

10 THINGS SMART JOB SEEKERS DO

SEE CLASSIFIED SECTION C

GLENN OPENS DIVISION BASKETBALL PLAY IMPRESSIVELY - B1

SUNDAY
January 9, 2011

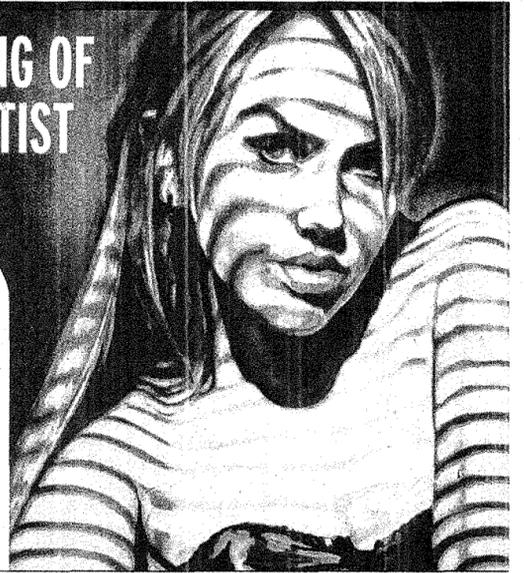
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EXHIBIT IS A COMING OF AGE STORY FOR ARTIST

COMMUNITY LIFE, B5



WESTLAND OBSERVER

hometownlife .com

IN BRIEF

Tree disposal

Residents have until Jan. 17 to drop off their Christmas trees at the Westland Recycling Center located at the rear of the Department of Public Service building at 37137 Marquette to have them chipped and recycled.

Trees can be dropped off during regular operating hours - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Trees should be free of lighting, tinsel and decorations. All trees received will be chipped and recycled for use at the city's Community Garden and other locations.

Christmas trees also will be picked up curbside, however, they will not be recycled. For more information, call (734) 728-7770.

Norwayne meeting

The Norwayne Citizens will hold a meeting at 5 p.m. Monday at the Dorsey Center. Anyone community minded and interested in getting involved is invited to attend.

The agenda includes an update on the community garden, conversation with the Westland Police Department about a community watch program, meeting staff from Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency and an update on the historical designation and Norwayne clean up project.

For more information, call Hank Johnson at (734) 444-8344.

Super Bowl recipes

Super Bowl Sunday is nearly a month away, but it's not too soon to begin planning party menus.

What will you serve for the big game on Sunday, Feb. 6? Do you have favorite recipe for appetizers, snacks or an entree that's perfect for hungry fans?

We're compiling Super Bowl recipes for an upcoming issue and we don't want to miss out on yours. Send recipe, your name, city of residence and a telephone number or e-mail to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Got a photo from last year's Super Bowl party that you organized or attended? Send it along, too, in jpg format attached to the e-mail. Identify individuals in the image by first and last name, as well as city of residence.

If mailing, send to Dargay at the Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226. But hurry, deadline for submissions is Jan. 23.

Sweetheart of a story

If Cupid's arrow hit the mark, we'd like to hear about it.

Tell us in 200 words or less your favorite or most memorable love story and we'll share it with readers in an upcoming issue. Include a photo of yourself.

You'll also be in the running to win dinner for two or movie tickets.

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 1. Include your name, city of residence, telephone number and e-mail address and send to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Make sure the photo is attached as a jpg. Or mail submissions to Dargay at The Observer, 615 W. Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226.

Monit says yes, Pitsenbarger no to new term on W-W school board



Monit



Pitsenbarger

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There will be a new face on the Wayne-Westland school board come July 1 with the announcement that Martha Pitsenbarger will not seek reelection to a fifth four-year term.

"This is it," said Pitsenbarger, the most senior member of the board. "I knew that four years ago. Sixteen years is enough."

Pitsenbarger's seat as well as the one held by board President Skip Monit will be filled in the Tuesday, May 3, school election. Monit, who is

completing his 12th year on the board, plans to seek a fourth term.

"I feel my work isn't done, I still have things to do and I believe I have valuable experience I can give to this district," said Monit, a Wayne resident. "I originally hadn't planned to run again, but as I went through the process and things progressed, I could see what was coming down the road and decided to serve one more term."

Monit described his first two terms on the board as "a cake

HOW TO FILE

Two four-year terms, commencing July 1, 2011, and expiring June 30, 2015, will be filled on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education in the May 3 election.

The district has more than 12,000 students and takes in the city of Wayne and portions of Westland, Inkster, Canton, Dearborn Heights and Romulus.

District residents interested in serving on the school board have until 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, to file. They have two ways to do that:

- Submit nominating petitions containing a minimum of 40 up to a maximum of 100 signatures of registered voters in the

school district.

- Pay a \$100 fee in lieu of petitions and file an Affidavit of Identity.

Residents can pick up the necessary paperwork between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the clerk's office in Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford, west of Wayne Road, or 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the clerk's office in Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road, north of Michigan Avenue.

For more information, call the Westland clerk's office at (734) 467-3185 or the Wayne clerk's office at (734) 722-2204.

Please see **BOARD, A4**

Help in hard times leads to store with a mission

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A former Westland resident plans to help the needy and abused with a portion of the proceeds from a second-hand store that she plans to open soon in the city.

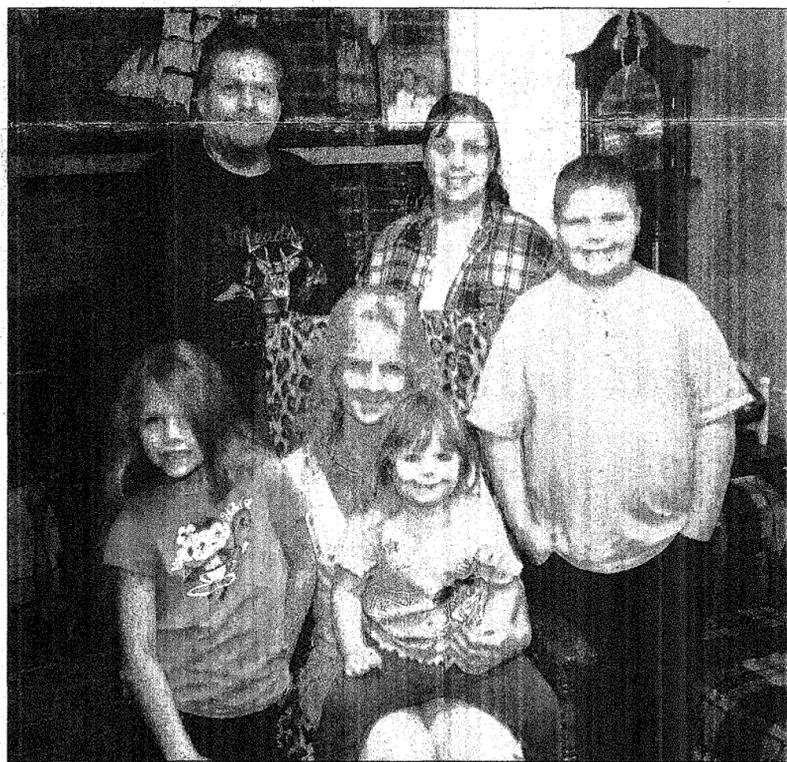
Right now, Joanie Givens of Garden City is planning a special fund-raiser from 4-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, at the Wayne Recreation Center, 4635 Howe, at the corner of Annapolis.

The proceeds from the Helping Hands fund-raiser will go toward filing nonprofit 501(c)3 paperwork to enable her to open the new outlet store called See Me Now Resale, which she expects will benefit the surrounding communities.

She is also asking for volunteers and donations to help make the fund-raiser a success and has contacted Taylor attorney Kurt Haskell to handle the legal requirements for the becoming a nonprofit.

Givens tears up when she talks about the project because she was abused in her first marriage and now wants to help others.

"I've had a hard life," said Givens, a former resident of Westland's Norwayne area. "I have been through a lot. It would be easy for me to be negative but I wanted to use



Joanie Givens, who wants to open up a non-profit second hand store in Westland, poses with her family. In the front is Salina Givens-Hillard, Joanie Givens, Aliana Givens and Brandon Givens-Hillard. In the back row is husband Donald Hillard and Angela Ridley.

the pain I've had and learn to help the community."

She declined to talk about her personal details, prefer-

ring to focus on what she now wants to do for others.

Givens expects that 1 percent of the store proceeds

will be donated to a variety of causes, including domestic

Please see **STORE, A4**

Library offers new website for job seekers

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

With Michigan continuing to be one of the states hardest hit by the economic recession, Westland's William P. Faust Public Library has offered tutoring on resumes and using computers to find jobs.

Now through the Michigan eLibrary, library users have access to Job & Career Accelerator™, a new web resource for Michigan job seekers, which joins LearningExpress Library, a test and tutorial resource, already available through MeL, the Michigan electronic library.

"The great thing about this is if people want to, they can go to the library, but the state offers it," interim library Director Marilyn Kwik said. "If they don't want to go to the library for some reason or their works hours make it difficult, they can go through the state. Instead of using their library card number, they would use their driver's license number."

Without Internet access or a method to respond electronically to job advertisements in

Please see **LIBRARY, A2**

LeBlanc: Law's changes make teens better drivers

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

After Richard LeBlanc was interviewed on radio about the law he had aimed at reducing distractions for teens just beginning to drive, he received some mail.

"Several teens - not from Westland - had written me letters and none of them had been supportive of the bill," said LeBlanc, a Westland Democrat. "It's such a brief amount of time to define their independent driving skills."

Under Michigan's Graduated Driver Licensing, a Level 2 License is the intermediate license between a supervised learner's license, and an unrestricted license.

At Level 2, unsupervised nighttime driving was restricted. Now the law also limits the Level 2 driver to one nonfamily passenger under age 21.

Michigan teens average 16.5 years old when they enter the level and can move to GDL 3 as early as age 17.

"Yesterday, a 15-year-old had to drive with adult supervision. The next day at 16, they don't need supervision," said LeBlanc. "This allows a brief period - six months - when they can have one friend in the car. They can have as many family members as they want. It makes them a better driver."

Austin Smarsh has a concern about the

Please see **TEEN DRIVERS, A2**

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LIBRARY

FROM PAGE A1

today's standard web-based job application process, it can be difficult for the long-term unemployed to get back on their feet. MeL enables job seekers to access the tools and information in Job & Career Accelerator™ to achieve employment success.

A \$6 million federal grant awarded to Michigan State University last year will give residents in Michigan tools and training for broadband use, increase the number of computers in Michigan libraries and provide additional resources to all libraries, schools, businesses and residents in the state.

"We are well aware of how public library users are turning to their libraries for job search assistance," said Nancy

Robertson, state librarian of Michigan. "Job & Career Accelerator™ will be an excellent resource for librarians to use with their job seeking public."

The easy-to-use learning path in Job & Career Accelerator™ provides users with a personalized job search experience and will help librarians as well as workforce development professionals simplify the entire job search process.

In addition to access to millions of active job and internship postings, Job & Career Accelerator™ provides a wide array of valuable information, including predicted job growth by field, a review of today's hottest careers, model resumes based on job titles and experience levels, interactive computer training courses and eBooks for further skill-building and study. Job & Career Accelerator™ is accessible free

to all Michigan residents from any computer with an Internet connection.

The existing LearningExpress Library offers services such as practice examinations ranging from professional testing and citizenship tests to school entrance examinations.

"It helps if you see what a test is like; it's not as daunting, if it looks familiar," Kwik said. "It offers personal finance skills for college students so they won't end up with a lot more debt. We've had the LearningExpress Library for several years."

The Westland library website is www.westland.lib.mi.us/. Visit the Michigan eLibrary at mel.org and LearningExpress, LLC Job & Career Accelerator™ online at www.jobandcareeraccelerator.com.

irogers@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-5428

TEEN DRIVERS

FROM PAGE A1

changes and the effect it will have on his carpooling to Catholic Central High School in Novi. At 17, Smarsh drives with a friend this year but next school year, he'll drive three younger students to the high school.

"That could take away their ability to get to school," said the Westland teen.

He also sees the new restrictions impacting his social life. He usually finishes work at 11-11:30 p.m. and would be able to drive home. But if Smarsh is at a friend's house, the 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. restriction could mean going home early or having to stay over.

"It's just stupid, it puts a cramp in everything, even with soccer games," he said. "I'm sure my mom doesn't want to be up for a 5:45 game. It's just ridiculous."

Brian Lewandowski, a senior at Livonia Churchill High School, also sees a problem with the 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. rule although he agrees with the ban on using cell phones while driving.

"I think it's a good rule to never use a cell phone," he said. "I know people who use their knee to drive when they shouldn't. This should be a rule not just for teens but everyone."

Lewandowski sees himself as a good driver and believes the 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. rule could pose a problem "if a parent or a relative is busy and if your friends are younger." He also sees the potential of getting around it by using work as an excuse.

AT A GLANCE

Here are the changes to Michigan's Graduated Drivers Licensing.

- Limit GDL level 2 drivers from having more than one nonfamily member passenger under age 21. Immediate family members are exempt, as well as travel to and from school and school-sanctioned events.
- The risk of death increases 158 percent with two passengers and 207 percent with three or more passengers, according to National Highway Traffic Safety statistics. Prior to this plan, Michigan was one of only eight states without a GDL passenger limit.
- Restrict GDL level 2 night driving starting at 10 p.m. and ending

at 5 a.m. with exceptions for driving to and from work. This only impacts driving hours; it is not a curfew.

Night driving between 9 p.m. and 1 a.m., as well as the hours driving to and from school are the deadliest for inexperienced drivers.

The three licensing levels in GDL are: a supervised learner's license (Level 1 License), an intermediate license that limits unsupervised nighttime driving (Level 2 License), and a full-privilege driver license (Level 3 License) issued after a teen driver has successfully completed all previous instructional and driving requirements.

"I can see people using it as an excuse," he said. "It's a good law but there's still ways around it."

A similar bill introduced by another legislator had not been enacted earlier but LeBlanc had signed on as a co-sponsor. The other legislator was term-limited but LeBlanc continued to work for the licensing changes.

"The reason was multifaceted. First, as a parent; second, as Canton reserve police officer; and third, as a driver education instructor," said LeBlanc.

Statistics gathered by the Centers for Disease Control show that traffic accidents are the leading cause for teen deaths.

"We know that there will be less accidents involving new drivers — it's based on statistics," said LeBlanc. "This will save a lot of lives."

The bill will also help make the general public safer — 65 percent of deaths associated with teen driving crashes are not teens but are from the general population of those who share the roadways.

As a parent, LeBlanc recalled that about 12 years ago his youngest son was 16 and had saved up the money to purchase a car.

"He was doing things differently than we told him. I warned him and it continued. I sold his brand new Mustang GT," said LeBlanc. "He'll tell you now that it was the right thing to do but he and my wife didn't speak to me for a few days. He was without a vehicle for a short time, his next vehicle was a Ford Escort."

Staff writer Sue Mason contributed to this story.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Hockey Night

Mayor William Wild and the Westland Wild Wings will take on the Detroit Red Wing Alumni in an exhibition hockey game at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26. Tickets go on sale on

Jan. 15.

For sponsorship or ticket sale information, call (734) 722-7620 or send an e-mail to parks@cityofwestland.com.

All proceeds of the event will go to fund improvement to the Mike Modano Ice Arena.

CORRECTION

An article Thursday about an upcoming screening of *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the Redford Theatre in Detroit gave the incorrect location for the theater. It is located on Lahser north of Grand River Ave.

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Douglas Takesian: always ready to help

BY SUE BUCK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Former Garden City Mayor Jim Plakas has fond memories of Douglas G. Takesian. He recalls his friend as someone who always asked what he could do to help but never asked anything for himself.



Mr. Takesian

"I've known him for 50 years," Plakas said. "He deserves the accolades." Takesian served on the Garden City school board

from 1962-1966, the Garden City Charter Commission and the Garden City Planning Commission.

"He was always interested in doing what was good for the children," Plakas said, adding that Takesian carefully examined what money would be spent.

Mr. Takesian, a Phoenix resident, died Oct. 14. Born Feb. 16, 1925, he was preceded in death by his wife Lois E. Takesian.

He is survived by his children Paul (Wendy), Ted (Cheryl), Susan, Stephen (Kamla), David (Elaine) and Matthew; grandchild-

dren Justin (Becky) Osman, Melissa (Shane) Rickman, Sean Takesian, Scott Takesian, Sarah Takesian, Jason Takesian, Joshua Takesian, Christopher Takesian, McKenzie Takesian, Mara Takesian and Jack Takesian; great-grandchildren Cameron, Olivia, and Madelyn Osman and Mason Rickman.

A funeral service was held Oct. 21 at Saint Apkar Armenian church in Scottsdale, Arizona. A Michigan memorial service for Douglas and Lois Takesian will be held at a later date.

sbruck@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2249

Locksmith says man didn't pay for work

Failure to pay

A Garden City man reportedly failed to pay a locksmith he called after he successfully unlocked his 2011 Jeep Cherokee in the 6700 block of Henry Ruff.

A locksmith from RunLocal Locksmith in Center Line called police about the incident. He said the car owner first argued with him about the \$120 cost to unlock the vehicle. After the car owner spoke to his supervisor, they agreed on \$100 to unlock the vehicle.

After the Jeep was unlocked, the owner reportedly refused to pay the bill and handed the keys to an unknown woman who drove off.

"Sue me," he reportedly said to the locksmith as he went inside the building.

Illegal aliens

Garden City Police notified the U.S. Border Patrol immigration authorities about two illegal aliens after stopping their vehicle at 1:30 a.m. Jan. 4.

They observed the 24-year-old driver from Burton making a prohibited left turn after leaving the 7-Eleven store at 29331 Warren Road.

COP CALLS

Both the driver and his passenger, a 19-year-old Westland resident, admitted to being in this country illegally, police said.

The driver said he lived here almost nine years, police said. The passenger said he lived in the area for about two years, police said.

The men also had a one-year-old child, the son of the driver, with them. Police called his girlfriend to come for the child after they were arrested.

Drunk driving

Garden City Police Chief Robert Muery, on patrol early Jan. 1, stopped a driver at Ford and Middlebelt after he observed her driving erratically.

He saw her stopped at the red light at southbound Middlebelt at Ford. The woman reportedly drove across all southbound lanes and over a curb about 30 feet at the northwest corner of Ford and Middlebelt.

Muery turned over the investigation to a patrol officer who came to the scene.

The 36-year-old Harrison

Township woman reportedly admitted to having a few drinks at a Detroit party. The woman reportedly registered a blood alcohol level of .15.

Police reportedly found a half bottle of rum on the front passenger seat.

Thefts

A relative who was watching her aunt's house while she was out of town, called Garden City Police about 10 a.m. Dec. 30 when she saw a side door open at the home located in the 31700 block of Bock. She had come over to get some chairs when she noticed that things were disturbed.

She said that a ring valued at \$10,000, which typically sits on top of the jewelry box, was missing.

A Kmart shopper who was inside the store located at 29600 Ford from 10-10:45 a.m. Jan. 5 reported that someone stole her prescribed medicine from her unlocked 2006 Ford Escape.

Stolen were the contents of full bottles of Norco, Bacoflen and Flenril.

By Sue Buck

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"The end goal is to heal and stay out of the hospital," said Mario Nanos, co-owner of Residential Home Health. "Once a patient leaves Four Seasons they need to be monitored so their condition doesn't become exacerbated. We treat wounds, take blood pressure and sugar readings in addition to educating patients."

An initial assessment includes inventory of medications and checking vitals like blood pressure. Visits range from one to four times a week depending on diagnosis. "We specialize in treating neuromuscular diseases, Parkinson's, ALS, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, stroke," said Nanos. "We help them follow doctor's orders to get blood sugar and diabetes under control."

Just as important is the role of the caregiver. "We educate that caregiver to help the patient," said Nanos. "If a caregiver is involved, the patient has a much better outcome. We teach caregivers to read blood sugar results and educate them on the effect of diet to get diabetes under control."

Families talk about the quality of care at Four Seasons



Michael Goree and his family were involved with the care of their sister Winifred Drumright when she suffered loss of oxygen to the brain during a medical procedure. Thanks to Four Seasons, Winifred returned home and is making further progress with care by Residential Home Health.

"(my sister) had a wonderful nurse who has become a personal friend..."

"Winifred's Four Seasons nurse is a wealth of information, gave us these great tips. We're so grateful to the people there," said Michael Goree. "Residential Home Health kept the regimen the same as Four Seasons — the same bed time, feeding time, medicine. They showed us how to care for her, techniques to turn her to make sure she wouldn't get infections or skin break downs and things to keep her healthy."

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Board to vote on recalling physical education teachers

BY KAREN SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fifth- and sixth-graders will get 50 more minutes of physical education and 50 more minutes of class time each week starting next semester, if the Livonia school board votes to recall 2.7 teachers Jan. 18.

Instruction in "specials" classes at the district's three upper elementary schools was reduced 100 minutes at each grade level the beginning of this school year as part of \$11.2 million in cuts made to help balance the district's \$146.1 million budget for 2010-11.

The reductions were in physical education, music and foreign language.

The students have been spending 50 minutes a week in guided reading and 50 minutes a week in instruction in the media center, but that wasn't working well from an

instructional standpoint based on feedback from teachers and principals, Supt. Randy Liepa said.

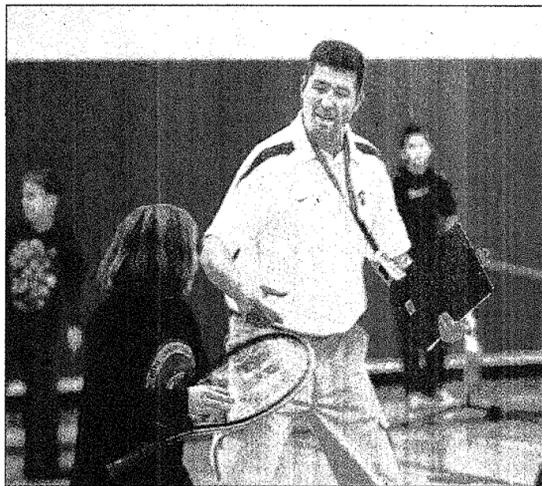
"It was just not as effective and productive as we thought it would be," he said.

Recalling 2.7 physical education teachers will also mean more regular class time for students because it will free teachers up from having to supervise students to provide release time for other teachers.

The reinstatement will cost an estimated \$100,000 or more this school year because it would be for only half the school year, Liepa said. The second semester starts Jan. 31.

He said the money is in the budget because of lower than expected health care costs during the first quarter of the year.

Trustee Gregory Oke said he



Physical education teacher Matthew Bentley works with Riley Upper Elementary students, who may see 50 more minutes of gym time per week.

FILE PHOTO

was hesitant to restore the 100 minutes if the board is only

going to turn around and cut them again next school year.

He said the cost for reinstating the 2.7 teachers will likely be closer to \$400,000 for an entire school year.

But Liepa said if administrators had known last spring what they know now, they never would have recommended making the cut. He said administrators would recommend cutting other items from the budget before recommending reducing the 100 minutes of specials again.

Secretary Rob Freeman said he supports the reinstatement, adding that in this case, the cuts went too deep, "even into the bone."

The board discussed the issue Monday at a committee of the whole meeting. The board will vote on a resolution on recalling the laid-off teachers Jan. 18.

In other action Monday, the board:

- Decided to not move forward in the 2011-12 school

year with an optional all-day kindergarten program because of the cost, estimated at a minimum of about \$300,000.

- Returned to its Building & Site Subcommittee discussion of renovating the career center, which is in need of heating, ventilating and air conditioning work. The board wants to look at other options, including retrofitting an existing building at a different site and building a new facility on the current location.

- Agreed to open its International Baccalaureate program at Franklin High School to up to 15 Schools of Choice students, five each for the ninth, 10th and 11th grades. LPS students would get priority over any Schools of Choice students. The board will vote on a formal resolution Jan. 18.

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BOARD

FROM PAGE A1

walk" compared to the last four years that included difficult contract negotiations, a teachers' strike and the closing of six schools.

"Those things taught me a lot, they've given me insight and a thick skin so I can make the difficult decisions and provide leadership," he said.

For Pitsenbarger, the decision to leave the board comes at a time when she is caring for her husband who is recovering from a bacterial fungus that left him hospitalized for two months and in a wheelchair for more than three weeks. She is now caring for him in Myrtle Beach, N.C., where he is getting therapy three days a week and recovering from the infection with the help of the salty air.

"The only real help is when he gets sick is to go to the

ocean and breath the salty air," said Pitsenbarger. "I came down here thinking it would be two weeks. I've been back to Michigan, but he has never left."

During her almost 16 years on the board, she has served as the board president for two years and as the secretary for 13 years. It probably would have been 14 years, but Pitsenbarger ask not to be nominated for the position last July in part because of her husband's illness.

"It was hard to do that because I really loved that (being secretary)," she said.

Proud of her attendance record — she had missed only two board meetings in 15 years up until her husband's illness — she uses technology to stay connected and up-to-date on school business plus returns to Michigan for monthly meetings. Monit has also in touch with her at least once a week. He has filled in for her on her committee assignments, so he can provide her with firsthand information.

her support behind Monit.

"I've been a good board member, and I hope the people who supported me think that," Pitsenbarger said. "I love being on the Board of Education, I believe in education. When I got on the board there was no busing and you had to pay to play sports. I've seen this district go to new heights and I feel a lot of good things have happened while I was on the board."

Pitsenbarger plans to throw

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STORE

FROM PAGE A1

violence in memory of a victim known as Sarah Marie, breast cancer research in memory of Cindy Colburn, Mothers Against Drunk

Driving in memory of Judy W., Growth Works which works with troubled teens dealing with anger issues, drugs and alcohol abuse, Kids Talk — Justice for Salina, emergency assistance in memory of Robin Clayton, the University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital,

Ann Arbor and to help start new stores.

"We want to give women hope so that they know that there are resources out there to help," Givens said.

She also hopes to employ people who will be referred to the shop at 902 S. Wayne Road by domestic violence

organizations.

Givens said that she tried to secure a location in the downtown plaza anchored by Kroger in Garden City but didn't hear back from the Realtor.

Garden City was her first location choice because her grandfather, George Clayton, was a proud and loyal member of the Garden City Moose Lodge. He died in 1979.

Through a variety of job positions at the store, she expects that women will learn much-needed job skills so that they can live independently. She hopes to offer a learning workplace where women can learn from others who have been in the same situation.

Contacts for housing, counseling and legal help will also be offered. Help with trans-

portation to and from work, along with assistance with home furnishing, are also in the plans.

Tickets for the fund-raiser cost \$15 per person or \$25 per couple and include dinner, dancing, raffles, speakers and more. For tickets and more information on how to help, call Givens at (734) 833-8291.

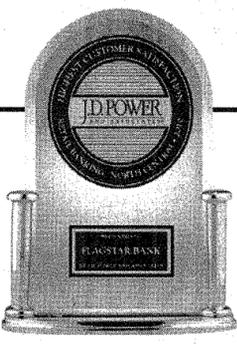
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gone fishin'

Snow and cold winds didn't keep Brian Daniels indoors Friday. He spent the afternoon ice fishing with his brother Lee Danielson Newburgh Lake in Livonia.

Patients of closed dental office offered help

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The state attorney general is offering assistance to Michigan residents affected by the closing of the Allstar Dental offices chain, including the office in Livonia.

Allcare Dental & Dentures, 29475 Plymouth Road, is part of the chain. According to Attorney General Bill Schuette's office, all clinics for the Allcare Dental chain closed their doors on Monday in 15 states, including at least six clinics in Michigan.

Schuette said many Allcare Dental patients had pre-paid for dental services and products. Patients expressed concern they were left without access to the dental records necessary to continue care with another dental provider, Schuette said. An announcement regarding the company's sudden closure was posted for

patients at www.allcareinfo.com.

"Our first priority is to ensure Michigan Allcare Dental patients who were left high and dry either receive refunds or the dental care they purchased," Schuette said. "I encourage affected patients to file a complaint with our Consumer Protection Division for assistance."

Schuette is working with other state attorneys general to form a multistate task force and is reaching out to county prosecutors in areas with Allcare Dental clinics to coordinate efforts. The task force is anticipated to coordinate the following efforts:

- Mediation of consumer complaints with Allcare Dental and third-party financing companies regarding dental services for which consumers pre-paid but did not receive;
- Preservation and protection of dental records in accordance

with health care privacy laws, as well as efforts to ensure timely patient access to records in Allcare Dental clinics;

• Review Allcare Dental's business practices to determine whether any state laws were violated; and

• Communication and cooperation with state dental licensing boards.

The Attorney General's office has issued a consumer alert with recommended action for consumers affected by sudden business closures, which can be accessed on the attorney general's website at <http://bit.ly/SuddenClosure>. The alert outlines steps consumers can take to limit financial loss, how to file a complaint with the Attorney General's office and how to protect privacy regarding personal financial or medical records.

A listed phone number for Allcare Dental and Dentures

in Livonia was inoperable Friday.

"When patients showed up for their appointment or called, there was no one available," the Better Business Bureau of Eastern Michigan noted in a press release this week.

"A note on the door read: 'Effective Dec. 31, 2010, the office of Allcare Dental & Dentures has been closed. We are currently working to find dentists to continue your care. For further information, go to allcareinfo.com or allcare.com.'"

The BBB advised patients, who went without promised services due to the closing, to file a complaint with the BBB and the Michigan Attorney General's office at (877) 765-8388 immediately. Patients who financed incomplete dental work should also contact the lending institution to stop any additional payments to Allcare, according to the BBB.

Schoolcraft offers project management, fitness classes

Schoolcraft College in Livonia will hold a free information session Monday on its Project Management Professional program and offer two fitness classes for community members, which start on Monday.

The information session for individuals who may be interested in project management or improving their career outlook with this training will be held 6-7:30 p.m. Session attendees will be able to meet the instructors to review class offerings, course curriculum and certification requirements.

According to the Project Management Institute, there are already more than 400,000 PMI credential holders around the world and in every industry, from health care, telecommunications and finance to IT and construction. More and more project management-related jobs require PMP® certification today.

"We are pleased to offer this training as there is a great demand for knowledgeable and certified project managers," said Jennifer Bodurka, programming coordinator.

The information session will be held in the Biomedical Tech Building on the main campus in Livonia. For more information, contact the Continuing Education and Professional Development department at (734) 462-4448 or go to www.schoolcraft.edu/cepd/pmp.

Strength Training for Seniors, a six-week class, meets 1-2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. The fee is \$85, or \$42.50 for seniors.

During the past several years, studies have highlighted the health value of strength training for aging adults. Strengthening the major muscle groups of the upper and lower body improves metabolism, increases bone mineral density and can reduce arthritic discomfort.

Members of the class will work at their own fitness levels, enjoying music, warm-up time, strength exercises, and stretching and relaxation. Call (734) 462-4448 for more information or register online at www.webadvisor.schoolcraft.edu

New mothers can get back into shape after pregnancy

with Postnatal Swim, a 14-week class that meets 8-9 p.m. Mondays. Cost is \$99.

By doing aquatic aerobics and toning exercises using resistance weights, noodles and kickboards, participants will strengthen their core muscles, slim down, shape up and rebuild a strong body. Call (734) 462-4448 for more information or register online at www.webadvisor.schoolcraft.edu

Schoolcraft College is at 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

'Hunters' needed for Rouge River stonefly count

Friends of the Rouge is looking for volunteers who want to help look for stoneflies in the Rouge River on Saturday Jan. 22.

The hunt begins at the University of Michigan-Dearborn at 9 a.m. No searching is done in Dearborn; volunteers venture out in 10-12 teams to Rouge streams located around metropolitan Detroit. Volunteers must pre-register by Jan. 14 on the

Friends of the Rouge website at www.therouge.org or by calling (313) 792-9621.

Winter stoneflies have an unusual lifestyle in that they hatch from streams in winter rather than the more pleasant spring or summer like mayflies. Friends of the Rouge has been monitoring stoneflies since 2002 because their extreme sensitivity to pollution makes them good indicators of water quality.

They are found in tributaries and branches of the Middle and Lower Rouge River and occasionally in the Upper Rouge. Last winter, they were found for the first time on the Main Branch of the Rouge, in the City of Detroit. It is hoped that they will be found again at that site and nearby.

Volunteers must dress for the weather and be prepared to be out in the cold for several hours. Only trained team lead-

ers go in the water; volunteers search through samples on the bank. Children five years and older are welcome when accompanied by a participating adult; groups of up to six people can be accommodated.

The Annual Winter Stonefly Search is part of a long-term monitoring program coordinated by Friends of the Rouge. It is supported by the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation.

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Fixed annuity can be good retirement plan tool

Q: Dear Rick: I am in my mid-60s and recently retired. My wife, who has been retired for a few years, has a pension. I have one as well. Our pensions more than cover our needs and we are delaying collecting Social Security until we're each 70. We have no debt, our house is paid off and following your recommendations, my portfolio is about half and half between stocks and bonds. We have about \$50,000 in cash to invest. We want to be conservative with the money and, therefore, I was thinking of CDs or fixed annuities. I know from your column that you have no problem with fixed annuities. Does a fixed annuity make sense for me and which one should I use?

A: Congratulations on your retirement and for achieving the American Dream — being able to retire when you want, without money being an issue. It's obvious from your letter that you and your wife have been successful in accumulating



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

enough resources to maintain your lifestyle.

You are correct. I do not have a problem with fixed annuities. There are many very good fixed annuities and particularly for someone who wants to protect the principal of his/her money, a fixed annuity makes sense.

I prefer fixed annuities over CDs, based upon returns. If you haven't noticed, rates of return on CDs are very low. That's not to say that rates on fixed annuities are high because they're not. However, they are higher than CDs. In addition, fixed annuities do have the benefit of allowing money to grow tax deferred.

When money accumulates in a fixed annuity there are no tax consequences until the money is withdrawn. With a CD, you are taxed on the money annually,

whether you have the interest reinvested or not.

In analyzing fixed annuities, there are two types — traditional-fixed and equity-index.

The traditional-fixed guarantees a rate of return for a set period of time. The equity-index gives a guaranteed rate of return, plus a bonus based upon the performance of an index (i.e. S&P 500) linked to the stock market.

Equity-index annuities are fixed income investments because you cannot lose your principal, however, the return can fluctuate based upon the stock market.

Unfortunately, buying fixed annuities, whether traditional-fixed or equity-index annuity, is not easy. Unlike a mutual fund where you can go directly to the company, you can't do that with an annuity. You must go through a representative of the company. In addition, what makes it more complex is that not all annuities are the same. There are some annuities stuffed with high fees while oth-

ers are more "investor friendly."

When buying an annuity proceed with caution.

Whenever it comes to retaining the services of a professional, whether it is a lawyer, financial advisor or an annuity salesperson, dealing with honest and competent people is the key.

I recommend speaking with family and friends to find out who they've used and if they have confidence in them. In addition, you can always e-mail me.

Annuities can play an important part in someone's portfolio. However, like every other investment, some are good and some are bad. Investors should steer away from annuity products that are not investor friendly.

Good luck!

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

Federal money lets city acquire 69 homes

BY LEANNE ROGERS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland has allocated just over \$2 million the city received in federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds to acquire foreclosed, vacant or blighted homes.

As of the last quarterly report on the program in October, \$1.57 million has been expended. As 2011 begins, the city has acquired 69 homes through a combination of sources — Wayne County tax foreclosure, HUD/Fannie Mae foreclosure, the Wayne County Nuisance Abatement Program, private sales and developer acquisitions. So far, 22 dilapidated structures have been demolished, with another 10 to be completed.

Norwayne is getting a lot of focus in the program, with 25

homes acquired in that area and eight demolitions to be completed by the end of the year. Unlike other areas of the city, the Norwayne homes are usually demolished rather than rehabilitated.

"The extent of the blight and condition of the homes is too bad. Decreasing the density is one of our goals, along with increasing homeownership," Westland Community Development Director Joanne Inglis said.

The city has partnered with Habitat for Humanity, which built three homes after a blighted home was removed and the large lot divided for three home sites. The city is also working with private contractors Home Renewal Systems and Guy Construction for renovation and resale projects on a total of 10 homes — the total number has been halved from the original plan.

Home Renewal Systems has sold two renovated homes, is completing the sale of a third and a deposit has been placed on a fourth home. Guy Construction has lease/purchase agreements approved on two homes while Inglis said a third sale should be finalized this month.

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools Construction Trades Program is also building a home on a property acquired by the city and will handle a second project.

"The biggest challenge is people getting mortgages. There is tons of desire to purchase a home but it's so difficult to get a mortgage - it's difficult getting a car loan," said Inglis.

The regulations of the federal program require that the renovated homes be sold for the amount at which they are appraised or the cost for the renovations, whichever is less. With the depressed real estate market of recent years, that means the totally upgraded homes are being sold at bargain prices.

For example, the home at 7445 Gilman sold in October for the appraised price of \$62,000. Development costs were \$97,600. Another rehabilitated home at 32152 Palmer was sold in June for the appraised value of \$70,000, with development costs of \$96,775.

"To the average citizen, it may look like a waste, but it is absolutely better to rehabilitate a home. One blighted home affects the value of all the homes in a three-block radius," Inglis said. "It eliminates blight, so we can support all other houses. There is nothing bad about residents occupying a home."

An financial exception has been homes renovated by Habitat for Humanity. A home on Christine was recently sold for the \$72,000 appraised value with only a \$25,000 investment by NSP due to donated material and labor available to the non-profit.

"Some of the house will recoup most of the funding. Those funds from the sale will stay with Habitat for future project," said Inglis. "The others come back to us."

In addition to the benefit of reducing the number of vacant houses, Inglis said the program also adds a property back to the tax roll and the mortgage includes restrictions that the new owners cannot realize a profit that exceeds inflation, if they sell the house — any profit exceeding inflation comes back to the program.

"We're not getting as much revenue as we anticipated because the property values fell so much. If we get revenue from NSP it has to go back into NSP," said Inglis. "CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) and home funds have been approved by council for this program to continue even if there are no NSP funds."

Recently, the City Council approved acquisition of a four-unit residential building at 2212, 2214, 2216 and 2218 Emerson in Norwayne.

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†Paid Spokesperson, Doris Biscoe, is a member of a HAP non-Medicare Plan.

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Ice Festival: Expanded hours, more activities

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Had enough of the holidays? New year already testing your resolve?

You'll have a chance to chill out when the Plymouth Ice Festival returns to town.

The 29th annual ice festival, a three-day weekend of carving events, sculpture displays, food and drink and free entertainment, opens Friday, Jan. 21, at Kellogg Park and in parts of downtown Plymouth.

Sam Walton, whose Signature Professional Group is in its second year of producing the nonprofit event, said he's planning to give festival fans more activities this year — and more time to enjoy them — as an escape from the wintertime blues.

"People have been cooped up inside for a couple of months," Walton said during an interview last week. "People are looking for an excuse to get out."

Kellogg Park is the heart of the festival, and booths and activities typically line Main Street and Ann Arbor Trail, but last year's festival was expanded to include Forest Avenue, which offered sculptures, live music and a petting zoo for children, and

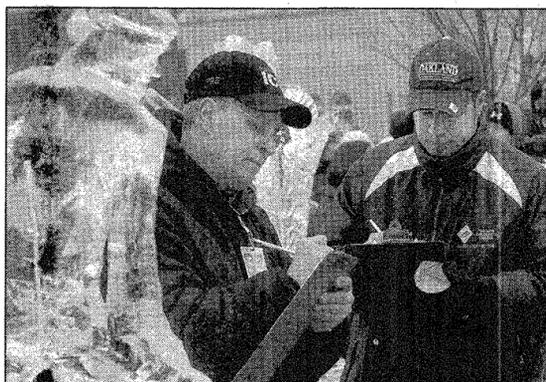


PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stephen Wald put the finishing touches on his sculpture with a torch during last year's Plymouth Ice Festival. The festival returns Jan. 21-23 to downtown Plymouth.

this year's event will include Forest plus Penniman Avenue. The streets will have similar attractions, but each will also have its own theme, "just to give the people a little bit of a different feel as they make their way around," Walton said.

Walton said his goal is to gradually expand the festival over the next few years to include all of downtown's major streets, in order to draw



Judges Richard Teeple of Henry Ford Community College and Doug Ganhs of Oakland Community College looked over the college entries at last year's festival.

and some attendees reported to Walton that they hadn't been on that block before.

"They see a restaurant or a store that they'd maybe never see otherwise," Walton said.

While Walton is focusing on offering a wider variety of festival activities, the sculptures aren't being forgotten.

This year will feature some 250 blocks of ice, up from about 200 last year.

This year's show also boasts expanded hours — until 11 p.m. both Friday and Saturday (Jan. 21-22). Previous festivals typically ended at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, but people tended to stick around to enjoy the

sculptures and the atmosphere, Walton said.

Highlights of the festival will include a 7 p.m. Jan. 21 opening ceremony with the cutting of an "ice ribbon," carving demonstrations, an individual collegiate carving competition Saturday, Jan. 22, and collegiate team competition Sunday, Jan. 23, and the "dueling chainsaws" speed-carving contest the night of Jan. 23. There will also be a "Hot Spot" warming tent and, Jan. 21-22, at the Party Lot behind E.G. Nick's, a separate event for adults offering drinks and live music.

Sponsorship opportunities for businesses and individuals will be available through Saturday, Jan. 15; information on the sponsorships is available at the festival's Web site, plymouthicefestival.org.

Walton has a fund-raising goal of \$85,000 for this year's festival, and is confident that mark can be reached. "We really have a great sponsorship base this year," he said.

Ice festival adds nighttime hours

The 29th annual Plymouth Ice Festival opens at 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, and continues through the weekend at Kellogg Park and downtown Plymouth.

Some 250 blocks of ice are being prepared for the show, which features professional as well as collegiate ice-carvers, carving demonstrations, competitions, refreshments, live music, and the sculpture garden at the park. Activities for children will include a petting zoo, pony rides and

a scavenger hunt. Admission is free.

A formal opening ceremony, with the cutting of an "ice ribbon," is planned for 7 p.m. Jan. 21 at Kellogg Park.

Festival hours, expanded this year, are 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Jan. 21, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Jan. 22, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 23. The sculptures will be on display around the clock.

Visit the festival website, plymouthicefestival.org, for details and updates.

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Habitat office provides families with a hand up

BY MATT JACHMAN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite repeated blows to the local economy, and corporate donations that all but dried up during the recession, a local nonprofit is stepping up efforts to put needy families into stable environments.

Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County, which marked its 15th anniversary in 2010, built four new houses this year and rehabilitated two more. Along with three home-closings that took place early in the year, the nine completed projects are roughly double the amount of work the affiliate did in all of 2008 and 2009, said Alice Dent, the executive director.

With an office in Plymouth, Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County is one of two Habitat affiliates in the area (the other is in Detroit) and one of 78 in the state. The office serves Plymouth and Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Livonia, Westland, Redford Township, Wayne and several other communities.

Dent has seen families flourish with Habitat's help.

"The house gives them a sense of security and pride and boosts their self-esteem," Dent said in a recent interview.

IMPROVING LIVES

New Habitat homeowners, she said, are motivated to improve their lives, such as by furthering their education, their children improve their grades and get into trouble less often, and even little things they couldn't do in rented housing, like putting up a Christmas wreath or running in the back yard, make a difference, she said.



Alice Dent, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Western Wayne (with Redford Township Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz and new homeowner Angela Jackson at a Redford build last fall) said Habitat homeowners are motivated to improve their lives.

"The things that we take for granted, it's life-changing for them," she said. "It doesn't stop with the house."

When she took charge in 2003, Dent said, the Plymouth Habitat affiliate wasn't building any houses and was in a regrouping mode. "We're excited," about the progress since then, she said.

With the nationwide housing crisis leading to a glut of vacant homes in the area, the affiliate is focusing more on rehabilitating existing houses, Dent said, but still retains its well-known home-building projects as a big part of its mission.

Families seeking a Habitat home must earn between 25 percent and 50 percent of the area's median household income (about \$42,400 in 2008, according to the U.S. Census Bureau).

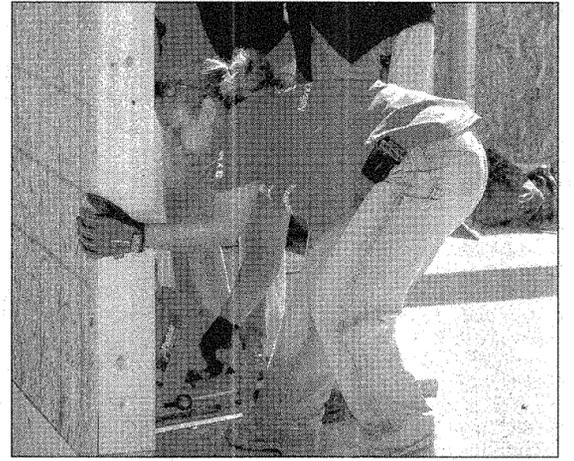
A new or rehabbed Habitat home is not a giveaway — buyers pay market price, taxes and insurance, Dent said. But the loans, which are made through Habitat, are interest-free. "That's how they're able to get a break," Dent said.

Money paid on the principals of Habitat homes, which Dent estimated at about \$50,000 a year for her affiliate, is put

back into the program, going toward future projects for other families. "You're actually going to help someone else" by making the mortgage payments, she said.

DONATIONS

The affiliate also relies on corporate and individual donations, money from local churches and federal grant funding — and more than 400 volunteers, Dent said. She estimated the office's budget for the current year at just over \$400,000; about \$80,000 for each new build, \$25,000 for each rehab and \$3,000 to



Diane Becton, Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne volunteer supervisor, nailed a wall into place as construction began on a new home in Westland.

\$4,000 a month to run the office and maintain properties slated for future projects.

Barb Fichtenberg of Canton is a Habitat volunteer of about 14 years. She is the chairwoman of Habitat's church relations committee and is involved with the Apostles Build project, in which area churches regularly join forces to provide funding and volunteers for a home-building project.

Fichtenberg attends Geneva Presbyterian in Canton, which Dent described as a major Habitat supporter.

"I value the opportunity to put my faith into action," Fichtenberg said.

She said the Habitat philosophy is based on the "economics of Jesus," that is, working together for the common good.

"I appreciate that aspect of it, being able to work together with some people from other denominations, and being able to display the unity we have in

our faith," she said.

Fichtenberg also likes connecting with the families that Habitat helps.

"We see the impact, what having a home in a stable community can do," she said.

"We have some folks in our church who really are pretty faithful in putting in lots of hours" for Habitat, said Geneva's pastor, the Rev. Bryan D. Smith. The pastor for 18 years, Smith said Geneva's involvement in Habitat predates his tenure.

His congregation, Smith said, understands that their faith is about helping care for people who are on society's margins.

"At the end of the day," said Dent, "it really feels good when you see people's lives change."

Contributions can be made to Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County, 638 Starkweather, Plymouth, MI 48170.

AROUND WESTLAND

Coffee Hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 10, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Citizens are welcome to visit with LeBlanc and discuss issues and/or concerns. The local coffee hour takes place on the second Monday of each month.

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

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will hold local coffee hours in Westland and Redford on Monday, Jan. 10. Anderson will be at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland 9-10 a.m. and at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway, Redford, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

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

Play auditions

Inspire Theatre announces auditions for *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* at 6:30 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Jan. 10-11, at the Inspire Theatre inside Warren Road Light and Life Church, 33445 Warren Road, Westland. Being sought are five men and five women ages 18-70ish. No singing or dancing involved. Arrive on time and come prepared to do cold readings.

The plot concerns several showbiz folks that have been gathered into a mansion house to flush out a serial killer. As the events unfold, there are bits from the past that seem to come back and haunt some of the characters. Once folks start dying off, the madcap search to find the killer begins. It's a door-slammng ride to a very funny finish line.

If you liked the movie *Clue*, you'll love *1940*. The performances are scheduled for March 4-6 and 11-13. For more information, call (734) 751-7057.

Better Health seminar

A "Your Journey to Better Health" seminar will be offered at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, at the Westland senior Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, south of Ford.

The program was developed by Mayor William R. Wild and St. Mary Mercy Hospital staff to offer residents key information to help them lead healthier lives. The Jan. 12 seminar will focus on Heart Women's Health Issues. The seminar is open to all residents. Reserve a seat by calling the Friendship Center at (734) 722-7628.

Surplus food pickup

The City of Westland has announced the day, times and locations for residents to obtain surplus federal food for the month of January.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey Road, north of Michigan Avenue and south of Palmer.

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

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

Greenwood Villa residents also must pick up their food items at Greenwood Villa.

Food distributed for the month of January includes cherry apple juice, cranberry sauce, sliced potatoes, frozen ham, peas, mixed fruit, peanut butter, UHT milk and possible additional items. For questions, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

The program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services.

Weatherization help

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

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

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

6999.

Bible talks

Bible Talks will be held at the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland at 4 p.m. Sundays, now through Feb. 6. Presenting, in simplicity, the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, no collections or literature. Everyone is welcome.

Spaghetti dinner

The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

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

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

District hours

Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, is holding regular offices hours monthly in the 12th District this month. Gebhardt, who represents south Livonia, Inkster and Westland, will be at:

- The McDonald's restaurant (27125 Cherry Hill Road, Inkster, at noon the first Monday of the month.
- The William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City

Parkway, 6-8 p.m., on the second Monday of the month.

• Biggby Coffee, 33328 Plymouth Road, Livonia, at 10 a.m. the fourth of the Monday of the month.

Glow skate

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

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

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

Taste Testing

Chef Jesse Gales will offer a taste-testing opportunity at the Westland Weight Watchers center Saturday, Jan. 22.

These meetings are open and free to the public so anyone who is interested in learning more about Weight Watchers, without having to pay a meeting fee, can attend.

The Westland Weight Watchers Center is at 36585 W. Warren Road. Meetings will begin at 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.

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The pet protector: Nanny takes away worry for pet owners

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Entrepreneur Jan Conner turned a canceled trip to Chicago with friends into a business venture that has celebrated its first decade.

And thousands of household pets are better off for it.

Conner was ready for a get-away with friends when she realized she had no one to care for the two dogs, two cats, four ferrets and numerous fish she and her sons, Jason and Michael, had collected.

"It dawned on me -- what am I going to do with my pets?" she recalled.

Though she was in a quandary, Conner had a long-term idea. She used her professional background in sales, marketing and management to start Pet-Nanny Inc., a service that provides care for pets in their own homes when their owners are at work, on vacation or elsewhere.

Conner started her business on the side, and it became a full-time venture.

"It just took off like it was on a mission," she said, smiling as she sat in her kitchen with a Great Dane, Luna, who belongs to son Jason, daughter-in-law Sarah and their



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jan Conner and friend. Conner's company, Pet Nanny Inc., has been taking care of people's pets for a decade.

children Dylan, 6, and Ava, 5.

Conner, of Canton, and six other pet nannies now have 500 clients in Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, Northville, Novi and Ann Arbor. They have cared for dogs, cats, rats, guinea pigs, birds, rabbits and — yes — spiders and snakes.

"We've had a tarantula and a pot-bellied pig," Conner said.

to be just right in the house for a python," Conner said.

With their motto of "we love them when you have to leave them," pet nannies initially meet with pets and their owners before they begin independent visits that start at \$16. Conner has learned that a simple gesture, such as shaking an owner's hand and then letting a dog sniff the owner's scent on her hand, can build trust with pets.

"I've got this down to a science," she said.

Pet nannies feed pets, give them water, take them for walks, drive them for a visit to a groomer — whatever the owner needs. The service allows pets to stay in their own homes while owners are away, and nannies pick up newspapers, turn lights on and off, adjust window blinds and take other steps to give the appearance the home is occupied when owners are away. Some clients who don't even have pets hire Pet-Nanny.

Jan and Tim Cory of Canton

have used Pet-Nanny for eight years for their mixed-breed dogs, Romi and Rocky.

"I think Jan is fabulous," Jan Cory said.

The couple prefers not to leave their dogs in kennels but, rather, have them cared for in the place they know as home. Moreover, the Corys and other pet owners don't worry about having pet nannies come into their homes because they are experienced, bonded and insured. Pet-Nanny also has an A-plus rating from the Better Business Bureau and is a member of the Canton Chamber of Commerce, Pet Sitters International and the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters.

Conner's love of pets hasn't been limited to her business. Through Paws With a Cause, she also has helped raise dogs that ultimately are trained to live with and assist people with disabilities. She also has taken in puppies from the Canton-based Homeward Bound Rescue League until

they find permanent homes.

Conner also still has her own pets — golden retriever Ginger; husky-shepherd mix Maya; cats Reznor, Molly and Trixie; and fish with no names.

Being a pet nanny can have its issues, like the time a stray bird found its way down a chimney into a house with four cats. Conner actually tried to get the bird to light on her hand, but she finally secured the cats, opened a door and, to her delight, the bird flew out.

On a personal note, owning Pet-Nanny Inc., has allowed Conner to spend more time helping out with her grandchildren, and she gets to be her own boss.

"I have no regrets," she said. "I never get tired of this."

Pet-Nanny can be reached by phone at (734) 981-6108, by e-mail at jconner@pet-nanny.com or online at www.pet-nanny.com.

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

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GARDEN CLIPPINGS

In concert

Garden City Presbyterian Church's Saturday Night Light will host a free family concert by Thresh-Hold from Pontiac at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15.

The program is one of the many ways the church is reaching out into the community to invite people to come and share Sunday worship services and activities.

Adult Bible study is at 8:15 a.m., traditional worship, nursery care and youth Sunday gathering at 9:30 a.m. The youth gathering offers story telling, computer activities, cooking/baking, crafts and other interests. Fellowship with refreshments is immediately after. New is a contemporary service in a very relaxed format for those who prefer an informal setting. Choir anthems, handbells, a brass quartet provide a variety of worship experiences.

There's also Tuesday morning Bible study, TOPS on Friday, men's club activities, a women's association-sponsored November bazaar, June strawberry social, an August rummage sale with all proceeds go to mission and charity, scrap-booking, Sewing Sweethearts who sew for charity, free monthly family concerts featuring prominent vocal groups and other programs that offer something for everyone.

A small town family church looking to the future, Garden City Presbyterian encourages anyone looking for a friendly and welcoming place to worship and make new friends to come. The church is on Middlebelt, one block south of Ford. For more information, call (734) 421-7620.

Vacation Auction

Time is running out to participate in the Oakwood Foundation's vacation auction of the use of a condo in Kissimmee or Puerto Vallarta. The vacation auction benefits First Step.

Available in the auction is a stay at the Tropical Hills of Puerto Vallarta Adventure March 19-26, 2011. Tropical

Hills. The condo sleeps nine adults. Park Royal Los Tules is nestled among the tropical hills of Puerto Vallarta, the ideal place for its spacious gardens, eight pools, five tennis courts, snack bar, jogging track, half-mile of beautiful beach, facilities and equipment for water sports, bicycle and motorbike rentals and picturesque traditional Mexican-style villas equipped with kitchen.

The Kissimmee Florida Getaway is June 5-12, 2011. Stay at Highpoint Resort. Condo sleeps six adults and is just one mile from Walt Disney World Vacation Kingdom.

Submit one blind bid for each item, with a minimum bid of \$500 (airfare not included) to the Oakwood Foundation, attention John O'Rourke at orourkej@oakwood.org.

Top blind bid submitted by 5 p.m. Jan. 10, will be determined to be the winner. In case of a tie, a random drawing of the top bidders will determine the winner. Proceeds benefit the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Partnership with First Step.

Senior Travel Show

Party Animal Travel will host a Senior Travel Show 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 16, at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, west of Merriman, Garden City.

Come and shop all of the new one-day and multi-day senior trips departing from Garden City. At this shopping market, seniors and adults can sign up for a series of trips for the spring, summer and fall. The afternoon also will provide seniors with discount coupons, free travel information and the chance to win a one-day get-away.

Call (734) 525-9777 to reserve a spot. Space is limited.

Preschool Story Time

Registration is being accepted for the Garden City Library's preschool story time, "Once Upon a..."

The story time will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 19-Feb. 16, in Room 3 of the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, west

of Merriman.

The five-week program is for children ages 3-5. The focus will be on classic fairy tales and will include stories, flannel board stories, circle games and finger play.

Call (734) 793-1830 to reserve your spot.

Get flocked

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

It's a chance to return the Flamingo Flocking Favor. Optional Flocking Insurance is available to protect you from any future flockings. The policy amount is \$15 and good for the 2010-11 school year.

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

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

Free testing

As a service to the community, the staff of Garden City Hospital's Community Services offers blood pressure testing, free of charge, on a bi-weekly basis to senior citizens at the Maplewood Community Center, located on Maplewood just west of Merriman. Testing will be available at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (734) 458-4330.



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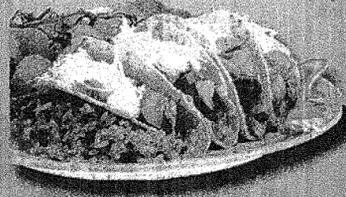
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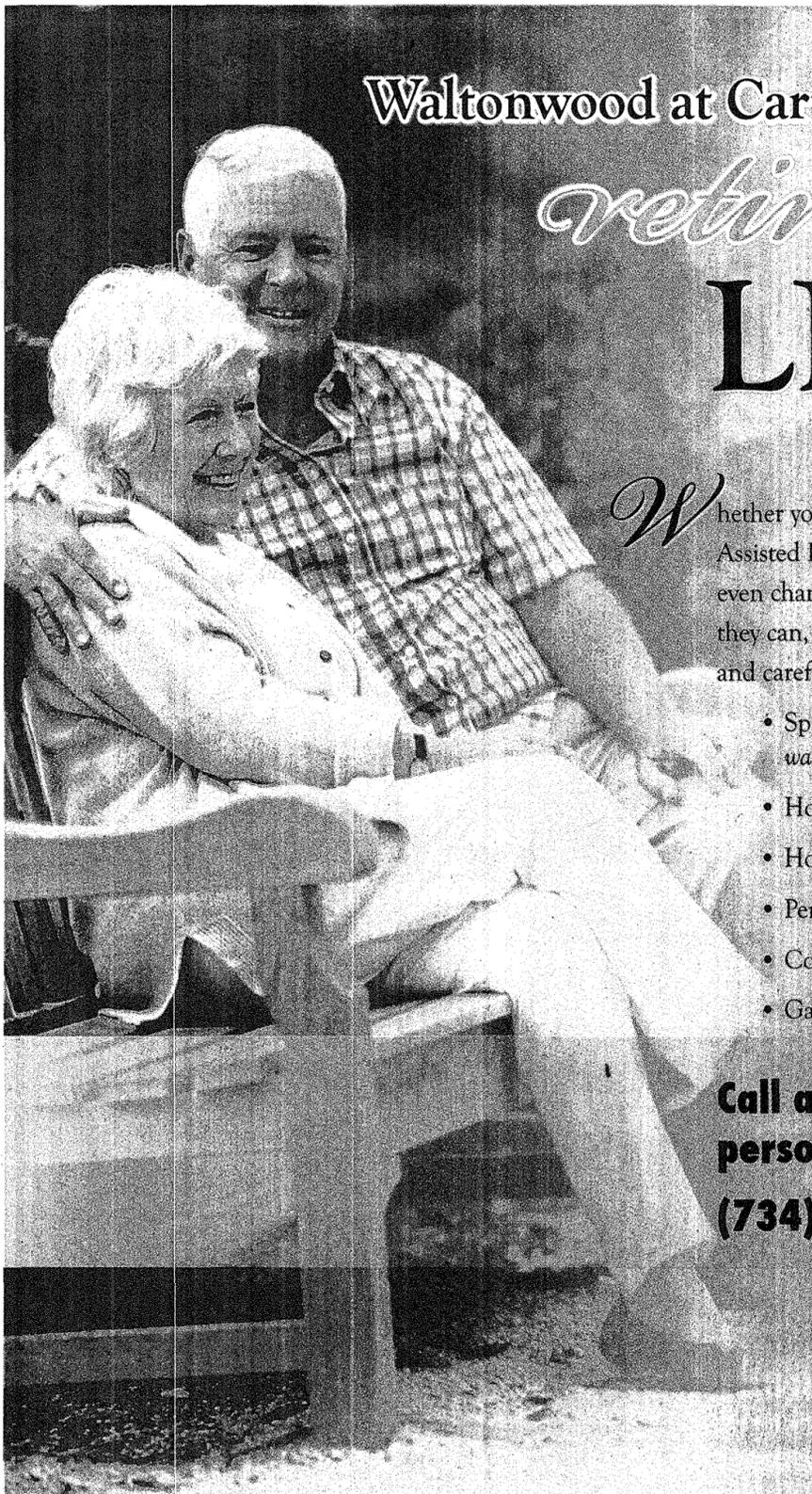
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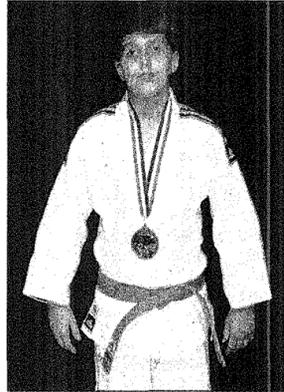
Judo stalwart learns ropes in Japan

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

For Nicholas Joseph, it wasn't your typical Christmas school break. The 12-year-old Livonian wasn't hanging out at the mall, playing video games or going sledding. Instead, Joseph spent eight days (Dec. 21-29) honing his skills at the Sanix International Youth Judo Team Tournament in Kyushu, Japan. The annual event attracted 80 junior high teams, including 72 from the host country along with eight other teams across the globe including Russia, Hong Kong, South Korea, South Africa, Israel and the U.S.

The seventh-grade honor roll student from St. Genevieve Grade School gained an invite to become part of a seven-member Konan Judo Association squad after earning a bronze medal last August in the U.S. Junior Open Judo Championships in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. In that tournament, which is the largest international competition held in the U.S., Joseph lost only one bout in the 48-kilogram class for 11- and 12-year-olds. (His only defeat was to the eventual winner from the Ukraine). Prior to the Sanix team tournament, which was held at the Global Arena Sports Facility, Joseph spent two days in orientation. "It was a fun trip, but a long plane ride

- 13 hours - but it was definitely worth it," said Joseph, who already competed in 250 matches and captured 50 trophies during his young career. "The (two-day) training camp was difficult. It was a hard level because everyone there was so good. They were really long training sessions, very intense. We learned a couple techniques that I'll be able to show when I get back to the club. It worked out nicely." Although Joseph's U.S. squad was eliminated in the first round, he was able to participate in individual competition as well in Kyushu. Despite being the smallest member of



RICARDO JOSEPH | PHOTO

Livonia's Nicholas Joseph displays his bronze medal from the U.S. Junior Open Judo Championships held last August in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Please see **JUDO, B3**

SIDELINES

Tuyo finalist

Livonia Franklin High senior Steve Tuyo, a member of the Patriots' wrestling team a first-team All-Observer selection, is among 22 Michigan finalists for the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship. Tuyo caddies out at Western Golf & Country Club in Redford. The Evans Scholarship is a full tuition and housing college scholarship for golf caddies. Since 1930, more than 9,000 men and women have graduated as Evans Scholars. Most recipients attend one of the 14 universities across the nation where the Evans Scholars Foundation owns and operates a Scholarship House. The state of Michigan supports two houses - Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.

C'ville hoop alums

The first annual Trojan Basketball Alumni fund-raiser game will be Friday, Jan. 28, at Livonia Clarenceville High School gymnasium. The Clarenceville JV boys team will take on the school staff at 6 p.m. followed by the varsity boys against the alumni at 7:30 p.m. All alumni participants are asked to make a \$10 donation. There is a \$5 admission fee and concessions will be available through the Clarenceville Booster Club. For more information, call Clarenceville boys varsity basketball coach Justin Johnson at (248) 343-1288.

1st Pitch banquet

Detroit Lions broadcaster and Fox 2 sports director Dan Miller will be the featured speaker at the Madonna University baseball program's second annual First Pitch banquet, Sunday, Jan. 23, at the Italian American Club in Livonia. The event begins at noon with a social hour where fans can meet and get autographs from the 2011 Crusader players. The meal and program follow at 1 p.m.

Individual tickets are \$60 (tables for 10 are \$600). Proceeds from the event will help defray costs for the MU baseball program including travel, uniforms and other amenities.

There will also be a silent auction where attendees can bid on sports memorabilia items, along with vacation and golf packages, sporting event tickets and more.

For ticket information or sponsorship opportunities, call Linda Hall at the MU Advancement Office at (734) 432-5603.

Special skate

The three Livonia varsity hockey teams - Churchill, Franklin and Stevenson - will offer an open skate for special needs youths beginning at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9, at Edgar Arena, located at 33841 Lyndon (just west of Farmington and north of I-96).

Free skate rental is available. For more information, e-mail Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni at livoniapublicschools.org.

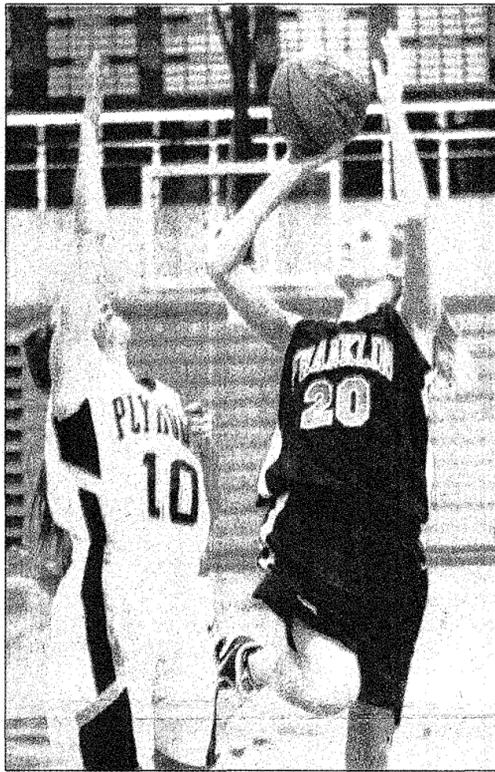
Williams' effort can't save Pats

BY TIM SMITH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It took a quarter for Plymouth's varsity girls basketball team to shake off the holiday rust Friday against Livonia Franklin in the KLAASouth opener for both teams. Plymouth outlasted the visiting Patriots 40-37 in a game that began as "The Chelsea Williams Show." Franklin's senior forward scored all but two of her team's 14 first-half points. She finished with 23, along with eight rebounds. But Plymouth (3-3, 1-0) came out in the second half with pressure defense and some timely shots to seize control of the game. "We just came out and played better defense," Plymouth head coach Bob

deBear said. "I think a lot of the baskets were scored on turnovers." According to deBear, it took a while for the team to get going in all phases of the game. "We haven't played in 20 days," he continued. "We had kids all over the place with vacation, so it was hard to have any continuity in practice. At the end of the game it got better." Frustrated about another close defeat was Franklin head coach Bob Ostrowski, who praised his team for playing as hard as it could. "It's hard to swallow, knowing you're playing so good and so hard," Ostrowski said. "But you know what, the girls are really upbeat and they said their going to con-

Please see **PATS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Chelsea Williams (20) scored a game-high 23 points, but it wasn't enough in a 40-37 setback. Plymouth's Alyssa Dillon (10) contests the shot.

Glenn opens division play impressively

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Dan Young's creed as coach for the Westland John Glenn's boys basketball program hasn't changed in five years. "We talk about guarding, rebounding and sharing the ball," he said. "It's always been our philosophy at Glenn. That's all we talk about. It's our motto." The Rockets were pretty proficient in all three phases Friday night as they opened KLAASouth Division play with a convincing 60-23 triumph at Livonia Churchill. Glenn improves to 4-1 overall, while Churchill is still searching for its first victory after six games. "We don't have a lot of size, but

BOYS HOOPS

Please see **HOOPS, B3**

Back to school MU softball assistant takes Churchill job

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill didn't have to look very far to find a new varsity girls softball coach. Churchill athletic director Marc Hage announced that Steve Gentilia, 34, who spent the past nine years as an assistant coach under Al White at Madonna University, was named to replace Lou Kuratko. Gentilia, a 1994 Garden City High grad who played baseball for the Cougars as a catcher, joined MU's staff after a brief stint as varsity baseball coach at Livonia Clarenceville (1999-2000). He also served as a JV and assistant baseball coach at GC. Hage said Gentilia was not only interviewed by the Churchill administration, but also by parents

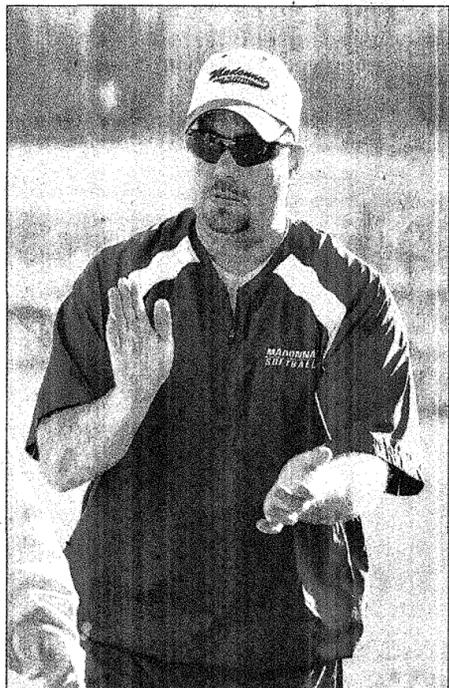


Gentilia

and players connected with the program. "We wanted the parents and the players to take ownership in this process, too, and I think it worked out well," Hage said. "Steve was not only our choice, but their choice, too." And being at Madonna, he knew a lot of our kids because he had worked with them at camps and at clinics." Kuratko, who resigned late last year, finished 33-30 in his two varsity seasons as coach. The Chargers finished 18-14 a year ago. "Churchill's got a lot of young talent," Gentilia said. "They have a strong team and I hope to make it better. All their pitchers are back." "I met the girls for the first time yesterday (Thursday) in a meeting and there were only three seniors there. But I'm sure there are more, but they probably couldn't make it because of other commitments." As an assistant at MU under White, Gentilia helped the Crusaders reach national prominence.

White has amassed 409 wins since 1999 and MU has captured four straight Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference titles and earned two straight trips to the NAIA National Tournament. "Playing in the modified (softball) leagues with Al and Curt White (son), I started working with their catchers and hitters and I got hooked on the fast-pitch game," Gentilia said. "It was a hard decision to leave (MU), but I'll still be associated with their camps, just not in the capacity that I was the past nine years." Gentilia is a sales rep who is in the process of applying for a paraprofessional position in the Livonia Public Schools. "I wanted back in the high school for personal reasons and I saw an opening there," Gentilia said of the Churchill job. "My plan is to go back and get my degree, try and get into the district, and get back into the classroom and become a teacher."

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MU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS | PHOTO

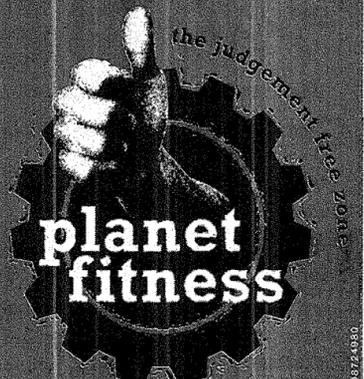
Steve Gentilia will take over the Livonia Churchill girls varsity softball job after spending nine years as an assistant at Madonna University.

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Blazers survive Marian in OT

It was a wild and crazy finish Friday night as host Livonia Ladywood pulled out a 51-50 Catholic League Central Division girls basketball overtime victory over Birmingham Marian.

Sophomore Kiley Gorski's free throw with 15 seconds left in OT proved to be the difference as the Blazers, improved to 7-1 overall and 1-1 in the Central.

Sophomore guard Andrea Anastos led Ladywood with 15 points, while Gorski and senior center Katy Rooney each added eight points.

Marian's Mara Mulroy led all scorers with 19 points, while Michelle Perkovic added eight.

Ladywood led 41-31 after three quarters, but the Mustangs (4-4, 0-2) stormed

GIRLS HOOPS

back with a 15-5 fourth-period run to force overtime at 46-41.

Ladywood seniors Teresa Wojnarowski and Alyssa Anastos both fouled out.

INTER-CITY 40, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 36: Rachel Nuscat and Niki Taylor each tallied 13 points Friday as host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (3-3, 2-1) held off Lutheran High Westland (1-6, 0-3) in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division game.

Amanda Terranella, a 6-foot junior center, scored 16 points in the loss. She hit 6-of-10 field goal tries and was 4-of-11 from the foul line.

Teammate Alyssa Flury added nine points and a game-high 18 rebounds, including 12 on the defensive end for the Lutheran Westland.

Taylor Wiemer also dished out three assists. Inter-City made 14-of-25 free

throws, while the Warriors were 10-of-21.

LADYWOOD 63, GRAND LEDGE 51: On Wednesday, sophomore guard Andrea Anastos poured in 20 points as Livonia Ladywood (6-1) bounced back from its first loss of the season to beat the host Comets (6-2).

"It was a hard-fought game and our kids did a great job of hanging in there and getting defensive stops when it mattered," said Ladywood coach Anthony Coratti, whose team outscored Grand Ledge 19-11 in the final quarter. "We really had to dig in and get the win."

Senior forward Teresa Wojnarowski added 12 points and eight rebounds, while senior forward Alyssa Anastos chipped in with 11 points, including three 3-pointers.

Krysta Kramer, who connected on five 3-pointers, paced Grand Ledge and all scorers with 21 points.

Ladywood was 9-of-11 from the foul line, while Grand Ledge hit 6-of-11.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin senior forward Amanda Borieo gets her shot blocked during Friday's KLAAs South Division encounter against Plymouth.

every practice and every game. She just plays 1,000 miles an hour."

tsmith@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-6785

PATS

FROM PAGE B1

time to work hard."

Ostrowski added that the Patriots (2-4, 0-1) are "just not getting the right bounce off the rim, we're not getting the right step on a girl."

The Patriots led 8-1 after one quarter (six points scored by Williams), 12-3 early in the second and 14-9 at halftime before Plymouth finally got into sync.

Setting the comeback tone for the Wildcats was senior guard Alex Roberts (11 points), who tallied the first seven points of the third — before Franklin could score any — to put Plymouth up 18-14.

The Wildcats added a driving layup by junior guard Kate Watson (five points), a short jumper by freshman guard Kylie Robb (seven points) and a trey by freshman forward Jada Woody to help the home team go up 27-25 going into the fourth.

Plymouth never gave up the lead in the fourth, starting it with a 10-3 run to lead 37-28 with about three minutes to play.

Quickness on defense by Robb, freshman guard Alyssa Dillon (six points) and Watson helped frustrate the Patriots, who other than Williams had trouble generating any offense all night. Scoring seven for Franklin was senior Amanda Borieo.

"She (Watson) is a sparkplug," said deBear about the co-captain. "She brings enthusiasm to

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 11
 Churchill at Canton, 7 p.m.
 Franklin at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 S.L. East at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 Plymouth at Wayne, 7 p.m.
 Clarenceville at Annapolis, 7 p.m.
 Oak Christian at Luth. Westland, 7 p.m.
 Taylor Baptist at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 13
 Franklin at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at Salem, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Luth. South, 7 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Roeper, 8:30 p.m.
GIRLS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 11
 Canton at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 John Glenn at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Stevenson at S.L. East, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
 Ladywood at Romulus, 7 p.m.
 Annapolis at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Taylor Baptist, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 14
 Wayne at John Glenn, 5:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Luth. South, 6 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Roeper, 7 p.m.
 Churchill at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Salem at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Monday, Jan. 10
 Ladywood vs. Ann Arbor at Veterans Arena, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 11
 Ladywood vs. Ply.-Canton-Salem at Arctic Edge, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 12
 Churchill vs. Davison, Franklin vs. Salem at Edgar Arena, 6 & 8 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 13
 Ladywood vs. Cranbrook-Kingswood at Arctic Pond (Plymouth), 6 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 14
 Churchill vs. Northville at Novi Ice Arena, 6 p.m.
 Franklin vs. Dearborn at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
 Stevenson vs. Traverse City Central at Traverse City (Howe Arena), 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 15
 Churchill vs. Salem at Arctic Edge, TBA.
 Stevenson vs. Traverse City West at Traverse City (Howe Arena), 3 p.m.
 Ladywood vs. Grosse Pte. North at Arctic Pond (Plymouth), 7:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Jan. 12
 Churchill, Franklin at Plymouth Quad, 5:30 p.m.
 John Glenn, Wayne at Canton, 5:30 p.m.
 Stevenson at Salem Quad, 5:30 p.m.
 Clarenceville, Luth. Westland at Romulus Summit, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 15
 Stevenson Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Grosse Pte. Norseman Classic, 9 a.m.
 Garden City Novice Inv., 9:30 a.m.
 Luth. Westland Tourney, 10 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING
Tuesday, Jan. 11
 Canton at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 13
 Franklin at Churchill, 6:30 p.m.
 Novi at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
 Wayne at Plymouth, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 14
 Wayne Invitational, 4 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 15
 Wayne Invitational, noon.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Wednesday, Jan. 12
 Livonia Red at Groves, 7 p.m.
 Livonia Blue vs. Huron Valley at Churchill H.S., 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 15
 Farmington-Lakeland Inv. 9 a.m.
PREP BOWLING
Tuesday, Jan. 11
 Clarenceville vs. Northville, John Glenn vs. Salem, Wayne vs. Canton at Super Bowl (Canton), 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 12
 Clarenceville vs. Plymouth, John Glenn vs. Northville, Wayne vs. Salem at Westland Bowl, 3:30 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Jan. 12
 Schoolcraft at Henry Ford, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 15
 Madonna at N'western Ohio, 1 p.m.
 Alpena CC at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Jan. 12
 Schoolcraft at Henry Ford, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 15
 Alpena CC at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
 Madonna at N'western Ohio, 3 p.m.
 TBA — time to be announced.

South Lyon Unified stuns Spartans, 3-0

BOYS HOCKEY

State-ranked Livonia Stevenson suffered its first setback since the season opener as South Lyon Unified skated to a surprising 3-0 boys hockey victory Friday night at Edgar Arena.

The Lions got a sterling performance from goaltender Louis Carnevale, who stopped all 26 Stevenson shots.

Jared Vincek scored a pair of goals for South Lyon including the game-winner at 3:41 of the first period off an assist from Cam Thomas.

Alex Hudgens made it 2-0 at 6:28 of the second period assisted by Jake Telep and Vincek notched his second later in the period on a short-handed unassisted effort.

Stevenson netminder Mike Kinitra stopped 12-of-15 shots.

"South Lyon was the better team," said Stevenson coach Gerry Vento, whose team slipped to 9-2 overall and 5-1 in the KLAAs Central Division. "They were more physical and they outworked us. They deserved to win."

South Lyon improved to 4-3 overall and 2-2 in the division.

BRIGHTON 3, CHURCHILL 1: On Wednesday, host Livonia Churchill (3-4) couldn't overcome a two-goal first period deficit in a loss to the Bulldogs (5-4-1) at Edgar Arena.

Brighton jumped out to a 2-0 lead on Zach Carr's goal from Cameron Miglia and Kurt Gosselin at 7:45 followed by Scott Scheuneman's goal from Miglia and Gosselin at 15:43.

Churchill's Matt Sinclair cut the deficit to 2-1 on a goal from Mike

Rybinski and Mike Gambino at 7:03.

The Bulldogs' Sean Nelson tallied a power play goal at 11:02 of the same period to close out the scoring. Churchill goalie Alex Estes made 17 saves, while Jack Gosselin of Brighton had 23 stops.

"We were outplayed in the first period," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We played two really good periods, but the hole we dug was too deep to overcome."

STEVENSON 10, FRANKLIN 1: Livonia Stevenson (9-1, 6-0) scored 10 unanswered goals en route to a KLAAs Kensington Conference crossover win Wednesday night over a depleted Livonia Franklin (4-7, 0-4) at Edgar Arena.

Franklin dressed only 14 players following the two-game suspensions of six players who were ejected late in a game last month against White Lake Lakeland.

The Patriots, however, got the first goal at 4:54 of the opening period when Adam Stadler scored from Aaron Hoffmeyer.

Stevenson led 2-1 after one period and scored eight times in the second while peppering Franklin goaltender Travis Ferrier with 56 shots to end the game after 34 minutes on a mercy rule.

Andrew Palushay scored a hat trick to run his season goal total 14 for the Spartans.

Max Humitz added two goals and two assists, while John Mandryk and Tommy Ross each contributed a goal and two assists.

Senior defenseman Christian Wood, Josh York each chipped in with a goal and assist. Tim Pruchnik also had two assists.

Stevenson sophomore netminder Mike Kinitra faced just four shots.

BOYS SWIM RESULTS

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN 105 LIVONIA FRANKLIN 65
Jan. 6 at Franklin
200-yard medley relay: 1. John Glenn (Joey Wakeford, Nick Stevens, Paul Gutu, Dave Vader), 1:49.79.
200 freestyle: 1. Jake Ferguson (WJG), 1:59.25.
200 individual medley: 1. Josh Wakeford (WJG), 2:12.11.
50 freestyle: 1. Joey Wakeford (WJG), 23.26 (MISCA cut).
1-meter diving: 1. Connor Monroe (WJG), 150.30 points.
100 butterfly: 1. John Kukuika (WJG), 1:12.97.
100 freestyle: 1. Brandon Larkins (LF), 1:28.89.

500 freestyle: 1. Ferguson (WJG), 5:10.01 (MISCA cut); 2. Josh Ferguson (WJG), 5:14.64 (MISCA cut).
200 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Cody Hodges, Josh Jenderat, Ryan Boes, Vader), 1:43.06.
100 backstroke: 1. Joey Wakeford (WJG), 56.01 (MISCA cut).
100 breaststroke: 1. Larkins (LF), 1:06.36 (MISCA cut).
400 freestyle relay: 1. John Glenn (Josh Wakeford, Aaron Alholinna, Jake Ferguson, Boes), 3:49.29.
Dual meet records: John Glenn, 3-0 overall; 1-0 KLAAs South Division; Franklin, 0-1 overall; 0-1 KLAAs South.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

GIRLS GYMNASTICS QUAD MEET RESULTS
Jan. 7 at High Flyers (Brighton)
TEAM SCORES: 1. Brighton, 139.90 points; 2. Howell, 137.35; 3. Livonia Red, 133.25; 4. Pinckney, no team score.
INDIVIDUAL EVENTS
Vault: 1. Amanda Pampilius (H), 9.3; 2. (tie) Katie Kretzschmar (Red) and Meredith Robinson (B), 9.25 each; 4. Ashley Hextall (P), 9.15; 5. Courtney Schippers (H), 9.1.
Uneven bars: 1. Madison Cusick (B), 9.4; 2. Kretzschmar (Red), 8.85; 3. Marina

Maretti (B), 8.75; 4. (tie) Meghan Lark (Red) and Schippers (H), 8.55 each.
Balance beam: 1. Maretti (B), 8.875; 2. Cusick (B), 8.825; 3. Hextall (P), 8.624; 4. Pampilius (H), 8.6; 5. Alex Dubach (B), 8.45.
Floor exercise: 1. Pampilius (H), 9.65; 2. Maretti (B), 9.25; 3. Dubach (B), 9.1; 4. Schippers (H), 9.05; 5. (tie) Shannon Diaz (Red) and Katelyn Beno (H), 9.0 each.
All-around: 1. Pampilius (H), 35.95; 2. Cusick (B), 35.875; 3. Maretti (B), 35.775; 4. Schippers (H), 35.2.
Livonia Red's dual meet record: 3-2 overall.

PREP BOWLING RESULTS

BOYS DUAL MATCH RESULTS LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 19 NOVI 11
Jan. 7 at Novi Bowl
Clarenceville scorers: Teddy Fox, 225-211-436; Mike Uren, 227-189-416; Corey Coughlin, 213-169-382; Kyle Kissandi, 166-202-368; Brad Martin, 207; Tyler McLean, 132. **Team totals:** 963-978-1,941 (15 points); **Baker games:** 169-204-373 (4 points).
Novi scorers: Andrew Thurwall, 199-232-431; Brandon Gillespie, 184-213-397; Nick Kuczajda, 192; Sean McNiff, 192; Steve Cullen, 163; Brandon Ross, 160. **Team totals:** 878-973-1,851 (5 points); **Baker games:** 212-196-408 (6 points).
Dual match records: Clarenceville, 1-3 overall; Novi, 1-4.
SALEM 28 LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 2
Jan. 6 at Novi Bowl
Salem scorers: Ryan Clark, 214-297-511; Tyler Foley, 232-235-467; Kevin Williams, 265-193-458; Evan Ross, 175; Steve Cadwell,

167; Joe Mirsky, 165; David Nikkila, 157. **Team totals:** 1,034-1,065-2,099 (18 points); **Baker games:** 202-215-417 (10 points).
Clarenceville scorers: Corey Coughlin, 164-247-411; Ricky Ruttenbar, 182-226-408; Sean Diaz, 149-191-340; Tyler Fox, 213-105-318; Tyler McLean-Kaylup Richards, 165-115-280. **Team totals:** 873-884-1,757 (2 points); **Baker games:** 158-197-355 (0 points).
Dual match records: Salem, 2-2 overall; Clarenceville, 0-3 overall.
GIRLS DUAL MATCH RESULTS NOVI 21 LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 9
Jan. 6 at Novi Bowl
Novi scorers: Callie Wright, 221-175-398; Shelby Limpert, 141-131-272; Tina Johnson, 132-126-258; Bridgett Porras, 131; Sara Schulz, 122; Claire Wright, 96; Chelsey Korte, 87. **Team totals:** 747-615-1,362 (17 points); **Baker games:** 124-112-236 (4 points).
Clarenceville scorers: Bridgett Moricz,

217-233-450; Kaycee Chappell, 147-108-255; Casey O'Rourke, 119-114-233; Hunter Iuliano, 95-81-176; Nikki Iuliano-Katie Rogers, 103-68-171. **Team totals:** 681-604-1,285; **Baker games:** 138-102-241 (6 points).
Dual match records: Novi, 1-4 overall; Clarenceville, 0-4 overall.
SALEM 28 LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 2
Jan. 6 at Novi Bowl
Salem scorers: Bridgett Maul, 169-245-414; Kristin Larkins, 157-188-343; Meaghan Eldridge, 132-202-334; Ashley Kretzschmar, 143-170-313. **Team totals:** 758-931-1,689 (18 points); **Baker games:** 166-148-314 (10 points).
Clarenceville scorers: Bridgett Moricz, 156-215-371; Nikki Iuliano-Katie Rogers, 137-146-283; Kaycee Chappell, 110-120-230; Hunter Iuliano, 113-99-212; Casey O'Rourke, 94-103-197. **Team totals:** 610-683-1,293 (2 points); **Baker games:** 82-111-193 (0 points).
Dual match records: Salem, 1-3 overall; Clarenceville, 0-3 overall.

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HOOPS

FROM PAGE B1

we're just constantly stressing defense and moving our feet, being team defenders and team rebounders," Young said. "That's what we're trying to do and we're pretty good doing that. We're getting better at it."

Glenn bolted out to an 18-2 first quarter lead and was never headed.

The Rockets shot an impressive 55.1 percent from the floor (27-of-49) and got a team-high 16 points from 5-foot-10 junior point-guard Aveon Simmons.

"He's a good player," Young said of the Romulus transfer. "He's unselfish. He's quick, he can shoot and he can drive. We want him to be a little more aggressive. He's a little too unselfish at times, but that's a good problem to have. He guards. He's a good kid. He's been a nice addition to the rest of our guys."

Thirteen different Glenn players scored as sophomore guard Nick Daniels added nine, while senior forward

Kelly Maxwell came off the bench to add six.

The Rockets' defense was spearheaded by 6-3 senior forward Chris Jones, who came up with five steals, including four in the opening quarter.

"Chris Jones is the glue to our team," Young said. "He really is like his brother Rob was on our real good teams in 2006 and 2007. Chris does a lot of things that others might not notice, but others really notice. He's a real guy that keeps us going in a lot of areas that coaches need done on their. He's a senior and bleeds our program. He grew up as a John Glenn kid. He's having a great year."

Churchill, meanwhile, continues to struggle on the offensive end.

The Chargers shot only 7-of-40 from the field (17.5 percent). Churchill committed 22 turnovers on the night, including eight in the first period.

Josh Dillard and Evan Ragland each had four points in the loss.

"Today was point-guard by committee," Churchill

coach Jim Solak said. "(Dean) Bokuniewicz hurt his ankle. We're struggling offensively as it is, and when we get can't into anything we want to do, it makes it even harder. That was one of the things - Glenn is going to make you pay on everything. A bad shot - they're going to turn it into a transition basket. A turnover - they're going to turn it into a transition basket. That was number one on our game plan. We allowed them to play their pace instead of our pace, and you see the results."

Solak came away impressed with the Rockets.

"Glenn has always been athletic and well coached, but these guys - they all can shoot," he said. "And you throw (Eric) Covile on the inside. . . this team can really shoot and rebound. It's like unlock the cage when they get the rebound because all five guys sprint down the floor. They're fun to watch and they're all on the same page. They can all shoot it. They finish."

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MU, S'craft men's cagers falter

After trailing by as many as 21 points in the second half, the Madonna University men's basketball team rallied to pull within one late but could not complete the comeback Wednesday, falling 79-77 to host Concordia University.

Freshman Travis Schuba came off the bench to score a team-high 19 points, including 4-of-6 from three-point range, as the Crusaders slip to 4-13 overall and 2-3 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Senior center Geoff Gaylor recorded a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds, while Mitch Cieslak popped in 17 points.

The Cardinals (9-7, 2-2) led 40-28 at halftime and

increased that advantage to 57-36 less than five minutes into the second half.

Gaylor's layup with 30 seconds remaining made it a two-point deficit, 74-72, and senior Ryan Bahnmiller's three-point shot pulled MU to within one, 78-77, with only two seconds left.

Marius Williams (16 points) then split a pair of free throws and the Crusaders' last-second heave fell short.

Austin Cook added 16 points, while John Shaeffer contributed 15 for the Cardinals.

Rocko Holmes, the Cards' second leading scorer (15.6 ppg) who had 29 points in a loss last month to Michigan, was limited to four points and eight rebounds.

MU lost despite shooting 50.9 percent from the floor (29-of-57) including 10-of-19 from beyond the arc (52.6 percent).

The Crusaders had 20 turnovers to Concordia's 14.

DELTA 92, SCHOOLCRAFT 81: Karl Moore scored a game-high 27 points and pulled down 11 rebounds, but it wasn't enough Wednesday as Schoolcraft College (6-9, 0-2) fell to host Delta College (7-8, 1-2) in an MCCA Eastern Conference game.

Three other Ocelots scored in double figures including Reshardd Harris (15), Wayne Memorial's Daniel Hill (11) and Davonte Broden (11).

A.J. Thomas led the victorious Pioneers, who led 41-38 at halftime, with 21 points. Teammate Kwincy Turner added 13 points.

Schoolcraft went 11-of-16 from the foul line, while Delta hit 12-of-20.

Lady Ocelots stave off upset bid

COLLEGE HOOPS

The 11th-ranked Schoolcraft College women's basketball team rallied in the second half and pulled out a 56-50 victory Wednesday night at Delta College.

Schoolcraft, now 11-3 overall and 2-0 in the MCCA's Eastern Conference, got 19 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks from center Kimberly Bee.

Shawnicka Thomas chipped in with 14 points, while Diamond Tolliver and Amber Sammons each added nine. Shanequa Braggs also grabbed 11 rebounds.

The Lady Ocelots trailed 29-26 at halftime, but went on

a 12-3 to start the second half and grab the lead for good, 38-32, with 15:17 remaining.

Delta (9-5, 2-1) closed to within two, 42-20, with 10:06 to go, but Schoolcraft answered with a 13-1 run to put the game away.

The Lady Ocelots held Delta to just 19.3 percent shooting (6-of-31) in the second half while shooting 48 percent (12-of-25) themselves.

Grace Baumgartner led Delta with 18 points and nine rebounds.

Courtney Neiderquill added 10 points.

MADONNA 56, CONCORDIA 51: Four players scored in double figures Wednesday as host Madonna University (6-7, 2-3) down Concordia University (9-7, 2-3) in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference clash.

Shantelle Herring and Rachel Melcher each scored 13 points for the victorious Crusaders, who led 31-25 at halftime.

Kaylee McGrath (Livonia Stevenson) and Tabatha Wydryck each added 10 points and contributed 10 and eight rebounds, respectively. Heather Pratt came off the bench to score eight points.

Hannah Sabol led the Cardinals with a game-high 19 points to go along with 10 rebounds.

MU committed only seven turnovers, a season-low, while Concordia had 20.

PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

KLAA QUAD MEET RESULTS

Jan. 5 at South Lyon
CANTON 49
LIVONIA STEVENSON 19
103 pounds: Ben Griffin (C) won by void; 112: Richard DeMarius (C) won by void; 119: Alec Pantaleo (C) won by void; 125: Keshaw Patel (C) won by major decision over Corey Davis, 16-2; 130: Marc Przybylski (C) pinned Matthew Garon, 1:57; 135: Samer Shebak (LS) dec. Alex Eimers, 7-1; 140: Kody Roy (LS) dec. Dan Filippelli, 7-3; 145: Zach Marsh (C) p. Zach Auner, 3:06; 152: Nathan Collins (LS) p. Patrick Murphy, 5:27; 160: Trevor Drenok (LS) won by major dec. over Jevon Hill, 13-0; 171: Joseph Carroll (LS) dec. Marcus Smith, 7-2; 189: Anthony Abro (C) p. Kyle Agar, 1:18; 215: Robert Lincoln (C) p. Joseph Scott, 3:10; 285: Ben Poirier (C) dec. Jacob

Range, 3-1.

PLYMOUTH 39

LIVONIA STEVENSON 37
103 pounds: Moe Youssef (P) won by void; 112: Trey Berry (P) won by void; 119: Shady Jammoul (P) won by void; 125: A. Breckenridge (P) pinned Corey Davis, 0:46; 130: Said Youssef (P) p. Matthew Garon, 3:16; 135: Samer Shebak (LS) won by major decision over Chase Kallil, 11-2; 140: Kody Roy (LS) dec. Jimmy Ahearn, 3-1; 145: Zach Auner (LS) p. D.K. Kim, 5:30; 152: Prince Kapoor (P) dec. Nathan Collins, 13-9; 160: Trevor Drenok (LS) p. J. Chelms, 4:00; 171: Matt Walsh (P) p. Joseph Carroll, 5:28; 189: Joseph Scott (LS) p. Eshon Flowers, 5:03; 215: Kyle Agar (LS) won by void; 285: Jacob Range p. Adam Dulong, 1:12.
Stevenson's dual match record: 0-11 overall.

JUDO

FROM PAGE B1

the squad, Joseph finished 7-3 overall.

Joseph not only got acclimated to the competition, but he also adjusted to the culture change.

"We lived in dorms at the Sports Complex," Joseph said. "What I remember is the people speaking different languages. The South Africans and the guys from the Netherlands spoke English."

"It's a lot different food. We ate three meals a day with dinner the biggest meal. For breakfast we ate eggs. There was a lot of fish and rice, and green tea. The food was not bad, but not great. When I got back home I wanted anything but rice."

The team did get away for some relaxation, taking a bus ride to Aya City to tour old castles, shops and a museum which chronicled the origin of the ancient Samurai Warriors.

Joseph trains three-to-four days per week at the Birmingham and Macomb YMCAs.

His chief instructor at the Birmingham Y is Noboru Saito, a Japanese native who is one of the top-rated international Judo referees in the world. Saito has officiated two Olympic

gold medal matches, including one at the 1996 Atlanta Games.

Former U.S. National champion Jerry Wee, active in the U.S. Judo program, also instructs Joseph along with Dr. In Chul Cho, a two-time World champion and two-time Olympic medalist.

Nicholas' father, Dr. Ricardo Joseph, was also an active Masters competitor who won a gold medal in the 2009 U.S. Nationals in San Francisco. He won over 40 trophies and medals before retiring at age 52.

Ricardo Joseph also serves as a national level coach and chairman of the national medical committee for the U.S. Judo Federation.

"We're very fortunate and blessed to have the resources," Ricardo Joseph said. "This was a chance to compete on an international level and he had some exciting matches."

Nicholas Joseph, who began competing at age 5, also plays soccer for the Farmington Flash. But his first love remains Judo.

"I just like doing it," said Nicholas, who holds a Purple Belt (one below Black). "It gets me motivated and I like the hard work. It's fun to me."

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Reynolds wrapped

Stevenson center emerges in 2nd half to spark win

Better late than never. Livonia Stevenson's 6-foot-9 senior center Jalen Reynolds sat out Friday's first half against host Northville because of a decision by coach Mike Allie.

But the Xavier University signee made the most of his 16-minute second half stint as he propelled the Spartans to a 44-42 KLAAs Central Division boys basketball win over the Mustangs.

Reynolds, who hit a key jumper late to give the his team a four-point cushion, finished with 14 points, 13 rebounds and eight blocks as Stevenson improved to 4-1 overall and 1-0 in the division.

Senior guard C.J. Mwila added 10 points, seven assists and six steals, while Jonathan Campbell contributed nine points in the victory.

Northville (3-3, 0-1) had three players score in double figures including Andrew Baldwin (12), Bryce Groshek (11) and Al Myers (10).

Stevenson was 8-of-18 from the free throw line, while Northville was 3-of-4.

CANTON 58, WAYNE 44: In a KLAAs South Division opener Friday, the Chiefs (3-3, 1-0) pulled away in the second half to beat host Wayne Memorial (1-4, 0-1).

Senior point-guard Dietrich Lever, headed to Ferris State, led Canton and all scorers with 26 points.

Terrell Sewell chipped in with 15 points and 13 rebounds for the Chiefs, who outscored Wayne 34-25 in the second half.

Senior guard Jordan Buck led Wayne with 15 points, including five 3-pointers. Junior Michael Cooper added 12.

Canton was 12-of-22 from the foul line, while Wayne was 5-of-10. The Chiefs outrebounded the Zebras, 40-25.

"It's the best game we played all year," Wayne coach Mike Schuette said. "We played hard."

PLYMOUTH 61, FRANKLIN 47: Mike Nadratowski and Brennan Beyer each tallied 17 points Friday as the Wildcats (3-3, 1-0) downed host Livonia Franklin (0-6, 0-1) in a KLAAs South Division encounter.

Plymouth, which jumped out to a 30-17 half-time lead, also got 11 points from Pat Salo.

Mike Sharp and Tommy Smith scored 11 and 10, respectively, for the Patriots.

The Wildcats were 16-of-23 from the foul line, while Franklin hit 10-of-14.

TRUMAN 53, CLARENCEVILLE 39: Livonia Clarenceville (2-5) put up a fight Friday before falling Friday at home to unbeaten Taylor

BOYS HOOPS

Truman (4-0).

Reggie Westley led the victorious Cougars with 10 points.

David Jones scored 10 for the Trojans, who trailed by only four at halftime (23-19) and by seven after three quarters (34-27).

"We played great, but couldn't buy a basket in the second half," Clarenceville coach Justin Johnson said. "The effort was awesome and we did a good job. We just ran out of gas in the third quarter."

INTER-CITY 53, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 39: Freshman guard Evan Kraatz poured in a game-high 28 points Friday as host Allen Park Inter-City Baptist (4-1, 1-0) downed Lutheran High Westland (1-4, 0-2) in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Blue Division matchup.

The turnover-plagued Warriors fell behind 31-20 at halftime and were outscored 18-4 in the third period.

Mitchell Boehm scored eight in the loss for the Warriors.

GREENHILLS 53, HURON VALLEY 43: Andrew Khouri scored 17 points and Matthew Jong added 16 Friday as host Ann Arbor Greenhills (3-2, 1-0) downed Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (0-5, 0-1) in the MIAC Red Division opener for both teams.

Seniors Matt St. John and Shawn Schaffer tallied 13 and 11, respectively, for the Hawks, who led 29-21 at halftime before being outscored 15-2 in the third period and 17-10 over the final eight minutes.

Huron Valley was 9-of-14 from the foul stripe, while Greenhills hit 14-of-22.

LUTHERAN N'WEST 64, CLARENCEVILLE 62: Nathan Drew scored 22 points Wednesday, including the game-winning three-pointer at the buzzer to give Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (2-2) a win over visiting Livonia Clarenceville (2-4).

"We played great defense on the play," Clarenceville coach Justin Johnson said. "They threw the ball in from the sidelines, we knocked it away and it went to Drew on the wing."

Drew made four of his six 3-pointers in the fourth quarter.

Gursher Rathove and Michael Miller added 14 and 10 points, respectively, for the Crusaders, who led 31-25 at halftime and 46-40 after three quarters.

Adrian Myers led three Trojans in double figures with 14 points.

Damien Quarles and David Jones added 13 and 10, respectively.

Clarenceville was only 9-of-23 from the foul stripe, while Northwest went 2-for-2.

Spartans win KLAAs Central opener

Livonia Stevenson turned up its defense a notch in the second half Friday to earn a 42-32 KLAAs Central Division girls basketball win over visiting Northville.

Junior guard Molly Knoph led the victorious Spartans, now 5-1 overall and 1-0 in the Central, with 12 points.

Seven of Stevenson's 12 players scored as Kristen Balhorn and Monika Rudis chipped in with eight and seven, respectively.

Jordan York added six points as the Spartans led 22-19 at halftime.

Stevenson outscored Northville 13-6 in the final period.

"Jordan gave us a spark defensively," Stevenson coach Jen

KLAAs GIRLS HOOPS

Knoph said. "She was really aggressive and got the team's intensity up to start the second half."

Megan Gertley scored nine points for the Mustangs, who slipped to 3-3 overall and 0-1 in the division.

Stevenson made 17-of-29 free throws, while Northville was 6-of-6.

JOHN GLENN 52, CHURCHILL 21: On Friday, freshman guard Kaira Barnes scored a game-high 23 points and junior forward Erica Covile added 11 as state-ranked Westland John Glenn (6-0, 1-0) downed

visiting Livonia Churchill (1-5, 0-1) in the KLAAs South Division opener. Glenn led 28-8 at halftime and stretched its lead to 38-11 after three quarters.

"We competed better and were much more aggressive," Churchill coach Chad Jenkins said. "Glenn is a good team. They press and shoot it. We made mistakes, but overall I'm pleased with the effort."

CANTON 67, WAYNE 17: Kayla Bridges and CarolAnn Sexauer each tallied 17 points Friday as the state-ranked Chiefs (5-2, 1-0) rolled to the KLAAs South Division triumph over visiting Wayne Memorial (2-4, 0-1).

Canton roared out to a 22-0 first-quarter lead and coasted from there.

Freshman Ashley Bland led the Zebras with six points.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Track coach wanted

Livonia Clarenceville High School needs a boys varsity track coach for the 2011 season.

Applicants can mail a resume, letter of interest and references to: Kevin Murphy, athletic director, Clarenceville H.S., 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia, MI 48152. You can also e-mail KMurphy@clarenceville.k12.mi.us.

MU softball camp

Madonna University women's softball coach Al White and his staff will hold a winter camp, specializing in individual instruction from noon-2:30 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 6, 13, 22 and 27, at the MU Activities Center.

The cost is \$150 for each camp. For more information, call White at (734) 432-5783; or Steve Gentilia at (734) 776-1716. You can also e-mail awhite@madonna.edu.

Franklin baseball camp

The fifth annual Franklin Future Stars spring baseball camp for boys and girls in grades 3-6 will be Saturday, Feb. 12 at the high school fieldhouse, located at 31000 Joy Road, Livonia.

Session 1, consisting of hitting, base

running skills and infield work, will be from 9-11:30 a.m.

Session 2, consisting of pitching, catching, outfield and defensive kills, will be from 12:15-2:45 p.m.

Lunch will be from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Each camper will bring his or her sack lunch. Campers and instructors will eat a supervised sack lunch together in the bleachers of the fieldhouse.

The cost for each session is \$25, or \$45 for both sessions.

E-mail Franklin varsity baseball coach Matt Fournier at mfournie2@livoniapublicschools.org; or call (734) 968-0499.

Stevenson baseball clinic

Learn the basics of throwing, pitching, hitting, infield-outfield play at a youth baseball clinic (grades 2-6) from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26 at the Livonia Stevenson High School fieldhouse.

The cost is \$30 for the first 60 enrolled.

For more information, call Stevenson baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623; or e-mail Berry3724@aol.com.

T-Ball, Coach-Pitch

Mail-in registration for 2011

Livonia Parks and Recreation co-ed instructional T-Ball (ages 5-6) and Coach-Pitch (ages 7-8) will be Jan. 10 through Feb. 11.

Walk-in and fax-in registration will also be available, Jan. 10-Feb. 11, or until the enrollment limit (640 participants in each division).

Registration forms can be picked up at area schools or the Livonia Community Recreation Center. You must be a resident of either the Livonia or Clarenceville public schools.

Late registration will be from 9 a.m. until noon Saturday, April 9, at the Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard, Livonia. Non-resident registration begins at 9 a.m. Monday, April 11 at the Parks and Recreation office. Openings will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis until April 29.

The season runs from May through July with T-ball scrimmages on Monday evenings and Coach-Pitch on Thursday evenings.

Open registration fees are \$40 (resident) and \$50 (non-resident) for Livonia and Clarenceville district residents.

Late registration fees are \$50 (resident) and \$60 (non-resident).

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

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 Positions available in Romulus & Dearborn. Must be 21 years or older. Must have a clean criminal record and be drug free. Must have a valid driver's license and your own vehicle. Open interviews being conducted at: Comfort Inn: 31800 Wick Rd. Romulus, MI, Tues. Jan. 11, 2011 10am-2pm. CONTINENTAL SECRET SERVICE BUREAU INC. 419 N. Huron St. Toledo, OH

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 Farmington Hills technical society (12 Mile/Haggerty Road) seeks highly organized individual to oversee and coordinate registration processes. Position is responsible for managing onsite registration, tracking attendance, processing attendance, and generating reports and other material. Applicant must be detail & multi-task oriented, possess excellent oral & written communications skills, and have a minimum of three years customer service experience. Must be able to work independently and be comfortable with decision making. Must be proficient in Word/data entry/Excel. 4 wks/yr. out-of-state travel required. Resume and salary requirements to: barb.cheyne@concrete.org

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BECOME A FAN TODAY

'Coming of Age': Artist puts social networking images on canvas

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Viewing Erica Podwoiski's first major one-woman art show is a little like peeking into a family photo album.

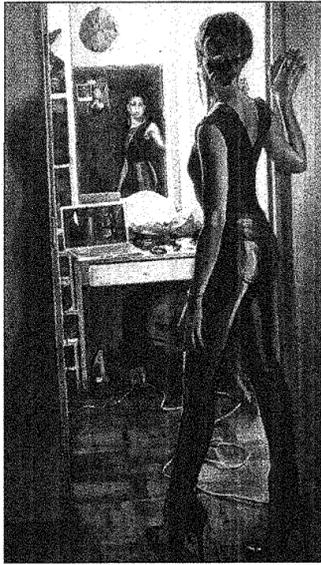
"What I love about her work is the narrative. She is chronicling coming of age, using herself and her sister as the subject. This is her sister," said Diane DeCillis, owner of Lido Gallery & Gifts in Birmingham, describing two of several portraits in the exhibit. "This is a self portrait: It was at sunset. You can see shadows from the blinds. It's interesting to see."

Other pieces show Podwoiski, her sister or their friends as youngsters adorned in handmade dress-up gowns sewn by the artist's grandmother, on the sand at the beach, and playing in their Garden City neighborhood.

"I think she does it beautifully," DeCillis said. "I've been watching her over the years. She recently graduated and I decided she was ready for a show."

"Coming of Age in an Era of Celebrity Worship," which runs through Jan. 30, at Lido Gallery, includes pieces from Podwoiski's thesis show at the Columbus College of Art & Design, which explored notions of privacy, female stereotypes and the allure of Facebook and MySpace for image-conscious women and girls. Podwoiski, 22, who was Valedictorian of her class in May 2010, painted images she found on social networking pages for her student show. She also drew inspiration from old family photos and used her sister, herself and childhood friends as subjects.

"I've always been fascinated about pop culture. For me, it's about what happens when real girls and their lives become intertwined with



"Scopophilia," the centerpiece of Erica Podwoiski's exhibit, is all about looking at oneself - in the mirror, on Facebook and in photographs.

popular culture and what we value as society ... dressing up and wanting to be pretty," Podwoiski explained. "With MySpace and Facebook it's so easy now to put images of yourself out there and have an alternate persona projected on the world. There's that whole idea of fame, especially for girls, that everyone wants to be famous."

FROM THE WEB

When she began her thesis exhibit, she painted images of strangers on Facebook and MySpace pages, eventually posting her works on her own Facebook page. She heard from one subject, who took issue with the title

of a painting in the series. "My sister had given me a link to her profile. She embodied what I was trying to say. She was about 14 and had a Playboy outfit on ... in the corner there was a picture of her little brother looking angelic. The contrast was funny to me. I painted it and titled it 'If You Nasty.' I put it online and she saw it and wrote me a message saying it was disrespectful. But I think part of it is that if you put images out there, there is no protection for you. Anyone can see it. Anyone can take it."

Toward the end of the thesis project, Podwoiski began to focus on acquaintances, friends and family as subject matter after the Web images "started to feel voyeuristic." She wanted some "interaction" with her models, even if it was only a memory sparked by a family photo.

She enlisted the help of a friend to pose for the centerpiece of the Lido exhibit. *Scopophilia* shows a woman looking at herself in a mirror, with Facebook page and self portraits nearby. A risqué companion piece was accepted into this year's Dirty Show, an international erotic art exhibition that runs Feb. 11-19 at Berts Warehouse Theater, 2739 Russell, Detroit; www.dirtydetroit.com. Tickets are available online and from River's Edge Gallery in Wyandotte; (734) 246-9880 as well as Noir Leather in Royal Oak, (248) 541-3979.

GOOD CAUSE

A portion of the Lido exhibit also includes several embellished bras, the sale of which will benefit METAvivor, a research and support group for metastatic breast cancer. Podwoiski's mother, Leanne, has stage four breast cancer and suggested the organization.

Podwoiski credits her mother and



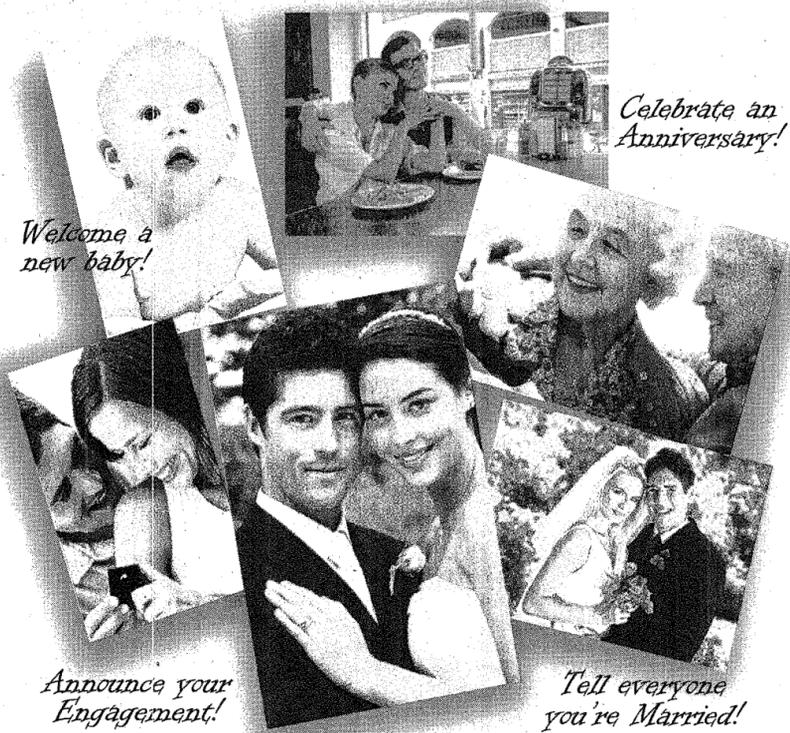
"Staring Contest," acrylic on canvas, is a self-portrait by Erica Podwoiski, from her show at Lido Gallery in Birmingham.

her father, Don, for supporting her interest in art, which began as soon as she could hold a pencil and draw. They held art exhibitions in their home during family gatherings and took her to museum shows. Lefanne gardens and sketched while in high school and Don, an engineer, has dabbled in painting. No one objected when she decided to pursue a fine arts degree.

"I know it's a very competitive field to go into, but it's what I want to do and I couldn't see myself doing anything else," said Podwoiski, who lives with her parents and sister in Garden City. She hopes to return to school and pursue a master's degree in 2012, while continuing to create art.

Lido Gallery is located at 33535 Woodward, north of 14 Mile in Birmingham; (734) 792-6246.

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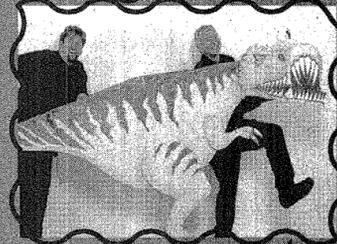
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Get creative this winter in a knit and crochet circle

BY SHARON DARGAY
O&E STAFF WRITER

Marti Bush likes to knit and purl her way through a good yarn. The Redford woman meets twice weekly with other knitters and crocheters who enjoy reading needlework-themed fiction and then discussing it while they knit or crochet. Bush, a certified Craft and Yarn Council knitting and crochet teacher started the group, called "Novels, Needles, Hookers Book Club," two months ago along with Kathleen Mahinske, owner of The Books Connection in Livonia.

"Almost every avid knitter I know is also an avid reader," said Bush, explaining the combination knitting circle and book discussion group. "There's a whole line of books built around crafting and needlework. Debbie Macomber's Blossom Street Series is a wonderful series and it's so true in terms of the bonds and friendships of people who knit and crochet together."

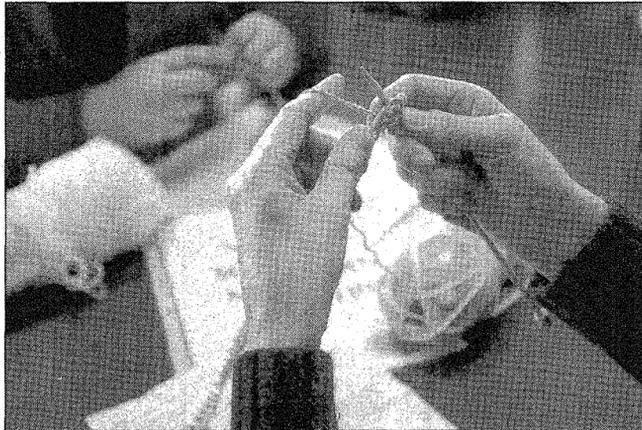
The book currently in discussion is Sally Goldenbaum's *Death by Cashmere*. Knitters meets the second Tuesday and fourth Friday of the month. The next session is 6 p.m. Jan. 11 at the store, 19043 Middlebelt, south of Seven Mile, in Livonia; (248) 471-4742.

"Our group is really informal. If you're more advanced person we expect you to help people not as advanced. If you're a beginner, there is no criticism. It's a fun group."

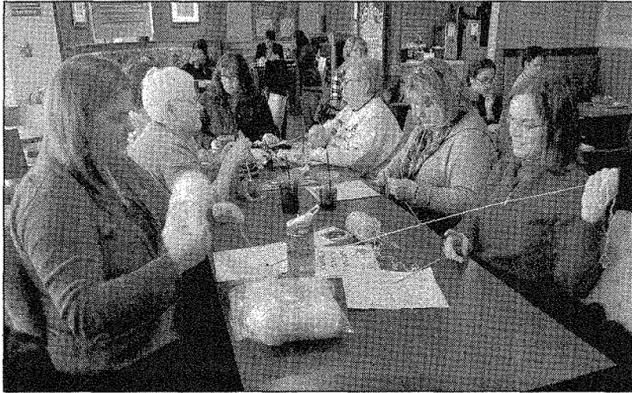
It's among several local knitting groups that combine the art of needlecraft with socializing and informal instruction.

Bush's also holds a social knit and crochet Meetup — without the book discussion — at 9 a.m. Thursdays, at Panera, 28551 Schoolcraft.

Across town at Panera on Haggerty south of Eight Mile in Livonia, the Southeast Michigan Knitting Group welcomes Knitters, Crocheters, Spinners and Weavers to its 2 p.m. Thursday session. An evening group meets at 6 p.m. Tuesdays at the Panera on Six Mile east of



Ellen Steward of Farmington Hills begins a project.



Seven members work on projects: Caroline Castel of Royal Oak, Betty Stenrose of Livonia, Brenda Metzger of Livonia, Andrea Grace of Livonia, Sue Zoldak of Northville, Margaret Lutz of Livonia, and Ellen Steward of Farmington Hills.

Newburgh.

FIELD TRIPS, FESTIVALS

Sue Zoldak, a member, says the Meetup.com groups primarily draw knitters, but also include some crocheters and tatters.

"We are at all skill levels and are willing to help anyone who is stumped on project. It is not a class, but anyone interested in learning to knit, crochet or tatting could be directed to people who will be willing to teach them for a fee," Zoldak said. "We also schedule field trips to fiber festivals, yarn crawls to yarn shops in the area, and we go to Mary Maxim's tent sale in August."

"There is no fee for joining. All you have to do is go to www.meetup.com and put in Southeast Michigan Knitters and sign up."

MEETUPS AND MORE

Here's an assortment of other knit and crochet groups, as well as a few classes:

- **Stitch-n-Bitch at Off the Beaten Path Books & Cafe, 23023 Orchard Lake Road, Bldg. C, Farmington.** The group gathers weekly for knitting, crocheting, needlework, nosh and talk. The next session is 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13. All experience levels welcome. Free. www.otbp-bookstore.com
- **Old Village Yarn Shop, 42307 E. Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth; (734) 451-0580.** In addition to crochet and knitting classes, the shop also offers The UFO Club for those who want to work on their unfinished projects amid others. The "club" meets from 5:30-8:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month.
- **Center Street Knits, 111 North**



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Andrea Grace works on tatting, a form of crochet. She is a resident of Livonia.

Center Street, Northville, offers introductory knitting classes, slipper, hat and sock workshops and a Knitting Club. The ongoing Knitting Club sessions meet 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday and two groups, led by different teachers, meet 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday. Cost is \$54 and includes six two-hour classes. Sessions combine social knitting and help from an experienced teacher if needed. Knitters work on the project of their choice. (248) 349-6700

• **Drop-in Knitting Nights at the Westland Public Library** is aimed at all skill levels. The group, led by Linda Sparkman of Black Sheep Northville, meets from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Crocheters may join, too. The library is located at 6123 Central City Parkway. (734) 326-6123.

• Marti Bush teaches knitting and crocheting classes Tuesday and Thursday at the Redford Community Center. Sessions begin Jan. 25 and 27. Cost is about \$5 per class. For more information call (313) 387-2650.

• **Plymouth Canton Schools' community education program** offers a 10-week crochet class from 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays beginning in March; beginning knitting from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday beginning in March and advanced knitting from 7-9 p.m. Mondays, beginning Feb. 28. Call (734) 416-2937 for more information.

• **Westland Schools** offers a basic knitting class from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, starting Feb. 10 and a crochet class from 7-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, starting March 10. For more information call (734) 419-2426.

You can repair-it-yourself, but know limits

After writing this column for over 20 years, I still get a great deal of gratification in knowing that I am helping others. I get tons of comments and thanks from readers that I meet during the course of any day.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

Consumers today understand that major home appliances have incorporated some pretty delicate electronics in their designs. This is one area that has really hurt the do-it-yourselfer. The mother-board on an appliance controls all functions but it doesn't mean that certain

consumers today understand that major home appliances have incorporated some pretty delicate electronics in their designs. This is one area that has really hurt the do-it-yourselfer. The mother-board on an appliance controls all functions but it doesn't mean that certain parts don't fail on their own. The following e-mails will give you an example of how a certain part can fail without blaming the electronics.

parts don't fail on their own. The following e-mails will give you an example of how a certain part can fail without blaming the electronics.

Bob writes: "Joe, this has been a bad refrigerator. We are on our third mother-board and our second ice maker. GE is not interested and never has been. We are having problems again with the ice maker and water flow from the dispenser.

The water dispenser stops and restarts for no apparent reason. It's probably the mother board again. Please recommend an appliance repair company that would service the north Woodward area (Bloomfield Hills) and knows what they are doing. Thanks, Bob."

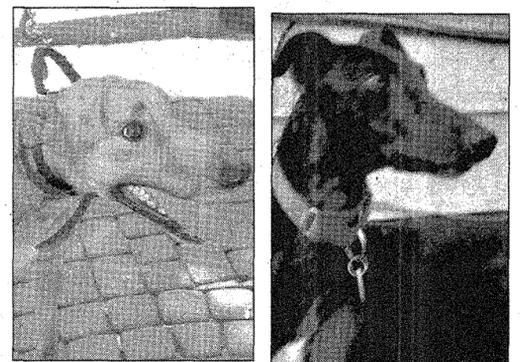
I suggested to Bob that he call my son Mark who is the best refrigeration technician in America. Bob could be having a freezing problem of the water line that runs through the cabinet of the refrigerator. This may mean tearing off some the plastic breaker strips and re-insulating around the plastic tubing. If so it is a bear of a job and if a person doesn't know what they're doing can cause a lot of unnecessary damage. Bob will let me know what Mark does to solve this problem.

Jeff writes: "I have a Magic Chef Gas range purchased in 1992. The problem is oven won't ignite. I noticed the pilot does ignite however the oven does not ... instead it just fills with gas. Any suggestions would be appreciated. Please feel free to call with any questions or com-

ments." Reply: There is no pilot in your oven. It is a glow-type igniter that glows bright red. I suspect this igniter is defective even though it is glowing. It is not providing enough milliamperes to the oven safety valve. Remove the oven floor and it's mounted with two screws. Cut the two wires and purchase a new igniter. Should take care of the problem.

Jeff writes again: "Thanks for sharing your expertise. That's exactly what it was ... a bad igniter. After replacing it, now it works like a charm and Mom can bake her awesome Christmas cookies for us again. She's 87 and has listened to you on the radio for many years. She's the one who got me turned on to you years ago. I also owe you a BIG THANK YOU for returning my call leaving your cell number. Although I had resolved the igniter issue without bothering you, I'll keep it in a safe place for future reference. That was very kind of you to make yourself available like that. Most radio personalities aren't as generous. Hope you and your family have a Merry Christmas and we look forward to hearing you on the radio and reading you Observer articles in 2011. All the best, Jeff"

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



Wayne is 3 years old and a mellow, loving dog.

Cuddles is 2 and loves to play.

GREYHOUNDS NEED LOVING HOMES

Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption found families for 39 dogs last year, but continues searching to find the right match for two of its charges in particular: Wayne and Cuddles.

"Wayne has been with us for about six months, due to no fault of his own," stated Jackie Bowen, the organization's public relations director. "He is a very handsome and loving boy but for some reason he hasn't been selected by a family and remains with his foster family."

"Cuddles was adopted by a couple and returned the same day. This also had nothing to do with her behavior or character traits. I believe that most likely it was the resident dog and Cuddles not immediately bonding and not enough time was given the resident dog to adapt to a new housemate. She lives with another Greyhound and cats so we know she is compatible with all other pets."

Wayne is 3 years old and has a brindle coat and mellow personality. Cuddles is 2, with a shiny black coat. She loves to play and cuddle.

If you're interested in finding out more about Wayne or Cuddles, call Greyheart Greyhound Rescue and Adoption at (866) 438-4739; www.greyheart.org.

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MEDICATION OR INJECTION
A patient with rheumatoid arthritis sees her doctor because of recent onset of a swollen knee. How does the doctor decide if a joint injection with cortisone will resolve the problem, or instead, the patient needs a change of medication to deal with the arthritis?
The physician could do both an injection and prescribe another drug. However, doctors prefer to proceed by making one change at a time to be able to better judge if the change in therapy was helpful.
Generally, if one joint such as a knee is inflamed, the physician will choose to inject the joint. If several joints are swollen, the physician likely will initiate a change in medication.
Recurrent swelling in a single joint, say a knee, brings up the possibility that the arthritis in the knee is different than the arthritis in the patient's other joints. Then there is no question between joint injection and adding medication. The decision to inject medication also provides the opportunity to aspirate fluid from the knee. Sending that fluid for laboratory analysis allows the physician to determine if the knee swelling represents rheumatoid arthritis or is really osteoarthritis. The chance of having two arthritic conditions exists because the strain on a joint, particularly the knee, that rheumatoid arthritis brings, can cause a wearing down of cartilage leading the knee to become osteoarthritic.
A physician's decision to inject a swollen joint or give medication also hinges on the patient's preference. A physician wants to know the patient's attitude since what the patient thinks may influence the effect of treatment as much as the injection or medicine itself.

River advocates plan annual stonefly hunt

Friends of the Rouge is looking for volunteers who want to help look for stoneflies in the Rouge River on Saturday Jan. 22. The hunt will begin at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, although no searching will be done in Dearborn. The volunteers will venture out in 10-12 teams to Rouge streams located around metropolitan Detroit. Volunteers must pre-register by Jan. 14 on the Friends of the Rouge Web site

at www.therouge.org or by calling (313) 792-9621.

Winter stoneflies have an unusual lifestyle in that they hatch from streams in winter. Friends of the Rouge has been monitoring stoneflies since 2002 because their extreme sensitivity to pollution makes them good indicators of water quality. They are found in tributaries and branches of the Middle and Lower Rouge River and occasionally

in the Upper Rouge. Last winter, they were found for the first time on the Main Branch of the Rouge, in the City of Detroit.

Volunteers must dress for the weather and be prepared to be out in the cold for several hours. Only trained team leaders go into the water; volunteers search through samples on the bank. Children 5 and older may participate when accompanied by a participating adult.

Welcome Boys and Girls!

This month's contest features:
Happy New Year.
Share with us what 3 things you want to do in 2011.

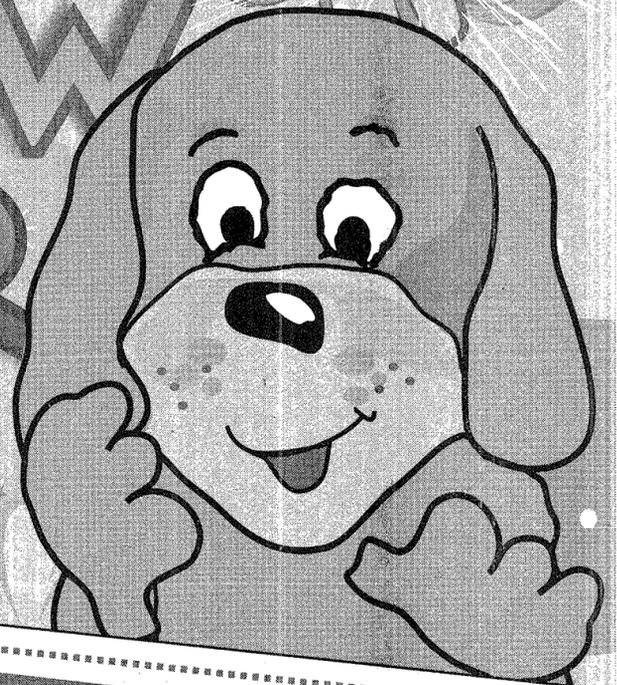
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HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights!

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Hey kids!

Youth ages 7 - 13 are invited to send a letter and photo on what 3 things you want to do in 2011. Scoop will pick lucky winners from entries received:

Deadline for submissions: 2/1/11

Everyone who enters will receive a letter from Scoop and a small gift!

Send your entries for the New Year Contest to:

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c/o: Michele Austin
41304 Concept Drive
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Tell Scoop what you plan to do in 2011

Youth Name: _____

Youth Age: _____

Youth Community: _____

Parent's information to contact winning entry:
(Phone, email, home address)

SELECTED WINNERS WILL HAVE THEIR NAME, AGE, HOMETOWN, PHOTO AND LETTER PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT SCOOP HOUND DOG HIGHLIGHTS.

Lucky winners from last month's contest

Send in your letter and photo, you may win a spot on Scoops Hound Dog Highlight page!



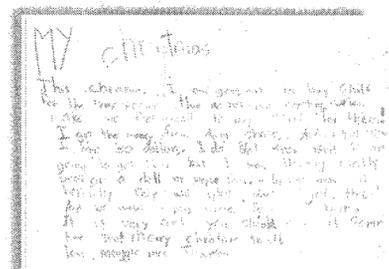
Scoop celebrated the holidays by visiting Santa at the Wayne County Lightfest at Hines Park, in Westland.



Angel Calhoun, 7 from Canton enjoys picking up her live Christmas tree.



Abigail Said, 9, along with Sara, 1, Adam, 4, Cecilia, 14, Noah, 12 from Westland love to decorate their house for the holidays.



Maggie Mae Thompson, 9 from Northville saved up her own money from doing chores, to celebrate the holidays by giving gifts to the poor.

Scoop, the newshound, will be offering contests on a monthly basis. Look for Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights page monthly in this newspaper!

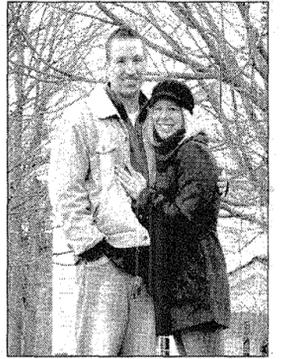
MILESTONES

OCTOBER WEDDING PLANNED

Kristin Stahley of Northville and Matt Van Raaphorst of Lincoln Park announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be, daughter of Steve and Janine Stahley of Livonia, graduated from Livonia Churchill High. She earned a degree from Kalamazoo College and a master's degree from Wayne State University. She is employed by the Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program in development.

Her fiancé, son of Roger Van Raaphorst of Pinckney and Judy Van Raaphorst of Danville, Ill., graduated from Allen Park High School. He is a Detroit police officer. An October 2011 wedding is



Stahley-Van Raaphorst

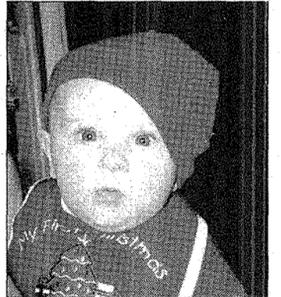
planned in the Bahamas.

NATHAN ROBERT HIX

Byran and Susan Hix of Gilberts, Ill., announce the birth of their son, Nathan Robert, born Sept. 11, 2010, at Sherman Hospital in Elgin, Ill.

Susan is a former Livonia resident and graduate of Churchill High School. Nathan joins his big brother, Brycen, 5 1/2 and big sister, Kathryn, 3 1/2.

Proud grandparents are Andy and Devonne Neil of Livonia and Bob and Bar Hix of Montello, Wis.



Nathan Robert Hix

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send calendar items to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Feel free to include relevant photos as attached jpgs. Or mail items to Sharon Dargay, The Observer, 615 Lafayette, level 2, Detroit, MI 48226. Submit items at least a week before expected publication date. Be sure to include a contact telephone number for readers, as well as any ticket prices for an event.

www.livoniastmichael.org

Widowed Friends

Time/Date: 2:15 p.m. check in; 2:30 p.m. Mass, Jan. 23
Location: St. Thomas a Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley Road, just south of Cherry Hill, in Canton
Details: Mass for widowed men and women, with refreshments and social time after
Contact: Pat at (734) 895-6246

ONGOING

- AWANA**
Time/Date: 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays
Location: Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills
Details: AWANA program for children from kindergarten-fifth grade
Contact: (248) 426-0096
- Classes/study**
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Time/Date: 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month
Location: 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia
Details: Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun.
Contact: Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@att.net.
- Livonia Unity**
Time/Date: Monday movement Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.
Location: 28660 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - rid the body of toxic pathogens and painful emotions
Contact: (810) 813-4073 or gary@energeticarts.org.
- Men's Bible study**
Time/Date: Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 a.m.
Location: Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township
Contact: John Shulenberger at (734) 464-9491
- New Life Community Church**
Time/Date: Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays
Location: 42200 Tyler, Belleville
Contact: (734) 846-4615 for information
- Nicole's Revival**
Time/Date: 10:30 a.m., Monday-Friday
Location: YWCA Northwest Branch, 25940 Grand River, west of Beech Daly, Redford
Details: KJV Scripture Reading, Communion and Prayer
Contact: (313) 531-1234

JAN. 13-19

- Concert**
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Jan. 15
Location: St. John Armenian Church, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield
Details: Oakland Choral Society presents "Rachmaninoff's 'Vespers'" in Church Slavonic. Carols and an original composition will be included in the program; tickets are \$15 and \$25, available in advance or at the door
Contact: (248) 391-0184
- Financial Peace University**
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Jan. 18-April 12
Location: Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, Livonia
Details: Discover a world of freedom by using proven, biblical principles to permanently break free from the bondage of debt.
Contact: Register by calling (248) 474-3444 or by e-mailing to clarencevilleumc@att.net
- Panel discussion**
Time/Date: Approximately noon, after 9:30 a.m. Shabbat service and Kiddush, Saturday, Jan. 15
Location: Congregation Beth Ahm, 5075 W. Maple, West Bloomfield
Details: Five shul members who attended the recent annual international conference of the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust (WFJCSH), will share their thoughts about the conference
Contact: Rene Lichtman at (248) 932-1834 or e-mail holocaustchild@comcast.net

JAN. 20-31

- Former Catholics**
Time/Date: 7 p.m., Jan. 25
Location: St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Six-week series, "Catholics Returning Home," is designed for non-practicing Catholics who are seeking answers to questions about the possibility of returning to the Church. The sessions will be conducted by former lapsed Catholics in a casual, non-threatening environment, with plenty of opportunities for questions and discussion.
Contact: (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200;

Passages

Obituaries, Memorials & Remembrances

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View Passages Online: www.hometownlife.com

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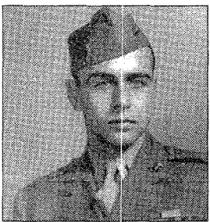
KATHRYN E. BLACK

Age 78; born on March 9, 1932 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and passed away on December 22, 2010 in Wayne, Michigan. Beloved mother of Vicki (Bill) Scott, Dorothy (Bob) Wallace, William (Jeanette) Black & the late Michael Balmer and Lynn Black; Loving grandmother of 9 grandchildren & 8 great-grandchildren; Dear sister of James (Rosie) Balmer. Memorial Service will be held on January 12, 2010 at 12:00 Noon at Cadillac Memorial Garden West Cemetery, 34224 Ford Road Westland, Michigan. Arrangements entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home Wayne Chapel.



NANCY JOOS BOOKMYER

Age 82 of Pinehurst, passed away peacefully on Christmas Day, 2010 at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst, NC. Born in Detroit to Herman and Mary Joos, Nancy was raised in Grosse Pointe, MI. She attended The Convent of the Sacred Heart and graduated with a degree in journalism from Northwestern University. Her career included working for DB Brothers advertising agency and owning RSVF catering company. Nancy was married to the late Doctor Robert M. Bookmyer for 57 wonderful years. Together they raised seven children: Michael (Allison) of Boulder, CO; Peter of BC, Canada; Kelly Sallee (John) of Snowmass, CO; Brad (Becky) of White Salmon, WA; Julie Murphy (Dan) of Los Angeles, CA; Thaddeus of Wisram, WA; Robert of Portland, WA. Nine grandchildren: Snow Reinhardt (Rob), Cappy, Sarah, Peter, Graecen, Colette, Claire, Patrick and Mary, and great-granddaughter, Maia. Nancy is survived by her BFF and brother, Doctor Thad Joos (Suzanne) of Grosse Pointe, MI. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, and grandchild, Huddy. Nana enjoyed her family most of all, traveling with Bob, and entertaining with her many friends in Pinehurst and Birmingham, MI. She was a member of the Silver Foils golf group, played a mean game of tennis and volunteered for Prancing Horse. Nancy enjoyed laughing and will be remembered for her rendition of the Irving Berlin favorite: Cheek to Cheek, "...Heaven, I'm in Heaven..." A private memorial service is yet to be determined.

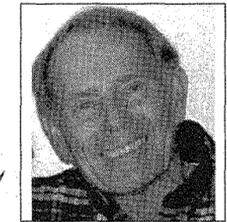


DAVID M. CROCKETT

Age 88, died on January 3, 2011, after a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Mary, and four children, Jeffrey (Christine), Martha (Horace) Sneed, Paul (Theresa) and Amy (Ken) Carr. He also leaves four grandchildren, Andrew Crockett, Nicholas Crockett, Ali Crockett and Sarah Sneed, a sister-in-law, Martha (Leonard) Seale, and seventeen nephews and nieces. David was predeceased by his brother, Richard (June) Crockett, his sister, Laura McCamman, and his sister-in-law, Marjorie (Warren) Maxey. David served his country honorably as a Marine Corps Veteran of World War II and Korea. His professional career began with a Masters of Social Work from the University of Michigan. During his long career, he served as a probation officer for the Juvenile Court in Detroit, Director of St. Peter's Home for Boys, a social worker at the Plymouth Center for Human Development and, after retirement, as a probation officer for the Farmington Hills Court. David will be sadly missed by his family and his many friends, including old friends from his college days at Wayne State University, his fellow parishioners at Meadowbrook Congregational Church, where he served as a charter member and Life Deacon, and his fellow Kiwanians in Plymouth. David loved to garden, run in marathons, read books, sing in the church choir and follow Detroit sports teams. He was admired for his optimism, faith in God and his wonderful, dry sense of humor. He will always be remembered by his family as a devoted husband and father. Contributions can be made to the Meadowbrook Congregational Church Educational Endowment or Music Program. Arrangements entrusted to the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 S. Main St., Plymouth. Share memories at schrader-howell.com

CAROLE T. HALLER

Age 81 and a long time resident of Farmington, died on January 5, 2011. She was preceded in death by John, her beloved husband of over sixty-two years on Oct. 21, 2010. She is survived by loving children, Darlene (Mike) Solar, Dan Haller, Mike (Karen) Haller, Ken (Lori) Haller, Paula (Bob) Forsyth, Steve (Kathleen) Haller, Peggy (Dan) Matthews, Beth Tori, Ginger (Rick) Wellman & Ron Haller; 29 dear grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. Also survived by much extended family and many dear friends. A Funeral Liturgy will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1955 E. Commerce Rd., Milford, on Saturday, January 8th at 10 AM, with Fr. Ron Anderson officiating. Cremation will follow. Friends may visit at Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty, Milford, on Friday 4-9 PM. Rosary Friday 7 PM. For further information please phone 248-684-6645 or visit: www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com



RAYMOND LARSEN
9/21/1938 - 12/18/2010

Son of Esther and Martin Larsen (Dec.), Ray died quietly at home, in Bloomfield Twp. on December 18, 2010. Ray had a million dollar smile, beautiful blue eyes and was the best husband possible to his wife, Barbara Brinker Larsen. He received a BS degree from Lawrence Tech University and worked in the computer industry for 20 years, living in and running offices in Europe, Michigan, Texas and California. He then obtained General and Refrigeration Contractor Licenses and, for the next 25 years, designed and fitted out the interiors of stores and warehouses throughout Western U.S. and Mexico. Ray loved the outdoors and hiked, biked, sailed, skied, fished and hunted whenever he could find a break in business. A world traveler, Ray spent time in nearly every state in the U.S., most of Europe, Japan, China, South America, Canada and Mexico. He was very resourceful, could fix or build anything and was an excellent chef and wine connoisseur. Ray will always be remembered as the ultimate storyteller, an incredible host and always a perfect gentleman. He will be missed most by his soul mate of 42 years, Barbara, as well as by his brother Roy, sister Edna, his Brinker brothers and sisters, Pat, Joann, Sue, Gene, Karen, Jim, Paul, Rose, John and Patrick, his Mother-in-law Rosemary Brinker Larkin, 45 nieces and nephews, 42 great nieces and nephews, many cousins in Denmark and his caregiver angel, Leslie Williams. He was welcomed into heaven by his parents, father-in-law Ed Brinker, sisters and brothers-in-law, Gloria Larsen, Dave Pullen, Al Ash, Ed, Doug, Sue and Karen Brinker. A "Day of Remembrance" honoring his life, will be held at his residence on January 15. In lieu of flowers, please donate to family or friends having hard times, or a favorite charity.



MARY V. MAURIN

Age 95, of Belleville, IL, formerly of Farmington Hills, MI, born November 7, 1915, in Baltic, MI, died Thursday, December 30, 2010, at Dammert Geriatric Center at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL. Miss Maurin worked in civil service for 35 years with the Department of the Army until her retirement. She belonged to the 50-Plus group and was a member of St. Alexander's Catholic Church in Farmington Hills, MI. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Lucille, nee Rauh, Maurin; a sister, Frances VanGorp; and two brothers, Peter and Joseph Maurin. Surviving are her sister, Katherine Lanctot of Minot, ND; her nephew, David (Dottie) Lanctot of Belleville, IL; and other nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. In lieu of all other gifts, memorials may be made to The Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, 726 Community Drive, Belleville, IL, 62223, or in the form of Masses. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.rennerfh.com. Arrangements were by George Renner & Sons Funeral Home, Belleville, IL.

C.W. (BILL) OLSON

Age 82 of Redford, MI, formerly of Jackson, passed away Friday, Dec. 31, 2010. A Navy Veteran, born in Ottumwa, Iowa and preceded in death by his wife of 32 years (Lucile), he is survived by sons Tracy, Pat, Steve (Stacy), daughter LynneAnn (Roy) Swihart, eight grandchildren and his companion of 12 years Elizabeth (Betty) Troop. As per his wishes, there will be no public memorial. Cremation has already taken place.

LUCILLE L. ROCCO
(nee: Martek)

Age 85, Jan. 5, 2011. Wife of Richard, mother of Susan (David) Harrison. Simple Funerals (248) 227-1954 SimpleFuneralsInMichigan.com

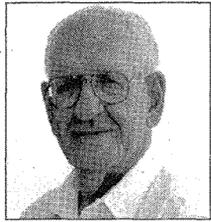


ISOBEL LOUISE ROSS

Age 87, January 4, 2011. Beloved wife of the late Harold S. Dear mother of Jean (Bob) Ramseyer, Bruce (Laurie), Laurie (Jeff) Maltby. Loving grandmother of Kimber, Daniel, Katie, Brian, Ross, Staci. Great-grandmother of Zakk, Jules, Logan, Bella, Makenzie, Annalyse, and Grant. Sister of Jack (Maxine) Hunter. Visitation at the O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home 41555 Grand River Novi 248-348-1800 Friday 4-9pm and Saturday 12:00 until the funeral service 1:00pm. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made the Great Lakes Council Boy Scouts of America Camper Fund. Online sympathy message at: www.obriensullivanfuneralhome.com.

ARTHUR L. SCHALDENBRAND, II

Age 75, January 4, 2011. Beloved husband of Linda and the late Mary. Father of Arthur L. III, Mary (Kent) Powell, Greg (Ann), Christine (James) Rust, Patty (John) Fowler, Daniel, and Gerald Finch, and Greg (Mollie) Finch. Grandfather of 11. Great-grandfather of several. Brother of Wilford and Peter. Retired after 30 years with Garden City Public Works. Member Tri County Tractor Club, Early Engine Club, and Campeau Company. Funeral Service was Saturday at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 734-427-3800. www.santeiufuneralhome.com



ROBERT (BOB) A. SMITT SR.

82, of Westland, MI, formerly of Venice, FL, passed away Wednesday, December 22, 2010 at Maple Manor in Wayne, MI. Robert was born October 19, 1928 to Tony and Lottie Szymtkowski. Robert counted his blessings in loving friends and family who brought special joy and laughter throughout his life, especially during his illness. Robert enjoyed cars, golfing, playing cards with family and friends and always carried a tune in his heart. He was an extremely hard worker. He was employed at Ford Motor Company for 42 years. Robert will never be alone for he'll be embraced by all the family and friends he has ever known. All their hearts will beat as one, and the circle of their spirits will shine brighter than the sun. Robert leaves behind his loving wife Marge who was his best friend and soul mate for 61 years. He also leaves behind a sister, 8 children, 15 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Robert will be missed dearly by all who knew him. Services will be held on Saturday, January 8th at 11:00am at St. Raphael Church in Garden City, MI. Father Ray Lewandowski will officiate.



WARREN CHARLES STOUT

Died peacefully January 5, 2011, surrounded by his family; born August 7, 1924, age 86. He grew up on a horse farm in Rochester, Michigan, and graduated from Rochester High School and Castle Heights Military Academy in Tennessee. Serving as a First Lieutenant in World War II, he saw action in Germany and France, earning the Silver Star for gallantry and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. Warren owned Stout Real Estate in Pontiac and was later affiliated with Chamberlain Realty. We remember him for his grace, integrity, and love for his family. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth Jerome Stout and the late Helen Lockwood (nee: Coffin) Stout. Also preceded in death by his step-son, Jay Coffin. Loving father of Craig Stout (Diane), Larry Stout (Debbie), Carol Miller (Doug), Diane Kutter (Dale), and Carol Ann Barnett (Tom). Cherished grandfather of Andy Miller (Mary-Katherine), Kyle Stout, Kary Miller (Mark Menaldo), Lauren Stout (Melissa Cordial), Ian Stout (Myriam Bourhill), and Kelsey Barnett. The family warmly thanks Janet Barnard, Carla White, and Barbara Sugarman from Hospice of Michigan, and home health aide, Masresha Gebrehitot, for their care and support. In lieu of flowers, family suggests memorials to Leader Dogs for the Blind or E.L. Johnson Nature Center. A memorial reception will be held on Saturday, January 15, 10:00 a.m. at Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills, followed by a memorial service at 11:00 a.m. A. J. Desmond & Sons, 248-362-2500. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



MARGARET ALENA GOUDY WALDRON

of Birmingham, Michigan, was born on March 24, 1922 and died on January 2, 2011 at age 88. She is survived by her sister Kathleen Ogle of Morro Bay, California, and many nieces and nephews. She married Daniel Waldron; they later divorced. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Pearl Goudy, and sister Ellen Slater. She was born in Goodrich, Michigan, attended public school in Big Rapids, and earned her nursing degree at Butterworth Hospital School of Nursing in Grand Rapids. She practiced nursing at the University of Michigan Hospitals in Ann Arbor and with the Detroit Visiting Nurses Association. Margaret enjoyed music. She played piano from a young age, attended Olivet College School of Music, and studied under Terri Yamasaki for many years. She loved her piano students as her children. Her career teaching piano spanned more than 40 years. She had been active in the Michigan Federation of Music Clubs. Her students consistently were awarded highest ratings. Margaret continued to teach full time until her death. She was preparing her students for the upcoming piano competitions when she died suddenly. Margaret was loved by her church family and friends. She will be missed. She donated her body to the Wayne State University School of Medicine. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2011 at 11:00 AM in the chapel of St. James Episcopal Church, 355 W. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Memorials may be made to St. James Episcopal Church.

THERESA M. WELLS

Age 86, of Farmington Hills and Port Austin, Michigan passed away at her Farmington Hills home over the Christmas holiday. Ms. Wells up until the time of her death commuted, every two weeks depending on the weather, between her Farmington Hills and Port Austin home so as to stay in touch with her lifelong friends, neighbors and loved ones. Theresa was born on August 26, 1924 in Grindstone City to the late Anthony and Agnes (Wojchowski) Biarski, the last of eight children of her parents. Theresa graduated Grindstone High School in 1941 and shortly thereafter moved to Detroit to work at various companies, primarily Packard Car Company until its closure and then Ford Motor Company until retiring in 1989 from Ford's. At Ford's she worked in the early stages of computerization by working in its data processing center, as a clerk, initially in its keypunch operations, and transitioned with Ford's and the world to the computer age. Theresa recently lost her last two sisters, Margaret F. Bulley, age 95, this past April and Dorothy Levalskie, age 90, in 2007, both of Bad Axe Michigan a short drive from her Port Austin home. Theresa was also preceded in death by two other sisters and three brothers, Michael, Peter and Joseph Biarski, and Gertrude Wilkos and Goldie Millard, respectively. Visitation and services will be held on Friday, January 14, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Michael Catholic Church in Port Austin. Officiating will be Father Andrew Boom, pastor. Theresa will be interred next to her husband, Clifford, in the church cemetery.

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
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313-496-4968

For more information call:
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586-826-7082
or Liz Keiser
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or toll free
800-579-7355
ask for Char or Liz

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HEALTH

Sunday, January 9, 2011

hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Sharon Dargay

Voice Mail: (313) 222-8883

E-mail: sdargay@hometownlife.com

Comment online at hometownlife.com

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

JANUARY

Diabetes

St. Mary Mercy Hospital Diabetes Support Group will present "Healthy Weight Loss Strategies" from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12, in the hospital's auditorium. Participants will learn healthy strategies to lose weight from Tamara Lark, a registered dietician and health educator at the hospital. The support group meets the second Wednesday. There is no charge, and pre-registration is not required. Call Community Outreach at (734) 655-8950 with any questions.

Health seminar

Learn why exercise is important to your health and try out a few simple exercises at a free health seminar at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17, at Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, 33144 Cherry Hill, east of Venoy in Canton. Jeanie Weaver will teach the session. Participants should dress comfortably. For more information call (734) 524-0880 or (734) 329-2884.

ONGOING

Aquatic classes

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

Fitness classes

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

Food Addicts

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a recovery program for people having trouble controlling the way they eat. Based on the 12 steps of AA. Open to all and free. Weekly meetings are held 9-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, at Geneva Presbyterian Church, 5835 Sheldon, Canton. (866) 914-3663; www.foo-daddicts.org

Hearing Loss Association

The Western Wayne Chapter, provides information, education and support for those with hearing loss, their families and friends. Meetings are 6:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster, Garden City.

Contact afcrack@comcast.net or (734) 664-3297.

Incest Survivors

"LIVE," a self-help group for women who were victims of incest as children, meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at St. Paul of the Cross, 2333 Schoolcraft, Redford. Call Antoinette at (313) 971-4747 or Cheri at (586) 489-1785.

Overeaters Anonymous

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

Breast cancer support group

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

Caregivers support group

St. John's Support Group for the Caregivers of Alzheimer's Patients or patients with other forms of dementia meet the first and third Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 574 South Sheldon, Plymouth. Respite care for your loved one will be provided. Call Connie McNutt at (734) 895-1426 for information. Authorized by the Alzheimer's Association.

Metro Fibromyalgia

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

Wayne metro caregiver support

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

Parkinson Support

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

CPR classes

Classes range from basic CPR for people who wish to know how to help save a life to certification

for those who need CPR for work and state licensure, at DMC Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, 1 William Carls Dr., Commerce. First aid classes also available. Classes offered weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Price varies. Pre-registration required at www.hvsh.org/hvsh/calendar or call (248) 937-3314.

Arthritis support group

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

Tai Chi classes

At 165 E. Square Lake, Bloomfield Hills (7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday), and 38121 Ann Arbor Road (11 a.m. Wednesday, and 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday). Presented by nonprofit Michigan Tai Chi Association in Livonia. For details, call (734) 591-3530.

Recovery, Inc.

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

Low vision support group

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

Health enhancement classes

Classes for exercise (including yoga), CPR and childbirth, and support groups for cardiac, cancer, stroke and diabetes patients; eating disorders; Alzheimer's caregivers; and the hard of hearing. The classes are part of an array of offerings at Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center. For more information, call (734) 458-3242. Blood pressure (free) and cholesterol (\$5) testing are also available noon to 2 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month in Garden City Hospital lobby. No registration required. The hospital also offers free blood pressure testing for senior citizens every other Wednesday at Maplewood Community Center. For information, call (734) 458-4330. Free mask fitting clinic for CPAP and BiPAP users, most insurances cover new supplies every year, try a new style of mask and learn how to get one 5-6 p.m. every Wednesday, at the Garden City Hospital Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland. No appointment needed. For information, call (734) 458-4330.

Make the most of your skin exam to maximize your overall health

The New Year is the perfect time to see a physician for an annual skin exam, to make sure that any skin cancer or potential problems are detected and treated early," said Dr.

Elizabeth Tanzi, a spokesperson for The Skin Cancer Foundation. "Annual skin exams performed by a trained physician, coupled with monthly self-exams, offer the best chances of detecting skin cancer before it progresses."

To make the most of your visit to the dermatologist, Tanzi and The Skin Cancer Foundation offer these tips:

BEFORE THE EXAM

- Perform a full-body skin self-exam (for instructions on how and what to look for, visit www.SkinCancer.org/Self-Examination/), and make note of any new or changing moles, growths, or lesions. Any mark or growth that itches, bleeds, or otherwise calls attention to itself should also be recorded, and pointed out to your doctor during your appointment. The Foundation recommends that you examine your skin once a month.

- Remove all nail polish from your finger and toenails. The doctor will need to look at your nails and nail beds, since skin cancers can form there.

- Wash off your makeup so that the doctor can look closely at your face.



looking growths.

- Have a pencil and paper on hand, so that you can take notes if necessary. Also ask your doctor to spell out terms you're not familiar with — this will make it easier for you to research facts on your own.

- Don't hesitate to request relevant literature, ask your doctor to recommend a reputable source of information, and/or find out about possible diagnostic tests, treatment

options, and cure rates.

- Ask your dermatologist if he or she recommends any further action, and when you should schedule a follow-up appointment.

An annual skin exam is just one part of a complete prevention program, and an overall healthy lifestyle. For more information visit www.SkinCancer.org.

The Skin Cancer Foundation is the only global organization solely devoted to the prevention, detection and treatment of skin cancer. The mission of the Foundation is to decrease the incidence of skin cancer through public and professional education and research. For more information, visit, www.SkinCancer.org.

AT THE EXAM

The exam itself will likely be brief.

"An annual skin exam on a patient who's never had dysplastic (atypical) moles takes about 10 minutes," Tanzi said. Atypical moles are benign, but look suspicious and could be a risk factor for skin cancer.

"The more moles you have, the higher your risk for skin cancer, and the longer the exam."

- Ask the dermatologist to examine closely any moles, growths, or lesions you noted during your skin self-exam. Your dermatologist may biopsy suspicious-

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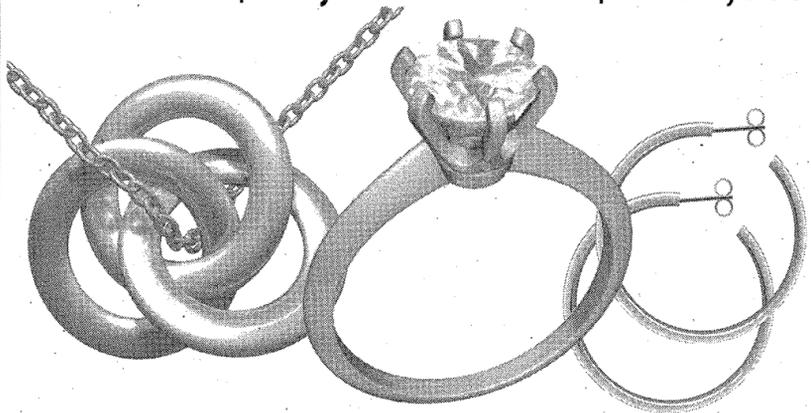
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