



Your hometown newspaper serving Westland for 35 years

Thursday, February 24, 2000

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Westland, Michigan

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2000 ELECTION RESULTS

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

The Westland Vote:

- George W. Bush - 3,673
- Alan Keyes - 302
- John McCain - 4,200 ✓

Unofficial vote totals. Vote totals are for Westland only. Check mark indicates statewide winner.

IN THE PAPER TODAY

COMMUNITY LIFE

Magic words: Harry Potter books stir imaginations and controversy among readers of all ages. /B1

AT HOME

Getting wired: WebTV can bring the Internet world into your home without the need to purchase an entire personal computer system. /D6

ENTERTAINMENT

Dance: Gregory Reuter, a graduate of the Creative and Performing Arts program at Churchill High School in Livonia, is one of six principals in the cast of "Fosse," opening Tuesday, Feb. 29, at the Fisher Theater. /E1

REAL ESTATE

Tax slashing: Homeowners can take advantage of breaks that renters can't. /F1

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Griffin: Facts will vindicate me

■ The Westland City Council president predicted he will be vindicated as facts emerge in the firing of the former clerk.

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER
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Charles "Trav" Griffin indicated Wednesday night that he will resign as Westland City Council president if a legal opinion finds he abused his authority in the firing of Clerk Patricia Gibbons.

"If it comes down that I did, I will

probably resign as council president," Griffin said near the end of a three-hour meeting.

However, he predicted he will be cleared of wrongdoing when City Attorney Angelo Plakas issues an opinion on whether Griffin abused his authority by placing Gibbons on leave and taking her keys four days before she was officially fired on Jan. 18.

Referring to accusations he exceeded his authority, Griffin said, "I don't think I did."

Plakas indicated that his opinion is imminent.

Please see **DRIVER, A5**



In action: At the meeting are (from left) council President Pro Tem David Cox, President Charles "Trav" Griffin and Deputy Clerk JoAnn Seeborg.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

The sound of music



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

It's a family affair: Great-great-great aunt Madaleen Doherty gets tears in her eyes listening to her nephew, Jake Hickey, a second-grader at Wildwood Elementary, sing "Take a Breath" with the other students during their special Valentine concert for grandparents, parents and other family members. Jake's mother, Odette Hickey, (right) enjoys the fun, too.



Song: Second-grader Tyler Trombley sings "You Are My Sunshine."



Listen: Wildwood Elementary second-graders and a few first-graders open with "Winter in America" at their concert last Thursday.

Please see **REVIEWS, A5**

McCain takes GOP vote in Westland and state

BY DARRELL CLEM
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Westland voter Cindy Harris cast her ballot for George W. Bush in Tuesday's presidential primary, even though she conceded she wasn't impassioned by any of the Republican candidates.

"I don't really like either of them, but I voted for George Bush because I feel he's got more experience," Harris, 44, said, after voting at Edison Elementary School.

Harris, describing herself as an independent voter who leans toward the Republican Party, found Bush more

appealing than Arizona Sen. John McCain and Alan Keyes, former president of Citizens Against Government Waste.

"John McCain has been in Washington too long, and he's more for the lobbyists," Harris said. "I think Bush is the lesser of the evils, and I really don't care for the Democrats."

In Westland, 9,777 votes were cast Tuesday, with 3,673 going to Bush, 302 to Keyes and 4,200 to McCain, the Michigan victor. Turnout was approximately 18 percent.

Outside of Patchin Elementary School, 68-year-old Korean War veter-

an Kenneth Schell said he voted for McCain partly because of the senator's military ties.

McCain was shot down as a Navy pilot during the Vietnam War and taken as a prisoner of war.

"I'm sometimes a bit partial to a vet," Schell said. "I think McCain did his cause for his country, and he's for Medicare and Social Security, which I'm on."

Schell said he isn't firmly aligned with either political party, but he thinks McCain has a better chance than Bush of beating the Democratic contender, whether it's Vice President

Please see related coverage, **A12**

Al Gore or former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley.

Democrats are planning an Iowa-style caucus in Michigan on March 11.

"I just vote for who I think is the best man for the job," Schell said, but added, "I would say that McCain would have a better chance of winning it all than George Bush."

Harris disagreed. "I think Bush is definitely going to beat Al Gore."

Jennifer Johnson, 36, also cast her

Please see **GOP, A4**

Police chief, NAACP differ on black driver issue

BY JULIE BROWN
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Westland Police Chief Emery Price says his department doesn't discriminate racially when it comes to stopping motorists.

His response follows charges by the local NAACP that a black man was singled out for a recent traffic stop.

"They still have not contacted us to make any kind

of complaint," Price said Monday. "We're willing to talk with them."

He questioned the accuracy of NAACP statements. "I don't know where they're getting their information."

Statistics on traffic stops can be misleading, Price noted, and comparisons with smaller police departments will yield skewed results.

His department has 105 officers, all white except for one, whose background is racially mixed

The young man involved in the stop faces charges of fleeing and eluding the police. He had a suspended license, Price said. The Detroit man was bound over to circuit court last Thursday.

"A lot" We do get some," Price said of racial complaints. He noted the man was injured in the scuffle after he ran from police.

"If you're going to do these things, you've got to expect something."

Please see **DRIVER, A4**



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Man charged after drug raid

BY JONI HUBBARD
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An undercover investigation that led Farmington Hills police to a drug packaging operation has resulted in the arrest of a 41-year-old Westland resident.

South Oakland Narcotics Investigation Consortium officers from Farmington Hills, Novi and West Bloomfield raided the Westland home of Sami Nader Farhat on Feb. 18, based on a warrant issued by a 47th District Court magistrate.

"This location was raided because it was a packaging house for marijuana and cocaine that was supplying Farmington Hills and

Novi," said Hills Chief Bill Dwyer.

According to a police report, no one answered the door at 7400 Floral when SONIC officers knocked and announced their presence. They forced the door open and found Farhat in the front room, alone. He was arrested without incident.

K-9 Officer Randy Mince's search turned up drugs in two bedrooms and the kitchen. In addition to three revolvers and a semi-automatic handgun, \$11,200 in cash, packaging materials, scales and drug paraphernalia, officers found 82.5 grams of cocaine and around four kilograms of marijuana. Police confiscated a 1990 Mercury Sable and a 1988 Merkur Scorpio.

According to an incident report filed by Detective Victor Lauria, Farhat waived his Miranda rights and agreed to speak with officers without a lawyer at the Hills police station. He said most of the marijuana was his cousin's.

Farhat was arraigned via videotape on Feb. 21 on three counts: delivery of over 50 grams of cocaine, delivery of over 50 grams of marijuana and felony firearms possession. Bond was set at \$50,000 cash or surety. A plea of not-guilty was entered and a lawyer appointed. The arraignment had to be via videotape because the local court was closed and the arraignment was handled in the court in Romulus.

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Westland Observer

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WILLIAM J. DUNN

Funeral services for William John Dunn, 74, of Peoria, Ariz., were Feb. 19 at Vermeulen Funeral Home. The Rev. Jerry Yarnell officiated. Burial was at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia.

Mr. Dunn was born March 9, 1925, in Coalport, Pa., and died Feb. 15 in Sun City, Ariz. He was a machinist for a tool and die manufacturer.

Mr. Dunn is survived by his son, Dennis (Chris) Dunn; daughters, Carolyn Wefsenmoe and Susanne (Charles) Cahill of Westland; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Michigan Humane Society, 3600 Auburn Road, P.O. Box 214182, Auburn Hills, MI 48321-4182. Arrangements were by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

EDNA M. KASPAK

Funeral services for Edna M. Kasparek, 79, of Westland were Feb. 21 at St. Richard Catholic Church. The Rev. John A. Kasparek officiated. Arrangements were by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

Mrs. Kasparek was born Nov. 6, 1920, in Detroit, and died Feb. 17 in Westland. She was a homemaker and member of St. Richard Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband, John W. Kasparek of Westland; sons, John A. Kasparek, William (Lynn) Kasparek

of South Lyon and James (Shirley) Kasparek of Livonia; daughters, Judith (Lawrence) Krinski, Janet (John) Bash and Sharon (John) Bartus of Canton; brothers, John (Barbara) Doll and Albert (Alice) Doll of Allen Park; sisters, Margaret Cahalan of Wyandotte and Louise Silhaner of Westland; 16 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made as Mass offerings.

BARBARA L. MARANOWSKI

Funeral services for Barbara L. Maranowski, 72, of Westland were Feb. 21 at Sts. Simon & Jude Catholic Church. The Rev. Bernard Pilarski officiated.

Mrs. Maranowski was born June 8, 1927, in Detroit, and died Feb. 17 in Livonia. She was a homemaker and member of Sts. Simon & Jude Catholic Church.

She is survived by son, Anthony E. Maranowski; daughters, Susan Smith of Canton, Margaret (Michael) Berce and Mary Ann Maranowski of Westland; brother, Joseph Goupie of Westland; sister, Carol (Edward) Lemanski; and five grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh, Livonia 48154-5010.

Arrangements were by Vermeulen Funeral Home.

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CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #2023, Public Hearing for Proposed Vacation of 1' x 40' Portion of Utility Easement at Rear of 6344 Hugh, Parcel #005-02-0225-000, East of Hugh Avenue, West of Middlebelt and South of Joy Road, NE-2, Anthony T. Boland.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 7, 2000.

Written comments may be sent to the Westland Planning Department at 37005 Marquette Avenue, Westland, Michigan - 48186.

ROBERT C. BOWERS, Chairman
Westland Planning Commission

WILLIE B. PINION

Services for Willie Pinion, 76, of Westland were Feb. 19 in Schrader-Howell Funeral Home with burial at Knollwood Cemetery in Canton Township. Officiating was the Rev. James Tramp Sr.

Mr. Pinion, born Sept. 14, 1923, in Obion County, Tenn., died Feb. 17 in Livonia.

He was a factory worker. He came to the Westland community in 1963 from Plymouth. Mr. Pinion was a lifetime member of the NRA. He loved hunting, baseball, and nature, and most of all he loved his family.

Surviving are his wife, Margaret; son, Jim (Patsy); daughters, Patricia (Robert) Surret-McClure of Canton and Deborah (Dale) Justice of Romulus; brothers, James of Tennessee and Marvin of Westland; sister, Ida Viola from Tennessee; six grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and dog, Sam.

Mr. Pinion was preceded in death by his son, Danny. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

BRIAN P. DEMPSEY

Services for former Garden City resident Brian Dempsey, 28, of Westland were Feb. 23 in St. Damian Catholic Church with burial at St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Heights. Officiating was the Rev. Lawrence Zurawski.

Mr. Dempsey was born Dec. 15, 1971, in Detroit and died Feb. 18 in Detroit.

He attended St. Dunstan Ele-

mentary and Garden City High School.

He was employed with Palmer Moving and Storage for five years. He was a crew leader.

Mr. Dempsey was an enthusiastic member of several different hockey teams and an avid Red Wings and Detroit Lions fan. One of his biggest joys was being a father. By participating in the organ donor program, his unselfishness benefited four lives.

Surviving are his wife, Dana; son, Joseph; brothers, Michael (Darlene), Rob (Erin), David and Dan (Tina); sister, Carole Ann Dempsey; parents, Robert (Carole) Dempsey of Garden City; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Croyle; and godson, Jeremy Fick.

Memorials may be made to the Joseph R. Dempsey Trust Fund.

Arrangements were handled through John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home.

WILLIAM E. SPALL

Services for William Spall, 89, of Westland were Feb. 22 in St. Kenneth Catholic Church with burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Officiating was the Rev. Joseph S. Mallia.

Mr. Spall was born Dec. 31, 1910, in Red Lodge, Mont., and died Feb. 19 in Westland.

He was an insurance adjuster. He was a member of St. Kenneth Catholic Church for 20 years.

Surviving are his son, J. Michael of Plymouth; brother, Leo Spall of Howley, Pa.; and sister, Eugenia Spall of Howley, Pa.

Mr. Spall was preceded in death by his wife, Rosemary.

Arrangements were handled through Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth Township.

SHIRLEY MAE MORGAN

Services for Shirley Morgan, 67, of Wayne were Feb. 22 in Uht Funeral Home. Officiating was the Rev. Henry Schaeffer.

Mrs. Morgan was born April 1, 1932, and died Feb. 19 in Farmington Hills. She was a homemaker.

Surviving are her sons, Clifford (Diane) Morgan and Lloyd Morgan of Westland; daughters, Patricia (Joseph) Earle, Alice (William) Disney, Barbara Correa, Beatrice Morgan and Rosemary (John) Bowyer; 19 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Morgan was preceded in death by her husband, Irving.

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CITY OF WESTLAND 2000 ANIMAL LICENSES

Licenses must be obtained by Wednesday, March 1, 2000 for all animals age four (4) months or older. A statement of rabies vaccinations must be presented upon applying for an animal license. After March 1, 2000, a \$1 penalty will be assessed. Licenses may be purchased at:

Westland City Clerk's Office, 36601 Ford Road
or
Michigan Humane Society, 37255 Marquette
DIANE J. FRITZ, Westland City Clerk

Publsh. February 17 and 24, 2000

CITY OF WESTLAND RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL 2000 SCHEDULE FOR BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS

RESIDENTIAL	9:30 A.M. - 12:00 Noon	1:30 - 4:00 P.M.
Monday, March 13	9:30 - 4:00 P.M.	5:30 - 8:30 P.M.
Tuesday, March 14	9:30 A.M. - 12:00 Noon	1:30 - 4:00 P.M.
Wednesday, March 15	1:00 - 4:00 P.M.	5:30 - 8:30 P.M.
Thursday, March 16	9:30 A.M. - 12:00 Noon	1:30 - 4:00 P.M.
Friday, March 17		
COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL	9:30 A.M. - 12:00 Noon	1:30 - 4:00 P.M.
Friday, March 17		

CALL 467-3160 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Board of Review Meetings will be held at Westland City Hall
2nd Floor - Council Chambers
36601 Ford Road
Westland, MI 48185

Written Appeals Must Be Received by 2:00 P.M. on Friday, March 17, 2000

Publsh. February 24, 2000

PTA leader: Let's get to work

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

PTA National President Virginia "Ginny" Markell is doing her part to make sure her organization's acronym also stands for Plenty of Tasks Ahead.

The visit by the head of the 103-year-old organization highlighted the Livonia Council PTA's Founders Day 2000 event Feb. 16 at St. Mary's Antiochian Church.

Livonia's 13,500-member strong council is celebrating its 46th year.

Markell appeared at the behest of Grant Elementary Principal Lynn Babcock, who met the PTA national president last spring.

"She (Babcock) said to me, 'I think we have the biggest council. I know we have the best,'" Markell said.

If Markell needed to verify such a boast, she only had to contact Michigan PTA President

Ron Coleman.

"I'm always bragging about this council because it is so active and vibrant," said Coleman, who attended the Feb. 16 event.

While the parent volunteer advocacy organization has done quite a bit during the past century to positively affect learning conditions, there's more to do, Markell said.

"We have a huge job ahead of us to convince others to join our cause," said Markell, who is entering her two-year term. "It's an awesome responsibility for parents. We sort have let it slip by."

The National PTA boasts 6.5 million members. The organization, which evolved from the National Congress of Mothers started by Alice McLella Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst, has been successful in pushing for child labor laws, mandating vaccinations and establishing hot lunch programs.

LIVONIA SCHOOLS

Recently, PTA has been at the forefront in tackling violence in the media and reducing class sizes. The organization continues to fight for adequate school funding, which Markell termed a struggle.

"We simply must care about all children," Markell said. "They certainly impact everything we do ... They are our future hope."

Markell urged Livonia members to reach out to parents who are normally not involved in their children's schooling.

"Do not assume they know what we do ... It doesn't hurt to ask," Markell said.

A Holmes Middle School PTA parent agreed, but noted with two-income families, time is a precious commodity.

"If parents only realized if they could do something ...," Barb Lappetto said.

Added Holmes PTSA President Ellen Kain, "If every parent donated just a half-hour a year, so much could be done."

Markell praised the Livonia council whose many members filled the St. Mary's Antiochian Hall. She also presented Livonia PTA President Nancy Stramecki with a copy of the PTA's latest book, "Building a Successful Partnership."

The council honored Outstanding Youth, which includes five students from each of the three Livonia district high schools. In turn, students select up to three teachers who had the most impact on their academic careers.

Livonia's Teachers of the Year - Washington Elementary's Kathleen Frame and Churchill High's Jennifer Dallacqua - were also recognized.

The largest praise remained



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL
Speaker: Virginia Markell, national PTA president, came to Livonia last week for a visit. She appeared at the behest of Lynn Babcock, Grant Elementary School principal, who met Markell last spring. Markell received a warm welcome in Livonia.

for numerous parents.

"You in this room have a part of Phoebe and Alice in you, or

you wouldn't be here," Markell said. "You care about other children as well as your own."

Livonia PTA Council honors stellar high school seniors

The Livonia PTA Council announced the names of the district's youth recognition seniors during Founders Day 2000 Feb. 16.

Five seniors are selected from the three Livonia district high schools. They are picked based on dependability, integrity, consideration of others and involvement in extracurricular activities as well as school and community service. Students also must have a 3.5 grade-point average.

At the event, students introduced parents and up to three teachers who had a profound effect on their academic careers.

Students selected from Churchill High, and their favorite teachers in parentheses include: Melissa Peckham (Joan Zuccher, Bob Dennis and Marc Heger); Danielle Zucchet (David Higer, Christine Berry and Bill Halvangelis); Laura Portwood-Stacer (Mary Bud and Susan Ryan); Ross Puchalsky (Mary Authier, Mary Merline and Jeff Hatley); and Becky Sperry (Kathleen Fox, Linda Cohan and John McGreevy).

Five seniors are selected from the three Livonia district high schools.

Those chosen from Franklin High include: Lisette Trudell (Sue Bird, Maureen Costa and Mark Parrish); Vanessa Lambert (Susan Kreker, Tracey Williams and Dan Hejka); Michael Schultz (Marc Baker, Diane Worthington and Mark Parrish); Leslie Douglass (Betsey Conway, Lary Howard and Anne Goodwin); and Brian Vinciguerra (Sue Bird, Bruce Buszard and Fran York).

Stevenson High outstanding students are: Amanda Trudell (Susan Ott, Betty Madis and Michael Corliss); Jonathan Ho (Sheila Dobbie, Carole Hunter and Lester Prieskorn); Michelle Bahr (Maryanne Senkowski, Henry Naasko and Sherri Smith); Bradley Carroll (Linda Minsterman, Diane Dunn and Jane O'Brien); and Jeanette Fershtman (Scott Sherburne, Ron Quick and Don Calhoun).

Project TEAM garners kudos

The William D. Ford Career/Technical Center has announced that Project TEAM (Technical Education Academic Manufacturing) has won the 1999 Association of Career & Technical Education Region I Award. The award was presented to multistate award recipients at the Annual National ACTE Convention in Orlando, Fla.

David Mainz won Advisory Committee Member of the Year. Mainz is the Project TEAM coordinator of workplace activities at Detroit Diesel Corp.

Project TEAM and sponsors also won the Business/Education Partnership of the Year Award. Project TEAM's sponsors are Detroit Diesel Corp., UAW Local 163, Spring Engi-

neering and Manufacturing, South Redford Schools, Wayne Westland Schools and the William D. Ford Career/Technical Center.

Project TEAM is a public school and manufacturing industry partnership combining applied academic preparations for graduation with national standards for advanced high

performance manufacturing and extensive school-to-work workplace experiences.

The TEAM program provides non-college-bound junior and senior high school students with a technically oriented applied program in math, physics and communications skills. TEAM also bridges the link between area business and industry resources and school-based learning experiences.

The TEAM program also received the 1999 American Society of Employers Award of Excellence in Human Resources, the Michigan Association of School Boards' "Michigan's Best" Educational Excellence 1999, and Gov. John Engler's Career Prep System "Innovators To Watch" Award. 1999

Block scheduling pondered for Livonia Franklin High School

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
loconnor@oe.homecomm.net

Under a new scheduling format, Franklin High students could see more time in class and have a wider variety of course offerings.

Block scheduling is already being used at some high schools in Farmington, Birmingham and Northville. Franklin teachers and administrators are proposing a similar format starting next fall.

Such a switch would have to be approved by the Livonia Board of Education, whose members listened to Franklin High teachers and administrators explain the program during a study session Monday.

Instead of the traditional six 55-minute classes a day, students will have four classes in 87-minute blocks.

Under the new system, students could take up to eight subjects.

Each class would meet three times a week with two regular 87-minute periods and an abbreviated 42-minute session.

Once a week, students would attend all eight classes for 42 minutes each on what is termed a "last day."

As a result, students would have 78 minutes more in the classroom each week, which would fit in with a state mandate to increase the number of total days in the school calendar.

Supporters tout the program as a way to increase student achievement and course offer-

ings. "What we found is the extended amount of time allows teachers and students to have a better relationship," said Jennifer Juska, Franklin math teacher and Block Scheduling Committee chairwoman. "We found there are fewer behavior problems."

Teachers are driving the change. More than 80 signed their names in support on a board that is on display in the school's library.

The scheduling shift would have to be cleared with their union.

The Livonia Education Association officials and administrators are expected to meet soon to talk about the issue.

Under the current contract, teachers are limited to class sizes totaling no more than 165 students a day.

Teachers would only have 90 students a day during four days of the week. The hang-up is the fast day where teachers would see up to 180 students.

A letter of understanding between the district and union is needed before the block proposal

can be brought to the board for consideration, Superintendent Ken Watson said.

"When we try to make changes at the building level, it's like a slow dance where when the music stops, someone feels left out," Watson said. "We won't let that happen here."

Another concern is how incoming ninth-graders will handle such a change.

The committee has planned several freshman transition programs, which includes peer-mentoring and tutoring.

Ninth-graders would also have to take a transitions class that would cover note-taking, studying, test-taking and time management.

"Anything you can do along those lines would be a plus," said Trustee Daniel Lessard, who attended a presentation along with other board members Monday at Franklin High. "What you do is give them confidence and that will reduce the failure rate."

With a chance to take two additional courses, a block schedule is seen as a way of opening electives to students.

Students are limited to no more than two courses in one subject, preventing them from taking four physical education courses for instance.

The change also gives them a chance to take advanced courses in core subjects.

"As time goes on, I think we'll be able to shift them more towards core classes," said Rich Emrich, Franklin assistant principal.

Ken Watson
—Livonia superintendent

ACHIEVERS

Students from Detroit College of Business have been named to the dean's list for the fall quarter.

Full-time students from Westland are: Terri Mox Grassel, Leslie Jean Muto, Tracy Saffian, Dore Wilbert, Seruna Joy Shamley, Christine Marie Salliba, Kathleen Angela Thompson and Carrie Michelle Kohiba.

Part-time students are: Sharon K. Siebold, Michelle Marie Adkins, Mike Paul Avakian, Josephine Hately, Frank Lawrence Jastrabek, Christine M. Jones, Linda Marowski, Wilbert E. Orton, Dana Lynn Paddock, Gail Beth Pressley, Frank Raymond Sankers, Brandon Smith, Jeremy D. Surgen, Sano, Michelle Staples, and Beth Ann Zanic. To qualify, students must maintain a 3.5 or better grade point average at the end of the quarter.

Local students have been named to the fall dean's list at Adrian College. They were required to maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average while carrying 12 or more hours. Honoree Adam M. Goyt of Westland, a sophomore majoring in mathematics and German, is a 1998 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School. He is the son of Matthew and Roberta Goyt.

Also honored were Stacy Jolly of Wayne, a junior majoring in mathematics and a 1997 graduate of Wayne Memorial High, and Kurt Wenger of Wayne, a freshman planning a major in engineering and a 1999 graduate of Wayne Memorial. Jolly's parents are Gordon and Linda Jolly, and Wenger's, John and Ruth Wenger.



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GOP from page A1

vote for Bush at Edison Elementary.

"I believe he's more honest," she said. "I like Keyes too, but I don't think he has a chance. I think Bush has an excellent chance of winning it all."

Like Johnson, 33-year-old Tom Aimar also cited honesty as the reason for his choice Tuesday - but he voted for McCain.

"He seems honest and comes right out with his problems and puts them on the table," Aimar said. "I think Bush tries to hide things, like his alleged cocaine use, and I think he's trying to ride on his father's coattails to become president."

Aimar predicted that either Bush or McCain will have a good chance at beating the Democrat-

ic nominee.

"I almost think that either one that gets (the party nomination) will beat the Democrat this time," he said, blaming President Bill Clinton for bringing scandal to the White House.

Three former GOP candidates whose names remained on Tuesday's ballot - Gary Bauer, Steve Forbes and Orrin Hatch - had

already pulled out of the race.

Reform Party candidate Donald Trump also has tossed in the towel even though his name still appeared on the ballot.

Only Lyndon LaRouche's name appeared on Tuesday's ballot as a Democratic candidate, although the party won't count the vote and will rely, instead, on March 11 caucuses.

Driver from page A1

Earl Truss, president of the Western Wayne NAACP, disputed that the young man was running from police when he was injured. The central issue "is the police brutality. That's where I'm coming in," the Inkster resident said. "They had no right to brutalize the man after arresting him."

Truss, who's been the local NAACP president since January 1999, didn't get to talk to the man last week in court, but

noted testimony of two witnesses - one black, one white - who said he was handcuffed and struck when in police custody.

"That's what they swore to in court," Truss said of the scuffle. One witness knew the man and the other didn't.

"Right now, we're getting our No. 1 complaint from Westland," he said. Many black people complain verbally to him about beatings in Westland.

Truss said he plans to make a

formal complaint to Westland police about this case. "I wanted to talk to the mayor first."

Truss said Westland Mayor Robert Thomas didn't return his calls, although Price did.

"He has a responsibility to return my call and not have the police chief call me," Truss said.

Truss recommended training and possible hiring of some black officers for the Westland department. He cited what he called a "rogue cop" in Westland who is

causing trouble for black people.

"We do plan to file a formal complaint," Truss said Tuesday, adding that will include Michigan's attorney general. "We're going to talk to Jennifer Granholm, see what we can do. This has got to stop."

He cited a couple Westland locations where he believes officers wait to stop black drivers.

"It has a great effect on people as a whole," Truss said, citing the economic hardship.



Nap time: Five-month-old Joshua Polka of Westland didn't seem to be interested in the rally for Sen. John McCain at Laurel Manor in Livonia Sunday.

STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Dems plan caucus

The 2000 Michigan Democratic presidential caucus for Westland will take place Saturday, March 11, at Marshall Middle School, 35100 Bayview, east of Wayne Road in Westland.

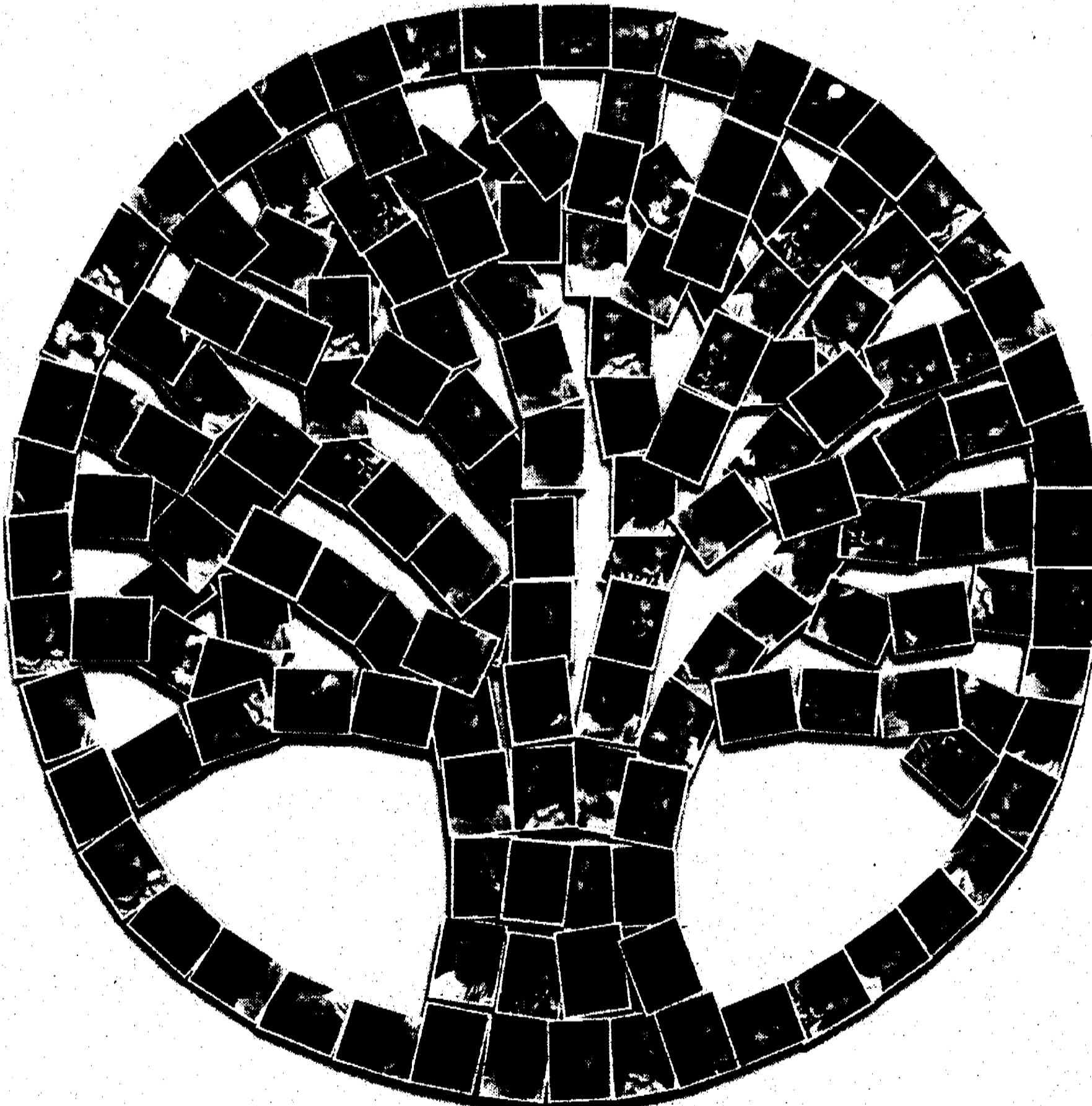
The caucus site will open for registration at 10 a.m. The caucus will begin at 11 a.m. and conclude no later than 1 p.m. No one will be admitted after 11 a.m., but those in line will be allowed to complete registration and participate.

Eligibility includes Westland residents who are registered voters or say they intend to register by Oct. 10 for the Nov. 7 election. People who will be age 18 by the Nov. 7 election and say they intend to register by Oct. 10 are also eligible.

Each participant in the caucus will be required to sign a state-

ment declaring in part "I am participating in the 2000 Michigan Democratic presidential caucus as a Democrat." Proof of residency may be established through a variety of legal identifications, however, participants shall be presumed qualified unless positive proof can be established to the contrary.

A person may vote by mail for reasons of disability, religious beliefs, absence from the area on March 11, or being age 60 or older. To obtain an application for a VBM ballot, contact the Michigan Democratic Party by writing to Michigan Democratic Party, 606 Townsend, Lansing MI 48933, phoning (517) 371-5410, faxing (517) 371-2056, or by e-mailing MIDEMPARTY@aol.com.



**CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #1250B, Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Pharmacy, 1956 Venoy Road, Parcel #074-03-0009-000, Southwest Corner of Venoy Road and Palmer Road, NW-27, Ali El-Khatib/Chawki Fakih (Rick Rosenhaus)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 7, 2000.

Written comments may be sent to the Westland Planning Department at 37095 Marquette Avenue, Westland, Michigan - 48185.

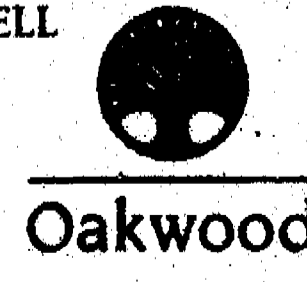
ROBERT C. BOWERS, Chairman
Westland Planning Commission

1-24-00

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**WAYNE WESTLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
Bid Proposal
Wide Area Network**

The Wayne Westland Community Schools' Board of Education is accepting sealed bids for a fiber optic Wide Area Network to connect the District's buildings.

Instructions:

1. Sealed bids will be received at Wayne Westland Community Schools, 38745 Marquette, Westland, Michigan, 48185 on Wednesday, March 15, 2000, at 1:00 p.m. (E.S.T.) at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read.
2. Questions regarding the specification can be faxed to Marc Brown at Plante & Moran, LLP at (248) 352-0018
3. All bids submitted must include complete specifications for item(s) and submitted on Bid Specification form. It is required that bids include brochure/literature describing equipment offered on bid.
4. Base bid shall include structured cabling and components.
5. Bids submitted must fully comply in all respects to the specifications, specified instructions and meet safety requirements, otherwise, exceptions must be fully revealed.
6. All proposals submitted will remain firm for a period of ninety (90) days after the official opening of bids.
7. All bids must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Wide Area Network" carrying said bids. Please remit two (2) copies of bids to the attention of Barb Evanson, Wayne Westland Community Schools, 38745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185. TELEFAX WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
8. All bids submitted must be signed by the authorized agent of the company.
9. Contact Jill Cooper, Plante & Moran, at 248-223-3549 or Cooperj@plante-moran.com for a copy of the RFP.

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any/all bids, or parts thereof, and to accept the bid which will serve the interest of the Board of Education.

1-24-00

Reviews from page A1

ments. She said the only copy of an individual evaluation she ever received came from Councilman Richard LeBlanc.

LeBlanc said he gave her the document in front of his colleagues during a closed-door session.

Otherwise, Gibbons said, "I was never personally given my evaluations. I don't have them in my possession even at this time."

Gibbons was evaluated by council members Griffin, LeBlanc, Cicirelli, Scott and Glenn Anderson, and former members Justine Barns and Charles Pickering.

On Tuesday, Cicirelli said she remembered turning over the job evaluations

to the clerk's office. She said she couldn't remember which employee took the documents, but she said it wasn't Gibbons.

"The originals were definitely at City Hall at some point," Cicirelli said.

Griffin said he has learned that the evaluations were never given to Personnel Director Keith Madden's office.

"This is public information that should have stayed in the personnel director's office," Griffin said.

Cicirelli said she has copies of all individual evaluations of Gibbons, and she said she will give them to interim Clerk Diane Fritz this week so that the city can comply with the Observer's FOIA request.

Local attorney Lyle Dickson said he filed a similar request on behalf of the public.

But Griffin voiced concern that missing original evaluations could raise questions about whether copies were altered.

"Who knows what you can do if you don't have the originals," he said. "It raises big questions, and I'm really concerned about it."

LeBlanc said he gave his original copy to Cicirelli, and he said it is his understanding that the evaluations should have been kept at City Hall.

"If they're not there, someone other than myself would have to answer to that," LeBlanc said.

LeBlanc said he has a copy of his evaluation and will give it to Fritz.

Anderson said he doesn't have a copy of his evaluation of Gibbons.

Anderson, LeBlanc and Cicirelli questioned whether Cox may have seen evaluations of Gibbons' job performance even though he wasn't on council when she was evaluated.

Cox had recently alluded to comments that LeBlanc supposedly made about Gibbons in his evaluation.

"I never saw any of them," Cox said of the individual evaluations.

Anything he has learned about evaluations came from the summary document or from conversations with council members, Cox said.

In another development this week, a Westland woman who started a Web site urging a recall of Scott, Griffin, Cox and James said someone stole the names of e-mail addresses she uses to keep people informed of recall efforts.

Brenda Gracin said some computer hacker used the e-mail addresses to send an erroneous message that a protest had been canceled prior to Wednesday's council meeting. It had not.

Gracin also said someone sent the e-mail under her name after starting an America Online account in her name.

Gracin has filed a complaint with the Westland Police Department and has contacted AOL to seek an investigation.

Griffin from page A1

Griffin also said he believes the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office will clear him of accusations that he and three colleagues violated the Open Meetings Act by deciding privately to fire Gibbons.

"I've never in my life committed a criminal act," Griffin said.

Griffin and council President Pro Tem David Cox issued some of their strongest statements yet Wednesday as the controversy marked a sixth week.

Some 100 people packed council chambers again - mostly to protest the way Gibbons' dismissal was handled by Griffin, Cox and council members David James and Sharon Scott. During a one-hour protest before the meeting, an estimated 125 to 150 people carried signs outside City Hall.

Only a few people stood outside council chambers Wednesday night - far fewer than the 150 to 200 protesters who jammed City Hall during a Feb. 7 meeting.

Cox attacked Councilman Glenn Anderson - a Gibbons supporter - and accused him of helping to orchestrate the public backlash to boost his own political career.

Cox implied that Anderson and his supporters want to hurt Scott's expected bid for the 18th District state House seat this year.

"It is my belief the damage is being done for your benefit," Cox said.

Anderson said he hasn't decided whether he will seek the House seat, and he said Cox's own actions in firing Gibbons led to the public backlash.

"You put yourself into that predicament, Mr. Cox," Anderson said.

Drawing applause, Anderson also criticized Cox for putting the council in an unfavorable light with his remarks Wednesday.

"What you've done is dug the council even lower than it was," Anderson said.

Cox questioned why protesters included many United Auto Workers members who have no ties to Westland.

"Why are 150 auto workers marching around City Hall when many of them don't live in Westland, don't work in Westland...?" Cox asked.

"I think there are political motivations to this," he charged.

In other developments Wednesday night:

■ Ted Williams, president of the Westland Supervisory Association, said Gibbons' firing shouldn't be pitting union members against each other. "It's not a union matter," he said.

Williams, whose union is part of UAW Local 157, said he warned Gibbons that she "was making a mistake" when she left her former union job to become an "at-will" clerk.

■ Deputy Fire Chief David Carignan said Griffin, Cox, Scott and James shouldn't be recalled from office simply because their opinions differ from those of some residents.

■ Resident Mark Rodriguez grilled Griffin about when he knew that he had the four votes to oust Gibbons. Griffin refused to reply due to the ongoing investigation by Wayne County prosecutors.

Rodriguez told Cox and James, "I'm embarrassed to say I voted for you in the last election."

■ Recall supporter Brenda Gracin said she received a summary document of Gibbons' job evaluations and that Gibbons received mostly good marks.

■ Resident Georgia Becker said council members who fired Gibbons need to understand that "it wasn't what you did, because you had the legal right to do it. It's how you did it."

■ Resident Normie Brazier said Gibbons' only fault was that she had "high ethics."

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Plymouth company erects Midfield Terminal frame

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oc.hometown.com

A Plymouth Township firm has a weighty role in the new construction at Detroit Metro Airport — 30 million pounds' worth, to be exact.

That's how much structural steel — more than 15,000 tons — National Riggers & Erectors Inc. needs to assemble the framework of the milelong Midfield Terminal.

"More than a mile, actually, over 5,600 feet long," corrects Bob Dunn, company president and chief executive officer, in discussing the terminal project, which includes a retail mall, underground tram and 74-gate passenger concourses, all scheduled to open December 2001.

It's the biggest project National has ever handled by itself — some 200,000 man-hours, says Dunn — and the company has no intention of missing the August 2000 deadline.

Although the \$14-million contract has "a very expensive non-completion penalty" for tardiness, there's more to it than that: National has a national reputation to uphold.



It's been ranked among the top five steel-rigging firms in dollar-volume of business by *Engineering News Record* magazine since 1993 and counts General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, Toyota and Honda and aircraft manufacturer Boeing as its customers, both locally and nationally.

In addition to Northwest Airlines' Midfield project, National and its predecessor, General Riggers & Erectors of Detroit, have participated in or handled solo such other top local projects as the steelwork for the baseball Tigers' new Detroit home and, some years ago, the expansion of Cobo Hall.

The \$4.5-million Comerica Park project saw National managing the steelwork for Hamburg-based Ideal Steel, a minority firm, according to Dunn.

Largest to date

Its largest project to date overall was a \$32-million steel mill

job in southern Indiana for an Ohio firm, AK Steel. "We had the electrical and siding subcontracts, also the roofing subs," says Dunn. "We were the general (contractor) for about half the job."

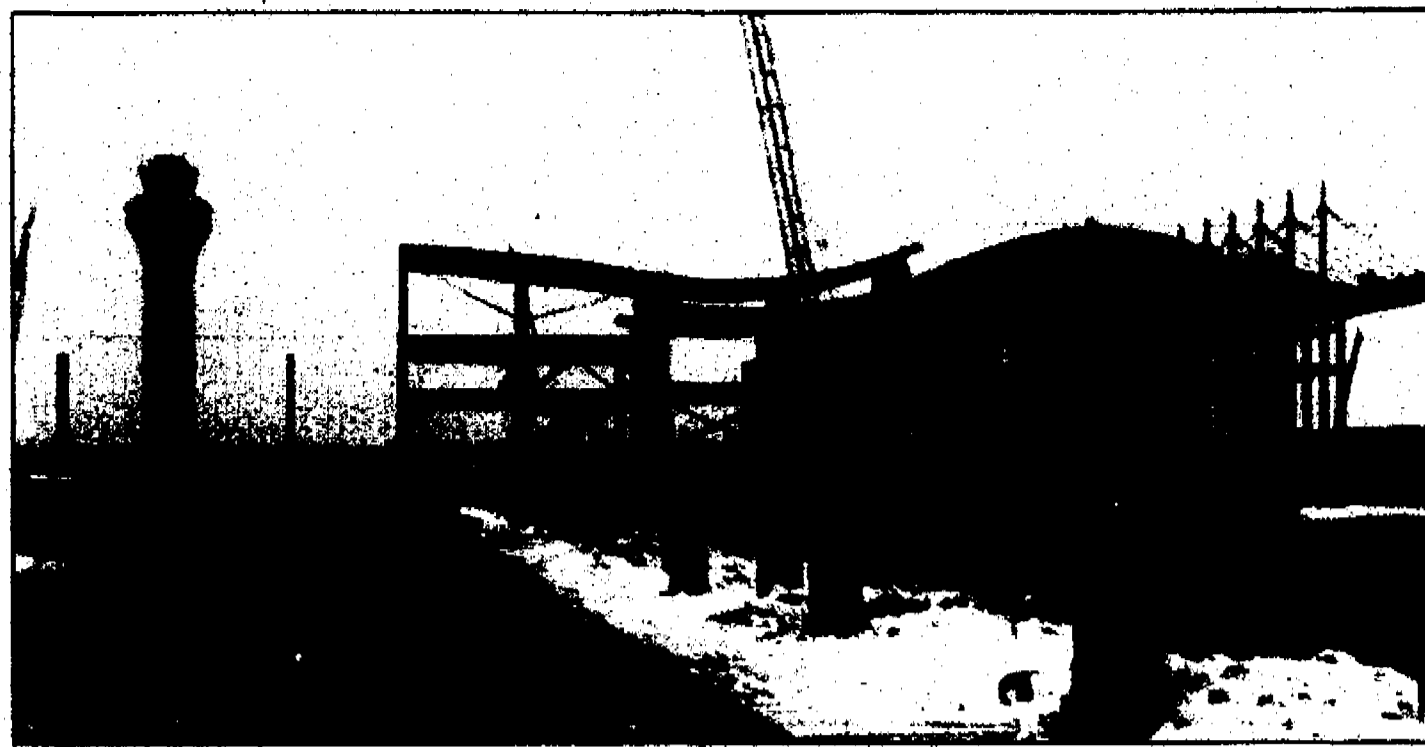
By contrast, he says, the Metro Midfield is "about the largest project we have ever self-performed."

Andrea Cole, National's contract manager, says the firm "hopes to have some involvement" in Ford Field, future downtown home of the Detroit Lions football team.

A City of Plymouth resident, Cole counts 18 years in the steel-rigging business. She was with General Riggers in 1988 when Dunn, then its executive vice president, purchased it and renamed it National.

The company moved from downtown Detroit to Metro West Industrial Park in Plymouth Township in '92, the same year it was purchased by its biggest supplier, Havens Steel Co. of Kansas City.

Cole says most of the 14 administrative staffers at National's headquarters live either in the Plymouths, Canton



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Elegant frame: National Riggers & Erectors Inc. of Plymouth has assembled the framework for the new Midfield Terminal at Metro Airport.

Township, Livonia or the Northvilles.

Steelwork has inherent dangers: The new Midfield Terminal's roof, a convex structure with concave turnouts, can be slippery and treacherous for riggers, especially in winter.

But Bob Dunn says National has "one of the best safety records in the country" through its use of "leading-edge technology" in both on-site safety gear and practices and procedures.

"We require all personnel to wear full-body harnesses when

working on steel," he says. "It's one of the policies we've always employed as a company, even before it was required by our customers."

Zero tolerance

"Anytime you leave the ground, you have to be tied-off 100 percent," he emphasizes, citing National's "zero-tolerance" safety policy.

Then, sounding much like a New York City cop's son — which he happens to be — Dunn lays down the law: "Once the policy

has been explained to you and you're not tied off, you can't work here."

How did a Big Apple native become a Michigan resident?

The Novi resident initially came to Ann Arbor to complete work on an aeronautical engineering degree at the University of Michigan.

"I got into the construction business while applying for law school at U-M, loved it and have been doing it ever since," he says.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

On tour: Liam Pembroke of Livonia squeezes out frosting to decorate his heart cake at Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe in Westland. Liam was part of a group of 4-year-olds from Livonia Co-op Nursery touring the shop.

The taste of education is sweet

The children were young, but that doesn't mean they weren't learning.

The occasion was a Livonia Co-op Nursery visit to Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe in Westland. The children learned the ins and outs of the business during a recent visit.



Balancing act: Tiffany Polley of Livonia enjoys piling frosting on her heart cake.



Learning: Four-year-olds Ashley Elliot of Canton (left) and Danielle Howard of Westland (right) and others from Livonia Co-op Nursery watch as Mary Denning makes a frog out of frosting on a cake.

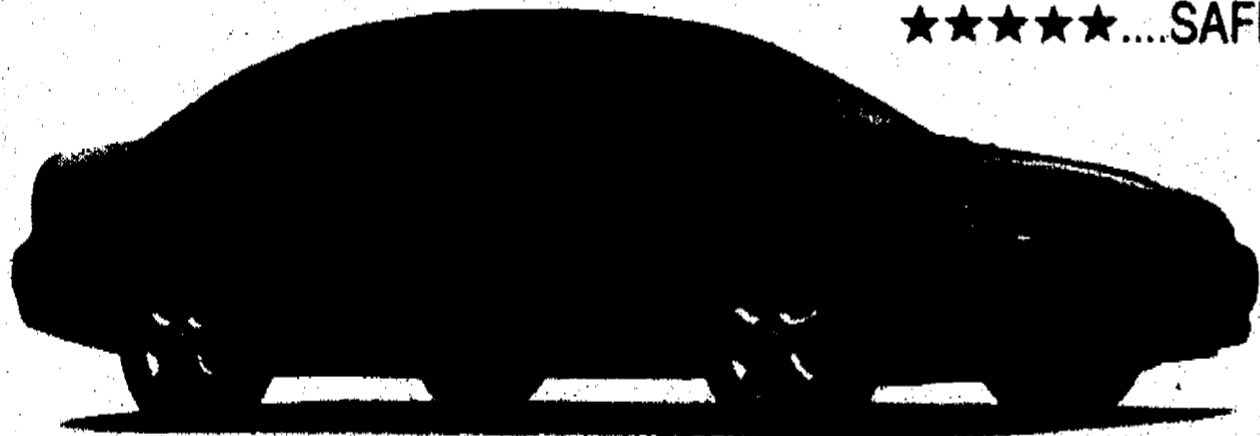


Wow, look at that: Mary Denning (right) demonstrates decorating a cake for the Livonia Co-op Nursery 4-year-old class taught by Lynn Powers.

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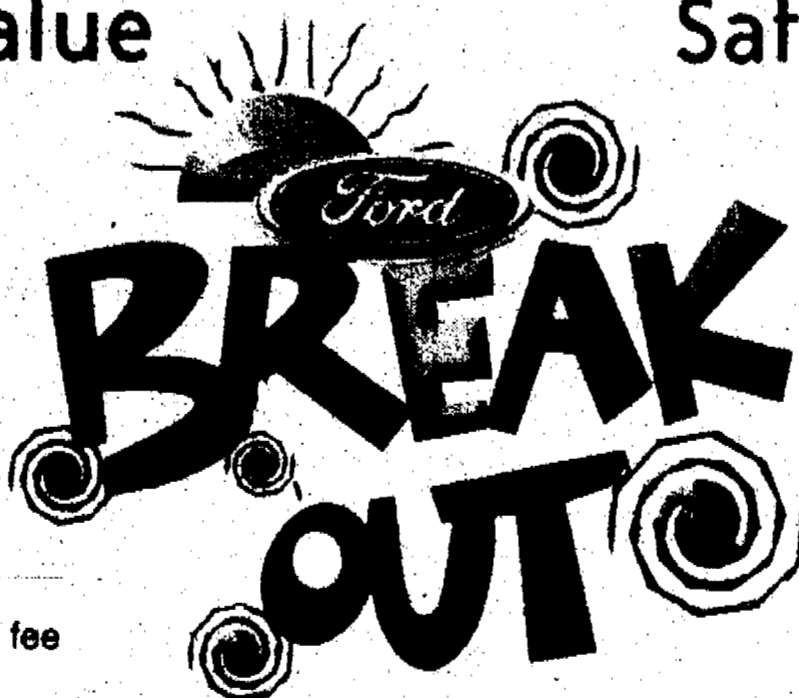
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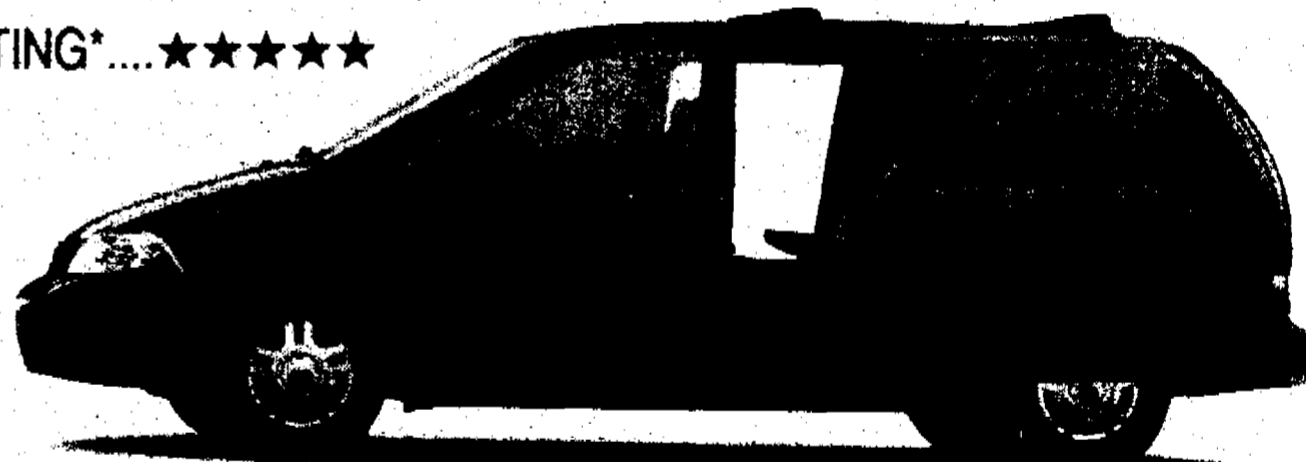
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Rouge panel wants floodplain action

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oe.homecomm.net

A River Rouge advisory council leader is hoping the organization's first meeting of 2000 will stimulate the group's efforts to get floodplain ordinances updated at the grassroots level.

"It's the local units of government that can make the first changes," said Bill Craig, vice chairman of the River Rouge Remedial Action Plan Advisory Council, which oversees the river's clean-up and suggests ideas for improvement.

Newer, tighter ordinances by communities "might stimulate new (state) legislation to catch up with" the new laws.

Craig spoke in the wake of the council's meeting Feb. 16 at Westland's Bailey Recreation Center, during which two representatives of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality suggested council mem-

bers push locally for stronger ordinances regarding developments in the floodplain.

"Nothing stops a community from adopting more stringent requirements" than are called for by existing state law, said Jerry Fulcher, chief of MDEQ's transportation and flood hazard management unit in Lansing.

"Our hands are tied" by existing state ordinances, said Ashok Punjabi, the agency's land and water management district representative based in Livonia.

The discussion resulted from a motion last year by Craig's habitat and headwaters committee calling for floodplain permit restrictions.

The motion sought to get communities to further control construction of new buildings and parking lots, runoff from which Craig and committee members claim will cause "more floods, higher floods and longer lasting floods."

In their presentation to the council, Fulcher and Punjabi said, for example, that:

■ Michigan has tighter standards in gauging floodwater levels than does the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - Michigan measures in tenths of a foot, FEMA in feet, and

■ that the floodplain maps in use are 10 to 20 years old and that funding is not currently available to FEMA to re-map.

To make matters worse, "Sometimes cities" in the floodplain "don't know they have ordinances" controlling development, Punjabi said.

From the MDEQ representatives said, it's obvious "They're using existing regulations which might not be adequate for current land-use decisions," Craig commented.

"They can only use the regulations on the books, but we have a higher expectation of what can be done," he said.

He said his committee - which has been renamed the habitat and wildlife committee, in keeping with a council reorganization proposed by new president Kurt Heise - "was pleased that this discussion took place.

"Now more people will have a better understanding of our concern," Craig said. "Maybe there could be some movement. The most significant needs now may be in updating that information, getting new data."

Heise, whose purpose for reorganizing is to stimulate more member participation as the council moves toward its 2001 deadline for revising the Rouge advisory plan, said the six committees - down from nine - are to be approved at the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for April 19 in Troy.

"I used to think 2001 sounded kind of futuristic," said Heise. "But it's next year, it's real and it's almost here."

County seeks fee from 9-1-1 calls made on cell phones

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
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Wayne County and its municipalities are moving closer to qualifying, by the May 31 deadline, for new 9-1-1 emergency telephone service.

That is the date by which existing 9-1-1 plans must be modified to include the servicing of calls received from cellular phones.

A county commission resolution passed last week adopted tentative plan amendments from each of the four 9-1-1 districts in the county - including the Conference of Western Wayne - and set up the requisite public hearing in 90 days.

If the plans are approved by the commission at the May 16 hearing, the county and participating municipalities will be able to share in revenue which a new 55-cent fee on cell-phones has been generating since November, according to Sam Washburn, county commission counsel.

The new revenue and equipment it will buy will "improve public safety and compliance," he said.

Cell-phone usage has mushroomed and "More and more emergency calls are coming in from them because people are out and around, see things and report" via the phones, Washburn said.

"The problem with the cell-phone is there is no caller ID and so no knowledge of where the call is coming from, so the

quick-fix placed on (a land-line call) is lost," Washburn said.

He was referring to the prank false-alarm calls that flooded public safety departments before the advent of 9-1-1 and caller ID, but which "evaporated" afterwards.

"It became hard for a landline to make such calls from land lines, but cell-phones have made it possible again," the attorney said.

The public hearing will afford county commissioners the chance to approve the amended plans and notify the state before the May 31 deadline.

Communities choosing not to participate in the revenue-sharing can be withdrawn then, but any other changes will force adoption of a new tentative plan and scheduling of a new public hearing, according to County Clerk Teola P. Hunter.

Until last November, only land-line phones were assessed a 9-1-1 service charge. But since then, a 55-cent fee has been imposed on cell phones by federal and state law.

Washburn said 25 cents goes to the telephone service provider, five cents to the state and the remaining 25 cents to the counties and municipalities.

He added that a federal act passed in 1996 requires cell-phone manufacturers to begin installing identifiers on the units so that the caller's location is transmitted automatically.

Bush defeat may doom open primaries

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER
pmurphy@oe.homecomm.net

Don't be surprised if Republican lawmakers move to end open primary elections in Michigan.

"Open primaries are an open invitation to disaster," Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said Wednesday after underdog John McCain - on the strength of crossover votes from Democrats and independents - upset establishment-backed George W. Bush.

Patterson along with Gov. John Engler and other high-visibility Republicans were at the Westin Hotel in Southfield Tuesday for what was expected to be a victory party for the Texas governor.

But the party in the cavernous atrium never materialized. McCain got an early lead, according to radio and television reports. And the Arizona senator held on to win by more than 5 percent of the record turnout, according to uncertified tallies.

"I'm not going to bad-mouth McCain," said Patterson. "He ran a good campaign, appealing to the voters he needed to win."

"But it's pretty obvious what happened. McCain won because he appealed to Democratic and Independent voters who could

crossover and vote in the Republican primary. That's gotta be fixed, and a number of state legislators there last night agreed."

Let's see what happens in states where only Republicans can vote to nominate the Republican candidate, said Patterson, who said he remains confident Bush will win the GOP nomination as well as the presidency.

Patterson said he disagrees with those - especially Epic-MRA, the Lansing-based research firm - who contend McCain's victory was an indication of deeper problems with the candidacy of Bush, the governor of Texas and son of a former President.

John Cavanaugh, a partner with Epic-MRA, Wednesday said McCain's victory was not the result of Democratic mischief, but his moderate message. "Our polling indicates McCain has an appeal that transcends party affiliation," he said. "About 80 percent of those questioned, who voted for McCain Tuesday said they were certain they'd vote for him in November."

Cavanaugh agreed with his partner, Ed Sarpolus who said Republicans who blame Democrats for Bush's loss are trying to protect their image by blaming somebody else.

West Bloomfield pollster Steve

Mitchell, however, disagreed. "Democrats played the spoilers. They were out to stick it to John Engler," he said.

"Because of the crossover vote, this was a Republican primary that wasn't Republican," said the president of Mitchell Research & Communications, Inc. "I agree with Gov. Engler. McCain rented a few Democrats for awhile. But they'll go back to the Democratic Party in November."

Mitchell attributed Bush's loss to:

■ Democratic and Independent crossover voters.

■ The candidacy of Alan Keyes, who garnered about five percent of the vote - most of which Mitchell said would otherwise have gone to Bush.

■ Negative phone calls against Bush, including some claiming he is anti-Catholic.

Asked if he was certain those

calls came from the McCain camp, Mitchell said. "Those negative calls were the handiwork of Mike Murphy (former Engler strategist now supporting McCain). There's no doubt they came from him."

At the Westin Tuesday, Bush supporters were clearly disappointed by the results. Occasionally, a few would wave signs and begin chanting. "Bush, Bush, Bush..." But the chant never caught on and quickly died.

Disappointment, however, never turned to despair.

Jonathan Farley of Plymouth confidently predicted Bush would win. "Maybe not tonight," he said, "but he'll win the GOP nomination."

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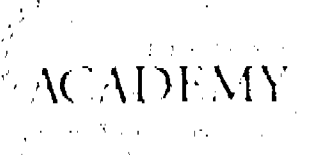
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Priorities

Fire chief's work comes first

Westland Fire Chief Mark Neal has a job to do. That job is leading the men and women who put out fires, inspect buildings and handle medical emergencies in Westland. Neal's the chief administrator for the Westland Fire Department.

He's recently become involved in the work against the recall effort aimed at Westland Councilwoman Sharon Scott. Scott and colleagues Charles "Trav" Griffin, David Cox and David James raised public ire with their abrupt firing of former City Clerk Patricia Gibbons.

Neal was photographed protesting the recall. He's been visible on the anti-recall

front. He is a resident of Westland and certainly has the right to express his views.

But Neal, who has been active in other political campaigns, needs to be careful about stepping over the line. His role as fire chief comes first, and he shouldn't compromise that role by becoming a political activist.

Residents need confidence in Neal's abilities as fire chief, and he needs to be courteous in dealing with residents who don't share his views.

Neal's done the job of fire chief ably for years. He shouldn't let this latest political eruption derail his career. Courtesy and professionalism should be his guides.



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Airing views: Fire Chief Mark Neal (foreground) and others speak out during a recent City Hall rally. Neal has been vocal in the recent controversy surrounding four city council members deciding to oust former City Clerk Patricia Gibbons.

Counties should pursue beef

In November, the Michigan State Tax Commission implemented new personal property depreciation tables for electric and gas utilities.

The commission changed the multiplier to be used by local assessors to value electric and gas utility personal property (equipment, transmission and distribution lines, not land). Under the new system an assessor uses the "net book value" of the property, the cost of the property when purchased or installed, instead of current day replacement costs.

This decision results in a windfall for the utilities that could amount to up to \$116 million and a severe burden in lost taxes for local governments.

Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties sought an injunction to stop implementation of the new system, but on Jan. 28 Chief Circuit Court Judge Michael F. Sapala ruled against the injunction allowing the commission to proceed.

The counties will now pursue their complaint with the Michigan State Tax Tribunal. Several local communities, including Livonia, Farmington and Farmington Hills, have joined in the suit. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce has joined in supporting the position of the tax commission and the utilities. Chamber President Jim Barrett has called the suit "frivolous."

We believe that the counties should pursue their complaint. A suit which seeks to preserve millions in tax dollars and opposes special treatment for the utility companies is anything but "frivolous."

In a press release from Wayne County, the position taken by the counties is clear: "The counties sought to maintain the status quo, until further evidence suggesting an improved

method of valuation could be presented. Assessed values historically have been based on the current value of the property, minus depreciation and are the foundation for tax revenue by every city, county, township and school district."

This seems to be a reasonable request. Perhaps the utilities do need some tax relief, but this isn't the way to do it and the tax shortage it will cause could be devastating.

Several of our communities have experienced an unusually high number of power outages in the last few years, but we aren't hearing any guarantee that the money saved in taxes will be used to upgrade equipment.

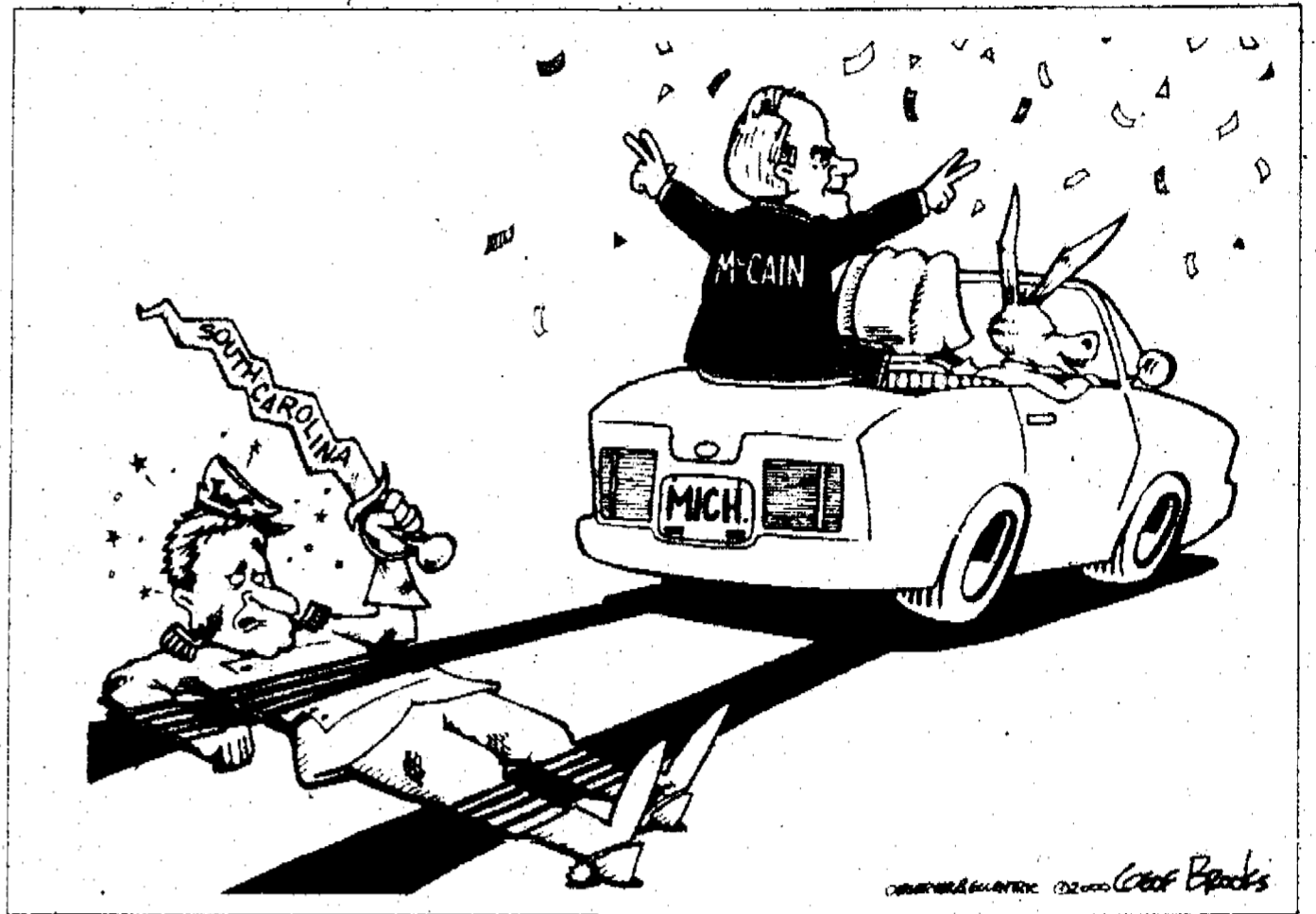
Instead, it seems like another example of the state rewarding big business at the expense of local communities. Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara warns, "Aside from the current loss in tax base and revenue, my concern is the precedent being established. It won't take long before other large taxpayers ask the state for the same treatment."

But that doesn't mean the majority of businesses will benefit.

We question the chamber's standard anti-tax position as being in the best interests of most businesses. Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson makes a better case for the business community when he says, "The Michigan Tax Commission is using sleight of hand to give gas and electric companies a whopping tax break that will provide them with an unfair competitive advantage over other businesses. Not only is this unfair to the other businesses, it will also negatively impact the tax bases of out local communities and could result in a severe cutback."

We urge McNamara and Patterson to continue their fight.

GEORGE BROOKS



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LETTERS

Opinions are to be shared: We welcome your ideas; that's why we offer this space for your opinions. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you provide a contact telephone number and if mailing or faxing a letter, please sign it. Letters can be mailed to: Julie Brown, Westland editor, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, faxed to her at (734) 591-7279 or e-mailed to jbrown@oe.homecomm.net.

Seek truth

It appears Councilperson Anderson is not interested in the concerns of the business community in Westland. Is there a rule that states business citizens cannot speak at city council meetings? Why was using my business address when I addressed the city council on Feb. 7 an issue? (I suggest that Mr. Anderson become educated on the Open Meetings Act.)

While sitting in the lobby at the council meeting, many people expressed they were not Westland residents, but were urged to attend the meeting by their union leader at the request of Councilpersons Anderson and LeBlanc.

For clarification, I am a very concerned business owner with deep roots in the city of Westland. The Westland-based company I represent, and have a financial interest in, is responsible for paying over \$70,000 in property taxes to the city. Would this not entitle me to three minutes of Mr. Anderson's time at a council meeting?

I grew up in Westland and was graduated from Wayne Memorial High School. My company's headquarters is based in Westland and employs over 150 people, 40 of whom work directly in Westland locations. Our business is very active in the Westland community to help make it one of the best places to live and conduct business.

Also, Mr. Editor, your bias is evident in the editorial objecting to the denial of confirmation of the clerk. It appears you are manipulated by Mr. Anderson and Mr. LeBlanc as you were this past election. I would like to know if you did any research on the city clerk, like talking to the police, fire, planning and/or building departments or the mayor's office, 18th District Court, boards or commissions; or to the employees who transferred out of the clerk's department.

I understand many of the city departments were troubled over the clerk's lack of performance, which cost the city in excess of \$20,000. You may want to read Mr. LeBlanc's evaluation of the clerk and also the clerk's letter sent to the prosecutor at the request of Mr. Anderson and Mr. LeBlanc (with its misspelled words and lack of format). And I suggest you follow up on the rumors that the clerk's office helped Mr. Anderson and Mr. LeBlanc with mailing labels from City Hall files.

Open your mind, and start looking for the

truth. What you, Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Anderson, are doing with your false accusations, prosecutions and recalls is bad for our community's businesses, residents, property values and image.

Steve Johnson

The embarrassment

The loathsome foursome (Griffin, Cox, Scott and James) and their cronies still don't understand. It's not the number of times "at will" employees have been terminated. It's not even Pat Gibbons' job performance, or lack thereof. Council obviously has the power to remove her if they so choose - in an orderly manner with all council members participating.

There is no evidence that Gibbons created an emergency of such immense proportions that the city of Westland couldn't wait a few days for resolution. No, Griffin and Cox would have us believe that in a great humanitarian act, they had to rush over to City Hall and warn her she lacked support to save her job and embarrassment.

Which may have been OK if that is as far as it went. But when they take her keys and tell her to hit the street in front of her employees, they are the embarrassment. And dangerous. Sad to say, in some broad, bizarre interpretation of the law, the prosecutor's office may rule Griffin/Cox/Scott/James didn't violate the Open Meetings Act.

Conspiracies of any sort are notoriously difficult to prove. In which case the odious ones and their cohorts will no doubt chortle, say we didn't do anything wrong. One of the great ironies of this whole affair is the business of "communication skills." Talk about people in glass houses not throwing stones. We need look no further than Mayor Thomas himself. About the most charitable thing you can say about him is that he comes across as an unsophisticated rube. Yes, Westland can do better!

Bob Weibel
Westland

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

Who's your favorite Peanuts cartoon character?



"Snoopy. He's always funny and never talks."
Jessica Sanchez
Westland



"Charlie Brown. He's just cool."
Aaron Webb
Westland



"Lucy. She's kind of bossy. She doesn't let anybody push her around."
Angeliqwe Webb
Westland



"Oh, I love all of them. They're just great. I'm so sorry about what has happened."
Wilma Woods
Westland

We asked this question at the Westland Library.

Westland Observer

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— Philip Power

LETTERS

Work together

I have not only watched the Feb. 18 council meeting but have read numerous articles regarding the appointment of city clerk, violations of the Open Meetings Act and recall issues.

To begin with, I have been a resident for 25-plus years and have seen not only mayors but council members come and go. I have read and heard when directors and attorneys were not reappointed by an incoming mayor and when council chose not to reconfirm appointments. I recall the previous retired clerk's appointment appearing before the council body several times.

My understanding of Westland's charter, and believe me, I'm no expert, is that many directors, including the city clerk, are "at will" employees and serve at the discretion of the mayor or council. Why do we continue to use the word "fired"? Why not use the true work - not reappointed or not confirmed? Did not Mrs. Gibbons realize that when she accepted the city clerk's position that she was no longer protected by any union organization within the city? Didn't she realize that with her years as an employee, she faced the possibility of not being reappointed down the road and her employment with the city would cease? What gives her the right to be any different than those other individuals that did not get reappointed? Why is she so special that you would consider giving her a retirement option? Did the other individuals who were not reappointed get the same opportunity? Apparently, some council members must have had concerns regarding Mrs. Gibbons' performance. I appreciate the respect of those four council people who chose not to reappoint her in not wanting to blacken her name on performance issues in public. On the other hand, those who supported her appointment wish to continue to use her for their own political gain. I don't see where they have any consideration for her. It's sad that Mrs. Gibbons doesn't realize this.

Mrs. Cicirelli, Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Anderson: You are the real council people that want to continue to make

headlines by urging your supporters to rally and to file suits and recalls. You are the ones that should be recalled for wasting our tax dollars. To me, that will be just cause to have each of you recalled - wasting money. If a recall is held for Mrs. Scott, wouldn't that cost us thousands of dollars from the general fund? If another recall is held six months from now, that's more thousands of dollars. You are the ones that have no concern for money - only for your own personal interests. You are the ones that want to continue making our great city a laughingstock in the state. Personally, if voters are unhappy about the actions of council persons, the time to take action is during their regular elections - not at the expense of the taxpayers by having a "special" recall election(s). Citizens, beware - the cost of a recall election(s) comes out of your pocket - not the pockets of those who initiate it.

Let's drop the issue and move on making our city the greatest of all. Stop dragging our city down. Start putting our city back to the top and do it now. Work together for the betterment of our community.

Carol Gillentine

Stop union bashing

Enough of this union bashing! How in the world the conduct of four power-hungry local politicians has turned into an attempt to destroy this city by union members is beyond me.

As one of the two local union leaders referred to in a letter to the editor, printed in the Observer on Feb. 17, written by Mr. Franklin, I take exception to the fact that he is quick to accuse the union without benefit of the same due process he demands for his heroes. Sir, I had no shotgun or billy club, as did anyone of the 300 other people who participated in what had to be the most peaceful demonstration I have ever seen. I would like to remind Mr. Franklin, and the Westland City Council, that as a citizen of this country, I have every right to let my feelings be known.

The union did not encourage people to participate in the demonstration.

Three of the four council members who find themselves in this mess were endorsed by my union. But as a concerned citizen of Westland, you can bet your bottom dollar I encourage all the residents to come and help us restore a sense of ethics and respect for the city charter to our civic leaders.

If Mr. Franklin had come and asked me in person why I am upset, this is what he would have heard, as anyone who bothered to ask has heard.

1. As I see it, city council has violated the Open Meetings Act at least twice. The first time was when they made what should have been public decisions in a nonpublic forum. The second violation occurred when the council chose to give preferred seating to the council meeting to their supporters, locking out the rebels the night of the second demonstration.

2. It amazes me how crazy this whole thing is. All four of the council members in question sought the support of my union. Three got it. The fourth almost got it, but reason prevailed. Today, these same people who sought union help are now blaming the union for the public outrage. Let's try to remember; the union didn't make the decisions that have led to this revolt, city council did. In hindsight, the only bad decision the union made, as I see it, was in endorsing them in the first place.

3. I am shocked by the lack of respect our leaders have shown for some citizens of this city. Several people I know have received what they perceive as threats from city leaders for their involvement in the recall effort. I still can not believe that the president of city council has publicly threatened to have the police forcefully remove elderly people from the microphone for simply saying something he didn't want to hear.

4. In what seems to be an effort to move the spotlight off the accused, I have been reading a lot about how this whole thing is really the fault of Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Anderson.

If LeBlanc and Anderson are so powerful, why don't they hold elected union offices? Anyone who knows Roger, the other union goon, and myself, know we both have been qui-

etly active in local politics for many years and we make our own decisions based on what we believe to be right. The fact is, we have had very little contact with either LeBlanc or Anderson over this issue.

5. My personal outrage extends beyond the issue of Ms. Gibbons. I have concern about the forgery charges that one council member has skirted, the possible conflict of interest in holding municipal jobs with two different cities, the issue of whether or not citizens should be allowed to vote on how their tax dollars are spent when it comes to building personal monuments, the abuse of the TIFA funds which allow development of certain parts of the city at the expense of the rest of us, and the personal attacks on the certain "A... H... Local Union President," who happens to be a very good friend of mine. To me, this council has not exhibited a sense of accountability to the people who put them in office, nor have they demonstrated any sense of ethics either.

Finally, a personal thank you is due to Mr. Franklin. Your characterization of union members as shotgun toting, billy-club yielding fools only inspires me to work harder! Did you get your impression of us union goons from something you read in the scab News or Free Press? When you get in your Honda to drive home from work this (past) Wednesday, drive by the next scheduled rally at City Hall about 5:30 and honk your horn, soak in the splendor of hundreds of irate citizens. I promise we won't shoot!!

Jack Vernier
concerned Westland citizen
financial
secretary/treasurer/Webmaster II
UAW Local 845

Central issue

In spite of efforts to distract and malign the recall effort, we all must keep in mind that there is only one issue here: Do our council members Griffin, Scott, Cox and James serve the people or themselves? I will not let personal issues cloud the one resounding point in this effort, and that is Griffin, Scott, Cox and James

put aside the will of the people to promote their own agenda. Through the FOIA and the recall effort's attorney, we have acquired the evaluations and records on Mrs. Gibbons. Let us assure you they will be made public. If you were at last night's city council meeting, you have already been privy to what they contain. In no way are they as damaging as Mr. Griffin has led the people to believe. In fact, only three scores were below average, average being a 3.0. The others were above. Those three scores were near enough to average, and in areas that were not detrimental to her job performance. The most important revelation being that Mrs. Gibbons NEVER received any disciplinary actions, write-ups or notices within her file or to her person. This is the key.

We have an appointment this coming Monday morning at the County Building to once again get our language approved on our recall petitions. We have submitted six petitions with this filing, and will now have our attorney arguing the language for us. Mrs. Scott's assertions that she will fight all the way to the Circuit Court are meant to show bravado, but the Circuit Court will eventually have to approve said language, for each electorate has the constitutional right to recall. It cannot be stopped, only stalled. With the advent of our own attorney, that in and of itself will do little to deter this effort.

It is the RecallNow Committee's desire that you understand that, yes, we are angry and righteously so, but we also do what we do because it is right. Each of us is entitled to our own opinion, and contrary to what some may say, in no way does this woman or this committee believe that not to be so.

If you would like to join us, we will now collect signatures for the amendment to the charter allowing the citizens of Westland to elect their city clerk. To join with us in this petition drive and in the RecallNow drive, call 729-2805, or contact <http://recallnow2000.homestead.com/RecallNow2000.html>.

Thank you.

Brenda Gracin

Engler farmland proposal merits legislative, voter support

One of the largest contributors to "sprawl" - low density, uncontrolled, wholesale development, often in rural areas - is a perverse part of the Michigan tax code that requires land to be assessed at its "highest and best use." In practice, this means that rural land that has been farmed for years is often assessed as though it were going to be sold for residential development tomorrow.

This has saddled Michigan farmers, already facing the worst economic times in a decade, with unfairly high taxes that can force them to sell their land and quit farming. Result? Development; sometimes sprawling.

This is not a problem encountered by only a few agricultural malcontents. Over the past 15 years, something like 1.2 million acres of farmland has gone out of production in Michigan, a not insubstantial blow to agriculture, at \$4 billion per year the second largest industry in Michigan.

Of all politicians presently on the scene, Gov. John Engler, who grew up on a farm, is the best qualified to address this problem.

In a plan announced last week at the Michigan Farm Bureau convention, Engler proposed:

■ Farmland would be assessed on the land's present economic value for farming, not on its potential value if developed.

■ Enacting this proposal would require amending the Michigan Constitution, and so would need a two-thirds vote in the Legislature to get on the statewide ballot.

■ If farmland under production but with reduced taxes were to be sold for development, the selling farmer would pay back the tax break he had received for the past seven years.

■ This money would go into an Agricultural Preservation Fund, to be used to buy development rights from farmers willing to sell them. In effect, farmers who choose to sell development rights would continue to own and farm their land, but would have sold off the option of developing it.

A key part of the plan is repayment of the tax break if farmland is developed. Otherwise, all the tax break would do is encourage land speculation schemes. In some states where farmland is taxed at a reduced rate, developers reap the tax break for themselves by renting land to farmers, thereby reducing the carrying cost of land fated for ultimate development.

As is the case with most sensible proposals, Engler's farmland preservation proposal has a



PHILIP POWER

■ This is not a problem encountered by only a few agricultural malcontents.

cost. Taxing agricultural land at its actual value as a farm would cost state and local governments something like \$90 million each year. The Senate Fiscal Agency estimates that local governments and school districts would be hardest hit, absorbing \$67 million of the reduced revenue stream.

And you may expect to hear from various folks - the Michigan Townships Association in first place - who consider their particular ox a target for going.

Others, however, are saner in their reactions. "It's a good way to go," said a spokesman for the Farm Bureau. "Sprawl ends up paying to protect farmland." And Lee Schwarz, a lobbyist for the Michigan Association of Homebuilders, argues the program would save farmland by making farming profitable. "It's idiotic to tax farmland as though you were building condominiums on it," he says.

At the end of the day it's plain that serious distortions in land use have arisen from the ways in which agricultural land in Michigan is assessed. Right now, all the incentives favor converting perfectly productive farmland into subdivisions.

Engler's proposal deserves passage by the Legislature and adoption by the voters of Michigan.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at 734-953-2070, Ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@hometown.net

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McCain supporters say it was 'message over money'

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
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"We knew we were taking on the most powerful political machine in America, the Engler machine," John McCain said in a congratulatory phone call to his supporters who were gathered at the Novi Hilton Tuesday evening to watch the results of the presidential primary balloting come in. "But we won."

The phone call, from Arizona to state Sen. John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, but broadcast over loudspeakers for all to hear, was to celebrate McCain's seven point victory over Texas Gov. George W. Bush in the presidential primary here.

Gov. John Engler had been a vigorous campaigner for Bush, as had most of the state Republican party faithful.

But that backfired, according to McCain and his advocates.

"I don't want Engler telling me how to vote," Plymouth resident Sandy Kosky said. And it was a theme sounded again and again Tuesday evening at the Hilton.

"This is message over money. And message won," Mark Keiley



STAFF PHOTO BY BETAN MITCHELL

Happy warrior: John McCain gives a thumbs up at a rally Sunday in Livonia on his way to a big win in Tuesday's Republican primary.

Schwartz, McCain's 11th Congressional District chair, said. Schwartz, a West Bloomfield resident, contended it was the Ari-

zona Senator's "message, character and integrity" that carried the day. "And that was after Michigan voters were subjected to \$6 million-plus worth of negative advertising."

When the counting was finished at 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, McCain had tallied 646,620 votes statewide, 49 percent of the vote. Bush gathered 547,773 votes, 41.5 percent. Alan Keyes brought in 58,769 votes, 4.5 percent.

But CNN had declared McCain the victor in Michigan just 45 minutes after polls closed Tuesday. McCain was not in

Michigan Tuesday evening, but in Arizona which was also holding primaries. His phone call to the Novi reception came within moments, declaring victory over the Bush/Engler machine.

Michigan critical

Schwartz, McCain's campaign coordinator for Michigan, had said the state was critical to win. A loss here, along with the defeat in South Carolina, would have likely doomed McCain's candidacy. Winning here gives McCain a real boost, especially since key primaries are coming up Feb. 29 and March 7. "But it's a long way to November."

"When he has his mind made up, no poll or spin doctor can change his mind. That is leadership," Schwarz said. "My conscience would allow me to do no less than support John McCain."

State Rep. John Pappageorge, R-Troy, was one of the few other party leaders who supported McCain. He sounded a slightly different note.

"People forget that we had three good Republicans in this race and the question was which of those three did we prefer," he said. "We're not opposed to the others. And this was not about beating John Engler."

Pappageorge said he was excited about the McCain campaign because it is attracting many new people to the Republican party who have not previously been involved in politics. He said the party will be stronger for it when the race is over.

And the results here give him hope for a McCain win. "I don't think momentum crosses state

lines very well. New Hampshire and South Carolina are very different than Michigan. What you have here is closer to a microcosm of America."

Inspires support

The celebration drew supporters from around the area, including a number of families who said they'd been converted to the McCain camp by their children. Among them was Adam Jones of Northville, who was appointed National Teen Chair for the McCain campaign. He convinced dad, Jim Jones, and mom, Cheryl Jones, to vote for McCain, too.

"He has backbone. He supports campaign finance reform and tobacco legislation, even though these are not popular in the GOP," Adam Jones said. "I wrote to him (McCain) in September telling him I supported him. He wrote back saying, 'OK, if you support me, here's a job,'" he said, explaining how he had received the Teen Chair title.

Cheryl Jones said she believes McCain is inspiring young voters "the way John F. Kennedy inspired them to get politically active and model themselves after him."

Livonia's Stacey Golick, a freshman at Schoolcraft College, also converted her family members by browsing the Internet and bringing home materials over the last eight months about the candidates for them to read. She had mom Debbie Golick and sister Kristen Golick, a Churchill High sophomore, in tow at the victory party.

"He's honest and honorable,"

2000
REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

The Michigan Vote:

- George W. Bush - 547,773 DELEGATES: 0
- Alan Keyes - 58,769
- John McCain - 646,620 ✓ DELEGATES: 52

Unofficial vote totals.
Vote totals are for the state of Michigan.
Check mark indicates statewide winner.

Debbie Golick said of McCain. "That's the way I've raised my children, to tell the truth and never lie."

"Being an honorable person," Stacey Golick concluded, "his views seem to represent the general American population. His support is widespread and his campaign is very diverse."

The campaign is drawing on people who haven't been active before, said Scott Huntley of Novi. He's a veteran, and served on the Enterprise, as did McCain. But he said he is getting active because it matters here. Having just moved in from Minnesota, "now I'm living in a state where the presidential candidates come to my state."

Craig Freshwater, a Livonia resident, is also new to politics but was inspired enough to campaign door-to-door on behalf of McCain. "He's just the type of guy I'd like to see in the Oval Office," he said.

McCain racks up delegate vote, too

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
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John McCain, barely out of the starting gate, came from behind to draw nearly even with front-runner George W. Bush Tuesday on the only score that really counts - delegates committed to support him at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia this summer.

Despite all the hoopla about wins and losses in the previous primaries, Texas Gov. Bush had actually jumped out to a quick early lead on the delegate tote board.

Counting delegates is an inexact science because of "quirky" state rules about when delegates are considered "committed," but Michigan GOP spokesman Sage Eastman estimated that as of Monday - through the primaries in Iowa, New Hampshire, Delaware and South Carolina - Bush had run up a total of about 110. McCain had won only 15.

In Tuesday's balloting, McCain pulled in 52 of the 58 delegates available here in Michigan. Six went to Bush when he led the voting in Michigan's 2nd and 3rd congressional districts, including Grand Rapids, Muskegon and the west side of the state.

Thirty delegates were at stake in Arizona. With a solid double-digit point spread in the senator's home state, McCain was expected to walk away with all of them, according to Eastman.

That would put McCain at 97 compared to Bush's 116.

Also ran Alan Keyes has yet to win a delegate. Steve Forbes had won two before he dropped out.

To assure the nomination, a candidate will have to win 1,034 delegates, half plus one of the 2,066 who will gather at the national GOP convention in Philadelphia at the end of July to make the decision.

Next up in the contest are the Virginia, Washington and North Dakota primaries Tuesday, Feb. 29. Then comes Super Tuesday, March 7, a 12-state primary date that includes the states of California and New York with their massive numbers of delegates. This could all be over by March 8.

Michigan is a "partial winner takes all" state when it comes to the way the Republican party divides up delegates as a result of the primary voting, Eastman explained. The state has 18 "electoral votes" - 16 representatives in the House and two senators.

Based on that, the Republican National Committee allocated 58 delegates to Michigan, essentially a proportional share of the total number of delegates to be at the convention.

Then the state party gave three delegates to each of Michigan's congressional districts, which are awarded "winner take all" to the highest vote-getter within each district.

Ten more are "at large" delegates, awarded "winner take all" to the highest vote-getter statewide.

That's a different system than the Democrats will use at their March 11 caucus. Dems will

award delegates proportionally within each congressional district based on percentages of the vote.

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JACK GLADDEN

Cell phone users should make calls in 'park'

*"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that chat, the claws that
clutch!*

*Beware the cell-phone junkie, and
shun*

The lane-weaving Chatterbox!"
— With apologies
to Lewis Carroll

You've seen them. You may be one of them. They do it in the car, in the supermarket, in the parking lot on the way FROM the car TO the supermarket. They do it in restaurants and libraries. They're addicted cell-phone users. My son, The Webmeister, calls them "cell phonies." They're just soooo important.

And some people are concerned that, when they do it in a moving car, they're downright dangerous. State Sen. George Hart, D-Deerborn, is one of those people.

"Drive along any freeway and you'll see people talking on their cell phones while driving," Hart said. "They are literally accidents waiting to happen."

With that in mind Hart has introduced legislation (Senate Bill 1015) that would make such people guilty of "careless or negligent" driving.

Specifically Hart's bill would amend existing law so that operating a vehicle in a "careless or negligent manner" would include "the use of a hand-held cellular telephone that prevents the person from having both hands on the steering wheel of the vehicle." It would be a secondary offense, meaning that a motorist could be cited for using a cell phone only if he were stopped for some other infraction.

Based on similar legislation introduced in other states, Hart's bill may not have much of a chance of passing. How many of the legislators who'll be voting on it are motorized cell-phone users themselves? But the issue is more than a pet peeve.

While some studies have found that the use of cell phones at accident scenes can reduce the response time by police and EMS crews and actually save lives, other studies (often conducted by the same groups) have found that cell phone use by drivers also increases the risk of accidents.

A British study concluded that drivers who were distracted by cell phones (even hands-free models) were worse at judging safe-stopping distances, anticipating hazards or choosing when to turn in to a traffic lane.

And a 1997 study published in the New England Journal of Medicine found that distraction caused by using a cell phone while driving more than quadrupled the risk of an accident during the course of the phone call. The researchers (who also found no distinction between hand-held and hands-free phones) compared the "impairment" to that of being legally drunk.

Cell phone manufacturers oppose bills such as that introduced by Hart (Surprise! Surprise!), and high-tech outfits like Yahoo and Microsoft are working on systems to use cell phones not just for telephone calls but for complete Internet access. That's just what we need: Daytraders on the freeway.

The debate over cell phones is starting to get as heated as that over gun control (with a lot of similarities). Proponents of the wireless gadgets claim they are no more dangerous than tuning the car radio, drinking coffee while driving or putting on makeup. They have a point.

But messages on an Internet site devoted to the topic often get raucous. And one user, who said he commutes two hours a day over a rural highway in Idaho and often uses his cell phone to report accidents or help stranded motorists, concluded his comments with: "Cell phones don't kill people. People kill people."

The bumper stickers can't be far behind: "I'M A CELL-PHONE USER AND I VOTE!"

I want one that says: "BEWARE THE JABBERWOCK!"

Jack Gladden is a copy editor for the Observer Newspapers. E-mail him at jgladden@homecomm.net. He doesn't have a cell phone.

Magic words

Harry Potter books attract readers, debate

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
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For an imaginary character, Harry Potter sure can create a stir.

Derived from the imagination of J.K. Rowling, Potter is the star of a series of novels — scheduled to end at number seven — that began when Rowling was a divorced parent caring for her infant daughter and struggling to get by in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The writer, who has received awards and accolades for the series, claims she's been writing since age 6. Now it seems some of her fans are following in her footsteps. Ten-year-old Keith Brown has read all the Harry Potter books to date and is anxiously awaiting the newest in the series, due out in July. The stories have captivated his imagination and inspired him to read more and even write his own book.

"I'm writing a book called 'Fantasy,' which is about a fiction writer who finishes a book and wishes to be the lead character," said Keith, a student at Miller Elementary School in Plymouth. In his story, the writer's wish comes true. He credits Rowling with inspiring him to include an element of magic in his book. "Magic is kind of mysterious," he said. "You don't know what's going to happen. It's really unpredictable."

Keith got his first peek into the fantasy world of Harry Potter after a friend told him about the books. Now he's a bonafide fan.

"I think J.K. Rowling is a pretty good writer." He especially enjoys the way she creates words like "muggle" and sports like "Quidditch" in her fictitious world. Now that his mother is reading the books, he said, they have a lot to talk about. "I've always liked to read, but I think (these books) make me want to read."

Inappropriate subject?

While readers young and old have lauded the author, some parents still showed concern over the use of sorcery in the books. Annemarie Posh, a Livonia resident, will not let her children read Rowling's novels. Posh said it took one look at the cover to know it wasn't appropriate reading for her children.

"We're always careful about what she watches on TV," she said of her daughter. "I saw that sorcery stuff. You just don't know what the agendas of different authors (may be)."

Carol Bacile of Livonia works as a first-grade teacher. She said that while she believes Rowling is a good writer, she didn't like the "slant toward witchcraft."

"I don't think witchcraft is harmless," added Bacile, who's read the first book in the series. "I just don't think witchcraft is something that needs to be introduced to children."

A kind of censorship

Linda Garrett, a young adult librarian, finds the discussion against the books troublesome. She considers it her duty to provide library patrons access to literary works, as well as



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURBACHMANN

All-wrapped up: A group of students from Pattee Rupert's fifth-grade class at Field Elementary in Canton read their Harry Potter books recently.

acting in the best interest of the students who pass through her library. A strong supporter of the books for their ability to promote qualities like kindness, loyalty and bravery, she was disappointed in a decision made recently by her peers.

Garrett explained in a letter: "At the annual MAME (Michigan Association of Media Educators) conference last fall 'Harry Potter' was the topic of discussion at a dinner I attended with Plymouth-Canton media specialists. I'm sorry to report a number of the media specialists stated they would not purchase the Harry Potter series for their libraries because they couldn't bare to face the fytor that was bound to erupt."

Just fantasy?

Kathy Ellison isn't as concerned with the "sorcery" side of these books that have captured the imagination of her son and daughter. "They are sorcerers, but it's more like magic," she said. "Kids aren't going to try and make a spell."

Fiona Laymon, a Redford Township

parent, agreed. She expressed the idea that if Harry Potter poses a threat because of its subject matter, any classic fantasy story — like "Alice in Wonderland" — could also be questioned. Laymon said the real issue is parent-child communication. "Too many people are too involved in other aspects of their lives, but you need to take the time to listen to your child and discuss what they are reading," she wrote in an e-mail message.

As a substitute elementary school teacher in Canton and mother of twins, Ellison knows firsthand the impact of J.K. Rowling's novels on her 9-year-old son. Max couldn't have picked up a Harry Potter book soon enough, as far as she's concerned.

"He was starting to get more into GameBoy and Nintendo than reading," said Ellison, who read one of the books before allowing her kids to open the cover. "Everything we tried to do, he wasn't really interested, until this book."

Ellison attributed the popularity of

Please see MAGIC, B2

Harry Potter series renews reading interest

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
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Don't try to check out a Harry Potter book from the library at Field Elementary School in Canton. Chances are, the waiting list is growing even longer.

J.K. Rowling's series starring the young sorcerer is the hottest book on the shelves, said Connie Kelber, school librarian. "All the books are constantly out. Students had to sign up. This is the newest big thing."

Harry Potter was also the big seller at the school's book fair; it actually sold out. Kelber, who's read all three novels so far, said that part of the appeal of the book stems from the way Harry is portrayed like a normal child — someone who makes mistakes. Kids feel for Harry. And Harry encourages students — who may be reluctant readers — to get lost in this fantasy world.

Kelber said: "When I asked a student 'What is it about the book that you like?' his eyes lit up and he said 'It's really thrilling. That's how you describe a roller coaster, not a book. We're very happy.'"

Adam Robinson, a fourth-grader, said it took time for him to get interested. "When I first read it I didn't exactly like it." Now he's almost halfway through the third book. "This is the first book I've ever read through and wanted to keep going." He's not alone.

"I think Harry Potter has surpassed 'Goosebumps,'" said Pattee Rupert, fourth grade teacher. "She makes pictures with words. Those are the authors we like." Rupert noted that teachers use the books in different ways, some read them to the class, others let the students read them by themselves. Rupert answers questions her students have when reading the books. She too is reading them chapter by chapter.

"They're the best books I've ever read," said fifth-grader Brad Way. "They're pretty exciting and action-packed." Classmate Asiri Liyanaarachchi agreed. He's read all three books. "I want to read the whole series," said Asiri.

But the class wants more than that.

Please see READING, B2



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURBACHMANN

Devoted: Brad Way, from left in back, Shayna Klein, Alyssa Heller, Lisa Wizeorek and Stephanie Mifsud, all 10 and in Pattee Rupert's fifth-grade class at Field Elementary in Canton, show off their Harry Potter books, while the official Web site is displayed on a TV screen in the classroom.

Fans speak out about Potter

J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series of novels spurred discussion around the community. Here are additional responses from friends and neighbors who know of the young lad and his fantastic adventures:

It's a family affair

Cheryl Zuzo of Canton wrote: "(My daughter and I) read the books together and discuss everything that occurs — good and bad. We are a Christian family and do not advocate sorcery or witchcraft ... I must admit there were nights when my daughter was afraid to go to sleep because the chapter we may have read that evening was a bit frightening. She did come to the conclusion that good will always win over evil."

Play time = Potter time

Ann Wilkes, Canton resident and mother of "two (sheltered) girls," wrote:

"The children are so excited about a book they are reading in their free time that they are discussing the characters at lunch, incorporating the novels in their play at recess and generally just want more."

Her daughter, Meggie Wilkes, e-mailed this statement:

"I am in the fourth grade at Cass School and I love Harry Potter! My friends and I really LOVE Harry Potter. The only problem is that one of my friends is not allowed to read Harry Potter, so she really can't play Harry Potter. One of my friends and I tried to write the eighth Harry Potter book, but failed. I love Harry Potter because they are exciting and because they are fun to read!"

Witchy, not evil, ways

Shellie J. Schultz, Livonia resident and mother, wrote:

"Immediately I was immersed in a wonderfully imaginative tale of a boy who was unloved in the home he was living in, to find out how he overcame his situation and how he was revered in another community. This set the tone for the 'Star Wars' series, using 'The Force'

for good or evil."

Ready to read

Teresa Allen of Livonia wrote: "It is not pro-evil, it is definitely pro-hero. Anything that can encourage children to read, that adults can share with their kids, that excites them as this does, can't be bad ... I definitely find these books to be an asset to any library, children's or adults'."

Crusader for Potter

David Heater of Canton wrote:

"If we start throwing around ideas that these books are somehow bad for kids we go down a very dangerous road. It harkens back to the days when certain schools banned 'Huckleberry Finn' and 'Slaughterhouse Five.' I have faith that our teachers and school officials in our area are enlightened enough to dismiss any such talk."

A wake-up call

Linda Korovesis of Livonia wrote:

"I can't say enough good things about it in an effort to quell those people that would see it banned ... Wake up, people, your children are playing at much worse on the Nintendo in your living room."

Cherie Corrick of Canton said:

"It's just a good story ... I don't understand all people's concerns. There's an element who are trying to control what people read and what people think. I think anytime we get a child to read and immerse themselves in a story, it's really valuable. There's also an element of mystery in it. Mystery requires a child to look for clues. That leads to better comprehension."

Kids can relate

Maggie Zaken of Plymouth called to say kids like her 12-year-old daughter, Maria, can relate to the story and see the humor in it. "I think they're funny, the parallels to witch schools. They have exams they have some teachers who are awful, some who are being nice, and



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURBACHMANN

Focused: Lisa Wizeorek, 10, reads her Harry Potter book.

Evening of Hope fund-raiser benefits pediatric cancer research

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER
kmortson@ec.homes.com.net

Hope fund-raiser Saturday, March 4, at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

Currently cancer is the No. 1 killer disease of children ages 3-14 in the United States. The Leukemia, Research, Life Inc. organization is hoping that the \$2.5 million they've raised for research since 1981 will one day soon put an end to such an alarming statistic.

"We need to find a cure. Children are our future," said Colleen Rieckhoff, LRL Inc. board member and mother of 4-year-old Taylor, who was diagnosed with leukemia in 1996. "It's devastating to lose a mother or grandfather to cancer, but seeing a child go through this ... it's like getting hit with a wrecking ball."

In an effort to get even closer to finding a cure for childhood cancers, LRL Inc. is gearing up for the 19th annual Evening of

medix celebrities include "Destination: CURE Captains" Rich Fisher (WKBD-50), Mark Lazarus (WXYZ-7) and Lila Hayes (WDIV-4).

No one knows the benefit of financing pediatric cancer research more than the parent of a young cancer patient. Colleen Rieckhoff says she hopes one day her daughter - and thousands of children like her - will be able to benefit from research financed by events such as the "Evening of Hope."

"Although Taylor has been done with treatment since May 19, 1997, it's still a daily thing for us, and we thank God that we had yesterday together," said Rieckhoff.

Taylor, who will celebrate her fifth birthday in April, first showed signs of a problem at 13 months, when her lymph nodes began to swell and she bruised easily all over her body.

"I just thought the doctor would say she had low iron and they'd give us some medicine and send us on our way," recalls Rieckhoff. The results of blood tests however, were so alarming, that there was a message on Rieckhoff's answering machine from the doctor before she arrived home from the office visit.

Rieckhoff said the doctor told her Taylor had such a platelet deficiency that she either had blood cancer or leukemia and that they should pack a bag - a team of doctors was already waiting for her daughter at Children's Hospital.

Ten days of chemotherapy and six months of treatment immediately followed. Young Taylor however relapsed four months after her initial treatment and had to go into remission again before a bone marrow transplant was possible.

Rieckhoff said her daughter went into remission and received bone marrow from a West Virginia donor in 1997. Rieckhoff tried to keep her home life as normal as possible for Taylor's older brother Nicholas and twin, Ryan. Because of this, Rieckhoff wasn't able to get involved with LRL Inc. until a year after her daughter's transplant.

So Rieckhoff began volunteering on the decorating committee with LRL Inc. and has been devoted to the cause ever since.

LRL Inc. was established in 1981 by a few clinic parents - practically strangers at the time - in hopes of mobilizing a fight against their children's leukemia and increasing the amount of money that was backing research. Although the initial fight was directed at leukemia, they quickly realized that the battle was against all childhood cancers.

Grateful

Although it has been nearly three years since 4-year-old Taylor completed her treatment, her mom says that not for one minute does she ever take for granted the health of her little girl.

"I don't want people to think that just because it's been three years that Taylor is cured. They can't tell me that this won't come back, and until we find a cure, you let the little things that used to seem like big things go. They aren't important anymore," said Rieckhoff.

The Evening of Hope is \$75 per person; VIP Fare is \$1,500 per table of ten. Call (313) 884-0931 or Eileen Surma at (313) 581-5647 to purchase tickets. Laurel Manor is located at 39000 Schoolcraft Rd. in Livonia. Dessert and dancing follow.

Magic from page B1

the fantasy novels to the way they reach kids. Like the Pokemon phenomenon, Harry Potter books use a language that kids have learned by heart and parents don't always understand.

"Kids can talk to each other about it," said Ellison. The books give Ellison, who works in the Plymouth-Canton school system, a new way to relate to her students. She's witnessed kids reading these books and taking out a dictionary to look up the "big words," a good clue that they are educational.

Suitable for all ages

While inspiring children to

read may be one of the benefits of Rowling's books, they have also reached beyond youngsters. At 61, Patricia Felts has read the novels and bought them for her grandchildren. The elementary school secretary in Garden City enjoys the stories of wizardry, and she's not alone: "Many members of our staff are also reading these books and are thoroughly delighted with them. These people are educators who are interested in increasing children's skills to learn," she wrote.

Felts stressed the idea that the books encourage readers to use their imagination - something she believes is important for

young readers who are constantly bombarded by the distractions of television and computer games.

It isn't just for kids, added Amey Decker, assistant manager at Barnes and Noble in Northville. She has seen the popularity in "Harry Potter" books grow and feels they are suitable for any reader. "All ages come in asking for it," said Decker. "I think parents buy it for their kids and then read it themselves."

Pam Lincoln of Canton is not

only a fan of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, she feels the author is filling a niche by catering to readers who are past the age of Dr. Seuss, but not quite ready for John Grisham. She encourages her 14-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son to read the books.

"I don't think there are a lot of good fantasy books on the market," she said. "There are a lot of mystery stories that are easy-reads, but it makes it hard when you get to that intermediate level."

She noted that children are naturally drawn to make-believe and imaginative stories. "I don't see this as being all that different from C.S. Lewis' (novels like) 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.'"

The difference may be that Harry Potter is ready to hit the silver screen in a big way. Not only is a Harry Potter movie in the works, Warner Brothers has purchased merchandising rights, which means Harry Potter dolls could be the hot item to come. Hang onto your sorcerer's stone.

Reading from page B1

They want to bring J.K. Rowling to the school in person. The class even went online with the author to talk about their literary hero, Harry Potter.

Classmate Jessica Cicirelli doesn't just read the books, she's taken to writing her own mysteries. Jessica said writing is something she might like to do as a hobby when she grows up. "She does a good job," said Jessica, about one of her favorite writers.

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Tuesday, Feb. 29, 2000, the Westland Police Dept. will conduct Public Auctions of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00 AM at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
1964	MERC.	COUGAR/2 DR	YELLOW	1MEEP9231EH644534
1966	DODGE	ARIES/WAGON	BLUE	1B3BD39DXGF145818

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00 AM at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Road, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
1992	FORD	TEMPO/4 DR	BLUE	1FAPP36U2NK110233
1969	FORD	TEMPO/4 DR	LT BLUE	2FABP3529KB194188
1987	FORD	ESCORT/2 DR	BLUE	2FAPP2099HB176065
1988	FORD	RANGER/PICK UP	RED	1FTCR10A9AJUC33290
1991	HONDA	CRX/2 DR	RED	JHMD8367MS003107
1988	FORD	TAURUS/4 DR	SILVER	1FABP52U4JG284491

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION

Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicle(s) listed below will be auctioned after MARCH 25, 2000, unless it is claimed by the owner prior to that time:

YEAR	MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	V.I.N.
1986	TOYOTA	COROLLA/4 DR	BLUE	JT2AE82L3G3286410

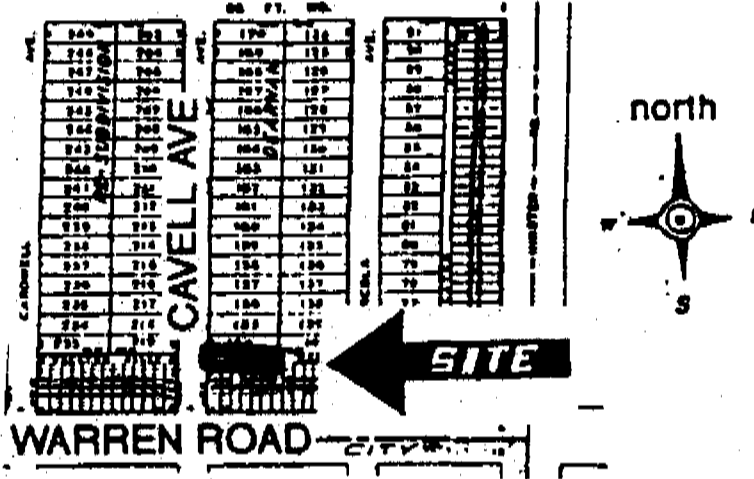
Publish: February 24, 2000

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #2027, Public Hearing for Proposed Vacation of 20 Feet Wide Alley, Adjacent to Lot Nos. 147-153 and 154 of Re-Subdivision of Dearman Park, East of Cavell Avenue, North of Warren Road, SE-1, David Chehade.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36801 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 7, 2000.



Written comments may be sent to the Westland Planning Department at 37095 Marquette Avenue, Westland, Michigan - 48185.

ROBERT C. BOWERS, Chairman
Westland Planning Commission

Publish: February 24, 2000

CITY OF GARDEN CITY 2000 BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

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

Day	Date	Time
Tuesday	March 7, 2000	9:00 a.m.
Monday	March 13, 2000	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday	March 14, 2000	1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday	March 15, 2000	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	March 16, 2000	1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday	March 17, 2000	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will meet in session on the following days and times to hear appeals on the 2000 assessment roll:

CLASS	PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RATIO	PROJECTED EQUALIZATION FACTOR
Commercial	45.20%	1.1082
Industrial	48.77%	1.0252
Residential	46.20%	1.0823
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Taxes are paid on TAXABLE value, which is the lower of assessed value or capped value, unless there is a property transfer. The capped value is based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index) which will increase only 1.9% for 2000. As a result, residential taxes values will increase only 1.9% unless there has been a transfer of ownership or an addition to the property.

The 2000 Assessment Roll will be open for inspection from March 8, 2000 through March 10, 2000 in the assessment office from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ALLYSON BETTIS
City Clerk-Treasurer

Publish: February 20, 24 and 27, 2000

CITY OF GARDEN CITY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 7, 2000

Present were Mayor Showalter, Councilmembers Kaledas, Wiacek, Dodge, Lynch, Briscoe, and Gora. Absent none.

Also present were City Manager Kocsis, Treasurer/City Clerk Bettis, City Attorney Salomone, Parks and Recreation Director Whitson, and Library Director Elmouchi.

The Mayor announced it was time for Public Discussion for items not on the agenda.

• Frank Maroni, of Garden City, discussed concrete work performed in 1996.

♦ Item 02-00-027 Moved by Kaledas; supported by Briscoe: RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting of January 31, 2000, as presented. AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: None

The Mayor announced it was time to receive communications from Boards and/or Commissions.

No communications from Boards and/or Commissions were received.

Mayor Showalter with approval of Council suspended the rules to allow discussion without a substantive motion on the floor. After discussion the following motion was offered:

♦ Item 02-00-028 Moved by Kaledas; supported by Lynch: RESOLVED: To call for a Special Workshop, March 8, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. at Maplewood Community Center to discuss Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO). AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: None

♦ Item 02-00-029 Moved by Dodge; supported by Gora: RESOLVED: To award the bid to HPC Services: WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Garden City Council to award a housing rehabilitation bid to the second lowest; and WHEREAS, City Ordinance requires that reason for awarding a bid for goods or services to one other than the lowest bidder be stated by the Council: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the bid of George H. Pastor & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$3,990.00 be rejected for reasons that as award to that Company would not be to the benefit of the health, safety and welfare of the homeowner and recent experience of Garden City with the low bidder demonstrated a failure to follow building code requirements and a lack of reasonable workmanship on the part of their subcontractors. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bid of HPC Services in the amount of \$4,540.00 be accepted. AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: None

The Council as a whole discussed the following items:

- Community Center Feasibility Study.
- Chairs for the 51st District Court.
- Assessment Change Notices.
- Criminal Justice Ordinance Amendments.

a. Section 132.04	p. Adding Section 132.19
b. Repealing Section 135.06	q. Adding Section 132.21
c. Section 70.04 (O)	r. Adding Section 132.23
d. Adding Section 135.06	s. Adding Section 131.02
e. Adding Section 132.24	t. Adding Section 132.23
f. Adding Section 70.04 (P)	u. Section 132.26
g. Section 132.18	v. Adding Section 132.24
h. Adding Section 132.21	w. Adding Section 132.25
i. Section 132.20	x. Adding Section 132.26
j. Section 132.23	y. Adding Section 132.27
k. Section 132.04	z. Adding Section 132.28

- Section 132.10
- Adding Section 132.23
- Adding Section 132.24
- Adding Section 132.10

- SRF loan re-payment schedule.
- Northstar Environmental Services, Inc.

♦ Item 02-00-030 Moved by Kaledas; supported by Wiacek: RESOLVED: To award the bid for Assessment Notices to Double Day Bros. Co. in the amount of \$0.363 per item. AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: None

♦ Item 02-00-031 Moved by Lynch; supported by Gora: RESOLVED: To approve Consent Agenda "1".

- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, Section 135.04, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:22 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment repealing Section 135.06, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:01 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, Section 70.04 (O), and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:02 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment adding, Section 135.06, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:03 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 133.24, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:04 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 70.04 (P), and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:05 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, Section 133.18, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:06 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.21, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:07 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, Section 132.20 and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:08 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, Section 132.22, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:09 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, Section 132.04, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:10 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, Section 132.10, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:11 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.23, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:12 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.24, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:13 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 131.10, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:14 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.19, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:15 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.21, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:16 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.22, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:17 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 131.02, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:18 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.23, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:19 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.24, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:20 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.24, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:21 p.m.

- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.35, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:22 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.36, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:23 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.37, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:24 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.38, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:25 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.39, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:26 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.40, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:27 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 132.41, and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:28 p.m.
- To introduce the attached ordinance amendment, adding Section 70.04 (Q), and call for a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2000 at 7:29 p.m.

AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: None

♦ Item 02-00-032 Moved by Dodge; supported by Lynch: The City Attorney suggested that Bond Council be contacted regarding this resolution.

RESOLVED: To approve the revised SRF loan repayment schedule as per State letter dated February 1, 2000, this replaces Schedule No. 1 AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: None

♦ Item 02-00-033 Moved by Dodge; supported by Gora: RESOLVED: To approve payment of subcontractor Northstar Environmental Services, Inc., contingent upon Mr. George Hartman receiving proper documentation and National Environmental Services, Inc. creditors signing off. AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: None

♦ Item 02-00-034 Moved by Lynch; supported by Kaledas: RESOLVED: To go into closed session to discuss attorney's opinion regarding a commission matter and an update on Occupant litigation. AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: None

Council returned from closed session and the following motion was offered:

♦ Item 02-00-035 Moved by Lynch; supported by Dodge: RESOLVED: To approve a Resolution of Consent to Representation: WHEREAS, the law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. ("Miller Canfield") has represented and currently represents the City of Garden City (the "City"), as bond counsel, and WHEREAS, LENNOX GARDEN CITY, LLC successor in interest to Lennox Custom Homes ("Lennox") wished to engage Miller Canfield as its counsel for administrative matters only in connection with requests for rezoning and planned development approval for a proposed condominium development on property located at the intersection of Dillon and Beechwood in the City (the "Project"); and WHEREAS, Miller Canfield has requested the City's consent to the representation of the representation of LENNOX by Miller Canfield; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- This City Council does hereby consent to the representation of LENNOX by Miller Canfield in connection with the Project for administrative matters only.
- All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as the same conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

AYES: Unanimous. ABSENT: None.

The meeting was then adjourned.

ALLYSON M. BETTIS,
Treasurer/City Clerk

Publish: February 24, 2000

ENGAGEMENTS & WEDDINGS

Green-Harrigan

Charles and Barbara Green of Redford announce the engagement of their daughter, Teresa A., to Lawrence T. Harrigan Jr. of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a 1992 Redford Union High School graduate. She works for Tri County Title Agency.

Her fiancé, son of Lawrence and Kathy Harrigan of Farmington Hills, is a graduate of Livonia Franklin High School who attended the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He is employed by EDS/General Motors.

An October wedding is planned at Nardin Park United



Methodist Church in Farmington Hills.

Guzzo-Wolf

Mr. and Mrs. Francesco Guzzo of Pinckney, formerly of Canton, announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie, to Eric L. Wolf, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Wolf of West Branch, formerly of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Northwood University. She is employed by Automotive Lighting in Wixom.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Churchill High School, and is employed by Apollo Tile and Marble in Plymouth.

A June wedding is planned at St. Edith Catholic Church in Livonia.



Partain-Monan

John and Phyllis Partain of Plymouth announce the marriage of their daughter, Allison Leigh, to Michael Patrick Monan of Ann Arbor.

The bride is a 1993 graduate of Plymouth-Salem High School and a 1997 graduate of the University of Michigan. She's employed by Exhibit Works in Livonia.

Her husband, son of Richard and Marilyn Monan of Batavia, Ill., received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan and works for Diamond Bullet Design in Ann Arbor.

An October wedding took place at Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington before Suzanne Paul. The bride's attendants include Courtney Gazlay, Kristen Monan, Kristi Partain, Samantha Partain and Rache Partain. The groomsmen included



ed Christopher Hailes, Robert Partain, Thomas Heikkinen, Benjamin Guidinger, Seth Klain and Richard Walicki.

The couple received guests at the Mayflower Grand Ballroom in Plymouth and later took a cruise to the Pacific Coast of Mexico. They will make their home in Ann Arbor.

Deschaine-O'Connor

Thomas and Nancy Deschaine of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Rose, to Kevin Patrick O'Connor of Kalamazoo.

The bride-to-be is a Western Michigan University graduate and works as a registered nurse at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo.

Her fiancé, son of John and Susan O'Connor of Grand Rapids, is a Western Michigan University graduate who is currently working as a bartender at Harpo's in Detroit.



A May 2000 wedding is planned at St. Richard's in Westland.

Kohler-Baier

Charles and Debbie Kohler of Redford announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelly Anne, to Corey Michael Baier of Redford.

The bride-to-be is a Redford Union High School graduate who obtained her bachelor's degree at Hillsdale College.

Her fiancé, son of Ken and Debbie Baier of Redford, is a Redford Union High School graduate and now works in sales support for Zimmer Orthopedics.

A September 2000 wedding is planned at Northville Christian in Northville.



Cordon-Thor

Terrence J. Cordon of Northville and Kathleen M. Cordon of Garden City announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Kathleen, to Michael Robert Thor of Belleville.

The bride-to-be graduated with a bachelor's degree in International Relations from Michigan State University in 1992 and obtained her law degree from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1995. She works as a staff attorney for UAW-GM Legal Services Plan. She attended Plymouth-Canton High School.

Her fiancé is a 1993 graduate of Florida Institute of Technology, with a bachelor's degree in aviation management and



flight technology. He works as an aircraft dispatcher at Kittyhawk International.

An April wedding is planned at St. James Catholic Church in Ferndale.

Fling-Monnette

Richard Fling of Livonia and Ann Douglas announce the engagement of their daughter, Carrie Ann, to Jeffrey James Monnette of Pinckney.

The bride-to-be is a 1996 Mercy High School graduate and will graduate from Boston College in May.

Her fiancé, son of Richard and Elizabeth Monnette of Pinckney, is a 1996 Catholic Central High School graduate and a 1999 DePaul University graduate. He works for Price-Waterhouse-Coopers, L.L.P.

A July 2000 wedding is



planned at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Detroit.

Gomoll-Buddle

James and Janet Gomoll of Westland announce the engagement of their daughter, Wendy Sue, to Ronald Richard Buddie Jr. of Westland.

The bride-to-be is a 1995 graduate of John Glenn High School in Westland and attended Ford Vocational Tech Center for two years, studying data processing and computer programming.

Her fiancé is a 1989 graduate of Franklin High School in Livonia. He works at General Fastner of Livonia in shipping and receiving.

A September wedding is being



planned at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Westland.

AMAZING feats

■ Neil and Deanna Cervenak of Livonia announce the birth of their daughter Sarah Elizabeth on Oct. 21 at Hutzel Hospital in Detroit. Grandparents are Aurel and Gilda Schryer of Dearborn Heights and Jane Cervenak of Shelby Township

■ Helen and Kirk Martin of Livonia announce the birth of their son Breandan Francis born Feb. 12 at Providence Hospital in Southfield. Breandan joins sister Jessica. 14. Grandparents are Barbara and Eugene Start of Livonia and Ann Martin of Windsor

Children's Directory 2000

Children have many special needs...and because parents don't always have a lot of time, the Observer & Eccentric has created this unique directory to make life just a little easier.

CHILD CARE

TLC

PRE-SCHOOL/CHILD CARE

- ★ AGES 2 1/2 - KINDERGARTEN
- ★ Full/Half day • 7:00am-6:00pm
- ★ Includes Hot Lunches & Snacks

734-427-0233

For more information about advertising call Rich at: 734-953-2069

Camp Corner Directory

Every Summer thousands of children look forward to camp...

.....Give them the opportunity to experience yours with an advertisement in our 2000 Summer Camp Corner.

For information contact Rich: 734-953-2069

Northville Montessori Center Summer Day Camp
15709 Haggerty Road
(Between 5 & 6 Mile)
734-420-0984 • Preschool
248-348-8093 • Elementary
• Extended Hours Available

CAMP HENRY Kimball Lake Newaygo, MI
over 20 years of Camping Experience

- Summer Camps
- Retreat Programs
- Corporate Teambuilding
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(616) 459-CAMP
www.camphenry.org

TROY SPORTS CENTER

- All Sports Camps
- Hockey Instructional Camps
- Learn To Skate Programs

248-689-6600
1619 East Big Beaver Road • Troy, MI

elaine S. events presents

Super Summers for Kids: 2000 CAMP AND ACTIVITIES FAIR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2000
11:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Birmingham Public Schools
Corporate Training & Conference Center
31301 Evergreen Road in Beverly Hills
Free Admission - Families Invited

Meet representatives of local and national summer programs who will help you choose the right summer experience for kids, 3 - 18

- Day Camps • Overnight Camps • Specialty Camps
- Year Round Cultural Programs
- Teen Adventures and Tours
- Academic Enrichment • Summer Employment

For information call **248-851-7342.**

Sponsored by **Observer & Eccentric** and **PARENT**

CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS

COFFEE HOUR

U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-Ann Arbor, will have a coffee hour 8:30-10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 28, at Leon's, 303 S. Wayne Road, Westland. All 13th Congressional District residents are encouraged to stop by and discuss concerns. For information, call Deborah Johnson in Rivers' office, (734) 485-3741.

TRAFFIC MEETING

A meeting on traffic concerns at Joy and Merriman will take place 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, at Franklin High School, 31000 Joy, Livonia. County Commissioner Lyn Bankes, R-Livonia, a former state representative, and a representative from the Wayne County Division of Roads will meet with those concerned about traffic control at the intersection.

COIN SHOW

The Wayne Coin Club will hold its annual Coin Show 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 5, at the Wayne Community Center, Howe and Annapolis roads. Admission is free. There will be coins, paper money, stamps, books and other items. Door prizes will be given.

RAILRODIANA

Toys and trains will be available for buying/swapping from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 5, at Sts. Simon and Jude Church, 32500 Palmer, Westland. The fund-raiser is hosted by the Usher's Club. To register for tables, call Norm at (734) 595-8327 5-11 p.m. Preregistered tables are \$12, tables at the door, if available, \$20. Admission is \$2 per person or \$4 per family.

AT THE LIBRARY

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library group meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public. The Friends also hold a book sale during regular library hours at the library.

WESTLAND CENTER

WALKERS

Westland Walkers meets the second Wednesday of each month except during the summer. Westland Center, located at Wayne and Warren roads, opens its doors to walkers beginning at 7 a.m., at Arcade 2 by Olga's Kitchen. Mail walking ends at 10 a.m.

RECREATION

RECREATIONAL GET-TOGETHER
A recreational get-together for teens and adults who are disabled is held the second Friday of each month at the Westland Bailey Center. Call (734) 722-7820.

FIGURE SKATING

Figure skaters interested in USFSA synchronized (precision) skating are needed to build Novi FSC and Westland FSC joint-venture teams. Prior team experience is not necessary. This is an opportunity to build skating and team skills while having fun. For information, call Cheryl Gutowski at (734) 427-0806.

VOLUNTEERS

HOSPICE

Spring Volunteer Training for Community Hospice & Home Care Services begins Monday, March 20, and runs through Friday, March 31. Classes will run 5-9 p.m. for six sessions (March 20, 22, 24, 27, 29 and 31) at the CHCS office, northwest corner of Warren and Venoy in Westland. For information or to register, call (734) 522-4244. Volunteers are needed in many areas.

ASSISTED LIVING

Marquette House assisted living facility, 36000 Campus Drive in Westland, seeks volunteers to spend time with residents to provide an activity or a one-on-one visit. Call Peggy in the activities department, (734) 326-6537.

ANGEL CARE

Angel Care is looking for volunteers to sew, crochet or knit blankets and burial gowns to donate to local hospitals for infants who die. Contact Mary Piontek for patterns and information, (313) 534-6496.

VETERAN'S HAVEN

Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0527.

CAMELOT HALL

Camelot Hall Convalescent Center seeks volunteers to spend time with residents, providing an activity or a one-on-one pursuit such as reading to blind people or just talking. The facility is located at 35100 Ann Arbor, Trail in Livonia. For information, call Esther or Diana in the Activity Department, (734) 522-1444, Ext. 27.

PET-A-PET

The Pet-A-Pet animal visitation program provides pet therapy with the help of volunteers. Pets should be friendly, well-behaved, and must have current vaccinations. There is a \$5 membership fee. Volunteer opportunities are available at Hope Nursing Care Center, 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month (Margaret Martin, (734) 721-2821) and Marquette House, 10:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of the month (Lorna Johnson, (734) 425-1681). There are also openings at Garden City Hospital, 3 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (Stacy Suida, (734) 458-4392).

SCHOOLS

SUBURBAN CHILDREN'S NURSERY
Suburban Children's Co-op Nursery has openings in its 2-year-old toddler-parent class on Friday mornings; 3-year-old class Monday and Wednesday mornings; and 4-year-old class on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Classes run from September to May. Parents are required to help out at the school. All classes take place at Newburg United Methodist Church on Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne and Newburgh. For more information, call April at (734) 207-7889.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
The Wayne-Westland Community School District has ongoing registration for the preschool programs at Stottlemeyer Early Childhood and Family Development Center, on Marquette between Wayne and Wildwood. Included are an early intervention program, Head Start, Kids/Plus Preschool, a pre-primary impaired program and Sparky Preschool. Registration takes place 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (734) 596-2680.

LIVONIA COOPERATIVE
The Livonia Cooperative

Nursery, a preschool for children ages 3-4, is located at 9601 W. Chicago. Parents learn with their children. Enrollment is limited. For information, call Karin at (734) 522-3714.

CHURCH PRESCHOOL

The Westland Free Methodist Preschool has openings for 3- and 4-year-olds in morning and afternoon sessions. The younger pupils attend Tuesdays and Thursdays, other pupils on Mondays and Wednesdays. A Friday enrichment class is also available. The preschool is located at 1421 S. Venoy, Westland. Call (734) 728-3559.

GARDEN CITY CO-OP

The Garden City Co-op nursery has openings for preschool classes for ages 18 months through age 4. Tots class meets on Wednesday mornings, and 3- and 4-year-olds meet Mondays and Thursdays. Parental involvement is required. Call Kelli at (734) 513-7708.

ST. MEL PRESCHOOL

St. Mel Preschool, 7506 Inkster Road in Dearborn Heights, has morning and afternoon classes for both 3- and 4-year-olds. To register, call (313) 274-6270.

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 located at 26279 Michigan in Inkster. Call (313) 561-4110.

CHARTER SCHOOL

The Academy of Detroit-Westland, an entrepreneurial and business charter school, serves children in kindergarten through sixth grade. The school emphasizes basic education with business and entrepreneurial skills and offers a foreign language class, music and art, a dress code and a computer lab with access to the Internet. Call (734) 722-1465 or (248) 569-7787.

LITTLE PEOPLES

Livonia Little Peoples Co-op Preschool is enrolling in programs for 3- and 4-year-olds. For more information, call (734) 422-1176.

LITTLE LAMBS

Little Lambs Preschool, on Farmington Road south of West Chicago in Livonia, is holding registration. Classes meet Monday-Wednesday-Friday afternoons and Tuesday-Thursday mornings for 3- to 5-year-olds. Little Lambs is a nonprofit, nondiscriminatory preschool. Call (248) 471-2077.

GARFIELD CO-OP

Garfield Cooperative Preschool offers programs for children 18 months to 5 years of age. It is located at Cass Elementary, 34633 Munger, south of Six Mile and west of Farmington Road in Livonia. Call (734) 462-0135.

BUILDING BLOCKS

Building Blocks Preschool in Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman



Chat: U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-Ann Arbor, will have a coffee hour 8:30-10 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28, at Leon's, 303 S. Wayne Road, Westland. All 13th Congressional District residents are encouraged to stop by and discuss concerns. For information, call Deborah Johnson in Rivers' office, (734) 485-3741.

in Livonia, is offering classes for both 3- and 4-year-olds. A Pre-Kindergarten Readiness class for 5-year-olds and a Parent/Child Toddler class for 2-year-olds are offered. Call (734) 421-7359 for registration information.

FRANKLIN PTSA

The Franklin High School PTSA is seeking members. Membership is open to those who care about the schools and the community. Members need not 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, MI 48150.

TUTORIAL PROGRAM

A free tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, is for students ages 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Leau'Rette Douglas, (734) 722-3660.

ADULT LITERACY

An adult literacy program is being offered free Wednesdays at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center. Volunteers are being sought who are interested in tutoring children and adults 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. For adult literacy enrollment or additional information, call Leau'Rette Douglas, (734) 722-3660.

MOM'S MORNING OUT

Children ages newborn to 6 years old and their mothers may attend a Mom's Morning Out 9-11:30 a.m. every

Thursday at Newburg United Methodist Church, on Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne and Newburgh, Livonia. Children are grouped together by ages in rooms with two caregivers per room. The program is an optional co-op, with parents working once a month. Call (734) 422-0149.

HISTORIC

WESTLAND MUSEUM

The Westland Historical Museum is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays at 857 N. Wayne Road, between Marquette and Cherry Hill. Call (734) 326-1110.

FRIENDS MEET

Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November at the Westland Meeting House, 37091 Marquette, between Newburgh and Wayne roads. Call President Jim Franklin at (734) 721-0136. Everyone is welcome.

FOR SENIORS

CARD PARTY/LUNCHEON

The Friendship Center (Westland Senior Resources Department) will have a card party 10 a.m. Friday, March 24, to chase the winter blues away. It will be at the center, on Newburgh near Marquette in Westland. There will be prizes. A luncheon will be served. Tickets, at \$10, will be available at the front desk. "Driving Miss Daisy" has been canceled. For more information, call the center, (734) 722-7632.

HEARING CHECKS

Every third Tuesday of each month, a representative from Personalized Hearing Care of Westland will check and clean hearing aids free, 2-3 p.m. by appointment only. Call (734) 722-7632 for more information.

SENIOR CHOIR

The Friendship Senior Choir, under the direction of Robert Cassidy, meets 9 a.m. Thursdays at the Westland Senior Resources Department Friendship Center, 1119 Newburgh, Westland. Anyone who enjoys singing may join.

EXERCISE

Musical Chairs is a program from Jazzercise designed for exercisers older than 40. The program provides a low-to-moderate workout. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates resistance exercises using rubber tubing and light weights with walking and jogging patterns. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Robert Cassidy is the certified Jazzercise instructor. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

TRAVEL GROUP

The Travel Group meets 1 p.m. two Fridays a month in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, unless a trip or program is planned. Programs include speakers, films, celebrations of birthdays and weekly door prizes. There is an \$8 membership fee for Westland residents. Call (734) 722-7632.

MONTHLY MEAL/DANCE

The Wayne-Ford Civic League schedules its senior meal for people 50 and older 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. Cost is \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. The meal includes beer, beverages, dancing to big band music and door prizes. Call (734) 728-5010.

WORK REFERRAL

The Wayne-Westland Information Center Inc. refers workers to elderly people who need help. The program is for people interested in providing transportation, yard work, housework, etc. Workers can specify the type of work they are willing to perform and the communities they want to work in. Call (734) 422-1052.

DYER CENTER

The Wayne-Westland School District's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday through Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, Kitchen Band, 10 a.m. bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.; a Hawaiian dance exercise class will be held at 1 p.m. every Wednesday in Hall A of the Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 Newburgh. The instructor is Kammo Oris. Sign up at the front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

CLUBS IN ACTION

WESTLAND ROTARY

The Westland Rotary Club meets 12:15 p.m. Thursdays at Joy Manor, 28999 Joy east of Middlebelt in Westland.

SWEET ADELINES

The County Connection Chorus of Sweet Adelines International is looking for women who love to sing. The group sings a cappella music in barbershop style. Rehearsals are 7 p.m. Tuesdays at UAW Local 898 at 8975 Textile, Ypsilanti. For more information, call Paula at (734) 995-4110.

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 for more information.

T.O.P.S.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. M128, a support group for sensible weight loss, meets 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, Wayne Road and Hunter in Westland. Call Jackie at (734) 722-7225 for more information.

T.O.P.S.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly No. M153 meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at OptiEyes, Westland Super Vision Center, 35184 Central City Parkway, Westland. Call (734) 427-5200. Leader, Michele, (734) 422-

1726; secretary, Karen, (734) 729-6368.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club No. 6694 (formerly Holy Smokemasters) teaches public speaking at the club's weekly meetings 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at Denny's Restaurant, 7725 N. Wayne Road next to Westland Shopping Center. Call John Elbe at (734) 326-5419.

BINGO

ST. MEL CHURCH

Bingo games are held 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church's activities building, on Inkster Road north of Warren. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

WFCL BINGO

The Finesse Girls Travel Softball Boosters hold bingo games at 6:30-9:45 p.m. every Monday to raise money for girls' softball programs. The bingo games take place at the Wayne-Ford Civic League hall on Wayne Road, two blocks south of Ford, Westland.

MORE BINGO

The Metro Wayne Democratic Club sponsors bingo games at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Joy Manor Bingo Hall, on the south side of Joy east of Middlebelt in Westland. Proceeds are used by the club to sponsor Little League baseball teams, the Salvation Army and School for the Blind. Call (734) 422-5025 or (734) 729-8681.

SHAMROCK BINGO

Bingo is played at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020 for more information.

SMOKELESS BINGO

"Smokeless" bingo meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Sts. Simon and Jude Parish Hall, 32500 Palmer east of Venoy in Westland. Offered are three jackpots of \$400, \$300 and \$200.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

AIM

Anxiety or panic attacks? AIM (Agoraphobics In Motion) meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Merriman in Livonia. AIM is a support group for those working on recovery from anxiety disorder or phobias. For more information, call (248) 547-0400.

RATIONAL RECOVERY

Rational Recovery is a nonprofit, self-help organization for people experiencing problems caused by alcohol and/or substance abuse or other self-defeating behaviors. The group meets at 12:30 p.m. Thursdays at the Garden City Hospital Community Health Center, on Harrison north of Maplewood in Garden City. Call (248) 476-2657.

CHILD BIRTH CLASSES

Garden City Hospital, on Inkster Road at Maplewood, is sponsoring classes for parents of newborns, weekend childbirth instruction, a refresher childbirth education course and a new support group for expectant teens. Call (734) 458-4330.

CHILD BIRTH ASSOCIATION

Classes for childbirth preparation are offered at several Wayne County locations. Morning and evening classes are available. Newborn care classes and Cesarean preparation are also offered. Call (734) 459-7477.

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, 36351 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or by fax to 734-882-7378. 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

BETHEL BAPTIST TEMPLE
29475 W. Six Mile, Livonia
734-525-3664

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.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST
YOUTH AWANA CLUBS
DR. RICHARD FREEMAN
PASTOR

*"A Church That's Concerned
About People"*

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
5403 S. Wayne Rd. • Wayne, MI
(Between Michigan Ave. & Van Born Rd.)
(734) 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.

**New St. Paul Tabernacle Church of God in Christ
and Grandmont Rosedale Park Christian Day School**
Bishop P.A. Brooks, Pastor & Founder
15340 Southfield Drive at Fenkell & Grand River

New St. Paul Tabernacle Church
The Place Where "The Word of God
is Taught" With Clarity for Practical
Lifestyle Applications

313-835-5329
SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

IN OUR WEEKLY WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY WE ARE CURRENTLY TAKING A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.nspst.com>

Not All Bad Words Have Four Letters

Loneliness, sorrow, trial, difficulty, trouble, fearfulness, sin, doubt, temptation, anxiety, death, illness, hatred, guilt, brokenness, concerns, hopelessness.

Get some good words this Sunday.

Tri-City Christian Center
Michigan Ave. & Harmon Rd
326-0350
Sunday 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 6 p.m.

CATHOLIC

ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Traditional Latin Mass
St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8
23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan
5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121

Mass Schedule:
First Fri. 7:00 p.m.
First Sat. 9:30 a.m.
Sun. Masses 7:30 & 9:30 a.m.
Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass
Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL
1160 Penniman Ave.
Plymouth • 453-0426
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.
1:00 P.M. Lit. Teen Mass

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
48755 Warren Rd. Canton Michigan 48187
451-0444
REV. RICHARD A. PERFETTO

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

St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church & School
29015 Jamison Ave. • Livonia
East of Middlebelt between 5 Mile & Schoolcraft Rds
MASS: Mon. Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat. 9:00 a.m.
Tues. 7:00 p.m. • Sat. 5 p.m.
Sun. 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon
734-427-8220

A new Eastern Catholic parish is being formed to serve Christians residing in the far western suburbs of Detroit.

St. Nicholas Eastern Catholic Church
Rev. Wayne Ruzhy, pastor
10000 W. Warren Rd. at 14 Mile
Phone: 313-532-1000

EPISCOPAL

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
18380 Hubbard Road
Livonia, Michigan 48154
421-8451

Holy Eucharist
Dinner & Classes
Sunday 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. Alan Brandt, Jr., Rector

CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth
1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Reading Room - 447 S. Harco, Plymouth
Monday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. • Sundays 7:30 p.m.
453-1676

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
14 Mile Road and Drake Farmington Hills
(248) 661-9191

Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary
11:00 a.m. Traditional
Sunday School for all ages
Wednesday Supper (6:00 p.m.)
& Programs for All Ages
Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups



LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Luther A. Werth, Sr. Pastor
Rev. Robert Bayer, Assist. Pastor
— Two locations to serve you —

LIVONIA
14175 Farmington Rd.
(N. of I-96)
Sunday Worship 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Sunday School 9:45 am
(734) 522-6830

CANTON
46001 Warren Road
(West of Canton Center)
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Sunday School 10:45 am
(734) 414-7422

Visit our Web Site at <http://www.ccaa.edu/~lcmcs>

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
28805 Middlebelt
Farmington Hills, Mich.

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday Morning 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.
Pastor John W. Meyer • 474-0675

Risen Christ Lutheran
46250 Ann Arbor Road
1 Mile West of Center
Plymouth • 453-5252

Worship Service 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Pastor David Marbin
Hugh McMartin, Lay Minister

St. Michael Lutheran Church & School
10115 Lincoln Rd. West
Livonia • 48150 • 48150
734-724-1957

Sunday Morning Worship Services
Traditional Services 8 & 11 a.m.
Contemporary Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (Children & Adults) 9:30 & 11 a.m.
Wednesday Night Service 7 pm
Rev. Dr. Robert J. Nebel Pastor
Rev. Merle Weiboschen

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN Church & School
5885 Venice
1 Bk. N. of Ford Rd. Westland
425-0260

Divine Worship 8 & 11:00 A.M.
Bible Class & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 A.M.
Monday Evening Service 7:00 P.M.
Gary D. Headopon, Administrative Pastor
Kurt E. Lambert, Assistant Pastor
Jeff Burke, Ph.D., Director of C.C.E.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD
25600 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DAILY
532-2286 REZDORF TWP.

Worship Service
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School
9:15 & 11:00 A.M.
Nursery Provided
Rev. Victor F. Halbach, Pastor
Rev. Timothy Halbach, Assoc. Pastor

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NATIVITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9435 Henry Ruff at West Chicago
Livonia 48150 • 421-5408

Rev. Donald Johnson, Pastor
9:15 a.m. Adult Classes
10:30 a.m. Worship Service and Youth Classes
Nursery Care Available
-WELCOME-

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Timothy Lutheran Church
8820 Wayne Rd.
Between Ann Arbor Trail & Jay Road
Livonia • 427-2290

Rev. Carla Thompson Powell, Pastor
9:00 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)
10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Avail.)
<http://www.timothyivonia.com>

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF PLYMOUTH
291 E. SPRING ST.
Livonia, MI 48150

SUNDAY 10:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY 8:00 A.M. & 11:00 P.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M. AND 4:00 P.M.
Nursery Provided • A.R.C.
Classes for all ages
Pastor: Frank Howard • 453-1002

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10101 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth
5 Miles W. of Sheldon Rd.
From M-14 take Coffinwood Rd. South
734-459-9550
Dr. Wm. C. Moore - Pastor

8:00 Prayer & Praise Service
9:30 Lifeline Contemporary Service
11:00 Traditional Service
SUNDAY SCHOOL (NURSERY PROVIDED)
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST SERVED
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages

WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church
40800 Six Mile Road
"Just west of I-575"
Northville, MI
248-374-7400

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Worship Services,
Sunday School
8:30, 10:30, 11:30 A.M.
Contemporary Service
8:30-9:45 A.M.
Evening Service
8:30 P.M. in the Chapel
Nursery Provided
Now On The Radio 8:30 a.m.
Sunday - WYUN 1310 AM

PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)

ST. TIMOTHY CHURCH, U.S.A.
16700 Newburgh Road
Livonia • 734-464-8844

Sunday School for All Ages 9:30 a.m.
Family Worship 11:00 a.m.
"New Wine"

Rev. Dr. Janet Noble-Richardson, Pastor
<http://www.undcl.com/~sttimothy>

GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
3635 Sheldon Rd. Canton
(734) 459-0013

Sunday Worship & Sunday School
8:30 & 11:30 a.m.
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February 27
Scripture/Mark 2:13-22
New Wines, New Skins
Rev. Diana Goudle, preaching



Don't take for granted the blessings God bestows upon us

Recently at our dinner table great wisdom was imparted about God's grace. We were all seated and ready to say our blessing. (Since our daughter's name is Grace, we call our table grace a "blessing to God" in order to avoid confusion.) We hold hands around the table and then we say our blessing to God. It's the traditional "God is great, God is good" blessing.

On this night, Nick, our 4 1/2-year-old, said, "Now it is time for the blessing." Our daughter, Grace, looked confused so Nick went on to say, "This is where we thank God for all the special stuff God gives us." My husband and I inquired about what the "special stuff" was and Nick said simply, "Love and fun." I like his definition. God's grace is the love and fun we are given in life. It is something spe-

'This is God's grace.' cial. It is a wonderful blessing, or an unexpected surprise or moment in an otherwise dreary day. It is the little moments of laughter and smiles during the day. It is the way others care for us. This is God's grace, which is a grand and wonderful gift

offered to each of us, with no strings attached. It is just God's way of loving us. Sometimes we forget that simple but very profound message. God is there for us. God is always loving us, offering us moments of grace, moments of love and fun. And these gifts from God are what get us through and compel us to offer grace to others. In our fast-paced lives, we

need to take a few moments each day to reflect on God's gift of love and fun. And as we reflect, let us thank God for this wonderful gift and for continuing to give it to us despite what we may do or think. And then, as we enjoy the wonderful grace of our creator, we must also remember to pass it on. Just as God offers love and fun to us in simple, yet profound ways, we too can offer this grace

to others. It is as simple as a smile, as a kind word, or deed. Simple acts can change our community and world. Rev. Melanie Lee Carey has served as associate pastor of Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia since June of 1993. She grew up in Chelsea, Mich., and lives with her husband and children in Livonia. She can be reached via e-mail at Melanielee@newburgumc.org

RELIGION CALENDAR

Listings for the Religious News should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2131 or e-mail kmortson@oe.homecomm.net

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Women from clusters 5 and 6 will celebrate the gifts of women, share stories, sing psalms, beginning at 9:45 a.m. Wednesday, March 1, St. Timothy, 16700 Newburgh Road, Livonia. (248) 478-4742 or (734) 522-0739.

LUTHERAN SINGERS

The Detroit Lutheran Singers, Eric Freudigman, director and Doris Hall, accompanist, will perform a concert of sacred choral music with participation by children's choirs at Christ Our Savior Lutheran at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 26 (14175 Farmington Road in Livonia). Tickets are \$10 (\$7 for students and seniors). Call (248) 988-0604 or visit their Web site at <http://members.xoom.com/kmirwin/dls.html>

KEEFE CONCERT

Barbara Keefe, spiritual teacher and new thought vocalist, will be performing in concert "Tinkerbelle and other light beings," at 7 p.m. Feb. 26 at Unity of Livonia (28660 Five Mile Road). The concert will be offered on a donation basis. Keefe tours extensively in the U.S. performing concerts for spiritual and private groups after many years of professional work throughout the world. Three albums will be available for purchase "Through the Open Door," "The Mayan G," and "Fly." For more information call

(734) 421-1760.

ECUMENICAL LENTEN GATHERINGS

"Opening Our Hearts to Christ - Jubilee 2000" will begin with noon services on the Wednesdays of Lent followed by a luncheon of bread and soup. All services will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 710 Church St. in Plymouth. Worship leaders/lunch providers are as follows: March 8, Our Lady of Good Counsel (St. Kenneth); March 15, St. John's Episcopal (St. John's Episcopal); March 22, First United Methodist (Our Lady of Good Counsel); March 29, First Baptist (First Baptist); April 5, Saint Kenneth (First United Methodist); and April 12, Salvation Army (Salvation Army). Donations to cover the cost of lunch benefit the Greater Detroit Partnership for Training (a national initiative that addresses primary health care shortages).

GRIEF SEMINAR

A grief share seminar for adults and children will be held at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 12 at Family Impact Ministries the pastoral care center of Tri-City Christian Center located on Michigan Ave (one mile east of I-275) in Canton. Cost is \$25 per person, \$35 per couple and family. Scholarships available. Call (734) 326-7780 for information.

WEIGH DOWN

A weigh down workshop orientation will be held Monday evening March 20 at Family Impact Ministries the pastoral care center of Tri-City Christian Center located on Michigan Ave (one mile east of I-275) in Canton. You must call to register. (734) 326-7780.

SEXUAL ABUSE RECOVERY

The recovery from sexual abuse

group meets Thursday evenings beginning March 23. Registration cost is \$25 per person, however, scholarships are available. Deadline to register is March 15. Family Impact Ministries the pastoral care center of Tri-City Christian Center located on Michigan Ave (one mile east of I-275) in Canton. Call (734) 326-7780.

DIVORCE CARE SEMINAR

From 7-9 p.m. Friday, March 10 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 11 at Family Impact Ministries the pastoral care center of Tri-City Christian Center located on Michigan Ave (one mile east of I-275) in Canton. Cost is \$25 per person, however, scholarships are available and limited child care. Register by March 3. Call (734) 326-7780.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

"Talhitha Kumi: Young Woman, Stand Up!" This observance now spans more than 170 countries. This year's service was written by Christian women of Indonesia, where Christians are only 10 percent of the population. Inspired by this Bible story, the Indonesian women see the hand of Jesus reaching out to them, inviting them to life in its fullness. Program will begin at 12:45 p.m. Friday, March 3 at Lola Valley Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware, Redford (1/10 of a mile east of Inkster Road and four blocks north of Five Mile). Reservations needed for babysitting only. Call Betty Stout by Feb. 29 at (313) 537-9637.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

A women's retreat titled "Getting Real with God," is planned for Friday March 31 and Saturday April 1 through Tri-City Christian Center of Canton. Registration date is March 15. \$79

per person. For more information call Tri-City Christian Center at (734) 326-0330.

NEW BEGINNINGS

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Livonia offers a year-round grief support group and this new Thursday speaker series, beginning with Del McPherson and "The Healing Power of Humor," March 2; the Rev. Kurt Stutz of Botsford Hospital with "Healing Grief" April 6; the Rev. Phil Seymour on "Dreams, Visions and Images" May 4; and Warren Gilbert's "Managing Memories" June 1. The series is free and open to the public. Call (734) 422-6038.

CHILI COOKOFF

The Good Shepherd Reformed Church's annual Chili Cook Off will be held from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, March 11. Come and enjoy. Call (734) 722-7225.

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OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Dietrich, Miela honored

Chris Dietrich and Michelle Miela of Madonna University were recently named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference women's basketball team.

Dietrich, a senior guard from Monroe-Jefferson High School, averaged 15 points per game (16 in the WHAC), while shooting 80 percent from the free throw line and finishing second on the team with a total of 105 rebounds.

During her four years at MU, Dietrich earned a 3.26 grade-point average in business.

Miela, a junior guard from Anchor Bay High School, averaged 13 points and two assists per game in the conference. Her season averages were eight points and two assists. She has compiled a 3.3 GPA in three years in Madonna's Dietetics program.

Dietrich, Miela and Jaclyn Kocis, a junior forward from St. Clair Shores Lake Shore, were also named to the All-Academic team in the WHAC. Kocis has earned a 3.25 GPA in Criminal Justice.

Meanwhile, sophomore guard Carissa Gizicki (Riverview Gabriel Richard) was named to the All-WHAC Defensive Team. She finished among the conference leaders in steals (four per game), while averaging six points and four assists (per game).

All-Academic Crusaders

Redford Thurston High product Chad Putnam, a senior forward for the Madonna University men's basketball team, was recently named to the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference All-Academic team.

Putnam, a History (Education) major, achieved a 3.69 grade-point average.

Junior Mark Mitchell (Walled Lake Western) was also named to the All-Academic squad. The Business major carries a 3.41 cumulative GPA.

Collegiate swim note

Eastern Michigan University senior diver Sarah Coombs, a 1996 graduate of Westland John Glenn, will compete this weekend in the Mid-American Conference Championships at Ohio University.

Coombs, participating in her fourth MAC women's swimming and diving championships, has also qualified for the NCAA Zone meet, March 10-11 at the University of Minnesota.

During her prep career at Glenn, Coombs was a state qualifier in track, diving and gymnastics.

She will be competing in the MAC Championships with teammates Julie Sweet (Milan), Emily McCarty (Ypsilanti) and Christy Michalak (Monroe).

'Big M' book signing

Former Detroit Red Wing and 1981 National Hockey League Hall of Fame inductee Frank Mahovlich will appear from 7-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26 at the Waldenbooks location in Woodland Square, 30200 Plymouth Road, in Livonia, to sign his book, "The Big M: The Frank Mahovlich Story."

Mahovlich played 22 seasons in the NHL and was a member of six Stanley Cup-winning teams. The book, authored by his son Ted and released in 1999 by Sports Publishing, Inc., also details Mahovlich's years in Detroit as a member of the Production Line II, along with Gordie Howe and Alex Delvecchio.

Mahovlich is now a senator from Ontario in the Canadian Parliament.

Icettes garner gold

The Livonia Icettes, a teen synchronize skating team from Eddie Edgar Arena, captured a gold medal last weekend at the Miami Open at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

The girls, ranging in ages from 12-17, are coached by Laura Edney and Carol Juodawikis.

Members of the Icettes, who skated to a disco music theme, included Elizabeth Alderman, Emily Alderman, Nicole Boback, Allison Diakow, Stephanie Doyle, Alissa Gatewood, Andrea Haas, Lindsay Kos, Megan LaMontagne, Nicole Larsson, Danielle Longeway, Lisa Longeway, Michelle Longeway, Kimberly Meyer, Karen Ostalecki, Katie Pfankuch, Amanda Regulski, Laura Robert, Amy Witt and Nicole Zammit.

CC gains shot at crown

DeLaSalle Pilots grounded, 50-45

BOYS BASKETBALL

BY PAUL BEAUDRY
STAFF WRITER
pbeaudry@oe.homecomm.net

Sunday, they beat the No. 1 team in Class C. Wednesday, they beat the No. 1 team in the Central Division.

And next Sunday, they'll probably have another crack at the No. 1 team in the state — regardless of class.

Led by 19 points from senior guard Ryan Sparks and 18 more from senior forward Matt Loidas, Redford Catholic Central stopped Warren DeLaSalle, 50-45 at Schoolcraft College in a Detroit Catholic League semifinal game.

The win sends the Shamrocks into Sunday's 4 p.m. Central-AA final against the winner of tonight other semifinal at Schoolcraft between Birmingham Brother Rice and the No. 1 team in Class B — Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep.

"I think both teams played hard and both were tight," said CC coach Rick Coratti after his team improved to 9-9 overall. "I think that was the first game we shot under 50 percent from the floor and won."

While the Shamrocks shot just 16 of 43 from the floor on the game, they also stopped the Pilots (11-7) cold in the third quarter — holding them to just three points.

And when DeLaSalle stalled, Loidas got hot, posting all nine of CC's third quarter points to turn a 31-25 deficit into a 34-all tie.

"I didn't know I (scored all the points)," said Loidas, as an embarrassed smile crossed his face. "I was just moving to the open spot on the block. I wasn't moving there in the first half and did it in the second. I didn't do much. (My teammates) saw me open under the basket and they got me the ball."

However, nothing was settled until 1:10 left when Ryan Celeskey canned a pair of free throws to give CC a 47-45 lead. Anthony Coratti and Loidas both made free throws down the stretch to pad the lead, while CC's defensive pressure kept the Pilots coming up



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Creating space: Catholic Central's Ryan Celeskey (right) dribbles around DeLaSalle's Ryan Cryderman in Wednesday's clash.

empty.

After allowing LaSalle's senior guard Paul Anderson to score 10 of his team-high 12 in the second quarter, Anthony Coratti turned up the heat and Anderson went cold.

"(Anthony) guarded him in the first half too, but in the first half, he let (Anderson) shoot," Rick Coratti said. "The difference was not to let him set and (Anderson's) a good set shooter."

But Sparks wasn't too shabby from the outside either. And his 10 points in

the second quarter helped keep the Pilots within striking distance, despite LaSalle's 24-15 advantage in the period.

And if the Shamrocks do face OLSM Sunday, they know they'll have to stay within striking distance against a team that beat them 71-40 in December.

"We were missing three starters then too — Sparks, (Mark) Willoughby and Celeskey," Loidas said. "It was early in the year. I think it will be a different game."

Canton topples Churchill in playoffs

WESTERN LAKES TOURNEY

It was not a bright outlook for Plymouth Canton's basketball team.

The Chiefs were already facing a tough opponent in Livonia Churchill in their Western Lakes Activities Association Tournament opener. Having to do so without their top rebounder and one of their top scorers would make things very difficult indeed.

But Canton rose to the challenge Wednesday against the visiting Chargers, building a 10-point lead by halftime and cruising to a 69-56 boys basketball triumph.

Both teams are now 9-9 overall. Jason Waidmann, Canton's senior center, was suspended for a game after getting tossed out of Monday's game at Walled Lake Western for retaliating after he was hit in the head.

The Chiefs survived, however, getting the balance they needed on offense. Dan McLean scored a season-best 19 points; Kenny Nether added 13. Jimmy Reddy scored 11 and Oliver Wolcott got nine.

John Bennett topped Churchill with 16 points. Brandon Dziklinski got nine and Avery Jensen scored eight.

"This was a great win for us," said Canton coach Dan Young. "We got good play out of Dan McLean — he had an outstanding game."

Another player who had to step forward was Andrew Holmes, a 6-foot-5 junior forward. With Waidmann already sidelined, Nether — Canton's other sizable threat — got into foul trouble and sat much of the second half.

Which brought Holmes to the forefront. "He was very effective," said Young. "He hit all four of his free throws, played good defense and rebounded well."

"Without Waidmann, it was really a concern for us." Canton expanded its 17-10 lead after one quarter to 34-24 by halftime. The Chiefs were in command going into the fourth quarter, 51-37.

Going to the mat



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL BURCHMANS

Pin pal: Churchill's Mike Carter (top), a regional qualifier, pins Salem's James March in a 160-pound match in last week's Division I team dual regional. See individual results, C3.

COLLEGE HOOPS

Ocelots win title outright

S'craft improves standing to 23-5

BY BRAD EMONS
SPORTS WRITER
bemons@oe.homecomm.net

Coach Carlos Briggs and his Schoolcraft College men's basketball team continues to break new ground.

On Saturday, the Ocelots captured their first-ever outright Eastern Conference title in school history with a convincing 110-63 win Saturday at Henry Ford.

On Wednesday, the Ocelots improved to 23-5 overall and opened its defense of Michigan Community College Athletic Association playoff championship with another lopsided victory, 93-55. The victim once again was Henry Ford in a game played Wednesday at Concordia College.

SC lost its homecourt advantage in the playoffs in favor of the Detroit Catholic League high school playoffs, but it didn't matter as four players scored in double figures led by 6-foot-7 reserve forward Mike Williams' team-high 18 points.

Briggs, the former Schoolcraft All-America and standout at Baylor, has transformed SC into one of the Midwest's powers in junior college basketball in just three seasons.

"When I was a player here we shared the conference title, but it's a lot different when you win it outright," said Briggs, whose team finished 15-1, one game ahead of Flint Mott (while ending the Bears' five-year conference reign). "And when you get that one (title), you're hungrier for the second one."

"We feel we're the best team in the state when we play good defense and play with intensity."

SC will take on Grand Rapids JC (16-5) in the MCAA semifinals 5:15 p.m. Friday at Mott. Grand Rapids ousted Lansing in its quarterfinal final encounter Wednesday at home, 89-78.

SC beat Henry Ford (14-13) for the third time this season, and for the second time in four days. Henry Ford, a 68-66 first-round winner Monday over Alpena; however, could not be taken lightly by the conference's top seed.

"We knew this game would be more mental than physical," Briggs said. "We started slowly, but the guys picked it up once we started pressing them. That got us going."

With 11:23 left in the opening half, Henry Ford was down by only three, 14-11.

But the Hawks were outscored 37-13 the rest of the half and found themselves trailing 47-24 at intermission. The rout was on.

"Schoolcraft is a great team and I don't know who is going to beat them," Henry Ford first-year coach Abe Mansouz said. "Last year they may have been a better half-court team, but this year their defense is way better. They don't have to play halfcourt when they're running up and down the floor."

Rob Brown added 16 points for SC, while Wayne Memorial's Brian Williams, who has stepped up his play at point-guard, added 14. Lamar Bigby contributed 13.

James Driscoll and Daryl Mason had 15 and 12, respectively, for Henry Ford.

Schoolcraft hit 36 of 67 shots from the floor (53 percent) and outrebounded the Hawks, 47-33.

"When you're the number one seed you know everybody is gunning for you," Briggs said. "But our guys off the bench — Dwight Windom, Reggie Kirkland and Mike Williams — have been playing really well for us."

"And Brian Williams has really been aggressive on offense and defense. He's one of the keys for us."

Gilbert Mitchell and Mike Williams each tallied 21 points in

Please see S'CRYPT TITLE, C3

Wayne upsets Belleville, grabs 4th seed

Wayne Memorial has had more close calls than James Bond this season. They haven't pulled out quite as many as the fictional spy, but they got one into the win column Tuesday night that was every bit as sweet as anything a screenwriter could dream up.

Visiting Wayne defeated Belleville, 59-56, to finish fourth in the Michigan Mega Conference's Red Division and grab the last berth in the league's post-season boys basketball tourney.

Wayne hosts the top seed in the Mega White tonight in the first round of the tournament.

"I'm very proud of my kids," Wayne coach Chuck Henry said. "They're elated that they could make it into that tournament."

The Zebras did it on the strength of their 'threes' — the same factor that has keyed the Tigers over the past couple of seasons.

Wayne made 11 triples in the game, four each by guards Shane Nowak and Gary Johnson, and pressured Belleville into missing a pair of three-pointers at the end of the game to preserve the upset.

Wayne (8-9) ended up 6-6 in the Mega Red to finish two games behind host Belleville (13-4, 8-4).

Johnson, a junior, was the game's high scorer with 25 points while Nowak, a senior, scored 16.

Guard Kevin Harrison, who will attend Eastern Michigan on a football scholarship, paced the Tigers with 21.

Belleville held a 13-12 lead after the first quarter but Wayne took off in the second and was ahead, 32-25, at the half. The Tigers cut the margin by four entering the final period.

CLARENCEVILLE 56, CRANBROOK 46: Senior forward Rick Burack made eight-of-11 shots Tuesday night and the Trojans toughened up their defense in the second half to thwart the Cranes' upset bid.

The victory let Livonia Clarenceville advance to the semifinals of the Metro Tournament. Cranbrook came out aggressively and pulled out to a 31-28 lead at intermission.

"At halftime we stressed that offensively we were fine," coach Bill Dyer of host Clarenceville said, "but we gave up 31 points. And we pride ourselves on not giving up that many points."

"To a man, they all played better defense in the second half."

No joke. Clarenceville may have only scored eight points in the third period — but the Tro-

BOYS BASKETBALL

jans only allowed the Cranes to score seven.

And Clarenceville (12-6) held Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook (5-12) to eight points in the fourth quarter while scoring 20.

"They made a shot at the buzzer in the third quarter and a desperation three in the fourth. That gives you a measure of how good we played in the second half."

Burack scored 20, nine in the fourth quarter, and had four rebounds plus four assists.

Junior center Scott Wion scored 11 and had five rebounds, while sophomore forward Tim Shaw scored 10 points and got six rebounds.

Center Tom Wattles led Cranbrook with 13 and guard Chris Taylor scored 12.

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 64, LUTH. N'WEST 58: Lutheran Westland outgunned Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest Tuesday at home in the first-round of the Metro Conference Tourney.

Luke Kasten came up big for the Warriors, scoring a game-high 23 points, 18 in the second half. Kasten also hit five 3-pointers.

Westland improved its record to 9-7 overall.

Nate Loewe's 14 points led the way for the Crusaders, who fell to 8-8.

STEVENS 60, JOHN GLENN 46: On Tuesday, Livonia Stevenson (4-14 overall) won at Westland John Glenn (3-14) in the WAAA con-

solation bracket matchup behind 19 points apiece by Keshay McChristian and Chris Severson.

Both teams finished the WAAA season with 1-10 records.

Yaku Moton scored 15 points and Brent Bogle added 10 to lead the Rockets, who trailed 26-22 at halftime.

W.L. CENTRAL 42, FRANKLIN 28: In a WAAA consolation bracket game Tuesday, junior guard Justin Spencer scored all 11 of his points to spark a 20-4 fourth-quarter run to give Walled Lake Central (6-12 overall) the win at Livonia Franklin (5-13 overall).

Junior guard Steve Horn paced the victorious Vikings with 19 points. Senior center Scott Keeler added 10.

Joe Ruggiero, a junior forward, led Franklin with 16 points, 14 coming in the opening half (including four 3-pointers).

"We didn't really play tonight, we stood around," Franklin coach Dan Robinson said. "It was like we had never seen a 2-3 zone (defense) before."

"As the game wore on Central outplayed us. They played harder. Give them credit."

Central also shot the ball better, hitting 17 of 37 shots (45.9 percent) from the floor compared to 11 of 30 (36 percent) for the Patriots.

FRANKLIN ROAD 59, HURON VALLEY 45: Josh Motner and Josh Angel each tallied 14 points, propelling Southfield Franklin Road Christian (9-7, 6-3) to a Michigan Independent Athlet-

ic Conference victory over host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran (2-14, 1-8) at Marshall Middle School.

Senior guard Rene Arnal led the Hawks and all scorers with 16 points. Senior guard Jeremy Husby and freshman forward Tony Mroz each added eight points.

Huron Valley led late in the first half before Franklin Road went on a 9-0 run to lead 29-21 at intermission.

N. FARMINGTON 67, JOHN GLENN 23: North Farmington blasted Westland John Glenn at home Monday, in a game that had been postponed by Friday's snowstorm.

With the win, North clinched the top seed in the WAAA playoffs.


Phil Watha dropped in a game-high 18 points and Emir Medunjanin added 15 points for North, which gained a share of its second consecutive WAAA regular season title.

Pushing its league record to 10-1 in the WAAA and 12-5 overall, North tied Walled Lake Westland, the winner of the Western Division, as regular season co-champions.

With a 4-1 divisional record, North shared the Lakes Division title with Plymouth Salem and Farmington.


North jumped on Glenn early, and had a commanding 45-16 lead at halftime. North was also sparked by Mike Primeau, who came off the bench and scored a career-high 11 points.

Yaku Moton scored six for Glenn (3-12, 1-10).




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Shamrocks sharp in win over DePorres

BY BRAD EMONS
 SPORTS WRITER
 bemonsoe@homecomm.net

If there's a better 8-9 boys basketball team out there than Redford Catholic Central, you'll have to present a strong case.

Just ask 12-4 Detroit St. Martin DePorres, the state's No. 1 ranked team in Class C.

On Sunday, Catholic Central opened first-round action in the Catholic League's Central-AA Division playoffs with a resounding 75-49 victory over the Eagles at the University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall.

"Our record is probably a little deceiving because we lost some

tough non-league games," CC coach Rick Coratti said. "Today I thought we played a complete game, four good quarters of basketball. Overall everyone played pretty well."

Thanks to five 3-pointers, the Shamrocks jumped out to a 23-12 first-quarter advantage and never led by less than seven the rest of the way.

It was 36-22 in favor of CC at intermission.

"We've had some mental lapses in the third quarter so I told our guys at halftime we wanted to win the third quarter and take it from there," Coratti said.

CC did just that, outscoring



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If you want legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately.

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- The name and address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF MONTEREY, 240 Church Street, P.O. Box 1819, Salinas, CA 93902
- The name, address, and telephone number of petitioner's attorney, or petitioner without an attorney, is: Mark W. Hafen, Esq., Law Offices of Dozier & Hafen, 325 Cayuga Street, Salinas, CA 93901, 831-422-5001, 138511

Date: November 29, 1999

SHERRIL PEDERSEN, Clerk
 J. VILLANUEVA, Deputy

Published February 10, 17, 24 and March 2, 2000

Shamrocks disqualified from tourney Forfeit regional dual vs. Novi

BY PAUL BEAUDRY
STAFF WRITER
pbeaudry@oe.homecom.net

Redford Catholic Central's wrestling team was dropped from the Division I team dual wrestling regionals Wednesday at Garden City — not because the Shamrocks lost on the mat, but by using two ineligible athletes.

"The rules were pretty black and white on this," CC athletic director Bob Santello said. "There wasn't a lot of gray area in this. It wasn't (the wrestlers') fault."

The ineligibilities came from the wrestlers exceeding the limit of 16 regular-season weigh-ins — something that wasn't discovered until after the Shamrocks competed in the Division I individual district Saturday at Troy High School.

Because the discovery came after the team had competed in district competition, including a 48-21 win in the finals last Wednesday over Livonia Stevenson, CC had to forfeit any victories it had in the state tourney.

It also gave Novi a bye into the regional final where the Wildcats defeated Plymouth Salem, 56-15, to advance to the state quarterfinals Friday, March 3 in Battle Creek.

"We were informed by the manager of the individual district at Troy that the season history, which indicates wins, losses and weigh-ins for each wrestler, showed the two student-athletes had weighed in 17 times during the regular season," said Michigan High School Athletic Association communications director John Johnson. "Once we were able to share this information with CC, it withdrew from the tourney."

CC officials checked their records and found that the two wrestlers — both of whom had qualified for this Saturday's individual regional competition, also at Troy — had exceeded the allowable limit. Wrestlers who would have faced the CC duo in the regional meet were also awarded first-round byes.

While the team was declared ineligible for Wednesday's regional team tourney, it does not affect the status of the other wrestlers who qualified for Saturday's individual regional.

"We called the MHSAA, explained our situation and tried to determine our next move," Santello said. "But it was a violation and the two individuals were disqualified. Since they were ineligible for the postseason, they shouldn't have wrestled in the team district. Since they did, the team would be disqualified."

In 1990, CC was reprimanded by the MHSAA for a rules violation under current coach Mike Rodriguez, who did not return phone calls Wednesday from the Observer.

The Shamrocks captured the MHSAA's first-ever state Class A team dual championship. Rodriguez, one of the state's all-time winningest prep wrestling coaches, also guided CC to six other state titles (1969-71, '74, '78 and '83). The Shamrocks were also runner-up in 1977.

Title from CI

SC's victory over Henry Ford Brown, the 6-foot-4 jumping jack from Oak Park, added 19 points, while Bigby, a second-year forward from Detroit Northern, had 17.

Windom snared 12 rebounds and scored nine points, while Mike Williams and Brown each grabbed nine rebounds. Brian Williams dished out seven assists.

Mason and Driscoll once again led Henry Ford, which trailed 58-28 at halftime, with 17 and 12 points, respectively.

If SC wins Friday against Grand Rapids, the state championship final is 7 p.m. Saturday at Mott.

The Deolts then move on to the N.I.C.A.A. Division I Region 12 tournament to face nationally ranked Vincennes. The game time is 8 p.m. Tuesday at Vincennes.

The other semifinal pits Lansing CC against defending Region 12 champ Calumet State.

WRESTLING RESULTS

150 lbs. (Troy) 11-1:
1. Matt Kempke (Troy) won by major dec. over Matt Scherer (Livonia Stevenson), 9-4.

135 lbs. (Troy) 11-1:
1. Matt Kempke (Troy) won by major dec. over Matt Scherer (Livonia Stevenson), 9-4.

120 lbs. (Troy) 11-1:
1. Matt Kempke (Troy) won by major dec. over Matt Scherer (Livonia Stevenson), 9-4.

105 lbs. (Troy) 11-1:
1. Matt Kempke (Troy) won by major dec. over Matt Scherer (Livonia Stevenson), 9-4.

90 lbs. (Troy) 11-1:
1. Matt Kempke (Troy) won by major dec. over Matt Scherer (Livonia Stevenson), 9-4.

75 lbs. (Troy) 11-1:
1. Matt Kempke (Troy) won by major dec. over Matt Scherer (Livonia Stevenson), 9-4.

60 lbs. (Troy) 11-1:
1. Matt Kempke (Troy) won by major dec. over Matt Scherer (Livonia Stevenson), 9-4.

STATE INDIVIDUAL DISTRICT WRESTLING TOURNAMENT

Trojans send 5 to regional

ROUNDUP

Five wrestlers stayed alive for Livonia Clarenceville after Saturday's Division IV individual state district tourney at Clinton.

Moving on to the regional this Saturday at Addison are Josh Rose (heavyweight), Jose Aguilar (171 pounds), Steve Rotenheber (189), Dan Tondreau (112) and Kalen McPherson (215).

"We got a few more than expected," Clarenceville first-year coach Clint Kraft said. "I thought we'd get two or three, but getting five through surprised me."

"Our guys are getting better and better each time out."

Rose, 3-1 on the day, reached the finals before losing to Dundee's Jared Barnes, 10-1. The senior is 37-8 on the year.

Aguilar, a first-year varsity wrestler, ran his season record to 28-19 after finishing 4-1. The senior took third place when Dundee's Matt Wynn bowed out with an injury.

Rotenheber, a junior, also took third when he pinned Larry Williams of Grass Lake in 1:55. He won three of four matches on the day to up his personal mark to 27-15.

Tondreau, a senior who finished third in the Observerland Invitational, added a fourth in his tough weight class, falling to Jerry Salenbien of Dundee in the consolation final, 6-2. Tondreau is 35-12 overall.

McPherson (31-10) lost his consolation match to Ken Pask of Clinton, 14-10, but moved on.

Clarenceville also competed Wednesday night in the four-team regional dual tournament at New Haven.

The Trojans (12-10-1) took on Brown City (28-6-1) in one semifinal, while Metro Conference co-champion Harper Woods (20-10) met Memphis (12-10) in the other semifinal.

The regional champion advances to the Division IV team dual quarterfinals, 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25 at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena.

In the Metro Conference meet, Feb. 12 at Harper Woods Lutheran East, Clarenceville, the dual meet champion, finished three points behind Harper Woods, 193-190.

"We wanted to win it outright," Kraft said. "But we started the day slowly. We were down 38 points going into the last two rounds."

"We made up some points in a hurry, but we just didn't have enough."

Tondreau, wrestling at 112, captured his third conference individual title in row.

Other Clarenceville champions included freshman Nader Al-Mooshi at 103 and McPherson at 215.

Aguilar (171) and Rotenheber (189) each finished runner-up, while Rose (heavyweight), Nick Elam (125), Jason Morin (119), Ernest Reddic (130), George Gos-

tias (140) and Jeff Potter (152) took thirds. Ryan Smith (160) added a fourth.

"We placed in 12 of 14 weight classes and I was happy with that," Kraft said.

Lutheran Westland, fifth in the conference tournament had one individual champion, 125-pounder Josh Franschke.

Seconds went to Kevin Packard (heavyweight) and Adam Haller (130). Gaining thirds were Tim Murphy (135) and James Molnar (171). Meanwhile, Daniel Baseley (103), Dan Unger (152) and Josh Meyer (215) each took fourths.

The Warriors did not have any regional qualifiers from Saturday's individual district at Clinton.

Division I at Troy
Redford Catholic Central, boasting five individual champions, advanced a total of seven out of Saturday's Troy High district.

Headed for the regional again this Saturday at Troy include first-place finishers Chris O'Hara (112), Chris Peterson (130), Jeff Wheeler (135), Mitch Hancock (160) and Ryan Rogowski (171).

Two other Shamrocks took thirds: Adam Stacey (103) and Nathan Rodriguez (130).

Livonia Stevenson moved six wrestlers out including 103-pound state champion Josh Gunterman and 152-pounder Imad Kharbush, both district champi-

ons. Mike Falzon was runner-up to Kharbush at 152, while John MacFarland took third at 171.

Chris Cooperider (145) and Eric Puninske (189) also qualified by each finishing fourth.

See district results.

Division I at Western
In Saturday's Division I individual district at Walled Lake Western, both Livonia Franklin and Livonia Churchill each had two regional qualifiers.

At 125 pounds, senior John Mervyn won his bracket by defeating Plymouth Salem's Rob Ash in the championship final.

Teammate Eric Toska finished third at 160 by defeating Josh Bagalay of Western.

Two Churchill grapplers qualified at 152 pounds when Mike Carter was runner-up and Steve Ahar took fourth.

All four will compete Saturday at Temperance Bedford.

Division I at Bedford
Wayne Memorial and Westland John Glenn will be sending one wrestler each to Saturday's Division I individual regional at Temperance Bedford.

Jon Gregg of Wayne captured the consolation final at 125 with a 3-1 decision over Micah Wade of Romulus.

At 130 pounds, Glenn's Jeff Albrecht also took third with a 10-4 decision over Brian Reed of Garden City.

BEST BOYS SWIM PERFORMANCES

The following is a list of the best observed boys swimming times and diving scores. Coaches should report updates to Dan O'Meara by fax at (734) 591-7279 or voice mail at (734) 953-2141.

- Ben Dziado (Salem) 55.93
Brandon Truscott (Stevenson) 57.71
Andrew Garcia (Redford CC) 57.99
Rob Cambridge (Stevenson) 58.33
Devin Hopper (Farm. Unified) 58.37
Eric Lynn (Salem) 58.47
100 FREESTYLE
Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 48.80
Ed Lesnau (Redford CC) 49.76
Brad Nilson (Canton) 50.03
Brandon DiGia (N. Farmington) 50.39
Mike Johnson (Salem) 51.00
Mark Witthoff (Salem) 51.18
Devin Hopper (Farm. Unified) 51.42
Brad Buckler (Stevenson) 51.47
Bryant Steele (Redford CC) 51.69
Andrew Carlin (Redford CC) 52.79
500 FREESTYLE
Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 4:55.41
Brad Nilson (Canton) 5:07.68
Justin Ketterer (Stevenson) 5:09.80
Robert Cambridge (Stevenson) 5:09.89
Brad Nilson (Canton) 5:10.83
Devin Hopper (Farm. Unified) 5:13.96
200 FREESTYLE RELAY
Plymouth Salem 1:31.83
Redford Catholic Central 1:32.34
North Farmington 1:32.94
Livonia Stevenson 1:35.87
Farmington/Harrison 1:36.50
100 BACKSTROKE
Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 54.62
Brad Nilson (Canton) 55.89
Eric Lynn (Salem) 56.03
Jim Gabriel (N. Farmington) 56.46
Devin Hopper (Farm. Unified) 56.53
Aaron Shelton (Salem) 57.30
Aaron Reeder (Canton) 57.69
Nick Markou (Redford CC) 58.27
Bryant Steele (Redford CC) 1:00.07
John Kern (N. Farmington) 1:00.45
100 BREASTSTROKE
Adam Farber (N. Farmington) 1:01.61
Chris LaFond (Redford CC) 1:03.16
Kevin VanTiem (Stevenson) 1:04.11
Mike Nemer (Stevenson) 1:04.86
Mike Kruszewski (Redford CC) 1:06.55
Andrew Carlin (Redford CC) 1:07.10
Jon Zeid (N. Farmington) 1:07.64
Ed Lindow (Canton) 1:08.01
Jason Rebarchik (Salem) 1:08.27
400 FREESTYLE RELAY
Plymouth Salem 3:21.59
Livonia Stevenson 3:24.09
Redford Catholic Central 3:26.15
North Farmington 3:27.27
Plymouth Canton 3:34.38

- 200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY
Plymouth Salem 1:42.01
North Farmington 1:42.22
Redford Catholic Central 1:42.26
Livonia Stevenson 1:42.52
Plymouth Canton 1:48.06
200 FREESTYLE
Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 1:48.36
Brandon DiGia (N. Farmington) 1:51.84
Nick Markou (Redford CC) 1:51.93
Brad Nilson (Canton) 1:52.26
Matt Wisniewski (Canton) 1:53.40
Jim Ross (Salem) 1:53.41
Brian Mertens (Salem) 1:53.73
Ed Lesnau (Redford CC) 1:53.92
Devin Hopper (Farm. Unified) 1:54.11
Ben Dziado (Salem) 1:54.30
200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY
Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 1:56.29
Eric Lynn (Salem) 2:02.59
Brad Nilson (Canton) 2:04.21
Andrew Carlin (Redford CC) 2:05.20
Adam Farber (N. Farmington) 2:06.54
Aaron Shelton (Salem) 2:07.98
Mike Nemer (Stevenson) 2:08.21
Ben Dziado (Salem) 2:10.33
Mike Kruszewski (Redford CC) 2:10.72
Brett Meconis (Redford CC) 2:11.00
50 FREESTYLE
Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 22.31
Ed Lesnau (Redford CC) 22.51
Mike Johnson (Salem) 23.05
Aaron Shelton (Salem) 23.10
Brandon DiGia (N. Farmington) 23.11
Eric Lynn (Salem) 23.22
Matt Wisniewski (Canton) 23.24
Dan Zoumbaris (John Glenn) 23.29
Adam Farber (N. Farmington) 23.31
Bryant Steele (Redford CC) 23.41
DIVING
Chris Totten (Garden City) 295.00
Greg Brazunas (Redford CC) 260.80
Chris McFarland (John Glenn) 246.15
Dave Sutton (Redford CC) 225.60
Greg Kubitski (Salem) 219.45
Mark Moretto (Redford Union) 212.85
Scott Clark (John Glenn) 207.55
Lake Brunner (Canton) 204.50
Joe Rohde (Redford CC) 199.25
Derek Bell (John Glenn) 195.75
100 BUTTERFLY
Joe Bublitz (Stevenson) 54.29
Brett Meconis (Redford CC) 55.02
Bryant Steele (Redford CC) 55.43
Adam Farber (N. Farmington) 55.75

Central's hopes
Franklin's hopes
Stevenson grounds Falcons
Churchill drops Western
Huron Valley soars to victory

WEEK AHEAD
BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, Feb. 24
Huron Valley at Inter-City, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
(Mega Red-White Playoffs)
Monroe at Wayne, 7 p.m.
(CNSL Central-AA Playoffs)
G.L. St. Mary's vs. Brother Rice at Schoolcraft College, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 25
Northville at Farmington, 7 p.m.
Harrison at Churchill, 7 p.m.
John Glenn vs. W.L. Central at W.L. Western, 7 p.m.
Agape at Det. Community, 7:30 p.m.
Academy of Detroit at PCA, 7:30 p.m.
(Mega Blue-Gold Playoffs)
Allen Park at Garden City, 7 p.m.
(Mega Blue-Gold Consolation)
Thurston at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
(Metro Commerce Semifinals)
Luth. West at Hamtramck, 7 p.m.
Luth. North at Clarencville, 7 p.m.
(Western Lakes Semifinals)
W.L. Western at Salem, 7 p.m.
Canton at N. Farmington, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 26
(CNSL Finals at U-D's Cullen Hall)
C.D. Division final, noon.
East-West final, 2 p.m.
Redford CC vs. Brother Rice or O.L. St. Mary's Prep, 4 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Friday, Feb. 25
(MCCA Semifinal at Flint Mott)
Schoolcraft vs. Gr. Rapids, 5:15 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 26
MCCA Finals at Mott, 7 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Thursday, Feb. 24
(WNAC Playoffs-1st round)
Madonna at Siena Hts., 7 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Thursday, Feb. 24
Ply. Whalers at Brampton, 7:15 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 26
Ply. Whalers vs. Windsor at Compuware Arena, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 27
Ply. Whalers at Hockey, 6 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Friday, Feb. 25
Farm. Unified vs. Brother Rice at Farm. Hills Ice Arena, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 26
Redford Unified vs. U-D Jesuit at City Center Arena, 4 p.m.
Redford CC vs. P.H. Northern at Redford Ice Arena, 8 p.m.
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Thursday, Feb. 24
Huron Valley at Saline Christian, 5 p.m.
Ply. Christian at Cville, 6:30 p.m.
Agape at Taylor Light & Life, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 26
Ypsilanti Invitational, 8 a.m.
U-M Dearborn Tourney, 8 a.m.
Metro Tourney at Luth. N'west, 9 a.m.
WLLA Tourney at Northwest, 1BA
TBA - time to be announced

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Whalers topple Knights for 9th triumph in row

This can't go on forever. Can it? There are those who certainly hope it will. And with every game, the Plymouth Whalers create a few more doubters, a few more people who think there may not be an end in sight.

On Saturday, the Whalers combined a four-goal second period with a stingy defense in dispatching the London Knights, 6-0, at Plymouth Township's Compuware Arena.

A crowd of 2,468 watched the Whalers improve to 35-17-4 with their ninth-straight win, including 11 of their last 12.

They lead the Ontario Hockey League's West Division with 75 points, six more than second-place Sault Ste. Marie.

London is last in the West at 16-31-7.

Bill Ruggiero was in goal for the shutout; he made 18 saves. Gene Chiarello faced 42 shots in goal for London, making 36 stops.

Damian Surma got things started for the Whalers, scoring 1:45 into the first period.

In the second, goals by Kris Vernarsky, Stephen Weiss, Tomas Kurka and Justin Williams pushed their lead to 5-0.

Randy Fitzgerald's short-handed goal 1:15 into the third period capped the scoring.

Fitzgerald finished with a goal and two assists; so did Surma. Williams and Weiss had a goal and an assist each.

The Whalers' streak — their second lengthy one this season (they won seven in a row in December/January) — has taken them to the second-best record in the OHL, behind only the Ottawa 67's (41-13-3).

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE

• WHALERS 2, SARNIA 1: Fourth-line winger Rob McBride's unassisted goal in the final period, his eighth of the season, proved to be the difference in Friday's home ice victory over the fourth-place Sarnia Sting (28-22-7).

Alex Buturlin opened the scoring for the Sting in the opening period, but the Whalers tied it at 16:41 of the same period from Surma and Kurka.

Rob Zepp was the winning netminder.

• WHALERS 7, GUELPH 5: No doubt the Guelph Storm fans were loving this. The hottest team in the OHL pays a visit Thursday, and the Storm knocked them around big time, putting four goals into their net in the first period and making it 5-0 1:40 into the second.

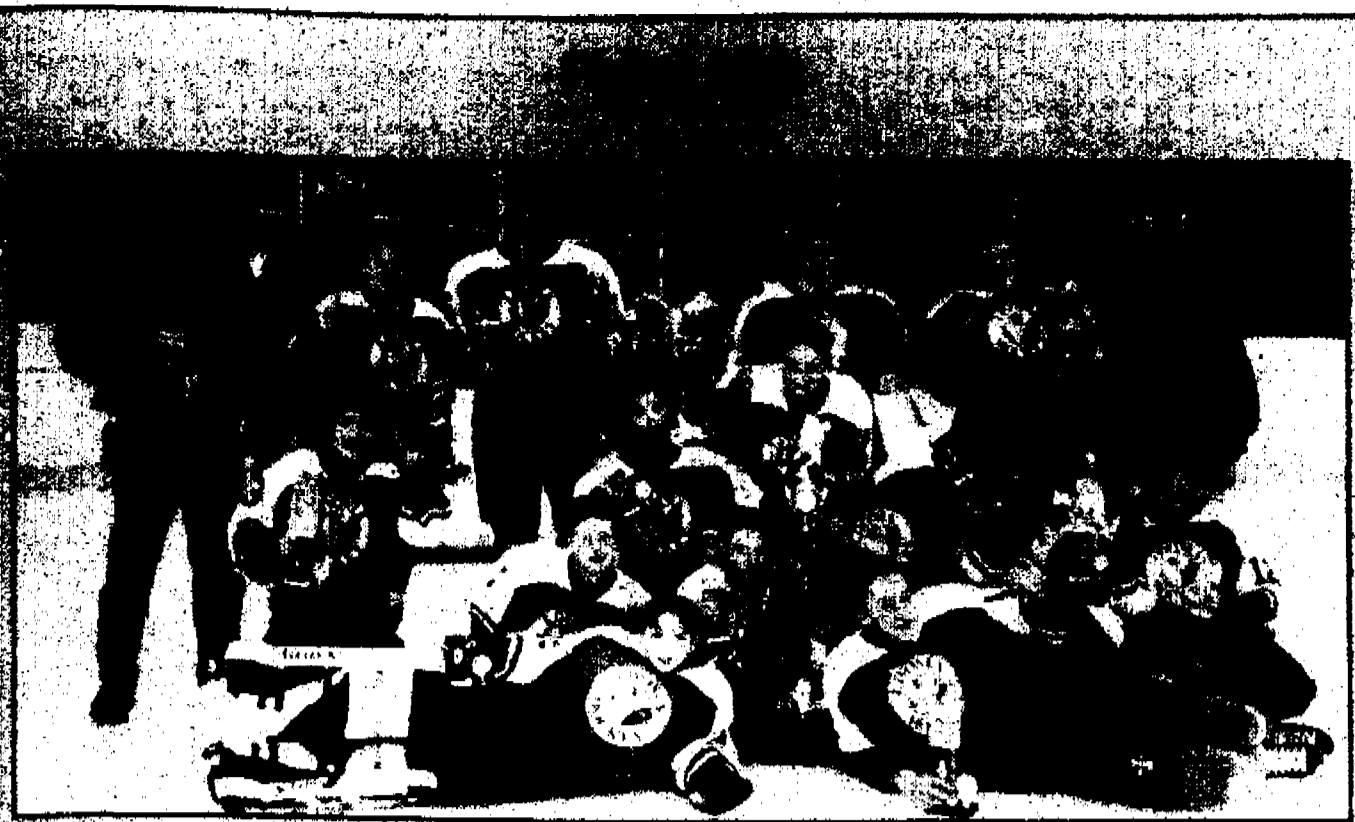
Eric Beaudoin had scored two goals and assisted on another in the Storm's early rise.

Then came the fall. The Whalers put four goals into Guelph's net before the second period was over, among them a short-handed goal from Vernarsky and a power-play goal from Williams.

Weiss knotted it at 5:11 with a power play goal 2:41 into the third period. Surma netted what proved to be the game-winner 6:32 into the period; Kurka's second goal of the game with 2:20 left iced it.

Surma and Weiss each had two assists in the game, too. Williams, Vernarsky and Fitzgerald each had a goal and an assist, and Fisher had two assists.

Zepp started in goal for Plymouth, but after surrendering three goals in 8:41 he was lifted in favor of Ruggiero, who stopped 18 of 20 shots to notch the victory.



District IV champions: The Livonia Flyers captured seven straight games en route to the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association District IV Pee Wee B championship capped by a 4-3 victory over the Plymouth Jaws, Feb. 12 at the South-West Civic Center Arena. Joe Dugan, who won MVP honors, scored all four goals in the final, while teammate Andy Dugan assisted on all four. Matt Robinson chipped in with two assists. Other offensive standouts included Matt Kelley, Nick Kornyl, Kit Sabo, Tony Rini, Matt Stone and Matt Van Aartsen. The defense was led by Kyle Veasey, Will Hebbe, Alan Tyler, Steve Stone and Sean Murphy. Justin Agius and Jayson Sobush shared the goaltending chores. Mark Tuttle is the head coach, while Bill Tyler, East Miller, Fred Rini and Dan Mrowczynski serve as assistants. The team manager is Pam Dugan. The Flyers are sponsored by Murphy's Restaurant, Agius Garage Doors and H2O Expeditions.

Tournament runner-up



Oilers slick: The Livonia Hockey Association Bantam B Oilers were runners-up Feb. 12-13 in the Sports Weekend Extravaganza. After a 1-1 deadlock through regulation and a five-minute overtime, Waterloo, Ontario Bruins defeated the Oilers in a 10-man shootout, 4-2, as Jon Sockolosky scored the only goal. Keith Gularski had the only for the Oilers in regulation. The Oilers opened tourney play with a come-from-behind 5-3 victory as Bryan Martoia and Jeff Martell scored two goals apiece, while Jeff Mullin tallied the other. In the second round, Sockolosky scored twice, while Jeff Martell and Scott Cendrowski had the other goals in 4-2 win over the Bruins. Cendrowski and Rob Lawrence had goals in a 2-2 third-round tie with the Great Lakes Blues. In two games against Waterloo, goaltender Ryan Gularski turned back 73 shots. Other members of the Oilers include: Pat Cooper, Tim Day, Jack Dekovich, Tom Johns, Jeff Mullin, Jesse Portell, Matt Steintrager and Andy Ziegler. The coaching staff includes Dan Gularski, Dennis Martoia, Gary Sockolosky, Mike Mullin, Dwight Cendrowski and Andy Cooper. The team manager is Kathy Cooper. Team sponsors include Auto Enterprises DOT and Registered Importer.

Genrich returns for CC victory

Redford Catholic Central's hockey team will have to make an adjustment before its drive for a second straight state hockey title — but it's a welcome adjustment.

The Shamrocks are going to have to get used to having defenseman Derek Genrich back with them again.

Genrich, out all season with a foot injury, returned to the lineup Saturday night, scored a goal and had two assists in leading Catholic Central to a 5-2 victory over Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

"Derek Genrich was the story of the game," coach Gordie St. John said after his Shamrocks plumped their record to 19-2 with the win at Redford Lee Arena. "He had surgery on his foot — screws put in — and hadn't played a game all year."

Genrich had been practicing with CC since early in the month and St. John decided to unveil him

PREP HOCKEY

against Cranbrook.

All the junior defenseman did was score his first goal of the season, on a power play 5:02 into the game, to give CC a 1-0 lead. Jim Spiewak and Jared Ross assisted.

Then Genrich and Ross set up Ryan Yost at 6:55 for the Shamrocks' second goal. The same two teamed on a power play to set up Dave Moss for a goal at 14:59 of the first period.

At 7:29 of the second period, John Perkovich scored, assisted by Mike Katagan and Joe Hillebrand.

Yost closed out the scoring at 4:22 of the third with Brandon Kalenecki and Moss setting up Yost for his second score of the game.

Ben Dunne faced 25 shots in goal for the Shamrocks.

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Monday, Feb. 28:	A: Redford Unified vs. B: Farmington Unified 5:30 p.m.; C: Livonia Franklin vs. D: Redford Catholic Central 8 p.m.	Monday, Feb. 28:	A: Dearborn Unified vs. B: Trenton 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 1:	Livonia Stevenson vs. Allen Park 8 p.m.	Tuesday, Feb. 29:	C: Ann Arbor Huron vs. D: Ann Arbor Pioneer 5:30 p.m.; E: Livonia Churchill vs. F: Plymouth Canton 8 p.m.
Thursday, March 2:	A-B winner vs. C-D winner 8 p.m.	Thursday, March 2:	Plymouth Salem vs. A-B winner 8 p.m.
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COLLEGIATE BASKETBALL

Schoolcraft eliminated in state playoffs, 63-54

It was a reversal of what happened just a few days earlier.

Last Saturday at Schoolcraft College, the Lady Ocelots held off Henry Ford CC to post a 52-49 victory.

On Monday, it was the Hawks who emerged with the win, topping SC 63-54 at Henry Ford.

The difference in the two games: Saturday's was just the end of the regular season. Monday's was part of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association State Tournament.

"In a nutshell, the game came down to our inability to make free throws," said SC coach Karen Lafata. "Everything else was pretty much even. We went through a stretch in the last five minutes of the game when we were stuck on 42."

"We kept going to the line and missing free throws, and that's the time of the game when you can't do that."

Carla Saxton's 14 points topped SC. Angelica Blakely added 13 points and 13 rebounds, and Antone' Watson had 12 boards and six assists.

Katie Martin led the Hawks with 23 points and 13 rebounds.

The loss left SC at 11-13 overall. Henry Ford improved to 13-14 overall.

Last Saturday, the Lady Ocelots took a two-point lead into halftime and managed to hang onto it in edging Henry Ford.

Crusaders end season at 4-28

It's time for baseball because the men's basketball season for Madonna University ended quietly Wednesday night in Angola, Ind.

Host Tri-State, led by center Chad LaCross' game-high 21 points and eight rebounds, opened the Wolverine-Hoosier Conference playoffs by handing the Fighting Crusaders a 75-51 defeat.

Tri-State, the top seed, improved to 21-10 overall, while Madonna bowed out at 4-28.

Jared Boll and Joshua Treesh added 11 and 10 points, respectively, for the victorious Thunder, who led 43-19 at intermission.

Freshman Aaron Cox led MU with a team-high 17 points and seven rebounds. Redford Thurston's Chad Putnam, in his final game as a Crusader, finished with 10 points.

Freshman Dan Kurtinaitis added nine points and five assists.

Tri-State shot 29 of 57 from the floor (50.9 percent), while MU was 21 of 61 (34.4 percent).

The Thunder outrebounded Madonna, 47-29.

WOMEN'S ROUNDUP

Blakely scored 18 points and nabbed 14 rebounds, with Janelle Olson contributing 12 points and three steals, Saxton added 10 points, Carly Wright (from Garden City) had eight points, eight boards and four assists, and Watson totaled eight rebounds, four assists and two steals.

Martin paced Henry Ford with 14 points.

CORNERSTONE 64, MADONNA 60: Despite a second half rally, Madonna University lost at home Tuesday to Cornersone University, 64-60, in a women's basketball matchup.

The game was the regular-season finale for both teams.

Trailing 39-32 at the half, and by as many as 24 points, Madonna came back with a tough defensive effort, limiting Cornerstone to just 11-of-30 (36.7 percent) shooting from the field in the second half.

However, Madonna could not overcome shooting a dismal 1-of-15 (6.7 percent) from behind the 3-point line.

Laura Yonders led Cornerstone with 21 points and 16 rebounds (both game highs) and Kami Main chipped in 14 points and six assists. Sarah Haney came off the bench to contribute 13 points and five rebounds for Cornerstone, which improved its record to 21-8 overall, 11-3 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Led by Lori Enfield's 13 points and Chris Dietrich's 10 points, the Crusaders dropped to 12-14 overall, 6-8 in the WHAC.

MEN'S ROUNDUP

CORNERSTONE 109, MADONNA 69: MU faltered in its regular season finale Saturday at Cornerstone University as Luke Moor scored a game-high 21 points.

Cornerstone converted 23 Madonna turnovers into 43 points en route to the blowout.

Shooting a red-hot 35-of-57 from the field (61.4 percent), Cornerstone displayed a balanced attack, scoring 40 points inside the paint and hitting 11 3-point shots.

Justin VandePol (13-of-14 from the line) and Brian Robinson (4-of-6 on 3-pointers) each scored 17 points for the Golden Eagles.

Aaron Cox led Madonna with 19 points and four assists, while Jason Skoczylas hit for 17 points.

With the loss, the Crusaders finished 2-10 in the WHAC.

Cornerstone upped its record to 20-10 and finished 9-5 in the WHAC.

BLAZER SPINERS GO 1-3
Livonia Ladywood's split freshman volleyball teams finished one-two recently in a Northville tournament.
Members of the Blazers squad include: Rachel Malenfant, Christian Jury, Sara Robak, Erin Koepka, Amy Horal, Kristy Smith, Jill Angaburger, Mary Gulbernet, Kristin Crews, Jenny Whalen, Patty Kalinski, Kristy Webster and Amy Jacovetti.
The Blazers are coached by Kristen Daus and Sara Partlow.
LIVONIA RED LIGHTNING, an under-8 soccer team, captured the Co-Ed Division with an 8-0 record during the second season at the Soccer Zone in Novi.
Members of the Lightning, who outscored their opponents 58-6, include: Dana Chapman,

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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Detroit Symphony Orchestra pops concert 8:30 p.m. at Orchestra Hall in Detroit features Sandy Duncan, her partner-husband Don Correia, and Guy Stroman in a self-arranged show titled "Together." Tickets \$14-\$47, call (313) 576-5111.

SATURDAY



Adam Antrobus and his housekeeper Sabina (Randy Barret Topper of Farmington Hills and Angela Hogue), battle to keep warm through the Ice Age in Thornton Wilder's "The Skin of Our Teeth," 8 p.m. at the Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets \$8 to \$10, call (313) 577-2960.

SUNDAY



Canton Project Arts presents "Opera Encore!" with Dino Valle and the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan 3 p.m. at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. Tickets \$15, call (734) 397-6450. Program includes a slide presentation about the history of opera and concert.



Photo: [unreadable]

Dancer ready to 'Razzle Dazzle' audience



BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

Gregory Reuter has a soft spot in his heart for the musical "Sweet Charity." He danced and sang his way through "Big Spender" as a student in the Creative and Performing Arts program at Livonia's Churchill High School in the late 1980s. Now he's returning to the Detroit area to "Razzle Dazzle" audiences as one of six principals in the cast of "Fosse" opening Tuesday, Feb. 29, at the Fisher Theatre.

The production, a celebration in song and dance of the legendary choreographer/director, surveys 35 years of Bob Fosse's award-winning musicals, films and television specials.

Be ready to dance and sing, or at least tap your toes, if you're lucky enough to be in the audience. There are 29 musical numbers and 15-minutes of intensive dancing in the finale — Benny Goodman's "Sing, Sing, Sing" from the 1978 "Dancin'" — not to mention the two hours of high kicking routines that precede it. Expect plenty of strutting from the 28 cast members dressed in traditional "Fosse" black and holding derbies. Each actor plays numerous roles including Reuter who shines in "From This Moment On" from

"Kiss Me Kate" and "Razzle Dazzle" from "Chicago." "Growing up I was really influenced by Gene Kelly and Fred Astaire," said Reuter. "Fosse was a contemporary, a song and dance man and one of my biggest influences."

Reuter and the rest of the cast went through six weeks of intensive rehearsals with Gwen Verdon and Ann Reinking. Verdon, for whom Fosse created "Whatever Lola Wants" in "Damn Yankees," serves as artistic adviser to the production. Reinking was a principal dancer in many of Fosse's shows. In fact, Reuter originally worked with Reinking in the revival of "Chicago" on Broadway.

"They're the keepers of the torch," said the 28-year-old Reuter, who started out in the chorus at Walt Disney World and eventually worked his way to New York where he sang at Radio City Musical Hall with The Rockettes and as a backup singer for Liza Minnelli. "They have all the original information and don't let you get away with much."

Fosse's theatrical and sensual dances earned him accolades throughout his career. In 1973, he became the first director

Please see FOSSE, E2



Steppin' out: (Top photo) The national touring company of "Fosse" performs "Sing, Sing, Sing." (Above) Gregory Reuter returns to Detroit as one of six principals in "Fosse."

Second City Touring Company

What: Performs 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 3-4
Where: Farmington Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, 1/2 mile west of Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills
Tickets: \$25 per person. Proceeds benefit the Farmington Players building fund. Afterglow with refreshments follows performances. Call (248) 553-2955.

Engineering comedian coming home

BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER
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In school, Kirk Hanley was the smart, nerdy kid who did well in math and science. He graduated from the GM Institute in Flint, and became an engineer. But it was the experience he received on the stage at Farmington Players that really helped his career.



Kirk Hanley

No kidding — Hanley gave up a career in engineering to become an actor and a comedian.

"My heart wasn't in it," said Hanley, a member of the Second City Touring Company performing Friday-Saturday, March 3-4 at the Farmington Players Barn in Farmington Hills. "It was very scary to walk away from a stable job."

A graduate of Troy Athens High School, Hanley started performing in plays at the GM Institute. A family friend invited him to attend a membership meeting at the Farmington Players in 1986. He was only 22, and because there weren't a lot of men in his age group, he got cast in a lot of shows.

"The stage time and experience was terrific," he said. "I always seemed to be involved in shows where I played multiple characters. I had the opportunity to work with many wonderful, patient directors and many fine acting ensembles. I was in all of the comedies. Comedy seems to be one of my strengths. I'm pretty quick on my feet."

With encouragement from his wife Deborah, Hanley, 36, and a resident of Farmington, started working on his improvisation and acting skills. Prior to being accepted into the Second City Touring Company in 1998, he worked as an actor with the Purple Rose Theatre, Heartland Theatre, and the Gem Theatre. He performed improvisation for two and a half years with Totally Unrehearsed Theatre based out of Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak.

He has done numerous industrial films, industrial stage shows, voiceovers, and a few commercials. In addition to his work with the Second City Touring Company, Hanley teaches

Please see COMEDIAN, E2

POPULAR MUSIC

Crud debuts at Lili's, wins over new fans, old friends

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
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"You guys must be crazy," shouted one fan standing in a long line leading down the corridor outside Lili's 21 in Hamtramck. But the crowd of people rushing out of the club weren't leaving — they were heading for the stage door, ready to make their entrance.

In a moment made for local music history, Vinnie Dombroski, Joey Mazzola, Robby Graham and Jimmy Paluzzi debuted on Lili's stage as the newly formed Crud. These former members of Detroit-based bands Sponge and Hoarse have been rehearsing for just more than a month, but the buzz surrounding them is growing louder by the minute.

The crowd pushed and prodded its way as close to the stage as possible Friday, Feb. 11, anxious to catch a glimpse of Crud's first public performance. Four white-hot spotlights shined down — one on each band member.

Vinnie — dressed in black with his head tilted toward the light — sang with such force and conviction, it was hard to look

away. But each spotlight burned as brightly above this group of musicians who've proved themselves worthy of national attention. Paluzzi, Sponge's original drummer, and Graham had long solidified their places behind the drums and bass guitars as half of Hoarse. Vinnie and Mazzola made headlines as the voice and guitar behind Sponge. There was hardly a stranger in the club.

"It fell together really naturally," said Vinnie in a phone interview.

Welcome home

Debuting at Lili's seemed a natural choice. Sponge had chosen the venue for several record release parties, and even recorded "Live at Lili's" there four years ago. "It made sense to play there again," said Vinnie. "I feel welcome there."

Now it's time to put the past aside. Crud has a decidedly different sound, a far cry from the pop-driven melodies of Sponge hits like "Mollis" and "Ploved." These songs

These former members of Detroit-based bands Sponge and Hoarse have been rehearsing for just more than a month, but the buzz surrounding them is growing louder by the minute.

possess more of an edge, a deeper, darker side of rock. "Dig My Own Grave" and "Meat Detonation" are raw, rock and roll. Vinnie calls it "Zombie meets the Pilots doing a soundtrack to 'Easy Rider'."

And it shows on-stage. "It shows in the way Vinnie forcefully clutches the microphone, the way Jimmy Paluzzi grinds his teeth behind the drums. You can see it when Joey Mazzola hips up and down with fervor and Robby Graham intensely rocks back and forth cradling his bass.

"There's a certain aspect, that heart aspect, I think can really work for you," said Vinnie of his band mates. "When you work with people you've had some kind of history with, you know they gonna give 120 percent."

With that kind of energy, the buzz around Crud doesn't seem to do the music justice, but

Please see CRUD, E2

Hot Ticket Item: The Gotta Catch It Pokemobile will be on display at the 48th annual Big Kmart Detroit Autorama, Friday-Sunday, Feb. 25-27 at Cobo Center in Detroit. The show features more than 800 exhibits of customized cars, trucks, vans, motorcycles, hot rods and celebrity appearances. Admission \$12.50 adults, children under 12, \$5, children under 3, free. Call (248) 650-5560.

Captivating the crowd: Vinnie's more than the voice of Crud, he's also a dynamic performer.

Crud from page E1

Vinnie admits it's "near and dear" to him. "The name was a focal point for me," he said. "When these songs started to emerge, I wanted to call them something. These songs fit so perfectly into that idea of this thing called Crud, it just seemed to work."

One to watch

Crud has already been touted as the one new band to watch in metro Detroit. Greg Pawlowski came out to Lili's not knowing what to expect. He'd never heard Sponge or Hoarse before, but now he's hooked on Crud.

"It was awesome," declared the Farmington Hills resident. "I'm actually really surprised. I've never heard any of these songs. I'd come see them anytime."

Pawlowski was one of a lucky few who managed to catch the show front and center. Chris Hutt, a Bloomfield Hills native, struggled to see the show from farther back. He wouldn't have missed it. "It was rockin'," said Hutt. "I believe it was their first show. Nobody knew the songs, but the place was packed... everyone was standing on the chairs."

That curiosity hung heavily in the air. Theresa Gallagher and Jenny Zaccaro read about the show on a message board on the Internet and trekked all the way from Chicago to catch the band. "Vinnie is the greatest," gushed Zaccaro. "Whatever band he's in, were fans." All this attention



New reality: Introducing Crud (left to right), otherwise known as Joey Mazzola, Jimmy Paluzzi, Vinnie Dombroski and Robby Graham — the latest, greatest musical incarnation of these longtime Detroit musicians.

comes long before Crud has even begun work on an album.

Vinnie said he's constantly writing new material. "The stuff never shuts off. It just happens."

"I've always used the live shows to gage the success of the music. All the songs we played worked out well."

If Crud gets its way, there will

be another show soon. For now, Vinnie's concentrating on getting the music out. "I'd love to have everything I've done recorded and mixed... Give it a little time."

Fosse from page E1

to win Oscar, Tony and Emmy awards in a single year for the film version of "Cabaret," the Broadway musical "Pippin" and the television special "Liza with a Z."

More than 10 years after his death, "Fosse" premiered in Toronto in August of 1998 and subsequently opened in Broadway's Broadhurst Theatre in January 1999. The national touring company opened at Chicago's Ford Center in September.

Fosse's work continues to receive awards. Directed by Richard Maltby Jr. with choreography recreated by Chet Walker, "Fosse" won Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Lighting and Best Orchestrations in 1999. Fosse won a total of nine in his lifetime.

Full circle

Reuter chuckles now when he thinks of playing Alexander Graham Bell in the fourth grade at Kennedy Elementary. Later he joined the Livonia Youth Choir and studied voice at the Academy of Popular Vocal Arts with Gene Grier at Oakland University in Rochester.

"I still remember the day my mother asked me to take dance class at the Northern Ballet Theater in Westland," said Reuter. "My sister danced and my mother dragged me along. I played a lot of sports. When you start dancing young, your body gets trained. Your body is built to dance."

Reuter's come full circle from seeing "Dancin'" at the Fisher Theater in 1981. He'll not only return to the Fisher to perform

"I still remember the day my mother asked me to take dance class at the Northern Ballet Theater in Westland. My sister danced and my mother dragged me along."

*Gregory Reuter
Dancer*

but will give a master class for the Creative and Performing Arts students at Churchill High School and a vocal workshop for the students at Waterford Mott High School. Steve Kosinski, Reuter's instructor in the CAPA program, now teaches at Waterford Mott. Joining Reuter for the vocal workshop will be Marsh Hanson, a member of his vocal jazz group New York Bopp and a cast member of the "Irish and How They Got That Way" opening at Music Hall in March. It was while studying for a degree in music theater performance at Western Michigan University that Reuter developed a love for vocal jazz music. Today Reuter is founder and artistic director of the vocal jazz group New York Bopp.

"I'm really excited," said Reuter. "Even though I toured nationally with 'Joseph (and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat)' and 'Chicago,' this is my first time playing in Detroit. I love working in theater and the excitement of live theater every night."

Comedian from page E1

beginning improvisation classes at Second City, and performs for corporations as part of his work with Second City Communications.

"I pretty much act full-time now," he said.

Hanley also enjoys working with youngsters and believes theater can make a positive impression. He does outreach programs on drug and alcohol abuse and divorce for middle schools with the National Council of Jewish Women.

Satire

On stage with Second City, Hanley and the cast use satire to make their audiences think about prejudice, the workplace, violence and relationships. "Some of our scenes might change people's attitudes," he said.

Sometimes Hanley gets to perform in mainstage productions at Second City Detroit. Some of his biggest fans are members of the Farmington Players.

The six members of the Second City Touring Company will make their audience laugh, and possibly give them something to think about. Part of Second City's mission is to "put on stage what the audience is thinking."

"We try to cover just about everything," said Hanley. "We do social/political satire. The show we will be doing for Farmington Players is usually called 'The Best of Second City.' It is a combination of scripted material along with improvisation. It's a full two-act show, we do some musical numbers too."

Hanley is looking forward to returning to the Farmington Players stage. "The place holds a lot of memories," he said. "I'm still a member of the group, I never let my dues lapse."

Fund-raiser

Proceeds from the special Second City performances will benefit the Farmington Players' building fund. The Players are working to raise money to build a new barn-like theater at the same location. Construction is expected to begin this summer.

Hanley hopes to move up to the main stage at Second City. He and the rest of the touring company will be performing on the mainstage at Second City Detroit the first two weekends of April. They're working on the show that's about hockey now.

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Talented cast lends enthusiasm to 'Oliver!'

The Plymouth Theatre Guild presents the musical "Oliver!" 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 25-26, and March 3-4; and 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, at the Water Tower Theatre, 41001 Hoggerty, Northville. Tickets \$12 adults, \$8 students ages 18 and under, call (248) 349-7110 or visit the Web site www.causeway.com/ptg. BY SUE SUCHYTA SPECIAL WRITER

delivered a delightfully clever, lecherous, yet likable Fagin, making him the bad guy you want to cheer. He dedicated his performance to his father, the director of this show, who played the same role 25 years ago.

The talented husband-and-wife team of Ariana and Keith Prusak teamed up once again to play lovers, albeit deeply dys-

functional ones. Ariana brought energy and enthusiasm to the role of Nancy. Keith was consistently, and unrelentingly angry and evil, traits critical to the twisted Bill Sykes.

Instead of taking advantage of the youthful cast's vigor and enthusiasm, Barbara Bloom often had them standing stiffly like statues until it was time for

them to perform a movement. The train made of pickpocket children during the "I'll Do Anything" number was clever.

The two-level set, with a dual staircase and raised walkway upstage, was functional and versatile.

The costumes were generally good, with a few notable exceptions: Mr. Bumble nearly loses

his bulbous belly stuffy in a brawl with his wife, and the workhouse's Widow Carney wears the same clothing as a chorus member, which is confusing. And what was Fagin doing with a modern wristwatch? He may be a good thief, but not a time traveler.

The Artful Dodger's costume was delightfully eccentric and

added to his talented performance. The make-up was generally well done. Fagin's character make-up and wig were tremendous.

Sue Suchyta is a Dearborn resident and reviews community theater for the Observer-News-papers.

The Plymouth Theatre Guild's production of "Oliver!" offers a delightful score, an enthusiastic cast and some talented leads.

Director Ralph Rosati of Wixom assembled a talented and enthusiastic cast, with a talented and enthusiastic children's chorus. Stacie Guerreso of Farmington Hills lent a beautiful soprano voice to the role of Oliver. Paul Luoma of Farmington Hills was a standout as the Artful Dodger, filling the stage with his charisma and talent, and moving with a confident, self-assured manner.

Marc Rosati of Walled Lake

Arts thrive on fresh approach

Fresh faces. Fresh approaches. Two essentials for any community wishing to reap the benefits that a thriving arts and entertainment scene can provide.

As the host of Detroit Public TV's BACKSTAGE PASS, I can tell you that freshness is an

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

ingredient the producers insist upon in every show. Even with much-anticipated and highly-publicized exhibits like "Van Gogh: Face to Face," which opens March 12 at the Detroit Institute of Arts, there are important stories that

can go untold.

In an edition that airs at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 27, the producers could have chosen to do a segment on the magnificence of the art (hey, it's Vincent!) or the significance of the exhibit (the first anywhere with such a collection of van Gogh portraiture).

Instead, the focus will be on how the DIA was able to pull off such a coup. Viewers will get a behind-the-scenes look that provides insight into the process of attracting such a major event. It's a story of ingenuity that offers much promise for bringing in future exhibits of this magnitude.

Sometimes, freshness involves a new sound for a musician who has been around for a while. As the frontman for the band Gov't Mule, Warren Haynes has drawn on his stint as a member of the Allman Brothers in developing a distinctive blues/rock thrust to his music.

"Fans over the years have come to expect music from Warren that bridges the narrow gap between the Grateful Dead and Phish. Here, it will be a very rare acoustic performance with just his voice and a guitar," says BACKSTAGE PASS music producer Ron Pangborn of Haynes' appearance on the Feb. 27 show.

Having toured with Was/Not/Was during the band's influential period in the 1980s, and subsequently performing solo as an opener in such diverse concerts as Marvin Hamlisch and the Squirrel Nut Zippers, no one will ever suggest that Kathy Kosins is reluctant to try something new.

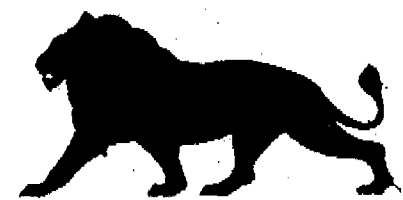
The Birmingham-based jazz vocalist made a transition from rhythm & blues to straight ahead jazz in the early 1990s. Her 1996 release, "All in a Dream Work," was a bold, widely acclaimed collection of nine originals and just one cover.

Kosin's open mind and broad musical experiences helped her develop exceptional skills as a songwriter and producer. It also takes drive and confidence to turn a debut album into a fresh personal statement. It shows in her performances, including a Feb. 27 appearance at BACKSTAGE PASS.

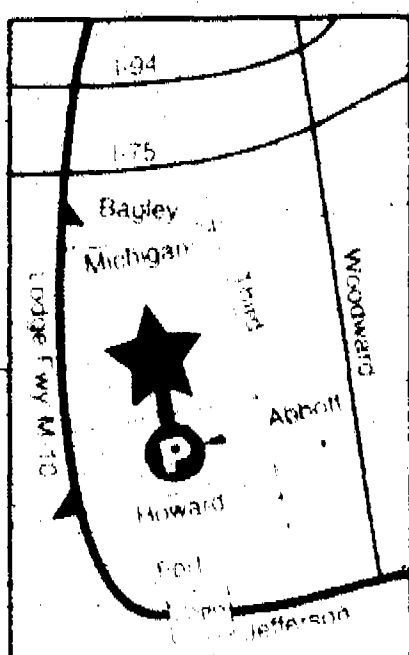
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8 days a week

A Guide to entertainment in the Metro Detroit area

THEATER

CENTURY THEATRE: "Always...Patsy Cline" continues at the theater, Detroit. \$12.25-\$17.25 through Tuesday, March 7, \$24.50-\$34.50 beginning Wednesday, March 8. (313) 963-9800/(248) 645-6666

DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE: "Valley Song," through Sunday, March 19, 8:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sundays, at the theater, Detroit. \$15. (313) 868-1347

FOX THEATRE: "Smoky Joe's Cafe" starring Gladys Knight opens Tuesday, Feb. 29 and continues through Sunday, March 5, at the Fox Theatre, Detroit. \$20-\$45. (248) 433-1515

GEM THEATRE: "Escanaba in da Moonlight," a comedy by Jeff Daniels, through March 26, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays, at the theater, 33 Madison Ave., Detroit. \$24.50-\$34.50. (313) 963-9800

MEADOW BROOK THEATRE: "All My Sons" continues to Sunday, March 5, at the theater, Rochester. \$24-\$35. (248) 377-3300

COLLEGE

U-D THEATRE COMPANY: "The Dumb Waiter and More" continues to Feb. 27, 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday, in the OnStage Theatre on the University of Detroit campus. \$10, \$2 discount for seniors/students with ID. (313) 993-1130

WSU BONSTELLE: "The Skin of Our Teeth" Friday-Sunday, Feb. 25-27 and March 3-5, at the theater, Detroit. (313) 577-2960

WSU HILBERRY: "Five by Tenn" opens March 10 continues to May 6, at the theater, Detroit. (313) 577-2972

COMMUNITY THEATER

FARMINGTON PLAYERS: Perform John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 24-26, at the Farmington Players Barn, Farmington and Orchard Lake roads. \$12. (248) 553-2955

PLANET ANT: "Comedy of Errors," 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Feb. 25-26, March 3-4, March 10-11 and March 2, 9 and 16, and 7 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 27 and March 5, 12 and 19, at the theater, Hamtramck. \$10. (313) 365-4948

PLAYERS GUILD OF DEARBORN: "Nightwatch" 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 3-4, 10-11 and 17-18, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at the theater, Dearborn. \$11. (313) 561-TKTS

PLOWSHARES THEATRE COMPANY: "A Soldier's Play" continues through Sunday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 6 p.m. Sundays, at Detroit's Holistic Development Center. \$15-\$18. (313) 872-0279

PLYMOUTH THEATRE GUILD: "Oliver," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 25-26 and March 3-4, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, at the Water Tower Theatre, Northville. \$12, \$8 students. (248) 349-7110

STAGECRAFTERS: "Forever Plaid," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 25-26, March 3-4 and 10-11, and 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27 and March 5, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at the Baldwin Theatre, Royal Oak. \$9. (248) 541-6430

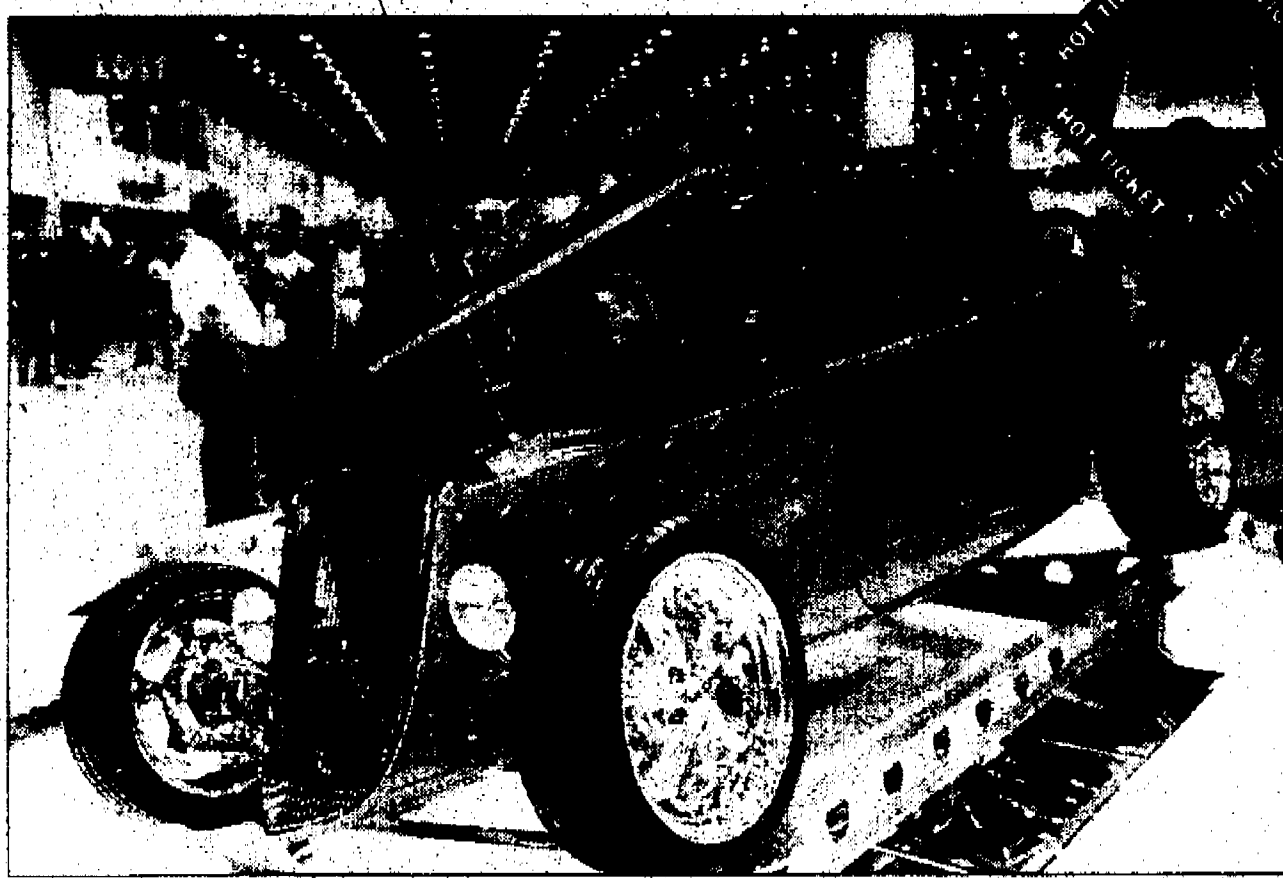
THEATRE GUILD OF LIVONIA REDFORD: "Godspell" continues through Saturday, March 11, 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, at the theater, Redford. \$12. (313) 531-0554

TINDERBOX PRODUCTIONS: "A Chorus Line," 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 25-26 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, at Scottish Rite Cathedral Theatre in Masonic Temple, Detroit. (313) 535-8962

DINNER THEATER

BRIGI THEATRE: "Flanagan's Wags," 8 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays (\$25 Thursdays and Sundays, and \$30 Fridays-Saturdays), and "Tony n' Tina's Wedding," 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Fridays, 4:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sundays, at 40 W. Pike, Pontiac. (248) 745-8668/(248) 645-6666

FOX LAIR DINNER THEATRE: Presents "Murder at the Howard Johnson's," a hilarious comedy



Hot Rod Heaven: Custom cars like this 1934 Ford Highboy Coupe are among 800 exhibits on display at the 48th annual Big Kmart Detroit Autorama, Friday-Sunday, Feb. 25-27 at Cobo Center in Detroit. The show features custom cars, trucks, vans, motorcycles, hot rods and celebrity appearances. Admission \$12.50 adults, children under 12, \$5, children under 3, free. Call (248) 650-5560.

runs Saturday nights only, 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner (show follows), at Fox Hills Golf Club, Plymouth. \$29.95. (734) 453-7272

RAMADA HOTEL DINNER THEATRE: "Fools," a comic fable by Neil Simon, opened Thursday, evening Feb. 3 and continues on alternate Thursdays, 7 p.m. dinner show follows, at the theater, Southfield. \$25. (248) 544-0283

YOUTH PRODUCTIONS

PUPPETART: "Kolobok," the Russian version of "The Gingerbread Man," 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Detroit Puppet Theater. \$7, \$5 children. (313) 961-7777

YOUTHTEATRE: "Ishangi African Dancers" 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27 at Music Hall, Detroit. \$8 advance, \$9 at door. (313) 963-2366

SPECIAL EVENTS

CABARET EVENING: Features Grosjepte Memorial Church soloists singing music from Broadway and movie scores 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, in the Crystal Ballroom of the Grosjepte War Memorial. \$35, includes dinner. Must be purchased by Sunday, Feb. 20. (313) 882-5330

JAZZ JAMBALAYA: New Orleans style with jazz by the Ron English Trio 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Rochester Community House. \$15. (248) 651-0622

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION: "Put a Little Jazz in Your Life," 7 p.m. Saturday, March 4, dance the night away to the sounds of Tom Saunders and the Detroit All-Stars Band and enjoy delicious New Orleans cuisine, vocal choir SCool Jazz will also perform, in the Waterman Center on the Schoolcraft College campus, Livonia. \$30 if purchased before Friday. \$35 afterwards. (734) 462-4417/(734) 462-4435

MOTOR CITY EXTRAVA CON: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, at the Knights of Columbus, Livonia. \$2. (248) 426-8059

OUTDOORAMA: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays, Feb. 26 and March 4, until 6 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 27 and March 5, 3-9 p.m. Monday-Tuesday, Feb. 28-29 and Thursday-Friday, March 2-3, and noon to 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, at the Novi Expo Center. \$6.50, \$3 ages 12 and under. (800) 777-6720

FAMILY EVENTS

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT: The Detroit Symphony Orchestra performs Beethoven, Dvorak, Sousa, Tchaikovsky and Berlioz, 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at Orchestra Hall. (313) 578-5111

BENEFITS

JAZZ DANCE THEATRE: A dance concert featuring established repertory works and a recent premiere 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at the Power Center for the Performing Arts, Ann Arbor. \$12, \$8 students/seniors. (734) 995-

4242

RACKHAM SYMPHONY CHOIR: Present "Hearts & Voices for the Homeless" concert to benefit Doorstep Homeless Shelter, 8 p.m. Friday, March 3, at St. Lucy Catholic Church, St. Clair Shores. \$10 recommended donation. (313) 341-3466/(810) 447-4221

CLASSICAL

DEARBORN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: "Hocus Pocus" concert features flutist Marianne Gedigian 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25 at Edsel Ford High School, Dearborn. \$16, \$2 students. (313) 565-2424

DEBUSSY QUARTET: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, at the Henry Ford Estate at Fair Lane, Dearborn. (313) 593-5330

DETROIT SYMPHONY CIVIC ORCHESTRA: Perform Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, at Orchestra Hall, Detroit. \$4. (313) 576-5111

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Violinist Eimar Oliveira performs 8 p.m. Thursday, March 2, 10:45 a.m. Friday, March 3, and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at Orchestra Hall, Detroit. \$14-\$50. (313) 576-5111

JOEL HASTINGS: The pianist performs 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Detroit. (313) 875-7407

MADONNA UNIVERSITY: The faculty performs a recital 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, in Kresge Hall on campus, Livonia. \$5, and supports the music scholarship fund. (734) 432-5709

T'ANG STRING QUARTET: 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, at Kerrytown Concert House, Ann Arbor. \$10-\$25. (734) 769-2999

OPERA

CANTON PROJECT ARTS: Presents the Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, a special presentation of the history of opera in America precedes the concert at 2:30 p.m., an artists reception follows the concert, at Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton. \$15. (734) 397-6450

COMIC OPERA GUILD: "Carmen" 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 24-26 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, Ann Arbor. \$18, \$16 seniors, \$7 students/children. (734) 973-3264

POPS/SWING

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Pops with Sandy Duncan, 10:45 a.m. and 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, 8:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 25-26, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, at Orchestra Hall, Detroit. \$14-\$47. (313) 576-5111

JIM PARAVANTES & COMPANY: "Frank Sinatra Tribute," 8:30 p.m. to midnight, Fridays-Saturdays through February, at Andiamo Italia West, 6676 Telegraph Road at Maple, Bloomfield Hills. (248) 865-9300

AUDITIONS

AVON PLAYERS: "Moon Over Buffalo" 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 3-4, 10-11 and 17-18 and Thursday, March 16, and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 5 and 12, at the

Theater, Rochester Hills. \$13. (248) 606-9077

BROADWAY KIDS 2000: Open auditions for boys and girls ages 8 and up, 3-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27, proper dance attire required, in room 107A of Jewish Community Center, West Bloomfield. For performances April 16 and 30 and May 7 and 14. (248) 354-0545/(248) 352-2797

DESTINATION EARTH LLC: An independent production company is seeking extras for the science fiction film "Nobody Knows." Filming will take place in Detroit and surrounding cities in late February and early March. The film is about a man from the year 2039 who appears in Texas on the day of the Kennedy assassination, Nov. 22, 1963. He is able to prevent the murder of the president and as a result, history changes in surprisingly different ways. For more information, call Nicole Sylvester (248) 980-8504

NOVI THEATRES CHILDREN'S ANNEX (AGES 10-13): "Charlotte's Web," 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, Novi Civic Center. Production dates May 19-21; actors must pay \$125 participation fee once cast. (248) 347-0400

RIDGEWOOD PLAYERS: Auditions for "Moon Over the Brewery" 7 p.m. Monday, March 6, at the playhouse, Troy. For performances May 5-21. (248) 549-8553

SOLO CONCERTO COMPETITION: The Bohemians Club (also known as The Musicians Club of Greater Detroit), hosts its competition for orchestral instruments (high school and college students ages 16-22), must submit performance tape by April 1. For application, e-mail CoufLinks@aol.com

STAGECRAFTERS: Auditions for "The King & I" noon Sunday, Feb. 27 (registration at 11 a.m.), at the Baldwin Theatre, Royal Oak. For performances May 12-4, 18-21, 25-28, and May 31-June 4. (248) 541-4832

THEATRE GUILD OF LIVONIA REDFORD: Is searching for directors, choreographers, musical directors, and all others interested in musical comedy theater. Call (313) 531-0554 for information, or deliver resumes and letters of interest to the Theatre Guild, 15138 Beech Daly, across from the Township Hall in Redford.

VILLAGE PLAYERS OF BIRMINGHAM: Auditions for "Forever Plaid," requires 4 strong male vocalists, 7:30 p.m. Sunday and Tuesday, March 5 and 7, at the theater. For performances May 12-27. (248) 540-6950

VOICES IN TIME: Has a limited number of openings in all voice parts, rehearsals for spring/summer season begin in late February. (248) 448-6540

CHORAL

CANTATA ACADEMY: 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Southfield Centre for the Arts. \$15, \$12 seniors/students. (248) 358-9868

RENAISSANCE CHORUS: "Through the Years," a performance of barbershop harmony 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, March 4 at Clarenceville High School Auditorium, Livonia. \$12 at the door, \$11 adults and \$10 students in advance. (734) 421-1425

JAZZ

AMIGO: 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, at Edison's, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

BROTHERS GROOVE: 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at Edison's, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

TODD CURTIS: Thursdays, at Elle's, Birmingham. (248) 647-2420

KENNY GARETT QUARTET: With Kurt Elling Quartet 8 p.m. Friday, March 3, at Orchestra Hall, Detroit. \$16-\$62. (313) 576-5111

GEM JAZZ TRIO: Performs 7-11 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at the Century Club Restaurant, Detroit. (313) 963-9800

MATT MICHAELS TRIO: With vocalist Sunny Wilkinson 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, at Ron's Fireside Inn, Garden City. \$5 cover. Reservations recommended for the Jazz Room. (734) 762-7756

MARK MOULTRUP: 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at Edison's, Birmingham. No cover. (248) 645-2150

RICH K. TRIO: 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, at Big Fish, Dearborn. (313) 336-6350

JANET TENAJ TRIO: 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, at Tom's Oyster Bar, Southfield. (248) 356-8881

FOLK/BLUEGRASS

JACKIE ROUSH: The punk-folk artist performs Friday, Feb. 25 at the Grand Cafe, Farmington. Free. www.JackieRoush.com

POETRY/SPOKEN WORD

POETRY NIGHT: Presented by Third Eye Production 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, at Truth Bookstore, Southfield. (248) 557-4824

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN: Workshop for poets looking for more members, 2-4 p.m. third Tuesday of month, in the Jenkins rooms on the third floor of the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road. (734) 762-7586

DANCE

ADVANCED CONTRA DANCE: 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 25, at the Pittsfield Grange, Ann Arbor. \$7. (734) 665-8863/(734) 426-0241

STARDUST BALLROOM: Dance parties 9 p.m. Fridays, lessons also available, at the dance studio, 28651 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield. \$8. (248) 356-5678

SWING DANCE CLASSES: 5-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, at Wonderland Mall, Livonia. (734) 522-4100

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY DANCE: "Approaching Extremes," the 71st annual Spring Dance Concert features works by the Detroit Dance Collective, Alan Danielson & Dancers, Erica Wilson-Perkins, and King/Chavez/Parks, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 25-26, at Music Hall for the Performing Arts, Detroit. (313) 577-4273

COMEDY

ELDORADO COUNTRY CLUB: Jim McLean with Gary George and Dee Proffitt 9:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 25-26, at the club, Commerce Twp. (248) 624-1050

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB: Brad Lowrey Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 23-26, also Randy Eply and Rich Higginbottom; Steve McGrew, also Kirk Noland Wednesday-Saturday, March 1-4, at the club above Kicker's All American Grill, Livonia. 8 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Third Level Improv and new talent nights, 8 p.m. Sundays (\$5). (734) 261-0555

JOEY'S COMEDY CLUB AT PABANO'S: Victoria Jackson Friday-Sunday, Feb. 25-27, at the club, Dearborn. (313) 584-8685

MARK RIDLEY'S COMEDY CASTLE: Brad Upton Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 24-26, at the club, Royal Oak. (248) 542-9900

SECOND CITY: "Paradigm Lost" 8 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday; additional shows 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday at 10:30 p.m. The 10:30 p.m. shows, and 8 p.m. shows Wednesday-Thursday, and Sunday, are followed by an improv set at no additional cost. \$10, Wednesday-Thursday, and Sunday; \$17.50 Friday, \$19.50 on Saturday. (313) 965-2222; (248) 645-6886 or online at www.ticketmaster.com

SECOND CITY TOURING COMPANY: 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 3-4, at the Farmington Players Barn, Farmington Hills. \$25. (248) 553-2955

MUSEUMS AND TOURS

ANN ARBOR HANDS-ON MUSEUM: Offers more than 250 interactive exhibits intended to make science fun, at the museum, Ann Arbor. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. \$6, \$4 children/seniors/students. (734) 995-5439

DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM: "On the Air! Michigan Radio & Television Broadcasting 1920-2000" exhibit continues through Sunday, April 30, at the museum, Detroit. Museum hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Free admission Wednesdays; \$3 for adults, \$1.50 seniors and children aged 12-18, free for children ages 11 and younger Thursdays-Sundays. (313) 833-1805 or <http://www.detroithistorical.org>

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER: IMAX movies include "Tropical Rainforest" at 10 a.m. Mondays-Fridays, "Thrill Ride: The Science of Fun" at 1 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, and "Everest" and "Whales" multiple showings seven days a week, at the center, noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and 7 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sundays, at the center, Detroit. Admission to Exhibit Hall is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children ages 3-15 and adults ages 60 and older, free for children ages 2 and younger. IMAX films are additional \$4. (313) 577-8400

DETROIT ZOO: Mosaic Youth Theatre performs works about amphibians 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturdays through March 25 in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery Theater; the exhibit, "Inside/Outside: The Art of Caring" continues through Jan. 2, in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery at the zoo, Royal Oak. \$7.50, \$5.50 seniors/students. \$4.50 ages 2-12. (248) 398-0903

DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM: Visit the newest exhibition "Folk Art of the Great Lakes" or "Racing on the Wind: Sailing on the Great Lakes," also a temporary exhibit on the construction and launch of the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald, at the museum on Belle Isle, Detroit. Regular admission \$2, \$1 seniors/children ages 12-18 during the hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. (313) 852-4051

HENRY FORD MUSEUM/GREENFIELD VILLAGE: Celebrates Black History Month, at the museum, Dearborn. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. \$12.50, \$11.50 seniors, \$7.50 kids 5-12, members and children under 5 free. (313) 271-1620

MEADOW BROOK HALL: Tours of the 110-room historic mansion built by Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of auto pioneer John Dodge and her second husband Alfred G. Wilson, 1:30 p.m. daily and 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Sundays, on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester. \$8, \$6 seniors, \$4 children ages 5-12. (248) 370-3140

ROCHESTER HILLS MUSEUM: "A Stitch in Time" quilt exhibit continues through Saturday, Feb. 26, at the museum at Van Hoosen Farm, Rochester Hills. \$3, \$2 seniors/students. (248) 656-4663

SPIRIT OF FORD: Interactive automotive science and technology experience with exhibits and theaters for all ages, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday through February, open Mondays beginning in March, across from Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, Dearborn. \$6, \$5 seniors, \$4 ages 5-12. (313) 317-7474

U-M MUSEUM OF ART: "The Orchid Pavilion Gathering," an exhibit of 60 Chinese works spanning nearly 900 years continues to Sunday, March 26; Chinese Lantern Festival features hands-on activities and performances to celebrate Chinese art and culture 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20, at the museum, Ann Arbor. Free, but a \$5 donation is suggested. Call (734) 764-0395 or visit the Web site at www.umich.edu/~umma

LIVE MUSIC!

ALBERTA ADAMS: 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 10-11, Fox and Hounds, Bloomfield Hills. Free. All ages. (248) 644-4800

BRYAN ADAMS: 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 3, State Theatre, Detroit. \$29.50-\$39.50. (313) 961-MELT

THE ALLMAYERS: 10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, Memphis Smoke, Royal Oak. (248) 543-4300 (blues)

'Reindeer Games' won't win over movie-goers

BY JON KATZ
SPECIAL WRITER

When a studio bumps the release date of a motion picture from crowded Christmas Day to the limbo of late February, that's like a platoon leader volunteering one of the soldiers for a suicide mission. "Reindeer Games" has been sent to the front, and it won't be coming back.

Stars Ben Affleck, Charlize Theron and Gary Sinise are three of the more appealing performers on the big screen today. Playing, respectively, an ex-con and two sleaze buckets, their appeal in crime-thriller "Reindeer Games" is whittled down so extensively that only their biggest and most forgiving fans

won't miss the money spent on seeing it.

Awaiting his impending release from a five-year prison sentence for grand theft auto, Rudy Duncan (Affleck) is envious of cellmate Nick (James Frain). Nick has been exchanging letters and life stories with a woman named Ashley (Theron), whom he has never met. Pictures of the gorgeous pen pal adorn their cell wall.

Just before their parole, Nick is killed in a prison riot. When Rudy is released and Ashley mistakes him for Nick, Rudy takes one look at the girl in the flesh and doesn't argue. You don't have to have been a prisoner for five years to go along with him on that one.

But to enjoy the benefits of Nick's future, Rudy must also assume the burdens of Nick's past. Having learned that Nick had worked at an Indian casino in northern Michigan, Ashley's brother Gabriel (Sinise) has been planning for months to rob the place using Nick's inside information. In too deep by now, Rudy is forced to continue the identity switch, despite having almost none of Nick's knowledge of the casino.

There are more twists and turns in "Games" than on the snowy state roads they take to the casino. Who can Rudy trust, and how long can he stay one lie ahead of those he can't? Oddly enough, the "surprise ending" may not be as surprising to some

as those in the film's middle. Once you've got the rhythm of the thing, you may just nod your head knowingly when the plot plays out.

Affleck is more than capable of playing the boob caught in his own deception. Wanting only to return home for some of mom's hot chocolate, he finds himself locked in a motel room, trapped under a frozen pond and on the wrong end of a few million rounds of machine gun fire.

Through it all, his Steve McQueen-like charm and charisma get him out of trouble both within the movie and in being in the movie in the first place.

Sinise and Theron don't fare as well. Scraggly haired Gabriel is an insult to scum everywhere; as a villain, his one-note character seems an unnecessary and ill-advised pit stop for the overly qualified Sinise. Theron is cute and convincing in her first scenes as the dupe in the story.

When her motives emerge, however, Theron can't pull it off as a leather-tough moll. Her South African accent comes out clearly during her few emotional moments.

Veteran director John Frankenheimer ("The Manchurian Candidate," "Ronin") is at his best choreographing the multiple chases and gun fights. When the characters have to speak, one waits for the Uzis to drown them out again.

Film blends horror, realism

BY GREG KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER
gkowsal@ec.home.com.net

VIDEO

Here's the plot: A group of young filmmakers goes into the wilderness to investigate a terrifying local legend. They disappear and the only record of their fate is found on the videotapes they made that are unearthed later.

"The Blair Witch Project," right?

Wrong. This is the plot of "The Last Broadcast," a film made a year before "Blair Witch" began its runaway success and which has been causing some rumblings among the horror film community (yes, there is such an entity) that "The Blair Witch" is nothing more than a royal ripoff of the obscure "The Last Broadcast." Is it?

Yes and no. Consider this plot: A group of young filmmakers goes into the wilderness to investigate a terrifying local legend. They disappear and the only record of their fate is found on the film that they took that is unearthed later.

Nope. It's the plot of "Cannibal Holocaust," a notorious Italian horror film made in 1978.

So everyone steals ideas. The key is how well you do it. "The Blair Witch Project" folks were

master thieves. "The Last Broadcast" gang were petty criminals.

"The Last Broadcast" has its moments, but ultimately fails to deliver the chills with the style or sheer horror factor of Blair Witch. But it's still worth checking out, especially if you want to make comparisons. And "The Last Broadcast" invites comparison.

The similarities are abundant. In "Last Broadcast," which announces up front that none of the persons depicted are actors, filmmaker David Leigh binds the story together.

He leads us on a bumpy path as he chronicles the vicious murders of two hosts and the engineer of a local cable show called "Fact or Fiction," which leans towards the sensational.

To boost sagging ratings they hook up with a supposed psychic and go on location in the wilderness Pine Barrens of New Jersey to do a live broadcast about The Jersey Devil, a murderous local legend. Only the psychic survives and is pinned with the bloody murders of his three companions.

But some videotape mysteriously turns up, which prompts Leigh to piece together their

story and what happened to them.

"The Last Broadcast" is strung together with interviews of doctors, police and film makers as it documents events leading up to the horrific finale. The photography is appropriately shaky, at times out of focus and complete with flubbed takes. The dialogue appears to be off the cuff and the scenes of the crew trudging through the woods could be outtakes from "The Blair Witch Project."

There is a sense of realism about the film that is admirable - until about the last 10 minutes.

Then everything falls apart as the plot takes a disastrous turn and completely undoes the tension so carefully crafted to that point.

And that is the biggest distinction between this film and the far more effective "Blair Witch Project." That movie left you hanging. This one drops you off a cliff.

On its own, "The Last Broadcast" is still interesting and at least somewhat original. But "The Blair Witch Project" shows what it could have been.

"The Last Broadcast" was written, directed and produced by Stefan Avalos and Lance Weiler. It is available only on video. Check your neighborhood video store.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

National Amusements Showcase Cinemas

Showcase
Adrian Hills 1-14
2150 N. Opdyke Rd.
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248-375-2640
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NP THE WHOLE NINE YARDS (R)
NP BOILER ROOM (R)
NP AMERICAN BEAUTY (R)
NP THE TIGGER MOVIE (G)
NP SNOW DAYS (PG)
THE BEACH (R)
NP GALAXY QUEST (PG)
SCREEN 3 (R)
THE HURRICANE (R)
NEXT FRIDAY (R)
CIDER HOUSE RULES (PG13)
ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (R)
STUART LITTLE (PG)
THE GREEN MILE (R)
SIXTH SENSE (PG13)

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NP THE BEACH (R)
SCREEN 3 (R)
NEXT FRIDAY (R)
THE HURRICANE (R)

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Showcase
Westland 1-8
6800 Wayne Rd.
One blk. S. of Warren Rd.
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NP THE TIGGER MOVIE (G)
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CIDER HOUSE RULES (PG13)
THE GREEN MILE (R)
GALAXY QUEST (PG)
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NP TIGGER MOVIE (G)
NP THE BEACH (R)
NP SNOW DAY (PG)
SCREEN 3 (R)
THE HURRICANE (R)
CIDER HOUSE RULES (PG13)
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WWW.STAR-SOUTHFIELD.COM

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NP SNOW DAY (PG)
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SCREEN 3 (R)
ANGELA'S ASHES (R)
THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY (R)
EYE OF THE BEHOLDER (R)
THE HURRICANE (R)
CIDER HOUSE RULES (PG13)
THE GREEN MILE (R)

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United Artists West River
9 Mile
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248-788-6572

HANGING UP (PG13) NV
THE WHOLE NINE YARDS (R) NV
PITCH BLACK (R) NV
SNOW DAY (R) NV
THE BEACH (PG13) NV
THE TIGGER MOVIE (R) NV
SCREEN 3 (R)
THE HURRICANE (R)
NEXT FRIDAY (R)

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THE WHOLE NINE YARDS (R) NV
BOILER ROOM (R) NV
AMERICAN BEAUTY (R) NV
PITCH BLACK (R) NV
SNOW DAY (PG) NV
THE BEACH (R) NV
THE TIGGER MOVIE (G) NV
SCREEN 3 (R)
EYE OF THE BEHOLDER (R)
THE HURRICANE (R)
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NP THE BOILER ROOM (R)
NP PITCH BLACK (R)
NP THE TIGGER MOVIE (G)
NP SNOW DAY (PG)
NP THE BEACH (R)
SCREEN 3 (R)
THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER (R)
HURRICANE (R)
GALAXY QUEST (PG)
STUART LITTLE (PG)
THE GREEN MILE (R)

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NP THE TIGGER MOVIE (G)
SCREEN 3 (R)
THE HURRICANE (R)
NEXT FRIDAY (R)
STUART LITTLE (PG)

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NP PITCH BLACK (R)
NP THE BEACH (R)
NP SNOW DAY (PG)
NP THE TIGGER MOVIE (G)
SCREEN 3 (R)
THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER (R)
ANGELA'S ASHES (R)
THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY (R)
EYE OF THE BEHOLDER (R)
THE HURRICANE (R)
CIDER HOUSE RULES (PG13)
GALAXY QUEST (PG)
STUART LITTLE (PG)
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HANGING UP (PG13)
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NP THE TIGGER MOVIE (G)
NP THE BEACH (R)
NP SNOW DAY (PG)
SCREEN 3 (R)
THE HURRICANE (R)
THE END OF THE AFFAIR (R)
MAGNOLIA (R)

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Royal Oak
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HOLY SMOKE (R)
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NP PITCH BLACK (R)
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NP SNOW DAY (PG)
NP THE BEACH (R)
THE HURRICANE (R)

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NP THE BEACH (R)
NP SNOW DAY (PG)
NP THE TIGGER MOVIE (G)
SCREEN 3 (R)
THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY (R)
ANGELA'S ASHES (R)
THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY (R)
EYE OF THE BEHOLDER (R)
GIRL INTERRUPTED (R)
NEXT FRIDAY (R)
GALAXY QUEST (PG)
THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY (R)
THE CIDER HOUSE RULES (PG13)
STUART LITTLE (PG)
THE GREEN MILE (R)
TWO STORIES 2 (R)
THE SIXTH SENSE (PG)
CON ART (R)
THE HURRICANE (R)

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BOILER ROOM (R) NV
HANGING UP (PG13)
ANGELA'S ASHES (R)
CIDER HOUSE RULES (PG13)
THE SIXTH SENSE (PG13)

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United Artists
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248-340-4574

BOILER ROOM (R) NV
HANGING UP (PG13)
ANGELA'S ASHES (R)
CIDER HOUSE RULES (PG13)
THE SIXTH SENSE (PG13)

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Michigan - Cinema 9
140 East, Canal River
616-277-4766
Call 77-9th Est. 348

NP HANGING UP (PG13)
NP THE WHOLE NINE YARDS (R)
NP THE TIGGER MOVIE (G)
NP SNOW DAY (PG)
NP THE BEACH (R)
NP SNOW DAY (PG)
EYE OF THE BEHOLDER (R)
DOWN TO YOU (PG13)
HURRICANE (R)
STUART LITTLE (PG)
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CAGOLE (R)
NINA AND THE KING (PG13)
THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH (PG13)

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ENTRY FORM

BEST PICTURE:	BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE:	BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE:	BEST ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE:
<input type="checkbox"/> AMERICAN BEAUTY	<input type="checkbox"/> Russell Crowe in THE INSIDER	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Caine in THE CIDER HOUSE RULES	<input type="checkbox"/> Annette Bening in AMERICAN BEAUTY
<input type="checkbox"/> THE CIDER HOUSE RULES	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Farnsworth in THE STRAIGHT STORY	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Cruise in MAGNOLIA	<input type="checkbox"/> Janet McTeer in TUMBLEWEEDS
<input type="checkbox"/> THE GREEN MILE	<input type="checkbox"/> Sean Penn in SWEET AND LOWDOWN	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Clarke Duncan in THE GREEN MILE	<input type="checkbox"/> Julianne Moore in THE END OF THE AFFAIR
<input type="checkbox"/> THE INSIDER	<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Spacey in AMERICAN BEAUTY	<input type="checkbox"/> Jude Law in THE TALENTED MR RIPLEY	<input type="checkbox"/> Meryl Streep in MUSIC OF THE HEART
<input type="checkbox"/> THE SIXTH SENSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Denzel Washington in THE HURRICANE	<input type="checkbox"/> Haley Joel Osment in THE SIXTH SENSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Hilary Swank in BOYS DON'T CRY
BEST ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE:	BEST DIRECTING:	BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Toni Collette in THE SIXTH SENSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Sam Mendes in AMERICAN BEAUTY	<input type="checkbox"/> Alan Ball for AMERICAN BEAUTY	
<input type="checkbox"/> Angelina Jolie in GIRL INTERRUPTED	<input type="checkbox"/> Spike Jonze in BEING JOHN MALKOVICH	<input type="checkbox"/> Charlie Kaufman for BEING JOHN MALKOVICH	
<input type="checkbox"/> Catherine Keener in BEING JOHN MALKOVICH	<input type="checkbox"/> Lasse Hallstrom in THE CIDER HOUSE RULES	<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Thomas Anderson for THE SIXTH SENSE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Samantha Morton in SWEET AND LOWDOWN	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Mann in THE INSIDER	<input type="checkbox"/> M. Night Shyamalan for THE SIXTH SENSE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chloe Sevigny in BOYS DON'T CRY	<input type="checkbox"/> M. Night Shyamalan in THE SIXTH SENSE	<input type="checkbox"/> Mike Leigh for TOPSY-TURVY	

Send or fax entries by 5 p.m. Monday, March 13, 2000
To: Keely Wygonik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
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NAME: _____ DAYTIME PHONE: _____
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Mellow out with Yo La Tengo live

ListenUp

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 Livonia, MI 48150

Or FAX to
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Or E-MAIL to:
scasola@oe.homecomm.net



There are two things James McNew knows well - good music and good fried chicken.

That's easy to see that with one listen and one look at the new album by New York's treasured indie rock trio, Yo La Tengo. "And Then Nothing Turned Itself Inside-Out" is the band's 12th album, and the fifth to be recorded in Nashville, Tenn.

For the bassist, Nashville is synonymous with long hours in the recording studio and the best fried chicken around - Prince's Hot Chicken Shack. "It's beyond red hot," he said with a tinge of excitement in his voice. "We eat there once a week when we're in Nashville. You really can only eat it once a week."

"When you're on tour that's the one thing that really makes you remember where you are. Not to speak ill of tour life." He prefers to remember a city by its restaurants, record stores and the people he meets there. By Friday, Feb. 25 it'll be back to the road for McNew and Yo La Tengo.

"I'm totally looking forward to it," he said, on the telephone from his Brooklyn home. This time around the band is bringing two special guests to make it a five-piece: Mac McCaughan of Superchunk and David Kilgour of Clean. "David Kilgour is staying at my house. We were talking last night after rehearsal, in a way it's like we've never toured before. It's so completely different. We're playing seated theaters. I'm looking forward to it."

"Different" may be hard to

Lot G" and "Cherry Chapstick" Yo La Tengo casts a musical spell complete with romantic visions and soul-stirring moods. "It's a wide open approach to writing music and playing it," said McNew. "I think it comes from playing together. The longer you do it, the more comfortable you are. You are more confident to try stuff."

That translates into musical courage, like asking one of their favorite musicians, Susie Ibarra, to play on the record or taking friends like the band Lambchop, out on the road, and even inviting McCaughan and Kilgour to join the band on-stage. It's a whole new perspective for Yo La Tengo - one developed over years of creating music together.

"I do think this record really reflects confidence in ideas, in the idea to make kind of a consistent, sustained mood. I am really happy with it." It's been three years since Yo La Tengo's "I Can Hear the Heart Beating As One" was released. For this album, there were no deadlines, no real pressures. McNew said that sense of control and ability to approach the project without a specific destination in mind allowed the music to flow freely from them.

"The hardest song to record was 'Night Falls on Hoboken,'" he said. "It was recorded live in the studio. It took the better part of two days to get it on tape." The song happens to be the longest on the CD at a whopping 17 minutes and 41 seconds. And McNew said that was the shortest take.

"And Then Nothing Turns Itself Inside-Out" was produced by Roger Moutenot. There's no telling yet how that dreamy tone will go over at a live show. Though Yo La Tengo did perform

From Hoboken to here: Yo La Tengo is Ira Kaplan, Georgia Hubely and James McNew. Listen to their latest album "And Then Nothing Turns Itself Inside-Out" and then see them live March 3 at the Majestic Theatre.

come by when a band's been together since the mid-1980s. With the release of the ultra-subtle "And Then Nothing Turned Itself Inside-out,"

McNew, along with founding members Ira Kaplan and Georgia Hubely, are taking their free-form, lo-fi sound to new levels. With songs like "The Crying of

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Eating at Luigi's is just like eating at home

BY MARY QUINLEY
SPECIAL WRITER

Debbie Brush admits to having an occasional craving for a rich, sweet entree. And she knows just the place to satisfy her urge.

"A co-worker suggested we have lunch at Luigi's," said the Farmington dental assistant. "I had angel hair pasta with Alfredo sauce. It was great! The portion was generous, and I even had leftovers to take with me."

Luigi's, located in downtown Farmington, appeals to a variety of taste buds.

As diners enter the eatery via the east door (there are two entrances), they are welcomed by an Italian greeting. Buon Venuti, painted on the wall above their heads. Once you're inside, breathe in deeply. Waves of simmering sauces seep from the kitchen.

"We serve more southern Italian dishes than northern dishes," said Domenic Belcastro, vice president and manager.

"But we're a mixture (of the two styles). We do a lot of blending."

What's the difference?

Southern Italians, said Belcastro, who was born in Italy, like more spice.

Patrons who prefer a southern flavor might choose eggplant Parmesan with a side of penne, the chicken, sausage and peppers tossed with linguine and marinara sauce, or the veal Parmesan. Stuffed eggplant filled with three cheeses and fresh spinach is another alternative.

Luigi's
Where: 23360 Farmington Road, in the Downtown Shopping Center, across from CVS/Pharmacy in Farmington; (248) 477-1880
Open: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday-Friday; 4-10 p.m., Saturday; closed Sunday
Menu: Italian cuisine (a mix of northern and southern dishes), appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, pasta, seafood, and chicken, beef and veal entrees. Desserts, vegetarian meals and daily specials. Wine, beer and liquor served.
Non-smoking: 100 percent
Reservations: Yes, for parties of five or more.
Cost: Entrees range in price from \$6.95 to \$15.95. Burgers and sandwiches are \$3.95 to \$5.95.
Credit cards: All cards except Diners Club

Northern options include polenta, an appetizer of fried cornmeal topped with marinara and Alfredo sauces. Customers can also order pasta specials of fettuccine primavera or the fontinella or gorgonzola cheese with angel hair.

Doc Sloan ranks Luigi's as one of his favorite meeting places for Italian cuisine.

"The chefs at Luigi's will fix anything I want," said the Milford resident, who eats at the restaurant with his family at least once a week. "It's like eating at home!"

Sloan enjoys the angel hair pasta, chicken Parmesan and the barbecued chicken. "I've never had a bad meal," he said. "The service is good, it's clean, and the owner has a hands-on feel. I keep telling friends of mine about the restaurant."

Almost five years ago, Belcastro and his wife, Vivian J., purchased Luigi's.

"I have always been intrigued by the restaurant business," said

Belcastro. Though, he admits, he never had any restaurant experience prior to Luigi's.

When the former owners wanted to sell the property, Belcastro's uncle offered some advice: "He told me to work at Luigi's before I decided (whether or not) to buy it."

So, Belcastro worked for several months at no charge.

"I had a vision while I worked," he said. "If we had the restaurant, I would fix it up and make it family-oriented."

And he did.

"It took two to three years to get the people to come back and give (the restaurant) a chance," said Belcastro. "I'm happy. We came a long way. We could always do more, which I'm looking into."

Who does the cooking? Not Belcastro.

"I can't boil water!" he laughed. "I have two cooks, James McNulty, a graduate of Schoolcraft College's Culinary



Pass the pasta: Domenic Belcastro presents pasta with meatballs, just one of the dishes you'll find on the menu at Luigi's.

Arts program, came with the restaurant. And the other one is my nephew, Michael Namin."

Specials change daily. Vegetable lasagna, veal, chicken or a pasta entree are possibilities.

At lunch, patrons have an option of ordering the buffet for \$9.95 - "a mixture of everything on the menu," said Belcastro.

Minestrone soup is made fresh

every day. The "other" soup could be cream of cauliflower, cream of garlic, lentil or barley. The kitchen staff is constantly introducing new sauces to the menu.

Restaurant employees, said Belcastro, are encouraged to be independent. "If a customer has a problem, (I prefer) if my employees take care of it."

Belcastro describes himself as a working manager: "I clear tables, I bus, I talk to customers."

"It has been a wonderful experience. I've learned a lot and I'm still learning. I treat people the way I want to be treated."

Future plans for Luigi's?

"I envision a bigger restaurant (that we'll) keep family-friendly," said Belcastro.

CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS

Mardi Gras Brewers Dinner - 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27 at Bonfire Bistro & Brewery, 39550 Seven Mile Road, Northville. The cost is \$40 per person, all tables reserved, call (734) 735-4570.

Chef David Platzer and brewer Ron Jeffries are teaming up to present a five course meal and a pre-selected beer per course. The entree is Rotisserie Cornish Game Hen served with andouille sausage and crawfish corn bread stuffing over red and yellow pepper coulis.

Mardi Gras Celebration at Schoolcraft - celebrate the

end of winter and the coming of spring in true New Orleans style at a gala Mardi Gras celebration 7 p.m. Saturday, March 4 in the Waterman Campus Center at Schoolcraft College. Tickets are \$35 a person, and may be ordered by calling (734) 462-4417. VISA, MasterCard or Discover cards are accepted. Proceeds support student scholarships.

Join fellow revelers as they dine on a traditional New Orleans

meal, listen to the SCool Jazz singers' mellow tones and dance

to music of Tom Saunders and the Detroit All-Stars.

The dinner menu includes andouille sausage with chicken gumbo, salad and sweet potatoes, Bourbon Street pork over jambalaya, corn with peppers, cornbread and southern pecan pie. Schoolcraft College's vocal ensemble, SCool Jazz, will harmonize on jazz standards and the Detroit All-Stars will inspire dancers to fill up the floor.

Fishbone's Rhythm

Kitchen Cafe Restaurants are planning Fat Tuesday celebrations on Tuesday, March 7. Marcus Beigrave headlines at Fishbone's Greektown's 10th annual party 8 p.m. to midnight, (313) 965-4600; Fishbone's Southfield hosts John Davis and Smooth Vibrations 7-11 p.m., (248) 351-2925; Fishbone's St. Clair Shores hosts an all star Dixieland Band 7-11 p.m. (810) 498-3000. Call the restaurant of your choice for details.

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