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USA WEEKEND



Shuh time

The Planet Fitness gym at Westland Crossing on Wayne Road in Westland will have a spot on prime time TV when it's featured in NBC's *The Biggest Loser* Tuesday, Feb. 28.

During the telecast, Allen "Buddy" Shuh, a Wayne resident, will be shown working out with his brother Ben at the Planet Fitness in Westland. The episode was taped at the gym in December.

"It's great to see our local gym featured on a national TV show like *The Biggest Loser*," said Bryan Rief, whose company owns nine Planet Fitness locations in metro Detroit. "Our members are really excited about it. *The Biggest Loser* is all about people trying to improve their health and improve their lives. It's a terrific message, one that we fully embrace at Planet Fitness."

Shuh, the connections pastor at Journey Community Church, has dropped 86 pounds since the start of the weight loss reality show, including 12 pounds last week. He started at 403 pounds and now weighs 317 pounds.

Appointments

The Westland City Council has approved the mayoral appointments of James Allen and Scott Rodesiler to the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) / Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA).

Allen, a Westland resident, is the branch manager at a bank within the TIFA District. He is married and has three children. An active member of the Westland Breakfast Lions Club, he was instrumental in the development and implementation of the Wild About Youth Summer Employment Program in 2011.

Rodesiler has worked in Westland for more than eight years as manager of retailer also located within the TIFA District. He is married with four daughters.

"The gentlemen have experience that will be a tremendous asset to the EDC/TIFA boards and I am pleased for their commitment and dedication to the City of Westland," Mayor William Wild said.

The EDC Board provides below market rate financing for eligible firms, with \$23 million awarded to 15 projects to date. The TIFA Board, which is under the supervision and control of the EDC, implements an infrastructure improvement plan within a specific district.

2/26 WESTLAND OBSERVER

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Presidential primary expected to have at least 15-percent turnout

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A 15- to 18-percent voter turnout is predicted in Westland as voters head to the polls to cast their support for would-be presidential candidates Tuesday.

Depending on the school district in which they reside, some voters including Wayne-Westland Schools residents, will also have a ballot

question.

"We had a 19.4-percent turnout in the last presidential primary when 11,574 votes were cast," Westland Clerk Eileen DeHart Schoof said. "I imagine we will get 9,000 to 11,000 voters total, including absentee ballots. This has been less contentious than the last election with (Barack) Obama and (Hillary) Clinton. We had an early primary."

When voters go to the polls Tuesday, they will have to decide whether to vote in the Republican or Democratic primary. For those voting Republican, 11 candidates will appear on the ballot, but only four — Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum, Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul — are actively campaigning.

"The others withdrew too late to be removed from the ballot," Schoof

said.

Obama is the only candidate listed on the Democratic ballot. With either party ballot, Schoof said voters will have the option of selecting uncommitted. Any write-in votes will not count since no candidates have filed the required affidavit to run as a write-in candidate.

Voters who live in the

Please see PRIMARY, A2

Voters already tired of mudslinging

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

Regardless of which would-be presidential candidate they are supporting Tuesday, many Westland voters don't like how they are campaigning.

"I think it's a joke the way they ridicule each other," said Joe Flower, a retired machinist who described himself as an independent. "I will probably vote for (Mitt) Romney. He's a businessman and knows how to make it work. (President Barack) Obama wasn't a businessman. (Former President Bill) Clinton wasn't a businessman. Look what they did. (Former President George W.) Bush was a businessman."

Flower expects that the former Massachusetts governor will eventually get the Republican nomination to challenge Obama in November. He criticized Republican Rick Santorum as a career politician.

"I think we should vote them all out, bar none. They are all crooks," Flower said.

Homemaker Rosemarie Kranz had already voted absentee, casting her vote for Obama, who is unchallenged for the Democratic nomination.

"I'm for the working person," Kranz said. "I don't like the mudslinging. I won't talk against any of them (the candidates). All of the candidates put the other person down — they don't say what they are going to do. I don't watch any of the debates."

A former school teacher, Cal Anderson said he expected that he would vote in the presidential primary, but hadn't decided on who he would be supporting.

Please see VOTERS, A2



Rhoda Koger, Salvation Army Thrift Store supervisor, said about 3,600 items hit the floor daily at the Garden City location.

Salvation Army store offers deals at March Madness sale

By Sue Buck
Observer Staff Writer

Elaine Molloy knows where she will be on Saturday, March 3 — at the 50 percent off March Madness sale on clothing that will take place at the Salvation Army Thrift Store in Garden City.

That's when all clothing purchases will be half off. Personal checks won't be accepted, just cash, MasterCard and Visa credit and debit cards.

The store is a weekly favorite for Molloy, a retired Target employee. She considers shopping at this store a hobby.

"I take photos of pictures and I go home and research them, if there is a name on it," Molloy said.

She loves the artwork, glassware, clothing, and old

furniture.

"You just never know what you will find," she said. "I bring my grandchildren up here on the weekends and say, 'Go for it.'"

Find a bargain

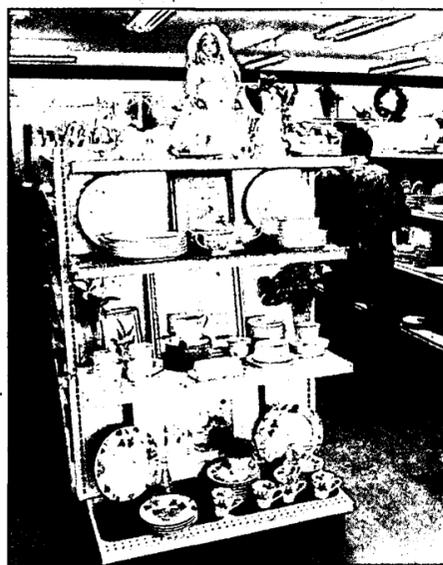
Molloy, a married mother of two and grandmother of four, knows where to find a bargain.

"Grandma is no fool," she said. "They have to go by color on the tag. It's so much fun."

A different 50 percent off color tag is offered Monday through Thursday weekly. On Friday and Saturday, the sale is five for \$5. In today's economy, people can't afford to buy nice things at high original retail prices.

"You can come in here

Please see SALE, A2



Shoppers can find a variety of china and glassware at the Salvation Army Thrift Store.

Mother to face charges in 1-year-old's drowning

By LeAnne Rogers
Observer Staff Writer

A Westland woman has been ordered bound over for trial on felony charges over the death of her 1-year-old son, who drowned while unattended in the bathtub.

Amanda Yarimian, 24, is charged with involuntary manslaughter and second-degree child abuse-failure to protect in the death of Brandon Yarimian, who was a week past his first birthday when he died on Oct. 17, 2010.

Yarimian's husband,



Amanda Yarimian



Brandon Yarimian

Deelon, was the only witness to testify at the preliminary examination Friday before 18th District Court Judge Mark McConnell. Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Lora Weingarden said she wanted to preserve a record of Deelon Yarimi-

an's testimony as his wife planned to waive her preliminary examination.

In his testimony and original statement to police, Deelon Yarimian described his wife having worked a full shift, come home for about three hours and then going back to work for several more hours on Oct. 16. He had cared for Brandon and the couple's 3-year-old daughter on that day.

When Amanda Yarimian returned home from the second half of her split shift, it was 7-8 p.m., her husband testified.

Deelon Yarimian then went out for a couple of hours to visit a friend and his mother.

When he left the house, Deelon Yarimian testified that his wife had both children in the bathtub giving them a bath. Upon his return, Deelon Yarimian said his wife and daughter were in the couple's bed sleeping while Brandon was on the floor.

"He was laying on the floor in the middle of the hallway. He was face up. We usually let him do what he wants after his bath," Deelon Yarimi-

an said. "I was trying to fix a virus on the computer. I had my eye on him. Approximately half an hour later, he was in the same position. That was highly unusual."

At that point, Deelon Yarimian said he checked Brandon, who was naked, finding that the child was rigid. As he tried to perform CPR, he said he called 9-1-1.

Weingarden and defense attorney David Lankford both questioned Deelon Yarimian about

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PRIMARY

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Wayne-Westland Community Schools will also vote on a request for a 10-year renewal of a .9922-mill sinking fund tax levy.

Wayne-Westland voters can choose to vote in either presidential primary and the sinking fund renewal question or opt out of the party primary with a ballot that has only the sinking fund renewal request.

"If they live in Wayne-Westland, voters will choose one of three bal-

lots. If they live in Livonia (Public Schools), they will select one of two ballots," Schoof said.

With Westland voters also living within the Garden City, Inkster and Taylor school districts, Schoof said election workers are dealing with a total of five different ballots.

"They have had training, so it will go smoothly for voters," Schoof said.

Voters will again have to present a photo identification or sign an affidavit before being issued a ballot.

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VOTERS

Continued from page A1

"I'm in that huge category of undecided. I go with how I feel at that particular time. Mostly I vote Democrat, but I have voted for Republicans," Anderson said. "I'm still trying to decide. It's hard to find an honest politician — they're honest until they become politicians."

Another absentee voter, Dolores Benstead, said she had voted for Romney. "I liked him the best. I don't like the way they sling mud at each other, no matter which party they are from," said Benstead, a retired secretary who worked for

the Detroit Police Department.

Three other people who didn't wish to make comments volunteered that they had voted absentee and supported Obama.

The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Voters will have to choose a party preference to receive either a Republican or Democratic ballot. For the Republicans, there are 11 candidates listed, although only four — Romney, Santorum, Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul — are still actively campaigning. Obama is the sole candidate listed on the Democratic ballot. Both ballots offer the option of uncommitted.

lr Rogers@hometownlife.com (313) 222-5428

CHARGES

Continued from page A1

whether there was water in the bathtub when he came home. His original statement to police was that there was water in the tub as he found his son.

"I really don't know. I went over this a million times in my head. Anyone would second-guess themselves," said Deelon Yarimian, who testified that his daughter was able to get out of the bathtub without assistance but Brandon could not.

When he awakened his wife, Deelon Yarimian said she was distraught and didn't understand the questions he was asking her about what happened. "She told me she fell

asleep giving the kids a bath," he said.

Paramedics and police reported that the child was unclothed and still wet when they arrived at the Yarimian home on Ackley.

The warrant request seeking charges against Amanda Yarimian had been pending at the prosecutor's office since late 2010. Amanda Yarimian, who has entered a not guilty plea, is scheduled for circuit court arraignment on March 8. She remains free on \$50,000 personal bond.

Also on March, the couple are scheduled for a Child Protective Services hearing to determine if they will get custody of their 3-year-old daughter.

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Westland man to face sexual assault charges

A Westland man was arraigned in Wayne County Circuit Court on 20 charges of sexually assaulting two girls under 10 years old.

Gerald Raymond Baker, 37, is being held in lieu of \$1 million cash

bond. He is also facing six additional felony counts of having sexually abusive material on his computer. A not guilty plea was entered for Baker.

A preliminary examination was held earlier

this month in Westland 18th District Court, and Baker was ordered bound over for trial.

The charges are that Baker sexually molested two neighbor children while they spent the night at his Westland

home during sleepovers with his daughter. The incidents were reported to have occurred during 2011.

Baker has been in custody since his arraignment Jan. 20.

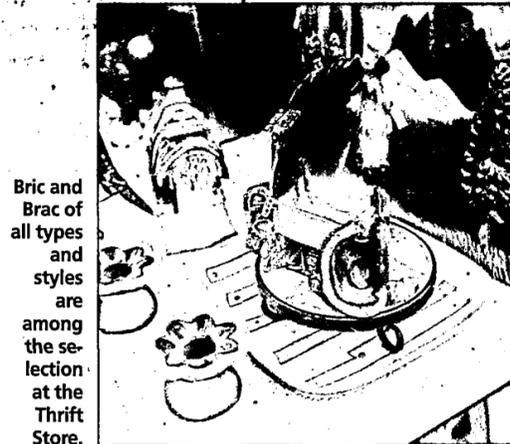
— By LeAnne Rogers



Shoppers can find a range of men's and women's clothing at the store in Garden City.



The merchandise includes a variety of athletic goods.



Bric and Brac of all types and styles are among the selection at the Thrift Store.

SALE

Continued from page A1

and feel good about your sale," said Rhoda Koger, the senior store supervisor. "Our stores are nice and clean. They don't have that thrift store smell."

"We wanted to bring some excitement to the month of March. Everybody knows about March Madness. This gives people another chance at buying our already discounted items and to bring excitement into the stores," she added.

There are 32 thrift stores in southeastern Michigan, including stores in Canton Township, Livonia, Southfield and Royal Oak which will all have the March Madness sale. On that day, the Garden City store will open two hours earlier at 7 a.m. and close about 10 p.m. The store is located on Ford, east of Middlebelt.

The locals know there are routinely bargains to be found. At the beginning of the week, a specific color tag is designated that half off sale of the week. That color tag designates the clothing has been on the floor for about four weeks.

Proceeds from all stores benefit The Salvation Army Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center, an independently funded, 180-day residential rehabilitation

program for adults.

"The center is where we house men and women who have substance abuse problems," Koger said.

Sold at store

All clothing donated to the store is sold at the store.

Needy families must go through a process and are given a voucher to come into the store for items. A corps office is located in the Dearborn Heights and Wayne-Westland areas, Koger said.

Clothing is the number one seller in the store.

"We offer a variety of very high quality clothing at very low prices," Koger said. "Everybody comes in with their own unique things that they are looking for. So, we try to cater to everybody."

In the Bric and Brac area, the housewares department, customers can find everything from an iron skillet to a crystal vase, she said.

Koger estimates that about 900-1,000 people come through the store weekly. On Wednesday, seniors get 25 percent off and once a month there is a Super Seniors Day with 33 percent off.

"About 3,600 items hit the floor daily," Koger said.

For more information, visit www.salarmythrift.com or call (313) 965-7760.

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CITY OF WESTLAND RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL 2012 SCHEDULE FOR BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS Monday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 14 from 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, Thursday, March 15 and Friday, March 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more info on Board of Review, visit our website at www.cityofwestland.com and click on Assessing. Meetings held at Westland City Hall, 2nd Floor Council Chambers at 36601 Ford Road, Westland, MI 48185. Written Appeals must Be Received by 2:00 P.M. on Friday, March 16, 2012. Call (734) 467-3160 to schedule a 5-minute appointment. Publish: February 26, and March 4, 2012

A-QUALITY CARE VETERINARY HOSPITAL OPEN 7 DAYS Emergencies Welcome Boarding & Grooming FREE OFFICE VISIT (329.00 Value) New Clients Only With Coupon Annual Dog/Cat Vaccine Pkgs. \$79 (From Vaccines & Fecal Test Ask For Details - New Clients Only, With Coupon) DENTAL MONTH SPECIAL \$50 OFF any dental cleaning With Coupon HEARTWORM TEST SPECIAL \$20 to \$25 with purchase of 12 or 6 months heartworm tablets 11655 Farmington Rd. 734.421.PETS (7387) (Just N. of Plymouth Rd.) Livonia www.aqualitycarevet.com

St. Michael's Parish presents "ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT" LENTEN FISH FRY March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 4:30-7:00 PM • Full Dinners • Carry-Out Available • Choice of Hand-Dipped Fried or Baked Fresh Atlantic Cod • Adults \$8 • Seniors \$7 • Kids 3-11 \$4 • 3 & Under FREE 11441 Hubbard Rd., S. of Plymouth Rd. • Livonia 734.261.1455

WHY BE CATHOLIC? The exciting monthly series of personal stories and testimonies continues its 3rd season with an outstanding roster of new speakers, sure to bring rewarding new insights to your own faith life. Thursday, March 1st at 7 PM Vice President of Programs and Development for the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology at the University of Steubenville, Robert Corzine, shares his journey from devout Baptist and "robust anti-Catholic" to well-known Catholic educator, author, legislative analyst, and host of EWTN's "Genesis to Jesus" series. ALL ARE WELCOME! No Charge, No Reservations St. Michael the Archangel Church 11441 Hubbard Rd. (South of Plymouth Rd.) Livonia 734-261-1455 • www.livoniastmichael.org

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Life as a 'Leaper'

Leap Year babies get to eat cake

By Sue Mason
Observer Staff Writer

For the third time in his life, Steven Moore will get to celebrate his birthday with dinner at Red Lobster. But if you ask the sixth-grader when he wants to celebrate, he prefers late July with a pool party at his grandparents' house.

The Farmington Elementary student is among the rare group of individuals who ages more slowly than most of us because his birthday falls on Leap Day, Feb. 29.

"He doesn't realize how unique it is," said his mother Sheila. "He asks me why I had him on that day and I tell him I had no choice. He was really due on March 12. He doesn't like it but he still gets his birthday celebration."

Steven was born Feb. 29, 2000 - a Leap Year baby. He's one of the lucky few - there's only a 1-in-1,461 chance of being born on that date.

Famous Leapers

Steven, and other Leap Day babies, commonly referred to as "Leapers," share their special day with some famous folks. Rapper Ja Rule was born Feb. 29, 1976. Singer Dinah Shore (1916) and bandleader Jimmy Dorsey (1904), were also born Feb. 29, as was model/actor Antonio Sabato, Jr. (1972).

But that doesn't impress Steven.

"I don't like it because I don't have a birthday,



Steven Moore of Garden City turns 12 on Feb. 29. He plans on celebrating at Red Lobster.

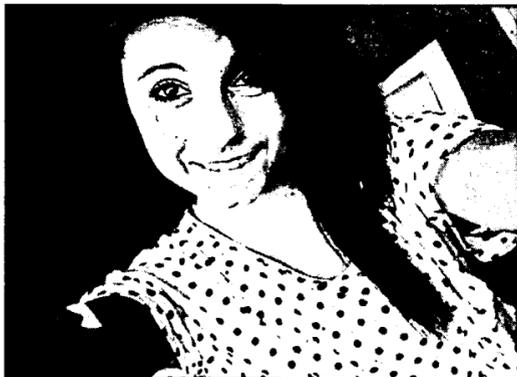
it's the day before or the day after," said Steven. "It's a big deal this year because I can celebrate my birthday on my birth day."

His grandfather, Gary Halama, describes Steven as "such a blessing to our family." To make up for the disappointment of not having a birthday every year, he and his wife allow him to have a birthday pool party in late July. It's almost like celebrating his half birthday.

"I like having it in the summer because I can swim in my grandparents' pool," he said. "I'd rather have my birthday in the summer."

Sheila Moore makes certain her son has his birthday celebration. They generally celebrate it on March 1, "when we know he's a year old-er." There's cupcakes for his classmates and a big family get together the weekend after.

"My mother has a



For Kelly Agius of Westland, Leap Day this year is her Sweet 16 birthday.

summer birthday, so he thinks she's lucky," said Sheila Moore. "He doesn't like it, but he still gets a birthday. It's kind of unique not having a birth date every year."

Special birthdays

It also dovetails with the uniqueness of his parents' birthdays. His dad, Steven Sr., was born on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor day, and Sheila's birthday is on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31.

"Everybody celebrates my birthday," she said.

"Leaper" Kelly Agius of Westland is hitting a milestone on Feb. 29.

"I'm going to be turning 16 this 29th, talk about sweet 16," said the John Glenn high school student.

Agus admits she gets plenty of questions when she tells people she's a leap year baby.

"They always ask, 'So, how old are you really?' or 'How do you celebrate your birthday?' and there's an occasion-

al statement like 'That's awesome,'" she said. "To me it has its ups and downs. When I don't have an actual birthday, it's really hard for people to know when to tell me Happy Birthday, and it sucks, because when you're in school and it's someone's birthday, they're constantly being told 'Happy Birthday' by everyone."

For Agius, when it comes to her birthday, she gets "a kind of happy birthday from friends."

"A lot of people like to joke about my birthday and laugh about how I'm only turning four, but when you think about it, it makes me unique in my own kind of way and I love it," she said. "At my high school, they say happy birthday to people over the announcements, and everyday there is usually two or more people with a birthday that day. But, on the 29th, it's going to be just my name."

LOVING THE 'LEAP'

A few fun facts about Leap Year babies, as found on various web-sites:

- No year that is divisible by 100 can be a leap year unless it can be divided by 400. The year 2000 was a leap year the year 1900 was not.
- The very first calendar that provided for leap year was introduced in 238 B.C. By King Ptolemy.
- Anthony, Texas, is the self proclaimed leap year capital of the world. Every year this little town that sits on the border of New Mexico holds a festival and leap year birthday celebrations complete with a carnival and hot air balloon rides.
- The chances of having a leap year birthday are 1 in 1,461
- There are about 4 million people in the world who have been born on Feb. 29th.

Agus has thought about it, and admits being a leaper has its ups and downs. The up is making it to the birthday announcements, the downs are the years when you don't she said. "In general, I feel like the coolest kid every to be born on a special day that not many people are born on," she said.

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GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Community Chat

Join your host Kerry Partin along with Kelly and her real estate tips and tricks, Doppler Tom's weather, Derek with sports and much more every Thursday night at 9 p.m. This is an internet talk show recorded live where the residents and surrounding communities are welcome to participate. Share your events, promotions or comments with your fellow residents and the community.

Listeners can call in live at (724)444-7444 and enter the call ID 82757, or go to the chat room at <http://talkshoe.com/tc/82757>.

Garden City East reunion

The Garden City East High School Classes of 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1973 are holding a combined reunion Saturday, Sept. 22, and organizers are looking for former classmates. That's the easiest part. The hardest part is finding those old classmates.

Information can be found or posted on the Facebook reunion page, Garden City High School (East) Reunion 2012. It also can be e-mailed to the Reunion Committee - Cindy Eads Frens at irish4200@hotmail.com, Debi Cassidy Haller at debi.haller@gmail.com, Doris Fugaban Williams at doris1226@wowway.com, Lee A. Gilligan at ee.gilligan@att.net, Sue Cook at stasselmyer@charter.net, Suzie Wright Rogiero at suzierogiero@yahoo.com, Jackie Kalifut at jackieideson@gmail.com and Jeff Fordell at jeffreyfordell@comcast.net.

I WANT TO HELP YOU REGAIN THE FEELING IN YOUR HANDS AND FEET!

Do you suffer from peripheral neuropathy?

If you suffer from a single one of these torturous symptoms - numbness, tingling, burning or sharp nerve pain - you MUST DISCOVER our *Neuropathy Recovery Program!*

Neuropathy affects every part of your life - walking, sitting, sleeping, socializing, your ability to enjoy relationships and so much more. If you have tried "everything" like (Anodyne therapy, physical therapy, Lyrica®, Neurotin® or other medications) and you are not getting the lasting results you want, then this may be the most important information you have ever read! There is a simple reason that most treatments fail...because, at best, they only cover up your symptoms and do not heal your damaged nerves.

We all know that there is a tremendous difference between covering up your symptoms or actually fixing the underlying problem. So, why settle for "band-aid care" when our *Neuropathy Recovery Program* is available?

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- Pins and needles feeling
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If so you may have a condition called peripheral neuropathy.

If you are like most people who suffer from peripheral neuropathy, you have probably tried everything. You have probably been to specialists, tried alternative health care and all of the latest and greatest miracle cures. Unfortunately, there is no gimmick, no quick fix and no pill that will ever make your neuropathy go away permanently. What we do in our office is the REAL THING! I am confident that our Neuropathy Recovery Program is something you haven't tried before and may be the answer you are looking for.

IF YOU ARE SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING RID OF YOUR PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY THIS YEAR AND IMPROVING YOUR HEALTH ONCE AND FOR ALL, DO NOT MISS THIS FREE ONE-HOUR SEMINAR!

In regards to Peripheral Neuropathy, my goal this year is to help as many people as possible regain feeling in their extremities and improve their quality of life. Will you be one of them? If you have been suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy and the reduced quality of life that goes with it, don't wait another minute. Let me help you. This seminar could literally change your life.

If you are dealing with Peripheral Neuropathy, I sincerely want to help you get your life back. Are you frustrated after having tried everything and still dealing with neuropathy? Are you sick of hype and false hope? Have you given up on ridding yourself of neuropathy? If you are serious about getting help once and for all, then call to reserve your seat right now. This FREE one-hour seminar could be the beginning of a new life for you. Don't miss it!

I have been researching, reading, attending classes and consulting with experts in the scientific community- all to create my Peripheral Neuropathy Treatment Program. The good news is that the principles behind my Neuropathy Recovery Program work with both diabetic and non-diabetic types of neuropathy. I can't wait to see if I can help you!



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Dr. Kramer

P.S. This will be my biggest Peripheral Neuropathy seminar of the year and will book up fast. Don't be left out. Call now to reserve your spot.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Consistent' Republican

Dear Michiganders:
In January, Iowa voters had the opportunity to meet all the candidates in small groups and ask questions that cut through the media bias spin. We realized Gov. Romney is the only candidate that is both a "consistent" Republican and "genuine" conservative.
In his public and political life, Gov. Romney has "consistently" promoted core Republican principles of free enterprise, smaller government and strong national defense. In private, he quietly lives the core conservative values of faith, family and the highest moral standards.
As a fiscal conservative and governor of Massachusetts, he reversed a \$4 billion deficit and created a \$2 billion surplus in his first term. Because of the this combination, Gov. Romney will be supported by a wide range of voters, will beat President Obama in the fall general election and return our country to prosperity.
While Rick Santorum is a social conservative, he is not a fiscal conservative. He "brought home" millions of taxpayer dollars (i.e. earmarks) to his home district for his political gain. His years in Washington contributed to our current debt crisis. Do we really want to re-elect a politician who will continue to erode the financial security of future generations?
On Feb. 28, you get to choose who will be the Republican candidate and next president of the United States. Please choose wisely!

Jim Borchardt
Bettendorf, Iowa

Honest opinion

Mitt Romney's honest opinion may lose votes because support for auto bailouts is popular in Michigan. Bush was wrong to create the bailouts, but Obama was worse to take shareholder funds from investors and give them to

the unions.
Government is not qualified to pick winners and users — investors do that.
It is nice that GM and Chrysler survive, but taxpayers confiscated investors' money and do not appear likely to reimburse them.
Romney is the conservative in this race.

Hank Borgman
Farmington

Wrong on 'Obamacare'

Rick Santorum is vociferous in his call to repeal "Obamacare." But what if the candidate happened to be one of the millions of Americans who have little or no health insurance, as opposed to the Cadillac of policies available to members of Congress?
Santorum's 3-year-old daughter Bella, a child not expected to live more than a couple of weeks after birth, has made yet another "miraculous turnaround" given the help of the best medical care this country has to offer. Santorum doesn't seem to realize that other Americans who work as hard as he does to make ends meet never have the opportunity to obtain health insurance, either because it isn't offered or they aren't eligible due to a pre-existing condition.
I'm glad Bella has survived and likewise believe all children should have access to such medical resources — but that cannot happen without a health care mandate.
What's good for the goose's child is good for the gander's.

Joy Kind
Livonia

Poor choices in Republican field

In light of President Obama's lack of effectiveness, I would likely have voted Republican but for the poor quality of the candidates. What can one say about Mitt Romney's mealy-mouthed backtracking of his Marie Antoinette-

type of comment: "Let Detroit Declare Bankruptcy."
Then there is Santorum. With him as president, ladies, you will want to keep your whale-bone corsets and aspirin handy. I hope that Santorum is enjoying driving his Audi A6, which is not made in America.
Finally there's Newt, whose colleagues, after sanctioning him \$300,000, won't support him. More worrisome is knowing that Newt has his finger on the bomb, a questionable temper and a lack of ethics. With Newt, the nation would elect Dr. Strangelove.

John Bullington
Northville

Right to work stance

I am a retired blue-collar worker/tradesman and Vietnam veteran. Over a period of 40-plus years, I have worked in union and non-union jobs, being lucky enough to realize home ownership and pretty much live comfortably providing for my family.
During my career, I took part in providing quality products and services to this area and beyond. My preparation and training and emphasis on high quality and worker safety was provided by the union I originally belonged to. It set the standard for high-quality manufacturing and service in the metro area and all over Michigan.
For a "native son" Republican candidate to have the nerve to even come to this great state after he betrayed the auto industry and even mentions his aim toward a right to work state is outrageous.
I hope Michigan residents won't stand still for this, especially my fellow blue-collar workers whose fathers and mothers shed their blood to form Michigan unions. This area played a huge part in the support of our service men and women during World War II when it was desperately needed. Let's not forget who we are.

John A. Thomson
Novi

OUR VIEWS

Vote yes on W-W sinking fund renewal

For many years, Michigan voters found themselves marginalized when it came to selecting a candidate, be it Democrat or Republican, for president. By the time it came to make a selection, the choice had already been decided.
Not this year. Michigan will have its voice heard in the first ever presidential primary election. For Democrats, only Obama is listed on the ballot. For Republicans, candidates include Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Gary Johnson, Fred Karger, Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Buddy Roemer, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum. However, Bachmann, Cain, Huntsman and Perry have dropped out of the race since that list was set in December.
For residents in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, there's another important decision to be made - a .9922 mill sinking fund levy. The request is a renewal of an existing tax levy approved by voters in 2003. The last levy of that tax will come on the this summer's tax bill.
If approved, the money would be utilized for the repair and replacement of Wayne-Westland's current educational infrastructure and protect taxpayers' investment in the students, schools and community. The tax renewal would raise an estimated \$1.93 million a year.
While the original sinking fund levy provided new media centers at elementary schools, expanded parking lots and extra gymnasium space at the high schools, this time the

district will use the money to focus on major repairs, such as boilers, roofs, chillers and cooling towers and elementary kitchen remodeling and expansions.
The good part about a sinking fund is that unlike a bond issue, it isn't a loan. There is no interest to pay. The money is available annually and can only be used for the stated purposes.
Voters need to remember that this is not a new tax request, it's a 10-year renewal. It will not increase the amount of taxes they currently pay. For the homeowner with a taxable value of \$40,000, considered average in the district, it would cost \$39.69 annually.
We believe Wayne-Westland has provided parents an students with a quality environment in which to learn and that ensuring it's there for future generations is a must. That is why we recommend a YES vote on the .9922-mill sinking fund renewal in Tuesday's election.
Residents will have three ways they can vote for the renewal — as part of the Republican Party, the Democratic Party or for only the millage request. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day. Whatever the choice, we encourage residents to be a part of the election process.
This is your chance to let your voice be heard.

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Rubber meets road for mobile tire firm

By Darrell Clem
Observer Staff Writer

Tire repair expert Brian Roddy has driven to Hell and back for his customers.

That's a little outside the typical 25-mile radius of Canton where Roddy drives a rigged-out cube van to replace, balance, rotate or repair tires and wheels. He can even diagnose and fix a faulty tire-pressure monitoring system sensor.

Roddy works for Mobile Tire Company, a company started last June after owner Josh Cohen created a tire shop on wheels for busy customers who need service brought to their home, workplace, school — pretty much anywhere.

"We've done a mom's tires while she was at soccer practice with her kids," Cohen said.

Mobile Tire has taken off faster than a car burning rubber. Roddy works full time, while Cohen — who has another job with a local freight company — markets the business.

Roddy, 29, and Cohen, 38, are proud of their mobile tire shop, tucked in a 14- by 8-foot area equipped with a generator that powers a high-speed tire balancer and a compressor for the tire changer.

"This is my second home," Roddy said.

He had worked for tire companies for a decade before Cohen hired him for Mobile Tire. As for Cohen, his new business seemed a perfect venture.

"I've always loved tin-



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brian Roddy will drive his truck to your car and install new tires.

kering with cars," Cohen said. "I've always been a car guy."

Cohen also has marketed his Belleville-based business by forging ties with chambers of commerce in Canton, Plymouth, Ann Arbor and Belleville.

Customers can choose a wide array of tire services, though a roadside flat isn't among them. Clients also can select a new set of tires from more than 20 brands, listed on the company's website at www.mobiletirecompany.com.

"We'll beat anyone's price," Cohen said. "Our tire machine has no metal — it's rubber and urethane — so if you have a nice set of wheels, you don't have to worry about us damaging it."

Mobile Tire's work comes with a warranty, and Roddy even performs work such as switching out winter and summer tires.

Cohen's wife, Karen, helps with Mobile Tire's paperwork, and Roddy has no competition as the company's only full-time repair guy.

"Brian's our star

employee," Cohen said with a smile.

Cohen estimated Mobile Tire has had nearly 300 customers, including vehicle fleets for landscaping, construction and snow-plowing companies. Already, the company is branching out to replace windshield wiper blades.

For a little fun on Facebook.com/mobiletirecompany, Cohen said if the company gets 229 "likes" by Feb. 29, one winner will get a \$229 prepaid Visa gift card.

Standing outside his cube van, Cohen admits there are differences between his mobile business and a regular tire shop.

"We provide the same service," he said, "without the bad coffee, uncomfortable chairs, three-year-old magazines and TV soap operas."

For more information, call (734) 506-8473 or send an e-mail to sales@mobiletirecompany.com.

dclm@hometownlife.com
(313) 222-2238

Reverse mortgage can help cash flow

By Rick Bloom
Guest Columnist

Q: Dear Rick: I am a General Motors retiree. I've been retired for about 12 years. Between my pension and Social Security, it covers all my living expenses. In addition, when I pass away, my wife will continue to receive my pension. Friends told me that General Motors made an announcement that they will be ending pensions. Is that true? If it is and they do stop my pension, I will be short of income. I do not have much money in savings or investments, but my house is paid off and is worth \$200,000-\$300,000. If they take my pension away, probably my best alternative is to use my home equity loan to cover my expenses. I have a home equity line of credit, but I have never used it. Any suggestions would be appreciated.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

tioned that you have a home equity line of credit.

If your need for additional income is minor, then a home equity loan may be something to consider. However, keep in mind that the interest rate on home equity loans is generally adjustable, which means that when interest rates rise, which they will in a couple of years, then your cost to borrow will be substantially higher. Generally, if someone needs income on an ongoing basis, a home equity line of credit is not something I recommend. In those situations, one thing to consider would be a reverse mortgage.

Access equity

A reverse mortgage allows you to access the equity in your home. When you obtain a reverse mortgage, unlike a home equity loan or a traditional mortgage, there are no monthly payments. The loan is not due until either the house is sold or you pass away. That is the beauty of a reverse mortgage. You do not have to make payments during your lifetime.

When you do a reverse mortgage, you either get a lump sum payment or a line of credit. Either way, you can access that money and use it on an as-needed basis; at the same time, you do not have to make any payments.

The loan is not due until the house is sold or upon death. At that point in time, the proceeds from the sale are used to pay off the home equity loan. If for some reason the proceeds from

the sale do not pay off the mortgage, it is the mortgage company's loss. The risk that the proceeds would not cover the mortgage is solely borne by the mortgage company.

Not for everyone

While a reverse mortgage is a great tool that seniors can use, they are not for everyone, nor should they be used to make risky investments. A reverse mortgage is a great tool to cover additional living expenses or even to pay off an existing mortgage. In the past, I've also recommended reverse mortgages so grandparents can help their grandchildren with a college education.

Even though reverse mortgages are heavily regulated, whenever you're dealing with something regarding your house, it is important to deal with reputable companies. One company that I recommend is 1st Financial Reverse Mortgages (Michael Gruley), 1-800-720-7003; www.firstloans.net.

Don't rush into a reverse mortgage, do your homework. However, for seniors who are in need of extra income or who want to pay off an existing outstanding mortgage, it can be a great tool to increase the quality of life and, after all, isn't that what it's all about?

Good luck!

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [moneymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:money matters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit his website at www.bloomassetmanagement.com.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Democratic Club

The Westland Democratic Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the Dorsey Community Center.

32715 Dorsey, at Venoy, Westland. Refreshments will be served. For information, call president Nan Melke at (734) 674-7327.

Constituent hours

The staff of U.S. Representative Thaddeus McCotter, Michigan's 11th Congressional District, is holding office hours in several locations. This time is set aside so that the citizens served by the representative have the opportunity to speak with a staff member for assistance regarding any federal issue that they might have. This is not a political venue and no discussions of a political nature will be expected.

Office hours for Thursday, March 1, are 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Summit Senior Center. The Tuesday, March 6, office hours are 9-10 a.m. at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Northville Senior Center, noon-1 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library, 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the Maplewood Center in Garden City and 3-4 p.m. at the Westland senior Friendship Center.

The congressman has two offices in Livonia and Milford the district to serve constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-0314 and the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

Crafts Seminar

The Westland Friendship Center will hold a candle making crafts seminar at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 29, at the center, 1119 Newburgh Road, south of Ford. All supplies are provided for just \$15 and participants can take home

scented jar candles.

For more information, call (734) 722-7628.

Take a walk

Join Westland Mayor William Wild and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano at the 16th annual Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency Walk for Warmth 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 3, at the Westland Shopping Center, Wayne and Warren roads.

Low income families spend approximately 40 percent of their monthly household income on utilities. Step up to help alleviate the struggles of your neighbors. Register to come out and walk, become a Warm-A-Heart campaign partner or make a donation online at www.waynemetro.org.

For more information, call (734) 246-2280.

Olympic challenge

Bring your youngsters and have a great time cheering them on to victory as they "compete" in games especially designed for them at the annual Nursery School Olympics 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 3, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland. "Events" include the Big Wheel Grande Prix, the Marshmallow Shot Putt and Obstacle Course. Every child will receive a certificate of participation.

The Olympics is for ages 18 months to five years. Pre-registration encouraged, but not required. The course takes about 30-45 minutes so children can register right up to 11:30 a.m.

The event is free of charge, with all admissions being sponsored by the Wayne Masons 112. Also supporting the event at the Westland Parks and Recreation Department, Westland Civitan Club, Dads' Athletic Club of

Westland, Westland Christian Union and Westland Jaycees.

For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

Chocolate Ball

Tickets are now on sale for the eighth annual C.L.A.S.S. Chocolate Fantasy Ball which will be held Saturday, March 10, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland.

Enjoy a night of fun, dancing and LOTS of chocolate, all while gathering for a great cause. The C.L.A.S.S. Award will be presented to an individual followed by the unveiling of the Chocolate Extravaganza for all guests to enjoy. The event supports the Barbara Douglas Scholarship Program and celebrates the potential of all women as valued members and leaders of the community.

Tickets are \$25 each (will call is available). Contact Meghan by e-mail at mgiersdorf@mpgcenterprises.com or call (248) 255-8241.

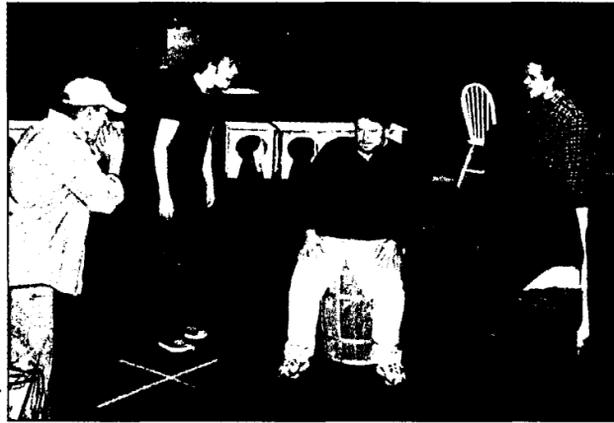
Red Wings raffle

How would you like a suite for 10, including beer, pop and food, and a chance to watch the Detroit Red Wings take on the Nashville Predators at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 30?

You could have it if you buy a \$10 raffle ticket that currently being sold by the Westland Rotary members to benefit the organization's scholarship fund and other charities.

Tickets are available at the Westland Chamber of Commerce Office, 36900 Ford Road, west of Wayne Road, or any Rotary members. The drawing will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 22, at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy Road, Westland.

For more information, call Mary McGaw at (734) 748-8515.



Barefoot Productions presents *Rimers of Eldritch*, by Pulitzer-Prize-Winning playwright Lanford Wilson, to be staged March 2-3 and March 9-10 at 8 p.m., with additional performances March 4 and March 11 at 2 p.m.

Barefoot stages award-winning play

Plymouth's Barefoot Productions will present the award winning play, *Rimers of Eldritch*, by Pulitzer-Prize-Winning playwright Lanford Wilson, to be staged March 2-3 and March 9-10 at 8 p.m., with additional performances March 4 and March 11 at 2 p.m.

Set in the dried up mining town of Eldritch, somewhere in the mid-west, *Rimers* is the story of a community torn apart by scandal when a reclusive hermit is murdered by a townswoman who believed she was preventing a crime.

Throughout the murder trial, presided over by the town preacher, Wilson examines the potential for prejudice and cruelty among the members of a small community. The citizens' false morality becomes blatantly evident as the trial shines a light on the desperation and intolerance of a small town in Bible-Belt America.

Rimers of Eldritch is co-directed by Craig Hane, Nathan Corliss, and Ann Cahalan.

The cast includes; Betty Berryman (Canton), Lauren Berryman (Farmington Hills), Ethan McIntyre

(Livonia), Karen Curtsinger (Canton), Mike Van Dusen (Ann Arbor), Christine Doulette (Plymouth), Beth Duey (Northville), Collette Cullen (Dearborn), Sean Randolph (Canton), David Fedewa (Plymouth), Laena Bradley (Livonia), Christine Steves (Woodhaven), Matthew Williams (Canton), Eric Bloch (Ann Arbor), Jamie Arindaeng (Wolverine Lake), Denene Pollock (Ypsilanti) and Eric Corliss (Westland).

Barefoot Productions is located at 240 North Main Street in Plymouth. Call (734) 560-1493 for tickets.

New Hope offers suicide support

Staffers at Northville's New Hope Center for Grief Support have noticed an increasing number of calls in the last year from people who have lost a loved one to suicide.

That's why Cathy Clough, the Plymouth woman who runs the center, decided to start an ongoing support group aimed at helping those folks get through the grief.

"All loss is difficult to deal with, but when a death occurs due to a suicide, the survivors often have much more to deal with such as guilt feelings, thinking they should have

been able to see it coming," Clough said. "It's a growing problem particularly among teens. Bullying has recently become a huge issue for teens and has caused some to consider or complete the process of suicide."

In adults, Clough said, the state of the economy has played a role in suicide deaths. People are faced with losing their homes, their families, etc. and sometimes feel that suicide is the only way out.

The twice monthly sessions will be facilitated by a professional therapist, a master's level counseling student and a woman whose husband died due to

suicide. Both of the therapists have also experienced the loss of friends and loved ones to suicide.

Anyone who has lost a loved one to suicide is invited to attend. As with all of the New Hope workshops and groups, there is no charge.

The group meets on the second and fourth Monday night of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. at Life Church located at 7001 Haggerty in Canton. No registration is necessary for this drop-in support group.

For more information, call New Hope Center for Grief Support at (248) 348-0115 or visit at www.newhopecenter.net.

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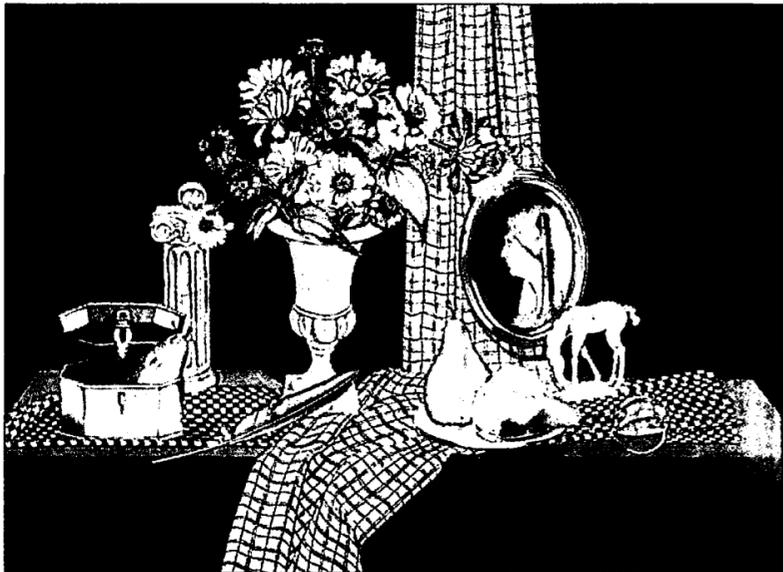
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The Village Theater at Cherry Hill presents the artwork of Ann Loveland alongside the poems of Lianne Spidel in a special exhibition at the Gallery@VT from March 1-27.

Village Theater hosts joint exhibit

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill presents the artwork of Ann Loveland alongside the poems of Lianne Spidel in a special exhibition at the Gallery@VT from March 1-27.

These talented artists first met in an art class at Redford High School in Detroit, when they were then known as Ann Brashear and Lianne Val-leau. Together these artists eventually attended the Wittenberg University in Ohio - Loveland as a Fine Arts major and Spidel as an English major. Both went on to teach and raise families, Loveland in Michigan and Spidel in Michigan and Ohio - all while continuing to share a friendship and their artistic endeavors.

In 2006 with the help of Ralph Pedersen, Loveland's husband, this talented duo self-published an Apple book, "Pairs," linking still-life paintings and poems mostly about people. In the years since, they have continued to look for connections in their finished works, as

well as to create water-colors based on poems and write poems about paintings, beginning with "Daughters of Eve," a popular watercolor based on the poem of the same title.

This special exhibit, "Pairings" will match the watercolors of Loveland's one-artist exhibit with Spidel's poems. A chapbook of the same name is set to be published in March 2012 by Dos Madres Press of Ohio, including 14 matched paintings and poems from the larger gallery exhibit.

Ann Loveland has exhibited locally, statewide and nationally. She has worked professionally at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, the Visual Arts Association of Livonia, and for both the Livonia Public Schools and Farmington Public Schools. Loveland's watercolor, "Theories," was the 2010 Best in Show Winner in the Canton Fine Arts Annual Exhibition. For more information about Ann Loveland's works, please visit www.annloveland.com.

[annloveland.com](http://www.annloveland.com).

Lianne Spidel's newly published manuscript, "What to Tell Joseme," is a memoir in poems featuring three themes: "Old Snapshots," "Everyone Gets Displaced," and "Who's to Say You're Nowhere?" Showcased on the book's front cover is a watercolor entitled "The Breakfast Table" painted by Ann Loveland. In addition to Spidel's recent manuscript, she has published over two hundred poems and the chapbook "Chrome."

This exhibition will be on display Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as well as during public performances at the theater and also by appointment. The Gallery@VT is closed on holidays.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. For more information about this or other exhibitions at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, visit www.cantonvillagetheater.org or call (734) 394-5300.

Arts group nabs King as headliner

By Brad Kadrich
Observer Staff Writer

Jill Engel spent a lot of time trying to figure out what sorts of acts would make the best draws for fundraisers she's planning for the Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities.

But seeing the reaction of a nearly full house for Steve King's Valentine's performance at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill, where Steve King and the Dittilies were the headliner for the Partnership's Feb. 10 fundraiser, settled that question.

Engel and King quickly reached agreement for King to become the featured act for the Partnership's spring fundraiser on an annual basis.

While the event raised nearly \$8,700 for the Partnership, Engel was far more impressed by the reaction of the 300-plus-person crowd, which came from all over metro Detroit to see King.

Engel said they came from Plymouth, Canton, Livonia and surrounding western Wayne County communities, but also from places such as New Boston and Royal Oak.

"It was amazing to me leaving the theater that night," said Engel, the Partnership's executive director. "We had a group of 25- to 80-somethings and every single one of them just raved about the show."

Once inside, the crowd enjoyed the rock music from the 1930s through the current era the Dittilies have become known for playing. The set list also included songs that show the depth of the band and "showy stuff" that brings horns front and center.

King said the combination of the venue and the chance to promote the arts made the pairing a natural.

"The venue is phenomenal, it's incredible ... As a performer, having a nice place to perform is

huge," King said. "Secondly, I've always been a proponent of the arts. It's so important, anything I can do to help is great."

At the Valentine's performance, people were dancing in their seats, dancing in the aisles — King even invited some of them onto the stage.

"When you have people travel 45 minutes to see him, that's amazing," Engel said. "He's a big promoter of the arts."

Engel also likes King's stage presence. In addition to singing "Happy Birthday" to Engel, who emceed the show, King made it a point to bring the Forever After Productions youngsters back out on stage, and he honored a veteran who was in the audience that night.

"He's not all about just 'Steve King and the Dittilies,'" Engel said. "He connects with the audience."

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Canton Partnership for the Arts & Humanities Executive Director Jill Engel with Steve King, he of "Steve King and the Dittilies" fame.



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McCotter: Michigan vote is 'volatile'

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, believes the presidential race is still up for grabs in the primary election for the Republicans on Tuesday and the general election in November.

McCotter, who spoke before the Livonia Chamber of Commerce at a breakfast on Friday, said the voter support of the Republican candidates is "volatile."

"It will be through the primary, and the general for both parties," he said.

McCotter, who endorsed former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney after McCotter withdrew from the race last year, said 35 percent of voters will decide on their choices in the primary 24 to 48 hours before casting their ballots, a statistic he cited from a recent Rasmussen poll.

"I take that as a healthy sign of our democracy," McCotter said. "We have to take the time to make the right choice. Voters are taking the time to make the right decision."

Supports Romney

He supports Romney because of his business background, but believes that the eventual nominee needs to win Michigan in November. "Whether it's Romney or Santorum, losing our state would be a great blow to whoever that falls upon," he said.

McCotter took questions from the audience, telling them it is part of his job to find out the issues and concerns that are on constituents' minds.

He was asked about his thoughts on the Simpson-Bowles debt commission. McCotter said



PHOTOS BY BILL BRÉSLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

McCotter talks about the Simpson-Bowles debt commission.

there was a "fundamental disconnect" between the realities of a 21st Century, that is the consumer-driven global economy of today, and continued reliance on governmental spending and programs, first started in the Great Society programs of the 1960s.

"How do you get a citizen-driven government?" McCotter said. "You will have a fundamental disconnect. How will you grow wealth and prosperity? You can't."

"To try and pump up a welfare state, it won't work just as it didn't in Greece. As long as we continue, it won't work. It hasn't worked and it won't work." McCotter spoke about restructuring government, but doing it "responsibly."

Syria a 'difficult situation'

McCotter called Syria a "difficult situation" for the United States, saying he is concerned with not only the American response to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's crackdown and killings of civilians and anti-government protesters, but with whoever may succeed him. The U.S. must be careful in dealing with Syria, McCotter said.

"It would be different if we supported the Green Revolution in Iran," McCotter said in reference to the protests and the disputed election nearly three years ago of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and that nation's citizenry's struggle for freedom and

liberty.

He compared the situation to the U.S. support years ago of other opposition leaders, such as Poland's Lech Walesa and Vaclav Havel, the first president of the Czech Republic, in riding those countries of oppressive regimes. Syria and Iran have similar self-defense treaties with China and Russia, similar to what communist Russia and fascist Germany had in the 1930s. McCotter cited the opposition of China and Russia to economic sanctions with Iran supported by the U.S. and other nations.

"They believe the more Iran messes with the United States, the better off they are," he said of Russia and China. "The danger is that Iran can create an umbrella of terror that is not in their

best interest, either."

Any decision by Iran to try to close the Straits of Hormuz would not be in their best interest, and McCotter believed that American allies "would make sure they are open."

Increased taxes a drain

On the domestic front, McCotter also reiterated his stance that increased taxes will be a drain on the American economy. "My approach is broad-based tax relief. Let the workers see the fruits of their labor and the growth of the economy,"

In the final analysis, unemployment still hovers at 8 to 9 percent, and any continued credit crunch for businesses and residents will lead to periods of stagnation and

unemployment, McCotter said. "You're not seeing economic growth; you're seeing it sputter," he added.

McCotter voted against extending the payroll tax cut extension, calling it a "Band-Aid," adding that voters will be worse off because they are paying interest on government programs, such as Social Security. "I'm not going to make you worse off," McCotter said.

He reminded attendees that they should vote in 2012 to determine what direction they wanted the country to go. "The only thing I worry about is in Washington, a lot of uncertainty will not disappear in the long term."

The fate of the country "is in the best place; it's in your hands," McCotter said.

Reaction

Livonia Chamber member Charlie Mahoney, chair of the Board of Michigan Works, said afterward that McCotter "expressed some deep thinking we all need to do."

"We has an outlook that we need to believe and look at the outlook he has. He has expressed openly the questions he has on the issues," Mahoney said.

Peter Ventura, a commercial real estate broker with Principal Associates of Livonia, said McCotter focused on the economy, which obviously impacts Ventura's occupation in real estate. "We're fortunate to have someone so thoughtful and well-informed in our government," Ventura said. "If we were to model our government on what he said, we would be a lot better off today."

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Alden Sawyer (foreground) and John Hobart listen to McCotter's responses to questions from the audience.

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CITY OF WESTLAND - ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2012-2013 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM Public Notice

The City of Westland anticipates receiving an estimated \$905,762 of CDBG funds and \$179,678 of HOME funds for the year 7/1/2012 - 6/30/2013. The City is preparing the Annual Action Plan, the City's proposed housing and community development needs and proposed uses of the 2012-13 CDBG and HOME funds.

PROPOSED USE OF CDBG AND HOME FUNDS	
CDBG funds (estimated \$905,762; reprogram \$86,649):	
• Grant Administration	- 181,152
• Commodity Food Program, Fair Housing Initiative	
• Public Service Activities:	- 227,000
• Senior Programs, Youth Assistance	
• Community Policing, Domestic Violence	
• Code Enforcement	- 175,000
• Emergency Homeowner Rehabilitation	- 90,315
• City Projects	- 20,000
• Acquisition/Demolition Blighted Structures	- 124,833
• Norwayne Infrastructure	- 98,000
• Fire Rescue Vehicle	- 76,111
HOME funds (\$179,678; program income \$75,000):	
• Grant Administration	- 17,968
• Housing Rehabilitation	- 101,756
• Homebuyer Assistance	- 51,570
• Housing Acquisition & Rehabilitation	- 83,384
Other Program Administration:	
• Section 8 Housing Voucher Program	
• Family Self-Sufficiency Program	
• Neighborhood Stabilization Program	
• Referrals for low income, homeless and special needs persons for shelter, foreclosure prevention and other services	

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - 2012-2013 Action Plan
Public Hearings: March 20, 2012, 5:30 p.m., Westland Housing Commission; April 16, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Westland City Council. The proposed 2012 Annual Action Plan is available for review at the Housing and Community Development Dept during normal business hours. Submit written comments to Housing and Community Development Dept, 32715 Dorsey Road, Westland until April 12, 2012.

Joanne Campbell, Director
William R. Wild, Mayor, City of Westland

Publish: February 26, 2012

Scottish society hosts Tartan Day

The schedule is set and tickets are now available for Michigan's "official" and original statewide Tartan Day Ceilidh (pronounced Kay-Lee) at Monaghan's Knights of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Road, in Livonia. The event is hosted by the Scottish American Society of Michigan 6:30-11 p.m. Saturday, March 31. The event will feature:

- The Alma College Pipe Band
- Detroit Caledonian Pipe Band
- Raggle Taggle Band
- Highland Dancers
- Scottish Country Dance Demonstration
- Full Meal With Two Meats

Tickets are only \$25 for adults and \$15 for kids under 10. Doors open at 6 p.m., and no reserved



The statewide Tartan Day Ceilidh (pronounced Kay-Lee) is set for Monaghan's Knights of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Road, in Livonia from 6:30-11 p.m. Saturday, March 31.

seating is available. For tickets and more info go to www.scotsofmichigan.com.

This is Michigan's "official" Tartan Day Ceilidh as decreed by the

Governor's office in 2010 and funds raised will go to provide a fine arts

scholarship for a student at Alma College.

Tartan Day commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320, which asserted Scotland's sovereignty over English territorial claims, and which, was an influence on the American Declaration of Independence. In 1998 National Tartan Day was officially recognized on a permanent basis when the U.S. Senate passed Senate Resolution 155 recognizing April 6th as National Tartan Day. This was followed by companion bill House Resolution 41 which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on March 9, 2005.

"People join us from all over the state to celebrate Tartan Day with us," said the group's

founder and event organizer, Franklin Dohanyos. "The hall only holds 300 and we expect to fill it to the rafters. One of our Society's primary missions is to help others and be active in the community. To that end, \$500 raised from this event will go to benefit the newly created fine arts scholarship named in our honor. The Scots have a long, proud history in Michigan and we are carrying on that tradition."

The group is a registered 501(c)(7) and holds monthly meetings at The Commonwealth Club of Michigan located at 30088 Dequindre in Warren. The group has already raised money for several charitable organizations and individuals with needs.

Stoneflies thrive in some parts of Rouge River

On Saturday, Jan. 28, more than 70 volunteers ventured out to the Rouge River to search for tiny insect larvae not much bigger than a grain of rice.

Winter stoneflies hatch from streams in winter and are sensitive to pollution, making them good indicators of water quality. Friends of the Rouge has been holding a Stonefly Search since 2002. Despite the difficulty in finding these small creatures and the often cold weather, this program remains popular year after year.

Searchers were happy to find stonefly larvae at 14 of 32 sites sampled, making this an aver-

age year. Most of the stoneflies were found in the Johnson Creek, the Rouge's only coldwater tributary that flows through Salem Township, Plymouth and Northville. The rest were found in the Lower branch, including two tributaries (Fellows and Fowler Creeks). None were found in the Upper Branch, Main Branch or the Middle Branch downstream of Johnson Creek.

There were two unusual findings this year. For the first time, searchers found adult stoneflies during the hunt. In past years, adults have only been seen in March. Warm-

er water temperatures can speed up the transformation process from larvae to adult. A type of stonefly called the Broadback was found for the first time in the Johnson Creek. Broadbacks have only been documented once before and this was in the Main branch of the Rouge River at Eight Mile Road. Most stoneflies

found are Slender Winter or Perlodids.

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 and conducted in partnership with Wayne County Department of Public Service

and the Alliance of Rouge Communities. A report on the results from the Winter Stonefly Search is available at <http://therouge.org/index.php?id=687847>.

Friends of the Rouge is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River ecosystem through educa-

tion, citizen involvement and other collaborative efforts, for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the people, plants, and animals of the watershed. The Rouge River covers 466 square miles in three counties and 42 communities in the metropolitan Detroit area. Additional information at www.therouge.org

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Boys will be ... Wives?

Don't miss the hilarity

By Tony Targan
Correspondent

In the comedic caper *Whose Wives Are They, Anyway?* — playing through Saturday March 3 at the Farmington Players Barn Theater — two executives go off for a golf weekend without their wives, only to bump into their new female boss, who confides that, “No one like that will ever work for me.”

So, the guys have to produce “wives” on short notice. David McGachen, played by John Boufford of Northville, somehow manages to convince John Baker, played by Geoff Wehner of Bloomfield Hills, to portray his wife, and things soon spiral out of control from there, with hilarious results.

Role reversal

The concept of boys playing girls is certainly nothing new in the theater or movies. In Shakespeare’s time, the “women” were usually pre-adolescent boys. In the early days of movies, Charlie Chaplin and Stan Laurel occasionally dressed as women in their films.

The number of modern movies in which cross-dressing is a central thematic element is too long to list here, but some of my personal favorites are: Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon in *Some Like It Hot* (1959), Dustin Hoffman in *Tootsie* (1982), and Robin Williams in *Mrs. Doubtfire* (1993).

So, what’s so funny about a man trying to pass as a woman? Well, explaining a “sight gag” won’t do it justice. You just have to see it to get it. But it’s funny when a guy tries to do something

feminine — picture Geoff as “Karly McGachen” trying to sit like a lady — but he can’t quite pull it off.

Who am I?

Geoff explained the physical and mental challenges of alternating genders during the show. He says, “The biggest challenge, mentally, was remembering who I was and why? Not to mention, constantly asking myself the question, ‘Where’s the wig?! Am I John? Am I Karly? Am I half John and half Karly? Which half is which? Am I in the dress and no make-up, or make-up and slacks, or just lipstick, bra and boxers?’”

“It was also very important for me to know why each transition was occurring so that I knew how to act appropriately for whatever I happened to be wearing. On the other hand, the physicality of this role comes easily. It is a necessity for the part, but I love doing physical comedy, so that hasn’t been nearly as challenging as remembering if I’m a man or a woman at any given moment.”

It’s in the timing

In *Whose Wives*, the jokes and gags come non-stop in this fast-paced American farce. Our show’s eight actors are constantly flying in and out of the set’s eight entrances so fast that your head may spin trying to follow all the action. My character, Wilson, a cantankerous old handyman, has 25 entrances alone.

The two beds, couch and chair get plenty of “action,” too, with actors falling all over the furniture and on top of one another in this



JIM KELLY

Hilarious action played out by (from left) John Boufford of Northville Township and Geoff Wehner of Bloomfield Hills, under the leadership of director Dennis Broadhead of Royal Oak.



TIM TIMMER

Pulling off a trick is Geoff Wehner of Bloomfield Hills, with Alisha Gellin of West Bloomfield underneath the sweater blanket, while John Boufford of Northville Township stands by, skeptical of what he is seeing.

comedy of errors.

Director Dennis Broadhead of Royal Oak orchestrates the action and says that in “a show like this, the biggest challenge is the split-second timing that

is required in many of the scenes.”

Dennis has previously directed both John and Geoff and had this to say about his leading men: “The most consistent direc-

tion I gave the guys was not to go ‘over the top’ with the antics and ‘takes.’ The thrust of the show is to portray two normal guys who are thrown into an unusual situation.

“John and Geoff have worked with each other before, so I knew that they were like two puzzle pieces that just fit together perfectly! All I did as a director was just point them both in the right direction and turn them loose!”

Similarly, playwright Michael Parker explained his “philosophy of farce” to me as follows: “If you put unreal characters in unreal situations, the result is trite and silly. The characters must therefore remain very real and the actors must never be allowed to go over the top. The minute anyone starts trying to be funny, the play is dead in the water. So no comedians, just good actors.”

To see John, Geoff and the other good actors that make up the fine cast of *Whose Wives Are They, Anyway?* contact the Farmington Players Barn Theater for tickets at www.farmingtonplayers.org or call the box office at (248) 553-2955. Find us on Facebook under “Farmington Players.”

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Meadowbrook Commons resident turns 100

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Spend 15 minutes with Ted Ross and it's hard to believe he turned 100 years old on Wednesday.

The Meadowbrook Commons resident keeps up his own apartment, walks around on his own — except for long distances when he uses a walker — works on jigsaw puzzles, cooks his own meals, exercises, takes just one prescription and reads books daily.

He said he "feels great" every day and thanks the Lord for being with him over the years.

"I sure don't feel 100. They tell me I'm 100, but they have to tell me that because I cannot count that high," he joked.

But don't let him fool you, Ross can count that



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Meadowbrook Commons resident Ted Ross celebrated his 100th birthday on Feb. 22. Here, Ross, born in 1912, takes a look at the giant birthday card signed by his friends at the senior center during his party on Monday.

high, just like he can do many things most people his age and even younger

cannot. He said he doesn't have any tricks that have

allowed him to live a long and healthy life, other than being blessed with good genes, steering clear of smoking and drinking, avoiding despair and working out with his doctor.

"Getting in despair is the worst thing you can do because it creates other problems," he said.

The puzzles and reading keep his mind sharp, and his only struggles are that he gets tired quicker and his hearing isn't as good.

Mariellen Rybicki, one of his daughters, said her dad amazes her every day. The family held a party for Ross at the Novi Public Library on Saturday, and his friends at Meadowbrook Commons celebrated the occasion on Monday.

"It's wonderful for me,"

Rybicki said of still being able to see her dad. "It's something most people don't happen to have."

Ross worked for Atomic Power Development Associates for over 20 years, and was one of engineers who helped design the cooling system for the first nuclear reactor Fermi-1. He has been retired for nearly 40 years, spending many of those years with his wife of 60 years, Ellenore.

He took care of her the last year of her life before she died in May 2001.

The Novi Public Library is one of his favorite places to go, as he visits there every three weeks to load up on books. The family even made a donation to the library on Saturday to purchase more large print books.

As far as the future,

HISTORICAL EVENTS IN 1912

- Titanic sinks after hitting an iceberg
- Navin Field opens at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull
- Golf greats Ben Hogan, Sam Snead and Byron Nelson were born
- Avg. price of eggs: 40 cents
- Avg. price of bread 6 cents
- Model T cost between \$690-\$900 for a base model
- Girl Guides (Girl Scouts) were formed

Ross doesn't plan on changing much.

"When I got into my 90s, I just lived each day at a time. I never really thought about 100," he said.

nmueller@gannett.com
(248) 437-2011, ext. 255

County commissioners celebrate civil rights hero

By Nathan Mueller
Staff Writer

Sally Liuzzo-Prado clutched the proclamation plaque in her hands and couldn't take her eyes off it.

Her mother's name "Viola Liuzzo" stretched across the top in all capital letters and memories of her filled Liuzzo-Prado's head.

The proclamation, presented to her by Oakland County Commissioners Kathy Crawford and Mattie Hatchett on Monday, was in honor of her mother who was killed on March 25, 1965, by Ku Klux Klan members after she was seen driving a black man to his home down Highway 80 in Alabama.

Liuzzo, the only white woman honored at the Montgomery Civil Rights

Memorial, left her husband and five children in Michigan to drive by herself to Alabama to participate in the Selma-to-Montgomery marches to take a stand against segregation just days prior. Liuzzo-Prado, who was 6 years old when her mom was killed, said her mom knew about the dangers of her trip, but her passion for the cause was too strong.

"I think it was her destiny," she said. "She was put here for a reason."

The honor from the Oakland County Board of Commissioners also was extra special for the Novi resident because it is the first award she has received since her home burned down in 1995 and everything was lost.

"This is all I have left," she said. "I am so excited to have this."



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Oakland County Commissioners Mattie Hatchett, left, and Kathy Crawford, right, bring a proclamation to the home of Novi resident Sally Liuzzo-Prado honoring Prado's mother Viola Liuzzo's civil rights efforts.

Hatchett said she was proud to present the proclamation because so many people in today's world don't know about the sacrifices people like Liuzzo

made.

Remembering

"What makes this moment so important is we have some generations

of people who don't know what folks did for them to enjoy some of the privileges they have because of these people," she said.

Crawford, who was 23 and living in Novi at the time of Liuzzo's death, said her name has remained in her head for the last 47 years.

She said she still remembers feeling guilty because her family was from the south and she did not want everyone thinking that her family was hateful because that is where the Ku Klux Klan originated.

"Her actions changed a lot of thinking," she said.

A film titled "Home of the Brave" was released in 2004 at the Sundance Film Festival documenting Liuzzo's life, and according to Liuzzo-Prado, brought to light the smear campaign against

her mother.

The film talks about the four men who were arrested in Liuzzo's death, including FBI informant Gary Rowe, and the attack that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover began on Liuzzo's character, thus protecting Rowe.

Rowe was eventually granted immunity despite testimony from two of the other men arrested that he shot her, a story the family also believes.

And Liuzzo's story is one her family hopes to carry on.

Liuzzo-Prado was planning on going to Louisiana this week to celebrate the opening of a play titled "The Marker: Reflections of Viola Gregg Liuzzo," and hopes to continue to share her mom's story at schools and other places in the metro Detroit area.

FREE SEMINAR on Estate Planning and Elder Law (Asset Protection and Long Term Care Planning)

Learn About Estate Planning:

- Probate Avoidance & Eliminating Unnecessary Court Fees
- Wills
- Trusts (Revocable Living Trusts)
- Medical Powers of Attorney
- Financial Powers of Attorney
- Lowering Estate Taxes

Learn About Elder Law (Asset Protection & Long Term Care Planning):

- Probate Avoidance
- Protecting Your Assets
- Getting help with a \$6000-\$8000 Nursing Home Bill
- Long Term Care Planning
- Asset Protection & Long Term Care Trusts
- Medicaid Compliant Financial Powers of Attorney
- Medical Powers of Attorney

Date and Time:

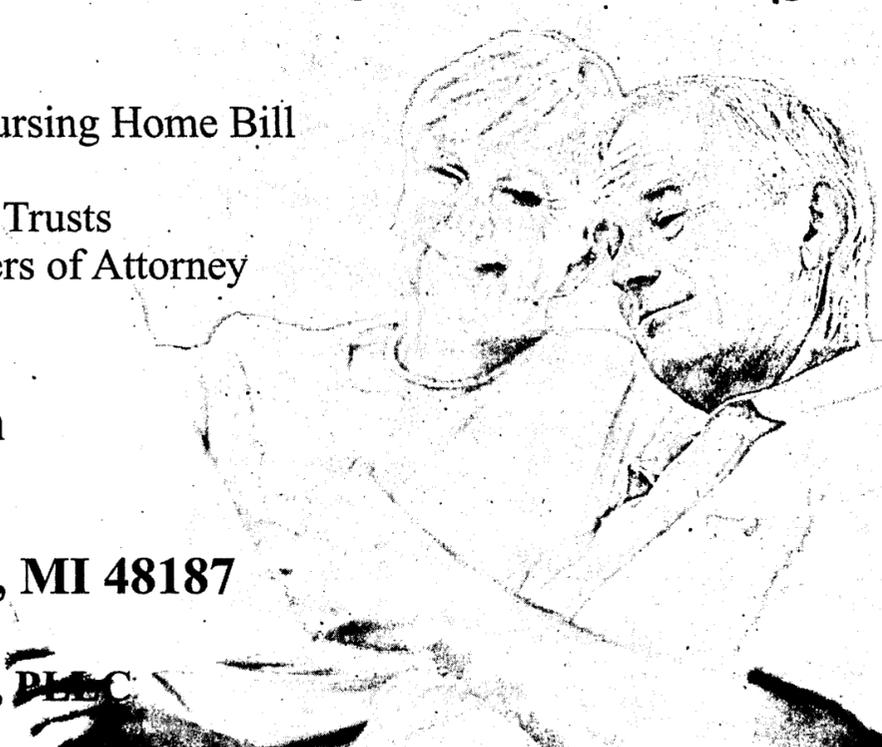
Sunday, March 4th at 3:30pm

Location:

Comfort Suites Hotel
5730 Haggerty Road, Canton, MI 48187

*Refreshments will be served.

The Law Offices of Jason Alguram, PLLC
Presented by Elder Law Attorney



Seating is limited, Reserve yours now!

Call 248-344-0401

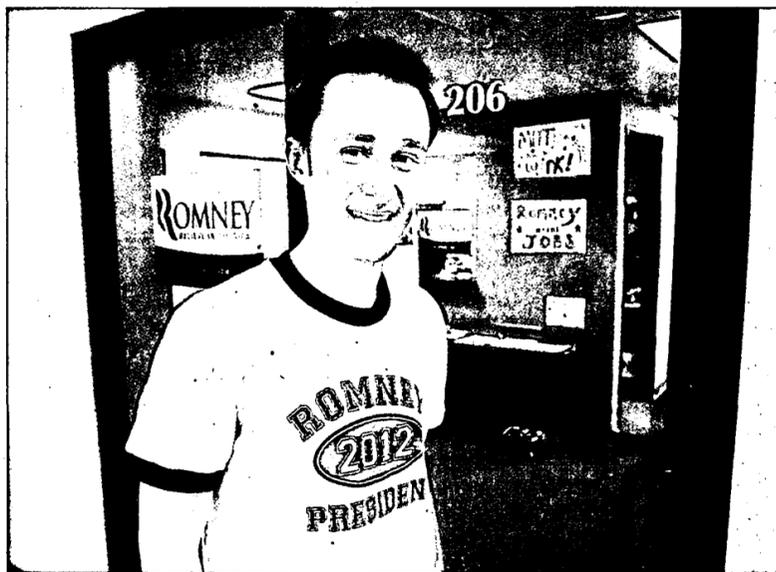
Romney opens campaign headquarters in Livonia

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

The campaign of Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney has opened its Michigan campaign headquarters in Livonia.

Located at 33300 Five Mile, the headquarters was opened during an open house Saturday as the campaign continues to step up its work in Michigan and recruit campaign volunteers in the final days before Tuesday's presidential primary, and, supporters hope, all the way until the November election.

"We just think it was a great place to set up the campaign office," said Amanda Henneberg, regional press secretary for the Romney campaign. "A lot of people who support the candidate live in the area, and it's close to where



Ross Abraham, of Northville, is a volunteer at the new Romney headquarters in Livonia.

his staffers are in Michigan. We've already had a bunch of volunteers who have come in and helped

with signs and making phone calls." Henneberg said the decision to open the head-

quarters was made prior to Romney's speech last week before the Livonia and Farmington cham-

bers of commerce. "We just felt it was a great location because of the proximity to the freeways, and all the neighboring towns. It's easy to get to them."

State Rep. John Walsh, a Romney supporter, said the headquarters puts Romney in the center of America and the south-eastern Michigan area. "This is kind of middle America," Walsh said. "Livonia voters generally are conservative, but reasonable ones who want to hear the issues and not just emotion."

"His headquarters is close to Washtenaw and Macomb counties," Walsh said, allowing for easier accessibility for those campaign workers to reach communities there.

Henneberg said 50 volunteers assisted the campaign by making phone calls and helping make signs on Saturday. Mem-

bers of the public who want information on Romney or are interested in volunteering can visit the office as the campaign continues with its grassroots efforts, Henneberg said. Romney was planning more stops this week in between traveling to Arizona for Wednesday's presidential debate.

"The Romneys always look forward to being in Michigan and make the case in the final days up to the primary that he's the best to win the presidential election in November," Henneberg said. "With his track record as a businessman, governor and the Olympics, he'll make the case that he is the best to move the economy forward."

kabramcz@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2591 | Twitter: @KenAbramcz



Republican presidential hopeful and former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum writes a few autographs during the Feb. 16 Lincoln Day Dinner at Novi's Suburban Collection Showplace.

Santorum to visit Monday

For the second time in 11 days, a Republican presidential candidate will talk directly to a joint gathering of the Livonia and Greater Farmington Area chambers of commerce.

Former Sen. Rick Santorum will speak Monday at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia. The program will run from 8:30-10 a.m. The breakfast program will conclude with Santorum answering audience questions.

Santorum's rival, former Gov. Mitt Romney, spoke to members from both chambers Feb. 16 in Farmington Hills.

"This is quite an honor for our chambers, and quite an opportunity for our members, to have both leading Republican presidential candidates visit our members ahead of Tuesday's primary election," said Livonia Chamber President Dan West. "Again, this is an informational chamber program and not a campaign event."

Together, the Livonia and Greater Farmington Area chambers serve nearly 1,400 members and represent Michigan's

ninth and 10th largest cities. The Santorum event will be the fourth high-profile program presented in the chambers over the past year.

"We are driven to respond to our chamber members who want information from policy makers," said Mary Engelman, executive director of the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce. "Our chambers have a great partnership and that enables us to bring these types of programs to our members."

West and Engelman added both chambers are nonpartisan organizations that promote their business communities. They said they plan to send an invitation to the White House welcoming President Barack Obama to speak at a joint luncheon for the two chambers.

Tom Stroup, chair of the 11th Congressional District Republicans, was asked for his thoughts on Livonia taking center stage with the Romney appearance at the chamber last week, the Romney headquarters opening in Livonia and Santorum's appearance on

Monday.

"I love it," Stroup said. "I love the attention. Livonia is one of the largest communities in the district, it has a vibrant business community and a vibrant Chamber of Commerce."

Stroup called Livonia a Republican community, naming Mayor Jack Kirksey and state Rep. John Walsh as prominent elected officials. "The (presidential) candidates are realizing that Livonia has a central geographic location," Stroup said. The committee itself has not endorsed a candidate, Stroup said, but members are encouraged to endorse if they strongly support someone. Stroup has endorsed Romney.

Seats for the Santorum event will be \$25 for chamber members and \$40 for nonmembers. Corporate tables of 10 will cost \$250 for members and \$400 for nonmembers. Proceeds from the event benefit the chambers.

The Livonia Chamber can be reached by calling (734) 427-2122 or sending an e-mail to Laura Sweeney at Sweeney@livonia.org.

Attention Boys, Girls, Teachers and Parents!



Kids ages 7 - 13 are invited to participate in monthly contests!

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- See your photo in the paper!
- Receive a letter from Scoop!
- Get published in the newspaper!

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on the following date and time to examine the assessment roll for the current year:

Tuesday March 6, 2012 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Review will meet, in session on the following days and times to hear appeals on the assessment roll:

NOTE: Meetings located in THE GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM with late night appointments on Tuesday & Wednesday

Monday	March 12, 2012	9:00am - 5:00pm
Tuesday	March 13, 2012	1:00pm - 9:00pm
Wednesday	March 14, 2012	1:00pm - 9:00pm
Thursday	March 15, 2012	9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday	March 16, 2012	9:00am - 5:00pm

APPEALS BY APPOINTMENT or WRITE-IN. Write-ins must be received by Monday, March 12, 2012.

Tentative ratios for the 2012 tax year are:

CLASS	PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RATIO	PROJECTED EQUALIZATION FACTOR
Commercial	52.97%	0.9439
Industrial	53.31%	0.9379
Residential	58.64%	0.8527
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Taxes are paid on TAXABLE VALUE, which is the lesser of the calculated Assessed and Capped value, unless there is a property transfer. The capped value is based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index), which is 2.7% for 2012.

The 2012 Assessment Roll will be open for inspection March 7, 2012 and March 8, 2012 in the assessment office from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ALLYSON BETTIS
TEASURER-CLERK

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

Upcoming Events

SHORT SALE WORKSHOP

Time/Date: 6:30-8: p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28
Location: Livonia Public Library 32777 Five Mile at Farmington Road, Livonia
Details: Come with your questions and learn what a short sale is and about the different alternatives available. Panel will consist of a mortgage expert, lawyer, financial advisor, CPA and Real Estate broker. Call by Feb. 24 to reserve a spot.
Contact: Call Sheila Roma at (248) 760-6785 or Debbi McLaughlin at (248) 561-0077.

TALK WORKSHOP

Time/Date: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15
Location: Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh Westland
Details: Talk Early and Talk Often is a nationally recognized parent workshop aimed at helping parents talk with their child about abstinence and sexuality. The free workshop helps parents recognize and use opportunities to open the door for conversation, listen and respond with greater confidence and skill and to feel comfortable seeking outside sources of information. The evening includes dinner and child care for potty trained kids ages 4 and up will be provided.
Contact: Call Brianna Gorka at (734) 287-2076, Ext. 6, or by e-mail at gorkab@oakwood.org

GARDEN TALK

Time/Date: 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24
Location: Wild Birds Unlimited, 41816 Ford Road, Canton
Details: Brenda Dziedzic will be giving a talk, "Attract Butterflies to Your Garden" with a book signing of "Learn About Butterflies in the Garden" to follow.
For more information, call (734) 983-9130.

FLEA MARKET

Time/Date: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 19
Location: Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, Cherry Hill between Wayne Road and Newburgh, Westland
Details: Do you have things you're looking to clear out of your house? Do you have craft items you would like to sell? Do you have antiques you don't want anymore? Do you have a business such as Tupperware, Party Lite or Creative Memories that you would like to promote? This is a great opportunity to cleanup, clear out, and promote your small business. It's an outdoor event, rain or shine. Cost is \$20, non-refundable, to secure you a parking space. Food concessions will be available.
Contact: Call Sharon Garcia to sign up at cackles55@gmail.com or (734) 637-2662.

gmail.com or (734) 637-2662.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

Time/Date: 7 p.m. second Wednesday of the month
Location: Lower level Classroom 2 of the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building at Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City
Details: Sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, family members, friends and caregivers of persons afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders are invited to join the free monthly support group. The group will provide mutual aid, support and the opportunity to share problems and concerns.
Contact: Call (734) 58-4330 for more information.

MOM2MOM SALE

Time/Date: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., March 10
Location: Hillside Elementary School, 36801 W. 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills
Details: \$2 early admission, \$1 general admission. About 100 tables of gently used baby, maternity and children's clothing, toys, equipment and furniture. A great opportunity to get items you need and save money off of retail prices. Proceeds of the sale will benefit Hillside Elementary and its students. Now accepting resale table registrations.
Contact: E-mail hillside-mom2mom@gmail.com

TAILWAGGERS

Time/Date: 1-5 p.m. Saturday, March 31
Location: UAW Local 182, 35603 Plymouth Road, Livonia
Details: Space is still available for participants that would like to put their chili to the test in Tailwaggers popular Chili, Hoops and Hounds event. Space is still available. Registration is \$30 and includes a Chili, Hoops and Hounds apron. Three prizes will be awarded to those who have the Best Tasting Chili, Best Table Decoration and a People's Choice Award. Pre-registration is required by March 15. The public is welcome to this family friendly event. An All-You-Can-Eat wrist band is \$15 or taste samples for only \$1.
Contact: Sign up today by e-mail at tallwaggers.1990@yahoo.com.

For Your Health

W-W NAMI

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month
Location: St. Johns Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: The Wayne-Westland affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) provides support and information for individuals and families dealing with mental illness.

SAFE PLACE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Thursdays
Location: Fellowship Hall at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, Garden City
Details: A SAFE PLACE is based on the Alcoholics for Christ program.
Contact: Russ Weathers at (734) 422-1995

ADULT DAY SERVICES

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

Location: 570 S Main St., Plymouth MI
Detail: A structured weekday alternative for adults in need of supervision. Program provides activities and discussions to meet social, recreational and personal needs unique to dependent individuals
Contact: Laurie Krause at laurie.lifecareads@gmail.com and (734) 956-2600

METRO FIRBEOMYAL-GIA

Time/Date: 1-3 p.m. Second and fourth Thursday of each month
Location: Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman, just west of Ford in Garden City
Details: The first meeting has a speaker, the second meeting is open to discuss living with our fibromyalgia.
Contact: Lucy at (734) 462-1768, www.MetroFibroGroup.com

MENOPAUSE & MORE

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month
Location: Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia
Details: A support group for women, no registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge.
Contact: (734) 655-1100

COUNTERPOINT

Details: Counterpoint Shelter and Crisis Center offers free counseling and respite services for people ages 10-17 and their families.
Contact: (734) 563-5005

TOUGHLOVE

Time/Date: 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tuesdays
Location: Northwest Wayne Skill Center, Ann Arbor Trail between Merriman and Farmington, Livonia.
Details: Support group, newcomers welcome.
Contact: (734) 261-7880 or (248) 380-7748

LIFECARE

Time/Date: 7-9:15 p.m. Thursday
Location: 570 S. Main St., Plymouth
Details: LifeCare is a care/support/recovery groups for everyone facing life's challenges.
Contact: Lillian Easterly-Smith at info.lifecarecc@gmail.com or (734) 956-2109

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

Education

WILLOW CREEK

Location: 36660 Cherry Hill in Westland
Details: Willow Creek Cooperative Preschool offers a Parent/Tot, Young 3's, 3-year and 4-year programs.
Contact: (734) 326-0078

ST. DAMIAN

Location: 29891 Joy, Westland
Details: St. Damian Catholic School offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8.
Contact: (734) 427-1680, www.stdamian.com.

YWCA PRESCHOOL

Details: The YWCA of Western Wayne County's Education Department

offers quality preschool programs to children aged 2-5 years old at no cost to most families. There are many locations available throughout the community. Home-based programs are also available.
Contact: (313) 561-4110, Ext. 10

Organizations

FRIENDS OF ELOISE

Time/Date: 7 p.m. third Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December)
Location: Collins House in the Westland Historic Village Park, 857 N. Wayne Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill, Westland.
Contact: Jo Johnson (734) 522-3918

WESTLAND ROTARY

Time/Date: 12:15 p.m. Thursdays
Location: Joy Manor, 28999 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland
Details: Community Service programs and planning. Catered lunch; visitors welcome. Check www.westlandrotary.com for more information about meetings, programs and events.
Contact: Jeff at (734) 261-5010

FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Time/Date: 7 p.m. first Monday of the month
Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for family members and/or friends age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance and United Way.
Contact: Helen Streett at 74 629-5004. Call to confirm time and date, if coming for the first time.

CAREGIVERS - SPOUSES

Time/Date: 1 p.m. second Tuesday of the month
Location: Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main, Plymouth
Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for a spouse age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance and United Way.
Contact: Helen Streett at 74 629-5004. Call to confirm time and date, if

CAREGIVERS - WESTLAND

Time/Date: 7 p.m. the third Thursday of the month
Location: American House III, 35700 Hunter, Westland
Details: For residents of southern and western Wayne County who are caring for family members and/or friends age 60 and older, or who are over age 60 themselves. Offered by Adult Well-Being Services through The Senior Alliance and United Way.
Contact: Helen Streett at (734) 629-5004. Call to confirm time and date, if coming for the first time.

AMERICAN LEGION

Time/Date: 7 p.m. first Tuesday of the month
Location: Harris-Kehrer VFW Post, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland
Details: American Legion Westland Post 251 meets at the VFW hall the first Tuesday of each month. The post welcomes all veterans male and female who have been honorably discharged.
Contact: Bill Acton at (734) 326-2607, Ron Nickels at (734) 455-3415 or visit the website at www.post251.com or www.post251.org.



CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
March 19, 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearing at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on **Monday, March 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** regarding the proposed ordinance making the Garden City Downtown Development Authority's proposed third amendment to the DDA Development and Tax Increment Financing Plan.

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
COUNTY OF WAYNE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD A NEW SECTION 33.173(C) TO CHAPTER 33 TITLED BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS OF TITLE III: ADMINISTRATION TO AMEND THE SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND TAX INCREMENT FINANCING PLAN OF THE GARDEN CITY DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO PERMIT THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY AND THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO EXEMPT FROM CAPTURE A PORTION OF THE CITY'S MILLAGE LEVY RELATING TO RUBBISH COLLECTION PURSUANT TO MCL 125.1664(4).

THE CITY OF GARDEN CITY HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: AMENDMENT TO CITY CODE.

The Code of Ordinances of the City of Garden City is hereby amended to add a new section 33.173(C) to Chapter 33 titled Boards and Commissions of Title III: Administration to read as follows:

§33.173 APPROVAL; AMENDMENTS.

(C) Section 3 of the Tax Increment Financing Plan contained in the Second Amended and Restated Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan of the Garden City Downtown Development Authority dated November 2006 is hereby amended to read as follows:

3. Maximum Amount of Bonded Indebtedness to be Incurred.

The DDA is currently repaying bonds issued to finance the Ford Road streetscape. Those bonds are due to be retired in 2019, as reflected in Table 4. Other than the streetscape bonds, at this time the DDA has no plans to incur any bonded indebtedness to finance the improvement program. Most improvements will be implemented on a pay-as-you-go basis as tax increment revenues are transmitted to the DDA, or as may be accumulated over more than one year, and held in reserve to allocate for projects.

The DDA may obtain a loan to fund purchase of the library site, depending upon the favorability of terms, availability of other funds, and its decision on whether to purchase the site.

Taxing Jurisdiction*	Projected Captured Millage Rate (2006 Rates)*
City of Garden City	16.5218
Schoolcraft Community College	1.7967
Jail	0.9381
HCMA: Huron-Clinton Metro Authority	0.2146
WCTA	0.5980
Wayne County	6.6380
Wayne County Parks	0.2459
Total Applicable Millage	26.9531

Notes:
a. Garden City Schools, State Education Tax and Intermediate Schools are not included because the tax levies of these jurisdictions are exempt from capture.
b. Rates are per \$1,000 .00 of taxable value.

Under this TIF plan, the tax levy on the entire captured assessed valuation is planned to be utilized by the DDA. The tax increment revenues will be expended in the manner as set forth in this Plan. Estimates of the projected growth in taxable value, the revenue captured by taxing jurisdictions and the tax increment revenues to be received by the DDA are included in Tables 3 and 4.

The DDA may enter into an agreement with the City of Garden City to share a portion of the captured assessed value of the district, pursuant to MCL 125.1664(4). Commencing in fiscal year 2012 through the duration of this TIF Plan, the DDA may exempt a portion of the City of Garden City's millage levy directly proportionate to the millage captured for rubbish collection. Such exemption from capture shall be in accordance with a written agreement between the DDA and the City of Garden City pursuant to the authority of MCL 125.1664(4).

SECTION 2: REPEAL.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION 3: SEVERABILITY.

Should any section, subsection, clause, or phrase of this ordinance be declared by the courts to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.

SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance shall become effective upon publication as provided by law.

Publish: February 16 and 26, 2012

CITY OF WESTLAND
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 3 02/6/12

Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Bryant, Hammons, Johnson, Kadi, Kehrer, Reeves

26: Appr. minutes of regular meeting held 1/17/12.
- Appr. req. from WFPAC to hold carnival at 7420 N. Wayne Rd. 4/25-5/6/12.
- Appr. req. from Westland Chamber to conduct Blues, Brews, & BBQ event on 9/15-16.
- Bid for calcium chloride to Suburban Oil; amt. \$49 per gallon.
- Appr. purchase of WLND TriCaster 450; amt. \$14,995.00.
- Adopt Bud. Amendment 2012-07; General Fund \$55,000.
- Adopt Bud. Amendment 2012-08; Water/Sewer Fund \$250,000.00.
- Intro Ord. 29-W-26-20 to amend rates for municipal water, sewer & industrial waste control charges.
- Adopted Prep. Res. approving NSP acquisition of 4 properties.
27: Conf. re-appt. of K. Pare to Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for 3 yr. term to exp. 2/18/15.
28: Conf. re-appt. of J. Thor to Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for 3 yr. term to exp. 2/18/15.
30: Conf. appt. of B. Cameron to ZBA to fill unexp. term to exp. 5/16/14.
32: Conf. appt. of B. McGough to ZBA to fill unexp. term to exp. 5/12/13.
34: Conf. appt. of A. Marszalek to ZBA to fill unexp. term to exp. 5/12/13.
35: Appr. checklist: \$ 502,384.14 & Prepaid: \$ 7,868,744.79.
Mtg. adj. at 7:45 p.m.
Minutes available in the Clerk's Office.

James Godbout
Council President

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk, CMC

Publish: February 26, 2012

Romney woos tea partyers in Milford

By Aileen Wingblad
Staff Writer

With Tuesday's presidential primary casting the national spotlight on Michigan, GOP candidate Mitt Romney appealed to a core group of voters last Thursday night as featured speaker at a "tea party" rally at Bakers of Milford.

Declaring a balanced budget his highest priority, Romney vowed to make sweeping changes right away if elected President, eliminating "Obamacare" on his first day in office, cutting taxes 20 percent across-the-board, strengthening the military and ending "crony capitalism" and many Obama-era regulations which he said are hampering business and killing jobs.

Strong history

Romney harkened back to his Michigan roots with references to Harper Hospital where he was born, his school days and his family home in Palmer Park, near Woodward and Six Mile — calling Detroit an "extraordinary city." "At that time, Detroit was really the pride of the nation. This is where everybody wanted to come, to Detroit, to get a job here. The auto industry was doing extraordinarily well."

Yet over the past decade, he said, the area has been in a "one-state recession."

"How sad it is to see the City of Detroit as it is suffering now — and the whole state," he said. "And that recession, of course, has spilled out over the entire nation."

Restoring confidence in the American econ-



HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

GOP Candidate Mitt Romney vows to make sweeping changes right away if elected president.

omy is vital, he said, along with a return to the "belief in America's promise." "That promise has been broken by this president," he said.

Romney also spoke of his support for "right to work" states, which he hopes will one day become nationwide. "It's right for America," he said.

President Barack Obama's three years in office have been wrought with failure, he said. "He's out of ideas, out of excuses and in 2012 we'll make sure he is out of office."

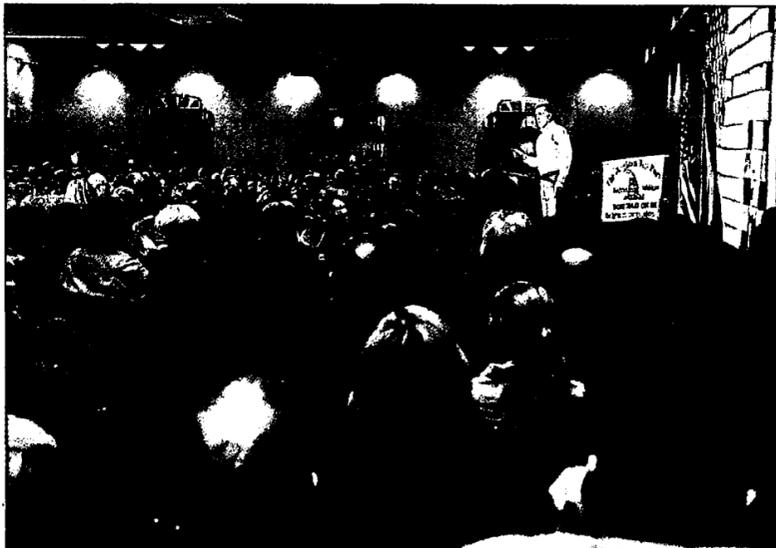
Romney drew a standing ovation after praising the "tea party" groups for their willingness "to get off the couch and make a difference for the country," and acknowledged

a shared patriotism. "We love America. We love the principles this America was founded on," he said.

Following his speech, Romney fielded pre-selected questions from the audience, reiterating his promise to slash federal spending and taxes, as well as repeal national health care.

Crowd reaction

Hosted by eight area groups, including the Huron Valley-based Tea Party Patriots of West Oakland County, Retake Our Gov, Rattle With Us and others, the invitation-only event drew a crowd of about 500 tea partyers and guests — some committed Romney supporters as well as those who said they wanted to hear first-



Some 500 tea partyers and their guests packed the banquet room at Bakers of Milford for the rally last week.

hand how the Michigan-born former Massachusetts governor planned to lead the United States toward prosperity before deciding which candidate will get their vote.

Bob Cowen of Farmington Hills said the tea partyers presented a "tough crowd."

"If he can convince those on the right side of the Republican party, he can seal the deal."

Cowen said the Romney message he heard at the event had him "95 percent" sure he'd get his vote on Tuesday. Prior to the speech, he wasn't as convinced Romney was his top candidate.

"He did very good (talking about jobs), and his ability to field questions, think on his feet — I'm about as close as it gets (to choosing Romney)," he said.

Highland Township resident Russ Tierney, a member of the Tea Party Patriots of West Oak-

land County and volunteer with Romney's campaign, dismissed suggestions from some who say he lacks the strong conservative convictions they are seeking in a candidate.

"I think he's conservative enough for the tea party (groups). I like the idea that he's a businessman and can manage finances. And he's the most skilled of any GOP candidate, business-wise — or at least he's proven he has the skill," Tierney said.

Livonia resident Michael Ludwig said though he was still undecided on his preferred GOP candidate, conservatives like himself are "looking for someone who is bold, willing to make a stand and does not back down." At times, Romney has appeared "too diplomatic," he said.

"Some people call it presidential — we call it political," he said. "At the same time, I think

Romney is extremely well-rounded, has the business experience and is very firm in his values."

Lakeland High School students Christa Carter and Victoria Morgan had no tickets to the rally, yet stood outside the restaurant nearly two hours before Romney's expected arrival, hoping to catch a glimpse and snap a photograph of the man many believe will be the next President of the United States.

"I think of all the candidates running against Obama, Romney would be my favorite," said Carter.

Morgan, a professed Ron Paul supporter, said she's heard rumors that Romney will choose her top candidate as his vice president — and that's good news.

"If that happens, I'd be a big fan of that ticket," she said.

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SPORTS

Covile's tip-in gives Glenn KLAA title

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

Erica Covile decided it was time to start to bus.

The score was deadlocked at 46-all with Westland John Glenn owning the final possession during the first overtime Wednesday night and the Kensington Lakes Activities Association girls basketball title riding on the line.

The 6-foot-1 senior forward then positioned her self perfectly in the lane.

And when teammate Joslyn Massey momentarily fumbled the ball on the baseline before launching a last-second shot, Covile emerged over a crowd of players for the game-winning tip-in — just before the buzz-



Covile

er — to give the Rockets a dramatic 48-46 over the host Captains and the Association championship.

"I was ready to go home and not go to another overtime," said Covile, who tallied a team-high 14 points. "When it came out, I thought automatically just put it up before the clock went out. When it started bouncing, I knew it was going in. I just turned around and started celebrating."

State-ranked Glenn (No. 5 in Class A) ends the regular season at 18-2 overall while sweeping all three titles within the KLAA including the South Division and

Kensington Conference crowns.

"To come in here after an hour and 15-minute bus ride in traffic and beat a team like this on their home court — even if it's a last-second shot — it's a testament to how tough our girls are," Glenn first-year coach Eric Kovatch said. "And we're ready for districts, which is around the corner. We're really excited."

Kettering (18-2) came into the game ranked No. 4 in Class A and was as good as advertised.

The Captains got a game-high 19 points from 5-foot-7 forward Arjanai Washington, 13 in the first half.

Senior guard Allison Bicknell added 13 points including a clutch three-pointer with 1:32 remaining at the end of regulation to tie it a 44-all and send it

into OT.

"I can't say we scouted them or knew exactly what they were going to do," Kovatch said of Kettering. "We knew that girl, number 32 (Washington), was a solid player. She has an inside-outside game. When we put someone small on her, she took it to the hole and she scored. She's an excellent basketball player, along with number three (Bicknell), who hit a lot of open shots. There's a reason why they're ranked so high and have only lost two games. We're both 18-2. It's a toss-up and either team deserved to win that game."

Glenn, however, got off to a sluggish start, trailing 11-6 after one quarter.

Please see GLENN, B2

MU women oust Racers

Junior center Kaylee McGrath scored a game-high 20 points Thursday night as Madonna University advanced in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference women's basketball tournament with a convincing 74-51 victory over host Northwestern Ohio in a game played at Bluffton (Ohio) University's Founders Hall.

The Livonia Stevenson grad made 8-of-12 shots from the floor and 4-of-6 foul shots and the sixth-seeded Crusaders shot 49.1 percent from the floor.

Other players in double figures were Erin Bentley (14), Michelle Lindsey (11) and Shantelle Herring (10).

Heather Pratt added nine points and Lindsey grabbed a team-high eight rebounds as MU improved to 12-16 overall.

The third-seeded Racers (17-14), who were outscored 31-15 in the second half, got 14 points from Amanda Francis.

MU advanced to Saturday's WHAC semifinals to face No. 2 seed Concordia University (27-4).

Naubert gets WHAC award

Madonna University sophomore point-guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson), who averaged 15 points and 6.4 assists per game for the 18-13 Crusaders, earned first-team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honors.

The 5-foot-10 Naubert ranked third in the NAIA Division II in total assists (199) and led the WHAC.

Fellow sophomore guard Travis Schuba (Rapid City), the team's leading scorer at 15.2 points per game, earned second-team WHAC honors

after sitting second nationally in three-pointers with 3.86 per game.

His 116 triples this season surpassed the mark of 95 set in 2003-04 and 2004-05 by current MU coach Noel Emenhiser, who also earned the WHAC Coach of Character award.

Senior guard Mitch Cieslak (Brighton) also was named for the WHAC Champion of Character team by demonstrating the NAIA's five core values of respect, responsibility, servant leadership, integrity and sportsmanship.

A pair of Crusaders were named to the All-WHAC Academic Team — redshirt sophomore guard Dragan Bijelic (Utica Eisenhower) and junior forward Eoghann Stephens (Liss, England).

Bijelic (nursing) and Stephens (social studies/education) earned the selection for posting a cumulative grade-point average of 3.25 or better.

Lady Ocelots fall flat in showdown

By Ed Wright
Observer Staff Writer

Whitney Houston's classic rendition of the National Anthem had barely ended Wednesday night in the Schoolcraft College gymnasium when it became clear that it was not going to be a harmonious evening for the Ocelots' women's basketball team.

Dogged by soft defense, lack of movement on offense and a dominating performance by Macomb Community College's Dominique Mahone, Schoolcraft fell into a Grand Canyon-esque 24-0 hole before succumbing, 81-58, in the game that determined the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Eastern Conference champion.

Heading into Wednesday's game, the Ocelots had captured the previous five MCCA Eastern Conference titles.

The significant loss dropped SC to 22-4 overall and 13-3 in the conference, while Macomb improved to 20-7 and 15-1, respectively.

SC handed the Lady Monarchs their lone conference setback — a 60-55 overtime decision — on Jan. 21.

But what a difference a month made.

"We didn't play anywhere near the way we're capable of playing," said SC's first-year head coach Kevin Brathwaite, whose team trailed by three touchdowns and a field goal just 6:35 into the contest. "Macomb was doing whatever it wanted to do early and we weren't doing what we were supposed to be doing at either end."

Mahone, a 6-foot-2 freshman center from Detroit Denby, would have been justified in changing her name from Dominique to Dominant-ique, if only for the night.

She owned the paint against an Ocelot interior whose tallest player is 5-10, netting 31 points and 20 rebounds.

Mahone tallied 19 points in the first half when the Lady Monarchs raced to a 47-28 lead. During one 40-second stretch in Macomb's 24-0 start-of-the-game explosion, Mahone scored seven straight points.

The Ocelots' only silver lining on a cloudy night was the effort of 5-9 sophomore guard Domonique Jones, who posted 22 points and five rebounds.

Please see OCELOTS, B2



Schoolcraft's Domonique Jones (15) goes in for the shot during Wednesday's MCCA Eastern Conference showdown against Macomb CC.

Lars Richters quits position at Stevenson

By Brad Emons
Observer Staff Writer

One of the state's most successful high school boys soccer coaches is stepping down after 14 seasons at his alma mater.

Lars Richters, citing added coaching commitments to his club program team, the Under-16 Crew Soccer Academy

Wolves, submitted his letter of resignation Friday after meeting last week with his players and Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman.

"It was a tough choice, but I felt it was the right thing at the right time," the 42-year-old Richters said. "I'm going to continue coaching, but for a number of years now I've been trying to balance high school coaching with club coaching with

Please see RICHTERS, B3



The Crystallettes, a synchronized skating team composed mostly of metro-area figure skaters, perform their championship routine.

Crystallettes win gold in Switzerland

The Crystallettes, a senior synchronized skating team composed mostly of young women from Wayne and Oakland counties, captured the gold medal in early February at the Neuchâtel Trophy competition in Switzerland.

The Crystallettes faced adversity before and during the event, but they persevered through injuries and illnesses to win the international competition.

One skater suffered a broken leg during a practice at Dearborn Skating Club, the team's home ice.

Another fell ill with food poisoning before leaving for Europe, and two more became sick (pneumonia and bronchitis) after arriving in Switzerland.

Though the team doctor had his hands full taking care of four USA teams, the Crystallettes were his biggest customer.

Undaunted by those setbacks, the Crystallettes skated their new short program, *Mercy* by Duffy, and were rewarded with a great score, giving them a 9.5-point lead over the U.S. champions, the

Haydenettes from Massachusetts.

During a required practice in preparation for the team's long program, another Crystallette skater's hand was sliced by the blade of a skate. Practice was halted to stop the bleeding and the injured skater received several stitches.

The Crystallettes refocused on their mission and hit the ice like champions that evening to finish what they traveled there to do —

Please see SKATERS, B3



ANDREW KIELTYKA

Schoolcraft's Shawnicka Thomas (23) tries to pressure Macomb CC guard Alyssa Theut (21) during Wednesday's MCCA Eastern Conference showdown.

OCELOTS

Continued from page B1

"Domonique's a competitor," Brathwaite said. "She's going to step up and play no matter what. There were too many things going on around her that were out of her control. We didn't have enough players come to play tonight."

Instead of trying to dissect Macomb's man-to-man and zone defenses, the Ocelots elected to launch a barrage of three-point shots — many early in the 35-second shot clock — especially during the forgettable opening six minutes.

For the night, SC connected on 8-of-29 triple tries and 12-of-31 two-point attempts. All told, it added up to a 33-percent shooting night.

Macomb, on the other hand, sank 31-of-57 field-goal attempts.

The Ocelots showed flashes of brilliance. For example, they countered the Lady Monarchs' 24-

0 rampage with an 8-0 streak that included five points from Jones.

However, just when it appeared the hosts had seized some momentum, Macomb ripped off a 12-0 run to up its advantage to 36-8.

SC's second-half highlight came with just under eight minutes left when 5-7 sophomore guard Amber Sammons buried back-to-back corner treys to cut the Ocelots' deficit to 66-46.

Macomb's Kristian Hines complemented Mahone's inside play with 18 points, most of which came from the perimeter and in transition.

Sophomore guard Shawnicka Thomas contributed eight points and four rebounds to the Ocelots' cause.

Macomb out-rebounded its hosts, 46-19.

SC made 7-of-13 free throws, while the Lady Monarchs swished 13-of-19 freebies.

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GLENN

Continued from page B1

But the Rockets regrouped during the second quarter and outscored the Captains 19-12 while hitting 9-of-13 shots from the floor to take a 25-23 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, Washington tallied six more points to keep Kettering close, 38-35.

Glenn, despite going up by five on two different occasions, couldn't quite shake the Captains in the final quarter and it came down to one final frenzied possession at the end of regulation.

With 39.7 seconds left, Bicknell missed the front end of a one-and-one, but the Captains retained possession after it went out of bounds.

Kettering then worked for a final shot, only to have Glenn junior guard ShaKeya Graves (13 points) steal a pass and drive the length of the floor before missing a running one-hander near the free throw line as time expired.

In the four-minute OT, Covile got a basket with 3:33 left and Bicknell countered with just 46 seconds remaining.

"We just wanted to create open opportunity," Kettering coach Scott Woodhull said. "We got a little pick-and-roll action with Allison (Bicknell), who slid free, and she knocked it in. "Then, they made a play at the end of the game."

Glenn milked the clock for a final shot and Covile came out of nowhere for the game-winning tip.

"With this group, I figured it's just a matter of time and their basketball ability will eventually take over," Kovatch said. "And that's what Erica Covile did on the last shot. It was her being a basketball player."

Despite the loss, Woodhull remained upbeat.

"Honestly, I didn't know anybody that thought we could hang with them because they've been

running people out of the gym," Woodhull said of Glenn. "But we find a way and our kids fight and battle and do all the little things that keep us in the ballgame."

Massey, the Purdue signee, added eight points and 12 rebounds for the Rockets, while senior guard Abbey Wright came off the bench to score six important points.

"We needed to contain their penetration and limit their second-chance points," Woodhull said. "We contained penetration pretty good, but they're big, strong and athletic and they get up on the rim. And you saw the end of the game — a tip-in. How many girls games end on a tip-in?"

Meanwhile, it's been a highly satisfying season for Kovatch, who is in his first year as Glenn varsity coach.

"I'm just proud of the girls and how hard they've worked," he said. "We've been putting in three-hour practices since Day One. I don't know too many programs that are doing that. I'm extremely proud of our assistant coaches. They've done an outstanding job. And the girls haven't caused one bit of a problem. They've been great kids and been understanding of the long practices. They've been reliable and just an outstanding group of young girls to basically spend four months around."

Covile's last-second game-winner wasn't the first — technically — of her young basketball career.

"I did it in summer league, but that doesn't count," the Temple signee. "It's the first real game. We play hard and don't give up. We fight until the buzzer goes."

Rev up the bus with the next destination Taylor Truman for the Class A district tourney.

"Hopefully we're going to extend this thing a few more weeks and we'll see what happens in the state tournament," Kovatch said.

Spartans topple Churchill; Bland's 34 carries Wayne

All pistons were firing Friday night for the Livonia Stevenson girls basketball team.

The Spartans ended the regular season with a 14-6 record Friday night by defeating host Livonia Churchill, 56-19.

Senior guard Molly Knoph paced Stevenson's scoring attack with 18 points, including five 3-pointers.

Jorden York, another senior guard, chipped in with 12, including a pair of three-pointers, while Rachel Wilkinson added 10 points.

"It's the first game in awhile where we didn't have a letdown," said Stevenson coach Jen Knoph, whose team led 34-13 after a 21-2 second-quarter run. "We moved the ball well and played lockdown defense."

Churchill (5-15) got eight points from Cecilie Hansen.

The Chargers made 3-of-5 free throws, while Stevenson connected on 9-of-14.

KLAA GIRLS BASKETBALL

Stevenson beat Churchill in an earlier meeting this year (Dec. 9), 61-26.

WAYNE 62, W.L. CENTRAL 41: Ashley Bland was a one-girl wrecking crew Wednesday night as the 5-foot-6 sophomore guard poured in a game- and career-high 34 points as Wayne Memorial (6-14) earned a KLAA consolation round victory at Walled Lake Central (7-13).

Wayne trailed 21-20 after one quarter, but forged ahead 32-25 at halftime before going on a 14-3 third-period run to put the game away.

The Zebras made 13-of-24 free throws (54 percent).

Kara Birrell and Caitlin Starrs paced the Vikings with 14 and 13 points, respectively.

STEVENSON 57, MOTT 47: Mara Murray's double-double powered Livonia Stevenson (13-6) to a KLAA consolation round victory Wednesday at Waterford Mott (9-11).

Murray, a junior forward finished with 14 points and 14 rebounds, while senior guard Molly Knoph and Jorden York chipped in with 15 and 10 points, respectively.

That offset a game-high 25 points by Mott's Lauren Hung.

Stevenson made 10-of-12 foul shots, while Mott connected on 9-of-14.

LAKELAND 34, CHURCHILL 30: In a KLAA crossover Wednesday, host White Lake Lakeland (7-13) got 13 points from Dominique Zito to beat Livonia Churchill (5-14).

Churchill trailed 18-12 at halftime, but got back in the game with an 8-2 third-quarter spurt.

Lakeland then outscored the Chargers 14-12 in the final period.

Erin Menard and Cecilie Hansen led Churchill with 13 and 10 points, respectively.

Lakeland made just 10-of-22 free throws, while the Chargers made only 4-of-10.

"Defensively we were really, really good in the second and third quarters holding them to three and two points," Churchill coach Matt McCowan said. "We played with so much energy, but they (Lakeland) made seven free throws in the fourth."

W.L. NORTHERN 63, FRANKLIN 38: Caitlin Crowley's game-high 25 points carried Walled Lake Northern (6-14) to a KLAA crossover win Wednesday over visiting Livonia Franklin (1-19).

Maria Ropek added 12 for the Knights, who led 24-11 at halftime and 36-18 after three quarters.

Junior guard Natalie Modes and senior forward Alexis Smith scored 11 and 10, respectively, for the Patriots.

Northern made 17-of-12 free throws (80.9 percent), while Franklin hit 12-of-20 (60 percent).

Blazers knock off two PSL foes

GIRLS BASKETBALL

half-time before going on a 17-3 third-quarter run to gain control.

Taisha Foster paced the Lady Technicians (15-4) with 11 points.

On Tuesday, Gorski scored a career-high 23 points and added 10 rebounds in a 61-49 home floor win over Detroit Renaissance.

Senior guard Briana Combs contributed 12 points, while junior point-guard Andie Anastos finished with nine points and eight rebounds.

Renaissance led 27-24 at half-time before the Blazers stormed back with a 20-13 third-period run followed by a 19-7 surge in the final quarter.

Channel Davis paced

the Phoenix (9-8) with 17 points.

GARDEN CITY 36, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 24: Justice Dean's 10 points propelled the Cougars (15-5) to a non-league win Friday at Lutheran High Westland (12-8).

Garden City led by only three after three quarters, 21-18, before going on a 15-6 fourth-quarter run.

Aldreanna Fikes and Amanda Terranella scored eight and seven, respectively, for the Warriors.

Garden City was 11-of-18 from the foul line, while Lutheran Westland hit 7-of-9.

CVILLE 58, LAMPHERE 39: Sophomore guard Mikala Kieling nailed five 3-pointers en route to a game-high 17 points

Wednesday night to spark host Livonia Clarenceville (6-14) to a victory over Madison Heights Lamphere (11-9).

The Trojans, who finished the regular season 5-5 under interim coach Brady Gustafson, also got 15 points and 13 rebounds from sophomore center Ayanna Buckley.

Junior forward Ashley Murphy also chipped in with 12 points, four blocks and three steals as the Trojans outscored the Rams 19-5 in the third period after leading 28-21 at half-time.

Shannon Hoobler and Erika Berger scored 13 and nine, respectively, for Lamphere.

Clarenceville was 10-of-13 from the foul line, while the Rams made 7-of-10.

Glenn's Daniels beats Milford at buzzer

BOYS BASKETBALL

Senior center Paul Baumgart, the team's leading scorer, was limited to 10 before fouling out late in the game.

"Joe (Mims) did an absolute terrific job on Baumgart," Stevenson coach Brandon Sinawi said. "We did a good job of getting to the free throw line, but we missed four front-ends (of a one-and-one). We did not play a complete game."

Stevenson was only 9-of-22 from the foul line (40.9 percent), while Canton hit 3-of-7 (42.8 percent).

HOWELL 51, WAYNE 41: On Friday, the host Highlanders (12-7) used the front line of 6-foot-8 Brandon Nazzone and 6-11 Milos Petrovic to subdue Wayne Memorial (8-11) in a KLAA consolation round game.

Wayne led 25-23 at half-time, but Howell took control with a 17-2 third-period run.

Dezmon Burleigh and Michael Cooper tallied 11 and 10, respectively, for the Zebras, who went 2-of-7 from the line.

Howell connected on 7-of-13 free throws.

HARTLAND 52, CHURCHILL 38: On Friday, Livonia Churchill (7-12) couldn't shoot straight in KLAA consolation round game against the host Eagles (5-14).

Nick Engelhart and

Kas Grabowski paced Hartland with 14 and 10 points, respectively.

The Chargers shot 24 percent from the floor (12-of-50), including just 2-of-19 from three points range.

Hartland led by only three at intermission, 27-24, but outscored Churchill 9-1 in the third period to take control.

To make matters worse, Churchill shot just 12 percent from the field during the second half (3-of-25) and made only 11-of-29 free throws on the night (37.9 percent).

Junior guard Dwayne Scott scored 13 in a losing cause.

"We missed layups, open threes," Churchill coach Jim Solak said. "Even when we got steals off our press we missed layups."

CRANBROOK 66, LUTHERAN WESTLAND 47: Sterling Morrow scorched the nets for a game-high 33 points Friday to lead Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook past host Lutheran High Westland (11-7) in a non-conference game.

Morrow, a 6-2 senior guard, had 10 field goals, one 3-pointer and made 10-of-12 foul shots as the Cranes bolted out to a 19-6 first-quarter advantage.

"He (Morrow) was good at going to the hole, a lot of free throws and layups," Lutheran Westland coach Doug Haller

said. Nick Flanery and Matt Sylvester tallied 11 and 10 points, respectively, for the Warriors, who made only 10-of-21 free throws.

Cranbrook made 19-of-26 on the night.

CLARENCEVILLE 61, LAMPHERE 52: Livonia Clarenceville (6-12) overcame a 27-point effort from Madison Heights Lamphere's Jay Junkin to earn a win Thursday over the host Rams (6-12).

The Trojans boasted four players scoring in double figures led by senior forward Damien Quarles' 18 points.

Also getting into the scoring act was Sam Brown (13), Austin Douglass (12) and recent JV call-up Brad Davis (10).

Junkin connected on five triples, but the Rams were unable to overcome a 37-24 half-time deficit despite outscoring Clarenceville 18-7 in the third period.

Awss Daniel contributed 11 points for Lamphere.

Clarenceville made 13-of-19 free throws, while the Rams hit 11-of-12.

GAMES POSTPONED: The Livonia Franklin at Brighton game has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, March 1, while Warren Macomb Christian will travel Tuesday to Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (game time is 6 p.m.).



The members of the Crystalletes synchronized skating team are (front row, left to right) Alexandra Zazula, Birmingham; Nicolette Bailey, Detroit; Mackenzie Elkow, Farmington Hills; Chelsea Macintosh, Clinton Twp.; Spencer Thomas, Commerce; Cara Schooley, Bloomfield Hills; Alyssa Shomsky, Livonia; Sharon Neff (holding flowers and photo of injured teammate Casey Josz), Birmingham; DonAe Poe, Redford; (back row, left to right) Katie Benedetti, Chesterfield Twp.; Brianne Anderson, Fraser; Nicole Davies, Concord (Mass.); Meghan Schooley, Bloomfield Hills; Allison Kobl, West Bloomfield; Meghan Quigley, Bloomfield Hills; Katielyn Peterson, Dearborn; Jacquelyne Zolynsky, Farmington Hills; and Josephine Zolynsky, Farmington Hills.

SKATERS

Continued from page B1

win the gold medal. With a message from injured team member Casey Josz at home "to skate with their hearts," the Crystalletes performed *On The Floor* by

JLo in their long program.

They skated well but hit a few bobbles during their up-tempo, 4.5-minute program. That didn't matter, however, as their score was high enough to reward them with first place and the gold medal.

The next stop for the Crystalletes is the USFS

Synchronized Skating Nationals March 2-3 in Worcester, Mass.

The team is composed of 19 skaters ranging in age from 15 to 22 years. The primary coaches are Shannon Peterson and Holly Teets; assistant coaches are Kevin O'Keefe and Ann Barr.

RICHTERS

Continued from page B1

my teaching job, and of course with my family. "It finally came to a time where I had to make a change. It put me in position where I just didn't feel where I could do both the increased demands of the club game and continue on with the high school game."

Richters leaves quite a legacy both as a player and coach at Stevenson.

He posted a career record of 232-46-23 and guided the Spartans to four Final Four appearances in the MHSAA's Division 1 tournament, including runner-up finishes in 2006 and 2008. He captured four regional and nine district championships.

"It has been a pleasure and honor to work with Lars for the last 14 years," Stevenson A.D. Lori Hyman said. "I think that I represent the entire Stevenson High community and many other communities when I say that Lars is more than just a tremendous coach, he is a great human being."

Richters also served as an assistant under Walt Barrett in 1996 when the Spartans captured the Class A state title.

"He has been a mentor for many young men in our program who have benefitted greatly from his words of wisdom and life lessons," Hyman said. "Lars is a teacher of the game, a friend, a father and a blessed coach. Lars will be missed greatly, yet we all know how fortunate we were to have him in our program for so long. His colleagues, the media, parents of all communities, teachers,

administrators, and especially his players have a respect and love for Lars that is second to none.

"His passion for soccer is contagious and is part of why the Stevenson soccer program is considered one of the best in the state. When an athlete has been fortunate enough to make his team, they feel honored to be part of the soccer program."

As a player, Richters was a member of two state championship teams under coach Pete Scerri (1985, 1986) before playing four years at Yale University. He also played seven seasons (1991-98) for the Detroit Rockers of the National Professional Soccer League.

Richters began his coaching affiliation with the Michigan Wolves in 1995 and currently serves as vice-president on its board of directors.

Richters, who is on the Stevenson faculty as an English teacher, is also involved in coaching his daughter with the U-10 Michigan Hawks.

He further elaborated on his decision to make the jump to full-time coaching at the club level.

"The league we play — the U.S. Development Soccer Academy — which we've been a part of the last several years, is making a move this coming fall where the season is going to be played throughout the year," Richters said. "We're moving to a 10-month season, so basically Academy players are going to basically have to choose to play for their high school team, or the Academy program. I felt ethically it wouldn't be right to ask Academy players to play for me to

forego their high school experience, then allow me to carry on and keep coaching high school.

"It was a sacrifice that I was forced to make as well for myself, which I felt was the right sacrifice to make to do, which is the same that the players are being asked to do."

One of his current Stevenson players, junior Zach Atwood, a first-team All-Observer selection, could be affected by the expanded U.S Soccer Development Academy season heading into his senior year.

"There's a chance he could make the Under-18s," Richters said. "It's a difficult decision, the same as some of the hockey players in this area have to make. It's like a junior outfit, or whether they play for their school. That's the new wrinkle. The Academy is moving to a new season."

Richters admits he may feel a void when the 2012 high school season starts in the fall.

"I've a part of that program a number of years," he said. "If I combine the three years that I played there, two years I assisted and the 14 I was the head coach — that's a big number years I've had to develop a huge passion for my school."

"I'll miss the fellow coaches. I miss the competition. But most of all, I'll miss connections you make with the young people. I've been blessed with a lot of really good soccer players, and more importantly, I've been fortunate enough to work with a lot of great, great kids. That's the part I'll definitely miss the most."

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Feb. 28
Macomb at HVL, 6 p.m.
Lakeland at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Kettering at Franklin, 7 p.m.
W.L. Western at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Wat. Mott at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
W.L. Northern at Glenn, 7 p.m.
Lutheran High Westland at D.H. Crestwood, 7 p.m.
Livonia Clarenceville at Oakland Christian, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 1
Luth. W'sld at Mooney, 7 p.m.
Stevenson at Fordson, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Brighton, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 2
C'ville at Rom. Summit, 7 p.m.

MHSAA GIRLS BASKETBALL DISTRICT TOURNEY DRAWS

CLASS A
at LIVONIA LADYWOOD
Monday, Feb. 27: (A) Garden City vs. (B) Redford Thurston, 4:30 p.m.; (C) Livonia Franklin vs. (D) Livonia Stevenson, 6 p.m.; (E) Livonia Churchill vs. (F) Livonia Ladywood, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 29: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 6 p.m.; Redford Union vs. E-F winner, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 2: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 at Warren Cousino vs. Detroit Pershing district champion.)

at ROMULUS
Monday, Feb. 27: (A) Taylor Truman vs. (B) Westland John Glenn, 5:30 p.m.; (C) Belleville vs. (D) Romulus, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 29: Wayne Memorial vs. A-B winner, 5:30 p.m.; Inkster vs. C-D winner, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 2: Championship final, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 at Ypsilanti Lincoln vs. Saline district champion.)

CLASS B
at LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE
Monday, Feb. 27: (A) Highland Park vs. (B) Detroit Communication & Media Arts, 6 p.m. (C) Hamtramck vs. (D) Detroit

Community, 7:30 p.m.; (E) Ferrisdale University High at Detroit Old Redford Prep, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 29: Livonia Clarenceville vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m.; C-D winner vs. E-F winner, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 2: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 at Carleton Airport vs. Dearborn Divine Child district champion.)

CLASS D
at WESTLAND
HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN
Wednesday, Feb. 29: (A) Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. (B) Plymouth Christian Academy, 6 p.m.

Friday, March 2: Lutheran High Westland vs. A-B winner, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals, 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 at Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes vs. District 6 champion.)

BOYS HOCKEY MHSAA PRE-REGIONALS DIVISION 1
at LIVONIA'S EDGAR ARENA
Monday, Feb. 27: (A) Salem vs. (B) Canton, 8 p.m.; (C) Livonia Churchill vs. (D) Plymouth, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 29: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 3 at Plymouth's Compuware Arena vs. Novi-Detroit Catholic Central pre-regional winner.)

at ORCHARD LAKE ST. MARY
Monday, Feb. 27: (A) Birmingham Groves vs. (B) Orchard Lake St. Mary, 5:30 p.m.; (C) Livonia Stevenson vs. North Farmington-Harrison, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 29: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 8 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final, 6 p.m. Saturday, March 3 at Livonia's Edgar Arena vs. Troy Sports Center pre-regional winner.)

DIVISION 2
at LIVONIA'S EDGAR ARENA
Tuesday, Feb. 28: (A) Livonia

Franklin vs. (B) Temperance Bedford, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 1: Grosse Pointe South vs. A-B winner, 6:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional final, 7 p.m. Saturday, March 3 at Wyandotte's Yack Arena vs. Trenton Kennedy Ice Arena pre-regional winner.)

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING FINALS
at PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

Thursday, March 1
Round 1, 2:15 p.m.

Friday, March 2
Round 2, 3, 4, 8:30 a.m. Semifinals, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 3
Round 6, 7, 8:30 a.m. Consolation final, 11:30 a.m. Championships, 4:45 p.m.

PREP BOWLING
Friday, March 2
(MHSAA Team Finals)
Division 1 at M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek, 8:25 a.m. Div. 2 at Century Lanes in Waterford, 8:25 a.m. Div. 3 at Airport Lanes in Jackson, 8:25 a.m.

Saturday, March 3
(MHSAA Singles Finals)
Division 1 at M-66 Bowl in Battle Creek, 8:25 a.m. Div. 2 at Century Lanes in Waterford, 8:25 a.m. Div. 3 at Airport Lanes in Jackson, 8:25 a.m.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS
Saturday, March 3
MHSAA Regional at Plymouth, 10 a.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, March 29
S'craft at Flint Mott, 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS
Wednesday, March 29
S'craft at Flint Mott, 5:30 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Tuesday, February 28
Plymouth Whalers at Saginaw, 10:45 a.m.

Friday, March 2
Brampton vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 28
Windsor vs. Plymouth Whalers at Compuware Arena, 7 p.m.

PREP WRESTLING

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING FINALS AREA 1ST-ROUND PAIRINGS
March 1-3 at Auburn Hills

DIVISION 1
103: Kyle Gillies (Westland John Glenn), 45-5, vs. Dan Curtis (Oxford), 40-12.
112: Danny Martinez (Livonia Franklin), 54-2, vs. Jay Jay Brickley (Grand Ledge), 33-7.
119: Gabe Martinez (Franklin), 54-3, vs. Cameron Wilkie (Clarkston), 36-14.
130: Jesse O'Neal (John Glenn), 27-20, vs. Dominick Trevino (Holt), 39-3.
140: Allen Parker (Wayne Memorial), 36-12, vs. Dean Vettesse (Rochester), 40-6; Jordan Atienza (Franklin), 52-5, vs. Rocco Borg (Oxford), 42-8.
145: Ryan Derry (Franklin), 28-4, vs. Curtiss Brownell (Grand Ledge), 37-6.
152: Travis Mann (John Glenn), 39-5, vs. Carson Whal-

ey (Grand Blanc), 43-7; Anthony Long (John Glenn), 32-16, vs. Davon Jackson (Bay City Central), 30-3.
160: Allen Steele (Franklin), 48-9, vs. Derick Waters (Sterling Height), 31-9.
171: Danny Croft (John Glenn), 46-11, vs. Andy White (Brighton), 48-6.
215 pounds: Jake Range (Livonia Stevenson), 41-9, vs. Prescott Line (Oxford), 42-0; Dimitris Renfroe (Wayne), 46-2, vs. Zack VanOverbeke (Anchor Bay), 50-9.
285: Manny Haddad (Livonia Churchill), 24-14, vs. Miguel Correa (Holland West Ottawa), 34-5.

DIVISION 4
125 pounds: Zach Francis (Lutheran High Westland), 43-2, vs. Josh Wendling (New Lothrop), 39-7; Caleb Richter (Lutheran Westland), 28-17, vs. Matt Mata (Marlette), 50-0.
Note: starting weight is 189.

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Chargers stop Flyers; Rice blanks Spartans

The regular season is coming to a close and soon the fun will begin.

Livonia Churchill tuned up for the upcoming state boys hockey playoffs by finishing the regular season Wednesday night at Edgar Arena with a 4-1 victory over North Farmington-Harrison.

The fourth-ranked Chargers, who led 2-1 after two periods, put it away with a pair of third period goals to improve to 18-6 overall.

"It was a good outing and good preparation for the 'real season,'" Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said.

Brad Milks made it 3-1 at 4:07 of the final period off assists from Ben Proben and Mike Gambino.

And with 8:30 remaining, Drew Puishes scored from Milks and Gambino to give Churchill a three-goal cushion.

Tommy Carey opened the scoring at 3:25 of the opening period on a power play effort from Jim Lelekatch, but just 1:59 later, the Flyers tied it at 1-1 on Jake Ladouceur's goal from Frank Awish and Reede Burnett.

Devin Smythe then tallied what proved to be the game-winner off an assist from Jake Otto for the Chargers with 3:22 remaining in the first period

BOYS HOCKEY

Churchill netminder Alex Estes stopped 13-of-14 shots, while the Flyers' Keith Ladouceur was peppered for a total of 35 shots on goal.

The loss drops the Flyers to 13-8-2 overall.

The Chargers open Division 1 pre-regional play 8 p.m. Monday at Livonia's Edgar Arena to face Plymouth.

RICE 6, STEVENSON 0: Thomas Ebbing tallied a pair of goals Friday as Birmingham Brother Rice (19-4-1), the state's No. 1 ranked team in Division 2, cruised to a non-league win over host Livonia Stevenson (12-12) at Edgar Arena.

Connor Duncan, Marcus Mazur and Eric Dibble each added a goal and assist for the Warriors, who led 1-0 after one period and 4-0 after two.

Ross Haffey added the other Rice goal, while Conner Jean chipped in with two assists.

Stevenson goaltenders Connor Humitz and Mike Kanitra split time in net, each allowing three goals and combining for 28 saves.

Rice goaltender Jack Bowman stopped 16 shots to post the shut-out.

Good fellas



For the second year in a row, members of the Livonia Hockey Association Bantam Blues each donated their Christmas monies for a sum total of \$170 to the Livonia Goodfellows. Among the Blues players who participated included: Brian Hubbard, Owen Pollack, Quinn Shine, Aaron Walton, Brandon Moore, Leo Beaulieu, Brandon Beaune, Brenden Edwards, Cody Rothwell, Austin Reed, Garett Savage, Austin Kaczmarek, Spencer Kovacs, Spencer Blanchard, Andrew Taylor and Nicholas Kucharski. Chris Beaulieu is the head coach, assisted by Frank Edwards, Mike Shine and Mike Moore. Not pictured is team manager Karen Kaczmarek.

Tennessee waltz: MU wins 3-of-4

The 23rd-ranked Madonna University baseball team improved to 4-5 on the season with a pair of wins Feb. 18 in the Tennessee Valley Invitational in Dayton, Tenn.

Victor Barron slugged his first collegiate homer and Josh Vandemark pitched a complete-game 3-hitter in a 5-1 win over Bryan (Tenn.) College.

Vandemark (2-0) struck out eight and walked only four in seven innings.

Center fielder Dan Harder also went 2-for-2.

Losing pitcher Jason Ridenhour gave up just three earned runs on six hits and seven walks in seven innings as Bryan slipped to 9-2.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Earlier in the day, MU fell to St. Xavier (Ill.), 9-2, as Scott Vachon struck out six in six innings for the Cougars (2-1).

MU starter Aaron Saarela took the loss and senior catcher Drew Adamiec collected two hits.

On Feb. 17, MU downed the University of Rio Grande (Ohio), 2-1, and Asbury (Ky.) College, 8-1.

Livonian Jeremy Gooding (1-1) pitched a complete-game 3-hitter struck out seven and walking only one against Rio Grande.

Harder went 2-for-3 with an RBI, while Don-

ny Holland also knocked in a run.

Brad Lineberry (Plymouth) went 3-for-3 with three RBI and Harder added three hits and two RBI in the win over Asbury (0-5).

Billy Hardin III (Livonia) added two hits and two RBI.

Winning pitcher Matt Cook pitched six strong innings allowing just four hits. He struck out four and walked only one. Randall Stempel pitched a scoreless seventh.

MU returns to the diamond Friday, March 2 in Auburndale, Fla. for the Russ Matt Invitational in a double-header versus Bethel (Ind.) College.

MU season closes on sour note

A successful Madonna University men's basketball campaign ended a bit prematurely Wednesday night during the opening round of the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference playoffs.

The host Crusaders, the third seed, were upended by sixth-seed Concordia University, 79-65.

The loss leaves MU with a final record of 18-13, while the Cardinals move into the WHAC semifinals on Saturday at 15-16 overall.

Rocko Holmes and John Schaeffer paced Concordia with 19 points each, while Austin Cook and Andrew Patrick added 17 and 14 respectively. Holmes also grabbed a team-high 10 rebounds.

Madonna, which trailed 37-26 at halftime, got a team-high 16 points from sophomore point-guard Bobby Naubert (Livonia Stevenson).

Sophomore guard Matt Jenkins and junior forward Eoghann Stephens finished with 13 and 10, respectively.

Senior Tyler Coker just missed a double-double with nine points and 13 rebounds.

A Donald Owens basket with 11:41 remaining pulled MU to within 50-48, but the Crusaders never got closer than five points the rest of the way.

Madonna shot only 27-of-70 from the floor (38.6 percent), including just 3-of-20 from three-point ranges (15 percent).

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Purebred rescues to exhibit at annual dog show

By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Chloe will get plenty of face time with the public during the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows next weekend in Detroit.

The miniature schnauzer won't put a paw into the judging ring, but will help promote purebred dog rescue — and might even catch the eye of a potential adopter.

"I want to get the word out to people that if you want a purebred dog, you can get one from a rescue. You can find just about any purebred you want through petfinder.com," said Mary McIver, a Livonia woman who heads the Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer Rescue. The group will be among a handful of rescue organizations with educational booths and adoptable dogs at the Kennel Club shows March 3 and 4 at Cobb Center in downtown Detroit.

Kirsten Borgstrom, a spokeswoman for the show, said the inaugural exhibit will feature purebred rescue organizations with these breeds: boxer, bulldog, English Bulldog, miniature schnauzer, pug, schipperke, and Soft Coated Wheaten terrier.

It will be McIver's first time exhibiting at the annual event.

"The other reason I wanted to do this was I want people to stay out of pet stores and away from disreputable breeders. Pet store puppies come from puppy mills. If you want a puppy, look for a reputable breeder."

Larry Nathan, a Farmington resident and founder of Michigan Pug Rescue, says he feels fortunate to be among the purebred



Kathy and Larry Nathan of Farmington show Scuito, one of their pugs.

rescues included in the Detroit Kennel Club shows this year.

"If it does nothing more than get our name out there, that's important. What we try to do is interact with the people there, give them our business cards or brochures," he said. "We take one or two dogs and it gives people the opportunity to interact with the dogs, learn what rescue is about and how they can go about adopting."

Michigan Pug Rescue participated in the annual dog shows two years ago as a part of Purina's Rally to the Rescue exhibit. But his group and other rescues shared the same space, along with Rally demonstrations and shows.

"This time each group will have an 8-by-10 booth and we can set up a table and chairs and have infor-

DETROIT KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOWS

When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 3, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 4

Where: Cobb Center, One Washington Blvd., in downtown Detroit

What: The 108th and 109th shows are "benched," meaning that dogs must stay in their assigned display areas when they aren't in the ring being judged, giving visitors a close-up view of the dogs and access to breeders, owners and handlers. The event includes vendors, animal rescue groups and dog breed clubs and many special attractions including pet first aid and CPR demonstrations, terrier racing and lure chasing, Dog Scouts of America, Therapy Dogs Incorporated, field training demonstrations, herding demonstrations, coursing and training techniques and puppy competition

Tickets: \$15 for adults; \$8 for seniors, 65 and older, and children, 3-12; \$40 family pass for two adults, two children. Tickets available at the door; cash only. Discount tickets — \$12.50 for individuals and \$35 family pass — available at Kroger stores

Contact: www.detroitkennelclub.com

mation. It will be more beneficial to the rescues," Nathan said.

New hobby

Michigan Pug Rescue has fostered and found homes for 450 dogs since



Chloe, a miniature schnauzer, will help promote purebred dog rescue next weekend at the Detroit Kennel Club Dog Shows.



Spencer, 5, is among the dogs available for adoption through the Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer Rescue in Livonia. The petite, feisty pooch was rescued from a puppy mill.

2000 when Nathan and his wife, Kathy, founded the volunteer-based nonprofit organization.

"She (Kathy) told me you've got to find a hobby," Nathan recalled.

"In the summer I like to work outside. In the winter, I didn't have a hobby. We owned a pug at the

time. So, she came home one day with a copy of *Dog Fancy* and there was an article about dog rescue. I contacted them and they gave me the name of a rescue here. But they were more of a breed club and I was more interested in rescue. So we broke off in April 2000 and set up our own rescue."

The group takes on dogs that have been surrendered by their owners because of divorce and financial or health difficulties; rescues puppy mill breeder dogs and pugs in shelters.

"A lot of people don't want a puppy because they don't want the house training issues. If you get a dog from a reputable rescue, they know what is going on with the dog, the health issues and if its potty-trained."

The couple has adopted some of the special needs dogs the group has rescued. Scuito lost a leg as a result of abuse when she was a puppy. Buddy is blind and Hannah was

Please see SHOW, B7

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of the Supernatural Kind



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Sunday, March 4 | 10:30 a.m.

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Reporter pens book on Maltese in Detroit

Diane Gale Andreassi, a Livonia resident and reporter for the *South Lyon Herald*, recently published *Maltese in Detroit*, a book documenting the emigration of residents from Malta, a small island country off the coast of Italy, to the Motor City.

Detroit has one of the largest Maltese populations outside the small nation, which is south of Sicily in the Mediterranean.

Published by Arcadia Publishing in the *Images of America* series, the book is filled with pictures of early immigrants and introduces readers to settlers and current residents. Pictures of Most Holy Trinity in Detroit and the Maltese clubs in Dearborn and Detroit offer a flavor of life among the Maltese today.

From 35,000-70,000 people of Maltese heritage



Diane Gale Andreassi

live in the United States and the Detroit area has the largest concentration. In fact, it is one of the largest Maltese populations in the world outside the small European nation in the Mediterranean.

"The response to the book has been overwhelming," said Andreassi, who was born in

Detroit of parents who left their homeland to settle in a large Maltese-populated Corktown neighborhood of Detroit. "It was wonderful to meet so many Maltese people and to learn about the pride they have in their heritage."

The book illustrates the importance of the Roman Catholic church in Malta and among the Maltese immigrants in their new land. It introduces readers to the Maltese priests who were among the notable people who welcomed and helped acclimate the others as they arrived.

It took a year to assemble *Maltese in Detroit*, but it was a labor of love for Andreassi, who graduated from the University of Michigan-Dearborn with a double major in economics and English.

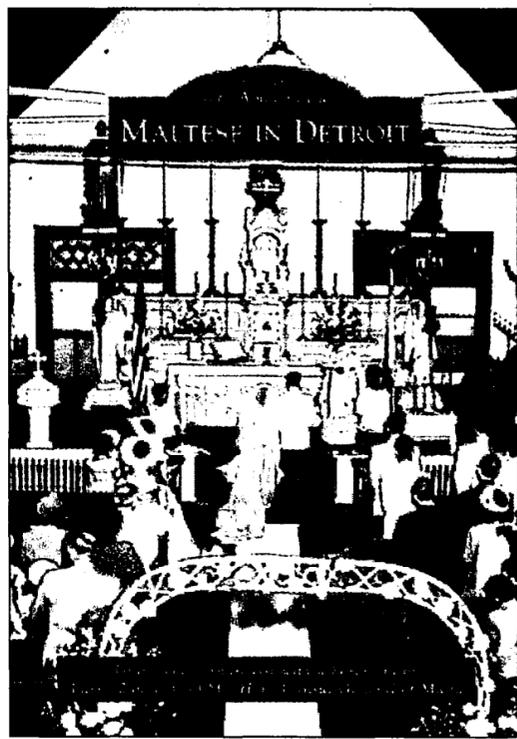
She started her career in journalism at the *Dear-*

born Heights Leader and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* as a reporter and a lifestyles editor before taking a leave to raise a family. She has worked on countless free-lance stories for a number of publications, including Gale Research, working on encyclopedia entries, one of which was about Malta and its people.

She was active in Livonia's St. Colette religious education program for more than 10 years and worked as a substitute teacher and volunteer in Livonia Public Schools. Andreassi is an avid reader of books and newsprint of all kinds.

The books are available at large and small bookstores and for a discount rate by calling (734) 432-5974.

Readers can contact Andreassi at dandreassi@hometownlife.com.



Reporter Diane Gale Andreassi said her book was a labor of love.

Livonia church seeks members for musical groups

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard Drive, Livonia, offers four performance groups for anyone interested in making music a part of their spiritual journey during Lent and Easter.

The Chancel Choir is preparing new music for the Lenten season,

including the Palm Sunday Cantata. The Palm Sunday program will bring choir, orchestra, handbells and narration together. Rehearsal CDs are available. Chancel Choir meets 8-9 p.m. Thursday. In addition to singing during the 10 a.m. service every Sunday, the choir will par-

ticipate in worship on Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m., and the Tenebrae Service on Good Friday, beginning at 7 p.m..

Carillon and Campanelle Bell Choirs offer an opportunity to perform on handbells. The Carillon Choir meets from 6-7 p.m. and the Campanelle Choir rehearses 7-8 p.m., both on Thursday. Positions are available in both groups, particularly for bass bell ringers.

The church's orchestra, Grace Notes, periodically adds an exciting element to worship with original arrangements by director Mark Adams. Instrumentalists of all kinds may join the group.

For more information, call Paula Clinard, director of music, at (734) 422-0494, Ext. 15, or via e-mail at officergpc@yahoo.com.

GARDEN & NATURE

Send garden and nature announcements to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com.

Library series

The Redford Township District Library, 25320 W. Six Mile, will offer a free series of gardening classes, 6:45 p.m. Monday, beginning Feb. 27. Topics are propagating plants simplified, methods of starting plants, Feb. 27; timing and tips for pruning trees and shrubs, March 5; composting done easily and inexpensively, March 12; trellises, arches and vertical plantings, March 19; and spring gardening — do it the right way, March 26. Advanced Master Gardener LeRoy Wolff is the instructor. Register at adult reference desk, or call (313) 531-5960, Ext. 103.

Livonia Club

Marsha Heads, Livonia Garden Club member, and Alicia Gorbitt will present "Gourds in the Garden," 7

p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at the Livonia Senior Center, located at Five Mile and Farmington Road, in Livonia. For more information, visit www.orgsites.com/mlivoniagardenclub/

Gardening seminars

The Master Gardener Association of Western Wayne County presents a seminar for the gardening public, 7-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, in the Wayne County Extension Office auditorium, 5454 Venoy, a quarter mile north of Van Born, Wayne. Cost is \$10. The topic is "Square Foot/High Yield Gardening," which will teach techniques, fertilization and space saving tips, including how to grow lots of vegetables in a small space and in a bale of straw. Taught by Paul Rodman, Advanced Master Gardener, and garden writer. For more information visit mgwwc.org. To register, e-mail mgwwcorg@gmail.com or call (313) 719-1181.

English Gardens

• Learn about starting seeds indoors at a free presentation, 1 p.m., Saturday, March 3.

• A free presentation focuses on herb growing at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 10.

• Plant four herbs in a stylish container at a "Make it and Take it" workshop, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10. Cost is \$19.99. Register at www.englishgardens.com.

• Learn how to keep your lawn green at a free presentation, 1 p.m. Saturday, March 17.

• Get tips on landscape design at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24.

Area stores are at 155 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 332-7900; 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights, (313) 278-4433; 4901 Coolidge Highway, Royal Oak, (248) 280-9500; and 6370 Orchard Lake Road, in West Bloomfield, (248) 851-7506. For information, log onto www.EnglishGardens.com.

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Evangeline Pescasio, RN
 In-Service Training Director

Evangeline presents educational sessions to Fours Seasons staff 6-10 times a month in small group settings. It's her job to give nursing staff the tools they need to provide quality care.

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Before coming to Four Seasons, Evangeline worked as an RN for transplant and the surgical medical floor at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit.

Her manager called her an ambassador for safety; everyone called her 'Angel' for a reason. "I got the inspiration from nursing to care for the whole person, not just the physical being. I spend time with residents, eye to eye, give them a hug. We're caring not only for residents, but families and co-workers.

I don't look at nursing as a job but as a calling."

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THE VALUE OF JOINT FLUID
 A patient with a painful and swollen knee sees a doctor who removes the fluid and injects a steroid. But the doctor does something more: he sends the fluid to a laboratory for analysis. The report comes back with a fluid white blood cell (wbc) count of 5,000. With that information, the physician knows that the patient has a knee condition more serious than a sprain.
 For physicians, joint fluid is not a watery substance to remove and discard. Rather, the fluid obtained needs analysis including a white blood cell count, a stain of a sample to uncover possible infection and a microscopic examination to look for crystals such as occur in gout.
 In the instance cited above, the finding of 5,000 wbc's was key. Normally, the cell count in synovial fluid ranges from 50-500 cells. In instances of injury the cell count could reach 900-1000. A higher number indicates an inflamed joint and tells the doctor that he needs to obtain additional information from the patient.
 In this case, further inquiry brought out that the patient had a past history of psoriasis, and that knee problems similar to the present one had occurred in the past, but always went away in time. Now the pain and swelling persisted which is why the patient made a doctor's appointment.
 With this additional data, the physician could make a diagnosis of psoriatic arthritis, initiate proper medication - an anti-TNF drug - and give the patient assurance that well being would return.
 This resolution occurred because the physician took the time to treat synovial fluid with care and attention.

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Investigating appliance fires takes sleuthing

By Joe Gagnon
Guest Columnist

The Sacramento Bee, a newspaper in California, published an article on Feb. 2 about the defects in appliances that can cause a fire. Much of what I am writing today comes with permission from Consumer Reports, which supplied the data used in this eye-opening story.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

The Web site address www.SaferProducts.gov should be written in your personal directory because it may be of great help to you once you have read this column. This a Web site where you can go back years to check out the model number of your appliances and check

to see if they were ever under a recall published by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, (CPSC).

In the past five years, more than 15 million appliance units have been recalled by the CPSC and manufacturers for defects that could cause a fire; 7.3 million (almost half) of the recalled units were dishwashers. Almost four of every five recalls in Consumer Reports' analysis involved products made outside of the U.S. with the majority coming from China. The biggest recall in Consumer Reports' analysis was for 2.5 million GE dishwashers in May 2007. In March 2009, 1.6 million Maytag refrigerators were recalled because of electrical failure in the relay, the component that turns on the compressor.

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data from 2002-2009 showed more than 69,000 fires in which

the appliance was the primary cause. Most incidents were attributed to ranges, followed by dryers, air conditioners, refrigerators and dishwashers.

Since March 2011, consumers have logged more than 850 instances of appliance fires on www.SaferProducts.gov, a site maintained by the CPSC that allows consumers to report product safety problems. The site has proved to be a useful forum for sharing safety concerns, but it has encountered resistance from companies that contend the information publicly posted is unverified. Consumers Union supports efforts to protect and promote the Web site as a way to publicly provide early warning of potential product problems. Consumers should be encouraged to share their experiences with unsafe products on the site to provide real-life experiences that can contribute to safety.

You will have to agree that the

above information is all pretty good stuff and I urge you to pass it around. I have spent the past 30 years writing books, this column, and doing radio shows across this country and always in my own polite way trying to scare the pants off of home owners. I have such a passion for this subject as most service technicians carry the same feelings. Talk to any appliance repair guy or gal and they have seen so much in regards to appliance safety. Don't you ever think I have a great love for these manufacturers who I know could do so much more for the customer who purchases their product? I honestly think that appliance manufacturers don't have a clue what the words "quality control" means and if government put the same emphasis on them that they do on the automobile industry we would certainly have safer products in our homes. Register new appliances:

The large number of recalls is a sobering reminder of how important it is for consumers to register their products with manufacturers in order to be promptly notified in the event of a recall. Consumers concerned about their privacy or junk mail need only provide manufacturers with their name, contact information and the appliance model and serial number. I talk with thousands of homeowners every year and it still shocks me at how many people have plugged up vent lines on their clothes dryers. I will continue to scare every person I can in regards to the use of appliances and don't forget the Web site in this column. It could prove to be the most important address you have. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard at 8 a.m., Saturdays on WAAM 1600. You can e-mail your problems and questions on appliances to apldr@twm1.r.com

Retired racer

My name is Image. I'm a retired racing Greyhound and I hope to find a home of my own. I'm looking for someone to love me and think I'm as special as I really am. My foster mom says that I'm actually the "Perfect Girl" so perhaps you will too. I'm a lovely brindle girl with eyes that will melt your heart. If you would like to meet me and learn a little more about me, please contact GRACE Greyhound Retirement Adoption Care and Education at (734) 558-4218 or e-mail gracegreyhounds@yahoo.com. Visit the GRACE website at www.houndsofgrace.org.



SHOW

Continued from page B5

among more than 20 dogs they took from a puppy mill raid nearly 12 years ago.

Activist, rescuer

McIver, who says her mini schnauzers are her "second family," after raising her own two children, has rescued dogs from puppy mills, too. She and her volunteers regularly foster mini schnauzers that have been surrendered by owners, taken from puppy mills or dumped in shelters.

"You'll find me protesting at pet stores from time to time, although I can't do that as much because I've got the rescue," said McIver, who loves to watch rescue dogs "blossom" and "build confidence" while living in foster care. She got involved in animal rescue seven years ago after working in a pet store and took on leadership of the Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer



Julie Barnett of Livonia, a volunteer with Farmington-based Michigan Pug Rescue, gives Detroit Pistons mascot, Hooper, a chance to check out a pooch at an adoption event in Novi.

Rescue in 2006, after its founder retired.

"I saw behind the scenes at the store what went on, the sick dogs that came in. I said we have to change it. People will say where do you expect me to get a puppy if I can't go to the pet store? You want to support breeders who are doing it the right way," she said. "The thing about getting a rescue dog is they usually are older. They've been in a home, they are

potty-trained and past the chew stage. They're a lot less work than puppies."

Both McIver and Nathan said their favorite dog breeds make good family dogs. They like to "do whatever you are doing," McIver said.

For more about Michigan Pug Rescue, visit www.michiganpugrescue.com. For more on Great Lakes Mini Schnauzer Rescue visit members.petfinder.com/~M171/index.html.

REUNIONS

DEARBORN HEIGHTS AN-NAPOLIS

CLASS OF 1982

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

DETROIT MACKENZIE

CLASS OF 1962

Planning class reunion in 2012. Seeking classmates and contact information. E-mail the committee at mackenzie1962@gmail.com.

FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1967

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

GARDEN CITY HIGH SCHOOL EAST

CLASSES OF 1968-1973

Reunion Sept. 22. Looking for classmates. Check out the "Garden City High School (East) Reunion 2012" on Facebook. Or e-mail to Cindy Eads Frens at irish4200@hotmail.com, Debi Cassidy Haller at debi.haller@gmail.com, Doris Fugaban Williams at doris1226@wowway.com, Lee A Gilligan at ee.gilligan@att.net, Sue Cook at stasselmyer@charter.net, SuzieVWright Rogiero at suzierogiero@yahoo.com, Jackie Kalifut at jackieideson@gmail.com or Jeff Fordell at jef-freyfordell@comcast.net.

LINCOLN PARK HIGH

CLASS OF 1963

Planning for 50-year reunion, set for Sept. 15, is underway. For more information contact JeanBadoud-Riddell at weaver@sbcglobal.net.

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1971-75

The classes are joining together to celebrate with a reunion on Aug. 4. Reunion organizers are searching for classmates

from those years. Send your name, address, phone and e-mail to nhs40yearreunion@gmail.com. The organizers will send more details after receiving your information.

REDFORD THURSTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1962

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

WAYNE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1957

Looking for classmates for the 55th class reunion to be held May 19. For more information contact Wanda Putman Boice at boice@aol.com or polly-girl219@aol.com. Or call Richard Smith at (248) 747-6817.

CLASS OF 1962

Looking for classmates for 50th class reunion on May 19. E-mail to Judy (Ramsey) Oleson at joleson@sbcglobal.net or call her at (586) 268-1663 or e-mail to Kathy (Quinn) Hayes at bustchr@aol.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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BEANE MARY "PAT"

Age 79 of Livonia. Beloved wife of the late Robert "Bob". Loving mother of Mary "Sue" Sobocinski, Robert Jr. (Virginia) Beane, and Connie (Rick) Fletcher. Dear grandmother of Sarah and Sheila Sobocinski, Rebecca (Greg) Perdue, and Robert III (Cassandra) Beane, and Ricky Fletcher. Dearest great grandmother of 8. Please call Fred Wood Funeral Home for service times (734)464-8060. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Please share your memories at Fredwoodfuneralhome.com



HOLZHETER,
DOROTHY ANN

Dorothy took her final journey on Monday, January 9, 2012 at home in Virginia Beach, VA. She was born in Pennsylvania on July 16, 1926 and lived in Livonia the majority of her life, she was 85 years young. She is reunited with her husband Herbert Holzheter, daughter Laura and son Louis Heller. She is survived by her loving children, Denean Evans, Herbert Holzheter Jr. and son-in-law Jim. She took immense pleasure in, and loved, her grandchildren, Rick, Laurie, Heather, Michael, Ryan and Kim and her great grandchildren, Evan, Ayden, Dillon, Emma and Hailey, along with many nieces and nephews. Mom had many longtime friends who will miss her. She was a great mother, wife, friend and neighbor, and above all, kind to everyone. Mom always thought of others first and did not know a stranger. She was also an avid bowler and card player. Her Celebration of Life open house will be held at her Grandson's home at 34009 Edmonton Ave, Farmington Hills, Michigan on Saturday, February 25, 2012, from 1-6pm.

REDDIG, WILLIAM EDWIN AUGUST 8, 1923



REDDIG, BETTY FOLEY JUNE 15, 1924



Taking a cue from the ending of the movie *The Notebook*, on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at 12:35pm, William Edwin Reddig passed peacefully from this world. On his way to heaven William walked the nine miles to his wife's apartment in Petoskey, Michigan. After being told by her husband of 64 years that it was time to go on to their next great adventure, Betty also went to heaven. The two, independent of each other for the past three months, left this world within two hours of each other. As in life, Betty and Bill are together still. Bill was born August 8, 1923, to James Burr and Rhoda Fischer Reddig of New Jersey. Bill was the youngest of four children. Betty was born on June 15th of 1924, and was the middle child of her family, three beautiful girls, born to Hazel and Michael Foley of Bellaire, Ohio. Bill was commissioned as a Navy Pilot through the V5 Program shortly after the conclusion of World War II; He returned to New Jersey and completed a course in Industrial Design at the Pratt Institute. They met on a blind date at Penn Station. He and Betty were married in 1947 at the Church of the Transfiguration (the Little Church around the Corner) in Manhattan. Betty excelled at everything she set her mind to during her busy and productive life. In Birmingham, she was the President of the League of Women Voters. Bill's considerable talents were recognized at American Motors Corporation. Bill was responsible for the design of the roof rack placed on top of a car. From AMC he accepted a promotion to be Head of Design at the appliance subsidiary Kelvinator. His signature accomplishment there was to apply the style of the auto side of the business to what were then plain white appliances. His concept shows "The Kelvinator Originals" featured refrigerators styled as fashion statements, integrating an elegant designer touch to custom kitchens. After divestiture of the appliance company, he rose through the management ranks to become Chief Executive Officer of White Consolidated Industries of Grand Rapids, Michigan. They are survived by three children, CAPT J.R. Reddig, USN-Ret., of Arlington, VA, Michael S. Reddig of Flagstaff, AZ, playwright and professional IATSE stagehand, Ann C. Reddig of Anchorage, AK, and seven grandchildren. There will be a memorial service in Shippensburg, PA, on Saturday, June 16. There will also be a memorial service in Bellaire, OH, on Sunday, June 17th. The family requests donations in lieu of flowers to be made in Bill's name to the Alzheimer's Association National Office, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17, Chicago, IL, 60601, and/or donate to your local community library in Betty's name.

JOHNSON, GARY RAY

Age 60 of Bancroft/formerly of Howell passed away on Monday, February 20, 2012 at his home. A funeral service will be held in Livonia on Monday, February 27, 1-8 p.m. at Watkins Brothers Funeral Home, Bancroft Chapel. Gary was born on February 15, 1952 in Detroit, the son of Raymond V. and Marcia A. (Kokones) Johnson. He was a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School, Class of 1970. Gary was an Iron Worker. He is survived by his fiancée Myrna Wintermote, daughter Stacey (Richard) Griffin, grandchildren, James and Brianna, brother, Darrell D. (Donna) Johnson, step-brother, Nicholas Kokones, mother, Marcia (George) Kokones and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father Raymond and brother Kevin. Memorials can be made to Bancroft Lions Club or Durand Eagles. Online condolences can be sent to: www.watkinsfuneralhomes.com



JONES, JACK

February 19, 2012, age 77 of Livonia. Beloved husband of Maureen. Dear father of Karen (Don) Taubly and John (Kim) Jones. Loving grandpa of Alec Jones. Mr. Jones is survived by 2 brothers and 1 sister. A memorial gathering will be held at Fred Wood Funeral Home 36100 Five Mile Road (E. of Levan) Livonia, Sunday February 26 from 2-4PM. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

Please share your memories at Fredwoodfuneralhome.com

ROBISON, ALBERT R.

Age 83, February 20, 2012. Beloved husband of Bernice. Father of Diana (Greg) Cowling, Al (Dee), Rod (Michele) and the late Richard. Grandfather of Meredith (Shawn) Galdeen, Andrea, AJ (Jen), Ashley, Ryan, Kyle and Tyler. Great grandfather of Melody and Evangelene. Visitation Thursday 3-8pm at the John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City (between Ford Rd. & Cherry Hill). In state Friday 10am until 11am funeral service at Garden City Community Baptist Church, 28237 W. Warren Rd. (Between Inkster Rd. & Middlebelt), www.santeiufuneralhome.com Family suggestions memorials to the Alzheimer's Association.



STREET, BERNICE L.

February 19, 2012, Age 92. A long time resident of Birmingham, she was the daughter of the late Lillian A. and Edward T. Leonard of Philadelphia, PA. Wife of Fletcher D. for 62 years. Mother of Richard L. of Birmingham, and Shirley E. (Nina Stark) of Troy, NY. Grandmother of Hannah D. also of Troy, NY. Sister of the late Elizabeth G. Leonard of Sarasota, FL. Highly intelligent, she received her degree in English at Temple University, and was a voracious reader. She had her masters in Bridge and loved to play. Above all though, was the kindness in her heart. Words cannot express how greatly she will be missed. Services have been held at First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham. A.J. Desmond & Sons, (248) 362-2500.

Milestones



Patterson-Jacobs

Mr. and Mrs. William Patterson of Plymouth are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Ann, to Robert (Jake) Jacobs, both of Corvallis, Ore. Robert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Jacobs of Webster Township. Julie is a graduate of Salem High School and University of Michigan and is employed as a fitness and nutrition coach. Robert is a graduate of Dexter High School and Purdue University. He is pursuing a doctorate in physics from Oregon State University. A summer 2012 wedding is planned.



Mitchell-Wooley

Elizabeth Ann Mitchell and G. Michael Wooley announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Jim and Ruth Mitchell of Farmington Hills, graduated from Farmington High School and has a B.A. degree in special education from Michigan State University and an M.A. degree in education from Eastern Michigan University. She teaches elementary special education in East Detroit Public Schools. Her fiancé, son of Elizabeth Wooley of Colorado Springs, Colo., and the late George Wooley, earned a B.A. degree from Michigan State University and an M.B.A. degree from Walsh University. He is a sales director for Saturn Electronics in Rochester Hills. A March 2012 wedding is planned at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester.



Freeman-Lorentz

Alexandria Freeman and John Lorentz announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Kemper and Barbara Freeman of Livonia, will graduate in April with a BA degree in special education, language arts and elementary education from the University of Michigan Dearborn. Her fiancé, son of Joyce Lorentz of Novi, graduated in 2011 from Kettering University. He works for General Motors as an exhaust manifold DRE. A June 2012 wedding is planned in Dearborn.



Parzuchowski-Foess

Kelley Leigh Parzuchowski and Scott David Foess announce their engagement. The bride-to-be, daughter of Kim and Joanne Parzuchowski of Westland, graduated in 2002 from Livonia Churchill High School and received a B.A. in accounting in 2006 from the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University. She earned a master's degree from The School of Hospitality Business at Michigan State University in 2008 and works as a CPA for Ernst & Young LLP. Her fiancé, son of David and Barbara Foess of Canton, graduated in 2003 from Salem High School and earned a B.A. degree in finance from the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University in 2007. He received a juris doctorate degree in 2010 from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and works as a licensed attorney at Ernst & Young LLP. The couple met in 2005 during a summer business program with the Multicultural Business Programs at Michigan State University. They plan a fall 2012 wedding at Sts. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church, Detroit's oldest church building in use since 1848. Their reception will be held at the historic Colony Club of Detroit.



Bird-Smith

Ken and Linda Smith of Pinckney announce the engagement of their son, Jason, to Sarah Bird, daughter of Brian and Linda Bird of Tecumseh. Jason graduated from Farmington High School and Michigan State University, with a bachelor's degree in music education. He received a master's degree in music education from the University of Michigan and is employed as director of bands at Skyline High School in Ann Arbor. Sarah is a Tecumseh High School graduate. She received a bachelor's degree in music education from Eastern Michigan University and is employed as music director at St. Mary Catholic Central in Monroe. The wedding is planned for July 2012 in Tecumseh.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Send items for the religion calendar to Sharon Dargay at sdargay@hometownlife.com. Photos must be in jpg format, attached to the e-mail.

February

BLACK HISTORY
Time/Date: 11 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 26
Location: First Baptist Church of Detroit, 21100 Southfield Road, Southfield
Details: Observe Black History Month at 11 a.m. service. The church's Praise Dance Group and Children's Church will present dance and music selections. Light refresh-

ments will be served after the service. United Voices in Christ, a male singing group, also will perform at 3 p.m., Feb. 26
Contact: (248) 569-2972 or firstbaptist@fbc-detroit
BOWLING FUNDRAISER
Time/Date: 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26
Location: Westland Bowl 5940 Wayne Road, Westland
Details: For Good Hope Lutheran Church in Garden City; tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for children and include three games, shoes, pizza, and pop
Contact: (734) 427-3660

GRIEF SUPPORT
Time/Date: 7 p.m. Feb. 29 and March 7, 14 and 21
Location: St. Michael's Catholic Parish, 11441 Hubbard, Livonia
Details: Grieving with Great Hope, a four-week grief support series for individuals who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Presenters will include The Rev. Bill Tindall as well John and Sandy O'Shaughnessy from Good Mourning Ministry. Register by calling the church of visiting Good Mourning Ministry's Web site.
Contact: (734) 261-1455; www.goodmourningministry.net

PAYING TRIBUTE
TO THE LIFE OF
YOUR LOVED ONE

Hospital, hospice partner on new inpatient unit

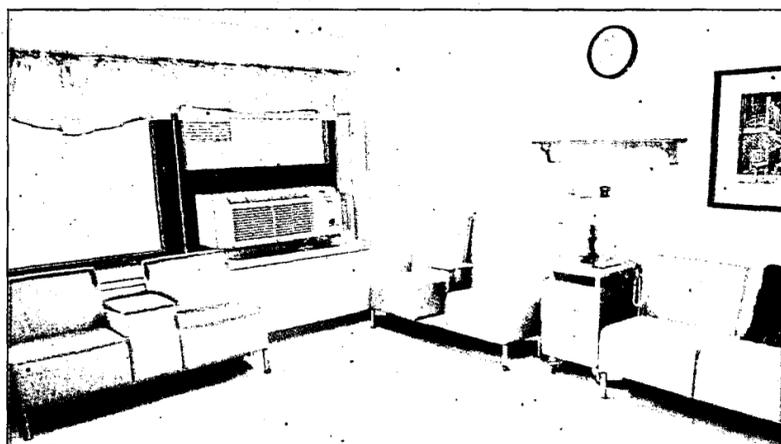
By Sharon Dargay
O&E Staff Writer

Oakwood Annapolis Hospital's new hospice and palliative care unit began receiving positive reviews even before it opened last week.

"Prior to the opening, the staff did have the opportunity to make the unit available to a couple of patients to make sure that everything was in place," said Christine Westphal, director of palliative care services for Oakwood Health Care System. "One of the families in particular said they had a hospice experience before with another hospice, and they said this hospice experience was just tremendous by comparison. They couldn't say enough about the unit, the staff and the care they received. It was fabulous feedback that let us know we are definitely doing the right thing."

The six-bed unit, which opened Thursday at the Wayne hospital, offers the comforts of home, along with the expertise of medical staff. It's the first time Oakwood and Hospice of Michigan have collaborated on an inpatient unit dedicated solely to end-of-life and palliative care. Palliative services help patients with chronic or progressive conditions live as well as possible with their illness for as long as possible.

"Most people go to hospice because they don't want to stay in



The new hospice and palliative care unit at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital includes spacious seating areas for families, in addition to a kitchen and private patient rooms.



The new hospice and palliative care unit at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital offers large, private rooms.

the hospital," said Dr. Michael Paletta, vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer for Hospice of Michigan. But for some hospice patients, who need more intensive care than a private home or nursing center can provide, the hospital becomes a necessity.

"When that occurs, the patients are placed in whatever room is made available. They might be on a med floor. They might be in the emergency depart-

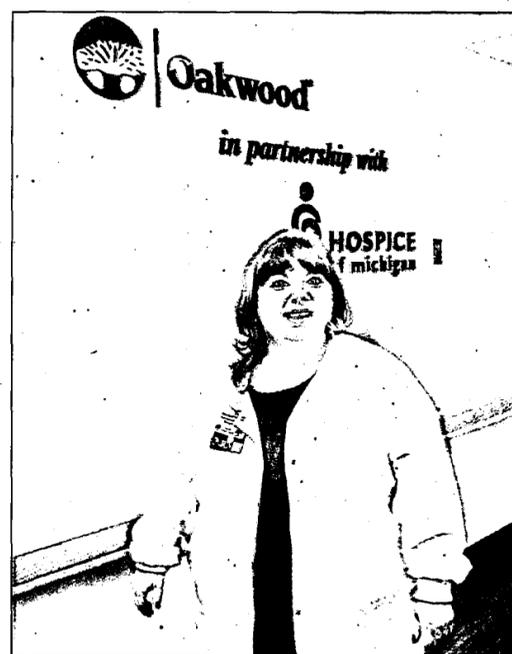
ment," Paletta said. "The thinking behind Annapolis is that this is a special area where all the staff is specially trained in end-of-life issues. We'll have the ability to transfer patients (from other floors) to there. And if a patient is in Oakwood Southshores or Oakwood Dearborn, they can be transferred to the unit without leaving the Oakwood system."

Like home
Diane Hartley, direc-

tor of patient care services for Oakwood Annapolis, said the new hospice unit originally housed a medical-surgical wing.

"We felt we could free up six rooms to provide hospice and palliative care," she said. "What we've done with the unit is made private rooms with more home-like furniture and amenities. The family has the ability to stay with the patient."

Families can sleep in a lounge and cook



Hospice nurse Rhonda Berndt is ready to welcome patients to the new unit at Oakwood Annapolis Hospital in Wayne.

in a common kitchen area. The unit also includes separate bathrooms for visitors and patients, as well as a consultation room.

Each patient will receive a keepsake blanket that they can take home when they leave the hospital.

"The unit is not designed for long-term residential," Westphal noted. "It's designed for patients who are too unstable to be discharged or just need round-the-clock attention while we fine-tune their plan of care. The goal for all the patients is to help that patient and family transition to a place other than the hospital, whether it's a home

or nursing care center. For patients who are too ill, they'll stay with us for their final days."

Partners
Oakwood Annapolis Hospital is located at 33155 Annapolis, Wayne; (734) 467-4000. Visit the Oakwood Health Care System site at www.oakwood.org. Hospice of Michigan offers pain and symptom management, emotional and spiritual support, home health aides, respite for family caregivers, equipment, supplies and grief support in the home, hospital and long-term care facilities. Visit its website at www.hom.org.

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Having trouble sleeping? Believe it or not, Daylight Savings Time can play havoc with your sleep schedule. Come discuss a variety of sleep related topics with the board certified "GCH Dream Team". From insomnia to sleep aids, the Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan will help you rest easier...and better!

Tuesday, March 6, 2012
5:30 pm - Registration
6:00 pm - Presentation

Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan

35600 Central City Parkway • Westland, MI 48185
(Located in the Westland Specialty Center; adjacent to Dick's Sporting Goods)

This event is free to the public and includes speakers:

- Medical Director of the Sleep Disorders Center of MI, John Morrison, Jr., DO
Reviews and explains the various sleep disorders
- Pharmacist, Lisa Cayo, R. Ph.
Discusses over-the-counter and prescription sleep aids, and the interactions and effects of medications
- Sleep Medicine Specialist, Amal Omran, MD
Provides an overview of sleep disorders in children
- Diabetes Educator, Sharon Goodsell, RN
Explains the link between Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) and diabetes

Plus, tour our technologically advanced facility

Also, on-hand to discuss the latest products and services for improving sleep are: Garden City Home Medical Equipment and Sweet Dreamzzz, Inc.

There will also be a prize drawing that will include gift cards and more!

Light refreshments will be served, but space is limited and registration is required. To reserve your space, or for more information, call 734.458.3330

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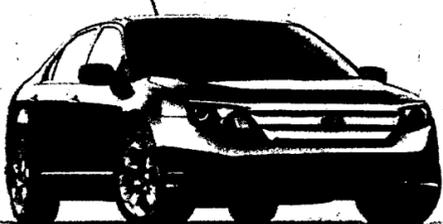
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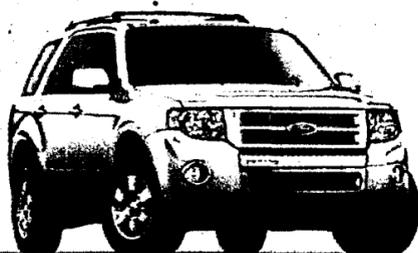


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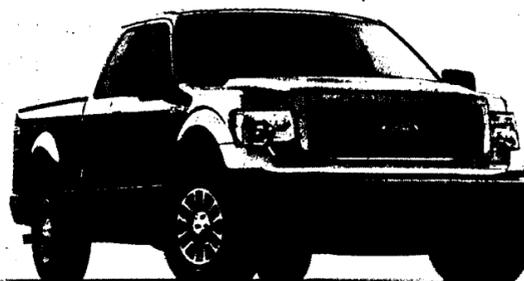


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