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State moves to clear up cemetery mess



Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland is now under state control.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Consumers who paid for cemetery services they never received will have new hope following a state decision to seize control over 28 public cemeteries, amid allegations of financial improprieties by the owner, an official said Wednesday.

Farmington Hills attorney Mark Zausmer, appointed as conservator over the cemeteries, said he will work diligently toward getting grave markers,

benches, plaques and other items never delivered.

The 28 cemeteries now under state control include Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland and United Memorial Gardens in Plymouth, among others in Wayne County and across Michigan.

Attorney General Mike Cox asked Ingham County Circuit Judge James Giddings to allow the state to seize control of the cemeteries and to appoint Zausmer to secure the trust funds and operate them.

"We're running these cemeteries and trying to stabilize the situation and preserve the assets in the best interests of the consumers," Zausmer said Wednesday.

"We're trying to determine the exact nature of all the consumer complaints," he said. "There are many people who ordered items, such as markers, benches and plaques, that they never received. Many of these people paid for these things."

Some monument and bronze companies refused to deliver the

items because they hadn't been paid for prior services by the company that owns the cemeteries, Indian Nation LLC, managed by Oklahoma investor Clayton Smart, according to Zausmer.

Zausmer pledged to work toward getting the money to the companies so that the items can be delivered to the cemeteries.

"I'm hopeful that 90 days will be a reasonable amount of time to figure it out," he said.

PLEASE SEE CEMETERIES, A5

Simply Marvel-ous

Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum, that is



Ask the brainy fellow answers to your questions, but most of the time his answers do not make sense. He is also a known cynic.

BY STACY JENKINS
STAFF WRITER

Talk about sensory overload. Imagine thousands of things that tick, spin, beep, twirl, fly, pop and even smoke — all hanging or perched, floor to ceiling, with only small paths for the non-mechanical species to maneuver through the mechanical maze.

If it all seems a bit much, it is — and it's all at Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum in Farmington Hills.

Indeed, it is a museum, but without the red velvet ropes, docents and the "no food or drinks" sign. This extensive collection of mechanical relics mixed in with today's hottest arcade games, is a national draw for people of all ages. And, it's certainly hands-on — as long as those hands are filled with quarters.

An old-fashioned nickelodeon stands more than 10 feet tall and probably as wide, and awaits a couple of quarters so it can put its 60-or-so instruments to use. This amazing machine can play thousands of songs on instruments such as a piano, banjo, xylophone, steel drum and various gui-



Jeremy Yagoda describes some of the more unusual machines at Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum, which is owned by his father, Marvin Yagoda.

PLEASE SEE MARVIN'S, A5

Rothwell: We can transform region

BY JOE BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

Doug Rothwell is bullish on southeast Michigan. He has to be. As president of Detroit Renaissance, he heads an organization committed to restarting the economic engine that runs southeast Michigan.

And now that Detroit Renaissance has joined forces with five other area nonprofit organizations to create One D: Transforming Regional Detroit, Rothwell said the time is right to effect real change in the region.

"Southeast Michigan, and indeed the entire state, is in crisis," he said. "But oftentimes it takes a crisis to shake us from our doldrums and provide opportunity



Rothwell

for meaningful change. I believe this region is at that point right now."

Detroit Renaissance was the first of the six groups to report on how specifically it plans to work to transform the region. Its "Road to Renaissance" blueprint was developed following a near yearlong effort interviewing roughly 600 business and civic leaders representing hundreds of organizations throughout the region.

From that information, the group's board of directors — a virtual who's who of area industry leaders — will work with task forces that will focus on helping metro Detroit achieve six primary objectives: become the world's dominant mobility center; become a global logistics hub; grow the creative community; expand the region's entrepreneurial capacity; secure a strong talent base, and promote the region globally while communicating locally.

Rothwell said that unlike many

past studies, this blueprint will not simply sit on a shelf collecting dust.

"We will pressure ourselves to prove to the public sector and general public that we are making real progress by issuing quarterly report cards about what we have done and what we have accomplished," he said. "Once we prove our worth, it will put pressure on the rest of the community to join us."

Rothwell said in order for the region to regain its economic footing, it must shed its "mindset of entitlement" and a reliance on procurement-based industries.

"The past success of the auto industry caused a mindset among the workforce that a high-end benefit package was a right, and that people were entitled to high-paying jobs without needing to invest in themselves," he said.

"That mold is broken for ever, it is not coming back. We need to convince our people that they need

to become better educated and better trained to meet the needs of the future marketplace."

A more immediate challenge for the group, Rothwell said, is to change the image of the region from the inside out.

"Our regional perception survey showed that people in this region feel worse about the area than those from outside of it, which is a huge problem," he said. "This area has a ton going for it, but we won't be able to convince others to come and invest here if we remain mired in pessimism and self-loathing."

Rothwell said he is "absolutely certain" the metro region can regain its place of prominence both nationally and internationally. The road to recovery may be long and windy, but it is navigable.

"We've got something really great going here," he said of the "Road to Renaissance" initiative and the One D movement. "We don't want to simply be talkers any longer. We want to be doers."

Schools, IKEA made headlines in 2006

As 2006 draws to a close, we take a look back at some of the stories that made headlines in western Wayne County. It was an eventful year, a year in which governments and businesses struggled and a year of some surprising successes.

Wayne County McNamara dies

Edward H. McNamara, longtime Wayne County executive and Livonia mayor, died Feb. 19. McNamara served 17 years as Livonia mayor and 16 years as Wayne County executive. He built a powerful Democratic political machine and was a mentor to Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Michael Duggan and other prominent political figures. His legacy includes the \$1.6 billion expan-



Edward H. McNamara had a long and productive life in politics as mayor of Livonia for 17 years and Wayne County Executive for 16 years.

PLEASE SEE YEAR IN REVIEW, A4

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NEWS BRIEFS

Passport fair Jan. 3

2007 is a good year to get a passport. Soon, the navy blue ID booklet will be required for travel throughout the Western Hemisphere. The Livonia post office will hold a passport fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, at the Carl Sandburg Library on Seven Mile. "Instead of waiting in line with people who are sending packages or buying stamps, this is specifically for passports applications," said Patricia Nouhan, customer service supervisor at the Livonia Main Post Office. Plus, the library has plenty of parking. Applicants must bring an original birth certificate, with a

raised seal. The certificates will be returned, along with the passport, through mail. Minors applying for passports need parental permission. The fair is open to residents of any local community. The cost is \$97. Of that, \$30 goes to the post office for processing the application. The other \$67 pays the Department of State. Bring separate checks or money orders. Photos can be taken on site for \$15. Air travelers must produce a passport to reenter the United States beginning Jan. 23, according to the U.S. Department of State. If by land or sea, travelers will need a passport beginning in 2008 to get back in the U.S. from any country.

Charity drive

A Livonia couple enjoyed a bout of good weather, and 44 families in three Kentucky counties enjoyed a bounty of presents. That's how Mary and Jim Hendrian spent their Christmas vacation. For seven years through their charity, Help Appalachian People Survive, the Hendrians have brought Christmas presents, furniture and appliances to families in the Appalachian mountains who don't have basic necessities. To date, 24 semi-trucks full of merchandise have been dispatched to the region, with the help of the Teamsters Local 299 and local volunteers. Teamsters Joint Council 94 and USF Holland each donated a truck and fuel to transport the gifts from Michigan to Kentucky. It's not too early to help with next year's effort. Mary Hendrian is looking for a nearby storage facility to use for free to keep donated items between trips. The storage facility she used in the past is under new ownership. The effort has grown so big, "I can't store it all in my basement or garage anymore," she said. A spring charity drive will be scheduled. Volunteers can also adopt a family for next Christmas. A fund-raiser will be held Oct. 6 at a Knights of Columbus hall in Livonia. For more information about how to help, visit www.haps-mi.org.

Farmington

The Farmington City Council is currently accepting applications from eligible Farmington residents to complete a term on the City Council expiring Nov. 11, 2007. Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office or on the City Web site

www.ci.farmington.mi.us and will be accepted until 4 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007. A special 3-hour holiday skating session will be held 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on New Year's Eve, Sunday, at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena, located on Eight Mile, west of Gill Road in Farmington Hills. The ice arena will close at 2:30 p.m. and will remain closed on New Year's Day, Monday, Jan. 1. Regular skate schedules will resume on Jan. 2. Farmington Public Schools will present its 15th annual Day for Strings program. The district will partner with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for this event which begins at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 6. The culminating activity, open to the public, takes place at 2 p.m. in the North Farmington High School gym and will involve several hundred string students. The high school is located at 32900 13 Mile Road, east of Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. Admission to the program is free to parents, friends and school personnel. The program will include performances by the fifth grade orchestra, the sixth grade cadet orchestra, the seventh grade orchestra, and high school honors and concert orchestras.

Christmas trees collected for compost

The City of Livonia will collect Christmas trees for composting on the regularly scheduled trash collection day the week of Jan. 8-12. Decorations must be removed, and trees should not be left in plastic bags. For information, call the Livonia Sanitation Department at (734) 466-2588.

Read Rick Bloom on money matters in the O&E, beginning Jan. 7

Read about how to invest and safeguard your money along with planning for the future in Rick Bloom's column which debuts Sunday, Jan. 7 in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Look for Bloom's column every Sunday and Thursday. On Thursdays, Bloom will cover a variety of topics on investments, college planning, retirement and 401(k)s. On Sundays, Bloom will answer questions from *O&E* readers. Bloom is a founding partner in Bloom Asset Management, Inc., Farmington Hills, a Registered Investment Advisor firm that manages more than \$600 million in assets and is ranked No. 16 on Crain's Detroit Business' list of Largest Money Managers. He is also a partner in the law firm of Bloom, Bloom & Associates.



Rick Bloom will be writing a financial column for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* beginning Jan. 7.

He hosts *The Rick Bloom Show* on 1400 WTDK-AM, and was also host of the popular *Money Talk* radio show on WXYT-AM 1270 for 16 years and *The Rick Bloom Show* on WXDX-1310 AM. His twice-daily *Business Updates* are also heard throughout the state on the Michigan Radio Network. Bloom has been selected as one of the Top 250 Financial Planners by *Worth* magazine, and has been quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* and other national publications on financial planning and the stock market. He is also a frequent spokesperson regarding financial matters on local TV news and radio shows. Bloom gives numerous seminars and speeches on financial planning and investments at a number of local libraries as well as many professional, civic and business organizations. An honors graduate of both Michigan State University and the University of Michigan Law School, Bloom is a licensed attorney and certified public accountant (CPA). Bloom will present a free seminar on "Investing 101" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, in the Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen Road. Call (248) 932-5200 or e-mail seminars@bloomassetmanagement.com to register or for more information.

He is also a partner in the law firm of Bloom, Bloom & Associates. He hosts *The Rick Bloom Show* on 1400 WTDK-AM, and was also host of the popular *Money Talk* radio show on WXYT-AM 1270 for 16 years and *The Rick Bloom Show* on WXDX-1310 AM. His twice-daily *Business Updates* are also heard throughout the state on the Michigan Radio Network. Bloom has been selected as one of the Top 250 Financial Planners by *Worth* magazine, and has been quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* and other national publications on financial planning and the stock market. He is also a frequent spokesperson regarding financial matters on local TV news and radio shows. Bloom gives numerous seminars and speeches on financial planning and investments at a number of local libraries as well as many professional, civic and business organizations. An honors graduate of both Michigan State University and the University of Michigan Law School, Bloom is a licensed attorney and certified public accountant (CPA). Bloom will present a free seminar on "Investing 101" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, in the Southfield Public Library, 26300 Evergreen Road. Call (248) 932-5200 or e-mail seminars@bloomassetmanagement.com to register or for more information.

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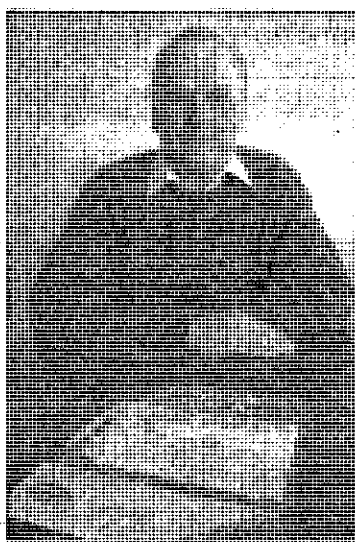
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BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Canton resident Hermann Kaiser authored the 'Career Booster Kit' with his son, Raymond A. Kaiser. He said it's aimed at people who are looking to make career changes.

Book aims to help people 'boost' career

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

Born out of an idea tossed out 20 years ago, a career handbook penned by a father and son has recently hit bookshelves. The "Career Booster Kit" is designed to help readers assess their career and define goals. Canton resident Hermann Kaiser authored the book with his son, Raymond A. Kaiser, and said it's aimed at people who "know they could do better but lack the tools to get started." Unlike a job-hunting book that focuses on resume tips and interviewing skills, the "Career Booster Kit" taps into long-range career planning that includes job changes, market forecasts and strategic planning.

The book is targeted at people who are concerned about job security, have jobs instead of careers, don't look forward to going to work, have stagnated in their progress and find their boss unacceptable. With a variety of checklists and scorecards stuffed inside the handbook's 64 pages, Kaiser said he and Raymond made it a point to keep the book sleek and user-friendly. "We didn't write this for libraries, we wrote it for users," Kaiser said. "There are a lot of big books out there but we didn't feel the need (to duplicate those). People don't have to read 150 pages to find out what to do." The book, which is available at The Book Cellar in Plymouth

for \$14.95, has run into a few challenges getting mainstream attention. "It's frustrating dealing with the big companies," Kaiser said. "They're more concerned about glitz instead of substance." The two plan to follow up the "Career Booster Kit" with two more editions. "We could write about another aspect but we have a lot of new ideas and we're going to stick with what we know," Kaiser said, adding that public response to the book has been positive. For more information on the book or to order online, log onto www.ValueAddedResources.com. tlparks@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700

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Humane Society has plenty of pets for you to love

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Heaven Schuster of Taylor and husband Ron came to the Michigan Humane Society in Westland Wednesday for a dog.

"A pal for the kids," she said. "They lost their dog a couple years ago." The children are ages 13, 6 and 2½ and eager for a new pet.

"This is for them more than us," Heaven Schuster said. "Dogs are good for kids. It's just like loving a child, really. It's something to play with and love. Everyone should come here."

They were among early visitors Wednesday when the doors opened at the MHS shelter on Newburgh at Marquette in Westland. The MHS also has shelters in Detroit and Rochester Hills.

"Last week it was quite busy," said MHS spokeswoman Stephanie Baron, a Macomb Township resident. "We've been busy. This (past) week'll probably be the same because kids are out of school."

The three facilities have a number of cats, dogs and other animals available for adoption. The MHS cares for more than 100,000 animals a year.

"So we've got quite a bit of work to do," Baron said with a smile.

She has down to earth advice for those considering pet adoption. "Bring your whole family with you, first of all."

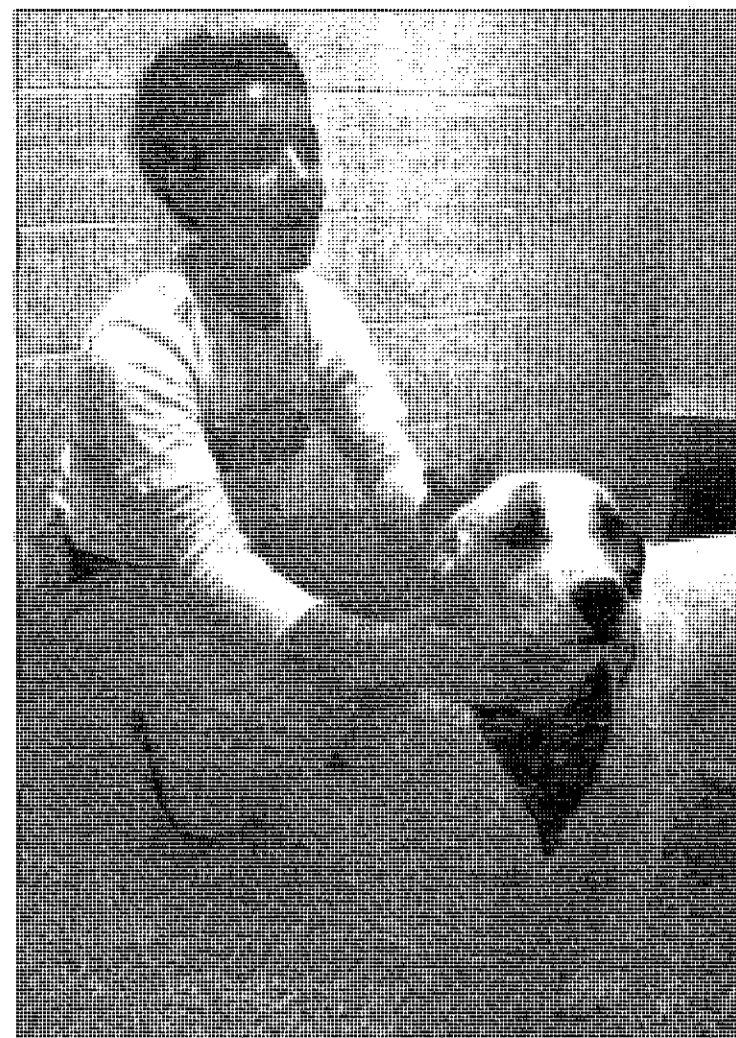
The Schusters planned to return with their kids. The couple played with Apollo, a Jack Russell mix, but weren't sure the dog would do well with their youngest.

Baron said the MHS tries to match up lifestyles, for example putting certain pets in homes with only older children. "It can be difficult for both the family and the dog" if there's a mismatch, she explained.

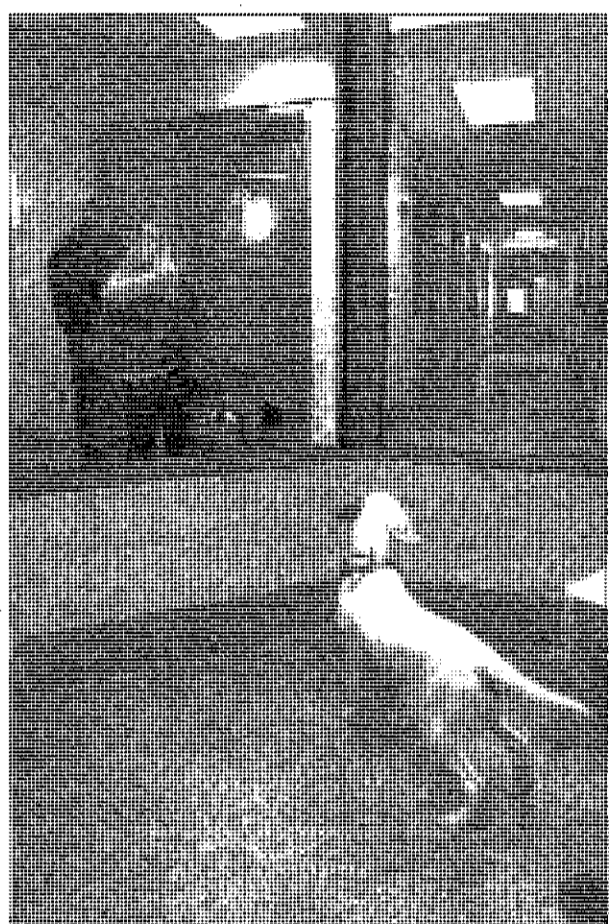
Those considering adoption spend time in a "get acquainted" room with the pet to interact with the animal, and meet with an adoption counselor. Pets must be spayed or neutered as part of the adoption package, to control overpopulation and cut down on



A beagle mix who goes by the name of Snoopy enjoys a little attention from Humane Society staffer Stephanie Baron.



Stephanie Baron, public and media relations coordinator for the Michigan Humane Society, and Snoopy, a beagle mix, explain the shelter's mission.



Snoopy explores a 'Get Acquainted' room where prospective pet owners can spend some time with an animal up for adoption.



Heaven and Ron Schuster get acquainted with Apollo, a Jack Russell terrier mix. The Schusters live in Taylor.



Patches waits for a new home.

homeless animals. Baron led a tour through the "cat condo" area. She has two cats at home. "The natural

sunshine just does so much more for an animal," she said of the Westland facility's brightness.

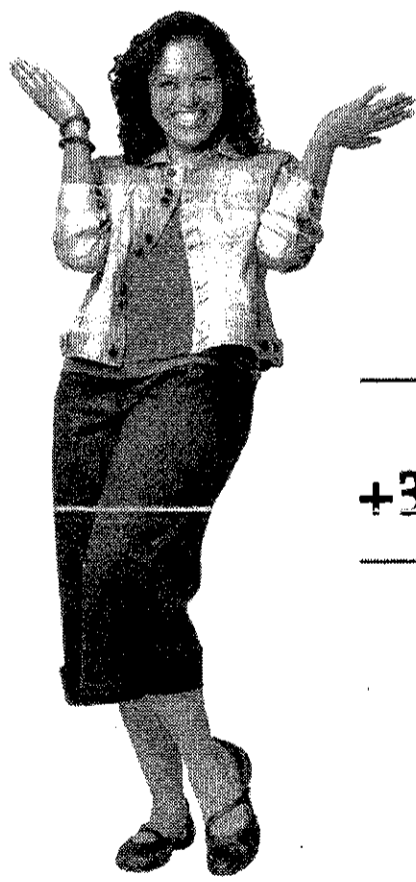
The Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland was expanded a great deal. It now has some 40,000 square feet available, and will mark its two-year anniversary for the

expansion this spring.

The MHS offers many services, including adoption, veterinary services and

obedience classes. For more information, call the general number at (866) MHUMANE or visit online at www.michiganhumane.org.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

FROM PAGE A1

sion at Metro Airport, that includes the south terminal named in his honor; the Detroit-Wayne County Stadium Authority that built Comerica Park and Ford Field; a new juvenile detention center; and 16 consecutive balanced budgets after inheriting a \$135 million county debt.

Canton

IKEA cometh

"I can't remember a retail operation in the state of Michigan that has been greeted by as much anticipation," Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack observed during the grand opening ceremonies for IKEA back in June.

In fact, the much-anticipated June 7 grand opening for the Swedish furniture retailer was as much a carnival as it was a store opening. When the doors finally opened, there were already 4,000 people waiting in line, many of whom had spent the night in the parking lot.

The day was also the culmination of a long process that began a couple years earlier when IKEA officials initially chose Canton to be the site of their first store in Michigan - a giant 311,000-square-foot store at Ford Road and I-275 that employs some 400 people.

It didn't take long for IKEA to



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's Audrey Seilheimer was first in line at IKEA's much anticipated opening and made a rock star's entrance to the cheers of IKEA Canton's employees.

prove its appeal, as more than 100,000 shoppers visited the store during the first four days it was opened.

Silver medal finish

Ice skaters Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, who train at Canton's Arctic Ice arena, were the darlings of the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy. The couple took the silver medal in ice dancing.

Garden City

GC privatizes positions

Faced with a \$1.3 million deficit, the Garden City Public Schools took the extraordinary step of privatizing its custodial services late June.

More than 30 employees were laid off when the school board

voted unanimously to hire Grand Rapids Building Services Inc. to clean the school buildings.

Angry custodians took the district to court in an attempt to stop the layoffs, but after more than two days of negotiations at the behest of Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Isidore Torres, the two sides reached an agreement, giving the laid-off workers a better settlement package.

The custodians also mounted a recall against five of the school board members, collecting more than 2,400 signatures on each of the five petitions. However, Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett in November ruled that organizers had failed to collect enough signatures to force a special election.



COURTESY OF PAUL/MICHELLE HARVATH, U.S. FIGURE SKATING

Ice-dancing pair Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, who train in Canton, became American darlings during their silver medal run at the Winter Olympics in Italy.

Library moved

Things are usually pretty quiet at a library but the Garden City Library got plenty of attention this year.

As part of efforts to deal with a budget deficit, City Manager David Harvey proposed closing the library and contracting for library services in a neighboring community. After hearing from residents on all sides of the issue, the council decided to accept an alternative plan - moving the library into the Maplewood Community Center and selling the vacated building. In November, voters rejected a proposal to fund construction and operation of a new community center/library. That month, the library reopened in its new location at Maplewood after being closed for nearly three months.

Livonia

Legacy school plan

Livonia Public Schools' Legacy Initiative, approved a year ago, focused on closing elementary school buildings to save money and improving education, especially for upper elementary students. The plan was criticized for, among other things, busing too many students, closing too many schools and making students go through an extra transition by attending very large grade five-six buildings. Opponents failed to get board members to change or delay the plan, but voted out one incumbent in May. They also forced a recall election against five trustees - but voters retained the board members in August. The controversy apparently helped fuel an exodus of students, as the district lost 250 more than expected this fall, translating into more than \$2 million in revenue.

Toy loses election

State Sen. Laura Toy lost her bid for re-election to state Rep. Glenn Anderson following a bitter campaign, during which both candidates complained about the negative advertising. In addition to her time in the Senate, Toy has served in the state House, as a Livonia treasurer and on the Schoolcraft Board of Trustees.

Plymouth

Sheldon underpass

One of the top stories of 2006 is one that really never happened - the ill-fated Sheldon Road underpass.

As in nearly every year since it was proposed some seven years ago, Wayne County officials said it would happen this year. But a number of problems left the project, which would close Sheldon Road in Plymouth Township for some 22 months, stalled in its tracks.

First, the City of Plymouth threatened to withdraw its financial support. County officials also had a hard time getting signed contracts from CSX Railroad and the Detroit Water and Sewer Department. Once that all finally happened, county officials announced the road would close and the project would begin in mid-December.

But then the discovery of a DTE Energy power line forced yet another delay. County officials announced last week the project would be delayed into January.

School bond fails

In May, the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools Board of Education decided to split the request for some \$120 million in bond proposals into two questions - one for basic needs, the other for things like a new pool, athletic upgrades and a new theater. Voters soundly defeated both questions, forcing the district to come up with a new plan. A smaller, more compact bond

issue comes before voters in February.

Redford

Redford Union deficit

The Redford Union school district faces a \$710,000 deficit this year. The deficit was caused by a decline in students. Enrollment dropped from 4,021 in fall 2005 to 3,816 students this fall. A district reorganization earlier in the year, including layoffs and building closings, was aimed at reducing a cumulative deficit estimated at \$3.4 million.

Dillon named Speaker

State Rep. Andy Dillon was elected Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives. Dillon was elected to his second term in the House in November. The 44-year-old Dillon said he would emphasize job creation, schools and the environment during his tenure as speaker.

Westland

Park contamination

A controversy involving Central City Park rocked Westland after it became public in early November that city, county and state officials kept quiet for years about contamination, particularly lead, in the 100-acre park.

Angry parents lashed out at officials for allowing them and their children to use the park - without telling them about the contamination - for such events as Little League baseball, soccer and the cancer fund-raiser Relay for Life. Mayor Sandra Cicirelli ordered the park closed in early November except for a paved walking path.

Peer trial

A criminal case that captured attention in 2006 involved Westland teen and Livonia Franklin High athlete Jeremy Peer driving off a Florida road, killing a woman and injuring her husband during a spring break trip. He fled the scene but was later arrested.

One witness testified that Peer had been drinking alcohol - an allegation he denied at trial. A jury found him guilty, and a judge sentenced him to 12 years in prison. Under Florida law, he will have to serve more than 10 years before he is eligible for parole.

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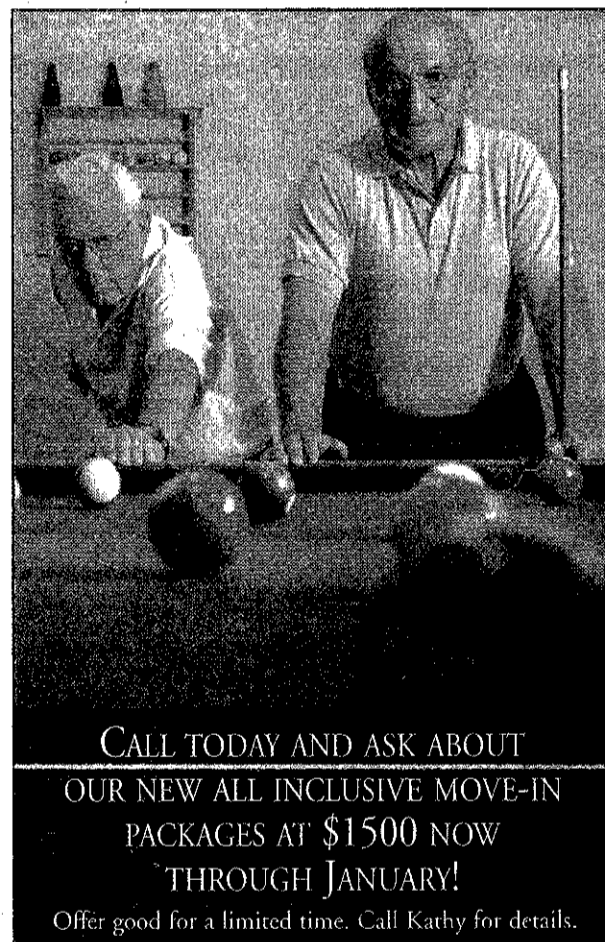
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MARVIN'S

FROM PAGE A1

tars — all viewable as they come to life behind the Plexiglas. It was made for Marvin's by Ken Caulkins, of the Ragtime Music Co.

Around the corner, you'll find the original P.T. Barnum replica of the Cardiff Giant, which he commissioned following an 1869 hoax in Cardiff, Ny, when workmen uncovered what they thought was an amazing petrified giant man. When P.T. Barnum tried to purchase the original "giant," his offer was refused, so he commissioned a replica, which is now housed at Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum.

Other mechanical wonders at Marvin's include an English Execution machine, which was handmade in the 1930s. Next to that is Crankenstein, which invites guests to "crank the handle to revive the beast."

"The kids love this one," said Jeremy Yagoda, son of the museum's owner, Marvin Yagoda. "It scares the bejeezus out of 'em."

Model airplanes buzz across the museum on a moving cable line, while the noise of the video games create that unmistakable backdrop typical of any arcade. Photo booths, "claw" machines and even old-fashioned fortune teller machines like "Ask the Brain," who is a known cynic, and the antique Zelda the Mysterious, whose blue eye shadow and red lipstick hasn't faded in 50 years.

"There's no method to the madness," said Jeremy Yagoda, 32, of West Bloomfield. "You've really got to look around, because there is stuff everywhere. You could come here every day for a year and see something different every time."

Marvin Yagoda started the museum in 1980 as part of the old Tally Hall, which was located on Orchard Lake Road and 14 Mile. Tally Hall, which had a food court, shops and mechanical games, closed in 1988. He decided to re-open the museum in 1990 in its current spot in the Hunter's Square plaza, under the archway where the unmistakable Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum sign hangs.

Marvin Yagoda, 68, started collecting unusual mechanical stuff just after he graduated from the University of Michigan in the 1960s. A pharmacist at his family's 75-year-old Detroit business, Sam's drug store on the city's west side, Marvin Yagoda remains an avid collector.

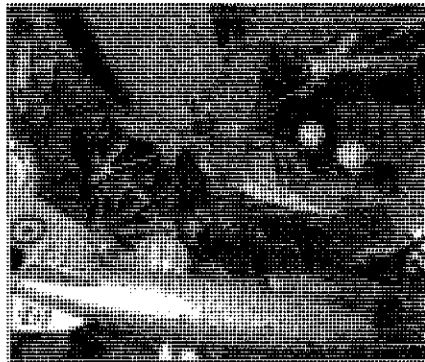
"I still buy stuff," he said, admitting he has plenty of items at his home, too. "You can't really get away from it."

He enjoys seeing people of all ages visit and enjoy the museum. From birthday parties for kids to bus loads of senior citizens, the museum is a destination for anyone looking for the unusual.

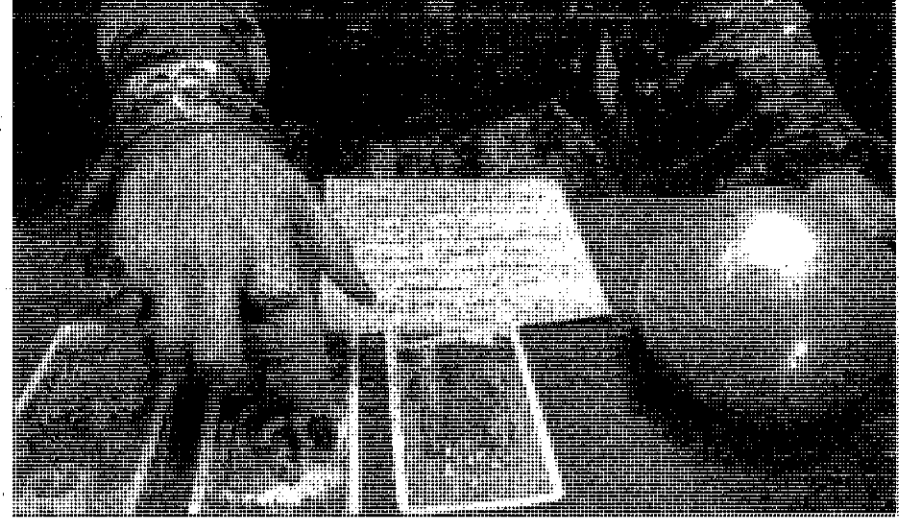
"When you come in this place, you'll never see everything," said Marvin Yagoda, who said he doesn't know how many items are in the museum, but there are 1,000 electrical outlets, "if that tells you anything."

For more information on Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum, visit on-line at www.marvin3m.com or call (248) 626-5020. Hours are extended during holiday break. Their address is 31005 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

sjenkins@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2131



Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum is full of airplanes of all kinds that move along a conveyor.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Zelda the Magnificent is an antique at Marvin's — she tells your fortune.

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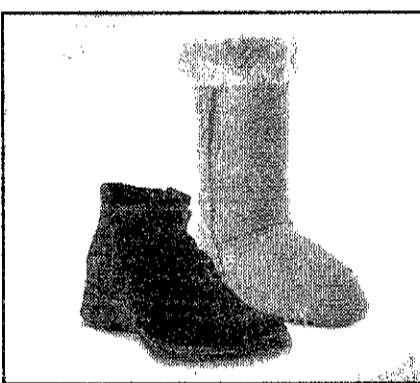
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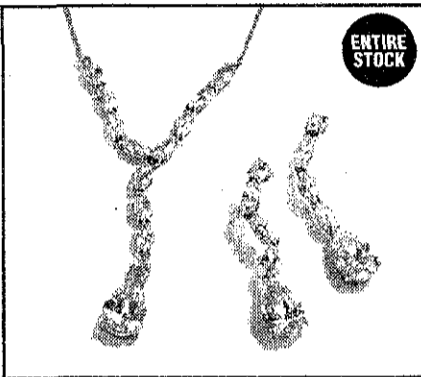
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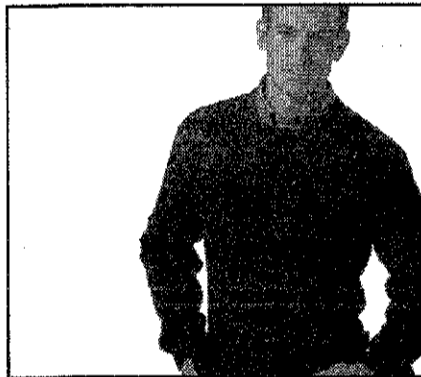
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CEMETERIES

FROM PAGE A1

Michigan authorities believe that millions of dollars in trust money may be unaccounted for — a move that led to a six-count administrative complaint filed against Indian Nation by Michigan Cemetery Commissioner Andrew L. Metcalf Jr.

"There is some money that was supposed to be held in trust that's clearly not there," Zausmer said.

Metcalf, in his administrative complaint, cited the improper commingling of funds; improper use of trust funds for the purchase of life insurance; failure to abide with laws for investing cemetery trust funds; failure to file appropriate annual reports; and failure to comply with deposit requirements and annual reports mandated by the Michigan Pre-Paid Funeral and Cemetery Sales Act.

Smart has been ordered to respond to the complaint, and a hearing could be held as early as January unless a delay is sought and approved.

Officials at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West in Westland declined to comment.

On Wednesday, Zausmer confirmed that the state takeover of cemeteries hasn't affected cemetery employees who, he said, have received their paychecks, Christmas bonuses and health care.

Zausmer urged anyone who may have had problems with the cemeteries to call him at (248) 851-4111.

"The consumers are in a much better position today than they were the day before the cemetery commissioner took these cemeteries over," he said.

Other Wayne County cemeteries under state control include Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Grand Lawn Cemetery, Mount Hope Memorial Gardens, Woodlawn Memorial Park and Woodmere Cemetery.

COP CALLS

Canton

■ Day-after-Christmas shopping at IKEA turned soured for one woman after her wallet was stolen from her purse.

Sometime between paying for food at the store's restaurant and attempting to check out at the end of her visit, the woman noticed her wallet was gone. It contained credit cards, \$200 and a few hundred dollars worth of gift cards.

An IKEA official told police surveillance film spotted the woman putting her wallet back in her purse. They are still reviewing footage to see if the theft was caught on video.

■ A wallet stolen earlier this month was found on Christmas morning. While walking his dog on Siever Street, a Canton man called police after he discovered a laptop bag containing paperwork and two wallets.

One of the wallets belonged to a 20-year-old Canton woman, who reported it stolen Dec. 11. After coming to retrieve the item, the woman told police everything was in it except for \$60.

Garden City

■ An alert clerk at 7-Eleven,

28205 Ford, spotted a counterfeit \$100 bill offered by a customer Dec. 19, Garden City police said. The clerk told police the woman handed him the bill which looked real until he held it up to the light and saw the watermark was Abraham Lincoln whose face appears on \$5 bills. The clerk told police that he'd received training about counterfeit money and one method was bleaching a \$5 bill, which would then be reprinted as a \$100.

■ On Dec. 20, a resident in the 29000 block of Warren reported wrapped gifts including a digital camera, clothing and a hand held Nintendo DS valued at \$950 stolen, along with her bowling bag containing two balls and shoes.

■ On Dec. 22, a man told police someone smashed a window on his vehicle while it was parked outside Albert's on the Alley, 5651 Middlebelt. He said \$175 worth of assorted meat — beef tenderloin, turkey, Dearborn Ham and New York strip steaks — were missing along with a duffel bag containing two sets of his work clothing and tennis shoes.

■ Two bowling balls in a bag, bowling shoes, clubs, golf shoes

and assorted Christmas presents valued at over \$700 were reported stolen Dec. 23 from a vehicle parked in the 30000 block of Ford.

■ Police were called to Frankie's, 31268 Ford, Dec. 24 after a patron reported his vehicle window smashed and Christmas gifts valued at \$200 missing. Due to a language barrier, the officer said he wasn't able to get a detailed list of the stolen items.

■ About 9 p.m. Dec. 21, Garden City police were called to the Healthy Drug Pharmacy, 827 Inkster Road, after the owner said he'd been contacted by his alarm company. The rear door had been pried open and there were 10-15 bottles of painkillers including Loraxet and Lortab missing.

■ A resident in the 30000 block of Cherry Hill told Garden City police Dec. 27 that she returned home from vacation to find her garage service door had been forced open. A 42-inch flat screen television was stolen.

The resident told police that her neighbors were in the process of moving but she had noticed their garage service door open. The officer went to check on the home and found the door

to the home from the garage was also forced open.

That homeowner told police he had moved most of his possessions from the home after a neighbor reported seeing some people walking between the two houses that were broken into. The man reported a television-VCR unit, a portable DVD player and a gold diamond ring, valued at \$2,000, stolen.

Livonia

■ A woman helping her mother out of a car and into a wheelchair had her purse stolen on Christmas Eve, Livonia police said. The woman left the purse atop her car in the parking lot at Dorvin Nursing Home, 29270 Morlock, at 11:30 p.m. She went back for it a minute later, but it was gone. The purse contained cash and credit cards.

Redford

■ A Romulus man's leather jacket and his wife's Christmas present were stolen from the man's Dodge Ram pickup truck while he was at work on Dec. 22. Someone damaged the truck's door lock and stole about \$600 in merchandise. The truck was parked in the 14000 block of Kinloch.

Donations bring soldiers home for the holidays

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Michigan National Guard 1-182FA, known as the Deuce, got a fully paid leave over the holidays but were left to their own devices to get back to Michigan from Ft. Dix, N.J.

Thanks to donations, including heavily discounted charter buses, 160 members of the Deuce got to spend more than a week at home with family and friends prior to deploying to Iraq next month.

"We followed the news broadcasts — we didn't know what was going to happen," said Garden City resident Lorraine Robak, who was thrilled her grandson Pvt. Frank Robak made it home for the holidays.

The Family Readiness Group was fund-raising to help the soldiers, based at the Detroit Armory on Grand River and McGraw, make the trip. The fund-raising efforts really took off after WRIF's "Drew and Mike" got involved.

After arriving in Detroit on Dec. 23, Frank Robak said he's been busy visiting with friends and family, relaxing at his home in Wayne.

"It's a little overwhelming — my phone hasn't stopped ringing. My parents passed the word around that I was coming back," said Robak, 33. "It's kind of weird now that I'm home for a week. I wake up and want to get up for work."

Robak's extended family including his parents live in Garden City. A graduate of Trenton High School, Robak also attended Garden City High School and Livonia Franklin High School as he stayed with different relatives while his family was living in Detroit.

This isn't Robak's first stint in the military — he served in the Navy from 1992-96. Robak was firefighter paramedic at Metro Airport before moving to a position

with Rapid Response of New Boston. Two years ago, he joined the National Guard to help pay for nursing school, he said.

"I knew I could be deployed sooner or later — my unit was just coming back from a deployment in Iraq," Robak said. "I knew we have great people in the unit who know how to take care of each other."

Although he has medical skills and is looking into a change in his job classification, Robak enlisted in a field artillery unit.

"I thought blowing things up would be fun," said Robak, whose unit has been training in their basic army skills and mission specific skills. "We've been working on physical fitness — that's what I needed the most."

Along with seeing family and friends during his leave, Robak said he's most excited by a Christmas gift from his cousin.

"My cousin gave me tickets to see Bob Seger. It was the best Christmas gift — he's my favorite singer," Robak said.

Bianco Tours of Taylor provided four buses at a hugely discounted price to transport the soldiers, said Jen Bayer of the Family Readiness Group. Bianco Tours also arranged for food and beverages to be provided to the soldiers during the 13-hour trip.

"We raised \$60,000 in donations. It was huge — just amazing. Not in our wildest dreams did we think so many people would step up for this," said Bayer. "Once Drew and Mike put it on the air, it just exploded. We would never have gotten to this point without them."

Along with corporate donations, Bayer said many individuals donated to the efforts in amounts of \$10-20.

Mighty Key donated USB security keys to each soldier in the Deuce. The item most requested by the soldiers, the USB plugs into a PC allowing the soldiers to save their letters to the keys onboard memory, back up the files in online databanks and create secure encrypted folders on their computers.

More importantly, the USB drives allow the soldiers to maximize their limited Internet time. Letters can be written in advance and saved to the memory key, then sent during the soldiers' designated online time.

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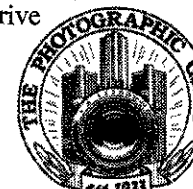
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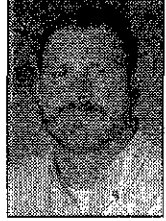


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It's time to get serious about global warming

Just about every year since I was a little kid, my family has visited my aunt's house on White Lake in Oakland County to celebrate Christmas. One of the things I always looked forward to most about the trip was the chance to bust out my ice skates and play hockey with my brother on the frozen lake. While the grown-ups were inside telling stories, my brother and I would skate until our toes were so frozen we had to go in to warm up.



Kurt Kuban

A couple weeks ago, I took my family out to White Lake to celebrate Christmas. Needless to say, I didn't need to bust out the skates. You can't skate on open water. That particular day, the temperature was in the mid-50s and quite balmy. It felt like we should have been celebrating Easter, not Christmas. In fact, at one point my kids were running around outside without wearing their coats.

As chance would have it, after we got home that night, I watched the movie *An Inconvenient Truth*, Al Gore's documentary about the growing crisis of global warming. If you haven't seen the film, you owe it to yourself to go out and rent it. In fact, you owe it to your great grandchildren, and their great grandchildren.

Whatever you think of Al Gore – and I definitely think the movie was a bit self-serving for him and his image – you can't ignore some of the issues he raises in the movie. We as a society can't ignore them. As Gore says in the film, we have entered a time of consequence, when the lifestyles we lead will have long lasting effects on our planet and its ability to sustain life.

We are already seeing some of these consequences. The 10 hottest years on record have all occurred in the last 14 years, and 2005 was the warmest yet, according to NASA.

The canaries in the mineshaft are the world's glaciers, which, with a few exceptions, are receding at an unbelievable rate. In Antarctica, the Arctic and Greenland, glaciers and ice sheets are retreating. Even here in the lower 48 states, we are losing our glaciers. The most notable example is Glacier National Park in Montana, where there once was about 150 glaciers. Today, there are less than 30, and by the year 2030 there will be no glaciers left in the park, according to U.S. Geological Survey predictions.

And as these changes take place, plant and animal species will suffer. Just this week, federal officials have recommended that the polar bear, the world's largest land predator, be classified as a threatened species. The bears are dying in record numbers, largely a result of drowning as the ice sheets they depend on are melting away. Some scientists believe between 15-37 percent of plant and animal species could be wiped out by 2050 because of global warming.

Humans will not be spared. Scientists warn that

some places in the world will suffer horrible droughts, while other places will be victim to cataclysmic weather events like hurricanes. In fact, Gore and some in the scientific community believe we have already begun to suffer these effects of global warming. They say hurricanes and tropical storms have increased by 100 percent in intensity and duration since the 1970s. In 2005 alone, the National Climatic Data Center estimated that there was \$100 billion of damage caused by hurricanes hitting the U.S.

Other predictions show ocean levels worldwide rising because of melting ice in the polar regions. Some models show much of Florida, Manhattan and the California coast under water, as well as parts of China that are currently populated by millions of people.

The reason for all this global warming, according to scientists, is the amount of carbon dioxide we put in the atmosphere – from our automobiles, power plants and other instruments of modern society. And no country pumps out more of it than the United States. We are the No. 1 global warming polluter.

Yet we are one of only two nations that has not signed the Kyoto Treaty, an international agreement between nations to commit to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases. And, according to Gore, our Congress hasn't passed a single bill aimed at curbing global warming pollution. Our leaders have not been compelled to act because I don't think the average American gives global warming much more than a passing thought. But it is the lifestyle of the average American that is most to fault for global warming. We drive our gas-guzzling SUVs and chew up electricity to power up our homes and our toys. By some estimates, the average American generates about 15,000 pounds of carbon dioxide.

People have been debating the merits of the global warming theory for years. Conservative talk show hosts including Rush Limbaugh have criticized it, saying it is something being pushed by tree huggers to bring down American industry and freedom. That isn't going to change. In fact, there has been no shortage of people getting in line to criticize Gore's movie, claiming it is "shrill alarmism."

Well, I am alarmed. I am worried about what kind of legacy we are leaving for future generations, and their ability to raise their own children. Will they read about us in history books and discuss our callousness and lack of foresight?

Who knows, maybe my great-grandchildren will be water skiing on White Lake for Christmas having a great time, and look back and laugh at me and others who were concerned about global warming. Then again, they might live through unprecedented droughts and other natural calamities, and wonder why we did nothing.

To see what you can do to reduce global warming, visit the Web site www.stopglobalwarming.org.

Kurt Kuban is community editor of the *Canton Observer*. He can be reached via e-mail at kkuban@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 459-2700.

As year draws to a close, it's a good time to rant

Shout, shout, let it all out, these are the things I can do without

Come on, I'm talking to you, come on

Tears for Fears

The end of the year seems to be an appropriate time to follow Howard Beale's advice.

Beale was the frustrated, and then demented, news anchor in the movie *Network*. In a fit of glorious rage, Beale, played by British actor Peter Finch, tells his viewers: "Go to a window, stick your head out and scream, 'I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore.'"



Hugh Gallagher

Network was peculiarly prophetic. It predicted the rise of reality TV, the dumbing down of America, the media pandering to right-wing prejudices, the excess of violence in all media. Some thought it was a little extreme in the mid-1970s. But reality has overtaken fiction and *Network*, basically a Howard Beale rant by screenwriter Paddy Chayevsky, now seems a bit tame.

But where do we begin with the things we're mad about?

On, yes, the war in Iraq.

A recent news item reported that American military deaths in that war have now exceeded the number of people killed in the 9/11 attacks. That doesn't account for the scores of thousands of Iraqis who would probably be alive if we had not invaded that country, albeit living under a brutal dictator.

While American troops continue to honor the mission they've been given, the president seems in a deep funk, unable or unwilling to seriously reassess what he has brought into Iraq and into a more violent, more dangerous Middle East. The president has his supporters but the number grows smaller each day he persists in ignoring the criticisms of those from all political sides.

It's true that there isn't an easy answer once we have committed this deeply, but to continue blindly in pursuit of something called "victory" seems seriously misguided. Closer to home, we are collectively mad as hell that our economy continues to sputter. We have relatives at Ford and GM, waiting for a goodbye check or the ax to fall. And for many, they won't find replacement job opportunities around here any time soon.

I have a son and daughter-in-law in Chicago because they couldn't find work in their fields here. She is a recent educa-

tion graduate with excellent references who has only been able to find long-term substitute positions here. He has been working as a biologist, lab assistant who got a job at a Chicago research center just before Pfizer and the state of Michigan began announcing layoffs at their laboratories.

They are typical of the young people leaving the state, unable and unwilling to wait for things to turn around. And they present a perfect example of the problems we face in trying to turn things around.

One side cries, slash government spending. But the government is a major employer – of teachers, biologists, lawyers, doctors, professors, researchers and many, many others. The other side says, yes, we must raise taxes to support needed government services. But, say their opponents, companies won't come if we impose "onerous" taxes on them and these companies provide employment.

It will be interesting to see what our state government comes up with, but it's a sure bet that whatever it is someone is going to be "mad as hell" and someone, somewhere will be unemployed.

Then there's the news media. Everyone is mad at the news media, especially those who work in it. Change is quickly sweeping us into the world that Paddy Chayevsky only imagined.

Whatever happened to Headline News? CNN's round the clock news update service has been replaced at night by a shrill, loud former prosecutor named Nancy Grace, who is a disgrace to anything approximating news. Her shtick is to beat a sensational crime story to death and shriek at everyone. She is preceded by yet another right-wing radio commentator with a goofy grin. He has apparently been asked to bring his shtick to TV to compete with the windbags at rival Fox. I think I prefer watching Stephen Colbert on Comedy Central. At least he knows that what he's saying is absurd.

Finally, the Mackinac Policy Center has a new "science" magazine. It's one of those "science" magazines that is dedicated to showing that "global warming" is just a plot against good, honest business interests. It reminds me of an "environmental" newsletter that the petroleum industry used to finance.

I've got to open that window ...

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the *Observer Newspapers*. He can be reached by e-mail at hgallagher@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 953-2149.

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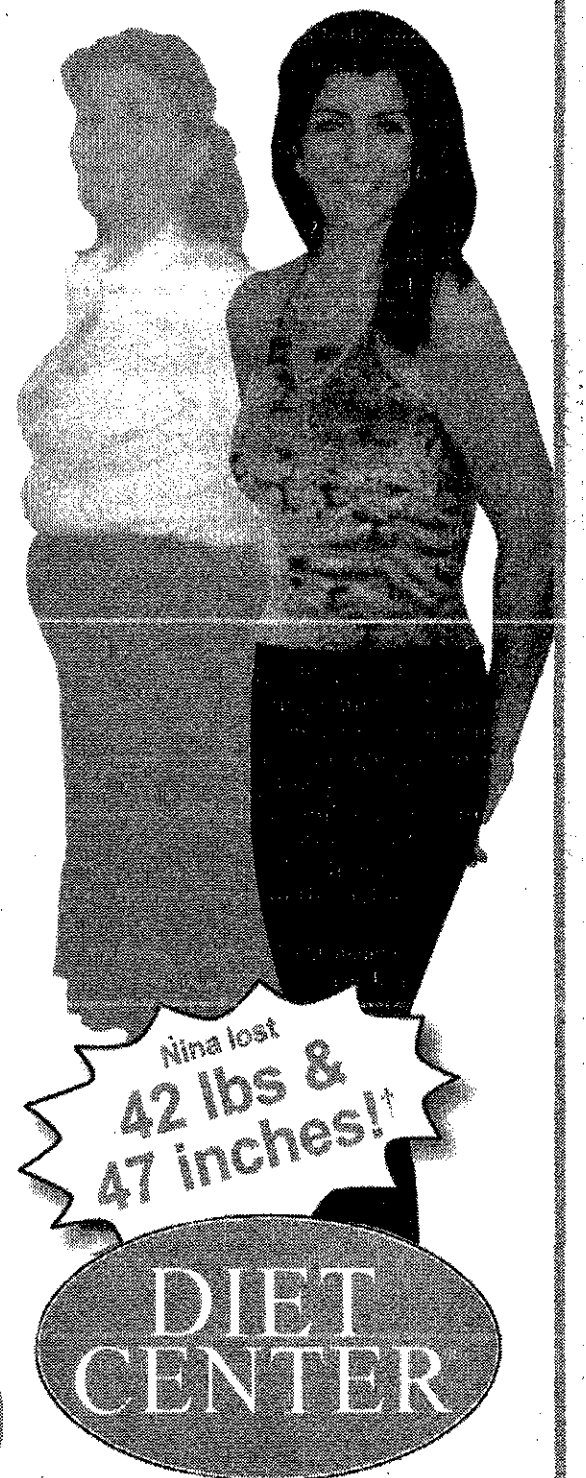
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DIET CENTER

SPORTS

(*)

Sunday, December 31, 2006

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

Brad Emons, editor . (734) 953-2123 . bemons@hometownlife.com

Saluting those who make prep sports click

As the sun sets on 2006, I thought it would be fitting to turn the spotlight away from the playing fields for a moment and shine it on some of the unsung volunteers who helped make this past year's Observerland high school sports seasons successful.

Unfortunately, the behind-the-scenes All-Stars are too numerous to name, but here's a toast to the selfless and often near-anonymous sacrifices they made over the past 12 months.

There's the dad who braves the minus-20-degree wind chills in early November - not to mention the risk of getting rolled over by a 280-pound offensive tackle on a sweep - to serve as a member of the football chain gang.

There's the parent who handles the often-thankless job of concession-stand cashier, a task that includes having to fig-



Ed Wright

ure out how to make correct change once the \$1's and \$5's are gone and the \$20's keep rolling in.

There's the smooth-voiced public-address announcer whose son or daughter graduated a decade ago, but still has the passion to stay involved.

There are the middle-school soccer players who chase down errant soccer balls during the high school games - even the balls that bounce over the fence and across Canton Center Road.

There's the stat guy who provides the coaching staff - and the *Observer* sports editors - with meticulous statistics, even on cold, rain-drenched nights that leave their stat books soggy

and their writing hands numb.

There are the 50-50 raffle ticket sellers whose incredible gift for sales convinces you to fork over your last \$5 bill for 15 shots at the jackpot.

There's the parent who invites the entire team over for a pregame pasta party ...

And the one who takes on the challenge of making sure 120 football players are adequately fed at the night-before-the-game spaghetti dinner.

There are the unpaid assistant coaches who take time away from their own families five nights a week to help teams reach their potential.

There's the tech-savvy parent who starts up, designs and regularly updates his or her son's or daughter's team's Web site.

There's the parent who volunteers as a

volleyball linesman and has about three-tenths-of-a-second to decide whether or not that 65-miles-per hour serve hit the line or was deep by one inch.

There are the booster club presidents, vice presidents and members of the board who volunteer countless hours to raise critical revenue for their teams in this era of decreasing athletics budgets.

And don't forget the ticket takers, the program sellers, the equipment managers, the scoreboard operators, the press-box spotters and the post-season banquet planners.

You all deserve to take a bow.

High school sports wouldn't be the same without you.

Ed Wright is sports editor for the *Plymouth and Canton Observers*. He can be reached at ewright@hometownlife.com or (734) 953-2108.

Sidelines

High Velocity youth camps

Canton's High Velocity Sports will be offering a series of camps this week for youngsters who are home for the holiday break. The list of camps, which were designed to accommodate working parents and active children, includes all-sports, crafts and soccer.

The all-sports camp is offered by the day with both half- and full-day options from Jan. 2-5. The \$25 half-day camp is 9 a.m. to noon or 1-4 p.m. The full-day camp runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and costs \$45 per day. Campers will be offered a variety of sports, including soccer, flag football, dodge ball, basketball and volleyball.

The craft camp (\$30 per day) runs every day from Jan. 2-5 from 9 a.m. to noon and includes all supplies. Participants will work on different projects each day.

The options for the soccer camp will be one for 5- to 8-year-olds from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and one for 9- to 12-year-olds from noon to 2 p.m. The cost for either camp is \$75. Campers will work on ball handling, finishing and defending. For more information, call (734) HV-SPORT or visit www.hvsports.com.

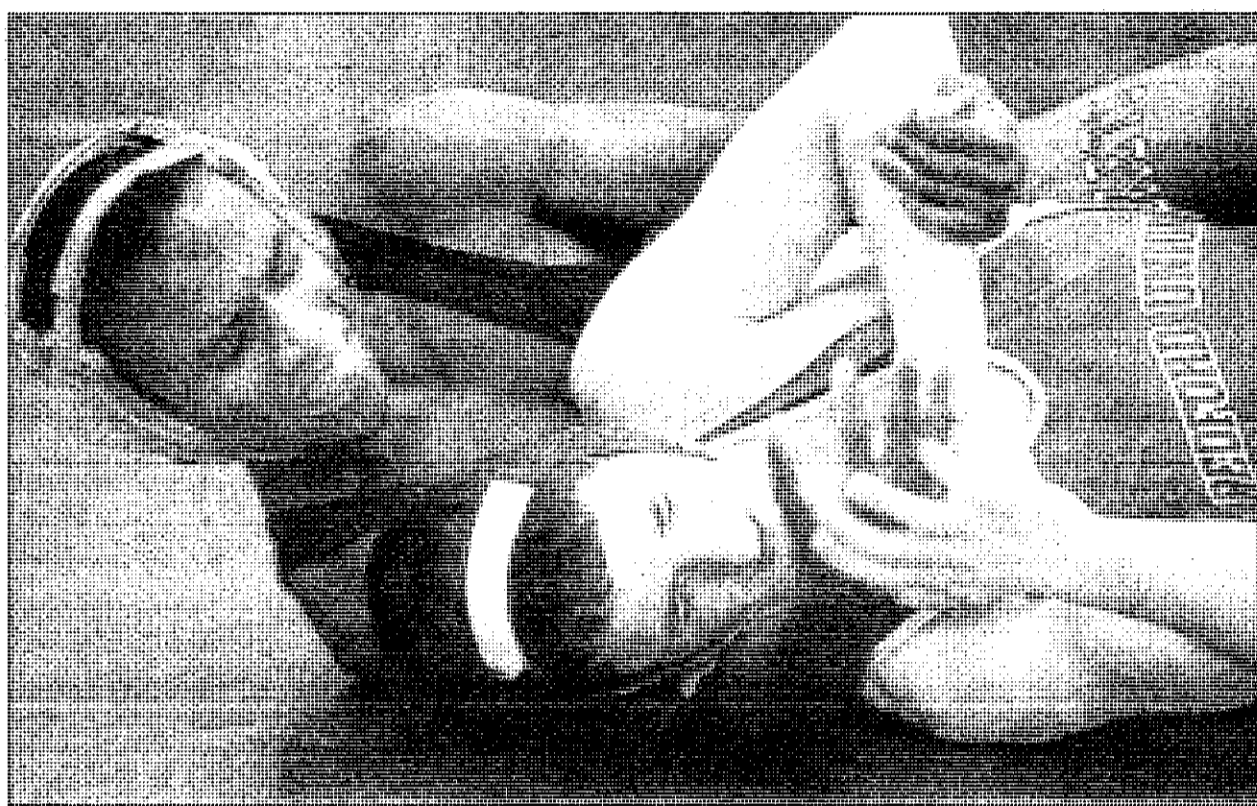
Ignition leaders

The Detroit Ignition, the first-year Major Indoor Soccer League team that plays its home games at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township, has several players at the top or near the top of several key statistical categories.

Forward Jamar Beasley leads the MISL in scoring with 43 points, eight more than runner-up Greg Howes of Milwaukee. Beasley also leads the league in even-strength goals (10) and power-play goals (four).

Beasley's teammate Carlos "Chile" Farias is 10th in scoring with 21 points while Detroit's Hewerton Moreira is tied for 15th with 16 points.

The Ignition took a 5-5 record into Friday's game at California. Results will appear in Thursday's *Observer*.



Striving for the 'pin'nacle

Eighteen high school wrestling teams converged on Salem's gym Thursday for the Rocks' annual invitational. In the photo above, Westland John Glenn's Jared Stephens tries to get the upper-hand against Redford Union's Sean Meixner in a 125-pound second-round match that Stephens went on to win, 8-4. At left, Plymouth's Ben Kosmalski earns points for an escape against Wayne's Chad Dunn in a 112-pound match that he eventually won with a pin. Complete results will appear in Thursday's *Observer*.

Chance for free tickets to Ultimate Fishing Show

For the better part of 25 years, one of the hottest salmon and trout fishing spoons on the Great Lakes has been manufactured in Orchard Lake.

Wolverine Tackle, co-founded more than 20 years ago by the husband and wife team of Chuck and Arlene Cartwright, is based in

Orchard Lake and produces the Silver Streak line. Check out the tackle boxes of any serious salmon and trout angler on the Great Lakes and you're bound to find Silver Streaks among the lineup.

The company now manufactures nine different spoons, three plugs and, since last year, an assortment of nightcrawler harnesses.

When you consider the color options that are available for each spoon - from the basic frog pattern to the newer patterns like the Black Jack and the Purple People Eater - the options that anglers have to choose from quickly blossoms into the thousands.

And Silver Streaks catch fish. They are almost always listed in one or more of the top categories at most salmon tournaments. In fact, according to Chip Cartwright, the biggest chinook salmon caught in Michigan waters of the Great Lakes in 2006 - a whopping 32-pounder caught on a charter boat out of Frankfort - was caught on a Black Screwball Magnum Streak.

Wolverine Tackle will be among the manufacturers and exhibitors on hand at the Ultimate Fishing Show, Jan. 12-15 at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

WIN FREE TICKETS, FISHING GEAR

Want free tickets to the Ultimate Fishing Show? Your *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, in cooperation with Showspan Inc., is holding a trivia contest in which the first 20 callers with the correct answer to our trivia question will win a pair of tickets to the show. A grand prize winner will be selected from the pool of correct answers and that individual will win a FlipSlider™ Hybrid tackle box/bag system.

Be one of the first 20 callers with the correct answer at 6 p.m. Jan. 4 and win a pair of tick-

PLEASE SEE PARKER, A9

Whalers toy with Spits on 'Kids Day'

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

What do you get when you combine face-painting, balloon-shaping and four third-period goals?

Answer: a perfect "Kids Day" matinee game for the Plymouth Whalers and hundreds of their young fans.

On Thursday afternoon at the Compuware Sports Arena, the Whalers broke open a tight game with four goals over the final 14:24 to humble rival Windsor, 6-1. The victory improved the Ontario Hockey League West Division-leading Whalers to 23-10-1 heading into Saturday's 7:05 p.m. home game against Guelph.

The Spitfires dropped to 12-20-1-1 with the setback.

While several off-the-ice activities were available to youngsters in the Compuware concourse during the game, the Whalers provided an on-ice lesson in sharing for the kids in attendance as six different players scored goals.

Following a scoreless first period, Windsor's Kevin Hudes knocked a rebound past Whaler goalie Michal Neuvirth to put the Spits up, 1-0, 3:58 into the second period. However, the Whalers responded quickly, grabbing a 2-1 advantage on second-period lamp-lighters from John Armstrong (3:44) and Joe McCann (5:59). Dan Collins

and Tom Sestito assisted on Armstrong's goal; A.J. Jenks picked up a helper on McCann's fourth net-finder of the season.


The third-period onslaught was ignited by Sestito's 24th goal of the season at the 14:24 mark. The power-play effort that put Plymouth ahead 3-1 was assisted by Collins and Evan Brophy.

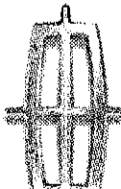
Plymouth finished off the Spits with goals from Ryan McGinnis (from Chris Terry), Steve Ward (from Brophy) and Joe Gaynor (from McCann and McGinnis).

Neuvirth was solid in goal, turning away 18 shots. Plymouth outshot Windsor, 46-19.




Plymouth captain Steve Ward anchored the team's defense and scored a goal in the Whalers' 6-1 victory over Windsor Thursday.






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Bowling keeps coming up empty in bid for Olympics

During the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany, a bowling exhibition showcased the sport for possible future inclusion in the Summer Olympic Games. The great Joe Norris of Detroit took on the best that Germany had to offer. Since then, there have been many organized efforts to get bowling into the Olympics, but without any success. It even became a demonstration sport in 1988, but that did not convince the International Olympic Committee. Yet judging by the recent success of the 2006 Qnbica AMF World Cup in Caracas, Venezuela, bowling has universal appeal.

Ninety-two countries participated, including newcomers Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, India and Uzbekistan. Top finishers included bowlers from traditional giants such as the USA, Australia and Canada as well as smaller nations like Qatar, Malaysia and Costa Rica. One advantage that bowling offers the Olympics is total fairness of competition. Some of the present Olympic sports are judged on style points. That can be a matter of judges opinions, which can vary greatly. We have all seen gymnasts, for example, given an 8.0 by one judge and a 9.0 by another.



Ten Pin Alley Al Harrison

Sometimes those scores even seem politically slanted. In bowling, either the pin fell or it didn't. It is never a matter of judges opinion. There are ten pins set up, and if only nine fall, that is indisputable. Rules set by the U.S. Bowling Congress are used throughout most of the world. Standards for the lanes, pins and balls are pretty much universal as well. In most other sports, competitors can have a huge advantage due to their physical characteristics. In bowling, those who are slight of build can excel as well as the big guy, which makes it a more level playing field. Both men and women can be competitive, as proven over and over again in tournament play and the pro tour. Why the Olympics? It would be important to generate more growth in competitive bowling by the vast exposure on TV and other media. It would show the world that the greatest bowlers are truly athletes who are dedicated to bringing their performance to the highest level. To perform in competition takes a lot of training and practice. As for equipment, the ball manufacturers could make standardized balls that would be used in world wide competition. This would take away any advantages in technology that could give certain countries an unfair edge. Bowling is a natural for the Olympics. It

is easy for spectators to understand, unlike some other events which don't televise well. The recent formation of the USBC lends more credibility with almost 3 million certified members in the USA alone, serving women, men and youth bowlers. Some estimates show that worldwide more than 100 million people go bowling every year, whether it's league play or recreational. That, in itself, should be reason enough for the Olympics. With so many good reasons then why isn't the sport of bowling in the Olympics yet? The answer to that is complex because the International Olympic Committee is comprised of officials from many nations. Their views may have been formed from a distorted image of bowling, little exposure or possibly even some political bias against sports that are popular in America. At this point in time, the IOC is not looking at bowling for the next Summer Games, saying that the sport does not generate enough media exposure worldwide. But isn't the true spirit of the Olympic Games intended to bring nations together in harmony and good sportsmanship? That is exactly what bowling would bring to the Games. Al Harrison is a resident of Liven and a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be reached at (248) 477-1839 or email to: tempinalley@sbcglobal.net

PARKER

FROM PAGE A8

ets and a chance to win the FlipSider. Here's the question: Silver Streak Spoons are some of the most popular salmon and trout trolling spoons on the Great Lakes. In what year did Silver Streaks make their appearance on the Great Lakes? The Ultimate Fishing Show truly is the ultimate for anglers. The show features nonstop seminars conducted throughout the venue on three stages, a gigantic bass tank and the popular indoor "Lake Ultimate." Kevin VanDam (bass fishing), Don Miller (muskie), Dan Donarski (U.P. fishing), Jerry Lee (Great Lakes fishing), Jim Bedford (river fishing), Lance Valentine (electronics), and Mark Martin (walleyes) are just a few of the speakers slated to appear. There will also be a Casting Kids competition: fishing simulators, a trout pond, a rock climbing wall; air dog competitions, an antique lure display, a host of outfitters, exhibitors and retailers and much more. Show hours are 2-9:30 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday (Martin Luther King Jr. Day). Admission is \$9 for adults, \$4 for children 6 to 14, and free for children 5 and under. For more information, call (800) 328-6550 or go to www.UltimateFishingShow.com. Bill Parker covers the outdoors for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to: Bill Parker, c/o Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

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SPORTS PERFORMANCE Q&A WITH DENNIE TAFT

Q: I'm deciding whether or not to take supplements to help my training. What do you recommend?

A: It is important to become educated about a supplement before deciding to take it. Know the effects a supplement has on the body, both beneficial and adverse. Long-term effects of many supplements are not yet known. Many are deficient in calories and provide no energy. Claims are made about products that have no scientific support. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) does not regulate supplements. Manufacturers do not have to prove a supplement's safety and effectiveness before placing it on the shelves. In my experience, the benefits or gains seen when taking supplements were usually lost when the supplementation was stopped. Subsequently, achieving and maintaining a new level can prove to be costly as the continuous purchase of a supplement can be very expensive. Because of these reasons, many physicians and registered dietitians, who specialize in sports nutrition, stress that a well-balanced diet, good hydration practices and hard training are the safest and most cost-effective way of improving performance.

Dennie Taft is an expert in the field of sports-performance training and is the former athletic trainer for the Detroit Tigers. If you have a question relating to sports-performance for Taft, please send an e-mail to Ed Wright at ewright@hometownlife.com.



Dennie Taft

GRAPPLERS RANKINGS

- Steiger, Salem; 5. Steve Cox, Canton. 130: 1. Greg Roberts, Churchill; 2. Josh Billiau, Franklin; 3. Brent Winekoff, Canton; 4. Nick Stak, John Glenn; 5. Josh Paika, Lutheran Westland. 135: 1. Jon Reale, Stevenson; 2. J.P. Gaffke, Churchill; 3. Brian Augsburg, Belleville; 4. Brandon Smith, Franklin; 5. Alex Kemp, Salem. 140: 1. Corey Phillips, Canton; 2. Jim Wood, John Glenn; 3. Steve Coak, Belleville; 4. Gramos Pallasca, Churchill; 5. Derek Robbins, Livonia Clarenceville. 145: 1. Matt Edwards, Lutheran Westland; 2. Adam Kibner, RU; 3. Jerry Ignash, Stevenson; 4. Jason Zanger, Franklin; 5. Robert Lanzilotti, Clarenceville. 152: 1. Steve Kemp, Lutheran Westland; 2. James Zerebiny, John Glenn; 3. Jeremy Epley, Salem; 4. Ryan Brown, Novi-Detroit CC; 5. Brian Wisniewski, Garden City. 160: 1. Ziad Kharbush, Stevenson; 2. Nate Turco, Franklin; 3. Kiel Price, Canton; 4. Brian Ziemba, Churchill; 5. Dan McCallih, John Glenn. 171: 1. Jeff Eelwick, Wayne; 2. Dan Woodall, Franklin; 3. Andrew Hein, John Glenn; 4. Mike Nordby, Garden City; 5. Isaac Burris, RU. 189: 1. Vince Daroff, Plymouth; 2. Matt Aubrey, Novi-Detroit CC; 3. Adam Powers, Canton; 4. Joey Kowtko, John Glenn; 5. Marc Kadrich, Franklin. 215: 1. Shamir Garcia, John Glenn; 2. Joe Kinville, Novi-Detroit CC; 3. Rod Gray, Franklin; 4. Dan Wanshon, Canton; 5. Adam Love, Garden City. 285: 1. Donnie Laramie, Canton; 2. Kyle Brown, Franklin; 3. Dean Hubbard, Plymouth; 4. Mike Martin, Novi-Detroit CC; 5. Frank Toarmina, John Glenn. Note: Rankings are compiled by Jim Gourlay (Franklin) and Aaron Davis (Garden City).

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Wayne at Franklin, 6:30 p.m.
Stevenson at John Glenn, 6:30 p.m.
Canton at Plymouth, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
Fordson Invitational, 8:45 a.m.
Wyandotte Invitational, 9:30 a.m.
South Lyon Invitational, 10 a.m.
Troy Invitational, 10 a.m.
Richmond Invitational, 9 a.m.
BOYS SWIMMING
Thursday, Jan. 4
U-D Jesuit, Saline at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Woodhaven at Plymouth, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
W. Bloomfield Invitational, 9 a.m.
W.L. Northern Invitational, 1 p.m.
GIRLS GYMNASICS
Wednesday, Jan. 3
Liv. Red-Blue at Hartland vs. Milford-Lakeland, 7 p.m.
Plymouth vs. Salem at Plymouth H.S., 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4
Canton at Brighton, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
Canton at Rockford Invitational, 10 a.m.
PREP BOWLING
Friday, Jan. 5
Clarenceville vs. Farmington-Harrison, Ladywood vs. N. Farmington at Thunderbird Lanes, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
Ladywood Holiday Tournament at Westland's Oak Lanes, 10 a.m.
GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Jan. 6
Berkley Invitational, TBA.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 2
S'craft at Scottsdale CC (Ariz.), 5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3
Davenport at Madonna, 7:30 p.m.
S'craft at Scottsdale CC (Ariz.), TBA.
Thursday, Jan. 4
S'craft at Scottsdale CC (Ariz.), TBA.
Saturday, Jan. 6
Indiana Tech at Madonna, 3 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Henry Ford CC, 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Wednesday, Jan. 3
Davenport at Madonna, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
Madonna at Indiana Tech, 1 p.m.
Schoolcraft at Henry Ford CC, 1 p.m.
- BOYS BASKETBALL
Tuesday, Jan. 2
Red. Covenant at Ann Arbor Greenhills, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4
Light & Life at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5
Canton at Salem, 7 p.m.
M.H. Madison at Clarenceville, 7 p.m.
Thurston at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
Northville at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Wednesday, Jan. 3
Franklin at A.A. Pioneer, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4
Ply. Christian at Clarenceville, 6:30 p.m.
Light & Life at Luth. Westland, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
Macomb CC Tournament, 8 a.m.
Clawson Tournament, 8 a.m.
Grand Valley Invitational, 8 a.m.
W.L. Central Invitational, 9 a.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Wednesday, Jan. 3
Chelsea at Plymouth at Compuware Sports Arena, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 4
Royal Oak vs. Redford Unified at Redford Arena, 7:15 p.m.
Ladywood vs. G.P. South at Detroit City Arena, 7:30 p.m.
(Pioneer Tourney at A.A. Ice Cube)
Churchill vs. Milford, 5 p.m.
Birm. Unified vs. A.A. Pioneer, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5
Pioneer Tourney at Ice Cube, 5 & 7:30 p.m.
Franklin vs. Farmington at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Plymouth at Woodhaven Tourney at the Icebox, TBA
Saturday, Jan. 6
Plymouth at Woodhaven Tourney at the Icebox, TBA
Detroit Country Day at Salem at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8:30 p.m.
Stevenson vs. W.L. Central at Lakeland Ice Arena, 3:30 p.m.
Redford Unified at Troy, 6:15 p.m.
Ladywood vs. G.P. North at Arctic Pond, 6:30 p.m.
PREP WRESTLING
Thursday, Jan. 4
Churchill at Salem, 6:30 p.m.

- ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Monday, Jan. 1
Whalers at Owen Sound, 2 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5
Whalers at London Knights, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6
Whalers vs. Saginaw Spirit at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.

CANTON

SPRING REGISTRATION
SATURDAY
JANUARY 20th & FEBRUARY 17th
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL
1309 Penniman Ave. • Plymouth
(1/4 mile East of Sheldon Rd.)
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

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Major League **11-12**
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WEDNESDAY - 1/10 VS. CHARLOTTE BOBCATS • 7:30 PM
GUYS NIGHT OUT PRESENTED BY Budweiser \$59 FOR 2 TICKETS, 2 HOT DOGS, 2 BEVERAGES, 2 PISTONS PINT GLASSES AND AUTOGRAPH SESSION WITH AUTOMOTION DANCERS.
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SATURDAY - 1/13 VS. BOSTON CELTICS • 7:30 PM
CHAUNCEY BILLUPS HAT TO FIRST 5,000 FANS - 14 AND UNDER COURTESY OF meijer KIDS CREW

MONDAY - 1/15 VS. MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES • 3:30 PM
SPECIAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY MATINEE GAME
Sprite. KIDS DAY - \$99 FOR 4 TICKETS, 4 HOT DOGS, AND 4 SODAS
PISTONS SPORTS BAG TO FIRST 5,000 FANS - 14 AND UNDER COURTESY OF Rock Financial

WEDNESDAY - 1/17 VS. UTAH JAZZ • 7:30 PM
PISTONS PLAYER SCHEDULE CARD TO FIRST 10,000 FANS COURTESY OF my20

SATURDAY - 1/20 VS. SACRAMENTO KINGS • 7:30 PM **SOLD OUT**
PISTONS BASEBALL STYLE HAT TO FIRST 5,000 FANS COURTESY OF National City

FRIDAY - 1/26 VS. WASHINGTON WIZARDS • 8:00 PM
RASHEED WALLACE BOBBLEHEAD TO FIRST 10,000 FANS
COURTESY OF M

SUNDAY - 1/28 VS. INDIANA PACERS • 6:30 PM
TAYSHAUN PRINCE BLUE ROAD JERSEY TO FIRST 5,000 FANS - 14 AND UNDER
COURTESY OF my20

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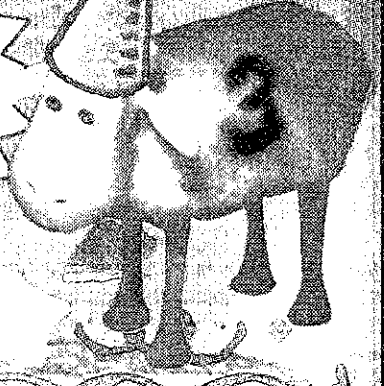
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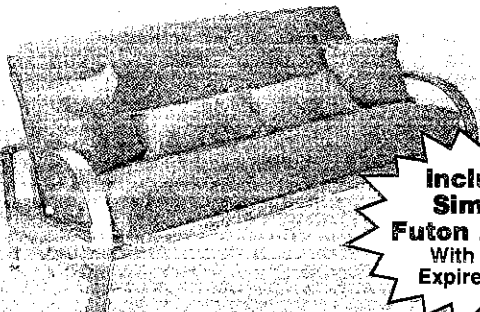
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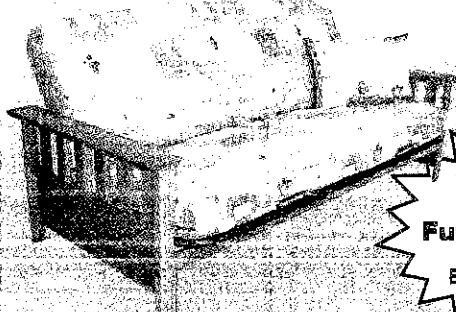
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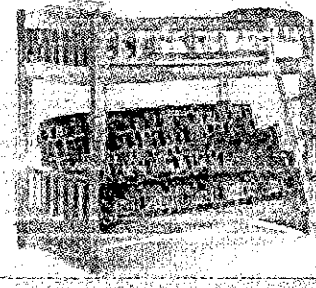
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