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THURSDAY
April 3, 2008

WESTLAND Observer

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Westland teen pleads guilty in beheading

2nd teen's trial set to start Monday

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Alexander Letkemann, the 18-year-old from Westland accused of helping kill a River Rouge man in November, has accepted a plea to a charge of second-degree murder in the case.

Letkemann, who was scheduled to go to trial on first-degree murder and mutilation of a corpse charges

Monday, pleaded guilty to the lesser charge in Wayne County Circuit Court Tuesday.

The agreement includes sentences of 20-30 years on the second-degree murder charge and 10 years on the mutilation charge. The sentences would run concurrently. A felony murder charge, dismissed at a preliminary hearing in 35th District Court but reinstated by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge

Annette Berry, will be dismissed when the plea becomes official at Letkemann's April 23 sentencing, court officials said.

Both Maria Miller, a spokeswoman for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, and Letkemann's attorney, Raymond Cassar, declined to comment, citing a gag order imposed by Berry in the case.

Letkemann and Jean Pierre Orlewicz were arrested two days after the Nov. 7 murder of Daniel Sorensen and charged with kill-

ing him in the garage of Orlewicz's grandfather's Canton Township home. Police say the pair then beheaded Sorensen and dumped his body in a Northville Township field, burning it to try to mask identification. The head was then thrown into the Rouge River, from where it was recovered a few days later.

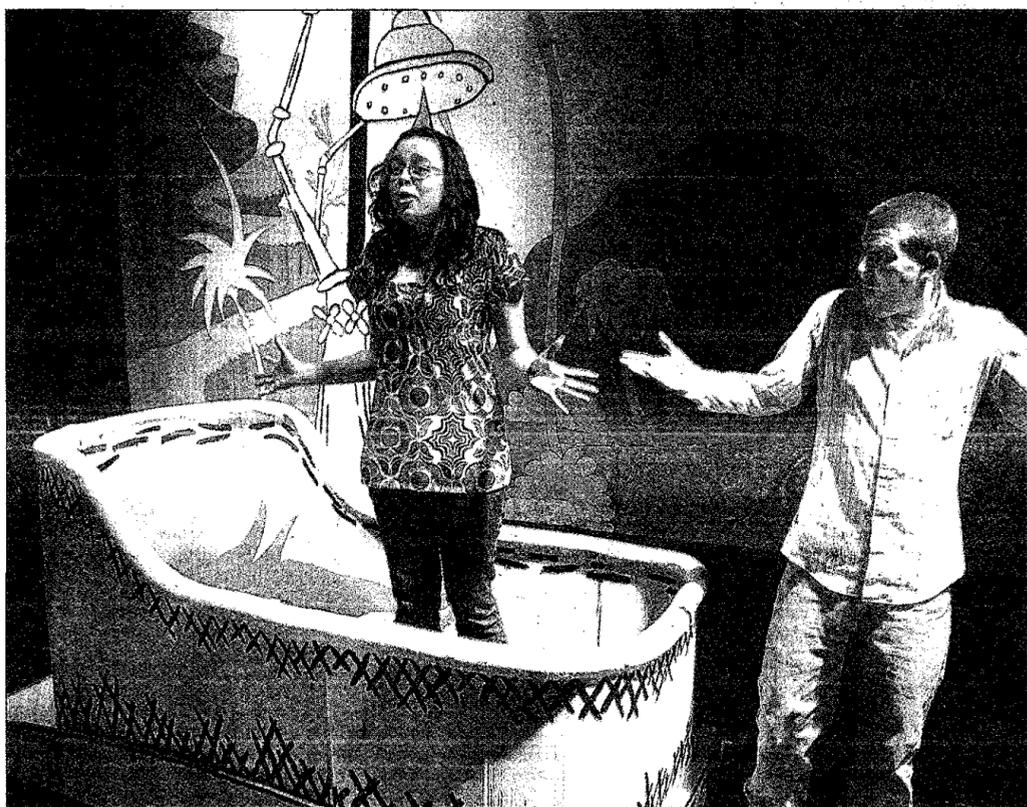
Orlewicz is scheduled to go on trial on first-degree murder, felony murder and mutilation of a corpse



Alexander Letkemann (left) of Westland, shown here at his preliminary hearing with attorney Raymond Cassar, accepted a plea to second-degree murder Monday in the death of Daniel Sorensen.

Please see **PLEA, A3**

FILE PHOTO



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kim Chau as JoJo and Doug Malcolm as Cat in the Hat rehearse the song, "It's Possible," from the musical "Seussical," which is being presented April 17-19 by the Wayne Memorial High School Theatrical Guild.

Thespians get 'Seussical' for musical

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

He may be a beloved children's author, but Dr. Seuss is moving up to high school - Wayne Memorial High School to be exact.

His storybook characters like Horton, Cat in the Hat and the Grinch will come to life on the stage of the school's Stockmeyer Auditorium in the Theatrical Guild production of *Seussical* Thursday-Saturday, April 17-19.

"I wanted to chose a play that had a variety of characters, a lot of plays don't have a lot of male roles," said director Katie Sullivan. "I liked this play because it has a lot of animal characters that aren't necessarily gender specific. People also ask if

'INCREDIBLE' SHOW

What: "Seussical," a musical based on the stories and characters found in 20 Dr. Seuss stories.

Who: Presented by the Wayne Memorial Theatrical Guild.

When: 7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, April 17-19.

Where: Wayne Memorial High School's Stockmeyer Auditorium, on Glenwood west of Wayne Road, Wayne.

What: Tickets are \$8 for students and \$10 for adults. They're available at the door or by contacting Katie Sullivan by e-mail at sullivak@wwcsd.net.

we chose this because of the movie, but we chose the play early on in the school year. It wasn't until only a few weeks



Alyssa Lucas as Sour Kangaroo sings 'Biggest Blame Foor' about Horton during a scene from "Seussical." Rebecca Smith (right) plays as the sloth.

before *Horton Hears a Who!* came out that we realized there was a movie."

A cast of 25 students appear in the production which centers around Horton

the Elephant's efforts to save his friend JoJo and the other inhabitants of Who. It also features characters

Please see **MUSICAL, A3**

Ex-convict tells police he robbed Westland couple

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An ex-convict facing trial in northern Michigan for the stabbing death of his former wife has confessed to robbing an 83-year-old man last August at Willow Creek Apartments in Westland, police have confirmed.

Jerry Jay Anderson, who is facing trial in Grand Traverse County on charges he killed his 67-year-old wife Gladys, confessed to robbing a Westland man and hitting him in the face

before fleeing in a car last Aug. 23, said Westland police Sgt. Ed Price.

Anderson, 47, admitted to a Grand Traverse County Sheriff Department detective that he robbed the Westland man, who was attacked while he was helping his wife get out of a car near their Willow Creek residence, Price said.

Anderson's confession prompted Price, accompanied by police Sgt. David Heater, to drive to Grand Traverse County.

Please see **ROBBERY, A3**

Resident's call helps nab break-in suspect

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An alert resident's quick action helped Westland police nab a suspect accused of breaking into a drug rehab office early Sunday near Merriman and Cherry Hill, police Lt. Dan Karrick said.

A neighbor called police around 2:30 a.m. to report he had just seen a suspect smash out a window and climb into a main office for Safe Step Recovery, which offers housing and programs at numerous locations for recovering drug addicts and alcoholics.

Police officers rushed to the scene and captured the suspect before he could get away with undisclosed contents from the office, Karrick said.

"We caught him while he was walking out," the lieutenant said. "This certainly shows that the police need the help of all the citizens. We work in partnership with them. Without their eyes and ears out there, we couldn't have caught this guy when we did -- if ever."

On Tuesday morning, Westland 18th District Judge Sandra Cicirelli arraigned Westland resident Gary Hubbard, 37, on felony charges of breaking and entering, larceny in a building and being a third-degree habitual offender. A not-guilty plea was entered for him.

Cicirelli ordered Hubbard jailed in lieu of a \$20,000 cash/surety bond and scheduled an April 10 preliminary hearing that will determine whether he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The charge of breaking and entering is punishable by 10 years in prison with a conviction, while larceny carries a four-year term.

However, Hubbard could face a lengthier sentence, if convicted, because he is considered a habitual offender. According to the Michigan Department of Corrections, Hubbard already has served time in prison for other crimes related to breaking and entering.

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Volume 43
Number 89



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INDEX

APARTMENTS	C5
AUTOMOTIVE	C8
CROSSWORD PUZZLE	C6
HOMETOWNLIFE	D1
JOBS	C9
OBITUARIES	D4
OPINION	A8
PINK	D6
REAL ESTATE	C3
SERVICE GUIDE	C3
SPORTS	B1

Coming Sunday
in Health



Walk focuses attention on Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis

Suspect sought for fast-food robberies

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland police believe that a serial robber was involved in three holdups that occurred since Jan. 25 at fast-food restaurants on the city's south side.

Authorities have released surveillance photos of the suspect, and they are urging anyone who may recognize him to call the Westland Police

Department's detective bureau at (734) 721-6311.

Police Sgt. Brian Miller said the suspect is being sought for armed robberies that occurred Jan. 25 at Quiznos sub shop near the southwest corner of Cherry Hill and Merriman roads; March 5 at the Subway restaurant near the northeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Merriman; and March 24 at the Kentucky Fried Chicken store on Wayne Road near

Glenwood.

The suspect brandished what was described as a silver revolver with a dark handle. He demanded money from employees, but he didn't fire any shots and no one was injured, Miller said.

Prior to fleeing the scene, the suspect has ordered employees into walk-in freezers.

The suspect is described as a black male in his late 20s or

early 30s. He is about 6-foot-3 or 6-foot-4 and around 220 pounds. He has a goatee and a mustache and was seen wearing a wedding band on his left hand.

If caught and successfully prosecuted, the suspect could face penalties ranging up to life in prison for armed robbery.



Westland police are asking for the public's help in identifying this suspect, wanted for questioning in connection with three robberies of fast-food restaurants since Jan. 25 on the city's south side.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Voter deadline

The last day to register to vote in May 6 school board elections in Westland is April 7, City Clerk Eileen DeHart confirmed.

There are five candidates vying for two four-year terms on the Wayne-Westland Community Schools. In the Livonia Public School District, which takes in the north end of Westland, three candidates are vying for two seats in the May 6 election.

For more information, call the clerk's office at (734) 467-3185.

Garden Club

The Westland Garden Club will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 12, at the Collins House, located in the Westland Historic Village Park on Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill. There will be a discussion on landscaping plans for the park and on the plant and seed exchange, which will be happening on May 15. Everyone is invited. For more information call (734) 522-3918.

Poetry Month

Perhaps it's the best — or worst — poem you've ever written. Never mind. In celebration of April as National Poetry Month, the Westland public library is inviting aspiring poets to share their work. Visit the library and choose from a list of forms of poetry such as Haiku, Ode, Found and the Pits (that would be the worst poem you've ever written).

Anyone interested may visit the reference desk display and submit one entry per poetic form. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at a library poetry month event at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 23.

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

5K walk/run

The city will join North Brothers Ford in urging walkers and runners to help cancer research by joining the company's 10th annual 5K run/walk, scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, May 17. The event will start from the Bailey Recreation Center. All proceeds will benefit the Karmanos Cancer Institute. Pre-registration deadline is May 13. For more information, call Jackie Marcaccini at

ON THE WEB

For expanded version of Around Westland, visit our online edition at www.hometownlife.com and click on Westland.

(734) 524-1230 or send an e-mail to info@northbros.com.

Mayoral bowl

Westland Mayor William Wild is inviting residents to help raise money for the American Cancer Society's 2008 Relay for Life.

One event, "Skate with Mayor Wild," is scheduled for 1-2:20 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Westland's Mike Modano Ice Arena, on Wildwood north of Ford. Admission and skate rental are free and participants will receive a free "Wild's Walkers" Relay for Life T-shirt. Donations may be made.

A variety of teams will be raising money for this year's Relay, scheduled for 10 a.m. May 31 to 10 a.m. June 1 at Jaycee Park, at Wildwood and Hunter.

For more information about Relay, call Holly Soranno at (248) 663-3452 or e-mail her at holly.soranno@cancer.org.

Chili cookoff

The Westland Democratic Club will have its third annual chili cookoff Tuesday, April 29, at the Dorsey Community Center. Enjoy chili, beverages and dessert for \$5 or enter your homemade chili in the contest. Tasters are welcome at 6 p.m. Cooks should bring their crock-pot of chili at 5:30 p.m. The winner will compete in the 11th District cookoff.

For more information call (734) 729-1605 or (734) 674-7327.

Fund-raiser

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army is holding a Little Caesar fund-raiser now through May 1 to raise money for its youth and community outreach programs. There are 16 different Little Caesar pizza kits, five varieties of cookie dough and two types of pie kits available. Prices range from \$12.75 to \$18.

To order items, stop by the Salvation Army at 2300 S. Venoy, south of Palmer and ask for Sandy. For more information, call (734) 722-3660, Ext. 11.

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-Plymouth- Lloyd/Flanders TV Cabinet Was \$1650 NOW \$599⁸⁸	-Ann Arbor- Agio 48" Round Glass Top Table With 4 Chairs Was \$1100 NOW \$499⁸⁸	-Plymouth- Winston 42" Balcony Table With 2 Chairs Was \$1602 NOW \$799⁸⁸
-Ann Arbor- Homecrest Firepit Table With 2 Chairs and 2 Swivel Chairs Was \$3013 NOW \$799⁸⁸	-Plymouth- Genson Loveseat & End Table Was \$3260 NOW \$949⁸⁸	-Ann Arbor- Lloyd/Flanders Marble Top Table With 4 Swivel Chairs and 2 Swivel Chairs Was \$6320 NOW \$949⁸⁸
-Plymouth- Winston 42" Round Table With 4 Swivel Chairs Was \$2637 NOW \$1439⁸⁸	-Ann Arbor- Brown Jordan 48" Round Glass Top Table With 4 Swivel Chairs Was \$3920 NOW \$979⁸⁸	-Plymouth- Winston 63" Oval Table With 4 Chairs Was \$2896 NOW \$1879⁸⁸

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POSTAL PERIODICAL REQUIREMENTS

The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday.
Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150.
36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150

CITY OF WESTLAND

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland, 36601 Ford Rd., Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **April 24, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.** for the following (no exceptions will be made for late filings):

City Wide Vending Machines

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at 36601 Ford Rd., Westland, Michigan, 48185. Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Robert Kosowski, Parks & Recreation Director at (734) 467-3255. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Jade M. Smith
Controller

Published April 3, 2008

Police: Suspect has distinctive hairstyle

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland police have released a surveillance photo of a man accused of robbing a convenience store on the city's north side in early March.

The bandit used a knife during a robbery that police Sgt. Ed Price said occurred around 4:39 a.m. March 2 at the 7-Eleven store on the southwest corner of Wayne and Joy.

The suspect escaped with an undisclosed amount of money and fled on foot, Price said. Neither the cashier nor a manager in a back room was injured during the robbery.

Police are urging anyone who may recognize the suspect or who may have informa-

tion about the incident to contact the Westland Police Department at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600.

"We have no leads on this," Price said.

The suspect was described as a white male, about 28 years old, with a Mohawk-style haircut and a ponytail.

"He had a unique style of hair," Price said.

The suspect was described as possibly 5-foot-8 and 175 pounds. He wore a bandana to hide the lower part of his face, and he also was wearing a dark sweat shirt, blue jeans and a dark jacket, the detective said.

The 7-Eleven incident apparently isn't connected with a series of other robberies that remain under investigation,



Westland police are asking for help in locating this suspect, described as a white male, possibly in his late 20s, with a mohawk hairstyle and a ponytail. He is accused of robbing a 7-Eleven store at Wayne and Joy roads.

according to police.

Authorities also are continuing to seek information about three fast-food restaurant robberies that happened at gunpoint between Jan. 25 and March 24 on the city's south side. They also are investigating an armed robbery that occurred early March 22 when a couple was returning with

their young daughter to The Landings apartment complex near Warren and Central City Parkway.

Police Lt. Dan Karrick has asked the public to remain vigilant and to quickly report any suspicious activity to the police department.

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MUSICAL

FROM PAGE A1

from many other Seuss books, including *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *The One Feather Tail of Miss Gertrude McFuzz*, *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish* and *I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew*. The infamous Cat in the Hat as an outside observer is narrator and devil's advocate throughout the show.

REPRESENTATIVE

Erin Downey has worked with Sullivan in creating two backdrops - one for the Jungle of Nool and the other for Whoville - that were painted during the spring recess. Sullivan normally rents the backdrops, but found nothing that would go along with what the group is doing.

Downey also is helping with the costumes which, in the case of the animals, will be representative.

"They won't be dressed exactly as an animal," said Sullivan. "The birds will wear boas for their feathers and the owl may have big eyes and dress in colors representative of it."

"Horton won't have a trunk, and he'll wear a mailman's uniform. A mailman must be trustworthy and honest and that's what we're looking for in Horton."

For Tirrell Davis, who plays one of the Wickersham Brothers in the Jungle of Nool, dressing as a monkey will mean brown clothing.

"It's one of the roles I came out for," said the Wayne High senior who also appears as a cadet and fish in the production. "The other roles are good roles. There's some for singing, some for dancing, but the monkey can do both ... and I can give it attitude. Monkeys are playful and sneaky. I try to work that mischief into the role."

You can't miss Aretha Franklin in Sour Kangaroo.

That's who Alyssa Lucas based her character on. It has a R-E-S-P-E-C-T attitude and is very social. She "technically" plays two people, Sour Kangaroo and her baby, a hand puppet that she works with during the show.

"It has feelings, I like making it move and showing emotions," said Lucas who is appearing in her fifth high school play although she's been in community theater since age 5. "I can do a lot with the role."

'NOTHING LIKE ME'

Briana Dewyer plays Mayzie LaBird whom she describes as selfish, "nothing like me."

"I'm crazy and funny, but not selfish," said Dewyer. "Mayzie is sassy, she's fun, she's so crazy. I think of the movie *Mean Girls* when I think of her. It's going to be great playing her."

This is Dewyer's eighth - and last - show. A senior, she said that while it's sad, her four years with the guild "has been journey where I meet a lot of great people."

She added that playing an animal is "definitely difficult." "You're an animal, but not an animal," she said. "I have to walk like a bird, but still be human. It's difficult, but it's fun."

By the time the curtain goes up on opening night, the cast will have spent eight weeks rehearsing. Initially, they've practiced five hours a day four days a week, but starting this week, they're doing five days with two weekend technical rehearsals.

"We're rehearsing a little bit more than the average, but because it's so technical we added extra technical rehearsals and an extra week of rehearsals," she said. "The show is oriented around the technical aspects because the set pieces move in and out."

"This is going to be a ton of fun," she added.

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

ROBBERY

FROM PAGE A1

where their interview with Anderson led to the local robbery case being solved.

Considering Anderson's criminal history, which includes a 1980 murder in Livonia, authorities say the Westland couple was fortunate only to have been robbed.

Anderson, who is 20 years younger than his ex-wife, is facing trial amid allegations

he stabbed her to death at her Grand Traverse County home, where authorities said she could have been dead for weeks.

Anderson had been arrested March 5 in Detroit after he was trailed from Livonia, where authorities had been told he was visiting a girlfriend. Authorities tracked him to a house near Six Mile Road and Farmington and then followed him to a used car lot at Eight Mile Road and Vaughan in Detroit, where he was arrested following a scuffle.

Anderson already served 25 years in prison for the 1980

murder of 58-year-old Coleman Seaver and the attempted murder of Seaver's daughter in Livonia.

According to Livonia police, Anderson beat Seaver to death in the parking lot of the Sands Bar at Seven Mile and Deering, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Anderson was accused of killing Seaver after the bar closed.

Hours later, police said, Anderson beat and stabbed Seaver's daughter and left her for dead at Seaver's home. She survived.

According to the Michigan Department of Corrections, Anderson has served prison time for second-degree murder, transporting drugs into prison, breaking and entering, assault with intent to murder, armed robbery, and cashing checks without having sufficient funds.

Anderson was released from prison in August of 2006.

Staff Writer Alex Lundberg contributed to this story.

dclcm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

PLEA

FROM PAGE A1

charges Monday. But Berry this week dealt a blow to the self-defense strategy Orlewicz attorney James Thomas said he would use when she refused to admit evidence about Sorensen's past behavior.

In court documents, Thomas has portrayed Sorensen as a violent person, trying to admit into evidence personal protection orders taken out against Sorensen by individuals not

involved in the murder case.

Orlewicz's attorneys were seeking to have those PPOs introduced into evidence, along with details of Sorensen's 2001 conviction for second-degree criminal sexual conduct and details of the victim's Myspace page, which included various pictures of weapons, illegal narcotics, images from the Al Pacino movie *Scarface*, and "profane descriptions" of Sorensen's occupation.

In a written ruling issued Monday, Berry said the defendants "had no prior knowledge" of the PPOs ... none of

the PPOs related to alleged conduct between the deceased and the defendants. Therefore the said PPOs are too remote to be relevant."

There is no indication whether part of Letkemann's plea agreement includes testifying against Orlewicz. However, Orlewicz's self-defense strategy could be an interesting tactic, considering written and taped statements Letkemann gave Canton police in the days following the murder.

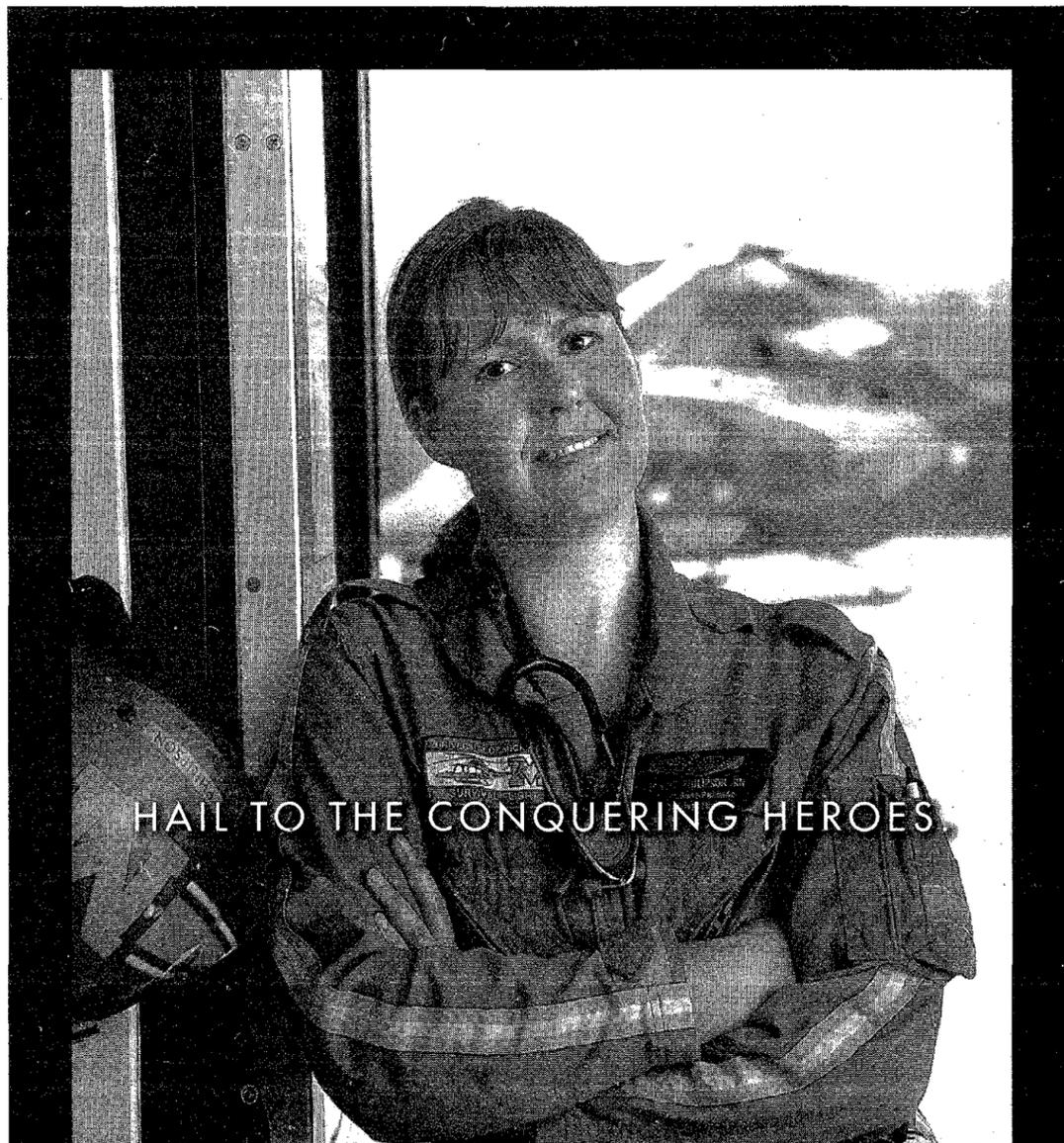
In a taped statement, Letkemann said Orlewicz

lured Sorensen into his grandfather's Canton Township garage and killed him there.

In the statement, Letkemann said he led the procession into the garage, followed by Sorensen, with Orlewicz in the rear. Orlewicz, Letkemann said in the statement, stabbed Sorensen from behind.

The statement can't be used against Orlewicz, but could provide some insight into what Letkemann might say if called to the stand.

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Canton's Eric Hughes, one of three managers at Texas Roadhouse on Ford Road in Westland, will honor gift certificates from the recently closed Texas Corral and Don Pablo's restaurants, as well as Mountain Jacks.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Texas Roadhouse will honor gift cards for closed eatery

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Eric Hughes is encouraging a move from the corral to the roadhouse.

In response to the closure of Canton's Texas Corral Grill & Saloon, Hughes, the managing partner of Texas Roadhouse in Westland, is offering diners a chance to redeem Corral gift cards at his eatery.

The nearest Texas Corral is about two hours from Canton. "People have told us they are happy we are able to do something for them," Hughes said. The Westland restaurant, on Ford Road east of Newburgh, and the Roadhouse location in Taylor are accepting gift cards from Texas Corral, Mountain Jacks and Don Pablo's, which has also closed its township location on Ford Road.

In bringing a card to Roadhouse, the amount will be verified and for every \$5 on the card, \$5 Roadhouse vouchers will be issued. Hughes said customers can redeem up to \$10 at a time. "A lot of people are ticked off that they made gift card purchases and that these places aren't around," Hughes said, adding that he's already gotten cards from Texas Corral.

Canton resident Ken Glantz bought a \$50 gift card from the Corral a week before it closed. "Somebody should have told me they were leaving," he said, before taking down the Westland Roadhouse's number. For more information, call (734) 729-4570.

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

Senator's spouse admits to paying for sex

BY SANDRA ARMBRUSTER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Police already had the Residence Inn on Livernois in Troy under surveillance for suspected prostitution activity when a silver Cadillac pulled up the night of Feb. 26.

When police later stopped the car on I-75, they had no idea that the driver, who admitted paying for sex, was the husband of U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

Thomas Athans made no mention of his relationship to Stabenow, according to police reports obtained by the *Troy Eccentric* through the Freedom of Information Act.

Athans, 46, and Stabenow, 57, were married in 2003. This is the second marriage for both.

"No words can fully express how sorry I am. At the time this incident occurred, I took responsibility for my actions and fully cooperated with law enforcement. My family and I are dealing with this matter in a personal and private way," said Athans in a statement released late Wednesday afternoon through his attorney, Todd F. Flood of Royal Oak.

Stabenow, in a statement released from her Washington, D.C., office Wednesday afternoon, said, "This is very disturbing and serious. Obviously it's a deeply difficult and personal matter."

Rumors about Athans' involvement with a prostitute had circulated for more than a month. Police had released information about the incident, but refused to identify Athans.

He was charged March 12 with driving with a suspended license, agreed to cooperate with police in the investigation and posted a \$500 personal bond at his arraignment. He stood mute.

On March 27, he pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of driving without a license in his possession, according to Assistant Troy City Attorney Bob Davison. Athans paid \$115 in court costs.

Davison explained that Athans' license had been suspended due to an unpaid ticket. "He had a valid license when he got to court," Davison said.

"It's not because of who he is that he didn't get charged with



U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow and her husband, Thomas Athans, who admitted to police he had sex with a prostitute in a Troy hotel.

prostitution," said Troy police spokesman Lt. Gerry Scherlinck. Scherlinck said it is typical for "the way we do investigating" to stop johns and work to get a statement that can be used to prosecute prostitutes. They have to agree to testify in court, he said.

Charged with prostitution at the Residence Inn was Alycia Lorraine Martin, 20, of Westland. Athans told police he met Martin through Craig's List.

When she was arrested, police say they recovered several hundred dollars, a laptop, tally sheets, sexual aids and a cell phone from the room in which she was staying.

According to police, Athans told investigators he had paid \$150 for oral sex. Martin, who posted a \$100 cash bond at her arraignment, pleaded not guilty and faces a pretrial exam at 8:30 a.m. April 22.

The Residence Inn came under investigation when a police Internet investigator reportedly came in contact with a woman at the inn through a Web site.

Athans previously served on the Oxford Village Council from 1996 to 2002, including 2001-02 as its president.

More recently, he served as executive director of a liberal radio station, Democracy Radio, and participated in national discussions about the role of conservative radio talk shows.

Stabenow is on the powerful Senate Finance Committee.

Eccentric staff writer Sara Callender contributed to this report.

Area restaurant continues dinner, movie offering

Westland may be without a movie theater, but one establishment is continuing to offer its dinner and movie package.

Alexander the Great Restaurant has partnered with Imagine Theater to continue offer patrons its package of two full dinners and two movie tickets for \$29.95.

"We recognize that the economy is rough right now," said Tom Tomich, owner of

Alexander the Great. "As part of this community for 30 years, we also know that people still want to be able to go out and enjoy themselves from time to time. At \$29.95, we feel like people can still enjoy a night away from the kitchen and catch a show, but feel comfortable that they are getting a pretty good bang for their buck."

Alexander The Great had

offered their dinner and movie package with the Showcase Cinemas, which closed its Wayne Road location earlier this month. Valid tickets purchased under the previous arrangement will be honored by Imagine. The movie tickets are good at both Imagine Theater's Canton and Novi locations.

"We offer a diverse selection of dinners, including our spe-

cialty barbecue ribs for two and you walk out with two tickets to an exciting, state-of-the-art theater," Tomich said. "You can't beat it. People have been buying them for years for a night out, as gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, graduations, you name it."

The movie and dinner package can be purchased at Alexander The Great at 34733 Warren Road, east of Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-5410.

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Livonia attorney joins race for 11th Congressional District seat

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia attorney Joseph Larkin helped the Livonia Knights Mites Hockey team find a way to win as an assistant coach.

"Last season we won the league championship and the Silver Stick regional," he said. "It was a great season, a lot of fun."

Larkin, a Democrat, is confident he can continue those winning ways in his bid to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, in the 11th Congressional District.

"I've been an attorney for 20 years now. I've learned what it means to represent people and I don't believe that Mr. McCotter is representing the people of the 11th District at this time. He is not hearing what their issues are," Larkin said.

Larkin is expected to face former Novi city manager Ed Kreiwall in the Democratic August primary. Tom Spencer, a Methodist lay minister and Air Force veteran, has withdrawn from the race and offered his support to Larkin.

"He's got connections, name and I didn't have either. I didn't have much of a chance," Spencer said Tuesday.

He called Larkin a "progressive" and a "people person."

Larkin is the nephew of Carol Larkin, chair of the 11th



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joseph Larkin will run in the Democratic primary against Ed Kreiwall. The winner would face incumbent Thaddeus McCotter in the November election.

District Democrats, and Jim Larkin, a Garden City school board member. He said his aunt and uncle were unaware that he was entering the race.

Ted McAvoy of Highland has announced as an independent candidate.

WAR STAND AN ISSUE

Like Kreiwall and Spencer, Larkin is critical of McCotter's support for the war in Iraq.

"We have lost too many American fighting men and women there, now over 4,000 and that doesn't include the multitude of men and women coming back with physical

LARKIN FILE

Age: 43
Residence: Livonia
Marital status: Divorced, no children.
Education: bachelor's degree in political science, University of Michigan; juris doctorate, University of Michigan.
Profession: attorney, 19 years, Larkin Legal Services, Livonia.
Member: Michigan Association for Justice, Catholic Lawyers Society of Michigan, Livonia Bar Association, Knights of Columbus.
Volunteer: Groups feeding homeless and elderly at St. Patrick Senior Center, St. Aloysius, St. Dominic, St. Maurice, St. Edith, Focus:HOPE.
Church: St. Edith, Livonia
Other: Assistant coach Livonia Knights Mites Hockey
Web site: larkinleadership.com

and mental injuries," Larkin said. "He is not looking at the fact that we are spending approximately \$100 billion a year in that war and his desire is to remain there indefinitely."

Larkin said he supports a "practical and prudent" removal of U.S. troops.

"Bottom line, I would rely upon military advice that as a lay person I am not privy to, military not political, Bush and McCotter make decisions based on politics," he said.

Larkin said the government has not been treating veterans with the respect and support they deserve.

"We should spare no expense when our veterans come home from war," he said.

On the domestic side, Larkin said the Bush administration has been too focused on bailing out banks and investment institutions rather than helping people facing foreclosure.

"What can be done to help those people?" he said. "Every person who goes into foreclosure results in your house and my house declining in value. That's what I'm looking at."

Larkin said he supports laws that would penalize lenders who do not follow good

business practices.

"Those people who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own should be given every opportunity to stay in their home. If they are not given those opportunities, foreclosures affect every one of us," he said.

Larkin said trade agreements can be a good thing for consumers, but that the North American Free Trade Agreement and others have hurt the economy and sent jobs overseas to countries that do not have the same worker and environmental protections that the U.S. has.

"If we invite products in from countries that do not provide the same protections, we are not playing on an even playing field. That's what I want with any trade agreement," he said. "The American economy has the best, the smartest, the most productive workers in the world, but when they are not allowed to compete on an even playing field, they are at a disadvantage."

Larkin said existing immigration laws need to be more vigorously enforced.

"My family came from immigrants, I have nothing against immigrants, but I am for legal immigration," he said. "That's the only way it should occur."

On the energy issue, Larkin is a strong supporter of hydrogen cell technology as one way to reduce dependence on foreign oil but not the only way.

"My desire is to rely upon scientists to tell us what are the best avenues to go, so it is not just the hydrogen fuel cell," he said. "I'm for biomass, I'm for solar, I'm for wind, I'm for hydro. I want to spend American investment in any of those areas."

He said more immediately using E85 ethanol would be a good way to cut down on oil importation.

PRO-LIFE CONCERNS

Tom Spencer said the only issue on which he parts company with Larkin is abortion. Larkin is anti-abortion. He said he doesn't see the abortion issue as a factor as it is the Senate that confirms Supreme Court appointments. But he said he thinks McCotter's pro-life position is inconsistent.

"It seems the only area he's concerned about pro-life is when you're in the womb and not when you come out of the womb," he said. "For example, he voted against extension of health care benefits for poor children. That is an area where I absolutely would have voted yes."

Larkin is collecting petition signatures before the May 13 filing deadline. He said he would be willing to debate Kreiwall in the primary campaign and McCotter in the general election campaign.

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File your past federal tax returns now, you'll feel better

A recent Internal Revenue Service press release states there are \$1.2 billion worth of unclaimed tax refunds for more than 1 million people who failed to file their 2004 tax return. There are approximately 47,000 Michigan residents who would be entitled to nearly \$600 million in tax refunds if they filed their return. To receive the money, you must file your return by April 15, 2008. After April 15, your refund goes to the U.S. Treasury. You still have a few weeks to file your return and receive a refund from 2004.

Unfortunately, when it comes to taxes, there is always a caveat. If you file your 2004 tax return and are entitled to a refund, the IRS may not



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

send it if you have not filed your 2005 or 2006 returns. Also, individuals who have not filed tax returns may not receive their economic stimulus tax rebate from the government until the past returns have been filed.

There is always a sense of anxiety for people who have not filed past tax returns. They are worried that the IRS or the state of Michigan will catch up with them.

The best way to remove the anxiety

is to file past tax returns. Even if you owe money, it is better for to file the return — even though it's late — than to have the state or the IRS contact you. Both are easier to deal with when you voluntarily come forth. The IRS, in particular, is much easier to deal with in waiving penalties or structuring a payment plan when you voluntarily file.

Over the years, I've dealt with individuals who have not filed returns for a number of years and then eventually come clean. They all said they felt a sense of relief, even though many of them owed taxes, interest and penalties.

One note regarding tax refunds. I recently met with someone who

had an extension for their 2006 tax return and filed in October 2007. They have not received their refund and their assumption was since they filed for an extension, the refund would be delayed. My advice is to be proactive. Go to the IRS Web site (www.irs.gov) and click on "Where's my refund?" By entering some basic information, you can check the status of your refund.

In this case, the IRS had a wrong address. The taxpayer corrected the address and received the refund.

Although many are currently filing tax returns, a lot of taxpayers receive an extension. It is important to remember that while extensions are automatic, the extension to pay

any tax owed is not. If you owe the IRS money, you pay now rather than later. If you do not, you can be forced to pay interest and penalties.

I am often asked whether extensions increase the risk of an audit. The answer is no. What increases the risk of audit is not filing an accurate return — not including certain information or mathematical errors, those mistakes increase your risk of audit.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneymatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

IRISH FLUTE PLAYER ON TAP

Seamus Tansey, the King of the Concert Flute, performs at 8 p.m. Friday, April 4, at The Gaelic League, 2068 Michigan Ave., Detroit.

The cost is a \$15 donation. For more information, call (313) 537-3489.

Tansey has won the All-Ireland competition multiple times. He's made appearances on Irish national television since the 1950s. Tansey grew up in the west of Ireland in the 1940s and '50s when economic times were hard and food was rationed. Tansey realized early that he was one of the privileged inheritors of a mythical and magical legacy.

Tansey is an accomplished traditional ballad singer, poet, author, and verse speaker as well as story teller in the ancient Irish tradition.

Women to Work helps job hunters

The Women to Work program at JVS will hold an informational meeting 9-11 a.m. Tuesday, April 29, at its offices, 29699 Southfield Road, north of 12 Mile in Southfield.

Judy Richmond, Women to Work coordinator, said, "This is a program designed for women who are highly motivated to enter or re-enter the workforce." The women will be able to begin employment immediately, she said.

There are no geographical restrictions, she said of the program, which includes women who've been home caring for family members. The program following the informational meeting will consist of 10 sessions, starting May 6, 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Response has been good, with a lot of women from Livonia and Canton area signing up for past sessions, she's

There are no geographical restrictions, she said of the program, which includes women who've been home caring for family members.

found. Women to Work covers resumes, interviews, job search, stress management, "identifying interests and aptitudes."

Also covered are personal style, and opportunities to meet with employers directly. If you plan to participate, call Richmond at (248) 233-4232 in advance to register for the

informational meeting registration.

There is no cost, with Charter One covering costs for participants.

The program will cover "Success in the Workplace" on how to maintain employment as well, she said. "My groups are bigger than ever." She's had 16, compared to eight-10 in the past.

"Obviously, it's a sign of the times." There are also more professionals, with two attorneys in the last group.

"It's also a way for people to prepare themselves as fully as they can for a successful job search," she said.

- By Julie Brown

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OUR VIEWS

Marketing city will help it grow

Someone once said that you have to blow your own horn because no one else will. It's true for individuals, businesses and communities. If you want to grow, you have to let people know who you are and what you have to offer. They won't come looking for you, you have to go looking for them.

That's the idea behind Economic Development Director Lori Fodale going to Las Vegas next month for the Global Retail Real Estate Convention. Fodale will spend four days in Las Vegas getting the word out to anyone who'll listen that Westland has a lot to offer new businesses.

There are too many empty factories in Michigan, a testament to the new world economy. Communities can no longer rely on a dominant industry spinning off further economic growth. They need to market themselves.

An international retailer looking to locate in southeastern Michigan needs to know what Westland has available — a variety of housing options, a well-defined shopping and restaurant district, good recreational opportunities and 21st century education.

That's what Fodale will be doing in Las Vegas. If you think that's a frivolous expenditure, especially in these dire economic times, take a look at Canton. How do you think Canton landed the IKEA store? It wasn't happenstance. Canton sought out IKEA. It marketed the community and the end result is a destination retailer which has spurred new development in and around the store.

Westland can do the same thing, but it won't happen unless the city makes it happen. Sending Fodale to Las Vegas this year and having a table at the convention next year are good first steps. Because of her experience with the business community, Fodale has a strong working knowledge about Westland. And her time as chamber president has given her the marketing acumen to attract new business to the city. If she is able to attract just one new business, the trip will be well worth it.

Westland Shopping Center is a very successful regional shopping center that brings in people from around the area. That's evident with the thriving restaurant row that lines the roads leading to it. But there are vacancies, especially the big box stores like Sam's Club and Best Buy. Filling them is no easy task, but we think the city is following a wise path to expanding its tax base.

This is a business trip that will introduce Westland to the world and quite possibly bring the world to this community. We'll be waiting to hear all about it.

Focus:HOPE marks 40 years of service

For 40 years, Focus:HOPE has proven the wisdom of that venerable Chinese saying, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

The Detroit organization grew from the ruins of the 1967 Detroit race riot. The Rev. William Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis co-founded Focus:HOPE with a dream of bringing the area's black and white residents together for a brighter future.

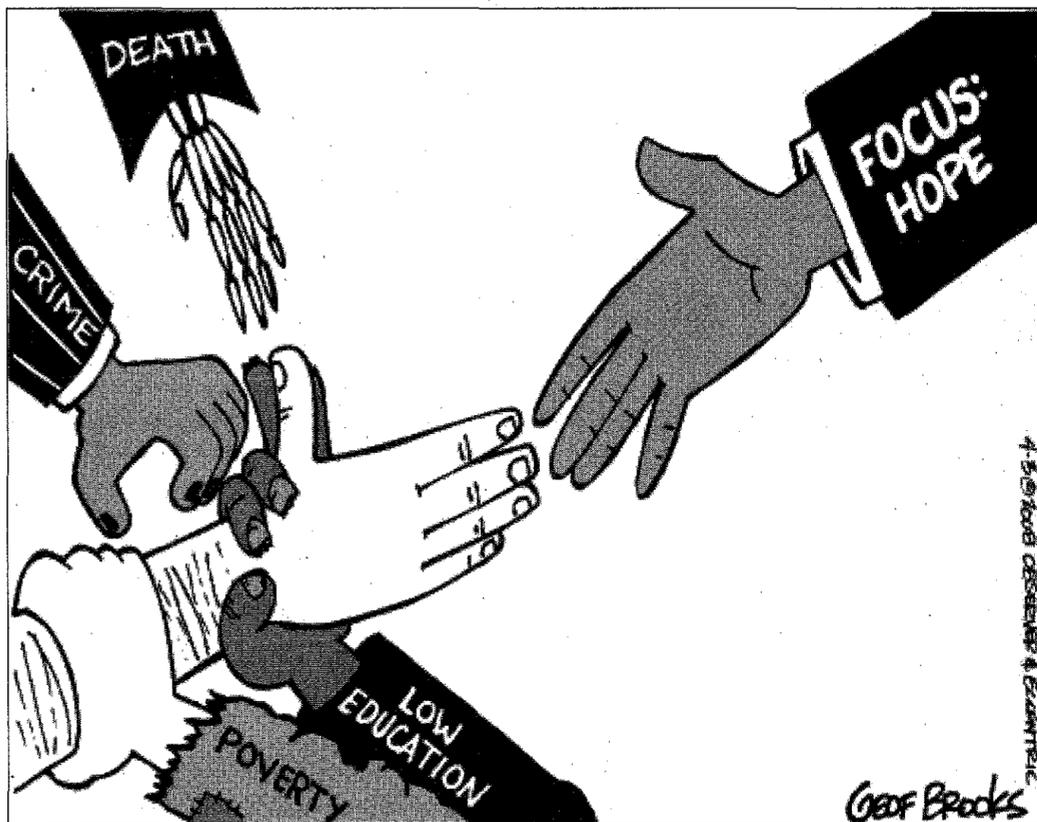
The organization's mission statement says it best: "Recognizing the dignity and beauty of every person, we pledge intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice. And to build a metropolitan community where all people may live in freedom, harmony, trust and affection. Black and white, yellow, brown and red from Detroit and its suburbs of every economic status, national origin and religious persuasion we join in this covenant."

The key words are practical and intelligent — a hand up, not just a handout. In addition to providing food for the needy and a child care center, Focus:HOPE provides an educational opportunity through numerous programs that provide training, from helping high school graduates upgrade their skills to a state-of-the-art machinist training program to working with local universities to provide a degree program in engineering.

Father Cunningham died in 1997. Later that same year, a devastating tornado ripped through the organization's Oakman Boulevard campus, causing more than \$18 million in damage.

But with support from Detroit's business community, Josaitis and the Focus:HOPE board and staff persevered. They continue to offer help and hope to people from throughout metro Detroit.

We salute Josaitis and the organization she helped found and build. It is a bright beacon toward a better future for our community.



LETTERS

Become a blood donor

In the past I have written editorials about a wide variety of things — teachers, sports, politics, our park, the great kids in our program and many other things.

However, today I am writing about something else very important. Did you know that you are able to give blood every 56 days? Well, you can. Did you know that almost every week there is a shortage of blood needed to save lives? Did you know that you can help? Well, here is how you can.

I try and give blood every 56 days. Why? Because I want to. I think about the people that are injured in accidents and need OUR BLOOD. I am 0 negative.

And whenever I am around my 56 days, someone calls me and reminds me. This past Friday they were so low with stored blood, the shelves were almost empty. We all can make a difference. If you call 10 people and those 10 people call ... Well, you know where I am going with this. We can all help.

The best way to do this is to call and set up an appointment. You can walk in, but believe me, I have been doing this for a long time, call and set it up. The number is pretty easy, (800) GIVE-LIFE or you can call (888) 288-2525.

I know some people hate needles, I know I do. As many times as I have been around I have been on a pin cushion. It hurts for a minute, and then you sit back and relax, bring a book or newspaper, but the best thing is to bring it yourself.

If you have a computer, e-mail friends. If you work for a big business — heck, even a small business — spread the word. Like I said, if everyone can tell 10 people and so on then I could be writing about different things to make your day. So help make the day of those that need it and make that call. Thanks.

Bud Somerville
Westland

Lessons of Bear Stearns

Re: Rick Bloom's article "Investors can learn from Mistakes made by Bear Stearns." I appreciate Bloom's spin to extract some wholesome lessons from this sordid episode, but the real lesson is quite different from what he portrays.

Bloom happily forgets to mention that although it's the Bear Stearns CEO who made the bad decisions, the deal he struck with JP Morgan and the Federal Reserve still lets him keep his cushy job, his golden parachute, plus about \$55 million. It's the employees who lost their jobs and all their retirement benefits and the value of their stock.

We're supposed to have a capitalistic system. We have unlimited opportunity to succeed, and unlimited opportunity to fail. If we succeed we enjoy the fruits of our labor. If we fail, we take it on the chin like a man, and move on. That's how it is supposed to be.

But there's a big difference WHO

fails. That's where the real lesson is. If you have to fail in America, be a big time CEO and go with a spectacular bang. Then the Federal Reserve will work overtime to rescue you from the capitalistic system and let you keep your job, your retirement benefits and the company expense account. You understand it's doing all this not to save you personally, but to avoid a credit crunch, a market meltdown and worldwide panic. But if you're a small-time homeowner who can't pay his mortgage, you're just plain out of luck. Take it on the chin like a man and move on!

Desi Namookaran
Canton

Digging for facts

I just read the letter to the editor from Bill Piner, complaining about the *Observer* story on Alex Letkemann passing a polygraph test, and I have to wonder; what is he so upset about?

I don't remember a letter from him complaining about the media being a "PR agent" for the prosecutor, when they were splashing "Thrill Kill" all over the place. The prosecutor's office then promptly sought a gag order keeping anyone responsible from responding. Where was the moral outrage then?

I, for one, am glad that the *Observer* is digging for facts that we would not otherwise hear about. Polygraph tests, while not admissible in court, are routinely used by investigators AND prosecutors to preclude suspects or point them in the right direction. Why not now? This is a valid question that will NOT be answered in court.

J. Brinemor
Plymouth

Helping workers

If you're a younger worker, retirement probably seems like a lifetime away. In fact, you may wonder if your contributions to Social Security, deducted from your paycheck, actually cover you for anything right now.

By working in a job covered by Social Security, you automatically get disability and survivor insurance protection. A worker under age 24 who pays Social Security taxes for just 1 1/2 years is covered. A worker under age 31 who pays Social Security taxes for half the time elapsed since age 21 is also covered.

If you're like most workers, you probably don't have private long-term disability insurance. But you do have disability protection through Social Security, which will provide benefits to you and your family, if you become disabled. About three in 10 of today's 20-year-olds will become disabled before reaching age 67, so it could happen to you. The average disability benefit paid to a worker with a spouse and two children in 2008 is about \$1,690 a month.

Social Security also provides survivors benefits. It is a sad truth that about one of seven young Americans can expect to die before reaching age

67. Social Security's survivors insurance pays an average monthly benefit in 2008 of \$2,243 for a spouse and two children of a young worker with average wages who dies.

It's good to think ahead to retirement, but Social Security is more than that. It provides you and your family with protection now.

For more information on how Social Security protects younger and older Americans alike, visit our Web site at www.socialsecurity.gov or call us at (800) 772-1213 or TTY (800) 325-0778.

Frances Helmes-Savickis,
public affairs specialist
Social Security Administration

Defend the Constitution

Congress was expected to take up the issue of warrantless wiretapping and immunity for the telecoms (recently), as it considers changes to the FISA law. The message from the people should be loud and clear:

Do not capitulate to the Bush administration by offering amnesty to the telecoms. The administration broke the law with regards to the warrantless wiretapping program. Americans expect the leadership in Congress to uphold the law and defend the Constitution, which protects the right to privacy.

Silvestre Reyes, chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, in a recent letter to the president, wrote that it is an insult to the America people to suggest that blocking immunity for past acts by the telecommunication industry would harm national security — an argument the administration often uses, and noted that we should not allow ourselves to be scared into suspending the Constitution.

Chairman Reyes proclaimed: "I for one, do not intend to back down — not to the terrorists and not to anyone, including a president, who wants Americans to cower in fear."

Let's hope he, and the rest of the leaders in Congress, stand by those words.

Katie Jacob
Birmingham

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

Mail:
Letters to the editor
Westland Observer
36251 Schoolcraft
Livonia, MI 48150

Fax:
(734) 459-4224

E-mail:
smason@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"We passed up being play directors to be the musical directors. This is bigger and better and we can dance."
- Dayna Krushlin about being an assistant director of John Glenn High School's spring musical, "High School Musical," next week

WESTLAND
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Local land bank shows promise in Flint's rocky real estate market

Every dark cloud has a silver lining — or so we need to hope. One thing we know is that we've got so many dark clouds these days in Michigan, that it is vitally important to seek out any silver linings which might help balance out the gloom and doom.



Phil Power

And one has been discovered shining proudly in ... Flint, of all places. For the last few years, there has been a horse race between Flint and Detroit for the title of Michigan's Grimmest Urban Area. If anything, Flint might be in worse shape. According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor, unemployment in the Flint metropolitan area is 9.5

percent, nearly tops in the nation and worse than Detroit's 8.2 percent.

Unemployment just in the city of Flint was far worse still — 16.6 percent in January. Not surprisingly, the city has had persistent trouble balancing its budget. Things got so bad in 2002 that the state had to take over the city and send in a receiver, or emergency financial manager to resolve the accumulated \$35 million deficit.

These days, things are not much better.

Enter Dan Kildee, the Genesee County treasurer. At 46, he's an imposing but youthful figure who looks very much like the big kid who used to be a defenseman for his high school hockey team.

The Kildee family is prominent in Genesee County politics. His uncle, Dale, has represented the area in the U.S. Congress since 1977. Dan started early — very early. He was elected to the Flint Board of Education at age 18, and then served as chair of the Genesee County Commission until he was elected county treasurer in 1996.

He's also become something of a national celebrity for having managed a remarkably successful "land bank" to control Flint's vacant properties, fight blight and stimulate urban redevelopment.

The credit crunch and mortgage meltdown hit distressed communities especially hard. In Genesee County, there are around 5,000 homes in foreclosure, out of a total of 170,000 houses.

National statistics suggest that when a house is foreclosed, other houses on the block lose 1 percent of their value each month and the neighborhood crime rate goes up by around 2 percent. Unoccupied homes don't pay taxes to sustain city services, while they cost taxpayers money to board them up against vandals and cut and clean up overgrown yards.

Enter local land banks. They buy distressed properties on the cheap and either demolish them or rehab and resell them. According to Kildee, "The properties that are foreclosed are often perfectly good houses. Left to their own devices, the mortgage companies and the

banks often will choose to dump them on the market, liquidate their investment and walk away from a damaged community."

Kildee says his land bank has negotiated to buy 184 Fannie Mae (Federal National Mortgage Association) owned houses under foreclosure in Flint for \$34,000. But their appraised value is \$3.8 million. "If we take a long-term view, we can rehabilitate and resell these properties, returning them to the city's housing stock and fighting the kind of blight that comes with lots of foreclosures."

Profits from the resold houses are used to finance further land bank activities. And putting such a long-term player into the local real estate market prevents speculators from buying and "flipping" houses and perpetuating neighborhood blight.

This is not penny-ante stuff. Since it was started in 2002, the Flint land bank has demolished 800 rundown houses and built 200 single-family homes and apartments. This year, it will spend around \$30 million, much of it from private investors, in renovating two historic hotels in downtown Flint. "If this kind of stuff works in Flint, which has to be one of the worst-off real estate markets in the country, it can work anywhere," Kildee said.

More to the point, Kildee's land bank represents an innovative way for government to solve problems by aligning what it does with market forces. "The land bank represents a better way government should operate," Kildee said. "Too often, governments are only interested in increasing tax revenues. Instead, we're interested in restoring equity value for homeowners, in stabilizing the local real estate market, in reducing blight and redeveloping the community."

Kildee has received a fair amount of notoriety for his work with the land bank. He was featured in a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal*, and he's been invited to teach at Harvard and MIT and advise communities all around the country.

There are already rumblings from Democrats statewide that he might be a formidable candidate for governor in 2010. For now, however, he wants to stay focused on the enormous task before him.

"At the end of the day, we've got to realize that government needs to work with the economic system rather than against it," Kildee said. "A land bank like ours is a terrific, common-sense way to help communities."

And when it works as well as his apparently does, it represents an innovative and much-needed glittering silver lining in the storm system that has been pounding Michigan for years.

Phil Power is founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a think tank which based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are Power's and do not represent official views of The Center. Power welcomes reader comment at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

What ever happened to relevance and relationships?

High schools in Michigan are now in the process of implementing the rigorous set of statewide graduation requirements which make up the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC). When the state enacted legislation on high school reform in 2006, it was based on a three-pronged initiative that included — rigor, relevance and relationships.



Judith Dorsch Backes

The emphasis on rigor in the Michigan Merit Curriculum has taken precedence over the importance of relevance and relationships. We at the Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development urge teachers, administrators, school board members, parents and the larger community to collaborate on examining the lack of attention to relevance and relationships by asking questions and doing more now. It is time that relevance and relationships take their proper place as a major focus in the high school reform process.

The new Michigan Merit Curriculum not only increased the number of credits but also identified specific credits such as algebra I, geometry and algebra II, and a credit in either chemistry or physics. Students currently in ninth-grade are the first group that must meet the new requirements.

In order to address these higher expectations, many high schools are looking at ways to help students meet the additional credit requirements. Some of the options include changing the school year from two to three semesters (trimesters) thus enabling students to take more classes per year and provide for additional class time to learn the material. Another option is to provide additional time for learning by requiring some students to take two periods of math each day, thus reducing available class time for other classes such as arts, career technical education, foreign language, etc., which would fit a wider variety of student interests and talents.

There was much discussion around the future needs of students as these reforms were developed. Many educators, parents and students emphasized the need to make

the senior year meaningful and relevant to the real world. Evidence from research studies, as well as testimony by students, parents and educators presented the problem of disengagement (commonly referred to as "senioritis") for students in their last year of high school.

In order to meet the graduation requirements, some schools are locking students into a tight academic sequence that deprives them of the opportunity of trying out other career possibilities through internships or practical experiences.

Another important consideration driving the high school reform is the student failure rate. The increased content expectations in middle school and high school have resulted in more students retained, which often correlate with the student dropping out at a later grade. Dropping out is the outcome of a long process of disengagement and alienation that is preceded by other types of withdrawal such as truancy, suspension and failing classes.

The Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development supports the Whole Child initiative, which states that all children must be healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. Michigan ASCD believes that their support for the Whole Child means ensuring that Michigan students have an education that includes not only rigor, but also relevance and relationships.

Increasing the rigor of the high school curriculum alone will not keep students connected to their learning, nor keep them in school long enough to gain the necessary knowledge and skills to be successful contributors to the global world.

It is clear that the concept of rigor in the three-pronged reform initiative has been addressed, but in the rush to ensure high expectations and more rigor for students, the other two, equally important concepts of relevance and relationships, have largely been ignored.

Judith Dorsch Backes of Rochester Hills is a board member of the Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and a school performance and accreditation consultant with the Macomb Intermediate School District.

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Thursday, April 3, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Keeping track

Area boys teams bank on stalwarts

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's no shortage of star talent when it comes to Observerland boys track entering the 2008 season.

Defending Western Lakes Activities Association and Division 1 regional champion Livonia Churchill returns junior pole vaulter Derik Peterman, who cleared 14 feet, 1 inch, to place eighth in last year's state meet and won the WLAA meet.

The Chargers also return senior Brandon Grysko, the school record holder in the 1,600-meter run along with senior Billy Gutowski, who was the WLAA champion in the long jump and the only returning member from Churchill's state runner-up 1,600 relay team.

"Once we get everyone into the fray, our goal is to repeat as WLAA conference champs, though we will compete against several talented teams to do so," Churchill 13th-year coach Rick Austin said. "What I especially love about coaching track and field is watching a group develop and reach their potential. I think that we have a group with tremendous potential."

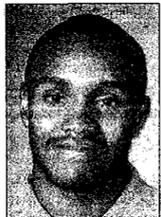
Churchill's main competitor will once again be Livonia Stevenson, which finished 5-0 in the Lakes Division of the WLAA and captured the Observerland Relays.

The Spartans, runners-up in both the WLAA and Division 1 regional meets to the Chargers, have star quality as well with the return of senior twins Myles and Mitchell White.

Myles was the area's top long jumper, who placed eighth in Division 1 and set a school record with an area-best 22-3. He also was the WLAA champion in the 110 hurdles and qualified for the state meet with a fourth-place finish at the regional (14.46). Myles also set a Stevenson school record in the 300 hurdles (39.21).

Mitchell excels in the high jump, hurdle and will help fill out relay events.

"This will be the first season we

Larry Dawkins
John GlennMyles White
Stevenson

have a large number of seniors on the team," Stevenson fifth-year coach Scott Shaw said. "We have a total of 15. As a team we're looking forward to being competitive throughout the season. We have many returnees who have scored a number of varsity points throughout their careers at Stevenson. Mitchell and Myles (White) have been competing well indoors. Mitchell has gone 6-10 in the high jump, while Myles went 22-8 in the long jump. Both are doing well in the hurdles."

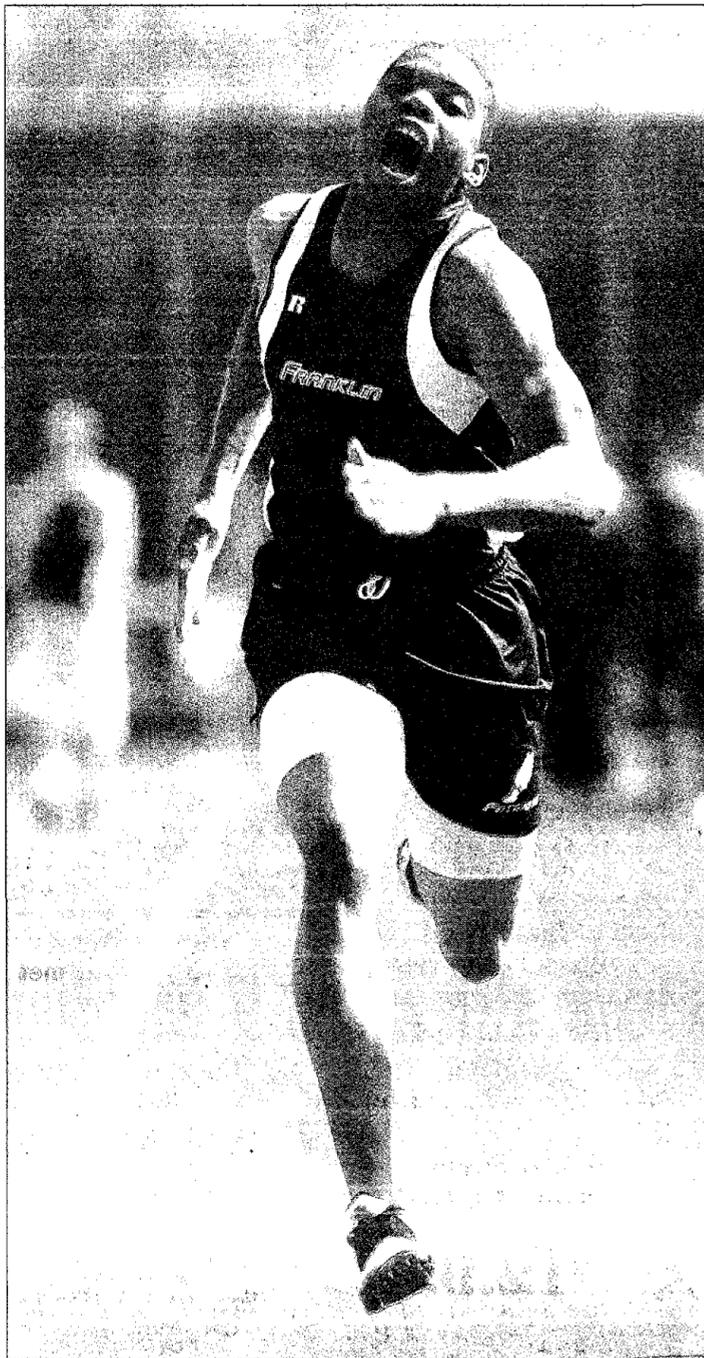
One of the WLAA's most improved teams could be Westland John Glenn, led by senior Larry Dawkins who was the WLAA champion in the 100 and 200, as well as finishing sixth in the Division 1 state finals in the 200. He tied the school record in the 100 (10.6) and owns the school record in the 200 (22.1). Dawkins also anchored Glenn's school record 400 relay team, which eclipsed a 32-year mark with a clocking of 43.5.

Glenn finished 13th out of 31 teams with 18 points in last weekend's Ambrose Relays held at Eastern Michigan University as senior newcomer Keshawn Martin, headed for Michigan State on a football scholarship, captured the long jump with a leap of 22 feet, 2.25 inches.

Dawkins added a fourth in the 60 dash (7.15) and anchored Glenn's 800 sixth-place relay team which also included JaJuan Marks, Corey Davis and Martin (1:36.64).

Both Livonia Franklin and Wayne Memorial hope to move up the ranks in the WLAA.

Please see **TRACK, B3**



Franklin's Darell Myree, crossing the tape in the 100-meter dash in a meet last year against Wayne, returns for his senior year for the Patriots.

TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sidelines

Mitera All-Regional

University of Michigan junior defenseman Mark Mitera (Livonia) was named to the NCAA All-East Regional team following the top-seeded Wolverines' 5-1 win Friday over Niagara University (N.Y.) and 2-0 victory Saturday over Clarkson University (N.Y.) in Albany, N.Y.

Michigan, 33-5-4 overall, advances to the NCAA's Frozen Four to face Notre Dame in the national semifinals on Thursday, April 10 in Denver, Colo.

Mitera, a 2006 first-round pick of the Anaheim Mighty Ducks, had an assist in the regional victory over Clarkson.

He has two goals and 21 assists in 42 games and ranks second on the Wolverines with a 33-plus rating.

C'ville fund-raiser

Family, friends and supports are invited to attend a benefit for the Clarenceville High School Athletic Booster Club from 2-6 p.m. Sunday, April 6 at Coaches Corner, located at 19170 Farmington Road (at Seven Mile), in Livonia.

A percentage of all food sales will benefit the Clarenceville Boosters. A trivia game will start at 4 p.m. The entry is \$10 per person with first prize being \$200; second prize, \$100; third prize, \$50. There will also be a 50-50 raffle.

For more information or to make donation, call Jackie Hurst at (248) 442-0216; or Kim Bibik at (248) 777-0242.

MU honorees

Madonna University grabbed three of the four Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference weekly awards for March 31 in baseball and softball.

Senior pitcher Will Kennedy (Westland John Glenn) was named WHAC Pitcher of the Week after establishing the Crusaders' new career strikeout mark with 199 in a 5-1 victory over Indiana Tech.

Kennedy had seven Ks and allowed just one unearned run in 6.1 innings in earning his second win of the year.

In softball, MU's junior catcher Danielle Richardson earned her second Player of the Week award while hitting .333 and slugging .381 over a seven-game stretch. The Flint native went 7-for-21 with a double, three RBI and two runs scored.

Teammate Jess Irwin earned Pitcher of the Week honors after becoming the second freshman in school history to throw a no-bitter in a 10-0 blanking of Midway (Ky.) College. Irwin also set a new single game strikeout mark in that game with 17. She finished 2-1 on the week with 30 Ks and just four earned runs allowed in 21 innings.

Please see **GUMBERT, B3**

Livonia swimmer, 15, makes grade for Olympic Trials

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia's Megan Fox is no longer flying under the radar.

The 15-year-old sophomore from Stevenson High School, who swims year-round for the Novi Sturgeons, earned her first U.S. Olympic Trials cut last weekend in the 400-meter individual medley with a first-place time of 4:54.93 at the Central Zone Section 3 meet of the Speedo Championship Series held in Indianapolis, Ind.

It was hard to tell who was more excited by the performance — Fox or Kevin Hafner, who serves as one of her three coaches along with Bob Jenrow and Mark Winter.

"I was hoping to get it after all the work I've done and all the training," said Fox, who needed a 4:55.89 or better to



Livonia Stevenson sophomore Megan Fox earned a U.S. Olympic Trials berth last weekend in the 400 IM with a time of 4:54.93.

qualify and now ranks 43rd nationally. "You don't know if you can, but I knew I was on track for the cut. I said to

myself, 'Oh, my gosh, I'm doing great.' The last 100 meters you're tired, but he (Hafner) was going crazy, running up-

and-down the pool deck. And everybody on the team was jumping up and down. I knew I was on pace to do it. And by that time you want it more than ever, not only for me, but for my swim coaches."

Fox is in select company. The last two Stevenson students to qualify for Trials, which start June 29 in Omaha, Neb., were 1996 Atlanta Summer Games Olympic gold medalist Sheila Taormina (4 x 200 freestyle relay) and Anne Aristeo, who later swam for Stanford University.

The 5-foot-4 Fox also came close last weekend to qualifying in three other events including the 200 butterfly, which she placed first in 2:16.79, just a 10th of a second off the Trials standard.

"Even though I was just off the cut, I was so excited when I hit the wall," Fox said. "It was

still a great time for me."

Fox also placed fourth in the 200 IM in 2:20.71, just missing the cut of 2:20.49. She advanced an eighth place in the 100 butterfly (1:02.89), just 5-10ths from qualifying.

"We were a little shocked because we expected her to make it in the 100 butterfly that evening," said Hafner, the Franklin High boys and girls varsity coach. "There was some disbelief with what she had done. I think she saw her teammates cheering her on. And the way the guys were reacting, she knew something special may be happening."

Fox will attempt to earn three more U.S. Trials cuts this weekend at a USA Swimming Grand Prix Open meet, which starts Friday in Columbus, Ohio.

Please see **TRIALS, B4**

Clarenceville's No. 1 fan Gumbert remembered

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When it came to Livonia Clarenceville High athletic events, Lowell Gumbert always had the best seat in the house.

A longtime fixture at basketball, football, volleyball and baseball-softball games for nearly 40 years, Clarenceville's No. 1 booster died early Tuesday morning of a reported respiratory failure at the age of 87.

"You won't find a bigger fan," Clarenceville athletic director Kevin Murphy said. "He was a

good fan, a good booster. You won't find a better man."

Gumbert was born in South Bend, Ind., and grew up in nearby Knox, Ind.

He migrated to the Detroit area to work at Ford Motor Co. in the parts depot located on Middlebelt Road in Livonia where he retired after 30 years.

Gumbert, who lived in Redford, suffered a massive heart attack on Sept. 2, 2007, almost 30 years to the day following his retirement, and was later moved to Dorvin Convalescent and Nursing Center in Livonia.

Gumbert, a bachelor all his life, had only one known survivor, the wife of a recently passed first cousin.

One of the founding members of the Clarenceville Booster Club, his presence was missed this season at Trojan sporting events after he became ill.

"He didn't play sports, but was a big sports fan growing up, he loved all the sports," said Larry McKendry, a close friend of Gumbert and father of Clarenceville boys basketball coach Corey McKendry. "He loved basketball especially, and it did not matter whether it was

boys or girls. We used to ride together to away games. He never missed football games particularly when the Shaw brothers were playing and he'd always be there at Corey's games when he played."

Gumbert was highly active in his church, Emmanuel Lutheran in Dearborn Heights. He also donated his time to Big Brothers.

Clarenceville's No. 1 fan started attending games after watching the son of a neighbor, a Clarenceville student, play summer baseball.

Lisa Burr, who served eight

terms as Clarenceville's Booster Club president before stepping down in 2000, first met Gumbert while working behind the scenes at athletic events.

"Next to his church, it was Clarenceville," Burr said. "I was very close with him. We probably met 20 years ago when he was manning the concession booth. He took tickets, then worked the booth, watched the game, would come back in to work at halftime, watched the rest game, and then came back after to close the stand."

Please see **GUMBERT, B3**

MU sweeps WHAC foe Siena Heights

The Madonna University baseball team moved to 15-6 overall and 5-1 in Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference play with a pair of wins Tuesday afternoon over visiting Siena Heights, 7-5 and 11-1, at chilly Ilitch Ballpark.

In Game 1, Crusader starting pitcher Jeff Sonnenberg found himself down 1-0 after a RBI single by Tim Stoddard, snapping a 21-inning scoreless streak for the Saints.

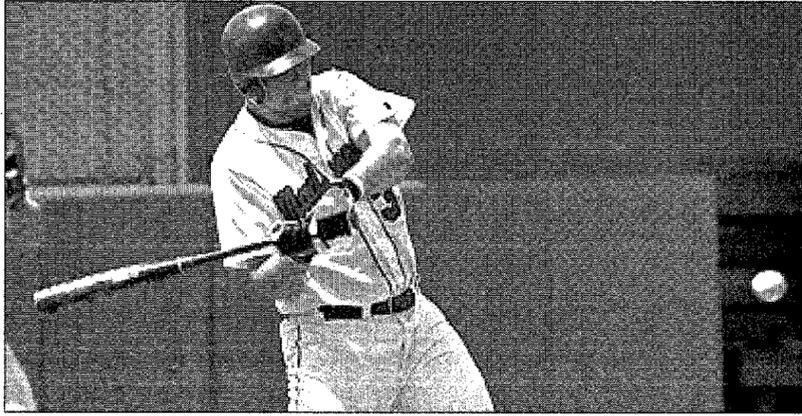
The MU bats would respond for Sonnenberg in the bottom of the first, scoring twice as Zack McMillin stole third and scored on a throwing error and Levi Cheshire (Troy) scored on a RBI single by Westland's Dave Herrick (Livonia Churchill).

The Saints went on to score a run in each of the first five innings as the two teams exchanged leads before MU went ahead for good with a two-run sixth inning.

Pat Kenny led off the sixth with a single and scored on a triple by Shawn Little (Canton). Little scored two batters later on a squeeze bunt by pinch-hitter Drew Fry.

The two-run cushion proved to be enough for MU reliever Carl McDevitt (Canton) who worked the final three-and-one-third innings to pick up the win.

In Game 2, the MU bats came alive quickly scoring three in the first on a two-run homer by Cheshire and a solo shot by Kenny to take a 3-0 lead.



Westland's Dave Herrick, shown in action from 2007, contributed a run-scoring single in the first game of Madonna's doubleheader sweep of visiting Siena Heights on Tuesday at Ilitch Ballpark.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Starting pitcher Sean Maher would be the beneficiary, although he wouldn't need much run support, allowing just two hits with four strikeouts over six innings to pick up his third win of the season.

The Crusaders broke the game open with a four-run third inning started by back-to-back doubles by Scott Boyer and Little and capped off with an RBI single by Sonnenberg.

MU scored a run each in the fifth and sixth innings, including the game ender off the bat of Fry.

Siena Heights falls to 2-12 overall and 0-4 in WHAC play.

MU hurls pair of shutouts

MU used a pair of com-

plete game pitching performances, timely hitting and great defense to shutout visiting Siena Heights, 5-0 and 3-0, Sunday afternoon at Ilitch Ballpark.

Senior Eric Wendling picked up the victory in game one, scattering four hits and striking out four on the way to his second win of the season against no defeats.

The Crusaders jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the third inning on a RBI single to left by Pat Kenny, scoring Zack McMillin.

MU added two more in the fourth when Ryan Morrow doubled and later scored on a base-hit by freshman Shawn Little. Little would later score as McMillin got in a run-down between first and second base, just long enough to let Little cross the plate.

It was all the offense Wendling and the Crusaders would need on their way to the 3-0 game one win.

In Game 2, junior right-hander Richard Lindquist went the distance on the mound, allowing six hits while striking out six for his second win of the season.

The Crusaders got on the board in the third inning, capped by a two-run home by first baseman Kevin Zerbo, his third of the season to take a 3-0 lead.

The lead swelled to 5-0 in the bottom of the sixth when freshman Mike Gansser connected on his first collegiate home run, a two-run shot to left.

Lindquist cruised his way through the game with pinpoint control, allowing just one walk in the contest.

Madonna's Irwin strikes out 17 in no-hit gem

The Madonna University women's softball team split their final two games Sunday in Kentucky, defeating Lindsey Wilson, 4-3, on a pinch-hit two-run homer by Ashley Shay in the seventh inning.

Jess Irwin picked up the win, striking out five and Danielle Richardson (pictured) went 2-for-4 with two

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

RBI. MU fell in the nightcap to Campbellsville (Ky.), 6-0.

On Saturday, MU freshman pitcher Jess Irwin (Monroe) etched her name in the school record books striking out a career high 17 and recording

her first collegiate no-hitter in a 10-0 win over Midway (Ky.).

The no-hitter is the first for a MU softball pitcher since the 2003 season when Jen Tenyer accomplished the feat.

Irwin was aided in the victory offensively by Ashley Shay's three-run homer and a 4-for-5 day from Britney Scero and a 3-for-5, 2 RBI performance

from Tedi Johnston.

The Crusaders dropped their second game of the day, 7-1 to host Campbellsville.

Christina Finch went 2-for-4 while Scero continued her hot hitting with three more hits.

MU senior pitcher Liz Ballinger took the loss.

The Crusaders are 10-8-1 overall.

Ignition falls to Wave in battle for top spot

If there's a silver lining woven into Detroit 18-12 setback to Milwaukee Sunday afternoon in a clash that featured the Major Indoor Soccer League's two best teams, it's that the Ignition won't have to wait long to gain a dose of redemption.

The Ignition can redeem itself Friday night when it hosts the Wave in a regular season-closing contest set to kick-off at 7:30 p.m. at Compuware Arena in Plymouth Township.

The two teams are jostling for the No. 1 seed in the MISL playoffs that are set to begin later this month.

Milwaukee seized sole possession of first place in the MISL with Sunday's triumph as both clubs entered the game with 20-7 records.

Playing before a packed house Sunday at U.S. Cellular Arena, the Ignition struck first when Jamar Beasley recorded his 30th goal of the season 30 seconds into the contest when he headed the ball into the back of the net to give his team a 2-0 advantage.

The locals doubled their lead to 4-0 seven minutes later when Josh Rife followed suit and used his noggin to direct the ball past the Wave's net-minder. Former Madonna University star Worteh Sampson was credited with the assist.

The game had all the makings of an Ignition run-away when Detroit's Hewerton Moreira scored off a helper from Druo Callahan to extend the Ignition's lead to 6-0.

The hosts' rally commenced mid-way through the second period when Brett Wiesner slipped a shot past Detroit goal-keeper Danny Waltman.

The Ignition countered less than three minutes later when Kyt

Selaidopoulos lit up the scoreboard with a two-pointer to make it 8-2 at the half.

The goal was Selaidopoulos's 50th of his storied MISL career.

Milwaukee came out with feet ablazin' in the third stanza as it went on an 11-0 run to seize a commanding 13-8 lead. Troy Dudosky (two), Michael King, Jonathan Santos and Greg Howes all scored during the onslaught that carried over to the early stages of the fourth quarter.

Hewerton trimmed the Ignition's deficit to 13-10 with a two-pointer at 3:18 of the fourth off an assist from Matt Johnson and Jonathan Greenfield brought the visitors to within 13-12 five minutes later.

However, Milwaukee closed the game with a 5-0 run to secure a hold on first place.

Ignition to host

The Ignition will host Game 2 of the 2008 Major Indoor Soccer League Championship Series semifinal round on Sunday, April 20, at Compuware Arena, the club announced earlier this week.

The opening kick for the game against a yet-to-be-determined opponent will be 4:35 p.m.

The 2008 MISL Championship Series will include six of the nine MISL teams and will consist of three rounds.

The quarterfinal round is set for April 11-13, the semifinals will unfold April 18-20 and the Championship Series Final will be played April 26 at U.S. Cellular Arena in Milwaukee.

The Ignition clinched a first-round bye with its victory over the New Jersey Ironmen on March 28 and will move directly to the semifinal round.

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BOYS TRACK & FIELD CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Rick Austin, 13th year.
League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Lakes Division).
Last year's finish: First (WAAA meet, Division 1 regional, River Rat Relays); second (Lakes Division, Observersland Relays, West Bloomfield Relays and MITCA meet).
Notable losses to graduation: Andrew LaBerge (first-team All-Area); David St. Amant (first-team All-Area); Jacob McDonald (first-team All-Area); Brian Robertson (first-team All-Area); Eric Puroil (first-team All-Area); Dan Widmayer (second-team All-Area).
Leading returnees: Brandon Grysko, Sr. 800-1,600; (first-team All-Area 3,200 relay; second-team 800); Billy Gutowski, Sr., long jump; (first-team All-Area 1,600 relay; third-team All-Area long jump); Derik Peterman, Jr., pole vault-hurdles; (second-team All-Area pole vault); Joe Tessler, Sr. (third-team All-Area pole vault); Darran Carey, Sr. sprints; Paul Folk, Sr., distance; Emmanuel Dixon, Sr., sprints; Duane Najarian, Sr., throws; Joe Varilone, Sr., distance; Mark Waterbury, Jr., middle distance.
Promising newcomers: Jeff Ricketts, Jr., sprints; Shane Henson, Jr., sprints; Joseph Saloum, Soph., hurdles; Michael Bargerstock, Sr., throws; Nicholas Chendes, Jr., throws; Ian Guerin, Soph., hurdles; Kasean Robinson, Sr., sprints; Michael Schmidt, Jr., middle distance; Chris DeNapoli, Jr., middle distance; Travis Tomey, Jr., sprints; Kevin Pietrasinski, Soph., sprints.
Austin's 2008 outlook: "We're coming off a championship season where we lost 75 percent of our scoring. This year's team should be balanced as we return key performers in all events. I'm especially excited about our potential in the spring, which could be the fastest in Church Hill history. We're finding leadership right now. I like our work ethic so far this season."

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Nic Houstoulakis, fourth year.
League affiliation: WAAA (Western Division).
Last year's finish: 10th (WAAA meet); 11th (Division 1 regional).
Notable losses to graduation: Mike Sylvester (first-team All-Area); Mike Wood (third-team All-Area); Alvin Duncan, Kevin Wengert, Elliott Smith.
Leading returnees: Doug Cole, Sr., distance; Nick Fenner, Sr., pole vault; Mike Krcatovich, Sr., distance; Eric Green, Sr., hurdles; Stuart Gregory, Sr., hurdles; Dorell Myree, Sr., sprints; Evan Sirena, Sr., distance; Kevin Beadle, Jr., pole vault; Paul Voegelie, Jr., sprints; Tony Lawson, Jr., middle distance-jumps; Cameron Wludyka, Jr., hurdles; David Fortin, Jr., shot put-discus; Dylan Taylor, Jr., distance; Sean McAuliffe, Soph., shot put-discus; Robert Freed, Soph., distance; Nick Gheradini, Soph., distance.
Promising newcomers: Isaac Cadet, Jr., sprints; Antoine Banks, Soph., high jump-sprints; Mike Baumgardner, Soph., sprints; Andy McCaffery, Soph., high jump-sprints; Austin Jones, Fr., distance; Brandon Tower, Fr., hurdles; Jarius Woolfork, Fr., discus; Ryan Parkin, distance.

Houstoulakis' 2008 outlook: "We graduated nine seniors, so we're returning most of our nucleus from last season. Most of the experience that is returning for us are juniors and sophomores. Our distance team is working hard and improving every day with seniors Krcatovich, Sirena and Cole providing leadership. Our sprints are led by senior Dorell Myree, and juniors Paul Voegelie and Isaac Cade. We have a couple of young athletes competing for the last spots on our relay teams. In the hurdles, returning seniors Gregory and Green, along with Wludyka, are developing into a competitive group. Our field events are led by returning lettermen Fortin and McAuliffe in the throws, senior Nick Fenner and junior Kevin Beade in the pole vault, and junior Tony Lawson in the high jump."

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Scott Shaw, fifth year.
League affiliation: WAAA (Lakes Division).
Last year's finish: first (Lakes Division, Observersland Relays, Spartan Twilight and Livonia City Meet); second (WAAA meet and Division 1 regional).
Notable losses to graduation: Matt Rzepka (first-team All-Area); Dan Cragel (first-team All-Area 800 relay); Dave McIntyre, Kyle Osborne, Brad Deak.
Leading returnees: Myles White, Sr., hurdles-long jump (first-team All-Area long jump; 800 relay); Mitchell White, Sr. (second-team All-Area high jump; 400 relay); Derek Buskey, Sr. 400 (second-team All-Area 1,600 relay); Matt Broome, Sr., shot put-discus; Mike Gibbons, Sr. (third-team All-Area 3,200 relay); Steve Eideh, Jr. 100 (first-team All-Area 800 relay; second-team All-Area 100 dash); Nate Sergrison, Sr. 200-400-long jump (first-team All-Area 800 relay); David Simor, Jr., long jump (second-team All-Area 400 relay); Austin White, Soph., sprints-relays; Jonathan Gudeman, Soph., pole vault; Justin Lipsky, Sr., distance; Dennis Swift, Sr., hurdles; Pat York, Sr., high jump; Shawn Howse, Jr., distance; Mike Green, Jr., distance; Alan Stackpoole, Jr., distance; Brian Fenech, Jr., distance; Dave Pearson, Sr., pole vault; Danny Martinelli, Sr., pole vault; Osama Al-Haymi, Jr., pole vault.
Promising newcomers: Wade Stahl, Jr., sprints-relays; Jacob Gudeman, Jr., sprints; Wyatt Stahl, Jr., 400-long jump; Will Burek, Soph., hurdles-long jump.
Shaw's 2008 outlook: "There will be a number of factors involved with us having a successful season. First, is being healthy. Our fastest sprinter, Steve Eideh, is still recovering from a knee injury from football. And two, the development of our pole vaulters, Gudeman, Pearson, Martinelli and Al-Haymi all improved last season. And third, our distance group led by seniors Mike Gibbons and Justin Lipsky. And finally, our varsity athletes who have done well in the past committing to getting into shape so they can compete at the level they're capable of."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: Jess Shough, 22nd year.
League affiliation: WAAA (Lakes Division).
Last year's finish: sixth (WAAA meet and Division 1 regional).
Notable losses to graduation: Ian Thornton

(first-team All-Area); Bryan Henley (second-team All-Area); Curtis Jackson (third-team All-Area).
Leading returnees: Larry Dawkins, Sr., 100-200 (first-team All-Area 200; 400 relay); JaJuan Marks, Soph., sprints (first-team All-Area 400 relay; Corey Davis, Sr., sprints (first-team All-Area 400 relay); Zach Bozgian, Sr., throws; Mike Gardner, Sr., distance; James Kelly II, Sr., throws; Gary Lawrence, Sr., pole vault; Ryan Lockhart, Sr., pole vault; Shawn Long, Sr., pole vault; Dan McCahill, Sr., distance; Daris Smith, Sr., high jump-middle distance.
Promising newcomers: Keshawn Martin, Sr., sprints-jump; Nelson Kenne, Soph., middle distance; Dustin Gajowiak, Soph., throws; Sergio Pavan, Jr., hurdles; Eric Mlynar, Jr., distance; John Abraham, Sr., throws; James Abraham, Sr., throws; T.J. Aranciba, Jr., throws; Tim Boes, Jr., distance; Kyren Boyd, Jr., sprints; Anthony Sackett, Jr., sprints; Jimmy Perez, Fr., sprints; Devon Campbell, Fr., sprints; Stefan Anthony, Fr., sprints.
Shough's 2008 outlook: "The John Glenn 'Believe' track season promises to be exciting. We return a number of quality sprinters who should have outstanding seasons. Our throwing corps are in the capable hands of coach Charley Hallman again and promise to be very competitive. We have a few holes to fill, but with the outstanding leadership of the five captains - Corey Davis, Larry Dawkins, Zach Bozgian, Mike Gardner and Dan McCahill - we look forward to have another competitive season."

WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head coach: Lee Grizzell, fifth year.
League affiliation: WAAA (Western Division).
Last year's finish: 11th (WAAA); eighth (Division 1 regional).
Notable losses to graduation: Kelvin Lewis (first-team All-Area); Casey Wolfe (third-team All-Area); Miguel Crowe (third-team All-Area); Adam Goring (third-team All-Area).
Leading returnees: D.J. Freeman, Sr., sprints; Renaldo Powell, Jr., hurdles; Jacob Schofield, Sr., distance; Mike Grayer, Jr., 200-400; Matt Mills, Jr., middle distance; Ryan Crayne, Sr., throw; C.J. Kelly, Sr., throws; Austin Hassen, Sr., throws; Abraham Mendez, Sr., distance.
Promising newcomers: Alex Balli, Soph., sprints; Parish Clayborn, Jr., sprints; Anton Conley, Jr., sprints; Ryan Lowe, Soph., sprints; Randolph Mathis, Fr., sprints; Tyler Gendron, Fr., distance; Travis Klein, Fr., distance; Scott McIntosh, Fr., distance; Dante Senters, Fr., sprints.
Grizzell's 2008 outlook: "When it's all said and done we'll have about 30 to 35 kids. We lost four good kids who transferred at the semester break, three to Inster and one to South Lyon. We had others in our junior class transfer as well. This junior class had a lot of promise as freshman, but we've been decimated by transfers. We have a lot of experience so it's going to be a rebuilding effort. But with a lot of work we hope to have some good things by the end of the year."
LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Head coach: Dean Bergeron, seventh year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's finish: third (Metro Conference);

seventh (Division 3 regional).
Notable losses to graduation: John Stewart (first-team All-Area); Dan Kubera, Brandon Page.
Leading returnees: Jeremy Gainer, Jr., sprints-relays; Ryan Glass, Sr., middle distance; Taylor Hall, Jr., throws; Aaron McCullar, Sr., sprints-relays; Matt Parent, Sr., distance; Matt Neal, Sr., throws; Derek Zink, Sr., middle distance; Andrew Jasmer, Jr., throws; Joe Neilson, Sr., middle distance-high jump; Daniel Papaj, Sr., hurdles.
Promising newcomers: Don Martin, Sr., throws; Joe Haapala, Jr., throws; Jon Jeffrey, Sr., middle distance-hurdles; Todd McCullar, Jr., sprints; Levonte Brooks, Soph., sprints-hurdles; Adrian Myers, Fr., sprints-hurdles; Moses Hobson, Fr., sprints; Cody Sillanpaa, Jr., middle distance.
Bergeron's 2008 outlook: "We have 49 kids and most should be eligible. We want to compete for conference, same always. And see how many guys we can get to states. I think we'll be strong in the throws this year. We've been weak in the hurdles, but we'll definitely be better this year. Lutheran Westland will be the favorite in the league along with Macomb Lutheran North, two of the teams we haven't beaten. You can't overlook the others like Harper Woods. They haven't had a track in two years. (Bloomfield Hills) Cranbrook always gives us a run for the money, too. We've had close meets with them."

LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND
Head coach: Mike Unger, 29th year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's finish: first (Metro Conference, Division 4 regional and MITCA meet); fifth (Division 4 state meet).
Notable losses to graduation: Josh Paika (third-team All-Area); Kyle Ramthun (third-team All-Area); Joe Girolamo (third-team All-Area); Mike Schatz, Aaron Vankee, Brandon Ross, Justin Hempel, Paul Rockrohr, Josh Haller, Kyle Wilson.
Leading returnees: Kyle Kempf, Sr. 200-400-high jump (third-team All-Area 1,600 relay); Paul Rilet, Sr., pole vault-hurdles; Frankie Cain, Sr., shot put-discus; Troy Golze, Sr., shot put; Kevin Moody, Sr., shot put; Jim Rockrohr, Sr. 800-relays; Josh Rice, Sr., distance-3,200 relay; Spencer Lyle, Sr. distance-relays; Brad Larose, Jr., pole vault; Zach Robinson, Jr., sprints-long jump; Joe Krueger, Jr. shot put-discus; Alex Kemp, Jr., distance; Ethan Haller, Soph., long jump-sprints; Craig Kowalsky, Soph., shot put-discus; David Moldenhauer, Soph., distance; Justin Paika, Soph., pole vault-400; Cody Weaver, Soph., hurdles.
Unger's 2008 outlook: "At this point, it's certainly a season of unknowns because of the graduation of senior we had last spring. Last year we pretty much know what athletes would fill which events, but that is certainly not the case this year. We do have about 40 guys, so we'll have to see who ends up in what events. They are practicing hard, so it's very encouraging to my assistant (Dave Ruth) and I that we can have balance in all of the events. The three sprint relays will have many new runners so it will be interesting to see how they progress throughout the season."

T-Birds bolt, forfeit opener vs. Spartans

Thunder and lightning wasn't the only thing that scared off Dearborn Edsel Ford in its girls soccer opener Monday night at Livonia Stevenson.

The Thunderbirds found themselves down 5-0 after 20 minutes, waited through one weather delay and signaled to officials they were going home after a second delay giving the Spartans a forfeit victory.

Each inclement weather delay is 30 minutes as mandated under MHSAA rules.

"It was little bit of a weird situation," Stevenson coach Chris Pinta said. "Their coach evidently didn't want to wait around after the second delay. He said they were going home. Even though it was still raining, there was no thunder or lightning."

Sophomore Molly McConnell notched a hat trick for the Spartans, scoring at the 3-minute mark, 14 minutes and 17 minutes (from Taleen Mergian).

Alex Harbowy also scored from Mergian at the 10-minute mark, while Brittany Hoots buried Rachel Stevens' free kick at the 20-minute mark to complete the scoring.

Stevenson goalkeeper Rachel Simari did not face a shot during the opening half in posting the shutout.

PLY. CHRISTIAN 5, WAYNE 3: Senior captain Whitney Jacobs' hat trick was not enough Tuesday as host Wayne

GIRLS SOCCER

Memorial (0-2) dropped a non-league encounter to Plymouth Christian Academy.

Jacobs, who has four goals on the year, got an assist on the first goal from sophomore sister Alicia Jacobs. Her second goal was unassisted, while senior captain and defender Danielle Borg assisted on the third.

It was 3-2 in favor of PCA at halftime.

FERNDALE 3, WAYNE 1: In the season opener Monday evening, the host Eagles prevailed against Wayne Memorial in a game stopped with 11 minutes remaining due to lightning.

Ferndale led 2-1 at halftime scoring with only four seconds left after Wayne senior captain Whitney Jacobs tied it only 17 seconds earlier off an assist from junior Brittany DeJack.

Wayne played the final 15 minutes with only 10 players due to a red card.

The Zebras got sterling defense from senior Danielle Borg and sophomore goalkeeper Megan Maynor was making her first start.

CHURCHILL 0, PIONEER 0 (SUSPENDED): Lightning in the area Monday night forced host Livonia Churchill and Ann Arbor Pioneer to suspend action after 17 minutes of play.

The game will be made up at a later date.

KNOW THE SCORE
 check out the numbers in today's **SPORTS** section

TRACK
 FROM PAGE B1

The Patriots are led by distance runner Evan Sirena, while Wayne is banking on senior D.J. Freeman in the sprints.

In the Metro Conference, Lutheran High Westland will try and defend its title led by

senior Kyle Kempf.

The Warriors are defending Division 4 regional and Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association (MITCA) champions. The Warriors, coached by the area's elder statesman, Mike Unger (29th year), placed fifth overall in the 2007 state meet.

Livonia Clarenceville seventh-year coach Dean Bergeron must find a replace-

ment for the graduated John Stewart, who placed third in the 400 and fourth in the 200 at the Division 3 state meet.

Stewart was Metro Conference and Livonia City champ in the 100, 200 and 400 and broke a 30-year-old school record in the 400 (49.5).

Clarenceville's heir apparent is junior sprinter Jeremy Gainer.

GUMBERT
 FROM PAGE B1

"I thought he was somebody's grandpa. He worked every game, every tournament. He was one of those guys that when he was attached to something, he gave 100 percent. He was Mr. Sports. He knew more about the kids than some of their own parents."

In 1989, the booster club established two scholarships, one in Gumbert's name.

"Lowell was the reason people should get flowers before they die," she said. "He touched a lot of lives."

Visitation for Gumbert will be from 4-9 p.m. Thursday at L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, 7707 Middlebelt, Westland. Services begin at 10 a.m. Friday also at Griffin.

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Churchill girls getting things down Pat

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Pat Daugherty has been handed the baton. And he has a tough act to follow succeeding Keith McDonald as the Livonia Churchill girls track and field coach. McDonald, who moved into an administrator's role, posted a 24-0 dual-meet record to go along with four Western Lakes Activities and four Lakes Division titles. The Chargers also captured two Division 1 regional titles and three Public Schools of Livonia invitational titles in McDonald's four years. Daugherty spent seven seasons as the Churchill boys assistant before moving over in the same role last year with the girls. He is also the head cross country coach at Madonna University. "Basically the team success will be determined by our senior class," Daugherty



Ashley Parker
John Glenn



Rachel McFarlane
Churchill



Courtney Calka
Stevenson

said. "This is truly our seniors' team. I expect both (Livonia) Stevenson and Northville to be strong competition for the (Lakes) division and (WLA) conference championships." The Chargers lost some valuable members to graduation including state discus champion Lauren Krupsky. But the cupboard is not completely bare with the return of senior Rachel McFarlane, who qualified for three individual events at the state meet including the 800-meter run (2:19.09), 1,600 run (school-record 5:08.44)

and 3,200 (school-record 11:12.63). Senior Kyndra Abron, Miss Volleyball, will give the Chargers plenty of points in the shot put and discus, while senior hurdlers Jackie Gribeck and Mallory Lukas also return along with sophomore Sara Kroll (distance) and Sarah LaBerge (sprints). Churchill's chief competition will once again come from Lakes Division rival Stevenson, which finished runner-up in the regional and third in the Western Lakes meet. The Spartans, under fifth-year coach Kelly Graham, features standout 400 runner Brittany Mrozek, a senior who captured the WLA title

(59.99) and regional, along with junior distance runner Courtney Calka, a regional champion who owns the WLA and school record in the 1,600 (5:03.27). Livonia Franklin, meanwhile, enjoyed one of its finest seasons in school history after finishing third at the regional and fourth in the WLA. The Patriots, hard hit by graduation losses, will have to do some rebuilding, but return senior Ashley Price (shot put-discus), junior Ashley Butkowski (400), junior Meghan Powers (pole vault) and sophomore Liz Hollaway (high jump). "Overall, I feel very good about our ability to remain competitive with the teams in the area and I look forward to another fun season," Franklin eighth-year coach Dave Bjorklund said. The fastest sprint corps, however, belongs to Westland John

Glenn, led by senior Ashley Parker who took both WLA titles in the 100 and 200. Parker's season bests were 12.3 in the 100 and 25.4 in the 200. The Rockets, under first-year coach James Fitzgerald, scored 20 points in last Saturday's Ann Arbor Pioneer Invitational as junior Chanel Payne took third in the long jump (16 feet, 11.5 inches). Parker added a fifth in the 60-meter dash (7.96) and teamed up with Payne, Ashley Montgomery and Lakeysa Smith for a fifth in the 800 relay (1:50.64). Pole vaulter Jamie Mellas also took a fifth (7-0). The numbers, meanwhile, are down to 15 at Wayne Memorial, but the Zebras feature an outstanding hurdler in senior Nastassia Goines. One team expected to be on the rise is Livonia Ladywood, coming off a third-place finish at last year's Division 2 regional under coach Lori Brauer.

The Blazers return three standouts in sophomore Megan Yanik (sprints-hurdles), junior Katie Morasso (sprints) and junior Brigid Molloy (throws). In the Metro Conference, runner-up Lutheran High Westland and third-year coach Randy Clark will have to make up for the loss of sprinter Lauren Schwewe. The defending Division 4 regional champs are led by senior Katie Krueger (throws), junior Katey Ramthun (200 through 800) and junior Megan Kohtz (long jump-sprints). Optimism is running high for fellow Metro Conference member Livonia Clarenceville, which returns its top four scorers from a year ago led by Division 3 state discus qualifier Ashley Hall, sprinter-long jumper Aneta Elliot, sprinter Brushell Brown and middle distance runner Shelby Dermyre.

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD CAPSULE OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Pat Daugherty, first year.
League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Lakes Division).
Last year's finish: First place (Lakes Division, WLA and Division 1 regional meets).
Notable losses to graduation: Lauren Krupsky (first-team All-Area); Mandi Coppola (first-team All-Area); Tauri Roethermel (first-team All-Area); Nicole Thornsberry (first-team All-Area); Liz Buttery (first-team All-Area); Erica Hope (first-team); Megan Macerantini (second-team All-Area); Kristin Zgorecki (second-team All-Area); Kaitlee Hobbins (second-team All-Area); Milian Boyer (first-team All-Area).
Leading returns: Rachel McFarlane, Sr. distance (first-team All-Area 800); Kyndra Abron, Sr. shot put-discus (second-team All-Area shot put); Jackie Gribeck, Sr. hurdles-jumps (third-team All-Area 100 hurdles); Sarah LaBerge, Sr. 200-relays (second-team All-Area 200); Margarita Lazarevska, Sr. hurdles Mallory Lukas, Sr. hurdles (third-team All-Area 300 hurdles); Sara Kroll, Soph., 800-3,200 relay (second-team All-Area 800); first-team 3,200 relay; Samar Aoude, Jr., 400-1,600 relay (first-team All-Area 1,600 relay); Kim Verellen, Sr., 3,200; Michelle Verellen, Sr., 3,200; Eren Ural, Sr., pole vault (third-team All-Area); Sharon Rayford, Sr., pole vault; Sara Niezgodna, Sr., 800-3,200; Shannon Getchen, Jr., throws; Megan Murray, Sr., 800.
Promising newcomers: Megan Catalano, Soph., hurdles; Megan Kelly, Soph., sprints; Eran Ural, Fr., pole vault; Jenna Szuba, Soph., 800-1,600; Jessica Ralsaner, Fr., 400; Samantha Emmanuel, Fr., sprints; Emily Clairmont, Jr., distance.
Daugherty's 2008 outlook: "We will have a tough act to follow from last season's team. They had great individual and team success. Fortunately we have a senior-laden team with great leadership. As a coaching staff, we're very excited about this year's team. The challenge this season will be for the girls to adjust to basically a new coaching staff. We

will feel the loss of former head coach Keith McDonald and assistant Sue Tatro, but with a good senior class returning I expect a smooth transition. We will be led by our captains Rachel McFarlane, Jackie Gribeck, Sarah LaBerge, Kyndra Abron, Michelle Verellen and Megan Murray. They are not only good athletes, but even better leaders and people."
LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Dave Bjorklund, eighth year.
League affiliation: WLA (Western Division).
Last year's finish: First (Patriot Relays, Raider Relays, Starford Relays); second (Western Division); third (Division 1 regional); fourth (WLA meet).
Notable losses to graduation: Robyn Whalen (first-team All-Area); Casey Lynett (second-team); Megan Wilson (second-team All-Area); Kara Saarela (second-team All-Area); Allison Milcan (third-team All-Area); Devan Walley (third-team All-Area); Laura Marshall (third-team All-Area); Kara Giummo.
Leading returns: Ashley Price, Sr. shot put-discus; Ashley Butkowski, Jr. 400-relays (third-team All-Area 400); Meghan Powers, Jr., pole vault; Liz Hollaway, Soph., high jump (second-team All-Area); Seneca Scott, Soph., 400-3,200 relay (third-team All-Area 3,200 relay); Monica Hardy, Soph., 100-200; Carolanne Cucci, Jr., hurdles; Victoria Church, Soph., 1,600-3,200; Brittany Milcan, Soph., discus-shot put; Kelly Tappella, Sr., sprints-jumps; Anastasia Bending, Sr. pole vault; Sam Cule, Jr., high jump.
Promising newcomers: Mallory Church, Fr., 800-1,600; Savannah Haig, Soph., shot put-discus; Olivia Hernandez, Soph., sprints; Molly Hirst, Jr., sprints; Megan McPherson, Fr., 800-1,600; Jen Mueller, Fr. hurdles-sprints; Emily Quint, Soph., pole vault-long jump-sprints; Megan Wickens, Fr., 800, 1,600.
Bjorklund's 2008 outlook: "Going into this season, I was worried. We lost a lot of talent and points to graduation. The class of 2007 was the best in the history of Franklin girls track and field. They were part of breaking schools records in nine of the 17 events and

are number two all-time in four other events, along with helping us place highly in lots of big meets. That being said, I'm very impressed with the kids we have out right now. We still have a lot of talent and big-meet point scorers returning with Price, Butkowski, Powers, Scott and Hollaway. Some of our new kids will be able to fight right in where we have holes from graduation. We have a very young and hard-working distance team, and have found some new talent in the sprints, hurdles and pole vault."
LIVONIA STEVENSON
Head coach: Kelly Graham, fifth year.
League affiliation: WLA (Lakes Division).
Last year's finish: second (Division 1 regional and Lakes Division); third (WLA meet).
Notable losses to graduation: Maria Winkler (first-team All-Area); Kristen Frey (second-team All-Area); Kara Piorowski, Allie Plisko, Stephanie Perez.
Leading returns: Brittany Mrozek, Sr. captain, 400 (first-team All-Area); second-team 1,600 relay; Courtney Calka, Jr., 1,600 (first-team All-Area); second-team 1,600-3,200 relays; Brittany Gentile, Sr. captain, hurdles (second-team All-Area 100 hurdles); Chelsea Pashnick, Sr. captain, long jump; Collette Fodera, Sr., throws; Maame Adomako, Sr. captain, throws; Brooke Knochel, Jr., 400 (second-team All-Area 1,600 relay); Sarah Opatyke, Soph., distance (second-team All-Area 3,200 relay); third-team All-Area 1,600; Christine Armstrong, Jr., hurdles; Becky Adamcheck, Soph., hurdles; Katie Glynn, Soph., 400-800-relays.
Promising newcomers: Chrissy Tappan, Jr., distance; Courtney Lewis, Jr., sprints; Victoria Saferian, Soph., distance; Megan DeMarco, Soph., sprints; Bella DiGiulio, Fr., middle distance. Anagnostou, Fr., middle distance; Marci Kovsky, Fr., sprints; Karli Kuchka, Jr., middle distance.
Graham's 2008 outlook: "I'm very excited about this coming season. We lost a great bunch of seniors who showed great leadership and talent, but with the returning veterans and newly added girls, it should offer great

success to our team. We have a solid varsity group returning with many new girls who will also contribute to the success of the team this year. The returning seniors have great talent and leadership qualities that will add even more strength to the team."
WESTLAND JOHN GLENN
Head coach: James Fitzgerald, first year.
League affiliation: WLA (Lakes Division).
Last year's finish: sixth (WLA meet); seventh (Division 1 regional).
Notable losses to graduation: Kija Colts, Amanda Femat, Sierra Richardson.
Leading returns: Ashley Parker, Sr., sprints (first-team All-Area 100, 400 relay); second-team 800 relay; Chanel Payne, Jr., long jump-sprints (first-team All-Area 400 relay); second-team 800 relay; third-team long jump; Ashley Montgomery, Sr., sprints (first-team All-Area 400 relay); second-team 800 relay; Lakeysa Smith, Sr., sprints (first-team All-Area 400 relay); second-team 800 relay; third-team 200; Ryan Anderson, Jr., shot put; Jamie Miller, Sr., pole vault-middle distance.
Promising newcomers: Brittany Brown, Sr., middle distance; Candice Williams, Soph., sprints (transfer from Wayne Memorial); Danica James, Jr., hurdles; Jenn Drum, Soph., distance.
Fitzgerald's 2008 outlook: "The season looks bright. We had good numbers and the athletes are working hard. We are focusing on doing things the right way and getting better every day. We have strong leadership returning along with some talented underclassmen. We expect to compete at a high level and build team character. The girls are focused and we're pleased with their effort. We look forward to a successful season."
WAYNE MEMORIAL
Head coach: Kevin Miller, eighth year.
League affiliation: WLA (Western Division).
Last year's finish: 12th (WLA meet); 14th (Division 1 regional).
Notable losses to graduation: Kathy Hansen.
Leading returns: Nastassia Goines, Sr. sprints-hurdles; Claire Moro, Sr., distance; Melissa Smith, Sr. distance; Haley Hayes, Jr., middle distance; Laila Hayes, Soph., middle distance; Lakeisha Allen, Jr., sprints.
Promising newcomers: Meah Long, Fr., sprints.
Miller's 2008 outlook: "We had some difficulties last year. With only 15 out we'll try and develop kids individually. We're rebuilding the team this year. We have to get our field events back and we don't have any relay teams put together yet. Our long jump pit is still frozen and our shot put area is under water. It's been hard. Our step program doesn't end until Friday and we may get some more kids. We're looking for more bodies."
LIVONIA LADYWOOD
Head coach: Lori Brauer, second year.

League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).
Last year's finish: third (Division 2 regional); fourth (Catholic League).
Notable losses to graduation: Stephanie DiGiandomenico, Kathryn Berger, Emily Rozanski, Jenae Bahoura, Paige Evans.
Leading returns: Megan Yanik, Soph., sprints-hurdles (second-team All-Area 400); Katie Morasso, Jr., sprints (third-team All-Area 200); Brigid Molloy, Jr., throws (third-team All-Area discus); Emily Bambach, Sr., distance; Laura Grau, Sr., distance; Kelley Marcaccio, Sr., throws distance; Karlee Siepierski, Sr., distance; Jenny Turzewski, Sr., distance; Allison Spitzley, Jr., jumps-hurdles; Margaret Wojtanowski, Jr., sprints; Morgan Zuziak, Jr. distance; Kelsey Soronen, Jr., distance; Kathleen Theisen, Jr., distance; Mallory Tomaszewski, Jr., distance; Kasey Cox, Jr., distance; Meredith Houska, Soph., throws; Meghan Clarke, Soph., jumps-sprints; Cathy Wojtanowski, Soph., distance; Maureen Murphy, Soph., sprints; Haley Giordano, Soph., distance; Lisa Achacon, Soph., sprints.
Promising newcomers: Amanda Field, Sr., distance; Julia Kenney, Jr., distance; Melissa Wickman, Jr., distance; Mary Burdick, Soph., throws; Kathleen Welsh, Soph., sprints; Megan Vitale, Fr., sprints; Siobhan Aldridge, Fr., distance; Teresa Wojnarowski, Fr., sprints-jumps; Shannon Hogg, Fr., sprints-jumps; Mercedes Black, Fr., distance; Lauren McCallie, Fr., sprints; Melissa Laing, Fr., sprints; Emma McClory, Fr., sprints.
Brauer's 2008 outlook: "I'm looking toward our experienced athletes, like state competitors Katie Morasso and Megan Yanik, to help lead our young team. The talent that has to come from the freshman class last year and this year is really exciting. Goals for this year are to place higher for our league and place higher at regional. We definitely want to be returning girls to state (meet) competition as well as girls competing at that level for the first time. With this group of girls and how they're coming together, I think this will be a great season."
LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Head coach: Brady Gustafson, third year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's finish: sixth (Metro Conference); 11th (Division 3 regional).
Notable losses to graduation: Enyiona Okechukwu.
Leading returns: Ashley Hall, Sr., 800-discus; Aneta Elliot, Jr., sprints-long jump; Brushell Brown, Jr., sprints-relays; Shelby Dermyre, Soph., 800-1,600-relays.
Promising newcomers: Marlene Azar, Jr., 400-800-relays; Alexa Bean, Fr., 400-1,600 relay; Jillian Burhop, Fr., sprints; Stephanie Lozano, Fr., hurdles-1,600 relay; Evangelia Daniels, Fr., sprints-relays; Jenna Burgess, Fr., shot put-

discus.
Gustafson's 2008 outlook: "We're returning our four top scorers from '07 and have our best freshman class in year. This should be our most balanced and most talented team we've had in many years. Fifteen of our 21 girls are underclassmen, which bodes well for the future. Aneta Elliot is our returning captain and MVP from a year ago. She should be at the top of our conference in the 100, 400 and long jump. Ashley Hall qualified for 'states' in her first year of throwing as a juniors. She looks to capture a conference crown and return to 'states' in the discus. Ashley's on pace to break the school's discus record, as well as bring a part of the team which will break the school record in the 4 x 800 relay. Dermyre is looking to build upon her freshman year where she finished second in scoring. She's a versatile athlete running every event from the 400 up. Brushell (Brown) is poised to climb the conference ranks in the 200 after finishing six last year. She, along with Aneta, will lead our young group of sprinters. Daniels and Azar added depth to a great returning class."
LUTHERAN HIGH WESTLAND
Head coach: Randy Clark, third year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's finish: first (Division 4 regional); second (Metro Conference meet).
Notable losses to graduation: Lauren Schwewe (second-team All-Area); Katherine Mackenzie, Amy Maynard, Erin Rauch, Ashley Taylor-Voss.
Leading returns: Bekah Kroesing, Sr., hurdles; Katie Krueger, Sr., shot put-discus; Olivia Rork, Sr., shot put-sprints; Myrian Stork, Sr., pole vault-hurdles; Megan Kohtz, Jr., long jump-sprints; Katey Ramthun, Jr., 200-400-800; Becca Refenes, Jr., shot put-discus-sprints; Emily Freeman, Soph., high jump-sprints; Brittany Maynard, Soph., distance; Nicole Zehel, Soph., pole vault-middle distance.
Promising newcomers: Julie Jongsma, Sr., high jump-long jump-middle distance; Kendal Grobbs, Jr., long jump-middle distance; Allyson Yankee, Jr., long jump-middle distance; Rendi Charters, Fr., shot put-discus; Beth LaRose, Fr., distance; Sarah Maynard, Fr., distance; Jacquelyn Schwartz, Fr., hurdles-sprints.
Clark's 2008 outlook: "The departure of my assistant coach Jeremy Fabris to pursue his graduate degree will make for a challenging year. Returning veterans will provide a solid core in all areas. The addition of newcomers will fill some large holes in the lineup due to graduation. The Metro Conference is always a challenge with the stiff competition we'll be facing over the next couple of months. Regionals will be at home for the first time on our new track. Given the fact that we have most of our meets at home will be a plus."

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TRIALS

FROM PAGE B1

Fox will swim the 200 butterfly, where she ranks 66th nationally; the 200 IM (84th ranked); and 100 butterfly (108th ranked). "We're hopeful with four more days of tapering," Hafner said. "We'll let her make a good run against good competition. She has a great chance of making three cuts, and she'll also swim the 400 freestyle." Fox normally swims mornings with Hafner at Franklin before returning to the Novi Sports Club after school with the Sturgeons. "She's got a strong drive to be good," said Hafner, who began coaching Fox at age 8. "She has a strong inner core of her body. She's consistently improved since age 9 and she won state titles at 10. She went to a regional select camp for the top 13- and 14-year-old swimmers. She's versatile. She can swim anything." Fox would like no better to earn a spot in the Trials in the 200 IM where she will go up against her favorite swimmer, Northville High grad and just recently crowned NCAA champion Aya Ohlgren of Auburn University. "She's ranked in the top eight (in the 200 IM)," Fox said. "She always gave me talks before my swims. It will get me

pumped up in the Trials." Fox's accomplishment went virtually unnoticed at Stevenson with the exception of a few people. She doesn't swim for her high school team and doesn't like to toot her own horn. "Most people have no idea except for a couple my friends, and a couple of teachers know," she said. With all the training and schooling, Fox doesn't have much time for socializing. She carries a 3.7 grade point average and lists Advanced Placement U.S. History as her favorite subject where she's currently studying the Cold War. "I basically study, swim and watch Lifetime (TV network) with my best friends," Fox joked. Fox's quest for Olympic Trials cuts, however, has been rewarding. "My coaches know what to do to push me," she said. "They're so dedicated and I'm thankful they've taken me this far." Following the Trials, Fox will swim July 29 in the U.S. Open followed by the Speedo Junior Nationals Aug. 4, both in Minneapolis, Minn. Meanwhile, she hopes the magic carpet ride will continue. "I hope to get the rest of my cuts," Fox said. "But right now I'm still on 'Cloud Nine.'" bemons@oe.hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2123

THE WEEK AHEAD

- PREP BASEBALL**
Thursday, April 3
F.H. Harrison at Churchill, 4 p.m.
Friday, April 4
Dearborn at Franklin, 4 p.m.
Belleville at Wayne, 4 p.m.
Riverview at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Ply. Christian at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 5 (all double-headers)
Belleville at Franklin, 11 a.m.
Farmington at John Glenn, 11 a.m.
Ypsilanti Lincoln at Wayne, 11 a.m.
GIRLS SOFTBALL
Thursday, April 3
Farmington at Churchill (2), 4 p.m.
Friday, April 4
Dearborn at Stevenson, 4 p.m.
Riverview at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Ply. Christian at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 5 (all double-headers)
Ypsilanti Lincoln at Wayne, 11 a.m.
GIRLS SOCCER
Thursday, April 3
Ladywood at Divine Child, 4 p.m.
Luth. Westland at Wash. Christian, 5 p.m.
Friday, April 4
Ply. Christian at Luth. Westland, 4:30 p.m.
Stevenson at Canton, 5:30 p.m.
Franklin at D.H. Crestwood, 7 p.m.
BOYS & GIRLS TRACK
Thursday, April 3
Churchill at W.L. Western, 3:30 p.m.
Salem at Franklin, 3:30 p.m.
Stevenson at Canton, 3:30 p.m.
John Glenn at Wayne, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 5
Franklin Patriot Relays, 9 a.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Thursday, April 3
John Glenn at Garden City, 4 p.m.
Ladywood vs. R.O. Shrine at Schoolcraft, 4 p.m.
Southfield-Lathrup vs. Clarenceville at Livonia's Bicentennial Park, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, April 4
Farmington at Churchill, 4 p.m.
Franklin at F.H. Harrison, 4 p.m.
Wayne at Ypsilanti Lincoln, 4 p.m.
Redford Union at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 5
A.A. Pioneer Quad Meet, 8 a.m.
Riv. Gabriel Richard Invitational, 9 a.m.
BOYS GOLF
Thursday, April 3
Fellows Creek Cup, 8:30 a.m.
Friday, April 4
Huron Valley vs. Oakland Christian, 2:30 p.m.
GIRLS LACROSSE
Saturday, April 5
Ladywood Tournament, 9 a.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL
Thursday, April 3
Rochester at Madonna, 2 p.m.
Saturday, April 5
Madonna at St. Xavier, Ill. (2), 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 6
Madonia at St. Xavier (2), 1 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Thursday, April 3
Madonna at Siena Heights (2), 4 p.m.
Friday, April 4
Cornerstone at Madonna (2), 4 p.m.
Saturday, April 5
Aquinas College at Madonna (2), 1 p.m.

Visit hometownlife.com for daily updates of news, sports and photos



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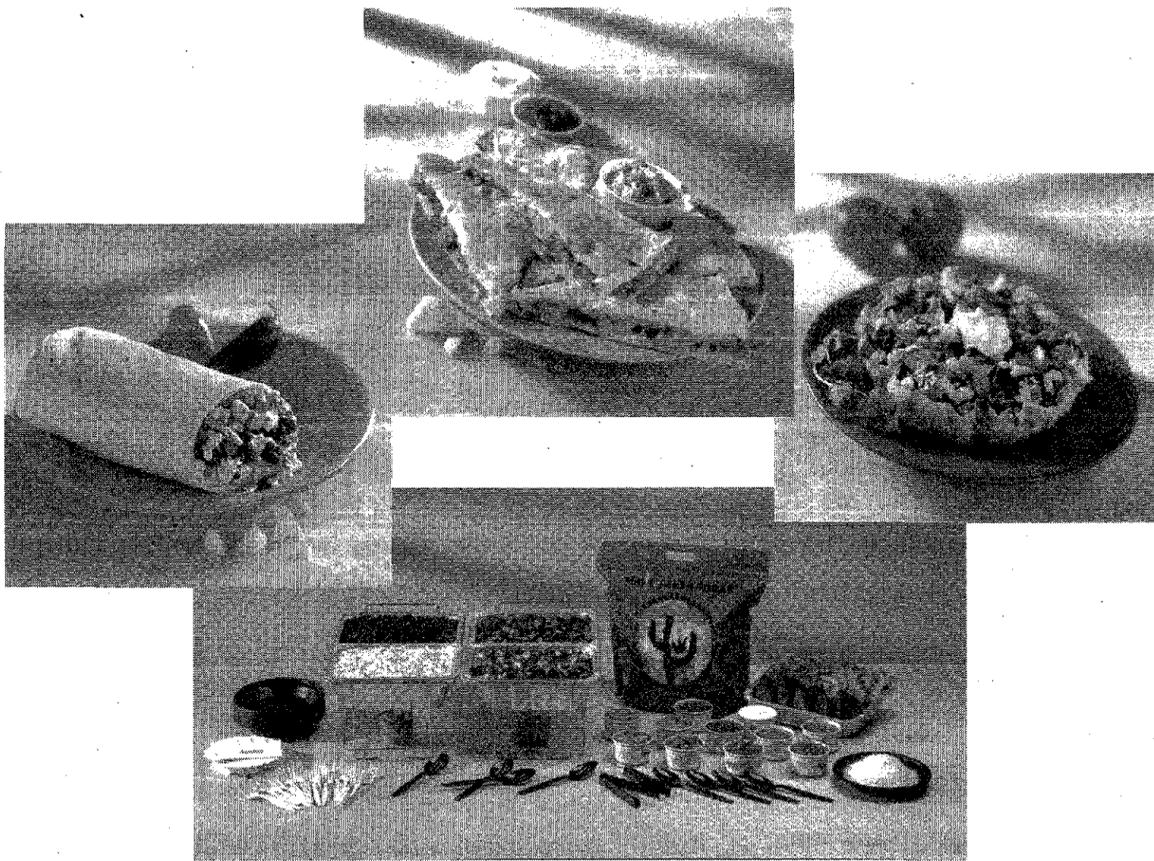
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April is Michigan wine month

Did you know that of 14,500 vineyard acres, Michigan has 1,800 acres devoted to wine grapes, making it the eighth state in wine grape production? In the


Focus on Wine
Ray & Eleanor Heald

last 10 years, Michigan vineyard area has increased more than 60 percent. Annually, Michigan's more than 50 commercial wineries produce over 375,000 cases of wine, ranking it 13th in the nation for wine production and attracting a million visitors who generate an estimated \$8.6 million in wine-related tourism. The wine and grape industry contributes about \$800 million annually to Michigan's economy.

Of the classic European varieties, a.k.a. *vitis vinifera*, Riesling is the most widely planted white variety and Pinot Noir, the most widely planted red in the state. In 2007, Michigan wines were awarded 800 medals at national and international competitions.

VINTAGE 2007

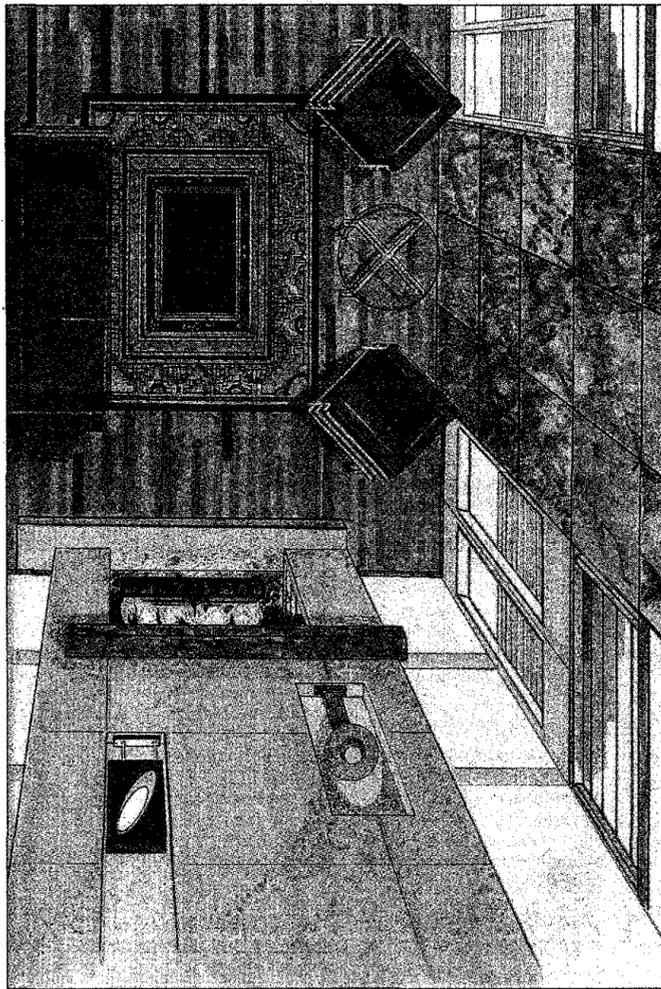
Michigan is already heralded for its Riesling wines - dry, semi-dry and late harvest dessert styles. However, Michigan's producers could not be happier with the early assessment of its red wines from last year's harvest. "Some 2007 reds," says Black Star Farms winemaker Lee Lutes, "are better than 2005."

The 2007 white wines will begin to see release this month, but the reds are at least a year away. From the 2005 vintage, though, try cabernet franc, merlot and pinot noir. If you're bored with chardonnay, try one from Michigan, they're crisp and not nearly as pumped with oak.

MORE WINERIES TO OPEN

This year, six new wineries are slated to open. They include Krolczyk Cellars in Freesoil, Clay Avenue Cellars in Muskegon, Rose Valley Winery in Rose City, Two Lads Winery on Old Mission Peninsula, and in Lake Leelanau Forty-Five North and Circa Winery. These bring the state's winery total to 56.

"Sales of Michigan wines grew more than 14 percent in 2007," reports Michigan Grape & Wine Industry Council's Linda Jones. "Overall state wine sales from all global points of origin were up 3.4 percent." Jones also noted that to kick off Michigan Wine Month,

 Please see **WINE, D2**


Diane Murphy Krupa won the 19th Annual Ghiordes Knot Creative Space Competition at the Michigan Design Center in Troy with her "Temple Carvings." Krupa, of Flat Rock, is a student at Eastern Michigan University's School of Engineering Technology.

Top designs

Students design rooms around rugs

 BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

A rug is like a palette, says Rhoda Goldman.

"Rugs are like a piece of art on the floor," said the showroom manager of Ghiordes Knot at the Michigan Design Center in Troy. From that, designers can choose wall colors, draperies and furniture for clients seeking a new look for their homes.

Design students received a practice session for the working world with rugs in the 19th Annual Ghiordes Knot Creative Space Competition. Goldman said 57 students from seven Michigan schools, colleges and universities participated.

The students illustrate the rug as a focal point in the room, and interpret the rugs provided by Ghiordes Knot. This year's rugs were Timor by Asmara, a needle-point carpet, and Temple Carvings by Inner Asia, a Tibetan trellis. The entries were judged March 20 by a panel of professional



Casey Hooley of Grand Rapids, a student at Kendall College Art & Design, won an honorable mention in the competition with her Timor rug design.

designers, who are American Society of Interior Designers members.

"A lot of the instructors, who are also ASID members, use it as a classroom project," Goldman said. "Two of the judges said how good it is that in this computer day and age, that (these students) could use the graph paper for a client, instead of the CAD program."

The winner was Diane Murphy Krupa, a student of Eastern Michigan University's School of Engineering and Technology, for her use of Temple Carvings. In her entry's Inspiration Statement, Krupa wrote: "Temple Carvings is an intricately woven jewel. The

rug's rich hues, floral motif and rhythmic geometry all help lend a sense of timelessness to the space."

She also wrote: "An intriguing harmony between the fluid motion of the rug's rich colors is reflected by the natural beauty of the state accent wall. This sets the stage for a savvy, sophisticated setting."

Runners-up received honorable mention awards. They were Casey Hooley of Grand Rapids, a student at Kendall College of Art and Design; and Lara Carlson, of Howell and a student at EMU, for their Timor rug interpretations.

The winner will receive \$400;

 Please see **DESIGN, D2**

New wireless gadget streams music from your PC to any room in the house

Question: I have a large music library on my PC. My stereo is located in a different room. How can I stream music from one to the other?


Tech Savvy
Rick Broida

Answer: If you've got \$1,000 to spare, get yourself a Sonos Digital Music System (sonos.com), one of my all-time favorite gadgets. Too rich for your blood? For about \$400 you can get the next best thing: Logitech's new Squeezebox Duet (logitech.com). Like the Sonos, this nifty kit combines a wireless receiver that connects to your stereo

(or a set of powered speakers) and an iPod-like remote that controls playback.

Logitech's software can stream just about any kind of audio files on your PC, including songs in your iTunes library. The exception is DRM-protected tracks, such as those you've purchased from the iTunes Store or Zune Marketplace.

The Squeezebox can also connect to a wide variety of Internet music services, including Rhapsody, Pandora, and Shoutcast. Some of them require subscriptions, but others are free. I particularly like RadioTime, which lets you stream live radio from stations around the world.

It's a pretty cool product,

though I did encounter a few setup hassles. What's more, the Squeezebox requires your PC to remain on at all times if you want to play your music collection. You'll also need to have a Wi-Fi router in the house.

If you don't mind being tethered to your TV, the Apple TV (apple.com/appletv) accomplishes the same music-streaming magic (though only with iTunes libraries) and costs even less (\$229). It does video, too.

Question: What are RSS feeds, and why should I bother with them?

Answer: RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication, but you can think of it as a way

 Please see **TECH, D2**


Logitech's Squeezebox Duet streams your music library and Internet music to nearly any room in the house.

Accents

Garden party

English Gardens will host its Annual Garden Party Weekend on Saturday, April 5 and Sunday, April 6. The weekend kicks off the annual gardening season and features free gardening presentations, refreshments and a look at what's new for 2008.

The event is free, open to the public and held at all seven English Gardens stores in Ann Arbor, Clinton Twp., Dearborn Heights, Eastpointe, Royal Oak/Troy, West Bloomfield, and its newest location in Brighton.

More than 25 topics ranging from perennials to container gardening to earth-friendly gardening, will be presented, including a presentation by Janet Macunovich, co-founder and senior instructor of the Michigan School of Gardening with Color Schemes in the Garden, 1 p.m. Saturday, April 5 in Royal Oak and Season-Long Color with Perennials, 3 p.m. Sunday, April 6 in West Bloomfield.

English Gardens is located at 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak. Call (248) 280-9500 and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield (248) 851-7506.

CHARITY ASSISTED

Variety, the children's charity, has created a new "Learning Lunch" series, a new program designed to provide women in the community with speakers on topics important to them, while raising funds to support children of the region.

The premiere event is a Table Tops Luncheon at 11 a.m. April 16 at the Pine Lake Country Club, 3300 Pine Lake Road in Orchard Lake. The event highlights beautifully designed and decorated tables and will also feature a presentation by Karen Carroll, editor of *Southern Accents* magazine.

Carroll is a frequent lecturer on entertaining and home design and, in addition to her role as editor of *Southern Accents*, wrote *Entertaining with Southern Style*, as well as contributed to the books *Accents on Accessories* and *Southern Style*.

Event co-chairs Karen DeKoker and Lisa Petrella have also planned a special preview for benefactors the night before. Carroll will be featured at "Supper with Southern Accents" at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15 at the home of Lisa and Ennio Petrella.

Ticket prices for Variety's Table Tops Luncheon are: Friend, \$75, or a table of eight, \$600; Patron, \$125, or a table of eight, \$1,000; or Benefactor, \$175, or a table of eight \$1,400. To purchase tickets or for more information, call Variety at (248) 258-5511.

DAHLIA DAY

The Michigan Dahlia Association sponsors Dahlia Day to assist dahlia growers and would-be growers to prepare for the 2008 growing season. Learn about taking dahlias from storage; dividing clumps; starting tubers indoors; preparing your garden soil; planting, feeding and spraying, and more.

The event is free and scheduled 2-4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 6, in the upstairs meeting rooms at the Taylor Sportsplex, 13333 Telegraph (between Eureka and Northline roads in Taylor).

FARMINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Learn about growing geraniums with John Wendland, retired groundskeeper of Oakland University and head of the Meadowbrook Estate Greenhouse at the monthly meeting of the Farmington Garden Club, at noon April 7. Wendland discusses the geranium's history, culture and varieties at the Spicer House in Heritage Park, Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile roads. Guests are welcome.

Call (248) 626-6322 or visit www.farmingtongardenclub.com for information.

Vibrations are a problem with new washers

Consumers probably complain the most about vibrations in today's new washers.

With all the laundry rooms moved to the first and second floors you can bet your bottom dollar that "walking" washing machines are a huge problem. Clothes washers were designed to operate on a solid floor, like cement. Today's washers have a spin speed that is much faster than machines of old. The positive of this high speed is a laundry load that comes out with very little water in the clothes and a much quicker drying time in the clothes dryer, which in effect saves energy. But, if the laundry room floor is not as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar, you may end up with a washer that moves several inches or even feet during its operation.

The following e-mail really threw me a curve but in the end, the consumer gave me the answer to his problem.

Jim wrote: "Our washer likes to take walks during the spin cycle. It shakes and the machine has actually walked 3 to 4 inches at times. I have tried everything from re-adjusting the load to making

sure the machine was level. I have checked the feet to make sure they are set. Do you have any suggestions for me?"

Jim enclosed his phone number in his e-mail, which made it easy to have a lengthy discussion, and allowed me to ask several questions. I made sure to point out that the legs should be brought up as close to the washer frame as possible as this helps to give the washer more stability. I asked all the pertinent questions to make sure I covered all the bases before I started asking about the floor in his first floor laundry room.

He told me that the laundry room and kitchen area floors were constructed with 2 inches of cement. He had Italian Marble imported from Italy to lie over the cement and his floors were as solid a foundation as can be created. I agreed and ran out of questions and solutions.

Then Jim mentioned the washer sits on a pedestal and the light bulb came on in my head. I remembered the appliance dealer who started selling these pedestals to homeowners who didn't like bending down when using their front load washers and how many of these customers were complaining about their washer moving all over the place.

In many cases all he did was remove the pedestal and the problem was solved. I am awaiting a new e-mail from

Jim and I'll bet money his problem is taken care of.

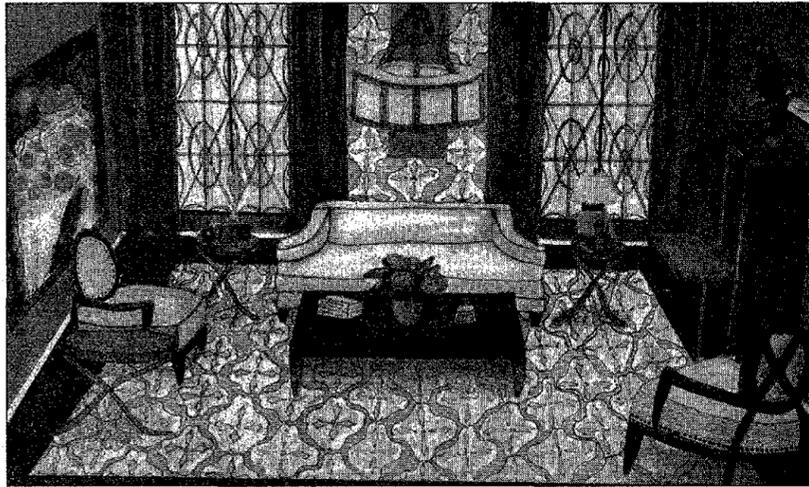
The pedestal was created when the new front loader hit the market 10 years ago.

People were concerned that it might be a pain in the back to bend over when using the washer. (The pedestal) also proved to be extra profit for appliance dealers across the country.) There is no doubt that it makes laundry easier but it would be wise for a shopper who buys one to have the dealer agree to a refund on the pedestal if the washer should rock and roll.

You might even think about purchasing a new top loader, which have spin speeds as quick as the front loaders.

In the old days when I had a complaint on a vibrating clothes washer that was in a first or second floor laundry room I visited the home and move the washer to the garage floor. I would tell the customer that if it shakes in the garage "I will give you a brand new washer." It never happened, folks! The washing machine belongs in the basement. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m. Saturdays on WAAM 1600. His phone number is (734) 971-1600 Ext. 28. Do you have a question about an appliance or have a problem with one? E-mail it to kabramcz@hometownlife.com and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.



Lara Carlson of Howell, a student at Eastern Michigan University, also won an honorable mention.

DESIGN

FROM PAGE D1

the two honorable mentions get \$200 each.

The winning designs will be displayed on April 4, which is

also Michigan Design Center's Student Careers Day.

Students also learned about the rugs at Ghiordes. Some even came to the showroom, others used a catalog with photos to study the rugs. "Those students are so interested in being at the Michigan

Design Center," Goldman said. "It gives them a nice sense of what's going on in the world of design. From the showroom, they can see what is available, from contemporary to antiques."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com

WINE

FROM PAGE D1

The Council is launching a redesigned website at www.michiganwines.com.

This month, the new 48-page 2008 Michigan Wine Country magazine will be released. It contains maps and touring information. You can request a complimentary copy on the website above or contact the Council at (517)241-1207.

CELEBRATORY EVENTS

A number of wine events are being held this month around the state:

■ April 5 Sandhill Crane Vineyards kicks off Michigan Wine Month with new wine releases and hors d'oeuvres. Log on to www.sandhillcranevineyards.com.

■ April 12 Cooking with Wine Seminar at Cherry Creek Cellars www.cherry-creekwine.com.

■ April 19-20 Celebrate Michigan Wines on the Leelanau and Old Mission Peninsulas www.lpwines.com or www.wineriesofoldmission.com.

■ April 25-27 Chef's Challenge at Shanty Creek Resort www.shantycreek.com.

TECH

FROM PAGE D1

to digest lots of information quickly and easily. Most Web sites that regularly publish new content (think news outlets, blogs, and so on) make their content available via RSS "feeds."

By using a "feed reader," you can peruse the latest content from your favorite sites under one roof, instead of jumping from one site to another.

A feed reader can be a stand-alone program or a Web site. I'm partial to Google Reader (google.com/reader), which makes it a snap to "subscribe" to any site that has an RSS feed.

Just look for the little orange RSS icon, which for Firefox users appears on the right side of the Web address bar. Internet Explorer 7 users will find it on the toolbar near the right side of the screen.

MICHIGAN WINE PICKS

BUBBLES, BUBBLES, BUBBLES and in this category, the following L. MAWBY sparkling wines from Leelanau Peninsula are hard to beat: Blanc de Blanc \$18, Blanc de Noir \$18 and our very favorite Talisman \$30.

Table Wines:

2005 St. Julian St. J Merlot, Lake Michigan Shore \$10
2006 Black Star Farms Arcturos Pinot Gris, Old Mission Peninsula \$13.50
2006 St. Julian St. J Riesling, Lake Michigan Shore \$15
2006 Black Star Farms Arcturos Dry Riesling, Old Mission Peninsula \$15.50
2006 Black Star Farms Arcturos "three block lot" Merlot, Leelanau Peninsula \$25
2006 Brys Estate Artisan Series Pinot Noir, Old Mission Peninsula \$40

Note: Due to the surge in popularity of Michigan wines, some of the suggested wines may be sold out. Get your bid in at the winery via their wine club for 2007. You won't be sorry.

If a retailer does not stock a specific wine we recommend, order it direct from the winery.

Learn at Lunch

■ April 19-20 Michigan Wine Celebration sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Pioneer Wine Trail www.pioneerwinetrail.com.
■ April 25-27 Chef's Challenge at Shanty Creek Resort www.shantycreek.com.

Eleanor & Ray Heald are contributing editors for the internationally-respected Quarterly Review of Wines and Troy residents who write about wine and spirits for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Contact them by e-mail at focuser.wine@aol.com.

often end your e-mails with, "Thanks for your time. I look forward to hearing from you." With PhraseExpress, you could simply type "tft," and the program would automatically insert the full text in its place.

The software works in any application. It includes a global spell-check feature and a clipboard history tool (which stores all recent clipboard entries, not just the most recent one). It can even import existing AutoCorrect entries from Word, then use them across all applications.

It's hard to believe such a robust utility is a freebie, but it's true: PhraseExpress doesn't cost a penny.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, also writes the Cheapstake blog for CNET (blogs.cnet.com/cheapstake). He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

GARDEN CALENDAR

If you have an item for the garden calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Ken Abramczyk at kabramcz@hometownlife.com.

Vendors Sought

Vendors who sell fruits, vegetables, flowers, plants, herbs, organic produce, honey, maple syrup, candles, soaps and other natural products are being sought for this year's Southfield Farmers' Market, open 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursdays June 5-late October outside the Millennium Centre, 15600 J.L. Hudson Drive. Call (248) 796-5196 to apply.

Learn botanical plant names

Demystify those confusing plant names and learn to pronounce those Greek and Latin names of plants, instructed by Elyn Meyers, horticulturist and instructor at Lansing Community College, 10-11:30 a.m. April 5, Hidden Lake Gardens, 6280 W. Munger (M50), Tipton (517) 431-2060.

Michigan Wildflower Presentation

Susan Charette, perennial department manager at Goldner Walsh Nursery, explores the wild side of spring and

beauty of Michigan wildflowers, 11 a.m. April 12, free, Goldner Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Rd., Pontiac, call (248) 332-6430 to reserve a place.

The Community House

A series of classes dedicated to the greening of America, issues and solutions for improving the environment; Going Green, (native plants, water saving principles, lower pesticide use), 7:30-9 p.m. April 15 or 10-11:30 a.m. April 17; Landscaping for a Healthy River, 7-8 p.m. April 17; Nature Near You, 1-2:30 p.m. April 21; Spending Lean on Building Green, 7-9 p.m. April 23; Residential Rain Gardens, 7-8:30 p.m. May 1; 380 S. Bates, Birmingham call (248) 644-5832 to register, or visit online at www.communityhouse.com.

The Community House Garden Club

"New Plants That Thrive in Our Climate" with George Papadellis, owner of Telly's Greenhouse, who will conduct a presentation that will help you prepare your spring and summer gardens by using new plants that thrive in our climate, 7 p.m. April 21, The Community House, 380 South

Bates Street, Birmingham. The public is invited. Reservations are not necessary. A \$5 donation is requested at the door or \$20 for garden club membership. Call (248) 594-6410.

More Garden, Less Lawn

David Michener, associate curator, University of Michigan Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, on redoing the garden, presented by The Village Gardeners of Lathrup Village, 6:30-8:30 p.m. April 21, Community Room of the Lathrup Village Municipal Building, 27400 Southfield Road, 3 blocks north of I-696, visit <http://lvgardeners.home.comcast.net> or call Susan Arneson (248-443-1703) or Nancy Bacinski (248-569-6548).

British Floral Artist

Friends of Art & Flowers at the Detroit Institute of Arts present Jane Packer: Colour lecture and demonstration 10:30 a.m. May 7, DIA Lecture Hall, lecture and luncheon \$50, lecture only \$25, book signing to follow, for reservations, call (313) 833-4005, www.dia.org, for information, call (313) 833-1717.

HOME CALENDAR

Cranbrook Seeks Docents

Historic Cranbrook House seeks docents to conduct tours of the 1908 home. Choose eight-week training sessions Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings beginning March 4. Separate sessions will be held for Garden docents

only. The tour season runs from May through October. Cranbrook House and Gardens Auxiliary also welcomes volunteers for estate gardening, greenhouse management, the Wildflower Rescue Program and Gatehouse admissions center. Call (248) 645-3149.

The Birmingham Showhouse

"An ideal home created from a woman's perspective," Sept. 18-21, benefits Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, sponsored by Wellington Chase Homes and Michigan Design Center, also open Sept. 25-28, 4,580-square-foot English Arts and Crafts style, developed by women with products exclusively from MDC, visit michigan.design.com or Showhouse Web site at birminghamshowhouse.com.

\$60, The Community House, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham (248) 644-5832, www.communityhouse.com.

Healthy Eating Made Easy

Learn how to cook gourmet yet healthy meals with Michigan Health coach Cheryl Heppard and chef Matt Schellig, the first and third Thursdays of every month. Learn about Greek foods April 3 and 17; May 1 and 15 is vegan, located at Aunt Olives, 525 N. Old Woodward in Birmingham, classes

are 6:30-8:30 p.m., \$50 per person, for more info and to pre-register call (248) 592-0869 or visit www.MichiganHealthCoach.com.

Great American Meatout

Events encourage people to go meatless for the day and explore a plant-based diet, noon-5 p.m. April 13, Ferndale High School, 881 Pinecrest (south of Nine Mile Road, west of Woodward), \$10 adults, \$5

students, free to children under 6 and VegMichigan members, call www.VegMichigan.org, 877-778-3464.

Learn at Lunch

Create meals from the pantry with spring soup, pan-seared salmon and a trio of sauces, quick corn pudding and free-form fruit pies, \$8 materials fee payable in class, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. April 14, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, (248) 644-5832, or online at www.communityhouse.com.

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SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2008-09 BUDGET

In compliance with "Act No. 43," State of Michigan Public Act of 1963, and "Act No. 2," State of Michigan Public Acts of 1968 ("Section 16" of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act), Schoolcraft College publishes this notification of a public hearing on the proposed 2008-09 College budget. This hearing is to take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2008, at the Grote Administration Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address during normal business hours.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Jill F. O'Sullivan
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Publish: April 3, 2008

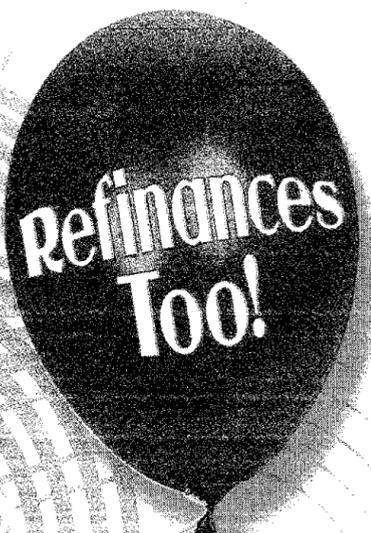
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RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 3625 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

APRIL

Spaghetti dinner
PBJ Outreach Inc. (www.pbjoutreach.org) sponsors a Super Slamin' Spaghetti Jam 5-8 p.m. Saturday April 5, following a 4 p.m. mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Social Hall, 47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth. Fun family night includes spaghetti dinner, cash bar, activities for kids, and raffle/door prizes. All proceeds go to the Peanut Butter and Jelly Ministry which provides food on a weekly basis to our brothers and sisters in Detroit's Cass Corridor. Tickets \$7 adults, \$3 ages 3-12, under age 3 free. For tickets, call Linda Barterian at (734) 459-0771.

Mom to Mom sale
Connection Church (formerly Tri-City Christian) is having their Spring Mom to Mom Sale 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at 3855 Sheldon, north of Michigan Ave., Canton. For details, send e-mail to mom2mom-sale@yahoo.com. Table rentals sold to capacity with over 75 moms selling their kids' clothes, toys, baby equipment, etc. Admission \$1.

Bethany Suburban West
All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy (734) 513-9479. Monthly dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 5, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Rd., Redford. Cost \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick Gerathy. Call Diane for information (734) 261-5716.

Clothing bank
Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank is open 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of every month at the church, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy, between Haggerty and Lilley. The Clothing Bank is open to everyone who is in need of new or like-new clothing.

Donations accepted. For information, call (734) 404-2480 or visit www.CantonCF.org.

Seekers of spiritual intelligence
Beacon Hill Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) explores the multi-faceted theme of spiritual intelligence during the 1 p.m. Sunday worship service in April at St. Michael Lutheran Church Chapel, 7000 N. Sheldon, south of Warren, Canton (enter through the south double doors next to the play area) For information, call (313) 402-6900 or (313) 806-PRAY, send e-mail to beaconhillcdccoc@aol.com.

Reformed Protestant services
The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism are preached by Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge, Canton. For information, call (734) 402-7186, send e-mail to sean.humby@att.net, or visit www.members.aol.com/rsworship/detroit.html.

Vacation Bible School
Registration begins April 7 for Vacation Bible School to run July 14-18, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211.

Vespers
Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit services continue Sundays April 6, at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Detroit, and April 13, at St. Petka Serbian Orthodox Church, Troy. General public as well as Orthodox Christians invited. Proceeds used for COCC charities and projects. Bring nonperishable packaged food for donation to Orthodox parish food pantries for needy in metro area. For information, call Richard Shebib (734) 422-0278 or send e-mail to pascha-books@sbcglobal.net.

Family snaps
Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church will show the musical drama presented by the Jeremiah People 7 p.m. Sunday, April 6, at the church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. The dramatic comedy

is about family relationships and friends with a focus that touches the many facets of being a family in the 21st century. No charge, child care provided through age 4. For details, call (248) 374-7400.

The Petticoat Ladies
Meet Sarah Polk, Mary Todd Lincoln, Julia Grant and Ida McKinley at a presentation 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. No charge but reservations requested. Call (734) 421-7249 by April 11.

Open house
4-7 p.m. Friday, April 12, open house with silent auction to celebrate completion of the conversion of St. John's Episcopal Church Rectory into a new multi-purpose, handicap accessible youth house, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. For information, call (734) 453-0190 or visit www.stjohnsplymouth.org.

Bethany Suburban West
All separated, divorced and singles welcome. Sequence Tournament (board games) 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, April 12, at the St. Linus Annex across from the doors of the Church. Call (734) 513-9479, or Michele (313) 996-8644. Monthly breakfast 9:30 a.m. Saturday April 19, at Leon's Family Dining 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's), Garden City. For details, call Kathy. (734) 513-9479.

Men's conference
Put Out into the Deep: Brothers in Christ Standing Together Saturday, April 12, at University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall, Detroit. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit, the conference doors open at 7 a.m. followed by a day of speakers and Eucharistic celebration, concludes at 4 p.m. For information, visit www.christschosen.com.

Mom-to-Mom sale
9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 12, in the church gym and classrooms at St. Thomas a' Becket, 555 S. Lilley, Canton, phone (734) 981-1333. Check Web site for details, kirstemoline.com/mom2mom.html. Over 70 tables and racks of great finds for babies, toddlers and

kids. Several Large Item Rooms full of strollers, cribs, car seats, exersaucers, large toys, etc. Admission \$1. Those shopping with strollers will be admitted after 10 a.m.

Celebrating families
After 5 p.m. Mass Saturday, April 12, and after 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses Sunday, April 13, in the Monsignor Alex Brunett Activity Center at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Call (734) 425-5950. View large LEGO displays, watch short movies on joys and struggle of Catholic family living, browse Catholic bookstore's display, supervised LEGO play area for the kids. No charge.

Pancake breakfast
8:30-11 a.m. Sunday, April 13, in the activity center at St. Aidan's Church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$4 adults, \$4 children age 10 and under.

Rummage sale
Donations accepted 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, April 14-16; Congregational Pre-Sale 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 17; Public Rummage Sale 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 18, and 9:30 a.m. to noon (52 bag sale) Saturday, April 19, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211.

Holy Cow rummage sale
Pre-sale noon to 4 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. Thursday, April 17 (cost is \$3); 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 18, and 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 19, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. For more information, call (734) 453-0190 or visit www.stjohnsplymouth.org.

Evening of evangelization
The Archdiocese of Detroit's Office for Evangelization invites all area Catholics to join Rev. Alex Kratz of the Archdiocesan Mobile Evangelization Team 7-9:30 p.m. Friday, April 18, at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia. The evening will begin with a Holy Hour, followed by small-ground discussions, teaching, and fellowship. The series continues on May 9, and then resumes Sept. 19, and runs through December. All interested Catholics welcome. Call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

Mom2Mom
9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 19, at Garden City First United Methodist Church. Admission \$1. Tables still available for \$20. Call Rhonda at (734) 795-6921 for more information.

Sisters in Christ
Women's conference 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, east of Beech Daly, Redford. Cost is \$40 pre-conference registration, \$50 at door. Call (313) 534-7730.

Day of Reflection
Bethany Central Board is offering a Day of Reflection hosted by the Rochester Bethany 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church. This Mini Conference will have two topics: Social Security Benefits for Divorced People and the Catholic Annuity Process. There is no cost for conference and lunch will be served. For details, call Audrey (248) 613-5461.

Pax Christi conference
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at Christo Rey Church, Lansing. Theme focuses on bringing an end to racism. Registration fee \$40 until April 12, \$45 after, visit www.paxchristi.org, send e-mail to TirakPaxMI@aol.com or call (517) 482-2558.

UPCOMING
Spring fund-raiser
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge Rd., south of Cherry Hill, Canton. A variety of vendors will be displaying and selling products. No admission fee. Refreshments and Bake Sale available. For information, call (734) 495-0035.

Clothing bank
Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank is open 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of every month at the church, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy, between Haggerty and Lilley. The Clothing Bank is open to everyone in the community who is in need of new or like-new clothing. Donations are also accepted. For information, call (734) 404-2480 or visit www.CantonCF.org.

Bethany Suburban West
Monthly Dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday May 3, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Rd., Redford. Cost \$10. Doors open 7:30 PM. Call (734) 261-5716. Cinco d' Mayo/Game Night 7:30-10 p.m. Friday May 9, at the St. Linus Annex across from the doors of the Church. Call (734) 513-9479 or (313) 996-8644. Cost will be either a snack, dessert for at least 10 people or a couple of large bottles of pop (regular and diet) or \$5 and we will supply the paper products and the coffee. Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9:30 a.m. Saturday May 17, at Leon's 30149 Ford Rd., Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome; for details call (734) 513-9479. Bethany Together Dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, May 31, Don Hubert V.F.W. Hall 27345 Schoolcraft (I-96 service drive), east of Inkster Rd., Redford. Admission \$15. For infor-

mation, call (586) 264-0284.

Father Kern award dinner
In honor of the Rev. Clement Kern Thursday, May 8 (6 p.m. reception and silent auction, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. award ceremony). Tickets \$100. For information and reservations, call (248) 666-1194.

ONGOING

Single Place Ministry
Single Place Ministry continues to meet Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 E. Main St., Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.single-place.org. Cost is \$5.

Prince of Peace Church
Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday services
Come to hear about the love of Jesus Christ for you 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sundays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. For information, visit www.livonfaith.org.

Tai chi and strength classes
Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drops in welcome. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Church offerings
Riverside Park Church of God, Sunday worship is at 10 a.m., Wednesday bible classes (child through adult) at 7 p.m. Youth outings held monthly. The senior group (age 50 plus) has lunch together every month. The men get together for breakfast the first Saturday of the month plus we offer choir practice for all singers. All visitors welcome. The church is at 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth Road, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for details.

Church services
Want a unique church experience? Join in Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. for a service that will lift your entire family, but be prepared for what will happen after just one service at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh (corner of Plymouth Road), Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for information.

Thursday fellowship dinner
All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$6. Call (313) 534-7730.

Thrift store
Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Tai Chi class
Orchard United Methodist Church (30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills) is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes began 7-8:30 p.m. Jan. 14, and continue every Monday thereafter. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

Living Water series
Mark McGilvrey leads a 10-week video series called H2O starting 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722. The group is open to men and women who would like to review the basic teachings of Jesus who claimed to be living water.

Couple prayer series
St. Colette Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia, is offering a Couple Prayer Series (www.coupleprayer.org) for married or engaged couple, began 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, in the Activity Center Hall. For registration information, call Mary Ellen at (734) 464-4435.

ENDOW
St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia hosts two different sessions of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of woman of all ages and faiths. Based on Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women, the group meets 9:30 a.m. Thursdays (began Jan. 10). The second session is called Different Times, Abiding Dignity and deals with a woman's inherent dignity at all stages of her life from 0 to 100. The group meets 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays (began Jan. 8). Both groups meet in the convent basement meeting room. Women of all ages and faiths welcome. There is a \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207 or online at www.endowonline.com. St. Michael's complex is at 11441

Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia.

ENDOW
Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women sessions 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, to March 6, (explores Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women), in conference room in parish office. Registration required for both sessions. \$60 for materials for each session. Contact Michele Schmidt at (734) 367-0353 or send e-mail to mtschmidt@sbcglobal.net.

Day of service
Began in January, a Day of Service and Spirituality will be made available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, to meet, and to have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail to ccrane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

New schedule
9 a.m. Sunday school for all ages and Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. All visitors welcome. For more information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holy-crosslivonia.org.

Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 278-5755.

Worship
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

Sunday worship
The early service for the Anglican Church of Livonia is at 7:45 a.m. at Trinity Church, 34500 Six Mile, west of Farmington Road and next to Stevenson High School, Livonia. The 10 a.m. service (with Sunday School) will continue to be at the Livonia YMCA at 14255 Stark Road, between Lyndon and the I-96 service drive.

Worship service
10:45 a.m. Sundays, Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship, Youth Group 5-7 p.m. and Catechism for Grown-ups 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Trinity Church of Livonia, 34500 Six Mile. For information, call (734) 425-2800.

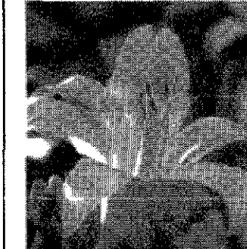
F.I.R.E. ministries
With theme scripture, He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Luke 3:16), is organizing in Livonia at Living Water Church, 11663 Arcola in the Inkster and Plymouth roads area at 7 p.m. Fridays under the leadership of Luke Willis. F.I.R.E. Ministries. For more information, call (734) 425-6360.

New worship schedule
Regular church service 10 a.m. Sundays with Communion and Nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages and Faith Forum, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. All visitors welcome. Visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Sunday worship
11 a.m. Sunday worship service, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. For information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services
10 a.m. Sundays Divine Liturgy followed by a fellowship/coffee time, at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 36075 W. Seven Mile, between Newburgh and Wayne roads, Livonia. Church school for children and adults begins at 9 a.m. Sunday. Vespers are celebrated 5 p.m. Saturdays. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call (248) 476-3432 (church), (248) 477-4712 (rectory) or Web site at www.orthodoxlivonia.org.

Pancake breakfasts
The Ushers' Club of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Livonia continue their 30-year tradition of all-you-can-eat pancake breakfasts on the third Sunday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The breakfasts are served in the school cafeteria at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road. Adults, \$5; children ages 4-11, \$3; children under age 3, free; and family (2 adults and all children), \$15. Everyone is welcome.



Passages

Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

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ARLENE RICE FREDRICK
Born May 28, 1936, died March 26, 2008. Daughter of the late Dr. & Mrs. Carol H. Rice of Bloomfield Hills. Survived by husband Ronald, daughter Nancy Sue Harrison, son Louis Vaccaro, grandsons Anthony and Nicholas Vaccaro and step-sons Craig, Stefan and Scott Fredrick. Memorial service at 1pm on Saturday, April 26, at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Birmingham, MI.

DAVID DEMPSEY
Age 70, March 30, 2008. He is survived by his beloved wife Leona "Lee" and loving step-children Laurie (Andy), Karen (Mark), David, Jeff and Sean (Tara); grandchildren Christie (Steve), Dan, Corey, Jordan and Jenna; four great-grandchildren and brother John (Sally). Services were held. Memorials to St. Mary Magdalen Church. Arrangements by Santeiu and Son.

DONNA MARIE HARRINGTON
March 28, 2008, age 53, of Royal Oak. Beloved daughter of Donald and the late Monica. Dear sister of Robert, Rosemary Bloomer (Thomas) and the late Goryann Bailey. Dear aunt of Olivia, Adam and Kathryn Bloomer. Funeral Mass was held at National Shrine of the Little Flower. Memorial tributes to Mercy High School, 29300 W. Eleven Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48336. A.J. Desmond & Sons, 248-549-0500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

ELAINE E. HUNTLEY
March 19, 2008, Age 73. Beloved wife of Charles R. for 52 1/2 years. Loving mother of Ronald, Jane (Gary) Cracknell, Janet (Darryl) Stewart. Grandmother of Heather, Ashley, Chelsea and Mallory. Sister of Henry (Mary) Kolehmainen, Theodore (Jo Anne) Kolehmainen and Ellen (Gary) Wood. Services were March 22, 2008. Uht Funeral Home with interment at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock.

PATRICK A. KALAFUT
Age 55, March 29, 2008. Beloved brother of Ann, Bob and Theodore (Sharon). Uncle of Angela, Theodore and Kevin. Preceded in death by his parents Theodore and Marie, and his brother James. He will be dearly missed by all. Services were held. Arrangements by Santeiu and Son. Memorials suggested to American Cancer Society.

GENEVIEVE A. GROSS
Age 89, of Westland, passed away March 30, 2008. Dear mother of Maxine Lofgren, Sharon (Ken) Cotter, Marjorie (Bob) Ritter, Frank Gross and Gene (Phyllis) Gross. 21 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren, sister Aleatha Meyer and brother Algie Nutt also survive. Preceded in death by five children, Stuart Gross, Robert Gross, James Jr. Gross, Bonnie Gross and Rosella Gross. Funeral 12 noon on Saturday at the Vermeulen Funeral Home, 980 N. Newburg Road (between Ford and Cherry Hill), Westland. Interment at Michigan Memorial Park. Visitation Friday from 2-9pm. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Central Michigan. To view obituary or share memories log on to: www.vermeulenfuneralhome.com

LEOFA FISHBACK (FLOQUIST)
Age 92, March 31, 2008. Beloved wife of Fred. Dear mother of David (Grace) Floquist, Barbara (Bruno) Ettore and the late Jeanette Foley. Also leaves six grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren. Sister of Mona Darby, Gerri Tyler, Maxine Muoio, James Sutherland and the late Mary Dillon, Glenn Sutherland and Dan Sutherland. Funeral services were held Thursday at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home of Plymouth. Contributions suggested to Plymouth Baptist Church. Share your special thoughts and memories at www.schrader-howell.com

LUCILLE ALLEN
Born March 29, 1918 in Strandquist, MN. Passed into eternal life on March 19, 2008. She leaves to mourn one sister, Mildred Drake, one step son Jerry Allen and nieces and nephews. A committal and burial service will be held at Riverside Cemetery, Main Street, S. of Haggerty in Plymouth on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 1 pm. A memorial mass will be celebrated on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 10 am at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 North Territorial Road at Beck, Plymouth. Share your thoughts and special memories at www.schrader-howell.com

RAYMOND E. GROENING
Age 93, of Holland, died Thursday, March 27, 2008. He was a veteran of the Navy serving during WWII. Surviving are children: Judith Ann and Ronald Meyer of San Dimas, CA, Douglas and Barbara Groening of Holland 6 Grandchildren, 11 Great grandchildren. Sister, Mrs. Burns (Doris) Mc Kinley of Holland; Sister-in-law, Mrs. Herb (Dorothy) Smith of Lansing. Several nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 2 at Restlawn Memorial Gardens. Memorial contributions may be given to Haven Park Christian Nursing Home. Arrangements by Noter Ver Lee Langeland Funeral Chapel. An online registry is available at: www.noterverleelangeland.com

RANDA LEE KIRK
Age 65, of Kill Devil Hills, NC, passed away March 29, 2008 at her residence. She was born in Heron Lake, MN and was the daughter of Merriell Jeppesen the late Walter H. Randolph. Mrs. Kirk is survived by her husband of 44 years, Craig Kirk, of the residence. Mrs. Kirk will be remembered as a beautiful, loving mother and wife. She was active in volunteer work, including probation work and key involvement with a women's resource center. She is survived by two sons, Darren V. Kirk and wife, Valerie of Wixom, MI and Glen R. Kirk of Grandy, NC. She is also survived by her two sisters, Bonita Randolph and Lonita Randolph as well as one brother, Ricky Randolph of Colorado, and six grandchildren. A memorial service is planned for a later date at Warren Road Light and Life Church in Westland, MI. Twiford Colony Chapel, Manteo is assisting the family with arrangements. To sign online register visit: www.twifordch.com

May You
Find
Comfort in
Family &
Friends

OBITUARY POLICY

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

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

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

e-mail your obit to oeobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call: Charolette Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz 0608519902



Brenda Josee (left) and Nancy Moser speak at the Sisters in Christ conference April 19, at St. James Presbyterian Church in Redford. The two open the conference wearing lacy dresses and bouffant petticoats as they take an entertaining look at what it means to be a Sister in Christ.

Women to gather as sisters in Christ April 19

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Sandy Bousquette and Lois Cifaldi are on a mission to not only put on a conference to inspire Christian women, but draw on the power of numbers.

They believe if local churches unite, more good works could be accomplished.

On Saturday, April 19, they're inviting all Sisters in Christ to hear speakers Brenda Josee and Nancy Moser at St. James Presbyterian Church in Redford, where Bousquette's husband is pastor.

Josee and Moser celebrate sisterhood and talk about how a woman can discover God's plan for her life.

Bousquette and Cifaldi foresee a future built on helping others. The two originally met at Redford Union High School, where both work. Over time they developed a friendship and

SISTERS IN CHRIST

What: A nondenominational conference of women featuring Brenda Josee and Nancy Moser (www.sistercircles.com or www.nancymoser.com)

When: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 19

Where: St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, between Beech Daly and Five Points, Redford

Cost: \$40 pre-register, \$50 at the door; call (313) 537-7649 (Sandy) or (313) 410-8134 (Lois) after 3 p.m.

began sharing books. Cifaldi likes to read Christian books by Moser. The God-filled fictional stories ring true to life to her.

Cifaldi began reading Christian novels quite awhile ago and has read nearly every one of Moser's books. She finds them so inspirational that

she began sharing them with members of St. Robert Bellarmine, where she attends church. So many people were interested in sharing their messages that the Heart to Heart book club was founded.

"Sandy and I hope the goal of the conference is to have all the churches who come to have a contact person to do projects in our community, to help a mission in Haiti, every church who wanted to be part of it," said Cifaldi of Redford. "One group could buy books for a classroom. A community of churches could buy books for a whole school. We're hoping to get more people involved in doing God's work."

The team of Moser and Josee encourage women to band together and form Sister Circles to find their strengths. When Bousquette and Cifaldi decided to present the nondenominational conference, they split up the work. Bousquette made con-

nections with all of the Presbyterian churches. Together they sent flyers to Redford churches who showed interest. To date they've probably invited women from 100 churches.

"God has given each of us special gifts and talent, whether you're 16 or 96, that each can discover what their talents are and what God wants us to do," Bousquette said. "Together we can accomplish wonderful things. We hope this conference empowers women to look deeper into themselves."

"There's a lot of need in this community. We want to work with the Redford Interfaith Relief Program that runs a food bank and directs families to different sources for help. We can donate some time to the pantry and help fill the baskets they bring in."

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(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)
MASS: Tues. 7 p., Wed., Thurs. 9 a.,
Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a

St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church

32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-622-1616
(between Merriman & Farmington Roads)
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WRDT-AM 560
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visit www.wardchurch.org

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For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call
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By Wendy

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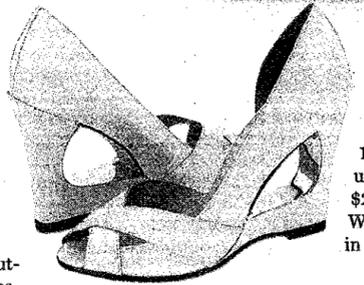
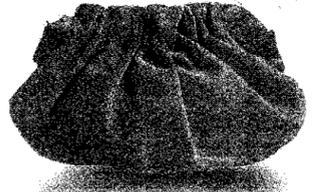
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Gotta have it!

Saks offers style edited for spring

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
O&E STAFF WRITER

Want to know what you gotta have for a hip spring and summer?

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Saks Fifth Avenue stores nationwide, including Michigan's location at the Somerset Collection in Troy, are offering a great grasp of the season's hottest trends during their annual Want It! campaign.

This year, Want It! highlights eight hot items for women: Bangles, Chic Shoulder Bag, Florals, Luminous Face, Maxi Dress, Slide, Tunic and Vibrant Color.

Cheryl Hall Lindsey, director of fashion, special events and public relations for Saks Fifth Avenue Somerset, said Vibrant Color is her favorite trend, and one every woman can wear. "I am a big fan of resisting wearing black all the time," she said. "Color allows you to make an entrance, to create a signature, and to choose not only what you like, but what's most

WANT IT! FOR SPRING

For Her:

- Bangles
- Chic Shoulder Bag
- Florals
- Luminous Face
- Maxi Dress
- Slide
- Tunic
- Vibrant Color

For Him:

- Contrast Collar and Cuffs
- Hoodie
- Light Grey Suits
- Nylon
- Suitable Supplements

flattering on you." She also said the tunic is being reinterpreted in lots of fresh ways for Spring 2008 — with bubble hems and smocking — to be worn over jeans or skinny pants, or as a short mini-dress. "It's a very versatile shape that can add a new twist to your wardrobe, and can complement just about any figure type," she said.

WANT IT! TREND PRESENTATION

What: Saks Fifth Avenue and Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter present this fashionable fund raiser, highlighting the season's hottest styles.

When: 6 p.m. Thursday, April 10

Where: Armani Collection on Two, Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset

Collection: Troy

Reservations: \$75, includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a \$25 Saks Fifth Avenue Gift Card redeemable through Sunday, April 13.

RSVP: (248) 996-1048 or Marilyn.Jacobson@alz.org

The easiest way to update your wardrobe for a stylish spring is with accessories, Hall said, like a chic shoulder bag in a fun, bright shade, a great high heel slide in an accent color, or an armful of bangles. Or, try a pretty floral.

"Wear it in a crisp posy print shirtwaist, a rose garden cocktail dress, a daisy patch tunic — pick the flower power that's best for you," she said.

Saks shoppers will take their purchases home in bags adorned with artwork by Piet Paris, whose signature illustrations embody the Want It! campaign throughout catalogs and stores this month.

As a catwalk illustrator for one of the biggest newspapers in the Netherlands, Paris has learned to sit at the end of

runways and capture fashions in just a few quick strokes.

For Want It!, he brought some of New York City's most famous landmarks — the Chrysler Building, Guggenheim and New York Stock Exchange — to life, personalized in the latest styles. "I'm a fashion illustrator so it was kind of an unusual question for me to make buildings fashionable, but for the first time in my life I tried to create a Guggenheim fashion dress," Paris told PINK.

"I tend to see everything in a fashion perspective, even if I draw a lemon or a wine bottle, so that's how I saw New York. Maybe shoppers in Detroit can see everything in a more fashionable way through this campaign."

Tea Time: Boutique welcomes spring trends in style

There aren't many places where shopping actually feels like playing dress up. But Excelsior Couture offers just that sort of whimsical fashion-forward atmosphere.

Patti Brock-Sklar opened the friendly Pleasant Ridge boutique in 1994 with the intention of promoting individuality and personal style through fashion.

On April 6, she'll continue a decade-long tradition of hosting a spring tea to draw new and faithful shoppers into the store, 23900 Woodward Avenue. For the first time, she's added a fashion show.

"We wanted to showcase our spring fashions, accessories and footwear using our own beautiful customers as models," said Brock-Sklar. "We will highlight the fact that Excelsior offers a wide range of sizes to a wide range of clients. Our models range from 13 years old

to 84 years old, and from size 2 to size 12."

As metro Detroiters anxiously await warmer temperatures, it's the perfect time to scout spring and summer fashion trends. Brock-Sklar said accessories like a great new handbag and a summer scarf can update any wardrobe. Handbags, in any size, can offer a pop of color needed this time of year. And a scarf accent, paired simply with jeans and a tee shirt, adds a European flair. "We have new things that come in everyday, all year long," said Brock-Sklar.

She considers her customers "anything but typical" and said: "I believe they either already have an individual sense of style or are looking to expand their fashion statement." All are welcome at this special spring event. Excelsior will offer tea from noon to 4 p.m. and the fashion show begins at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Brock-Sklar considers personal service a priority and something that sets Excelsior Couture apart from other area shops. As a Ferndale resident and Royal Oak native, she



Patti Brock-Sklar will host a fashion show and tea April 6 at her Pleasant Ridge shop, Excelsior Couture.

chose the shop's corner location, tucked along Woodward near I-696, more than 15 years ago and remained involved in the community. The store caters to both men and women. Brock-Sklar said she hasn't forgotten "the men in our lives" and offers everything from

suits and shirts to pants and shoes — making Excelsior a "really wonderful shopping experience." Shoppers can see for themselves this weekend. For more information, call (248) 547-5333.

scasola@hometownlife.com

Malls & Mainstreets

If you have an item for the Malls & Main Streets calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Wendy Von Buskirk at wvonb@hometownlife.com.

Kohl's Opens Canton Store

CANTON — Kohl's will officially open its Canton store at 47250 Michigan Ave., April 9. The new location will create approximately 150 jobs, and will feature glass showcase windows at each entrance, redesigned Juniors' and Intimates departments, enhanced fitting rooms with lounge areas and updated restrooms and checkout stations. To celebrate, Kohl's will offer grand opening sales with special prices on well known exclusive brands like Simply Vera Vera Wang, ELLE, Chaps and Food Network, as well as Levi's, Carter's and Cuisinart. Visit www.kohls.com.

Moonlight Madness Sale

PLYMOUTH — Downtown Plymouth merchants will present the Moonlight Madness Spring Sale April 4-5. Beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, a wide variety of specialty shops and galleries will offer discounts and bargains. Call (734) 453-1540.

Gilda's Club Fashion Show

ROYAL OAK — Gilda's Club and Queen for a Day have teamed up to host a

fashion show 5-7 p.m. April 5, featuring 30 teen cancer survivors in the latest fashions. Supper included. Gilda's Club is located 3517 Rochester Road. Visit www.gildasclubdetroit.org.

Parisian's Goodwill Sale

Parisian stores in Rochester Hills, Livonia and Clinton Township will accept donations of clean, gently used clothing through April 7 to benefit Goodwill Industries. Customers will receive one coupon toward the purchase of new merchandise for each item donated.

End of Winter Sale

LIVONIA — Handratty's Holidays is reducing everything in their store by 25 percent April 8-12, excluding Dept. 56, Mother's Day and Father's Day cards. Handratty's offers a wide selection of Christmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Easter, and St. Patrick's Day merchandise, along with Colonial Candles and Baker's Bits, 33485 W. 8 Mile Road, (248) 426-0018.

Charity Shopping Event

The Chaldean Ladies of Charity will host their annual Shopping Extravaganza 6:30-9:30 p.m. April 10 at Shenandoah Country Club. Tickets, \$25/CALC members, \$30/non members include appetizers and benefit CALC. Call (248) 352-5018 or visit www.calconline.com.



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