

THURSDAY  
April 22, 2010

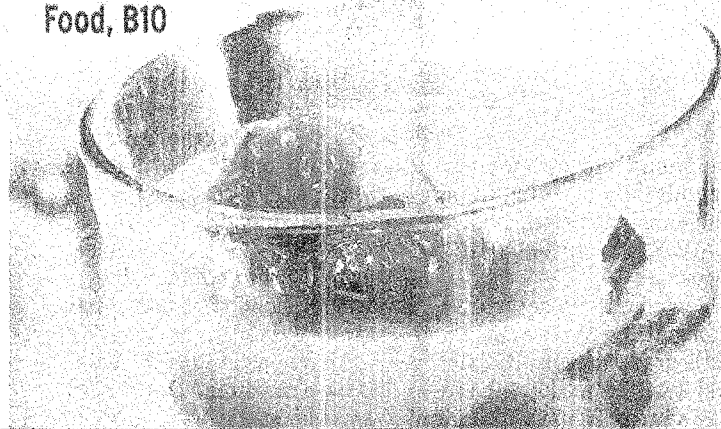
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# WESTLAND OBSERVER

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## AROUND TOWN

### Road work

Traffic on Merriman between Ann Arbor Trail and Joy is a bit more congested with the start of a resurfacing project this week.

The work began Monday and includes the milling and resurfacing the existing pavement, new handicap accessible sidewalk ramps and other items of improvement. During construction, Merriman is remaining open to through traffic, however, there will be lane closures at times, creating traffic delays.

The project has been designed, using applicable federal, state and county guidelines and as a result rights of way will be brought up current standards, including the removal of boulders, trees, railroad ties, retaining walls that are determined to be obstructions within the roadway's clear zone.

Property owners with sprinkler systems or any other underground features that are not part of the Miss-Dig program, need to identify and clearly stake the locations to the contractor of the utility and reduce the possibility of damage during construction. They also should remove any landscaping features or items in the right of way they want to salvage.

Residents with questions or concerns can call the Field Engineering Division at (734) 595-6504, Ext. 2073, or talk with Wayne County Inspector Brian Martin, who will be at the on-site construction trailer each day of active construction.

### In concert

Today is Earth Day, and the William P. Faust Public Library is celebrating by inviting residents to attend an outdoor concert at 7 p.m. this evening (April 22) at the library's pavilion.

The internationally acclaimed Biakye Percussion Group, which means unity, performs original compositions and arrangements that draw on a wealth of American and African melodic percussion traditions including the Ugandan embaire and budongo, American marimba and vibraphone, and Ghanaian gyil.

They have performed at the Sacheon International Percussion Festival and the Pyeongtaek Super Percussion Festival in South Korea, the African Xylophone Festival in New York City, and has been featured on several Detroit Symphony Orchestra Concert Series.

The pavilion is located behind the library which is on Central City Parkway north of Ford.

## Budget cuts: Police to end D.A.R.E. program

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amidst budget and manpower reductions, the Westland Police Department is planning to end participation in two long-standing programs.

Most visible to residents, the department will no longer have the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program, offered to local elementary schools for the past 19 years. In a change less noticeable to residents on a daily

basis, the department will no longer provide manpower to the Metro Street Enforcement Team, a plainclothes policing unit that originally had officers from Westland, Garden City, Wayne and Inkster, effectively shutting it down.

"With the manpower reductions, we looked at essential services — road patrol is the essential service," Chief James Ridener said during a budget study session. "I'm keenly aware that D.A.R.E. is important to some people.

There are 1,954 students in fifth grade. There used to be three D.A.R.E. officers and now there is just one."

The police department will have 19 fewer budgeted positions — some left vacant through attrition, most the result of early retirements offered to city workers. With a number of command officers leaving, promotions will be made, but under an agreement with their union, sergeants will have more road patrol duties.

"We have got to maintain the

manpower on the street. This plan still gives us excellent coverage on the streets," Mayor William Wild said. "One of the issues I had is that D.A.R.E. is important to Westland. Unlike other communities, we always found a way to keep D.A.R.E."

Originally, D.A.R.E. was offered to sixth-grade students to prepare them for a move to junior high school. Once the Wayne-Westland

Please see **BUDGET, A2**

## 2010 BUSINESS PERSONS OF THE YEAR



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mo Elfakir, with employees like Fallon Gresham and April Smith, has taken service to the next level, turning the Biggy Coffee shop he owns with brother Al Elfakir and brother-in-law Basem Almasri into a java version of "Cheers."

## Brothers brew up coffee, personal service at Biggy

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland Biggy Coffee owners Mo and Al Elfakir pride themselves on providing customers with more than a great cup of coffee.

"We try to take it to another level. What makes us different is the atmosphere and the service," said Mo Elfakir, who opened the business with his brother, Al, in October 2007. "We

want you to have fun and drink a great cup of coffee."

The brothers, who have a third partner in brother-in-law Basem Almasri, are being honored as the 2010 Business Persons of the Year at the Westland Chamber of Commerce's Spring Awards Celebration at Joy Manor this evening.

"It's like *Cheers* where everyone knows your name. I come here in the morning, Mo lets me take a nap,"

said regular customer Dan Stoner, a Garden City resident. "Even though it's a franchise, I hear people call it Mo's coffee shop. These two guys do a helluva job."

"I'm not even a coffee drink — I'm a tea drinker — but I love the caramel mellows with a shot of espresso," said Kim Taylor. "I've had Starbucks but it's not as good. This is personal service, they know my name."

That emphasis on personal ser-

vice — both Mo and Al Elfakir pride themselves on knowing not just customer names but also about their jobs, families or maybe hobbies — was an attractive part of the Biggy franchise.

"I worked in sales for AT&T for three years and I was looking for a different concept. I was getting bored with phones," said Mo Elfakir. "Coffee was the No. 1 growing food business."

Please see **AWARD, A2**

## Index

APARTMENTS ... C2  
AUTOMOTIVE ... C5  
CAREER BUILDER ... C3  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE ... C2  
ENTERTAINMENT ... B6  
OBITUARIES ... B9  
PUBLIC SAFETY ... A4  
REAL ESTATE ... C2  
SPORTS ... B1  
STRICTLY BUSINESS ... B4

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## Open carry gun advocates hold gatherings

Visitors to Tattan Park and Westland's William P. Faust Public Library may notice people there openly wearing holstered guns this weekend.

Open carry advocates have planned public gatherings and picnics that may alarm unsuspecting citizens, said Westland Deputy Police Chief Mark Engstrom. Locally, a gathering is scheduled for the library pavilion Saturday and at the Play Planet pavilion for Sunday.

"Unless criminal activity is noticed, citizens must be aware that these gatherings and the open carry of handguns is perfectly legal," he said. "As odd as it may sound or appear, it is legal in Michigan for a person to carry a pistol in public as long as it is carried with lawful intent and not concealed."

Now that the weather is getting warmer, Engstrom said residents may be more likely to notice people wearing a holstered gun.

Under the state law that allows the

open carrying of a handgun, there are specific places exempted.

Locations where pistols may not be carried are a depository financial institution or a subsidiary or affiliate of a depository financial institution, church or other house of religious worship, court, theater, sports arena, day care center, hospital or an establishment licensed under the Michigan liquor control act.

In addition, a person may not carry a pistol in a manner that violates the brandishing a firearm statute. Brandishing a weapon is defined as a weapon that is pointed or waved about, or displayed in a threatening manner. Finally, a pistol can't be carried in public where it violates local ordinance.

For more information, go online to [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov) or [michiganopencarry.org](http://michiganopencarry.org).

To report suspicious activity or for questions regarding open carry, call the Westland police at (734) 722-9600.

## Wilkie: Will do what's best for students

One seat on the Wayne-Westland Board of Education will be filled in the Tuesday, May 4, school election. Karen Wilkie of



Wilkie

Wayne is challenging incumbent John Goci of Westland for the four-year term on the school board.

Employed as a pharmacy technician, Wilkie decided to run for reelection because she wants to give back to Wayne-Westland.

"As a graduate of this school district, I feel it is my duty to give back by standing up for what is right for the students and the teachers," she said.

**Observer: What qualities or skills do you believe you would bring to the board, if elected?**

I have a lot of people skills and at this time, with the situation between the school board and the parents, think I could be a good mediator for both sides. I also think a new face might ease a lot of tension.

### KAREN WILKIE

**Name:** Karen Wilkie  
**Age:** 59  
**Residence:** Wayne  
**Employment:** Pharmacy technician at the Good Neighbor's Pharmacy  
**Family:** Married to Mervin, I have a son, Scott, and two grandchildren, Kayla and Darien Wilkie.  
**Education:** 1969 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School  
**Community involvement:** Active participant at Wayne City Council meetings; involved in Wayne Little League baseball 1979-86

**Observer: What do you see as the role of a school board trustee?**

The role of a school board trustee is to make sure that all decisions are what is

Please see **WILKIE, A2**



## BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

Community Schools went to a middle school configuration which included sixth-graders, D.A.R.E. was shifted to fifth-graders.

Now that the schools are reformatting to have fifth- and sixth-grade schools, Ridener said it will be a good time to take a break from the program and develop an alternative.

"This is something that will probably be more beneficial

than D.A.R.E. The police and fire departments will have a collaborative effort on safety," Ridener said.

D.A.R.E. is a proprietary program and the new concept, which will be ready in the fall, will provide more flexibility, Ridener said, to look at a variety of topics including drugs, alcohol, fire safety and stranger danger.

"We're one of the few cities to have continued D.A.R.E.; it is rarely used in Michigan. The Michigan State Police have their own version," Ridener said, adding that D.A.R.E.

training would require an officer be sent out of state since it is no longer available in Michigan.

Other essential services for the department, Ridener said, are the detective bureau, which handles investigations, and the records bureau.

"D.A.R.E., MSET and SIU (the Special Investigations Unit) became expendable. We are fortunate to keep SIU intact," Ridener said.

MSET was established as a surveillance unit that could assist member departments by focusing manpower and efforts

on major cases. Depending on what was needed at a given time, MSET was a surveillance unit, a fugitive apprehension team and a major case squad. One MSET investigation resulted in the closing and eventual demolition of the Melody Theater in Inkster, a long-running problem due to illicit sexual activity. The case also resulted in \$1 million in forfeiture money being divided among the communities.

Different communities pulled out of the unit, which was supervised by a Westland police command officer and

housed at the Garden City Police Department. Currently, only Westland, Garden City and the Wayne County Sheriff's Department were participating.

"We'll pull our people back to work in the department. It was a luxury to have them at MSET," said Ridener, who is among those retiring next month.

At the Saturday council budget session where the changes were discussed, resident Bob Johnson expressed concern about ending the D.A.R.E. program.

"I hope you come up with something comparable to what D.A.R.E. has done for the community or that will give more work to Youth Assistance," said Johnson, who also wasn't pleased that a new school resource officer will be assigned.

Assigned at Westland John Glenn High School for the past three years, Officer Dan Serrano will shortly be promoted to sergeant. Patrol Officer Matt Bobby will be the new school resource officer.

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## AWARD

FROM PAGE A1

I decided to look at Biggby. I liked how they laid it out. It was all about interaction and making it more personable."

The Westland store has been recognized for those efforts by Biggby Coffee. Last fall at the Biggby franchisees meeting, the Elfakirs were presented with the Todd Miles Award, corporate recognition of exceptional skills and service from among 125 stores.

Originally from Sterling Heights, the brothers decided to locate their business in Westland. They not only work together but also live together in Westland.

"I liked the demographics and this was a new shopping center — it was one of the nicest plazas and the location," Elfakir said. "Also it was the city officials I met and the chamber of commerce. They were willing to help us. I spoke to the mayor (William Wild) and he seemed like a business person. He was willing to help us get the doors open."

The Elfakirs are also active supporters of local fund-raisers through donations of coffee, special fund-raising mugs and other donations. Among the programs the store has supported are Painting the Town Pink, Westland's H2O Zone water park, the Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk and the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

"We have mugs for Relay for Life. We're on Team Hope and we've raised close to \$800 so far," said Elfakir.

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## WILKIE

FROM PAGE A1

best for the students and the tax dollars.

**Observer: What do you see as the three main issues facing the school district and how do you think they should be addressed?**

The budget be taken care of by not coddling school programs, by not overspending on items that don't benefit the students. Also class sizes and school borders, that should have

taken care of by getting more community input.

**Observer: The Wayne-Westland Community Schools is closing six schools and reconfiguring its elementary programs. How do you feel about those changes?**

Closing the schools is not the answer to saving money. Cuts could have been made somewhere else to save the same amount.

**Observer: Being a school board trustee is more than attending one meeting a month. There are programs and meeting during the day. Will you be able to participate in those activities?**

I will be more than able to and will attend activities outside of the monthly meeting, anything for me to show support for our students.

**Observer: What do you want voters to know about you?**

I would like the voters to know that the reason I care so much about the district is because I live, work and have grown up in this community. My mother, myself, my son and currently my granddaughters went through this district. I want to help this district become something other than a statistic.

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# Rotarian exchange student shares African experience

BY JULIE BROWN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

At 21, Joe LaRiche of Northville Township doesn't remember the days when South Africa's apartheid system became a cause for protest in the U.S. His time in the African country as a Rotary exchange student showed him there's still room for advancement in race relations there.

"There's still a lot of evidence of apartheid," the Schoolcraft College liberal arts student said of his studies in 2006-07. When he went shortly after his graduation from Northville High School, he noticed some areas were all black.

He wore his exchange student jacket while speaking last Thursday to Westland Rotary. "It's a nice little memento," LaRiche said of the jacket, covered with banners and buttons given to him in his travels.

"Rotary Youth Exchange is amazing," said LaRiche, who left at age 17 to live south of Johannesburg with his first host family. "I'm a different person since I came back."

The first "father" spoke mostly Afrikaans, the mother mostly English. They had three daughters, including a foreign exchange student, now enrolled at Brigham Young University



Joe LaRiche of Northville Township (front) with the Rotary Club of Three Rivers. He spent 2006-07 as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in South Africa following Northville High School graduation.

in Utah.

LaRiche, whose family owns the LaRiche car dealership in Plymouth Township, showed pictures of a "Braai," or "barbecue on steroids. Any kind of meat you can think of," including occasional ostrich or wart-hog steaks, he said.

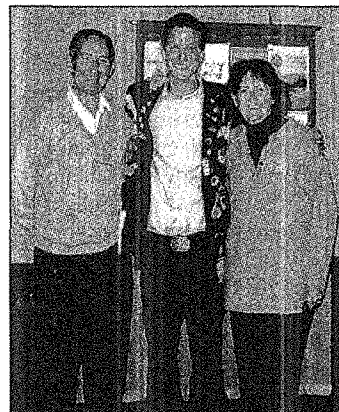
He attended a school for grades 8-12, although he'd already graduated, taking part in discussions in class and get-

ting grades that didn't really count. Instruction at his school was in both languages.

His headmaster in South Africa asked him to cut his hair. LaRiche played on the

school rugby team, and drew laughs with a photo of himself with a three-part mohawk for his initiation.

He and others hiked to the top of Table Mountain. There



Counselors Derek and Francis Mitchell helped to make Joe LaRiche's time in South Africa enjoyable and educational.

were trips with his second and third host families, as well as with counselors for the program and the Rotary district.

The drinking age there is 18, although LaRiche couldn't drink, date or drive due to Rotary restrictions.

"They have a lot of activities for us to do like jumping off this pier," he said of one photo. He visited the Kruger National Park in South Africa,

along with a trip to nearby Mozambique and Swaziland with his third host family.

"The scenery changes, the landscape changes," he said of entering those African countries.

Mozambique has had significant economic problems, he told Rotarians. Central Johannesburg in South Africa is well-maintained, he said, but other parts of the city are controlled by Nigerian drug lords and best avoided.

LaRiche, son of Scott and Dawn, is glad he traveled abroad.

"It's a really good way to experience a culture firsthand," said LaRiche, whose dad and grandfather, Lou, are active Rotarians, exposing him to the program.

"It's been fun watching Joe grow up," said Westland Rotary's president-elect, Jeff Juenemann, who owns Juenemann Insurance in Westland. The families live nearby in Northville Township.

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# Chaplains: Different view in law enforcement

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

When a Westland police officer recently had to notify a family that their young daughter had committed suicide, the officer was accompanied by a minister participating in the department's chaplain program.

"I think we are already reaping benefits from the program. Having the chaplain there made it easier for the officer and the family," said Chief James Ridener. "At one point, we were actually thinking of abandoning the program."

Once it was decided that the chaplains would be beneficial to the department, Deputy Chiefs Alan Ramsden and Mark Engstrom got the program going with the Rev. Randy Bennett of Westland Free Methodist Church and the Rev. Bob McDonald of Fairhaven Baptist Church.

"I had been looking for year to get involved in the community in this way, so I applied for the program," said Bennett. "I appreciate everything the police and firefighters do for the community. I knew I personally needed to give back more to the community."

Bennett decided to apply for the chaplain program after Engstrom attended a pastors meeting and extended an invitation.

Serving for the past several years as the Garden City Fire Department chaplain, McDonald has also been called by Garden City police when needed.

"I was at the Westland Police Department for some reason and an officer knew who I was, I had done funerals for members of his family," said McDonald. "He suggested I do it. I said no, but then I went through the process. It opens the door for me to help so many people."

Both McDonald and Bennett, who completed a weeklong training program and have done ride alongs with officers, view the chaplain program as an additional opportunity to use their God-given gifts in assisting others.

"I'm more of a counselor. I do pastoral care, that's my primary way of ministry," said Bennett. "I thought it would work well."

"I see this as an opportunity to give to those who give to us," said McDonald.

Neither the ministers nor Ridener view the chaplain program as means to espouse religious beliefs.

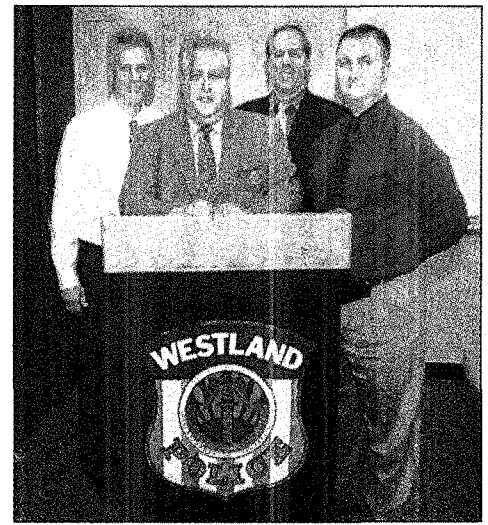
"Both Bob and I are aware of separating our religion from counseling," said Bennett.

"It's not that they try to force religion or bring that to people. The goal is to help someone get

through a life problem, whatever the problem might be," said Ridener. "The chaplains bring a different perspective than law enforcement. It's about day-to-day life."

Along with members of the public, the chaplains are also available to members of the police department when needed.

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



Westland Police Chief James Ridener (at podium) is joined by chaplains the Rev. Randy Bennett of Westland Free Methodist Church (back row, from left), the Rev. Bob McDonald of Fairhaven Baptist Church and Deputy Chief Mark Engstrom.

## Tips help in disposal of unwanted prescriptions

Among the myriad of phone calls received at the Westland Police Department, citizens will occasionally have questions about the proper methods of disposal for prescription drugs that are expired, no longer needed or belonged to a deceased family member.

In the past, it was common to inform people that flushing old medications down the toilet was acceptable, said Deputy Chief Mark Engstrom. However, recent testing has shown that trace amounts of chemicals in prescription drugs do not break down in water treatment facilities and enter the environment with a potential for harm, he said.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy recommends the following for the proper disposal of prescription drugs:

- Take the prescription drug out of the original container.
- Mix the drugs with an undesirable substance, such as cat litter or used coffee grounds.
- Put the mixture into a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub or a sealable bag.
- Conceal or remove any personal information, including prescription number, on the empty containers by covering it with black permanent marker or duct tape, or by scratching it off.
- Place the sealed container with the mixture and the empty drug containers in the trash.

For more information, visit [www.dontflushdrugs.com](http://www.dontflushdrugs.com) which includes a helpful video.

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



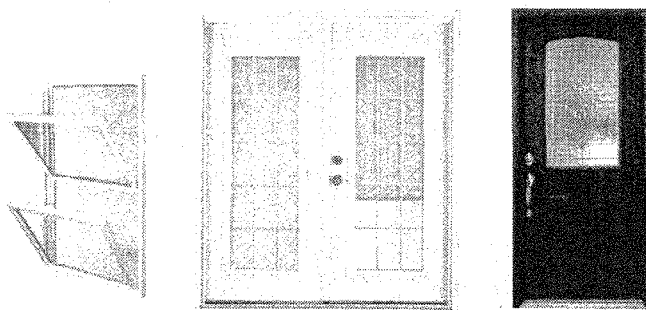
## HURRY IN FOR THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL VALUES

Prices valid 4/22/10 - 4/26/10 unless otherwise noted.

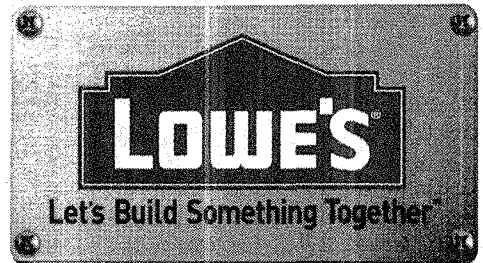
# 20% off

### SPECIAL ORDER

- PATIO DOORS • ENTRY DOORS
- GARAGE DOORS • INTERIOR DOORS • WINDOWS



Discount taken at time of order. Offer applies to product only. Excludes Pella 750 Designer Series windows and patio doors. Offer valid 4/18/10 - 4/26/10. See store for details.



## COMMERCIAL APPRECIATION DAYS

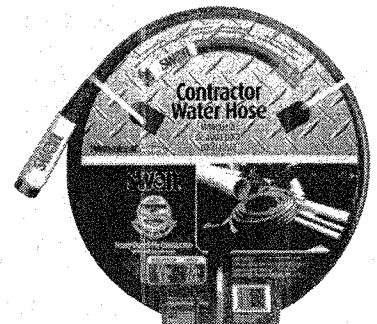
3 DAYS ONLY 4/28/10 - 4/30/10

LUNCH FROM 11AM - 2PM  
ON FRIDAY THE 30TH

### SPECIAL VALUE!

now **\$38.68** was **\$42.98**

3/4" x 75' Contractor Water Hose  
• 3/4" Dia. moves high volume of water #75153



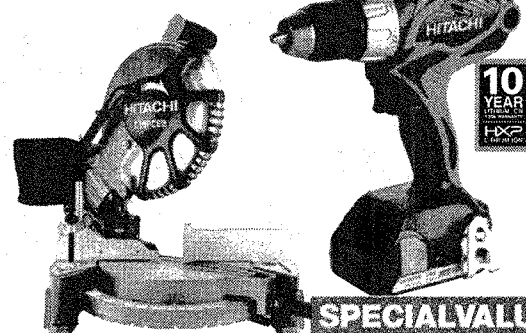
### SPECIAL VALUE!

now **\$17.98** was **\$19.98** 2.25-gallon

Knock Out Rose  
• Beautiful clusters of fluorescent, cherry red flowers with a light tea rose fragrance #157214



## HITACHI



### SPECIAL VALUE!

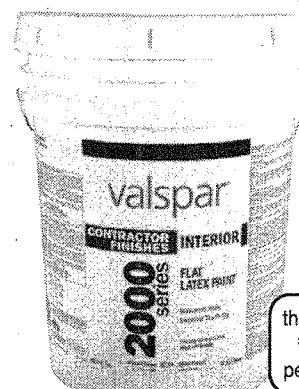
now **\$99** was **\$139**

10" Compound Miter Saw  
• 15-amp • 5,000 RPM • Includes 10" 24-T carbide blade #116704

### SPECIAL VALUE!

now **\$149** was **\$179**

18-Volt Lithium Ion Cordless Drill/Driver and Flashlight  
• 1/2" keyless chuck  
• 460 in.-lbs torque #300255



### SPECIAL VALUE!

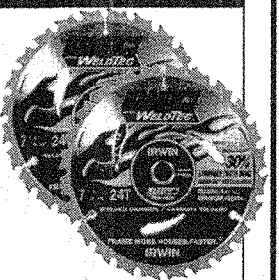
now **\$53.60** was **\$67** 5-gallon size

Interior Flat Finish Paint #30104

that's only **\$10.72** per gallon

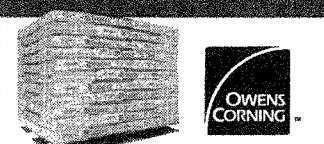
## BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

7-1/4" 24T WELDTEC CIRCULAR SAW BLADE  
#290578

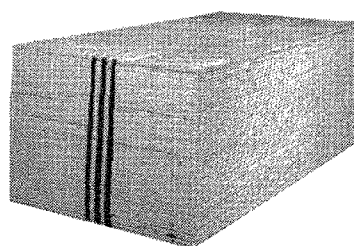


Offer valid 4/22/10 - 4/26/10. Discount taken at register. See store for details.

**FREE \$100**  
GIFT CARD  
VIA MAIL-IN REBATE

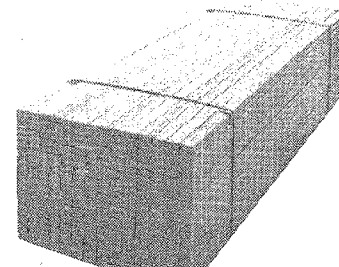


for every \$499 purchase of in-stock Owens Corning Oakridge 30-year shingles. Offer valid 4/22/10 - 4/26/10. See store for details.



**\$15.47** each

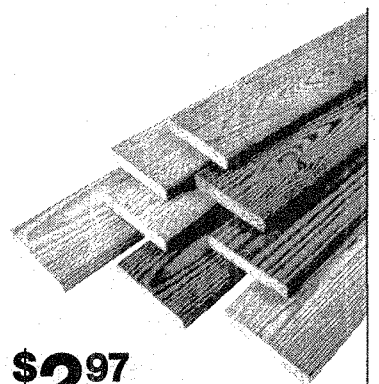
15/32" x 4' x 8' 3-Ply Sheathing Plywood #12192



### SPECIAL VALUE!

now **\$2.50** was **\$2.84** each

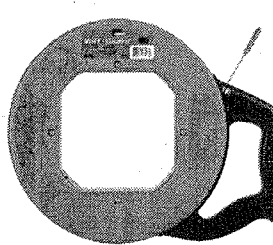
2" x 4" x 92-5/8" Kiln-Dried Whitewood Select Stud #6003



**\$2.97** each

5/4" x 6" x 8' Standard Treated Decking #21210

Pricing and selection for commodity items may vary due to market conditions. We reserve the right to limit quantities.



### SPECIAL VALUE!

now **\$49.97** was **\$59.93**

60' Fiberglass Fish Tape #179459

120' Fiberglass Fish Tape #133604

now **\$67.93** was **\$79.93**



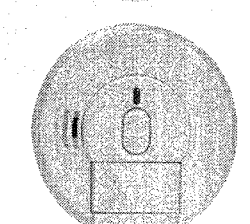
### SPECIAL VALUE!

now **\$5.58** was **\$6.97**

4" Eco-Stream Rotator or 4" Eco-Stream Adjustable Rotator  
#305586; #305739

Also available on Lowes.com.

CONTRACTOR PACK  
BUY IN BULK  
SAVE 27%  
\$10.93 EACH WHEN YOU BUY 6-PACK #128493



**\$65.57** 6-pack

Front Battery Load Smoke Alarms #128493

Front-Loading Smoke Alarm #183814 \$14.97 each

# 10% off

80 LB.  
CONCRETE MIX  
#10385



Discount taken at register. Offer valid 4/22/10 - 4/26/10. See store for details. Items and brands vary by market.

Find hundreds of **NEW LOWER PRICES** in store.

Details on our policies and services: Prices may vary after 4/26/10 if there are market variations. "Was" prices in this advertisement were in effect on 4/15/10 and may vary based on Lowe's Everyday Low Price policy. See store for details regarding product warranties. We reserve the right to limit quantities. While Lowe's strives to be accurate, unintentional errors may occur. We reserve the right to correct any error. Prices and promotions apply to US locations only, and are available while supplies last. © 2010 by Lowe's®. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the gable design are registered trademarks of L.F.L.L.C. (R100491-1 LEFT) 001/100491/062



# MESP, other gifts help grads navigate financial waters

Springtime in Michigan signifies that before long high school and college students will be completing their studies and moving on to their next adventure.

It also means that many of us over the next month will be searching for the appropriate graduation gift. Most people will write a check, buy a gift card or something of that nature.

My recommendation, par-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

dividends into

particularly in these difficult economic times, is to consider a gift that will either help them understand the world of personal finance or an investment that will pay dividends into the future.

It is unfortunate that when most students graduate from high school or even college, they have very little knowledge of the world with regards to personal finance. However, in order to secure their future it is more important than ever that they understand personal finance.

In the past when someone graduated from college they didn't have to make as many choices as they do today.

Choices such as buying or leasing a car, buying a home or renting an apartment, or whether to invest in a traditional 401(k) plan or take the Roth option.

College graduates, when they enter the workforce, are going to be bombarded with all sorts of options. They must have a clear understanding as to what they should pursue and what they should ignore. For example, just about every

college graduate is going to be approached by a friend who is selling life insurance. The graduate should have the knowledge to know whether they need life insurance and if so, what type.

High school graduates are no different. They too will face many complex options. They may not have the resources to help them make the proper selection.

Therefore, as we enter the

graduation season, a gift that will help them make the right financial decisions or help pay for some of the cost of an education is something that everyone should consider.

In considering some ideas, especially for someone who is graduating high school and who is looking at pursuing their education, a contribution to the Michigan Education Savings Plan may be appropriate.

The MESP is a great way to put money away for someone's college education. Not only can it be used for tuition and room and board, but also for such things as books. A nice feature of the MESP is it only takes \$25 to start an account. In addition, the money doesn't have to be used just for a Michigan college. It can be used for any public or private institution in the country.

The beauty of the MESP is that all income grows tax free. Therefore, when the student accesses the money for education expenses, there are no tax consequences.

For parents and grandparents, a contribution to the MESP is a great way of going. However, those who don't want to open a plan for the graduate can consider adding money to an existing plan. The MESP can also be used for other types of post-high school education. Many technical and trade schools also qualify under the MESP.

There is nothing wrong with contributing to an MESP even for a college graduate. Many college graduates can use the MESP for certain continuing education programs. Opening the account is a little different but it still can be beneficial. After all, in today's ever changing world just about everyone will need some sort of continuing education.

Other gifts, particularly for a college graduate that you may wish to consider can be a book about personal finance or a subscription to a magazine such as a *Money*. The bottom line is that whatever you can do to teach the graduate to have a better understanding of money and how it works will be invaluable.

When you take a step back and think about all the financial decisions and their impact upon us, it is tremendous. Unfortunately, graduates come out of high school and college without the necessary knowledge to help them make those decisions. Whatever you can do to help them make the right decision may not be so popular now but will definitely be a gift that will help them well into the future.

Congratulations and good luck to all the graduates, whether high school or college, and their parents, as they enter the next phase of their journey through life.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [monymatters@hometownlife.com](mailto:monymatters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit his Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

## TOTAL TOOL TAKEOVER

**LOOK FOR POWERFUL VALUES ALL OVER TOOL WORLD — 5 DAYS ONLY 4/22/10 - 4/26/10**

**2-Piece 18-Volt NiCd Cordless Combo Kit**  
Includes 1/2" drill/driver, 6-1/2" circular saw, 1-hour charger and 2 batteries #37894

**SPECIAL VALUE!**  
now **\$89** was **\$109**

**4-Piece 18-Volt NiCd Cordless Combo Kit**  
Includes 1/2" drill/driver, 6-1/2" circular saw, reciprocating saw and flashlight •2 batteries #36099

**SPECIAL VALUE!**  
now **\$129** was **\$159**

**20-Drawer Ball-Bearing Rolling Tool Cabinet**  
•Professional tool organizer  
•Full extension heavy-duty ball bearing drawer slides  
#258147 and #258180

**SPECIAL VALUE!**  
now **\$910** was **\$1080**

**+ FREE 227-PIECE SOCKET SET**  
#266610 (a \$199 value)

with purchase of #258147 and #258180, or #268962 and #268967, or #112374. Discount taken at register. Offer valid 4/22/10 - 4/26/10. See store for details.

**3-Piece 18-Volt Lithium Ion Cordless Combo Kit**  
Includes drill driver, impact driver and flashlight  
•Two 1.5Ah batteries included #306201

**SPECIAL VALUE!**  
now **\$199** was **\$259**

**4-Piece Pneumatic Nailer Combo Kit**  
Kit includes brad nailer, roundhead framing nailer, 15-gauge angle finish nailer and stapler #52544

**SPECIAL VALUE!**  
now **\$129** was **\$229**

**50% off LASER LEVELS**

Applies to laser levels marked with yellow clearance labels. Price reflects discount. Starts 4/22/10. While supplies last. Selection may vary by store. See store for details.

**4-Piece 18-Volt NiCd Cordless Combo Kit**  
Includes drill/driver, impact driver, reciprocating saw and pivoting head flashlight #79897

**NEW LOWER PRICE!**  
now **\$299** was **\$389**

**7-1/4" 15-Amp Circular Saw with Case**  
•0-55° bevel #200152

**SPECIAL VALUE!**  
now **\$69** was **\$97**

**5.5-Amp Spiral Saw Rotary Tool Kit**  
#61607

**SPECIAL VALUE!**  
now **\$69** was **\$79.98**

**10-Piece Pliers and Wrench Set**  
#278610

**SPECIAL VALUE!**  
now **\$19.98** was **\$39.98**

**20-Piece 1/4" Drive Socket Ratchet Set**  
•Lifetime warranty #96603

**SPECIAL VALUE!**  
now **\$748** was **\$1428**

**7-1/4" 24T Carbide-Tipped Circular Saw Blade**  
#189404

**SPECIAL VALUE!**  
now **\$5.97** was **\$9.78**

**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE**

**QUICK-CHANGE FOLDING LOCK-BACK UTILITY KNIFE**  
#240888

Offer valid 4/22/10 - 4/26/10. 50% discount taken at register per item. See store for details.

**\$10 off your next \$50 purchase**

Included with purchase of specially marked DeWalt drive guide screwdriving set #94040. Offer valid 4/22/10 - 4/26/10. While supplies last. See store for details.

**12-Piece Drive Guide Screwdriving Set**  
#94040

**SPECIAL VALUE!**  
now **\$6.97** was **\$10.97**

Find hundreds of **NEW LOWER PRICES** in store.

**Details on our policies and services:** Prices may vary after 4/26/10 if there are market variations. "Was" prices in this advertisement were in effect on 4/15/10 and may vary based on Lowe's Everyday Low Price policy. See store for details regarding product warranties. We reserve the right to limit quantities. While Lowe's strives to be accurate, unintentional errors may occur. We reserve the right to correct any error. Prices and promotions apply to US locations only, and are available while supplies last. © 2010 by Lowe's®. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. (R100491-2)

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# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Resident finds handguns missing from home

**Larceny**  
A resident in the 2600 block of Cascade Court told police April 15 that someone had stolen two handguns that were kept in a locked, padded case under a coffee table in the living room. The man said numerous people had been in the home from April 11, when he last saw the guns and April 14 when he noticed they were missing.

One gun was a 40-caliber with a broken recoil spring, the other a 38-caliber which was intact. The guns were valued at \$730.

The man said he had no idea who had taken the weapons.

**Larceny**  
On April 13, a Livonia man told police that someone had stolen his truck keys from his locker at Fitness USA, 7677 N. Wayne Road, the previous day. The suspect stole his wallet, the man said, taking \$75 cash and a credit card that was used at a Dearborn party store. The keys had been left inside the 2008 Dodge Dakota.

**Retail fraud**  
An employee at Kroger, 200 S. Merriman, told police April 19 that she saw a man take three DVDs from a display and place them into his shopping cart. The man suddenly pushed the cart out of the store without paying for the DVDs along with package of Red Bull energy drinks and two frozen dinners. The items were valued at \$57.

The employee followed the man outside, and a customer provided a license plate number that was registered at a Dearborn Heights address.

**Fraud**  
On April 19, a resident in the 31000 block of Joy told police that he had a dresser for



sale for \$75 listed on craigslist. He said he was contacted via e-mail by someone wanting to buy the dresser. The would-be customer told the resident that he was in London on business and would be sending several money orders.

The suspect wanted the resident to deposit the money orders — three for \$850 apiece. The resident was told to keep an extra \$20 for his trouble and wire the balance to the suspect.

The resident told police that he knew it was a scam and took the money orders to police. The suspect had provided an address in London but had also listed an address in Texas as a current residence.

**Retail fraud**  
Police were called to Sam's Quick Mart, 30903 Ann Arbor Trail, April 14 when the owner reported a man had stolen two 40-ounce cans of Busch's beer valued at \$6.

The owner said the man walked up to the counter as if to pay for the beer, which were placed into a paper bag. Instead of paying, the owner said the man told him "this is a stickup," and ran out of the store without paying.

The store owner obtained a license plate number for the suspect's vehicle and it was registered to a vehicle that had been reported stolen from Wayne.

The suspect appeared to have been a regular customer, the store owner said, and may have been responsible for a earlier break-in.

**Vandalism**  
An Atlanta, Mich., woman told police that someone had spray painted the letter "M" on the rear of her 2003 Ford Explorer while it was parked in the 300 block of Beech April 14. A second vehicle parked at the address, a Ford Taurus, was also reported spray painted.

A Pontiac parked at the home next door was also reported spray painted.

— By LeAnne Rogers

## Vendor ticketed for not having license

**Dog bite**  
A vendor who was selling steaks without a permit in the 28500 block of Bridge about 2:45 p.m. April 15 was bitten on his index finger by a Labrador retriever which was contained in its yard.

The vendor, who ignored a "no solicitors" sign and a "beware of dog" sign in the back yard of the home, went to the back of the house when he read a sign to use the back door.

When he tried to pet the dog, the dog bit him.

The police discovered that the man from Wawautosa, Wis., never secured a permit to solicit and also found that the dog wasn't licensed. The owner also couldn't produce validation that the dog had its shots, but planned to look for the paperwork.

**Obstructing police**  
The police arrested a 44-year-old Garden City man about 10:30 p.m. April 15 when they were unable to carry out an investigation of an alleged assault with water.

Two men never stopped yelling at each other and didn't cooperate with police. The police later found that there was no such assault.

**Drunken driving**  
The police arrested an 18-year-old Westland man for drunken driving after they stopped him for speeding 56 mph in a 40 mph zone in a 2000 Ford Escort in the area of a Ford and Radcliff. He registered a .156 blood alcohol level.

**Stolen bike**  
A witness observed a teenage girl steal a BMX style boy's bike that was parked against the front of a house in the 29600 block of Chester about 8 a.m. April 16. She rode off while the teenage boy who was with her continued to walk down the block.

The female is described as about 16 years old, thin build with straight shoulder length blonde hair. She wore blue jeans.

**Stolen bike**  
A Garden City woman who lives in the 29600 block of Marquette reported that her son's bike was stolen about 6:15 p.m. April 19.

A boy, who was hanging around, said that he was looking for his cousin's bike. The woman told him to leave. When she went back into her house, he stole the bike, she told police.

A father who lives in the 31200 block of Sheridan on April 16 told police that his son stole his electric guitar valued at \$3,000 and pawned it at Garden City Exchange.

The father believes that his son wanted the money so that he could buy a bus ticket back to Florida.

The guitar is described as a Mark Tobias six-string signature bass guitar with zebra wood and a purple heart neck.

**No license**  
Police arrested a 21-year-old Dearborn Heights man for never acquiring a license after stopping him at 11 p.m. April 16 for driving a 2005 Ford 500 without headlights.

— By Sue Buck

## Plymouth Christian Academy

Preschool • Elementary  
Middle School • High School

### Friendly Fridays

April 23 & April 30  
8:00 am — 2:00 pm

Drop in and tour the campus,  
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and view the curriculum.

Christian worldview education • College preparatory curriculum  
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## Come See What Everyone Is Talking About CANTON LEISURE SERVICES OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 24  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Drawings for:  
• iPod Nano  
• Summit memberships  
• 4-pack of wristbands to 2010 Liberty Fest  
• Personal training sessions & more!  
Need not be present to win.  
Register for an Activenetwork.com account onsite and automatically receive a \$5 off coupon towards a Leisure Services recreation program.

Learn all about:  
• The Summit on the Park • Summer Camps  
• Canton Sports Center • Canton's Dog Park  
• Canton Farmers Market • Parks and Trails  
• Pheasant Run Golf Club  
• The Village Theater at Cherry Hill  
• The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center  
• Community Special Events and More!

Visit [Cantonfun.org](http://Cantonfun.org) for details or call..... 734/394-5460

## SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

The tragedy is that less than half of those persons who are denied benefits file an appeal. Thus, many thousands of people who deserve benefits never receive them.

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.

Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets

with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign clients to young associate attorneys with much less experience.

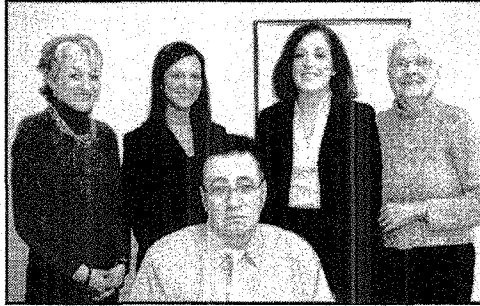
In addition to practicing only Social Security Disability law Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups.

Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure.

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

In a recent radio interview attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefits).

Bieske represents clients from all over the state of Michigan. Call him 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 call him for FREE advice. [www.ssdfighter.com](http://www.ssdfighter.com)





**AROUND WESTLAND**

**Constituent hours**

The staff of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, will hold office hours in several locations in May. The time is set aside so that the citizens served by the congressman have the opportunity to speak with a staff member one on one regarding any federal issue that they might have.

The Tuesday, May 4, office hours are 9-10 a.m. at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Redford Community Center, 1-2 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Westland senior Friendship Center. Office hours for Thursday, May 6, are 9-10 a.m. 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Summit Senior Center, 11 a.m.-noon at the Northville Senior Center, 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Van Buren September Days Senior 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. Comments of a political nature should be directed to the closest office.

**Used book sale**

The Friends of the William P. Faust Library of Westland will hold a used book sale Thursday-Sunday, May 13-15, at the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, north of Ford, Westland.

Thursday will feature a preview for friends members from 3- to 7 p.m. People can join the group to take advantage of the early shopping.

The sale will open to the public on Friday, May 14. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Saturday will feature a Go Green \$6 Bag Sale, \$6.00. Shoppers must bring their own brown paper grocery bag or comparable-sized reusable bag to participate. Sunday will feature a Bag Day Sale for \$4. Regular prices are \$1 for hard-cover books, DVDs and CDs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, 25 cents for small paperbacks, videos, cassettes and records and 10 cents for magazines. A green reusable Friends bag also will be available for \$2.

Money raised from the sale helps fund programs at the library for all ages.

For information, call (734) 326-6123.

**Girls' Night Out**

The Zonta Club of Northwest Wayne County is sponsoring "Comedy for a Cause" on Monday, May 17, at Joey's Comedy Club on Plymouth Road, west of Wayne Road in Livonia.

Zonta International is a women's service organization that works to improve the status of women worldwide. In keeping with the true spirit of women helping women, there will be an all female cast of comedians.

Seating begins at 7:30 p.m., with the show starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 - a \$5 food or drink order is required.

Proceeds will support the club's Women's Scholarship Fund. For more information, call Sally Randall at (734) 464-3728.

**Chili cook-off**

The Westland Democratic Club will hold its fifth annual Chili Cook-off Tuesday, April 27, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey, between Palmer and Michigan Avenue, Westland. Cooks can enter their chili for a fee of \$5.

Cooks need to be at the center at 5:30 p.m., tasters at 6 p.m. The cost is \$5 to taste and vote. Extra votes can be purchased at 10 for \$5 or 30 for \$10. Beverages and desserts are included. There also will be a 50/50 drawing.

All proceeds will go to the Westland Democratic Club. For information, call Nan at (734) 641-8895.

**Pancake breakfast**

Show your support for Sexual Assault Awareness Month by attending First Step's annual Pancake Breakfast and Survivor Art Show 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 24, at its offices at 4400 Venoy Road, just north of Annapolis, Wayne.

The mission of First Step is to reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence and to provide services to individuals affected by these crimes. Prevention of domestic and sexual violence through education, advocacy and appropriate intervention is the ultimate goal of First Step.

For more information, call the Wayne office at (734) 722-1772.

**GARDEN CLIPPINGS**

**High goal**

The Garden City Moose Lodge is planning its eighth annual Cancer Auction Saturday, April 24, at the lodge at 29137 Ford, Garden City.

The Garden City Moose Lodge hopes to raise \$10,000 for the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute in honor of all members, past and present, who have battled or are currently fighting this devastating disease.

For more information, call Kim Dowidait auction coordinator, at (734)564-5777.

**Sweet time**

The Friends of the Straight Farmhouse are hosting Cloud Nine Desserts with Bev at 7 p.m. Friday, April 23, at the Straight Farmhouse, 6221 Merriman, north of Ford, Garden City.

Bev England will demonstrate how meringues are the perfect base for a wide variety of delectable desserts. There will be plenty of taste testing. England learned cake decorating at the Snyder School of Cake Decorating. She has taken classes with the chefs at The Grand Hotel, Williamsburg, Va., The New Orleans Cooking School, Belgium and France.

Tickets cost \$7 and are available at the farmhouse. For more information, call (734) 838-0650 or go online to [www.sfonline.org](http://www.sfonline.org).

**Rummage sale**

Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill in Garden City, is holding its annual rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, and Friday, April 30.

For more information, call (734)427-3660.

**Shop online**

Help Garden City Schools support its staff and students whenever you shop at Amazon.com.

Simply follow the link at the bottom of the district's Web site — [www.gardencityschools.com](http://www.gardencityschools.com). A portion of any resulting purchases will be returned to Garden City Public Schools. Products do not cost any more by using the link, and residents don't have to do anything more than click on the link to start shopping.

**Four Plus program**

The Garden City Public Schools is looking children who will turn age four by Dec. 1, 2010 and who may be eligible for free Four Plus preschool program.

Housed at Lathers Elementary School, the readiness program gives preschoolers the tools to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Four Plus is funded through a Great Start

Readiness Program grant from the state of Michigan. Four Plus offers a half-day program, morning or afternoon, Monday through Friday, where they work with a teacher who is highly qualified and has a special endorsement for early childhood education, as well as a full-time classroom aide. Transportation and healthy snacks also are provided.

Parents interested in finding out if their children qualify for Four Plus must fill out a survey available at the school, 28351 Marquette. Parents can enter the school through the Sheridan doors.

For more information, call (734) 762-8490.

**Golf outings**

Garden City Lions will hold its 14th annual Golf Outing Saturday, June 26, 2010, at the Fox Hills Golf Course, 8768 N. Territorial, Plymouth.

The four-person scramble will have an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. There will be hot dogs and drinks at the turn, plus beer and pop tickets on the course, and dinner with complimentary refreshments. There also will be 50/50 raffle, \$10,000 hole in one. skins and prizes. Cost is \$90 per person - \$40 for the charity dinner only. Hole sponsorships are also \$90.

For more information, call Larry Houff at (734)660-0920, Dave Fetter at (734) 425-4382 or Vicki Kowalik at (734) 524-1330.

Make plans to attend the Garden City Hospital Foundation's 19th annual Golf Outing Monday, June 21, at the Walnut Creek Country Club in South Lyon.

The event gets under way with player registration and lunch at 11 a.m., followed by a 1 p.m. shotgun start. There will be a cocktail reception following golf and dinner at 7 p.m. The cost is \$325 per player or \$1,300 for a foursome. Dinner only is \$100.

For additional information, call the Garden City Hospital Foundation (734) 458-4331 or send an e-mail to [lgiovannini@gchosp.org](mailto:lgiovannini@gchosp.org).

The Garden City Chamber of Commerce will hold its 24th annual Tee Party Golf Outing Tuesday, July 13, at the Hickory Creek Golf Course, 3625 Napier, Superior Township. Enjoy a day of golfing and exchanging business ideas. All golf packages include 18 holes with cart, breakfast buffet, beverages on the course, hot and cold hors d'ourves award reception after golf, games and prizes.

The cost is \$125 per golfer. Register online at the chamber Web site, [www.gardencity.org](http://www.gardencity.org).

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gulley Rd., Dearborn Hgts, MI, May 8, 2010 @ 1:05 PM.

#203 Andry Zabinska  
#1045 Katrina Maiale

Units contain misc. household items.

Publish: April 22 and 29, 2010

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**CITY OF GARDEN CITY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 13, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearings, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearings is to solicit public comments on the following:

1. **10-004, Text Amendment.** To amend the Zoning Ordinance by adding to B154.005 the definition of a medical marijuana growing centers; amending B154.316 by adding medical marijuana growing centers as special land use in the M-1, Light Industrial district; and by adding B154.164 to establish standards for the medical marijuana growing centers.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135.

David L Harvey  
City Manager

Posted: April 29, 2010

Publish: April 22, 2010

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THURSDAY  
April 22,  
2010

Page A8 (W)

Sue Mason, editor  
(313) 222-6751  
smason@hometownlife.com

# LOCAL OPINION

online at hometownlife.com



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

## OUR VIEWS

### Tax breaks need serious attention

Recently — thanks in large part to that netlesome, drive-by media you hear so much about — a story broke about how the state of Michigan unwittingly awarded a \$9 million tax break to a convicted felon.

Suitably embarrassed, Gov. Jennifer Granholm said she was ordering more extensive background checks as a requirement before further tax credits are granted.

That's a start. But the governor is missing the point if the new rules only rearrange titles and focus only on preventing future grants to convicts.

While annoying, the applicant's criminal background is getting way too much attention. The Michigan Economic Development Corp. should have uncovered Richard A. Short's criminal background had it done even a cursory background check. But the follow-up emphasis should be on the decision-making process that led the state to decide that his RASCO firm had the wherewithal to carry out its business plan.

The failure to uncover his criminal background could be explained away as sloppy procedure. But the failure to adequately vet the company could also reveal an environment that favors promotion over substance, or a good public relations story over critical analysis.

In other words, when the MEDC glossed over Short's application, it could have been doing exactly what it was expected to do. Indeed, Granholm said that the RASCO case was embedded in MEDC procedures dating back to the administration of former Gov. John Engler.

While that may have been an attempt to deflect blame back on her Republican predecessor, it also suggests that the program has been poorly administered during her seven-plus years in office. In other words, it was broken when she got here and she hasn't done anything to fix it.

In refusing the fall-on-his-sword resignation of Greg Main, Granholm said the MEDC's top official is "an incredibly ethical, stand-up guy." While those are nice-sounding words, they came eight days after she said that Short was "doing phenomenal work" in renewable energy.

No one, other than the governor, has brought up the integrity or ethics of Main and the MEDC. The issue is competency.

One assumes that the "phenomenal work" line came courtesy of the MEDC, which worked more than a year with Short without discovering his questionable background. A few weeks ago, a process server from Flint said such information was available via a 15-minute Internet search.

So what exactly was MEDC doing? A clue to that answer is offered by MEDC's recent vow to check previous tax-break recipients to see whether they had questionable backgrounds or whether they produced the jobs they promised.

That's a troubling statement as it implies that once the tax breaks are granted, no one checks to see if they are effective. That, in fact, was the conclusion reached a year ago by a study funded by the Michigan Education Association, the statewide teachers' union that is one of Granholm's biggest supporters.

Did anyone act on that report? Apparently not.

Without a thorough investigation into the practices of the MEDC, the public is left with the suspicion that the agency's goal was less to effectively administer a program than to produce public relations events.

As it is, there are two major questions involving MEDC and tax breaks. First, is there effective oversight to make sure that tax breaks are well administered? Second, is there serious analysis to determine that the tax breaks are effective, as opposed to just handing out taxpayer money to those fortunate enough — or connected enough, or devious enough — to win the tax break lottery?

If Granholm is merely applying makeup to the problem, neither of those questions will be addressed, much less answered.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

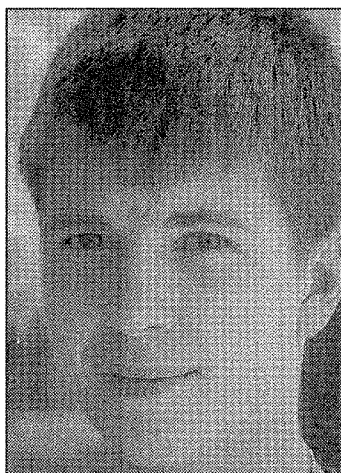
### Do you think the Detroit Red Wings will make it past the first round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs?

We asked this question at the William P. Faust Public Library in Westland.



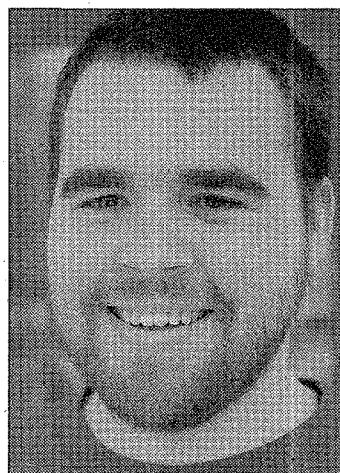
"Yes, but I have to tell you I'm from Boston."

Jamie Frank  
Canton



"Probably, but it depends on who wins the next (April 20) game."

Jeremy Fisher  
Canton



"If they can win the next game, yeah."

Kyle Messer  
Westland



"Yeah, because they rock and red is my favorite color."

Dominic Albanys  
Wayne

## LETTERS

### Myth of veteran health care

If you believe that all veterans of the Vietnam War, who suffer disabilities due to contamination by Agent Orange herbicide, are being given medical care at VA Hospitals, you are sadly mistaken. U.S. Navy, Coast Guard and Fleet Marine personnel (the "Blue Water Navy"), dying needlessly, alone and penniless from numerous cancers and other fatal maladies of dioxin poisoning, were originally given service-connected health care and compensation under the Agent Orange Act of 1991, which originally included all veterans of that war.

Unfortunately, in 2002, the Veterans Administration, without the knowledge or consent of the Congress or the American public, stopped providing all Blue Water Navy veterans any of their earned health care and compensation benefits.

There is currently a bill in the House (H-2254) with a companion bill in the Senate (S-1939) that will reinstate health care benefits, and they will both appear on the floor of each chamber for a vote very soon. Senators and representatives traditionally co-sponsor such proposed legislation to show their support prior to the bill's introduction. Co-sponsorship would be a strong proof of their claim to support veteran rights.

Michigan is doing better than other states, but more support is needed. Reps. Candice Miller, Dale Kildee, Carolyn Kilpatrick, Thaddeus McCotter, Bart Stupak and Patrick Upton have embraced our veterans in a truly bipartisan manner, and despite being given the same information about this issue, there has been absolute silence from Reps. John Dingell, John Conyers, Sandy Levin, Gary Peters, Mike Rogers, Mark Schauer, Vern Ehlers and Pete Hoekstra and Sens. Carl Levin, and Debbie Stabenow.

Perhaps, they have failed to consider that as of 2002, approximately 865,321 veterans and retired military live and work in Michigan. This rather dated statistic, continues to show increases in veteran and retired military populations due to Michigan's military-friendly environment. Given today's volatile political environment, a constituency group that is large and growing, despite migration of other residents to "greener pastures," might be important allies in the very, very near future.

I've reviewed their claims of strong support for our veterans, with some waving our flag more vigorously than others. I'd like to know why these people haven't stepped forward to correct this grave injustice to Vietnam veterans. They

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Web: [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com) E-mail: [smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com) Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com). Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

should all either co-sponsor these bills or stop proclaiming they support U.S. veterans.

Veterans of our current wars have earned their right to be recognized, and I salute them all for their service. But I don't expect to turn my back on other veterans in the process. Actions speak louder than words, especially when it's part of re-election rhetoric.

Bernie Thames,  
member at large

Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Association

### No on Wayne tax requests

I am going to vote No on Proposals 1 and 2 to raise taxes in the special election in Wayne on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. Proposals 1 and 2 get a no vote from me for several reasons:

I received by mail a Special Edition City of Wayne Update. It is a whiny pamphlet that complains that the city has lost a great deal of its tax base because of falling property values and so — as a solution, they have decided to raise the taxes.

Nothing has changed for me as a homeowner or business operator. Even though the value of some of your interests have declined have you seen prices go down at the supermarket or the gas station? Has your mortgage been magically reduced because of the economic downturn?

One of the bright points has been the small reductions in taxes, but the Wayne City Council, including Mayor Abdul Haidous and City Manager John Zech, want to claw that out of your hands.

The pamphlet claims that Wayne will lose 25 percent of its tax base because Ford is consolidating one of its plants. It was not too long ago when Wayne held a meeting to decide if the city should make a park out of the Ford properties, if Ford went bankrupt. Well, they got that wrong, didn't they?

The pamphlet does not have a note on it stating how much it cost to publish. Why not? Why does Wayne have a city manager and assistant city manager?

Alfred Brock  
Wayne

### Listen to Millennials

The Census Bureau is making a concerted effort to fully include young people — witness Commerce Secretary Gary Locke's recent appearance on *The Daily Show*.

Census takers will be knocking on dorm rooms and checking to see who is crashing on the couch, but regardless of how thorough they are, they will miss out on one dramatic population migration: young Americans are opting not to affiliate with a political party.

Fully 50 percent of voters aged 18-29 now identify as independents, and the percentage of the electorate under 30 is growing. In 2006, 18- to 29-year-olds accounted for 21 percent of the electorate. By 2015, estimates are that 18- to 29-year-olds will account for 33 percent of all voters.

But the millennial generation finds itself confronted by an electoral system designed by — and for — the I Like Ike crowd. Party politics dominates. Election districts are gerrymandered to serve party interests. Many states require poll workers to be registered Democratic or Republican. The Federal Election Commission is composed of three Democrats and three Republicans, rendering it both structurally impotent and blind to the concerns of independents. And, most significantly, primary elections are off limits to independents in 17 states.

The official attitude among political elites toward the independence of younger voters ranges from amusement to outright hostility.

Republican hardliners in Rhode Island, Idaho and Arizona are pushing to close their state's primaries. The Idaho GOP has gone so far as to file suit to force the state of Idaho to require voters to select a party when they register to vote.

By 2015, this generation of voters could account for a full third of the electorate, but there is a real danger that if given the choice of participating in old-style party politics, or not participating at all, the millennial generation will choose the latter.

The time has come for structural reforms that will empower a new generation of voters and incentive them to participate. Young people are telling us they don't want a party. We need to listen to them.

John Opdycke

chief of staff for IndependentVoting.org

## WESTLAND OBSERVER



Sue Mason  
Community  
Editor

Susan Rosiek  
Executive Editor  
/ Publisher

Grace Perry  
Director of  
Advertising

## ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

Here is a sampling of comments by our online readers:

### • Tea Party rally and politics:

With all of your wisdom, please explain why McCotter sponsors no legislation except a tax break for vet bills. Perhaps his pet need an operation and he my tax dollars to pay for it.

He sponsors no legislation. He only co-sponsors other bills which tells us he is no leader, a follower. He is not earn-

ing his keep. He shows up of Fox and Tea Party's just to get his mug on TV. He is not working for us, he is only looking out for himself.

"McCotter tends to cosponsors the bills of other Members of Congress who do not cosponsor McCotter's own bills."

JN7854

I have no interest in listening to the Tea Party. All it is is brainwashing: THEIR WAY OF THINKING IS THE ONLY

RIGHT WAY. I have watched and listened to these zealots at one gathering last summer and all I found was a crowd that was mostly 55+ white males who are collecting, or about to collect, Social Security and Medicare. No thanks. Their message is of hate and violence, if you want to admit it or not. The signs they hold up are disgusting and the pictures of Obama are just plain wrong!!!

ecnalubma



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10am-9pm both days**

**Preshow Starts Monday, April 26 Thru Wed., April. 28th  
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**Come see our large selection of beads!**



*Happy Mother's Day*

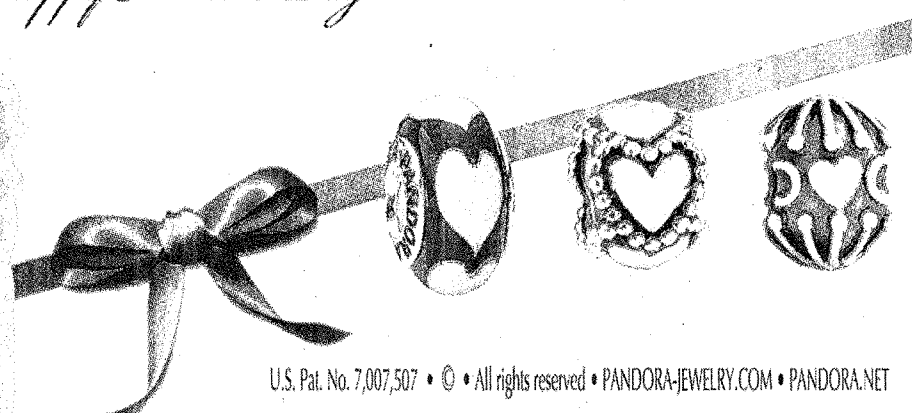
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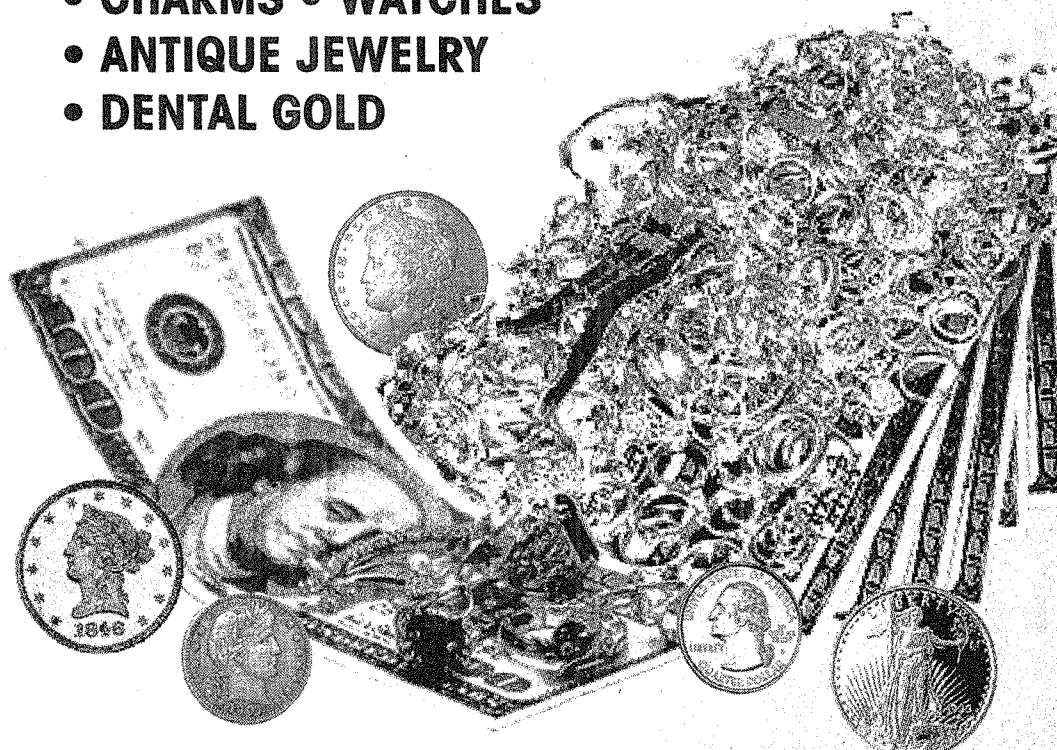
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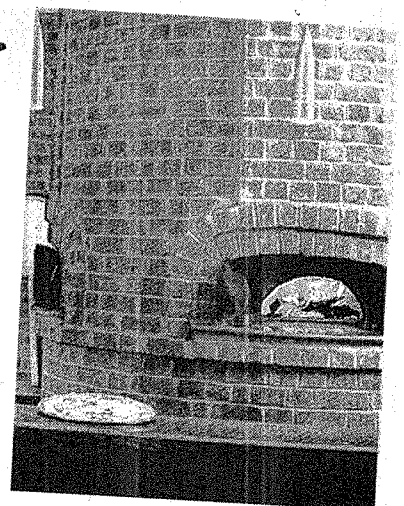
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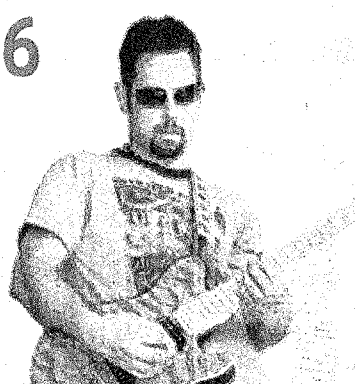
SECTION B  
(WL)

Brad Emmons, editor, (313) 222-6851  
bemmons@hometownlife.com

Musical brothers take a stand against hunger, B6

SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD

# HOMETOWN LIFE



## Chargers plugged in, zap Patriot girls

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Earlier in the day, coach Pat Daugherty crunched the numbers and he had his Livonia Churchill girls track team losing a close meet to rival Livonia Franklin.

But by the early evening hours, his Chargers had come away with a comfortable 77-60 dual-meet triumph over the Patriots.

Distance standout Sara Kroll, coming off a school-record performance with a second-place time of 10:50 in the 3,200-meter run in the Mansfield-Mehock (Ohio) Relays on Saturday, figured in four firsts Tuesday to lead the host Chargers.

The senior took the 800 (2:21.0) and 1,600 (5:06.49) and anchored both the winning 3,200 and 1,600 relays as Churchill improved to 2-0 in the KLAA's South Division.

Daugherty said there were a number of

factors that had to played out going into the meet.

"We wanted to win all the relays, score at least third place in the hurdles," he said. "We had some people surprise us. Before the meet I scored us going second and third in the 100, and we went first and second. That was huge for us. The pole vault I expected second and third and we won it."

"A freshman, Ashley Cochran, got third in the high jump. We didn't plan on her scoring. We had some people, especially freshman-wise, that scored."

Other Churchill individual firsts came from Byron (shot put), Leah Heinzelman (100 dash), Megan Kelly (400), Lindsey Kreutzman (pole vault) and Senclair McDonnell (high jump).

"They (Franklin) did a good job," Daugherty said. "They swept us in the hurdles. They're a great team, but we're ahead of where I thought we'd be. I start-

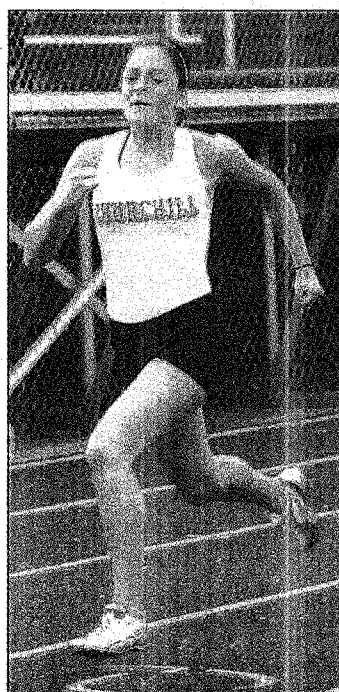
ed out this morning saying we'd lose by five points. This is a pleasant surprise. We have people like Taylor Byron and Sara Kroll, but the freshmen are the ones who won this meet."

The Patriots were paced by senior Senneca Scott, who was a double-winner in the 100- and 300 hurdles. Other firsts came from Savannah Haig (discus), Natalie Modes (long jump), Kathryn Chinavare (200) and Megan McPherson (3,200).

"We needed to do better in the 100, we needed to do better on the 4 x 200 — basically we've got some work to do in the sprints," Franklin coach Dave Bjorklund said. "Our hurdles came through. Our throwers did a nice job. We did a nice job in the distance, but obviously Churchill is really strong in the distance events."

"We scored the points we could with

Please see **GIRLS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill's Megan Kelly wins the 400-meter dash in Tuesday's 77-60 dual-meet triumph over rival Franklin.

## GAME WRAPS

### KLAA girls softball

STEVENSON 10, JOHN GLENN 2:

Becca Zarras doubled three times and scored three runs Tuesday as host Livonia Stevenson (5-3) downed Westland John Glenn (0-4) in a Kensington Conference crossover.

Nina Bonanno added three hits and scored three runs, while winning pitcher Emily Hollandsworth went 2-for-3 with a double.

Hollandsworth worked the first five innings, allowing two runs on four hits and two walks. She fanned three before giving way to reliever Becca Koestering.

Claire Truskowski took the loss for the Rockets.

Sisters Brooke and Brandi Holbrook combined for five of Glenn's six hits.

**CHURCHILL 5, S.L. EAST 2:** Junior Abby Jewell tossed a three-hitter Monday as host Livonia Churchill (6-2) turned back South Lyon East (1-4) in a Kensington Conference crossover.

Jewell struck out seven and walked only one. She also had two of Churchill's seven hits including a triple and double.

Mackenzie Everson singled and later scored a run in the fifth to even the count at 2-all. The Chargers then put it away with three runs in the bottom of the six off losing pitcher Olivia Nelson.

Kristen Miloch had a hit and scored a run for East in the second inning.

**SOUTH LYON 2, FRANKLIN 0:**

On Monday, the Lions (12-3) scored twice in the top of the 12th inning to beat Livonia Franklin (3-3) in a Kensington Conference crossover.

Winning pitcher Daniell Godair went all 12 innings for the shutout. She struck out nine, walked four and allowed just six hits.

Losing pitcher Tiffany Lambie (2-3), a sophomore, gave up 12 hits, walked one and struck out eight.

Nicole Emery had a hit and reached base safely three times for the Patriots.

**CHURCHILL 11-10, RU 1-0:** On Saturday, host Livonia Churchill (5-2) took back-to-back five-inning mercy-rule games in sweeping Redford Union (1-4).

Abby Jewell pitched a one-hitter and struck out eight for the Chargers in the opener.

Jackie Tolles and Katina St. Pierre each knocked in two runs.

Missy Sidor pitched a perfect game in the nightcap, while St. Pierre paced the offense with two hits and four RBI. Sidnee Mattison also had two RBI.

**MERCY INVITATIONAL:** Livonia Stevenson (4-3) captured two of three games in Saturday's Farmington Hills Invitational.

Mercy (2-0) defeated the Spartans in the opener, 8-4, as winning pitcher Kayce Nieto went 3-for-3 with a double, RBI and three runs scored.

Nieto struck out nine, walked two and allowed five hits in five innings.

Jacqueline Johnson took the loss for the Spartans.

Becca Zarras went 2-for-3 with two RBI for Stevenson.

Stevenson unloaded for 18 hits in a 15-7 second-round win over Rochester Stoney Creek (0-2).

Winning pitcher Emily Hollandsworth went 4-for-4 with two RBI, while Molly Knoph also went 4-for-4 with two runs and two stolen bases. Zarras added three hits and five RBI.

Losing pitcher Alea Woloszyn went 2-for-3 with two RBI for the Cougars.

Stevenson then defeated North Farmington, 6-5, as Johnson got the victory. She allowed four earned runs on seven hits with three strikeouts and no walks.

Ashley Avery was Stevenson's top hitter, going 2-for-3 with an RBI.

## Franklin boys soar against track rival

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was close throughout, but the Livonia Franklin boys track team came away with a 73-64 dual-meet victory Tuesday over host Livonia Churchill.

Austin Jones, who sat out most of last fall's cross country season with a broken foot, captured both individual distance races to spark the Patriots.

The junior clinched the meet when he won the 3,200-meter run in 10:25.9 with teammate Bobby Wilson finishing second with a personal best 10:40.9.

That put a big smile on the face of Franklin coach Pat Koelzer, who watched on of his top sprinters, Mike Baumgardner, go down with a pulled hamstring in the 100 dash.

"After some early adversity on the track, the boys really

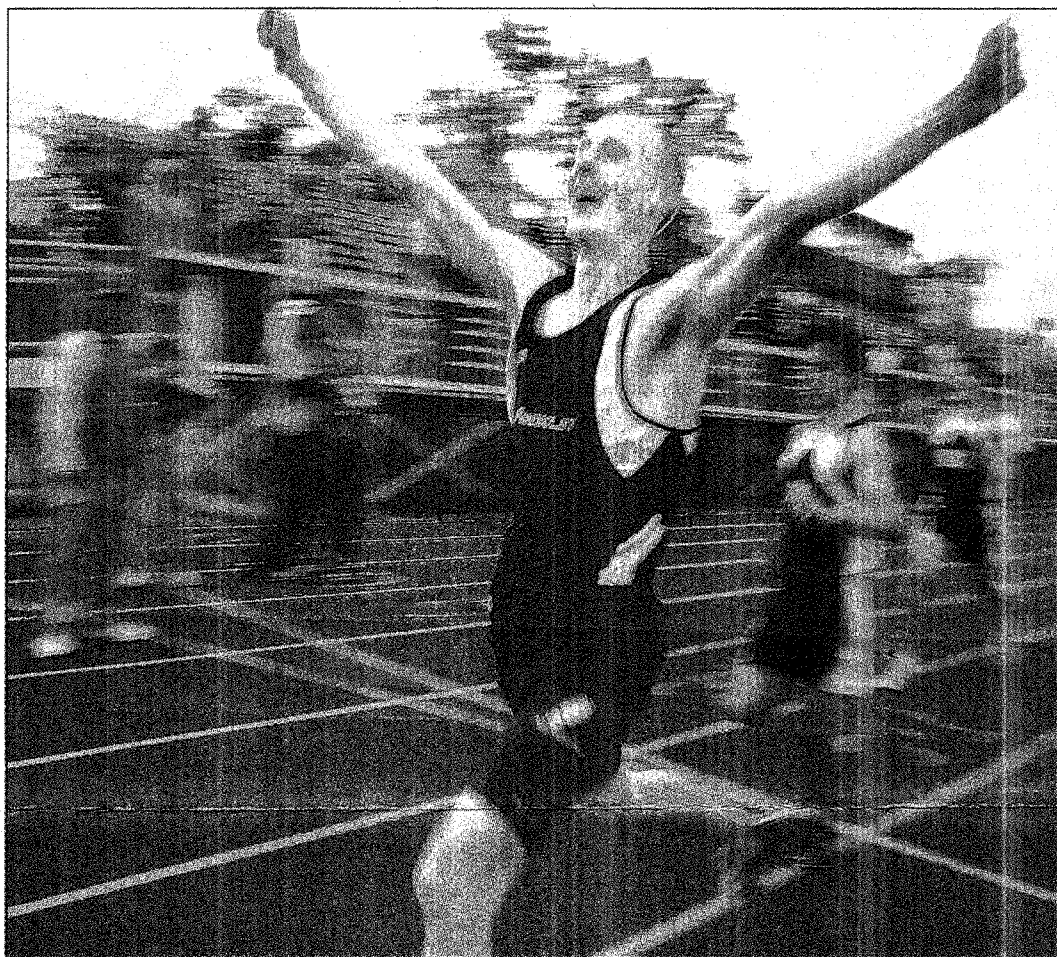
responded today," Koelzer said. "(Nate) Coleman, (Jay) Woolfork and (Sean) McAuliffe picked up 14 of 18 (points) in the throws, our high jumpers went one-two, and we swept the 400."

"But our distance runners clinched it. Austin and Nik Gherardini going one-two in the mile was huge. Then, Austin came back to take the two-mile with Bobby Wilson in second to officially wrap it up for us. Bobby ran the race of his life against some good runners."

"It was another close meet against an always strong Churchill team. Just like last year it came down to the last few events. I'm really proud of this team."

Churchill took three-of-four relay races and six other individual events, but couldn't overcome the Patriots' depth.

Please see **BOYS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Bobby Wilson is ecstatic after crossing the finish line in second-place as the Patriots clinched a dual-meet victory over host Churchill.

## Early goal spurs Novi past Central foe Stevenson, 1-0

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Novi's Jessica Jarvis got the game's only goal — and it was a big one — as the Wildcats opened KLAA Central Division girls soccer play Monday night with a 1-0 victory at Livonia Stevenson.

"It doesn't matter if it's good, or ugly, bad, whatever happens," said Novi coach Brian O'Leary, whose team is 4-1-1 overall. "You score a goal and win on the road — especially in our league — we have to play Northville twice, we got to play Salem twice and Stevenson twice. You can be a good team and go 0-6 in those games. To pick up a road victory in your first one is a good way to start the league play."

Stevenson had several chances to tie it. Their best opportunity came with three minutes left in the first half when Kim Griffith's header glanced off the crossbar.

"Anytime the ball is bouncing in the box like that, anything can happen," said Stevenson first-year coach Chris Grodzicki, whose team is 2-1-2 overall. "To put ourselves in that situation as many times as we did is a good sign. You just hope it bounces your way and tonight it didn't."

With 9:47 remaining in the first half, Stevenson senior midfielder Shannon Merritt went down with an ankle injury.

"It wasn't anything malicious by any stretch," Grodzicki said. "She pulled the ball back and the (Novi) girl went to pull it away. She got clipped on the ankle and that was it for the night. Hopefully she's get back in the starting lineup soon."

Please see **SOCCER, B2**



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Novi's Morgan Haffey (right) marks Stevenson forward Renee Boudreau during Monday's key KLAA Central Division girls soccer encounter.



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## SOCCER

FROM PAGE B1

That forced Grodzicki to make adjustments in his lineup. "The girls who came into that position were doing such a good job," he said. "We had to move to three forwards up the last 15 minutes to put a little more pressure on their back (line). Emily Chrzasz kind of went in there where Shannon was, but a little higher up on the field to put a little more pressure on them. We ended the game in a 3-3-4 and we threw everything we could at them. I was pleased with everything we did except putting the ball in the net."

Meanwhile, Novi's second-half strategy was simplified. "The main thing we talked about at halftime was that we were doing things too slow," O'Leary said. "We had people open. We also had a lot of switch field options open, but the girls were taking too long to do it. It would take four touches in something that should take only one touch. The first half were playing the first 20 minutes so much faster. That's what you want to do. You want to keep the pressure on and the pressure on. Once you slow down, then you get yourself in trouble." The Spartans, meanwhile, applied heavy pressure late in the game, but couldn't over-

come the goal by Jarvis. "I don't expect us to play a perfect 80 minutes," Grodzicki said. "We're not there yet and it's not the time of season where I should be expecting that. We started out flat. Mistakes will happen and the ball will go into the back of the net sometimes. But when it was the third time the same thing happened, it showed we weren't adjusting to it. It was a mistake on our part, but it was a heck of a finish by that girl (Jarvis) to stay with it, get a toe on it and get it back across the face of goal. It wasn't pure luck on their part or no luck on ours. That was a talented goal."

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## GIRLS

FROM PAGE B1

McPherson, (Megan) Wickens and (Leslie) Gomez to counter Kroll, (Bethany) Pilat and (Kerrigan) Riley. But overall we had some great performances out here. We know what we've got to work on."

**FINAL MEET RESULTS**  
**LIVONIA CHURCHILL 77**  
**LIVONIA FRANKLIN 60**  
April 20 at Churchill

**Shot put:** 1. Taylor Byron (LC), 36 feet, 5.5 inches; 2. Savannah Haig (LF), 34-2; 3. Nicole

Price (LF), 30-11.

**Discus:** 1. Haig (LF), 111-10; 2. Byron (LC), 99-8; 3. Megan Ling (LC), 95-11.

**High jump:** 1. Sencclair McDonnell (LC), 5-0; 2. Liz Hollaway (LF), 5-0; 3. Ashley Cochran (LC), 4-10.

**Long jump:** 1. Natalie Modes (LF), 15-6; 2. Leah Heinzelman (LC), 14-11; 3. Jen Mueller (LF), 14-8.

**Pole vault:** 1. Lindsey Kreutzman (LC), 8-6; 2. Meghan Lark (LF), 8-6; 3. Sally Tomalla (LC), 8-0.

**100-meter hurdles:** 1. Senneca Scott (LF), 16.69; 2. Mueller (LF), 17.01; 3. Shannon Niznik (LC), 17.81.

**300 hurdles:** 1. Scott (LF), 51.7; 2. Niznik (LF), 52.42; 3. Kelly O'Brien (LF), 54.77.

**100 dash:** 1. Heinzelman (LC), 13.02; 2. Demi Crossman (LC), 13.55; 3. Kathryn Chinavare (LF), 13.6.

**200:** 1. Chinavare (LF), 27.87; 2. Crossman (LC), 28.04; 3. Jarvis (LC), 28.78.

**400:** 1. Megan Kelly (LC), 1:03.1; 2. Tiffany Raisanen (LC), 1:04.2; 3. Lindsay Dusablon (LC), 1:06.4.

**800:** 1. Sara Kroll (LC), 2:21.0; 2. Kerrigan Riley (LC), 2:27.6; 3. Megan Wickens (LF), 2:36.0 (unofficial).

**1,600:** 1. Kroll (LC), 5:06.49; 2. Megan McPherson (LF), 5:15.0 (unofficial); 3. Bethany Pilat (LC), 5:37.8.

**3,200:** 1. McPherson (LF), 11:56.7; 2. Pilat (LC), 12:07.8; 3. Leslie Gomez (LF), 12:37.18.

**400 relay:** 1. Franklin Jessica Thomas, Modes, Mueller, Chinavare, 53.17; 2. Churchill, 54.6; **800 relay:** 1. Churchill (Kelly, Crossman, Heinzelman, Cochran), 1:50.68; 2. Franklin, 1:55.77; **1,600 relay:** 1. Churchill (Kelly, Raisanen, McDonnell, Kroll), 4:18.3; 2. Franklin, 4:33.7; **3,200 relay:** 1. Churchill (Raisanen, Pilat, Riley, Kroll), 9:58.3; 2. Franklin, 11:17.0.

**Dual meet records:** Churchill, 2-0 overall, 2-0 KLA South Division; Franklin, 1-1 overall, 1-1 KLA South.

**Shot put:** 1. Jay Woolfork (LF), 49 feet; 2. Bryan Bartig (LC), 48-2; 3. Sean McAuliffe (LF), 48-1.

**Discus:** 1. Nate Coleman (LF), 150-10; 2. McAuliffe (LF), 141-8; 3. Bartig (LC), 130-3.

**High jump:** 1. Antoine Banks (LC), 5-8; 2. Mike Sharp (LF), 5-4; 3. Brian Williams (LC), 5-2.

**Long jump:** 1. Joe Marlow (LC), 20-4.75; 2. Scott Coppola (LC), 19-7.75; 3. Mike Baumgardner (LF), 19-6.5.

**Pole vault:** 1. Carl Rayford (LC), 11-6; 2. Marlow (LC), 11-6; 3. Michael Greer (LC), 11-6.

**100-meter hurdles:** 1. Mike Sharp, 14.2 (unofficial); 2. Marshall Fry (LC), 14.7 (unofficial); 3. Tom Brokaw (LF), 14.9 (unofficial).

**300 hurdles:** 1. Ian Guerin (LC), 42.29; 2. Zach Miller (LF), 42.81; 3. Sharp (LF), 43.26.

**100 dash:** 1. Coppola (LC), 11.23; 2. Richard Duncan (LF), 11.33; 3. Josh Dillard (LC), 11.59.

**200:** 1. Tony Frezzell (LC), 23.4; 2. Duncan (LF), 23.57; 3. Brandon Tower (LF), 23.62.

**400:** 1. Mike Beasley (LF), 53.56; 2. Ryan Tarhanich (LF), 53.9; 3. Banks (LF), 54.61.

**800:** 1. Tom Winkle (LC), 2:06.2; 2. Dave Koponen (LF), 2:07.4; 3. Ryan Keeling (LC), 2:09.2.

**1,600:** 1. Austin Jones (LF), 4:42.3; 2. Nik Gherardini (LF), 4:49.4; 3. Quinn Osgood (LC), 4:54.8.

**3,200:** 1. Jones (LF), 10:25.9; 2. Bobby Wilson (LF), 10:40.9; 3. Winkle (LC), 10:41.1.

**400 relay:** 1. Churchill (Coppola, Dillard, Frezzell, Jaylin Freeman), 44.34; 2. Franklin, 44.81; **800 relay:** 1. Franklin (Tower, Woolfork, Beasley, Duncan), 1:32.09; 2. Churchill, 1:32.7; **1,600 relay:** 1. Churchill (Frezzell, Jacob Kobylarz, Freeman, Fry), 3:43.2; 2. Franklin, disqualified; **3,200 relay:** 1. Churchill (Mark Freyberg, Winkle, Osgood, Keeling), 8:32.4; 2. Franklin, 8:37.3.

**Dual meet records:** Franklin, 2-0 overall, 2-0 KLA South Division; Churchill, 1-1 overall, 1-1 KLA South.

# Record-breaker

## Spartans' Sorenson sets strikeout, homer marks

Jeff Sorenson broke the Livonia Stevenson school record for strikeouts Tuesday as the host Spartans rolled to a 16-0 Kensington Conference crossover baseball win over winless Westland John Glenn. Sorenson, a senior left-hander coming off an 18-strikeout game in his 2010 season debut, fanned 14 to raise his career total to 166. He gave up only two hits and did not allow a walk as the Spartans improved to 6-1 overall and 3-1 in the KLA's Central Division. Stevenson collected a total of 16 hits with Sorenson, Matt Shain, Mark Wagner, J.J. Petterson, Trey Bodtke and Ben Anderson collecting two each.

Shain knocked in four runs, while Brendan Hayes had three RBI. Bodtke and Petterson each added two. Caleb Clenney and Mike Pietruszka had the lone hits for the Rockets (0-7, 0-4). **CHURCHILL 2, S.L. EAST 0:** Senior left-hander Steven Hovermale improved to 2-0 on the season with a four-hitter Monday as host Livonia Churchill (7-2, 3-1) downed South Lyon East (4-3, 1-3) in a Kensington Conference crossover.

Hovermale went all seven innings, allowing one walk and fanning one.

Ben Matigian singled and later scored on a Joe Williams sacrifice fly in the bottom of the fifth for the game-winning run.

David Harris then scored on an East error in the sixth.

Losing pitcher Luke Dymtro gave up five hits, walked five and struck out one in six innings.

Steven Kopeck went 2-for-3 in the setback for the Cougars.

**SOUTH LYON 8, FRANKLIN 4:** In a Kensington Conference crossover Monday, the visiting Lions (4-2, 2-2) scored four times in the top of the seventh to hand Livonia Franklin (5-1, 3-1) its first defeat of the season.

Sam Mehr paced South Lyon's 11-hit attack going 2-for-4, including a

### KLAA BASEBALL

2-run double in the seventh. He also scored three times.

Ryan Finneran added two hits. Winning pitcher Colin Morrison went the first 5.1 innings, allowing two earned runs on three walks and four hits.

Prentice Hawkins went 3-for-3 with an RBI for the Patriots.

Franklin starter Joel Trudell, who worked the first five innings, took the loss. He allowed three earned runs, walked three and struck out three.

"They (South Lyon) made the plays in certain spots, they played good defense, especially their third baseman and shortstop," Franklin coach Matt Fournier said. "And their hits were timely."

**STEVENSON 5-9, LATHRUP 2-3:** Senior Jeff Sorenson homered in each game Saturday as host Livonia Stevenson (5-1) swept Southfield-Lathrup (3-6) in a twinbill.

The Spartans completed the sweep with a 9-3 win in the nightcap as Sorenson went 3-for-4, including a homer and four RBI.

It was Sorenson's ninth career homer, a school record. In his last three games he has four homers and 13 RBI.

Mike Vomastek and Mark Wagner each added two hits and scored two runs. Ben Anderson added two RBI, while Evan Piechota, J.J. Petterson and Troy Bodtke added one RBI each.

Winning pitcher Chris McDonald went five innings, allowing three runs on four hits. He had four strikeouts and did not allow a walk.

Ted Woodward went 2-for-3 with three RBI for Lathrup, while Thurman Hall and Daron Luttrell each added two hits.

Sorenson's walk-off 3-run homer in the bottom of the seventh broke a 2-2 deadlock and gave the Spartans a 5-2 victory in the opener.

Wagner and Piechota had Stevenson's other RBI, while Bodtke got the win in relief of starter Josh Dehetre.

Calvin Franklin went 2-for-3 with an RBI for the Chargers. **CHURCHILL 10-20, RU 9-14:** On Saturday, host Livonia Churchill (6-

2) won both ends of a double-header against visiting Redford Union (1-3).

Trailing 9-6 after five innings, Churchill rallied for four runs in the bottom of the sixth to win the opener, 10-9.

David Harris, the starting pitcher, collected three hits and an RBI for Churchill, while teammates Christian Leathley, Ben Matigian and Joe Williams contributed two hits and two RBI apiece.

Top producers at the plate for RU in Game One were Ryan Powell (three hits), Justin Faur (two hits, three RBI), Jeff Matties (two hits, three RBI) and Robert Seal (two hits).

Jon Targus was the winning pitcher in relief for Churchill, while Jacob Blatche took the loss for RU. Both teams had four errors.

In Game Two, Leathley had three hits and scored three runs, while Williams added two hits and two runs in a 20-14 Churchill win.

RU broke loose for eight runs in the top of the sixth after the Chargers committed four errors to take a 12-9 lead, but Churchill put it away with 11 runs in the bottom of the inning.

Matties and Powell each had two hits and scored twice for RU.

Trey Jardine was the winning pitcher in relief, while Blatche took the loss.

RU committed five errors and walked 15 Churchill hitters.

**W.L. CENTRAL 11, CHURCHILL 10:** In an error-filled game last Friday, host Walled Lake Central (5-1) earned the victory over Livonia Churchill (4-2) as Grant Snyder went 2-for-3 with a triple and three RBI.

Karl Schulz added a 3-run homer for the Vikings.

Winning pitcher Karl Boedecker struck out seven and walked only one in five innings. He gave up three runs on six hits.

Troy Bogenschutz, the losing pitcher, allowed four runs on six hits and three walks in two innings.

Ben Matigian led the Chargers' offensive attack going 3-for-5 with two RBI. David Harris added three while, Christian Leathley went 2-for-5 with a solo homer.

Churchill out-hit Central 14-11. The Vikings made five errors, while Churchill had four.

# Warrior homers key MIAC triumph

Lutheran High Westland used the long ball Tuesday to earn a 12-9 Michigan Independent Athletic Conference baseball win over visiting Southfield Christian.

Marc Rosin's 3-run homer in the bottom of the sixth inning broke a 9-all deadlock and gave the Warriors their fourth win in six games. They are 2-1 in the MIAC's Blue Division.

Trailing 6-3 after Southfield Christian scored five times in the top of the fifth, the Warriors answered with five runs thanks to a lead-off homer from Gage Flanery, who went 2-for-4, and a 3-run shot off the bat of freshman Nick Andrezejewski to make it 8-6.

Ben Derminer went 3-for-3 with a pair of doubles and RBI, while Tony Cipolla added two doubles and an RBI as well.

Rosin was the winning pitcher in relief of starter Gage Flanery, who went the first five innings allowing five earned runs on nine hits and two walks.

Austin Baglow earned the save retiring three straight batters including two Ks.

Southfield Christian falls to 4-3 and 3-1.

**HURON VALLEY 10, BAPTIST PARK 2:**

Winning pitcher Andy Barber helped his own cause going 2-for-3 with a walk and RBI Tuesday as Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (4-0, 2-0) downed host Taylor Baptist Park in a MIAC Red Division game.

Barber allowed just four hits and two walks in seven innings while fanning nine.

Ivan Bell also added two hits and three RBI for the victorious Hawks. Baptist Park falls to 0-2 in the MIAC Blue.

**ANNAPOLIS 8-4, LUTH. WESTLAND 5-12:**

After losing the opener, visiting Lutheran High Westland bounced back to earn a split of a non-conference twinbill with Dearborn Heights Annapolis.

Kent Kryzskew went 3-for-5 with an RBI, while Austin Baglow added a pair of doubles and three RBI to give the Warriors a 12-4 victory.

Starter Gage Flanery went the first three innings, allowing one run on one hit and a walk. He struck out four. Thomas Handschumacher went the final four innings.

In the first game, Austin Baglow started, but did not figure in the decision after giving up three earned runs. He struck out five and walked one.

Reliever Taurrek Fikes, who went the final three innings, took the loss. He allowed four earned runs, walked seven and struck out three.

Tony Cipolla went 2-for-3 with an RBI.

## Clarenceville drops pair against Harper Woods

Jasmine Milton went 3-for-4 with a pair of doubles Monday as the visiting Harper Woods posted a 6-2 Metro Conference girls softball triumph over host Livonia Clarenceville, 6-2.

Korin Robinson and winning pitcher Emily Rodgers chipped in with two hits apiece for Harper Woods.

Rodgers went all seven innings, scattering nine hits and five walks while fanning five.

Losing pitcher Val Sochacki (2-2) allowed 13 hits, walked one, hit one batter and fanned eight.

Sochacki, Joanna Burling and Izzy Sidon each collected two hits for the Trojans.

"Defense was an issue today," said Clarenceville coach Joe DeCaire, whose

### PREP SOFTBALL

team fell to 4-2 overall and 1-1 in the Metro. "We had baserunners, but could not get the key hit. It seemed as though it was difficult to get that last out in every inning. We will go back to the fundamentals and mental aspect of the game."

**CLARENCEVILLE 15, THURSTON 4:** Junior Joanna Burling doubles three times and had six RBI Saturday as host Livonia Clarenceville (4-1) took six innings to mercy Redford Thurston.

Junior Kellie Ankiel added three hits, was hit a pitch twice, scored four runs and knocked in three more.

Senior Val Sochacki also went 3-for-4 with a double to end the game, along with a walk and two RBI.

Senior pitcher Chelsea Gehan (2-0) went all six innings, allowing four

runs on seven hits and a walk. She struck out seven.

Losing pitcher Adrianna Duncan gave up 15 hits, walked 11 and hit three batters in six innings of work.

DezaRae Sklarski went 3-for-3 with two runs scored to pace Thurston's offensive attack. Breanna Taylor added a 2-run homer.

**CLARENCEVILLE 9, CRANBROOK 4:** On April 13, Val Sochacki's arm and bat proved to be the difference as Livonia Clarenceville (3-1, 1-0) opened Metro Conference play with a victory over host Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood (0-1, 0-1).

Sochacki (2-1) allowed one earned run on just four hits. She struck out 10, hit two batters and did not allow a walk.

She also helped her own cause going 2-for-3 with a double and three RBI.

Joanna Burling went 3-for-5 with a run and RBI, while Kellie Ankiel added two hits and two RBI.

### BOYS GOLF RESULTS

**FARMINGTON INVITATIONAL**

April 20 at Farmington Hills G.C.

**TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. North Farmington, 297 strokes; 2. Jackson Lumen Christi, 305; 10. Livonia Churchill, 327 (22 schools).  
**Individual medalist:** Max Kollin (N. Farmington), 1-under 70.  
**Churchill scorers:** 9. Ben Proben, 76; Adam Yarbber, 78; Nick Proben, 82; Ryan Carpenter and Evan Fargo, 91 each.

**BRIGHTON INVITATIONAL**

April 19 at Oak Pointe Country Club

**TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. Birmingham Brother Rice, 305; 3. Livonia Stevenson; 310; 11. Livonia Churchill, 329; 14. Canton, 338 (20 schools).  
**Individual medalist:** Peter Spittler (Saline), even-par 70.  
**Stevenson scorers:** Christian Debay, 74; Adam Giordano, 76; Drew Mossioan, 77; Dante Cicchelli, 83; Tom Cullum, 85.  
**Churchill scorers:** Ben Proben, 75; Adam Yarbber, 80; Eric Hill, 87; Chris Theile, 87; Cory Dare, 92.  
**Canton scorers:** Zach Conrad, 79; Brendan Muir, 82; Kyle Korte, 85; Frank Parzynski, 92; Travis Hall, 99.



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# Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

Proudly displaying Co-op Services' marketing awards are the credit union's marketing team members Jay Jackson (from left), Beverly Outland, Jeremy Cybulski, Kathy Hurt, Bryan Feldpausch and Lisa Fawcett, marketing director.



## Co-op Services honored for 100 campaign

Co-op Services Credit Union recently received "Competition's Best," the highest award presented during the Credit Union National Association (CUNA) Marketing and Business Development Council's Diamond Award's Conference in Washington, D.C.

Co-op Service's award winning "Best of Show" campaign, Project 100, inspired people to give back to the community by randomly offering individuals \$100 during 100 days.

In addition to receiving this year's highest award among nearly 1,000 entries, the credit union also received a Diamond Award for its 2009 annual report, as well as Diamond Awards for Project 100 in the categories of com-

munity/public relations and complete campaign.

"We are extremely honored to receive this recognition from our credit union peers," said Lisa Fawcett, marketing director of Co-op Services Credit Union. "It demonstrates that in the toughest of economies, there is tremendous value in giving back to the community and encouraging others to do the same."

The Diamond Awards represents the pinnacle of credit union marketing and business development, including 34 categories that range from direct mail and Web site marketing to public relations and political action. Judges evaluated entries based on strategy, design and production, creative concept, copy and communication, and results.

"During Project 100 we were greatly touched by the gratitude of each of the \$100 recipients and their personal pledges to help others in our community," said Fawcett.

It is estimated that the campaign netted 1.7 million non-paid media impressions throughout the Detroit-area media market.

Headquartered in Livonia, Co-op Services Credit Union has more than 52,000 members and maintains eight full-service branch offices in the Detroit metro area, including Westland. Members also have access to more than 3,000 shared branches and 28,000 ATMs nationwide.

For more information about Co-op Services, visit the credit union Web site at [www.cscu.org](http://www.cscu.org) or call (800) 321-8570.

## BUSINESS MILESTONES

### Blizzard treat

**Time/Date:** Now through April 25  
**Location:** Dairy Queen of Garden City, 28825 Ford east of Middlebelt  
**Details:** It's the Blizzard's 25th birthday. You can celebrate at your local store with a 25¢ Buy One Get One Blizzard Treat your way. The best part about it, no coupons are necessary. Be a part of the biggest party in Blizzard treat history. Get to your local DQ quick, because this offer only lasts until Sunday, 25.  
**Contact:** (734) 427-7850

### Free Screening

**Tim/Date:** Now through May 31  
**Location:** Pearle Vision Center near Kohl's in Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Road at Wayne Road, Westland  
**Details:** Use the online coupon at [www.westlandcenter.com/sales.cfm](http://www.westlandcenter.com/sales.cfm) and get a free vision test at the Pearle Vision Center now through May 31. Some restrictions may apply.  
**Contact:** (734) 525-5907

### Mothers Day Brunch

**Time/Date:** Served from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 10  
**Location:** Hawthorne Restaurant at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 Merriman, east of Warren Road, Westland.  
**Details:** Choose from Hawthorne's vast breakfast menu until 2 p.m. and the dinner menu from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$16.95 for adults and \$9.95 children under age 12. Children age 3 and under, free.  
**Contact:** (734) 422-3440 or [www.hawthornvalley.com](http://www.hawthornvalley.com)

**Cask Party**  
**Time/Date:** 2-6 p.m. Saturday, May 8  
**Location:** Ashley's Restaurant and Pub, 7525 Wayne Road, Westland, in front of Macy's at Westland Shopping Center

### SEND IT

Are you having a special event, a sale or just want to let people know where you are? Interested in being featured in our Business Q & A? It's as easy as sending your information to or requesting a Q & A form from Sue Mason at [smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com). You can also mail it to Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226.

**Details:** Tickets are available for the Michigan Cask Ale Festival at Ashley's. Tickets are \$35, or \$30 when ordered online until May 2. More than 20 casks to be tapped. Tickets include 12 tokens for samples from 20 or more casks of real ale (subject to availability.) Extra tokens may be purchased at the event at three for \$5. The lineup of Breweries and their beers will be published as soon as casks are confirmed. As of Saturday, May 1, all tickets purchased online will be held at the door for pickup.  
**Contact:** Call (734) 525-1667 or online at [www.ashleys.com](http://www.ashleys.com)

### Car shows

**Time/Date:** 4-9 p.m. Fridays  
**Location:** Papa Joe's Bar and Grill, 34275 Ford Road at Wildwood, Westland  
**Details:** Stop by Papa Joe's on Friday nights for its weekly car shows. Enjoy \$1 hot dogs and Sliders, or try a \$6 fish and Chips dinner. There's also a live DJ and dancing 9 p.m. to close.  
**Contact:** (734) 722-2884 or online at [www.myspace.com/papajoesbar](http://www.myspace.com/papajoesbar)

### Chamber luncheon

**Time/Date:** noon, Tuesday, May 11  
**Location:** Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury, 32000 Ford Road, Garden City  
**Details:** The Westland and Garden City Chambers of Commerce will hold a

joint luncheon at Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury. Registration and mingling will be at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch. The guest speaker will be Robin Whitfield, general manager of Embassy Suites, whose topic will be Customer Service. The cost is \$10 per person.

**Contact:** To reserve a seat, call the Garden City Chamber at (734) 422-4448 by May 6, or the Westland Chamber at (734) 326-7222.

### Mask Fitting Clinic

**Time/Date:** 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays  
**Location:** Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, 35600 Central City Parkway, Suite 103, Westland

**Details:** Attention CPAP and BiPAP users. Did you know that most insurances cover new supplies every year? Have you been wanting to try a new style of mask, but don't know how to get one? Garden City Hospital's Sleep Disorders Center can help. Visit the, any Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. for a free mask fitting clinic. No appointment is needed.

**Contact:** (734) 458-3330 with any questions or for more information.

### Spring makeover

**Location:** Artman's Westland Nursery, 32593 Cherry Hill, east of Venoy, Westland

**Details:** Isn't it time you transformed your yard or property into an inviting haven? Artman's Westland Nursery can completely revitalize your landscape with full-service design and installation, installation, a wide selection of trees and shrubs, brick pavers, walkways and patios and retaining walls. Visit the nursery to discover its dwarf and unusual plants and trees section. Add an exotic taste to your landscape. You can plant your purchase or have them plant it.

**Contact:** (734) 721-6610 or by e-mail at [artmans.westland.nursery@comcast.net](mailto:artmans.westland.nursery@comcast.net)

## BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

### New employee

Clark Construction has hired Jeffrey Melvin of Garden City as project superintendent.

Melvin has 25 years of construction industry experience, serving as general superintendent, senior superintendent and field superintendent. He possesses a wide range of experience in daily field operations, safety issues, quality control and personnel.

Melvin received a bachelor's degree in Construction Supervision and Management from Western Michigan University.

Clark Construction Company was founded in 1946 and is ranked as one of the top 400 CM firms in the nation by Engineering News Record. The firm is headquartered in Lansing and maintains a southeast Michigan office in Southfield. Clark Construction has projects in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, Georgia and Texas. In addition to a full range of construction management services, Clark continues to offer program management, general contracting and design/build services.



Melvin

### Smoking ban

The Michigan Department of Community Health recently kicked off a Public Education Campaign to raise awareness on the statewide smoke free law, which takes effect May 1. A large number of local community tobacco coalitions and health agencies will be conducting presentations to community groups and businesses across the state about the specifics of the law.

"The smoking ban is a very important law that promotes health and protects residents from the dangers of secondhand smoke," said Janet Olszewski, MDCH director. "We are excited to partner with various groups and organizations to help educate the public and businesses about a law that will help us all live in a healthier environment."

MDCH has developed a Web site that communicates the details of the law, provides information for businesses on how to comply with the law, and that contains affidavits to apply for the cigar bar and tobacco specialty shop exemption. The Web site also has a Frequently Asked Questions section that answers the most commonly asked questions about the smoking ban. In addition a new television PSA titled "Smoked Lasagna" will run in partnership with the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

On Dec. 18, 2009 Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm signed legislation that will prohibit smoking in public places, such as restaurants, bars and hotels, or any place that serves food or beverages. The Ron M. Davis Law, named after the late chief medical officer of the Michigan Department of Public Health, takes effect May 1 and will make Michigan the 38th state to ban smoking in public places.

The new law allows exemptions for the gaming floors at the three Detroit casinos, but the other casino bars and eateries must be smoke-free, including the casinos' restaurants and hotels.

Michigan's 20 American-Indian casinos are not covered by state law.

Cigar bars, tobacco specialty shops, home offices, commercial trucks and motor vehicles are also exempt. Businesses that are planning to file for the tobacco specialty shop and cigar bar exemption are encouraged to go to the Web site, [www.michigan.gov/smokefreelaw](http://www.michigan.gov/smokefreelaw), to obtain the proper forms for filing.

Due to provisions outlined in the law, affidavits and applications for the exemption will not be accepted prior to May 1. Individuals and business owners who violate the law will be subject to penalties of \$100 for the first offense and \$500 for subsequent offenses.

## They're free



DAVID L. MALHALAB, M NEWS SERVICE / MNS PHOTO

Comic Archives customers Nathaniel Johnson, (from left), Justice Long, 6, and Justin Long, 10, get a sneak preview of comic books to be given away free during Free Comic Book Day, May 1. Comic book stores all around area will be giving away special edition comic books to encourage collecting and to celebrate reading. Comic Archives and Back to the Past Comics in Redford and A to Z Comics in Garden City will be participating and will have other special events to coincide with the give away.

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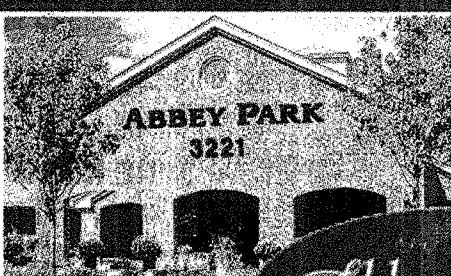
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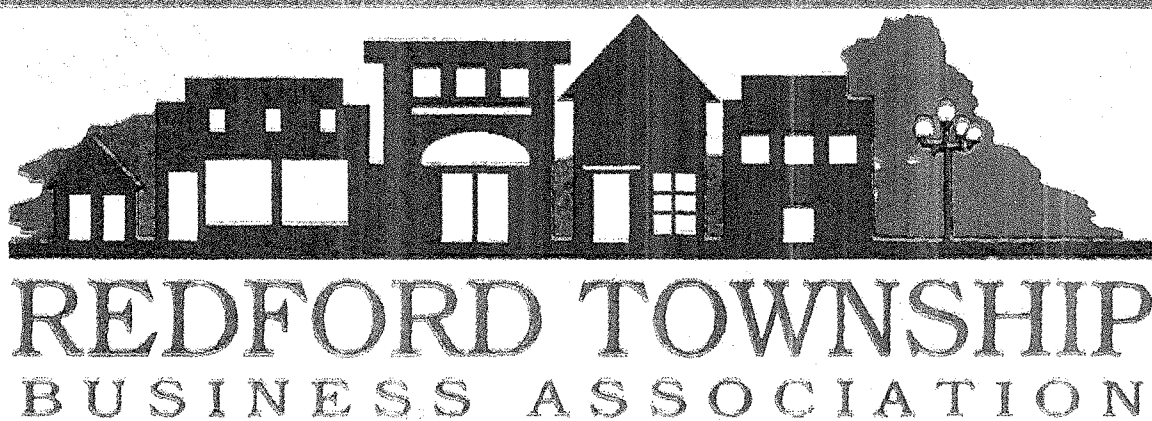
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# Musical brothers take a stand against hunger

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Give a Birchler brother a microphone and it won't take long before he starts singing into it. Add a charity and he'll donate his performance to the cause.

"Everybody sings and plays guitar," explained Tom Birchler, describing the musical brothers behind "Jammin' to End Famine 2010," a concert Friday, April 23, at Monaghan's Knights of Columbus, 19801 Farmington Road, Livonia to raise money for Kids Against Hunger.

"No one really played in the school band, but boy, when we saw the Beatles on Ed Sullivan, it was 'ok, that's cool, I want to do that.' So, we got a guitar for Christmas and we'd fight over it. Someone would learn a Beatles song and the other two would harmonize with it."

The brothers, Tom, a full time musician from Livonia, Dave, an urban planner from Birmingham, John, a financial planner from Plymouth, Jim, a hospital CFO from Ann Arbor and Keith, a lawyer from Bay City, all graduated from Brother Rice High School and grew up in Birmingham with three sisters, loving music and learning the importance of "giving back," from their parents.

"We were raised Catholic by faith-filled parents. They didn't necessarily say, you've got to volunteer, but they were always doing something at church, helping out with food drives, the (SOS) shelter. My dad was big into St. Vincent de Paul. Giving was part of the make up of who they were."

"Growing up in that environment we all have a sense that if you're blessed with a lot, you need to give back talent, time and treasures. Even if you don't think you're blessed, you probably have more than many people in the world. This event is something I can do personally."

Their third annual concert Friday raises money to battle hunger both in Michigan and abroad. The show will include performances by Rob Taube, a singer-songwriter who will sing tunes from his latest release, *Halfway Home*; The Underground Sun, with 1960s rock 'n' roll; The Paisley Fogg, a vocal-oriented 1960s rock 'n' roll band featuring the Birchlers and 2 Dayz Gone, with 1980s and 90s rock 'n' roll.

Cats Meow Face Design will be on hand to paint faces and pizza, salad, sweets will keep guests energized as they dance to the music. A cash bar also will be available.

Admission is \$20 for adults and

\$10 for students. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Last year the concert raised \$3,000 for Kids Against Hunger, a food aid organization with 80 locations in 24 states and one site in Canada. Birchler said he and his brothers hope to double that amount this year.

## LOCAL, GLOBAL AID

Kids Against Hunger enlists the help of schools, churches, businesses and community groups to raise funds and then package its specially formulated rice-soy casserole for hungry children world wide. Each meal costs approximately 28 cents and volunteers package at least 10,000 meals at each packaging event.

Don Burwell, who heads the Oak Park office of Kids Against Hunger, said a third of the meals packaged at a volunteer event goes to a local pantry. Because the Birchler brothers are sponsoring a fund-raiser, they'll choose which local pantry gets a share of meals from a subsequent packaging event.

Another third of the casseroles are sent overseas.

"Right now we're doing a lot in Haiti because of the disaster there," Burwell said. "And we're making plans to send food to Peru because of the earthquake there."



Three of the Birchler Brothers are members of Paisley Fogg, one of four bands that will perform at a fund-raiser for Kids Against Hunger.

We keep the final third and it's dedicated for natural disasters."

Burwell said Kids Against Hunger gave more than 2 million meals to organizations serving local needs over the past 12 to 18 months.

The organization sets up food packaging events around the state and expects to participate in 200 this year.

"We're mobile and on the road. We service everywhere in Michigan," Burwell said. "Our vision is in the next five years to package in every school district. Four years ago Plymouth Canton was the first school district to package in elementary, middle and high school. They are the model that we'd love to see."

Birchler, who attended a packaging event in Okemos, likes the idea of including children in the



Tom Birchler's son, Mark Warren, will perform with 2 Dayz Gone at the fund-raiser Friday, April 23 in Livonia.



we can do something worthwhile Rob Taube

hands-on volunteer experience.

"We've been very happy with our association with Kids Against Hunger," he said. "We're happy

with our talent, too."

For more about Kids Against Hunger, visit [www.kidsagainsthungercoalition.com](http://www.kidsagainsthungercoalition.com)

## Green Street Fair features Verve Pipe in concert

The Third Annual Green Street Fair will return to the streets of downtown Plymouth Friday-Sunday, April 30-May 2, with live music by local and regional performers, kid's activities, hands-on workshops, demonstrations, a petting farm and information on green, organic, and eco-friendly products and services.

Fair hours are noon-7 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

The entertainment stage will be located on Ann Arbor Trail at the corner of Union Street. The line-up includes:

Friday: National Ghost at 1:15 p.m., The Strange at 3:15 p.m., and Blackberry Brandy at 5:15 p.m.

Saturday: Katie Lee at 10:30 a.m., View at noon, James and the Rainbros at 1:30 p.m.,


American Mars at 3 p.m. and The Verve Pipe at 5 p.m.

Sunday: The Mydols at noon, Abigail Stauffer, at 1:30 p.m. and Lucciana Costa at 3 p.m.

In addition to the concerts, visitors can watch street performers, view organic cooking demonstrations, create an artistic work with fabric scraps, build a birdhouse, learn the basics of recycling at an interactive display, see art installations and learn about fitness and well-being.

Youngsters can pet farm animals, learn how to make compost with recycled AT&T Yellow Pages and red worms, play in a cardboard box fort, and help build a mural.

For more on the fair visit [www.greenstreetfair.com](http://www.greenstreetfair.com) or cdall (734) 259-2983.



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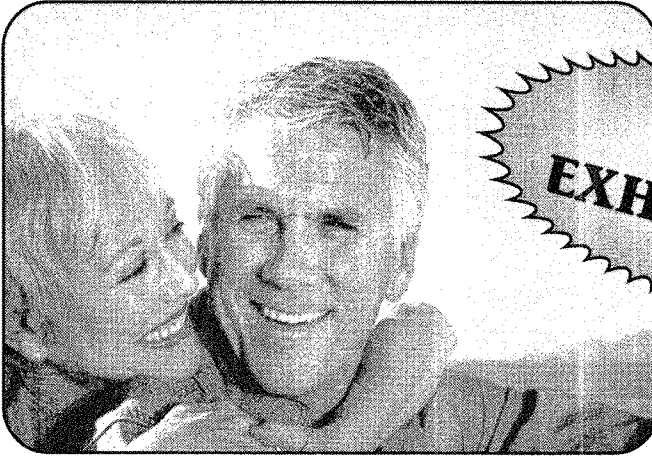
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# Guests will 'Shop, Taste, Live, Learn' at women's show

The 15th annual Michigan International Women's Show will have it all — from shopping to makeovers, cooking demonstrations to fashion and entertainment — Thursday-Sunday, April 29-May 2 at Rock Financial Showplace, in Novi.

"Girlfriends, sisters, mothers and daughters will enjoy this year's theme of Shop, Taste, Live, at the show," stated Beth Anderson, show manager of Southern Shows. "We are celebrating our anniversary with treats, presents, goodie bags and special discounts on Friday."

Top Chef: Las Vegas 2009 winner Michael Voltaggio will share his experiences and describe his personal cooking style of sophisticated American cuisine he answers questions and sign autographs on Sunday, May 2. His appearance is sponsored by Detroit Medical Center.

TLC *Gown Crazy* and Bravo's *Project Runway* Season 3 top finalist Johnathan Kayne will present his 2010 gown and evening wear collection, as well as one-of-a-kind classics at his daily fashion show.

Coupon Queeny Tanya Senseney will teach how to save on groceries and everyday items as she tells how she paid \$45 for \$457 worth of groceries. She'll share expert tips on coupon clipping to save consistently and techniques to combine manufacturer coupons with store sales.

Artistry Spa on Wheels will feature complimentary

beauty treatments, mini-makeovers and product sampling of Artistry skin care and cosmetics in a lounge and spa setting.

Salvation Army Thrift Stores and Donation Centers will offer a bargain boutique featuring collectibles and fashion wear for sale in addition to having their staff modeling clothing items at the "ABC's of Fashion Cents" runway show on Saturday, May 1.

Free health screenings for total cholesterol level, blood pressure reading, bone density testing, glucose level and other tests will be available at the AARP/Walgreens Wellness exhibit along with health education materials.

The Cooking Stage will feature radio host Chef Lisa Lofton Shively demonstrating tips, techniques and recipes from her southern cooking and children cookbooks and Kroger will demonstrate uses for organic beef and chicken, lean natural beef and cake decorating.

Spring makeup trends and helpful cosmetic tips will be part of the makeovers offered by Macy's beauty experts along with an array of new spring scents.

The latest developments in health, cardiology and pediatrics will be available at the DMC Pavilion sponsored by Detroit Medical Center. Doctors and specialists from all areas of medicine will be on hand to consult one-on-one and answer individual health care questions.

Novi Fire Department's

charity fashion show will heat up the runway Friday and Saturday with firefighters modeling their dress blues and bunker gear. Additional spring fashion shows will run during the show.

Other features include Do It Herself Spotlight Stage; a free reusable Women's Show shopping bag and special gifts to the first 200 show attendees each day; Thursday's Nurses Day with special savings, free water bottles for the first 250 guests and healthy cooking classes sponsored by the Michigan Nurses Association; Sunday's Mother & Daughters Day with gifts and prizes; and hundreds of exhibitors displaying cosmetics, fragrances, lingerie, purses, shoes, gifts, décor items, food, fashion and accessories, arts and crafts.

The Michigan International Women's Show runs 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, at 46100 Grand River Ave., between Novi Road and Beck in Novi. Admission is \$9 for adults, \$5 for ages 6-12, and free for children under 5 accompanied by a paying adult. Advance tickets are \$8 online. Discount tickets are available at Kroger for \$7. Group tickets for 10 or more are offered in advance online for \$7.50. Happy Hours are everyday after 5 p.m. with \$5 admission. On site parking is available for \$5.

For more information and exhibitor coupons, visit [www.InternationalWomenShow.com](http://www.InternationalWomenShow.com) or call (800) 849-0248.

## GET OUT

## ART

### Costick Center

**Time/Date:** Thursday-Saturday, April 22-24

**Location:** 28600 West 11 Mile, Farmington Hills

**Details:** The Annual Festival of the Arts celebrates "Hats Off to the Arts" with displays, events, and activities for all ages. The celebration incorporates a special exhibit featuring the unique, artistic hats of Mr. Song Millinery, in Southfield. Luke Song designed Aretha Franklin's famous presidential inauguration hat. The special exhibit runs April 15- beginning on April 15-May 9, with a meet-the-artist reception 6-8 p.m., April 16. Admission is free

**Contact:** (248) 473-1870

### Lotus Arts Gallery

**Time/Date:** Through April

**Location:** 995 West Ann Arbor Trail, downtown Plymouth

**Details:** Colored Pencil Society of Detroit exhibit; **Contact:** (888) 889-4ART (toll free) or (734) 453-5400

### Northville Art House

**Time/Date:** Through April 24

**Location:** 215 W. Cady, Northville

**Details:** "Mudville USA," an installation by Eric Mesko  
**Coming up:** Doll making class taught by Charlie Patricolo, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., April 24-25. The two-day class costs \$100, along with a \$10 kit fee. **Contact:** (248) 344-0497 or visit [www.northvillearts.org](http://www.northvillearts.org)

## COMEDY

### Go Comedy!

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesdays thru

Sundays

**Location:** 261 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale

**Details:** Improv most nights. Open mic/jam session show for improvisers is 10 p.m. Wednesdays

**Contact:** (248) 327-0575; [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

### JD's House of Comedy

**Time/Date:** Various show times Wednesday-Saturday evenings

**Location:** 25333 W. 12 Mile, inside Star Theatre complex, Southfield

**Details:** Stand-up shows, 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; Apollo amateur night, 8 p.m. Wednesday

**Contact:** (248) 348-2420 or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

### Joey's Comedy Club of Livonia

**Time/Date:** 8 p.m. Mondays, Open Mic; 8 p.m. Tuesdays, Local Legends; 8 p.m. shows Wednesdays, Thursdays; 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays

**Location:** 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia

**Details:** Andres Fernandez, April 21-24

**Contact:** (734) 261-0555, [www.kickerscomplex.com](http://www.kickerscomplex.com)

### Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle

**Time/Date:** John Caparulo, April 22-24

**Location:** 269 E. Fourth, Royal Oak

**Contact:** (248) 542-9900, [www.comedycastle.com](http://www.comedycastle.com)

## CONCERTS

### The Ark

**Time/Date:** BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet, April 23; Nervous But Excited & Joshua Davis, April 24; The Infamous Stringdusters, April 25; Chris Pureka, April 26; Matt Jones, April 27; Eliza Gilkyson, April 28; Jonatha Brooke, April 29; Down the Line, April 30

**Location:** 316 South Main, Ann Arbor

**Contact:** (734) 763-8587; [www.theark.org](http://www.theark.org)

### Detroit Institute of Arts

**Time/Date:** Friday Night Live concerts, 7 and 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** 5200 Woodward Ave

**Contact:** (313) 833-7900, [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org)

Check us out on the Web every day at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com)

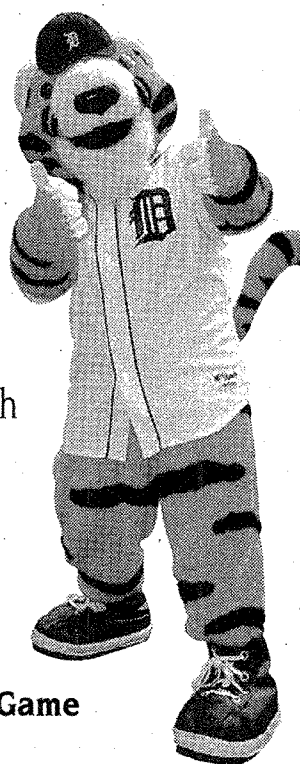


## Let's PAWS to applaud extraordinary kids.

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Email your essay to:

[cbjordan@hometownlife.com](mailto:cbjordan@hometownlife.com)

Subject line: "PAWS FOR APPLAUSE"

or mail it to:

Attn: Choya Jordan

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Please include the child's name, age, phone number and address.

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In celebration of OCEANS, Disney Store will make a \$1 donation to The Nature Conservancy with the purchase of an Earth Day reusable shopping bag now through April 22.

**STARTS THURSDAY, EARTH DAY, APRIL 22**

SORRY, NO PASSES Check Local Listings or Text OCEANS with your ZIP CODE to 43KIX (43549)

April 30 May 1 May 2 2010

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Religion calendar items appear on Thursdays on a space available basis. To submit an item, e-mail sdargay@hometownlife.com or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 615 W. Lafayette-2nd Level, Detroit, MI 48226, Attn: Sharon Dargay. Item must include the venue address and phone number and any admission costs for events. Items must be submitted at least a week in advance of publication. Feel free to send a related photo in jpg form. For a complete listing online, go to hometownlife.com.

## APRIL 22-28

### Canton Christian Fellowship

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 24

**Location:** 41920 Joy, between Haggerty and Lilley, Plymouth

**Details:** The church's clothing bank will be open. It also will be open 5-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 12. All clothing is free for all ages

**Contact:** (734) 927-6686

### Friendship Church

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 24

**Location:** 1240 N. Beck, Canton  
**Details:** Area churches that are planning to present Group Publishing's "High Seas Expedition" Vacation Bible School this summer will receive hands-on training from a Group VBS expert at this training and networking event. In addition to tons of fun and helpful tips, participants can network and share ideas. Registration fee is \$20.

**Contact:** Call (734) 710-9370 to register

### His Church Anglican

**Time/Date:** 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 22-June 24

**Location:** 36163 Plymouth Road, Livonia

**Details:** Alpha class

**Contact:** To register call (734) 367-0422

### Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, April 23 and 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 24

**Location:** 28000 New Market, just north of 12 Mile, east of Farmington Road in Farmington Hills

**Details:** The Woman's League of the church sponsors a rummage and bake sale. In addition to clothing and homemade baked goods, the sale will feature small appliances, furniture, books, bedding, linens, toys, jewelry and much more. \$3 and \$5 bag sale on Saturday

**Contact:** Lucille Ehlers at (248) 553-2889

**April 29-May 5**

All Saints Catholic School

**Time/Date:** Noon to 3 p.m., Sunday, May 2

**Location:** 48735 Warren Road, Canton

**Details:** School open house; tour the school, meet the faculty and staff, and talk with current students about their experiences

**Contact:** (734) 459-2490 or visit www.allsaintscs.com

### Antioch Lutheran Church

**Time/Date:** Rummage sale 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, April 30, and 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 1

**Location:** 33360 West 13 Mile, Farmington Hills

**Details:** The church also is collecting items for the sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, April 26-28

**Contact:** Judy Glass at (248) 476-9074

### Congregation B'nai Moshe

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m., May 2

**Location:** 6800 Drake, West Bloomfield

**Details:** "Torah, Technology and the Future of Israel," will explore the relationship of Torah values to the applications of modern technology. There will be a panel presentation with Steven Bekhor, on "Israel's Nuclear Horizon," Ellen P. Rosenberg, on "Water Resources and Conservation in Israel," and Steven H. Schwartz with "Torah Values and the Environment. The B'nai Moshe Choir will perform and there will be a question and answer period followed by a social hour with refreshments. Admission is free

**Contact:** RSVP to (248) 788-0600

### Faith Bible Church

**Time/Date:** 6 p.m., Sunday, May 2

**Location:** 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Taste of the Nation Dinner is an international potluck buffet. Participants bring two dishes - choosing between an entree, desert and appetizer - from their family's country of origin. Donations will support the church's missions and Brazil Team

**Contact:** (248) 426-0096

### Newburg United Methodist

**Time/Date:** Pre-sale, 5-8 p.m., Thursday, April 29, regular sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, April 30 and 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 1

**Location:** 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia

**Details:** Rummage sale fund-raiser; \$2 per adult admission to pre-sale on Thursday, free admission Friday-Saturday; half price sale on Saturday

**Contact:** (734) 422-0149

Our Lady of Loretto

**Time/Date:** Check-in at 6:15 p.m., game begins at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 1

**Location:** In the family center, behind the school, 17116 Olympia, Redford

**Details:** Adult Trivia Night, with proceeds benefitting youth programs and youth outreach. Register in groups of eight - \$80 per table or \$10 per person. Answer numerous questions - as a group at each table - on a variety of categories. Cash prizes for top three tables, cash bar, and lots of items to be raffled off.

**Contact:** Register by calling (313) 534-9000 or visit http://ourladyofloretto.webs.com/trivianight.htm for more information

### Prince of Peace Lutheran

**Time/Date:** 6-8 p.m. Saturday, May 1

**Location:** 28000 New Market, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Mexican Fiesta includes a community dinner and raffle; tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 12 or \$25 for a family of four or more

**Contact:** (248) 553-3130

### St. Aidan

**Time/Date:** 6-9 p.m., Thursday, April 29

**Location:** 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia

**Details:** The Rev. Norm Dickson and Dr. Mary Healy will be the guest speakers at the Endow groups at the church. The session, a reflection on Women of Peace and Love, is aimed at women and girls, age 16 and over. A light dinner will be included. A free will offering will be accepted

**Coming up:** The church will celebrate families after all Masses, May 1-2. LEGO displays will be on view in Bixman Hall. There will be a Catholic bookstore display, refreshments available, and a supervised LEGO play area for kids

**Contact:** RSVP for the Endow program to the parish office by April 25 at (734) 425-5950

### Temple Shir Shalom

**Time/Date:** 10 a.m., Sunday, May 2

**Location:** 3999 Walnut Lake Road

**Details:** Walk for Israel begins with a speaker, a Theodore Herzl exhibit, then a picnic kosher lunch, informational displays and a solidarity walk along Orchard Lake Road at noon

**Contact:** (248) 737-8700 or visit www.shirshalom.org

**May 13-19**

### Birmingham Temple

**Time/Date:** 7:30 p.m., Sunday, May 16

**Location:** 28611 W. 12 Mile, between Inkster and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills

**Details:** DSO Concertmaster Emmanuelle Boisvert, along with Karl Pituch, principal horn player of the DSO, Hai-Xin Wu, DSO's assistant concertmaster, and Zuihua Tang, pianist, perform in the final Vivace Music Series concert of the season. An afterglow follows the concert when the audience will have the opportunity to mingle, sample delicious refreshments, and meet the artists. Tickets are \$23 general admission and \$20 for seniors and students

**Contact:** To order tickets call Joyce Cheresch at (248) 788-9338 or Ann Sipher and (248) 661-1348

### Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

**Time/Date:** 7-9 p.m., Friday, May 14

**Location:** 9083 Newburgh, Livonia

**Details:** Healing Light for Pain Relief demonstration featuring Q-Laser

**Contact:** RSVP at (248) 203-7744

### Kenwood Church

**Time/Date:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 15

**Location:** 20200 Merriman, Livonia

**Details:** "Free Stuff Give Away" offers donated, gently-used items to the community at no cost. The church is collecting donation of items for the event up to May 15. Collection boxes are placed under the canopy by the main doors

**Contact:** (248) 476-8222

### St. Damian Catholic School

**Time/Date:** 4:30 p.m., Mass, 5:30-8 p.m. All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner, Saturday, May 15

**Location:** 29891 Joy, between Middlebelt and Merriman, in Westland

**Details:** Fiftieth anniversary celebration; dinner menu includes salad, bread, beverage, and deserts. The evening includes dinner music. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 5-12, and children under 5 are free. Family tickets are available for \$20

**Contact:** (734) 427-1680

## ONGOING

### AWANA

**Time/Date:** 6:30-8 p.m., Wednesdays

**Location:** Faith Bible Church, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills

**Details:** AWANA program for children from kindergarten through fifth grade

**Contact:** (248) 426-0096

### Breakfast

St. Michael the Archangel

**Time/Date:** 8:30 a.m.-noon, third Sunday each month, October through May

**Location:** 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth, in Livonia

**Details:** The Ushers' Club presents an "all-you-can-eat" pancake breakfast served in the school cafeteria and featuring pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted breakfast beverages. Meals are served buffet-style. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, 4-11, free for children under 3, and \$15 for a family with two adults and children

**Contact:** (734) 261-1455

### Career workshops

**St. Matthew's United Methodist Church**

**Time/Date:** First and third Mondays

**Location:** 30900 Six Mile, Livonia

**Details:** Workshops are designed to help people in employment transition build a network and use their resources to find that next good job. Workshop leaders are available to work one-on-one with anyone looking for work.

**Contact:** (734) 422-6038

### Classes/study

#### Detroit First Church of the Nazarene

**Time/Date:** 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesday

**Location:** 21260 Haggerty, north of Eight Mile

**Details:** Tuesday Ladies Bible Study; \$15 registration fee includes interdenominational study materials. Child care available for children through age 5

**Contact:** (248) 348-7600

### Emmanuel Lutheran Church

**Time/Date:** 7-8 p.m., second Monday of the month

**Location:** 34567 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Newburgh roads, Livonia

**Details:** Open Arms Bible class for adults with developmental disabilities and special needs. Includes songs, Bible lessons, crafts and activities, prayer, snacks and fun

**Contact:** Judy Cook at Emmanuel, (248) 442-8822 or e-mail to jcook59@att.net.

### Livonia Unity

**Time/Date:** Monday movement

Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursday Qigong meditation, 10-11:15 a.m., and Friday Therapeutic Qigong, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Location:** 28660 Five Mile, Livonia

**Details:** Learn Qigong, the ancient form of Chinese energetic medicine - a safe and effective way to rid the body of toxic pathogens and years of painful emotions

**Contact:** (810) 813-4073 or gary@energeticarts.org.

### Men's Bible study

**Time/Date:** Breakfast at 7 a.m. and study at 8 p.m.

**Location:** Kirby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty, Northville Township

**Contact:** John Shulenberg at (734) 464-9491

### Merriman Road Baptist Church

**Details:** Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those who want to improve reading, writing and English conversational skills. Open to age 18 and over. Tutors available for day or evening.

**Contact:** (734) 421-0472; leave your name and phone number and someone will contact you

### New Life Community Church

**Time/Date:** Jobs seminar, 8-9 a.m., Fridays; reading program for students in grades K-12 and martial arts instruction, both at 10 a.m., Sundays

**Location:** 42200 Tyler, Belleville

**Contact:** (734) 846-4615

### Our Lady of Loretto

**Time/Date:** 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday

**Location:** Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford

**Details:** Scripture study

**Contact:** (313) 534-9000

### St. Andrew's Presbyterian

**Time/Date:** 10:30 a.m., Wednesday and 10:30 a.m. Thursday

**Location:** 26701 Joy

**Details:** Wednesday study/discussion group focuses on relationship with God and that of other religious groups and philosophical and scientific issues that might impact faith. Thursday group examines early writings not included in the Bible as well as other versions, extensions and controversies concerning Christianity. Led by interim pastor Larry Hoxey

**Contact:** (313) 274-3820

### St. Michael the Archangel

**Time/Date:** 7-9 p.m., second and fourth Thursday of each month

**Location:** 11441 Hubbard, just south of Plymouth Road, in Livonia

**Details:** Led by Catholic author and apologist, Gary Michuta. The in-depth study of the Gospel of St. Matthew continues, using the Hahn-Mitch study guide. New students of any faith are welcome

**Contact:** (734) 261-1455

### Seeds of Mercy Mission Home

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m., every Friday

**Location:** 21819 Middlebelt, Farmington Hills

**Details:** Bible study

**Contact:** Nicole Christ at (313) 531-1234

# Your Invitation to Worship

## CATHOLIC

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### St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church

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(East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries)

MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a

### St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church

32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616

(between Merriman & Farmington Roads)  
MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 6 p, Sun 9a

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www.orchardumc.org

248-626-3620

### Worship:

9:00 a.m. and 11





The Primo Passo Ensemble will perform.

# St. John's Episcopal concert series presents Mozart opera

St. John's Episcopal Church's concert series, "Resounding Art in a Sacred Space," will give opera lovers a chance to enjoy one of Mozart's most famous operas, *Così Fan Tutte*, on Saturday, May 1.

The Primo Passo Ensemble will perform the opera, setting it in the 1960s and telling the story of two young sisters and their husbands-to-be. The young men, overheard bragging about the faithfulness of their wives-to-be, are challenged to a bet to prove that the women are not truly faithful.

Primo Passo is Italian for

first step. Their mission is to be a first step into opera for the audience member who may not be familiar with the art form. The performance, which will last approximately two hours, will present an abridged version of the original story. The dialogue will be in English rather than the original Italian.

Jody Doktor is the stage director. Musical direction is by Dana Sadava. Doktor has performed with the Michigan Opera Theatre as a member of their opera chorus. She currently is working as an adjunct professor of voice at Grand Rapids Community

College and is the music director and organist at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Southfield. Sadava is working on a Master of Music degree at the University of Michigan and has been the music director at Comic Opera Guild in Ann Arbor.

The opera will start at 7 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church at 574 S. Sheldon, Plymouth. Admission is free, although a free will offering will be accepted.

For more information, visit [www.stjohnsplymouth.org](http://www.stjohnsplymouth.org) or call the church at (734) 453-0190.

# Need some stuff? Livonia church offering it free on May 15

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

Kenwood Church of Christ will offer lots of secondhand items to the public next month, but won't bother to price any of them.

"We're trying to find new ways to get needed things to people," explained the Rev. Todd Lackie, pastor of the Livonia church. "It's part of our ongoing effort to try to find ways to serve the community."

Last year the church gave away more than 8,000 gently-used garments and approximately 600 winter clothing items. It also helped 750 families with food.

Now it's collecting donated items for its "Free Stuff Give Away," on May 15.

"Many of us have more things than we need. That third crock pot — do you really need it? Or that second lawn mower?"

He hopes the community will partner with the church in its collection effort by donating items. A box is stationed under the canopy by the main doors and the church will accept donations through May 15.

Lackie expects the church will receive clothing, household items, furniture, appliances, books, toys, computers, electronics and tools.

"You name it, it's available. We have everything from clothing to a pair of skis and ski poles. There are chairs ... a little bit of everything. We've got plenty of (storage) space."

Everything will be sorted and placed outdoors on the church grounds on event day. If

Everything will be sorted and placed outdoors on the church grounds on event day. If it rains, Free Stuff Give Away will move to the following Saturday, May 22. Visitors likely will receive tickets that can be exchanged for free items, Lackie said.

it rains, Free Stuff Give Away will move to the following Saturday, May 22. Visitors likely will receive tickets that can be exchanged for free items, Lackie said.

"I have a friend who is a minister in Ohio. His congregation does this same thing. We'll probably follow their lead."

The item limit will prevent someone from "pulling in with a semi truck and cleaning everything out" to sell on eBay.

Leftovers will go to organizations that can put them to good use.

Lackie said donating reusable items to the Free Stuff Give Away is just one way of serving others locally.

"I think one thing that has been lost over the last several decades is a sense of community. Global is fine, but it's also important to remember that the person living three houses down may be in need."

Free Stuff Give Away will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 15 at the church, 20200 Merriman. Call (248) 476-8222 for information.

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's Sports section

## In Loving Memory

...this Mother's Day

Remember the mother you have lost by placing a special holiday remembrance tribute.

The Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Weekly Newspapers will be publishing a special "In Remembrance" page for Mother's Day 2010. Here's the perfect opportunity to honor the memory and celebrate the life of your beloved mother who holds a special place in your heart.

Prices start at **\$15.00** for a photo "In Remembrance" ad

**Publication Dates:**  
Sunday, May 9th...in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
Thursday, May 6th...in the Hometown Weekly Newspapers

**Deadline for both issues: Friday, April 30th**

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**LELA BRAMLETT (NEE MILLER)**  
Age 87, April 17, 2010. Dear mother of Carolyn Gale Wathen and Shelley Redouty. Grandmother of Chystal Gale Jeffries and Rachael Lynn Redouty. Great-grandmother of Everett Jeffries. Sister of the late Ishmael Miller, Beatrice Henderson, Herman Miller, Woodrow Miller, Birgie Saddler, Thurlow Brown and Elza Miller. Aunt of Glenda, Allen J., Larry, Doug, Wendell, Marcella, Jenny Sue, Scott, and Joelle. Private services; arrangements by Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 734-427-3800. Memorials suggested to American Cancer Society.

**WILLIAM H. GEARHART**  
Age 87, of Plymouth, passed away April 18, 2010. Arrangements by THAYER-ROCK FUNERAL HOME, Farmington, MI.

**WILLIAM M. HOWE**  
84, passed away Thursday, April 15, 2010 at his home. Born in Highland Park, MI, he was the second oldest of ten children of Jim and Rose Howe and attended St. Cecilia's in Detroit. Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army at 15 and proudly served in WWII and the Korean war with assignments in Munich, Frankfurt, and Darmstadt, Germany, Ft. Campbell, KY and Ft. Carson, Co. He was a maintenance specialist, achieving the rank of CWO-3 after 20 years in the Army. After his military service, he moved his family to Redford Twp., MI. He was an active member and usher of Our Lady of Loretto Church. Employed again at the Detroit Tank Arsenal Plant in Warren, MI, he was instrumental in writing the maintenance manual for the Abrams MI Tank. He once said "I can fix anything, but a broken heart". He enjoyed summers at his vacation home with his family and friends at Guthrie Lakes, MI, where he went boating, fishing, made bon fires and rode scooters with his grandchildren. He moved to Melbourne, FL in 2000, and became a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. He rarely missed mass at 4:00 on Saturdays, sitting with his friends in the last pew. Bill loved people, dogs, everything Irish, and in the good old days, a shot of Jim Beam. Bill was predeceased in death by daughter Kristina Peifer of Glen Burnie, MD. His family includes his wife of 61 years Lily; three children, Nijola-Lolly Polenz (Alan), Detroit, MI, William, (Karen) Northville, MI and Shirley Street (Tom) Melbourne, FL. He also had 9 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 10:30AM at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Melbourne, FL. Interment with full military honors will be at the National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL. Donations can be made to <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

**STEPHEN CRAIG BRISKI**  
Age 45, of Dearborn Heights, passed away on April 20, 2010 at the home of his parents in Garden City, after a brief battle with cancer. Steve was born March 18, 1965 in Detroit, the son of Paul and Gloria (Lassila) Briski. Steve grew up in Detroit and Westland, where he attended the Wayne Westland schools and graduated from Wayne Memorial High School in 1983. Throughout his childhood he loved sports and played on many local baseball teams. For the past several years, Steve has shared his life with his girl friend Crystal Coffey and her son Jacob, living in Dearborn Heights. Steve worked for many years at Color Tile, F. B. Wright and Heartland grocery. Most recently, he was employed by Walmart, where he worked as a stockperson. Steve liked to bowl and play golf, and was passionate about all sports, in particular loving the Detroit Red Wings and the Michigan State Spartans. He also thoroughly enjoyed being a doting uncle to his beloved nieces and nephew, and loved being a dad to Jacob. Steve continually held concern for others, most often before any concern for himself, and he always tried to help those who crossed his path in life wherever he could. He was always a friend to anyone in need. Steve was preceded in death by his grandparents, Wilbert Lassila and Elaine (Lampinen) Lassila Maatta; his grandfather, Anton Briski, Jr.; an aunt, Rose (Lassila) Perala; and most recently, his brother Duane, in 2008. In addition to Crystal and Jacob, Steve is survived by his parents, Paul and Gloria Briski of Garden City; two brothers, David Briski of Garden City and Brian (Gina) Briski of Westland; his grandmother, Lucille Briski of Garden City; three nieces, Jessica Briski of Belding, and Katie & Angelina Briski, both of Westland; a nephew, Brandon Briski of Belding; an aunt, Patricia (Dick) Yates of Lacey, Washington; three uncles, John (Joyce) Lassila of Las Vegas, Anthony (Kay) Briski of Janesville, Wisconsin, and Curt Briski of Pontiac; an uncle-in-law, Peter Perala of Twin Lakes; two great-aunts, Evelyn Kuopus of Hancock and Mary Lou Howard of Jonesville; a sister-in-law, Cheryl Sepanak of Belding; and numerous cousins, friends and co-workers. Following cremation, a memorial service for Steve will be held on Sunday, April 25, 2010 at 7:00PM at the Vermeulen Funeral Home 980 N. Newburgh Rd., Westland. Family and friends may call at the funeral home from 5-9:00PM. To share a memory with the family, please visit [vermeulenfuneralhome.com](http://vermeulenfuneralhome.com).

**ROY KARRO**  
WWII veteran of the U.S. Air Corps (Bronze Star for work with the 93rd Bombardment Group of the 8th AF in the E. T. O.) Age 91 passed away on April 17, 2010 peacefully at home in Livonia. Retired from Solomon, Smith & Barney in 1999, 1942 University of Iowa graduate and passionate Hawkeye sports fan. Life member of the University of Iowa Alumni Association. University of Iowa Foundation Presidents Club Gold member. A philanthropist, assisting with and contributing to various charities- especially athletic programs, scholarship funds and fund raising for the University of Iowa to which he made contributions for 44 consecutive years. Contributions include the commissioning of the bronze bust of Coach Hayden Frye. The establishment of the Jim Zabel Scholarship Fund for broadcast journalism. The University of Iowa Athletics Hall of Fame, Roy G. Karro Building. Born August 10, 1918 in New York, NY to Tynne and Gustav Karro of Finland. Roy is preceded in death by his loving parents and his loving wife of 42 years Mae Harrison Karro. He is survived by many beloved cousins: Stanley Karro, Helvi Larson, Leila Judd and all of their children. Roy's godchild Leslie Skowronek. Roy is also survived by his dear companion and caregiver Linda Renich, her sons Ray Page, John Page, and Ric Renich. His many friends in the U.S., Canada and Finland. Great friends Bob and Peggy Mull and family, Don and Marilyn Suchy. Special thanks to the caregivers over these past 7 years. Roy will be missed by his faithful dogs, Baby, Lady and grand-dog Coco. World traveler Roy Karro will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Arrangements by the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia. Interment Roseland Park Cemetery in Berkley, MI.

**ANNA MARIE (PEDERSEN) FACKNITZ**  
Age 87, passed away Friday, April 16, 2010 surrounded by her loving family at the Davison Brian's House Hospice. A Memorial Service will be held 4 pm Sunday, April 25, 2010 at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 5073 Daly Blvd., Flint; Pastor Gary L. Beck officiating. The family will receive visitors from 3 pm until time of service. Memorial contributions may be made to Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills. Anna was born in Detroit, MI on April 13, 1923, the eldest of three children, to Leo and Erna (Nielsen) Pedersen. She married her lifelong love, Winfried "Win" Facknitz on October 3, 1942. They were blessed to celebrate 66 years of marriage and devotion to their Lord, one another and their family. Win preceded Anna in death July 24, 2008. Some of Anna's most joyous moments were spent sharing holidays, traveling with Win, and anything to do with "Nanny" and the little ones. Anna is survived by her children, Christina (Hugh) McMartin and Lisa Minto (husband Rod, deceased); grandchildren, Erika (Kenny) Ingle, Amy Thompson, Bradley (Paula) McMartin, Alissa (Martin) Bocks; great-grandchildren, Cameron and Donovan Ingle, Anna and Sara Thompson, Caitlin and Emma Bocks. She was preceded in death by her sister, June Bolick, and her brother George Pedersen. Please share your thoughts with the family at [www.allenfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.allenfuneralhomeinc.com).



**HELEN A. ROGERS**  
Died April 16, 2010  
Rogers - Helen B. Rogers, 96, of Grandville, formerly of Bloomfield Hills, died April 16 in Grandville, with her family beside her. Services have been held in Northport, MI. Please visit Helen's online guestbook at [www.legacy.com/record-eagle/](http://www.legacy.com/record-eagle/)



**DONALD K. TROTTER**  
Age 48 of Howell, died suddenly Friday, April 16, 2010. He was born September 27, 1961 in Livonia, the son of Donald and Irene (Lux) Trotter. Beloved husband of Melissa Ann (Shortridge) Trotter; dear father of Ortonville and Samantha Trotter of Grand Blanc; step-children, Dustin Piesko, Hunter Piesko and Baylei O'Doherty, all of Howell. Also survived by his mother, Irene Panyard of Livonia and sister, Kathy Trotter of Dearborn and his cat, Stanley. He was preceded in death by his father. Donald was a member of Glaziers Local #357 of Detroit. He enjoyed collecting and restoring cars and was a member of Livingston County Street Knights. Visitation for Donald will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. with services Friday 11 a.m. at MacDonald's Funeral Home, Howell (517-546-2800). Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. Please visit the family's online guestbook at [www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com](http://www.macdonaldsfuneralhome.com)



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

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May peace be with you in this time of sorrow.



