The interior will need some major work."

Firefighters had to cut through metal to get to hot spots in the ceiling area, slowing down the time it took to finish their work.

Even so, Reddy said the job was made easier by thermal imaging cameras, which have special technology to detect hot spots.

Westland launches paper-recycling program

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

With a renewed push for recycling in Westland, Mayor William Wild has announced a paper-recycling program for the city's 18 buildings.

Wild hopes the latest measure will set an example in a city that is trying to beef up its recycling efforts, partly by exploring the potential for a curbside program.

"We've found a constructive way to minimize the output of our paper items," Wild said. "I'm confident that this is a step in the right direction in instituting a larger recycling effort within the city of Westland."

Employees in every city building, including the Mike Modano Ice Arena, the Bailey Recreation

Center and the municipal golf course, have started dumping paper products in bins brought in by the Westland Department of Public Service.

A DPS worker picks up the materials and takes them to recycling receptacles kept at a small number of city buildings.

Under the new program, city buildings have enhanced recycling efforts with newspapers, magazines and other paper documents the city discards, DPS Director Kevin Buford said.

"The city of Westland has a huge amount of paper that comes through. If nothing else, this removes that paper from the waste stream, so it cuts down on what we take to a landfill," Buford said.

For now, the recycled materials are picked up once a week, but that could increase as the pro-

gram gains in popularity, he said. Ultimately, officials hope the program will reduce the city's trash-disposal costs by reducing what goes to a landfill.

The latest recycling move comes as city leaders prepare to start exploring options for implementing a curbside recycling program. Officials hope to start such a program without charging customer fees that twice doomed earlier curbside efforts.

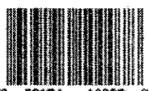
Some citizens this year have begun demanding that city officials take a more aggressive approach to starting a curbside recycling program. One resident, Margot McCormack, spearheaded a petition drive in which she and others collected more than 600 signatures from residents who want a curbside program.

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INDEX

APARTMENTS	E4
AUTOMOTIVE	E5
CLASSIFIED	D1
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	E3
HEALTH	C6
HOMETOWNLIFE	C1
JOBS	D1
NEW HOMES	E1
OBITUARIES	C4
REAL ESTATE	E1
SPORTS	A10
PERSONALITIES	A9



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Tech jobs, sports, tests back in Livonia schools budget

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Students will still get a battery of tests next year. More middle schoolers will get to play sports, and three para-professionals get to keep their jobs. Those are the results of a post-adopted budget discussion Monday at the Livonia Public Schools board meeting. "Even though we passed a budget ... there were some things that we were not quite happy with," Trustee Cynthia Markarian said.

For example, due to cuts in the curriculum department budget, some standardized testing, professional develop-

ment and science materials, totalling \$138,000, were eliminated. However, the curriculum department has a reserve budget of \$1 million, with only \$250,00 of that set aside for high school graduation requirements. So the board decided to take the funding from that account to offer the Explore and Plan tests to prepare high schoolers for the ACT, the Stanford Olsat test to compare the district to national norms, and district-developed assessments in reading and writing. "I can't see us not offering those tests next year with \$1 million set aside for curriculum," Supt. Randy Liepa said. The district will also order the science

materials and move ahead with plans for a teacher training workshop. Three technology paraprofessionals' jobs (at \$30,000 each) were spared, with help from the district's Information Technology department. The IT department contributed \$30,000 from its contracted services budget to save one position. Liepa suggested retaining two positions and having the paraprofessionals split their time among the schools. The board, led by the support of trustees Tom Bailey, Dan Lessard, Robert Freeman and Greg Oke, agreed to keep the other two. "I think it's that important," Bailey said. "They have so many things to do,

they can barely keep up." The remaining \$60,000 will come from the district's fund equity. Finally, middle school athletes won't be forced to compete for spots on just two teams per sport. The board agreed to keep three teams at each school, at a cost of \$20,000. Trustee Steve King said it would be a "double-whammy" to cut teams as the district is doubling its pay-to-participate fee. After the changes, the district will have an estimated \$5.6 million left in savings instead of \$5.8 million.



Shila, Jay Towers and Bill McAllister

Here's chance to eat with crew of Motor City Middays

The Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers are teaming up with Buddy's to present "Dining With the Stars" featuring Jay Towers, Shila and Bill McAllister host of Motor City Middays, on Live 97.1 FREE FM.

In 100 words or less, tell us why you're a fan of the Motor City Middays crew and would like to have lunch or dinner at Buddy's Pizza in July with the trio from 97.1 FREE FM. Send your fan letter to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com and be sure to include your name, address, daytime phone number and e-mail address. Deadline to enter the July contest is 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 17. A photograph of you and your favorite stars will be published in the Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers and online at www.hometownlife.com.

"We want our winners to dine with their favorite stars and feel like a star, too," says Marcy Brontman of Buddy's Pizza. July winners will be treated to a limo ride, courtesy of Pro Tran Transportation, make-over from Ruby Blu Salon in Farmington Hills, a \$100 gift certificate to Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield and a dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills. Other upcoming dining with stars include August: CoCo of WJLB-FM (97.9) and September: Chuck Gaidica of WDIV-TV (Channel 4).

No purchase is necessary to enter. Buddy's Pizza will review all entries and select the top four "fan" letters. The stars featured for the month will make the final selection. Lunch and/or dinner date is to be determined with the winner and star by Buddy's representatives.

Loss of leadership will again put LPS gifted program at risk

GUEST COLUMNIST

The magnet Math Science Computer (MSC) program at Churchill High School is not only losing an extraordinary Math teacher in June, it is also losing the in-school leader of this premier program. Mary Buda, who holds both jobs, is retiring. Someone will be found to teach her math classes in the fall but her position as MSC Facilitator will not be filled. Livonia Public Schools has decreased leadership in the Academically Talented programs before. In 2003, the Gifted Specialist who supervised all three parts of the program - Alternative Classrooms for the Academically Talented (ACAT) at Webster, the middle school version (MACAT) at Frost and MSC at Churchill - retired. The full-time position was reduced to half-time and its focus narrowed to oversee-

ing just ACAT. In addition, administration of each part of the program was shifted to the building where it was housed. It immediately became apparent to families with children in the program that reduction and fragmentation of leadership was bound to have a detrimental effect. Continuity could not be preserved if each of the parts was administered separately. The counsel, advice and support of students and families that was at the heart of the program would suffer without a dedicated and central leader. How could the vision that kept the program moving forward and on the cutting edge of gifted education continue if leadership was not focused on it and involved with it full-time? The district was putting its nationally recognized program, a program that drew families into the district, at risk. In March 2003, this writer and two other people as passionately committed to

the district's Academically Talented program made a presentation before the Board of Education. We expressed our concerns and used charts and graphs to explain how maintaining a strong program was beneficial to students present and future, and beneficial to the district in many ways, including financial. The board responded with polite smiles and a follow-up letter that amounted to not much more than a pat on the head. A few months later, two of us sat before the superintendent, again explaining our concerns. He told us the programs would be monitored and if student numbers dropped, it would be looked into. Our words had little affect on him. But to us it was clear. When student numbers dropped, it would already be too late. A year later, the effects of a lack of a strong, knowledgeable and committed full-time leader were already apparent. In a letter to the superintendent, we reiterated our concerns and reminded him how quickly the integrity, focus, and reputation of the program can dissolve. We received no response. It's now been four years.

Sadly, the predictions we made to the Board of Education, and later to the superintendent are coming true. The integrity and reputation of the ACAT program have deteriorated significantly. Discussions with families of children still enrolled at Webster and those pulling their children out reveal dissatisfaction with leadership and a sense of lack of vision and support. Those who had older children in ACAT a few years ago are pointedly not enrolling younger siblings. Decisions are being made to homeschool or move children to other districts or charter schools. MSC did not suffer the same decline as ACAT. Leadership was not lost four years ago, just fully shifted to the MSC Facilitator who was already carrying much of it. The leader was on-site and involved full-time, teaching, administering and supporting students and their families. The program's quality remained high and its reputation intact. However, now the MSC Facilitator position is being eliminated. Without in-school leadership, MSC could quickly become just another collec-

tion of classes, stripped of the traditions, communication and supervision that made it unique and renowned. Already scheduling of classes and assignment of teachers has been initiated without any input from teachers in the program. Here we go again. The reputation of at least one part of what was once a nationally recognized Academically Talented program is deteriorating. The lesson that lack of dedicated, focused, knowledgeable and full-time leadership is the cause has not been learned, or at least not yet acknowledged. Now another part is being put at risk. Don't they get it? It's just one more reason for families to decide not to move to Livonia and enroll their children in the district. One less option for families who are already hard pressed to find suitable and affordable education for their gifted children. One more huge loss for Livonia Public Schools.

Haika Gay is a Livonia resident who has been involved with Livonia Public Schools' Academically Talented programs for 14 years.



Haika Gay

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2 graduates receive Foust scholarships

The Westland residents have been awarded Bobby Foust Memorial Scholarships for 2007.

James Compton, a graduate of John Glenn High School, and Jasmen Sheffield-Sadler, a graduate of Wayne Memorial High School, each received

\$1,000 scholarships from the Westland firefighters union.

The scholarships are given each year in honor of the late firefighter Bobby Foust, who was killed in the 1980s in a boating accident unrelated to his job. Both graduates will attend Wayne State University in the fall.

Compton plans to study criminal justice. A member of the Westland Police Explorer program, he plans to become a police officer after graduation.

Sheffield-Sadler plans to study accounting and work towards a master's degree in business administration. Her goal is to become a certified public accountant.



Sheffield-Sadler



Compton

KNOW THE SCORE

check out the numbers in today's **SPORTS** section

PARADE

FROM PAGE A1

Parade organizer Jeanie Cox said Boettcher was chosen as grand marshal to honor all military personnel, past and present.

"We wanted to do something special," Cox said.

Dark clouds threatened the parade, but the rain held off as Westland started its biggest party - one that will include carnival rides, musical performers, magic shows, cake-decorating contests, horseshoe-pitching competitions and scores of other activities.

Dressed as an angel, 10-year-old Katelyn Aponte of Detroit participated in the parade along with other children from Westland Full Gospel Temple who dressed as angels and soldiers.

"It's fun being in the parade because all the people are waving at you and acting crazy," Katelyn said.

Clowns stood near the costumed Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps outside the Civic League, and senior citizens crowded onto a bright red, air-conditioned trolley car.

"The seniors walked four years ago when it was 90 degrees, and for most of them it was just too hot," senior resources Director Peggy Ellenwood said.

Now, they play it safe.

The parade was followed by the crowning of 2007 Miss Westland April Kersey, with first runner-up Kellee LaBean and second runner-up Jennifer Grantham.

Connie Kincer, ladies auxiliary chaplain for both Westland's VFW Bova Post 9885 and lower Michigan's District 4, rode in an Army Jeep.

"This is for our troops. We're free every day - they're not," Kincer said. "We're celebrating Independence Day here, and we need to give Independence Day to our troops overseas and hope they come home. I can't wait for them to come home. That will be a great day."

Watch this week for more photos and coverage of the Westland Summer Festival. See www.hometownlife.com for more photo coverage of the parade.

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Victoria Dulock, 9, of Westland looks on with her mother Cassie as the parade arrives.



A character from Zap Zone Laser Tag walked the streets at the Westland Summer Festival parade.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PARKING

FROM PAGE A1

north of Ford; and the senior citizen Friendship Center, on Newburgh south of Ford.

Festival-goers boarding shuttles will be dropped off at the main festival entrance.

On the Fourth of July, parking will become even more difficult, because police will be closing off some roads, such as Carlson, around the festival site.

"We expect some big crowds," Kosowski said.

On the Fourth of July, parking will become even more difficult, because police will be closing off some roads, such as Carlson, around the festival site.

His advice: Catch a shuttle. Festival starting times are noon today (Sunday), 3 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, and noon Wednesday. For a listing of events, pull out that June 14 copy of the Observer and turn to Page 3, or visit www.westlandfestival.org and check out the links near the bottom of the page.

AROUND WESTLAND

Changing times

Westland Summer Festival and Fourth of July holiday events have prompted officials to change the days in July when the Westland City Council will have its public business meetings.

The council's regular business sessions will be at 7 p.m. Monday, July 9, and at 7 p.m. Monday, July 23.

For July, the council meetings will be held on the second and fourth Mondays rather than the usual first and third Mondays of the month.

The council meetings are open to the public.

Blood drive

Divine Savior Catholic Church will hold an American Red Cross blood drive 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, July 22, at the church, 39375 Joy, west of Hix, in Westland.

Walk-ins are welcome or donors can call (734) 455-3620 and leave their name.

Trip to Canada

Westland's Senior Resource Department has organized

another trip to Canada Thursday, July 5. It's their second this year for seniors to obtain prescription medications at a discounted rate.

The event is open to both Westland residents over age 50 and Friendship Center members.

Prescriptions must be hand delivered to the Senior Resource Department no later than 3 p.m. on Monday, July 2. Call (734) 722-7628 reserve a seat on the bus prior to turning in prescriptions or for questions.

The bus will depart from the Friendship Center at 1119 N. Newburgh Road, just south of Ford, at 9 a.m. and will return by 12:30 p.m.

No coffee hour

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, won't be holding a monthly coffee hour in July, but will be back meeting with constituents 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 13, at the Westland Big Boy, 6360 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland.

Constituents who have questions or concerns can contact

LeBlanc toll-free at (888) 737-5325.

Dining to Donate

People can help a variety of Westland organizations by dining at Applebee's at 36475 Warren Road in Westland. Through its Dining to Donate, the restaurant will donate 20 percent of the bill to Westland Therapeutic Recreation program on July 26, Westland Historical Village Park on Aug. 23 and Motor City Harley Owners Group to benefit Toys for Tots on Sept. 27.

Coupons are required to indicate which organization will receive the donation.

Preschool event

McKinley Cooperative Preschool will have an open house 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 10, is holding an Open House on Saturday July 10, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The preschool is located at 6500 N. Wayne Road in Westland. Children ages 2-5 are welcome. Morning and afternoon classes are offered.

For more information call (734) 729-7222.

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2006 Report to Consumers on Water Quality

Westland is proud of the fine drinking water it receives from the City of Detroit and furnishes to the residents. This report will list the source of our water, the results of the tests performed on the water, and additional information about water and health questions.

Water Source

Westland is supplied by the City of Detroit from its Springwells Water Treatment Plant in Dearborn. The water comes from the Detroit River, situated within the Lake St. Clair, Clinton River, Detroit River, Rouge River, and Ecorse River, in the U.S. and parts of the Thames River, Little River, Turkey Creek and Sydenham watersheds in Canada.

Public Notice Sewage Disposal System Event

Any person or claimant who experiences an overflow or back up of a sewage disposal system or storm water system that is under the jurisdiction and control of the City of Westland should immediately contact the City of Westland Department of Public Service Director, Kevin Buford, at the following address and telephone number:

City of Westland
Department of Public Service
37137 Marquette
Westland, MI 48185
(734) 728-1770

Important Health Information

Overview

The City of Westland maintains over 325 miles of water main, over 2900 hydrants and over 6000 valves in our system. We have flushed the water mains in one section of the city this year, covering the neighborhoods in the area of Palmer to Glenwood and Venoy to Wildwood.

Lead

Since 1992, with the cooperation of many Westland residents, the City has been testing homes with plumbing systems that may contribute lead to the household water supply. Our latest round of testing showed none of the fifteen homes tested has lead levels above the action level.

- Run your water for 30 to 60 seconds, or until it feels cold. This practice should be followed any time your water has not been used for more than six hours.
Always use cold water for drinking, cooking or making baby formula.
Use faucets and plumbing material that are either lead free or will not leach unsafe levels of lead into your water.

you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested and flush your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using tap water. Additional information is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a disease-causing parasite that lives in the intestinal tract of many animals, including dogs and cats. Symptoms of infection include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, headaches, nausea and vomiting. The disease is typically spread through contact with feces of an infected animal or person or consuming contaminated food or water.

People with Special Health Concerns

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections.

National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Compliance

In 2006, the City of Westland had no monitoring violations. A monitoring violation is not an exceedance of a MCL or health standard.

The Department of Public Service Water and Sewer Superintendent prepared this report for the City of Westland. Data was supplied by the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. If there are any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact the City of Westland Department of Public Service at 734-728-1770.

Additional Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organics, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff and septic systems.
Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or by the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Springwells Water Treatment Plant
2006 Regulated Detected Contaminants Tables

Table with 8 columns: Contaminant, Test Date, Units, Health Goal MCLG, Allowed Level MCL, Level Detected, Range of Detection, Violation yes/no, Major Sources in Drinking Water

Table for Inorganic Chemicals - Annual Monitoring at Plant Finished Water Tap. Columns include Contaminant, Test Date, Units, Health Goal MCLG, Allowed Level MCL, Level Detected, Range of Detection, Violation yes/no, Major Sources in Drinking Water.

Table for Disinfectant Residuals and Disinfection By-Products - Monitoring in Distribution System. Columns include Contaminant, Test Date, Units, Health Goal MCLG, Allowed Level MCL, Level Detected, Range of Detection, Violation yes/no, Major Sources in Drinking Water.

Table for 2006 Turbidity - Monitored every 4 hours at Plant Finished Water Tap. Columns include Highest Single Measurement, Lowest Monthly % of Samples Meeting Turbidity Limit, Violation yes/no, Major Sources in Drinking Water.

Table for 2006 Microbiological Contaminants - Monthly Monitoring in Distribution System. Columns include Contaminant, MCLG, MCL, Highest Number Detected, Violation Yes/no, Major Sources in Drinking Water.

Table for 2006 Lead and Copper Monitoring at Customers Tap. Columns include Contaminant, Test Date, Units, Health Goal MCLG, Action Level AL, 90th Percentile Value, Number of Samples Over AL, Violation yes/no, Major Sources in Drinking Water.

Table for Regulated Contaminant, Treatment Technique, Running annual average, Monthly Ratio Range, Violation Yes/No, Typical Source of Contaminant.

Table for 2006 Special Monitoring. Columns include Contaminant, MCLG, MCL, Level Detected, Source of Contamination.

WRITTEN NOTICE REQUIREMENT: Furthermore, compliance with Public Act 222 of 2001, an amendment to Michigan's Governmental Immunity Statute 1964 PA 170, as amended MCL 691.1401 to 691.1419, requires that a claimant who wishes to seek compensation for property damage or physical injury resulting from a sewage disposal system event notify the City of Westland, Water and Sewer Superintendent, in writing, within 45 days after the date the damage or physical injury was discovered, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have been discovered.

Hospitals sponsors wellness programs

Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, offers a weekly schedule of health and wellness programs for residents. The lineup this week includes:

Monday, July 2
Heart Pals-Cardiac Support Group at 7:30 p.m. Group support is offered to cardiac patients and/or their significant other. Discussion, education and camaraderie are the focus. Call (734) 458-3242 for more information.

Tuesday, July 3
Blood pressure and cholesterol testing noon-2 p.m. Have your blood pressure checked free of charge, cholesterol level tested (\$5) or Lipid panel done (\$10) on the first Tuesday of the month in the lobby of the hospital. No registration is necessary. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Medicare/Medicaid Assistance noon-2 p.m. Trained volunteers are available to assist or counsel clients with issues or questions concerning Medicare/Medicaid forms and benefits. The service is coordinated by The Senior Alliance and is

available in the hospital's main lobby. No appointment necessary.

Yoga (fourth of four classes) at 4 p.m. Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind. This four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Cardiac Rehab. Call (734) 458-3242 for details and to register.

Wednesday, July 4
Eating Disorders Support Group at 7 p.m. This support group is for those individuals with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive and binge eating disorders. Both males and females are invited to attend. This meeting is held in the Garden City Hospital Auditorium. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Thursday, July 5
Yoga (fourth of four classes) at 7 p.m. Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind. This four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Cardiac Rehab. Call (734) 458-3242 for details and to register.

NOTICE TO CUT NOXIOUS WEEDS

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

Large table with 4 columns: PAR NUM, PAR NUM, PAR NUM, PAR NUM. Lists various parcel numbers.

Notice is hereby given that all noxious weeds growing on any land in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, must be destroyed on or before the 15th and 30th days throughout the months of May, June, July, August, September and October of 2007.

Kevin L. Buford
City of Westland
Commissioner of Noxious Weeds

Take some precautions before firing up the grill

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Wait!
Before you throw your shrimp and steak on the barbie, have you taken appropriate safety precautions?

Captain Ken Arble of the Canton Fire Department has said 4th of July festivities are a prime time for dangerous grill accidents. He's seen entire grills catch fire, garages in flames and the side of a home destroyed.

"We've been fortunate in Canton but it does happen," he said, adding that most grilling accidents result in minor hand burns.

According to the Michigan Propane Gas Association (MPGA), which represents propane dealers and propane product manufacturers in the state, some safety instructions include following the grill manufacturer's instructions, never leaving the grill unattended and keeping a close watch on chil-

dren in the grill's vicinity.

Joe Ross (a.k.a. "The Grill King") of the MPGA said some of the main culprits in grilling accidents are faulty grills and gas lines, and when people fail to properly connect a propane tank to the grill. The result, he says, can be a "ball of flames" when a match or spark comes into contact with the gas leak.

"It's really rare, but it can be catastrophic," Ross said. "One of the biggest fears is the fire will get out of hand."

Arble said this is particularly a problem when people make the mistake of placing their grill on top of their deck, close to their home.

"The wind can come through and blow (the flames)," he said. "You don't want your vinyl siding to melt or your home to catch on fire."

Arble suggests moving the grill far away from the residence. He also recommends snug clothing

instead of loose attire.

"Some grills are quite large and sleeves can catch on fire while people are just reaching to flip over a hot dog," he said.

Other suggestions include:

- After filling or exchanging a propane cylinder, take it home immediately. Keep the vehicle ventilated and the cylinder valve closed and capped.

- Always use and store cylinders outdoors in an upright position. Do not use, store, or transport cylinders near high temperatures or store spare cylinders near the grill.

- When not in use, grill burner controls should be turned off and the cylinder valves closed.

For more information about grilling and propane safety, please visit www.UseMichiganPropane.com.

Arble encouraged those with questions to call Canton Fire Station No. 1 at (734) 398-5262.

tlparks@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

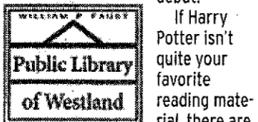


Firefighters battle a fire caused by a grill.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

Make this your summer for reading

For many readers July 21, 2007, is THE day of the summer. That's the day "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" makes its much-anticipated debut.



If Harry Potter isn't quite your favorite reading material, there are plenty more exciting titles coming out this summer and the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is the place to come to borrow them.

Other highly anticipated releases include the newest Stephanie Plum adventure, "Lean Mean Thirteen" by Janet Evanovich (June 19), "The Quickie" by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge (July 2), "High Noon" by Nora Roberts (July 10) and "Bungalow 2" by Danielle Steel (June 26).

Don't forget to check with the reference staff or the library Web site (catalog.westland.lib.mi.us) to see if your favorite author has a new book coming out this summer.

If you want some cool prizes and other incentives to further enjoy your reading experiences don't forget to join the summer reading programs at the library. This year's adult theme is SRP 007, based on the James Bond novels and movies, and will run through Aug. 4.

Read seven books in seven weeks and be entered into a grand prize drawing. There will also be weekly contests with new prizes each time and exciting and informative programs.

If you have a favorite or even a not-so-favorite book that you read this summer, fill out a book review and you could win something neat.

Remember, you can take the books to the beach but please don't bring back the beach with the books.

The William P. Faust Public Library of Westland is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. The library is closed on Sundays for the summer.

Highlighted Activities

Word for Beginners: 7 p.m. July 2. Learn the basics of Microsoft Word - a word processing program that lets you create a variety of documents, including letters and resumes. Learn how to set margins, change font style and size, check spelling and print. No registration is required.

Internet 101: 2 p.m. July 3. A beginner's guide to the Internet - how do I get around a Web site, what is a Web site. No registration is required. Walk-ins are welcome.

James Bond Movie: 2 p.m. July 7. As part of the adult summer reading program, join us for a screening of the latest James Bond movie, "Casino Royale" (2006). Rated PG-13, 144 minutes.

Rochester Spy Shop Presents ... Spy Tech: 7 p.m. July 9.

Come and see the latest innovations in spy technologies and hear private investigator Mark Ford describe how he uses them. No registration is required. Walk-ins are welcome.

Information Central is compiled by Susan Hanson of the William P. Faust Public Library which is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

Stores open Wednesday until 6pm

4th of JULY & clearance sale

SUNDAY, JULY 1 THROUGH WEDNESDAY, JULY 4



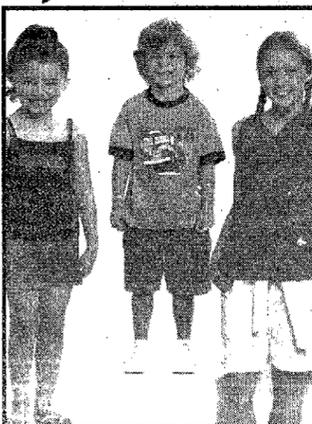
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Exclusively ours! Relativity and Studio Works knit tops, capris, shorts and more. Misses' sizes 6-18, S-XL. Similar styles in Petites' sizes. Orig. \$18-\$40, sale \$9-\$20. Similar styles in Women's sizes. Orig. \$16-\$40, sale \$8-\$20.



40% off
Entire stock of Playtex bras. Shown: Secrets full-figure bra in white. Reg. 27.50, sale 16.50. The collection. Reg. \$21-\$29, sale 12.60-17.40.



50% off
Columbia sportswear. Choose from a great selection of woven and knit sport shirts, shorts and more in a variety of styles and colors. Sizes M-XXL, waist sizes 32-40. The collection. Reg. \$26-\$60, sale \$13-\$30.



50% off
Exclusively ours! Kids' Americana knit tops and bottoms. Styles by URIT in Toddlers' sizes, Girls' sizes 4-6X and Boys' sizes 4-7, and styles by Miss Attitude in Girls' sizes 7-16. Reg. \$12-\$14, sale \$6-\$7.

CLIP THESE COUPONS FOR EXTRA SAVINGS!

Sunday, July 1 - Wednesday, July 4, 2007

extra 20% off
a single sale price apparel or fine jewelry item

or take an **extra 15% off**
a single sale price accessory, footwear, intimate apparel, ladies' or men's outerwear or suit, or men's tailored clothing item

PARISIAN



Cannot be used in conjunction with any other coupon or special offer. Some exclusions apply as listed in the newspaper.

Sunday, July 1 - Wednesday, July 4, 2007

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a single sale price accessory, footwear, intimate apparel, ladies' or men's outerwear or suit, or men's tailored clothing item

PARISIAN



Cannot be used in conjunction with any other coupon or special offer. Some exclusions apply as listed in the newspaper.

Cannot be used in conjunction with any other coupon or special offer. Coupons will not be available in stores. Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Duplicates will not be honored. One coupon per item. Coupon excludes Yellow Dot Clearance, Incredible Value merchandise, Bonus Buys, Door Busters, all cosmetics & fragrances, Maternity, Columbia apparel, outerwear & accessories, Dana Buchman, Ellen Tracy, St. John, Lafayette 148, Louben, Tommy Bahama, Indigo Palms, Levi's, Coach, Brahmin, Club Libby Lu, electronics, Tech Trek, Tempur-Pedic, Fine Jewelry special event merchandise, Fine Jewelry Super Values, Fine Watches and regular price merchandise. Coupons are not valid on Breast Cancer Awareness merchandise, special orders, gift cards or in service departments. Cannot be applied to previously purchased merchandise or mail/phone/internet orders.

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sunday, july 1 through wednesday, july 4: sign up for & use your store card to take an extra 20% off almost everything in the store! Take an extra 15% off fine jewelry. Extra savings are available on almost all regular and sale price merchandise: offer good the first day you use your card only. Some exclusions apply, subject to credit approval.

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COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE®

4th of July Sale prices effective Sunday, July 1 through Wednesday, July 4, 2007, unless otherwise indicated. No price adjustments for previously purchased clearance merchandise. Entire Stock offers exclude Clearance and Incredible Value merchandise. Regular and original prices reflect offering prices in effect during the 90 days before or after this sale, but not necessarily during the past 30 days. Savings may not be based on actual sales. Intermediate markdowns may have been taken. Merchandise, style and color availability may vary by store. Sorry, not available by mail or phone order. [15161A]

Shop Wednesday 10-6.

Norovirus suspected as hoops campers get sick

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

The Wayne County Health Department is investigating whether norovirus is the cause of the stomach flu-like symptoms that hit 37 youngsters and a counselor who were part of a basketball camp in Livonia last week.

Reports that almost half of the 80 campers were too sick to come back to Madonna University on Friday, June 22, for the last day of the weeklong day camp have been investigated by the health department.

"Our staff are still investigating it," said Al Guardiola, acting director of environmental health for the county. "We suspect norovirus, but again we have nothing definitive."

The virus can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach cramping and chills usually

for a day or two. And it can be tough to track, Guardiola said. Most often, he said, it stems from a fecal-to-oral contact; sometimes it's foodborne.

At Madonna, officials believe it's likely a camper brought the virus and it was somehow spread. Guardiola agreed that seems likely.

"No one who works here full time, uses the drinking fountains and all of that, none of us has gotten sick," said Athletic Director Bryan Rizzo. He also noted there were no reports of illnesses during the boys basketball camp the week before or during the girls volleyball camp that had been going on this week.

A health department representative supervised Madonna's housekeeping staff in disinfecting all of the surfaces with a bleach-based cleaning solution on June 23, the day after the report.

They cleaned in and around the gymnasium — including the basketballs, drinking fountains, doors, etc.

Since the campers were also served food, the campus cafeteria also had its food preparation surfaces, chairs, tables, utensils and other items disinfected, according to Sister Nancy Jamroz, vice president for student services.

Mary McIlraith's son Gregory, 10, was one of the campers, who ranged in age from 8-15. While her son didn't get sick, she did have to answer questions from the health department — about whether he ate lunch from the cafeteria (he didn't), whether he'd done anything else that week (he'd gone to a nearby swim club) and which bathroom or water cooler he used.

McIlraith, of Livonia, said she thought other parents would want to know about the investigation, but she strongly supports Madonna's

program. "We've done that camp for (two) years. We love Chuck Henry (coach) and Bernie Holowicki (former head coach) but I think families have a right to know," she said.

Guardiola said the state may yet request stool samples for a further investigation. While the symptoms last up to 60 hours, he said the virus could remain in a person's system, and thus could be shared, for up to two weeks.

To help prevent infection, the Centers for Disease Control recommends frequent washing of hands, especially after visiting the toilet or changing diapers or when preparing food; carefully washing fruits and vegetables; and thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, clothing and areas surrounding the toilet after flushing vomitus or stool.

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From The Deli
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Disabled advocates present issues to state lawmakers

"I couldn't believe it, we were in a Senator's office and we almost couldn't get a wheelchair around the corner, it was pretty interesting," said Westland resident Ray Schuholz.

Schuholz was in Lansing with 14 other advocates to meet one-on-one with state lawmakers when he ran into the problem.

"We were in Sen. Hansen Clark's office and we couldn't get a wheelchair around the corner, it was pretty impressive," said Schuholz. "After we gathered around the table, his first question was, 'How do I make my office more accessible? What do I do?' And that started our whole conversation."

The advocates came from all throughout Wayne County and all had different issues they wanted to discuss with the legislators. They all had an opportunity to speak with their respective representatives and senators.

"It was a great experience," said Detroit resident Donald Smith. "I really enjoyed talking with State Rep. John Pastor and Sen. Clark. They

really seemed to listen to what we had to say. We discussed several issues related to people with disabilities - transportation, housing and finding good jobs for us. We are very smart and very capable."

The 15 advocates are part of a Peer/Support and Leadership Committee that meets once a month at Community Living Services in Wayne. CLS is a non-profit organization that promotes inclusion, full citizenship and a self-determined life for people with developmental disabilities.

CLS also provides supports and services to 2,500 people in Wayne County and is funded through the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency.



State Rep. John Pastor welcomes Randy Domke, David McKee and Tiffany Devon, all of Livonia, and Donald Smith of Detroit to his office in Lansing.



Meeting with Sen. Hansen Clark are Joseph Raynes of Southgate (from left), Robert Kraft of Southgate, Tiffany Devon of Livonia, Dwayne Bradford of Detroit, LaKisa Jefferson of Ecorse and Ronald McGough of Taylor.

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WARREN...2001 Eleven Mile Rd.
WESTLAND...34460 Ford Rd.
YPSILANTI...1410 Michigan Ave.



Cruisers of the Week

The Westside Rod and Custom Car Club's Cruiser of the Week went to two cars - a 1930 Model A Ford 5-window coupe owned by Dennis and Pat Ducher of Westland and a 1969 Mustang Mach 1 owned by Pat Fitch of Garden City. The Model A has a .060 over 283 Chevy engine, 700R-4 Transmission, 12 bolt Chevy Rear end and drive-in speakers for rear speakers. The Mustang has a 351 Windsor 4-speed and air conditioning. Club Member Car of the Week was Pat Morsky's 1969 Slowrunner, a rainbow red junk yard special. The club holds car shows on Wednesday evenings at the Romanowski VFW Post on Joy east of Middlebelt in Westland.

Firm's riding scrap tires into new business opportunity

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

From fire hazards to harvesting vermin, scrap tires pose such a threat to the environment, it's a wonder they aren't considered hazardous material, in Paul Merklinger's opinion.

"If not properly dealt with, the scrap tire will haunt us forever," said Merklinger, president and CEO of Encore Tire Recovery, which opened Thursday in Livonia. His company recycles those tires in a variety of ways, from manufacturing plastic shipping pallets to flood walls made of interlocking plastic bricks.

Tire piles can catch fire and burn for months. Even "good" used tires are too dangerous to be reused on vehicles, he said.

Tire retailers get stuck with customers' junk tires and must dispose of them. Merklinger's company sends trucks similar to garbage compactors to those retailers. The vehicles can shred 510 tires per hour into 2-inch-by-6-inch strips on site.

Back at the manufacturing plant, those shreds are further refined into powder as fine as flour and combined with other ingredients to form synthetic plastic composite material.

Tests show shipping pallets made from this material are stronger, lighter, longer-lasting and cheaper than wooden shipping pallets, Merklinger said.

An estimated 280 million scrap tires are discarded every year in this country, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The average driver buys four tires every five years.

Rubber from tires has been recycled for playground ground covering, but Merklinger said that won't be his company's focus. At the company's grand opening, prototype paint brush handles, PVC pipes and shingles — all made from this manufacturing process — were on display.

To start, Encore will focus its operations within 100 miles of Detroit, Toronto, Tampa Bay,



Joe Bartel of Encore Tire Recovery in Livonia loads a tire onto one of the company's T2 trucks, which lifts the tire and drops it into a shredder. Shreds are later recycled to create other plastic products.

Orlando, Miami, Chicago and Los Angeles, with other cities to be added through 2008. Eventually, the company plans to have 300 trucks across the United States and Canada.

Retailers would pay \$1 to \$3 each for the tires to be hauled off, which is about the same fee customers pay to have their junk tires disposed.

Merklinger said he has received positive feedback with tire retailers about this idea, but he has not yet entered any relationships to service any local businesses. Encore will also donate its services to municipalities during annual hazardous waste day cleanups, he said.

Merklinger, of Novi and formerly Toronto, has been involved with the research and development of this idea since 1991. He holds eight patents for the Encore recovery system, with four others pending.

Its corporate headquarters is located at 12822 Stark Road in Livonia, a location Merklinger said he chose for its proximity to the freeways.

The company currently



Encore Tire Recovery president and CEO Paul Merklinger speaks about his company's plans during a press conference Thursday at its headquarters in Livonia.

employs 35 workers, most based in Michigan.

The others are in Florida and Chicago. Four of the company's 19 shredding trucks will be based in the Detroit area. Encore's grand opening Thursday included the singing of two national anthems, the arrival of a convoy of Encore vehicles and a speech by environmental activist Bobby Kennedy

Jr. who said scrap tires present a dramatic environmental problem and Encore Tire Recovery is an example of a true free market solution.

"This is a global issue and we see you as a global partner," said Jim McCann, Livonia City Council president. "This is something the rest of the country is going to be looking at and probably the rest of the world."



**CITY OF GARDEN CITY
SUMMER TAX NOTICE**

The 2007 summer taxes will be payable from July 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007 without penalty. Beginning September 1, 2007 a 4% penalty and 1/2% interest per month will be added to the unpaid taxes. Beginning March 1, 2008 all unpaid 2007 REAL property taxes must be paid to: Raymond J Wojtowicz, Wayne County Treasurer, The International Center Building, 400 Monroe, 5th floor, Detroit, Mi 48226 with penalty and an additional 4% administration fee plus 1% per month interest computed from March 1, 2008

ALLYSON M BETTIS-Treasurer-City Clerk

Publish: July 1, 2007

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**CITY OF WESTLAND
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The following appeals will be heard at a public hearing to be held in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI on Wednesday, July 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at which time comments may be directed to the Board during audience participation. If you wish to reply by mail, send your comments to the above address. All property owners whose names appear in our tax rolls located within 300' of this property are being notified pursuant to this statute.

Petition #2594-A. Beydoun/Marathon Station. 31425 Ann Arbor Trail (Postponed from June 20, 2007)

Request for a non-conforming sign variance from Ordinance 248 in order to alter an existing non-conforming sign located at the site by changing the 35 square foot price sign portion of the sign.

Petition #2600-C. Lubna-33454 Bordeaux Ct. (Postponed from June 20, 2007)

Request for a two (2) foot, six (6) inch rear yard fence height variance from Article X of the Westland City Code of Ordinances in order to install a nine (9) foot high privacy fence in the west side rear yard of the home.

Publish: July 1, 2007

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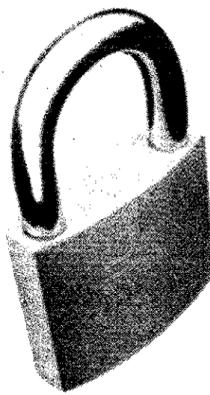
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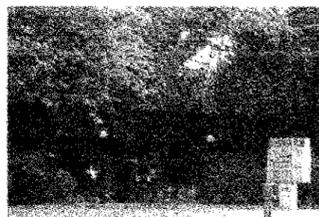
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SPORTS

Brad Emons, editor (734) 953-2123. bemons@hometownlife.com

New challenges await O&E golfers

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

It won't be quite U.S. Open-style conditions, but golfers will be put to a tougher test with more at stake during this year's Observer & Eccentric Open.

The men's 36-hole medal play tournament will be Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 11-12 at Whispering Willows and Fox Creek golf courses. The women's 18-hole event is also set for Saturday, Aug. 11 at Whispering Willows.

Tourney director Bill Durham, a pro at Fox Creek, promises at least two new wrinkles this year at the two venues — speedier

greens and more rough.

"The main thing is that we've let the natural areas grow for environmental reasons," Durham said. "It makes it more challenging and we've gotten good feedback from our customers."

"Another attraction is that we've worked on the greens and we've received compliments from the general public. And in general, it provides a good tourney setting."

The total prize payout for this year's tourney, according to Durham, has been bumped up to \$4,400.

The entry fee is \$95 for the men (cart not included) and will be open to the first 200 golfers. The maximum handicap is 20

with a current U.S. Golf Association index required to participate.

Meanwhile, the fee for women (not including cart) is \$50 and a USGA index is needed.

Entries for both men and women close at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4. Pairings and starting times will be announced beginning at noon Thursday, Aug. 9.

Last year's men's winner was Livonian Jim Omietanski, who repeated as champion. The supervisor from Ford Motor Co., recently named the varsity boys golf coach at Livonia Stevenson High, shot rounds of 69 and 72 to win by six strokes over Livonia dentist William Himm. Omietanski earned

a \$200 gift certificate and a first-place trophy.

Former Churchill High golfer Dan Higham took the men's first flight title, while Livonia's Janina Jacobs shot an 82 to capture the women's crown.

Last year, a total of 52 men competed in the championship and first flights, while nine competed for the women's crown. Durham would like to see that total double this year.

"I'd be happy with 100 to 120," he said. "I'd like to get it back to where it was in the mid- and late-80s."

For more information about the O&E Open, call (248) 476-4493.

Sidelines

Whalers trade

The Plymouth Whalers traded their first pick (56th overall) in Wednesday's Canadian Hockey League Import Draft to the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. Whalers President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci announced.

Ontario Hockey League teams can play two import players, or non-North Americans, per season. The Whalers' quota is already filled with returning defenseman Jozef Sladok and goaltender Michal Neuvirth.

Neuvirth, a second-round pick in 2006 of the Washington Capitals, won the OHL's F.W. "Dinty" Moore Trophy after compiling a league-low goals-against average of 2.32.

Coast to Coast Baseball

Coast to Coast Baseball, which is based in Marietta, OH, is holding a number of open tryouts throughout Michigan this summer to select players in three age groups (11-12, 13-15 and 16-18) to represent the United States in international competition.

Tryouts will be held at the following locations:

- Elite Baseball, Grand Rapids, Wednesday, July 25, noon;
- Premier Training Center, Macomb, Thursday, July 26, 2 p.m.;
- Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Friday, July 27, 10 a.m.;
- Michigan State University, East Lansing, Saturday, July 28, noon; and
- Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Sunday, July 29, noon.

In addition to these open tryouts, a three-hour hitting camp will be held each day.

For more information, players can visit www.CoastToCoastAthletics.com; or call (740) 373-4455.

Tidwell selected

William Tidwell, a three-sport athlete at Canton High School, has been selected to participate in the Economics for Leaders program at Hillsdale College July 15-22. Tidwell, who lettered in football, basketball and baseball this past academic year, was one of 33 students nationwide chosen for the prestigious program.

The honorees were selected based on their outstanding leadership skills.

Skills builder

Hoop tutoring company helps youngsters reach their potential

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

If your basketball-loving youngster needs a full course of instruction in the sport — or just a little seasoning — Perfect Play, Inc. has a program for him or her on its vast menu.

The Canton-based two-year-old tutoring business that was founded by former NBA player Brandon Williams in 2005, offers a variety of skills-based programs, but just one ultimate goal: to help young hoop players reach their potential.

And it has the tools to accomplish those goals, namely a staff that includes several former professional players — from Grant Long to Jimmy King to local star Dema Head — and a state-of-the-art set of new courts located in the northwest corner of High Velocity Sports, which is located on Michigan Ave. in Canton Twp. "When Brandon founded Perfect Play two years ago, he understood the importance of education and, hence, Perfect Play," said Angelo Flemings, the general manager of Perfect Play. "We believe that in order to understand the game, people need to know the fundamentals first and all of the techniques, both on the offensive and defensive ends of the court."

"Also, when it comes to coaching, we teach how to run practices, how to prepare a team — all those things transfer into perfect play for us."

New home

Prior to the installation of basketball courts at High Velocity, the Perfect Play staff instructed their clients wherever they could find a suitable court. They'll still travel to local high school and middle



QUEST FOR 'PERFECTION'

What: Perfect Play, Inc., a company that offers basketball tutoring services;

Where: Most of the training takes place at High Velocity Sports in Canton;

Who: The company was founded by former professional player Brandon Williams; among the instructors are ex-NBA players Jimmy King and Grant Long;

How much?: Sessions range from \$25-\$300;

For more info: Call (734) 487-7678.

schools to hold team clinics, but the majority of their teachings will be held at High Velocity.

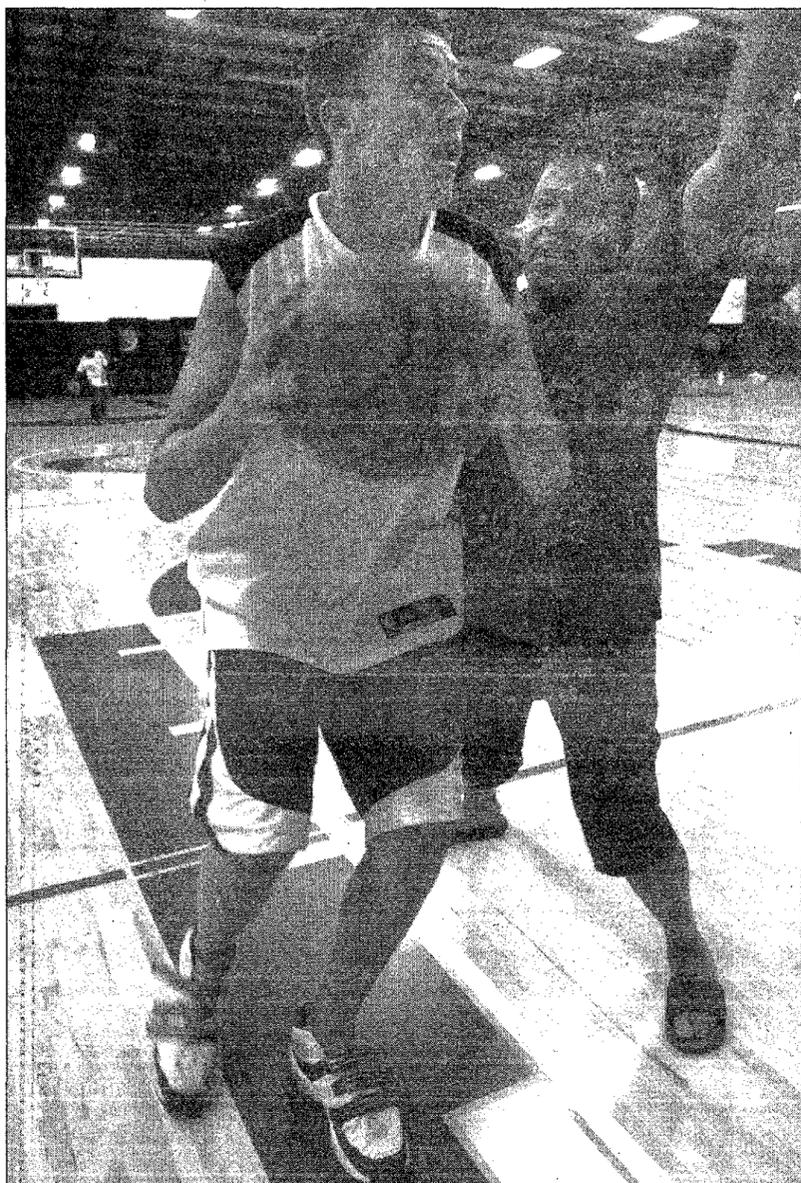
"When High Velocity turned what used to be inline hockey courts into basketball courts, one of the owners, Goose Finnerty, offered us the use of the facility," said Flemings. "When they built these courts, they did it right. These courts are floating courts, which are the best, and they added a lot of other details that make this facility outstanding."

All-encompassing

The range of Perfect Play's participants runs from pre-school to high school, according to Flemings.

"Our first program is called 'Be Simple,' which is primarily for young kids who have never played the sport and don't know the fundamentals or even what the out-of-

Please see **PERFECT, A11**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Perfect Play, Inc. student Raymond Reed (left) goes strong to the hole against Angelo Flemings during a recent workout at High Velocity Sports in Canton. Flemings is the general manager of the basketball tutoring company.

Churchill fills vacancies

Daugherty, Jenkins named to varsity positions

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill athletic director Marc Hage wasted little time in hiring two new varsity coaches for the 2007-08 school year to fill vacancies left by Keith McDonald, who resigned recently to take an assistant principal position.

Hage named 35-year-old Patrick Daugherty as the girls track and field coach, while 27-year-old Chad Jenkins will fill the girls basketball job.

Daugherty, who teaches Physical Education and Health at Churchill, is also the Madonna University men's and women's cross country coach in the fall. He has served seven seasons as a varsity boys assistant in track and field at Churchill under Rick Austin.

"It'll be busier, but it's not a lot different coaching-wise, but at the same time there will more administrative duties because I'll be in charge of the whole team,"

said Daugherty, a native of Hudson who played three sports in high school before going to Central Michigan and Eastern Michigan universities. "I already have a good rapport with the (assistant) coaches. I'm not going to change too much. The formula has been successful and I'll try and maintain that, while putting my own touch on certain things."

Daugherty inherits a highly successful program. In his four years, McDonald guided the Chargers to a 24-0 dual-meet record, two Division 1 regional titles, three Western Lakes Activities Association and Public Schools of Livonia Invitational crowns, and four divisional championships.

"Our goal is always to win the WLAA team championship and get as many kids to the state meet," Daugherty said. "With Keith in the building, he's always somebody I can rely on. I'm thankful Marc (Hage) gave me the opportunity."

Jenkins, a former catcher and captain of the Eastern Michigan University baseball team (1998-2002), has served as both as Churchill's JV boys and girls basketball coach.

With the MHSAA sports seasons switch, causing girls basketball to move to the winter along with boys basketball, Jenkins had to make a decision.

"It was a tough choice either way," said the Caro native. "My relationship with the girls was stronger and I was confident about working with them."

Jenkins, who teaches math at Churchill, plans to bring an up-tempo style of play this winter to the Chargers, who finished 13-30 in McDonald's two seasons as varsity coach.

"We'll be aggressive, we'll play man-to-man defense," said the Caro native. "We'll run the fast break. We'll run motion sets, spread the floor and let our guards penetrate and

Please see **COACHES, A11**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Good to the last stride

Nine-year-old Emma Krimitzki of Livonia placed second in the 50-yard dash of the Livonia Youth Fitness competition held Thursday at Rotary Park. For complete results of the event, please see page A11.

Livonia Fitness winners advance



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Eight-year-old Livonia resident Darin Topolewski hurdles through the agility course during Thursday's Livonia Youth Fitness competition held at Rotary Park. He finished with a time of 26.04 seconds.

Metro Beach Metropark is the next destination for City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation Youth Fitness Meet champions.

On Thursday, a total of 100 boys and girls ages 7-14 competed in sprints (50, 60 and 75 yards), standing long jump, running long jump, softball throw, agility course and chinning at Rotary Park.

Age classifications included Class A (13-14), Class B (11-12), Class C (9-10) and Class D (7-8).

Winners will represent Livonia in the Metropolitan Youth Fitness Meet, July 26, at Metro Beach.

Top finishers included:

AGILITY RUN (BOYS)

(A): 1. Josh Hune; 2. Cody Fox;
(B): 1. Michael Diaz; 2. Matthew Freed;
(C): 1. Maxwell Montini; 2. Brendan Meakin;
(D): 1. Darin Topolewski; 2. Essa Hattar;

AGILITY RUN (GIRLS)

(B): 1. Kellianne Meakin; 2. Jenna Smith;
(C): 1. Jessica Smith; 2. Victoria Sill;
(D): 1. Lauren May; 2. Laura Ford;

CHINNING (BOYS)

(B): 1. Matthew Freed; 2. Alexander Perelli;
(C): 1. Christian Sullivan; 2. Brendan Meakin;

CHINNING (GIRLS)

(B): 1. Tasha McKinley;
(C): 1. Ally Moore; 2. Rebecca Piasentin;

SOFTBALL THROW (BOYS)

(A): 1. Josh Herle;
(B): 1. Chris Kanagy; 2. Mike Diaz;
(C): 1. Jack Engel; 2. Charlie Bonser;
(D): 1. Quinn Blair; 2. Anthony Leopardi;

SOFTBALL THROW (GIRLS)

(A): 1. Caleigh Griffin; 2. Nicole Sorenson;
(B): 1. Taylor Cutting;
(C): 1. Kennedy Crawford; 2. Hannah Ford;
(D): 1. Erin Andrews; 2. Sarah Cervan;

RUNNING LONG JUMP (BOYS)

(A): 1. Jacob Van Dyke; 2. Cody Fox;
(B): 1. Justin Van Dyke; 2. Cody Happ-Nige;
(C): 1. Maxwell Montini; 2. Logan Delonis;
(D): 1. Kevin Murphy; 2. Darin Topolewski;

RUNNING LONG JUMP (GIRLS)

(B): 1. Mairi Van Dyke; 2. Sheila McKinley;
(C): 1. Jessica Smith; 2. Jennifer Perelli;
(D): 1. Lauren May; 2. Mikaila Murphy;

STANDING LONG JUMP (BOYS)

(B): 1. Andrew Smutek;
(D): 1. Juan Enriquez;

STANDING LONG JUMP (GIRLS)

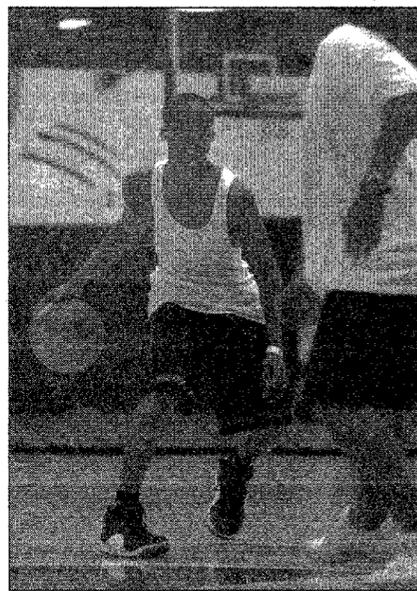
(B): 1. Brianna Jed;
(C): 1. Shae Tatigian;
(D): 1. Samantha Hardizzi; 2. Keira Carlson;

DASHES (BOYS 50, 60, 75 YARDS)

(A): 1. Jacob Van Dyke;
(B): 1. John Kall; 2. Justin Van Dyke;
(C): 1. Christian Sullivan; 2. Noah Krimatzki;
(D): 1. Conner Cassar; 2. Sam Banser;

DASHES (GIRLS 50, 60, 75 YARDS)

(A): 1. Caleigh Green; 2. Nicole Sorenson;
(B): 1. Mairi Van Dyke; 2. Brianna Jed;
(C): 1. Kennedy Crawford; 2. Emma Krimatzki;
(D): 1. Irelyn Sullivan; 2. Layne Tatigian.



C.J. Mwila and Sharif Carter run through a drill during a workout at Perfect Play, Inc. in Canton.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PERFECT

FROM PAGE A10

bounds and free-throw lines are," he said. "We lower the rims to seven feet to make it easier for them, and we let them play with lighter balls.

"The next level is called 'Be Skillful,' which is for the kids who have the fundamental elements of the game down, but they're not really ready to start playing in games. We teach them team play and how to play each position.

"The third program is called 'Be Creative' in which we work with kids who have the skills but want to improve specific things like quickness or perimeter shooting. These are the kids who want to take their game to the next level."

'Perfect' example

One of the those "next-level" students who signed up for Perfect Play last year has already turned his game around, said Flemings.

"He was about 6-foot-8 and a pretty good player,

but he had kind of slipped through the system," said Flemings. "He was in the ninth grade, but he was slightly intimidated by all the talented basketball players who went to his school, so he didn't even end up trying out for the basketball team.

"He signed up for Perfect Play, improved his skills immensely, then went out for the basketball team at his new school where no one knew him. Well, thanks to the tutoring and the strength he gained in his game, he's a beast now. He has a soft touch and a toughness about him he didn't have before.

"He went from not even trying out for a team to being one of the top players in this area."

The cost range for Perfect Play courses run from \$25 single-session workouts to \$308 individual tutoring multi-session plans.

Call (734) 487-7678; or send an e-mail to info@perfectplay.com.

ewright@hometownlife.com
(734) 953-2108.

Bulls' Teno shuts down Rams, 5-1

Steve Teno pitched seven strong innings Friday night, leading the Michigan Bulls to a 5-1 Livonia Collegiate Baseball League victory over the Michigan Rams at Ford Field.

Teno pitched a five-hitter and struck out five as the 22-and-under Bulls improved to 11-4-3 in the LCBL.

Losing pitcher Justin Collop (Wayne Memorial), who pitched this season at the University of Toledo, gave up five runs, all unearned. He allowed five hits in six innings, while walking two and fanning

five. Drew Churchward went 2-for-3 with an RBI as the 20-and-under Rams fall to 9-7-2.

Aaron Powell collected two hits, while Rudy Jovanovski knocked in two runs. Nick Thurman also added an RBI for the Bulls.

On Wednesday, Storms threatened all evening, but the Rams and Bulls got in eight innings, only to have the outcome end in a 6-6 tie because of a time limit.

Max Kelmigian's two-run double in the seventh scoring Mike Wiseman and Nick Urban sent the game into

extra innings for the Rams, who put five on the board after trailing 6-5.

Kelmigian finished with two hits, while Urban added two RBI. Churchward and Wiseman also knocked in runs.

Kyle Rhoad, Dennis Jones and Mike LePor each collected two hits and knocked in a run for the Bulls. Josh Ivan and Powell also drove in runs.

The Rams used three pitchers with starter Shane McCarty going the first five, allowing five runs (three earned) on eight hits and two

walks. He struck out three.

Steve Karchefski came on in the sixth and seventh innings, allowing one run on one hit with three Ks and a walk. Sam Yashinsky pitched a scoreless eighth.

Bulls starter Brian Weeks went 6.1 innings, allowing three runs on three hits and four walks. He struck out seven. Carl McDevitt blew the save, allowing three runs on five hits. Detroit Tigers 37th-round draft pick Toby Matchulat (Redford Union) walked one and got the final out.

Western Michigan nets Moccia as recruit

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

They may not be ready for Wimbledon just yet like Serena and Venus Williams, but Western Michigan University women's tennis program will have a pretty formidable sister act of its own as recent Livonia Stevenson High graduate Amanda Moccia, a first-team All-Observer selection, will join sister Ashley this fall.

Ashley, a 2005 Stevenson grad, just completed her sophomore year with the Mid-American Conference champions and NCAA regional qualifier compiling a 23-15

record in singles and a 22-15 overall mark in doubles.

Amanda, meanwhile, is one of two new recruits for WMU coach Betsy Kuhle, who also added Yumi Matsuto, a transfer from NCAA Division II power California (Pa.).

Amanda Moccia played No. 1 singles for the Spartans in 2006, finishing 21-6 including runner-up finishes in the Division I regional and Western Lakes Activities Association tournaments (falling in both finals to eventual state champion Christina Ruiz of Northville).

The four-year varsity letter winner split two matches in last year's state finals, reach-

ing the quarterfinals held in Midland. She posted a two-year No. 1 singles record of 40-13.

The All-Stater and Stevenson MVP is ranked in the top-75 in the Midwest by the U.S. Tennis Association, while TennisRecruiting.net had her rated as the No. 3 graduating senior and 66th overall in their Hot 100.

"I think Amanda was under the radar of most college recruiters and is going to be a great addition to our program," Kuhle said.

Matsuto, a native of Kobeshi, Japan, earned NCAA Division II All-America honors in doubles

with a 36-4 record and ranked 10th in the country after helping the Vulcans to their best record in school history (28-2) and a spot in the final eight of the Division II nationals.

She played prep tennis (Shukugawa Gakuin) at the same school which produced current Bronco standout Noriko Saruta, who teamed up with Ashley Moccia for a 14-10 doubles mark.

"Yumi is going to be a great addition to our program, especially as a skilled doubles player," Kuhle said.

bemons@oe.homecomm.net
(734) 953-2123

Armenian Youth Games get underway in Livonia

Over 600 American and Canadian Armenian youths converged on Livonia over the weekend for the North American Eastern Region Homenetmen Olympic Games.

Events, which began Saturday and conclude on Tuesday, included swimming, track, basketball and soccer hosted by Livonia Stevenson High School and Schoolcraft College.

On Thursday, Livonia Mayor Jack Engebretson led a flag-raising ceremony at Livonia City Hall to wel-

come the participants. The Mayor was joined by Father Daron Stepanian of St. Sarkis Armenian Church in Dearborn, along with the University of Michigan marching and drill team.

This is the second time Detroit has hosted the Games, according to organizing chairman Sonny Gavor, the Schoolcraft College women's cross country coach.

Last year's Games were held in Washington, D.C. with next year's site being Chicago, Ill.

The track competition will

begin at 4 p.m. Monday at Stevenson. Gavor said a total of 75 basketball games and 32 soccer games will be staged between the two sites over the four-day period.

The Homenetmen organization is dedicated to promoting Armenian youth in athletics and boys-girls scouting for ages 12-35.

It was established in 1918 in Armenia, soon after the 1915-18 genocide by the Ottoman Turks.

The organization has held North American Regional

Athletic Games every year since, and World Athletic games every four years.

The next World Games will be in 2009, either in Athens, Greece or Armenia. Over 9,000 athletes are expected to participate in the 2009 Games.

Among the Homenetmen chapters scheduled to participate include Montreal, Quebec; Toronto and Cambridge, Ontario; New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Boston, Atlanta, Miami and Detroit.

COACHES

FROM PAGE A10

attack. I like the up-tempo style."

Jenkins said he'll stage a shooting camp for grades 5-9 from 9 a.m. until noon, Monday through Wednesday, July 9-11.

He will also take his team for the University of Michigan July 26-28 for a

team camp. "Chad's been running our summer camps and he's been great," Hage said. "He's done a wonderful job."

"The girls lobbied for him. He's a players' coach, but he's also a disciplinarian. They like playing for him."

"And every team he's coached - JV baseball, JV girls and boys basketball - they all have had all had winning records."

And with Daugherty stepping in as girls track and field coach, Hage is confident it will be a smooth transition.

"He knows the kids and he knows them well," the Churchill A.D. said. "He certainly has the expertise and hopefully he'll keep it up at a high level. We're looking forward to having him aboard."

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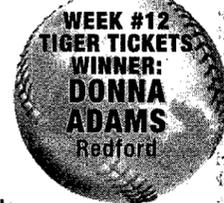


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Watermelon**
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\$4.99 lb
Save \$1.00 per lb.

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Turkey
\$5.99 lb
Save \$1.00 per lb.

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2 / \$5.00 Full
Pint

Driscoll's
Stem
Strawberries
\$3.99 1 lb.
Pkg.

Michigan
**Super Select
Cucumbers**
3 / 99¢

Lorraine Swiss
\$3.99 lb
Old Tyme Hard Salami
\$2.99 lb
Old Tyme Provolone
\$3.39 lb

Boarshead Pub
Horseradish, Honey
Mustard,
Deli Mustard
3 / \$5.00

Dietz & Watson
Honey Cured Turkey,
Gourmet Lite Turkey
Honey Cured Tavern Ham
\$6.99 lb

Boarshead
Roast Beef **\$6.99 lb**
Golden Classic Chicken
\$5.99 lb
Baby Swiss Cheese **\$5.99 lb**

New
**Moondarra
Cheese**
\$3.99 each
All Flavors

Boarshead
BBQ Sauce
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Hofbrau
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Germany
\$7.99

Night Owl
2005
Pinot Noir
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A luscious, Ripe Pinot Noir

Erdinger
Weissbrau
\$16.99 12 pk
The #1 German Wheat Beer
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Rose des Karantes
2005
\$10.99
*The perfect Rose
for the 4th of July*

Bell Oberon
Michigan's #1
Summer Beer
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A
Picnic
Must!

Joe's
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\$4.99 lb

Joe's
Gorgonzola
Cole Slaw
\$3.19 lb

Joe's
**Red Skin
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Joe's
Krab
Salad
\$4.99 lb

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Treat!

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Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, July 1, 2007

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(*) B1

GARDEN CITY

Power pitching, booming bats prominent in Observerland

FIRST TEAM

Matt Fitzgibbon, Sr., P, Garden City: The senior right-hander was outstanding for the Cougars, going 6-2 with a 2.01 ERA, with a walk-to-strikeout ratio of 13-39. Fitzgibbon showed a propensity for coming up huge in big games, throwing a one-hitter in the Division I district semifinal against Romulus and then defeating heavily favored Ann Arbor Pioneer in the regional final, 2-1.

"He pitched tremendously for us," GC coach Steve Herman said. "Especially in the biggest games. It was all pretty impressive that he beat the top teams."

Toby Matchulat, Sr., P, Redford Union: After missing the first 10 games of the season, the 6-5 fireballer struck out 16 in his 2007 debut, a 3-1 win over Detroit Country Day. For the ensuing weeks, Matchulat impressed major league scouts with his array of pitches, enough to get drafted in the 37th round by Detroit. The lanky right-hander finished with a record of 5-3, but struck out 68 batters in 43 innings and gave up just 1.71 earned runs per game.

"Toby has a live arm and throws extremely hard (89-91 MPH)," RU head coach Mike Taylor said. "He struggled at times with his control, but hopefully they will work out the kinks at the next level. I wish him well and I hope he finds his place somewhere."

Matt Tuttle, Sr., P, Livonia Stevenson: Tuttle amassed 100 strikeouts in 63 innings in his third season on the Stevenson pitching staff, and was so effective that he finished with an 8-1-1 won-loss record and 2.05 ERA.

Head coach Rick Berryman said Tuttle, who will continue his baseball career at Adrian College, was "a very dependable starter" and set school records in game appearances (45) and strikeouts.

He was named to the WLAA Lakes

Division and all-district teams and also was selected to play in the High School East/West All-Star Game at Comerica Park.

"Matt has untapped potential, he'll get better and better," Berryman said. "He can maximize his potential if he keeps working. He applied himself in the off-season, that's why he had 100 strikeouts in 63 innings."

Erik Wright, Jr., P, Canton: The junior lefty compiled a 6-3 record and 1.76 E.R.A. He struck out 68 batters in 55 innings while yielding just 36 hits. In back-to-back games in late April, the WLAA All-Division honoree one-hit Wayne Memorial before throwing a two-hitter against No. 1-ranked Northville in a 2-1 setback.

"Erik had a tremendous year this year as a junior after pitching very well on the varsity last year as a sophomore," Canton coach Scott Dickey said. "Two of his three losses this year were the result of unearned runs. He was our ace and one of the top pitchers in the conference this year. He should be one of the top pitchers in the entire area next year."

Chris Ake, Sr., INF, Lutheran Westland: Ake worked hard after his junior year to overcome a back injury and it paid dividends, with his third selection to the all-Western Lakes and all-district teams. He batted .485 with five homers and scored 28 runs while driving in 29.

"Chris epitomizes what it means to put in your time and do whatever it takes to become a great player," Warriors head coach Kevin Wade said. "He really worked hard and put time in the weight room and it paid off. Chris is a great player, we are surely going to miss his leadership and everything he brought to this team."

Chris Gazley, Jr., INF-P, Redford Union: The multi-talented Gazley led Redford Union in virtually every offensive category, including a new school record for batting average (.531) as well as 12

doubles, 43 runs and 41 RBI.

For his efforts, he was named to the All-Mega White, All-District, All-Region teams and was RU's team MVP. He also played solidly at third base and was outstanding as RU's No. 2 pitcher, finishing with a league-leading 9-1 record and 87 strikeouts along with an ERA of 2.01.

"Chris is one of the more complete players around," Taylor said. "He is strong at every position you put him at and he has been the most dependable day-in and day-out player I have coached."

Gazley, in addition, was selected to the All-State second team, named by the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association.

Brett Lackey, Sr., INF, Garden City: The three-year varsity starter was "the heart and soul of our team, he's one of our captains and one of our leaders," Herman said. "As he went, the team went. Brett was our most important cog."

Lackey earned team MVP honors for his season-long consistency, which netted All-Mega Red and All-District honors, and was described by Herman as the "human vacuum" with his shortstop fielding prowess.

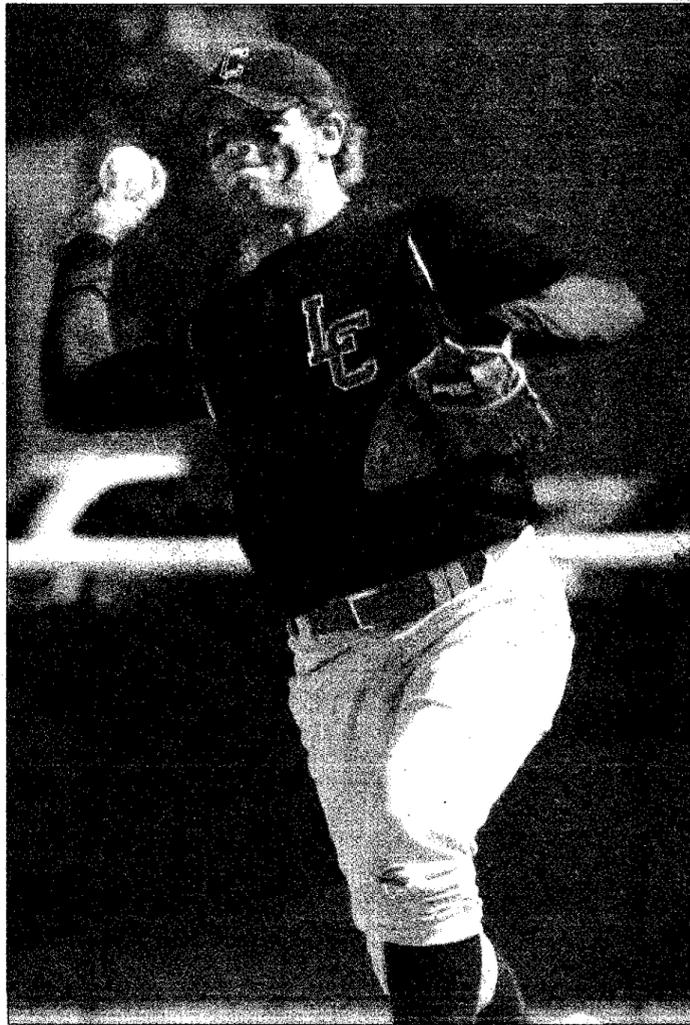
Whatever he delivered at the plate was a big bonus, finishing with an average of .313 with 17 runs and 14 RBI.

Blake Smith, Sr., INF-P, Redford Thurston: The four-year starter for the Eagles pretty much did everything he could to help his team succeed, head coach Bob Snell said.

"Blake is just a pleasure to coach," Snell said. "He has excellent baseball skills, can play a lot of different places, is key in clutch situations and, more than that, he's a great teammate."

Smith earned All-Mega Blue first-team honors for his offensive and defensive contributions, finishing with

Please see **BASEBALL, B2**



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Churchill second baseman Bryon Niemczak is a two-time first-team All-Observer selection.

Area softball players brought their 'A' game in '07



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton shortstop Lauren Delapaz was a four-year varsity starter and multi-year honoree on the All-Observer softball team.

FIRST TEAM

Hilary Payne, Canton, Jr., pitcher: A junior southpaw, Payne was the ace of the Chiefs' pitching staff. She also excelled at the plate as she hit near the top of the Chiefs' line-up the entire season. A hard-thrower with a variety of off-speed pitches, Payne is being recruited by several Division 1 colleges.

Hallie Minch, Garden City, Jr., pitcher: Once again, Minch was usually right in the middle of whatever was happening with the Cougars this season. She was an offensive cog, batting .486, with five triples and 34 RBI, but also held the fort down whenever she pitched. The junior - named the team's MVP - finished with 201 innings pitched, allowing just 42 earned runs (1.46) and going 20-9 in the won-lost department. She collected seven shutouts and fanned 217 batters.

Her season was also capped off with selection to the All-Mega Red first team, all-district and all-region teams.

"She is a very smart player and a leader on the field," said Garden City head coach Barry Patterson. "I think what really sets Hallie apart from any other players is she's such a fierce competitor who wants the ball on the mound or wants to be the one at the plate in the most crucial and the biggest situations."

Erin Rodes, Plymouth, Soph., catcher: A second-year varsity player, Rodes hit .400 with one home run and 15 RBI along with providing coach Val Canfield with excellent defense behind the plate. The catcher was versatile, too, playing left field as well as catching.

"Erin is an extremely dedicated player and a very well-rounded player," said Canfield. "Defensively, not much got past her and she had a very quick release. She was the captain of the infield. She was our lead-off hitter, too, so she was the one who got things going for our offense."

Alyssa Abramowski, Jr., Llv. Ladywood, Inf.: The junior first baseman was a consistent threat at the plate, hitting .352 with one home run, eight doubles and four triples. The Blazers' lead-off hitter also sparkled in the classroom as she earned a spot on the league All-Academic unit.

"Alyssa always shows a tremendous amount of effort," said Ladywood coach Sara Thiesmeyer said of the team's co-MVP. "I can always rely on her as a solid player defensively and as someone who is extremely versatile when at the plate."

Lauren Delapaz, Sr., Canton, Inf.: A four-year letter winner, Delapaz excelled both from her shortstop position and from the clean-up spot in the batting order. Headed to Eastern Michigan University with an athletic scholarship, Delapaz rounded out

her high school career by hitting .481 and earning All-WLAA first-team honors.

Kim Klonowski, Sr., Plymouth, Inf.: Klonowski, who is headed to Youngstown State University on a softball scholarship, capped an outstanding prep career by hitting .490 with three home runs and 20 RBI. She also provided the Wildcats with solid defense up the middle from her shortstop position.

"Kim is just a phenomenal athlete and she was a great leader for our team," said Canfield. "The contributions she made to our program the past four years are just two numerous to mention. She will be greatly missed next year."

Briauna Taylor, Soph., Liv. Franklin, OF: The sophomore shortstop hit clean-up for the Patriots and she did so effectively, racking up a .524 batting average, 26 RBI and 26 steals. The All-WLAA standout shined in the field as well, committing just eight errors in 212 innings (.949 fielding percentage).

"I believe Briauna is the best shortstop in the state," said Franklin coach Linda Jimenez. "She has quickness, unbelievable range, a strong and accurate throwing arm and soft hands. Her 90 assists says it all. She has received numerous

Please see **SOFTBALL, B2**

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BASEBALL

FROM PAGE B1

a .450 batting average along with 28 runs and 24 RBI while also providing solid defense at shortstop. When called upon to pitch, he did yeoman's work, compiling a 5-4 record (including three tough losses where he gave up one or zero earned runs) and a 1.42 ERA.

Bryon Niemczak, Sr., INF, Livonia Churchill: Niemczak's all-around value to the Chargers shined through once again, with the co-captain batting .345, collecting 21 RBI and sparking the team with his baseball skills and leadership, head coach Ron Targosz said.

"It seemed as though in most games, as Bryon went, then that was how the team went on that particular day," Targosz said. "Bryon's skills at the plate and on the field are something that are truly special. His knowledge of the game is something that most high school players wish they had."

Niemczak was named to the Western Lakes Activities Association all-conference team for the second time in his prep career.

Matt Priebe, Fr., INF, Plymouth: Although just a freshman, Priebe played like a seasoned veteran as he led the Wildcats in several offensive categories, including batting average (.417), runs scored (25), hits (40), home runs (three) and RBI (23).

He also turned in a solid stint on the mound for coach Chuck Adams squad.

"For a freshman to come in to our program, bat clean up all year and

put up those kind of offensive stats, it's astonishing," Adams said.

Kyle Gring, Sr., OF, Canton: Gring had a sensational senior season at the plate as the smooth-swinging left-hander hit .466 with a .602 on-base percentage and .773 slugging percentage. During a red-hot streak late in the season, he ripped 19 hits in 25 plate appearances. Gring rocked four home runs and knocked in 22 runs for the Chiefs while providing spectacular play in the outfield.

"Kyle worked very hard during the off-season and it paid off as he had a tremendous senior season," Canton coach Scott Dickey said. "He was one of the best hitters in our conference this year and earned All-District honors as well."

Luke Knochel, Sr., OF, Livonia Stevenson: The three-year starter in center field hit .426 and drove in 23 runs while scoring 30 himself, providing a year-long spark to the Stevenson attack. He earned all-district and all-conference honors for his efforts.

For his career, he finished with a lofty .423 batting average, six school records and 52 stolen bases — getting thrown out only four times.

"Luke is just a phenomenal athlete," Berryman said. "He is a very consistent, hard-working player. I enjoyed watching him play for three years. He's just a good athlete with a great work ethic and knows how to play the game."

COACH OF THE YEAR

Mike Taylor, Redford Union: Taylor doesn't look much older than the players on his Redford Union team.

But the 1999 RU grad has built a successful program in a relatively short period of time, one that griz-

zled coaching vets would be thrilled to achieve.

In 2007, Taylor guided the hard-hitting Panthers to a 27-7 record, falling just short in the ultra-competitive Mega Red before capturing a Division 1 district championship, the school's first in a decade.

According to Taylor, who has amassed a record of 86-62 in his five seasons as RU head coach, the team is "still young," but has grown in maturity and experience to the point that the 2008 season could be a real breakthrough.

"We've got nine guys coming back and five starters, so I think next year we'll finally be able to get over the hump," he said.

Taylor said winning the *Observer* coach of the year honors is "not a feather in my cap because it's everything involved with our program. But it's a tip of the cap to the program."

Meanwhile, he cited assistant coaches Dennis Rogowski, Justin Rosin and Brian Sloma with having a lot to do with this season's success, which came to a screeching halt when Allen Park routed RU in the D-1 regional.

"The experience of winning districts and playing in the regional this year will help us come this time next year," Taylor said.

When not busy with RU's program, Taylor is an assistant coach with the Livonia-based Michigan Rams of the Michigan Baseball Collegiate League, a 20U team which plays at Ford Field.



Matt Tuttle Stevenson



Erik Wright Canton



Tyler Bledsoe Churchill



Chris Ake Lutheran High



Matt Fitzgibbon Garden City



Blake Smith Thurston



Chris Gazley Redford Union



Mike Taylor RU coach



Brett Lackey Garden City



Luke Knochel Stevenson



Matt Priebe Plymouth



Bryan Niemczak Churchill



Kyle Gring Canton

2007 ALL-OBSERVER BASEBALL

FIRST TEAM

P - Matt Fitzgibbon, Sr., Garden City
P - Toby Matchulat, Sr., Redford Union
P - Matt Tuttle, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
P - Erik Wright, Jr., Canton
C - Tyler Bledsoe, Soph., Liv. Churchill
INF - Chris Ake, Sr., Lutheran Westland
INF/P - Chris Gazley, Jr., Redford Union
INF/P - Brett Lackey, Sr., Garden City
INF/P - Blake Smith, Sr., Red. Thurston
INF - Bryon Niemczak, Sr., Liv. Churchill
INF - Matt Priebe, Fr., Plymouth
OF - Kyle Gring, Sr., Canton
OF - Luke Knochel, Sr., Liv. Stevenson

SECOND TEAM

P - Jared Miller, Jr., Canton Agape
P - Ryan Baglow, Jr., Lutheran Westland
C - Tim Siegfried, Jr., Wayne Memorial
C - Kyle Schuett, Sr., Redford Union
1B - Matt Barreira, Sr., Plymouth
INF - Ben Kosmalski, Sr., Plymouth
INF - Matt DeLong, Sr., Redford Union
INF - Nick Plinka, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
INF - Garrett Gumm, Soph., Liv. Franklin
INF - Alan Sapierski, Sr., Westland Glenn
OF - Kirk Clarrcoch, Sr., Liv. Churchill
OF - Dan Stoney, Soph., Canton
OF - Jesse Carpenter, Jr., Liv. Franklin
OF/P - Chris Kangas, Sr., Westland Glenn

COACH OF THE YEAR

Mike Taylor, Redford Union

HONORABLE MENTION

Garden City: Jon Turnbull, Paul Cole, Kevin Polzin;
Thurston: Brian Corner, Ryan Smith; **Redford Union:** Steven Greenawalt, Bobby Ray, Jason Matties, Nick Levinson; **Churchill:** Vinny Carozza, Mike O'Keefe, Eric Mitchell, Tyler Cotter, Brian Runge, Steve Jones; **Franklin:** David Leins, Mike Basner, Tyler Canyock; **Stevenson:** Matt Loney, Sam Vomastek, Jeff Sorenson; **John Glenn:** Jerry Smith, Andrew DeLuca, Nate Lopez, Jake Murawski; **Wayne:** Clint Cavanaugh, Trey Raynes, Jon Bryant, Mike Green, Brent Patterson; **Lutheran Westland:** Austin Baglow, Micah Hausch, Dan Abbott, Adam Zehel; **Clarenceville:** Allen Mazur; **Huron Valley Lutheran:** Ryan Jones, Kurt Metzger; **Salem:** Sam Ott, Brad Way, Matt Woster, Justin Horger, Mike Myers, Steve Pdyn; **Canton:** Brad Barath, William Tidwell, Dan Milus, Blaine Paden; **Plymouth:** Garrett Rebbin, Brad Lineberry, Ronnie Goble, Ryan Valle, Tyler Locklear; **Plymouth Christian:** Trevor Zinn, Brent Zinn, Matt Saagman, Charles Cain; **Canton Agape:** Brandon Pierson, Tyler Majeski.

SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

compliments from other coaches throughout the season."

Christina Susalla, Jr., Garden City, IF: Susalla was named to the All-Mega Red first team, all-district and all region squads and received a team "gold glove" award for her superb fielding and soft hands at first base for the Cougars.

And she made big contributions at the plate, finishing with a .356 batting average along with nine doubles and 26 RBI.

"I believe that Christina is one of the premier power hitters in the area," said Patterson, adding that Susalla also is the consummate

coach's dream. "As a coach you hope all your players play with the desire and passion that 'Sus' brings to the field every day."

Brittany Taylor, Soph., Liv. Franklin, OF: The sophomore batted either first or second for the Patriots and she did it well, hitting .543 with 30 RBI and 53 runs scored. The All-WLAA, All-District performer hit five round-trippers and 11 doubles while striking out just nine times in 116 at-bats. Taylor's 63 hits were a school record.

"Brittany improved in all aspects of the game," said Franklin coach Linda Jimenez. "She raised her batting average by 139 points from last year and she was much smarter on the bases this year, too. Most importantly, Brittany has a team-first attitude and she cares so much about her teammates."

Kelsey Weekley, Jr., Redford Union, OF: Natural ability coupled with softball smarts and leadership factored into a season to remember for Weekley, who led the Panthers with a .542 batting average, three home runs and 26 RBI.

Weekley, a tri-captain who earned team MVP honors as well as selection to the All-Mega White first team, set RU records in Mega White competition both for total bases (40) and batting average (.605). She played every position in the field except catcher and second base and was one of the team's top starting pitchers. "She's an outstanding talent," said Panthers head coach Alan Kruck. "And what a leader. She'll jump in at any position, she takes the lead as far as that goes."

Kelly Behr, Sr., Salem, OF: The three-year varsity player was a two-year All-District and All-Conference performer. She hit .338 and was one of the best defensive outfielders in the WLAA, throwing out five opponents at the plate and three at first. Behr graduated first in her class with a 4.0 grade-point average.

"Kelly is a very smart player and can hit and field her position equally well," said Salem coach Bonnie Southerland. "She has great range in the outfield and can cover a lot of ground."

Nicole Love, Jr., Redford Thurston, OF: The MVP for the 2007 Eagles enjoyed an excellent all-around season, slugging three home runs and knocking in 16 runs while compiling a .435 batting average. She adequately patrolled left field and was named to the All-Mega Blue team for her efforts. "She was very reliable all season, both offensively and defensively," said Thurston head coach Renee McManamon. "She's an all-around great girl."

Rob Witherspoon, Liv. Stevenson (Coach of Year): Earned back-to-back Coach of the Year honors after leading the surprising Spartans to their first Western Lakes Activities Association title since 1984 with a 6-3 win over Northville. Stevenson, Lakes Division champs in WLAA, finished 21-11 overall. Witherspoon's third straight 20-win season. The 35-year-old Witherspoon is 91-67 overall in five seasons with the Spartans.

The Allen Park native also coaches football at Livonia Churchill and is a fifth-grade teacher at Johnson Elementary School in Livonia.



Hilary Payne Canton



Hallie Minch Garden City



Kim Klonowski Plymouth



Briana Taylor Franklin



Kelly Behr Salem



Christina Susalla Garden City



Nicole Love Thurston



Brittany Taylor Franklin



Kelsey Weekley Redford Union



Erin Rodes Plymouth



Rob Witherspoon Stevenson coach



Alyssa Abramowski Ladywood



Lauren Delapaz Canton

2007 ALL-OBSERVER SOFTBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM

P-Hilary Payne, Jr., Canton
P-Hallie Minch, Jr., Garden City
C-Erin Rodes, Soph., Plymouth
INF-Alyssa Abramowski, Jr., Liv. Ladywood
INF-Lauren Delapaz, Sr., Canton
INF-Kim Klonowski, Sr., Plymouth
INF-Briana Taylor, Soph., Liv. Franklin
INF-Christina Susalla, Jr., Garden City

OF-Brittany Taylor, Soph., Liv. Franklin

OF-Kelsey Weekley, Jr., Redford Union

OF-Kelly Behr, Sr., Salem

OF-Nicole Love, Jr., Redford Thurston

SECOND TEAM

P-Jamie Johnson, Jr., Liv. Stevenson

P-Melissa Leach, Sr., Salem

P-Amanda Gruenewald, Sr., Huron Valley

P-Meghan Patterson, Jr., Plymouth

INF-Laura Deacon, Soph., Liv. Stevenson

INF-Jordan Kerr, Jr., Liv. Churchill

INF-Paula Guzik, Soph., Liv. Churchill

INF-Sarah Sanders, Soph., Redford Union

INF-Beth Heldmeyer, Soph., Plymouth

OF-Shannon Pietruska, Soph., Garden City

INF-Erin McLaughlin, Sr., Liv. Ladywood

OF-Bobbie DeBolt, Jr., Redford Thurston

UTL-Sarah Anthony, Sr., Canton

UTL-Abby Sockachi, Sr., C'ville

COACH OF THE YEAR

Rob Witherspoon, Livonia Stevenson

HONORABLE MENTION

Canton: Stephanie Sadek, Kim Beaudoin, Alyssa Johnson, Ali Taylor; **Plymouth:** Stacey Klonowski, Amanda Burnard, Amy Bondy, Melissa Butzow; **Salem:** Kait McKinley, Abby Pairitz, Emily Pitcole, Christina Parsons; **Churchill:** Amber Holod, Emily McShane, Hilary Antal; **Franklin:** Kelsey Garbutt, Heather Jaroh, Natalie Sanborn, Allison Bonsall; **Stevenson:** Amanda Paison, Lauren Brueck, Kristina Vaclevek, Janice Hollandsworth, Emily Hollandsworth; **John Glenn:** Brittany Holbrook, Tarra Anderson, Stacey Truskowski; **Wayne Memorial:** Heather Henning, Taylor Krohn; **Ladywood:** Gina Sykes, Lauren Taylor, Kyla Suchy; **Huron Valley Lutheran:** Emily Helwig, Anna Schaffer; **Clarenceville:** Kellie Manis, Charmaine McQueen; **Lutheran Westland:** Rachel Becker, Andrea Guse, Amanda DeVries, Kara Jackson; **Garden City:** Kelly Floetke, Christina Seward; **Redford Union:** Katie Gleason, Alannah Hofmann; **Redford Thurston:** Breanna Taylor, Emily Kuhn.

Miss Golf Warner in league of her own

FIRST TEAM

Shannon Warner, Jr., Liv. Churchill: The Division 1 medalist repeated as 2007 champion by shooting 73-72-145, winning by five shots at Michigan State University's Forest Akers (West Course).

Warner also captured the regional with a 77 and was runner-up in the Western Lakes Activities Association Tournament.

She also shot a tourney-record 69 to win the Grosse Ile Invitational and was runner-up in the Traverse City and Ann Arbor invitationals by one stroke.

Warner, medalists in 10 of 11 dual matches, sported a nine-hole average of 37 and averaged 74 for 18 holes.

"Shannon was able to lower her nine-hole and 18-hole averages from last year which really helped our team record," Churchill coach Gary Harper said. "She did a nice job as captain to lead a young team. She is a pleasure to coach and really fun to watch play the game."

Andrea Warzyniec, Sr., Liv. Ladywood: The senior, a four-year letter winner and two-time captain and MVP, placed seventh in last month's Division 2 state finals shooting 78-80.

Warzyniec also fired at 79 to finish runner-up at the regional. She also made All-Catholic for the third straight year by finishing four.

In tournaments, Warzyniec placed in the top 10 six times in eight events. She was also in the top three in all of her dual matches.

"Andrea has a very solid game, which comes from tons of practice and lots of dedication," Ladywood coach Kellianna Nagy said. "Andrea has been a great leader and player for us the past four years."

The Scholar-Athlete Award winner is headed to Michigan State.

Chelsea Bathurst, Sr., Liv. Stevenson: The senior earned medalist honors six times and sported a nine-hole average of 43.9.

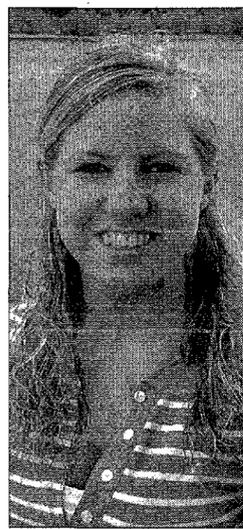
The Spartans' co-captain and team MVP earned All-Conference honors with an 88 and added a third-place finish at the regional. She also placed sixth at the Farmington Invitational and 16th at the Brighton Invitational. She led Stevenson with a two-day total of 184 at the Division 1 state finals.

"Chelsea was invaluable to our team as she played in nearly every match all year and we had to rely on her every time to give us a low score to be competitive," Stevenson coach Jason Delo said. "She is the ultimate competitor always wanting to do better and win. The only match she missed was due to a minor injury of passing kidney stones that led to a very, very late night trip to the emergency room."

Kelly Thomas, Sr., Liv. Ladywood: The senior was a four-year varsity letter winner and two-year captain. She shot 89-77, including a 1-under 35 on the back nine at the state finals at MSU's Forest Akers (East Course) after carding an 86 to place fourth at the regional.

She averaged 85 in tournaments and 43 per nine holes in dual matches.

Thomas also tied for runner-up honors in the Catholic League tournament with an 84. She is a three-time All-Catholic selection.



Shannon Warner Churchill

Thomas ranks seventh in her graduating class with a 4.05 GPA.

"Golf was new to Kelly when she came to Ladywood four years ago and she has worked endless hours to go from averaging 60 her freshman year to 43 her senior year," Nagy said. "Talk about hard work and dedication. What a great accomplishment."

Thomas will also attend MSU. **Angela Jamrog, Sr., Liv. Ladywood:** A four-year varsity letter winner and two-time All-Observer honoree averaged 46 per nine and 87 in tournaments while overcoming a broken wrist just prior to the Catholic League tournament.

Jamrog, who missed the regional, returned to the state finals where she shot 88-82 while wearing a neon pink cast.

"Angela was determined not to let this end her golf season," Nagy said. "It took a lot of courage and guts to do what she did and it goes to show you how dedicated to her team and golf game she is. I'm so proud of her, as are her teammates. Angela is the one who can put a smile on anyone's face at any time."

Jamrog plans to play golf at the University of Detroit Mercy.

Abbey Wolfe, Sr., Liv. Stevenson: The senior took fifth in the WLAA tourney with an 88, added a 10th at the Division 1 regional and shot a two-day total of 185 at the state finals. She never missed a match in four years.

Wolfe, who helped the Spartans win the Farmington Invitational, was medalist twice and averaged 46.19 per nine holes.

"Abbey as everything a coach could ask for in a player," Delo said of the co-captain. "Abbey worked diligently on her game and took every match to heart, whether we were winning or losing. As a captain, Abbey displayed qualities that help teams become winners. Once again, we counted Abbey's score in every match we played in for the second consecutive season."

SECOND TEAM

Erica Mazur, Jr., Liv. Ladywood: The junior is a two-time varsity letter winner who tied for runner-up medalist honors in the Catholic League tournament with an 84.

She averaged 48 for nine holes and

90 for 18.

The team captain, who shot 88-90 at the state finals, was named Ladywood's most improved player for the second year in a row.

"Erica improved tremendously this past year," Nagy said. "She is very determined and we'll look to her for her leadership again next year."

Paige Scarpace, Jr., Liv. Franklin: The junior earned All-Division honors in the WLAA with a 99 at Pheasant Run and missed qualifying for the state finals by only four shots after firing an 89 at Giant Oaks.

Scarpace averaged 48 and dual matches and took medalist honors five times. Her stroke average was 98 for 18-hole tournaments.

"Paige was a surprise this year," Franklin coach Brian McCallister said. "I realized early on that she was talented, but she put it together very quickly. It was exciting watching her grow as a player. When she missed qualifying for the state tournament by a few strokes, I could see her develop a resolve that next year she will qualify. I know she is ready to get to work for next year."

Chrissy McHenry, Sr., Liv. Stevenson: The senior averaged 48.09 per nine holes and finished 13th at both the Division 1 regional and WLAA tournament (en route to All-Division honors).

McHenry also took seventh at the Farmington Invitational. "Few people on this team played better than Chrissy when she really focused on her game," Delo said. "She was the ultimate competitor and could always be counted on to give me a good score."

Jessie Veltri, Sr., Westland Glenn: The third-year varsity member improved her stroke average each of her seasons going from 51 (in 2005) to 50 (in 2006) to 49 (this season).

Veltri was medalist seven times in 39 career matches. She finished with a 94 to earn All-Division honors in the Western Lakes Tournament.

"Jessie will be missed for her leadership, hard work and commitment to the great game of golf," Glenn coach Stephen Pilon said. "Jessie helped many of the younger players learn the etiquette and rules of golf, as well as helping them learn many aspects of the short game."

Marli Meyers, Sr., Liv. Franklin: The senior shot an even 100 at the Division 1 regional at Giant Oaks and added another 100 to earn All-Division accolades at the Western Lakes Tournament.

Meyers averaged 49 for dual matches and was medalist twice. Her score counted in every Franklin match.

"Marli was a solid senior leader for our team," McCallister said. "She scored in every match and tournament for us this year. She led by example with hard work and a will to improve. Being a four-year varsity player, it was nice to see her end her career as part of a successful team. It will be tough to replace her."

Amanda Dobos, Jr., Livonia Churchill: The junior shot 102 at both the Division 1 regional and WLAA Tournament (to earn All-Division honors).

She had a nine-hole average of 50, lowering by 10 strokes this year, and

Talent, versatility common among top girls soccer players

FIRST TEAM

Stefanie Turner, Soph., GK, Livonia Churchill: Her coach, Dave Hebestreit, said Turner is the best high school goalkeeper he saw all season and she had the statistics to back that statement up — finishing with a goals-against average of 0.66 and 12 shutouts, helping the Chargers post a 14-3-3 record. She earned team MVP honors and was named to the Western-Lakes All-Division Team for her performance.

"Her ability to play with her feet alleviated so much pressure for us and allowed us to build out of the back," Hebestreit said. "Also, her knack for coming up with the big save at key moments really helped us succeed this year."

Jamie Chandler, Sr., D., Livonia Stevenson: A rock on defense, the senior was the Spartans' most consistent player, also logging key minutes in the midfield keeping opponents from breaking loose. As a bonus, she tallied a goal and assist.

"You always knew what you were going to get out of Jamie each night," Stevenson head coach Chris Pinta said. "She'd come out and work hard, and defend well, doing just about anything you asked of her."

Chandler was named to the Western Lakes All-Conference Team.

Bailey Brandon, Soph., MF, Livonia Churchill: One of two Chargers named to the Western Lakes All-Conference Team, Brandon led the team with 12 goals and nine assists and was "the offensive catalyst in the heart of the field," according to Hebestreit.

"Bailey is a gritty, ball-winning central midfielder, who has a unique ability to control the center of the field," he said. "Her speed, technique and perseverance were second to none this year."

Alyssa Chambo, Sr., MF, Garden City: The third-year varsity player showed speed and versatility, earning regular playing time at forward as well as midfield and taking most of Garden City's free kicks. She scored six goals and was named to the All-Mega Red first team as well earning team MVP honors.

"Alyssa's strongest quality is her consistency," Cougars head coach Bill Torni said. "Her passing, fitness level and desire never wavered. Her accurate free kick placement was one of the team's best weapons."

Rachel Kain, Jr., MF, Canton: A two-

year letter-winner, Kain anchored the Chiefs' midfield and tallied six goals with four assists. She was a first-team All-WLAA performer.

"Rachel played a perfect midfield for us this season," Canton coach George Tomasso said. "She can play all the midfield positions effectively and was a main reason for our success this season."

Brittany Hengesh, Sr., D., Plymouth: The four-year varsity player excelled at several positions for the Wildcats before taking over as a solid defender during her junior season. She didn't score this season, but was instrumental in keeping the ball out of the Wildcats' net.

"Brittany had a fantastic senior season and a great career," Plymouth coach Jeff Neschich said. "She was the foundation of our defense this year. We had two or three freshmen back there a lot of the season and she was a great leader for them."

Alisha Lussiez, Jr., F, Livonia Churchill: Lussiez scored a lot of important goals for the Chargers this season, finishing second on the team with 10 goals, along with 11 assists. Hebestreit emphasized her "technical" ability, being able to "settle a ball, turn a defender and attack the goal unlike any other player I have ever seen in high school girls soccer."

"She was often dangerous in games and was a huge part of our ability to go forward and attack the defense," he added.

Lussiez's season was deemed worthy enough for inclusion on the Western Lakes All-Conference Team.

Becci Houdek, Sr., F., Canton: Houdek, who is headed to Ferris State University on a basketball scholarship, was a rare four-year starter who made an impact on the Chiefs' program from her very first game to her last. She finished her senior season with a team-high 13 goals and nine assists, even though she was the No. 1 target of opposing defenders. She's a two-time All-WLAA first team honoree.

"Becci had an outstanding career," Tomasso said. "She won just about everything there is to win except a state title. Her ability and knowledge of the game are what put her at a different level than most girls. She was hard to stop, especially in the big games."

Kelly Adsit, Sr., F., Plymouth Salem: Despite battling injuries throughout



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the 2007 All-Observer girls soccer first team are: (kneeling, from left) Jamie Chandler, Livonia Stevenson; Alisha Lussiez, Livonia Churchill; Bailey Brandon, Churchill; Alyssa Chambo, Garden City; (standing, from left) Rachel Kain, Canton; Vicki Slavin, Stevenson; Nicole Tolentino, Redford Thurston; Abby Lorion, Plymouth Christian; Brittany Hengesh, Plymouth; Stefanie Turner, Churchill; Kelly Adsit, Plymouth Salem and Churchill head coach David Hebestreit. Not pictured is Becci Houdek, Canton.

much of her senior season, the captain was an incredible role model and leader for her young teammates. She led the Rocks with 11 goals and five assists and was named first-team All-WLAA for the second year in a row.

"Kelly has classic forward skills," Salem coach Joe Nora said. "She has very good speed and a rocket for a shot. She can create her own shot and create shots for her teammates. Kelly made a huge impact as a freshman and never let up from then on."

Abby Lorion, Sr., F., Plymouth Christian: The four-year starter capped a stellar senior season with her Division 4 first-team All-State accolades. She finished her career as the school's all-time leading goal scorer (93) and was voted the 2007 Michigan Independent Athletic Conference's Most Valuable Player.

"As Abby's career went on, she really learned how to spread the ball around to her teammates," said her coach and father, Bob Lorion. "She was a very unselfish player with great vision on the field. She was a great playmaker."

Nicole Tolentino, Sr., F., Redford Thurston: Tolentino demonstrated her ability to make something out of nothing with her speed, foot-

work and aggressiveness near the opposing goal. She led the Eagles with 11 goals and chipped in with three assists, earning All-Mega Conference honors as well as selection to the all-district and all-region squads. Tolentino's season also earned her all-state honorable mention honors.

Thurston head coach Jason Brater said Tolentino was deserving of such accolades, describing her as "really tough to beat down with her toughness and speed."

Victoria Slavin, Jr., F., Livonia Stevenson: Another Spartan named to the Western Lakes All-Conference team was Slavin, who scored 12 goals and six assists, among leaders in both categories for the team.

"Vicki is and was our biggest offensive threat," Pinta said. "If she wasn't going, neither were the Spartans. She could change a game when she was on and proved it on many occasions this year."

Against Livonia Churchill, for example, the coach said Slavin "owned the middle and could not be stopped."

COACH OF THE YEAR
David Hebestreit, Liv. Churchill: The veteran coach wrapped up his 15th season at the helm of a Livonia-

based team (Franklin, Churchill) and called it his "most rewarding" year ever, guiding a talented and motivated Chargers team to a 15-3-3 record — the best there since 1986.

Churchill also captured the Lakes Division and Western Lakes Activities Association conference titles, defeating Division 1 semifinalist Northville in double overtime, 1-0.

Hebestreit said his team showed up at the beginning of preseason already in tip-top shape, enabling him to focus more on the X's and O's of coaching. That was an example of how dedicated the Chargers were on and off the field.

"The girls are a fun group and incredibly easy with which to work," he said. "They have a thirst for information and a desire to develop their game to the highest level."

According to Hebestreit, the success should continue in 2008. "With so many players returning, and the entire starting unit, and such a high soccer IQ on the team, the possibilities are bright for next year. ... But only if each of us continues to put in the necessary work in the offseason."

Since taking over at Churchill, Hebestreit's record now stands at an impressive 65-52-16.

2007 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS SOCCER

FIRST TEAM

GK - Stefanie Turner, Soph., Liv. Churchill
D - Jamie Chandler, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
MF - Alyssa Chambo, Sr., Garden City
MF - Rachel Kain, Jr., Canton
MF - Brittany Hengesh, Sr., Plymouth
F - Alisha Lussiez, Jr., Liv. Churchill
F - Becci Houdek, Sr., Canton
F - Kelly Adsit, Sr., Ply. Salem
F - Abby Lorion, Sr., Ply. Christian
F - Nicole Tolentino, Sr., Red. Thurston
F - Victoria Slavin, Jr., Liv. Stevenson

SECOND TEAM

GK - Brittany Warner, Sr., Plymouth
GK - Chelsea Gregg, Sr., Clarenceville
D - Liz Tokarsky, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
D - Allyson Yankee, Soph., Lutheran Westland
D - Leslie Weisz, Soph., Canton
D - Kelli Mapes, Jr., Red. Thurston
D - Jennelle Gabrielson, Soph., Garden City
MF - Alison Szczypka, Jr., Ladywood
MF - Meghan Horgan, Sr., Liv. Franklin
MF - Alyssa Mira, Soph., Liv. Churchill
F - Amanda Moody, Jr., Clarenceville
F - Katie Shull, Jr., Ply. Salem

COACH OF THE YEAR

David Hebestreit, Liv. Churchill

HONORABLE MENTION

Garden City: Cara Braun, Marianne Lewallen, Brooke Solomon; **Thurston:** Becky LaDuke, Megan Schuit, Renee Wright, Ashlie Ingold, Alena Alessandrini; **Redford Union:** Stephanie Reamer, Karen Jackett, Jessica Busulto, Chelsea Marlow; **Churchill:** Kayla Johnston, Jessica Stroud, Andrea Lopez, Julianne Purroll, Hannah Otto, Tessa Allen; **Franklin:** Kelly Powers, Kelly Roulier, Molly Perkins, Kristine Ostrosky; **Stevenson:** Kaitlin O'Hara, Stephanie Gutowski, Kathleen Griffith, Amber Sharp, Taleen Mergian, Molly McConnell, Kayla Kimble, Amanda Keedle; **Clarenceville:** Season Belcher, Mallorie Lemon, Kristen Jolly, Tori Bunker; **Lutheran Westland:** Julianne Thomas, Miranda Kasprovic, Emily Meier; **Ladywood:** Laura Bou-Marou, Sarah Kempa, Kaitlyn Vitale, Jessica Benaglio, Caitlin Szczypka, Michelle Ring; **John Glenn:** Sara Davis, Marge Shupe, Justine Easter, Joslyn DeGroot, Lauren Whitt; **Wayne Memorial:** Chrissy Jones, Whitney Jacobs, Kellie Newsted, Samantha Dye, Danielle Borg, Elizabeth Hardy; **Canton:** Lisa Pierce, Tracy Rymph, Megan Staub, Jessica Trost, Hannah Mills, Laura Daniels; **Salem:** Miranda Evers, Lauren Booth, Lindsey Newton, Sara O'Leary, Sara Stanislowski; **Plymouth:** Clare Baptist, Chelsey Quinlan, Val Klemmer, Kasey Webb, Kelly Dobbs, Katie Krajewski; **Plym. Christian:** Sarah Ross, Jalise Deblasi, Meghan Polera, Sara Roth.

GOLF

FROM PAGE B2

an 18-hole average of 101, 15 strokes better than a year ago. She was runner-up medalist five times.

"Amanda really emerged as one of the better players in our league," Harper said. "She shot some personal best score this year and we're looking forward to her continued development. She was a great leader as a co-captain. She always wants to learn and improve, and takes well to coaching. She can hit the ball a long way and is also fun to watch play the game."

Angela Jamrog, Liv. Ladywood



Andrea Warzyniec, Liv. Ladywood

ish to a great journey for my trio of seniors Andrea (Warzyniec), Angela (Jamrog) and Kelly (Thomas)."



The 2007 All-Observer Girls Golf team includes: (front row, from left) Kelly Thomas, Livonia Ladywood; Abbey Wolfe, Livonia Stevenson; Chelsea Bathurst, Stevenson; (second row, from left) coach Kellianne Nagy, Ladywood; Amanda Dobos, Livonia Churchill; Erica Mazur, Ladywood; Muriel Meyers, Livonia Franklin; Paige Scarpace, Franklin; Jessie Veltri, Westland John Glenn. Also on the team (see separate photos) are Ladywood's Angela Jamrog and Andrea Warzyniec and "Miss Golf" Shannon Warner of Livonia Churchill.

2007 GIRLS GOLF

FIRST TEAM

Shannon Warner, Jr., Liv. Churchill
Andrea Warzyniec, Sr., Liv. Ladywood
Chelsea Bathurst, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
Kelly Thomas, Sr., Liv. Ladywood
Angela Jamrog, Sr., Liv. Ladywood
Abbey Wolfe, Sr., Liv. Stevenson

SECOND TEAM

Erica Mazur, Jr., Liv. Ladywood
Paige Scarpace, Jr., Liv. Franklin
Chrissy McHenry, Sr., Liv. Stevenson
Jessie Velti, Sr., Westland Glenn
Muriel Meyers, Sr., Liv. Franklin
Amanda Dobos, Jr., Liv. Churchill

COACH OF THE YEAR

Kellianne Nagy, Liv. Ladywood

HONORABLE MENTION

Ladywood: Rachael Fuller, Alaina Vince;
Stevenson: Lauren Geiger, Laura Sims, Elizabeth Grace; **Churchill:** Lexi McFarlane, Danielle Lesniak, Jessica Burdette;
Franklin: Jessica Stchur; **John Glenn:** Heidi Irvine; **Wayne:** Berlynn Beaver;
Plymouth: Liz Anderson, Patricia Burns;
Thurston: Adrienne Jones, Christine Murray; **Canton:** Kara Gregory; **Salem:** Emily Patton.

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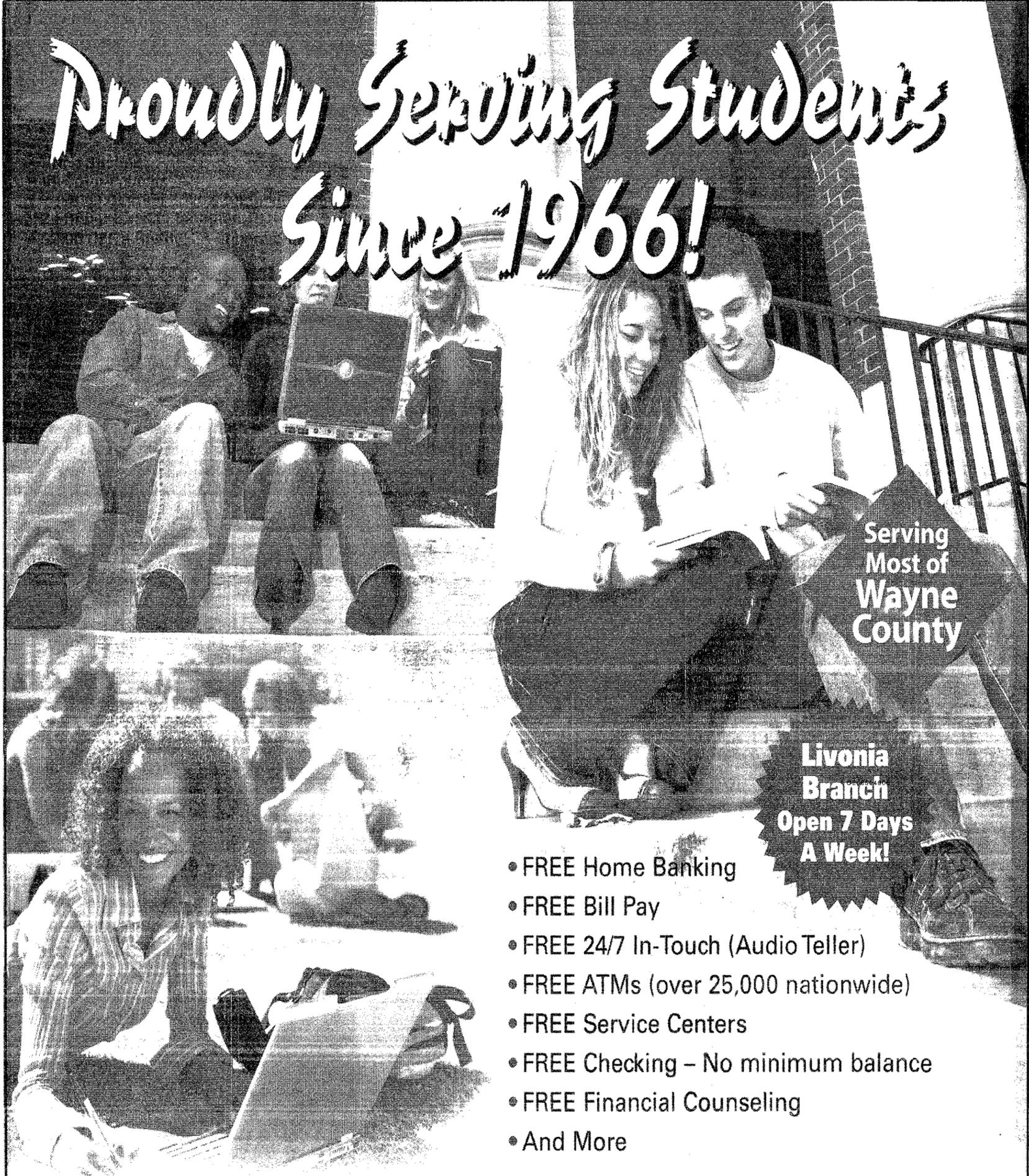
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Girls track fields galaxy of stars

FIRST TEAM

Robyn Whalen, Sr., Liv. Franklin (shot put): The senior excelled in the throws with a fourth in the shot put at the Division 1 state meet and a fifth in the discus. She is the school's first double event All-Stater in track and field.

Her personal best in the shot put was 40 feet, 9 inches, second on the all-time list at Franklin, while she threw school-record 139-0 in the discus.

Whalen took first place in every meet in the discus except the state meet. She was WLAA champion and regional champ in the discus, while adding a third in the shot put at the regional and a first in the WLAA.

"Robyn has been one of the hardest worker we've ever had on the team," Franklin coach Dave Bjorklund said, "and that work paid off with such a great senior year."

Lauren Krupsky, Sr., Liv. Churchill (discus): The senior was the Division 1 champion in the discus with a throw of 129-9.

The two-year captain is a two-time state qualifier in the discus and had a season-best toss of 39-5.5 in the shot put.

Lauren has the perfect perspective for high school athletics - she has fun," Churchill coach Keith McDonald said. "Not only does she train hard and compete fiercely, but she also has more fun than anyone else. Her throws coaches (John Filiatraut and Joe George) and I are so proud of Lauren for everything she has accomplished.

In the WLAA meet, Krupsky was runner-up in the shot put and fourth in the discus. She added runner-up finishes in both events at the regional.

Brittany Petty, Sr., Plymouth (high jump): The senior posted an area best jump of 5-6 and placed fourth at the Division 1 state meet with a leap of 5-4.

Petty, headed to the University of Michigan, was both regional and WLAA champion.

"Brittany had a bounce-back year," Plymouth coach Kurt Britnell said. "After a tough year physically, Brittany was smart in her training. It paid off with a record year as a state qualifier and earning All-State."

Stephanie Okolo, Jr., Plymouth (long jump): The junior earned a fifth-place finish at the Division 1 state meet with an area best jump of 17-7.5. She was also runner-up at the regional and was WLAA champion (17-0.5).

"Stephanie is fun to be around," Britnell said. "She has a great attitude. She doesn't even know how good she can be. She struggled this year with some injuries, but made up for it at the right time."

Marla Winkler, Sr., Liv. Stevenson (pole vault): The senior was WLAA, Division 1 regional and Public Schools of Livonia Invitational champion. She was also champion of the Stevenson and West Bloomfield invitational.

She tied the WLAA meet record with a season best leap of 11 feet, which set a new school record, and lost only one meet all season. Winkler ranked second in points for the Spartans.

"From the time she learned to pole vault she dedicated herself to be a better vaulter each year," Stevenson coach Kelly Graham said. "She put the time and effort into attending camps and worked so very

2007 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS TRACK TEAM

Shot put: 1. Robyn Whalen, Sr., Livonia Franklin; 2. Kyndra Abron, Jr., Livonia Churchill; 3. Chelsea Carradine, Fr., Redford Thurston.

Discus: 1. Lauren Krupsky, Sr., Churchill; 2. Kallee Hobbins, Sr., Churchill; Bridgid Molloy, Soph., Livonia Ladywood.

High jump: 1. Brittany Petty, Sr., Plymouth; 2. Liz Holloway, Fr., Franklin; 3. Shaakira Haywood, Soph., Plymouth.

Long jump: 1. Stephanie Okolo, Jr., Plymouth; 2. Megan Wilson, Sr., Franklin; 3. Chanel Payne, Soph., Westland John Glenn.

Pole vault: 1. Marla Winkler, Sr., Stevenson; 2. Kristin Zgorecki, Sr., Churchill; 3. Eren Ural, Jr., Churchill.

100-meter hurdles: 1. Taleece Jackson, Sr., Thurston; 2. Brittany Gentile, Jr., Stevenson; 3. Jackie Griebek, Jr., Churchill.

300 hurdles: 1. Tauri Rothermel, Sr., Churchill; 2. Casey Lynett, Sr., Franklin; 3. Mallory Lukas, Jr., Churchill.

100 dash: 1. Ashley Parker, Jr., John Glenn; 2. Lauren Schwewe, Sr., Lutheran Westland; 3. Julie Hersey, Jr., Plymouth.

200: 1. Mandi Coppola, Sr., Churchill; 2. Sarah LaBerge, Jr., Churchill; 3. (tie) Katie Morasso, Soph., Ladywood; Lakeysa Smith, Jr., John Glenn.

400: 1. Brittany Mrozek, Jr., Stevenson; 2. Megan Yanik, Fr., Ladywood; 3. (tie) Ashley Butkowski, Soph., Franklin; Nicole Thornsberry, Sr., Churchill.

800: 1. Rachel McFarlane, Jr., Churchill; 2. Sara Kroll, Fr., Churchill; 3. (tie) Allison Milican, Sr., Franklin; Kristen Frey, Sr., Stevenson.

1,600: 1. Courtney Calka, Soph., Stevenson; 2. Kari Saarela, Sr., Franklin; 3. Sarah Opdyke, Fr., Stevenson.

3,200: 1. Kelly Hahn, Fr., Plymouth; 2. Megan Macerati, Sr., Churchill; 3. Erica Hope, Sr., Churchill.

400 relay: 1. John Glenn (Chanel Payne, Soph.; Ashley Montgomery, Jr.; Lakeysa Smith, Jr.; Ashley Parker, Jr.); 2. Churchill (Nicole Thornsberry, Sr.; Sarah LaBerge, Jr.; Tauri Rothermel, Sr.; Mandi Coppola, Sr.); 3. Plymouth (Jill Morton, Soph.; Jelesa Moise, Soph.; Stephanie Okolo, Jr.; Julie Hersey, Jr.).

800 relay: 1. Churchill (Milan Boyer, Sr.; Nicole Thornsberry, Sr.; Sarah LaBerge, Jr.; Mandi Coppola, Sr.); 2. John Glenn (Chanel Payne, Soph.; Ashley Montgomery, Jr.; Lakeysa Smith, Jr.; Ashley Parker, Jr.); 3. Thurston (Krystal Parker, Sr.; Chelsea Carradine, Fr.; Shelby Taylor, Jr.; Taleece Jackson, Sr.).

1,600 relay: 1. Churchill (Samar Auode, Soph.; Nicole Thornsberry, Sr.; Liz Buttery, Sr.; Tauri Rothermel, Sr.); 2. Stevenson (Denee Meier, Jr.; Brooke Knochel, Soph.; Brittany Mrozek, Jr.; Courtney Calka, Soph.); 3. Ladywood (Kathryn Berger, Sr.; Stephanie DiGiandomenico, Sr.; Katie Morasso, Soph.; Megan Yanik, Fr.).

3,200 relay: 1. Churchill (Sara Kroll, Fr.; Lindsey Graciak, Soph.; Erica Hope, Sr.; Rachel McFarlane, Jr.); 2. Stevenson (Katie Glynn, Fr.; Sarah Opdyke, Fr.; Kristen Frey, Sr.; Courtney Calka, Soph.); 3. Franklin (Senneca Scott, Fr.; Kari Saarela, Sr.; Devan Walley, Sr.; Allison Milican, Sr.).

COACH OF THE YEAR
Keith McDonald, Livonia Churchill

hard to become the vaulter she is today."

Taleece Jackson, Sr., Red. Thurston (100-meter hurdles): The area's premier hurdler took runner-up honors in the Division 2 state meet with a season-best 14.9 in the semifinal heat. She also took third in the 300 hurdles at the state finals with a time of 45.76. She was also a state qualifier in the long jump (17-4) and was a member of Thurston's 4 x 200 relay team that qualified for state.

Jackson holds six school records and was All-State 10 times.

"Taleece is the kind of athlete any coach would love to have," Thurston's Al Chambo said. "The most difficult thing in dealing with her was deciding which events she would do. Taleece loves to compete and like the pressure of being the 'go-to' person."

Tauri Rothermel, Sr., Liv. Churchill (300 hurdles): The senior captain set a Churchill record in the 300 hurdles at the regional with a runner-up time of 46.44. She was Western Lakes meet champ with a clocking of 46.62.

"Somebody will run in Tauri's hurdle and relay spots next season, but she could never be replaced," McDonald said. "She is the main reason herself and why all are sprinters are so successful. She sets the tone at our practices. I don't know who was happier at the regional when she got the school record - her or I. I've been telling her for four years that she was going to get the 300 hurdles record. She had been so close so many times."

Ashley Parker, Jr., Westland Glenn (100 dash): Just a junior, Parker was the area's premier sprinter winning the WLAA titles in both the 100 and 200. She also was runner-up in the regional in both events and was undefeated during the dual meet season.

Parker posted season best of 12.3 in the 100 and 25.4 in the 200. She took second at the Tory Clark Invitational and Jackson Last Chance meets. Parker is a two-time defending WLAA champion in the 200.

"Ashley really committed herself to track this year," Glenn coach Alan McGowan said. "She came off an incredible indoor season, and really excelled outdoors. She set very high goals for herself this season and attained many of them."

Mandi Coppola, Sr., Liv. Churchill (200): The senior earned a fourth-place at the WLAA meet in the 200 and ranked second in the area with a time of 26.9.

She also anchored Churchill's WLAA and regional champion 4 x 200 relay team. She also anchored the Chargers third-place and state qualifying 4 x 100 relay team (which also finished second in the WLAA).

"Not many athletes hate to lose more than Mandi," McDonald said. "She is an excellent competitor. Throughout the season she battled illness. Mandi is the type of athlete a coach learns to expect great things from. With Mandi at the anchor, I'm a lot more relaxed during our sprint relays."

Brittany Mrozek, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (400): The junior was WLAA (59.99), regional and Public Schools

of Livonia Invitational champion. She was also a member of Stevenson's first-place 1,600 relay WLAA. "She puts in 100 percent effort into each and every workout, along with preparations into her events. I'm excited to see what more success she'll have as a senior next year."

Rachel McFarlane, Jr., Liv. Churchill (800): The junior qualified for three individual events at the state meet including the 800 (2:19.09), 1,600 (school-record 5:08:44) and 3,200 (school-record 11:12:63).

McFarlane was runner-up in all three events at the WLAA meet, and at the regional she was runner-up in the 800 and 3,200, as well as third in the 1,600.

She was also a member of Churchill's school-record 3,200 relay team in 2005.

"Rachel is simply successful from the 400 to 5,000 meters," McDonald said. "She trains harder than anyone else and has the results to prove it. Rachel is a running enthusiast. She is a very technically and strategically sound racer."

Courtney Calka, Soph., Liv. Stevenson (1,600): The sophomore set a new WLAA record and school record in the 1,600 with an area-best time of 5:03.27. She was also regional and Public Schools of Livonia Invitational champion.

She also clocked an 11:24.0 in the 3,200 and was a member of Stevenson's regional champion 1,600 and 3,200 relay teams.

"Courtney is truly an outstanding athlete," Graham said. "I have



Taleece Jackson Thurston



Keith McDonald Churchill coach



Robyn Whalen Franklin



Marla Winkler Stevenson



Nicole Thornsberry Churchill



Lindsey Graciak Churchill



LaKeysha Smith John Glenn



Kelly Hahn Plymouth



Ashley Parker John Glenn



Stephanie Okolo Plymouth



Brittany Mrozek Stevenson



Tauri Rothermel Churchill



Rachel McFarlane Churchill



Milan Boyer Churchill



Sarah LaBerge Churchill



Lauren Krupsky Churchill



Liz Buttery Churchill



Sara Kroll Churchill



Courtney Calka Stevenson



Mandi Coppola Churchill



Erica Hope Churchill

watched her hard work, patience, dedication and a will to become the great young distance athlete she is."

Kelly Hahn, Fr., Plymouth (3,200): The mid-season transfer from Pennsylvania made an immediate impact this season by finishing fifth in the Division 1 state meet (11:13.14) after winning the Division 1 regional (11:28.7) and WLAA (11:33.62) titles. She also went 5:17.7 in the 1,600.

"Kelly is young and talent," Britnell said. "She got stronger as the year progressed in both the mile and two mile. Kelly was also a strong leg on our 4 x 800. I look forward to have Kelly the next few years."

John Glenn, 400 relay (Chanel Payne, Soph.; Ashley Montgomery, Jr.; Lakeysa Smith, Jr.; Ashley Parker, Jr.): This team, made up of all underclassmen, won the regional (50.68) and WLAA meet (50.4). They finished 10th in the state finals.

They also took first place at the Tory Clark Invitational at Adrian, beating a formidable Romulus foursome. This team also qualified for the state meet in the 800 relay (1:47.23).

"This group of girls pushed themselves this season," McGowan said. "Last season they missed the state meet by .3 seconds, and were disappointed. They set high goals for themselves and were able to accomplish many of them this year."

Churchill, 800 relay (Milan Boyer, Sr.; Nicole Thornsberry, Sr.; Sarah LaBerge, Jr.; Mandi Coppola, Sr.): The Churchill foursome had the 10th-best clocking at the Division 1 state meet (1:46.01) after winning the WLAA (1:46.84) and regional (1:47.82) meets.

"It took awhile to perfect their handoffs, but once we did, the times really started to drop," McDonald

said. "After a bad handoff, we were 30 minutes down, then they brought it all the way back to a win."

Churchill, 1,600 relay (Samar Auode, Soph.; Nicole Thornsberry, Sr.; Liz Buttery, Sr.; Tauri Rothermel, Sr.): After finishing runner-up at the WLAA and regional meets, this quartet posted an area-best time of 4:05.12 at the state finals.

"It's sometimes hard to find kids who are willing to run the 4 x 400 no matter the situation or how tired they are," McDonald said. "All four runners ran their career-best times at the state meet, including (Tauri) Rothermel anchoring with a 59.4 split. With four runners with this much heart on a relay, you learn to expect great performances."

Churchill, 3,200 relay (Sara Kroll, Fr.; Lindsey Graciak, Soph.; Erica Hope, Sr.; Rachel McFarlane, Jr.): This quartet won the Western Lakes meet in a record time 9:35.25 and also placed runner-up in the regional (9:53.73).

"It was great to see so much improvement," McDonald said. "They train and compete with such purpose. They hold each other accountable in training, leading to great performances."

Keith McDonald, Churchill, Coach of Year: Moving into an administrators role next school year, McDonald leaves girls varsity track at Churchill with a 24-0 dual-meet record including four WLAA, four division, two regional and three Public Schools of Livonia Invitational titles. His overall dual-meet record dating back to his days at Dearborn Divine Child is 58-0 overall.

"The student-athletes, parents, administration, staff and Mr. (Marc) Hage are second to none," McDonald said. "The success we have been able to achieve on the track makes it even more memorable. I now when the second Monday of March rolls around I will be missing coaching track."

McDonald was ably assisted by Sue Tatro, Vern Williams, John Filiatraut, Joe George and Michelle Phillips.

Netters get into the swing of success

FIRST TEAM

Lawrence Washington, Jr., Salem: Washington capped a stellar junior season by capturing the No. 1 singles title at the WLAA conference meet in May. The only two blemishes on his 22-2 record came against highly rated players in an early-season tournament and in a Division 1 Regional semifinal match.

"Lawrence gives it everything he has every time he steps on the tennis court," said Salem coach Bill Nelson. "He's not only a great player, but he's a great leader and role model for the younger players as well."

Eric Szydowski, Sr., Canton: The Chiefs' No. 1 player enjoyed an outstanding season that culminated with a second-place finish in the Western Lakes Activities Association conference meet in May. A former star soccer player, Szydowski turned his attention full-time to tennis following his freshman year and the move paid off big-time on the courts.

"Eric is Mr. Tennis," said Canton coach Barb Lehmann. "He has truly become addicted to a sport that has given him so much and will continue to as he plays in college. He will reach the unbelievable shot and be back in the middle of the court before the opponent has a chance to blink."

Gino McCathney, Jr., Liv. Stevenson: A captain and three-year letter-winner, McCathney went 15-6 at the competitive No. 1 singles slot. He captured the title at his Division 1 Regional meet and was named the Spartans' Most Valuable Player.

"Gino has solid fundamentals, an excellent serve and fine control of the ball at the net," said Stevenson coach Kathy Ladd. "He has become a very solid all-court player.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pictured above are the members of the 2007 All-Observer boys tennis team: (standing from left are) Gino McCathney (Stevenson), Neil Bakshi (Salem), Lawrence Washington (Salem), Pat McHugh (Stevenson), Mike Greco (Stevenson), Jay Cunningham (Churchill), Taylor Frangie (Churchill), (kneeling) Aniket Patil (Churchill) and Erik Koch (Stevenson).

He can also get to any shot in the state of Michigan, and make a respectable return."

Neil Bakshi, Sr., Salem: Bakshi was promoted from No. 4 singles to No. 2 with successful results. He went 21-3 and advanced all the way to the D1 Regional semifinal. Bakshi also finished second in the WLAA conference meet.

"Neil is a very steady player who knows

what to do on the court," said Nelson. "He never gets rattled."

Erik Koch, Soph., Liv. Stevenson: The Spartans' No. 4 singles player went 18-5 during his first season on the varsity. Among his many highlights were gold medal-winning efforts at the Saline Invitational and at the Division 1 Regional meet. The 10th-grader won his opening

2007 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS TENNIS TEAM

SINGLES

Lawrence Washington, Jr., Salem
Erik Szydowski, Sr., Canton
Gino McCathney, Jr., Liv. Stevenson
Neil Bakshi, Sr., Salem
Erik Koch, Soph., Liv. Stevenson
Aniket Patil, Soph., Liv. Churchill

DOUBLES

Ryan Hollingsworth, Jr., Canton
David Kang, Soph., Canton
Jay Cunningham, Liv. Churchill
Taylor Frangie, Liv. Churchill
Mike Greco, Jr., Liv. Stevenson
Pat McHugh, Jr., Liv. Stevenson

coach Reid Friedrichs.
Ryan Hollingsworth, Jr., and David Kang, Soph., Canton: The Chiefs' No. 1 doubles tandem enjoyed a highly successful season.

"Ryan has played both competitive singles and doubles, and he's been successful at both," said Lehmann. "He's a team player who respects his partner and shows his own competitive attitude to his advantage."

"David is a quiet player with a great arm to finish the point. He's a strong all-around hitter with skill that has only become stronger."

Jay Cunningham and Taylor Frangie, Liv. Churchill: The Chargers' dynamic No. 1 doubles duo went 20-2, finished second at the WLAA conference meet before winning their flight at the D1 Regional.

"Jay and Taylor Complement each other perfectly," said Friedrichs. "Taylor is extremely consistent and Jay can hit winners from anywhere -- when they want to play, they can beat anybody and just about did."

Mike Greco, Jr., and Pat McHugh, Jr., Liv. Stevenson: The Spartans' No. 1 doubles team went 10-10 during their first year of varsity tennis. Season highlights included advancing to the D1 Regional final and dropping a hard-fought, three-set match to highly ranked Northville during a regular-season contest.

"If you think about smart and steady play, poise under pressure and perfect placement, you should think about these two young men," said Ladd. "They never give up, they never explode and they never berate each other -- they just play savvy doubles. They are unflappable, as well as gracious, in victory and in defeat."

match at the D1 state meet and battled a No. 2-seeded Ann Arbor Huron player in the next round before losing a tight match.

"Erik is a great example of steady play, excellent anticipation and quick feet," said Ladd. "He never beats himself. All season he has demonstrated mental toughness as well as his trademark consistency. He's impressed everyone with his variety of shots."

Aniket Patel, Fresh., Liv. Churchill: The Chargers' No. 2 singles player crafted a sterling 19-4 record in just his first year of high school tennis. He placed second in the WLAA conference meet and won his flight at the D1 Regional competition.

"It is very tough playing No. 2 singles as a freshman, but Aniket really learned a lot about his game in the early part of the year and learned how to win at the high school level. He has much more to learn, but had a very successful season," said Churchill

State champ Thornton jumps to head of class

FIRST TEAM
Nick Moores, Sr., Canton (shot put): The senior earned All-State honors in Division I by placing fourth with a school-record throw of 53 feet, 3.5 inches.

Moores, the Chiefs' MVP, also captured the regional (52-8) and the Western Lakes Activities Association (51-0.5) titles. He also placed second in the Ann Arbor Meet of Champions. Moores also had a best throw of 147-10 in the discus and ran 11.1 in the 100-meter dash.

"Nick was a very dedicated and determined athlete for Canton this year," Canton coach Bob Richardson said. "He will be attending Saginaw Valley State to play football and do track and field."

Steve Paye, Sr., Canton (discus): The senior was regional champion (153-8) and took a fourth in the WLAA meet. His best throw in the shot put was 46-1.

As a junior, Moores placed sixth in the Division I state finals in the discus.

The two-time state qualifier was invited to the Ann Arbor Meet of Champions.

The three-sport standout (football, basketball, track and field) was named Canton's Senior Athlete of the Year.

"Steve is a fantastic person and was voted as a captain for the 2007 season by the team and coaches," Richardson said. "He will be attending Saginaw Valley State to play football and do track and field."

Eric Thornton, Sr., Canton (high jump): The senior earned the Division I state championship by clearing 6-7 at East Kentwood.

Thornton also was regional and Western Lakes champ, jumping 6-7 each time. His best jump of the season was a school-record 6-8.

Thornton also captured first place at the Ann Arbor Meet of Champions and added an eighth in the Midwest Meet of Champions.

As a junior, the two-time state qualifier in the high jump placed fourth.

Thornton, who also plays basketball, has plans to attend either Eastern Michigan University, Michigan State or Saginaw Valley.

Myles White, Jr., Liv. Stevenson (long jump): The junior placed eighth in the Division I state meet with a jump over 21-10.5 after setting a school record with an area-best 22-3.

White also excelled in the hurdles and in sprint relays.

He was the WLAA champion in the 110 hurdles (14.67) and qualified for the state meet with a fourth-place finish at the regional (14.46).

In the 300 hurdles, White took second at the regional with a school-record time of 39.21 and added a third in the Western Lakes meet (39.71).

"As a long jumper, Myles consistently jumped over 21 feet most of the season," Stevenson coach Scott Shaw said. "He only started hurdling last season and has improved enough that he made the state meet in both the 110s and 300s."

"He is a hard worker and hopefully will continue to improve going into his senior season."

Mike Sylvester, Sr., Liv. Franklin (pole vault): The four-year letter winner capped off his career by placing fifth in the Division I state meet with an area-best jump of 14-4.

Sylvester was also regional champion (13-10) and tied for fourth at the WLAA meet.

He ranks second all-time in the pole vault at Franklin only behind 2004 Olympian and MHSAA record holder Paul Terek.

Sylvester, headed to the University of Michigan-Dearborn, also excels in the classroom with a grade-point average exceeding 4.0.

Baze Efremov, Sr., Salem (110-meter hurdles): The senior became the Rocks' first state qualifier since 2004 after tying the school record with a time of 14.4.

Efremov was the regional runner-up in the 110 hurdles and won all five dual meet races. He was also lead-off leg for Salem's first-place shuttle hurdles relay team at the North Farmington Raider Relays. He added a third in the Observerland Relays and a fifth in the WLAA meet.

"Baze is the most talented hurdler to come through the Plymouth-Canton Schools in at least ten years," Salem coach Kyle Meteyer said. "Dan Johnson, Baze's hurdle coach from his freshman, sophomore and junior years, gets the credit in shaping him into an excellent hurdler. Baze is the most modest athlete who never boasts, and is never satisfied with his performance, no matter how well he does. Salem will miss his presence dearly next year."

Andrew LaBerge, Sr., Liv. Churchill (300 hurdles): The senior was the WLAA champion with a time of 39.4 and clocked a 39.12 at the state meet where he finished eighth en route to All-State recognition. He was also a state qualifier in the 800 and 1,600 relays.

"Andy is an incredible athlete," Churchill coach Rick Austin said. "He mastered the hurdles in a short amount of time after coming over from the 400 dash. He possesses great closing speed in the last 100 meters of a race. He won our outstanding Sprinter-Hurdler Award and was an outstanding captain. His dedication brought him in on Saturdays to do extra work."

LaBerge's dad also ran for Churchill. Andrew will attend the University of Michigan.

Ian Thornton, Sr., Westland Glenn (100 dash): The fourth-year Glenn team member tied the school record this spring in the 100 dash with a time of 10.6.

Thornton was regional champion and reached the semifinal heat of the state finals. He was also second at the Observerland Relays and WLAA meet, as well as third at the



Nick Moores Canton



Steve Paye Canton



Eric Thornton Canton



Myles White Stevenson



Michael Sylvester Franklin



Baze Efremov Salem



Andrew LaBerge Churchill



Ian Thornton Glenn



Larry Dawkins Glenn



David St. Amant Churchill



Johnathan Stewart Clarenceville



Matt Rzepka Stevenson



Patrick Slavens Plymouth



JaJuan Marks Glenn



Corey Davis Glenn



Steve Eideh Stevenson



Nate Sergison Stevenson



Billy Gutowski Churchill



Jacob McDonald Churchill



Brian Robertson Churchill



Brandon Grysko Churchill



Eric Puroll Churchill



Rick Austin Churchill coach



Mike Unger Luth. Westland coach

Jackson Northwest Relays. Thornton was also member of Glenn's school-record 4 x 100 relay team.

Thornton also took runner-up honors at the WLAA meet in the high jump (6-3).

"Ian had an outstanding senior year," Glenn coach Jess Shough said. "He established some definite goals for the season and work hard to accomplish all of them. I am very proud of him and wish him best success at Adrian College next year."

Larry Dawkins, Sr., Westland Glenn (200): The junior tied the school record in the 100 (10.6) and set a new Glenn mark in the 200 (22.1). He was WLAA champion in the 100 and 200 dashes, as well as runner-up in the regional in the 200.

At the Division I state finals, Dawkins finished sixth (22.95). He also anchored Glenn's school-record 4 x 100 relay.

"As Larry's confidence grew in his running, his times dramatically dropped," Shough said. "He prepared himself for the season by building his endurance in cross country. He trained hard all season and his efforts paid off by setting three new school records. He will be a definite force for us next year. He is an outstanding individual with still greater potential."

David St. Amant, Sr., Liv. Churchill (400): The senior placed eighth in the Division I state meet and posted an area-best 49.4.

St. Amant is a three-time regional champion in the 400 and two-time Western Lakes champ (49.79). He was also 2007 River Rat Invitational champion and meet record holder.

"David is one of the hardest working and competitive athletes I've been around," Austin said. "He competed in four events most meets. He is very coachable and possesses a great passion for track and field."

St. Amant, the Chargers' Fred Price Award recipient, will run track at the University of Michigan.

John Stewart, Sr., Liv. Clarenceville (400): The senior enjoyed a banner state meet by finishing third in the 400 and fourth in the 200. At the regional, Stewart took first in the 200, second in the 400 and fourth in the 100.

He was the Metro Conference champion in the 100, 200 and 400 (breaking a 30-year-old meet record held by Detroit Country Day).

Stewart was also Livonia City champion in 100, 200 and 400. His clocking of 49.5 in the 400 broke the school record set in 1977 by Bill Peterson. His best clockings were 11.2 in the 100 and 22.5 in the 200.

The Oakland County Meet runner-up in the 400 will attend Michigan State University.

Kelvin Lewis, Sr., Wayne (800): The senior was regional champion in 1:57.81 and was Western Lakes runner-up in 1:57.66. Lewis was a three-year captain and four-year varsity letter winner.

"Kevin did an excellent job for Wayne not only this year, but all four years of his high school track career," Wayne coach Lee Grizzell said. "He did a great job of leading by example. Kevin is an extremely hard worker, with probably the best running form of anyone in the entire conference. He has run year-round in order to be the best that he could possibly be. Kevin is not only a great runner, he's also a great person. Our team and school will miss him greatly."

Matt Rzepka, Sr., Liv. Stevenson (1,600): The senior captain captured the regional with an area-best time of 4:26.3 and was runner-up in the WLAA meet with a time of 4:27.56. Rzepka also ran 1:57.7 in the 800 as a senior.

As a junior, Rzepka placed sixth at the state meet with a personal best clocking of 4:21.6. As a sophomore he was Observerland Relays champion.

"Matt is one of the most talented runners we've had at Stevenson," Shaw said. "He has had a very good career. He has been one of the top point producers and we have counted on him numerous times to win races to help his team and helped the younger runners."

Patrick Slavens, Sr., Plymouth (3,200): The senior earned a berth in the Division I state meet by placing second at the regional in 9:51.5. He went on to win the Western Lakes meet with a school-record clocking of 9:49.58.

"Pat had a great year getting better every meet," Plymouth coach Kurt Britnell said. "His hard work and dedication made his teammates better. After probably a disappointing junior season in his mind, Pat came back mentally tough and is now a school record holder and a state qualifier."

John Glenn, 400 relay (JaJuan Marks, Fr.; Ian Thornton, Sr.; Corey Davis, Jr.; Larry Dawkins, Jr.): This quartet broke a 32-year-old record with a time of 4:3.5.

They finished fourth at the regional, but qualified for the state meet. The also won the Western Lakes crown and took third at the Jackson Northwest Last Chance Invitational.

"This group just kept getting faster and faster all season due to their hard work and determination," Shough said.

Stevenson, 800 relay (Steve Eideh, Soph.; Nate Sergison, Soph.; Dan Cragel, Sr.; Myles White, Jr.): The WLAA champions clocked an area-best 1:29.5 and added a third at the regional.

The foursome qualified for the state meet and just missed placing by one spot (ninth overall). Three of the four members will return with only Cragel graduating.

Churchill, 1,600 relay (Billy Gutowski, Jr.; Andrew LaBerge, Sr.; Jacob McDonald, Sr.; David St. Amant, Sr.): This school-record setting quartet was runner-up in the Division I state meet with a time of 3:19.28 after winning regional and setting a Western Lakes meet record (3:21.8). They were also Observerland Meet champions.

"The 'Fantastic Four' area special group of athletes who work very hard on their individual events and take great pride in their relay performances," Austin said. "They expect to win every time that they step onto the track. They came in Saturdays for extra workouts. Jacob (McDonald) will train for the decathlon at EMU next fall, while David and Andrew will run at the University of Michigan."

Churchill, 3,200 relay (Brian Robertson, Sr.; David St. Amant, Sr.; Brandon Grysko, Jr.; Eric Puroll, Sr.): The Churchill quartet placed runner-up at the Division I regional (8:07.59) and posted a season-best of 8:07.6.

"This group ran together in all of our biggest meets," Austin said. "These guys ran the 800 dash like it's a right of passage, an attitude which prevails in all of our 800 dash runners. Brandon (Grysko) and Mark (Waterbury) will return as two of our top 800 runners in the area next season. We believe that the 3,200 relay set the tone for the rest of the meet. These guys did a great job of establishing the tone."

Mike Unger, Luth. Westland, Co-Coach of Year: The veteran coach guided the Warriors to a fifth-place finish in the Division 4 state meet after earning his fifth regional title in school history.

Unger's Warriors also captured the Metro Conference crown for the 13th time in 15 years and finished first in the Division 4 MITCA Meet of Champions.

"The credit for our success this year was due, in large part, to the senior leadership on the team," Unger said. "They practiced hard all season long doing what was asked of them and more. They were excellent examples to the underclassmen by their work ethic and performances under pressure."

"Their hard work paid off as they performed very well in the important meets at end of the season. An indication of this was that all the seniors had personal bests at or after the

2007 ALL-OBSERVER BOYS TRACK TEAM

Shot put: 1. Nick Moores, Sr., Canton; 2. Jon Robinson, Sr., Livonia Churchill; 3. Adam Gorring, Sr., Wayne Memorial.
Discus: 1. Steve Paye, Sr., Canton; 2. Bryan Henley, Sr., Westland John Glenn; 3. Mike Wood, Sr., Livonia Franklin.
High jump: 1. Eric Thornton, Sr., Canton; 2. Mitchell White, Jr., Livonia Stevenson; 3. Jace Beardson, Soph., Salem.
Long jump: 1. Myles White, Jr., Stevenson; 2. Marcus Bennett, Jr., Redford Thurston; 3. Billy Gutowski, Jr., Churchill.
Pole vault: 1. Mike Sylvester, Sr., Franklin; 2. Derik Peterman, Soph., Churchill; 3. Joe Tessler, Jr., Churchill.
110-meter hurdles: 1. Baze Efremov, Sr., Salem; 2. Nate Gholston, Sr., Plymouth; 3. Rico Walker, Sr., Redford Union.
300 hurdles: 1. Andrew LaBerge, Sr., Churchill; 2. Tim Belcher, Jr., Canton; 3. Jacob McDonald, Sr., Churchill.
100 dash: 1. Ian Thornton, Sr., John Glenn; 2. Steve Eideh, Soph., Stevenson; 3. Casey Wolfe, Soph., Wayne.
200: 1. Larry Dawkins, Jr., John Glenn; 2. Andrew Manuel, Sr., Canton; 3. Migal Crowe, Jr., Wayne.
400: 1. (tie) David St. Amant, Sr., Churchill; John Stewart, Sr., Livonia Clarenceville; 2. Dan Cragel, Sr., Stevenson; 3. Josh Palka, Sr., Lutheran Westland.
800: 1. Kelvin Lewis, Sr., Wayne; 2. Brandon Grysko, Jr., Churchill; 3. Kyle Wallath, Jr., Plymouth.
1,600: 1. Matt Rzepka, Sr., Stevenson; 2. Anthony Scaparo, Sr., Plymouth; 3. Brian Robertson, Sr., Churchill.
3,200: 1. Patrick Slavens, Sr., Plymouth; 2. Kevin deBear, Jr., Salem; 3. Rob Curtis, Soph., Salem.
400 relay: 1. John Glenn (JaJuan Marks, Fr.; Ian Thornton, Sr.; Corey Davis, Jr.; Larry Dawkins, Jr.); 2. Stevenson (Austin White, Fr.; Mitchell White, Jr.; Steve Eideh, Soph.; Dave Simor, Soph.); 3. Plymouth (Nate Gholston, Sr.; Malik Rich, Soph.; Connor McKinney, Soph.; Jenarian Caldwell, Fr.).
800 relay: 1. Stevenson (Steve Eideh, Soph.; Nate Sergison, Soph.; Dan Cragel, Sr.; Myles White, Jr.); 2. Churchill (David St. Amant, Sr.; Billy Gutowski, Jr.; Andrew LaBerge, Sr.; Dan Widmayer, Sr.); 3. John Glenn (Curtis Jackson, Sr.; Ian Thornton, Sr.; JaJuan Marks, Fr.; Larry Dawkins, Jr.).
1,600 relay: 1. Churchill (Billy Gutowski, Jr.; Andrew LaBerge, Sr.; Jacob McDonald, Sr.; David St. Amant, Sr.); 2. Stevenson (Derek Buskey, Jr.; Nate Sergison, Soph.; Dan Cragel, Sr.; Matt Rzepka, Sr.); 3. Lutheran Westland (Kyle Kempf, Jr.; Kyle Ramthun, Sr.; Joe Girolamo, Sr.; Josh Palka, Sr.).
3,200 relay: 1. Churchill (Brian Robertson, Sr.; David St. Amant, Sr.; Brandon Grysko, Jr.; Eric Puroll, Sr.); 2. Plymouth (Kyle Wallath, Jr.; Justin Huey, Jr.; Matt Lewandowski, Soph.; Anthony Scaparo, Sr.); 3. Stevenson (Kevin Reschke, Soph.; Dave McIntyre, Sr.; Mike Gibbons, Jr.; Matt Rzepka, Sr.).
CO-COACHES OF YEAR
 Mike Unger, Lutheran Westland
 Rick Austin, Livonia Churchill

regional. The eight seniors who did compete in the state meet medaled, having their personal best and ran on relays that were season bests.

"Credit must also be given to assistant coach Dave Ruth for his expertise and help throughout the season."

Rick Austin, Liv. Churchill, Co-Coach of Year: Just completing his 12th season, the former Churchill hurdler guided the Chargers to both the Division I and WLAA titles.

Churchill, 5-1 in dual meets, also won the River Rat Invitational at Ann Arbor Huron and was runner-up at Observerland, the Livonia City meet and the West Bloomfield Invitational (to eventual state champion Ann Arbor Pioneer).

Austin helped produce five regional champions, seven All-State athletes and 13 state qualifiers.

Under his leadership, Austin has guided Churchill to a total of four division dual-meet titles, two conference and nine Livonia City championships.

"The team struggled with inconsistency the first half of the season," Austin said. "It took an outstanding outing at the Observerland Relays and the River Rat Invitational to build our confidence and get us going."

"Our leadership was dynamite. Our leadership mantra is from a line out of the movie, Remember the Titans, which says, 'Team attitude reflects team leadership.' Our captains Andy LaBerge, Jon Robinson, James Waterbury, David St. Amant, John Fenton and Jacob McDonald set the tone for the start over our second-half revival."

Austin also credited his coaching staff of John McGreevy, Patrick Daugherty, John Filiatraut, Joe George and Vera Williams.

"They put in many hours year-round," Austin said. "They are very well respected by our kids and the track and field community."

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Test is only part of an evaluation

My son is and has always been an A student. His teachers have always wanted us to consider placing him into the accelerated program in our district. The problem is that one of the requirements for entrance is an IQ test. As an African-American, this concerns me. I have read that these tests are racially and culturally biased against minorities. I know that he is qualified but fear that this test will count negatively against him. What do you think about these tests and how can I be sure that this will not be the deciding factor in my son's admission?



Chat Room

Terry Wilamowski

Intelligence tests are a very effective way to assess a person's academic potentials. They are an important portion of the testing that I do, but they are seldom the only source of information that I employ. I, like most professionals, am aware that the information gathered by these tools is subject to limitations, such as language barriers as well as socio-economic factors. While the latest version of the test that I use has made great efforts to diminish racial and cultural concerns, some bias will probably always be present.

That being said, I want to assure you that most academic programs, accelerated or not, use multiple tools when they assess students for placement. This multidimensional approach provides the most accurate and detailed understanding of a student's abilities. So it is highly unlikely that one test or set of results will be the sole criterion used to determine admission.

However, the only way to know for sure is to contact the program directly and ask them about their admission policies and criteria. Address your concerns with them before making the decision to pursue admission or not. You may also find it beneficial to find out what other advanced programs are available before committing to one. This search may further help to alleviate any concerns that you have regarding admission policies and standards by offering more options for you to choose from.

In the end, no matter what program you select, I'm confident that you will make the most of the opportunities that are available to your son. Good luck.

What are three pieces of advice that you would give to a mother-to-be about successful parenting? I am expecting in four months and my head is spinning with all that will be required of me to raise this little girl properly. Any help that you can provide will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Firstly, I would tell you to trust yourself as a parent. Take all, or almost all, of the advice that you are given with a grain of salt. (Unfortunately, some advice will require substantial amounts of salt and an occasional dash of pepper.) You must decide what is right for you and your child. There is a saying about everyone having an opinion and it's true; especially when it comes to parenting. The good news is that there are gems of parental knowledge that can be obtained from the least likely sources if one only puts forth the effort and knows how to sift through it properly. With time and lots of patience, you can develop the necessary skills to do this.

Next, I want you to be brave enough to tell your child "no." Too often parents confuse saying "no" with being a mean or a bad parent. In truth, every child needs to hear "no." This helps them to recognize appropriate limits and boundaries. It's far easier to say "yes" and avoid making the child upset, but this strategy results in reinforcing temper tantrums and other behavioral difficulties. They must learn that not every trip to the store results in a toy, candy or some other treat. Children will cry when they hear the word, but this may just mean that it is working. Besides, when used wisely, a well placed "no" opens up the door for many more appropriate "yeses."

Finally, I would encourage you to facilitate your child's self-efficacy and development of a healthy and realistic self-image. Briefly, this means to teach your child to try new and challenging tasks and accept failure as part of the process of success. This process reinforces the child's view of him or herself as a capable person with proof of real life accomplishments. Teach them that they cannot always win and that they are not always the best and that coming in second, third, or last is a part of life that is essential to strong emotional development. This allows them to create effective coping mechanisms for times when they experience difficulties and wards off problems such as depression and anxiety.

I hope that you find these suggestions helpful. But please remember that the application of these ideas, like any of the advice that is out there, is up to you. You must decide how these ideas fit into your parenting toolbox. You must decide how and why to use them. And, most importantly, you need to determine how much salt they require.

Terry M. Wilamowski is a clinician specializing in the treatment of children, adolescents and their families at Heron Ridge Associates in Plymouth. Questions and comments can be sent to terrywilamowski@yahoo.com.

Ring of Steel

For action group, it's all about story telling

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

Audiences that come to see Ring of Steel, a stunt troupe and training program based in Ann Arbor, are generally opposed to violence.

So is Christopher Barbeau, Ring of Steel's maestro, for that matter.

That's why Barbeau, 44, a national junior epee champion with a third-degree black belt in aikido and a second-degree black belt in jujitsu, makes sure everyone knows the members of his troupe are storytellers.

That's what they'll be doing when they make their debut in Plymouth at the Kiwanis Good Morning USA Fourth of July parade Wednesday: Telling stories. And Barbeau is sure the Plymouth audience will walk away having enjoyed the performance.

"Audiences generally react very positively," Barbeau said. "We're storytellers, and the stories we tell are about conflict. In all of them, be it Shakespeare or a silly comedy, the fighting moments are the key to the productions. We're the ones who come in and bring it off safely and effectively, and nobody gets hurt."

According to Barbeau, Ring of Steel, which specialized in sword play, hand-to-hand combat, high falls, etc., is the largest action theater, stunt and special effects troupe in the country. Barbeau formerly choreographed events at the Michigan Renaissance Festival; now, his students do the work.

Barbeau, who started sword-fighting when he was 11 and studied fencing and martial arts at Bloomfield Hills Roeper High School, is the fight director for the Michigan Opera Theater, the Toledo Opera and the Michigan Classical Repertory Theater.

He helped establish Ring of Steel in 1989, and the troupe

Please see **STEEL, C3**



Members of the Ring of Steel work through a scene from Shakespeare's Hamlet. The group does more than 200 performances a year.



Ring of Steel members wait to enter a banquet hall during a corporate medieval party at which they were brought in to perform.

Congregation to celebrate life of late pastor



Janet Noble-Richardson

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

The Rev. G. Richard Danielak plans to visit Janet Noble-Richardson's grave the morning of the day he and the congregation celebrate her life at St. Timothy Presbyterian Church in Livonia. Members and ministerial staff at the church haven't forgotten the former pastor, even though it will be a year since she was killed in an automobile accident July 11, 2006. Noble-Richardson, 46, had been battling cancer before her Ford

Explorer was rear-ended on the Ohio Turnpike.

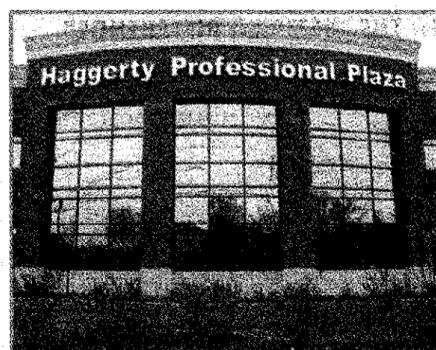
At 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 11, they'll gather to remember the pastor who cared for their spiritual needs for 17 years.

Danielak feels honored to have received a call from Noble-Richardson six years ago to join the staff at St. Timothy Presbyterian Church as an associate pastor. Danielak first met her when the two served on a committee for the Presbytery of Detroit. Danielak came out of retirement to answer the call. He's

been a minister 48 years and says no one he ever ministered with compared to Noble-Richardson.

"When she came to the church, a bond was created immediately," said Danielak, director of pastoral concerns at St. Timothy. "The church loved her with a passion. I was on vacation with my wife when I received a phone call she was dead and returned immediately. There was total shock throughout the church. When she died, a little bit of us died."

Please see **PASTOR, C3**



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31700 Van Dyke Ave., Warren
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REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

REUNIONS

St. Mary of Redford

All classes
St. Mary of Redford School Alumni "All Class Sock Hop" (Reunion) will be held Saturday, October 6, 4 p.m. Mass, 6 p.m. Reunion. For further information, please contact: Dave DiPonio at ddiponio@wadedtrm.com or (313) 363-6153 or Jamie Sloan at jes21970@aol.com or (248) 391-0607. The Sock Hop will be held in the "Old" SMR Gym on Mansfield in Detroit. Reservations required by Sept. 14.

Fordson High School

Class of 1969
Planning a reunion for 2007. Please contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynini@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge at Klivingston@nu-core.com.

Garden City High School

Class of 1972
A 35-year reunion is planned for Saturday Oct. 13, 2007. For more information, contact Lori Howe Richardson at (734)421-7808 or lhowerich@hotmail.com or Sharon Burke Parkila at (734)421-3108 or sparkila72@aol.com.

Class of 1987

Searching for all class of '87 Alumni for a 20-year reunion. Need to find current information on alumni (name, address, phone, email, etc.). Contact GCHSClassof87reunion@comcast.net or call Sheryl (Pietryka) Catton at (734) 367-0898.

Class of 1989

Need classmates to register online with names, addresses and email addresses to Paula at gchsi989reunion@hotmail.com and check out web site at www.myspace.com/gchsi20threunion. The reunion date has not been set yet. In addition to our class we are also looking for members in the classes of 87,88,89 for a combination reunion at some point.

Garden City East

Class of 1982
A 25-year reunion 6:30 to midnight Aug. 11, 2007, at Radisson Hotel, Livonia, \$65/per person, contact Sandy Heintze at sfolino64@comcast.net for details and payment information.

Grosse Pointe North

Class of 1991
Call (800) 677-7800, visit www.tay-lorereunions.com or e-mail: info@tay-lorereunions.com.

Hamtramck High School

Class of 1987
A 20-year reunion 1:30-8 p.m. Saturday, July 28, 2007, John Barleycorn's Bar & Grill, 112 Macomb Place, Mt. Clemens. Tickets are \$30 a person or \$60 a couple. Web site www.1987hamtramckhigh.com. For more information, contact Jayne Panicker at (630)338-9622 or email itsabouttime1987@comcast.net or jaypanicker@yahoo.com.

Kennedy High School

Classes 1966-69
Aug. 4, 2007, at Crystal Gardens, Southgate. For more information, contact

Nancy Mascaro Miller at nancy,mm@comcast.net or (313)291-3558.

Livonia Churchill

Classes of 1971-2007
Alumni Summer Bash 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 16, Nankin Mills Park, Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive. No fees but accepting donations. All proceeds over and above costs are being donated to the Western Wayne Skill Center. For more information, call Chris (Don) Nicholson at (734)658-5296 or Chris@ChurchillAlumni.com or Gayle Napolitano Nicholson at (734)728-0393 or Gayle@ChurchillAlumni.com.

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1969
A reunion is in the pre-planning stages for 2007. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kaynini@aol.com.

Novi High School

Classes of 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977
A combined class reunion, July 28, 2007 at Rock Financial in Novi. For information please contact: Laurie (Maier) Butler (1974) lbutler@motorcityharley.com; Claire (Salow) Klingelhofer (1975) clairek@comcast.net; Leigh (Tarczy) Guzowski (1976) laguzow@alumni.nmu.edu; Patty (Pohlman) Mayer (1977) mayer123@comcast.net

Our Lady of Sorrows

Class of 1966
Aug. 17, 18 and 19. For more information, call Pat Ormsby LaPlante at (248)476-0634.

Redford Thurston High School

Classes of 1957, 1958
A 50-year reunion is planned with several events Sept. 14-16 at Embassy Suites, Livonia. For information, contact Ron Beller at (989)652-9724 or e-mail at Admir41@yahoo.com or Marian Keegan Hierholzer at (248)349-2697 or e-mail at Marnia@comcast.net

Classes of the '80s

Thurston High School's '80s Reunion Committee will host a 2007 THS Multi-Year Reunion from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Hyatt Regency, in Dearborn. A limited number of first-come/first served tickets at \$59 per person will be available and no tickets will be sold at the door. E-mail Andrea Gambotto (Class of '86) at andshaffer@netscape.net or Dan Phillips (Class of '82) at DanielP422@yahoo.com. Representatives from graduating classes of '80, '82, '88 and '89 are sought.

Rochester High School

Class of 1957
A 50-year reunion. Banquet Aug. 11, 2007, Europa Bistro Restaurant, Rochester. Friday night meet at B's Bar. Sunday morning Ram's Horn, Rochester Road and Hamlin. Contact Rose Harmed Elgie at (248)852-4427.

Class of 1987

A 25-year reunion, 7 p.m. Friday, July 27, Rochester Mills Brew Pub and 7 p.m. Saturday, July 28, at Camp Ticonderoga, Rochester Road and Square Lake Road. Contact email plan@rhs82.com or visit www.rhs82.com.

Inkster Roosevelt High School

Class of 1957 and 1958
A combined reunion on Sept. 21-22, 2007, at the Marriott Hotel in Romulus. All classes welcome. For information, contact Yvonne (Guerin) Mack at (734)464-7748 or email ymack@twm1.com or Stan Pientack at (734)475-2797.

Roseville High School

Class of 1956
A 50th reunion in fall of 2006. The reunion committee is searching for classmates. For information, call Shirley at (586) 677-2709; Alice at (586) 792-7757 or e-mail at alljune1939@scbglobal.net or fhehermans2002@comcast.net.

Roseville High School

Class of 1957
Seeking classmates for 50th reunion, Oct. 13, 2007. Contact Rich Crowe at (248)583-9784 OR email: crowe_123@hotmail.com.

Royal Oak Dundero High School

Class of June-Jan. of 1959
Seeking classmates for Aug. 4 reunion. Include name, address and e-mail address to: Jean (Elliotte) Palmer 248-435-7875, TJPalmer73@aol.com, or Mike Soule at 248-853-7483.

Royal Oak Kimball High School

Class of 1977
A 30th reunion, 6-12 p.m. Oct. 6 at Berkley American Legion Hall, 2079 W. 12 Mile, Berkley. Cost \$25 per person includes buffet dinner, beer, soft drinks, DJ and photographer. Casual dress. Organized by Sue (Bush) Carlin and Evelyn (Alverson) D'Arca. For information, contact Sue at (248)788-2109.

Southeastern (Detroit)

Class of 1987
A 20-year reunion is being planned for summer 2007. Looking for graduates of June 1987. If interested in attending or know of whereabouts of graduates, contact Terri Banks-Faison at (313)220-4769 or tntfaison@aol.com

Southfield High School

Class of 1977
A 30th Reunion on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2007. For further information, contact MDurz@aol.com or lleneSilvermanAbrinSHS1977@comcast.net

St. Anthony Elementary

All classes
Reunion on Oct. 6, 2007 for the Detroit school at 25th and Vernor. Email mrk4@yahoo.com or call (734)995-9243 for further details and to give us your contact information.

St. Casimir School and Church

Graduates and parishioners of St. Casimir's School and Church are invited to a two-day celebration at Madonna University on July 14-15. It includes a reception, dinner-dance, Mass, brunch, bus tour and picnic. For more details, contact Tom Wozniak at 734-525-7240 or twozniak@twm1.com. The parish and school Web site is www.saintcasimir.com.

St. Colette Youth Ministry

Anyone who attended a St. Colette Youth Ministry meeting and their families (adult team members, too) are invited to an alumni reunion 4 p.m. Saturday, June 30, at the church, 17600 Newburgh Road. Tickets are \$5 to cover costs. For information, visit http://alumni.stcolette.net to view updates.

St. Philip Neri

Class of 1957
A 50th anniversary, 1-6 p.m. Sunday, June 24, at Marinelli's Restaurant, 4924 Rochester Road, Troy, just south of Long Lake Road. If you have information on classmates contact Harold Pryor at (734)462-5996.

Westland John Glenn High School

Class of 1977
A 30th reunion Oct. 6, 2007. For more information and to sign up please go to the following websites: www.johnglennhigh77.com or www.classmates.com.

Contact Diana Caudill at 602-620-0700.

Winship Junior High(Detroit)

Class of 1967
A reunion weekend, Aug. 24-25, 2007. For information, contact Gary Hassin: grobert8@yahoo.com - (415) 235-1199.

WSDP

35th Anniversary
WSDP, the student radio station with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is celebrating its 35th anniversary on 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, 2007, at Fox Hills Golf and Country Club. Tickets are \$50. More information available at www.myspace.com/wsdpalumni and www.881theescape.com. You can also call Bill Keith at (734)416-7732 for reservation form. Reservations are due Oct. 1, 2007.

Andover High School

Class of 1987
7 p.m. to 12 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, 2007, The Fairlane Club in Dearborn. Please register at Classmates.com for more details!

Avondale High School

Class of 1957
A 50-year reunion is planned for Sept. 15, 2007, at Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester. Looking for alumni. Call Mary Lou Norkiewicz (Ehrmann) at (248) 375-5406, Jim Greenless at (248) 642-0290 or Jane Turnbull (Lane) at (248) 627-2447.

Berkley High School

Class of 1987
A 20-year reunion is planned for Nov. 24, 2007. Looking for all current contact info for alumni from class of 1987. Contact Kim (DeWilde) Everingham at (734)422-0087 or e-mail info to kimsiasophia@gmail.com. Reunion website is www.BHSreunion1987.com for further information and details.

Birmingham Groves

Class of 1977
A 30-year reunion 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 28, at Camp Ticonderoga, Troy, \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door. Contact Dan Nelson at (248)433-3742 or e-mail: Groves77reunion@hotmail.com.

Birmingham Seaholm

Class of 1962
A 45-year reunion is planned for 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, 2007, at Camp Ticonderoga Restaurant, Troy. For information: www.seaholm62.org. Contact: Greg Frontier at gfrontier@aol.com or Charlotte (Bosworth) Follis at cfollis@mybluelight.com.

Bishop Borgess

Class of 1977
A 30-year reunion Saturday, Sept. 8, 2007, at George Murphy's, Livonia. For more information, call (248)685-8747 or by email harningk@yahoo.com.

Class of 1987

A 20-year reunion, Sept. 15, 2007, at the Livonia Marriott. Contact borgess87@hotmail.com for more information.

Burt Elementary and Junior High (Detroit)

Class of 1967
For information contact: Sandy Rhodes Luoma at sandysgarden2003@yahoo.com. Sue Smith Nykamp at suenykamp@yahoo.com or Margaret Hadcock Gallagher at edgallagher@prodigy.net

Claireville High School

All classes
Sunday, July 29 at Kensington Metro park, shelter T, open to all Claireville alumni grads and non-grads. Not open to current students unless they are the children of attending alumni. Lunch is potluck (email for division of stuff to bring). For more info, contact:

clarenceville_alumni_reunion@yahoo.com

Clawson High School

Class of 1962
A 45-year reunion, 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22, at the Hilton Detroit-Troy on Crooks Road in Troy. Dinner, dancing and cash bar. Other weekend events will begin on Friday, Sept. 21, and will continue through Sunday, Sept. 23. For information, e-mail ClawsonHS62@aol.com or call Mary at (248)593-6182.

Dearborn High School

Class of 1952
A 55 year reunion on Sunday, Aug. 5, at the O'Kelly Banquet Hall, 23663 Park St., Dearborn. Reunion begins at 2 p.m. with buffet dinner at 4 p.m. Call Marianne Hoak (313)274-9064 or Carolyn Haseltine Chambon (734)420-2591.

Dearborn Fordson

Class of 1977
A 30-year reunion, Friday, Aug. 3 to Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007. Contact Val Schulte (Wrenbeck) at msugrad81@cox.net with your current address and phone number.

Dearborn Edsel Ford

Class of 1967
A 40-year reunion 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, 2007, at Doubletree Hotel, Dearborn. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, approximately \$35. For information, call Cheryl Riske Brown at (313)336-0192 or e-mail efrhs67@yahoo.com

Detroit Cass Technical High School

Class of 1967
6 p.m. Saturday, July 28, the Fairlane Club, 5000 Fairlane Woods Drive, Dearborn. Cost \$67 per person in advance, \$75 after June 1. No tickets sold at the door. Phone: Nedra (Custer) Friday, (313)272-6649, email Casstechreunion1967@yahoo.com or mail inquiry to P.O. Box 43912, Detroit, Mich. 48243-0912.

Detroit Chadsey

Class of 1957
A 50th Reunion is being planned for Sept. 29, at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. Looking for January, June and Summer '57 graduates. If interested in attending or know of the whereabouts of other classmates, contact Pat Gorski-Zielinski, (989) 366-9288.

Detroit Cody

Class of 1957
A 50th reunion at the Embassy Suites, Livonia Oct. 5, 2007. Cost is \$90 per person, complete with dinner, open bar, memory book, CD, champagne toast and much more. This invitation is to all 50s graduates. Call 800-859-9502 or email lore@wideopenwest for details. Cost is \$90 per person, complete with dinner, open bar, memory book, champagne toast and much more.

Detroit Cooley

Classes of 1967, 1968
Reunion 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007, at Laurel Manor, Livonia. Discounted tickets before March 1. Contact Dave Junquist at (810)667-9131, Website www.geocities.com/cooleyreunions67. All classmates are encouraged to register for inclusion in memory book at www.classreport.org/usa/mi/detroit/cooley/1967

Detroit Cooley

Classes 1960-63
6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, 2007, at St. John's Armenian Cultural Center, 22001 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield. For information and tickets, call Joyce (Karagozian) Obenhoff (586)754-3984, Sharon (Wiand) Witberg (586)977-1469 or (586)864-2352, Roger Avie (248)476-5400 or Robert Postoian (248)788-2746.

Detroit Denby

Class of 1957
A 50th reunion is planned for Sept. 7, 8, and 9, 2007, at the Thomas Edison Inn, Port Huron. Seeking lost graduates, January/June classes. If you are not yet on the mailing list, please e-mail maroonfowl@aol.com or call (248) 642-0249.

Detroit St. Catholic Central

Class of 1967
Searching for classmates of the class of 1967 for a 40th reunion this summer/fall. Contact Diane Kangas (Krok) at (586)446-9011 or Mary Mezzardi (Winowiecki) at rmezzardi@hotmail.com.

Detroit Henry Ford

Class of 1967
A 40th reunion will be held 6:30-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at Laurel Manor Special Event Center in Livonia. Seeking January, June and summer graduates from 1967. For information, call Ellen (Neihoff) VanderRoest at (248)684-7705 or email chuckandelvan@comcast.net.

Detroit Holy Redeemer

Class of 1957
A 50-year reunion, Oct. 12, 2007, at O'Kelly KofC Council, Dearborn. In interested in attending or know the whereabouts or former classmates, contact John Duff at olverlynn@aol.com or phone (734)261-3346.

Detroit Mackenzie

Class of 1957
Looking for graduates to attend a reunion scheduled for Oct. 19, 2007. Call Eleanor at (734)425-8278.

Detroit Osborn

Classes of 1970, '71, '72
Saturday, Oct. 27, 2007. Best Western Sterling Inn, Sterling Heights. Alumni can update their addresses by either calling Sharon at (734)261-3264 or e-mailing celebrationsstoremember@yahoo.com. Visit website at crinc.dvincinet.com

Detroit Western

Class of 1962
A 45-year reunion will be held in Sept. 15, 2007 at Warren Valley Country Club, Dearborn Heights. Seeking information on classmates from that year. All other classes welcome. Contact Helen Knights at (734)285-4927 or Ralph Brighton at (734)513-7499.

Detroit Redford

Class of 1967
A 40-year reunion, Friday, Aug. 17, at Embassy Suites, Livonia. Buffet dinner with cash bar. \$60 per person, Contact Sandri91@comcast.net or call (248)646-8134.

Detroit Southwestern

Class of 1957
A 50-year reunion is being planned for September 2007. Looking for January and June graduates. If interested in attending or know of the whereabouts of other classmates, contact Angie (Conz) Maccani at (313) 532-4379 or Ken Suski at (313) 291-5450.

East Lansing High School

Class of 1957
A 50-year reunion, Aug. 24-26. For information, contact Linda Foster at (517)543-3041.

Ferndale Lincoln High

Class of 1947 January and June
60th class reunion, Aug. 3, 4 and 5 at The Hilton Hotel on Crooks Road in Troy. For information or details contact: Treva (Powell)Hamill, 248-667-1601, bobtreve9@aol.com or, Dick Reising, 248-623-9060, dreising@sbcglobal.net

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Local church offers free vegetarian cooking classes

Free Vegetarian Cooking Classes using the NEWSTART Principles for Health will be held on July 8, 10, 15, and 17 at the Cherry Hill SDA Church, 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City.

NEWSTART = Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in God. Each class will have different demonstrations, free sampling, handouts, and lectures.

Additional materials will be available for purchase.

Because class sizes must be limited, reserve in advance on or before July 6. For more information or to reserve a seat call 313-580-9081. A second phone number is available for reservations only - 734-326-6998.

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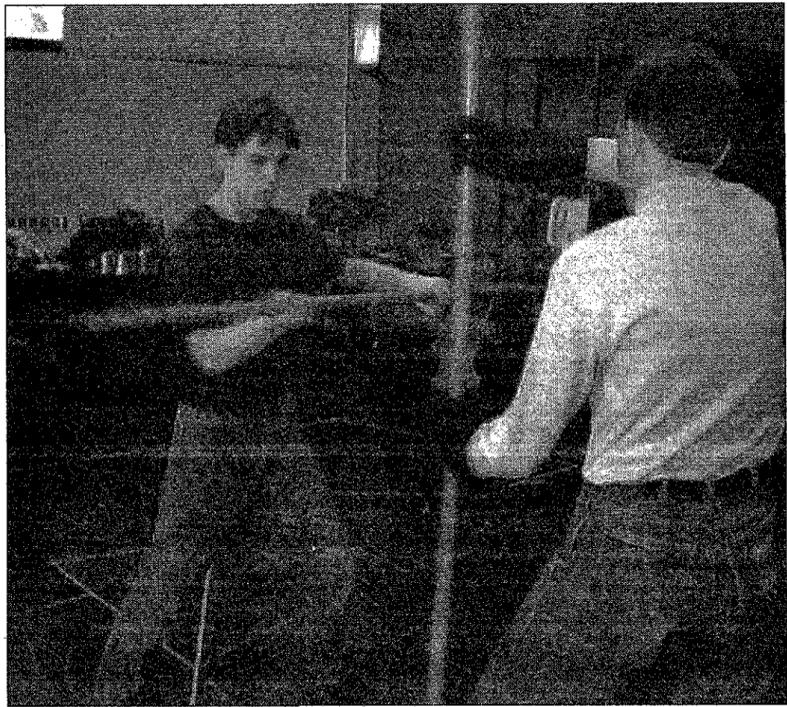
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Ring of Steel member Mike Kessler works out with his quarterstaff during the group's practice session.

STEEL
FROM PAGE C1

has taken its act to schools, corporate training sessions and other venues ever since.

"We study a lot of Shakespeare, a lot of psychology," Barbeau said. "It's all theatrical ... it's a fairly academic area."

Barbeau said the troupe, which has some 65 members ranging in age from 8-58, provides an avenue for training amateurs and professionals in community programs such as theaters. The members run the gamut from computer gamers trying to see what it's really like to fight with a sword to martial artists trying to break into stage or screen.

The troupe is an outgrowth, Barbeau said, of his early performing years, when the group with which he performed would move on, leaving nobody to step in.

ARTISTIC AND STRATEGIC

Now there are. One such performer is Jacob Lehman, a first-year law student at the University of Michigan. Lehman joined the group in February 1999. He'd done fencing for four years, and was looking to continue the hobby.

He saw a flier for an open

house Ring of Steel was conducting and the rest, as they say, is history.

"The biggest thing is the combination of artistic, strategic and physical elements when you're doing it right," said Lehman, who started a Ring of Steel chapter while a student at Cornell University in New York. "We incorporate parts of dance and music to keep it appealing, you're thinking about it strategically from the viewpoint of the characters, and then it's good exercise, too."

"It's fun to play with your friends like that," he added. "When a fight goes well, you get the audience reacting, and it's a lot of fun."

The troupe performs at some 240 community events each year. This year, they're adding the Plymouth Fourth of July parade.

After 10 years of performing in the Ann Arbor parade, Barbeau said the troupe wanted to branch out.

"The Plymouth parade is fairly large, and we've been looking to expand our horizons, Barbeau said. "The Plymouth parade seemed like a logical place."

PIRATES ON PARADE

Ring of Steel's float will be centered around a pirate ship, and the troupe will reenact scenes using recogniz-

able characters such as Capt. Jack Sparrow (of Pirates of the Caribbean fame) and Indiana Jones. Those characters will be doing battle against nefarious evil-doers.

Fred Hill, who organizes the Plymouth Fourth of July parade, was excited when Ring of Steel said they wanted in.

"The sword-fighting, the action ... they'll be jumping on and off the float," Hill said. "It will wake people up. It will be alive."

Not everyone is all that excited, at least at first. Barbeau said reaction to the troupe wanes a little in the wake of things like the shootings at Columbine High School or this year's murders at Virginia Tech.

He said he often speaks to school groups and, at the beginning, administrators are in the back of the room, arms folded across chests, clearly uncomfortable with his presence.

"By the end, they're usually smiling," Barbeau said. "Our performances aren't about violence. We're exploring the human psyche at the moments violence occurs, and teaching how everybody loses when people have to fight. We like to think it's a positive message."

bkadrilch@hometownlife.com
(734) 459-2700

Give your pets a safe, patriotic 4th of July

Pet Supplies "Plus" is running its first annual Patriotic Pet contest.

The company is accepting pet photos through 5 p.m., Tuesday, July 17, that reflect the spirit of Independence Day.

Photos will be judged based on aesthetic value and originality. Any photos that suggest a pet is uncomfortable or endangered will be disqualified.

The grand prize winner will receive a \$200 Pet Supplies "Plus" gift card. The second place winner will get a \$100 gift card and the third a \$50 gift card. Seven runners up will receive \$10 gift cards. Complete contest rules are posted on the company's website.

Photos can be submitted by e-mail through the company's website, www.petsuppliesplus.com, or dropped off at any participating Pet Supplies "Plus" store in the metropolitan Detroit area.

Winners will be notified by phone and e-mail on Monday, July 30. The winning photos, along with the names of the winners, will be posted on the Pet Supplies "Plus" Web site.



PET PROJECTS

Pet Supplies "Plus" offers tips for a safe Fourth of July:

■ If someone is setting off firecrackers and sparkling fountains near your home — and the activity is rattling your dog or cat — draw the curtains and turn on soft background music. Don't take your pet to a fireworks display. If you must take your dog along with you to watch fireworks, make sure the leash is secure and you are supervising at all times.

■ If you're entertaining on Fourth of July, make sure guests don't leave gates and doors open. If you have a cat, consider keeping him confined to a specific area of your home. Bring a photo of your dog with you when camp-

ing or at the beach, so you quickly can make "lost dog" posters. Protect pets by making sure they have up-to-date identification tags with your home and cell phone numbers. Consider getting an identification micro chip for your pet.

■ Keep pets cool on hot summer days. If you're leaving them at home, make sure the air conditioning is on or windows are open, allowing air to circulate. Never leave pets in a car — even one with open windows — on hot summer days. On an 85 degree day, the temperature inside a car will climb to 102 degrees in just 10 minutes. Limit outdoor activities on hot days to avoid heat stroke.

■ Having a barbecue on the Fourth? Keep your dog away from the trash. A scavenging dog easily can eat aluminum foil or plastic along with the remnants of a barbecue chicken plate.

Table scraps, such as dips, sauces, and fatty meats can cause gastro intestinal problems. Corn cob can expand in a pet's stomach, causing damage. Chicken and rib bones can choke a pet or block the digestive tract.

PASTOR

FROM PAGE C1

Two months ago, Danielak and the church members realized they couldn't let the July 11 anniversary of her death pass unnoticed. Children in the congregation will enter the sanctuary first and later join in singing *I Am the Resurrection*. One of Noble-Richardson's favorite projects was organizing the annual children's Vacation Bible School, a week-long program combining Bible stories and fun. A donkey she crafted for a past VBS made a return appearance not long ago as a way to draw attention to a fund-raiser in her memory for Heifer International, a nonprofit that provides animals to people in Third World countries so their families can survive and thrive.

In addition to Danielak, Revs. Phil Reed, Kellie

Whitlock and Allen Timm, executive presbyter for the Presbyterian Presbytery of Detroit, will speak about Noble-Richardson during the Life Celebration her husband Matt is expected to attend. Reed will unveil a memorial to Noble-Richardson. Reed assumed Noble-Richardson's position until an interim pastor could be appointed. Danielak expects it to be three years before a new pastor is found.

"We want to highlight the children because her main thrust as pastor was the children. She worked with them with a passion," Danielak said. "There will be the bell choir, readings I've selected and four ministers there with communion. At the end of the service, we'll uncover a special memorial."

"I can't talk about her without getting choked up. One of her favorite things was but-

terflies. (Hanging) from the sanctuary ceiling is a butterfly. It's going to be there forever so everyone knows that once upon a time there was a very special pastor who gave us all she had to give. She never had children, but the children of the church became her children."

Born in Pakistan, Noble-Richardson moved to Pennsylvania with her family at age 13. She was ordained in 1987 after attending Princeton Theological Seminary. She was lovingly called Pastor Janet by the congregation at St. Timothy.

The public is welcome to attend the Life Celebration on July 11, at St. Timothy Presbyterian Church, 16700 Newburgh, south of Six Mile. Refreshments will be served in the church hall after the service. Call (734) 464-8844.

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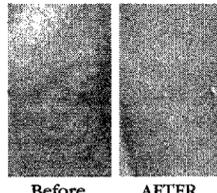
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Walking on air

Bloomfield woman wants to fill your shoes with a little bit of heaven

BY SHARON DARGAY
COMMUNITY LIFE EDITOR

Sue Denha of Bloomfield Hills is on her feet in high heels for hours when she's at work styling hair.

"For years, I suffered from my toes, from getting blisters and calluses. When I bought these, they were expensive," she said, showing off a pair of pointy-toed Marc Jacobs designer shoes. "I worked two or three hours in them and I said how could I pay this much money for shoes that I can't wear?"

Rather than trade her fashion heels for a pair of comfy loafers, Denha, 47, who likes to dress fashionably when dealing with salon clients, began searching for shoe inserts that would alleviate the pain.

When she couldn't find them, the Iraq-born mother of three designed her own.

She's marketing an arch support and toe cushion under the name "Heaven 4 Toes" and expanding her line this month to include men's, boot and other footwear inserts.

She tried various fabrics and shapes, working trial and error for about four years until she found the materials and adhesive that worked.

"This wasn't (initially) for market," said her husband, Emmet Denha, who now helps with the business side of his wife's venture. "This was for her. The packaging and all that stuff was the least important because she wasn't doing it for that reason. She was trying to find something for herself."

SHARING HER IDEA

When she finally created something she liked, she showed it to other people.

"They'd say, 'Can I try it?' And she would just give it to them. It grew so much that she couldn't afford to just keep giving them away."

Instead, she started looking for manufacturers, a difficult task for someone who considered herself a "computer dummy." With the help of her youngest son, who's now 15, she taught herself to search the Internet and use e-mail. She hired a designer to help with packaging and took her newly manufactured toe and arch cushions to a product show in Las Vegas, Nev.



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sue Denha of Bloomfield Hills shows two of her inventions that help professional women walk comfortably in fashionable high heels.

She learned from the experience, discovering that it's better to take one step at a time and not rush a new venture. And that's advice she'd give to any woman starting her own business.

"I'd tell them try not to spend money on advertising when you know your product needs more touches. I learned that I needed to present the product better. I wasn't really ready," she said. "The people from marketing know right away. I was hurt because they said, 'Sue, your packaging, it's not good enough.'"

IMPROVING THE PRODUCT

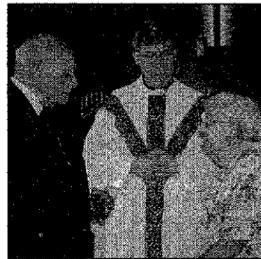
She revamped her packaging and devised five more products for shoes and boots. All of the new products, as well as the arch and toe cushions, are die cut. That makes it easier to trim the toe cushions to fit any size shoe.

"They have (inserts) on the market, but this fabric is really amazing," she said, noting the difference between her product and similar inventions. "What was on the market was hard like a rock. I thought it would be good to make something softer."

Although she started manufacturing and marketing her product by "doing this and that" and "going here and there," Denha advises other entrepreneurs to "do it the right way and make a business plan."

Visit Denha's Web site at www.heaven4toes.com. Her product client list includes Style 2000 in West Bloomfield, Oakland Shoe Repair in Troy, Savon-Shoes Outlet in Southfield, as well as stores in Maryland, New Jersey and Jackson. Suggested retail price is \$7.99 for a package of one arch or toe cushion or \$13.99 for a package of two.

ANNIVERSARIES



Klucks celebrate 60th

Donn and Marge Kluck of Redford recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a family lunch on Sunday, June 3.

The couple was married June 7, 1947, at St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Detroit with a reception following at the Dearborn Inn.

They raised a family in South Redford and are members of St. Hilary Catholic Church. They are shown renewing their vows at St. Hilary.

Donn and Marge have five children: J. David (Tessie) of Whitmore Lake; Suzanne (George) of Farmington Hills; Nancy (Joe) of Dearborn; and Daniel (Vicky) of Portland, Tenn. Their youngest son, Joseph (Debbie) died July 5, 2004.

They have 12 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren (and one on the way) and one great-great grandchild.

Marge continues to be involved in church and community activities including volunteering at the Inter-Faith clothing and food bank and the Redford Seniors.

Donn continues to work at the Hotel Baronette in Novi. He served in the Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

ENGAGEMENTS



Noone-McGuane

Mike Noone of Livonia announces the engagement of his son, Patrick Michael Noone of Chicago, Ill., to Bernadette Grace McGuane, daughter of John and Grace McGuane of Chicago. Patrick is also the son of the late Kathy Noone.

The prospective groom is a 1993 graduate of Livonia Stevenson and a 1998 graduate of Michigan State University. He is the director of sales for Technomic Information Services in Chicago.

The bride-to-be is a 1999

graduate of Resurrection High School in Chicago and a 2003 graduate of Loyola University Chicago. She is a senior product manager for Technomic Information Services in Chicago. A July 21, 2007 wedding is planned.

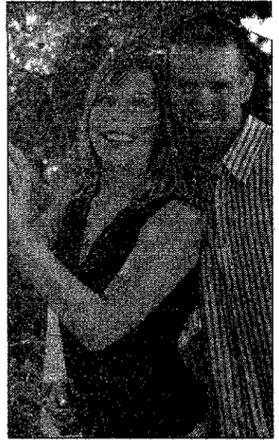
Kilgore-Brown

Tim and Barb Kilgore of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Sherrill Lynne, to Nicholas Brown, son of William and Kay Brown of Livonia.

Sherrill is a third grade teacher at Hulsing Elementary in the Plymouth Canton School District.

Nicholas works at Bright House Network.

An Aug. 4, 2007, wedding is planned for St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Canton followed by a reception at Burton Manor in Livonia. The couple will honeymoon at Disney World.



Sochalski-Kolbus

Raymond and Anmarie Sochalski of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Lindsay Marie, to Andrew Ryan Kolbus, son of Ellen Simonds and stepson of Phillip Simonds of Livonia. Andrew's father is Clifford Kolbus of White Lake.

Lindsay is a 2003 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School and is currently attending Eastern Michigan University working on her geology degree. She is a member of the Honor's college, is on the dean's list, and is the current president of the Geo Club at EMU.

Andrew is a 2004 graduate of Churchill High School, and is currently attending Michigan Technological



University working on his electrical engineering degree. He holds the honorary title of Department Scholar for the MTU electrical engineering department, and is also on the dean's list.

Lindsay and Andrew are planning to complete their final year in college before making definite wedding plans.

Cyrek-Spears

Joseph and Patricia Cyrek of Northville announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Anne of Livonia, to Josh Spears, also of Livonia, son of Chuck and Gloria Kraemer of East Jordan, Mich., and Robert and Julie Spears of Kingsley, Mich.

Julie is a 1999 graduate of Northville High School and a 2003 graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She is the director of rehabilitation of Manor Care of Farmington Hills.

Josh is a 1996 graduate of East Jordan High School and a 2001 graduate of Grand



Valley State University. He is an executive team leader for Target Corp.

A September wedding is planned at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth

Howe-Barich

Thomas and Julie Howe of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Jenna Lynn Howe, to Bryan Joseph Barich, son of Mark and Vicki Barich of Dearborn.

The bride-to-be is a 2004 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School. She received bachelor of business administration degree in 2007 from Eastern Michigan University. She is employed by Marketing Intelligence/Data Analyst at DenteMax.

The prospective groom is a 2001 graduate of Dearborn High School. He received a bachelor of business administration degree from Eastern



Michigan University in 2005. He is employed as a budget analyst at TACOM.

An April 2008 wedding is planned for St. Edith's Catholic Church in Livonia. The couple will reside in Livonia.

BIRTH

Eliana Jaye D'Angelo

Tom and Jennifer D'Angelo of Plymouth announce the birth of their daughter, Eliana Jaye, born March 12, 2007 in Ann Arbor.

She weighed 5 pounds, 3 ounces and was 18 inches long at birth.

Eliana has a big brother, Dominic.

Grandparents are Bob and Linda D'Angelo of Plymouth and Dale and Darcy Moody of Clinton Twp. and Rod and Paula Perkins of Wasilla, Ark.

Great Grandparents are Roy and Flo Perkins of Northville



and Velda Hahn of Dearborn and Connie Allen of Rochester.

Passages

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SPEARS RANEY

74, of Kalkaska MI., formerly of Garden City, passed away on June 23, 2007 at Kalkaska Memorial Health Center Long Term Care Unit after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. Spears was born on September 22, 1932 in Athens, AL., the son of the late Claude and Nellie (McCune) Raney. He lived in Athens until joining the Army in 1952. Spears served in Korea and in Germany. In 1959 he moved to Wyandotte where he worked for Firestone. In 1967 he began working for General Motors until his retirement in 1994. Spears married Margaret L. Rabourn on September 23, 1967 in Livonia. He was a lifetime member of The American Legion Post 217 and the Moose Lodge in Garden City. Spears is survived by his wife of 39 years, Margaret; step-sons, Stephen N. Rabourn of Tucson, AZ, Don G. (Shirley) Rabourn, and Duncan (Hazel) Rabourn of Kalkaska; brothers, Silas (Nellie) Raney of Louisville KY, Paul Raney and Ross (Patricia) Raney of Athens, AL.; sister, Mary Oia Schaken of Florida; step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews who grew him as Uncle Snooks. He is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Douglas Raney Davis; step-son, Charles C. Rabourn; step-daughter-in-law, Ingrid Rabourn; and step-grandson, Stephen F. Rabourn. Cremation has taken place. Memorials may be given in Spears memory to the Michigan Parkinson's Foundation, 30161 Southfield Road, Suite #119, Southfield, MI 48076. Arrangements were made by Wolfe-O'Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.



GORDON B. RIGGS

76 years old, passed away peacefully on June 20th. Husband of the late Diane Keena Riggs. Survived by daughter Pamela Riggs Maturio of Ann Arbor, grandchildren Lulu and Paulie Maturio, sister Martha Lee Davis of Colorado and dear friend Susan Gierak of Birmingham. Born in Lafayette, Indiana, attended Purdue University, served in the United States Army, and graduated Harvard Business School. Gordon worked for over thirty years at Ford Motor Company in Product Planning and Corporate Strategy and acted as the first American member on the Board of Directors of Mazda in Hiroshima, Japan. An active member of his community, Gordon served on numerous Birmingham civic and charitable boards, was Chairman of the Board of the Community House and honored as 1st Citizen of Birmingham in the year 2000. A memorial and reception will be held at the Community House in Birmingham on July 12th at 4:30 pm. Please note that there was a misprint in Thursday, June 28th's paper with the incorrect memorial date. The correct date is July 12th. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham 48009 or Children Charities Coalition, 44765 Woodward Ave., Pontiac 48341.



In Memory of JEAN PACOCHA-PUTMAN and ERNEST IRVING PUTMAN

On July 6, 2007 at 12 noon, memorial services will be held at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy, Michigan. Jean was born Aug. 25, 1923 in Detroit, MI and passed Feb. 2, 2007; Ernest was born July 15, 1923 in St. Johns, Michigan and passed Feb. 8, 2007. Both lived in Arizona. They are survived by daughter, Barbara, and her husband, Tom R. Greninger, and son Terry L. Putman, along with six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren. Sisters Stephanie Draggoo and Marilyn Kapke also survive. Jean, Sisters Betty Morrison, Audrey Mills and brother, Paul Putman, also survive Ernest.

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

Deadlines:
Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday
Wednesday Noon for Thursday

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

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The Phillpises in 1957



Delewskys celebrate 50th

Frank and Bernice (Skolarus) Delewsky of Livonia are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

The Delewskys were married June 29, 1957, at St. Cunegunda Church in Detroit. They have lived in Livonia for 42 years.

They have two children, Nancy of Livonia and Marie of Milford. They have two grandchildren, Melissa and Michael.

Frank is retired from Farmington Public Schools. Bernice is retired from preschool child education.

They celebrated their anniversary with a blessing at Mass at St. Aidan's Church, followed by a luncheon at For Hills with family and friends on June 4. Previous to their anniversary they enjoyed a 19-day cruise to South America.



JOSEPHINE A. STACK

June 27, 2007 Age 86 of Beverly Hills, formerly of West Bloomfield. Wife of the late Walter S. Dear mother of Margaret L. and Robert W. Sister of Mary Burzynski (the late John). Also survived by several nieces and nephews. Family will receive friends at A.J. Desmond & Sons, Vasu, Rodgers & Connell Chapel, 32515 Woodward Ave. (btwn 13-14 Mile) Sunday 3-8pm and Monday 3-7pm. Prayers Monday 7pm. Funeral Mass Tuesday 10:30am at St. Regis Church, 3695 Lincoln at Lahser Rd., Bloomfield Hills. Visitation begins at church 10am. Memorial tributes to Leader Dogs for the Blind, P.O. Box 5000, Rochester, MI 48308. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

In Memory Of

WAINO E. KRANSI

Age 94 of Farmington Hills, MI, June 27, 2007 Thayer-Rock Funeral Home

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

Dust Bowl inspires local author to tell story of 1930s

BY MEGAN PENNEFATHER
STAFF WRITER

After the drought, and the dust that choked out the farms, and after the American prairie had been laid to waste, it rained.

But still, even after seven years of not even a drop of water, Mother Nature wasn't through with the families living on the Great Plains during the 1930s.

"When it finally rained, it wasn't rain, it was mud because of all the dirt and dust in the air," said Rosemary McDunn of Clarkston. "The farmers lost all of their equipment, all of their livestock. Hundreds of people died of dust pneumonia. It was just a very tragic time in history."

It's also the subject, or at least the backdrop, of McDunn's book, *The Green Coat: A Tale from the Dust Bowl Years*, first published in 2006 and re-issued this year to include a study guide and questions for teachers.

The Green Coat tells the story of 12-year-old Tressa, the daughter of German immigrant farmers in the 1930s. The family's hardship during the Dust Bowl era leads Tressa to take a job as a servant to earn extra money.

Though the book is a work of historical fiction, it's no coincidence that McDunn's mother also grew up during the Dust Bowl era, happened to work as a servant when she was 14, or that her name was Tressa.

"My inspiration for the book came from the stories my mother and grandmother told me about the Dust Bowl era," said McDunn, a social studies teacher at Our Lady of the Lakes in Waterford.

The book was originally targeted to middle school students because, as McDunn said, "I wanted to bring something to the classroom that made history come to life."

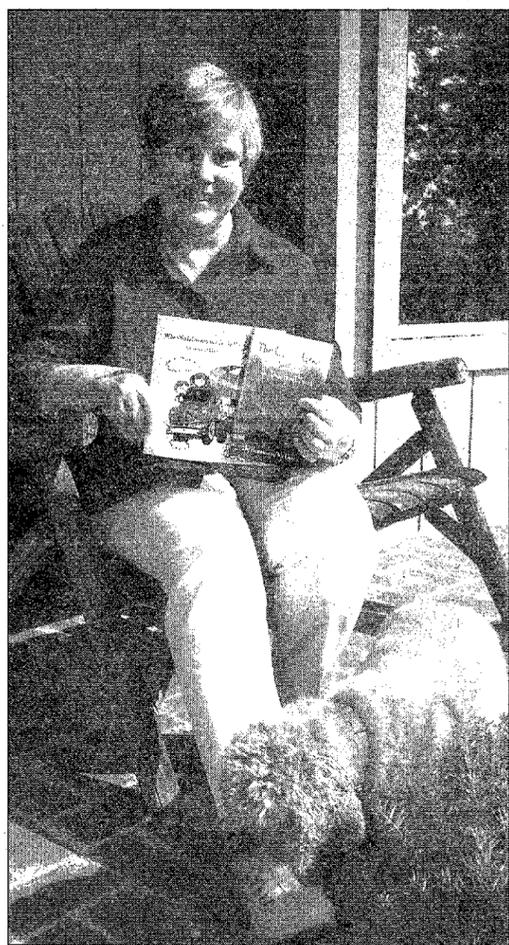
After the book was finished and published, though, an odd thing happened: Sure, middle school students read it, but so did their parents and grandparents. McDunn had quickly transcended her audience.

"What I found was parents started picking up the book, grandparents started picking up the book," she said. "I had all these adults saying, 'I loved your book.'"

BUDDING AUTHOR

Published by Bezelel, a new company started by one of McDunn's fellow teachers at Our Lady of the Lakes, *The Green Coat* is being sold online at amazon.com, and Web sites for both Borders and Barnes and Noble. Sales have remained steady, and go up a bit during the school year.

It was Bezelel's founder, Cheryl Dickow of Waterford, who encouraged McDunn to publish her work. Dickow had worked with the bud-



JOHN STORMZAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Clarkston resident and author Rosemary McDunn, shown above with Maggie, is finding success with her children's books.

ding author as a teacher and thought she had a pretty good idea of what type of author she'd make.

"What she has captured in *The Green Coat* is almost not even comparable with what is available to kids," said Dickow, who recently left her teaching job to devote herself full time to Bezelel. "That book has everything and I wanted to be a part of it."

The Green Coat wasn't to be the only story McDunn had in her.

Also this year, Bezelel published *When Kids Dream and Trucks Fly*, a rhyme-filled homage to the wonders of a child's imagination.

It too is rooted in real life; the story is of McDunn and her brother Tom as children, and their discovery of an old broken-down flatbed truck behind a building. There the siblings create worlds of adventure and landscapes of dreams.

"One day (the truck) was a ship taking us out to sea," she said of her childhood playground. "The next day it would be a jungle. We had more fun playing on that flatbed truck than any kids today playing video games."

The story is meant to remind kids and their parents of the things that can happen if children are pulled off the television and computer for a couple hours and allowed to dream up their own worlds.

"I was hoping to encourage young children to get out and play," she said. "I think imagination is a critical part of growing up."

WRITING IS 'A PLEASURE'

When McDunn was growing up, her imagination helped her write poetry, a hobby she let fall to the wayside once she went to college and became a teacher. It's only been in the last few years that the 57-year-old wife and mother of Michael, 22, and Kevin, 24, decided to devote herself to the written word once more.

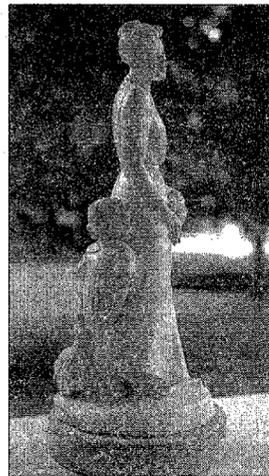
"Now that I'm older, I'm finding it's a pleasure to go back to this," she said.

The author certainly has a fan in Dickow, who said she's amazed by McDunn's talent.

"She is just one of those people you feel blessed to know," said Dickow.

But as so often seems to happen, this success story is bittersweet. It was McDunn's wish that her mother, the inspiration of the book, would live to see its publication. It didn't happen; McDunn's mother lost her battle to Alzheimer's disease months before the book was published.

"I firmly believe there's a life after this one, and I'm sure my mom is very aware of what is going on," she said. "And I think my mother would be very proud."



Little Edessa Warner is playfully depicted at the heels of her mother, Martha Warner.



Artist Bernadette Zachara-Marcos presents a model of the sculpture to volunteer Dick Carvell.

Carvell hopes garden dream becomes reality

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Five-year-old Edessa Warner tugs at her mother Martha's long skirt trying to divert her attention.

"Come on, let's go," she appears to beckon.

Martha, holding a basket of roses, accidentally drops a rose at her feet as she prepares to follow Edessa's bidding.

It's a nostalgic step back in time.

The wife and daughter of Governor Fred Warner are depicted in a 15-inch hydrostone model, a gift by artist Bernadette Zachara-Marcos to longtime mansion volunteer Dick Carvell.

Carvell has long had a dream, a vision so to speak, of a life-size statue of Martha Warner that could permanently be displayed in the well-maintained gardens of the mansion.

"I have long wanted some statuary in the garden," Carvell said.

Carvell, through the help of the historical commission and the City of Farmington, is at the beginning of a fundraising campaign to raise \$30,000 to commission a bronze statue of Martha and Edessa which will grace the

gardens of the city-owned, historic mansion on Grand River.

Last year, Marcos' bust of Governor Fred Warner was unveiled at the mansion. The bronze bust resides on a pedestal in the front room of the house.

Zachara-Marcos fashioned the new model and will complete the final sculpture when the funds are raised.

Marcos was named the 2002 Artist in Residence by the Farmington Area Arts Commission, and is known for her many local works, including a sculpture at Dunckel Middle School, her Ring Around the Rosie sculpture at Schoolcraft College, and many private and public commis-

sions.

Docent Mary Yarger, a Farmington resident, helped to compile the photos from which Marcos will work to create the likenesses of Martha and Edessa.

Yarger humbly gives all credit to Marcos. "This is her ball game," Yarger said.

Not much is known about Martha, except that she was a down-to-earth farm girl, Carvell said.

"From the stories we heard, she didn't put on any airs that she was the governor's wife," Carvell said.

To donate to the sculpture project, contact the office of Farmington City Manager Vince Pastue at (248) 474-5500, ext. 221.

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Notice: Thursday, July 12th, 2007 on or after 9:30 a.m. Public auction, the following storage units.

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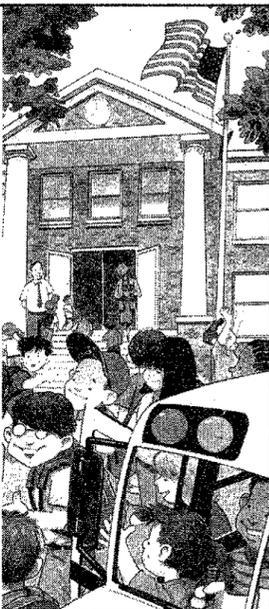
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 Part-Time, \$10/hr. Must be thorough, dependable, have own car. Call Sandy at More Grime Than Time, (734) 459-9866

CLEANING MODEL HOMES & SMALL OFFICES
 Eves. & some days. Interviews on July 17, 2007 at The S. Lyon Hotel at 12pm. Job sites are located in your residing area. Call Shelley 248-640-4234 if attending. Details at interview.

CLEANERS NEEDED
 Mon-Fri. 8p-10pm. Farmington Hills area. Call 734-642-0073

Climbers & Bucket Workers
 Experienced individuals with CDL and clean record need only apply. For tree service co. Call 248-352-0263

COLLECTOR
 Congress Collection Corp. a 50 yr. old Southfield agency has an opening for a Debt Collector. Benefits and a generous bonus offered. Fax resume to 248-955-5050.

Help Wanted-General 5000

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER
 New division of established company is starting new Programming Dept. Lead Programmer capable of directing dept., self-directed, timely, and a goal achiever. Linux operating system language, Java Script, PHP, MySQL, HTML. Create all text boxes to be data driven off mySQL using PHP. Individual must be able to interface with Project Managers of other companies. Ask for Bill Carter, 248-406-4050; or email: kopkoc@sfscheck.com.

CUSTODIAN/ MAINTENANCE
 personnel needed in Oakland County. Flexible hours available. Perfect as second income. Interior and exterior cleaning and maintenance required. Please call Susan at 248-886-8650

DELIVERY DRIVER
 Contact US-Mattress.com. Call to schedule interview: 734-453-1300

DIRECT CARE STAFF
 Needed to work with developmentally disabled adults in Westland. 734-722-4580 x14

Direct Care Workers
 Supporting people with disabilities in their homes. Requires good driving record. Needed for Farmington Hills, Livonia, Garden City, Dearborn Heights, Westland Redford, Plymouth & Taylor. All shifts though not at all locations. \$7.30 Untrained/ \$7.80 Trained. Contact Justin at: (248) 477-5209 x107

DRIVER SUPERVISOR
 Network Express, an Inc. 500 company, is seeking a confident, career minded person to join our field management team. Benefits include auto reimbursement, health insurance, paid vacation, quarterly performance bonuses and a 401K plan. If you are a self-motivated professional with a Make it Happen attitude, who would like to learn more about this career opportunity, submit resume to: theming@networkexpressinc.com

DRIVERS
CANTON WASTE RECYCLING
 Accepting applications for Drivers with CDL B with air-brake endorsement. Good pay, good benefits. Call for times. (734) 397-5801 EOE

DRY CLEANERS HIRING: Experienced Only. Dry Clean Pressers & Shirt Pressers
 Full or Part-Time. Apply in person: 200 S. Wayne Rd. Westland.

Education
Classroom Assistants
 Needed for 1st-6th grade Montessori charter school in Livonia. Must have associate degree or 60 college credit hours. Experience with children preferred, preference given for Montessori experience. Mail resume to: Director, AHA, 1400 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154

HAIR STYLIST & NAIL TECHNICIAN
 Novi/Walled Lake Salon. (248) 624-5103

HOUSEKEEPER
 Experienced, part time, for Auburn Hills Bed & Breakfast. (248) 370-8000

HVAC/ BOILER SERVICE TECH
 Top pay, full benefits. Service exp. necessary. Ask for Jim 248-356-1680

HYDRAULIC PRESS OPERATOR
 International Manufacturer of diamond grinding wheels needs hydraulic press operator for application with work history & pay request to 248-435-9987

JOIN AVON TODAY!
 Ask how to receive \$100 in free product! Sherry, (248) 628-0446

LANDSCAPE FOREMAN
 Immediate Full Time. Hourly wage, paid vacation & benefits. CRIMBOL NURSERY, INC. Phone: (734) 495-1700 Fax: 734-495-1131

LANDSCAPE & SPRINKLER INSTALLER
 Company in business over 35 yrs. Looking for 2+ yrs. experienced landscape & sprinkler installer. CDL C Driver's license, Competitive wages & benefits available. 734-595-3884 or r-minc.com

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

Help Wanted-General 5000

FIREFIGHTER/ PARAMEDIC
 CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY FIRE DEPARTMENT
 The Charter Twp. of Plymouth is currently accepting applications to establish an eligibility list for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic. Work to be performed includes saving lives & reducing property loss through rescue techniques & fire suppression operations. Applicants must be a certified MI. Firefighter Level I & II, Hazmat Operations Level Certified and must be licensed as a Paramedic by the State of MI. Evidence of licenses & certifications must be presented at the time application is submitted. Additional requirements: Must be 18 yrs. of age or older, U.S. Citizen, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, have and maintain a good driving record. Valid Certification from a Fire Training Academy recognized by the Civil Service Commission and current and valid completion of the IAFC Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) within the preceding 365 days is required. Additional requirements are listed in the position specifications. Applicants must successfully pass an oral Board interview. A post job offer requires that an applicant must pass a drug screening, background investigation, psychological exam and a pre-hire physical examination. Starting annual base wage is \$34,970.85. Applications are available in the Clerk's Office, Charter Twp. of Plymouth, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth, MI, during regular business hours, 8am to 4:30pm, Mon. thru Fri. Applications will not be mailed. All applications must be turned in at the Clerk's Office no later than 3pm, July 11, 2007. The Charter Twp. of Plymouth does not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, handicap, height or weight in the employment or provision of services.

MAINTENANCE
 Experienced person needed for two automotive dealerships. Fulltime position. The more demonstratable skills the better. Light electrical, light plumbing, painting skills, and much more. Responsible for two locations, Saturn of Farmington Hills. Contact Jim Huston at 734-453-7890, or 248-473-7220

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
 Needed for apartment community. Must have a valid driver's license. Paid vacations and benefits available. Apply in person at Cherry Hill Manor Apartments 167 Cherry Valley Dr. Inkster MI. 48141-313-277-1280

MANAGER OF ADMINISTRATION
 Responsible for Accounting, Human Resources, Budgeting, Financial Analysis for national company. Distribution exp. preferred. Fax resume to: (734) 523-2108

MEAT CUTTER
 Retail experience. Plum Hollow Market. Corner of 9 Mile & Lakeshore.

MECHANIC: Heavy Truck & Trailer. P/T only. Nights & Weekends. Outdoor work. Westland area. 734-777-3469

NATURE CENTER INSTRUCTOR
 City of Troy Part-time, year-round. \$10/hr. Requires BA/BS in Biology or related. Applications and details at Human Resources, Human Resources 500 W. Big Beaver Rd., Troy or www.troyml.org. Applications accepted until filled.

PAINTERS & LABORERS
 Painters must have 5 yrs exp. For Commercial Paint Co. Must have valid drivers license & vehicle. References checked. (734) 266-1500

PET GROOMER NEEDED
 Immediately. Fulltime. Salary negotiable. Exp. required. Farmington area. Call 248-478-3647

PLUMBERS / DRAIN CLEANERS
 Sales exp. a plus. 2 yrs. exp. a must. Call Nick at: 1-888-655-6700

POWERWASHERS NEEDED
 Several openings. Must be dependable & detail oriented. Full Time, days/eves. Good pay with benefits. 734-420-1700

PRESSER - PANTS
 For dry cleaners. Must be experienced. Call: 734-591-6166

RECEPTIONIST PART TIME
 Front desk help. Must have exp. No insurance. Handle phones & patients. Send resume to: 734-464-0404

ROOFERS exp. in architectural sheet metal or exterior siding & trim carpentry. Exp. pay & benefits. Call: 248-437-8050 or fax resume: 248-437-8586

SALES
 E & E Manufacturing Company, Inc., an automotive parts supplier of specialty metal stampings, stamped metal fasteners, and assemblies is seeking qualified individuals to submit resumes for the following open positions:

• Journeyman Tool and Die Makers
 • Machinists
 • Tool Room Attendants

Please submit resumes to the address below, or by fax, by email, or in person, on Wednesdays ONLY between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at:
 E & E Manufacturing Company, Inc.
 300/400 Industrial Drive
 Plymouth, MI 48170
 Fax: (734) 451-6414
 Email: tooljob@eemfg.com
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!

Help Wanted-General 5000

Route Sales & Service Rep
 Morgan Services Inc. Linen & Uniform Rental Co. Benefits: health & dental insurance, 401K, life insurance, company paid retirement. Starting base \$550 per week, commissions. Qualifications: at least 21, drug free, clean driving record, Ability to lift and carry 75 lbs. Fax resume: 734-261-7147, or email: stephensonk@morganservices.com or call 888-489-2878 Friday 2-4pm, Mon & Tues. 9-11am or 2-4pm

SALES/DRIVER
 Delivery to party stores. Must have good driving record. Some sales. Referrals. Call 248-380-6586

Slitter Operators
 Seeking experienced slitter operators. Must be skilled in set up. Experience with hot rolled bands in the heavy end of the gauge range required. Incentive based wage program and paid Blue Cross benefits.

Please fax resume to: Atlas Tax US Plymouth, MI 734-738-5604

TO PLACE YOUR AD CALL... 1-800-579-SELL(7355) Observer & Eccentric

TREE SERVICE GROUND CREW & CLIMBERS NEEDED
 Must have exp. & CDL license. Call 734-522-1660. MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE OR DO NOT CALL!!!

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 • Tire Lube Express

Applications being taken at:
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 2025 South Milford Rd. Milford, MI 48361
 July 9th & 10th, 2007 From 9am-5pm
Please, no phone calls

BE THE DIFFERENCE BE THE DIFFERENCE BE THE DIFFERENCE

WAREHOUSE/ TRUCK DRIVER
 Alsie, a manufacturer and distributor of exterior building products, has an immediate opening for a Warehouse Worker/ Delivery Driver. Responsibilities include warehousing and material handling, loading and unloading trucks (includes lifting in excess of 100 lbs.), and delivery, loading customer orders, processing returns, and unloading trucks. Candidates must have B CDL License, high school diploma, and minimum two years of warehouse/ driving experience. We offer a complete compensation package with pension plan. Please fax resume to Alsie, Attention Operations Manager 734-467-1907

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SECRETARY FIRE DEPT.
 The City of Garden City is accepting applications for a FT Secretary at the Fire Dept. Office until 5pm, 7-19-07. Employment App. (Gen. employees), the job description and detailed announcement available at www.gardencitymi.org or by contacting the HR Office at 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI Phone: 734-793-1640 Applications must be submitted in person to the HR Office.

SECRETARY ASSISTANT
Dynamic
 Growing computer company looking for assistant to work with Operations Department. Duties include administrative tasks, customer service and other projects. Please fax resume to (248) 473-1596 Attn: Casie, or email to: emelasy@dcc-online.com

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL
 Starter position-typing, filing, order tracking. Some phones and customer service. Able to handle multi-tasking. Working knowledge of Microsoft Office a plus. Please Fax Resume to: 248-290-0334

BOOKKEEPER
 Part time, for West Bloomfield church office. 248-855-9191

BOOKKEEPER
 Part time. Exp'd. Knowledge of QuickBooks, retail. Ben. Street Legal Customs, 248-545-3700

CAR BILLER
 Exc. pay and benefits. Exp. required. Send resume to Varsity Lincoln Mercury Inc., P.O. Box 633, Novi, MI 48376-0633 Attn: Kevin

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE
 Gorman's Furniture, Michigan's premier quality home furnishings company, has an immediate opening for a Customer Service Associate at our Novi location. The primary responsibilities of this position include data entry, answering phones, filing, preparing bank deposits, and assisting customers and sales staff with purchases. To qualify, you will need basic keyboard and math skills in addition to exceptional customer service skills. Previous experience in a retail setting is preferred. Some evening and weekend hours are required. Please e-mail your resume to solvio@gormans.com or fax to 248-473-8796 You will be required to undergo a background screening, a pre-employment physical and drug screen.

LAW FIRM RECEPTIONIST
 Bloomfield Hills. Must be experienced with call handling, greeting clients, and all other clerical & secretarial duties. Hours are 8:30-5:30, Monday through Friday. Competitive salary & benefit program. For consideration, please e-mail your resume to: HR@carsonfisher.com or mail to Carson Fisher PLLC 4111 Fischer Road Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 Attn: Human Res. - Recept.

OFFICE ASSISTANT & CUSTOMER SERVICE
 Livonia medical equipment company. Mon-Fri., full-time. Fax or Email resume: Attn: Karen: 734-522-9380 metromedical@scgjobal.net NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE!

OFFICE MANAGER
 For W. Bloomfield church office. Administrative, organizational, and computer skills required. Call (248) 855-9191

RECEPTIONIST NEEDED
 For funeral home. Some eves & every other weekend. Resume can be accepted bwn the hours of 1p-4p weekdays. **RG.GR. Harris Funeral Home 31551 Ford Rd Garden City.**

Help Wanted-Office Clerical 5020

Administrative Assistant
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SECRETARIAL
 Position, full-time. Good benefits & pay. Must have office experience, computer, filing, accounting. Apply in person: **Brosse Electrical 37400 W. Mile, Livonia. (734) 464-2211**

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New Wing Lake center takes shape

BY GREG KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

The first steps to "put our most fragile children in facilities they need and deserve," were taken Wednesday morning as ground was broken for the new Wing Lake Developmental Center at Wing Lake and Maple in Bloomfield Township.

Among those speaking at the event was Bloomfield Hills School Trustee David Lubin, who also noted that the construction represents the first new school building in Bloomfield Hills in nearly 40 years.

The \$10.6 million, 40,000-square-foot facility will serve about 100 severely and multiply impaired students from across Oakland County. Wing Lake is operated by the

Bloomfield Hills schools, but takes in students from age 3 to 26 from 21 districts across the county.

They have been moved to Fairview Early Childhood Center in Farmington Hills during construction, which is expected to be complete in fall 2008.

Bloomfield Hills Schools Superintendent Steve Gaynor said construction of the new building represented "a tremendous cooperation and... a commitment by residents of Oakland County. The project is being funded by the county."

"We are deeply grateful to Oakland Schools for their support of this project and construction funding," Gaynor said. "We're delighted that our most severely challenged students will soon have a new facility to accommodate their



Douglas Evans, 5, joined in the ground breaking ceremony.

unique physical and instructional needs."

The new building is going up next to the historic stone school house that dates from the 1850s.

It will not be affected by the construction.

The new facility will have easy accessibility, as many of the children are in wheelchairs. The building also will feature therapy spaces,



Hoisting the shovels were (from left) Carolyn Packard, director of Special Education, Bloomfield Hills Schools; George Ehler, Oakland Schools Board of Education member; David Lubin, Bloomfield Hills school trustee; Kathy Barker, director of Special Education, Oakland Schools; Steve Gaynor, Bloomfield Hills Schools superintendent; Vickie Markavitch, superintendent, Oakland Schools; and Dave Payne, Bloomfield Township supervisor.

a media center with sensory teaching materials, group learning spaces, upgraded bathrooms and allow for more

natural light.

"What does it all mean?" posed Carolyn Packard, Special Education director

for the district. "A beautiful classroom of our students. The most important part is our kids."

Homely toad makes a faithful companion

I am an unabashed partisan of *Bufo americanus*, the American Toad. Beneath its warty appearance and bloated stumpy-legged body is an amphibious creature that has played out a long-term evolutionary drama of adaptation and survival. And now as June wanes and nights get humid, toads become masters of the theatre when it comes to devouring bugs and beetles.

My love affair with toads has been long and passionate: I don't share that fact with many. Long ago, when I was little and always muddy and skin-kneed and running barefoot through the woods of rural Connecticut and my dad was a biology professor in New York City I fell in love with toads. Perhaps that's because I could find them and catch them. I did not care that they usually peed inside my clasped hand. "Look what I found!"

Today, I still find myself

muddy and barefoot and I still don't care that toads pee for protection. But now I wash my hands.

This evening, just before dusk with an editorial deadline looming, cumulus clouds turning red from the setting sun, house wrens singing and a gray treefrog calling from his hollow apple tree, I am watching my toad. He lives under my screened porch. And on many summer nights I live above him, wrapped in my hammock world and night breezes.

I do not know when he first moved into his summer estate beneath mine, but I think I know why. I water porch plants and spill water in the process.

The water drips between the old porch boards and creates humidity. Bugs like humidity. Toads love bugs. As dusk approaches he emerges from his palatial pad and bugs to the edge zone between porch

and shrubs where the bugs gather.

I am aware of his presence and he is very aware of mine. His toad eyes watch me. He stands his ground as long as I keep my distance. Sometimes he emerges in daylight. Perhaps his stomach churns for a lunch time bug-whopper, hold the mayo please. I can wiggle close on my belly with barely two feet separating his nose and mine and he doesn't budge. Get closer and he slowly retreats back under his porch.

The first time I saw him, his stealth, followed by his piggish slaughter of a moth, caught my attention. I missed his "gotcha" tongue snatch, but I witnessed him using his front feet like a food-gulping contender at a human hot dog eating contest. Humans shove down the dogs. He shoved in the plump squirming moth. And sometimes I think he watches my hummingbird when it hovers

low, wondering "Can I?"

My toad is a good companion. Granted he can't talk to me as I sip ice-coffee and he ignores my "Hey guy" greeting as he loiters at his bug-blind. And he would not be much of a backpacking companion, but I enjoy his presence, warts and all. Oh yes, warts: Toads do not cause warts. But they produce a potent toxin from a gland between the eyes and warty skin that is an irritant to many mammals if ingested. Domestic dogs only taste toad once. It goes like this: Mouth toad, spit out toad, foam, paw mouth, never sample toad again. Keep in mind that no matter where you live in Oakland County, you will have toads playing out their role of environmental theatre and bug control. Toads are great habitat generalists,



JONATHAN SCHECHTER

A stoic toad eyes a potential meal.

adapting to what nature and man offers unless your world is paved over, free of nearby water and your lawn is bathed in pesticides. A nearby pond for breeding and moist earth for hibernation adds to a stable population. How can you not love a creature with such easy

demands, great defense, curious habits and a desire to eat anything that gets in my garden, or yours. Gulp on good buddy. Gulp on.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way. E-mail him at oaknature@aol.com.

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He says of his advertising results with our newspapers, "We have many people who see our ads and come in with wound care problems that we have treated to their satisfaction."

He believes that advertising can be effective if it is done correctly.

We agree. We work with our advertisers to assist them in reaching their advertising goals.

We suggest advertising strategies and packages that enable our clients to cost-effectively reach potential clients.

Dr. Ruben wants to let people know about the convenience and ease with which their wounds can be treated.

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a service of people2people

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

SHORT GUYS A PLUS
SWF 46, petite, attractive, nature girl, looking for life partner, who's life is as together as mine. Someone who's 40-50, and looking for a great girl for LTR. **1139562**

LET'S GO METRISME
SBFC 38, 5'6", 120lbs, smoker, loves jazz. Seeking BF, 30-45, smoker, for dating out and movies. For friendship, possible romance. **152399**

SOULMATE SEARCH
Slim, attractive, 57-year-old JF looking for her soulmate, any sincere, successful JM, between the ages of 54-64, please respond. **1589879**

FRIENDS FIRST
WJWF 68, 5'6", 145lbs, healthy, honest, happy, likes comedy films, country cooking, looking for outdoorsy, active man affectionate and warm-hearted, to share the good things in life. **139719**

PERSONABLE AND SPECIAL
SWF retired, talent, fun-loving, attractive, 132lbs, 5'5", blonde, seeks well-groomed gentleman, 55+, to share life and enjoy each other's company. **1591247**

SOUND LIKE YOU?
SF, 26, fun-loving, enjoys sports, romance and trying new things. Seeking honest, 58-70, widower a plus. Honesty, trust, a great friendship and fun. **1207859**

POSSIBLE LTR
SWFP 68, 5'7", attractive, slender, athletic, N/S, enjoys sports, concerts, dining out, seeks SWFM 55-62, N/S, college degree, healthy, SOH, possible LTR. **1993381**

TAKE ME GOLFING
Tidy SWF 60, enjoys fine dining, traveling. Seeking golfer, best friend, confident, 58-70, widower a plus. Honesty, trust, a great relationship and fun. **1978914**

SEEKING FRIEND
DWCF 70, 5'2", looks much younger, N/S, N/D, brown/brown, very easy to get along with, seeks SWM 58-75, who loves sports, drives and holding hands. **1582624**

CURIOUS AND ADVENTUROUS
SWF 58', blonde/blue, hwp, enjoys sincere friendships, good conversation, traveling, dancing and the beach, searching for a SWM, 52-58, with a warm smile and great personality. **1206243**

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL
Attractive SWF 50s, 5'7", 125lbs, loves all life, animals, arts, family, nature, spirituality. Masters helping professional. Seeking big-hearted, financially/emotionally secure, intelligent DPM, 48-68, for fun, friendship, depth, etc. **1892242**

WORTH YOUR CALL
SBF 22, 5'4", light complexion, brown/hazel, dimples, 200lbs, enjoys horror films, hanging with friends. Looking for a nice, smart, compassionate, goal-oriented man to share the good things in life. **11920**

DON'T THINK TWICE
SWF 57, enjoys blues music, St. Patrick's day, independent films, traveling, dancing and the beach, searching for a SWM, 48-60, who likes concerts, traveling and dining. Let's get together and talk. **1205287**

LOOKING FOR MY SOULMATE
Cute SWF, mother of 2, enjoys movies and dining in/out. Seeking ready bear type SM, 35-45, race open, N/S, attractive inside and out, humorous, cuddly, responsible, family-oriented, kids ok. **1893031**

READ THIS AD!
SWF 61, N/S, homemaker, enjoys reading, scary movies and antiques, searching for a SWM, 52+, with various interests and qualities. **1161114**

ROMANTIC EVENINGS
SWFP 63', 120lbs, suburban, enjoys dancing, dining, traveling, antiques and long walks, would like to meet a SWM, 55-60, with similar interests, for companionship, romance and more. **1206203**

LOTS OF LOVE TO GIVE
SWF 58', blond, N/S, good sense of humor, enjoys life, dancing and dining, seeking a W/M, 66-75, N/S, sincere and humorous, for companionship. **1207161**

WORTH YOUR CALL
Honest, independent, separated WF 47, 5'7", voluptuous, N/S, N/D, D/D-free, enjoys coffee shops, reading, walks, dining, movie nights, etc. ISO stable, secure, sociable, sweet SBM to share special times. **1174776**

LET'S MEET
SBF curvy, short, pretty, outgoing, self-employed, seeking a busy SWM, 48-60, who likes concerts, traveling and dining. Let's get together and talk. **1205287**

ARE YOU OUT THERE?
Employed, easygoing SBF 48, mom, pretty smile, golden complexion, brown/hazel, 145lbs, N/S, N/D, enjoys dancing, dining, loves R&B, soul, classic car/cars, concerts. Seeking warm-hearted, independent SBM, intelligent and good-humored for companionship, happiness. **1200226**

DON'T BE SHY!
SBF 37, hard-worker, enjoys movies, dining and cooking, seeking a SBM, 37+, sincere, trustworthy, N/S, for friendship, possible LTR if compatible. **1193299**

SEARCHING FOR A MAN...
46-60, who's looking for commitment, love and laughter. I'm a 45-year-old who's bright, spunky and pretty. Only Jewish men please. **1962317**

SIMPLE REQUEST
Are you honest, trustworthy, down-to-earth? SBF 40, N/S, seeks SBM, 27-57, N/S, who knows how to take life one day at a time. **1509261**

ARE YOU MY MATCH?
SBF 34, 5'5", average, likes relaxing at home watching movies, seeking a SBM, 34-50, professional, outgoing and likes to have a lot of fun. **1166214**

ISO MY BEST FRIEND
Tall SWFP 37, employed, easygoing, occasional smoker, seeks gentleman, 35-45, for friendship and then who knows what next. **1164946**

GIRL NEXT DOOR
SBF 45, independent, occasional smoker, enjoys travel, dining out/in, long conversations, dancing to house music, looking for the best next door who isn't afraid to kiss her. **1180536**

OLD SCHOOL GIRL...
looking for old school guy. SBF 41, has a good sense of humor, N/S, seeks nice guy, for dating and possibly more. **1186572**

LIFE IS SHORT
SWF 41, 5'7", outgoing, fun, enjoys all sports, the outdoors and warm climates, seeking a caring, romantic, honest, handsome SM, 35-70, with similar interests, for companionship, romance and more. **1188112**

WANTING A MAN TO LOVE
SBF 35, 5'9", 172lbs, brown complexion, homemaker, independent, goal-oriented, looking for a handsome, kind, respectful, monogamous, even-tempered, 45-60, medium-dark complexion, available, loving and caring, for loving relationship. **1184313**

GOOD TIMES
Hard-working, honest, respectful, ambitious, attractive, SBF 38, educated, D/D-free. In search of SBM, with same qualities, for friendship and casual fun. **1159358**

MATURE AND SEXY
Open-minded, mature, attractive 49, who knows when to be serious, but has a sense of humor as well. Live and let live is my policy. ISO understanding, fun-loving good-hearted guy. **1199972**

SOUND LIKE YOU
SWF 44, easygoing, loves the outdoors, seeks romantic and passionate man for LTR. **1170340**

WILD AND SOPHISTICATED
Ebony woman desires shared love relationship for mental, emotional, physical, spiritual and financial fulfillment. 40-50. **147056**

CLASSY LADY
SBF 36, 5'3", N/S, seeking a SBM, 35-49, who enjoys sports, dining, traveling and movies, for friendship first, maybe more. **1162650**

READY FOR A FRESH START?
DWF 47, 5'5", 120lbs, blond/blue/blue, well-proportioned, very feminine, attractive, self-employed. Seeking SWM, 45-57, 5'11", 220lbs+, good sense of humor, avid traveler, outdoorsman, adventurer, manly gentleman. **1692549**

CLASSY LADY
SBF middle-aged, attractive, enjoys dining, movies, plays and bowling, seeks a SM, 48-60, N/S, good sense of humor and good values/morals. **1207254**

GIRL NEXT DOOR
SWF 22, 5'5", brown/hazel, seeking a SM, 22-35, who likes movies, dining and more. Let's get together. **1182873**

SEEKS NEW FRIENDS
Tall, sexy, ebony artist, enjoys culture, music, the outdoors, the city, bookstores, concerts, biking, sports, searching for a SM, 18-45, who can enjoy the same. **1189785**

LOOKING FOR A GUY
Attractive SWF 59, 5'7", blonde/green, with a loving heart, seeking a SWM, christian +, N/S, D/D-free, who enjoys the simple things in life. **1208291**

FORMER MODEL
SWF 50, 5'6", slender, intelligence, creativity, passion for music and dancing. Seeks partner 38-50, who is attractive and fit, to share his interests and more. **1600106**

LOOK OUT HERE I COME
Somewhat shy SF 34, part owner, works hard but loves to have fun, simple times, good company. Seeking nice SM, to share a little fun and friendship. **1139826**

LOTS OF LOVE TO GIVE
Attractive, caring SBF 31, 5'2", likes comedy/suspense movies, dining and having fun, seeking a woman, 25-35, athletic, soft-spoken, for friendship first, possible LTR. **1181458**

THE GOOD LIFE
SBF 25, 5'7", seeking a SBF, 20-30, who enjoys the simple things in life, to hang out with, go out to the movies, shopping or walks in the park. **1198864**

HOW ARE YOU?
SBF 28, mom of 2, N/S, fun-loving, caring, compassionate, likes cooking, painting, walks, beaches, family times. Seeking a nice guy with zest for life, to share a little happiness. **1200770**

SEEKING SPECIAL GENT
DWF 63, attractive, well-dressed, sincere, loving, optimistic, likes theater, travel, dining, fitness. Wanting to meet a non-smoking WM, 58-70, for possible romance. **1830808**

LOOKING 4 GENTLEMAN
Loving, youthful SBF 57, trim, sharp, very attractive, energetic, happy, enjoys dining, travel, amusement parks, the outdoors, festivals, nature, family-friends, theater, more. Seeking like-minded gentleman to share these. **1215229**

LOOKING 4 GENTLEMAN
Attractive, professional, educated WF 55, 5'2", slim, N/S. Interest include movies, concerts, comedy clubs, jazz, dancing, dining out, family time. Seeking WM, 48-55, HWP, for lasting, loving LTR. **1912555**

FIND ME
Attractive SWF 49, N/S, 5'3", 110lbs, slim build, seeks WM, 45-55, N/S, for friendship, and more. **1113901**

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

SWF 57, 5'5", attractive, intelligent, romantic, enjoys walks, dancing and singing, seeks a sim to medium build, N/S, gentleman, 48-65, 5'8"+, for companionship, maybe more. **1175130**

59 YEARS OLD ENTREPRENEUR
Pretty, charming SWF, successful, kind, compassionate, lots of fun, looking for her knight in shining armor. Any sincere, caucasian gentlemen, 55-80, please respond. Hopefully we'll be each others soul mates. **1292074**

DO YOU EXIST?
DWF 58, 5'7", slender, very attractive, college-educated, enjoys movies, theater, sports, concerts, dining and travel. Seeking widowed/divorced WPM, 55-63, athletic, healthy, tall, N/S, D/D-free, with good sense of humor. **1210229**

LOOKING FOR ME?
Energetic SBPF 52, N/S, attractive, educated, sociable, 5'7", 170lbs, enjoys movies, reading, concerts, theater, dining, travel, trying new things. ISO intelligent, spontaneous, active gentleman, N/S, to share these. Let's talk. **1135617**

SOUND LIKE YOU?
SF 20, 5'6", 170lbs, athletic, sweet, fun and energetic, looking to meet a nice, active, fun loving, child-friendly, to share good times, good laughs, talks, smiles and special times. **1172279**

NO DRAMA
SBF 28, outgoing, down-to-earth, loves shopping, bowling, shooting pool, more. ISO a special man, 20-38, with like interests, to share special times. **1172726**

SEEKING MR. RIGHT
Classy SBF, hoping to meet a gentleman, who enjoys a variety of activities, if you're seeking your soulmate, why not try me? **1985794**

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE
SBF 25, outgoing, like to have fun, movies, walks, dinner, travel. Seeking a SM, 21-45, to share interests and companionship. **1193525**

GIRL NEXT DOOR
SBF 22, 5'11", seeking a SM, 18-27, for dinner dates, phone conversations, walks in the park, or just hanging out watching a good movie. **1189347**

ARE YOU MY MATCH?
SBF 29, 5'5", easygoing, laid-back, D/D-free, seeking a SBM, 21-36, honest, caring, for friendship, maybe more. **1188607**

LET'S TALK
SBF 53, 4'11", likes romantic walks, dining and more, seeking a tall, caring SM, 54-58, honest, respectful, who enjoys the same, fun length hair, seeks cool, handsome, down-to-earth SM, drama-free and considerate, to share all the good things life offers. **1191375**

HOPE IT'S YOU
SBM, 30, 5'6", 180lbs, mom, dark complexion, brown eyes, medium length hair, seeks cool, handsome, down-to-earth SM, drama-free and considerate, to share all the good things life offers. **1191375**

SENT FROM HEAVEN
SBF 21, loving, caring, N/S, 18-27, for dinner dates, to spend time with, go out to dinner or the movies. **1201386**

GET TO KNOW ME
Loving, open-minded SBF 143lbs, attractive, enjoys music, dining, concerts, travel, ISO honest, compassionate SM, 57-65, N/S, Possible LTR. **1963760**

VERY CUTE
SBF 56, 5'3", 122lbs, intelligent, sincere, down-to-earth, who wants to commit to someone special. **1113138**

to keep me happy. Attractive, classy, confident, charming WF 49, no kids, seeks SWM, 45+, no kids, N/S, fun, loving, caring. **1580809**

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP
SBF young 60s, w/good morals, caring, nice-looking, 5'3", 155lbs, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs, clean, honest living, partly retired, enjoys art, card playing, casinos, and movies. Seeking honest man 50-60, race open, 5'8", 160lbs, N/S, for companionship. **1206203**

SEEKING MY DEAREST FRIEND
SBFC 5'5", dark brown/black, 180lbs, great sense of humor, honest, kind, seeking BCM who has a sincere need of developing a great friendship. **1205287**

BIG GIRLS NEED LUV
SBF 31, marriage-minded, N/S, romantic, seeks man, 25-68, likes children, having fun, for friendship, maybe more. **1214026**

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

NEW TO AREA
SWM 36, 6'5", athletic build, brown/blue, enjoys sports, outdoors, music, bowling and more. Seeking creative, fun lady with an open mind and heart to share friendship and fun. **1140990**

TALL, DARK AND HANDSOME
Handsome SM, 44, 6'7", 200lbs, brown/blue, never married, no dependents, college grad, intelligent, outgoing, seeks a nice, outgoing, seeks friendly SF, for fun. Age/location open. **1587540**

FRIENDLY OLD MAN
SBM 46, brown-skinned, Leo, N/S, N/D, respectful, honest, sociable, likes cooking, plays, movies, seeks woman, 20-60, friendship, hopefully more. **1114530**

WANTED: SEXY BLACK FEMALE
Sexy, Italian SM, 5'7", 170lbs, fit, athletic, runs daily, has herpes, sensitive, understanding, good sense of humor, likes comedy clubs, theater, dining, more. Seeking attractive BF, 21-40, for LTR. **1130446**

FRIENDSHIP AND MORE
Buy salesman, family-oriented, churchgoing SBM, 36, enjoys art galleries, cultural events, cooking dinner, movies. Seeking respectful, communicative lady, 18-45, for friendship that may lead to romance. **1206876**

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!
Handsome, mature gent SWM, 60, traditional values, romantic, and thoughtful, enjoys cultural events, antiques, short time, etc. Seeking SWF for friendship and companionship. **1176497**

TAKE A CHANCE
Attractive SWPM, 55, sensitive, easygoing, a good listener, good-humored and fun, enjoys travel, movies, music, good food. Seeking romance with snappy, like-minded SBF, someone to share/explare life with. **1171556**

NEED A LITTL' HELP
WJWM, 45, 5'11", 220lbs, is easygoing, fun-loving, enjoys a variety of activities, indoor/outdoor. Looking for LTR, with the right person. **1265340**

ARE U THE RIGHT ONE?
SM, 37, working construction, likes dinner out, travel, movies, good company. Seeking a sweet lady to share these. **1201579**

NICE LOOKING
SWM, 45, 5'2", 240lbs, brown/black, seeking a SWF, 38-45, hwp, who want to get to know each other and go out on dates. Let's see what happens. **1205718**

HONEST AND COMPASSIONATE
SWM 48, 6'7", brown/black, N/S, N/D, enjoys movies, honest, kind, compassionate, humorous, likes good conversations, long walks, movies, antiques. Searching for the same in a woman, 35-55, for dating, fun, possible LTR. **1159291**

A SPECIAL GUY
DWM, 56, 5'10", handsome and secure, seeks honest S/W/F, w/sense of humor, who enjoys travel, candlelight dinners, plays, dancing, concerts, books, movies, and more. Friendship, possible LTR. **1289546**

NICE LOOKING JEWISH GUY
Very honest SM, 62', 225lbs, 46, business owner, attractive, athletic, 35-50, attractive, who likes concerts, sports events, physically fit, emotionally open and intimate S/JF, 25-46, who loves good communication, sharing thoughts, long walks, and days on the lake. **1206873**

NICE GUY
SWPM is looking for a companion, SWF, 50-65, to enjoy each other's company. I like movies, sports, and other things. I'm 68, 155lbs, 5'9", and an active outdoorsman. **1281228**

WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU?
SBM, 44, 5'9", 150lbs, father, enjoys gourmet cooking, beach walks, sunshine, soft rock, more. Seeking a loving, happy lady to share the special times in life. **1151943**

TAKE A LOOK
DWM, 46, 5'9", blonde/hazel, N/S, occasional drinker, likes movies, music, dining out, bowling and the simple things. Seeking a SWF, 35-45, who has similar interests, for phone conversations and more. **1163994**

LOOK HERE
SWPM, 50, looks 40, blond, 5'11", hard-worker, seeking a woman, 35-50, attractive, long hair, who likes concerts, sports events, enjoys jazz or relaxing at home enjoying each other's company. **1208909**

TAKE A CHANCE
SM, 35, 5'11", brown/black, N/S, N/D, enjoys movies, looking for HW proportionate, sexy, easygoing woman for friendship and fun times. **1202869**

ARE YOU OUT THERE?
SM, seeking a SBF, 25+, nice personality, down-to-earth, who likes to have fun. **1203597**

ENJOYS GOING TO CHURCH
SBM, 28, 6'7", 173lbs, N/D, N/Drugs, slim build, brown complexion, glasses, likes movies, long walks, Jesus, cooking, music, bowling, Mexican food, chess, seeks SBF/HF, 25-28, N/S, for friendship, possible romance. **1804553**

LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN
SBM, like quiet times, basketball, movies and sporting events. Seeking a nice, honest, caring woman, 26-48, for friendship, possible LTR. **1204532**

JUST A SIMPLE MAN
SBM, 6', athletic, enjoys a good looking, like biking, web surfing and spending time together. Seeks a woman, 35-45, intelligent, family-oriented, for friendship, possible LTR. **1206050**

THE REAL DEAL
SWM, intelligent, honest, like to try new adventures, seeking a SF, 22-33, mature, attractive, open-minded, smart, for friendship, adventures and more. **1205791**

LOIS LANE
Even a modern day superman needs a little help. SWM, 40s, fun, outgoing, adventurous, seeks SF hwp, sexy, with similar qualities. **1204559**

CUTE CUDDLY BOY
Wise and kind SWM, 46, enjoys simplicity, art fairs, flea markets, festivals. Seeking the company of a lady with similar interests. **1204569**

A GOOD CATCH
SBM 35, 5'8", 220lbs, dark complexion, shaved head, mustache, correctional officer, father, looking for a loving, good-hearted, child-friendly lady with whom to share life and all it offers. **1144698**

Honest, trustworthy SM, 47, jeans-shirt type, easygoing, funny, get to be around and very handy around the house. ISO easygoing, laid-back woman to share friendship, fun, laughs, lots more. **1211651**

LIFE IS FUN
SBM, 44, 5'7", average build, N/S, likes movies, seeks WF, N/S, fun-loving, for friendship, possible romance. **1178222**

WANT TO JOIN ME?

SWM 38, social driver, smoker, electrician by trade, looking for an outgoing, honest, fun lady who likes fireworks, enjoys biking, hiking, snowmobiling, outdoor activities, quiet times. **1200127**

EASYGOING
Sharp, sociable SWM, with good character and pleasant personality, likes the outdoors, fishing, motor sports etc. WJWM SWF, for dating and fun times. **187614**

LET'S GET GOING!
SWM 40s, attractive, good shape, great listener, enjoys good conversation, spontaneous fun, and laughter, seeks personable SWF for dating and more. **1128302**

SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED
SBM 46, looking for that special person for LTR, someone who enjoys walks, movies, sporting events, cuddling at home. Please be shapely, independent and know what you want in life. **1692418**

TALL, ATHLETIC
SWM, 47, 6'2", 200lbs, part-time personal trainer, brown/blue, degreed, outgoing personality, enjoys outdoors, working out, new activities, seeking friendly SF age/location open. **1931308**

HANDSOME & FUN-LOVING
Sincere, fun-loving, down-to-earth SWM, ISO romantic, honest, intelligent BF, 25-35, with great SOH, for companionship, possible LTR. **1988147**

THE REAL DEAL
SWM 59, handsome, N/S, blue eyes, 5'9", 165lbs. Catholic, down to earth, easygoing, seeks WF, 42-65, N/S, physically fit, with classy and style. **1134098**

AMERICAN MADE
WM, 45, above-average looking, brown/blue, athletic, honest, good sense of humor, seeks compatible woman, with same interests, age open. **1131277**

MAN WITH CUTE DIMPLES!
Friendly, affectionate, warm, respectful SM, 43, N/S, in search of an easygoing, honest, active woman, with God Jr her heart, hwp, for friendship, romance and more. No head game/drama. **1165436**

DWM, 43, 8', blond/green, smoker, with daughter, loves bike riding, reading, classic rock and symphony music. Seeking WF, 30-42, smoker, to share quiet evenings, for LTR. **1175362**

Loving, sociable SM, 52, 6'1", 210lbs, smoker, D/D-free, pet owner, homemaker, enjoys The Blues. Looking for a loving lady to spend a little time with. Friendship first, possible LTR. **1202143**

Charming, loving, down-to-earth SM, 27, romantic, real, employed, 5'11", 160lbs, chocolate complexion, very attractive, brown eyes, clean-cut, nice smile, antiques, seeking similar lady to share the good things in life. **1202652**

MINISTER SEEKING
SM, 56, seeks full-figured, caring, tall, attractive, commitment-minded SF, 59'-6'3", race open, who loves The Lord and all life offers. **1202627**

DO YOU LIKE TIGERS?
Sweet, friendly, handsome male, 31, energetic, fun, likes to travel, seeking nice, sweet, caring, attractive female, for fun, friendship, possible LTR. **1215273**

SOMEONE 2 TALK 2
SBM, 5'6", enjoys swimming, basketball, movies and hanging out with friends, seeking a woman, 18-30, attractive, to get to know, maybe LTR if compatible. **1203356**

BRUNETTES ARE BETTER
SWM, 56', blonde/blue, masculine build, seeking a SWF, 25-35, with good values, who enjoys the outdoors, movies, dining, traveling and shopping, brunettes a+ smokers ok. **1203196**

HANDSOME MALE
SBM, 6', HWP professionally employed, kind, considerate, confidence, likes concerts, travel, dining. Seeking WF, 30-58, attractive, passionate, loving, affectionate. **1894967**

IM YOUR MAN
SBM, 21, 6'1", intelligent, employer, honest, likes movies, chess/dancing and more. Seeking a SBF, 18-25, caring, slim, for casual dating and fun. **1203809**

CATCH OF THE DAY!
SWM, 34, blonde/blue, N/S, 180lbs, likes sports, camping, fishing and hiking, seeking a W/HF, 21-40, for a good conversation, friendship, maybe more. **1204057**

READ THIS AD!
SBM, 20, 5'9", outgoing, likes swimming, seeking a woman, 18-21, to spend time with. **1203820**

HILADIES
SBM, 30, dark complexion, hard-working, student, looking for a loving, good-hearted woman, who has a zest for life to share the special times, good talks and a lasting relationship. **1204961**

BOATER SEEKS 1ST MATE
SWM, 35, N/S, good-looking, trustworthy, enjoys boating, good music, working out, Seeking very attractive SF, 28-40, race unimportant, for friendship leading to possible LTR. **1205049**

MUSCULAR AND ATHLETIC
Tall, athletic SWM, 44, 6'2", 200lbs, brown/blue, never married, no dependents, college grad, intelligent, outgoing, seeks a nice, outgoing, seeks friendly SF, for fun. Age/location open. **1587540**

HIL
SWM, 43, 6'2", 200lbs, with salt-n-pepper hair, seeks thin SF under 42, with long hair and nice legs for a life of happiness, humor and love. **1192324**

LOVE COMPATIBLE LAUGHTER
SWM, 49, 5'9", 165lbs, is nice about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible, intelligent, honest, 18-30, who is traveling and shopping, brunettes a+ smokers ok. **1203196**

WORTH THE CALL
SBM, 36, dark complexion, medium build, 180lbs, looking for a sweet, sexy, real lady to chill with and get to know. **1175071**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Affectionate, true SM, 21, likes home-cooking, nights out. Seeking loving, sexy, sweet lady who knows how to have a good time, for sharing, dates, talks, friendship, fun. Possible LTR. **1200931**

WHY NOT CALL?
Honest, fun, easygoing SM, 6'4", brown/brown, seeks sexy, lady who knows how to have a good time. **1200202**

NICE GUY
SM, 22, easygoing, honest, affectionate, looking for a good-hearted, sweet, cool, goal-oriented SF, to get to know, share friendship, fun and maybe more. **1200811**

A WALK AND A TALK
Try this easygoing, lovable SWM, 50, good listener, who enjoys book stores, coffee shops, hiking, movies, and more. I seek a like-minded counterpart for where ever it goes. **1200830**

GOOD BETTER BEST!
SWM, 49, 5'9", 190lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible, intelligent, honest, 18-30, who is traveling and shopping, brunettes a+ smokers ok. **1203196**

LONELY & READY
SWM, 49, average build, Italian, heart of gold, Virgo, N/S, seeks WF, 45-55, with a nice build, ready for LTR. Serious replies only. Redford Area. **1806355**

HOPEN'TS YOU
DWM, 56, father with grown children, semi-retired, car mechanic, home owner, enjoys fishing, working around the home, camping, seeking active, happy lady with like interests for companionship, smiles, special times. **1207955**

SEARCHING FOR LADY LOVE
SM, 51, 5'11", 185lbs, enjoys the outdoors, boating, dining out, music, long walks. Seeking honest and cooperative lady who enjoys same activities, for companionship, friendship and romance. **1146012**

FRIEND AND CONFIDANT
SWM, 74, active, successful, financially secure, seeking a nice woman, 40+ for dining, dancing and casual fun. I'm a good listener, and would love to hear from you! **1193382**

ROMANTIC & ATTRACTIVE
DWM, 80, 5'11", 190lbs, enjoys nice-looking lady to help share each others heart and life with adventures. **1146279**

HILADIES
Loving, respectful SBM, 26, 5'2", 155lbs, brown complexion, solid build, fun to be with, looking for a nice, cool, loving lady to share some fun times, friendship and maybe more. **1205672**

HONEYDEW MAN
SWM, 60s, healthy, willing to be handy for easygoing, pleasant, passionate lady, 45-70, North Oakland. Hope you're easy to please. **1806355**

YOUR SEARCH ENDS HERE
SWM, 58, 5'10", 175lbs, N/S, employed, business manager, kind, considerate, seeks BF, 50+, N/S, who enjoys the simple things in life. Race unimportant. Woodland Beach, MI. **1205600**

LOOKING FOR A SOUL MATE
SBM, 60, caring and thoughtful. Likes movies, travel, dining out and more. Seeking a SBF age and race open. **1132859**

GOT WIT?
DBM, late 40s, homemaker, N/S, loves traveling, taking part in community events, jazz and comedy clubs. Seeking WF, 42-62, smoker, responsible drinker ok, not afraid to take a chance. **1145859**

UNUSUAL REQUEST
Nice-looking, extremely busy, Grosse Pt. SWPM, 6'3", 228lbs, N/D, N/Drugs, ISO over 45 also extremely busy SWFP, pretty lady, for great friendship and special times. Know how to treat a lady and practice the golden rule. **1143494**

CALL ME SOMETIME
Self-employed SM, 51, 5'11", 177lbs, blue eyes, loves enjoys motorcycles, the outdoors, travel, cooking, music from modern rock to motown, and much more. ISO affectionate, honest BF, slim-medium build. Friendship/LTR. **1214647**

READY WITH A SMILE
Cute Italian male, 55, 6'2", 240lbs, N/S, shaved head/glasses, loves photography, comedy shows and making people laugh. Seeking a SWF, 40-55, N/S, to make her smile. **1165658**

SWM, 52, in shape, sober, enjoys singing karaoke, playing guitar, animals, the simple things. Seeking SF, 30-45, in shape, no kids, and a good country singing voice for friendship, more. **1188597**

ONLY TIME WILL TELL
SBM, 54, 6', 170lbs, D/D-free, affectionate, spontaneous, enjoys movies

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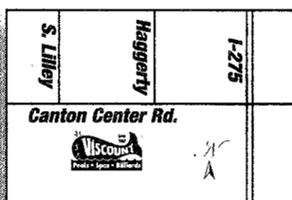
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Three things to lower high blood pressure

Dave from Wyandotte is concerned about his high blood pressure and wants to know what he can do to bring it down?

High blood pressure is a very serious condition which affects one in three American adults. It can cause serious health problems, even death. Here are three simple things you can do:

First, exercise! Regular exercise can lower blood pressure by 10 points. It can even prevent the onset of hypertension. Second, eat right! A landmark study called Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension, or DASH, showed a diet full of fruits and vegetables, low-fat dairy, poultry, fish, nuts and whole grains can lower your blood pressure. The third step is to control your weight! Just losing 10 percent of your current weight or even 10 pounds can dramatically reduce your blood pressure.



Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

Rosie from Allen Park suffers from allergies. She does not want to rely on medication and wants to know what else she can do?

Rosie, you are not alone! About 50 million people suffer with allergies. It is the sixth leading cause of chronic disease in the United States. More than half of those who battle with allergies suffer with hay fever or pollen allergy. It causes more than 16 million doctor visits each year. The key is to avoid pollen exposure.

Try to stay indoors when the pollen count is high. This includes dry, windy days or between the hours of 5 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Keep your windows closed in your home and car. Use the air conditioning unit instead.

Don't cut the grass, have someone do it for you.

Finally, don't hang clothes and bedding outside to dry.

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, e-mail Peter through his Web site www.peternielsen.com. Contact him at Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

Where there's smoke, there's fire

Leg pain can mean heart danger, U-M expert says

BY KARA GAVIN
CORRESPONDENT

Symptoms of peripheral artery disease can be a valuable warning of future heart attack and stroke danger — if you pay attention to the signs.

David Dow thought he was having back problems and that his legs were hurting as a result. As it turns out, the pain may have saved his life.

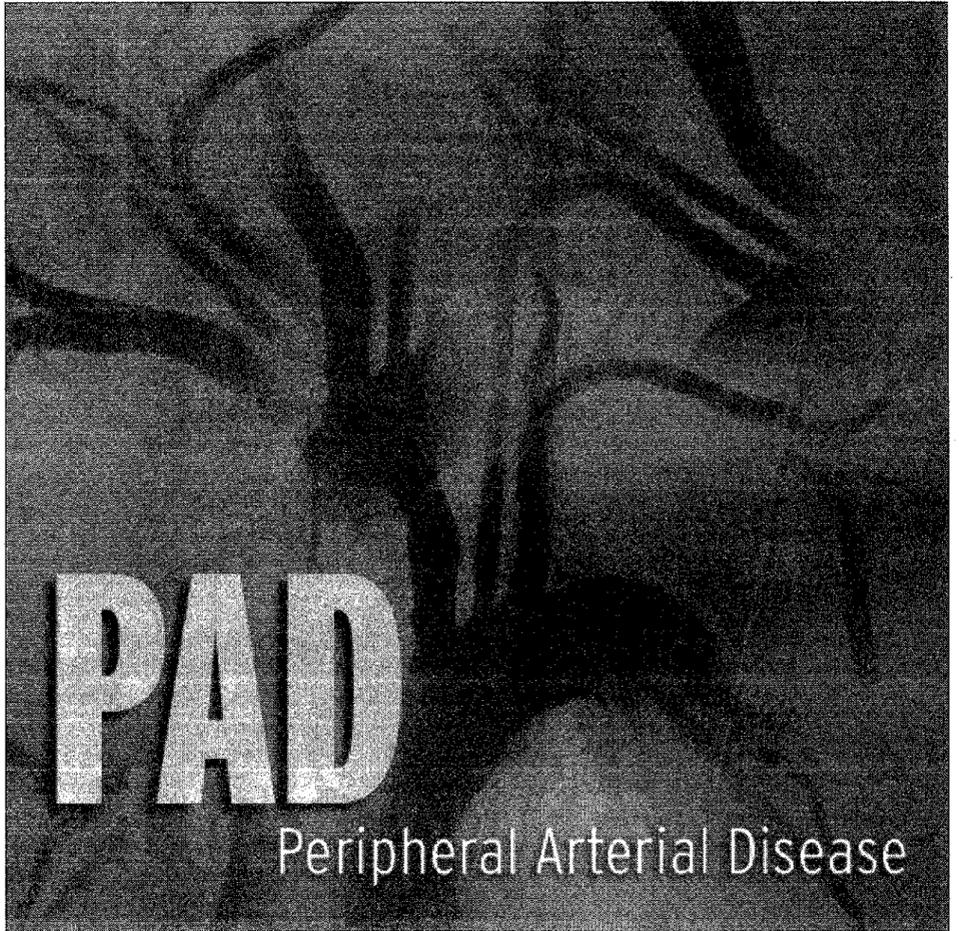
An otherwise healthy 57-year-old, Dow figured he just needed to learn some back-strengthening exercises, so he found a personal trainer to help him. But despite the workouts, his leg pain got worse, making it hard for him even to walk from the car to the grocery store entrance. Dow and the trainer suspected something else was wrong and he sought the advice of his doctor.

Soon his doctor's tests revealed the true cause: blockages in the blood vessels of his legs. In fact, the arteries going to his lower extremities were nearly 100 percent blocked. The cause? Years of heavy smoking and high-fat meals and other factors had caused cholesterol, scar tissue and blood clots to build up inside his blood vessels.

Most people think this kind of clogged artery disease, or arteriosclerosis, only happens in the heart. But as Dow's case shows, it can happen throughout the body. When it does, it's called peripheral arterial disease, or PAD.

In some people, PAD causes leg pain that acts as an early warning that someone is at high risk for a heart attack or a stroke, says a University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center expert.

"This is the hallmark of a disease that's all over," said Dr. James Stanley, a director of the U-M Cardiovascular Center and the vascular surgeon who operated on Dow. "It's like gray hair. You don't just get it on one side of your head.



So if you've got this kind of blockage in your leg, you're going to have it other places."

In fact, nearly a quarter of people who have leg pain due to PAD will be dead in five years, mostly due to heart attacks and other heart prob-

lems, Stanley said. For people like Dow, whose leg pain kept him from walking even short distances, the odds are even worse. As many as half will die by five years.

Fortunately, Dow got diagnosed and treated. Stanley performed

a bypass operation to open his blocked leg arteries, similar to the bypasses that heart patients have. A recent checkup showed he's doing well.

Please see PAD, C11

Buddy's Pizza and The Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers present

"Dining with the Stars"

Enjoy Detroit's best pizza and meet your favorite stars — all for charity

TO ENTER: In 100 words or less, tell us why you want to dine at Buddy's with Jay Towers, Shila and Bill McAllister — the crew of Motor City Middays on live 97.1 FREE FM (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

Email your entry to: BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com by 5 p.m. by Tuesday, July 17

WINNER RECEIVES:

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- Dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.
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Watch your Observer, Eccentric or Mirror newspaper for the opportunity to enter our upcoming "Dining with the Stars" contests:

August: CoCo of FM 98 WJLB
September: CHUCK GADICA of WDIV-CHANNEL 4

No purchase necessary to enter. Buddy's Pizza will review all entries and select the top four "fan" letters. The star(s) featured for the month will make the final selection. Lunch and/or dinner date to be determined with winner and star by Buddy's representatives.

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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JULY

Divorce support group

Group discussion 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, July 10, Patricia Kasody-Coyle will also be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come, first served basis, in the Women's Resource Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia. For information, call (734) 462-4443.

Camp Oasis

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America, Michigan Chapter (CCFA) host its sixth annual Camp Oasis July 15-21 at Camp Copneconic in Fenton for children ages seven to 17 who have Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis. The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for persons with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis. For information or to have application information mailed, send e-mail to michigan@ccfa.org or call (248) 737-0900.

Hospice volunteers needed

Looking for caring volunteers to provide in-home companionship visits to patients with life-limiting illnesses and/or respite support for their caregivers and families. Weekday availability preferred. St. John Hospice provides services in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and St. Clair counties. Mileage reimbursement available. For information, call (800) 248-2298 or visit www.stjohn.org/Hospice.

Volunteer training

Heartland Hospice Services is looking for caring and compassionate individuals for hospice volunteer training to provide companionship, support and friendly visits for patients and their caregivers. We are located in Southfield and serve the Tri-county area. Evening and daytime classes available. Office support is also needed. To register, call (800) 770-9859.

UPCOMING

Health camps

Students can learn about their bodies at two camps at the St. Joseph

Mercy Health Exploration Center in Canton. For information and to register, call (734) 398-7518.

Amazing Me focuses on keeping the body healthy and features demonstrations, dissections, games, crafts, and activities Aug. 6-10 for students completing second to fourth grades. Awesome Asthma is designed to improve self-image and promote independence in kids with the disease. Campers learn about medications, risk factors and self-management Aug. 13-17 (students in grades 2-5).

Post-polio conference

Presented by Michigan Polio Network, a nonprofit providing information and education on the later effects of polio, Friday-Saturday, Sept. 21-22, at Soaring Eagle Casino Conference Center, Mt. Pleasant. Keynote speaker is Dr. Daniel Ryan, medical director, St. John Post-Polio Clinic. Cost is \$45. Pre-registration required. Call (248) 476-2477 or (313) 885-7855.

ONGOING

Our Body exhibit

Our Body exhibit tickets \$24.95, \$22.95 seniors, \$19.95 children. Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by adult. Advance tickets on sale at www.detroitssciencecenter.org. Exhibit continues to Sept. 3, at Detroit Science Center. For information, call (313) 577-8400 or visit www.detroitssciencecenter.org.

MS support group

Family and friends of those with MS (multiple sclerosis) are invited to attend a new support group held at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at Botsford Hospital's A & E building in Farmington. For directions call (248) 231-1136.

Volunteers needed

Sandcastles grief support program for children and teens needs volunteers for Rochester, Southfield, Livonia and other sites. Sponsored by Hospices of Henry Ford Health System, the programs meetings are held biweekly. SandCastles also offers a weekend bereavement

camp in August which is in need of volunteers. For more information or to register for training, call (313) 874-6881.

Hatha Yoga classes

Beginning and Intermediate continue 5:15-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays to May 22, at St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile at Levan, Livonia. To register, call (734) 655-1145. Hatha Yoga increases flexibility, energy level and strength at your own pace in a non-competitive setting. Includes meditation and breathing techniques. Class participants need to be able to move between a standing position to a hands and knees position with ease.

TOPS

Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, the group meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight sensibly and keep it off. For more information, call Margaret at (734) 838-0322.

Running 101

Classes for beginning runner 6:30 p.m. Thursdays in Ann Arbor and Northville, Mondays in Novi, Wednesdays in West Bloomfield, five week course of five sessions presented by Running Fit. Cost is \$39. To register, visit www.runningfit.com.

Gardasil vaccine

Gardasil is the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer, precancerous genital lesions and genital warts due to Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend HPV vaccination of girls ages 11-12, girls as young as 9 years old may be vaccinated. The vaccine is also recommended for girls ages 13-18 to catch up on missed shots or to complete the shot series. Gardasil is available at the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan by appointment 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday, in Oak Park at 25900 Greenfield, Suite 600. For information, appointment or pricing, call (800) 882-5720, ext. 8755.

PAD

FROM PAGE C10

WAKEUP CALL

"For sure, it's a wakeup call," says Dow, who has quit smoking and changed his eating habits. "You know that old saying, 'Where there's smoke, there's fire?' I'm sure that I not only have the vascular issues in my lower extremities, but I'm sure I have them in other parts of my body."

Dow isn't alone, says Stanley, who has operated on thousands of patients with severe PAD in his decades as a professor of vascular surgery at the U-M Medical School. Nearly 30 million people in the United States have some form of PAD, though the vast majority are "silent" cases that don't cause symptoms. Among people over age 70, nearly one person in five has PAD.

Who's most at risk for PAD? People over 50, smokers, people with diabetes, people with high blood pressure, people with high cholesterol and people who are overweight or obese, Stanley explained. In other words, it's the same group of individuals who have a high risk of heart attack and stroke.

So the advice for preventing PAD, or stopping it before it gets serious, is largely the same as the advice for preventing a heart attack or stroke: quit smoking, eat healthier, get more exercise, control your blood sugar if you have diabetes, lose weight and get your blood pressure and cholesterol levels checked. And ask your doctor if you should take a daily aspirin to prevent clots, or drugs to reduce your blood pressure and cholesterol.

Even though PAD makes people's legs hurt or feel tired when they walk or exercise — a symptom that doctors call "claudication," which feels like a "Charlie horse"-type cramp — one of the best things to do is to walk more, Stanley says.

"The more a patient walks, the more likely it is that they will develop little 'detour' blood vessels, called 'collateral' vessels, around the obstruction," he said. The large majority of people can develop these vessels that will ease the pain.

REST PAIN

But in some people, PAD has already gotten bad enough to cause pain or numbness even when the person is sleeping —

something called "rest pain." Stanley says this pain often awakens patients from sleep. It most often occurs in the ball of the feet and may feel like someone has wrapped a bandage around the foot. This level of symptoms is ominous, he says, because it indicates a more severe blockage without adequate collateral vessels.

Another sign of severe PAD is the development of painful sores, or ulcers, on the feet and toes. These occur because the blood flow to the lower leg isn't enough to feed the tissue, and it begins to break down. People with diabetes, whose bodies have an especially hard time healing such ulcers, are most at risk. Left untreated, skin ulcers can get worse and even turn into gangrene — often leading to amputation.

The vast majority of PAD cases are nowhere near this serious. But people who don't get help for symptoms when they first start may find their problem becoming much worse over time.

So Stanley recommends that anyone who has discomfort in their leg or legs, especially new pain that lasts more than a week, should talk to a doctor. She or he might perform a Doppler examination — a painless, non-invasive ultrasound test that detects blood pressure in the extremity.

The Doppler test can tell whether someone has PAD and how bad the blockage might be. Depending on the result, the doctor might recommend an MRA (magnetic resonance arteriogram) of the leg, or a conven-

tional arteriogram that involves injecting dye into the leg arteries through a device called a catheter.

If a severe blockage is found, like in Dow's case, there are several options. Two are similar to those for heart patients: a minimally invasive procedure like an angioplasty that opens blockages with a tiny balloon, or bypass surgery to place a new graft to carry blood into the blocked area.

There are also promising new options on the horizon, to help the body grow new blood vessels in the blocked area. The U-M CVC is the first place in the world where patients with severe PAD can volunteer for an experimental new gene-therapy treatment called MultiGeneAngio.

The MultiGeneAngio trial takes cells from a vein in the patient's arm, adds in new genes that encourage the growth of blood vessels and then injects the cells into the blocked artery using a minimally invasive technique. Right now, it's still being tested for safety and to find the right dose of cells, says Dr. Michael Grossman, the U-M interventional cardiologist who is leading the study at U-M. But if the study proves successful, it may one day become a new treatment option for patients.

Until that day, the best weapon against PAD is better knowledge of the fact that pain in the legs is more than an inconvenience. "If one has PAD, there are two issues," Stanley says. "What happens to your leg, and what happens to your life."

Red Cross holds holiday blood drive

The American Red Cross will hold a critical holiday blood drive, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, July 2, at Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, on the southbound M-5 Service Drive in Farmington.

The week of the 4th of July is an especially difficult time to collect the

800 units of blood that are needed on a daily basis to fulfill the requirements of our local hospitals. Platelets have a shelf life of only five days and are necessary for treating patients undergoing cancer therapy, open heart surgery, leukemia and aplastic anemia.

To help encourage participation, the Red Cross is holding a raffle for a two-year lease on a new Lincoln MKX for anyone attempting to donate between June 25 and Sept. 5.

One donation of blood will help three hospital patients. To schedule an appointment call (517)545-7712.

Arthritis Today

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ARTHRITIS IN MICHIGAN

The Michigan Department of Community Health recently released the information gained from its latest survey on arthritis in the state. The following is a sample of the information the survey obtained:

- 2.4 million Michigan adults age 18 and older reported doctor-diagnosed arthritis
- 850,000 Michigan adults reported restrictions in activities because of their arthritis
- Two-thirds of people with arthritis in Michigan were younger than age 65
- The cost of arthritis in Michigan was \$5.6 billion
- Nearly 800,000 Michigan residents reported that arthritis limited whether they could work or how much they could work
- There were 31,109 hospitalizations for arthritis related hip and knee replacements at an estimated cost of \$878 million
- As compared with Michigan residents without arthritis, those residents with arthritis were three times as likely as to report having other conditions such as diabetes, osteoporosis or heart disease

These statistics give an outline of how pervasive arthritis is in Michigan and how serious it is. Not mentioned, but a feature you should keep in mind, is the value of early treatment.

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ART IN THE PARK

Opportunity Center repeats fund-raiser

Community Opportunity Center (COC) will hold its third annual Italian Night Monday, July 16, at East Side Mario's at 31630 Plymouth Road west of Merriman in Livonia.

This is the third year East Side Mario's has partnered with COC to host the Italian Night fund-raiser with all proceeds being used to meet the housing and personal needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who are affiliated with COC.

Anyone who dines at the restaurant from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on July 16 will be treated to East Side Mario's celebrated spaghetti, salad and bread for just \$10. Drinks, tips and tax are extra. The restaurant will donate the entire \$10 to Community Opportunity Center, a non-profit housing corporation supporting adults with developmental disabili-

ties in Wayne County.

Last year some 350 diners attended the affair raising \$3,500 for COC. Some of the wait staff donated tips they earned during the four-hour period, and some diners made direct donations to COC that night.

"We are excited to partner with East Side Mario's to raise almost \$7,000 over two events to benefit persons with developmental disabilities," said Denise King, executive director of Community Opportunity Center. "This was a fun and easy way for our family members, friends and supporters to enjoy good food and a wonderful night out while helping meet the needs of the men and women with developmental disabilities whom we are fortunate to assist. The wait staff at East Side Mario's has been very kind and professional in making sure our

guests received top service and enjoyed a memorable evening."

The first event was so popular that COC and East Side Mario decided to repeat Italian Night in 2006 and 2007. Last year East Side Mario's Manager Joe Hibbert was honored with an Award of Special Achievement by COC for his leadership in helping stage the now annual Italian Night.

Community Opportunity Center, based in Livonia, is a non-profit management corporation that provides leadership and oversight to more than 100 people with developmental disabilities who live among 22 homes and apartment settings in western Wayne County. Homes and apartments are in Plymouth, Livonia, Garden City, Westland and Redford.

For additional information call Denise King at 734-422-1020.

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