

Westland Observer

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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

COUNTY NEWS

More fish: Wayne County has agreed to pay for the restocking of fish at Newburgh Lake and a downstream impoundment on the Rouge River, while a project manager will give \$3,000 to Friends of the Rouge. /A5

COMMUNITY LIFE

Anger within: These days, speeders, inconsiderate drivers, even slow drivers can easily find themselves on the receiving end of abuse from their fellow motorists and, more and more, the abusers are women. /B1

AT HOME

Designed with care: A Troy company, Caring Solutions, helps disabled people keep their independence. /D6

ENTERTAINMENT

Film: Gordon Michaels, a graduate of John Glenn High School in Westland, is a lot like the lead character he plays in the film "Unbeatable Harold"—determined to bring the story to the big screen. /E1

Theater: Natalie Ross, a senior at Churchill High School in Livonia, was one of 700 hopefuls looking for a new lease on life. Or just looking to "Rent." /E1

REAL ESTATE

Sticker shock: Rents for office and industrial space are high, and there's not a lot of space available. /F1

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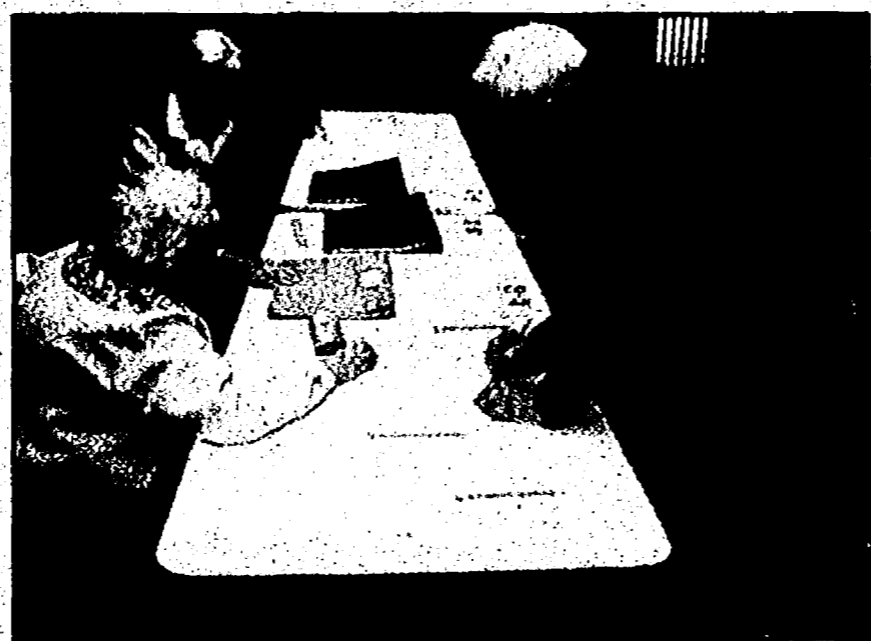
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\$108 million bond proposal OK'd

Election day: Ronald Sampson signs in to vote at Precinct 17 in Patchin Elementary as election workers Helen Maczuga, left, and Evelyn Prokop, center, watch.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Only 4,880 of the district's 68,000 voters braved heavy rains and winds to go to the polls in Tuesday's school bond election.

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland school district homeowners will see a 4-mill tax increase this summer after supporting a \$108.3 million bond measure in Tuesday's special election.

Taxes will increase \$180 annually for the owner of a \$90,000 home. School officials say the 22-year measure will pay for long-needed building renovations and educational technology including new computers in every

classroom. "This is a great day for the children of Wayne-Westland schools," a jubilant Superintendent Greg Baracy said Tuesday night. He claimed victory for the bond proposal at 9:25 p.m., just 85 minutes after polls closed. His announcement drew cheers and applause from some

Please see BOND, A2

Election '98

WAYNE-WESTLAND SCHOOLS BOND PROPOSAL

✓ YES - 2,768
NO - 2,112

Downpour leaves wet basements

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

As many as 100 Westland homeowners reported basement flooding this week as heavy rains drenched neighborhoods, Deputy Mayor George Gillies said Wednesday.

Some residents reported several inches of flooding because sewers couldn't accommodate the deluge, he said.

But Gillies and Assistant Fire Chief Patrick Harder said new flooding didn't compare to a massive sewer backup — one year ago this week — that ravaged more than 400 homes with raw sewage.

The city's 1997 flood occurred because a 6-foot sewer pipe was inadvertently sealed off during a \$10 million sewer-separation project.

This week's flooding, however, occurred because heavy rains pounded some areas of the city faster than sewers could accommodate the water.

"This is an act of God," Gillies said Wednesday afternoon. "We were just deluged with rain, and the sewers will only take so much water."

Even so, some residents of August and other streets raised allegations this week that the problem has been persistent for years and that the city hasn't addressed it.

Gillies said there's little the city can do to combat storm-related flooding. However, Westland City Council members have indicated they will schedule a study session to discuss the problem.

Some residents Wednesday reported flooding that soaked basement carpet and other belongings.

"It doesn't appear to be as widespread as it was last year," Harder said. "There hasn't been an actual emergency yet. If it was an actual emergency, we would have been on the front line."

M.J. Brunswick, standing Wednesday afternoon on basement carpet saturated with water, said he used a shop vacuum to pump water from his

Please see WET, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGDFELD

Wet basement: Wendy Brunswick, 6, views the standing water in the basement of the Brunswicks' house on August Street in Westland. M.J. Brunswick had already begun pumping water out after Tuesday's heavy rains.

Flooding sends some to city hall

BY RENE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER

Ruth Ann Butler's basement on August Street has flooded since 1956. When the water and sludge began perking through the drains yesterday, she left her handicapped husband home and headed over to City Hall.

Butler — along with three other August Street residents — was ready to square off with Westland City Council members who had convened

for their regular meeting. "I left my husband alone to come and plea with you people to get us help. We can't move. We're senior citizens," she said.

"It's disgusting," said Marjorie Kingsinger, a widow whose son lives in her basement.

Butler said she and Kingsinger were going to spend the rest of the night rescuing Kingsinger's son's belongings from the basement. She also said council members have been

aware of the flooding on August Street for a long time.

M. J. Brunswick, who has lived in his August home for 15 years, stepped up to the microphone and got right to the point.

"We have about 4 inches of sewer water, dirt and mud," he said. "Forget some of the new building (that has occurred in the area). Take care of some of the old residents and make them happy."

Please see FLOODING, A2

Teen gets 5 years probation in fatal crash

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland teenager will spend five years on probation for causing a fiery one-car accident that killed a 14-year-old girl last March, his attorney said Tuesday.

Joseph John Gackiewicz, 18, also will be placed on a tether for one year for the death of Nicole Mugurian, a Westland resident and Livonia Franklin High School freshman, attorney Marvin Blake said.

Gackiewicz, who had been drinking prior to the March 10 accident on Ann Arbor Trail near Hines Drive, also will be subject to random drug and alcohol testing, Blake confirmed.

The teenager's sentencing occurred earlier this month in front of Wayne County Circuit Court Judge David Kirwan, who chose not to imprison the defendant.

Gackiewicz could have faced a maximum 15-year prison term after pleading guilty to vehicular manslaughter.

"I think the conclusion was reasonable," Blake said.

Gackiewicz has publicly apologized for the accident, which caused him to suffer "a long period of depression," Blake said.

The defendant also suffered accident injuries that will remind him of the night he drove a 1989 Buick Regal into a roadside tree, causing the car to burst into flames and kill Mugurian.

"He had a smashed ankle that will always give him some difficulty," Blake

said. The prosecutor in the case couldn't be reached for comment, but Blake said the probationary sentence had been expected.

The sentence likely didn't satisfy everyone, but it didn't come as a surprise, he said.

"You can't make everybody happy," Blake said, "but I think it was pretty much expected."

Please see TEEN, A3

PLACES & FACES

Girl Scout officer

Bonnie Carre, an NBD vice president in Westland, was elected first vice president of Huron Valley Girl Scout Council at its annual meeting Feb. 7. Carre was a Girl Scout who later served in a variety of adult volunteer roles.

Carre is a member of the Westland Chamber of Commerce, the City of Westland Housing Rehabilitation Review Board and a volunteer instructor with Junior Achievement.

Huron Valley Girl Scout Council serves 15,000 girls and 4,000 adult volunteers in parts of Wayne and Oakland counties and in all of Washtenaw, Liv-

ingston and Monroe counties.

Veterans get funding

Veterans Haven Inc. of Westland recently was awarded additional funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to buy food and supplies.

The programs are designed to meet the needs of veterans in metro Detroit. The free program assists men and women who are disabled, unemployed seeking work, or facing a similar emergency with food, clothing, counseling and job referrals.

To receive these services, honorably discharged veterans can send a one-page letter with name, address, date and signature explaining current situation and circumstances to Veterans Haven Inc., 450 S. Venoy, Westland. A copy of DD-214 is also needed.

For more information, call 728-0527 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

OBITUARIES

CARL E. ANDERSON
Funeral services for Carl Anderson, 87, of Inkster were Feb. 18 in St. Norbert Catholic Church with burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Officiating was the Rev. John Lehner. Arrangements were made by John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home.
Mr. Anderson died Feb. 15 in Inkster. He was a self-employed electrician.
Surviving are: wife, Helen; son, Ronald Anderson; daughters, Joan Norton of Westland and Martha Simms; brothers, Knute and Arthur; sister, Martha Colpean; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.
Memorials may be made to

Community Hospice.

MABEL F. HINES
Private services for Mabel Hines, 92, of Westland were held recently. Burial was at Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit. Arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home.
Mrs. Hines, who died Feb. 12 in Westland, was born in Nelsonville, Ohio. She was a homemaker.
Surviving are: daughters, Harriet Terry of Madison Heights and Mary Roszel of Roseville, Calif.; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Flooding from page A1

Brunswick said he attempted to call the city's emergency number after the flooding. "What good does it do to call an emergency number if no one answers?"
Richard Dittmar, public services director, said residents must contact the police after 5 p.m.
Dave Pelham bought his home on August Street two years ago. "I didn't purchase a lakefront home, but my whole back yard is flooded," he said.
When contacted at home later, Pelham was busy cleaning.
"I had the most (flooding), about 4 1/2 inches. It really smells down there," he said. "It's going to be a major task to clean."
Pelham said he has complained before.
"I've called the city. They always said they would send the proper people out and they never did," he said. "Tonight, most of my back yard was under 4 inches of water."

Tracy Brunswick didn't accompany her husband to City Hall. She was cleaning their basement, which she said has flooded five times within the last 10 years. The worst flood measured 12 inches. She said she and her husband complained to the city five years ago, but were told it was a "weeping tile" problem.
"They kind of shrugged us off," she said.
Dittmar said the Butlers, Kingsingers, Brunswicks, and Pelhams all live in homes that lie in the lowest area on August Street.
He said of the 15 to 20 homes involved in the area, "people to the north and south who sit higher don't have a problem."
Pelham said there are two sewers further up the block on both sides of his home. "But water cannot go up."
Butler said a relief sewer installed April 1968 on the northeast corner of Merritt and August didn't relieve the flood-

ing in her basement, which occurs "every time it rains."
Dittmar said once the city's main interceptors carrying water to Detroit fill to capacity, there's "no place for the water to go."
He said the city's six pumps were in constant use Tuesday night, and calls made to neighboring communities for extra pumps went unanswered.
"Everybody's pumps were being used," he said.
Dittmar sympathized with the residents' plight. "All we can do is when the water subsides we can issue some sanitizer and disinfectant. It's not much."
Council member Richard LeBlanc asked about aid for the flooded residents, and Sandra Cicirelli, council president, asked Dittmar to organize a study session. Dittmar said he would do so "within the next month or two."

Wet from page A1

August Street basement after he noticed flooding about 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.
"I emptied some of the water in the (basement) sink," he said. "Then the sink started filling up."
Public services workers did use pumps to try to alleviate flooding in some areas, but the problem wasn't severe enough to prompt city officials to launch an emergency command post like they did last year in a neighborhood northwest of Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman.
Gillies confirmed that some homeowners reported 5 inches to 6 inches of water in their basements.
"We're not the only city experiencing this," he said. "We're sorry it happened, but it's an act of God." Some cities have reported much worse flooding this year, Gillies said.

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Bond from page A1

100 supporters gathered inside the district's Dyer Center on Marquette.
District voters passed the bond measure 56.7 percent to 43.3 percent. Unofficial totals showed 2,768 voters supporting the ballot proposal and 2,112 opposing it.
Only 4,880 of the district's 68,000 voters braved heavy rains and strong winds to go to the polls, marking a paltry 7.1 percent turnout.
Basking in the victory, school board president Debra Fowlkes didn't seem to notice that she was standing on carpet soaked by rains that had leaked into the Dyer Center.
"I'm so excited," she said. "I was nervous the whole night. Now we can do some good things. I can't wait to get started."
Baracy attributed Tuesday's victory to an aggressive campaign waged by a citizens committee headed by parents Cindy Schofield and Skip and Kitty Monit.
"Their grassroots efforts and the charge they led on this committee was exceptional," Baracy said.
After it became clear that voters supported the bond measure,

the Monits and other parents quickly dialed their cellular phones to spread the news.
"We're calling our kids to tell them the good news," Skip Monit said as his wife reached their three Wayne-Westland students.
"We did it!" Kitty Monit said on the phone.
Skip Monit said some district residents questioned during the campaign whether committee chairs got paid for their efforts. They didn't. "Tonight was our payment," Skip Monit said Tuesday. "This is what it's all about. This is about the children."
He called it "unthinkable" that the bond proposal might fail.
Only scattered opponents publicly criticized the bond proposal. Some said school officials should have had a plan years ago for gradually repairing buildings and improving classroom technology.
Baracy has said the \$108.3 million bond issue will allow officials to move away from "crisis management."
Officials have said the money will be used to repair dilapidated buildings, construct additions at some schools and upgrade technology in all classrooms.
District residents should begin to see initial improvements this fall, possibly some new computers and light construction work, Baracy said. Now that voters have approved the bond issue, he said, officials will move swiftly to prioritize projects and to develop a timetable.
Voters in 15 of 17 precincts supported the ballot measure. The proposal failed, although not by large margins, at Wildwood and Edison elementary schools.
District residents who voted by absentee ballot also opposed the plan by an 84-vote margin, 308 to 224.
Baracy praised school board members for their "courage" in placing the bond issue on a ballot.
"They put their popularity second," he said.
By approving the bond measure, Wayne-Westland voters gave Baracy and his administration their biggest vote of confidence since Baracy was appointed superintendent in August.
"I pledge to this community that we will deliver on what we promised on this bond issue," he told the Observer. Baracy's family was on hand Tuesday night to help him celebrate. Shortly after vote totals came in, Baracy and other bond supporters left the Dyer Center for a victory party at the United Auto Workers Local 900 union hall on Michigan Avenue near Newburgh.
In yet another victory for Wayne-Westland officials, the Michigan Department of State has dismissed an election complaint filed by former district music teacher Elizabeth Potter.
Potter filed a complaint charging, among other allegations, that district officials violated campaign laws by explaining the bond proposal at length in a Wayne-Westland newsletter sent home to parents.
The state dismissed Potter's complaint in a Feb. 10 letter, and Baracy said Wednesday morning he is pleased that the "frivolous" charges have been rejected. Moreover, he said Tuesday's vote shows that, despite some critics, most residents are united behind the district and its students.
School officials had sought tirelessly to explain the bond proposal during a series of some 70 meetings with community groups. Baracy said Tuesday's vote indicates that the district's credibility is improving.

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THE **Observer** NEWSPAPERS
1996 General Excellence Award

Students honored in black tribute contest

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland schoolteacher who used Black History Month to help her students learn about famous African-Americans now has three award-winners in her class.

Kettering Elementary teacher Charlann Ogilvie encouraged her third-graders to write essays and enter cable company MediaOne's 5th Annual Tribute to Blacks in Arts, Entertainment and Education Contest.

Students Malorie Fairchild, Jessica Barrett and Kyle Harrison won top honors after they wrote, respectively, about blues singer Bessie Smith, astronaut Guion Bluford and heavyweight boxing legend Joe Louis.

"I had been teaching about Martin Luther King Jr. and how he wanted equality for all people, and I received a brochure about this contest," Ogilvie said. "I thought it would be a good contest for the students. It's important for them to know that, regardless of color, people should be treated with the same respect."

Her students took top honors statewide among all students in kindergarten through third grade for essays they entered in the categories of music, science and sports.

MediaOne's contest also encompassed art, literature and performance, and it included competitions in higher grades, too.

Malorie, Jessica and Kyle won \$100, trophies and pizza, and a MediaOne film crew plans to include them in a commercial to be shown on area cable.

More important than their material winnings, however, is the knowledge they gained about significant contributions made by African-Americans.

Malorie learned that Chattanooga, Tenn., native Bessie Smith was raised by an older sister after her parents died when she was young. Malorie



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Winning words: Kettering elementary black history month essay winners are left to right, Malorie Fairchild, Jessica Barrett, and Kyle Harrison. They are all 9 years old.

also learned that Smith sang for money on street corners before she sang in clubs.

"She worked long hours in hot, crowded rooms, and owners didn't always pay what they promised," Malorie said.

But she said Smith persevered and eventually became known as "the Empress of the Blues."

Jessica learned that Guion Bluford in 1983 became the first African-American to enter space, when he joined a six-day flight and conducted 76 scientific experiments.

'I had been teaching about Martin Luther King Jr. and how he wanted equality for all people, and I received a brochure about this contest. I thought it would be a good contest for the students.'

Charlann Ogilvie
— Kettering teacher

Jessica's research also taught her that Bluford was a Philadelphia native who joined the Air Force and flew 144 combat missions in Vietnam. She learned that his aerospace stud-

ies earned him a doctorate degree in 1978 — five years prior to his space flight.

Kyle, meanwhile, learned that Joe Louis began fighting when he was a teenager and

that he became professional in 1934.

"No one," Kyle said, "could ignore Joe Louis."

Kyle talked of Louis winning the heavyweight title in 1937 and moving on to become a legend.

"His fist spoke for him," Kyle said, borrowing a line from his own essay.

Altogether, MediaOne is honoring some 20 students who entered winning essays in this year's contest, which had the theme "Voices of Our Past, Visions of Our Future."

The company announced that winners will be honored during a black-tie gala ceremony Tuesday at Cranbrook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills.

Ogilvie's students captured more awards than any other Michigan school in the K-3 category.

"Obviously the teacher and the kids put a lot of work into it," Bill Black, MediaOne public affairs director, said Tuesday.

"We're very proud of the students," Ogilvie said.

Teen from page A1

Gackiewicz is working and trying to resume his life nearly 11 months after he caused the 10:30 p.m. accident that killed Mugurian, a front-seat passenger. The driver and another passenger, Livonia teenager Michael Mahdi Ayoub, suffered injuries but survived.

Witnesses testified last May during a preliminary hearing in

Westland 18th District Court that Gackiewicz lost control of the car while passing another motorist on the right side, in a flare lane.

Gackiewicz allegedly was driving faster than 50 mph in the 35 mph zone. He was identified as the driver by Westland police Officer Jeff Jedrusik, among those who pulled the teens from

the burning car.

Westland police Officer Jack McIntosh has said witnesses came to Kirwan's court prepared to testify last Dec. 1, but Gackiewicz averted a trial by pleading guilty to vehicular manslaughter.

"Everybody was there to testify, but he took the plea," McIntosh said.

ACHIEVERS

The following students from Westland have earned a spot on the fall Dean's List at Schoolcraft College: Chris Naomi Aiello, Lori Ann Ardelean, Jeremy E. Atherton, Maureen Louise Baker, Douglas Bender, Rhonda Marie Binaghi, Beverly Ann Bishop, Kristen Leigh Blackann, Carlos Souberbelle Bonilla, Gina B. Carter, Jamie Lyn Churchman, Erin Marie Clayton, Matthew Scott Colip, Joell Marie Edmunds, Andrea Leigh Egeler, Christopher A. Eichsteadt, Amy Dawn Eye, Gary Wayne Fannon Jr., Rebeka Farah, Melissa Lynn Flory, Nancy Jane Geary, Jason Michael Gildea, Leo Patrick Girard, Frank Robert Gonzales, Angela Louise Gorecki, Elizabeth M. Hardy, Gayanie Amithis Jayasinghe, Karen F. Johnson, Megan Lea Jones, Michael S. Kandah, Lee Frank Kelly, Ingrid Erin Knoff, Rosanne Louise Kraus, Rebecca Agnes Krause, Kurt James Krist, Debra Kathryn Kuehnel, Melissa A. Lauerman, Erica Lynn Leveske, Jason Paul Lindenmuth, John Wayne Long, Dana Edward Mattila, Jennifer Ryan McDonald, Tracy Dawn Mikszewski, Mary Teresa Ollverson, Kimberley M. Ostrenga, William A. Pajot, Gwenda Renee Pfeil, Joseph Irving Phillipson, Shawn Matthew Planko, Keng Poon, Jayson John Rawlins, Jennifer Ann Reimer, Wesley Alan Richmond, Shanna Rose Ritter, Lisa Marie Robertson, Heather Leigh Sanders,

Please see ACHIEVERS, A4

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WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

<http://fytowa.webpoint.com.horoscopes>
Check your daily horoscope. Refer to an astrology dictionary. "Rate your romance." "Star talk."

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

• 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 17
Adult book discussion group Laurie King, "The Beekeeper's Apprentice" in the Community Room Meeting Room A. Paperback copies are now available. Call to reserve a copy.
• 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22
Western Murder Mystery Night Money on over and pit your sleuthing skills against seven costumed authors and a detective to see who can solve the murder. No acting is required of the audience. A few tickets are available. Stop in and pick one up at the Reception Desk.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

• 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23
Youth Net meeting - The Young Adult Advisory Board helps library officials make decisions about library materials and programs. Westland teens are sought to give input. No registration required. Meet in Meeting Room A.
• 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28
Beginning bookies is an activity time for kindergarten through second-graders that includes stories, songs and other fun activities to get them

Involved in books and reading. No registration required. In Children's Activity Room.

• 7 p.m. Monday, March 2
Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party - Join in the celebration of the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Read stories, use interactive media, and have activities based on the books of the famous children's author. Snack on Sneetch-cakes, drink Thidwick the Moose juice and sing "Happy Birthday" to the good doctor. In the Community Meeting Room.

• 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3
Toddler Tales - Community Meeting Room A
Preschool Time - Children's Activity Room

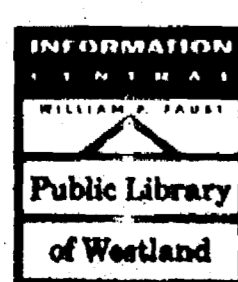
• 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 4
Toddler Tales - Community Meeting Room
Preschool Time - Children's Activity Room

• 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 7
Family reading carnival - Sponsored by the Wayne County Reading Council, this event celebrates National Reading Month in style. There will be storytellers, readings, crafts, face painting and more to remind us of the love of reading. In the Community Meeting Room and Activity Room.

• 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7
Creation Station - for a make-take craft project. The library supplies the materials, you supply the creativity. No registration is required.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Do you like used bookstores? Do you like to read? Or do you just like a good bargain? Located in the lobby of the library, the Friends Shop specializes in selling used books.



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Achievers from page A3

Nicole Faye Saputo, Susan H. Schramm, Bryan Scott Schwesing, Charlene Christie Scyzoryk, Laura Renee Sikora, Rachel Jayne Smith, Andrea Lynn Spence, Helen Ann Tomlin, Elizabeth Mary Usiondek, Janice E. Weslin, Richard Eric Williams, Joann Lee Wunderlich, Heidi Lynn Zegarowski, and Sheila Sue Kimble.

John Paronish of Westland, a student at Owens Community College in Findlay, Ohio, studying for a computer numerical control certificate, has been named to the academic honors list for the 1997 fall semester. Students must achieve at least a 3.5 grade point average to be eligible for academic honors.

The following students from Westland have made the dean's list at the end of the fall part time quarter at the Detroit College of Business: Kyle H. Fisher, Terri May Grassel, Ronda S. Graves, Pamela L. Holtzman, Donna M. Lamberti, Alex John Nagy, Linda M. Okray, RaKeesh K. Parikh, Judith M. Prince, Raymond Earl Raymond Jr., Tracy Saf-

fian, Peggy A. Sands, Jennifer Joanne Schwesing, Chantel Marie Spieth, Valerie Lynn Stevens.

The following Westland students have made the dean's list at the end of the fall full-time quarter at the Detroit College of Business: Erika M. Applebaum, Carol Cooper, Stacy Ann Eglinton, Charmaine Faye Flynn, Sherry C. Irving, Mark B. Lovett II, Dana Lynn Paddock, John W. Romano, Kelly L. Sanders, Jeremy D. Soronen, Deanna L. Stohl, Karen Anne Torres.

Jessica Snowden of Westland has been named to the dean's list at James Madison College of Michigan State University in East Lansing. To be named to the dean's list a student must earn a 3.5 grade point average or better during the fall semester. Students may pursue four fields of study at James Madison College: international relations, political economy, political theory and constitutional democracy and social relations.

Westland residents were

among the more than 700 graduates of Madonna University in Livonia recently. Bachelor's degree recipients included: Mary E. Collins, education certification; Laura J. Fisher, English with honors; Deborah L. Hunt, English-journalism with honors; Debbie A. Kelly, child development; Kimberly K. Martin, child development with honors; Lori M. Milatovich, nursing; Brandi B. Parenti, commercial art; Haydee T. Ruiz, biology; and Paula S. Schrock Bending, nursing.

The following Westland residents were named to the dean's list in recognition of superior academic achievement during the past term at Madonna University in Livonia: Christy L. Amthor, sophomore, long-term care administration; Megan E. Ansbro, post degree, gerontology; Kimberly R. Bar, sophomore, accounting; Hilary R. Brennan, freshman, nursing; Melissa A. Brown, senior, nursing; Tiffany M. Clemons, sophomore, biology; James P. Cook, senior, criminal justice; Jamie D. Cook, senior, criminal justice; Laura J. Fisher, senior, English; Albert M. Fuciarelli, junior, business administration;

Elena K. Garcia, post degree, secondary provisional program; Stephanie L. Gibeau, senior, nutrition and food science; Alyssa H. Gutierrez, senior, nursing; Rebecca L. Harden, freshman, nursing; Debra F. Hayden, sophomore, psychology; Jennifer Henry, junior, nursing; Jessica L. Horkey, senior, gerontology; Michelle L. Iaconelli, senior, general science; Michel J. La Pointe, senior, nursing; Connie S. Lake, sophomore, mental health; Maria G. Larkin, senior, English-speech; Brandi N. Livy, senior, biology; Shawn E. McGowan, senior, nursing; Teresa A. McClung, freshman, nursing; Cathryn C. McGlynn, freshman, nursing; Cynthia A. Paliza, junior, nursing; Susan A. Perron, junior, criminal justice; Shanna J. Price, senior, nursing; Kelly A. Provost, sophomore, nursing; David J. Radich, senior, history; Robynn G. Rhodes, senior, music; Patrick M. Rice, post degree, history; Randa J. Safadi, senior, dietetics; Carol J. Shepesh, senior, fine arts; Dawn M. Skapyak, senior, mental health; Amy M. Sudik, senior, biology; Robert J. Vega,

sophomore, undeclared; Rayne M. Vert, junior, English; Delano C. Voletti, senior, business administration; Tige N. Washko, senior, criminal justice; and Lisa Wojciechowski, post degree, nursing.

The following Westland residents, who are part-time Madonna University students, have been named to the academic achievement list during the past term: Pamela B. Bauer, senior, English; Rebecca I. Bloch, freshman, English-speech; Mary E. Collins, post degree, elementary provisional program; George L. Conant, junior, management; Joseph M. Cooper, freshman, nursing; Wendy S. Evola, freshman, nursing; Kevin D. Ewald, sophomore, psychology; Toni L. Farmer, post degree, sign language studies; Cheryl A. Faucher, sophomore, legal assistant; Carly K. Gagnis, freshman, nursing; Anne M. Gaffka, sophomore, computer information systems; Shkendija Gocaj, freshman, nursing; Deborah L. Hunt, freshman, English-journalism; Bridgett Johnson, junior, sociology; Kimberly M. Kalajian, junior, gerontology; Virgil M. Ketz, freshman, criminal justice;

Kathi L. Kobylarz, freshman, English; Brian M. Kwapis, post degree, accounting; Terena J. Lawson, freshman, business administration; Diana L. LeBlanc, freshman, allied health administration; Kimberly K. Martin, freshman, child development; Lori M. Milatovich, freshman, nursing; Leslie L. Munding, sophomore, English; Priscilla R. Murdock, sophomore, hospice education; Theresa M. O'Rourke, freshman, marketing; Jeffrey J. Orzel, freshman, computer information systems; Martha V. Potter, junior, nursing; Laura M. Rauls, freshman, hospice education; Paul J. Rogers, freshman, nursing; Catherine M. Rohloff, junior, sign language studies; Michelle M. Saldana, freshman, nursing; Sherry L. Shultz, freshman, child development; Marilyn Stueckle, post degree, gerontology; Robert M. Tedders, sophomore, mathematics; Yanina A. Vega, freshman, Spanish; Jessica L. Villagomez, sophomore, English; Debra L. Wade, freshman, biology; Kelli A. Weller, post degree, secondary provisional program; Michele E. Zurich, sophomore, accounting.

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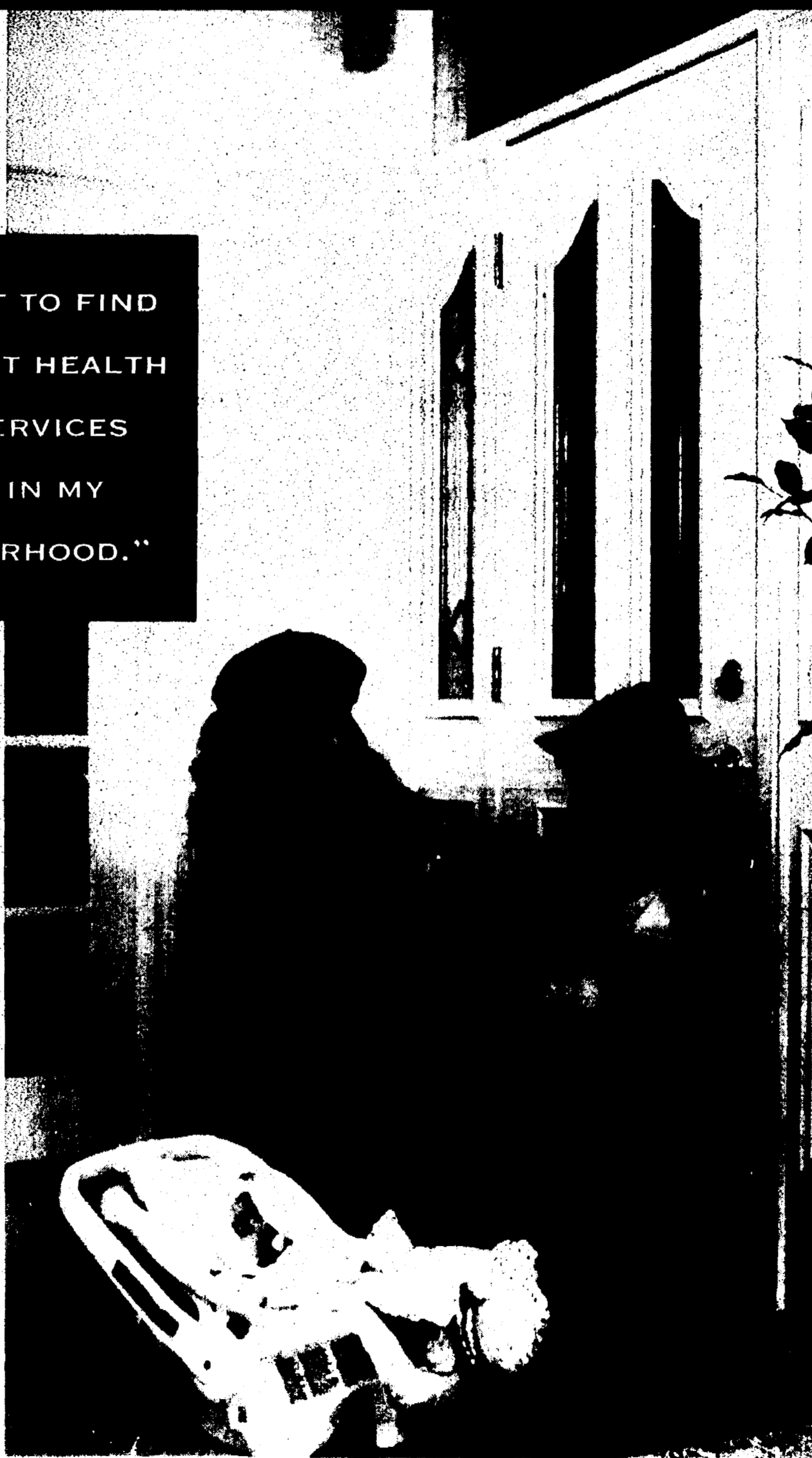
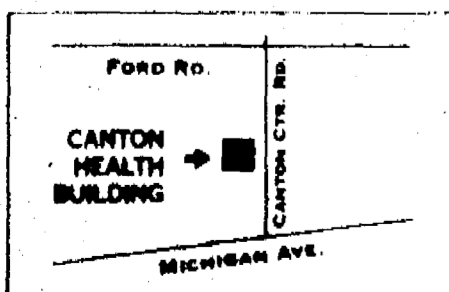
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Service set for people touched by suicide

Linda Hoffman of Westland hopes a vigil she has planned for Monday evening will help others in her situation.

Hoffman, who lost a teen-age son to suicide in 1993, is planning a candle-light service for survivors of teen suicide and sudden tragedy for 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at the gazebo on Main Street in Manchester.

"It will be five years Monday that my son shot himself," she said.

Anyone who is interested in attending the service is welcome and encouraged to bring a photo of their loved one, she said.

Hoffman hopes this type of service will help others, including teens who are feeling suicidal.

Her son, Jason Briggs, was 17 when he shot and killed his girlfriend, then himself in 1993.

■ A candle-light service for survivors of teen suicide and sudden tragedy for 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at the gazebo on Main Street in Manchester.

Many things led up to the suicide including trips to the hospital for depression, getting a letter that he wouldn't be eligible to graduate from high school with his class and trouble with his girlfriend, Hoffman said.

"He had lost sight that anybody cared about him," she said.

She hopes the service will bring out more awareness. "It seems like you hear so much about suicide and teen suicide," she said. But nobody seems to be doing anything about it, she said.

She didn't know all the options such as treatments for depression, she said. "Now I know about other options."

She is a member of Compassionate Friends which has chapters in many places including Livonia, Troy, and Ann Arbor. The group is a sponsor for Monday's service.

She has other sponsors as well including her employer, Rite Aid at Six Mile and Newburgh in Livonia, where she works as a pharmacy tech.

Emanuel United Church of Christ and Jenter/Braun Funeral Home in Manchester are also sponsors. Briggs is buried in Manchester and had been baptized at Emanuel church as a baby. Jenter/Braun handled his funeral arrangements, Hoffman said. The sponsors have donated money for candles. Hoffman said she has 180 candles for the service.

Manchester is southwest of Ann Arbor. Take M-14 west 21.6 miles to I-94. Take I-94 west 11.8 miles. Turn left on South Main Street (Highway 52), heading south for 10.4 miles to Manchester.

County, firm resolve fish kill violations

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Wayne County has agreed to pay for the restocking of fish at Newburgh Lake and a downstream impoundment on the Rouge River, while a project manager will give \$3,000 to Friends of the Rouge.

And, if another fish kill extends downstream again, beyond the state's approved area, it will mean a \$10,000 fine for the project manager.

It's all part of an administrative consent order and a settlement of violations stemming from a fish eradication in June 1997 that went awry in Newburgh Lake and killed thousands of fish downstream at the Nankin impoundment. The order is expected to be approved today (Thursday) by Wayne County commissioners.

Under the order, Wayne County will complete the restocking of the Rouge, valued at \$25,000, within 30 days

of completion of the Newburgh Lake restoration project. By Oct. 1, 2000, Wayne County must submit to the state's chief of the surface water quality division a report on the fish restocking.

Environmental Consulting & Technology of Detroit, the project manager and environmental consulting firm hired for the Newburgh Lake restoration project, will pay \$3,000 to Friends of the Rouge, a nonprofit group overseeing Rouge cleanups and helping in the river's restoration and public education.

If another "overkill" occurs, EC&T would be responsible for penalties associated with permit violations on this project. That would equal a \$10,000 fine, according to the order entered between the state and Wayne County.

The consent order was proposed by the state Department

NEWBURGH LAKE

of Environmental Quality and negotiated by all the parties.

Last June contractors hired by EC&T applied rotenone — a natural pesticide — to kill fish in Newburgh Lake, many of which were contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyl. It was the first of two planned fish kills in a restoration of the lake. The second is scheduled for this summer. The public does not face any dangers from this application, as it is only fatal to fish and other small amphibians at the concentration levels used in the river.

The rotenone was to be neutralized, but that operation failed to completely oxidize the chemical. As a result, thousands of fish were killed, and the kill extended downstream six miles in the Rouge River, including the Nankin impoundment.

That application violated

state law and the permit. Wayne County was the holder of that permit from the state Department of Environmental Quality.

"It is Wayne County's position that as project manager, Environmental Consulting and Technology must bear responsibility for its contractor's actions in accomplishing the fish kill," said Jim Murray, director of Wayne County Department of Environment, in a letter to commissioners.

The order was approved last Tuesday by the commission's Committee on Environment, Drains and Sewers.

Commissioner Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, sits on that committee. "The order sets a liability for (the project)," McCotter said. "None of us were happy with it, but it's just one of those things." Wayne County could have spent \$30,000 in legal fees to pursue the matter, McCotter said.

Children can 'Catch A Dream' at Nankin Mills

The legend of the Dreamcatcher comes to Nankin Mills Interpretive Center on Saturday, courtesy of Wayne County parks.

Children and youths can learn how woodland tribes of Native Americans traditionally lived with the natural resources at hand at a workshop titled "Catch a Dream." They can hear some traditional stories used to teach knowledge, as well as entertain, including the legend of the Dreamcatcher.

Participants can learn to create their own contemporary

adaptation of the Ojibwa Dreamcatcher with materials provided.

The program fee is \$2 per participant and the program is appropriate for ages 8 to adult. The program will be held indoors 1-3 p.m. at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, on Hines Drive, just east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. Parking is available off of Hines Drive.

For information, call the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center at (734) 261-1850.

County will restock fish in Nankin impoundment

Wayne County has agreed to restock fish in Newburgh Lake and the Nankin impoundment on the Rouge River. The restocking will be coordinated with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, fisheries division.

The lake will be restocked with several species of fingerlings, which are small fish less than a year old.

The following species will be restocked in Newburgh Lake at the following levels:

/n Fathead minnows: 50 gallons, yearly for two years;

/n Bluegills: 20,000 fingerlings;

/n Largemouth bass: 4,000 fingerlings, yearly for two years;

/n Channel catfish: 3,000 8-inch fingerlings, yearly for three years;

/n Walleye: 5,000 spring fingerlings (or 1,000 fall fingerlings);

/n Northern pike: 2,000 fingerlings, yearly for three years;

/n Black crappie: 300 adult or 3,000 fingerlings, and

/n Pumpkinseed sunfish: 100 adults.

The county also will restock fish at the Nankin impoundment of the Rouge River, located downstream from Newburgh Lake between Stark and Merriman roads in Westland.

Those species and numbers include:

/n Fathead minnows: 5 gallons;

/n Bluegills: 1,000 finger-

lings;

/n Largemouth bass: 200 fingerlings, yearly for two years;

/n Channel catfish: 100 fingerlings;

/n Northern pike: 50 fingerlings.

Wayne County will restock the fish once the excavation of sediment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls and a second fish kill are completed, but officials believe that will not be finished until next year.

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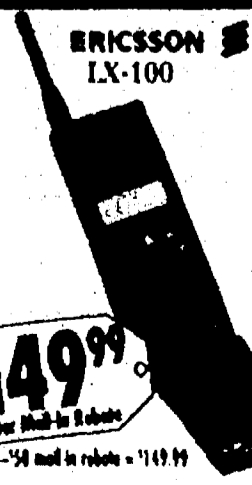
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O&E names manager of information systems

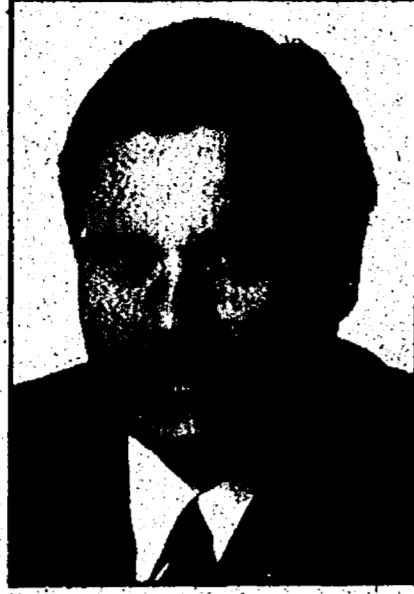
Greg Day has been named manager of information systems for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

A 15-year employee at the O&E, Day was most recently manager of the Enhanced Media Department where he was in charge of the newspaper's Web site and all Internet-related businesses services.

In his new position, Day oversees all computerized information management systems at the O&E, which publishes 15 local newspapers in Oakland and western Wayne counties. His responsibilities include system design, selection implementation and operation.

"I look forward to consolidating all of the computer-related activities at the O&E into a more productive, efficient system that will benefit the company and increase customer satisfaction," said Day.

Day, 38, attended the University of Michigan-Dearborn, where he studied computer



Greg Day science.

A 1978 graduate of Garden City East High School, Day joined the O&E as a computer operator. He was promoted to programmer for business systems, systems analyst and most recently as manager of the Enhanced Media Department.

Day and his wife, Pamela, have four children. They live in Garden City.

A poor ranking

Director says airport will see improvements after low marks reported for Detroit Metro

Y KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

A survey of airline passengers has ranked Detroit Metro Airport last in overall quality, the worst out of 36 U.S. airports, according to published reports.

Metro Airport reportedly earned the lowest scores of the airports surveyed in four of eight categories — speed of baggage delivery, ease of reaching gates, available ground transportation and ease of following signs.

In the remaining categories — cleanliness, quality of restaurants, attractiveness and closeness of parking — the 68-year-old airport rated near the bottom. The Observer could not reach the authors of the survey, officials at Plog Research Inc. in Los Angeles, to confirm the survey findings.

"It's no secret it's an antiquated facility," said David Katz, director of Wayne County airports.

Katz said Tuesday he didn't dispute the survey's findings, but wanted to know what methodology was used, what questions were asked of passengers and when it was completed.

■ 'It's no secret (Detroit Metro Airport is) an antiquated facility.'

David Katz
director, Wayne County airports



"I plan to use it as a motivational tool for myself and our staff to improve the airport," Katz said.

The private survey of flight passengers was completed by Plog and was commissioned by 36 national airports. Passengers were surveyed in the first six months of last year.

Katz believes many improvements have been made since that time.

"We are investing \$1.6 billion on the airport expansion that addresses the ease in getting ease and access to the gates," Katz said. Part of that expansion includes an international check-in and ticketing facility, which was opened in September to help relieve curb front congestion and traffic inside the J.M. Davey

Northwest also has spent \$12 million on an expanded baggage-terminal area to address the speed of baggage delivery cited in the survey, Katz said.

That expansion in the Davey Terminal was completed last year, including modifications to the existing conveyor system, and construction of a new conveyor system under the International Departure Facility. The expansion will increase the baggage handling capacity and improve performance, especially during peak travel periods.

"We've added more maps and signs. We're going to add customer service agents. In addition to the maps and signs, we will have kiosks.

"We were criticized for our parking, but we have a parking deck located directly across from the terminal.

"I would be hard-pressed to find a parking deck as close to a terminal as we do."

About 15 customer service agents will be added within 60 days, Katz said.

An international check-in and ticketing facility was opened in

Please see SURVEY, A8

Read our Sports section

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Airport officials hope to improve security

Airport management, in conjunction with the airlines and the FAA, is working on mutual agreements to improve the convenience of airport security at Wayne County's Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Although officials believe it is not prudent to discuss all security recommendations in a public forum, airport management will share the following:

■ A \$300,000-\$500,000 investment in electronic, mechanical, and physical improvements to the airport's security system has already been agreed to Metro's

hub carrier, Northwest Airlines, with newer closed circuit video cameras. The newer cameras would feature color capabilities and would give airport security the ability to pan and zoom into specific areas or features of the airport.

The color capability will allow security to more readily spot a suspicious person who may have breached security. "You can tell if they're wearing a black, blue or brown coat," said David Katz, director of Wayne County airports. "We can have a better chance of apprehending someone

once they're in a mob."

Wayne County has increased the presence of airport police in the terminal areas, and has made recommendations to the airlines to examine incentives to increase performance at the security checkpoint areas.

Wayne County is asking that the airlines look into staffing and wage options as part of this plan.

Finally, airport management will pursue criminal charges against any individual who intentionally attempts to avoid passenger screening at Detroit Metro.

"These improvements and recommendations are designed not only to increase the performance of our security system, but also to make our passengers' travel experience as pleasant as possible," Katz said.

"Safety is always our primary goal, but we're aiming for the best of both worlds — security and hassle-free peace of mind."

Despite the fact that, by federal regulation, passenger screening falls under the jurisdiction of the airlines, not the airport.

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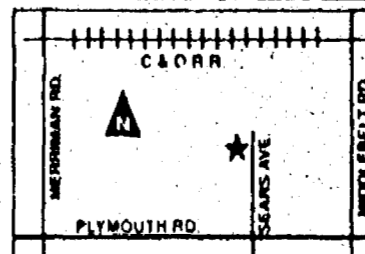
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Legislation allows for bids from county road departments

County competition

County road departments could bid for state Department of Transportation contracts under a House-passed bill sponsored by Rep. Tom Kelly, D-Wayne.

The House approved the measure 100-2, with all area representatives voting yes. But the Feb. 5 final vote gave no hint of the fierce opposition Kelly's bill received a day earlier.

Republicans and the Michigan Chamber of Commerce argued that public agencies have a built-in advantage because they don't pay property taxes as do private contractors.

Rep. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, got only minority GOP support for an amendment to give private bidders a 10 percent break to level the playing field.

But Kelly replied, "If the county road commissions can offer a lower bid, let's go with it."

Next day the House was ready to vote overwhelming approval, but one holdout was Rep. Terry London, R-St. Clair County. He saw a Wayne County plot against MDOT. Said London:

"Currently PA 51 (the road act) says road commissions may engage in contracts with the state MDOT to provide maintenance, repair, snow plowing, grass mowing and other normal repair. Road building, however, is done by private contractors.

Grant to assist children, families

Governor John Engler recently announced that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services has awarded the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) \$855,257 in children's mental health grants for fiscal year 1998. The five-year grant is expected to total approximately \$4 million by 2003.

"This grant is excellent news for children and families," said Gov. Engler. "This money, which will help fund the Southwest Community Partnership, will allow us to develop an integrated comprehensive system of care for children with serious emotional disturbance and their families in the community of Southwest Detroit."

"A 'system of care' is a wide range of mental health and related services and supports organized to work together to provide care. This approach is designed to help a child or adolescent with serious emotional disturbances get the services they need in or near their home and community. Local public and private organizations work in teams to plan and implement a tailored set of services for each child's physical, emotional, social, educational and family needs.

"Human service agencies at the state and local level, private health care providers, private agencies and families will all be collaborating to make this effort successful," said James K. Haveman, Jr., MDCH director.

The partnership will build upon the extensive collaborative work undertaken in Michigan and Wayne County over the past several years. The system of care to be developed will be family-driven, culturally-competent, and will offer a full continuum of individualized, case-coordinated services.

The grants will also enable local communities to integrate child-and-family-serving agencies, including health, mental health, substance abuse treatment, child welfare, education and juvenile justice.

"This gives us the opportunity to really begin to meet the needs of this troubled population with a very comprehensive and holistic approach that allows the community to have input on how services will be provided," said John Van Camp, president/CEO of Southwest Detroit Community Mental Services, the agency which will be implementing this program.

STATE

"The bill was introduced because Wayne County was not allowed to bid on a rebuild job in Wayne and Oakland counties (I-275). Wayne County is suing MDOT because they didn't get the job. I felt the Legislature should not get in the middle of a lawsuit."

London also protested that Kelly's bill was sped through the Oversight and Ethics Committee rather than the Transportation Committee and rammed through the House just days after it was introduced.

The bill goes to the Senate. Refer to House Bill 5524 when writing to your state senator, State Capitol, PO Box 30036, Lansing 48909.

Tornado drills

Rep. Gerald Law, R-Plymouth, had no trouble at all getting passage of his bill to require two tornado drills a year in public schools.

He won 97-6 passage on Feb. 11 with no arguments against his bill to change the Fire Code to require two tornado alerts and eight fire drills instead of 10 fire drills.

"The biggest threat to children in school is tornadoes," said Law, noting that some principals have

taken children outdoors when they heard a tornado siren.

Refer to House Bill 5237 when writing to your state senator, State Capitol, PO Box 30036, Lansing 48909.

Employees rewarded

Taxpayers saved \$6.9 million last year because of suggestions by 30 state employees. Among those receiving \$23,000 in rewards were:

- Nancy Pickelhaupt, Livonia. An examiner with the Michigan Employment Security Agency, she received \$130 for her idea to modify the application form for jobless benefits, saving time in reviewing claims.

Appointments

Gov. John Engler has appointed:

- R. Eric Reickel to the Michigan Capitol Park Commission, which plans and operates Capitol Park. Reickel is a former parks director for Wayne and Oakland Counties. He has been Lansing's city parks director since 1989.

- Frank T. Mamat of West Bloomfield to the Construction Code Commission. A senior partner at Clark Hill, PLC, Mamat was reappointed to represent the public.

What to eat if you don't like hospital food.

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Auto theft battle

Fee increase proposed in Lansing

BY TIM RICHARD STAFF WRITER

More vehicle owners would pay \$1 a year apiece to combat auto thieves under a bill awaiting a vote in the State House of Representatives.

Owners of fleet vehicles, commercial vehicles and motorcycles would pay \$1 for every vehicle as part of their liability insurance to the Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA).

The estimated \$2.3 million in new revenue would be added to the present \$5.4 million per year for grants to regional teams of prosecutors and police. The funds are used for training and to pay investigators who fight thieves and "chop shops."

"In 1986 there were professional car thieves. They were running the show. Now we have auto theft investigators, and we are running the show," Margaret Ann Scott, head of the Oakland County prosecutor's auto theft section, told the House Insurance Committee Feb. 11.

"It works. It's a huge success," said Capt. Mike McCabe of the Oakland Sheriff's Department. "Michigan dropped from No. 1 to No. 7 nationally due to ATPA."

Oakland and Saginaw counties took the lead in seeking more money for ATPA. Since the law was passed in 1986, they said, the fee has remained at \$1, so state revenues have grown only with vehicle ownership. Mean-

while, local units have made contributions of up to 25 percent of total costs, he said.

Result: With inflation, the number of investigators has declined, and in the last two years, auto thefts have drifted back up, McCabe said.

Nevertheless, he said, Michigan has reduced auto thefts 12.6 percent since 1986 while thefts nationally have risen 14 percent, said Scott, adding, "We've bucked the trend."

Oakland sheriff's Detective Doug Edgar said multi-county teamwork is needed to chase auto theft rings. "There's a high degree of cooperation" among agencies, he assured the committee.

Please see FEE, A11

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Putting the HEAT on

New law helps in fight against car thefts

While official figures have yet to be tallied, law enforcement agencies around the state are reporting that the one-year-old law making it a felony to intentionally file a false felony crime report to police is proving an important tool in combating auto theft related crime.

"We have charged 17 suspects under the statute and that's just this unit," said Lt. Paula Whitty, of the Detroit Police Department's Commercial Auto Theft Section.

Originally a misdemeanor, the penalty was stiffened to address the high rate of insurance fraud and law enforcement resources wasted investigating falsely reported crimes, said Bill Liddane, director of Help Eliminate Auto Theft, a 12-year-old auto theft prevention program that operates a confidential tip reward line (1-800-242-HEAT) for reporting information on auto theft related crimes. The new statute now holds a maximum sentence of four years in prison and/or \$2,000 fine.

"Some people have the mistaken notion that falsely reporting a car stolen or carjacked to police to collect insurance money is somehow a victimless crime," Liddane said.

'With estimates that 16 percent of every claim dollar goes to pay for fraud, and with law enforcement resources spent on false reports, every citizen is a victim.'

Bill Liddane
—director of Help Eliminate Auto Theft

"But with estimates that 16 percent of every claim dollar goes to pay for fraud, and with law enforcement resources spent on false reports, every citizen is a victim."

Lis agrees. "I'd estimate that in at least 60 cases people who originally said their cars were stolen, declined to sign the report after being informed of the penalties, said Lis. "Figuring three hours per case to investigate, that's one month of a detective's time that might otherwise be spent pursuing a violent criminal."

A false carjacking report is even more costly in terms of wasted time and resources. "Because carjacking is a violent crime against a person, as opposed to a property crime, it's given a high priority. Police respond immediately and a lot of investigators are assigned."

Although it has always been a

felony to fraudulently obtain amounts over \$100, insurance companies were often reluctant to participate in prosecution of these cases fearing that if the case wasn't prosecuted successfully, they would be subject to lawsuits on the grounds of malicious prosecution. Without insurance company participation, fraud cases generally weren't prosecutable and police were left with the option of charging a misdemeanor for filing a false report, which amounted to issuing a citation to show up in court.

But now, it's a felony to intentionally make a false felony report to police regardless of whether there is an attempt to defraud an insurance company. "It appears that with the stiffer penalties imposed under the new law, insurance fraud may not seem like an easy way to make a buck," said Liddane.

Liddane encourages citizens to call the HEAT tip reward line (1-800-242-HEAT) with information on fraud and other auto theft related crimes.

"HEAT is dedicated to educating the public about the extent and true cost of auto theft," said Liddane. "When citizens are aware of a crime problem, they can act accordingly to protect themselves. The HEAT tip line is a powerful tool to help citizens and law enforcement work together to reduce crime."

HEAT tip callers are rewarded up to \$1,000 if their tip leads to the arrest and prosecution of a suspected car thief/auto insurance defrauder. Up to \$10,000 is rewarded if the tip results in the arrest and binding over for trial of suspected theft ring members and/or chop shop operators. HEAT also awards \$2,000 for information leading to the issuance of a warrant for a carjacking suspect.

Since its inception in 1985, HEAT has recovered 2,412 vehicles valued at \$27,249,064. During that period, the HEAT tip line has received 5,318 calls leading to the arrest of 1,999 suspects. HEAT has awarded \$1,803,315 to tip callers since 1985.

Bill exempts some building contractors from state sales tax

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Building contractors working on a church wouldn't have to pay sales tax on the materials under a pair of bills passed by the state House of Representatives.

The fight was brief but sharp. Lawmakers passed the key bill 85-17 with seven absent and sent the first part of the package to the Senate.

"This has the same potential for fraud as the old law that was revoked," said opponent David Gubow, D-Huntington Woods. He referred to an earlier sales tax exemption for work on church property that the Legislature repealed.

"The contractor just fills out forms," Gubow complained, saying there was inadequate state regulation of the tax break.

"And it robs the state of \$8 million to \$10 million, with 70 percent of that coming

from the school aid fund. "Not only will it cut the school aid fund, but it will cost the state money to enforce," added Mary Schroer, D-Ann Arbor.

Replied Jessie Dalman, R-Holland, the bill's sponsor: "I would hate to think the religious community was trying to defraud the government. This (taxing materials used in religious edifices) is an inappropriate place to raise revenue."

Dalman added that materials used in public housing and hospitals also are tax exempt.

Here is how western Wayne lawmakers voted:

YES — Bob Brown, D-Dearborn Heights, Eileen DeHart, D-Westland, Tom Kelly, D-Wayne, Gerald Law, R-Plymouth.

NO — none.
ABSENT — Lyn Bankes, R-Redford, Deborah Whyman, R-Canton.

Survey from page A6

September to help relieve curb front congestion and traffic inside the J.M. Davey Terminal. The 17,000-square-foot facility adjacent to the Davey Terminal increases Northwest's counter space by about 60 percent.

Another major addition since last year is the \$18.5 million extension of Northwest's busiest concourse — Concourse C. The 28,000-square-foot extension added six new gates, a 240-foot moving walkway and a ramp side shuttle stop for connecting passengers.

"While they criticize us for ground transportation, we have a lot of options," Katz said. That includes Metro Cars and recently upgraded taxicabs.

"Are they criticizing us for not having a train to the airport?" Katz asked.

If Katz is confirmed by commissioners, possibly as early as today, he would like to see more airport managers and supervisors out from behind the desk and walking around the airport.

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Leave A Legacy

Campaign promotes wills for charities

Hundreds of non-profit organizations in southeast Michigan will conduct an intensive educational campaign throughout the region during the entire month of March, to encourage people at all income levels to remember a charity in their wills.

The Leave A Legacy campaign is a new collaborative program sponsored by the Planned Giving Roundtable of Southeast Michigan, a non-profit organization comprising professional fund-raisers, financial planners, attorneys and accountants in partnership with the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan.

More than 20 volunteers from non-profit organizations, financial and estate planning firms, accounting firms and law firms have joined together to promote a single message

'With increasing cuts in government funding for non-profits, it's more important than ever before to have support from individual donors.'

J. Kay Felt
—co-chair of Leave A Legacy

during Leave A Legacy Month: "Giving to local charities through wills and estate planning is of great benefit to both the donors and the charities."

"With increasing cuts in government funding for non-profits, it's more important than ever before to have support from individual donors," said J. Kay Felt, a co-chair of the campaign and partner in

the Dykema Gossett law firm. "And while people in Southeast Michigan tend to be generous to charity during their lifetimes, very few people — in fact, less than 3 percent — continue that giving by leaving a charitable bequest in their wills or trusts."

John G. Fike, also a campaign co-chair and president of Philanthropy Solutions, a consulting practice in Detroit, noted that at least \$11 trillion will be passed on from the estates of World War II-generation Americans between now and the early 21st Century.

"Just imagine how much money our charities would gain by merely doubling the number of people who include them in their wills and estate plans," Fike said.

"We believe the only reason Southeast Michigan lags behind the rest of the nation in planned giving is that peo-

ple are not aware of the many ways in which they can leave a bequest. It's much simpler than it appears, and it's not just for wealthy individuals."

Because no single charity has the resources to educate the general public about the benefits and the ease of leaving charitable bequests, Leave A Legacy has devised a plan for its month-long campaign that will benefit all charities in Southeast Michigan.

Leave A Legacy has recruited community leaders to guide the volunteer effort in Wayne, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw counties. It has enlisted a corps of volunteer "contactors" who are working personally with charities and financial/estate planners, to help them educate their backers and clients about charitable legacies.

Please see LEGACY, A11

Director of engineering retires from county post

Wayne County says goodbye this week to Ed Siemert, director of engineering, who retires after 39 years as an engineer in public service.

During his 11-year tenure as Wayne County's top engineer, Siemert has overseen dramatic improvements to the county's road system and Metro Airport.

"Ed is leaving Wayne County in far better condition than he found it," said Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara. "He is not just responsible for an improved airport and smoother roads, he is responsible for laying a foundation of quality, integrity and professionalism that will outlast mere bricks and mortar."

As the county's director of engineering, Siemert oversaw a staff of 160 and an average annual project list totaling about \$50 million.

Some of Siemert's accomplishments at the county include:

- The \$2 million relocation and replacement of the Historic Belleville Bridge. The original Belleville Bridge was part of a unique three-way bridge trade which included dismantling the 70-year-old structure and moving it to a new location near Grand Rapids. Because of its unique nature, the project was named "1996 Project of the Year" by the American Public Works Association.

- The \$8 million Merriman Road Grade Separation project at the CSX railroad tracks between Plymouth Road and I-96 in Livonia.

- Design and construction of a new south access road at Metro Airport, which, for the first time, will allow motorists to enter the airport from the south.

At the forefront

In addition to these accomplishments, Siemert was at the forefront of developing a system of prioritizing road improvements and planning decisions as the chair of Wayne County's Federal Aid Committee, which is comprised of technical representatives from each of Wayne County's 43 communities.



Ed Siemert

Serving a county as politically and geographically diverse as Wayne County brought its own challenges, but none too great for Siemert to overcome.

"Wayne County is not as homogenous as you might think," joked Carmine Palombo, transportation director for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. "But Ed has a way of cutting through all of that and getting things accomplished."

"Politics aren't what interests Ed; results are."

Siemert, a former Air Force pilot, earned his bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Michigan, as well as his master's in public administration and became a registered civil engineer.

Siemert began his professional career at the city of Livonia where he worked for 28 years. McNamara, who was mayor of Livonia, named Siemert city engineer. Among Siemert's achievements in Livonia was the construction of the new city hall.

When McNamara was elected county executive, he knew Siemert was just the person he needed downtown.

"When we came in at the county, I knew I was going to need someone who could deal with the tremendous pressure we would

Please see SIEMERT, A11

Livonia resident crosses language barriers

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

A Livonia resident will lead an organization's effort to cross language barriers to inform ethnic groups about the advantages of bequeathing money to charities, cultural institutions and non-profit service agencies.

Maha Freij, fiscal officer for the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services in Dearborn, will head Leave A Legacy's efforts to reach Arab, Asian and Hispanic communities in southeast Michigan.

Leave A Legacy Southeast Michigan is an organization that encourages planned gifts

to local charities and cultural institutions through wills, trusts, insurance policies and other methods.

The Leave A Legacy program is sponsored by the Planned Giving Roundtable of Southeast Michigan in cooperation with the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan. Several hundred non-profit groups from a seven-county area around Detroit are participating in the awareness effort.

Freij said the drive will give people a chance to donate to cultural and charitable organizations of which they have been a part of during their lifetime.

"My role will be the ethnic communities, and people in

those communities who have language barriers," Freij said. "We are dealing with Arab-Americans, Latin Americans and Hispanics. We will be translating materials into these languages."

Freij also serves on New Detroit's Cultural Exchange Committee, which will help her in communicating to those ethnic communities. She wants to bridge income gaps that normally exist in giving to charities and inform low- and middle-income residents that bequests can help their favorite charities.

"If constituents are exposed to this type of thinking, they will be easier to approach," Freij said.

Bilingual attorneys and

financial planners will be included in the information campaign. They in turn can advise clients who wish to donate to their favorite charities.

Bequests in IRAs can give a tax-exempt charity the money directly without a tax liability. Otherwise, the money can be subject to income and inheritance taxes if the bequest is willed to an individual.

Bequests can be used as an unlimited federal charitable deduction from a decedent's gross estate, and annual contributions to the donor's chosen bequest vehicle are tax-deductible during the donor's lifetime.

Please see FREIJ, A11

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Probate court expands services to Northville

Residents of western Wayne County seeking guardianship or conservatorship of adults, minors and developmentally disabled persons now can file petitions at the Northville Court, 41001 West Seven Mile Road, in Northville Township.

Wayne County Probate Chief Judge Milton Mack Jr. said the expanded services began on Monday for the following communities: the cities of Belleville,

Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Livonia, Huron Township, Northville, Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne and Westland, and the townships of Canton, Huron, Plymouth, Redford, Sumpter and Van Buren.

"We hope that this will be more convenient to the public and increase our own efficiency," Mack said. "We expect that this will enable people to travel a shorter distance and avoid prob-

lems with transportation and parking.

"Filing a petition for guardianship of an adult or minor is often difficult enough for family members. If we can ease some of that difficulty, we are happy to do that."

Mack expects 1,200 families will benefit.

"For those who are appointed to handle a person's affairs, normally, they would have to go

downtown to file inventories, accounts and annual reports. Now that will change with the expansion of cases heard at the Northville Court.

The cases will be heard by Judge Cathie B. Maher.

For information, contact Probate Registrar Jeanne Takenaga at (313) 224-5725.

'We expect that this will enable people to travel a shorter distance and avoid problems with transportation and parking.'

Milton Mack
—Wayne County chief probate judge



Siemert from page A9

be facing to deliver road improvements and other projects. The county's top engineer has to be someone who would not be intimidated by politics, but who would consider the taxpayers first and make the appropriate decisions," said McNamara. "That's been Ed all along."

Local ties

Siemert lives in Livonia with his wife, Jan. They raised four children there. He will be replaced by his deputy, Alan Richardson, also a Livonia resi-

dent, who has been with Wayne County for 32 years.

Richardson's main focus has been the planning of Wayne County's short- and long-term road improvement program and airport access projects. Currently, he is working with local communities to finalize project plans for the county's \$60 million road improvement bond program. Richardson also manages the \$9 million federal road improvement allocation Wayne County receives each year, as well as state transportation grants.

Richardson coordinates plans with the county's Department of Jobs & Economic Development to plan access to new major developments and sits on a state committee overseeing major freeway work in Wayne County.

"Alan has an encyclopedic knowledge of Wayne County road system and its needs and has earned tremendous respect among the engineers he deals with at the state and community level," McNamara said.

"He has done, and will continue to do, an outstanding job."

Bills banning cloning approved

BY TIM RICHARD STAFF WRITER

Michigan would join the parade of states outlawing human cloning — and even research on human cloning — under three bills passed by the House of Representatives.

The bills would allow permanent lifting of the medical licenses of guilty doctors, provide for \$10 million in civil fines, set up 10-year prison sentences, and ban the use of state money for human cloning research.

"The bills don't match (what other states are doing)," said opponent Patricia Godchaux, R-Birmingham. "We'll end up (as we did) with assisted suicide — people running between states to get what they want."

Godchaux was the only Repub-

lican to oppose the measures. She said she opposes human cloning but thinks it would be best handled uniformly by a federal law rather than a patchwork of state laws.

Godchaux and other opponents said human cloning is so far in the future that there should be no rush to pass a state law now.

The key bill, requiring the loss of medical licenses for offending doctors, passed 92-11 with six absent. Ten Democrats and Godchaux cast the no votes.

Rep. Nancy Cassis, R- Novi, a co-sponsor, said, "With Dolly (the Scottish sheep) and now the two calves here in America, cloning is no longer considered science fiction. We must not the possibility of a scientific advancement lead us to the reprehensible act of human cloning."

The bills don't prohibit licensed health professionals from engaging in assisted reproduction technology, including in vitro fertilization.

Here is how western Wayne lawmakers voted:

YES — Lyn Bankes, R-Redford, Bob Brown, D-Dearborn Heights, Eileen DeHart, D-Westland, Tom Kelly, D-Wayne, Gerald Law, R-Plymouth, Deborah Whyman, R-Canton.

NO — none.
Refer to House Bills 4846, 4962 and 5474 when writing to your state senator, State Capitol, Lansing 48909.

Legacy from page A9

Volunteer speakers also will take the message to civic and professional organizations. Campaign organizers also have compiled a list of attorneys and financial planners who are knowledgeable in charitable giving and willing to consult with individuals who do not already have professional advisors of their own.

Leave A Legacy is coordinating educational and training opportunities with the Community Foundation in advocating charitable giving by establishing planned giving programs,

bequests and endowments.

The campaign's objective is to convince people to remember one or more favorite charities in their estate plans. Leave A Legacy will not recommend specific charities that should receive bequests, but will encourage donors to make their own choices.

The Leave A Legacy campaign is funded by more than 50 individuals, foundations, non-profit organizations, hospitals, arts organizations, banks, brokerage firms, corporations, estate and financial planners, attorneys and

accountants.

Clubs, professional organizations and civic groups can schedule a Leave A Legacy speaker by calling Evelyn Gehres at (248) 334-9411 or Sarah Smith Redmond at (248) 354-1300.

Charities that wish to distribute Leave A Legacy materials to their constituencies or otherwise support the effort can call Jean Schneider at (810) 558-0034. Individuals wishing to volunteer or to obtain more information on the program can call the Leave A Legacy office toll-free at (888) 826-7900.

Fee from page A7

The 1986 exempted fleet vehicles, motorcycles and commercial vehicles. The new bill, sponsored by Rep. William Callahan, D-St. Clair Shores, would include them in the revenue base.

Rep. Harold Voorhees, R-Wyoming, offered an amendment to allocate ATPA's grants on the basis of where the revenues were raised, but it died for lack of a second.

Only the Michigan Insurance Federation opposed the bill.

"Commercial vehicles and motorcycles are not a theft problem," said Eric Henning, MIF's general counsel. "We don't

believe ATPA is that effective in preventing theft. We haven't seen an accounting or a strategic plan.

"But if you believe it's an effective program, collect the fees through the (statewide vehicle) registration program, not through the insurance. We don't want to be a tax collector."

Agreeing with Henning was Nancy McKeague of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. "Make this part of the Michigan motor vehicle registration so you'll get more vehicles," she said.

Rep. David Gubow, D-Hunt-

ington Woods, replied, "The Legislature can look at this down the road. We need to consider whether the secretary of state will object. This is a way we can prevent auto theft now."

The committee reported out the bill on an 11-0 vote, with three abstaining. It will be on the House of Representatives calendar this week and could be voted on at any time.

Refer to House Bill 4769 when writing to your state representative, State Capitol, PO Box 30014, Lansing 48909.

Freij from page A9

"Tax laws encourage people to give to their favorite non-profit," Freij said. "We don't encourage one non profit over another."

Freij is looking forward to her new challenge.

"I'm really excited that our

communities will at least be educated about bequests," Freij said.

We can't stop winning awards.

In addition to the 70 we told you about last year, we've just received 26 more!

This latest batch was won in Suburban Newspapers of America's 1997 Editorial Contest. With all the modesty we can muster, we're going to list them here:

Best Entertainment/Lifestyle Section

- First Place—Clarkston Eccentric, Clarkston Life
- Second Place—Birmingham Eccentric, Suburban Life
- Third Place—West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric, Lakes Café

Best Editorial Writing

- First Place—Oxford Eccentric, Closed Doors
- Second Place—Lake Orion Eccentric, Lake Orion Editorial

Best Column Writing

- First Place—Clarkston Eccentric, Carolyn Walker
- Second Place—Rochester Eccentric, Jay Grossman
- Third Place—Birmingham Bloomfield Eccentric, Judith Doner Berne

Best Editorial Page

- First Place—Southfield Eccentric
- Second Place—Lake Orion Eccentric, Jay Grossman

Best Coverage of Local Business & Economic News

- Third Place—Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric

Best Sports Photo Journalism

- First Place—West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric, Not Quite Spring Training
- Second Place—West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric, Riding the Wave

Best Sports Section

- Second Place—Livonia, Westland Observer

Best News Photo

- First Place—West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric, Watching
- Second Place—Garden City Observer, Clinton Rally
- Third Place—Rochester Eccentric, Ride Me Down Easy

Best Feature Photo Story or Series

- First Place—Livonia Observer, Derek's Day
- Third Place—Westland Observer, Festival
- Third Place—Rochester Eccentric, Handful of Hope

Best Breaking News Story

- First Place—Plymouth Observer, Fire Destroys Courthouse
- Third Place—Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric, Bungled Robbery

Best Local Election Coverage

- Third Place—Farmington Observer

Best Young People's Coverage

- First Place—Plymouth and Livonia Observer, Life in the 6th Grade

Best Coverage of Local Education/School District

- Second Place—Farmington Observer, Back to School series
- Third Place—Southfield Eccentric, Professor who Survived Holocaust

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1998

Franklin community Complaint causes distraction

Recently in the Observer, we wrote a story about a formal complaint filed against the Livonia Public Schools in relation to complaints of age and retaliatory discrimination at Franklin High School, which serves students in both Livonia and Westland.

This issue involves a complaint by four teachers first filed with the state, then forwarded to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, more commonly known as the EEOC. Copies of the complaint paperwork were provided by the school district when requested by the Observer.

A hearing is scheduled for April in the matter to determine the complaints' validity.

There is little to consider at this point except the actual complaints and some comment from the school district. And although little has been written publicly about this matter to date, the Franklin community has, no doubt, discussed it both within the school halls and outside of the school among the parent and student community. School officials

are understandably concerned about how this issue is affecting school improvement efforts at the student and staff level.

The Observer has received several calls speculating about the situation.

We will not chastise the school district nor will we take the complaints lightly. Obviously, those involved felt strongly enough to file formal complaints in the matter.

The district appears to be taking the complaint seriously, as well.

We recognize what a strong impact this type of situation can have on the Franklin community, regardless of opinion.

This type of situation distracts the community from making progress on school improvement projects, pulling together as a team and focusing on other necessary education issues.

This is a matter which we hope will be dealt with as needed and that, at the appropriate time, some sort of healing begins to take place for the sake of the Franklin community.

Your local letters are welcome

If you regularly or even occasionally read this space, chances are you're interested in opinions - reading others', expressing your own. This page is set aside in your Westland Observer newspaper to share opinions about pertinent issues for people in our community. Our viewpoints show up on the left half, yours on the right half.

That starboard side keeps this opinion page afloat, as the most important space on this page. Our Letters to the Editor space works as sort of a town square where readers can stand up for a position, issue or person; complain about or compliment a story; or issue a challenge on a subject.

It's also a section of the newspaper that generates plenty of questions from the public. With that in mind, it's important that we share our philosophy of letters.

■ We publish nearly all of the letters we receive. The exceptions are those that are libelous - meaning publishing them injures someone's reputation - and those that are not signed or their authenticity cannot be determined.

■ Local letters with local content get top priority. Those written by people who live or work in our community that deal with local issues are of keen interest to our readers. Letters written by people in our community that focus on state or national issues - perhaps even those we haven't written stories directly about - also get priority. Timeliness is also important, and we'll try to ensure that a letter regarding a proposed city ordinance decision, for example, is published before the vote on that subject.

■ Lower on our priority list are letters from those people who live in our community and send us one or more letters almost every week. If we published all of their letters, we wouldn't have space for any others and it wouldn't be fair. Lastly, people who live outside our community but send letters to local newspapers to advance their own personal or political agenda often get pushed to the bottom of the pile. Some will never run.

■ Please be succinct and concise. We ask letter writers to keep their comments to 300 words or so - so that lots of people can be published on this page. We reserve the right to edit for length, style and, of course, grammar and punctuation.

■ Please be succinct and concise. We ask letter writers to keep their comments to 300 words or so - so that lots of people can be published on this page. We reserve the right to edit for length, style and, of course, grammar and punctuation.

(If you want a bit more space for a guest column, please call or e-mail the editor.) Shorter letters also make a difference around election time when we become deluged with letters urging yes or no votes on, for example, a millage election. In those situations, we're forced to decide on either first-come, first-served basis or sometimes by running a representative collection of the letters received.

■ Legibility is key. We want to get your words correct so we ask readers to please type and double space letters, though very clear handwriting or printing can be used too.

■ Agreement isn't necessary, either in grammar or opinion. We'll fix the English if it needs to be fixed to make readers understand your point. And, whether we agree with your point of view or not isn't a factor in determining which letters to publish.

■ Get the letters to us. We'll accept letters via e-mail (please send your letter in a text format), fax transmission, (734) 591-7279 - or traditional snail mail - with e-mail being the easiest for us to process.

(The e-mail address is newsroom@oeonline.com). They must include a signature (other than e-mail), printed name, city of residence and telephone number. Only the name and city of residence (or title and group name if applicable) will be printed, but we use other information to verify the authenticity of letters.

Your opinions play a valuable role in your newspaper, so keep those letters coming. As always, if you have any questions about a letter you've sent or any of these explanations, call Beth Sundria Jachman at (734) 953-2122 or contact managing editor Susan Rosiek at (734) 953-2149 or e-mail srosiek@oe.homecomm.net.

New home in Westland



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACOBFIELD

Moving In: Westland will soon be adding another entry to its list of resources as the Wayne County Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped moves to the city. Pat Klemans, Wayne County librarian, and Fred Howkins, regional librarian, stand outside the building on Michigan Avenue in Westland.

LETTERS

Recruiting is honorable work

As president of Michigan Association of Personnel Services, the largest staffing services organization in Michigan, I feel compelled to respond to the George Hayes column of Feb. 1 "Better to be a pain than to fade away" and the implication that recruiting is less than an honorable profession.

While we sometimes have to live with the sins of our forefathers, I think that Mr. Hayes reflects the days-gone-by attitude of those who have not kept up on the latest state of the art of our industry.

I think it is abhorrent to intentionally try to "scare" someone from a business that directly reflects one's reward by hard work. While Mr. Hayes mentions the downside of our business (in virtually every paragraph), he fails to mention much of the upside.

So, I would like to offer some of the very positive aspects of the staffing industry.

■ The industry rewards hard work and discipline, yes long hours do pay off!

■ There is rejection, but in any sales-oriented job it goes with the turf. What worthwhile endeavor doesn't afford setbacks?

■ Boredom - anything but! You keep constructively busy and you will develop a bank of business that looks to you for help and guidance.

■ Opportunity abounds. I defy anyone to show an opportunity that rewards industriousness and hard work as the staffing industry does.

■ Rewarding is the watchword of the industry. It's a fantastic feeling to place a candidate with a job and make both happy. And you get paid for it. To receive repeat business and gain friends in the interim makes it that much more enjoyable.

■ The industry has matured. Associations such as MAPS and its National Association of Personnel Services are trying to meet the needs of our clientele by meeting with them to find out how we can be more responsive, upgrading the consultants' knowledge by having classes (nationally recognized in 1997), encouraging certification - an arduous exam where over 165 people have passed in the last two years (again, nationally recognized).

Gary Snyder
president

Michigan Association
of Personnel Services
Bingham Farms

Frequent flier annoyed

Having just traveled on Northwest Airlines from Detroit to Minneapolis and back, I experienced enough rudeness, incompetence, inconvenience, and discomfort for a lifetime of travel.

I am a frequent flier and my last year-and-a-half of experiences with Detroit Metropolitan Airport and Northwest Airlines have just about nullified any good past experiences with these facilities. My requests for a wheelchair are no longer honored, resulting in a fruitless wait for a motorized cart. On my last four trips I have had to give up waiting for the cart and have had to walk to my gate in order not to miss my flight.

The lines to check in are much too long both inside and outside. On my last trip I chose to check inside due to the bitter cold and very long line outside. I waited from 8:20-9:45 a.m. just to get to the counter. Then there was no cart or wheelchair available to help me to the gate and my walk, (a necessity in order not to miss my flight), seemed interminable and was extremely painful. And of course, the moving walkways going to the gates were not working.

My experience in Minneapolis was so gratifying in comparison, organization, courtesy, adequate help and all. However, my fears of returning to Detroit were fully justified: no wheelchairs, no carts, no assistance at all, just a cavalier "wait in the corridor lady, a cart will be by." Needless to say, no cart came by. Then, after reaching the baggage claim by foot, I found my bag was not on the announced carousel or any other and I walked around each carousel in a useless search. Meanwhile, the courageous soul waiting outside for me was being verbally abused by Wayne County's "Finest" as she waited, confused and intimidated by the mayhem that is Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Only stupidity and incompetence can allow such conditions to exist at one of the busiest and largest terminals in the country in one of its major cities. What a welcome! With all of the upbeat economic plans going on in the Detroit, my place of birth, it is awful that a visitor's first experience upon arriving in our city is the negative one he or she encounters at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. And God help the handicapped who fly Northwest!

Joann Gargaro
Plymouth

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

If you ever made it to the Olympics, what sport would you want to enter?

We asked this question of Kettering Elementary School third-graders in Charlemagne Ogilvie's class.



"Figure skating."
Olivia LaFortune
Age 9



"Ice skating."
Lauren Hannan
Turns 9 April 13



"Pole vaulting."
Kris Moyer
Turns 9 March 1



"Bobsledding."
Josh Eldridge
Turns 9 March
30

Westland Observer

LEONARD POGER, COMMUNITY EDITOR, 734-953-2107
SUSAN ROSIEK, MANAGING EDITOR, 734-953-2149
HUGH GALLAGHER, ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR, 734-953-2118
PEG KNOESPEL, ADVERTISING MANAGER, 734-953-2177
LARRY GEEGER, CIRCULATION MANAGER, 734-953-2234
BANKS M. DASHMON, JR., PUBLISHER, 734-953-2100
STEVEN K. POPE, VICE-PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER, 734-953-2252
RICK FIGORELLI, MARKETING DIRECTOR, 734-953-2150

HOMETOWN COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, INC.
PHILIP POWER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RICHARD AGNINIAN, PRESIDENT

OUR MISSION: "Because we publish community newspapers, we think about community journalism in a fundamentally different way than our bigger competition. They consider themselves to be independent from the stories and communities they cover, swooping in to write the unusual or sensational and then dashing off to cover something else. We regard ourselves as both accurate journalists and as caring citizens of the communities where we work."

- Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

Poll: Voters are worried about young people smoking

More than one out of every three high school kids in Michigan engages in a life-threatening activity each month, yet little has been done to protect them.

No law has been effective in stopping kids from flipping a few dollars on a store counter and walking away with a lifetime addiction to nicotine. No amount of indignation has caused the tobacco companies to stop using seductive advertising to attract more young people.

Not surprisingly, tobacco use among kids has reached dangerously high levels. In Michigan, nearly 39 percent of high school kids smoke, and more than 11.1 million packs of cigarettes, costing \$20.6 million, are illegally sold every year to kids under 18.

The grim reality is that smoking will kill more than 230,000 Michigan children alive today. And it is as popular as ever among America's youth.

Despite all that we know about tobacco and the deadly toll it is taking, without a comprehensive, national tobacco control effort, there is no reason to believe this will change.

A public-opinion poll of Michigan voters - released in December by a coalition that includes the Michigan State Medical Society, the American Heart Association, and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free-Kids - found that Michigan voters are deeply concerned about the tobacco issue, especially the epidemic of youth tobacco addiction, and strongly support congressional action on a national tobacco policy that would protect kids.

Almost three-fourths of voters said it is important that Congress address the issue of a national tobacco policy within the next six months. Few public policy issues command this level of support.

After decades of battles against the tobacco industry, a dramatic opportu-

QUEST COLUMNIST



DR. PETER DUHAMEL

nity to change the role of tobacco in our lives has been created. It is an opportunity that started with lawsuits filed by state attorneys general against the tobacco industry in Arizona, Mississippi and Michigan - and has now become a priority in our nation's capital. It is an opportunity that now rests squarely with Sens. Carl Levin and Spencer Abraham, Reps. John Dingell and David Bonior,

and all those in Congress who want to protect kids from tobacco.

The stage has been set for Congress to act. Numerous tobacco control bills have been introduced, and President Clinton has committed to push for legislation this year.

If members of Congress choose to ignore voters who are demanding prompt action, they may be forced to pay a steep price on Election Day. According to the poll, 44 percent of Michigan voters said they would be more likely to choose a candidate who favors a national tobacco control policy, while only 15 percent said they would be more likely to vote for the candidate who opposes such a policy.

Nearly half of all Michigan voters said they would be more likely to cast their vote for a candidate who doesn't take tobacco-industry political contributions. Just 14 percent said they would be more likely to vote for candidates who do accept these contribu-

tions.

Given the industry's checkered past, it should come as no surprise that the survey revealed that 72 percent of Michigan voters want limitations on tobacco advertising aimed at kids, while 81 percent believe that the nation must restrict youth access to tobacco in retail outlets.

Each of these steps on its own may help protect our children from tobacco - and parents clearly have a role, too - but none will single-handedly cure the problem. To end the scourge of youth tobacco addiction, America must have in place a broad, national policy that attacks tobacco on every level. Michigan voters agree: 71 percent believe a national tobacco policy is important to help parents discourage kids from smoking.

Dr. Peter Duhamel, M.D., is president of the Michigan State Medical Society.

Not taking credit helps many achieve a great deal

Dan Murphy, Oakland County executive in the 1970s and '80s and one of Michigan's finest public servants, used to say: "There's no limit to what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets credit."

I thought of him when a starry-eyed state Rep. Lyn Bankes, R-Redford, came to me after one of Democratic Gov. Jim Blanchard's State of the State messages. "Did you see this?" she asked, pointing to Blanchard's text. "He's picking up one of my bills. And this, and this? These are all Republican bills."

Until lately, Republican Gov. John Engler has been different. He almost never (hrrrrumph!) borrowed Democratic ideas. Then came the school technology issue. I quote, in order, from documents of the day:

Sept. 25, 1996 - Sen. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township, announces a plan to put computer technology in all

kindergarten through fourth-grade classrooms.

His SB 1188 would earmark at least 75 percent of the Michigan Renaissance Fund (known as the Michigan Strategic Fund under Blanchard), or \$25 million, for school technology grants - computers, modems, printers, software, teacher training, and so on. Many education groups, including unions, endorse it.

Peters argues that Michigan ranks in the bottom 20 percent in the nation in school technology - specifically, 44th in classroom computers, 41st in modems, 41st in printers. (Peters' press release.)

Sept. 30, 1996 - Jim Tobin, communications director of the Michigan Jobs Commission, said economic development is the right approach for the Renaissance Fund.

"If we do something for the schools, it ought to come out of the education,"



TIM RICHARD

Tobin said. (Amy Lane, Crain's Detroit Business.)

Oct. 7, 1996 - Engler's appointees to the Renaissance Fund board allocate the money to local governments for land assembly, land reclamation and infrastructure for economic development.

Engler says he dislikes Peters' bill because it amounts to "another line

item in the budget ... We had over 100 categorical programs in our school aid bill (prior to Proposal A) ... We've gotten rid of that."

Engler says school districts should pay for their own technology from their \$11 billion in state aid. He sees a Peters-union plot to free up more general fund money for higher teachers' salaries. (My story, this newspaper.)

Feb. 4, 1998 - Gov. Engler will electrically send lawmakers a \$30 million plan to make sure Michigan students and workers have access to the Internet and other computer technology. Money for the three-year plan will be tapped from the Renaissance Fund, an account set aside for economic development.

Engler's plan includes 100 grants of \$10,000 each this year and next year to schools, libraries and other community centers to expand the

availability of computers to students and others. (Mark Hornbeck, Detroit News.)

Feb. 4, 1998 - "My goal is to make these resources available statewide. Technology can bring the best and brightest educators - our 'master teachers' - and learning programs to all our state's children ...

"Our goals include ensuring that EVERY Michigan child has an equal educational opportunity ...

"While MY (emphasis added) education technology plan ..." (Text of Engler's message on education and technology.)

Footnote: Peters claimed credit only for announcing the plan - not for devising it.

Tim Richard reports on the local implications of state and regional events. His Touch-Tone voice mail number is (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1881.

Prison spending out of line

The devil, as they say, is in the details. And reading the fine print in the state budget proposed last week by Gov. John Engler proves the adage.

Coming into an election year, the governor wants state general fund, the main source of discretionary spending, to grow just 1.5 percent, less than inflation and, therefore, by any measure politically correct.

Despite all the soaring language in the State of the State speech, much of what Engler wants to do in the coming fiscal year will be paid for by those nasty people at the federal government in Washington, D.C.

Remember the \$200 million in extra highway repairs? Comes from additional federal highway aid, as well as an increase in the state gasoline tax. What about the nice idea of subsidizing health insurance for 156,000 uninsured children? Paid for by a \$64 million federal grant.

And where does the \$500 million for the much touted program in toxic waste cleanup and improvement in state parks come from? Borrowing, that's where. The governor wants to issue bonds, which is another way of saying he wants to borrow the money and let his successors figure out how to pay for it.

The only notable homegrown increase in the \$8.77 billion general fund budget proposed by Engler is for - remember, it's an election year - prisons. The governor wants to spend \$180 million to build space to house another 5,400 inmates. More prisons means more spending on prisoners, and the governor wants to channel another \$56 million to the \$1.4 billion we already spend on the Michigan Department of Corrections, a 4.2 percent increase.

I suppose no one should be surprised at the priority given to making more slam space. After all, prison inmates don't vote, and the political pros say there's no downside to a sitting governor's wanting to spend more on warehousing criminals.

What's curious about Engler's proposal, however, is that he doesn't say a thing about the fact that costs per inmate in Michigan prisons are considerably above neighboring states such as Ohio. Before we go plunging into another orgy of prison construction, wouldn't it make sense to take a serious look at just why Michigan's costs per inmate are so much higher than other states? The idea of a Blue Ribbon Commission on prison costs, so far, has been received with a cold shoulder from the governor's office.

So who gets the shaft in the governor's spending plan?

Colleges and universities, mostly.

Engler wants to increase higher education



PHILIP POWER

... the governor can always blame college trustees for raising tuition.

appropriations by just 1.5 percent in the coming year, well below the rate of inflation. There is no doubt that if his recommendation holds, universities will have no choice other than to bump up tuition yet again. But, heck, most college kids don't vote, and the governor can always blame college trustees for raising tuition.

There is no doubt that higher education benefited during the past two fiscal years from appropriations in excess of the inflation rate. But a quick look at the history of state spending on colleges and universities - well below the rate of inflation for the past 20 years - suggests that just two years of catchup are not enough.

State Sen. John Schwarz, chair of the Senate Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee and the Legislature's main authority on spending for colleges and universities, will hold hearings on the state of state funding for higher education in Ann Arbor at 10 a.m. Friday. Another will be held at 10 a.m. March 2 in Oakland University's Meadowbrook Hall.

"There's no need to sound alarmist right now," said Schwarz, pointing out that the Legislature traditionally works to find extra money in the state budget to keep tuition at state colleges low.

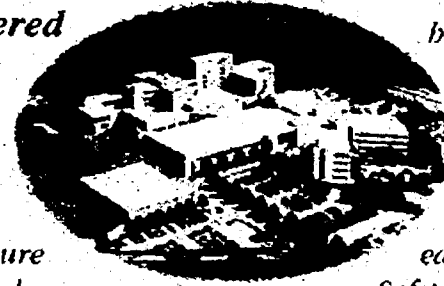
But that will be especially tough this year. Because of a Supreme Court decision, the state will pay \$1.1 billion to school districts to settle a suit over funding for special education. And Engler wants to do a tax cut in an election year, not to mention the extra spending on prisons.

That's budgetary politics in an election year. What you get the increased bill for your kid's tuition at college, don't call me. Call the Governor's Office at (517) 373-3400.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@oeonline.com

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When I first thought about where to have my baby, I was sure of a few things: I didn't want to be moved from room to room, I wanted my family to stay with me, and I wanted the back up of a full-service hospital. St. Mary Hospital's new Miracle of Life Maternity Center offered me the choices I was looking for.

My doctor told me about the new maternity center's private, single-room suites, designed to help me feel at home. I'll stay in the same room for labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum care - they're called LDRPs. My best friend, Nancy, and

her little girl can visit when it's convenient for me. I can even have someone stay overnight in my room.

And, the hospital's new Marian Women's Center offers education like Infant Care and Safety classes and a Breastfeeding Program to help us make the adjustment to home life.

For my peace of mind there's 24-hour obstetrical coverage, and neonatology service is available if my baby needs it. State-of-the-art technology includes epidural anesthesia for comfort, and advanced fetal monitoring. All the while feeling very much at home. Close to home.

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CLASS REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please include the date of the reunion and the first and last name of at least one contact person, and a telephone number.

ANN ARBOR PIONEER

Class of 1978
July 18 at the Crowne Plaza.
(810) 465-2277 or (810) 263-6803

BELLEVILLE

Class of 1988
Sept. 19 at the Marriott, Ypsilanti.
(800) 677-7800

BARBOUR HALL

The Nazareth Association will have a reunion for former students and graduates of the all-male academy for Feb. 21 at the Nazareth Center in Kalamazoo.
(616) 342-1191

BLOOMFIELD HILLS LAHSER

Class of 1987
March 21 at Doubletree Guest Suites, Southfield.
(248) 360-7004, press 2

Class of 1978

Aug. 1 at Somerset Inn, Troy.
(248) 366-9493, press 3

CHERRY HILL

Class of 1983
Reunion and alumni family picnic is planned for August.
(734) 729-6783

CHIPPEWA VALLEY

Class of 1978
July 24 at Zuccaro's in Chesterfield.
(810) 465-2277 or (810) 263-6803

DEARBORN

All classes
A western Caribbean cruise for alumni and friends aboard Royal Caribbean's Majesty of the Seas will sail from Miami on Oct. 25.
(800) 545-0435

FARMINGTON

Class of 1988
A reunion is planned for July 25.
(313) 266-0783 or (313) 394-0649
Class of 1968
Aug. 7 at the Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi.
(810) 465-2277 or (810) 263-6803

FARMINGTON HARRISON

Class of 1988
A reunion is planned for July at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club, Westland.
(248) 442-2862

GARDEN CITY WEST

Aug. 21-23 at Laurel Park Marriott Hotel, Livonia. Dinner-dance on Aug. 22 costs \$60 per person.
(734) 427-8768, by fax at (313) 427-2311 or (734) 420-0156

LIVONIA STEVENSON

Class of 1978
A reunion is planned for Aug. 15.
(734) 420-2558

MADISON

Class of 1948
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 548-5470 or (810) 264-9191

NORTH FARMINGTON

Class of 1978
Aug. 7 at the Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi.
(810) 465-2277 or (810) 263-6803

OAK PARK

Classes of 1957-59
Is planning a reunion for November.
(248) 559-1746 or (248) 354-0092

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Class of 1948
A reunion is planned for June 6.
(313) 282-7862

PLYMOUTH CANTON/SALEM

Classes of 1988
A joint reunion is planned for June 20.
CEP Class of '88, P.O. Box 5356, Plymouth 48170

REDFORD THURSTON

Class of 1973
Nov. 28 at St. Mary's Cultural Center, Livonia.
Donna Erndt, 33466 Vargo Dr., Livonia, or call (734) 522-9405 or (313) 535-4000, Ext. 412

WARREN WOODS TOWER

Class of 1988
Is planning a reunion.
(810) 790-4214 or (810) 771-7328

WATERFORD KETTERING

Class of 1968
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 628-3926, (248) 681-1768 or (248) 623-6057

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Class of 1983
Sept. 26 at the Roma Banquet Center, Garden City.
(248) 360-7004, press 1

CARRIERS OF THE MONTH: WESTLAND

John C. and Jessica F. Saban are the Westland Observer's carriers of the month for February.

John, 14, and a student at John Glenn High School, and Jessica, 12, and a student at Stevenson Middle School, started their route three years ago.

The children of John R. and Diane L., they have a brother, Derek, 6.

John's favorite subject is math and his hobbies include bowling and drawing. Jessica's hobbies include figure skating, bowling and art (drawing).

John has been honored with the perfect attendance and outstanding student of the month awards as well as being named to the honor roll. Jessica has been named to the honor roll

If you want to be a Westland Observer carrier, please call 591-0500



Jessica Saban

John Saban

and won a school award and a presidential award.

John plans to go to college and become a professional bowler. Jessica plans to go to the

Olympics and go to college.

The Sabans like meeting people on their route and have learned how to work with the public.

Jobs fair set

The chamber's second annual Jobs and Careers Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Westland Shopping Center. Last year's event drew more than 2,000 job-seekers. Member participation choices include the basic success deal for \$150, the supporting deal for \$200 and the premium deal for \$300. Call to reserve a spot, (734) 328-7222.

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

15125 Farmington Rd.
Livonia, MI 48154

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for:

FURNISH AND INSTALL 8-3 TON AIR CONDITIONING UNITS FOR COOLIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Bids will be received until 10:00 A.M. on the 10th day of March, 1998, the office of the Board of Education, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan. At this time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read. Vendors are encouraged to attend.

Specifications and bid forms may be obtained at the office of the Board of Education in the Purchasing Department.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part in the interests of uniformity, design, equipment, delivery time or preference, to waive any irregularities and to award to other than low bidder, with rationale to support such a decision.

Any bid submitted will be binding for ninety (90) days subsequent to the date of bid opening.

Any questions may be directed to Tim Kohut, Maintenance Supervisor at 734-523-9160.

Published February 19 and 26, 1998

L1041

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 5, 1998CITY OF GARDEN CITY
PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission at the Council Chambers of the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on Thursday, March 5, 1998, at 7:30 p.m., for the purpose of hearing and considering all comments of all persons interested in or concerned with the following request(s).

03-98-002 Applicant Stu Evens SUP-98-009
Solicitation of public comments on the Special Use Permit for a Prep Center and Centralized Office for (3) Dealerships located at 32401 Park Lane in an M1 Light Industrial District.

The applicant's submittal materials are available for public review at the Garden City Planning Office, 6000 Middlebelt, Garden City, Michigan, (313) 525-8862.

All persons interested in the above are hereby invited to this Public Hearing and be heard.

STEVEN J. SMITH
Interim City Clerk-Treasurer

Published February 19, 1998

L1042

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
February 25, 1998
CITY OF GARDEN CITY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals at the Council Chambers of the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on WEDNESDAY, February 25, 1998, at 7:30 p.m., for the purpose of hearing and considering all comments of all persons interested in or concerned with the following request(s):

Item 02-98-002 Edward Milne VA-98-001
Southwest Corner of Dawson and Shotka

Consideration of the request for a Dimensional Variance to Section 151.38 to permit the construction of a house on a 65.83 feet wide lot where otherwise 70 feet is required.

Legal description: The east 65.83 feet of Lot 654, Folker's Garden City #4

The applicant's submittal materials are available for public review at the Garden City Planning Office, 600 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan, (313) 525-8862.

All persons interested in any of the above are hereby invited to attend this Public Hearing and be heard.

STEVEN J. SMITH
Interim City Clerk-Treasurer

Posted February 17, 1998

Published February 19, 1998

L1043

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
MARCH 2, 1998

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Garden City Council will hold a Public Hearing at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on March 2, 1998 at 7:20 p.m. regarding the possible uses of Community Development Block Grant Funds. The Following activities are being proposed for the use of these federal funds:

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide the benefits of using CDBG funding directly to persons of low and moderate income and/or areas where 51 percent of the residents are of low and moderate income.
- To facilitate and/or support private (re)investment and development within the City of Garden City.
- To reduce negative environmental impacts.
- To conserve and improve older housing.
- To maintain a high level of performance in the management of CDBG and non-federally funded programs, while offsetting administrative costs to the General Fund.
- To improve park facilities.

ESTIMATED ALLOCATION

\$114,000

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

ADA compliance requirements for city owned property (City Hall, Garden City Park, Civic Ice Arena)
Public Service Activity (Funding for Senior Center Coordinator)
Increasing Housing Rehabilitation Allocation by \$10,000
Housing Rehabilitation (City Wide)

Interested persons are invited to comment on the possible projects listed above or suggest other projects. All projects must meet objective "A". Projects must benefit community development of housing needs of moderate and low income residents.

Further information is available by contacting Amy D. Miller, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135, (734) 535-8830.

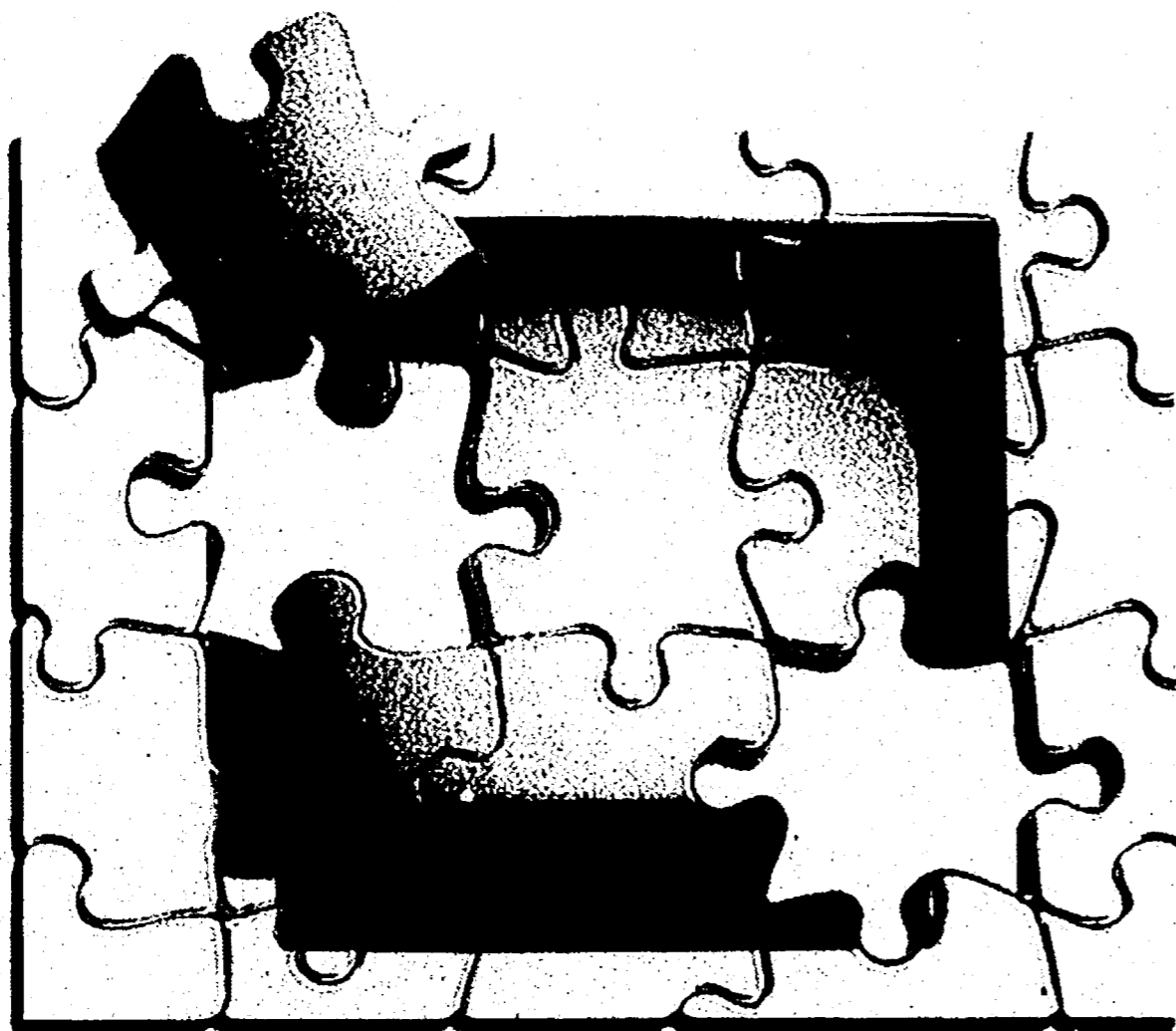
STEVEN J. SMITH
Interim City Clerk-Treasurer

Posted: February 17, 1998

Published: February 19, 1998

L1044

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RMK359

COMMON SENSORS



JACQUE MARTIN-DOWNS

Monica affair is opportunity to stress values

Oh-la-la, I can see your underpants." That used to be as bad as it got on America's playgrounds. But the '90s have brought us to a new low. Just about anything and everything is said within earshot of Junior America.

Steve Lopez, in his "Monica" (do you even need the last name Lewinsky?) expose for Time magazine wrote, "Kids are learning all too much, all too fast, as charges of sex and lies beam into every home." Yes sir, our fourth-graders are quickly learning just what life is all about, from infidelity to one-night-stands to oral sex. If WE'RE burning out from overexposure, what could be happening to the kids?

What's a parent to do? Never turn on the news again? Don't let your children read magazines? Keep them from the sordid details that splash across the front pages of the newspaper? Keep the car radio off from here forward? Stay away from the Internet? Blocks, locks and blinders could be in big demand, if we go down that road.

Once again, a "window of opportunity" is flashing before us. The window is open to anyone whose child is asking questions and being inquisitive about it. But here's the twist. You can inculcate your children even further by not only explaining the facts and the new vocabulary words, but also by sharing with them what your family stands for and what your belief system includes.

A friend of mine commented that her daughter has learned the definition of adultery in the context of the Ten Commandments. When the latest scandal unfolded, her daughter came up to her and asked what the president had done wrong.

Chance to explain
Mom took that opportunity to talk about "cheating" and how it was the same as adultery. Because the daughter already knew the Ten Commandments, she was able to make the correlation between the allegations and what she knew to be right and wrong.

This led them to talk about the fifth-grader's idea of the office of the presidency and the expectations people have for the office. Her sense of it was, "He couldn't have possibly done that." It might be the time when the parent can bring up the whole area of rumors and gossip and how we have to be careful about our "rush to judgment" before all the facts are in.

The information era has brought us into the insta-info category. The glaring, blaring news flashes come at us at warp speed. And before we can make heads or tails from headline, the next one is on its heels. Without time to reflect and cogitate on the latest sound bite, we quickly make a value judgment and then go about our day.

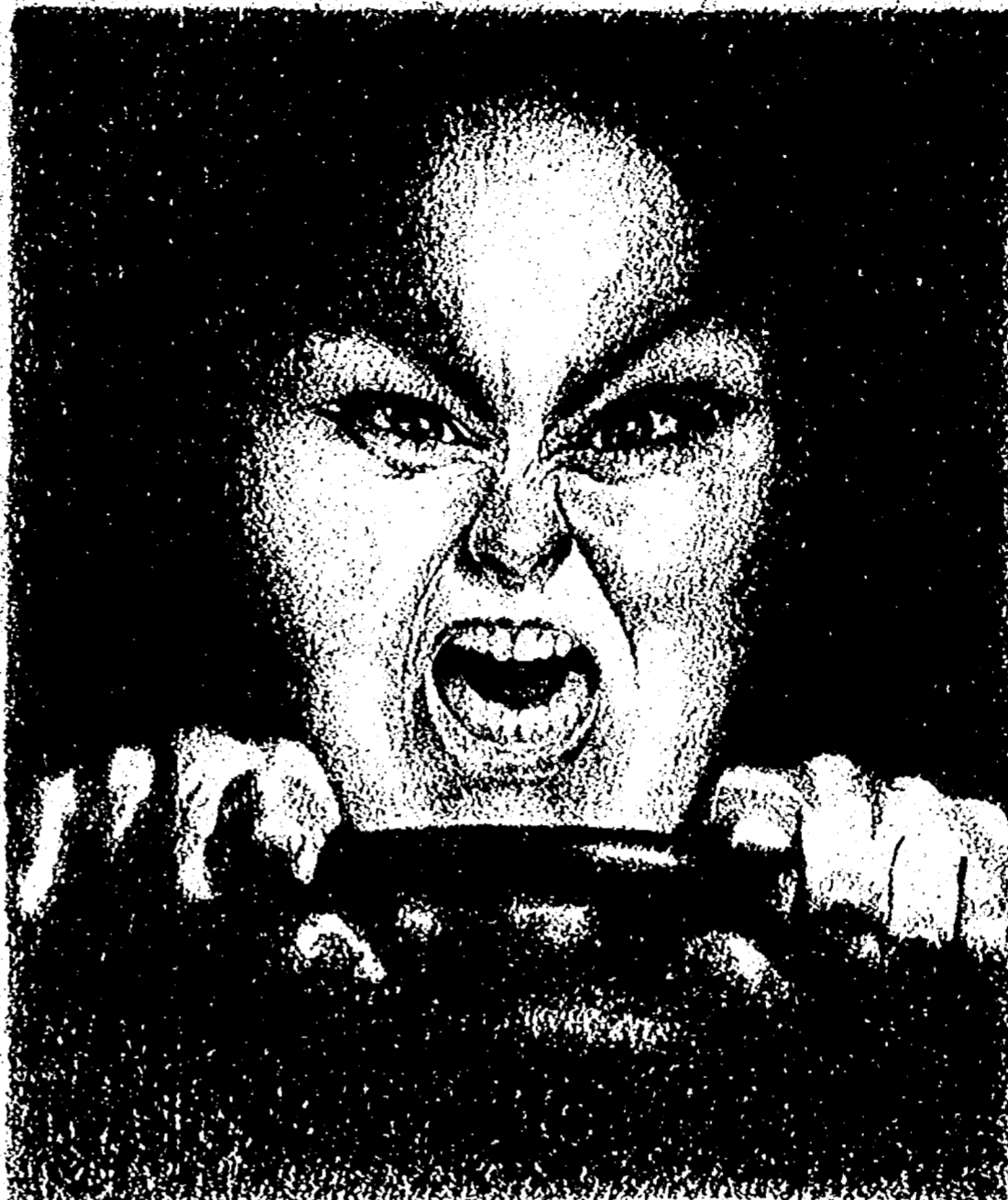
Prime example: Mom, dad and child are sitting watching "Entertainment Tonight" on television. The host just announces that Ms. Movie Star just had a baby with her boyfriend, Mr. Movie Star. How do you feel about that? Is that something that your family agrees with or not? If indeed you feel strongly that people should not have babies out of wedlock, it needs to be conveyed to your child right then.

More typically what happens is that the kids are left to process the story on their own. Parents of 4-year-olds only have to say, "Mommy and daddy think people should be married before they have babies." Parents of elementary children might make a simple statement like, "It's too bad that the couple didn't do it the right way and get married first." Then your child understands that in this family, there is a right and wrong way to do things.

Grab the opportunity
If particular values are important to your family, you must grab the opportunity to talk about the informa-

Please see **BARBON**, B2

The anger within ...



TAMMIE GRAVES/STAFF ARTIST

Women drivers come to grips with road rage

■ These days, speeders, inconsiderate drivers, even slow drivers can easily find themselves on the receiving end of abuse from their fellow motorists and more and more, the abusers are women.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Carla Liberato, a self-proclaimed "female road rager," has been called "crazy" on more than a few occasions. The first time was on a rain-soaked night in the 1980s when she was so enraged at a male driver that she spewed racial slurs as she slapped a lug wrench in her hand.

"He was being cautious and driving slow, but that wasn't what got to me," the 38-year-old Livonia resident said. "I put on my flasher to go around him and he didn't like that. So when I got in front of him, he was tailgating me. I hit the brake and he didn't like that at all. Finally, he swung out from behind me, zoomed past me and slammed on the brakes."

After harassing each other for about a mile, Liberato and the man pulled over. Seeing the lug wrench on the floor, she whipped it out and carried it with her as she confronted the driver.

"I was so enraged. He could have sat on me and made mincemeat out of me. He just stood there, shook his head and said, 'You're crazy, lady.'"

The second time was two years ago when a fellow driver infuriated her after he refused to let her in his lane. It made her miss the turn into her apartment complex.

"I was so ticked off that I pushed him out of his lane and into the left-turn lane," she said.

Meeting up a few miles ahead, he got out of his car and began kicking her truck. By then Liberato had studied Tae Kwon Do for six years, but the discipline it taught her "had gone out the window."

"I was hanging onto just a thread of Tae Kwon Do," she said. "He was kicking in the side of my door and I just sat there flipping him off."

A woman who had witnessed the event stopped in front of him and Liberato and flagged down a police car. That's when Liberato - and the male driver - began their "recovery" from road rage.

Once the man realized that charges could be filed against him, he apologized for becoming violent.

"He said he had his 7-year-old son in the car. He said, 'I have a really bad temper and I can see it in my son. Now this is going to stay in his memory forever.'"

"I felt really bad for this guy; it was just as much my fault as it was his," she said. "I was feeling more than embarrassed. It was humiliation. You can't turn that off. That feeling lasted all the way into the evening."

Female road rage

Liberato is part of an increasing group of women who suffer from "road

rage." According to the Insurance Information Institute of New York, the number of fatal traffic accidents involving women drivers has risen 18 percent in the last 20 years. Women are involved in a higher rate of non-fatal accidents than men, the institute said.

The increased aggressiveness of women drivers may reflect changes in society, said Loretta Worters, the institute's director of public relations.

"Just as we have an increased number of women in the workforce since the 1960s, more women have also gotten behind the wheel - and taken out their daily stress on the other drivers on the road," she said.

In 1963, about 43 percent of drivers, or 40 million motorists, were women. Now the 88 million female drivers make up about 60 percent of motorists in the United States.

These changes have also been reflected in the premium women pay for insurance. The cost of auto insurance has slowly increased for women, grad-

ually erasing a disparity that once existed for insurance costs between the genders.

Keeping a level head and avoiding highway confrontations may not only save your life, but it may also help keep your insurance premiums down by encouraging safe driving practices, according to Worters.

"If another driver cuts you off or tries to provoke you, don't play their game," she said. "You may not only save your life, you may save money on your insurance by establishing a safe driving record."

Sometimes, that's not so easy, according to a Canton woman who wished to remain anonymous.

"I don't instigate, but if I feel it was something done to me, I have the compulsion that comes over me to retaliate," she said.

If she feels she was wronged she will flash obscene gestures at the driver. Male drivers usually aren't thrilled with that.

"I've never had a problem with another female; I've never even had an altercation that's gotten as far as a gesture with a female driver," she said. "It's always been males. They will always retaliate - tailgating me, following me for miles and miles and miles. I have to make a last-minute maneuver like getting off at an exit to get them off my tail because I don't want them following me home."

'Drive like me'

Vanessa Davinich, a 19-year-old Ypsilanti resident, explained that her rage stems from her need to get to work on time. The 1996 Plymouth Salem High School graduate works as a nanny in Canton.

"I usually leave about 7:05. I can get there by 7:30 a.m. unless there's someone in front of me who's going slow," she said. "On Geddes (Road), there's so much traffic going toward Ann Arbor that it's impossible to pass."

"I want to get places and when the people are going slow in front of me, it's aggravating. They do it all the time. I wish everybody could drive like me."

Dave and Janet Steimel have been victims of female road rage in their Livonia neighborhood. Dave Steimel noticed a minivan speeding through a local side street and honked his horn at the driver after it nearly "came off the road where there is a slight rise."

"In my rear view mirror I watched as the driver made a very aggressive U-turn and sped after us," he said. "I decided to pass by my home not knowing what type of person was rapidly approaching. We ended up at a traffic light on Middlebelt and Seven Mile. The minivan screeched to a stop behind me and a woman - I couldn't call her a lady - jumped out, leaving a small child in the passenger seat."

"With a heavy accent, she used extremely foul language at both my wife and I told her, in so many words, that she was nuts."

The driver and Janet Steimel had a few words. As the light turned green, the driver sped up, passed their vehicle, and hit her brakes several times before turning.

"How thoughtful of her to provide us with her license plate number before she tore off," Dave said.

The Steimels went to the police station with the information. The officer said they would trace the plate and give her a call. Later, the officer told them he couldn't call her because her number was unlisted.

Liberato, a John Glenn High School graduate, said she hopes she can help other women road ragers by sharing her story. She stressed that the side of her that retaliates against fellow drivers is "not the kind of person I want to be."

To keep herself in check, she keeps a glow-in-the-dark cross in her truck that says "He lives."

"I just look at the cross and say 'It's not worth it. It's not worth that horrible, horrible feeling that I had that night.'"

Life after transplants is good for teen

Couch potato: More than 2 years after undergoing a second lung transplant, Greg Unger is savoring such teenage pursuits as driving a car. He's getting up early for school and finding the energy to exercise, something he couldn't do because of the cystic fibrosis that was slowly taking his life.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRASLER

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

In fall 1996, Greg Unger's biggest concern was recovering from his second double-lung transplant.

Now the Canton resident grapples with getting up at 5:30 a.m. for school and mustering the energy to exercise.

"He's a little bit of a couch potato," said his sister, Jamie, with a laugh.

But you won't hear any complaints from the Unger family. They're happy to see the 17-year-old alive and well.

Greg Unger was six months old when he was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, a genetic disease that causes an abnormal accumulation of mucus in the lungs and other organs. It literally suffocates and starves its victims.

He had his first double-lung transplant in August 1995 at St. Louis Children's Hospital. He was doing fine until April 1996 when malignant nodules appeared on his lungs because the donor tested positive for Epstein-Barre, a herpes-like virus which is thought to cause infectious mononucleosis.

His physicians treated it by decreasing his immunosuppressant medication which in turn caused his body to reject the lungs.

"From there everything escalated; it was one thing after another," said his mother, Barb Unger. "His lungs were so

badly damaged that there was nothing they could do short of retransplanting. We went out for dinner and he was so sick that he couldn't walk into the restaurant. We had to carry him in."

Although Epstein-Barre can be life-threatening to transplant patients, doctors will still transplant the organs even if they test positive for it. Barb said that's because it doesn't affect some patients.

Family ordeal

Greg's condition deteriorated so quickly that there wasn't time to find a deceased donor. One of the few choices the Ungers had was to donate a lobe of their lungs.

Initially, his 29-year-old brother Kris, an avid runner, was approached, but he was apprehensive to go through with the surgery because of the decreased lung capacity he would have afterward.

Twelve hours before the surgery, Jamie, 24, and their father, Bill, of Mount Clemens found out they would be the donors for the Sept. 4, 1996, surgery, also at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

"Jamie was just concerned about helping her brother," said Barb as Jamie rolled her eyes. "She didn't care about the cost to herself. It was really sweet on her part."

"Kris would have done it if the other two didn't qualify."

Please see **UNGER**, B2

Unger from page B1

Jamie explained that she wanted to do it just so I wouldn't have to sit in the waiting room again. That was the hardest part."

"And Barb was upset that the doctors wouldn't accept her as a potential donor because of her bout with illness."

"They wouldn't test me because of the fact that I had breast cancer. I was really upset but the day of the surgery, I came down with a terrible cold," she said. "When I get a cold, it's there for three or four weeks. I took some cold pills and it knocked me out. The next day all the cold symptoms were gone."

"I think that's the Lord's way of telling me not to be upset about not being a donor because I couldn't have done it anyway. I just didn't want the kids involved."

Jamie recalled her brother telling her, while he was still breathing with the help of a respirator, that he already felt better.

"I feel confident; I feel like this one will be the last one. I'm running out of lungs in this family," Greg Unger recently said with a laugh.

His sister and father, however, spent five days in the hospital recovering from their surgery.

"They wanted to ship us out earlier but we were saying 'no, no,'" Jamie said. "I think we went through a lot more pain than he did. You get this horrible pain in your chest that's ungodly. But after about a

month, I didn't even notice it anymore."

The portions of the lungs that were taken do not grow back, but the lungs expand to close to their original size. Jamie lost only 9 percent of her lung function.

"It doesn't bother me. It probably would if I was a triathlete or a marathon runner," she said.

After taking two semesters off from Eastern Michigan University, she has returned to school and participates in aerobics.

Her father, she said, feels like he's not totally recovered.

"My dad will say he's at 98 percent; he's milking it for all it's worth," Jamie said.

She laughed and giggled as she recalled the events surrounding the surgery while Greg quietly sat twisting the fringe on a Detroit Red Wing quilt. Their mother remained introspective.

"I feel we were very fortunate," she said. "It was quite an ordeal. The first time was hard enough. The second time, with two more people in the operating room, it was hard."

Since his surgery, Unger has only had one bout of mild rejection, and he had to have his gall bladder removed.

"He's had a lot of stomach problems. I think that's just from the CF. He also hasn't been able to gain much weight, but he's not much of an eater," Barb said.

Greg Unger is a senior at John Glenn High School in Westland,

but must take classes for another year to complete his studies there.

"We had a meeting with the school superintendent to see if he could at least walk across the stage, but he said it was only for people who earned the right to do so," Barb said.

Although Greg is disappointed that he won't move on to college this year, his mother and her family understand.

"The school district has been really good with Greg and the whole situation; they've been just fabulous."

Greg admitted he hasn't thought too much about it anyway. He said he's thinking of going to Michigan State University, but his mother suggests he start out at Henry Ford Community or Schoolcraft colleges.

As his teenage years wind down, Greg is making the most of it. He recently received his driver's license and has his own red Ford Escort.

"It took awhile for Greg to get his driver's license with all the complications. He should have gotten it a year sooner, but he couldn't take the driver's test," Barb said.

Greg has also Rollerbladed and visited his brother in California.

"He did a lot of walking around. That's something he's never been able to do," Jamie explained.

"It was a treat to watch you do that," his mother said to Greg.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Together: Described as a couch potato by his sister Jamie (left), Greg Unger shares some TV time with her and his mother Barb (center) in their Canton home.

Although Greg doesn't think that's a big deal, he admitted that things have definitely gotten easier for him.

"I can do pretty much anything I want," he said. He gets up at 5:30 a.m. for school and takes a nap as soon as he gets home. "I try and motivate myself to do exercises."

But unlike their father, Jamie said, Greg doesn't take advantage of the situation.

"He doesn't need to (milk it for all it's worth). Mom and dad spoil him. He's like Little Lord Fauntleroy."

Northwest YW offers winter, spring camps

Winter and spring school breaks can pose problems for working parents, and the YWCA Northwest Branch has the answer ... week-long camps.

The YW, at 25940 Grand River, Redford, will offer arts and crafts, swimming, tennis, gym, bowling, cooking and much more for children ages 6-12 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 23-27 and April 13-17.

Camp fees are \$55 for the first child and \$50 for the second child. There also is a \$10 registration fee and an additional \$10 charge for non-members.

Latch-key care is available 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. Cost is \$13.50 per week for both morning or afternoon care and \$20 per week for morning and afternoon care.

To register, call the YWCA at (313) 537-8500.

CRAFTS CALENDAR

Listings for the Crafts Calendar should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2131.

ST. MEL'S
St. Mel's Catholic Church will have its spring arts and crafts show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 7 at the church, 7508 Inkster Road, Dearborn Heights. In addition to crafts, food and beverages will be available. There also will be a special crafters raffle. Table and a 5- by 10-foot space costs \$30 and a 5- by 10-foot space only is \$25. For more information, call Debbie at (313) 6881.

MEMORIAL PTA
The Memorial Elementary School PTA will have its 11th annual craft fair 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 7 at the school, 30001 Marquette, between Middle Belt and Henry Ruff roads, Garden City. Table space is available. For more information, call Darlene at (734) 425-4221.

ST. SABINA
St. Sabina School's Parents Activities Club will have a spring craft show 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 14 at the school, Ann Arbor Trail, east of Inkster Road. An 8-foot table or space costs \$27.50, the 6-foot table or space is \$25. For more information, call Jane Palmer at (313) 953-5914.

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Crafters are wanted for the Livonia Churchill High School PTSA juried spring arts and crafts show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 21 at the school, 8900 Newburg Road, Livonia. Admission will be \$1; strollers and wheelchairs welcomed. For more information, call Diane at (734) 422-4507 or Garrett at (734) 464-7425.

ST. DAMIAN'S
St. Damian's Church will have a collector's sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at the church, 29891 Joy Road, Westland. Admission will be \$1, children under age 12 free. Table space, costing \$25, is available. Proceeds will benefit Christian Service. For more information, call (734) 421-6130.

LIVONIA FRANKLIN
The Livonia Franklin High School Patriots Club will have a craft show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 21 at the school, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia. More than 175 crafters will be featured. Admission will be \$1 for those older than 5 years of age. No strollers will be permitted, however, people in wheelchairs will be admitted at 9:30 a.m.

PRCUA SYRENA
The PRCUA Syrena Parents club will have a holiday craft show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 21 at the Dearborn Heights Canfield Community Center, 1801 N. Beech Daly. Table reservations can be made by calling (313) 383-1821 or (313) 563-1761.

LIVONIA STEVENSON
Crafters are needed for the Livonia Stevenson High School Booster Club's Spring Spectacular craft show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 28 at the school, 33500 W. Six Mile Road, Livonia. Spaces - 10 feet by 10 feet or 5 feet by 16 feet - cost \$50. Limited electricity is available at no additional cost, and chairs (no tables) are available upon

request. For an application or more information, call (734) 464-1041 or (248) 478-2395.

FINNWEAVERS
Applications are being accepted for the Finnweavers of the Finnish Center Association's art and craft fair 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 28 at the Finnish Cultural Center, 35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Spaces, approximately 10 feet by 10 feet, are available for \$15 each. Original work only, no kits. The deadline is March 1. For more information, call (248) 546-6527.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY
Madonna University is accepting applications from crafters for its 13th annual spring arts and crafts showcase 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 28 in the Activities Center on campus, Schoolcraft and Leaven, Livonia. Booth space measuring 9 feet by 6 feet with two chairs and one 6-by-8-foot table costs \$50. Booths with electricity are limited and are an additional \$5. Exhibitors can purchase up to three spaces. For application of more information, call the university at (734) 432-5603.

Sensors from page B1

tion in a way that will let your kids know that you condemn or condone what you are seeing or hearing.

Through the news and print media, we have chances every single day to talk about clarify our values with our family. I've listened to clients who were waiting in the lobby to see me, talk among themselves about something they read in the mag-

azine sitting on the table next to them. Good opportunity ... I applaud them.

If you have a question or comment for Jacque Martin-Downs, a special projects coordinator for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and private therapist, write her at the Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

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WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Dufon-Roessler

Marion and Karen Dufon of Fountain announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathryn Marie, to Kirk Robert Roessler of Walled Lake, the son of Robert and Connie Roessler of Canton.

The bride-to-be is a 1996 graduate of GMI Engineering & Management Institute. She is employed as an engineer at Delphi Energy and Engine Management Systems in Flint.

Her fiancé is a 1988 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and a 1993 graduate of GMI Engineering and Management Institute. He is employed as an engineering supervisor at Dura Automotive Systems in Rochester Hills.

A May wedding is planned at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Flint.



Church in Flint.

Landskroener-Herron

Jim and Sue Steinke of Brooklyn, Mich., and Jake and Denise Landskroener of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Nicole Tarese, to Marcus Lee Herron, the son of Robert and Linda Herron of Millington.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Jackson Community College where she studied nursing. She is employed by the Westland Convalescent Center in Westland.

Her fiancé is attending the University of Michigan-Dearborn and is employed by Michigan National Bank in Livonia.

A May wedding on Mackinac Island is being planned.



Island is being planned.

Miller-Walla

Erich John Miller and Marlene Diane Walla were married Aug. 16 at Springton Manor Farm in Glenmoore, Pa., by the Rev. Thomas Geiger Young.

The bride is the daughter of Elaine Walla of Centre Square, Pa., and the late Anton L. Walla. The groom is the son of John and Karen Miller of Plymouth.

The bride is a graduate of Wisahickon High School in Ambler, Pa., and Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, Pa. She is employed at Electronic Data Systems in Blue Bell.

The groom is a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and Ferris State University. He is employed at Toyota Industrial Equipment in Columbus, Ind., as a territorial parts and service manager.

The bride asked Susan Walla to serve as her matron of honor with Karen Walla as her maid of honor and Jennifer Miller and Rachel Walla as bridesmaids. Janelle Walla, Lisa Spiller and Toni Spiller as flower girls.



Kurt Miller served as best man with Martin Mattson, Brocke Emerson and George Jamieson as groomsmen.

The couple received guests at Springton Manor Farms in Glenmoore, Pa., before leaving on a trip to Sanibel Island, Fla. They are making their home in Columbus, Ind.

Miller-Jones

James and Bridgette Miller of Sudbury, Mass., announce the engagement of their daughter, Catherine A., to Brian R. Jones, the son of Linda Jones of Dearborn.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School and Oakland Community College. She is employed as an account manager by Fin-silver/Friedman Management Corp.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Redford Union High School and Oakland Community College. He is employed as a quality control supervisor by United Bolt & Screw.

A June wedding is planned at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Sudbury.



Sudbury.

Knight-Alland

Judith and Joseph Tompkins of Plymouth and Douglas and Bonnie Knight of Novi announce the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Ann Knight, to Timothy George Alland, the son of Ken and Sheila Alland of Waterford.

The bride-to-be is employed at American Community Mutual Insurance and Unique Dreams Studio.

Her fiancé is employed at Honeywell.

A May wedding is planned at First Baptist Church of Plymouth.



Gursky-Choi

Robert and Lorraine Gursky of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Ann, to Michael Choi, the son of Yuk Chi Choi and Chiu Lun Choi of Chicago, Ill.

The bride-to-be is a 1986 graduate of Garden City High School and a 1993 graduate of Madonna University with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. She is employed as a program support coordinator at the Ford Motor Co.

Her fiancé is a 1985 graduate of Lane Tech High School in Chicago and a 1991 graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. He is employed as an engineer at the Ford Motor Co.

A June wedding is planned at St. Raphael Catholic Church in Garden City.



St. Raphael Catholic Church in Garden City.

Bernhardt-Pahl

Carl and Patricia Bernhardt of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Donna Marie, to Gregory Patrick Pahl of Plymouth, the son of Gerald and Patricia Pahl of Canton.

The bride-to-be is studying elementary education at Eastern Michigan University. She is employed by St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, where he studied public relations. He is employed at Joyce Julius and Associates Inc.

A May wedding is planned at Old St. Patrick's Church.



Walkowicz-Krajewski

Dennis and Jeanne Walkowicz of Sterling Heights announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Karen Marie, to Paul Edward Krajewski, the son of Peter and Mary Krajewski of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor of science degree in biology and a graduate of Indiana University with a master of science degree in medical genetics. She is employed as a genetic counselor at Harper Hospital.

Her fiancé holds a bachelor of science and doctoral degrees in material science engineering from the University of Michigan. He is employed as a senior research engineer at General Motors.

A February wedding is planned at St. Blase Catholic Church in Sterling Heights.

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Organizers get ready for annual Mercy High auction

Interested in owning a Harley Davidson motorcycle? How about getting some tickets to Detroit Red Wings of the University of Michigan football games?

The price could be right if you're the highest bidder at the 19th annual Mercy High School auction, "Mercy and Me."

This year's auction will be Saturday, Feb. 28, at the high school, 29300 Eleven Mile Road, at Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills. The event will get underway with liturgy at 4 p.m. in the Mercy Chapel. The silent theme auctions will start at 5 p.m. and will close at set intervals throughout the evening.

Master of ceremonies will be Steve Garagiola of WDIV-TV and Joseph DuMouchelle of DuMouchelle Galleries will be the live auctioneer.

In addition to the motorcycle games tickets will be leases for Corvette and Cavalier convertibles, a large screen TV, pool table, seaside condominium in Jamaica, tickets and air transportation to the "Oprah" show in Chicago, Stanley Cup memorabilia, an autographed "Seinfeld"

script and Grant Hill autographed basketball.

There also will be theme baskets, needlepoint, crystal, jewelry, weekend trips and special events as well as a day on the television set with Garagiola and with Mike Holfeld of WXYZ-TV Channel 7.

Tickets for the event cost \$75 each and include the silent and live auctions, a strolling buffet, open bar and afterglow party. The Mercyairees and Mercy Mimes will provide entertainment during the auction, and members of the Mercy Orchestra will be featured during the afterglow party, which includes desserts and coffees.

To order tickets or to donate auction items, call Marilyn Corbett in the Office of Special Events at (248) 476-8020, Ext. 253.

The auction is the largest fundraiser for the Farmington Hills high school and helps offset the difference between tuition and actual cost of providing an education.

It is dedicated to the late Sister Constance Banks who served

as teacher, registrar and computer consultant at the high school and lent her expertise to the annual auction for many years.

Co-chairs for the event are Al and Judy Brankiewicz of Southfield (daughter Carrie is in the Class of 2000) and Ed and Nancy Moeller of West Bloomfield (daughter Leah is in the Class of 1998, while daughters Kristen graduated in 1993 and Lindsey in 1996).

The Auction Steering Committee includes Gregory and Denise Even of Farmington Hills (daughter Paige is in the Class of 1998), James and Ann Miller of Bloomfield Hills (daughters Amy is in the Class of 2000 and Katie graduated in 1997) and Joe and Mary Lou Nowak of Northville (daughter Beth Ann will graduate in '98).

The Committee members include parents, staff, alumnae and friends of Mercy. They have had the job of soliciting advertising and gifts to make sure the auction reaches its goal of \$100,000 this year.



Oh, Mercy: Showing off some of the items available at the annual Mercy High School auction, "Mercy and Me," are Terri Ann Kozlowski (from left) who worked on acquisitions, and auction co-chairs Judy, Carrie and Al Brankiewicz.

NEW VOICES

Sam and Beth Aneed of Garden City announce the birth of Samantha Rae Dec. 21 at the Birthing Center at Garden City Hospital. She joins a sister, Tara, 9, and a brother, Eric, 5. Grandparents are Al and Ann Harnos of Garden City, Rima Aneed of Westland and the late Ray Aneed.

Todd and Kimberly Getz of Canton announce the birth of Blake William Jan. 9 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann

Arbor. Grandparents are John and Sally Getz and William and Jenny Curtis, all of Canton. Great-grandparents are James and Betty Getz of Renovo, Pa., and Verlin and Beatrice Curtis of Dearborn.

Thomas and Cynthia Getz of Kentwood announce the birth of Thomas Eugene Jr. Jan. 1 at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. He joins a sister, Samantha Marie. Grandparents are John and Sally Getz of Can-

ton and Vivian McMahan of Woodhaven. Great-grandparents are James and Betty Getz of Renovo, Pa.

Brian and Cassandra Johnson of Garden City announce the birth of Emily Elaine Dec. 15 at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. Grandparents are Joe and Joyce Johnson and Gary and Jeanne Kashian, all of Garden City, and Tom Hill of Canton.

David and Andrea Wallace

of Canton announce the birth of Jacob Tyler Nov. 30 at the Birthing Center at Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Wayne and Nancy Wallace, Jill Matherly and Leonard Brown.

Ty and Kelly Iles of Livonia announce the birth of Dana Ann Nov. 28 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Tom Makowski of Middletown, N.Y., Mr. and Mrs. Richard Porter of Waterford and Eileen Iles of Frankfort, Ill. Great-grandmother is Angela Ambrose of Livonia.

Russell and Charlene Reid of Jackson announce the birth of Zachary Tyler Dec. 3 at the Birthing Center at Garden City Hospital. He joins siblings, Angela, 9 1/2, Brittany, 7, Kylie, 2 1/2, and Cassidy, 1 1/2. Grandparents are Don and Linda Childers of Canton and Stan and Pat Reid of Livonia.

John and Tara Belken of Garden City announce the birth of Sean Nicholas Dec. 30 at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn.

He joins three brothers, Chad, 11, of Wyandotte, and Tyler, 9, and Ian, 17 months. Grandparents are John and Ginny Koch of Canton and Frank and Patricia Maida of Southgate. Great-grandmothers are Elsie Mariani of Dearborn and Genevieve Maida of Southgate.

Mike and Tina Miller of Westland announce the birth of Anthony Nathaniel Dec. 3 at the Birthing Center at Garden City Hospital. He joins two sisters, Shae, 4, and Kayla, 1. Grandparents are Jerry and Penny Jones and Penny and Larry Miller, all of Wayne.

Bill and Janet Dempster of Livonia announce the adoption of Kayla Marie Rong. Her parents traveled to Wuxue in the Hubei Province of China in early September to bring her to Livonia. Kayla was born Nov. 5, 1996. Her grandparents are Tom and Dolores Dubiel of Westland and Clifford and Jean Dempster of Livonia.

Donald Hill and Krista

Gress of Belleville announce the birth of Alannah Marie Hill-Gress Dec. 4 at the Birthing Center at Garden City Hospital. She joins a sister, Ariel, 28 months. Grandparents are Richard and Sandra Gress of Redford and Don and Rose Hill of Belleville.

Stephen and Jayme Schmitt of Livonia announce the birth of Kessa Marie July 15 at Botsford Hospital. He joins two sisters, Keira, 4, and Kylie, 1 1/2. Grandparents are Chris and Kathy Schmitt of Garden City and Marilyn and Bob Beisiegel of Florida. Great-grandparents are Madeleine Bennett of Westland and Johnnie and Helen Belt of Wayne.

William Ferguson and Diana Johnson of Garden City announce the birth of William Rodney Ferguson Dec. 5 at the Birthing Center at Garden City Hospital. Grandparents are Letta Waltsgott, Billy Little, Ronda Miller and Larry Johnson, all of Detroit.

Parents don't have a lot of time, the Observer & Eccentric has created this unique directory to make life just a little easier.

Children's Directory '98

For more information about advertising call Nan at: 313-953-2099

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Lions' Porcher joins fight against childhood cancers

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Matthew Goldi wasn't sure what the fuss was about. All he knew was that the man whose lap he chose to sit in was good at banging stuffed toys together.

"This time we worked on sacking the quarterback; next time we'll work on some moves," Robert Porcher told the 2-year-old Farmington resident.

A Detroit Lions defensive lineman for six years, Porcher was at Children's Hospital on Michigan last week to visit some of the youngest victims of childhood cancer, including Matthew, who has acute lymphocytic leukemia.

Arranged by Leukemia Research Life Inc., it was the first time the Rochester Hills resident had ever visited the Detroit hospital. He focused his time on visiting children on the oncology floor, offering words of encouragement and autographed pictures.

"When I walked into the rooms, I couldn't get over how upbeat the kids are," Porcher said. "I play a game and I may be sore the next day, but it will go away. To see how strong they are puts in perspective what I do."

Porcher is the honorary chair of LRL's 17th annual Evening of Hope dinner-dance, slated for Saturday, Feb. 28, at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails and a silent auction filled with sports

'We're a totally volunteer organization and the single largest contributor to childhood cancer research at Children's Hospital. But what we really want to do is get the message out that cancer is the No. 1 killer disease of children.'

Eric DeVore

— Leukemia Life Research Inc.

memorabilia and travel and entertainment packages. The 8 p.m. sit-down dinner will be followed by the always-popular dessert table, raffle and dancing to the music of Vizitor.

Joining Porcher as guests will be Rich Fisher, Denise Dador of WXYZ-TV and Lila Lazarus of WDIV-TV, who are serving as masters of ceremony, and soccer star Bryan "The Goose" Finerty.

More than 1,000 people are expected to turn out to help raise \$80,000 for childhood cancer research. Tickets for the dinner-dance cost \$60 each and are available by calling Eileen Surma at (313) 581-5647.

Dedicated to research

The nonprofit organization is dedicated to the elimination of childhood cancers through research at Children's Hospital, and since its inception in 1981, LRL has raised more than \$2 million.

"Ninety-seven cents of every dollar we raise goes to research," said Eric DeVore. He and wife Sharon were instrumental in starting LRL in 1981. "We're a totally volun-

teer organization and the single largest contributor to childhood cancer research at Children's Hospital.

"But what we really want to do is get the message out that cancer is the No. 1 killer disease of children."

In fact, it was Sharon who contacted the Detroit Lions organization in hopes of getting one of the team members to help with the benefit. Her letter was passed on to Porcher, who was on his way to San Diego, Calif., to see the Super Bowl and then Hawaii for the Pro Bowl.

"I found the letter in my bag and read it on my way back," Porcher said. "I said, 'Oh, man, I have to call as soon as I get back. I hope she hasn't found someone.'"

"We are blessed to have you," said Sharon. "We knew you were going to be a part of us, you just didn't know."

But such was not the case with Matthew, who was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia in June 1997. His mother, Laurie, a nurse at neighboring Harper Hospital, "just knew it wasn't good"

when her son developed pinpoint spots of blood on his skin after he developed a cold.

Matthew was diagnosed with leukemia on June 3, 1997, and now receives chemotherapy daily, either intravenously, orally or through the spine, as part of his 130-week treatment.

The cancer attacks blood-forming tissue, bone marrow, lymph nodes and spleen. The disease is in remission, and Matthew has a 65 percent chance of a five-year survival rate, according to Laurie.

"We still lose 25 percent of our children to cancer," she said. "These little people don't get the attention they should. Childhood cancer doesn't get the research dollars it should."

"For you to be able to say you want to do this ... bless you. I don't have to power to use my face or body to educate people, so it's important to us to have you say this matters to you."

Porcher deflected the compliment with a "no thanks needed." The father of 3-year-old Morgan feels he is doing a lot if he can get some of the children to smile.

That was no problem. An 11-year-old Lions fan was grinning from ear to ear after Porcher whispered in his ear and even threats of tickling couldn't get him to reveal the message.

But Porcher did on the way down to the outpatient clinic.

"He told me he played football and was a running back," Porcher said. "I told him I have



PHOTO BY ERIC DEVORE

What's the fuss?: At times 2-year-old Matthew Goldi was a bit bewildered about the hoopla surrounding his new found friend, Detroit Lions defensive end Robert Porcher

running backs for lunch. today. I plan on popping in from time to time."

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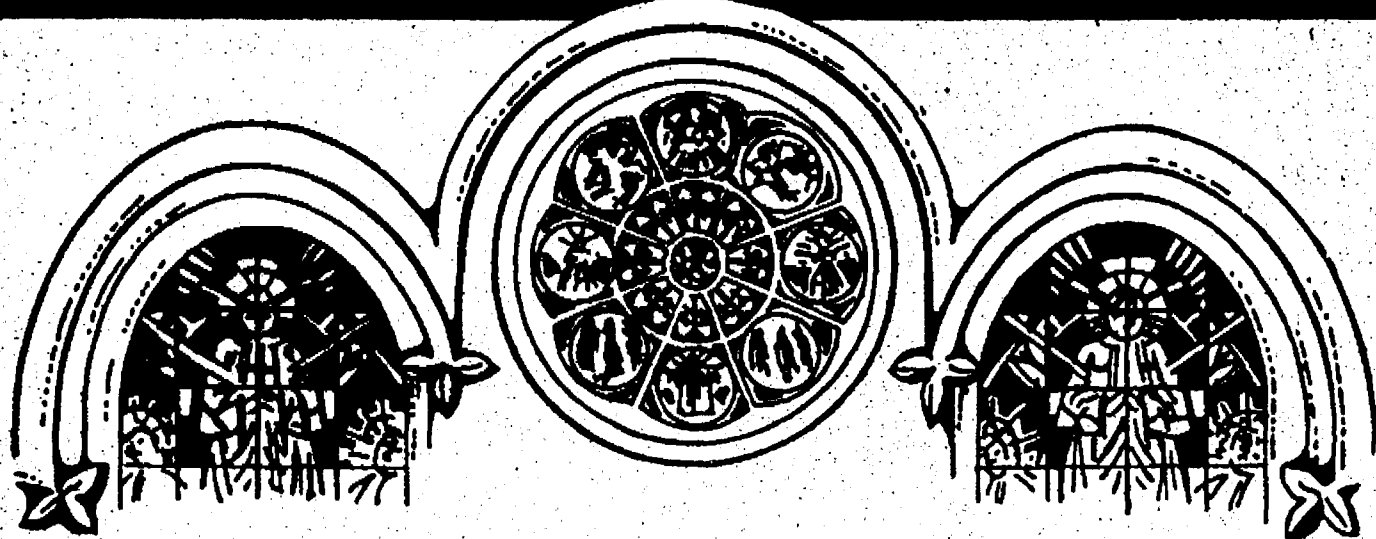
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Rev. Donald Unterman, Pastor

9:15 Adult Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
Service and Youth Classes
Nursery Care Available
-WELCOME-

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

ST. TIMOTHY CHURCH
16700 Newburgh Road
Livonia • 456-8844

Sunday School for All Ages: 9:30 a.m.
Family Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Sermon Title:
"Radiance Of Spirit: Veiled or Visible"
Rev. Dr. Anna Marie Austin
Rev. Dr. Janet Noble, Pastor
A Creative Christ Centered Congregation

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
5835 Sheldon Rd., Canton
(313) 459-0013

Sunday Worship & Church School
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Education For All Ages
Childcare Provided • Handicapped Accessible
Resources for Hearing and Sight Impaired

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church (USA)
9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI
(between Merritt & Farmington Pk.)
(313) 422-0494

Worship Service & Sunday School
10:30 a.m.

Nursery Care Provided
We Welcome You To A Full Program Church
Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor
Rev. Ruth Billington, Associate Pastor
Visit our Website at www.grouches.com/~rosedale

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Main & Church • (313) 453-6464
PLYMOUTH

Worship Services 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Church School & Nursery 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Dr. James Skirmins Tamara J. Seidel
Senior Minister Associate Minister
David J.W. Brown, Dir. of Youth Ministries
Accessible to All

REFORMED

Reformed - Adhering to the Westminster Confession of Faith
Presbyterian Free Church
30025 Curtis Ave., Livonia 48154
at Highway between Six and Seven Mile
Sunday Services - 11am and 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study - 7pm
Pastor - Kenneth Macleod - tel 313-421-0780

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

PLYMOUTH SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
PLYMOUTH ADVENTIST ACADEMY Grades 1-8
4206 Napier Road • Plymouth
(313) 455-3580

WORSHIP SERVICES
SATURDAY Sabbath School 9:15 a.m.
Divine Worship 11:15 a.m. (Sun. 10:30 a.m.)
Pastor Mike Doucumes (313) 644-8660
School (313) 459-8222

UNITED METHODIST

Clarenceville United Methodist
20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia
474-3444
Rev. Jean Love

Worship Services 10:15 A.M., 6:00 P.M.
Nursery Provided
Sunday School 9 AM
Office Hrs. 9-5

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED METHODIST
30900 Six Mile Rd. (Bet. Merritt & Middlebelt)
Chuck Songstad, Pastor

10:00 A.M. Worship & Church School
11:15 A.M. Adult Study Classes
Nursery Provided • 422-8038

NARDIN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
29887 West Eleven Mile Road
Just West of Middlebelt
248-476-8860
Farmington Hills
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Worship, Church School, Nursery

"You shall have no other God before me,
You shall not make for yourself an Idol."
Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack, preaching

Senior Minister: Rev. Benjamin Bohnsack
Associate Minister: Rev. Kathleen Groll
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Robert Bough

"Where You Belong..."

Worship 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Church School 10:00 am
• Help In Daily Living
• Exciting Youth Programs
• Child-Care Provided
Pastors: Dr. Dean Klump, Rev. Tonya Arneson

First United Methodist Church of Plymouth
(313) 453-5280

NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
38500 Ann Arbor Trail
422-0149

Worship Services & Sunday School
9:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
February 22nd
"The Best Seat In The House"
Rev. Thomas G. Badley, preaching
Rev. Thomas G. Badley, Rev. Melanie Lee Carey
Rev. Edward C. Colby

Visit our website www.grouches.com/epiphany.org

Call the Spirit of
Adlergate
United Methodist Church
10000 Beech Daley, Redford
Between Plymouth and W. Chicago
Bob & Diana Gossett, Co-pastors
313-637-3170

15 Years of Daily Worship

8:00 a.m. - Contemporary, Basic
9:30 a.m. - Contemporary, Family
11:30 a.m. - Traditional, Full Choir

Emphasis: Dedicated For Ministry
Transformation of Jesus
Scripture Focus: Luke 9: 28-43a
Rev. Diane, preaching
Nursery, School
11:00 a.m. - Children-Youth-Adults

BETHEL BAPTIST TEMPLE
29475 W. Six Mile, Livonia
525-3684 or 281-9276

Sunday School 10:00 A.M.
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.
Wed. Family Hour 7:15 P.M.

February 22nd
11:00 a.m. "Second Blessing"
8:00 p.m. "Why Does A Loving God Allow Suffering?"
"A Church That's Concerned About People"

Pastor & Mrs. H.L. Petty

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
5403 S. Wayne Rd. • Wayne, MI
(Between Michigan Ave. & Van Buren Rd.)
(313) 728-2180
Virgil Humes, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Praise Service 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Children, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.



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You don't have to be a great detective to discover the life changing principles taught in church. Principles that will return joy to living. These principles are free to everyone. Join us this Sunday and see what we mean.

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328-0330
Sun. 9 am, 11 am, 6 pm

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FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
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(810) 661-9191

NOW OFFERING TWO WORSHIP SERVICES!
Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages - 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Child Care provided for infants through preschoolers
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EPISCOPAL

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
18360 Hubbard Road
Livonia, Michigan 48154
421-8451

Mon-Fri: 9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 6:00 P.M. Dinner & Classes
Saturday 5:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist

Sunday 7:45 & 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist
10:00 A.M. Christian Education for all ages
Sunday Morning - Nursery Care Available

The Rev. Robert Clapp, Rector

Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Phil. 2:11

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
9083 Newburgh Road • Livonia • 591-0211
The Rev. Emery F. Orsvelle, Vicar

Sunday Services:
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Sunday School
A Barrier Free Facility for the Handicapped

ST. MARTIN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
24699 GRAND RIVER, DETROIT, MI
313-633-3800
Sunday Service 10:15
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• Free Parking

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ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Society of St. Pius X
Traditional Latin Mass

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Priest's Phone (810) 784-9511

Mass Schedules:
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First Sat. 8:30 a.m.
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 9:30 a.m.
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL
1160 Penniman Ave.
Plymouth • 453-0326
Rev. John J. Sullivan

Masses: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 A.M., Sat. 5:00 P.M.
Sunday 8:00, 10:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M.

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
48755 Warren Rd., Canton, Michigan 48187
481-9444
REV. RICHARD A. PERFETTO

Weekly Masses
Tuesday & Friday 8:30 a.m.
Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
9415 Merriman • Livonia
Sunday Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study/Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
School Grades Pre-School - 8
Church & School office: 422-9928

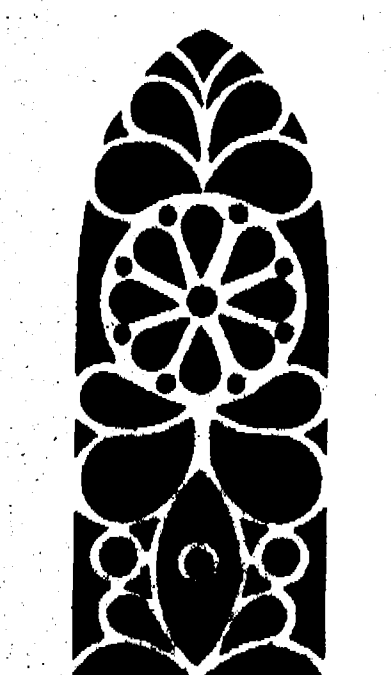
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
17810 Farmington Road • Livonia
(313) 581-1380

May thru October - Sunday Night Service - 7:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.
Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 A.M.

Lola Park Ev. Lutheran Church
14750 Kirkoch • Redford Twp.
532-8655
Pastor Gregory Gibbons

Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class 9:45 a.m.

We accept applications for 1997-98 school year.
WLCV 1500 SUNDAY 10:30 A.M.



RELIGION CALENDAR

Listings for the Religion Calendar should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2131.

HARVEST TIME REVIVAL
Full Gospel Church is hosting a Harvest Time Revival with evangelist Jay Boyd at 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 20-21, and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, at the church, 291 E. Spring St., north of Main Street and east of Mill Street in Plymouth's Old Village. Boyd of Elizabeth, Ky., will preach and minister each night with special singing and worship. For more information, call (734) 453-0323.

EXPERIENCING GOD
Canton Community Church begins its seven-week series "Experiencing God" with Pastor Eric Moore beginning at 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, with the topic "Kingdom Employment" at the church, 41600 Ann Arbor Trail (between Lilley and Haggerty roads), Canton. It continues with "God Speaks" March 1, "Crisis of Belief" on March 8, "God's Chiropractic Clinic" on March 15, "Kindness Outreach Sunday" on March 22 and "Experience Pays" on March 29. For more information, call the church office at (734) 455-6022.

LAS VEGAS NIGHT
St. John Bosco Church will have a Vegas Night 7 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20-21, in Sheltreau Hall, 12170 Beech Daly Road, Redford. There will be games of black jack and Detroit craps, a roulette wheel, hourly 50/50 raffles starting at 8 p.m. and the big 6 wheel. Admission is \$1, with food and beverages available for a cost.

DISCIPLES SEMINAR
Memorial Church of Christ will have a Spiritual Disciples Seminar with Shawn McMullen 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at the church, 35475 Five Mile Road, Livonia. McMullen has had experience with churches in Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky for 20 years and

for the last six years has served as campus minister and dean of students at Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary. The seminar will cover many basic elements of spiritual growth - assimilating the Word of God, prayer, fasting, journaling, spiritual retreat and devotional literature. Lunch will be provided. For more information, call the church office at (734) 464-6722.

TAME GAME DINNER
Faith Lutheran Church will have a Tame Game Dinner at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, in the parish hall of the church, 30000 Five Mile Road, Livonia. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Participants should bring their best "domestic" (or ethnic) main dish and/or dessert. Vegetables, breads and salads will be provided. There will be cartoons for children and a variety of activities for frustrated hunters and fisherspersons. Proceeds will go to a Faith family for medical expenses and the money will be matched by AAL Branch 3177 through its "Helping Hands" program. For more information, call the church office at (734) 421-7249.

BLOOD DRIVE
A Red Cross blood drive, sponsored by Aid Association for Lutherans Branch 5058, will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information, or to register to donate, call the church office at (734) 522-6830.

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST
Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance divorced and separated Christians, will meet at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, to hear Barb Owston speak about "You Are Your Own Best Friend" at St. Kenneth Catholic Church, 14951 Haggerty Road, south of Five Mile Road, Plymouth. There is a \$4 charge. Call Rose at (734) 464-3325 for more information.

The group meets on Sundays for breakfast and Mass - 10 a.m. at the Redford Inn, Five Mile Road west of Beech Daly Road,



Top honor: Joyce Carravallah has been named "Lutheran Woman of the Year" for 1998 by Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church in Redford. Carravallah was among 56 Lutheran women from the Detroit metropolitan area churches and intercongregational organizations to be honored at a luncheon on Jan. 20 at the Royalty in Warren.

Redford, and at 11:15 a.m. at St. Aidan's Church, 17500 Farmington Road (north of Six Mile Road), Livonia - call Val at (734) 729-1974 - for coffee and conversation at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Archie's Family Restaurant, 30471 Plymouth Road (east of Merriman Road), Livonia, and for pinochle at 7 p.m. every other Friday - call Rose.

'BOOK OF LIFE'
The Garden City Assembly of God will present a real life drama, "Is Your Name Written in the Book of Life," at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at the church, 1075 Venoy Road, Garden City.

The drama will be presented by Full Gospel Temple, Gateway Assembly and Taylor Assembly. Admission will be free. For more information, call (734) 421-0476.

MARRIAGE SEMINAR
Dr. Duane Cuthbertson will speak about "How to Correct Your Spouse and Get Away With It" at a marriage enrichment seminar offered at 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, at Calvary Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton.

Cuthbertson is a professor of psychology at William Tyndale College, a conference/seminar speaker and author of "Marriage

Manual" and "Raising Your Child, Not Your Voice." He also is executive director of Growing Together Ministries. For more information, call the church at (734) 455-0022.

QUEST PREACHER
Bishop Ruediger Minor of Moscow will preach at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, 8000 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Appointed in 1992 to a new Episcopal Area for Russia, Minor will share with the congregation the future of the United Methodism in light of the vote of the Duma (Russian Parliament) last September regarding the new religious denominations whose evangelistic efforts have upset the Russian Orthodox Church. Nursery and child care will be provided. For more information, call (313) 875-7407.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
The radio series, "What is This Christian Science and Who Are These Christian Scientists?" is being broadcast at 1:30 p.m. Sundays of WQBH-AM 1400. The topic will be "How do Christian Scientists deal with financial concerns?" on Feb. 22, "How do Christian Scientists feel about recreational drugs such as marijuana, alcohol and tobacco?" on March 1, "How do you know there is a God?" on March 8, "How can a true Christian church be made up of lay members without clergy?" March 15, "How can any religion be scientific?" on March 22 or "If Christian Science heals, why aren't people flocking to it like they flock to material medicine?" on March 29.

"The Christian Science Sentinel-Radio Edition" also can be heard at 9:30 a.m. Sundays on WAAM-AM 1600. The conversational program discusses current public topics as well as shares healing through prayer from people all over the world.

LENTEN SEASON
St. Martin Episcopal Church's Lenten season will start with a children's Mardi Gras pageant at the 10:15 a.m. worship service Sunday, Feb. 22, at the church 24699 Grand River. The church will also have its annual all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage dinner, 5-7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 24. Cost will be \$2 for adults and \$1 for children under age 12. Dinner will be followed by evening prayer at 7:30 p.m.

PANCAKE SUPPER
St. Robert Bellarmine Church will serve a Shrove Tuesday All-You-Can-Eat pancake supper 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, in the Fr. George T. Stromsake Building at the church, 27101 West Chicago, at Inkster Road, Redford. Sponsored by the St. Jude Circle, the cost is \$3.75 for adults, \$3.25 for senior citizens 60 years and older and \$2.75 for children 10 years and under.

DINNER AND WORSHIP
Wednesdays during Lent, St. Paul's Lutheran Church will have a soup and salad dinner 5-7 p.m., followed by worship, at the church, 20805 Middlebelt Road, at Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, a worship service with ashes and communion will be at 7 p.m. Subsequent Lenten services will be titled "We the Jury," a retrial of Jesus. Subpoenaed as witnesses will be Paul on March 4, Mary Magdalene on March 11, Judas on March 18, Nicodemus on March 25 and Caiaphas on April 1. Subpoenaed as members of the jury will be members of St. Paul's.

A free will offering will be accepted for dinner. For more information, call the church at (248) 474-0675.

SISTERHOOD MEETING
The Congregation Beit Kodesh Sisterhood will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the synagogue, 31840 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia. Following the meeting, a video "Yiddish Karaoke" will be shown, featuring a sing-along of old Jewish songs. Guests are invited. Refreshments will be served.

LENTEN SERIES
The Lenten series entitled "By My Hand? For My Sake!" will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays Feb. 25-April 1 at St. James Presbyterian Church's McCallmont Chapel, 25350 W. Six Mile Road, Redford. Each week there will be a different Biblical visitor. Call the church at (313) 534-7730.

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- PMS Institute - http://www.pmainst.com
- WORSHIP**
St. Michael Lutheran Church - http://www.stmichaellutheran.org

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Hoop shoot champions

Six age-group champions were crowned among a field of 65 in the Livonia Parks and Recreation annual Hoops Shoot Contest held Feb. 10, at Frost Middle School.

Mike Allie defeated Steven Robinson, 100-77, win the the Boys 13-14 age group. Deanna DeRoos defeated Sarah Blaine, 73-55, for the Girls 13-14 title.

In the Boys 11-12, Mitchell Jelonek edged Brad Schmidt, 51-50, for the title, while Robin Whalen outscored Roy St. Clair, 45-28, to capture the girls title.

In Girls 9-10, Lauren Trusell topped Carly Gorny, 62-47, while Brad Hodges won the boys over Osama Abulhassan, 87-78.

•On Jan. 24, five teams were crowned in the Livonia Parks and Recreation and Livonia Junior Athletic League local NBA 2-Ball Competition held at Churchill High School.

Winners among the 124-team field included Gregory Neil and Chris Brock (Boys 15-17); Rachel Elbon and Lauren Merian (Girls 12-14); Jon Hamilton and David Hottum (Boys 12-14); Carly Gorny and Amy Troha (Girls 9-11); and Brandon Grieve and Eric Pacifici (Boys 9-11).

Winners advance to represent Livonia in area competition Saturday, Feb. 28, at Southfield High School.

Youth hockey champs

The Livonia Pee Wee AA Knights, coached by Jim Boloven, earned its second straight berth in the state tournament in as many years with a 3-1 win Monday over the Lakeland Hawks at Edgar Arena.

Led by tournament MVP Tony Peraino, the Knights also defeated the Hawks (2-1), Livingston Lightning (6-1) and Plymouth Spaw (3-0).

Other members of the Knights include: Adam Bierly, Tommy Boloven, Justin Dunn, J.T. Katikos, Adam Miller, Roger Moody, Steve Nelson, Jacob Norwood, Jason Price, Chris Ryan, Scott Sparks, Kyle Susewitz, Ryan Vandette and Brett Veasey.

Assistant coaches include Jim Kroetsch, Ted Katikos, Curt Downs, Dave Susewitz and Emil Sparks. The team manager is Ctaig Dunn.

AAU boys hoop tryouts

Boys AAU basketball tryouts for ages 13-and-under will be from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, and Thursday, March 5, at East Middle School in Plymouth.

Participants must be born on or after Sept. 1, 1984. Players who are seventh-graders and born on or after Sept. 1, 1983, are also eligible.

For more information, call Bob de Bear at (313) 459-0543.

Devon-Aire registration

The Devon-Aire Softball Association, celebrating its 40th season this summer, will hold registration for boys and girls ages 7-18 from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, March 3-5, at McKinley Elementary School, 9101 Hillcrest, one block north of Joy Road, in Livonia.

Registration cost are \$30 for the first participant, \$25 for each additional player. Cost includes team shirt, cap, trophies and season-ending picnic.

Practice starts in early May. Each team plays 12-15 games, two evenings per week in June and July. The season climax is the all-star games and picnic only July 25.

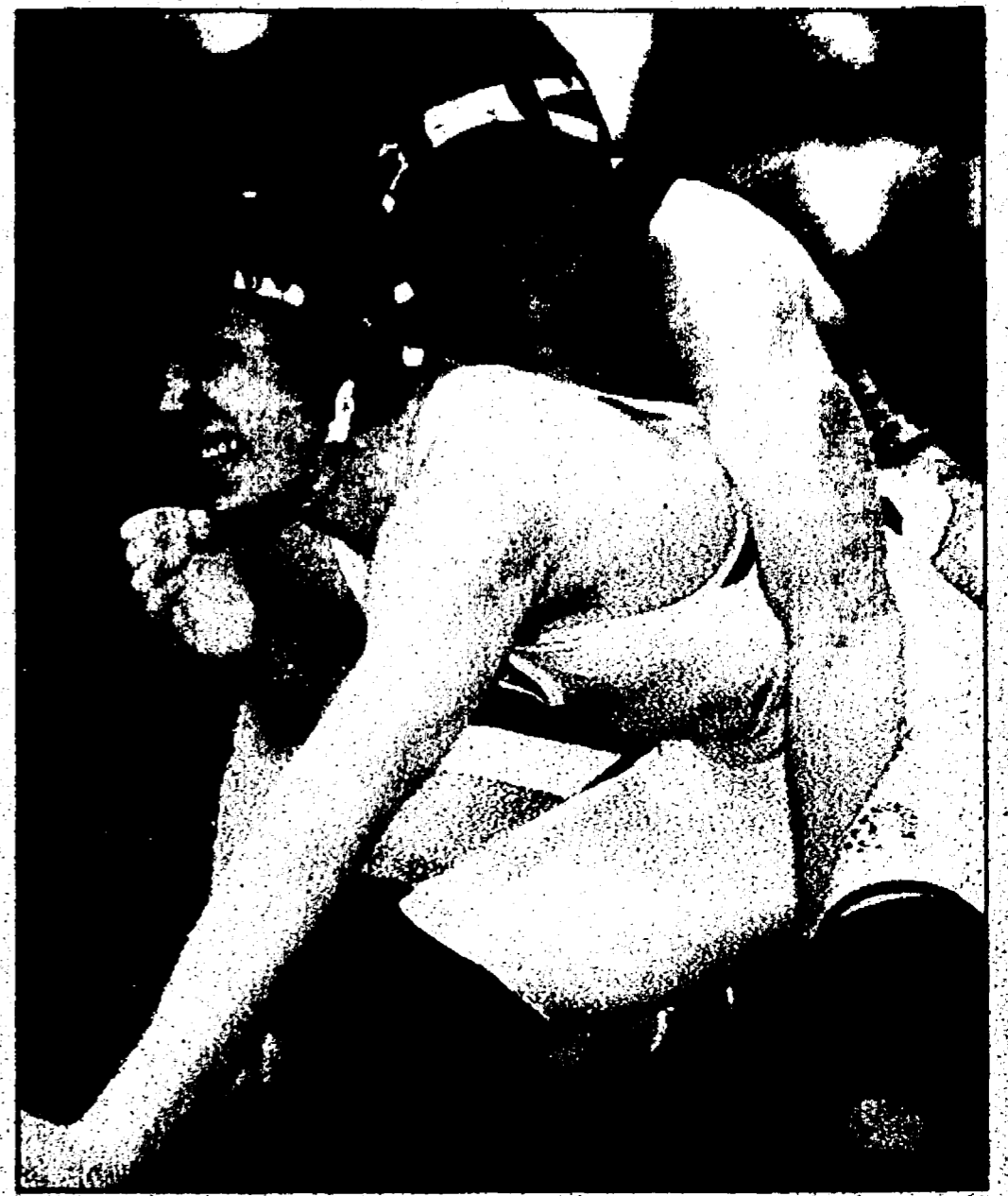
For more information, call (313) 625-5173.

Adult softball leagues

The City of Wayne Parks and Recreation is accepting team registrations from 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m. weekdays at the Wayne Community Center, 4835 Howe Road for the following leagues: Women's (Monday evenings); Men's (Tuesday evenings C-D, Thursday evenings C-D and Friday evenings D-E); Co-Ed (Wednesday evenings and Friday evenings).

The cost is \$395 per team. The cost includes 14-15 games (season starts May 4), one umpire per game, official scorekeeper, playoffs, all-star game, along with league, playoff and all-star awards).

For more information, call Keith Alexander at (734) 721-7400.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BRIAN MITCHELL

Western Lakes meet: Westland John Glenn's John Fedulchak (above photo) stays on top of Walled Lake Western's Norm Wroblewski for an 18-3 decision and the 152-pound title, while Livonia Stevenson's Dan Seder (right photo) edged Farmington's Jerry Lema, 8-7, for the 135-pound crown. See story on page C2.

In like Flint, 90-84

Mott storms back to deny S'craft conference title

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS WRITER

It was all there for the taking. And Schoolcraft College's men's basketball team could feel it. A championship was within the Ocelots' grasp.

But it slipped through their fingers. A 20-point SC lead at the half melted away under the heat of Flint Mott CC's high-intensity defense and red-hot three-point shooting, as the Bears clawed back to claim a 90-84 triumph Wednesday in Flint.

The win assures Mott of at least a share of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Eastern Conference championship. The Bears are 21-5 overall, 13-2 in the conference. SC slipped to 12-3 in the conference, 23-6 overall.

"This is my seventh year here," said Mott coach Steve Schmidt, "and I've never seen anything like this. Schoolcraft is a very good team . . . it's not like they fell apart. It's just that my guys persevered."

"I know it's discouraging for Schoolcraft, but our guys just played well in the second half. That's the best game I've seen at any level."

At halftime, Schmidt's feelings were far different. His Bears scored the game's first seven points, then went napping. With 14 minutes left in the half, they led 14-8.

That's when SC got its game in gear. A 19-1 run pushed the Ocelot lead to 27-15 and had Mott reeling. Poor shooting (12-of-35, 34.3 percent from the field) and turnovers (11) plagued the Bears in the first half.

But not the Ocelots, who converted 21-of-38 first-half shots (55.3 percent) while committing just six turnovers to take a 51-31 advantage into the intermission.

Those numbers were reversed in the second half. For the first six minutes after the break, SC kept Mott in check; the gap was still 19 (61-42). But the tide was turning.

The Ocelots made nine turnovers

before the second half was half over. And Mott, limited to four three-pointers in the first 20 minutes, found its range.

In a span of seven minutes, the Bears outscored SC 30-11 — using six three pointers, four of them by Alex Spivey, to tie it at 72-all with 6:48 to go.

SC never again had the lead. "They stepped up their pressure on defense and they shot the heck out of the ball in the second half," said SC coach Carlos Briggs of Mott's effort. "Our guys did a great job. They gave their hearts to this on Sept. 2, and they played their hearts out tonight."

The Ocelots certainly never gave up. In the final two minutes, they had four chances to forge a tie, but Kevin Melson missed a jump hook from the baseline, and then they committed turnovers on three consecutive possessions.

After Melson's two free throws with 2:19 to play — which narrowed the gap

to 86-84 — the Ocelots did not score again.

Melson's 25 points topped SC. Derek McKelvey added 21, Pete Males (from Garden City) netted 14 and Emeka Okonkwo had 12.

Spivey led all scorers, pouring in 35 for Mott (including eight threes). Eric Thompson had 19.

SC had 16 turnovers in the second half and 22 in the game, shooting 55 percent (32-of-58) from the floor.

Mott had six turnovers in the second half and 17 for the game, and made 19-of-32 floor shots after the break (59.4 percent).

LADY OCELOTS 61, MOTT 55: Theresa Cooper scored 18 points Wednesday to lead the Schoolcraft women past host Flint Mott.

Schoolcraft is now 13-12 overall and 9-6 in the Eastern Conference.

Mott falls to 7-20 and 4-11.

Crissy Harmon and Amber Tackett each chipped in with 10 for the Lady Ocelots, who led 34-27 at intermission.

Michelle Season tallied a game-high 21 for the Lady Bears.

Drabicki: Valpo's leading Crusader

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

You can't blame Mo Drabicki for daydreaming from time to time.

The thought of lining up against a top ten team like Tennessee or a Connecticut has certainly crossed the mind of the 5-foot-6 guard from Valparaiso (Ind.) University.

"I didn't think we'd be doing this well," said Drabicki, a Livonia Stevenson High product, who is leading the Crusaders to their best season since 1991-92 when Valpo finished 20-9. "The NAAs are on the back of my mind, but we're just taking it one game at a time."

The proverbial sports cliché, for sure, but the school's second all-time leader in assists and second leading scorer this season has reason to be optimistic.

The senior has guided Valparaiso to an 18-5 overall record and 12-1 mark heading into tonight's Mid-Continent Conference first-place showdown at 23-2 Youngstown (Ohio) State.

"This season has been great, we're going for 20 wins," said Drabicki, who averages 11 points, while shooting 80 percent from the free throw line, augmented by a team-high six assists per game. "A lot of the girls who were here last year as freshman, and everyone else, has improved. No one stands out, but we're playing great team defense."

Drabicki, the only senior, has led the Crusaders five times in scoring. She matched her career-high with 23 on Feb. 11 in an 81-77 win at Buffalo, earning MCC Player-of-the-Week hon-

ors. "Mo has a good feel for the game," Valparaiso coach Keith Freeman said. "She doesn't turn the ball over, makes good decisions and hits the open man. "She's been very, very valuable. She's worth 40 points a game. Without her we're not in contention for a league title."

Drabicki is not vocal, but prefers to lead by example.

"She's very quiet and that's kind of unusual for a point-guard," Freeman said. "But she has the respect of her teammates. She's been our captain the last two years and has done a good job. And being the only senior, the team looks to her to provide leadership and she doesn't shy away from that."

Freeman said Drabicki, the team leader in steals, is headed for All-MCC post-season honors.

"Nobody in the league can do as many things as she can do," Freeman said. "I can't say enough good things about her. She's been a fine student-athlete and replacing her will be difficult."

Drabicki, who carries a cumulative 3.54 grade-point average in accounting, will graduate on time this spring.

But first there is some unfinished business on the basketball court.

The Crusaders can win an NCAA tournament berth by capturing the MCC playoffs, which start Feb. 28 and conclude March 3 in Moline, Ill.

Valparaiso, employing a fast-break attack and man-to-man defense, has outscored its opponents by an average of 74.6-66.4.



'Mo has a good feel for the game. She doesn't turn the ball over, makes good decisions and hits the open man. She's been very, very valuable. She's worth 40 points a game and without her we're not in contention for a league title.'

Keith Freeman
Valparaiso Coach

The turning point in the season may have occurred Dec. 28 when the Crusaders took on Southeastern Conference foe Arkansas.

Rated as high as sixth in the RPI ratings, Valpo took the Razorbacks to overtime before losing, 77-69.

"That was our biggest game and we got a lot of confidence from that and we've been winning since (12 of 13)," said Drabicki, who averages 31 minutes per game. "We played hard and we held our own, and it gave us a lot of self-confidence."

Drabicki, who led Stevenson to records of 19-2 and 19-4 her junior and senior years, chose Valparaiso over Oakland University and the University of Detroit-Mercy.

But the coach that recruited her, Dave Wolter, abruptly left the program just before the season opened and was replaced by Freeman, who went 16-11, 16-11 and 14-12 in his first three years.

Playing 20 minutes a game her freshman year, Drabicki eventually worked her way into the lineup as a full-time starter her sophomore year.

And she has not missed a start in three seasons, despite going down in the final game of the 1995-96 campaign

with a torn anterior cruciate knee ligament (suffered in the MCC Tournament).

"I did a used a half-crossover move, and then a stutter-step and it went the other way," Drabicki recalls. "It was pretty hard to take, but a lot of people were glad I had the whole summer to rehab."

"But I did not play well until the end of last season."

Drabicki started all 26 games last season, averaging 9.1 points and 4.5 assists per game.

She has since ditched a cumbersome knee brace.

"It's easier to play without it and it's easier to run — before it was hard to drive to the basket," Drabicki said.

And the Valpo coach has noticed a difference.

"She's recovered that quickness and has looked very good," Freeman said. "She's pretty much back normal. But there's still pain in the knee after playing an extended period of time."

Drabicki, who was an All-Area golfer and standout soccer player at Stevenson, plans to return to Livonia following graduation and enter the job mar-

Please see DRABICKI, C3

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING ROUNDUP

Northville trumps Salem to win Western Lakes title

BY DAN O'MEARA

If it was poker and not wrestling, you could say Northville trumped Plymouth Salem's ace in a winner-take-all tournament Saturday. The Mustangs didn't have to wait long to even the score with the Rocks after losing the Western Lakes Activities Association dual-meet title two days earlier to Salem, 33-24. Northville held the better cards Saturday in winning the league tournament and claiming the official WLAA championship. The Mustangs scored 249 1/2 points to win their first WLAA title since 1992, the host Rocks 22 1/2. Walled Lake Western was third (196), defending champion Livonia Stevenson fourth (145 1/2) and Walled Lake Central fifth (99). "If I'm Northville, I think I have to be happy as a pig in mud," Salem coach Ron Krueger said, "and Salem has to be disappointed because all year long we've beaten (state-ranked) teams like Holt, Bay City Western, Clarkston and Swartz Creek. Thursday's (dual) match was for pride. There were no trophies, no medals. Northville is real good. They came back and dominated the tournament more than we did." Krueger added the Mustangs will probably finish higher in the state team tournament, too. "Some people project Northville to get to the final, and I think they'll be there," he said, adding Salem will have to get past Temperance Bedford on its side of the bracket to do the same. While the Rocks had more individual champions (5-4) and defeated the Mustangs in four of five head-to-head meetings for first place, Northville pushed ahead of Salem by scoring points in more weight classes. The Mustangs scored in all but one of the 14 divisions, the Rocks 12. Northville also had eight wrestlers in the championship matches, Salem seven. In addition, the Mustangs had three third-place finishers, one fourth and a fifth; the Rocks had two thirds and one each of fourth, sixth and seventh. "We had guys step up," Northville coach Garnet Potter said. "Guys who didn't get pinned; guys who should have won it. I can't think of a match we lost that we should have won, and that's the key to winning a tournament." There were five repeat champions — Stevenson's Katsuhiko Sueda (112), Northville's Rick Torrence (119), Westland John Glenn's John Fedulchak (152) and Salem's Anwar Crutchfield (160) and Teono Wilson (189). Wilson is the only one of the five to win again at the same weight. The others competed one weight lower in 1997 except for Fedulchak, who was at 140 last year. Northville's other champions are Ted Bowersox (275), Anant Saran (125) and Reggie Torrence (130). Both Torrences won by pin in the finals. "Those are extra points, too," Potter said, adding the Mustangs locked up the team title when 135-pound Chad Neumann finished in third place. In a bout between unbeaten wrestlers, Saran won by technical fall over Walled Lake Central's Scott Aubry, 23-6, to push his record to 32-0. Bowersox, who lost to Salem's

Charlie Hamblin in the dual, 11-4, reversed that decision with a 2-1 victory in overtime. With his team behind in the dual, Bowersox had to pin Hamblin. He was forced to be aggressive from the start and attempt all throws, according to Potter. "He couldn't just wrestle; he sold out for the team," he said. The rematch boiled down to a coin flip, Krueger said, adding Bowersox won the toss, chose the down position in overtime and was able to get an escape. Salem's other winners were John Mervyn (103), Dan Hamblin (140) and James Greene (145). Also winning championships were Stevenson's Dan

WESTERN LAKES TOURNAMENT RESULTS

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION 1998 WRESTLING TOURNAMENT Feb. 14 at Plymouth Salem

Team scores: 1. Northville, 249.5; 2. Plymouth Salem, 221.5; 3. Walled Lake Western, 196; 4. Livonia Stevenson, 145.5; 5. Walled Lake Central, 99; 6. Farmington, 93; 7. Westland John Glenn, 88.5; 8. Livonia Churchill, 83; 9. Plymouth Canton, 75; 10. Farmington Harrison, 65; 11. Livonia Franklin, 61; 12. North Farmington, 29.

128: Anant Saran (NV) by technical fall over Scott Aubry (WLC), 23-6; third: Josh Henderson (PS) dec. Trevor Clarke (NF), 8-2; fifth: Derrick Smith (WLV) dec. Eric McMichael (JG), 9-0; seventh: Steve Vesiloff (LC) dec. Chris Auerette (F), 10-2.

171: Dan Thompson (WLV) dec. Vinnie Ascione (LC), 7-2; third: John Demick (PC) pinned Ryan Giles (NV), 0-33; fifth: Steve Myrialnik (LF) by default over Pete Langer (JG); seventh: Mike Radley (LS) dec. Ben Lukas (F), 6-5.

Stevenson's Sueda gets high marks in class, on mat

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK

There are students in high school, there are athletes and there are scholars. Katsuhiko Sueda of Livonia Stevenson is one of the rarest — a scholar-athlete. He exemplifies what learning is all about. He's learned how to set aside time for study, disciplined himself to accept the rigors and sacrifices that must be made to become a top-flight athlete and discovered the joys that come from expanding one's horizons. Not only does the senior Spartan have a grade point average above 4.0 (on a 4-point scale), he's also an exceptional varsity athlete. Sueda is finishing up his fourth season as a varsity wrestler, beginning the state

high school individual districts on Saturday. Next fall he'll be making the most difficult transition of all — going from Spartan to Wolverine as he begins collegiate life at the University of Michigan. What he'll major in, Sueda isn't sure, according to Stevenson assistant wrestling coach Bob Moreau. "I've sat down and talked to him about that. But he doesn't know right now. "He's got a brother attending Michigan right now who played soccer at (Livonia) Churchill. Whether Sueda will wrestle at Michigan isn't certain, either. It's the least of the reasons why he's going to college. He's hopeful of getting an academic scholarship. Sueda, of Japanese descent, is wrestling at 112 pounds this year after competing at 103

PROFILE

pounds as a junior and sophomore. Last season he was runner-up in the state at 103 pounds. It will be tough to reach that level at 112 pounds, but it's possible. He wrestled at barely over 80 pounds as a freshman. What's that you say? There is no 80-pound weight category in wrestling? Correct. But Sueda wrestled at 80 pounds anyway — only in the 103-pound weight category. Needless to say he wasn't thrown into that battle only but a couple of times. Sueda will take a 35-3 record into this season's state meet along with an overall high school record of 128-23 through Satur-

day action. He recently won his third Western Lakes Activities Association title in a row. "He's very quiet, a silent leader on our team," Moreau said. "I'd say he leads by example. "He's really, really a great kid to coach. He's dedicated. He never misses practices. "He and Dan Seder, another of our four senior co-captains, pretty much have wrestled year round. They went to wherever there was open wrestling at other schools." Among his personal accomplishments this year are a second in the Trenton tournament, first at Garden City's tournament, first in the Plymouth Salem tournament and third at the Detroit Catholic Central Invitational — the first time in two years he didn't make it to

the finals of a tournament. He also won the Observerland Tournament in his weight class. Moreau knew Sueda was going to be special the first time he saw the undersized youngster battling on the mats. "You just knew he was somebody who had talent," the Stevenson assistant coach said. "He was really slick. "I nicknamed him 'K' that first year, because I couldn't pronounce his first name. He wrestled underweight as a sophomore by maybe five pounds." Last season Sueda led the Spartans takedowns, escapes and reversals. He is likely to do so again this season. "We're not just proud of his wrestling ability," Moreau said, "but also of what he does in school. 'K' really excels academically.



Katsuhiko Sueda Livonia Stevenson "He's one of a kind. Scholar athletes like him don't come around every day. He deserves all the recognition he can get. He gets it, too. Every time he steps into a classroom — or onto a mat.

WAYNE COUNTY COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Committee on Health & Human Services Committee will hold a public hearing on an ordinance to establish environmental health standards for the conduct of body arts procedures, to regulate the establishment and practice of body arts services; to authorize the environmental health division to enforce these standards and regulations by inspection, licensing of practitioners and permitting for body art establishments; to provide for suspension and revocation of licenses and permits; and to provide for misdemeanor and civil infraction penalties for violations and certain requirements and prohibitions of this ordinance.

Trojans runner-up in Metro

Observerland teams Livonia Clarenceville and Lutheran High Westland each made strong showings Saturday in the Metro Conference wrestling tournament finishing second and third, respectively. Harper Woods, ranked among the state's top teams in Division IV with a 17-0 dual meet record, won the Metro at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook with a team-high 198.5 points. Clarenceville was second with 163.5 followed by Lutheran Westland (150.5), Cranbrook (113), Macomb Lutheran North (99), Harper Woods Lutheran East (94.5) and Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest (8). "We were seeded third and wound up second, just an excellent day," Clarenceville coach Todd Skinner said. "Overall we really wrestled well." Clarenceville, enjoying its best season since 1982, took home two individual titles and three runner-up finishes. Sophomore Danny Tondreau (103 pounds) avenged two earlier defeats to Lutheran Westland's Ben Brown to gain the title, 9-5. Junior Walter Ragland (189) won his division for the second straight year, raising his record to 31-8 with 23-8 a technical fall over Mike Schienke of Lutheran North. At 130 pounds, Lutheran Westland's Andrew Ebendick outlasted Clarenceville's Dave Lemmon with a pin in 5:31. At 160, Clarenceville Tony Ragoza edged Will Jones of East in the semifinals, 9-8, before losing to Richard Eriksson of Harper Woods in the championship, 8-2. The Trojans' Dan LeClerc, who fell to Dave Johnson of Lutheran North, a pin in 4:01, in the 135 final. LeClerc earlier upset second seed Ryan Deramo of Harper Woods, 11-9. Josh Rose (215) lost a heart-breaker in the finals to Brian Walsh of Lutheran North, 4-2, in overtime. Clarenceville third places went to Eric Tondreau (125), who decisioned Micah Bear of Lutheran Westland, 14-9; Matt Wehl (140), who decisioned John Vlahakis of Harper Woods, 4-2 (in overtime); Adam Marcum (171), who pinned Matt

Franklin of East in 30 seconds; and Mike Manning (heavyweight), who pinned Matt Barranca of Harper Woods in 3:53. Heavyweight Matt Meyer of Lutheran Westland pinned In-Gil Lee of Cranbrook in 4:26 for the Warriors' other individual crown. The Warriors also had four other runner-ups: Eric Falkenberg (119) fell to Scott Lincoln of East, 16-12; Ryan Moser (145), who fell to Justin Dattilo of Harper Woods, 13-7; Jason Hempel (152), who was pinned by Brian Veresa of Harper Woods in 1:17; and Scott Archer (171), who was pinned by Harper Woods' Mike June in 2:33. DUAL MEET RESULTS LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE 42 HARPER WOODS LUTHERAN EAST 34 Feb. 11 at Clarenceville 103 pounds: Danny Tondreau (C'ville) p. Rudy Dominick, 1:48; 112: Will Jurczak (LE) won by default; 119: Sanjeen Mahabir (LE) won by default; 126: Eric Tondreau (C'ville) won by default; 130: Dave Lemmon (C'ville) p. John Lawrence, 1:39; 140: John Jones (LE) dec. Matt Wehl, 8-0; 148: Ben Wells (LE) p. Steve Morris, 1:52; 152: Matt Agar (C'ville) p. Brad Smith, 5:43; 160: Bill Jones (LE) dec. Tony Ragoza, 8-8; 171: Adam Marcum (C'ville) p. Matt Franklin, 0:41; 189: Walter Ragland (C'ville) p. Jerry Petz, 1:01; 215: Drew Sobinowski (LE) p. Steve Rotenheiser, 1:20; heavyweight: Josh Rose (C'ville) p. Gwayland McClenney, 1:05. Clarenceville's dual meet record: 99-1 overall.

CC wins Catholic title

Even in a year when its dual meet record doesn't reflect it, the Redford Catholic Central wrestling team is still the class of the Catholic League. The Shamrocks, who have a 7-13 record against one of the toughest schedules in the state, had four champions and finished with 169 points. "Host Birmingham Brother Rice was second (146.50), followed by Orchard Lake St. Mary's (143.50), Madison Heights Bishop Foley (110), Harper Woods Notre Dame (80) and Dearborn Divine Child (55). Junior heavyweight Casey Rogowski remained undefeated in 38 matches and was named Most Valuable Wrestler after beating St. Mary's Andrew Tippins, 9-2, in the finals. CC coach Mike Rodriguez said Rogowski's chances of advancing far in the state tournament get better each week. "Casey's going to beat a lot of people," Rodriguez said. "He has a heart of a champion, is a terrific athlete. You don't quit easy on yourself when you're an outstanding athlete." Rogowski's sparring partner in practice, junior Brocc Naysmith, won at 189 pounds. Naysmith, 32-2 overall, beat St. Mary's Andy McDonald, 13-2 in the finals. "Brocc and Casey beat each other up every day," Rodriguez said. "Neither one is that much bigger than the other. They come out even, split right down the road." Rodriguez said 130-pounder Ron Sarada provided the difference, winning his division with a pin over Phil Abejean in 1:28. The win was a pleasant surprise for the Sham-

rocks because Sarada had to beat Jeff Wheeler in practice two out of three matches just to get in the lineup. "He sealed it for us," Rodriguez said. "Jeff Wheeler's been beating Sarada until the last week. He hasn't been a regular." "It makes a big difference when you pin the first-round through," Rodriguez said. The Shamrocks' other individual champion was sophomore Mitch Hancock, who beat Rice's Jeremy Barrios, 12-7, to win at 135. Hancock pinned three of the four opponents he faced. Rodriguez was also pleased by the performance of captain Matt Petersen, who reached the finals at 170 pounds before losing to Rice's Kevin Herrington, 11-6. It was only Petersen's fifth outing of the year as a shoulder injury has hampered his progress. "He's a slick young man, a real true captain," Rodriguez said. "He made it all the way to the finals but couldn't gut it out anymore." The Shamrocks are favored to win today at Southfield Lathrup in the Division I team district. They open with Southfield with the winner taking on Lathrup. Rodriguez is encouraged by his team's progress, which includes a 50-45 loss last Thursday to one of the top teams in the state — Clarkston. "The guys are just starting to come around," Rodriguez said. "We have a good shot to get there (the state tournament) for the first time in some time. We've been shelled all year long, now they're starting to come around."

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Madonna red-hot in win vs. Saints

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

The first half was all Madonna University needed to post a 77-61 triumph over Siena Heights in a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference women's basketball game Saturday at Madonna.

The Lady Crusaders improved their WHAC record to 6-5; they are 16-12 overall. Siena Heights fell to 12-17 overall, 3-7 in the WHAC.

While the Saints shot decently from the field in the first half, converting 12-of-28 shots (42.9 percent), Madonna was hot, making 17-of-33 (51.5 percent) — including 8-of-15 three pointers (53.3 percent). That enabled the Crusaders to open up a 45-27 lead by the intermission.

Angie Negri scored all 12 of her points in the first half, with two triples (in five attempts). Chris Dietrich got 11 of her 15 points in the opening half, and Dawn Pelc — who led all scorers with 16 points — had eight in the first half.

Michelle Miela added 12 points in the game. Dietrich, Negri and Katie Cushman each dished out six assists, with Negri and Cushman getting four steals apiece.

Bevin Malley and Dana Falke each scored 12 points to lead Siena Heights.

Madonna also forced 22 turnovers while committing just 10.

•SIENA HEIGHTS 115, MADONNA 83 (men): The second meeting with the WHAC's top team wasn't much better for Madonna University.

Losers by 44 points in their first meeting at Madonna Jan. 21, the Fighting Crusaders narrowed the gap (to 32) — but they still got walloped Saturday at Siena Heights.

Six players reached double-figures in scoring for the Saints, who improved to 23-6 overall and to 8-2 in the WHAC: Steve Bennett (25), Rob Camperlino (16), Byron Johnson (14), Justin Bascom (13), Plymouth Salem grad Dan McKian (12) and Anthony Staffney (10). Two others, Sam Lofton and Chadvis Carroll, had nine apiece.

Also, Bascom got 14 rebounds and Staffney had six assists and five steals.

Madonna, which slipped to 4-22 overall, 3-8 in the WHAC, was paced by Mark Hayes, with 21 points; John-Mark Branch, with 17 (and 10 rebounds); Narvin Rusaw, with 16; and Nick Hurley (from Plymouth Canton), with 11.

Siena Heights led 61-46 at halftime.

Drabicki from page C1

ket. Last summer she stayed at home, playing Sunday nights, lifting weights and working camps at Madonna University. Her parents, Dennis and Estelle, make most of her home games despite the 3½-hour drive Valparaiso. The MCC also has some quirky road trips to such venues as Southern Utah State, Missouri-Kansas City and Buffalo. "We have a lot of fun traveling as a team, it's not bad at all," Drabicki said. "And professors are good to us about missing class. We know all the professors

and lot of them come out and support us at the games." And Drabicki has no regrets about her decision to play for Valpo. "The coaches are great and everyone gets along," she said. "You hear a lot of girls from other teams complain about their coach, but I have nothing but good things to say about my coach." The only thing missing is an Mid-Continent playoff championship and a trip to the big dance, the NCAA tournament. And right now that dream doesn't seem to be so far-fetched.

WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
 Thursday, Feb. 19
 W.L. Central at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
 Friday, Feb. 20
 Clerenceville at Luth. East, 7 p.m.
 Luth. Westland at Liggett, 7 p.m.
 Garden City at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
 Thurston at Wyandotte, 7 p.m.
 Northville at Franklin, 7 p.m.
 Salem at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
 Canton at Harrison, 7 p.m.
 Farmington at N. Farm., 7 p.m.
 Church Hill at W.L. Western, 7:30 p.m.
 Wayne at Inkster, 7:30 p.m.
 Huron Valley at Bethesda, 7:30 p.m.
 Baptist Pk. at Ply. Christian, 7:30 p.m.
 Sunday, Feb. 22
 (CHSL Central AA Tourney at U-D Money's O'Brien Hall)
 DePue vs. Notre Dame, noon.
 Aquinas vs. Brother Rice, 1:45 p.m.
 Redford CC vs. Divine Child, 3:30 p.m.
 Borgess vs. O.L. St. Mary's, 5 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
 Saturday, Feb. 21
 Macomb at Schoolcraft, 3 p.m.
 Oakland at Flint Mott, 3 p.m.
 Madonna at Aquinas, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
 Saturday, Feb. 21
 Macomb at Schoolcraft, 1 p.m.
 Aquinas at Madonna, 3 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
 Thursday, Feb. 19
 Whalers at Windsor, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Feb. 21
 Whalers vs. S.S. Marie at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.
 Sunday, Feb. 22
 Whalers vs. Oshawa at Compuware Arena, 8:30 p.m.
PPPP HOCKEY
 Thursday, Feb. 19
 Franklin vs. S.H. Leiser at Detroit Skating Club, 8 p.m.
 Redford Union vs. W.L. Western at Redford Ice Arena, 8:30 p.m.
 Friday, Feb. 20
 Stevenson vs. Milford at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
 Saturday, Feb. 21
 Franklin vs. Milford at Lakeland Arena, 5:20 p.m.
 Redford Union at Troy, 7:30 p.m.
 Redford CC vs. Brother Rice at Redford Ice Arena, 8 p.m.
GPRLS VOLLEYBALL
 Thursday, Feb. 19
 Huron Valley vs. Bethesda at Livonia St. Paul's, 6 p.m.
 Luth. North at Clarenceville, 6 p.m.
 Inter-City at Ply. Christian, 7 p.m.
 W.L. Western at Churchill, 7 p.m.
 CHSL C-D final at Madonna, 5:30 p.m.
 (CHSL A-B Division Championship)
 Ladywood vs. Marian, at Madonna University, 7 p.m.
 Friday, Feb. 20
 Huron Valley at Agape, 5:45 p.m.
 Saturday, Feb. 21
 Fraser Tournament, 8 a.m.
 Ypellant Invitational, 8 a.m.
 UM-Dearborn Tournament, 9 a.m.

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Zebras earn win at Huron; Belleville upsets CC, 78-72

Wayne Memorial ended years of futility Tuesday at Ann Arbor Huron, handing the host River Rats a 55-40 boys basketball loss as senior guard Brian Williams poured in a game-high 20 points.

The Zebras, now 9-7 overall, had not won ever at Huron under veteran coach Chuck Henry. And at least on two different occasions, the host River Rats had knocked Wayne from the unbeaten ranks.

Williams had 11 points in the third quarter as Wayne extended a 24-17 halftime lead to a 41-31 advantage.

Jamar Davis added 13 points, including four 3-pointers for the winners. Reddick Borkins contributed nine.

Leyar Sommerville and Rotoleu Adebisi each had 10 for Huron, which fell to 12-3 overall.

•SALEM 70, CHURCHILL 42: Using a balanced attack in which 11 different players scored, Plymouth Salem clinched at least a tie for the top seed in the Western Lakes Activities Association playoffs with a win Tuesday at Livonia Churchill.

Andy Power, a senior point-guard, led the Rocks (13-3, 9-1) with 16 points.

Bhavian Patel contributed 10, while Tony Jancevski chipped in with nine.

Jeff McKian collected seven assists and had four steals. Churchill, which trailed 38-24 at halftime, got a team-high 10 points from George Kithas.

The Chargers, who did not attempt a free throw, fell to 6-10 overall and 5-5 in the WAAA.

•JOHN GLENN 49, W.L. WESTERN 40: A 28-18 second-half run carried Westland John Glenn (10-6, 8-2) to the WAAA win Tuesday at Walled Lake Western (8-8, 5-5).

Bill Foder and Eric Jones paced the winners with 14 and 10 points, respectively. Stephen Lawson added nine.

Ben Dewler led the Warriors with 11 points.

•LAKELAND 51, STEVENSON 34: Livonia Stevenson went scoreless in the second period Wednesday, as host White Lake-Lakeland earned the non-league victory.

Dan Bohr and Jason Maes scored 14 and 13, respectively for the Eagles, while Mike Blazaitis countered with eight for the Spartans (0-16).

•BELLEVILLE 78, REDFORD CC 72: Senior guard John Edwards tallied 15 points and sophomore guard Kevin Harrison contributed 14 to lead the host Tigers (6-10 overall) upset Catholic League Central Division champion Redford Catholic Central (13-3 overall) for the second straight year.

Chris Young, a 6-foot-9 senior center headed to Michigan, scored a game-high 30 points.

•LUTHERAN WESTLAND 71, URBAN 60: On Tuesday, senior guard Dustin Campbell and junior forward Ryan Ollinger each tallied 14 points to pace host Lutheran Westland (7-8 overall) to the non-league win over Detroit Urban Lutheran (2-14).

Junior forward Tom Habitz contributed 11 points for the Warriors, who led 40-30 at intermission.

Alan Tinsley scored a game-high 18 points for the



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN DEAN

Inside Job: Walled Lake Western's Jack Teasdale (left) tries to slide past Westland John defender Ty Haygood.

Vikings, who made just five of 17 free throws.

Lutheran Westland was 12 of 25 from the line.

•LUTHERAN NORTH 72, CLARENCEVILLE 59: Livonia Clarenceville junior guard Albert Deljosevic poured in a game-high 37 points, including eight 3-pointers, but it wasn't enough Tuesday as the Macomb Lutheran North came away with the Metro Conference win.

North is now 7-9 overall and 7-6 in the Metro, while Clarenceville drops to 5-10 and 3-10.

Junior David Schwark paced the victorious Mustangs, with 24 points and eight rebounds.

•HURON VALLEY 58, BURTON VALLEY 55: Jeremy Zahn's 17 points lifted Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (4-13 overall) to the non-league triumph Tuesday over Burton Valley Christian (5-11) in a game played at Marshall Middle School.

Tom Husby added 15 points for the victorious Hawks, who outscored Valley Christian 28-17 in the decisive fourth quarter.

Alan Kleinke and Brian Johnson each chipped in with nine points.

Jerry Croff led the Eagles with 15, while Kevin Weiler added 12.

Huron Valley was 17 of 27 from the line, while Burton Valley was 19 of 35.

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Whalers streaking

Make that three in a row. And one back.

The Plymouth Whalers concluded an immensely successful weekend by routing the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds (thanks to Andrew Taylor's hattrick), 7-2 Sunday in Sault Ste. Marie.

The win was the third-straight for the Whalers, and it accomplished just what they hoped it would: Both Plymouth and the London Knights, leaders of the Ontario Hockey League's West Division, have now played 54 games.

The victories pulled the Whalers to within a point of the leaders; London is 32-18-4 for 68 points, Plymouth is 31-18-5 for 67 points.

The Whalers also did just what coach Peter DeBoer wanted them to — win the games they're supposed to win.

After raising their level of play to beat the Peterborough Petes 3-2 (thanks to two third-period goals) Thursday at Compuware, the Whalers completely dominated Toronto St. Michaels Majors, shutting them out 6-0 Saturday at Compuware, and the Greyhounds Sunday.

Against the Majors, the Whalers put five goals on the board in the

OHL HOCKEY

first period, by five different players. Yuri Babenko was one of them; he added a second goal in the third period, giving him 19 for the season.

Jesse Boulerice opened the scoring with a goal (his 17th) just 29 seconds into the game. He also had three assists. Steve Wasylo and Nikos Tselios contributed a goal and an assist each, Eric Gooldy got three assists, and David Legwand got a goal, his 46th.

Robert Holsinger was in goal for the shutout; he turned away 28 shots from the Majors in earning his second shutout of the season.

At Sault Ste. Marie Sunday, the Whalers spotted the Greyhounds a 1-0 lead early in the game. But a goal by Taylor with 3:22 left in the first period evened the score, and another by Sergei Fedotov with just 49 seconds remaining put Plymouth ahead to stay.

Another goal by Taylor and one from OHL Player-of-the-Week Harold Druken (his 30th) in the second period cemented the Whalers' victory. Taylor completed his hattrick in the third period, giving him 26 goals on the season.

Team	W	L	T	Pts.
Ottawa 67s	33	14	8	74
Belleville Bulls	33	20	2	68
Kingston Frontenacs	30	21	4	64
Oshawa Generals	22	28	5	49
Peterborough Petes	17	30	7	41
Toronto St. M. Majors	13	33	9	35

Division	W	L	T	Pts.
Central Division	35	17	5	75
North Division	32	18	4	68
South Division	24	23	5	56
West Division	22	32	5	49
Owen Sound Platers	22	29	4	48
North Bay Centennials	14	37	6	34

Division	W	L	T	Pts.
London Knights	32	18	4	68
Plymouth Whalers	31	18	5	67
Sarnia Sting	27	18	9	63
Erie Otters	27	26	4	58
Windsor Spitfires	18	34	4	40
SSM Greyhounds	15	31	7	37

Steve Wasylo, who also had an assist, and Legwand (his league-leading 47th) also got goals.

Druken also had three assists in the game and Legwand, Boulerice and Paul Mara each had two.

Robert Esche was in goal for the victory; he made 16 saves, making his record 24-11-2 and his goals-against average 2.93.

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY ROUNDUP

Spartans earn tourney split at East Kentwood

Livonia Stevenson's hockey team became a little older and wiser after a two-game swing against a pair of state-ranked teams at last weekend's East Kentwood Classic.

The Spartans, ranked eighth in Class A, defeated No. 10 Port Huron Northern on Friday, 6-5.

In Saturday's championship game, No. 4 Grosse Pointe South got a hat trick from Adam Whitehead to beat the Spartans, 5-3.

"It was good competition and a good learning experience," said Stevenson coach Mike Harris, whose team is 15-6-1 overall. "I'm pretty happy with the performance. Grosse Pointe South was a quality opponent."

"We just need to make a few adjustments and tighten up a little between the pipes for a strong finish."

Stevenson led from start to finish against Port Huron Northern.

short-handed goal from Wilson. Lang got the final goal from Fawkes and Mike McCowan.

Stevenson was outshot 32-17.

In the other games, South reached the final with a 6-3 win over East Kentwood. The consolation final went to East Kentwood, 3-1, over Port Huron Northern.

CHURCHILL 11, REDFORD UNION 3: B.J. Teahan scored three goals and added two assists Monday, leading Livonia Churchill to the Suburban High School Hockey League South Division win over host Redford Union at Redford Ice Arena.

Churchill is 16-4-3 overall and finished 11-1-2 in the division. RU falls to 3-16-1 and 1-11-1.

Matt Grant added two goals and one assist, while Antti Kervinen had two goals and one assist.

Matt Wysocki and Dan Cook each chipped in with a goal and two assists. Felix Jentzsch had a short-handed goal and one assist. Jason Turri also scored for the Chargers.

Churchill led 4-0 in the second period when RU answered with goals from Mike Karath, Tim Kennedy and Joel Halliday to pull within one.

But the Chargers answered with six unanswered goals to put the game away.

Dwayne Jones and Greg Sliwka split time in goal for Churchill.

FRANKLIN 8, DEXTER 1: Senior Greg Job notched a hat trick and goaltender Dan Huizar preserved a 2-0 first-period lead by stopping a penalty shot as the Patriots (11-8-2) won a non-league Saturday against the host Dreadnaughts.

Job, who also had an assist, now has 51 points on the year.

Chad VanHulle, Tony Saia, Scott Waara and Brandon McCullough also tallied goals for Franklin, which led 7-0 after two periods and outshot Dexter, 59-13.

Eric Keleman, Jeff Job and Dave Tyler chipped in with two assists, while Adam Sexton, Trevor Skocen, Saia and McCullough had one apiece.

"It was nice to have six different goal scorers," Franklin coach Terry Jobbitt said. "The team worked fairly well, but we took too many dumb penalties and played most of the third-period short-handed. We must improve to win our next four games."

Division	W	L	T	Pts.
South Division	13	1	0	26
Livonia Stevenson	11	1	2	24
Northville	6	3	2	14
Livonia Franklin	5	7	2	12
Northville	4	6	1	9
Walled Lake Central	3	8	1	7
Walled Lake Western	2	8	1	5
Redford Union	1	11	1	3

Division	W	L	T	Pts.
North Division	13	1	0	26
Royal Oak Unified	13	2	0	26
Clarkston	13	2	0	26
Birmingham Unified	11	2	0	22
Waterford Mott	7	8	1	15
Bloomfield Andover	6	6	2	14
Waterford Kettering	5	9	2	12
Troy Unified	5	8	1	11
Bloomfield Lahser	3	9	2	8
Southfield Unified	0	16	0	0

CHURCHILL 5, W.L. CENTRAL 1: On Saturday, the Chargers broke up a close game by outscoring host Walled Lake Central 4-1 in the final period in a game played at the Lakeland Ice Arena.

The loss dropped Central to 6-14-2 overall and 3-8-1 in the South.

Ed Rossetto scored twice for the winners, including a short-handed goal at 1:41 of the third from Chuck Leight.

Frank Furdero, Dan Cook and Leight also scored goals for the Chargers.

Jason Turri had two assists, while Antti Kervinen, Tom Sherman, Matt Wysocki, Matt Grant, Anton Sutovsky and Leight had one apiece.

Greg Sliwka went all the way in goal for Churchill.

CRANBROOK 4, REDFORD CC 1: This is one of the close ones that got away from the Shamrocks.

Redford Catholic Central (13-3-2 overall) never led against Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (15-0 overall) and saw a 2-1 game turn into the final score during the final 5:35.

Dustin Kim, Johnny Kim, Rick Clark and Mike Lipa scored goals for the Cranes.

The Cranes got a goal at 9:25 of the third period to expand their lead to 3-1 and added an empty netter by Lipa at 14:22 Saturday at Redford Arena.

The Shamrocks got their only goal off the stick of Brandon Kalenlecki, assisted by Erik Hawkins and Ian Devlin, to tie the score at 5:53 of the second period.

The game was scoreless through one period and Cranbrook had a 2-1 lead after two.

Shots on goal were 25-12 in favor of

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Blazers to defend title vs. Marian

Livonia Ladywood is shooting for its seventh straight Catholic League A-B Division girls volleyball title beginning at 7 tonight when the Blazers face nemesis Birmingham Marian in the championship match at Madonna University.

Marian is the only team to beat Ladywood in a Catholic League match during that seven-year span.

On Monday, the Blazers reached the finals by trimming Madison Heights Bishop Foley, 15-6, 15-11.

Jenny Lachapelle led the way with 11 kills and Jenny Young added five. Sarah Poglits and Katie Brogan were errorless on 10 serves with Poglits getting four aces.

Lachapelle was mistake-free on 15 service receptions. Poglits set up 20 balls in 48 attempts with just three errors.

Franklin scuttles Glenn

Livonia Franklin went to Westland and trimmed John Glenn, 15-8, 15-2, Monday night in WLAA action.

"It was senior night," Coach Stacy Graham of John Glenn said. "My seniors did a nice job. They all started and played the entire first game."

Megan Brady recorded three service aces, Jamie Barker had nine digs, Noelle Schwartz five digs and Jessie Pickup three digs.

The Rockets dropped to 2-9 in league play.

Junior Paula Sancho came and contributed two kills in five attempts without an error and also added three digs to Franklin's attack. Captain Brooke Hensman had seven kills.

Sophomore Tera Morrill had three kills in five attempts with no errors and also served three aces. Sophomore Andrea Kmet had six kills without an error in 11 attempts. She also had two aces and three blocks.

Sophomore Lyndsay Sopko made 16 assists in 22 set attempts.

The Patriots are 18-12-5 overall and 6-3 in Western Lakes action.

Patriots OK in tourney

Livonia Franklin put a smile on Coach Ann Hutchins' face with its play in the Temperance-Bedford Tournament.

"We played much better than we have in quite awhile," Hutchins said. "We really challenged the really good teams."

"We lost to Temperance-Bedford's junior varsity but Bedford doesn't let anything hit the floor."

"And they play defense better on the JV team than they do on the varsity. At any rate, we played with much more intensity."

Franklin lost to Livonia Ladywood, 15-12, 15-3 at the start of pool play, then fell to Bedford's JV team, 15-12, 15-5.

The Patriots defeated Adrian, 15-

VOLLEYBALL

8, 15-9, and split with Burton Atherton, 12-15 and 15-13.

Junior Nicole Boyd made 17 kills with just four errors and sophomore setter Lyndsay Sopko had 44 assists plus nine blocks.

Junior setter Lindsay Duprey had 18 assists and made only one error in 22 serve attempts.

Melanie Maxwell had two aces, sophomore Tera Morrill had 14 with only one error and made 10 kills plus eight blocks. Brooke Hensman had a team high 23 kills with only three errors and also had 12 blocks.

Churchill prevails

Calling it "Our best all-around match of the year," coach Mike Hughes' Livonia Churchill team won a WLAA match Monday at Plymouth Canton, 15-8, 15-9.

Susan Hill led an outstanding defensive effort with 14 digs.

Lisa Fabirkiewicz and Beth Rutkowski each had 10 kills, while Jessica Sherman and Jenny Duncan chipped in with eight each.

In Saturday's Bedford Tourney, Churchill split three matches in pool play — Ann Arbor Huron (15-8, 11-15), Livonia Stevenson (15-8, 4-15) and Battle Creek Central (15-13, 0-15).

Bedford overcame a 10-2 second-game deficit to beat the Chargers, 15-7, 15-12.

Setters Jenny Laidlaw, who had 70 assists and just two errors, and Kristin Leszczynski, who stood out in the second game vs. Bedford, received from Hughes.

Luba Steca was the top hitter on the day with 25 kills. Lauren Ruprecht and Jessica Sherman contributed 24 and 18, respectively.

Duncan had 30 digs for Chargers (16-13-9).

Nemesis tops Blazers

Maybe Ladywood won't have to face Temperance-Bedford in the state high school volleyball tournament.

The Blazers met the Kicking Mules for the second time in as many weekend tournaments and for the second time the result was the same — a Temperance-Bedford victory.

Last weekend, in the Bedford Tournament, the host team took a 15-13, 15-11 decision in the finals.

The weekend before, in the Schoolcraft Invitational, Temperance-Bedford won by a 15-3, 15-11 margin. Bedford also won during a December matchup.

So maybe a fourth meeting would be the charm for the Blazers?

Sarah Poglits had 56 kills for Ladywood in the tournament with Jenny Young right behind at 49.

Katie Brogan served 19 aces in the

tournament with just three errors.

Brogan also excelled defensively with 94 service receptions with five errors while Jenny Lachapelle had 68 and MaryLu Hemme 46.

Poglits did a fine job of setting with 111 in 268 attempts. Brogan had 29.

Hemme led the team with 13 blocks.

Lachapelle made 36 digs, Brogan 32, Hemme 28 and both Young and Tracey DeWitt had 15 apiece.

In pool play, Ladywood toppled Livonia Franklin (15-12, 15-3), Burton Atherton (15-1, 15-2), Bedford JV (15-6, 15-10) and Adrian (15-8, 15-6).

In the elimination round, Ladywood ousted Atherton (15-3, 15-6) and Battle Creek Central (15-13, 15-4).

Wayne stops Jaguars

Wayne Memorial improved to 8-2 in the Mega Conference-White Division with a 15-13, 13-15, 15-4 win Monday at Allen Park.

Top attackers for the Zebras, now 12-11-4 overall, included Bethany Molitor, six kills; Kristin Kehrer and Rachel Raines, four each; Stacey Long, three.

Bridget O'Rourke served four aces, while setter Jenny Wojie added three. Wojie and Kristen Bull combined for 13 assists in 38 attempts.

In Wayne's 15-4, 15-7 Mega-White win Feb. 11 over host Dearborn Fordson, Kehrer led the way with four kills, four aces and two solo blocks.

Raines had five kills, while Molitor added two.

Top defensive players included O'Rourke (five digs) and Melissa Jones (four).

Clareville triumphs

On Friday, junior Christina Skrela had six kills, two aces and four assist-blocks to lead Livonia Clareville (6-1 Metro Conference) to a 15-9, 15-4 triumph over visiting Harper Woods.

Jackie Kibliko served six straight points and had two kills in the second game. She also had 15 digs.

Kristin Jaber added 13 digs, while Jessica Silye contributed six assists in 16 attempts. Agnieszka Palarz wound up with three aces and four kills.

Huron Valley wins

On Tuesday, Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (8-9-3 overall) defeated Taylor Baptist Park, 15-8, 15-12, in a Michigan Independent Athletic Conference match.

Huron Valley is 4-4 in the MIAC. "It was an outstanding team effort," Huron Valley coach Jeff Hale said. "The girls are playing well both offensively and defensively."

On Feb. 12, Huron Valley defeated host Macomb Christian, 15-10, 15-15, 15-9.

CALENDAR

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN AND AROUND WESTLAND

UPCOMING EVENTS

TRACING ROOTS
The Wayne County Metro Chapter of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel will meet at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20. Genealogist Ruth McMahon will present a program with some tips on tracing your roots. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of St. John's Episcopal Church, 1555 S. Wayne Road, just south of Cherry Hill, in Westland. No reservation is needed; refreshments will be served.

SELF-DEFENSE FOR KIDS
A self-defense seminar for children will be held by certified black belt holder Kelly Perkins of Garden City Saturday, Feb. 21, in St. Matthew Lutheran School, on Venoy north of Ford, Westland. She will cover life-saving prevention and the "break away and get away" techniques. Participants will also receive a self-defense packet. The seminar will be 10-11:30 a.m. for children from 5 to 8 and noon to 2 p.m. for those 9 and older. Children who register in advance will receive a certificate. Fee is \$20 per participant. To register or to obtain more information, parents may call Perkins at 266-0565.

RAILRODIANA
Buy and swap toys and trains at a fund-raiser sponsored by the Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 1. Admission is \$2 a person, \$4 a family. Food and refreshments are available. The church hall is located at 32500 Palmer Road, in Westland, one mile west of Merriman, one mile north of Michigan Avenue. Parking is free. For more information or table reservations, call Norm at (734) 595-8327.

COIN SHOW
The Wayne Coin Club will present its 38th annual coin show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 1, at the Wayne Community Center, corner of Howe and Annapolis roads. Show will feature coins, paper money, stamps, books, collectibles and supplies. Free admission.

ST. PATRICK'S BENEFIT
The sixth annual St. Patrick's dinner-dance and auction to benefit Community Hospice and Home Care Services of Westland and Plymouth will be at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia. The event will include dinner, dancing, live Irish entertainment, open bar, live and silent auction. Auction items include Red Wings, Lions and Pistons items as well as a Princess Di Beanie Baby, and many retired and new Beanie Babies.

TOWN HALL MEETING
Westland Mayor Robert Thomas is holding his first Town Hall meeting of the 1998 calendar year at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 12. The meeting is hosted by Liberty Park, at 35700 Hunter Ave., between Central City Parkway and Wayne Road. Hunter is between Ford and Warren roads.

COLLECTORS' SALE
St. Damian Collectors' sale will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at 29891 Joy, Westland. Admission is \$1; children under 12 are admitted free. Table space is available for \$25. (734) 421-6130. All proceeds go to Christian service.

COUNTRY WESTERN JAMBOREE
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club will present a Country Western Jamboree

Saturday, April 25, at Local 735 UAW Hall, 48055 Michigan Ave., one mile west of Belleville Road in Canton. Entertainment by Sherman Arnold and Interstate Band with tribute to Elvis and other guest stars. Cocktails are at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7:30 p.m. and dancing 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$20 a person, \$35 a couple and \$15 per retiree/senior citizen. For ticket information, call (734) 729-8681, (734) 728-9737, (734) 282-1841 or (734) 721-4710.

AT THE LIBRARY

BOOK DISCUSSION
The book discussion group meets 7-9 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the community meeting room of the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland. Join the group by signing up at the Reception Desk. Participants are expected to have read the books and to be prepared to discuss them. Upcoming books for discussion include: March 16 (Monday), Laurie King, "The Beekeeper's Apprentice." April 21, Michael Connelly, "The Poet." May 19, Margaret Atwood, "Alias Grace."

MURDER MYSTERY PARTY
A Western Murder Mystery Party will be 1:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, at William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, in the Community Room. Pit your sleuthing skills against seven costumed authors and a detective to see who can determine the murderer.

TRAINING
Training sessions are held 10:30 a.m. each Saturday to train library patrons on the use of the public access catalogs. The computers are the modern-day equivalent of the traditional card catalog. These training sessions take about 15-20 minutes. Library staff will teach the fundamentals regarding use of the public access catalogs and will be available for questions. This training is free and no registration is required.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY
The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library meet 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The friends also hold a Friends Shop Book Sale during regular library hours at the library.

CHAMBER EVENTS

JOBS AND CAREERS
The chamber's second annual Jobs and Careers Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Westland Shopping Center. Last year's event drew more than 2,000 job-seekers. Member participation choices include the basic success deal for \$150, the supporting deal for \$200 and the premium deal for \$300. Call to reserve a spot, (734) 326-7222. Last year's program was a sell-out.

MARCH MIXER
The mixer with the Livonia Chamber of Commerce is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, at Joy Manor. Joy Manor is the sponsor for this event so there is no charge. RSVP to the chamber office at (734) 326-7222.

RECREATION

RECREATION AND FUN

A recreational get-together for teens and adults who are disabled will be the second Friday of each month at the Westland Bailey Center. (734) 722-7620.

FIGURE SKATING

The Westland Figure Skating Club is forming an Adult Introductory Precision Team. The team is for those who want to have fun with other skating adults and get good exercise. Practices are 6-8:50 a.m. Saturdays. All levels are welcome. For information, call (734) 722-1091.

VOLLEYBALL

Open volleyball is offered for those age 18 and older 6:30-8 p.m. the second and fourth Friday of each month at the Salvation Army, 2300 Venoy, Westland. All skill levels play just for fun. There is no charge. Baby-sitting is provided. For information, call (734) 722-3660.

SCHOOLS

OPEN HOUSE
St. Damian Catholic School, 29891 Joy Road in Westland, will host an open house and registration, from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 8, for grades kindergarten through eighth at the school. Call (734) 427-1680.

GARFIELD COOPERATIVE
Garfield Cooperative Preschool will hold its open house from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, at Cass Elementary School, 34633 Munger, south of Six Mile and east of Wayne Road. Programs for children 18 months to 5 years. For more information, call (734) 462-0135.

MCKINLEY COOPERATIVE
McKinley Cooperative Preschool, housed in Good Shepherd Reformed Church, Wayne Road at Hunter, is holding open registration. Morning and afternoon classes are available. Call (734) 729-7222 for information.

SUBURBAN CHILDREN'S
Suburban Children's Co-op Nursery has openings in all classes 18 months through 5 years old. Located in Livonia bordering Westland. Call Michelle at (734) 421-6196.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
The Wayne-Westland Community School District has ongoing registration for the preschool programs at Stottemyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Programs include an Early Intervention Program, Head Start, Kids/Plus Preschool, a Pre-Primary Impaired program and Sparkey Preschool. Registration is ongoing from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 595-2660 for information.

CHURCH PRESCHOOL
The Westland Free Methodist Preschool has openings for 3- and 4-year-olds in the morning and afternoon sessions. The younger pupils attend



Hamilton to speak

Candidate for governor: Edward T. Hamilton, a 1996 Democratic candidate for governor, will speak to the Westland Democratic Club at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the Westland Historical, Cultural and Community Meeting House, 37025 Marquette, one block east of Newburgh. Hamilton is an executive committee member of the Oakland County Democratic Party. He was a Democratic nominee for Oakland County executive in 1996. Hamilton plans to launch a new campaign work program for the state's governmental operations. He also plans to upgrade kindergarten through 12th grade education and the public library system. Hamilton joined the Democratic Party as a John F. Kennedy-for-President volunteer. He is the new-vehicle and new-product launch manager at the Chrysler Technology Center.

Tuesdays and Thursdays with the other pupils attending Mondays and Wednesdays. A Friday enrichment class is also available. The preschool is at 1421 S. Venoy, Westland. (734) 728-3559.

YWCA READINESS
The YWCA of Western Wayne County Early Childhood School Readiness Program is available to 4- and 5-year-old children. The YWCA is at 26279 Michigan Ave., Inkster. (313) 561-4110.

CHARTER SCHOOL
The Academy of Detroit-Westland, an entrepreneurial and business charter school, serves kindergarten through seventh grade. The school emphasizes a basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills. The school offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with Internet. Call (734) 722-1465 or (248) 569-7787.

LITTLE LAMBS
Little Lambs Preschool, on Farmington Road in Livonia, is accepting registration for the 1998-99 school year. Classes meet Monday-Wednesday-Friday and Tuesday-Thursday mornings for 3- to 5-year-olds. Little Lambs is a nonprofit, non-discriminatory preschool. For information, call (734) 421-0749.

LIVONIA COOPERATIVE
Livonia Cooperative Nursery, a preschool at 9601 W. Chicago, will host an open house from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, March 22, 3- and 4-year-olds welcome. For information, call Susan, (734) 422-6210.

FRANKLIN PTSA
The Franklin High PTSA is seeking new members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and community, and members aren't required to have a student in the school. Price is \$3 for students, \$5 for adults. Checks should be made payable to Franklin PTSA and sent to 31000 Joy, Livonia 48150.

TUTORIAL PROGRAM
A free tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy, Westland. The program is for students in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. It will meet 3:30-6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. For information

on participating or volunteering, call Shabaura Cobb, (734) 722-3660.

HISTORY ON VIEW

WESTLAND MUSEUM
The Westland Historical Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays at 857 N. Wayne Road, between Marquette and Cherry Hill. (734) 326-1110.

FRIENDS MEET
Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet 7 p.m. on the second Tuesdays of January, March, May, July, September and November at the Westland Meeting House, 37091 Marquette between Newburgh and Wayne roads. Information, president Jim Franklin, (734) 721-0136. Everyone is welcome.

FOR SENIORS

TRAVEL GROUP
The Travel Group meets 12:45 p.m. every Friday in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, unless a trip or program is planned. Programs include speakers, films, celebration of birthdays and weekly door prizes. There is a \$3 membership fee for residents, \$12.50 for non-residents. The group is offering a trip to Holland, Mich., on Wednesday, May 13, for \$115, with all meals included. Trip departs promptly at 7 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served on the bus. In Holland, the group will see tulips, shop, eat lunch and attend the parade, then go on to Saugatuck for dinner and a boat cruise. Arrival time back at the center is about 11 p.m. Call the Friendship Center for more information, (734) 722-7632.

CARD GROUP
The Friday Variety Card Group at the Westland Friendship Center meets at 2 p.m. Players enjoy euchre, pinocle, bridge, Uno, rummy and poker. Light refreshments are served. Call (734) 722-7632 for information or just show up to play cards. The Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh Road.

DYER CLUB
The Dyer Seniors' Center Travel Club meets the first and third Thursdays of each month in the center, on Marquette between Wayne Road and New-

burgh. **MONTHLY MEAL**
The Wayne Ford Civic League schedules its senior meal 11:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month at the league hall, on Wayne Road, two blocks south of Ford, for people 50 and older. Cost is \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. The meal includes beer, beverages, dancing to Big Band music, and door prizes. (734) 728-5010.

DANCE FUN
Westland Shopping Center hosts a senior citizen dance 11 a.m. the first Monday of each month in the lower level auditorium, Wayne and Warren roads. Coffee and refreshments will be served at 12:30 p.m. The dance will end 2 p.m. The dance is held on the first Monday, with the exception of holidays.

SENIOR DANCE
Senior dances will be noon to 4 p.m. the first Sunday of every month at the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1651 N. Wayne Road, Westland. There will be dinner, a live band, beer and pop. Members \$5, non-members \$7. (734) 728-5010.

WORK REFERRAL
Information Center Inc. refers workers to seniors who need help. The program is for people interested in providing transportation, yardwork, housework, etc. Workers can specify the type of work they are willing to do and the communities they want to serve. Chore Worker Program, (734) 422-1052.

BINGO

DEM'S BINGO
The Metro Wayne Democratic Club sponsors bingo games at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at the Joy Manor Bingo Hall, on the south side of Joy, east of Middlebelt. Proceeds are used by the club to sponsor Little League baseball teams, the Salvation Army, School for the Blind. (734) 422-5025 or (734) 729-8681.

DEM'S BINGO
The 13th Congressional District Democratic Party sponsors bingo games at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays in the M.J. Hall, 35412 Michigan Ave., next to Farmer Jack in Wayne. (734) 421-1517.

BINGO AND SNACKS
The VFW Post 3323, Westland, serves snacks and hosts bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday in the post hall, 1055 S. Wayne Road at Avondale. Doors open 9 a.m. (734) 326-3323.

SMOKELESS BINGO
"Smokeless" bingo meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday, at Sts. Simon and Jude Parish Hall, 32500 Palmer, east of Venoy, Westland. Offered are three jackpots of \$400, \$300 and \$200.

NO SMOKE
"No smoking" bingo will be 1 p.m. every Tuesday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh Road, Westland. Residents from Westgate Towers, Taylor Towers, Greenwood Tow-

ers, Liberty Park, Presbyterian Village and Carolan Condos, etc., are eligible for transportation to bingo if they have a minimum of five players. (734) 722-7632.

CLUBS IN ACTION

CHADD
CHADD of Northwest Wayne County meets the first Thursday of the month throughout the school year at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile. CHADD is a nonprofit, parent-based, volunteer organization whose aim is to better the lives of individuals with attention difficulties. Call (313) 438-3099.

TOPS
TOPS MI983 Livonia is having an open house at 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Church of the Holy Spirit on Newburgh, just north of Joy Road. For more information, call Elsie at (734) 522-5444 or Elaine at (734) 427-1013. Newcomers welcome.

PUBLIC SPEAKING
The local Toastmasters Club in Westland urges people wishing to learn the art of public speaking to attend the club's weekly meetings at 6 p.m. each Thursday at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 N. Wayne Road, next to Westland Center. For more information, call John Elbe, (734) 326-5419, anytime.

WEEKENDERS
The Weekenders family campers meet the second Wednesday of the month in Franklin High School, on Joy east of Merriman. (313) 531-2993.

FREE CLASSES
The Showman's Dog Training Organization sponsors free junior showmanship classes for dog owners ages 7-17 at 8:30 p.m. the first and second Tuesdays of each month through September at the AMVETS Hall on Merriman near Avondale. Call (734) 729-7580.

HOST LIONS
The Westland Host Lions Club meets 6:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of the month in Mary's Family Restaurant. Information, (734) 326-2607.

MOTHERS OF MULTIPLES
For information on a Mothers of Multiples Club in your area, call Shelly Weir, (734) 326-1466.

SUPPORT

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Alcoholics Anonymous "Conscious Contact Group" meets 8:30-9:30 p.m. each Wednesday and Sunday at Garden City Hospital (use entrance on north side of building). Men and women are welcome. A 21st anniversary meeting is planned for 8:30-10:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11. Hugh Hayes will be the speaker. Everyone is welcome. Woody, (734) 729-0520.

CALENDAR FORM

The Observer Newspapers welcome Calendar items. Items should be from non-profit community groups or individuals announcing a community program or event. Please type or print the information below and mail your item to The Calendar, Westland Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI. 48150, or by fax to 734-591-7279. Deadline for Calendar items is noon Friday for the following Thursday's paper. Call 953-2104 if you have any questions.

Event: _____
Date and Time: _____
Location: _____
Telephone: _____
Additional Info.: _____

Use additional sheet if necessary

BEST BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING PERFORMANCES

Following is a list of Observerland boys best swimming times and diving scores. Coaches can report updates to Dan O'Meara by calling (313) 953-2141 or faxing the information to (313) 561-7279.

Matt Baran (Redford CC) 23.24
Matt Zaid (N. Farmington) 23.29
Kurtis Hornick (Canton) 23.36

DIVING

John Lowry (Farmington) 269.85
Joe Lebovic (N. Farmington) 255.45
Chris Totten (Garden City) 250.55
Jeff Phillips (John Glenn) 242.95
J.T. Svoke (Harrison) 242.30
Mike Belvitch (Salem) 231.90
Chris Cameron (Salem) 223.00
Greg Brazulnea (Redford CC) 205.05
Dave Sutton (Redford Union) 198.95
Chris McFarland (John Glenn) 193.55

100 BUTTERFLY

Steve Dornin (Stevenson) 53.16
Mark Sgriccia (Stevenson) 53.79
Tim Buchanan (Salem) 54.73
Keith Falk (Stevenson) 55.56
Nick Sosnowski (Redford CC) 55.66
James McPartlin (John Glenn) 55.75
Paul Perez (Salem) 56.34
Matt Tobkin (Redford CC) 58.19
Brent Mellis (Salem) 58.38
Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 58.43

100 FREESTYLE

Nick Corden (Salem) 48.39
Keith Falk (Stevenson) 48.67
Steve Dornin (Stevenson) 48.88
Ryan Meekins (Redford CC) 49.25
Tim Buchanan (Salem) 50.00
Dan Gabriel (N. Farmington) 50.07
Pete Bosler (Farmington) 50.26
Matt Zaid (N. Farmington) 50.95
Andrew Locke (Salem) 51.14
Matt Baran (Redford CC) 51.40

500 FREESTYLE

Keith Falk (Stevenson) 4:48.79
Nick Sosnowski (Redford CC) 4:49.30
Steve Dornin (Stevenson) 4:57.05
Brian Mertens (Salem) 5:01.37

Tim Buchanan (Salem) 5:08.41
Brent Mellis (Salem) 5:08.46
Justin Berringer (Harrison) 5:08.64
Matt Baran (Redford CC) 5:08.88
Mike Math (Stevenson) 5:09.84
Kurtis Hornick (Canton) 5:09.88

200 FREESTYLE RELAY

Plymouth Salem 1:29.46
Livonia Stevenson 1:30.46
North Farmington 1:33.46
Plymouth Canton 1:34.53
Redford Catholic Central 1:36.74

100 BACKSTROKE

Dan Gabriel (N. Farmington) 56.23
Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 56.91
Nick Sosnowski (Redford CC) 56.93
Mark Sgriccia (Stevenson) 56.16
Nick Corden (Salem) 56.17
Devin Hopper (Farmington) 57.30
Brent Mellis (Salem) 57.44
Josh Duffy (Harrison) 58.30
Aaron Reeder (Canton) 58.74
Jim Gabriel (N. Farmington) 59.18

100 BREASTSTROKE

Matt Walker (Harrison) 1:02.86
Keith Falk (Stevenson) 1:03.94
Ryan Zoumbaris (John Glenn) 1:04.05
Paul Conolly (Redford CC) 1:04.07
Jody Gomez (Franklin) 1:04.87
Matt Heise (Canton) 1:05.11
Andrew Locke (Salem) 1:05.66
Adam Farber (N. Farmington) 1:06.45
Kevin VanTiem (Stevenson) 1:07.10
Mike Nemer (Stevenson) 1:07.26

400 FREESTYLE RELAY

Plymouth Salem 3:20.36
Livonia Stevenson 3:20.72
Redford Catholic Central 3:24.69
North Farmington 3:30.82
Plymouth Canton 3:31.96

200-YARD MILELY RELAY
Livonia Stevenson 1:40.62
Plymouth Salem 1:43.04
Redford Catholic Central 1:43.94
Plymouth Canton 1:44.82
North Farmington 1:46.23

200 FREESTYLE

Keith Falk (Stevenson) 1:44.54
Nick Corden (Salem) 1:44.60
Ryan Meekins (Redford CC) 1:48.97
Tim Buchanan (Salem) 1:49.11
Pete Bosler (Farmington) 1:50.20
Steve Dornin (Stevenson) 1:51.86
Matt Baran (Redford CC) 1:52.31
Justin Berringer (Harrison) 1:53.33
Jason Musson (Canton) 1:53.35
Brent Mellis (Salem) 1:53.37

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Keith Falk (Stevenson) 2:00.73
Tim Buchanan (Salem) 2:01.41
Nick Sosnowski (Redford CC) 2:01.67
Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 2:05.26
Steve Dornin (Stevenson) 2:05.49
Brent Mellis (Salem) 2:05.73
Dan Gabriel (N. Farmington) 2:07.36
James McPartlin (John Glenn) 2:07.44
Nick Corden (Salem) 2:07.49
Mike Math (Stevenson) 2:07.73

50 FREESTYLE

Steve Dornin (Stevenson) 21.81
Nick Corden (Salem) 22.14
Andrew Locke (Salem) 22.44
Tim Buchanan (Salem) 22.95
Keith Falk (Stevenson) 23.05
Dan Kelly (Salem) 23.10
Jacob Varty (Stevenson) 23.21

Winter de-icer

Steelhead activity prevalent on area tributaries

My ice fishing bucket - complete with diddling rods, tip-ups, ice ladle and tear drops - is still resting comfortably in the corner of the basement. I passed up a chance to get out on the ice earlier this year, when there actually was some safe ice, and now I might as well put my gear away for the season. With poor ice cover at best on all southern Michigan lakes, and more unseasonably warm weather on the way, the prospect of getting another safe cover of ice this winter is pretty unlikely.

But that doesn't mean you have to spend your weekends cooped up inside the house watching reruns of Shirley Temple movies. Consider hooking up with a powerful, feisty steelhead and battling it through a surging river current.

While the rivers of northern Michigan get a ton of attention from winter steelhead anglers the southern half of the state also provides ample opportunities. Close to home, the Huron and the Clinton rivers serve up decent winter steelhead action. In the southwestern corner of the state the St. Joseph River provides a tremendous winter steelhead fishery.

The Michigan Outdoor Writers Association met recently in Stevensville and I had the opportunity to chase steelhead up and down the St. Joe with veteran charter captain Mike Stowe of Snap-Line Charters.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources annually stocks the St. Joe and its tributaries with steelhead, which pro-

duces a outstanding fishery throughout the year. The final 25 miles of the river - from the Berrien Springs Dam to the mouth of the river at Lake Michigan - should certainly be considered when contemplating a trip for winter steelhead. Steelies average between five and eight pounds on the St. Joe, but 10- to 12-pounders are not uncommon.

Joining fellow outdoor writers Bill Simeon of Plymouth, Bob Holzhei of St. Johns and Jim Bedford of Lansing, we headed out from the public boat launch at Shamrock Park in Berrien Springs and into the slow-rolling water just above Farmer's Creek. Our rigs consisted of 4-inch leaders below a 1/2-ounce sinker on 8-pound monofilament. We concentrated our efforts on fishing fresh spawn, but spinners and body baits also produce at this time of year.

The trick, according to Stowe, is to keep your bait on bottom and to cover a lot of water. The technique we employed was to anchor above a likely hole and bounce our offerings along the bottom, allowing the current to take the bait back into the hole.

"One mistake a lot of people make at this time of year is that they catch one fish right away and they stay on that spot for two or three hours," explained Stowe. "Either the fish are going to bite or they're not. You've got to cover a lot of water to get to the active fish."

If you've never battled with a river steelhead you're missing out on a bout of title fight proportions. Even in the winter, with the cold water slowing their activity, steelhead are fighting machines.

We boated two fish in a half-day on the river, a magnificent 10-pounder - that had Holzhei on the ropes a couple of times before

succumbing to the nylon mesh of Stowe's net - and a beautiful, brightly colored 6-pounder. We had a couple others on that we didn't land.

For the most part the fish seem to hit better on cloudy days, according to Stowe, who also makes custom steelhead rods. "It's best early in the morning and late in the afternoon, but on cloudy days they'll bite all day," he explained. "When the sun comes out the fish seem to get skittish."

Walleye and brown trout are also caught throughout the year on the St. Joe, but the predominant winter catch is steelhead.

"When the spawn starts in the spring the fishing gets tougher because the fish are more concentrated on the gravel and sand flats and there are fewer areas to fish for them," said Stowe. "The weather is warmer by then, and everyone and his brother is out fishing so sometimes it gets pretty crowded."

When the steelhead start spawning the best course of action is to get out early before the crowds arrive.

"The best thing to do in the spring is get there early and stay on your spot all day," said Stowe. "If you get out late you might as well stay home because the good spots will already be taken. It gets pretty crowded sometimes."

It's about a three-hour trip from metro-Detroit to the St. Joe. Simply get on I-94 and head west. If you've got steelhead on your mind the journey passes quickly.

Anglers and hunters are urged to report your success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (248) 644-1314 or call Bill Parker evenings at (248) 901-2573.)

OUTDOOR INSIGHTS



BILL PARKER

SPORTS ROUNDUP

TRAVEL BASEBALL REMINDERS

•Garden City Little Caesars baseball is seeking any Observerland area 15- and 16-year-olds interested in playing Mickey Mantle Little Caesar baseball.

For more information about tryouts, call manager Wally Krol

at (313) 422-0653.

•A travel baseball team is seeking sponsors for a 9- and 10-year-old tournament.

For more information, call Mr. Bell at (313) 562-4667.

SOCCER OFFICIALS WANTED

The Livonia YMCA Soccer Club is seeking referees for the

spring season.

The YMCA sponsors the Michigan Wolves, Hawks, Meteors and numerous recreational and select teams of all ages.

Newly certified officials, as well as veteran refs, should call Chris Nolan at the YMCA at (734) 261-2161 or coordinator Jeff Caminsky at (734) 422-5963.



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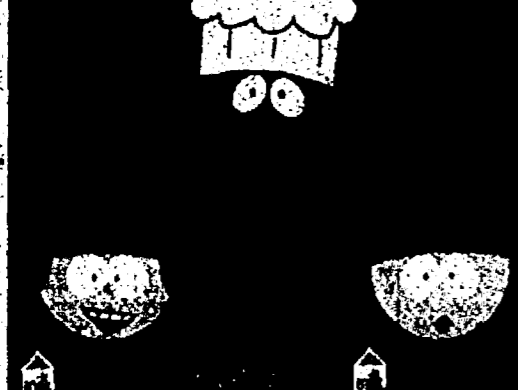
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FRIDAY
Get a double dose of jazz artistry when legendary jazz pianist Chick Corea and vibes master Gary Burton team up for a concert 8 p.m. in the Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Tickets \$30 to \$20, (734) 764-2638 or (800) 221-1229.



SATURDAY
A special "South Park" video will be shown during Comedy Central's "Stand-Up For Sanity" which also features comedians Jon Stewart and Reggie McFadden, 7 p.m. at the Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$8 in advance for the all-ages show. Call (313) 833-9700 or <http://www.99music.com>



SUNDAY
Dance Theatre of Harlem performs 3 p.m. at Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. Range from \$31.50 to \$41.50, call (313) 963-2366, or (248) 645-6666.



Hot Tix: The Longhorn World Championship Rodeo comes to The Palace of Auburn Hills Friday, Feb. 20 through Sunday, Feb. 22. Tickets \$18, \$14 and \$12, call (248) 645-6666. Tommie Fagan of Livonia is among the cowboys competing in the steer wrestling competition.



LIFE MIRRORS 'UNBEATABLE' STORY LINE

STORY BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN • STAFF WRITER

Gordon Michaels is a lot like the lead character he plays in the film "Unbeatable Harold"—determined against all odds to bring the story to the big screen.

Michaels sat in the Caribou Coffee Shop in Royal Oak undaunted by the lack of funds necessary to produce his film. Michaels was here visiting his mother, Elvira Karmineke, in Westland before leaving for Reno, Nev., to shoot the film.

"I like comedy," said Michaels, who's also directing and producing the film. "There's so many action and shoot-em-up movies out there so why not focus on a love story and throw in a dance number and some slapstick."

A graduate of John Glenn High School in Westland, Michaels wrote the screenplay for "Unbeatable Harold" after a one-act play by Randy Noonin. Michaels originated the role of the Elvis wannabe Off-Broadway. Bringing the play to film marks a nine year commitment for Michaels, who's also acted the part on Los Angeles and Miami stages.

"Unbeatable Harold" is about a dreamer and hopeless romantic, living 20 years behind the times in

another play, but not this one."

Elvira Karmineke had no hint her son would eventually choose a career in film and theater. He wanted to be a chiropractor. So it was only natural she worried when Gordon told her about applying to the Neighborhood Playhouse until learning of the school's prestigious reputation. When she saw him perform on the stage of the New York playhouse, Karmineke realized the talent which lay buried all those years.

"He was very funny when he was a child, but I never had any idea even though he played in the band and he could sing," said Karmineke. "When I saw him in the play, I couldn't believe this was my son. It was beautiful."

Michaels never let on to his mother, but by the time he was playing varsity basketball at John Glenn High School, and even before injuring a knee, the bright lights were his future. After graduating from the Westland high school, Michaels moved to Arizona in 1981 where he attended acting school in Phoenix before moving to New York.

"It really hit me when I was a junior," said Michaels. "I always sang in choir at school and was in rock bands in high school (Flash Experience)."

Even though the theater in New York holds special memories for Michaels, that's where he acted in his first production, "Pippin," he eventually left in search of golden opportunities in California's film industry. For the last eight years he's lived in Venice on the Beach.

"I wanted to get involved with film so I had to move to L.A.," said Michaels. "To make some money you have to go into film. I didn't want to be a struggling actor in theater."

Michaels is planning to premiere "Unbeatable Harold" in early summer at either the Royal Oak or Birmingham theaters. Although far from home now, Michaels visits Michigan often and has no plans to write the state out of his life. In fact, he plans someday to produce in Detroit a one-act play written in New York.

"Because I'm from Detroit, I thought it would be nice to bring the premiere of 'Unbeatable Harold' here," said Michaels. "Even though I don't miss the Michigan winters and scraping two inches of ice off the windshields, I do miss the Michigan summers and my family."



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACOBUS

Unbeatable love story: Gordon Michaels writes, directs, produces, and acts in a film about an Elvis wannabe and the girl of his dreams.

Local talent line up for place to 'Rent'

BY JULIE YOLLES
SPECIAL WRITER

They came from Miami, Cincinnati, Windsor, Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Detroit and the suburbs. They wore black leather, black spandex, black cords, black velvet, black polyester, black jeans, black fishnets, black chennille, Kenneth Cole belts and chunky silver ball necklaces. They wore sporty Doc Martens and Spice Girl platforms from beneath their used Levi 571 bell bottoms. They had pierced ears, navels and tongues. They wore Hard Candy Superman blue metallic nail polish, MAC Alumina lipstick and glitter eye makeup. It was East Village retro all around.



Natalie Ross

What seemed more like a precursor to a fashion shoot for the Salvation Army on the streets of Royal Oak, was really 700 hopefuls looking for a new lease on life. Or just looking to "Rent."

When the rock opera "Rent" comes to the Fisher Theatre April 8 to May 31, perhaps one or more of these 700 aspiring actors will be a part of the ensemble. That's what the production team of "Rent" was hoping for when they scheduled a one-day open casting call at the Detroit Opera House Thursday, Jan. 22.

"We're seeking authentic kick-ass singers in Detroit because we heard it's the most rockin', hip-hoppin', stompin', soul-searchin' city in the country," stated the casting notice, which was blanketed throughout the state and outlying areas.

And rockin', hip-hoppin', stompin' and soul-searchin' is what they got — starting at 7:15 a.m. on that 18-degree morning, when the line started forming on Detroit's Madison Avenue outside the theater. Auditions started at 10 a.m. and didn't wrap until 12-1/2 hours later — long after Cathy Rigby and her "Peter Pan" cast, who were performing that night at the Detroit Opera House, had gone off to never-never land.

Natalie Ross, a senior at Church Hill High School in Livonia, skipped school to audition. She signed in at 9 a.m. and finally got to sing at 12:30 p.m. for Heidi Marshall, casting director of New York's Bernard Telsey Casting. Ross made the first cut, learned a song from the show with a piano accompanist and sang four hours later for Marshall at the callbacks.

"I always wear black pants to auditions — they're universal, sexy and flattering," said Ross, who saw "Rent" on Broadway and heard about the casting call from her friend at Western Michigan University. "I wore the orange shirt to be seen."

The desires were intense. The competition fierce. Nothing was going to deter the hordes of twenty-somethings from auditioning. Practically the entire University of Michigan Musical

Rent
When: Show opens Wednesday, April 8, and continues through Sunday, May 31.
Where: Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Boulevard, Detroit.
Tickets: Range in price from \$60 to \$24, call (248) 645-6666.

COLLEGE THEATER

Stratford director: Antoni Cimolino of the Stratford Festival is the guest director for the Hilberry's production of "A Woman of No Importance."

Director gives heart to 'A Woman of No Importance'

"Children begin by loving their parents. After a time they judge them. Rarely, if ever, do they forgive them."
— Oscar Wilde
"A Woman of No Importance"

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Irish playwright Oscar Wilde was the master of the epigram, the bon mot, the pithy, sardonic phrase.

Many of these epigrams have become a part of the language, noted for their rueful truths or their outrageousness. But to produce an Oscar Wilde play, you have to make the epigrams seem natural even though Wilde himself admitted he never let a story get in the way of a good epigram.

A Woman of No Importance
What: Oscar Wilde comedy-drama.
Where: Hilberry Theatre on the campus of Wayne State University, Detroit.
When: In repertory through Thursday, April 23.
Tickets: Range in price from \$10 to \$17. Call the box office, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday at (313) 577-2972

Wayne State University's Hilberry Theatre has recruited Ontario director Antoni Cimolino, associate producer of the Stratford Festival, to bring life to one of Wilde's more difficult works, a play that begins as a comedy of manners and develops into

a soul-wrenching melodrama. Cimolino, 38, wants to emphasize Wilde's big heart.

"He said his talent went into his writing, but his genius went into his life," Cimolino said. "I'm interested in what's underneath. He's very humane and caring about people. He was a socialist, but I think that was just lip service. He was really a humanist. His interest wasn't in economics but in the soul."

"A Woman of No Importance" is set in the late 1800s among the aristocrats of England. A promising young man has been offered the position of secretary to the pleasure-loving, snobbish Lord Illingworth.



Divided family: Standing, Wendy Gough as Mrs. Arbuthnot and Bret Tuomi as Lord Illingworth are the parents of the devastated Gerald played by Matt Troyer, kneeling.

Please see WOMAN, E3

Rent from page E1

Theatre Department came out for the auditions - many having pulled an all-nighter at Kinko's, copying sheet music and prepping "Rent" songs - in case they made it to callbacks.

Heather Bell and Jamie Richards, who perform at St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook and Nancy Gurwin community theaters, among others, came prepared for a long day of waiting. In the massive gymnasium-like registration room, they were bulking on carbs, with Pepperidge Farm chocolate chunk cookies, Ritz Bits and Nutter Butters. Others imbibed on Gatorade, Diet Coke or water. Or munched on pretzels, apples, Einstein Bagels, potato chips, oranges and Schlotzky's Deli food from around the corner. Natalie Ross never goes anywhere without Kleenex and Ricola lemon mint lozenges.

When Hilary Hernandez

arrived at 7:30 a.m., she was 21st in line. The senior at Lake Orion High School also skipped class to be there. "But it's OK, because I've got really good attendance," she quickly chimed in.

With her Mariah Carey audition song firmly ensconced, Hernandez had been meticulously planning her outfit for the big day for over a week: "Something that would make me look somewhat older and like a role in the show."

The result? Hip-hugger faded jeans, black zip-up sweatshirt, cherry red crop top sporting the nonsensical words "Jet Curl" in lemon yellow type and her everyday silver hoop earrings peeking through her long, straight ash blonde hair. And a 1990 penny for good luck.

After all, it was lucky for Anthony Dixon of Lake Orion who gave Hernandez the penny

BEHIND THE SCENES

after he survived the first cut. And when she made callbacks, Hernandez gave her just-met friend a 1989 penny, in keeping with their newfound tradition.

With his guitar in hand, Dixon belted out "Ziggy Stardust" by David Bowie.

"Do you know 'Amazing Grace'?" Heidi Marshall asked the baritone from behind her rectangular table in the third floor rehearsal room. "If not, just make up the words. Or, you could just sing 'Happy Birthday.' But sing full out. I want to hear your range ... The thing that's important is to hit that high 'C.'"

Dixon did just that, in his olive green Detroit Technology T-shirt, jeans and tennis shoes - and with more than his lucky penny. For starters, there was his

African necklace with the gold beads and black leather strips that a fellow actor passed on to him years ago when they were shooting a local film together. On his left wrist, he wore a weathered leather bracelet with seven white seashells that he got in seventh grade.

"It reminds me of my sister who gave it to me," said the 22-year-old Oakland University Shakespeare Sonnet Competition runner-up. "And if she hadn't loaned me her car, I wouldn't be here today."

While actors were doing group vocal warm-ups with Royal Oak musician Luis Resto at the piano in the main room, others were singing solo in the stairwells and bathroom stalls. They sang a

cappella. They sang with their "Rent" tapes and Walkmans. Sopranos, mezzos and more than three tenors.

Meanwhile, back in the third floor rehearsal room, beneath the ornate crystal chandelier, Marshall was taking copious notes: "Not sexy for the character Roger ... not quirky for the role of Mark ... too squeamish ... too young ... too conservative ... too legit ... not of the 'Rent' world ..."

"Kill the vibrato. It should come from an easy, relaxed place in your gut," she directed one nervous actor in a reverse baseball hat. "It's all about the text."

The text earned "Rent" composer and playwright Jonathan Larson a Pulitzer Prize, just 20 days before "Rent" opened on Broadway April 29, 1996.

Though Karen Newman of Franklin - the "Red Wings Own National Anthem Singer" - was

nursing a bad cold, she wasn't about to miss this audition.

"It's an opportunity that you can't just ever turn your nose up at," said Newman, who just released her first solo debut album, "Moment in the Wind," locally in Detroit. "I don't have any kids, and I'm at a point in my career where I can pick up and go where the work takes me."

If cast, they were all ready to pick up and go. All 700 of them. By the next morning, before barely making her 1:15 p.m. flight, Marshall had called back and worked with 40 potentials.

On Feb. 5, she came back with the show's director to further audition the final 15.

Of the 15, two will be making a trip to New York for final auditions. As of press time on Monday, the two people chosen were not yet notified.

Life as a "Rent"er could be a very good thing.

Woman from page E1

It turns out that his lordship is actually the young man's father who abandoned his mother before the young man was born. She now calls herself Mrs. Arbuthnot and begs with her son not to accept the position. Meanwhile, the young man is in love with an American woman who represents all the puritanism, naivety and idealism of America.

Cimolino is working with a young graduate school company who must master the problems of playing older, playing English and balancing comedy with melodrama.

"This is an educational institution. I have a dual responsibility to the audience and equally to the actors," Cimolino said. "We make sure along the way we are all learning something. Also, we

have to look at what will pay off for the audience."

For Matt Troyer, who plays the son, Gerald, Wilde's language is the biggest challenge.

"Wilde uses wonderfully elevated English text," Troyer said. "He's well known for his epigrams, several of them from this show. But it's not unlike Shakespeare, you've got to bring out the language."

Unlike other company members, Troyer will not be playing beyond his years.

"When we're trying to act 40 or 45, we have to project what that's like. But when I'm playing a 20-year-old, I say, 'Hey, I've been there,'" he said.

Troyer came away with a new respect for Wilde, a controversial figure who was sentenced to two-

years of hard labor on sodomy charges.

"It's eerie how this play predicts the suffering he would go through. I have a better appreciation for the man. He's not just witty, but he has this darker side," Troyer said.

Sara Wolf of Rochester Hills plays the young American woman, Hester, whom she says moves from Old Testament to New Testament in her judgments of people.

"The way I see her she's very young," Wolf said. "I was just her age a couple years ago. I remember how idealistic I was, my ideas would change the world."

Wolf said her character has an opinion about everything, an empathy for the middle and lower classes and stands for both

the best and worst that Wilde saw in America.

Wolf doesn't have to master an English accent, but she does have to adapt a different voice.

"I'm trying to use standard American dialect and trying to weed out my Michiganisms. I'm trying to make the words beautiful without making them melodramatic," she said.

Cimolino said the play can be directed in many ways. The witty epigrams and high style of Lord Illingworth and his set can seem quite attractive opposed to the moralistic ideas of the other characters.

"You have to choose where you're going and where you're going to put the weight," Cimolino said. "You could make this really evil. ... You could make all

the good people dislikable and make the bad people interesting."

He said that oddly it is Lord Illingworth who represents Wilde, himself, in the play.

"The point of the play is that in the end, he's made to hurt," he said. "It's very weird that he teaches himself this lesson."

Cimolino said he has been working with the cast since December to get the tone just right.

This summer he will be taking on a very different kind of writer when he directs Tennessee Williams' "Night of the Iguana" at Stratford.

"Both were homosexual, or bisexual in Wilde's case. But one wrote in the 1940s and the other

in the 1890s and that 50 years literally meant the difference between life and death," Cimolino said. "But both had an affinity for women, they wrote wonderful woman characters and both really liked women."

Cimolino is the son of Italian immigrants who grew up in Sudbury, Ontario, and graduated from the University of Windsor. He has performed as an actor at Stratford but over the last few years has moved into administrative work and directing. As associate producer he handles rehearsal and performance schedules and special projects.

His wife, Brigit Wilson, is an actress and they have two children, a son, Gabriel, 4, and daughter, Sophia, 2.

Hilberry finds a 'level of importance' in Wilde's classic of betrayal

"A Woman of No Importance" by Oscar Wilde continues at the Hilberry Theatre, through April 23. The Hilberry is on the Wayne State University campus on Cass

between Hancock and Forest. Call (313) 577-2972 for show times and ticket information.

BY SUR SUCHYTA
SPECIAL WRITER

Oscar Wilde's play, "A Woman of No Importance" is the story of an Englishwoman in the late 1800s who, betrayed by her lover and rejected by society, raises an

out-of-wedlock child on her own.

As the story begins, the child, now a young man, has been offered an important position by an influential man. Neither know that they are father and son.

■ The Stratford Festival's award-winning director Antoni Cimolino has assembled a talented cast. With ease and skill, the cast breathes life into the self-centered and self-sacrificing characters

When the mother learns of the arrangement, she is torn. Should she let her son rise in the world under the tutelage of the man who so cruelly betrayed her, or should she tell her son the truth?

The Stratford Festival's award-winning director Antoni Cimolino has assembled a talented cast. With ease and skill, the cast breathes life into the self-centered and self-sacrificing characters.

The play begins at a garden party on an English estate, where the conversation is snide and irreverent.

The shallow uppercrust of British gentry care about little and take nothing seriously. Besides being supercilious, they play a cat and mouse game of

risqué flirtation.

Among the aristocrats is Lord Illingworth, the long-ago betrayer. He's smart enough to get what he wants without moral inhibitions to keep him in line.

Bret Tuomi plays the smug, self-centered bachelor with polished sophistication and a lazy, lecherous edge.

His son, Gerald Arbuthnot, is his father's opposite: bright-eyed, loyal, and brimming with youthful ambition. Matthew Troyer brings thoughtfulness and sincerity to the role, and uses his soulful eyes to full advantage.

Wendy Gough as Mrs. Arbuthnot, his mother, shines as the


anguished mother who sacrificed her own life for her son's future.

Gough's talent and intensity are mesmerizing. She captured the audience's heart with her impassioned speeches and silent anguish.

Sara Wolf as Hester Worsley, the object of Gerald's romantic intentions, makes the most of a role that at times is quite limiting.

And not to be overlooked is Peggy Johns' delightful performance as Mrs. Allonby, the shameless flirt.

Gina Patterson's lighting design greatly enhanced the mood, as did Brian Boyer's sound effects. The stereophonic bird songs set the stage for the garden party.




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THEATER

Meadow Brook's risqué farce spotlights crackerjack cast

"What the Butler Saw," by Joe Orton at Meadow Brook Theatre, Wilson Hall on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills continues through March 8. Tickets range from \$22 to \$32, call (248) 377-3300. BY FRANK PROVENZANO STAFF WRITER

The word got out before the curtain rose. Meadow Brook Theatre's "What the Butler Saw" would be risqué and challenging to whomever clutches to conservative aesthetics.

Even prior to opening night, some of the more traditional theatergoers registered their vehement disapproval. Artistic Director Geoffrey Sherman received a handful of hate letters for simply selecting the play.

Ah, yes. Theater can provide a foil to prod the masses from their slumber.

Apparently, the mere thought of salty dialogue and nudity was too much for those who expect a university theater to perform the classics, and occasionally offer a wink to contemporary realities.

Well, in a step toward reinventing Meadow Brook as a place of vital and vigorous contemporary theater, "What the Butler Saw" is a promising start.

Joe Orton's play about a lecherous psychiatrist, a suspicious wife, mistaken identities and

embarrassing disclosures has the high-pace plotting and frenetic pace of farcical drama in the British tradition.

Throw in a irreverent references to religion, psychiatry and Winston Churchill's private parts, and there's plenty of disrespect to go around.

The high-energy play showcases the comedic timing of a crackerjack cast.

In the genre of farce, pacing is crucial. The audience can't be given too much time to realize the absurdity and irrational predicaments before them.

Any weak link in the cast will inevitably have a domino effect in slowing down the play. In "What the Butler Saw," there are no weak links.

Bruce Burkhartmeier, Carey Crim, Raul E. Esparza, Mark Rademacher and John Seibert ring every nuance from a script filled with irreverence, absurdities and biting humor.

Perhaps Esparza, the morally maligned bell-hop and cross-dresser, pulls off the combination of comedic timing, and physical comedy in the finest spotlight.

"What the Butler Saw" premiered in 1969. It's considered Orton's best play. In a chilling footnote to Orton's promising talent, the playwright was murdered shortly before the play opened nearly 30 years ago.

Orton's penchant for witticisms have drawn comparisons to Oscar Wilde.

For instance, he observes the reason a person would pursue a career in psychiatry: "Having failed to achieve madness for himself, he took to teaching it to others."

And, in noting the advice to a guilty man wondering what to say: "You're guilty, you don't say anything. Only the innocent have something to explain."

Fans of "Seinfeld" will not be disappointed. Nor will viewers of slap-stick, or the farcical episodes of "I Love Lucy," "Three's Company," or other flip-pant sit-coms.

But clearly, "What the Butler Saw" isn't Lucy, Desi, Ethel and Fred. Nor is it Jerry, George, Elaine and Kramer.

In "What the Butler Saw," the wants of the characters are bulging along with their hormones. The acid barbs would never be heard in prime time.

Yet Meadow Brook's production is a reminder of how long audiences will keep attentive for a play about sex and the promise of nudity - however brief, very brief.

No need for further rationalizing. If this play is offensive, then you've never watched FOX.

Sometimes a laugh is just a laugh.



Comedy: Diana Van Fossen and Raul E. Esparza are featured in Meadow Brook Theatre's production of Joe Orton's outrageous comedy "What the Butler Saw."

Plymouth Theatre Guild's 'Sweet Charity' wows the house

The Plymouth Theatre Guild presents "Sweet Charity," 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Feb. 20-21, Feb. 27-28 and 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22 at the Water Tower Theatre, 41001 W. Seven Mile Road (west of I-275 between Haggerty and Northville roads), on the grounds of the Northville Psychiatric Hospital, Northville. Tickets are \$11 in advance, \$12 at door. Call (248) 349-7110 or check out their Web site at <http://www.causeway.com/ptg/> BY SUE SUCHTYA SPECIAL WRITER

"Sweet Charity," the story of a dance hall hostess who wore her

heart on her sleeve and a tattoo, comes to life with optimism and a heavy dose of Bob Fosse style and attitude.

Charity Hope Valentine is part incurable romantic, part co-dependent. An optimist despite her life's hard knocks, she still believes she'll find true love. She usually finds it in the wrong men, and makes the most of relationships that are doomed from the start.

After being dumped into a river and robbed by her almost-fiancee (still a married man), Charity has an almost fling with a film star before connecting with a neurotic accountant she

was trapped with in an elevator. Oscar dubs her Sweet Charity, and sets her dreaming of a life away from the Fan-Dango Ballroom.

Emily Raymond of Farmington is the quintessential Charity - sweet, optimistic, kooky, and a blind optimist. She maintains an upbeat spirit throughout the play, and her energy never lags. She captures the audience with her smile and wins them over with, "If My Friends Could See Me Now."

Director Jamie Richards and producer Ed Cox have taken a 1960s theme and have a lot of

fun with it. Discotheque lighting, the fashions, and flower power are woven in the show, reinforcing Charity's personal turmoil with the moral chaos of the decade.

The scene from the "Rhythm of Life Church" is like a scene out of "Tommy," complete with a con-artist preacher, Daddy Brubeck, played with a delicious wickedness by Tony Lawry of Garden City.

The choreography is stunning, and pays tribute to the attitude and style of Bob Fosse, the show's original Broadway chore-

ographer. The moves are sexy and provocative without being overt. Paired with the striking lighting design, the show deftly captures the strong moods and raw sensuality of the show.

Charity's hard-edged dance hall friends Nickie and Helene, played by Heather Bell of Royal Oak and Tani Ann Mough of Walled Lake, were strong vocal assets to the show, and wowed the house with the duet, "Baby, Dream Your Dream." Julie Newcombe of Farmington Hills, as Ursula, epitomizes the blonde bombshell with her stunning presence.

Jim Meade plays all three of Charity's romantic interests, skillfully changing from a silent thug, to a Italian-accented movie star, to a boy-next-door type. Meade excelled in all three roles with his captivating charm and smile, winning Charity's heart and the audience's applause. Having one actor play all three of Charity's love interests is an interesting twist, since all are alike in that they leave her high and dry without the love she so desperately craves. Though different personalities, they all trample her heart, and leave her alone to bravely start her search once more.

JET provokes audiences to take a side in morality play

Jewish Ensemble Theatre presents "Taking Sides," through Sunday, March 8, Aaron DeRoy Theatre, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Performances 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays and Wednesday, March 4. Tickets \$13-\$23 with discounts for seniors, students and groups, call (248) 788-2900 BY BARBARA MICHALS SPECIAL WRITER

To the victors belong the spoils, such as the privilege of deciding who did right and who did wrong, who is good and who is evil.

In "Taking Sides," the Ronald Harwood drama about a post-war military investigation of Nazi collaborators, the Jewish Ensemble Theatre production does a superb job of examining some difficult questions.

It's 1946 in the American Zone of Occupied Berlin. Major Steve Arnold (John Michael Manfredi) has been assigned to investigate world-famous German conductor Wilhelm Furtwangler (Robert

Grossman).

Having just visited the liberated Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, Arnold is convinced there is no such thing as an innocent German. A culturally bereft former insurance investigator, he never grasps the concept of art transcending politics let alone believes it.

Though there is massive evidence of Furtwangler helping countless Jewish musicians flee the country in the early days of the war, the conductor's arrogance only strengthens Arnold obsession to prove him a Nazi.

Unfortunately, the play program never mentions that "Taking Sides" is based on a real incident, and the drama's closing scene only hints at the slander campaign that ended Furtwangler's career.

If he was really strongly against the Nazi regime as he claims, "Why didn't you flee the country yourself when you had the chance?" Arnold asks a surprised Furtwangler, who sputters, "but it's my country, my peo-

ple..."

This is the most disturbing issue Harwood raises with all sorts of more modern applications. During the Vietnam War, for instance, a great many were vaguely against U.S. involvement in the conflict, but lacked the courage of their convictions to do much about it.

"After all, it's my country," many reasoned, "they must know what they're doing."

"Taking Sides" abounds in ironies. Arnold tries to pin the conductor's guilt on some documented anti-Semitic remarks.

But early in the drama the major makes his own anti-Semitic remark, presumably his prejudices are so deeply ingrained he is unaware of them.

Tamara Sachs (Joanna Hastings Woodcock), a half-crazed widow who seeks to testify on Furtwangler's behalf, warns Arnold that misusing the power of the victors to persecute the innocent will make him no better than the last regime.

Furtwangler is also strongly backed by Emmi Straub, Arnold's German secretary whose father was one of the gen-

erals in the plot to assassinate Hitler, and most ironically, by Lieutenant Wills, (David Wolber), Arnold's young Jewish assistant.

Though his own parents died in the Holocaust, Wills is a music lover who has no problem separating art from politics.

In Arnold's obsession to bring the big prey to trial, he befriends Helmut Rode (Charles McGraw), the one member of Furtwangler's Berlin Philharmonic proven to be a Nazi party member.

Under the excellent direction

of Evelyn Orbach, the entire cast delivers flawless, deeply affecting performances.

Manfredi and Grossman are especially well-cast as head-on antagonists.

Christopher Carothers' set and Edith Leavis Bookstein's costumes add to the production's polish. Rita Girardi's fine lighting needs only more impact at the end of each act.

Overall, "Taking Sides" is one of the most thought-provoking plays in contemporary theatre. JET's outstanding production should not be missed

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 Directed and Co-Produced by Sandra Bezic
 Co-Directed by Michael Seibert
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 • 8:00 P.M.
 Tickets: \$42.00 and \$30.00 at The Palace Box Office and Ticketmaster's locations.
 Phone Charge: 248/845-8666
 Group Information (15 or more): 248/377-0100

ROMANCE DEFINED.
 Romance (rō-mans, rō-mans, rō-mans), n. 1. A powerful attraction or tendency to derive pleasure from romantic adventures. 2. A sentimental tale of wonderful and extraordinary events, characterized by much imagination and idealization, and the quality or characteristic of excitement, love, and adventure. 3. A love affair.
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MOVIES

'The Borrowers' is a tiny family film treasure



JOHN MONAGHAN

Somehow 'The Borrowers' passed me by. The series of books, about a family of little people who reside under the floor boards, has been a children's favorite since first published in 1952.

If they're half as good as the new movie version, I can understand the reason for all the fuss. Exciting, touching, and imaginatively designed, this British import is one of those rare movies that will please adults as much as the children who drag them to it.

Peagreen and Arietty (Tom Felton and Flora Newbigin) are the mouse-sized brother and sis-

ter who live in a cozy English house. The opening shows them in the act of "borrowing" from the larger humans they cohabit with. When Arietty gets locked in the freezer during a search for ice cream, it's up to her agile father Pod (Jim Broadbent) to get her out of it.

Mother Homily (Celia Imire), meanwhile, minds the home front, fashioning household necessities out of things like thimbles, fabric scraps and board game pieces.

'The Borrowers' is a delight on several levels. As a children's movie it delivers a strong message about family and community unity. It also offers a hissable villain played by John Goodman, a scheming lawyer who steals the deed to the Borrowers' home.

From here the movie becomes an elaborate chase through English city streets and into

such unusual locations as an antiquated milk bottling plant. This is where the movie gets interesting for adults, since the product placement is decidedly modern but the settings all recall the 1950s.

Director Peter Hewitt and his talented production crew have staged a number of marvelous set pieces that will have the hearts of all ages racing. At one point Goodman's lawyer takes a hammer to the walls as the children skitter along the beams, plaster exploding just centimeters behind them.

For his part, John Goodman (seen in no less than four movies this month) has the proper larger-than-life quality to take on this new breed of Lilliputian. He even gets strung up Gulliver-style.

His slapstick scenes are offset by clever bits with a police offi-

cer (Hugh Laurie's Officer Steady) whose attempts to be polite and helpful inadvertently spoil the lawyer's odious plans. In another bit of inspired casting, Mark Williams plays an exterminator who looks like a cross between the Orkin and Good Humor Men. Though commissioned to destroy the meddlers, he has a healthy respect for the legendary creatures he has never seen - until now.

Despite the seamless quality of the special effects, 'The Borrowers' has the feel of a tiny treasure. Disney could learn a trick or two from the Brits when it comes to making a movie that charms as much as it dazzles.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. To leave John a voice mail message, dial (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866.



POLYGRAM FILMS Family feature: John Goodman as the evil lawyer, Ociuous P. Potter, says his final words to the Clock family in 'The Borrowers.'

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Grid of movie listings for various theaters including General Cinemas, United Artists, and Showcase. Lists titles like 'The Borrowers', 'The Wedding Singer', and 'Blues Brothers 2000' with showtimes and ratings.

SCREEN SCENE



Drama: Robert Duvall as 'The Apostle E.F.' in a scene from 'The Apostle,' written and directed by Duvall.

A sampling of what's playing at alternative movie theaters across metro Detroit as reviewed by John Monaghan.

Detroit Film Theatre Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (313) 833-2323 for information. (\$5.50; \$4.50 students/seniors)

Magic Bag 22918 Woodward, Ferndale. Call (248) 544-3030 for information. (\$2)

Boogie Nights (USA-1997). 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19. One of last year's most challenging and kinetic film experiences was this look at the pornographic movie industry just before the rise of video.

Deconstructing Harry (USA-1997). 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25. Woody Allen's latest has evoked a love-hate relationship among viewers. Here he plays a surprisingly profane version of his neurotic New Yorker, whose fictional creations merge cleverly with his real life.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, Feb. 20 'PALMISTO' Thriller about a bitter and disillusioned ex-con who returns home and is offered a chance to make some easy money just by writing a note and making a threatening phone call.

Royal Oak. Films play through at least Thursday, unless noted otherwise. Call (248) 542-0180 for information. (\$6.50; \$4 students; seniors and matinee; \$3 twilight)

Live Flesh (Spain-1997). The latest from Pedro Almodovar ("Women in the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown") as a well-drawn but surprisingly ordinary tale of murder, obsession, and unrequited love.

The Apostle (USA-1998). Robert Duvall wrote, directed, and starred in this story of a preacher who finds his personal rode to salvation, helped in part by his wife (played by Farrah Fawcett).

Oscar and Lucinda (USA-1997). Ralph Fiennes plays a controversial wagering priest who finds his soulmate in heiress Cate Blanchett. Directed by Gillian Armstrong.

Redford Theatre 17360 Lahser (at Grand River), Detroit. Call (313) 537-2560 for information. (\$2.50)

The Unsinkable Molly Brown (USA-1964). 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, p.m. Feb. 21 (organ overture begins a half hour before showtime).

Debbie Reynolds plays the plucky "Titanic" survivor who went from rags to riches in Denver in the late 1800s. Songs are provided by "The Music Man's" Meredith Wilson.

Southfield Classic Cinema Series Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield, Southfield. Call (248) 424-9022 for information. (\$3)

Black westerns - "Bronze Buckaroo" (USA-1938) and "Harlem Rides the Range" (USA-1939). 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20. A

pair of westerns starring African-American matinee idol and Detroit native Herbert Jeffries. Both are musicals and feature an all-black cast.

Star Southfield 12 Mile Road (west of Telegraph), Southfield. Call (248) 372-2222. (\$6.50; \$4.50 before 6 p.m.)

Four Days in September (Brazil-1997). This story of the 1969 kidnapping of an American ambassador to Brazil (Alan Arkin) has been nominated for Best Foreign Film Oscar.

Zero Effect (USA-1998). From Jake Kasdan, son of writer/director/former Detroit Lawrence Kasdan comes this quirky thriller about a Holmes-like detective (Bill Pullman) and his assistant (Ben Stiller) in search of a rich man's lost keys.

Wag the Dog (USA-1997). Robert DeNiro plays a Washington spin doctor extraordinaire who gets the President out of hot water by staging a fake war with Albania. Dustin Hoffman stars as the Hollywood producer who helps stage the ruse.

Windsor Film Theatre 2135 Wyandotte Street West, Windsor, Canada. Call (519) 254-FILM for specific film information. (\$5.25 Canadian; \$4 U.S.)

The Myth of Fingerprints (USA-1997). 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Feb. 20-22. A New England family reunion is the setting for this low-budget comedy.

Sick: The Life and Death of Bob Flanagan, Super-masochist (USA-1996). 9:15 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Feb. 20-22. Comedian and performance artist Flanagan found that sado-masochism helped in his bout with cystic fibrosis. The rest of us get to share his pleasure/pain in this Sundance favorite documentary.

he cannot remember. "KRIPPENDORF'S TRIBE" Family comedy about a widowed anthropology professor who uses grant money to raise his family, disguising his children as an "undiscovered" tribe from New Guinea. Stars Richard Dreyfuss, Lily Tomlin, Jenna Elfman.

"KISSING A POOL" Comedy about a nervous groom-to-be who asks his best friend to court his fiancé in an attempt to test her loyalty. Stars David Schermer, Bonnie Hunt.

"CAUGHT UP" Drama about an ex-con struggling to leave his old life behind, only to find himself caught in a web of deceit.

"DANGEROUS BEAUTY" In a world where women have few rights and are treated like property, the most captivating woman of her day dares to confront convention to become a powerful force for change.

"BARK CITY" Futuristic thriller about a man who awakens in a hotel room, only to discover he is wanted for a series of murders

STREET SCENE

After 20 years, Sun Messengers finally cut an album

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

During the last 20 years, The Sun Messengers have provided a soundtrack to nightclubs, bars, the Detroit Music Awards, weddings, parties and Detroit Pistons games.

Now the R&B band wants its music to echo throughout the homes of its fans. After two decades in the business, The Sun Messengers have released its debut CD "Late Night Cruise."

"People don't know us as a recording act. We've been primarily known as a live act. Our place in Detroit music history has been established, but we're hoping to lengthen our legacy," said Rick Steiger, the band's leader who plays the baritone and alto saxophones.

The Sun Messengers' material has appeared on compilations, two singles, a cassette and a four-song 12-inch EP. The band never put out a full-length recording simply because it didn't have time.

"Actually four of the tracks were recorded in February of 1996. Then there were two factors - after about May we get really busy plus we believe in road-testing the material. We don't just put it together and record it. We have to develop and



Serenading The Palace: The Sun Messengers - from left, Tipp Hayes, William Elijah, Terry Thunder, Russ Miller, Dan Mayer, John "T-Bone" Paxton, Arthur "Speck" Colden and Rick Steiger.

play the material for awhile."

"Late Night Cruise" features a mix of original and cover tunes including the Count Basie-inspired "Splanky," and a revamped version of Teddy Pendergrass's "I Can't Leave Your Love Alone." The eight-piece band honors Motown with "Imaginary Heaven," a medley of The Temptations' "Just My Imagination," written by Southfield resident Barrett Strong and his partner Norman Whitfield, and "Heaven" by the group Solo. The title track, penned by keyboardist

Arthur "Speck" Colden and Valerie McCullers, infuses funk and jazz.

The Sun Messengers is one of the few bands in the area who isn't struggling to get its music heard. From high atop The Palace of Auburn Hills, The Sun Messengers serenade Pistons fans with original and cover songs.

"Playing in front of 20,000 people a night adds to the name recognition. It really helps. It's the final piece in a puzzle," Steiger said.

"It's part of a great thing. This is the prime time for basketball but a slow time for the band business."

As a tribute to the 1996-97 Detroit Pistons, band member William Elijah, trumpeter/vocalist, wrote "Who's Got Da Skillz?" a bonus track on the 14-song CD, available at The Palace Locker Room store at the arena.

"William Elijah knocked it right out. He said, 'OK, you do this. You do that' and boom, he wrote the words right at the game. Now that they're (The Pistons) playing better again it'll give us more inspiration to write songs. There's been a lot of frustrating losses," Steiger said.

This is the third season that The Sun Messengers has served as "the official band of the Detroit Pistons." The Harper Woods-based band was hired after Palace Sports and Entertainment executives saw The Sun Messengers' performances.

"Over the years we had seen them playing at various spots in the metropolitan Detroit area and always thought that they displayed a fun style and atmosphere. (But it's) not only that. They're a quality group of musicians. They were just what we were looking for," said Peter Skorich, vice president of broadcast-

ing and multi-media for Palace Sports and Entertainment.

The organization wasn't looking for a "house band" but created the position for The Sun Messengers. Having the band play at Pistons home games, hearkens back to the days when stadiums and arenas provided live music during sporting events.

"It's a live sporting event, a lot of the live entertainment has been extracted from the game. Everybody used to have an organ player, now it's all canned music. There's nothing wrong with canned music but after you play 40-50 games in a season and your fans are only identifying with the same 15 songs all year, then that's when you add a live element like The Sun Messengers and make it more a diverse entertainment event," Skorich explained.

The eight-member group - which also includes Terry Thunder (drums and vocals), Tipp Hayes (bass), Russ Miller (sax), John "T-bone" Paxton (trombone and vocals) and Dan Mayer (guitar) - plays throughout the game.

"We play a half hour before the game, and then we play a lead-in to time-outs, and then we play in and out of time outs and some-

times through the whole time-outs, and then one song at the end of the game," he said.

For Steiger it's a dream come true.

"I'm a big basketball fan. I've seen a lot of good basketball."

Although it has taken 20 years for The Sun Messengers to put out its first CD, it's going to take a lot less than that for the next CD to come out. A follow-up will be in stores this year as a way of celebrating The Sun Messengers 20th anniversary.

"We took the month of January off from rehearsing. We're back into rehearsals and now we're sort of deciding and choosing the songs. You can imagine a band that's been around as long as us, we have quite a few songs," he said.

"I'm dead set on creating a presence for the band as a recording act. Even if it's just locally."

The Sun Messengers performed at home Detroit Pistons games at The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr. (I-75 and Lapeer Road), Auburn Hills. Tickets are \$15-\$28. For more information, call (248) 377-0100, or visit http://www.palacenet.com or http://www.rust.net/~steiger/sunmess.htm

American Mars aim is to make the world go away



CHRISTINA FUOCO

brightly run across ticker-tape screens.

At its shows, the goal of the Dearborn-based ethereal pop band American Mars is to make it all go away.

"We want to make all of those

kinds of things disappear when people come to see us," said singer/guitarist Thomas Trimble, formerly of the minimalist duo Breech with Missy Gibson.

To accomplish that, American Mars surrounds its audience with its landscape of cinematic tales, Bauhaus-like dark guitars and Trimble's lush vocals.

"We're a little bit more visual than a typical rock band. We're not super loud. We're not a 'big scissor-kick rock group.' We're like (the British trip-hop act) Portishead. Their songs sound like soundtrack stuff. We want our music to play like a soundtrack," Trimble said.

American Mars released its

"soundtrack," its debut album "American Mars," in October 1997. Recorded at the Tempermill in Ferndale with Dave Feeny on Feb. 14, 1997, the CD was not an easy task.

"We did it by ourselves. There was some excitement balanced with a healthy amount of dread. We had never done it before. It really was a learning experience," Trimble said.

The band - which included Trimble, bassist/vocalist/guitarist Karla K. Richardson, guitarist Brad Richards and drummer Dave Lentz at the time - told Feeny how much money it could spend and took it from there. Although American Mars

had to work within financial constraints, the band "did everything the way we wanted to do it."

Trimble's lyrics are miniature movies in their own right. The musically haunting "Hourglass" describes the anxiety prior to the end of a relationship ("You ask your lover to tell you that you're through/You wait around for something you can lose"). "Crush," a raucous duet between Trimble and Richardson, shares the excitement of infatuation: "Is she illusion? - or sheer perfection/ light of day - or dark confectio/ the honey sweeter - the stinger neater."

A late-starting musician, Trim-

ble has only written songs since 1987 when he was in his late teens.

"I tried to teach myself the guitar three or four times, but I just gave up. It seemed like a pretty cool stance to take - 'rock guy,'" said Trimble who has since learned to play the instrument.

In some circles the description "pop music" is considered an insult. But American Mars - which now includes guitarist Gary Watts, formerly of Scott Fab and Crossed Wire, drummer Lentz and Trimble - considers it a compliment.

"It's pop with a twist. Pop's a lot more interesting than rock," Trimble said.

Lentz added, "It's a lot more inventive lately."

Trimble said "at the end of the day" there's no need to worry about labels.

"I don't think we behold to any idea like indie authenticity. We're not concerned about people questioning our credibility."

The band will soon embark on its second tour of the Midwest and the south this spring, and its first visit to Europe in the fall. Watts, who joined American

Mars last fall, explained that the highlights of the first tour for him were when the band was able to connect with the audience.

"When you can overcome complete strangers and make them forget about everything else in the room (that's satisfying). I love that connection."

American Mars plays following Jim Carroll's spoken-word performance at 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Magic Stick in the Majestic complex, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance for the 18 and older show. For more information, call (313) 833-POOL or (248) 645-6666. "American Mars" is available in independent record and Harmony House stores, through the band's website - http://www.americanmars.com

If you have a question or comment for Christina Fuoco write her at The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or via e-mail at cfuoco@aol.com, or leave a message at (734) 953-2045, ext. 2130.

Grp ofrs abrdgd Shkspr as bnft fr Hlbry

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

Public Television, we're going to bring you a bunch of plays by the Bard himself.

How to fit an entire Shakespeare play into a half hour? Enter "The Compleat Works of Wilm Shkspr (abridged)" by the Reduced Shakespeare Company. The show's a fund-raiser for the Hilberry Theatre, so I called Wayne State's Blair Anderson for the scoop. "They did this play

last year, and I completely adored it. They do everything! The second act is 'Hamlet,' first in double time, then in triple time, and then they do it backwards." Does Shakespeare lend itself to comedy? "All three actors play various roles. Classically you had men playing women's roles, and in camp you have the same thing..."

Blair made special note of the actors involved. "There's something special that all three of these grad students - Karl Kippola, David Engelman and Bret Tuomi - know the classics very well. So the material speaks to theater-goers but is also funny for neophytes. They play it on many levels. They're the creme de la creme of the department. And they did this in their free time for the love of it, for the *joie de theater* if you will."

Next we take a look at a six-

week happening in Ann Arbor that explores surrealism, the Exquisite Corpse. I asked *Backstage Pass* producer Katherine Weider to explain. "The exquisite corpse was a name invented by the surrealists around the turn of the century. They played it in cafes and parlors, and it can be a literary game, of a visual game.

"Visually what you do is get a piece of paper. One person does the head and you cover most of it up, leaving a little bit showing at the bottom so there's some kind of connection. The next person does the torso, and you cover it up in the same way. The last person does the legs, then you uncover it all and see what you've got. And these terms are loose, so you wind up with odd things - a banana for a head, a

rooster's body, webbed feet, whatever. The media can also vary, so you have part collage, part drawing and so on."

So what can people expect in Ann Arbor? "Sharon Curry organized 60 or 70 artists to participate in this exquisite corpse exhibition. They either had to find collaborators or be assigned them, and they had about six months to get together to do these games on a large scale. The exhibit at the Ann Arbor Art Center is the result of these games, and it is really the heart of the festival.

Also on the big show, singer-songwriter Edwin McCain. That's all on *Backstage Pass* tonight on Detroit Public Television at midnight, repeated Friday at 7:30 p.m.

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NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

Zagat Survey serves up diners' views of best restaurants

BY ELEANOR HEALD
SPECIAL WRITER

Tired of a critic downgrading a restaurant you like? Or conversely, heaping praise on one you dislike? Would the best rating come from surveying "real diners," folks like you, who love to eat out?

In the late 1970s, that's what Nina and Tim Zagat (rhymes with the cat) and a group of their New York City friends thought. By 1979, the Zagats created a new standard for the restaurant and travel guide business with introduction of their first Zagat Restaurant Survey.

The first survey polled 100 friends, colleagues and business clients. It was a photocopied list of 75 New York City restaurants with brief comments about each, on a single legal-size sheet of paper.

Between 1979 and 1983, the first formal publishing year for the Zagat Survey, the surveyor base mounted to 600, rating 300 New York restaurants. Their food passion and restaurant critics hobby was costing the Zagats every spare moment of time and nearly \$12,000 annually. It was time for now 55-year-old Nina

and her 57-year-old husband Tim, both Yale Law School graduates, to give up law practices and become publishing entrepreneurs!

TIME magazine praised the Zagat Survey as "gastromonomical democracy in action." And it is just that.

Today, a literal army of foodies, who volunteer to review restaurants in 40 cities, have created the restaurant guides known as Zagat Surveys. The 1998 edition billed as "America's Top Restaurants" \$12.95 can be found in all major area bookstores and at Williams-Sonoma locations in Troy, Ann Arbor, Livonia and Novi.

Under the chapter titled Detroit, 23 restaurants were rated by 1,200 volunteer surveyors. Not all are Detroit. Both the Rowe Inn and Tapawingo in Ellsworth are deservedly included. Besting the area top 10 list are The Lark and The Golden Mushroom.

Zagat surveyors rate each restaurant on food, decor and service using a 0-30 scale. Scores of 20-25 are considered very good to excellent with 26-30 viewed as extraordinary to per-

fection. Cost reflects the estimated price of one dinner with one drink and tip. Lunch at the same eatery is usually 25 percent less. Cost ratings are Inexpensive, \$15 and under; Moderate \$16 to \$30; Expensive \$31 to \$50; and Very Expensive \$51 or more.

Surveyors comments are summarized by a paid local editor in each of the 40 cities. Literal comments are shown in quotation marks. Symbols indicate whether responses were mixed or uniform.

Zagat Surveys do not indicate whether alcohol, beer and/or wine are served. Gail Zarr, Zagat's managing editor said, "We believe most of the restaurants do have a license."

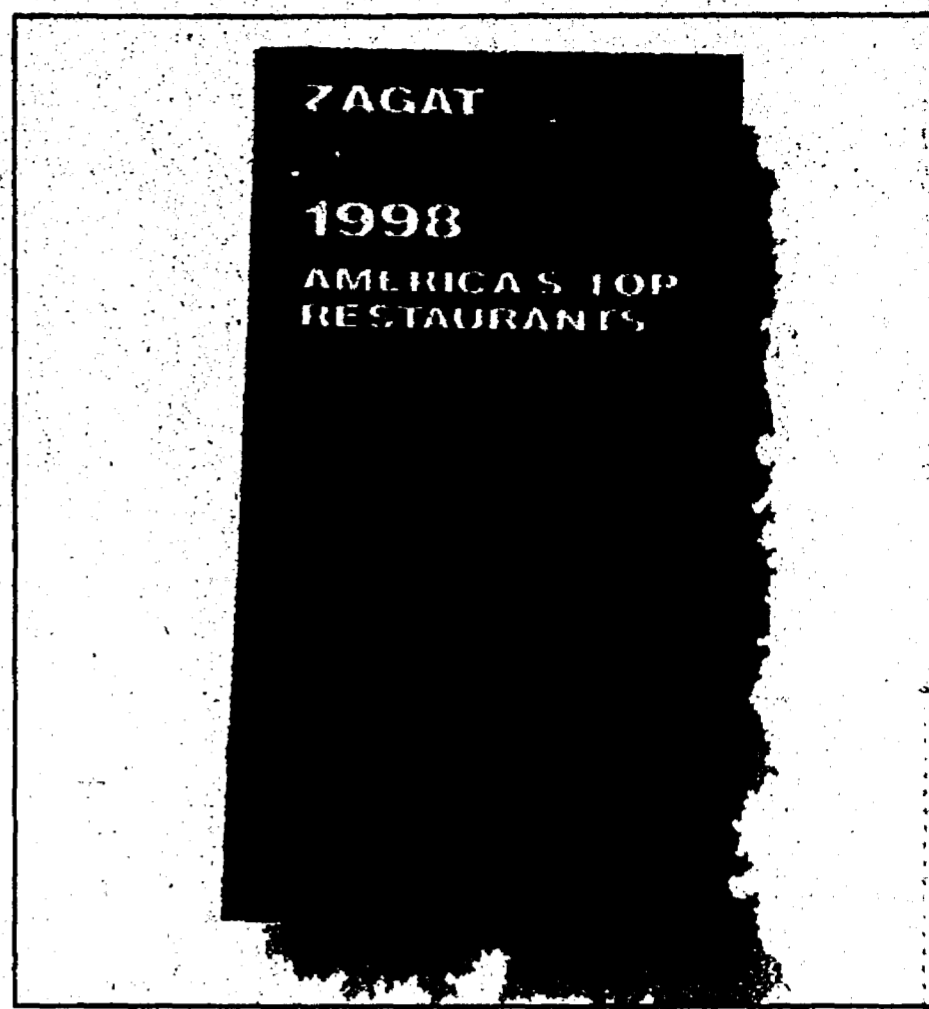
When I explained that's not the case for smaller, well-run, highly recommendable, usually ethnic restaurants in the metro-Detroit area, she responded, "We should probably look into including this."

A stand alone salute to fine dining is Zagat Survey 1997 Update Michigan Restaurants, Focusing on Detroit and Environs. This \$9.95 pocket-size

book gives a more complete look at Michigan. While it sports last year, it is current, except for restaurants that opened in 1997. A Michigan Update is not on the drawing board until late 1998 or early 1999, so the 1997 edition is still the best for a broad overview.

But, that's where the Observer & Eccentric Entertainment section comes in. Each Thursday, Dining brings you news of what's new in the restaurant scene. If you need to see back Dining coverage and you have Internet access, contact the newspapers at www.oeonline.com for a cap-sulized review.

Zagat invites you to be a reviewer in their city Restaurant Survey or in their nationwide Hotel Survey. To get contacted for the next Survey, send a business-size self-addressed stamped envelope to ZAGAT SURVEY, 4 Columbus Circle, New York, NY 10019 indicating the Survey in which you would like to participate, e.g. Detroit or Hotel. Each participant surveyor will receive a free copy of the resulting Survey when it's published.



Dining guide: Zagat Survey of America's Top Restaurants includes 23 "tops" in Michigan.

WHAT'S COOKING

To share news about "What's Cooking" at your restaurant, send of fax information to Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or fax (734) 591-7279.

We're looking for information about places to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Send us your entertainment and menu information as soon as possible.

MAC & RAY'S

Michigan Culinary Food & Wine Extravaganza 6:30-10 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24. To raise money for the Michigan Culinary Team and Scholarship Fund, 24 of the area's top chefs and restaurants present magnificent wine and food pairings under the theme "Celebrating Mardi Gras." Live entertainment provided by Skyline and the Back Street Horns band. General admission tickets \$75 per person or Gold Salon \$125 per person available by phoning Mac & Ray's (810) 463-9660 ext 427. The restaurant is at 36675 North River Rd., Harrison Township (less than three miles east of I-94, next to Selfridge Air National Guard Base).

MARVIN'S BISTRO

Chefs Remy Berdy and Mark Benenati are offering two Fat Tuesday Specials for \$8.95 each on Tuesday, Feb. 24 - Homemade Pierogi stuffed with potato, spinach and chicken topped off with a golden boulet sauce, or Homemade traditional cheese pierogi accompanied with sauteed cabbage and onions topped off with a sour cream dill sauce. Entrees include soup or salad, fresh vegetable medley.

Friday Lenten Specials - Homemade Manhattan Chowder or New England Chowder, two or more seafood specials Fridays during Lent such as marinated salmon, Maryland Crab Cakes, Lemon Sole Rebecca, Broiled Whitefish, Grilled Tuna with

Citrus Sauce served with soup or salad, potato and vegetable medley. Cost will range from \$10.95 to \$13.95 for Lenten seafood specials.

Marvin's Bistro is at 16800 Middlebelt, Livonia, call (734) 522-5600 for information/reservations. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, 4-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. Bar open until 2 a.m. each evening. Pianists Jimmy Knight and Carl Larson perform 7:30 p.m. to midnight Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Look for feature story about Marvin's Bistro on next week's Dining page in Entertainment.

STELLINE

Jimmy Schmidt closed his Stelline restaurant in the Somerset Collection on Jan. 15. His newest venture, Smitty's Grill in downtown Rochester, has been very successful since its opening in December. He believes the Rochester venue appeals to the same dining audience as did a Troy location.

Matt Prentice's Unique Restaurant Corporation will renovate the Stelline location to Portabella, a casual Italian restaurant. The planned opening is May. "The day it opens, we'll close Sebastian's," Prentice said.

But that's not all prentice has on his platter. Flying Fish Tavern will open at the end of February in the former location of Memphis Smoke at Maple and Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield.

"The menu will be similar to Tavern on 13 in Birmingham, but exploiting the seafood concept a bit more," prentice noted.

Duet, another Unique Restaurant Corporation restaurant, to be located in the building next to Orchestra Hall in Detroit, has been on the drawing board for some months. Planned opening is mid-April.

CHARLEY'S CRAB

Kenwood Winemaker's Dinner, 6 p.m. Monday, March 2. Cost \$75 per person, includes all taxes and gratuities. Try six of Sonoma County's Kenwood Vineyards wines at a six-course dinner. Does red wine go with fish? Try Kenwood/Jack London Zinfandel with New Orleans Pecan Catfish with creole meuniere sauce as the first of two entrees and decide! Reservations required. The restaurant is at 5498 Crooks Road, Troy, call (248) 879-2060

NEW NAME

Saint Louis Bread with locations in West Bloomfield and Lathrup Village is unveiling its new name with a special ceremony and donation to local charities.

The neighborhood bakery-cafes will be known as Panera Bread. The new exterior signage was unveiled Tuesday, Feb. 17 by West Bloomfield Township Supervisor Jeddy Hood and Lathrup Village Mayor Frank Brock. Panera Bread is seeking suggestions from its customers for local charities which deserve recognition.

In return, Panera Bread will donate 1,000 loaves of fresh-baked bread to these groups over the next month. Panera Bread also will donate 25 cents from the sale of each loaf of bread at each of the three Detroit-area bakery-cafes through Feb. 21 to Forgotten Harvest.

The West Bloomfield Panera Bread bakery cafe is at 6399 Orchard Lake Road, (248) 855-9209.

The Lathrup Village Panera Bread bakery cafe is at 27651 Southfield Road, (248) 443-0282.

The Novi location, 25875 Novi Road, (248) 374-1701 opened Nov. 19 as Panera Bread.

WINTERFEST BEER TASTING

Schoolcraft College Gourmet Club and Merchant's Fine Wine

- Dearborn, Royal Oak and Milford is hosting the Third Annual Winterfest Beer Tasting, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, February 25 at Schoolcraft College in the Waterman Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia (one block west of I-275 between Six and Seven Mile Roads). The cost is \$30 per person, call (734) 462-4422 to order tickets.

The event will feature fine cuisine, 80 to 100 beers to select from, tastings limited to 50, door prizes and complimentary tasting glass.

The food menu features assorted charcuterie and seafood terrine platters, mixed grilled sausages, beer breads, relishes, and cheeses and crackers.

A Texas food station will feature beer chili, corn spoon bread, and rattlesnake pizza; A wide variety of quesadillas, dips and a salsa bar will be at the Mexican Station; and a dessert bar will offer black and tan cheesecake with cherry beer sauce.

Tickets can be purchased at the Student Activities Office, lower Waterman Center, or Merchant's Fine Wine locations. You must be 21 years old, or older to attend this event.

UNIQUE RESTAURANT CORPORATION

The Southwest Feast, Feb. 19 at Relish, 34555 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, (248) 489-8852; Feb. 21 at Sebastian's Grill, inside Somerset Collection South, Troy, (248) 649-6625.

Each feast begins at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$34.95 per person, not including tax or gratuity. A wine package will be offered at an additional cost. Call the restaurant of your choice for reservations/information.

Menu features Soup Course - Confit of Duck & Posole Soup, Ancho Chiles & Tortilla Confiti; First Course - Lobster & Crab

meat Chile Relleno, Goat Cheese & Shellfish Ranchero Sauce; Principle Course - Lime-Marinated Block Island Swordfish, Tomatillo Beurre Blanc & Spanish Rice Pilaf; Grand Finale - Espresso Flan and Kahlua Caramel Sauce.

German Feast at Morels, 30100 Telegraph, Bingham Farms 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26 features guest speaker Johann Selbach. Cost \$75 per person, including tax and gratuity. Call (248) 642-1094 for reservations. The event will feature seven wines and a special menu featuring Maine Lobster & Gulf Shrimp Tostada, Apricot Glazed Grouper, Roasted Certified USDA Prime Strip Sirloin, and warm "Apple Jack" Tart.

FIVE LAKES GRILL

Wine Tasting Event presented with Merchant's Fine Wines, 5-8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, 424 N. Main St. downtown Milford. Cost \$30 per person, proceeds to benefit Milford Rotary Club, call (248) 684-7455 or (248) 685-7191.

Menu includes imported cheeses & fruits, Smoked Salmon with red onion relish, Sauteed escargot with garlic, chardreuse and filberts, Grilled Portabella Mushrooms with roasted peppers, Redskin potato with spicy pork, Potato Gnocchi with spinach, bacon & Parmesan cheese, Tandoori Chicken Skewers, Fetta with grilled vegetables, various pates & terrines, Mediterranean Cous Cous Salad.

Golden Mushroom

Russian/Vodka Feast Tuesday, Feb. 24, cost \$85 per person. Menu features Smoked Roasted Sturgeon with Dark Rye, Sour Cream and Caviar Sauce, Roast Saddle of Lamb with Pomegranate Sauce, Cauliflower Gratin and Potato Pancakes. Golden Mushroom is at 18100 W.

10 Mile Road, at Southfield, call (248) 559-4230 for reservations and information.

THE LARK

Stone Crab Dinner 7 p.m. Monday or Tuesday, Feb. 23 or 24, Cost \$80 per person not including other beverages, tax or gratuity. Menu features fried oysters with Remoulade Sauce, Grilled Shrimp with Hickory Smoked Bacon & Lemon Barbecue Sauce, Buttermilk Biscuits with honey butter, Mixed Fresh Greens with Hearts of Palm, Almonds & Mustard-Hazelnut Vinaigrette, Champagne & Passionfruit Granite, Stone Crab Claws with mustard sauce or drawn butter, Lyonnaise Potatoes, Asparagus, Key Lime Tart with Pecan Crust & Coconut Meringue, Coffee, Bonbons. The restaurant is at 6430 Farmington Road (north of Maple Road) West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-4466 for reservations/information.

EAST SIDE MARIO'S

"Two Hearts East as One" offer continues through the end of February. Four-course meal for two features vegetable soup or garden salad, garlic bread, Rotisserie Chicken Cacciatore served family style with Tiramisu for dessert. The cost \$21.99 per couple.

Serving lunch and dinner seven days a week, East Side Mario's metro Detroit locations are at 29267 Southfield Road, (between 12 and 13 Mile Roads) in the Southfield Commons Shopping Center, Southfield, (248) 569-9454; 31630 Plymouth Road (just west of Merriman) in Livonia (734) 513-8803.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday-Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday.

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