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Library board: Director should have contract

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Nine months after former library Director John Patane was fired, the Westland Library Board has taken unprecedented steps to hire his successor.

Early in its search, the board had decided to offer a yearly salary as high as \$84,864 - far more than Patane's \$70,000.

Now, a divided board has indicated it may depart from past hiring practices by negotiating a formal, written contract with the next director.

The latest move came Wednesday evening as the board came under new fire from some residents, including ex-board president Jim Chuck, for accusations of hurting the library's image.

A board majority fired two directors within two years. And just this month, a former library administrative assistant filed a lawsuit claiming she was sexually harassed by board President Michael Rintz and wrongfully fired by two acting co-directors after she complained.

"Because of poor decisions and judgments it has tarnished as well as diminished many of the accolades

this library has received," Chuck said. "What is disturbing and disgusting to me is how this situation was elevating over time and nothing was done about it."

Chuck held out hope that newly appointed Mayor William Wild will take steps to "right the ship."

"By no means am I implying the ship is sinking," he said. "However, it is currently sailing off course. I hope the mayor acts wisely and swiftly to restore the image and integrity of our library, which has often been referred to as the jewel of the city."

Wild hasn't yet taken any steps to oust any board members.

Resident Bob Johnson accused the board Wednesday of overstepping its duties and said, "It's atrocious that we don't have a director after all this time."

With the recent resignation of board member Debbie Costello, the remaining trustees voted 3-1 Wednesday to have the option of negotiating a contract with the next director. Rintz cast the lone dissenting vote.

"I don't think we should have a contract for the director," he said, adding later, "I don't wish to hand-

'Because of poor decisions and judgments it has tarnished as well as diminished many of the accolades this library has received. What is disturbing and disgusting to me is how this situation was elevating over time and nothing was done about it.'

Jim Chuck
Ex-Westland Library Board president

PLEASE SEE LIBRARY, A6



John Glenn ninth-graders Moriah Tate (from left), Michael Johnson, Michael Copeland and Brittany Ivey work on blankets that are being donated to the Family Resource Center at Lincoln Elementary School in Westland.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Under wraps

Students' project brings warmth to resource center families

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It's a warm and fuzzy gift for families who use the Family Resource Center and Oakwood Health Clinic at Lincoln Elementary School - 32 handmade fleece blankets made by a group of John Glenn High School students.

The students worked together in a cooperative learning project funded by a \$300 transition grant from Wayne County RESA.

"It was pretty exciting because it gave them the opportunity to think about people and things outside of themselves," said teacher Marcie Rosen. "It was a fun activity and a good socialization activity for them. They had to cooperate with each other."

Rosen had figured that each of her 12 students would be able to make one blanket each, but a good sale at JoAnn Fabrics and Crafts led to more than

PLEASE SEE BLANKETS, A6

Board selects Hiltz to fill seat

BY DAVE VARGA
STAFF WRITER

John Hiltz, a civil engineer and father of two Stevenson High graduates and a student at Holmes Middle School, was chosen Friday night to fill the vacant seat on the Livonia Board of Education.

He was selected after three polls of school board members following 20-minute interviews of 10 applicants for the open seat. It was vacated when Kevin Whitehead resigned Feb. 5 after a challenge to his residency.

Hiltz took the oath of office and received an ovation after his selection Friday. He'll serve about 90 days, until voters choose from among three candidates to fill the final year of the term on May 8.

"I am honored, I really am, especially given the talent I saw here this evening," Hiltz told the board. "I will work very hard to, I

'I am honored, I really am, especially given the talent I saw here this evening. I will work very hard to, I hope, show you that you made a good selection.'

John Hiltz
New Livonia Board of Education trustee

hope, show you that you made a good selection."

During his initial interview Hiltz, who has served as a member of the District School Improvement Team, talked about giving back to the community. He suggested the board and district be willing to listen, to improve, to look at things differently.

Asked about decisions in the past couple years, Hiltz said he didn't have a strong position, believing that the once the decision was made it was time to move on. "That's really where I believe this board and this com-

munity need to be is moving forward," he said.

As an operational vice president of Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, a civil engineering firm based in Livonia for 35 years, Hiltz noted he brings to the board good relationships with community officials in Livonia and Westland, and a strong comfort level with infrastructure issues.

One of the 11 original candidates, Laura Sokana gave a statement withdrawing her application.

Of the other 10, board mem-

bers initially selected Dawn Casella, Colleen Burton, Elizabeth Schnell, Lori Ann Parkin, James Nowak and Hiltz in their first poll. Voting again, they chose Burton, Hiltz and Nowak in the final round, before selecting Hiltz.

Board members thanked all the applicants, citing the difficult decision they faced. "We had excellent applicants this evening," Board President Lynda Scheel said. Trustee Tom Bailey cited the "passion and desire" of those 10 who put themselves before the board. "It was an honor to drill you..." Bailey said.

Hiltz and his wife, Debbie, have three children, Danielle, a 2005 graduate of Stevenson, attending the University of Michigan; Christine, a 2006 graduate of Stevenson, at UMDearborn; and Jack, 13.

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Defendant faces new charges in shooting incident

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

As a Westland shooting suspect awaited extradition from West Virginia, a co-defendant learned in court Thursday that he will face trial for multiple felony charges.

Jason David Shuford, 24, isn't accused of pulling the trigger during a Feb. 3 robbery that ended with a 29-year-old man being shot in the arm on Belding Court.

However, he was accused in court Thursday of holding the same gun and threatening a second victim - a 23-year-old woman - during the incident.

Shuford appeared in Westland District Court for a preliminary hearing while shooting defendant Vincent Edward Emery, 25, was awaiting extradition from West Virginia.

The two victims, engaged to be married, had gone to Belding Court to visit Emery when the robbery occurred just after midnight Feb. 3, police Sgt. Michael Harhold has

PLEASE SEE SHOOTING, A4

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Coming Thursday in Filter

Billy Bob Thornton, who stars in *The Astronaut Farmer* which opens Friday, talks about his latest role.



Wayne, Adams musicians score at district festival

Students Qualify for State Solo/Ensemble Festival

Wayne Memorial High School will be well-represented at the state solo/ensemble festival as the result of performances in the district solo/ensemble festival, held Feb. 3 at Livonia Franklin High School.

Sixty-five students received a one or a two rating and medals for their outstanding performances.

Students, who qualified for the March 26 state competition at Chelsea High School, participated in 30 events. The festival qualifiers were:

Shereen Blair, Deanna Boston, Adam Karson, Alyssa McGeorge, Mike Brady, Jason Brown, Patrick Brown, Brandon Champion, Scott Colannie, Alex McIntosh, Pat McClure, Heather Daniels, Tirrell Davis, Scot Fretwell, Zach Girouard, Yousef Hegazi, Jon Wasinski, Jessica Kay, Jory King, Ann Veloz.

Cyndi Aslanian, Chris Larson, David Kiracofe, Olivia Lafortune, Melissa Schmidt, Rachel Sullivan, Megan Connolly, Delancey Barron, Julie Good, Danny Crumme, Jessica Martin, Ellie Douglas, Karissa

Matson, Andrew Larson, Josh Lowe, Nkosi Mason, Lynn Mathew, John Mayfield, Alex McIntosh, Patrick O'Neil, Jacob Schofield and Bobbi Turner.

Adams Middle School also had a strong showing at the district festival, walking away with medal for excellent and good performances.

Receiving a Division I blue medal for excellence were:

Eighth grade - Khiry Sparks, flute solo; Kc Shrum, clarinet solo; Morgan Greig, alto sax solo; Brandon Oliverson, trumpet solo; Demetrius Robinson, trumpet solo; Cory Sheldon, tuba solo, and Morgan Greig and Brianna Winn, woodwind duet.

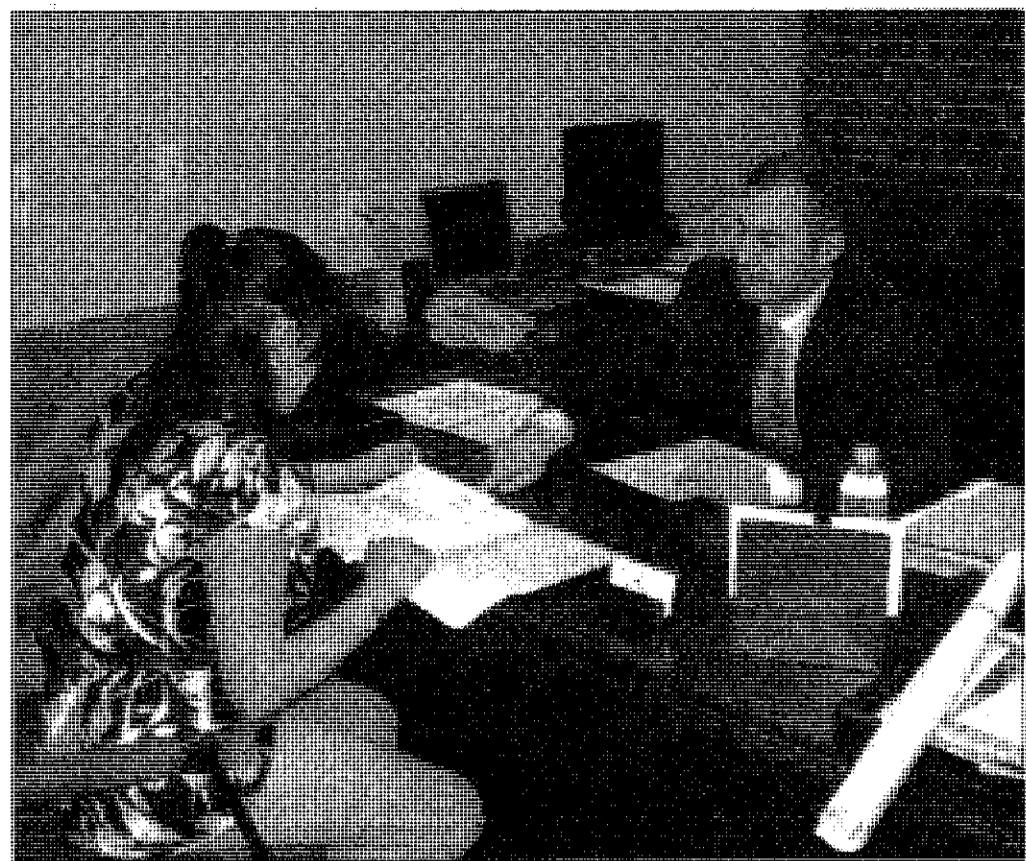
Seventh grade - Ericka Daniels, clarinet solo; Jeremy Mills, clarinet solo; Elliot Arnold, trumpet solo; Adam Kay, trumpet solo; Sean Stewart, trombone solo; Chelsey Roe, violin solo; Ericka Daniels and Jeremy Mills, clarinet duet and Elliot Arnold, Adam Kay and Christopher Schmidt, trumpet trio.

Receiving a Division II red medal for a good performance were:

Eighth grade - Zaundra

Holland, clarinet solo; Joshuwa Hull, clarinet solo; Chantell Nolden, trombone solo; Ryan Bartz, violin solo; Taylor Coleman, viola solo; Margarita Cortes, viola solo; Sam Phillips, viola solo; Silvia Carone, string bass solo; Ericka Boyington and Tawni Kenyon, woodwind duet; Khiry Sparks and Brianna Winn, woodwind duet; Taylor Coleman and Margarita Cortes, viola duet, and Ryan Bartz, Pedro Cortes, Sam Phillips and Cory Sheldon, string quartet.

Seventh grade - Cameron Hanson, alto clarinet solo, Timothy Boyer, alto sax solo; Leo Veloz, alto sax solo; Austin Dykes, trumpet solo; Nick Williams, trombone solo; Zac Pechin, snare drum solo; Jessica Fischer, violin solo; Holland Boertje, viola solo; Timothy Boyer and Anthony Dean, sax duet; Elliot Arnold and Austin Dykes, trumpet duet; Devon Adams and Sean Stewart, trombone duet; Katherine Chuong and Tommy Winklesm, violin duet; Jessica Fischer and Chelsea Roe, violin duet; Meriah Sherek and Jacob Massey, string duet, and Holland Boertje and Matt Phillips, string duet.



Westland Mayor William Wild talks with student Jessica Lawson in his office during a job-shadowing day sponsored by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

Job shadowing lets students explore jobs

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A group of Wayne-Westland students may now have a better idea of what careers to choose, whether they want to become mayor, bake perfect cakes, run a cable station or snap a bad back into place.

In all, 20 students from the William D. Ford Career Technical Center recently spent a day in a job-shadowing program sponsored by the Westland Chamber of Commerce.

Some teens spent time with Westland Mayor William Wild, Police Officer Matt Bobby, Fire Capt. John Adams and city cable sta-

tion WLND Director Craig Welkenbach.

Others went to Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, Garden City and St. Mary Mercy hospitals, Ashford Court Senior Residences, Michigan Chiropractic Specialists and Parkside Credit Union.

"This day may very well have a lasting impact on the career choice these students make - that, alone, makes this program special and very worthwhile," Wild said.

The annual event is meant to give high school students an opportunity to visit city employees and local businesses to get a firsthand look at work-

The goal is to help them make smart career choices that are right for them, chamber President Lori Brist said.

Officials say such programs are important because young adults will have less opportunities to follow in the career paths of their parents, due to a changing economy and workforce.

Brist called the job-shadowing event "a complete success" and said, "We are pleased to offer job-training experience to the students of the Wayne-Westland school district."

dcllem@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

SHOOTING

FROM PAGE A1

said. Emery and the female victim knew each other from high school, according to police reports.

Emery is accused of shooting the male victim in the left forearm and then handing the gun to Shuford. In turn, Shuford is accused of threatening the female victim at gunpoint during the robbery.

Both victims identified Shuford during the preliminary hearing, which ended with Westland District Judge C. Charles Bokos ordering him to stand trial in Wayne County

Circuit Court.

After Bokos added new charges, Shuford now faces trial for two counts of armed robbery, two counts of felonious assault and single counts of being a felon in possession of a handgun, felony firearm and being a third-time offender.

Emery faces similar charges in a warrant authorized by Bokos, but he also has one count of assault with intent to murder amid accusations he shot the male victim.

If convicted, both Shuford and Emery could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

Shuford was arrested here following an investigation, but Harhold said Emery fled Michigan in a Greyhound bus

and was doing work for a Red Roof Inn when he was arrested Feb. 7 near Huntington, W. Va.

Emery has waived his extradition and is waiting for authorities to bring him to Michigan.

On Thursday, Shuford remained jailed on a \$100,000 cash bond set by Bokos, and a not-guilty plea has been entered for him.

After the robbery occurred, police said the two victims were allowed to leave. The woman was driving her fiancé to Garden City Hospital when police in that city stopped her. The man was then taken on to the hospital.

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College admission counseling essential in helping students

The counselor's office was an oasis at high school.

Soft classical music, subdued lighting and a hushed atmosphere were a stage setting for the counselor to do his job - to remind us that it was a tough world out there and we were just not working up to our potential.

It would have been impossible for any of us to emulate the counselor. The word was, no doubt spread by the counselor that he had graduated high school at 12 or 14, had a college degree by 16 and a doctorate by 21. It was just too exhausting for any of us to equal. And in any case, in our neighborhood, only about 25-30 percent of the students would pursue a college degree (at least right out of high school).



Hugh Gallagher

This was a time when there were lots of good, high paying jobs in the auto industry, in construction and in many other fields that didn't require a college degree. Of course, there was also a war going on and a college deferment could keep the draft at bay.

But preparing the students at my school for the college admissions juggernaut was a small part of the counselor's job.

Today it would seem that college admissions would be a primary concern for high school counselors as fewer and fewer jobs are available without some post-high school education. But Patrick O'Connor, director of college counseling at Roper School and past president of the Michigan Association of College Admission Counseling, believes more needs to be done to train high school counselors.

"Many veteran high school counselors came out of their M.A. programs with no formal training in college counseling at all, and some newer counselors were exposed to only three-five hours of training in a variety of courses centered on other topics - only to discover the need for more training in college counseling once they became employed counselors, working with Michigan students," O'Connor wrote in an e-mail.

The association is supporting legislation that would require that all new seventh-12th-grade counselors complete a separate course in the college selection process before they can be hired by a public school district. Freshman state Rep. Chuck Moss, R-Birmingham, is sponsoring the legislation.

O'Connor argues that recent changes in state expectations make it critical that counselors fully understand the college application process. The state has mandated graduation requirements and the MEAP has been replaced for high school students with the ACT.

O'Connor said that with the strong emphasis on students pursuing postsecondary education, it

Today it would seem that college admissions would be a primary concern for high school counselors as fewer and fewer jobs are available without some post-high school education.

is important that high school counselors be able "to hit the ground running" with the careful counseling that makes for a successful college application.

O'Connor said counselors are often overburdened, with a 671-1 ratio of students to counselors, the sixth highest in the country.

"Many high schools are telling representatives from colleges they can come to the schools or visit with students at lunch in the cafeteria," O'Connor said.

But that doesn't help students deal with the complex issues of student financing, preparing a written autobiography, understanding what colleges expect in terms of extracurricular and volunteer activities and receiving a realistic assessment of a college's selectivity and where the student's test scores and grades fall for particular colleges. It also doesn't help a student find just the right kind of college for his/her skills and personality - big state university, small private college, community college.

"Michigan teachers, parents and students deserve better," O'Connor said.

O'Connor isn't critical of high school counselors, he says Michigan has good counselors who can only become better with this crucial part of their training. And, he believes, this is another important piece of the jigsaw puzzle that will make Michigan's schools more competitive and competent in preparing students for higher education.

"Michigan is blessed to have good college counseling occurring at the high school level now, but the time has come to raise the quality to an even higher level," he wrote in his e-mail: "By passing the Michigan Merit Curriculum and the Michigan Merit Exam (including the ACT), the state legislature is helping our students prepare for college. By passing the Michigan Promise, the state legislature is helping our students pay for college. By passing this legislation, the state legislature will be helping our students make the best decisions about college, by providing Michigan students and families with the best prepared college counselors in the nation."

It's a tough world out there and students need all the help they can get to work up to their full potential.

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

If Metroparks were lost, would anyone replace them?

Hugh Gallagher's workmanlike article of Jan. 28 on "Metroparks for the People" reminded me of a favorite parlor game I like to play.

Gallagher reported on the history of the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority by Cynthia Furlong Reynolds. It's the story of how a few visionaries, headed by Henry S. Curtis and Harlow O. Whittemore, had the foresight to preserve some of the rivers, forests, meadows and lakes in the Huron and Clinton river valleys.



Tim Richard

Even during the Great Depression of the '30s, they saw that the ecosystem could be befouled and might disappear through the intrusion of development. They put together a five-county authority and a small property tax proposal that today has resulted in 13 metroparks from Mount

Clemens to Pontiac to Ann Arbor to Brownstown.

Motorized traffic is kept to a minimum. Fees are low. Nature is as unspoiled as it could be in the 21st century. Fishing is better, I swear, in Kent Lake than in many lakes "up north." On hikes, my late friend Doug Funke kept lists of different kinds of animals and birds he spotted. In middle age, he had a childlike joy about the metroparks.

The game I mentioned is: If it were destroyed, could it be re-created? In it, you discuss various major institutions and whether they could be re-constructed in today's environmental and governmental climate.

Take the Detroit Institute of Arts. If a meteor or a terrorist's bomb hit, the art of a world-class institution would be cinders. It couldn't be restored. In the regime of Mayor Young, the city backed away from funding it, leaving it to the tender mercies of Gov. John Engler and the state.

I doubt that the state would provide the millions to build a new one. More likely, private funds would put up a museum of modern art elsewhere. The DIA and its baroque masterworks would be gone.

On the other hand, if the auditorium housing the Detroit Symphony Orchestra were hit, another symphony could be formed, in time. Another auditorium could be built, and sheet music rented. Again, the locale might be changed, but the region would again have what we uppity types call "good music."

Got the idea? The state Capitol building would be difficult. All sorts of records and research would be gone. When it was restored in the 1980s,

Our state parks are under fearsome attack by a self-styled "think tank" called the Mackinac Center. It would like to sell off a goodly number of parks to private owners and use the proceeds to develop the remaining parks with lodges and many resort amenities.

our leaders re-created a lot of the original glasswork and paneling.

Most importantly, they kept an open atmosphere, where people could visit public servants' offices and committee hearing rooms. You can chat with the governor in the corridor. It's accessible.

I have a hunch that a new capitol building would be full of electronic devices and walls where you have to pass through a metal detector, just like the Oakland courthouse or a Detroit public school. In other words, a functional building would replace it, but the security industry would run amok and spoil it for visitors.

Our state parks are under fearsome attack by a self-styled "think tank" called the Mackinac Center. It would like to sell off a goodly number of parks to private owners and use the proceeds to develop the remaining parks with lodges and many resort amenities. As for the remaining campsites, the more desirable ones and the more popular dates would be auctioned off to the highest bidders. A working-class family looking for a cheap vacation close to nature would have to take the hind spigot, so to speak.

If a tornado two miles wide, like the one that hit on April 1947 from Canadian, Texas, to Woodward, Okla., were to rip at 200 mph up the Clinton and Huron river valleys, it would devastate the 13 metroparks.

Could they be reclaimed? Leaders like Henry Curtis and Harlow Whittemore, if they emerged, would be met with jeers of "job killer" when they promoted a remedial property tax. Private property owners would move in their stakes, the way they often reclaimed abandoned railroad beds to keep hikers and cyclists from using them. Townships would scream for a chance to embellish their tax base.

The visionaries of the 1930s succeeded, but my sad bet is that southeastern Michigan couldn't do it again. Bless the visionaries and the metroparks.

Tim Richard is retired from this newspaper. He can be reached at trichard@bearlake-net.com.

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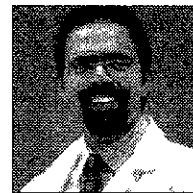
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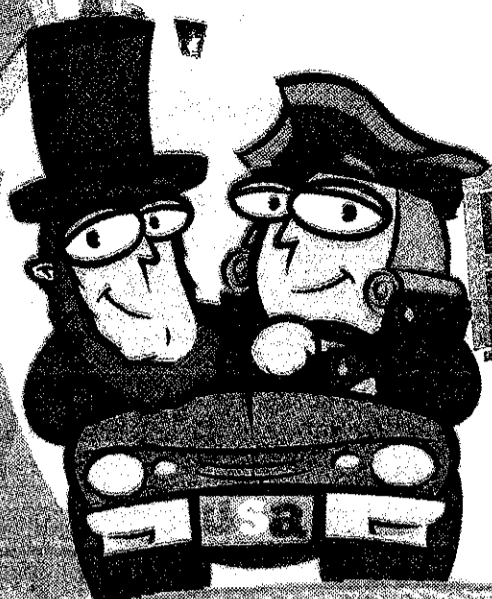


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Sunday, February 18, 2007

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

www.hometownlife.com

Senior nets 1,000th point, but Glenn rolls, 68-58

Two milestones were on the line when Livonia Stevenson hosted John Glenn in a Western Lakes Activities Association boys' basketball game Friday night.

Senior guard Luke Knochel was shooting for his 1,000 career point, and the Spartans were trying to secure a spot in the WLAAs playoffs.

Both milestones happened, despite a 68-55 loss to the Rockets, who finished the division with a 10-0 record.

Knochel knocked down his 1,000th point in a 19-point effort, but the Spartans couldn't overcome nine Rocket 3-pointers. Stefan Marken scored 25 points for Glenn in the win.

"Stefan got hot, and we got into a nice little rhythm, and that opened some things

Senior guard Luke Knochel was shooting for his 1,000 career point, and the Spartans were trying to secure a spot in the WLAAs playoffs.

up for us," Glenn coach Dan Young said. "We've talked all year that, if people are going to play zone against us, we want to be patient, but we also want to look to attack. We're going to go inside-out, penetrate and kick back to open guys."

The Rockets (13-4 overall, 10-0 WLAAs) led just 18-15 after the first quarter, then used a 37-22 run over the middle two periods to pull away.

Keyshawn Martin (13 points) and Austin

Anderson (12) also reached double figures, while Earl Hardison chipped in eight points for John Glenn.

Knochel's 19 led the Spartans, who also got 12 from Derek Severson and 11 from Pat York.

But Stevenson's defense couldn't do much with Glenn's shooting, particularly from outside.

"We tried to zone them, and they hit some shots," Stevenson coach Brad Miller said. "They didn't get a lot of points in transition, but they shot the lights out from the perimeter."

Despite the loss, Stevenson earned the fourth seed in the WLAAs playoffs, which starts Tuesday. The Spartans are at Northville for a 7 p.m. tip.



Stevenson's Luke Knochel, shown here scoring over Franklin's Tyler Canyock during a game last week, scored his 1,000th career point in a 68-55 loss to Westland John Glenn Friday.

Sidelines

Barney signs book

Toarmina's Pizza is hosting a party on Soccer showcase coming to Oakland County Wednesday, Feb. 21 at the Westland Salvation Army with former Detroit Lion defensive back and NFL Hall of Famer Lem Barney.

All coaches will receive a free autographed copy of Barney's book, "The Super Natural." It is a free event, no donations will be accepted. Anybody who works with young people and interested in attending should call Lou Toarmina at (734) 341-6743.

Football signup

Registration for St. Michaels Grade School 2007 Catholic Youth Organization fall football will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 13 at school's cafeteria, located at 11441 Hubbard (midway between Merriman and Farmington roads, south of Plymouth Road).

Registration is open to boys entering grades 4-8 and is a member of the following parishes or schools: St. Michael, St. Maurice, St. Genevieve, St. Aidan, St. Damian, St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Sabina, St. Thomas a'Becket, Divine Savior, St. Theodore, St. Bernardine and St. John Bosco. Call John Widmer at (248) 471-6767, Ext. 11; or e-mail jwidmer@frohmidmer.com.

Ignition camp

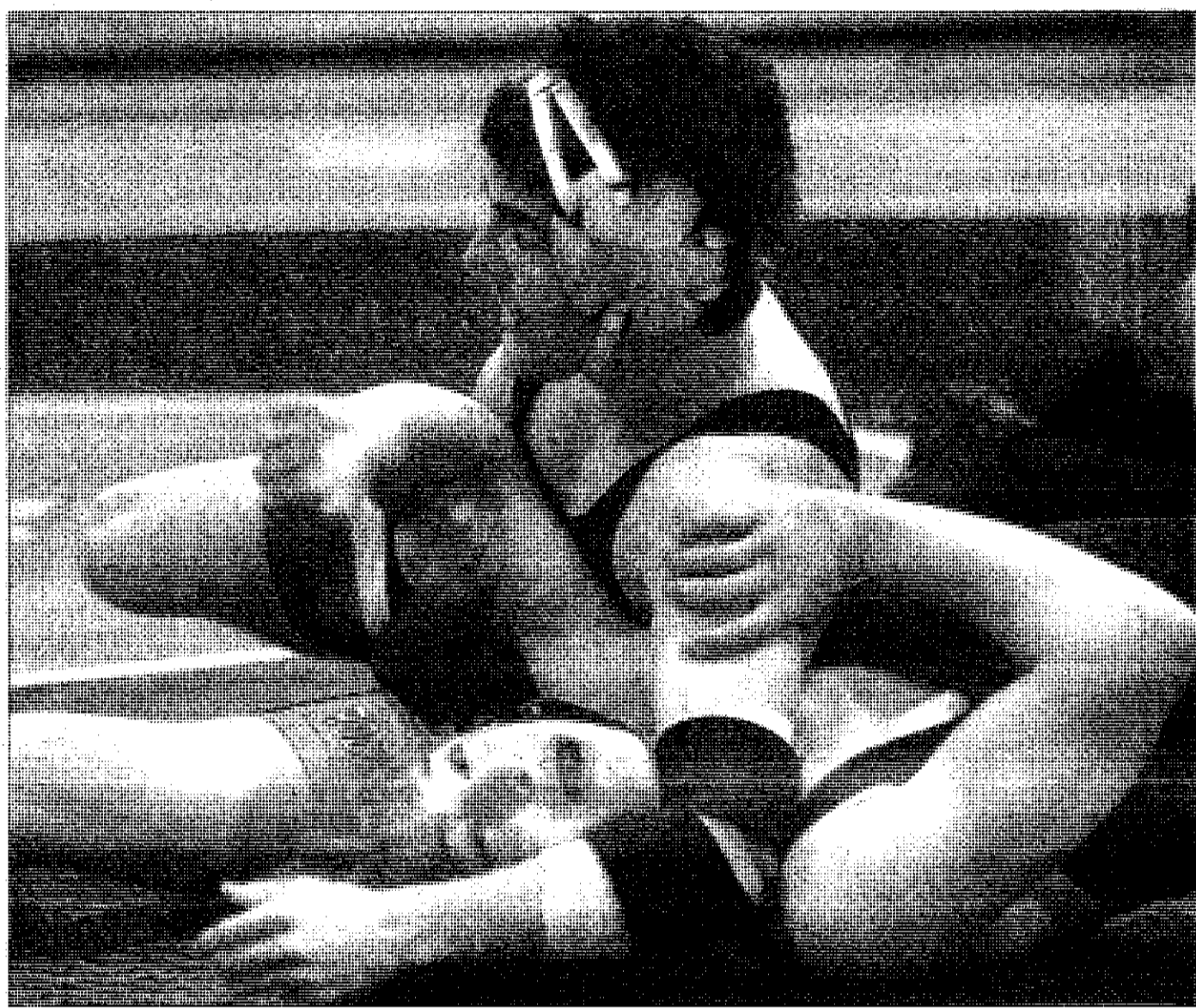
The Detroit Ignition has announced the 2007 Detroit Ignition Summer Soccer Camp Program. With camp locations to be positioned throughout Metro Detroit, Detroit Ignition Soccer Camp is currently the only Detroit area soccer program that will offer registrants the opportunity to train with professional soccer players and staff.

Designed for children ranging in age from 4-18, the Detroit Ignition Soccer Camp curriculum will offer a broad spectrum of training from basic soccer introduction for younger players to advanced training for older players looking for an edge on technical and tactical training. Camp registrants will be grouped by age and skill level in training and game situations, allowing campers to reach their full soccer potential.

Camp instruction will be led by Ignition head coach Mark Pulisic and Detroit Ignition team members. Instructors will be subject to camp date and availability but may include Jamar Beasley, Jonathan Greenfield, Doug Rice and Danny Waltman.

For Detroit Ignition Soccer Camp locations and schedules, visit www.detroitignition.com or call (888) 436-GOAL (4625). Detroit Ignition Soccer Camp is sponsored by the Hantz Group and Henry Ford Medical Group.

For information about tickets to see the Detroit Ignition at Compuware Sports Arena call the club at (888) 436-GOAL (4625), on online at www.detroitignition.com or www.ticketmaster.com



John Glenn's James Zerebiny puts Wayne Memorial's Charlie Malner on his back during their 152-pound match in the district semifinal Thursday. Zerebiny won the match, 19-2.

Rockets pound Belleville for district wrestling title

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

If Westland John Glenn had written a script for the Rockets' D1 district wrestling tournament Thursday, it would have gone something like this: Pound semifinal opponent, jump out to a big lead in the championship meet, then cruise to a second consecutive district title.

Polk didn't actually write the script, but his Rockets followed it anyway, hammering Wayne Memorial 68-5 in the first meet, then capturing the crown with a convincing 34-19 win over Belleville.

The win puts Glenn into the Wyandotte regional semifinal against Dearborn Fordson Wednesday.

"It went about how I was hoping it would go," Polk said of Thursday's district victory. "(Belleville) is a good team. There were a lot of pivotal matches, and we won most of them."

The teams split the first four matches, the difference being Andrew Hein's pin of Belleville's Anthony Simmons in 3:50 at 171 pounds, as Glenn took a 9-6 lead.

That's the last time the meet was that close, as the Rockets rattled off wins in five of the next six matches to grab a 31-9

lead. Glenn coasted from there.

Senior Shamir Garcia beat Belleville's Kaore Cigan in an 11-3 major decision, and then Glenn heavyweight Frank Toarmina upset Jacob Sweeney, pinning him in 3:07 to give Glenn a 19-6 lead.

"The heavyweight match was a turning point," said Garcia, a Rocket captain. "(Toarmina) stepped up big time."

Glenn's Jeremiah Austin beat Dustin Zak, 5-3, at 125 pounds to give the Rockets a 31-9 lead. Belleville won three of the last four matches to get a little closer.

PLEASE SEE WRESTLING, B4

Win leaves Crusaders with shot at home tourney game

A come-from-behind win Wednesday by Madonna University's women's basketball team moved the Crusaders into fourth place in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference and gave the team a chance to host a first-round conference tournament game next week.

Madonna got past the team they are battling for fourth place, Siena Heights, 65-54.

The road victory gave the Crusaders a record of 13-16 overall and 8-5 in the conference, entering Saturday's scheduled regular-season finale at Concordia.

Sparking the Crusaders to their fifth consecutive victory was junior forward and

Redford Union alum Martina Franklin, who tallied 16 points and 12 rebounds. Franklin recently earned NAIA Division II Player of the Week honors.

Chipping in with 14 points and six assists was senior guard Lindsay Klemmer (Salem) while freshman Stephanie Piotrowski tallied 12 points. Also having a solid game was sophomore guard Alyssa Guerin (Salem), who scored six points and grabbed eight rebounds.

Madonna trailed 30-29 at halftime, but outscored the host Saints 36-24 en route to the 11-point win.

The Crusaders shot 38-percent (23-of-61) from the field,

including 40-percent (6-of-15) from beyond the arc. Madonna also won the battle of the boards, grabbing 48 rebounds while Siena Heights was limited to just 37.

Leading the Saints (17-11, 7-6) was Laura Panozzo, with 20 points and seven rebounds.

Madonna men prevail

Valentine's Day also proved sweet for Madonna's men's basketball team, as the Crusaders earned an 89-71 victory over visiting Siena Heights.

Scoring 23 points and contributing eight assists was senior guard Adam Kerfoot, while

PLEASE SEE BASKETBALL, B4



Martina Franklin scored 16 points and had 12 rebounds in Madonna's win over Siena Heights Wednesday. Franklin recently earned NAIA Division II Player of the Week honors.

MADONNA SPORTS INFORMATION

Chargers rally in overtime thriller

Livonia Churchill dug itself out of an early hole and rallied to post a thrilling 58-56 overtime victory over visiting Salem Friday night.

The Chargers trailed by as many as eight in the opening half before cutting their deficit to 50-47 with seconds to play. That's when guard Andrew Vagnetti buried an NBA-length three-point shot to send the game into the extra session.

Led by the inside play of Ryan Rosenick, Nick Seger and Brad Evans, the Chargers never trailed in the overtime to improve their record to 7-10 overall and 3-7 in the Western Lakes Activities Association's Lakes Division. Salem slipped to 8-9 and 5-5, respectively.

"Salem physically beat us up in the first half," said Churchill coach Jim Solak. "But those three guys — Ryan, Nick and Brad — attacked the glass and rebounded much better in the second half and in the overtime. That was the key for us."

"We played them tough the last time at their place. We hadn't been playing well, so I was extremely happy with the win tonight. Salem is a big, strong team and we were able to muscle up and hang on for the win."

The Rocks rode a red-hot perimeter game to a 28-22 half-time advantage.

"We made several threes in the first half, but that's a tough way to live," said Salem coach Bob Brodie. "They just out-hustled us in the second half."

Rosenick led the winners with 22 points and 10 boards. Evans added 12 while Vagnetti contributed 10. Juniors Grant Stone and Ross Davis both netted 14 points for the Rocks.

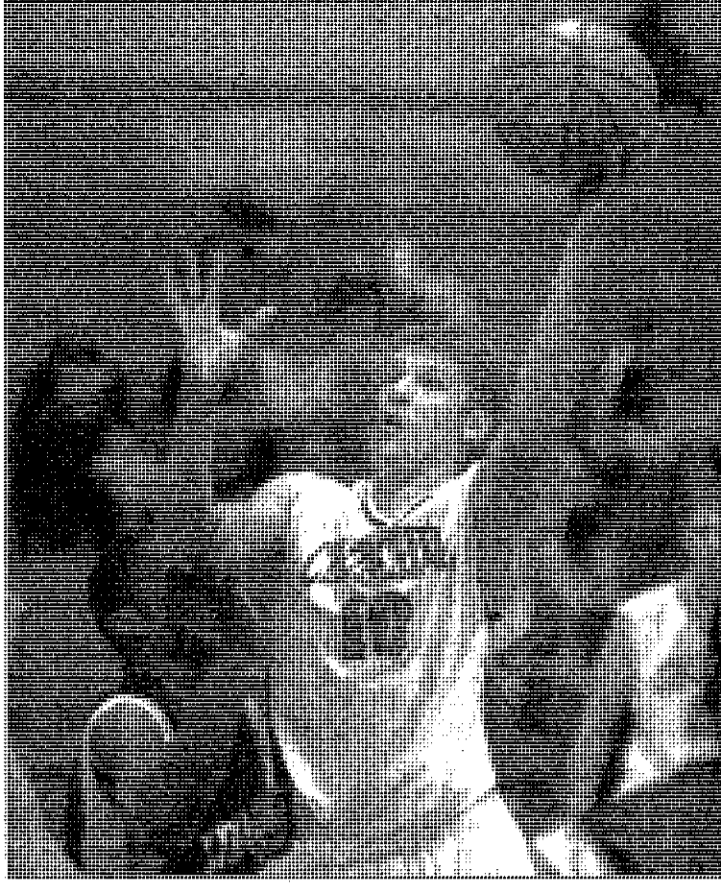
Churchill drained 12-of-18 free throws while Salem went 8-of-12 from the charity stripe.

The Rocks will open the WLAA conference tournament on Tuesday at Canton. Churchill will take on Livonia Franklin in a loser's bracket contest. Both games are set to tip off at 7 p.m.

INTER-CITY BAPTIST 55, PCA 54: On Friday in Allen Park, the Eagles battled the Chargers to wire before falling at the end. Junior guard Trevor Zinn shined for PCA, netting 21 points. Matt Saagman also played well, contributing 13.

Jeff Yunk paced the winners with 16 points. Nick Packwood scored all 12 of his points in the first half.

"This was probably our best game of the year," said PCA coach Dave Yost. "We were trailing most of the fourth quarter, but we made a nice comeback. We had some opportunities down the stretch, but we missed some key free throws."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill's Bradley Evans, shooting over Plymouth's Austin Barnett in a game earlier this season, scored 12 in the Chargers' win over Salem Friday.

With his team trailing 55-51, PCA's Justin Govan drained a triple with a second left. However, the Eagles could not regain possession of the ball.

PCA netted just 7-of-17 free throws. The Chargers drained 12-of-21 from the charity stripe.

Inter-City led 14-13 after one quarter before the visiting Eagles fought back to knot the game at 26-all at the half. The Chargers carried a 40-35 advantage into the final stanza.

PCA played the final three minutes without Zinn, who fouled out.

"They beat us by 30-something the first time we played them, so this shows how much better we've been playing lately," said Yost.

The Eagles return to action Friday when they take on Canton Agape Christian.

The game will be played at Garden City United Christian Church.

Free throws seal deal in 'Cats win

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Franklin's cheering section tested Plymouth junior guard Dan Jeong's concentration during the final seconds of Friday night's Western Lakes Activities Association contest in the Patriots' gym.

He passed the test with flying colors.

With the game tied at 53-all and 10 ticks left on the clock, Jeong blocked out the fans' noise and drained the decisive free throws in the Wildcats' 55-53 victory.

"Dan's one of those players you like to see at the line in situations like that," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "He's proven to be a pretty clutch shooter when he was on the JV team last year and this season on varsity."

Plymouth improved to 6-11 overall and 3-7 in the WLAA's Western Division, but barely missed qualifying for the conference's post-season tournament. The Wildcats tied Walled Lake Western for fourth place in the division, but lost out in the tie-breaking system, which came down to point differential in the teams' two meetings this season.

Brandon Roberts paced the winners with 17 points. Jeong finished with 12 and junior guard Andy Price contributed six (two

triples) off the bench.

Tyler Canyock led Franklin with 15 points while Ryan Matthey added 12. Sophomore Gary Cobb netted eight points, including a pair of monster slams that electrified the crowd.

Shortly after Jeong's free throws, Matthey was fouled on a drive to the basket. He missed the front end of a one-and-one and a Patriot last-second tip-in also missed the mark.

Plymouth overcame a 13-11 first-quarter deficit by draining five triples in the second stanza to carry a 28-24 lead heading into the third quarter. Franklin inched to within 42-40 with eight minutes to play.

Van Wagoner praised the play of reserves Kulraj Sandhu and Wes Shelton, both of whom gave the Wildcats several productive minutes.

The Wildcats were nearly perfect from the free-throw line, hitting 10-of-11. The Patriots, on the other hand, struggled at the charity stripe, twinning just 11-of-22.

Both teams will compete in the WLAA's losers' bracket play beginning Tuesday night when Plymouth travels to Walled Lake Northern and Franklin visits crosstown rival Livonia Churchill. Both games are slated to tip-off at 7 p.m.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL

- Tuesday, Feb. 20
Huron Valley at Ypsi Calvary, 7 p.m. (WLAA Playoffs-1st Round)
Stevenson at Northville, 7 p.m.
Walled Lake Central at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Salem at Canton, 7 p.m.
Walled Lake Western at Westland John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 23
Huron Valley at Washtenaw Christian, 7 p.m. (WLAA Playoffs-2nd round, 7 p.m.)
Matchups TBD

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

- Monday, Feb. 19
Salem at Churchill, 7 p.m.
Plymouth at Franklin, 7 p.m.
John Glenn at Stevenson, 7 p.m.
W.L. Western at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 20
Huron Valley at Lutheran South, 6 p.m.
Clarenceville at Hazel Park, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 21
Clarenceville at Harper Woods, 6:30 p.m.
W.L. Western at Franklin, 7 p.m.
Churchill at John Glenn, 7 p.m.
Northville at Wayne, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 22
Inter-City at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 23
Huron Valley at Washtenaw Christian, 4 p.m.

PREP HOCKEY

- Monday, Feb. 19
Ladywood vs. Port Huron at Arctic Pond, 2:30 p.m.
Churchill vs. Stevenson at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 20
Stevenson vs. Salem at Plymouth Cultural Ctr., 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 21
Franklin vs. Redford Unified at Edgar Arena, 6 p.m.
Ladywood vs. Ann Arbor at Veterans Arena, TBA.
Friday, Feb. 23 (WLAA Crossovers)
PREP WRESTLING
Wednesday, Feb. 21 (Team Regionals)
Division I at Saline, TBA.
Division IV at Addison, TBA.
Saturday, Feb. 24 (Individual Regionals)
Division I at Novi, TBA.
Division III at Columbia Central, TBA.
Division IV at Riv. Gab. Richard, TBA.

BOYS SWIMMING

- Thursday, Feb. 22
WLAA Prelims at Salem, 1 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 23
WLAA Diving Prelims at Salem, 2:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 24
WLAA Finals at Salem, noon.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS

- Thursday, Feb. 22
WLAA Meet at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.

PREP BOWLING REGIONALS

- Friday, Feb. 23 (Singles Competition)
Division II at Oak Lanes, 11 a.m.
Division I at Drake's Lanes, 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 24 (Team Competition)
Division I at Drake's Lanes, 10:30 a.m.
Division II at Oak Lanes, 11 a.m.

PREP SKIING

- Tuesday, Feb. 20
SEMSL League Championship at Mt. Holly, TBA.
COMPETITIVE CHEER
Saturday, Feb. 24
WLAA Meet at Northville, 9 a.m.
Wyandotte Invitational, 11 a.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Sunday, Feb. 18
Whalers at Sault Ste. Marie, 7 p.m.
MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE
Sunday, Feb. 25
Detroit Ignition vs. Philadelphia KIXX at Compuware Sports Arena, 4:35 p.m.
TBA - time to be announced.

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Teams fill brackets for WLAA hoop tournament

If it's anything like the just-completed regular season, the 2007 Western Lakes Activities Association boys basketball tournament promises to be a dandy.

The brackets were filled Friday night following the completion of league games. Western Division champion Northville and Lakes

Division winner Westland John Glenn — both of whom went 10-0 in the league — secured the two No. 1 seeds.

Tuesday night's opening-round contests will pit the Mustangs against No. 4 seed Livonia Stevenson (3-7) and No. 2 seed Walled Lake Central (7-3) against No. 3 Wayne Memorial (6-4) on one side of the brackets.

The other side will feature No. 3 seed Salem (5-5)

against No. 2 Canton (8-2) and No. 4 Walled Lake Western (3-7) against the top-seeded Rockets.

All first-round games are slated for 7 p.m. at the site of the higher-seeded team.

The semi-final round will be played Friday at 7 p.m. at the schools with the better seeds.

The championship game is slated for Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 7:30 p.m., at Plymouth

High School.

The title match-up will be preceded by the third-place game at 5:30 p.m. and the WLAA awards presentation, which will take place just prior to the final game.

Northville is the defending champion.

The Mustangs captured the 2006 title thanks to Alvin Storrs' Plymouth gymnasium record 36 points. Plymouth, Walled Lake

Northern, Livonia Churchill and Livonia Franklin will all participate in a round-robin loser's bracket format.

Each team will play the other three teams once.

Tuesday night's opener will pit Plymouth at Walled Lake Northern and Franklin at Churchill.

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Red Wings alumni game to aid mentor program

On Sunday, March 18, The Detroit Red Wings Alumni will take the ice at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township against the Oakland County Public Safety All-Stars, a team of police, fire officers from across the county and Meltdown "The BIG Unit" from WRIF.

The 4:30 p.m. game is to benefit Mentor Connection, a mentoring program of Jewish Family Service (JFS).

Tickets for the game are \$10 per person in advance, or \$12 at the door. The evening also includes a clinic for children beforehand and a dinner reception with the Red Wings Alumni afterwards.

Tickets for the clinic and dinner are \$10 and \$12, respectively. Space at both events is limited. For more information, or to purchase tickets call Lindsay Leder, 248-592-2309, or email leder@jfs-detroit.org.

The hockey game is a Friend Raiser for Mentor Connection, with a goal of increased awareness of the program while

recruiting new mentors.

Mentor Connection brings together young people from across Oakland County who can benefit from encouragement and attention from caring adults who can provide that support through structured mentoring relationships. In 2006, Mentor Connection served 98 children.

Mentor Connection is a program of JFS that has offices in West Bloomfield and Oak Park.

JFS provides social and mental health services to adults, children and families.

Areas of focus include parent and child concerns, adoption, blended family issues, grief counseling, addiction recovery services, and domestic abuse/dating violence counseling and shelter.

JFS also provides a full line of support services for older adults, including assessments/evaluations, care management and escorted transportation, and Immigration/Citizenship services for refugees.

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WRESTLING

FROM PAGE B1

er, but couldn't pull off the win. "Everyone had a job to do, and not everyone did their individual job," Polk said. "But as a team, we came together and got the job done. I was pleased by that."

The Rockets can now turn their attention to the next task at hand: Trying to win a regional wrestling title.

They were denied last year by Temperance Bedford, and the Mules likely await them again, should they get past Fordson.

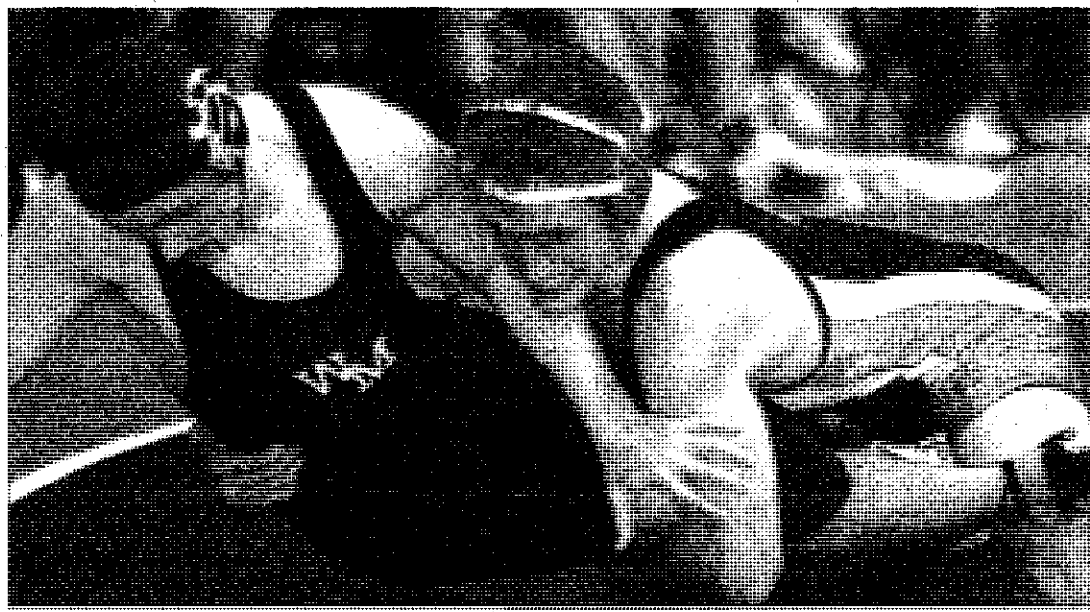
Polk said his Rockets may have been "content with just being" in the regional final last year, an attitude he doesn't think will reappear this year.

"I think we're more prepared this year," Polk said. "Last year, the kids were just happy to be there, and frankly Bedford was a better team. This year, I don't think that's true."

Senior captain Jim Wood agreed with his coach, both about the wrestlers' attitudes last year and about their determination to take that next step this season.

"This year a lot of us have it in our heads we've got a shot," Wood said. "Once you get there, anything can happen."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com | (734) 459-2700



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Glenn's Scott Brown pinned Ryan Nesbitt of Wayne Memorial in the first period of their 160-pound match Thursday evening in the district tournament.

WRESTLING RESULTS

Mat Results
Prep Wrestling Districts
Livonia Franklin 70
Livonia Churchill 3
Feb. 15 at Franklin
285 pounds: Kyle Brown (F) p. Mark Parrish (LC), 3:46; 103: Grant Phillips (F) TF Bryan Boshaw (LC) 23-7; 112: Jared Piekniek (F) p. Bryan Fortney (LC), 2:49; 119: James Benitez (F) md. Keith Roberts, 10-0; 125: Josh Billiau (F) p. Brett Appel (LC) 1:47; 130: Jon Roos (F) p. Adam Rowe (LC), 3:57; 135: Brandon Smith (F) p. JP Geffke (LC), 1:11; 140: Jason Zanger (F) p. Josh Gustitus (LC) 3:46; 145: Danny

Small (LC) d. Elvin Ferreira (F), 5-3 (OT); 152: Garrett Hay (F) d. Allen Fransten (LC), 9-4; 160: Nate Turco (F) p. Brian Ziembra (LC), 4:51; 175: Dan Woodall (F) md. Curtis Castleberry (LC) 19-7; 189: Pat Roumayah (F) p. JJ Vandenhossche (LC), 4:54; 215: Rod Gray (F) p. John Shekell (LC), 1:06.

Westland John Glenn 34
Belleville 19
Feb. 15 at John Glenn
285 pounds: Frank Toarmina (JG) p. Jacob Sweeney (B), 3:07; 103: Anthony Pavlich (JG) void; 112: Justin Fleesen (B) d. Jason Austin

(JG), 11-7; 119: Jared Stephens (JG) d. Tommy Kozak (B), 12-10; 125: Jeremiah Austin (JG) d. Dustin Zak, 5-3; 130: Brian Augsburger (B) md. Nick Shak (JG) 12-1; 135: Jacob Losen (B) d. Zaid Ammari (JG) 7-4; 140: Steve Coak (B) d. Jim Wood (JG) 5-4; 145: Steve Sherman (B) d. Gary Lawrence (JG), 7-3; 152: James Zerebiny (JG) d. Brandon Chappel (B), 11-6; 160: Wassim El Awadi (B) d. Scott Brown (JG), 11-4; 171: Andrew Hein (JG) p. Anthony Simons (B), 3:50; 189: Roger Roper (B) d. Joey Kowitz (JG), 4-2; 215: Shamir Garcia (JG) md. Kaore Cigan (B) 11-3.

No matter the handicap percent, not everyone will be happy

What is your league's handicap? It could be 70, 80, 90 or even 100 percent.

This has been a hotly debated subject for many years. The lower average teams seek a higher handicap. Conversely, those with the higher averages prefer it to be lower.

There have been many studies made during the past 25 years, and the ABC and WIBC had determined that a league handicap of 100 percent would be the fairest overall.

The studies and field tests showed a range of handicaps from 66, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100 and 116 percent. Of the lowest four categories, they showed no championships won by teams with averages below the median

in the league. At 100 percent, 70 out of 100 teams with averages higher than the median averages won. In fact, at 116 percent, the winners were evenly split at 50-50.

Based on these and other studies, the ABC and WIBC decided to recommend a league handicap of 100 percent. It has also been the recommendation of USBC to do likewise.

It is up to the discretion of the individual league to make its own choice based on the makeup of the teams and go along with it.

Many leagues seek a compromise position with a 90 percent handicap, which still seems fair to most bowlers of high or low averages. No matter what the leagues decide for a percentage, you can't make everybody happy.

At any rate under 100 percent, if everyone bowls around his or her average, the high bowlers will usually win the game, because they are better at making clutch shots.

The USBC rulebook (rule 100g) states (1) The percentage

shall be 100 percent unless otherwise provided by league rule.

Leagues also may have the option of setting a cap on the amount of pins to be used by any team to prevent the likelihood of teams being out of any chance to win even if they bowl well.

Jason Maples of Livonia almost had his first 300 game last week in the Friday Night Trio league at Country lanes in Farmington Hills.

After the first 11 strikes, his final shot resulted in a 7-10 split on a pocket hit.

Jason said he was a bit nervous going into the 10th frame, but he felt relieved after the game. He was happy his 298 helped his team to victory.

Jason sports a nice 204 average and is one of the counter persons at Country Lanes.

Dick Bond, a 65-year-old bowler from Belleville, bowled his second 300 game in a span of two weeks in the Wednesday Men's Senior Classic League at Mayflower Lanes in Redford.

He had accomplished this feat

only two weeks earlier in the Monday Senior Men's League in the same house. His series totals were 772 and 776, respectively. Bond now has six lifetime perfect games to his credit.

Greg Briden, a Livonia resident, rescued an old bowling ball that had been sitting in a friend's garage, just gathering dust.

He took it in to Todd Stuart's pro shop at Cherry Hill Lanes and had it re-drilled, so it would go long and finish strong for him.

It was just a few weeks later that Greg used it in his TBN Sunday Morning League at Skore Lanes.

He opened with a 299 (the nine pin stayed up), followed with 274 and 277 for a grand series total of 850 with 31 out of a possible 36 strikes.

It was Greg's first 800 series, and he is still hoping for his 300.

Al Harrison is a resident of Livonia and a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be contacted at (248) 477-1839 or email: tennalley@sbcglobal.net.

BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE B1

senior forward Derrick Mudric checked in with 12 points and seven boards. Adding six points and three steals was senior forward Doug Creighton (Redford Catholic Central).

Another weapon for Madonna (12-17, 8-5 in the WHAC) was junior forward D. J. Bridges (Canton), who registered 20 points and six rebounds.

Victor Hamilton tallied 14 for Siena Heights (6-23, 3-10) while Sean Nowazyk scored 12.

The Crusaders led 48-32 at halftime and in the second half built their lead to as much as 30 points.

Madonna blistered the nets all night, shooting 53-percent (29-of-55) from the floor,

including 45-percent (9-of-20) from behind the three-point line and a season high 92-percent (22-of-24) from the charity stripe.

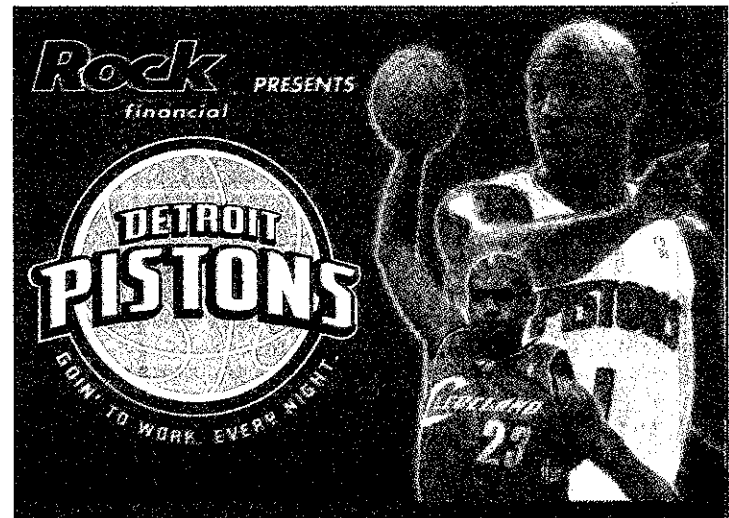
The Crusaders were set to wrap up the regular season Saturday at Concordia in a pivotal game against the Cardinals.

SC wins makeups

After having their games postponed Wednesday due to the weather, Schoolcraft and Macomb Community College played men's and women's basketball games Thursday night.

The visiting Ocelots prevailed in each contest.

The men's team won 99-66 to improve to 17-9 overall and 12-5 in the MCCA-East; the women were victorious by a score of 80-62 and moved to 23-3 overall and 16-1 in the conference.



WEDNESDAY - 2/21 VS. ORLANDO MAGIC • 7:30 PM

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MONDAY - 3/5 VS. GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS • 7:30 PM

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OPEN PRESIDENTS' DAY • FEBRUARY 19

Comic books can be beneficial

The only thing that my 8-year-old son will read is comic books. Each week, his father takes him to a store that only sells comic books and he gets new ones. He reads and re-reads them, puts them into plastic baggies and keeps them in a special box. My worry is that when I was a child, my mother told me that it had been proven that comic books lead to psychological problems. My husband thinks that I am completely wrong. What do you know about the link between comic books and psychological problems?

Sue, via e-mail



On Parenting

Terry Wilamowski

The "research" that your mother was referring to was probably from a book in the 1950s called *Seduction of the Innocent* by a psychologist named Fredric Wertham. In this work, the whole comic industry was blamed for the increase in juvenile delinquency and crime. Despite the author's assertions, there had been no actual research or findings that served as the basis for his conclusions. In the time since this book, which caused quite a stir in its day, no connection between comic books and psychological

or social difficulties have been discovered. In fact, it is my opinion that reading comic books can actually be beneficial. Comic books promote the joys of reading, a feat that is not always easy to achieve. Secondly, they often tell fantastical stories with moralities of right and wrong and stimulate the imagination in ways that other mediums may not. Also, they provide an opportunity for children to develop organizational skills and a sense of responsibility (your son's collection seems to be well cared for). Finally, it sounds like the weekly trips to the comic store are a good bonding opportunity for your son and his father.

Of course, like any activity that your children want to undertake, parental guidance is necessary. Comic books, like movies and video games, are rated based on content. While many think of this medium as child focused, certain titles are for mature readers only. If you have any doubts, talk to the store employees, they can help you monitor the books that your son reads. When all is said and done, your son is excited about reading and this will stay with him if and when he loses interest in the "funny books."

My two-and-a-half-year-old daughter is a pack rat. She saves every scrap of paper, every broken toy, every stick and leaf that she finds in the back yard. Whenever I try to get her to throw this trash away, she cries and begs me to let her keep it. I guess that I'm just a big softy because I always seem to give in. Is my daughter Obsessive Compulsive? Why does she want to keep this junk? How can I get her room clean when there is so much clutter? Help!

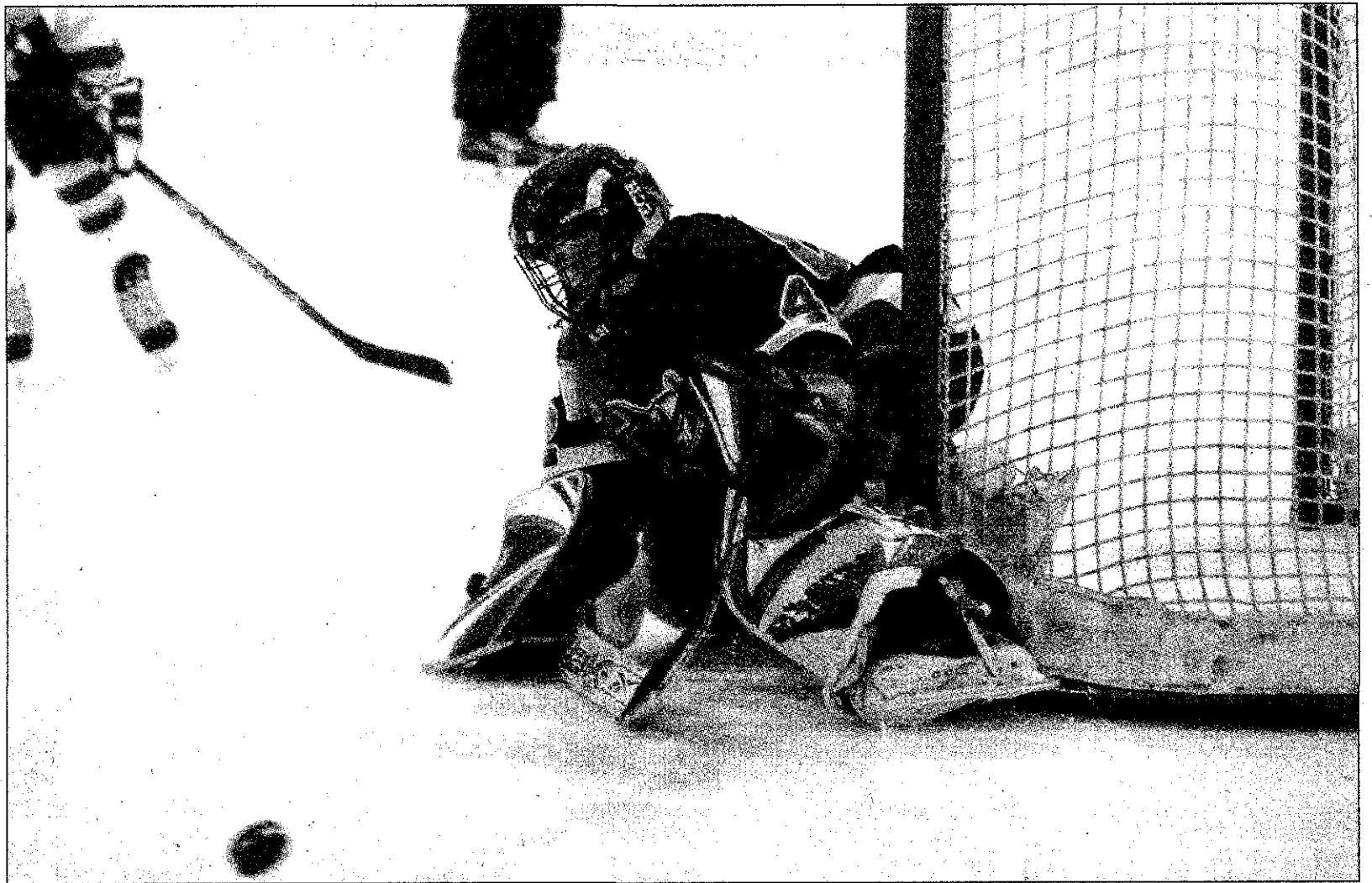
Diane, via e-mail

Well, Diane, the first thing that we need to establish is that the things that you or I might call "trash" and "junk" are "treasures" to your daughter. She has assigned value to these things and as such, they have become part of her. When you suggest (or command or plead or...) that she get rid of them, it causes her emotional distress. Think about how you would respond if someone had asked you to throw away your wedding photos or your prized Beanie Babies. Her distress is real.

Believe it or not, her pack-ratting behavior is not all that uncommon. It is just one of the many ways that children cope with the many stressors of their daily environment. Every child lives in a world that is almost completely beyond their understanding and control. This is a fundamental fact of childhood. As she grows, she will learn new coping devices and leave older ones behind. Most children do this in one form or another. Pacifiers, special blankets, favorite stuffed animals, superhero capes, etc. are all different types of these coping mechanisms. And all of these, like your daughter's pack-ratting, are completely within the normal range and, at this time, do not suggest the presence of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.

Now, let's see what we can do to reduce the clutter. If you have been a regular reader of this column, you are probably familiar with my fondness for choices. This is another instance that I think will be best served by careful use of options. For example, the next time your daughter wants to bring in several items from the yard (yes, I know that this will probably be months from now, but bear with me), allow her to keep as many items as will fit into a shoebox. If she cannot fit all of the items in, let her decide which items to remove from her collection and which to include. In this way, her collection can change and grow, but the limit will be set by the container. To make this even more special, the shoebox can, and should, be decorated in the style of your daughter's choosing. The key is to not make it a power struggle. Allow her to choose whichever items she wants, as long as they fit into the box. This should help to reduce the overall presence of clutter as well as to convince your daughter that you respect her (and her collection). As time passes, she will move on to other things, but you may find it difficult to get rid of this treasure box.

Terry M. Wilamowski is a therapist specializing in the treatment of children, adolescents and families at Heron Ridge Associates in Plymouth. Questions and comments can be sent to terrywilamowski@yahoo.com.



PHOTOS BY LORETTA O'FLYNN

Jackson Lytle, Plymouth Killer Sharks goalie, keeps an eye on the puck as it passes the net.

IN THE GAME

Hockey players overcome heart defects

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

The Birmingham Titans lost the district pee-wee hockey game to the Plymouth Killer Sharks in late January, but both of the teams' goalies were winners. Their mothers never thought Patrick Adams and Jackson Lytle would survive open heart surgery let alone play a variety of sports one day. The boys seem less interested in talking about early health problems than their time on the ice.

'Thirty years ago survival was far less. Not enough children have survived to know what to expect. There may be complications they might not be aware of. We need to stay involved.'

Michele Lytle
Mother of Jackson Lytle

goals, he's on a tennis court or baseball diamond.

Lytle is too busy playing hockey, baseball and drums to even think about the congenital heart defect he was born with until a fellow player asks, what's that on your chest? His mother, Michele, thinks the answer that follows is more common



Even though Jackson Lytle (left) and Patrick Adams play for opposing pee-wee hockey teams, the boys have a lot in common. They recently met again after a game at Birmingham Ice Arena.

than believed. According to the Congenital Heart Information Network (tchin.org), it's estimated that one in 100 children born in the U.S. every year has a malformed heart. Jackson's scar is from open heart surgery the 12-year-old Plymouth boy underwent at 28 hours old for a rare defect known as Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return. Jackson's older sister Megan was born with the same condition.

"Jackson was 2 or 3 when I wanted to find two children in a family with heart defects. There aren't a lot of children

PLEASE SEE PLAYERS, C3

Catholic nun honored for years of service

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Sister Rose Marie Kujawa is all smiles even though she's still fighting jet lag after an 18-hour flight from the Far East. The president of Madonna University returned last Sunday afternoon from a 15-day trip to present master of business administration degrees to 60 students in China as part of the Livonia-based university's international program.

As academic dean, Kujawa was instrumental in paving the way for international studies and the export of Madonna's graduate program to Taiwan in 1989. The accomplishment is one of the reasons Kujawa, a Felician nun, is being honored at the Michigan Business and Professional Association's 11th



Sister Rose Marie Kujawa

annual Women and Leadership in the Workplace Conference and Awards Luncheon, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, March 1, at Burton Manor in Livonia. Kujawa won the award

'I was very honored when informed about the award a month ago. We've obviously accomplished a great deal at Madonna University, but don't expect to be recognized.'

Sister Rose Marie Kujawa
Madonna University president

for the education category.

"I was very honored when informed about the award a month ago," said Kujawa, 64. "We've obviously accomplished a great deal at Madonna University, but don't expect to be recognized."

A 1966 graduate and mathematics major of Madonna University, Kujawa became its sixth president in 2001. Some 25 years earlier, she developed and taught the first computer courses there, but considers the

international program one of her greatest achievements. Over the years, she has visited more than 25 countries to build ongoing educational relationships with England, France, Poland, Lithuania, Spain, Mexico, Egypt, Lebanon, Taiwan, China, and Japan.

"In China, we had a reunion of 120 graduates. One had just been elected governor in one of the provinces in southern

PLEASE SEE NUM, C3

Farmer Jack gears up for busy paczki day

BY SUSAN STEINMUELLER
STAFF WRITER

Fat Tuesday isn't just a day but a season at Farmer Jack. Farmer Jack bakery specialist Rob Thomas says that the baking and selling of the doughnuts known as paczkis, traditionally eaten on Fat Tuesday, begins about a month beforehand at the grocery store chain.

"They are baked fresh every day," said Thomas, who was at one of the Troy stores Friday supervising the baking of the fruit-filled pastries. "There's nothing like a good hot paczki."

Activity heats up in the hours leading up to Fat Tuesday, this year on Feb. 20. "Starting Sunday night we'll be baking 24 hours until Tuesday," he said. "Paczki day is our single busiest day after Christmas. We can triple our business in one day. There is no other kind of doughnut like that."

"Fat Tuesday" is when those of the Catholic faith get ready for Ash Wednesday and the Lenten season.

Originally, the doughnuts were made for practical rea-

sons, to use up the lard and eggs that were prohibited during Lent. Now they are more of a last-minute sweets binge before the sacrifice of a favorite food or drink for Lent.

Paczki are pronounced "punch-key" or "poonch-key" or "pooch-key" - all are correct, according to Angie Bournais, who represents Farmer Jack.

Thomas was a baker at Farmer Jack when the chain, now based in Livonia, began making them from a traditional Polish recipe over 20 years ago. Now, he supervises baking at all the 66 stores.

Hamtramck is always the biggest spot to buy them, he concedes. But the grocery store's customers will get a traditional taste too. "We even were able to get our recipe from a bakery in Hamtramck."

Farmer Jack's advertising helps Hamtramck's sales too, he said.

"We all celebrate," said Bournais. "We have taken these wonderful offerings and brought them out so many more people can buy them."

The chain sells "hundreds of thousands" annually. "We love our doughnuts here in Detroit.

They don't sell well anywhere else in the country," said Thomas, a Livonia resident.

He says favorite flavors include raspberry apple, Bavarian cream, lemon, strawberry, blueberry and prune, all with a sugar glaze or rolled in powdered sugar.

After paczki day, he said, "you won't see the doughnut again until next January."

That's why Thomas, who is not Catholic, will enjoy some himself - even though he admits they are a rich treat.

"They have 420 calories - I think a Whopper or Big Mac is something like that - and 22 grams of fat."

"The trouble with paczki is they are sinfully good, so it's a nice treat. Think of it as just once a year and it's OK."

And perhaps he'll be working off the calories making them.

"There is lot's of excitement in the business, not just Farmer Jack. It's fun to get a line of people waiting for them. Every single person is working trying to keep up with the demand. Bakeries are traditionally slow, so it's nice to get a spike."

SINGLES

MISC. SINGLES

Moon-dusters
Ballroom Dancing to a live band every Saturday 8:30-11 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. Admission: guest/\$6, associates/\$5.50, members/\$5. Dress: Ladies - date style clothes, gentlemen - jackets and ties. For more information, call Joe Castrodale (248) 968-5197.

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST

Annual Mass for Divorced and Separated
2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, at St. Linus Church, 6466 Evangeline, Dearborn Heights. Light dinner to follow. For details, call Michele at (313)996-8644.

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Anytime 6:30-9:30 p.m. Meets at the Main Lounge at Drakeshire Lanes, 35000 Grand River Ave. just east of Drake Road in Farmington Hills. Cash bar and reasonable priced dinner is also available off the menu. \$5/members, \$6/non-members.

Volleyball
Anytime 6:45-9:45 p.m.
Drop-in volleyball in the gym and field-house of the Bloomfield Hills Middle School, 4200 Quarton Road, west of Telegraph. Cost is \$6.
In the park, Farmington Hills, anytime 6:30 p.m. to dusk. Heritage Park, Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile. Cost \$2.

PARENTS WITHOUT PARTNERS

Monthly dance
The Wayne-Westland chapter of Parents Without Partners sponsors a singles dance on the second Saturday of every month at the Dearborn Elks Club at 25000 Michigan Ave. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Disc jockey, cash bar. \$6 members, \$8 nonmembers. Public invited. Information, Pat, (248) 478-8977, or Diana, (734) 751-7386.

SINGLE POINT MINISTRIES

Single Point Ministries of Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church is at 40000 Six Mile Road, the corner of Six Mile and Haggerty, in Northville.
Sunday Fellowship
Meet at 11:30 a.m. every Sunday in Knox Hall for fellowship and encouragement. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation and Christ are always present. For more information, call the SPM office at (248) 374-5920.
Bible Studies-Prayer Nights
■ Learner's Bible Study - 7 p.m. Mondays in Room A101.
■ Praying Together - 7 p.m. Tuesdays in the Sanctuary at Ward Church.
■ Men's Bible Study - 6:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Single Adult Ministries office.

SINGLETON

Senior groups meet weekly for dinner at local restaurants to discuss current events and future activities. For a monthly newsletter, call (313)563-9362 or write to: P.O. Box 5356 Telford Station, Dearborn, MI 48128.

12 to vie for Michigan Junior Miss title

Young women from around the state of Michigan will be gathering in Alpena later this month for the 49th installment of the Michigan Junior Miss Program.

Twelve high school seniors, including two Wayne-Westland teens, will be vying for scholarships and the opportunity to represent the state in the America's Junior Miss Program June 28-30 in Mobile, Ala.

Returning to Alpena is 2006 Michigan Junior Miss AmiAnn Bobo. A Plymouth High School honors graduate, she is currently focusing on broadcast communications with interest in Business at Wayne State University. Competing in this year's program are:

Wayne-Westland Junior Miss Kelsey Baker, the daughter of Brian and Carol Baker. A senior at Wayne Memorial High School, she will attend Wayne State University where she plans to earn a degree in dance education with a K-12 Certification. Her talent piece for the program is a musical theater dance to *My Strongest Suit*.



Bower



Baker

Westland Junior Miss Natalie Bower, is the daughter of Dana and Suzanne Bowe. She is a student at John Glenn High School and plans to attend Michigan State University to earn a degree in medical research. Her talent piece is a flute solo, *Sonata I*.

Canton Junior Miss Kate Peters, the daughter of Richard and Cheryl Peters. She is a student at Canton High School. She plans to attend Western Michigan University and earn a degree in professional dance. Her talent piece is a tap dance to *Zoop!*

Wayne County Junior Miss Samantha Sarnecky, the daughter of John and Marissa Sarnecky. She currently attends Ladywood High School and plans to attend the University of Detroit Mercy and earn a degree in dentistry. Her talent is a musical theater dance to *River Deep, Mountain High*.

Inkster Junior Miss Lauren Allen, the daughter of David Lodge and Francis Allen. A student at Winston Churchill High School, she will attend Marygrove College in the fall in hopes of earning a degree in dance. Her plan is to own her own dance company. She will dance to the music of *If My Friends Could See Me Now*.

Thunder Bay Junior Miss Heather Dzieszinski, the daughter of Greg and Lisa Dzieszinski. A student at Alpena High School, she plans to attend Alpena Community College and earn a degree in elementary education. Her talent is tap dance.

Alpena Junior Miss Leandra Dzieszinski, the daughter of Alan and Sandra Dzieszinski. She currently attends Alpena High School and plans to

attend Alma College to earn a degree in business communication/public relations. Her talent piece is a cello solo, *Sonata in C Major, Op. 40, No. 1, Allegro Jean Baptiste Brevai*.

Dearborn Heights Junior Miss Katelyn Hadyaniak, the daughter of Jeffery and Bobbie Hadyaniak. She attends Crestwood High School and plans to attend Eastern Michigan University to earn a degree in secondary education. Her talent is a lyrical dance to *Trust Me*.

Dearborn Junior Miss Elissa Hoffman, the daughter of Michael and Lynn Hoffman. A senior at Dearborn High School, she plans to attend Central Michigan University and earn a degree in interior design. Her talent piece is a jazz dance to *Don't Stop*.

Prudenville Junior Miss Courtney Meyer, the daughter of Jerry and Kim Bristol. She attends Houghton Lake High School and plans to attend Northwood University to become a certified public accountant. Her talent piece is a flag routine done to James Brown's *I Feel Good*.

Houghton Lake Junior Miss Terra Muckenthaler, the daughter of Timothy and Tammy Muckenthaler. A student at Houghton High School, she plans to attend Grand Valley State University and earn a degree in business. Her talent is tap dance to *Hi De Ho*.

Grosse Pointe Park Junior Miss Lauren Schultes, the daughter of John and Karen Schultes. She currently attends Grosse Pointe Park High School and plans to attend University of Michigan to earn a degree in vocal performance. She will perform *Varmena* by Lane Wilson (American).

The Michigan Junior Miss Program got its start in 1958 when a franchise was awarded to the Pontiac Jaycees, who ran the program from 1958 to 1978. From 1979 to 1994, the franchise was awarded to Michigan Junior Miss, Inc. and held in Marshall, before moving to Alpena.

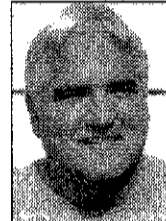
Since its inception, the state program has had 1965 Michigan Junior Miss Patrice Gauder of Steenville, selected as American Junior Miss; and had 1995 Michigan Junior Miss Jill Dobson of Quincy, compete for the title of Miss USA in 1999 as Miss Michigan.

Ashlee Baracy, the 2003 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss and the 2003 Michigan Junior Miss finished in the top 10 in the America's Junior Miss program that year. She also was the overall fitness award winner at nationals. She also won the 2005 Miss Washtenaw and in 2006 won Miss Heart of Michigan. She will compete in the Miss Michigan pageant in June.

March is Brain Injury Awareness Month

March 1 marks the beginning of Brain Injury Awareness Month in the United States.

In Michigan, a kick-off rally will be held at our State Capitol Building in Lansing.



Michigan is the only known state to hold a kick-off rally and it is more than a little known secret that we have been doing so for eight consecutive years!

This year's rally will be the Eighth Annual conducted by our own Farmington Hills "Therapy Choir." This unique group of men and women are recovering from traumatic brain injuries, which are often accompanied with mental illness and substance abuse problems.

The Therapy Choir has been removing the stigma of these words for all audiences, far and wide, for the past nine years. The choir is headquartered at Broe Rehabilitation Services, Inc. in Farmington Hills which has serviced thousands of brain injured individuals over the past 20 years.

The choir has given over 145

free performances for our community and neighboring communities to increase awareness and break the silence about traumatic brain injuries and the related problems which occur every 21 seconds in America.

This year's rally will be co-sponsored by Farmington Hills State Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi and State Sen. Gilda Jacobs. The rally takes place on Wednesday Feb. 28 from noon to 1 p.m. in the beautiful Atrium of our State Capitol. It is free and open to the public. A "Fill the Atrium" campaign may occur with our Farmington First Methodist Church whereby interested folks might share transportation or perhaps a bus. (Call Volunteer Voice Coordinator Terry Mock at (248) 505-3951 for information). The church, you know, donated their choir robes to the choir when it began in 1997.

This year's rally includes invited speakers: Mike Harris, President, Michigan Paralyzed Veterans Association, Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone, Michael Dabbs, President Brain Injury Association of Michigan and Dr. Timothy K. Broe, President, Broe Rehabilitation Services Inc. This concert will be filmed by Disability Today for broadcast on PBS TV by Host Roger McCurville.

Word has come to us that 60-80 percent of our wounded mili-

tary returning from Iraq have traumatic brain injuries. The Therapy Choir's new goal is to open its membership to veterans and their families and allow the military to use our choir to raise awareness about this epidemic and need for treatment providers beyond our VA system.

Do think seriously about attending this rally and learning more about traumatic brain injury which is so prevalent in our youth (through sports and abuse), in teens (through violence and drugs and drinking), in adults (through motor vehicle accidents and violence) and in our elderly (through falls and accidents). These are the chief causes. Prevention is the chief cure. Also know that The Therapy Choir has opened its membership to all in our community through its Volunteer Voices Program. Anyone with or without a disability is welcome to join-up with us. We are a therapy choir and no singing ability is required! We are advocating education, awareness, and inspiration on our continuing "Tour of Hope."

Len McCulloch is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is the creator and Director of The Therapy Choir. He is credentialed in mental health, brain injury, substance abuse and social work. For information call him at (248) 474-2763 ext. 22.

THE THEATREINSEMBLE PRESENTS

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This moving tale of generations colliding during a family's visit to its lakeside cottage recently ended a successful Broadway revival and is this year's subscriber's choice. Directed by John Manfredi, Meadow Brook's award-winning director of *Driving Miss Daisy*.

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College presents female version of The Odd Couple

Michael Fisher of Garden City and Matthew Vortruba of Redford are playing their parts to make the Henry Ford Community College Theater program production of *The Odd Couple* a hit. The curtain rises on the female version of Neil Simon's comedy Thursday-Sunday, Feb. 22-25, and March 1-4, at Adray Auditorium in the MacKenzie Fine Arts Center on HFCC's main campus, 5101 Evergreen, Dearborn. Show times are 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. For information or ticket reservations, call (313) 845-9817.

Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students. For information or ticket reser-

tions, call (313) 845-9817.

Fisher plays Manolo. Vortruba of Redford is production assistant who also is in charge of lighting.

According to Brian Tarasiewicz, the show's director, the female version of *The Odd Couple* follows the same premise as the original with the divorcing, depressed neat-freak Florence moving in with the confident yet messy, beer-drinking, sports-loving Olive and conflict, hilarity and nuttiness ensue.

Woodworkers show off projects

The Michigan Woodworkers Guild holds its 25th annual Showcase of Custom Woodworking Show noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 11, at the Livonia Senior Activities Center, 15218 Farmington Road, between Schoolcraft (I-96) and Five Mile, Livonia.

Parking and admission are free.

Woodworkers from Michigan, the midwest and

Canada will exhibit their woodworking projects. This is not a craft show. Wood projects built from various types of wood and depicting furniture from different time periods will be on display.

The wide range of tools that Guild members use such as scroll saws, lathes, routers, table saws, band saws, and high speed hand carving tools help artisans achieve their

ultimate goal.

Established as a nonprofit organization in 1981, the Michigan Woodworkers Guild is comprised of more than 300 men and women woodworkers. Anyone wishing to join the Guild and learn more about woodworking is encouraged to attend the show. For more information, call (313) 278-2150 or send e-mail to sanchezart@aol.com.

NUN

FROM PAGE C1

China," Kujawa said. "We have over 400 graduates in mainland China, over 600 students graduated in Taiwan.

"It's very interesting. Once you get to be known in the area, they spread the word (about the program) themselves. In Taiwan, one of the first graduates was a community organizer who was able to get a \$1 million grant. There are many fine things like that that have happened."

A service learning exchange program allowed students to learn practical skills in schools and hospitals in Mexico, as well as observe, understand and appreciate the culture. One of the values of the Felician nuns, who follow the teachings of St. Francis, is to have a respect for all people. Through the Service Learning program, students participate in a variety of ways in the community. The program teaches them that they can make a difference by providing services such as after-school tutoring at All Saints Parish in southwest Detroit.

"I truly believe students should not be educated for the sake of personal development only," Kujawa said. "I hope through the Service Learning program they see the opportunity to be of service in a new way prior to attending Madonna University."

Madonna University is not only growing programs around the world, but on campus in Livonia. In 2009,

the new Science and Media Center opens north of the administration building to accommodate not only recently instituted programs of forensic and environmental science, but *Madonna Magazine*, a cable show that gives media students real life experience, whether behind the camera or on set. It will be one of the first green buildings to be built in Livonia.

"We have our own international world here in Livonia with over 200 students from 43 countries. It makes a difference for students to ask questions of those from Nigeria or Japan," Kujawa said.

"One of the accomplishments is the growth over the 30 years I've been here. It went from a college of barely 1,000 students in the '70s to 4,600 today with 70 undergraduate programs, 25 master level choices and we're giving serious consideration to doctoral programs," said Kujawa, who in 1991 chaired the committee for Madonna to become a university.

"My vision is clearly aligned with Madonna University to continue to be a strong, quality university, not only serving southeast Michigan, but continue to affect people from all countries, wherever we're called to serve."

Along with Kujawa, the event recognizes other women leaders, including Sandra Pierce, president and CEO, Charter One Bank; Terri Lynn Land, Michigan Secretary of State; Cynthia Taueg, vice president of Community Health and Senior Services, St. John

Health System; Desiree Cooper, columnist, *Detroit Free Press*; and Shirley Stancato, president, New Detroit, Inc. Mary Jo Pulte of Uno Chicago Grill in southwest Michigan receives the Small Business Achievement Award.

Tickets for the event are \$75 for MBPA members, \$95 for non-members, and include workshops and luncheon. For information or to register, or for sponsorship and advertising opportunities, call (888) 277-6464, ext. 149, or visit www.michbusiness.org. Group discounts available for the event.

Edward Deeb is especially excited about the theme of this year's event — Taking Care of You, Takes Care of Business. Workshops include yoga, a panel discussion on women taking control of their careers, and maintaining wellness and balance. Last year, about 650 women attended the event.

"People take better care of their cars than themselves," said Deeb, CEO and president of Michigan Business and Professional Association and Michigan Food and Beverage Association, and a Bloomfield Hills resident.

"The whole thing is to be sure the women are healthy and run the gamut. New this year is an interactive session between the workshops on restoring balance — The Yoga Connection. I think the women are going to love to see how they can relax and be better prepared to do their jobs."

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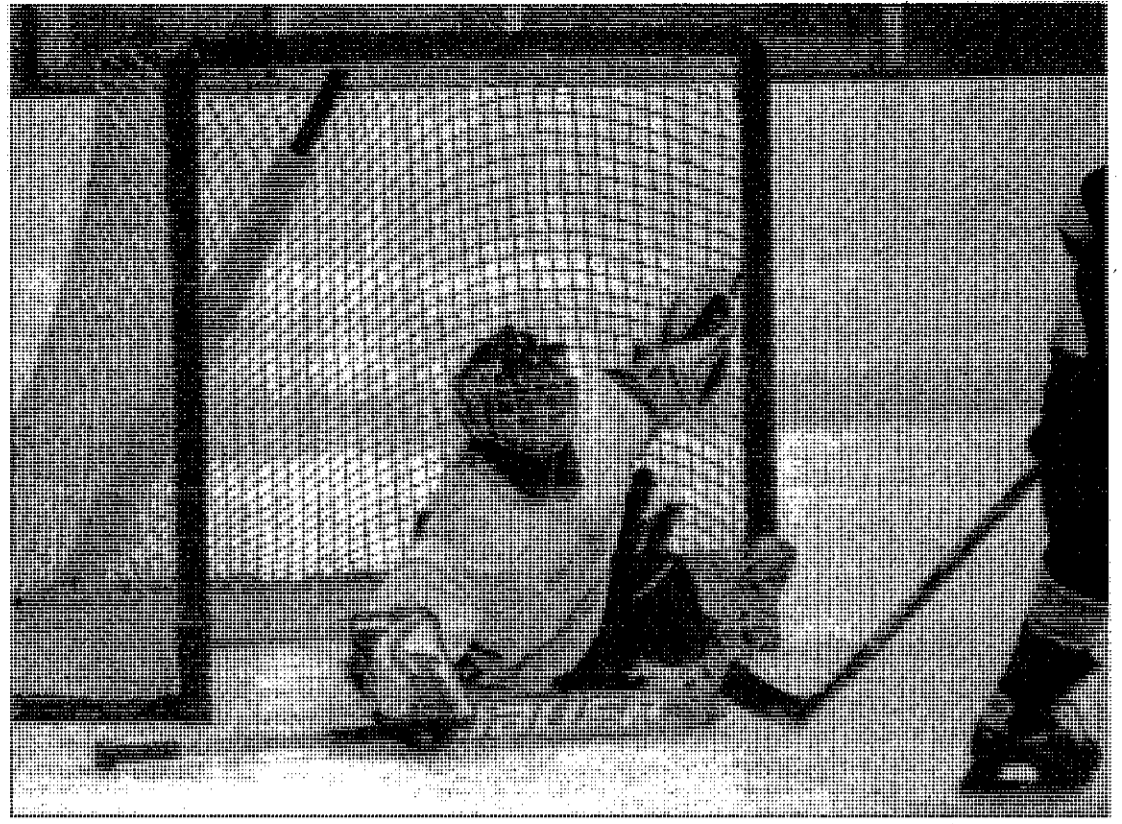


PHOTO BY LORETTA O'FLYNN

Patrick Adams in action as goalie for the Birmingham Titans.

PLAYERS

FROM PAGE C1

older than Megan because the technology didn't exist to repair it," said Michele Lytle, who went on the Internet looking for a support group and found Patrick's mother, Maureen Adams. Patrick's Atrial Septal Defect wasn't rare, but the two women connected.

"Patrick's pediatric cardiologist referred us to U of M for a certain procedure that was in Phase 2 of clinical trials," said Maureen Adams. "I couldn't find any information on it that's when I hooked up with the Internet group and learned what questions to ask. We chose not to have the experimental procedure and instead went with regular open heart surgery."

As part of an informal local support group, the two mothers shared their knowledge about congenital heart defects, but hadn't physically seen each other since 2000 when Gov. John Engler signed a proclamation to declare Feb. 14 Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day. Then the women learned their sons would be facing each other on the ice.

"We're so fortunate to have two healthy young men," said Michele Lytle. Both women continue to participate in e-mail discussions on tchin.org. The Children's

Congenital Heart Information Network is a national organization that provides educational information, support, financial assistance, and resources for families of children with congenital heart defects and acquired heart disease, adults with CHD, and the professionals who work with them.

"Thirty years ago survival was far less," said Lytle. "Not enough children have survived to know what to expect. There may be complications they might not be aware of. We need to stay involved."

"We sent letters, e-mails and faxes to include congenital heart defects in a proclamation to declare February American Heart Month by George W. Bush in 2004," added Maureen Adams.

"It's about awareness. After the hockey game one of Patrick's teammates said he had the same surgery. We didn't know that until the hockey game."

"The subject usually doesn't come up unless they're in swimsuits," said Lytle, "yet it is the number one defect."

This spring, Jackson, 12, is joining the track team at West Middle School in Plymouth. He'd like to stay in touch with Patrick who was 3 years old when he underwent open heart surgery.

"It felt kind of weird meeting him," said Jackson. "I didn't know him, but I think I knew him."

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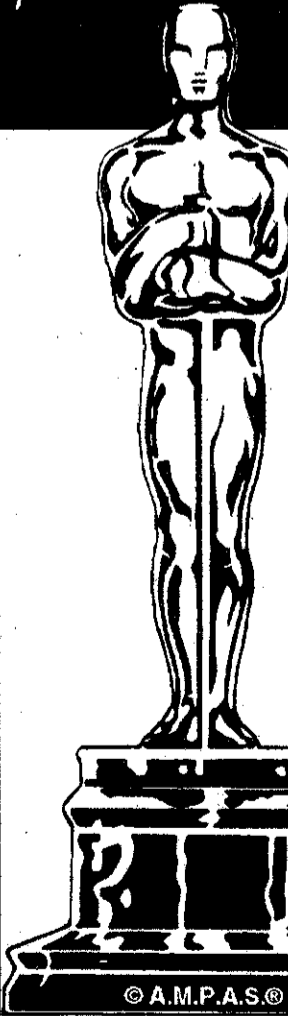
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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

TAKE A CHANCE

DWF, 43, 5'8", red/brown, HW proportionate, student, mom, goal-oriented, caring, compassionate, loves family, quiet moments, time w/someone special. Seeking caring, child-friendly man to share life an all it's little pleasures. ☎180138

SEEKING SPECIAL GENT

DWF, 63, attractive, well-dressed, sincere, loving, optimistic, likes, theater, travel, dining, fitness. Wishing to meet a non-smoking WM, 45-70, for possible romance. ☎630808

CLASSY BRUNETTE

Beautiful, model-type, head turner, SWF, 47, 5'5", degreed, successful entrepreneur, world-traveled, privileged lifestyle. Relocating to Illinois from Michigan. Seeking highly discriminating, degreed professional SWM, 45-62, N/S, with cultural interests, fit, affectionate. ☎165475

FRIENDS FIRST

SBF, 37, 5'8", black/brown, easygoing, Aries, N/S, enjoys bike riding, long walks, travel, and cooking. Seeking WM, 30-50, N/S, for fun. ☎933970

WANTED: TALL, CLASSY MALE

I am in my early 60s, 5'2", brown/brown, I enjoy dancing, outdoors, and travel. Seeking a companion, 60-70, and maybe a relationship. Please call. ☎982305

IS IT YOU?

SWF, 56, tall, trim, seeks hard-working or retired, conservative SWM, 5'11"+, 58-65, with good values, educated, no tattoos, drugs, or games please. ☎138981

MAYBE US?

SF, 42, blonde/blue, leggy, loves all types of music, dancing, movies, nature road trips, dining and simple fun. ISO easygoing, loving guy to share talks, good times, friendship and more. ☎132593

PERSONAL AND SPECIAL

SWF, retired, talented, fun-loving, attractive, 132lbs, 5'8", blonde, seeks well-groomed gentleman, 65+, to share life and enjoy each other's company. ☎891247

WHERE ARE YOU?

Very attractive, sexy SBPF, 35, 5'2", medium build, enjoys dining out, jazz, plays. ISO SBM, 40-52, commitment-minded and sincere, for LTR. ☎950732

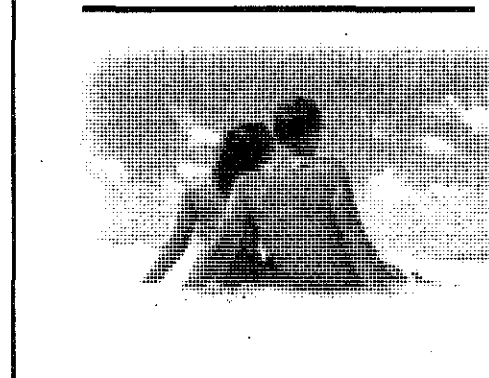
ONLY TIME WILL TELL

SWF, 40, 5', N/S, with big blue eyes, enjoys camping, fishing walking and going to church. Seeks a W/HM, 28-48, with similar interests, for companionship, romance and more. ☎161341

COULD YOU BE THE ONE?

Loving, youthful SBF, 57, trim, shapely, very attractive, energetic, happy, enjoys dining, travel, amusement parks, the outdoors, festivals, nature, family-friends, theater, more. Seeking like-minded gentleman to share these. ☎121526

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- SOUND LIKE YOU**
SWF, 44, easygoing, loves the outdoors, seeks romantic and passionate man for LTR. ☎170340
- ONE GOOD WOMAN**
BBW, SWF, attractive, compassionate, down-to-earth. Enjoys movies, comedies, long walks, romantic evenings and more. Seeking employed SM, 38-55, to do and share things together. Must like pets. ☎947175
- LET'S TALK SOMETIME**
SWF, 38, mother, enjoys Harleys, rock-n-roll, good talks, classic cars, sports, amusement parks, casinos, meeting new people. Seeking outgoing, sweet, fun man w/spontaneous streak to share new adventures with. ☎962910
- TAKE ME GOLFING**
Tidy SWF, 60, enjoys fine dining, traveling. Seeking golfer, best friend, confidante, 58-70, widower a plus. Honesty, trust, a must to make a relationship work. ☎976914
- TRUE FRIENDSHIP**
WAF, 62, 5', 100lbs, enjoys gardening, dogs, cats, cooking, dining out, travel. Seeking kind, caring, honest SW/AM, 55-70, slim, with understanding of asian culture, for friendship first, maybe more later. ☎139934
- RIGHT HERE WAITING**
SBF, 36, 5'7", full-figured, would like to meet a hard-working SBM, 36-50, for sharing of conversations, dates, fun and more. ☎155648
- IRISH GIRL**
SF, 59, 5'8", seeking SWM, 59+, N/S, Irish at+, respectful, honest and sociable, for companionship on my 60th birthday and more. Let's celebrate. ☎185289
- PETITE, BLUE-EYED LADY**
Are you, 55-65, N/S, D/D-free? Looking for a companion, someone who enjoys holding hands, long conversations about everything, laughter, older mills and dinner dances? Call Me: SWF, 60, ☎169652
- LOOKING FOR ME?**
Affectionate, sincere SWF, 63, 5'2", dark hair and eyes, employed part-time, enjoys travel, movies, dining out, more. ISO tall, active, open-minded, lovable man to share a little fun, possibly romance. ☎959193
- GREAT TIMES AHEAD**
SWF, 66, 5'8", 130lbs, great SOH, N/S, enjoys life, dining, dancing, music, rent movies, quiet times. Seeking SW/HM, 67-75, N/S, sincere and humorous. ☎901378
- GREAT CATCH**
Attractive, youthful widow, 68, 5'3", 135lbs, brunette/brown, shapely, N/S seeks WM, 55-70, prefers N/S, in Livingston county or Oakland county areas for LTR, w/variety of interests. Seeks relationship/companionship and more. ☎111193
- READ THIS AD!**
SWF, 61, N/S, homebody, enjoys cuddling, scary movies and antiques, searching for a SWM, 52+, with various interest and qualities. ☎164114
- I LISTEN WITH MY HEART**
Attractive DWF, late 40s, Cancer, N/S, seeks special, no games WM, 45+, N/S, for caring, quality committed relationship. Let's create sparks and watch them fly. ☎639272
- LOOKING 4 GENTLEMAN**
Attractive, professional, educated WF, 55, 5'2", slim, N/S. Interest include movies, concerts, comedy clubs, jazz, dancing, dining out, family ties. Seeking WM, 48-65, HWP, for lasting, loving LTR. ☎973365
- FIND ME**
Attractive SAF, 49, N/S, 5'3", 110lbs, slim build, seeks WM, 45-56, N/S, for friendship, and more. ☎113901
- 59 YEARS OLD ENTREPRENEUR**
Pretty, charming SWF, successful, kind, compassionate, lots of fun, looking for her knight in shining armor. Any sincere, caucasian gentlemen, 55-80, please respond. Hopefully we'll be each others soul mates. ☎592074
- FORMER MODEL**
SWF, 50, 5'6", slender, intelligence, creativity, passion for music and dancing. Seeks partner 38-50, who is attractive and fit, to share his interests and more. ☎600106
- LOOKING FOR YOU**
Attractive SWF, Catholic, 58, N/S, 6', good shape, seeks WM, 53-70, N/S, who enjoys golf, movies, theater, dining, long walks, church, and much more. ☎124235
- SOULMATE SEARCH**
Slim, attractive, 57-yr-old JF looking for her soulmate, any sincere, successful JM, between the ages of 54-64, please respond. ☎589875
- FRIENDS FIRST**
W/HW, 68, 5'8", 145lbs, healthy, honest, happy, likes comedy films, country cooking. Looking for outdoorsy, active man affectionate and warm-hearted, to share the good things in life. ☎139719
- ARE YOU THE ONE?**
SBF, 56, BBW, loves jazz, concerts, movies, travel, walks, great conversation. Seeking commitment-minded, mature, loving man with similar interests for possible LTR. ☎140023
- ARE YOU MY MATCH?**
SBF, 34, 5'5", average, likes relaxing at home watching movies, seeking a SBM, 34-50, professional, outgoing and likes to have a lot of fun. ☎169214
- HI EVERYONE**
SF, 18, seeks nice, easygoing guy who knows how to have fun, and knows how to treat a lady. Friendship first. ☎142588
- SEEKING A LADY?**
SBF, 56, 6'4", 110lbs, slim build, Sagittarius, smoker, honest, sincere, retired, enjoys movies, concerts, travel, park walks, seeks man, 45-70, similar, for friendship, possible romance. ☎118410
- DO YOU LIKE CHOCOLATE?**
SBF, 54, 5'9", N/S, with great personality, likes walking holding hands, playing intellectual board games and Jazz music. Seeks SM, 50+, with similar interests, for companionship, romance, possible lr. ☎155588
- HERE I AM**
Warm, insightful, creative SBF, 53, enjoys music, cooking, art shows, gardening, going out, woodland walks, and the finer things in life. ISO like-minded SM. Sound like you? ☎161883
- THE ONE**
5'10", 51-year-old DWF seeking long-term meaningful relationship with honest, caring WM, with good morals. I am a BBW, 300lbs+, N/S, light-drinker, drug-free, clean, and straight. ☎956929
- GET TO KNOW ME**
Loving, open-minded SBF, 60, 145lbs, attractive, enjoys music, dining, concerts, travel, ISO honest, compassionate SM, 57-65, N/S. Possible LTR. ☎963760
- GIVE ME A TRY**
SM, 44, educated, open-minded, employed hard-working, looking for SF to get to know, share fun times. I enjoy hanging w/friends, bungee jumping, flying planes, RC plane models, much more. Interested? ☎186071
- NEW TO AREA**
SWM, 36, 6'5", athletic build, dark blond/blue, enjoys sports, outdoors, music, movies, cooking and more. Seeking creative, fun lady with an open mind and heart to share friendship and fun. ☎140690
- LOVE COMFORT LAUGHTER**
SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. ☎992943
- HOPPE TO HEAR FROM YOU**
SBM, 44, 5'9", father, enjoys gourmet cooking, beach walks, sunshine, soft rock, much more. Seeking a loving, happy lady to share the special times in life. ☎151943
- SHARP**
Easygoing SBM, 69, enjoys movies, music, long drives, gourmet tea, live music, much more. Seeking spontaneous SWF, 37-50, for friendship good times, good talks and maybe more. ☎152047
- GOT TIME?**
SBM, 46, 6'3", average build, seeks down-to-earth, gentle, honest SF, 35-55, for dinner dates, good conversation, walks in the park, or just hanging out watching a good movie. ☎154257
- ROMANTIC & ATTRACTIVE**
DWM, 60, 5'11", 180lbs, seeks nice-looking lady to help share each others heart, and life's daily adventures. ☎148279
- LOVELY & READY**
SWM, 49, average build, Italian, heart of gold, Virgo, N/S, seeks WF, 45-55, with a nice build, ready for LTR. Serious replies only. Redford Area. ☎603005
- TAKE A LOOK**
DWM, 46, 5'9", blonde/hazel, N/S, occasional drinker, likes movies, music, dining out, bowling and the simple things. Seeking a SWF, 35-45, slender, with similar interests, for phone conversations and more. ☎163964
- ARE YOU MY LADY?**
SBM, 24, 6'3", N/S, D/D-free, seeks a SWF, 24-33, slender, attractive, honest, easygoing, fun, active, for friendship, romance and exploring life together. ☎165882
- TALL, MUSCULAR SWM**
47, 6'2", 205lbs, athletic, part time personal trainer, brown/blue, degreed, outgoing personality, enjoys outdoors, working out, new activities, seeking friendly SF, age/location open. ☎531308
- SERIOUS WOMAN WANTED**
SBM, 46, looking for that special persona for LTR, someone who enjoys walks, movies, sporting events, cuddling at home. Please be shapely, independent and know what you want in life. ☎692418
- WORTH A CALL**
SWM, 48, 6', 175lbs, N/S, homeowner, hard-working, easygoing, honest, secure, enjoys motorcycling, hunting, the outdoors. Seeking honest, secure, attractive slim/fit woman, 25-50, N/S, D/D-free. ☎959910
- LOVE COMFORT LAUGHTER**
SWM, 49, 5'9", 195lbs, is nuts about nature, enjoys the outdoors, fishing, etc. Seeks compatible SWF, to have and hold. ☎114846
- ANGEL WANTED**
SBPM, 32, 5'7", great SOH, enjoys movies and cooking. Seeking female, 4'5'8", for fun times, romance, possible long-term relationship, age/race open. All call returned. ☎171664
- CALL ME SOMETIME**
Self-employed SM, 51, 5'11", 177lbs, blue eyes, loves enjoys motorcycles, the outdoors, travel, cooking, music from modern rock to motown, and much more. ISO, affectionate, honest SF, slim-medium build. Friendship/LTR? ☎148467
- READY WITH A SMILE**
Cute Italian male, 55, 6'2", 240lbs, N/S, shaved head/glasses, loves photography, comedy shows and making people laugh. Seeking a SWF, 40-55, N/S, to make her smile. ☎165559
- TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF**
Employed, sincere, respectful SM, 27, well-built, attractive, looking for down-to-earth, shapely, attractive, sweet woman with good attitude and nice smile to share the good times in life. ☎699116
- THIS ONE'S FOR YOU**
SWM, 52, seeks SWF, 38-54, fun-loving, commitment-minded, happy and sociable, to share concerts, sporting events, travel, nature walks, camping, simple fun. Interested? ☎166300
- SEARCHING FOR LADY LOVE**
SM, 51, 5'11", 185lbs, enjoys the outdoors, boating, dining out, music, long walks, etc. Seeking honest, caring SF, who enjoys same activities, for companionship, friendship and romance. ☎146012
- FRIEND AND CONFIDANT**
SWM, 74, active, educated, financially-secure, seeking a nice woman. Join me for dining, dancing, and classical music. I'm a good listener, and would love to hear from you! ☎139382
- SERIOUS**
SWM, 71, N/S, widowed, 6' 8", 150lbs, young at heart, enjoys outdoors, cooking, dining out, traveling, seeks slim, petite female, 62-70, N/S. ☎118483
- THE BASICS**
SWM, 66, 5'9", slim build, youthful, 160lbs, seeks WF, 40-61, N/S, for friendship, possible romance. ☎116789
- OPEN DOORS**
SWM, 60, 5'6", long wavy/blue, masculine build, lumberjack, likes the outdoors and physical activities, seeks a SWF, 57-65, N/S, slender, fit, for companionship and more. ☎165259

REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48170. Please include the date of the reunion, one contact person, and a telephone number.

REUNIONS

Berkley High School

Class of 1987
A 20-year reunion in planned for Nov. 24, 2007. Looking for all current contact info for alumni from class of 1987. Contact Kim (DeWilde) Everingham at (734)422-0087 or e-mail info to kim-silasophia@gmail.com. Reunion website is www.BHSreunion1987.com for further information and details.

Bishop Borgess

Class of 1987
A 20-year reunion, Sept. 15, 2007, at the Livonia Marriott. Contact borgess87@hotmail.com for more information.

Dearborn Fordson

Class of 1977
A 30-year reunion, Friday, Aug. 3 to Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007. Contact Val Schulte (Wrenbeck) at msugrad81@cox.net with your current address and phone number.

Dearborn Edsel Ford

Class of 1967
A 40-year reunion 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, 2007, at Doubletree Hotel, Dearborn. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, approximately \$35. For information, call Cheryl Riske Brown at (313)336-0192 or e-mail efs67@yahoo.com

Detroit Chadsey

Class of 1957
A 50th Reunion is being planned for

Sept. 29, at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. Looking for January, June and Summer '57 graduates. If interested in attending or know of the whereabouts of other classmates, contact Pat Gorski-Zielinski, (989) 366-9288.

Detroit Cody

Class of 1957
A 50th reunion at the Embassy Suites, Livonia

Oct. 5, 2007. Cost is \$90 per person, complete with dinner, open bar, memory book, CD, champagne toast and much more. This invitation is to all 50's graduates. Deadline is June 25. Call 800-859-9502 or email loreto@wideopenwest for details. Cost is \$90.00 per person, complete with dinner, open bar, memory book, champagne toast and much more.

Detroit Cooley

Classes of 1967, 1968
Reunion 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sep. 29, 2007, at Laurel Manor, Livonia. Discounted tickets before March 1. Contact Dave Junquist at (810)667-9131, Website www.geocities.com/cooleyreunions67. All classmates are encouraged to register for inclusion in memory book at www.classreport.org/usa/mi/detroit/cooley1967

Detroit Denby

Class of 1957
A 50th reunion is planned for Sept. 7, 8, and 9, 2007, at the Thomas Edison Inn, Port Huron. Seeking lost graduates, January/June classes. If you are not yet on the mailing list, please email maroonfowl@aol.com or call (248) 642-0249.

Detroit Henry Ford

Class of 1967
A 40th reunion will be held 6:30-11:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at Laurel Manor Special Event Center in Livonia.

Seeking January, June and summer graduates from 1967. For information, call Ellen (Neihoff) VanderRoest at (248)684-7705 or email chuckandelvan@comcast.net.

Detroit Holy Redeemer

Class of 1957
A 50-year reunion, Oct. 12, 2007, at O'Kelley KofC Council, Dearborn. In interested in attending or know the whereabouts of former classmates, contact John Duff at oliverlynn@aol.com or phone (734)261-3346.

Detroit Mackenzie

Class of 1957
Looking for graduates to attend a reunion scheduled for Oct. 19, 2007. Call Eleanor at (734)425-8278.

Detroit Western

Class of 1962
A 45-year reunion will be held in September 2007. Seeking information on classmates from that year. All other classes welcome. Contact Judy Hull Rakowski at (734) 459-3832 or Judy Spiro Scranton at jscranton@yahoo.com

Detroit Southwestern

Class of 1957
A 50-year reunion is being planned for September 2007. Looking for January and June graduates. If interested in attending or know of the whereabouts of other classmates, contact Angie (Conz) Maccani at (313) 532-4379 or Ken Suski at (313) 291-5450.

Epiphany Grade School

Class of 1966
A 40-year reunion is in the planning stages for the summer of 2006. Contact Dorothy at (248) 477-9478 or dzsnyder@hotmail.com.

Ferndale Lincoln High

Class of 1947 January and June
60th class reunion, Aug. 3, 4 and 5 at

The Hilton Hotel on Crooks Road in Troy. For information or details contact: Treva (Powell)Hamill, 248-667-1601, bobtreva@aol.com or, Dick Reising, 248-623-9060, dreising@sbc-global.net

Fordson High School

Class of 1969
Planning a reunion for 2007. Please contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com or Kathy Shoebridge @ Klivingston@nucore.com.

Garden City High School

Class of 1987
Searching for all class of '87 Alumni for a 20-year reunion. Need to find current information on alumni (name, address, phone, email, etc.). Contact GCHSClassof87reunion@comcast.net or call Sheryl (Pietryka) Catton at (734) 367-0898.

Grosse Pointe North

Class of 1991
Call (800) 677-7800, visit www.taylorreunions.com or e-mail: info@taylorreunions.com.

Ladywood High School

Class of 1967
A 40-year reunion in planned for June 9-10, 2007. Headquarters at Courtyard by Marriott, Laurel Park, Livonia. Call Liz at (248)681-7768 or email LHS67@comcast.net for further information.

Livonia Bentley High School

Class of 1957
A 50th reunion Saturday, June 9, at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100

Merriman Road, Livonia. Doors open 6 p.m., dinner at 6:30. Cost \$45 per person due May 1. For information, call Janice Sue Fernandez, (734)427-1288.

Livonia Churchill

Classes of 1971-2007
Alumni Summer Bash 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 16, Nankin Mills Park, Ann Arbor Trail and Hines Drive. No fees but accepting donations. All proceeds over and above costs are being donated to the Western Wayne Skill Center. For more information, call Chris (Don) Nicholson at (734)658-5296 or Chris@ChurchillAlumni.com or Gayle Napolitano Nicholson at (734)728-0393 or Gayle@ChurchillAlumni.com.

Livonia Franklin

Class of 1969
A reunion is in the pre-planning stages for 2007. For more information, contact Kathy Nisun at (248) 363-5679 or e-mail: Kayninilu@aol.com.

Our Lady of Sorrows

Class of 1966
Aug. 17, 18 and 19. For more information, call Pat Ormsby LaPlante at (248)476-0634.

Redford Thurston High School

Classes of 1957, 1958
A 50-year reunion is planned with several events Sept. 14-16 at Embassy Suites, Livonia. For information, contact Ron Beller at (989)652-9724 or e-mail at Admiraf74@yahoo.com or Marian Keegan Hierholzer at (248)349-2697 or e-mail at Mamia@comcast.net

Roseville High School

Class of 1956
A 50th reunion in fall of 2006. The reunion committee is searching for classmates. For information, call Shirley at (586) 677-2709; Alice at (586) 792-7757 or e-mail at all-june1939@scbglobal.net or thhermans2002@comcast.net.

Royal Oak Dondro High School

Class of June-Jan. of 1959
Seeking classmates for Aug. 4 reunion. Include name, address and e-mail address to: Jean (Elliotte) Palmer 248-435-7875, JPalmer73@aol.com, or Mike Soule 248-853-7483.

Southeastern (Detroit)

Class of 1987
A 20-year reunion is being planned for summer 2007. Looking for graduates of June 1987. If interested in attending or know of whereabouts of graduates, contact Terri Banks-Faison at (313)220-4769 or trntfaison@aol.com

Southfield High School

Class of 1977
A 30th Reunion on Sunday, Sept. 2, 2007. For further information, contact MDurz@aol.com or lreneSilvermanAbrinSHS1977@comcast.net

St. Anthony Elementary

All classes
Reunion on Oct. 6, 2007 for the Detroit school at 25th and Vernor. Email mrfk4yahoo.com or call (734)995-9243 for further details and to give your contact information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Brama-Ward

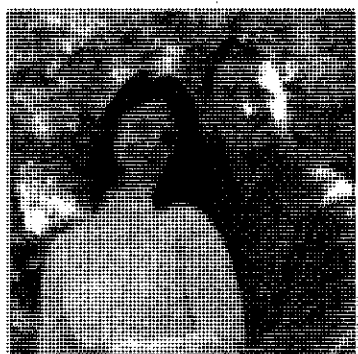
Melissa Brama and Chad Ward were married Nov. 4, 2006, on the beach at sunset at the Sunset Beach Resort in Nassau, Bahamas. The ceremony was officiated by the Rev. Dianne Coverley.

The bride is the daughter of Cindy Briody of Garden City. She is a 1999 graduate of Wayne Memorial High School and attended Grand Valley State University. She is an assistant manager at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Kokomo, Ind.

The groom is the son of Sam and Sherry Ward of Rossville, Ind. He is a graduate of Grand Valley State University. He is an assistant manager at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in West Lafayette, Ind.

Maid of honor was Chad's sister and Melissa's best friend Renae Ward. Best Man was Matt Toth. Chad's best friend from college. At dinner at Luciano's of Chicago in Nassau immediately followed the wedding attended by family members. The couple will honeymoon at a later date.

They will make their home in Rossville Indiana.



Rutecki-Dainty

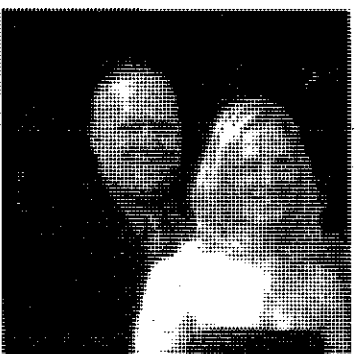
William Rutecki of LaVerne, Calif., and Barbara Rutecki of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Nicole Geneva Rutecki of East Lansing, to Ryan James Dainty of Mishawaka, Ind.

The bride-to-be is a 2006 graduate of Michigan State University and is currently teaching in East Lansing.

The prospective groom is the son of Jim and Helen Dainty of Cookerville, Ind. He is a 2004 graduate of the University of Tennessee. He is a master of divinity student at the University of Notre Dame.

An Aug. 4 wedding is planned at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth followed by a reception at Plymouth Manor.

The couple will make their home in South Bend, Ind.



Smith-Rider

Gerrard and Stephanie Smith of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Smith, to Chad Rider of Canton.

The bride-to-be graduated from Plymouth-Canton Schools. She received a doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of Michigan in 2003. She is employed as a pharmacist at Busch's Pharmacy in Saline.

The prospective groom is the son of Nina Rider of South Lyon. He is a graduate of South Lyon schools. He received master of science degree in information systems management from Lawrence Technological University in 2001. He is employed as a MIS manager for Kalitta Air in Ypsilanti.

A wedding is planned for March 2 at St. Thomas a Becket in Canton.

The couple will make their home in Canton.

How to submit announcements

Local engagement, wedding, anniversary and birth announcements run in the Sunday editions of the *Observer*. There is no charge to submit an announcement.

To obtain a copy of our forms for engagements, weddings, anniversaries and births email Hugh Gallagher at hgallagher@hometownlife.com. Or send the following information to Hugh Gallagher, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150:

For engagement announcements, include:

- Names, addresses and cities for the bride, groom and both sets of parents
- Where bride and groom attended (or attend) high school and college and years graduated

For wedding announcements, include:

- Wedding date
- Wedding location
- Daytime phone number and e-mail address in case we have any questions.

For wedding announcements, include:

- All of the above, plus
- Clergy's name
- Names and cities of all attendants
- Reception location
- Honeymoon location
- City where couple will reside

• If you have questions regarding your announcement, call (734) 953-2149.



Natalie Irene McCall

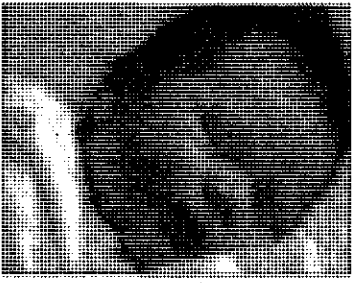
Duane and Lynette McCall of Canton announce the birth of their daughter, Natalie Irene McCall, on Jan. 23, 2007, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Natalie weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces at birth and 21 inches long.

She has a sister, Abby Elizabeth.

Grandparents are Duane and Jill McCall of Dearborn Heights, Emily Clarke of Waterford and Ron and Joanne Clarke of Lake Orion.

Great-grandparents are Emery and Elizabeth Weiss of Mt. Clemens, Myril Lehtinen of Waterford and Bud and Mary Lou Elenbaum of Pigeon.

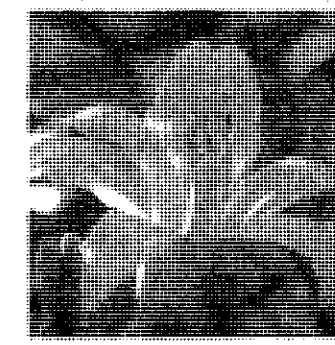


Ellen Grace Tomlinson

Jeff and Kelly Tomlinson of Florence, Ky., announce the birth of their daughter, Ellen Grace, on Dec. 4, 2007. The Tomlinsons are former residents of Livonia.

Grandparents are John and Luanne Woodley of Livonia, Len and Cindy Gallagher of Clarkston and Mark and Monica Tomlinson of Plymouth.

Great-grandparents are Pat Hope of Livonia, Ilsa deArmas of Redfore and Pat Cardinal of Livonia.

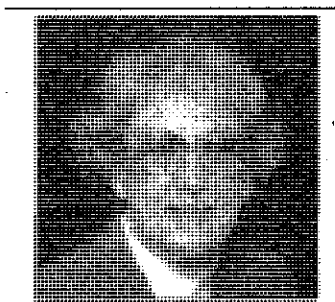


JOHN BAFFY

Age 66, February 13, 2007. Beloved husband of Judith for 40 years, loving father of William (Kelly) and Robert (Jennifer), proud grandfather of Christopher. Survived by two sisters and many nieces and nephews. Former youth hockey coach and avid golfer. Private services were held February 16. Memorial donations to Angela Hospice.

CHARLES REED COLLINS

of Livonia died at his home, Friday, February 9, 2007. Charles, beloved son of Dr. Elwood R. and Linda R. Collins, was born November 13, 1970 in Detroit. Charles is survived by his parents, sisters Dr. Janice Collins, Miss Leslie Collins and Dr. Karen Collins-Grady (Dr. Jeff Grady) and nieces and nephews Alexandra, Spencer, Eleanor, Olivia, Bennett and Avery. Services were held at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home of Plymouth with interment to take place at the family plot in Bad Axe. Memorials may be made to Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars or the American Legion of Livonia, Post 32, 3918 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48150.

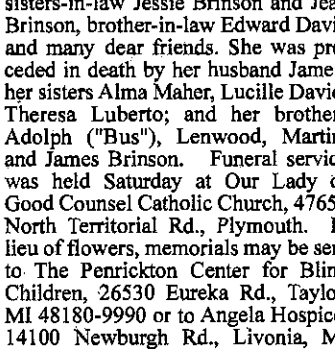


GEORGINA P. CONNELL

Age 88, of Plymouth, passed away February 14, 2007. Born June 28, 1918 in Halifax, Nova Scotia,

Georgia moved to the Plymouth community in 1979. Retired from the Ford Motor Company as a registered nurse. Served as a flight nurse during WWII in the Army Air Corp. Member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth. Georgina loved to travel and her travels took her around the world. She also enjoyed the theatre and opera. She was extremely close to and proud of her large, extended family of brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews. She is survived by her sister Phyllis Robinson Feddis; her loving nieces and nephews and their extended families, as well as her sisters-in-law Jessie Brinson and Jean Brinson, brother-in-law Edward David and many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her husband James; her sisters Alma Maher, Lucille David, Theresa Luberto; and her brothers Adolph ("Bus"), Lenwood, Martin, and James Brinson. Funeral service was held Saturday at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 47650 North Territorial Rd., Plymouth. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to The Pernickton Center for Blind Children, 26530 Eureka Rd., Taylor, MI 48180-9990 or to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd., Livonia, MI 48154-5010. Arrangements were entrusted to Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main St., Plymouth.

In Memory Of



In Memory of

GRACE A. LAWRENCE

Oct. 25, 1919 - Feb. 19, 1997

The years go by...yet in my heart you shall remain forever young. Somehow...with you the dew and the stars are wondrous things. The dragonflies have fairy wings. Flowers look upon you when you are near and the voice of the turtle rings in my ear.

Loving Wife, Mother and Grandmother

Love, Steve and your entire family

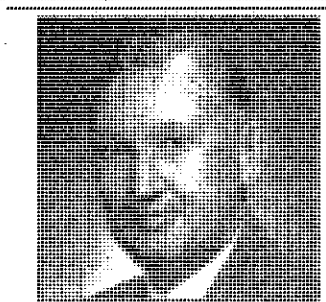
May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends



Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances

1-800-579-7355 ♦ fax: 734-953-2232

e-mail: oeobits@hometownlife.com



EDWARD J. HAHN, JR.

February 13, 2007 Age 95 of Birmingham. Beloved husband of Nora and the late Marion. Brother of the late Eleanor Rich. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Services have been held. In lieu of flowers family suggests memorial tributes to the Hospice charity of donor's choice. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248) 549-0500. View obituary and share memories at www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

MARGIE ANNE HOEGY

Feb. 15, 2007 (as a result of an auto accident). Age 67, of Grass Lake, formerly of Livonia. Beloved wife of the late Louis; Loving mother of Melissa (Dan) Bass; Proud Nana of Abigail; Dear Sister of Beverly (Ted) Regal, Ron (Margo) Traub, Bonnie (Mike) Tyler, and Donna (John) Asher; Loving aunt of seven nieces and five nephews. Visitation Tuesday, 3-9pm at Vermeulen Funeral Home, 46401 W. Ann Arbor Rd., Plymouth (btwn Sheldon and Beck). In State Wednesday, 10am until 11am. Funeral service at Pa-Ho-Lo Camp and Conference Center Chapel, Grass Lake. To leave a message of condolence, please see:

vermeulenfuneralhome.com

DONALD K. HOFFMAN

Age 90, February 14, 2007. Army veteran of World War II. A resident of Plymouth for over 60 years and member of Newburg United Methodist Church for over 50 years. Survived by his wife of 66 years Mary. Dear father of Sharon (Richard) Waack and Terry Holt and the late Donna Holt. Also leaves five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and one sister. Visitation at the Schrader-Howell Funeral home, 280 South Main Street, Plymouth. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2007 at 2PM from Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia.

DOROTHY JEAN PHILLIPS

Of Brighton, formerly of Birmingham. Passed away Thursday, February 15, 2007 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor. She was born on March 19, 1929 in Bay City, Michigan, a daughter of John Littlejohn and Bernadine (Sterling) Philip. She moved to Brighton in 2003. Prior to 2003 she had been a resident of Birmingham for 30 years. Miss Phillips was raised in Bay City. Miss Phillips was the owner of the Village Snack Shop in Birmingham for many years. Miss Phillips is survived by her sister; Helen R. Jones of Brighton. Dear aunt of two nieces, two great-nieces and two great-nephews and three great-great-nieces. Private family services will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions in Miss Phillips name are suggested to the American Red Cross, Livingston County Chapter, 1372 W. Grand River, Howell, Michigan 48843.

ROBERT POLLOCK

Age 92 and lifelong resident of Birmingham, died on February 13, 2007 at Mercy Bellbrook Assisted Living in Rochester. Mr. Pollock was born on April 23, 1914 to the late Victor M. and Ethel M. (Meraw) Pollock. Mr. Pollock worked for the Detroit Edison Company, retiring in 1979 after 45 years of service. He is a veteran of World War II where he served in the Army. Mr. Pollock was a member of Holy Name Church and was one of the founding parishioners. Mr. Pollock is survived by his daughters, Kathleen Mary (Larry A.) McCurdy and Susan JoAnn (Carl H.) Schmidt; grandchildren, Kimberlee Sue (Timothy J.) Easterday, John Michael McCurdy, Melissa JoAnn (George J.) Zeff, Carl Robert, Elisabeth Anne, and Emily Elisabeth Schmidt; Great-grandchildren, Evelyn R. McCurdy and Gaia Arielle McCurdy. He is preceded in death by his wife, JoAnn Virginia (nee Howell) and brother, Phillip M. Pollock. Funeral was held at Holy Name Church, 630 Harmon, Birmingham, Friday 10:30am. Interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. Arrangements were entrusted to Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors.

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.).

Deadlines:

Friday 4:30 PM for Sunday

Wednesday Noon for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to

oeobits@hometownlife.com

or fax to:

Attn: Obits c/o Charolette Wilson

734-953-2232

For more information call:

Charolette Wilson

734-953-2070

or Liz Keiser

734-953-2067

or toll free

866-818-7653

ask for Char or Liz

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\$15 base/appt. Sales/service, no telemarketing, no exp needed, conditions exist. Must be 18+. Apply Now! Positions filling fast!!! (248) 426-4405

ACCOUNTANT

Canton - full-time entry level accountant. Duties include bank reconciliations, journal entries, financial statements, budgets, analyze and maintain general ledgers. Must have Bachelors Degree in Accounting, Exc. computer and communication skills, self-motivated, team member. E-mail resume/salary requirements to LSargent@energyintl.com

Accounting - Entry Level

Local Canton based co. seeking an accountant with a bachelors degree. HR exp. a plus. For immediate consideration please apply at www.ademployment.com

APARTMENT COMMUNITY MANAGER

For Canton apt. community. Must have experience in apt. community management. Great opportunity for right person. Please fax resume to (248) 473-5480

APARTMENT MANAGER PART-TIME

For small apt. community in suburban area. Ideal for retired candidate. Should be able to lease, perform minor plumbing & electrical repairs, cleaning of vacants & common areas. One bedroom apt. & salary provided. Mail resume to: PO Box 2033 Southfield MI 48037-2033

ASSISTANT MANAGER-PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Part time assistant manager for self storage in Livonia. Must have exp. in sales, customer service, MS Windows/computers and heavy paperwork. Outside maintenance duties required. Vacation benefits. 734-422-0072 or 248-476-7452

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Busy auto body facility now accepting applications for multiple positions.
• Experienced Body Technician
• Detail/Rub-out Technician
• Customer Service Representative
• Body Helper
• Porter
Entry-level employees and tech school grads welcome. Please fax resumes to: 313-584-2955. Please include any certification information.

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For westside auto dealer. Full-time position with benefits to applicant with clean driving record, knowledge of metro Detroit roadways, neat appearance & good communication skills. Email resume: parts-jobs@hotmail.com

AUTO SERVICE ADVISOR

Needed for large independent general repair facility. Exp. necessary. Apply in person: DAVIS AUTO CARE 807 Doherty Dr., Northville (248) 349-5115

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ISO certified precision machine company has an opening in its Canton facility. Seeking an individual with exp. on Davenport. We offer a competitive wage, medical/dental benefits, overtime, 401K, bonus. Please fax your resume to: 734-414-7006

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Independent 6-12 school w/400 students & faculty seeking strong organizational & interpersonal skills for oversight of purchasing, scheduling & maintenance. Submit cover letter and resume to: adamsapps@yahoo.com (subject Bldg.) or fax to 248-642-8619 by 3/2/07

Cabinet Maker, Laminata, Wood Veneer & Finish
Of 7 yrs. exp. Good pay, benefits. Call: 734-522-6190

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Some travel required. Call Chris, 517-404-5685

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE
Part-time, no benefits. \$7.51 per hour. Mon thru Fri. Call for interview 248-837-8900

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Observer & Eccentric

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Machine Shop in Westland. Must be able to set up and program CNC Lathes with Fanuc controls. Knowledge of C Axis live tooling & Mastercam helpful. The person for this position must be a self-starter, highly motivated, work well with others and on their own. Only experienced need apply. This is a day shift position. Competitive pay based on exp. Overtime, 11 paid holidays, good benefits. Email: info@robmar.com Fax: (734) 326-2506 No phone calls.

CNC MILL OPERATOR

Mold Work
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BENEFITS
START IMMEDIATELY!
Apply: 13050 Inkster Rd. Redford, S. of 96.

CNC MILL Programmer/Operator, All Fanuc Controls

Exp. required. Apply in person: Global CNC, 11865 Globe St. Livonia, MI 48150

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The Detroit Institute of Arts

QUALIFICATIONS

- *Bachelor's degree in a related field;
- *Minimum 3 yrs. experience with the cultivation and solicitation of corporate donors;
- *Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- *Competent in the use of Word, Excel and large computer databases;
- *Ability to relate to and build meaningful relationships with a diverse population of potential donors;
- *Ability to work on a team;
- *Familiarity with museum environment preferred.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES SUPERVISOR

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RECRUITMENT SECTION

- Software Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Product Engineer
- Manufacturing Engineer
- Test Engineer
- Network Engineer
- Sr. System Engineer
- Sales Engineer
- Or any Engineering Position!

HAIR DRESSER ASSISTANT

Licensed. Exp. needed for busy West Bloomfield salon. Tues-Sat. (248) 921-1011

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5 yrs. minimum exp. at a managerial level, 10 yrs. minimum exp. in the housekeeping and hospitality industry. Extensive knowledge of housekeeping quality assurance programs. College degree preferred. Please send resume to: 14061 E Thirteen Mile Rd. Suite 2 Warren, MI 48098 Attn: 1FP

DELIVERY/SALES \$775-\$1050/WK

6 needed. Company vehicle. Training. Sales required. (248) 471-5200

DIRECT CARE WORKER

Canton Group Home. Staff for afternoon/midnight shift. Highly independent residents. Competitive wages/benefits. (734) 397-6955

Direct Caregivers

To support people with disabilities with living their lives. Requires good Driving Record. Jobs in Plymouth, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Taylor, Wayne, Livonia & Redford. Pay starts at \$7.30/hr. Untrained. Just in: 248-477-5209 x107 Mary Ann 248-477-5209 x109

Driver CDL B

Valid DOT, furniture delivery experience preferred. Call: 734-260-2686

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Parts Mfg in Redford looking for energetic individual to drive 12 ft delivery truck and assist shipping Dept with various duties to include washing and packaging of parts. Must have chauffeurs license and good driving record. Competitive wages and benefits. Apply in person 24500 Capitol Ave. Between 2-4 PM

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CDL-A required. Mechanical background needed. Travel within MI from Livonia. Home on weekends. Fax or email resume to: Cech Corporation cecchet@cech.com (989) 792-4340

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CRIMBOLI NURSERY, INC. Phone: (734) 495-1700 Fax: 734-495-1131

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No experience necessary. Apply TruGreen/Chemlawn 48932 Wixom Tech Dr. Wixom. 248-960-1216 or Fax: 248-960-1468 EOE/M/F/D/V/AA

DRIVERS - CDL A & B

CRIMBOLI NURSERY, INC. Phone: (734) 495-1700 Fax: 734-495-1131

ENGINEERING RECRUITMENT SECTION

- Software Engineer
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- Manufacturing Engineer
- Test Engineer
- Network Engineer
- Sr. System Engineer
- Sales Engineer
- Or any Engineering Position!

Oil Change Technicians

10 Minute Oil Change experience or will train. Full 8/9 part-time. Apply in person: 34680 W. B Mile Rd. Farmington Hills. 248-476-1313

PRODUCTION TECHNICIANS

Due to growth our manufacturing facility in Plymouth is recruiting for Production Technicians. Qualified candidates will have a related associate degree and/or at least two years experience operating, maintaining and adjusting manufacturing equipment to maximize production output while maintaining quality & safety. Electrical and Mechanical experience required. This is a 24/7 operation with various shifts/schedules. We offer a competitive benefits package including medical, dental, 401K with company match and more!
Send resume to: Atn: PT #14, email: HR@abopure.com Observed Water Co. E.O.E.

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Local Canton based company seeking a motivated, energetic sales rep. Exp. preferred, but not necessary. For immediate consideration please apply at www.ademployment.com

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JOB FAIR

Light Industrial/Warehouse Openings
Monday, Feb 19: 8am-5pm
Tuesday, Feb 20: 8am-noon
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WSI

WORLDWIDE SERVICES INC.

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FARMINGTON HILLS MFG CO
No experience required. Math skills needed. Full-time position. Benefits. Advancement Opportunities. Apply Mon. - Fri. 1-4pm. For more information call 248-477-3230

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Maintain and troubleshoot HVAC systems and all related equipment. Knowledge on building automation systems, pneumatics, and electrical controls. Able to perform all aspects of building maintenance, plumbing, electrical, etc.
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For pediatric office in Bloomfield. Looking for 2 full time MA's. Pediatric exp. helpful. Full benefits. Fax resume 248-203-0083.

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For carpet cleaning/ water restoration distributor. Must be self-motivated, self-starter, and a leader. Dependable transportation and cell phone needed. Must be able to learn the product and sell it. Fax resume 734-722-0199.

PRODUCTION TECHNICIANS

Due to growth our manufacturing facility in Plymouth is recruiting for Production Technicians. Qualified candidates will have a related associate degree and/or at least two years experience operating, maintaining and adjusting manufacturing equipment to maximize production output while maintaining quality & safety. Electrical and Mechanical experience required. This is a 24/7 operation with various shifts/schedules. We offer a competitive benefits package including medical, dental, 401K with company match and more!
Send resume to: Atn: PT #14, email: HR@abopure.com Observed Water Co. E.O.E.

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For a fast-growing manufacturing company in the Troy-Rochester Hills area. All trips are local, Monday thru Friday, 8am thru 4pm. Chauffeur's license, drug screen required. Ideal applicant should be reliable, hard working, honest, and work ethic, able to complete physical tasks, and be able to work well with all types of people. Interested applicants should fax their resumes, including contact information, to: (248) 597-9999 Attn: Dan

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CURT Furniture Rental needs Inside & Outside Warehouse Associates for Ferndale Distribution Center. Ideal candidates: Able to work flexible schedule, Pass pre-employment background check, drug screen & agility test. CURT offers steady hrs., competitive wages & ex. benefits. Interested individuals should apply in person with Lorenzo at 1310 Academy, Ferndale. EEO/AA/M/F/D/V

WELDER NEEDED

Building supply company looking for reliable person to help in welding, shipping, & receiving. Century Hardware, (248) 348-6500

CDKs • CASHIERS • UTILITY

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IS SYSTEMS SUPPORT

Steel Industries Inc. located in Redford is looking for a motivated and dependable team player for a full time information systems technical position. Applicants should have a strong PC background, 1-3 years of networking knowledge, & a plus. Some heavy lifting will be required on occasion. Applicant will be required to service 40+ location. Must have reliable transportation. We offer a competitive salary and benefit package. Please send resume and salary req's to: Steel Industries Inc., 12600 Beech Daly Rd., Redford, MI 48239.

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March is Brain Injury Author tells kids to set goals for success Awareness Month

BY SHARON DARGAY
COMMUNITY LIFE EDITOR

March 1 marks the beginning of Brain Injury Awareness Month in the United States.

In Michigan, a kick-off rally will be held at our State Capitol Building in Lansing.

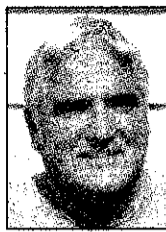
Michigan is the only known state to hold a kick-off rally and it is more than a little known secret that we have been doing so for eight consecutive years!

This year's rally will be the Eighth Annual conducted by our own Farmington Hills "Therapy Choir." This unique group of men and women are recovering from traumatic brain injuries, which are often accompanied with mental illness and substance abuse problems.

The Therapy Choir has been removing the stigma of these words for all audiences, far and wide, for the past nine years. The choir is headquartered at Broe Rehabilitation Services, Inc. in Farmington Hills which has serviced thousands of brain injured individuals over the past 20 years.

The choir has given over 145 free performances for our community and neighboring communities to increase awareness and break the silence about traumatic brain injuries and the related problems which occur every 21 seconds in America.

This year's rally will be co-sponsored by Farmington Hills State Rep. Aldo Vagnozzi and State Sen. Gilda Jacobs. The rally takes place on Wednesday Feb. 28 from noon to 1 p.m. in the beautiful Atrium of our State Capitol. It is free and open to the public. A "Fill the Atrium" campaign may occur with our Farmington First Methodist Church whereby interested folks might share transportation or perhaps a bus. (Call Volunteer Voice Coordinator Terry Mock at (248) 505-3951 for informa-



Chatroom
Len
McCulloch

tion). The church, you know, donated their choir robes to the choir when it began in 1997.

Word has come to us that 60-80 percent of our wounded military returning from Iraq have traumatic brain injuries. The Therapy Choir's new goal is to open its membership to veterans and their families and allow the military to use our choir to raise awareness about this epidemic and need for treatment providers beyond our VA system.

Do think seriously about attending this rally and learning more about traumatic brain injury which is so prevalent in our youth (through sports and abuse), in teens (through violence and drugs and drinking), in adults (through motor vehicle accidents and violence) and in our elderly (through falls and accidents). These are the chief causes. Prevention is the chief cure.

Also know that The Therapy Choir has opened its membership to all in our community through its Volunteer Voices Program. Anyone with or without a disability is welcome to join-up with us. We are a therapy choir and no singing ability is required! We are advocating education, awareness, and inspiration on our continuing "Tour of Hope."

Len McCulloch is a Diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is the creator and Director of The Therapy Choir. He is credentialed in mental health, brain injury, substance abuse and social work. For information call him at (248) 474-2763 ext. 22.

Larry Cole, of Farmington, became an author last year to keep kids from falling "through the cracks" and turning into adults on "a fast track to nowhere."

"I thought if I could get to those kids earlier, I could get them on the right track and make their lives better. I'd write a series of short stories, make the print larger and add extra space between the lines. It'd be an easy read." The story portion of his paperback, *Don't Blame Me!*, runs only 100 pages, but packs in concepts about goal-setting, organization, and overcoming obstacles. He also includes pages of motivational quotes ("Great ideas need landing gear as well as wings"), rules for success and a photo gallery of "champions." His "Goal Tender," a score sheet for keeping track of chores and goals, is inserted into every book.

Cole, who coached Little League baseball for many years and works as an airline captain, says he strongly believes in the need for children and teens to set and achieve small, realistic goals that might be stepping stones to larger goals. He taught his son to set goals at an early age. The 26-year-old is finishing his law school degree.

"Put a big goal in front of you and you'll look at it very day. It will be overwhelming and you'll say, 'No way can I do that.' But put the big goal aside and put baby steps in front and you achieve the first one. You're a little closer now and the big goal is possible."

His short stories each illustrate how.

There's Rudy, the aspiring actor, who is too shy to audition. The school drama teacher helps him overcome his fears by guiding him through baby steps. After reading a script out loud to her, he musters the courage to meet new people each day, eventually speaking to small groups and then large groups.

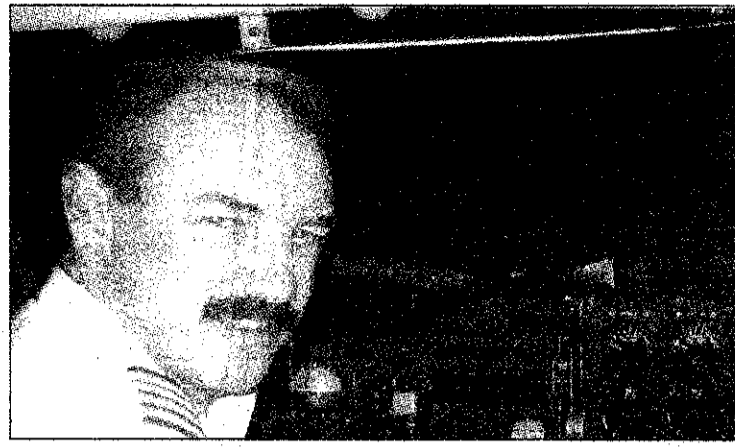
Joey, the aspiring baseball player, needed to improve hitting, catching and throwing before he'd earn a spot on a team at the playground.

"Instead of trying to improve on everything at once, he'd focus on one phase of the game at a time," Cole wrote. The boy watched baseball, read about technique and then practiced until he strengthened all of his skills and eventually made the team.

"The goal has to be written down and there has to be a deadline. Without a deadline a goal is just a wish," Cole said. "A goal is a goal, even if it's a selfish goal, like 'I want a new sweater.' You still have to work to achieve it. Once they become a part of your daily life, goals become routine."

ADULTS NEED GOALS

Cole stresses that goal-setting early in life can lead to a happier, more fulfilling adulthood. Without goals, even adults flounder. He tells the story of a co-pilot, Buzz, who had "settled into a comfortable rut" at his job, not bothering to achieve beyond his



Author and airline pilot Larry Cole of Farmington.

co-pilot rating. Buzz wasn't prepared when his employer offered to test him for the pilot rank. He failed, but the airline gave him a month to study and re-take the test. Cole helped him set goals and eventually Buzz passed the test. They also worked on Buzz's pompous attitude toward other workers, using the same mini-goal method.

"He wouldn't talk to people," Cole said, adding that Buzz didn't know the name of the hangar janitor he saw every day.

"And then I pointed out to him that throughout his career as a captain he would meet many people," Cole wrote. "All are significant. They deserve your attention and kindness, even if all you do is smile and say hello."

Cole has sold his books primarily through craft fairs and through his Web site, www.dontblamelarry.com.

Don't Blame Me! costs \$9.95 and is published by Ferne Press.

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Pedophiles offer warnings

Psychotherapist talks with sexual offenders

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

No one disputes psychotherapist Dan O'Neil's comment that sex offenders are never cured. Five out of the eight men attending O'Neil's Monday night group therapy session are pedophiles.

These men will be the first to tell you there isn't a day goes by that they don't struggle to overcome their urges. They're here because they were court ordered, but say they want help after realizing the damage they've done to children. Most of them have been in therapy with O'Neil for about one year. Initially, all minimized the harm they caused their victims.

Ted went into his 15-year-old daughter's bedroom one night to fondle her breasts. He received two years probation and a mandate to complete O'Neil's Sex Offenders Treatment Program at the Birmingham Maple Clinic, an outpatient therapeutic resource for individuals and families in Troy. Here, the men pull no punches during the session as they try to expose the reasons for their behaviors.

O'Neil has to eventually put a stop to their interrogation of Bill, a newcomer. The 38-year-old man says he was jailed for a year because of a letter he wrote to his 14-year-old niece, but won't reveal the contents. Ten years earlier, he served time for another sexual assault. The men want to know the details so they can help

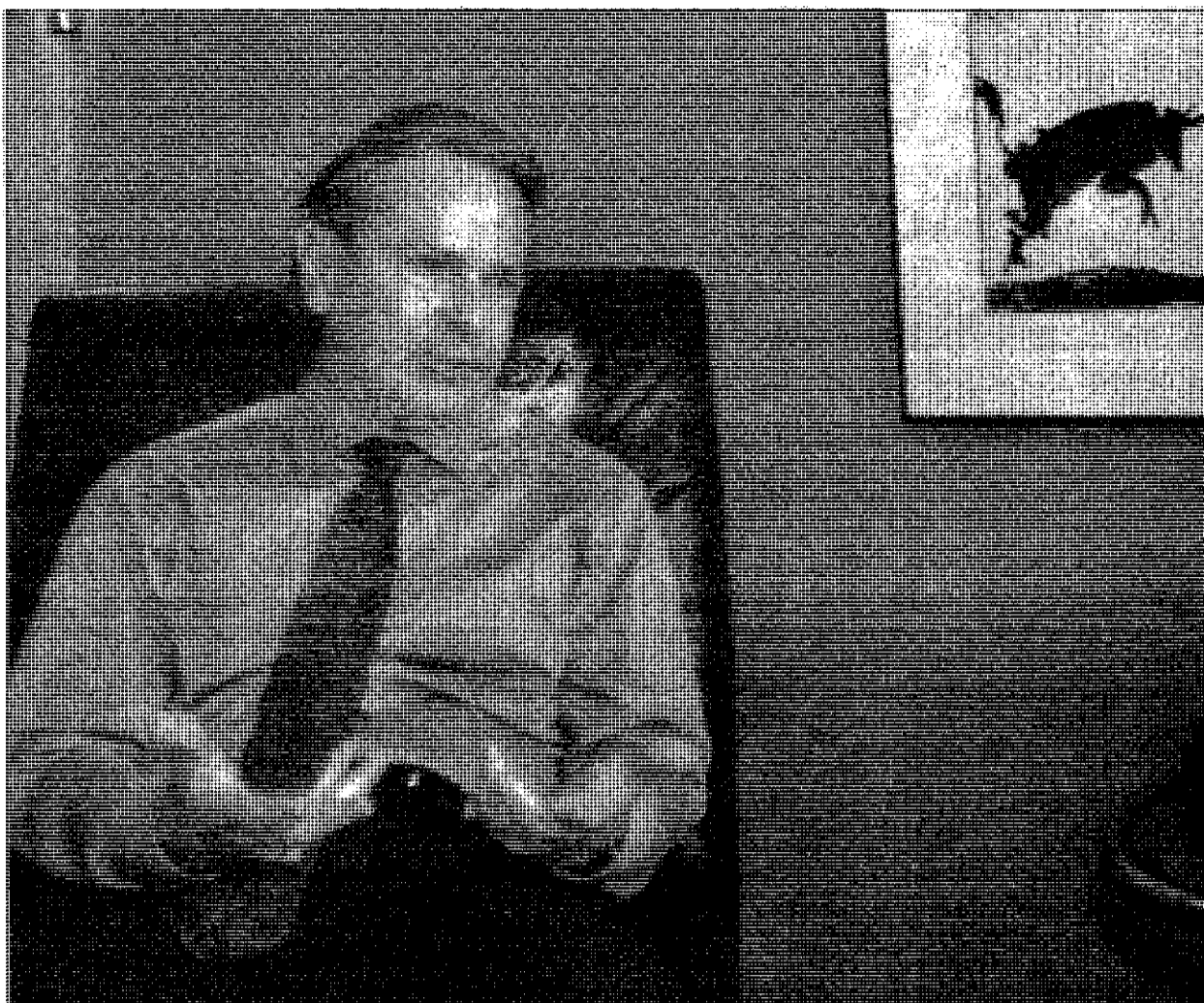
him understand that the victims will have to deal with issues of trust, fear, anger and confusion for the rest of their lives. Only then can he begin to change. But do pedophiles really change?

Eric says, it's a lifelong process. He asks is a druggie cured, an alcoholic?

O'Neil says the re-offending rate is low with therapy, but there is no solid method, not even chemical or surgical castration, for changing or stopping pedophiles from fantasizing about children. There are more than 500,000 sexual offenders in the U.S. according to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (www.missingkids.com). O'Neil says about 60 percent of them live in communities under supervision such as probation or parole.

Jack has to remember daily to assess his thoughts and actions. That's why the men feel it's important for parents to listen to their tips so that children don't become victims of a pedophile. When Jack asks Ted what he would tell mothers to keep their children safe, he says to trust their intuition.

When O'Neil began working with disturbed children in 1975, he discovered a high percentage had been sexually assaulted within their family. He says, "incest is underreported. Yet with treatment, the rate of re-offense is only about five percent. If a father assaults his daughter one time, touches her breast and it's not reported, he's going to do it



Psychotherapist Dan O'Neil talks with pedophiles as part of the Sex Offenders Treatment Program at Birmingham Maple Clinic.

again and go farther."

O'Neil sees a number of men who have assaulted a son or daughter. He believes "anyone who has ever touched a child in a sexual manner is a pedophile." About 90 percent are situational offenders — a child care worker, father, stepfather, a father's bowling partner. He says they don't have a healthy adult relationship and are looking for a friend or buddy then sexualize the relationship. Sometimes their judgment is clouded by anger and not having control. Sexually assaulting the child gives them power. O'Neil says these men are the bulk of sexual offenders, not strangers or preferential pedophiles fixated on children.

"My daughter blamed herself, me and her mom," Ted said. "If they suspect something, I would tell them to protect their kids. My wife knew and did very little."

Ted admits he would have denied his actions even if his wife had confronted him, but it might have stopped

him from sexually assaulting his daughter again. Communication is key to preventing and detecting sexual assault in children. Over and over, the men repeated that parents should listen to their kids. Rarely will a child make up a story about a sexual assault, O'Neil said. Moms should at least consider the assault occurred.

When the 11- and 13-year-old daughters of Keith's girlfriend told their mother he'd sexually assaulted them, she didn't believe it even though she'd been molested by her father. O'Neil said denial is not unusual. When a child is sexually assaulted "they can develop a blind spot as an adult and have to be especially vigilant. They may seek out these kind of guys that are predators if not resolved through therapy or by breaking the secret."

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Elegant competitor

Bloomfield woman preparing to defend her world champion ballroom dance title

BY SHARON DARGAY
COMMUNITY LIFE EDITOR

In rehab nursing, Kay Ford is known as "the velvet hammer" because of her thorough, get-it-done demeanor.

But on the ballroom dance floor, Ford is smooth as silk, whether quick-stepping in 2 1/2-inch heels, gliding to the Viennese waltz or making precise, dramatic tango moves.

"I'm a competitive person with myself and a perfectionist," said Ford, who will be 69 in March, the same month in which she will defend her world championship title in International Standard ballroom dancing. "I'm very dedicated to learning and that's different than just going out and dancing. It's a way of life. I'm serious about it."

"I wanted to be a dancer all my life."

Although she danced ballet on pointe and took a little tap when she was growing up in the Saginaw area, she put her dreams on hold to major in broadcasting at Michigan State, marry her husband, Robert, raise three children, take on a second career in nursing at age 32, attain a master's degree and start her own rehab nursing business, working with patients injured in vehicular accidents, their insurance carriers and doctors.

While still maintaining her nursing caseload, Ford, now a grandmother, started ballroom dancing 15 years ago and has steadily moved through its ranks from bronze to gold level, winning titles along the way. She dances in pro-am competitions with her teachers, Igor Litvinov, Professional International Standard champion, and John Abrams, four-time U.S. American Rhythm dance runner-up.

FOUR STYLES

Ford competes in two of the four ballroom dance styles: International Standard and American Ballroom. American

MICHIGAN DANCE CHALLENGE

What: Kay Ford of Bloomfield Hills will defend her title in the International Standard senior division of this ballroom dance competition

When: Sessions at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 29; 9 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 30; 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 31.

Where: Hyatt Regency in Dearborn.

Tickets: \$15 for daytime sessions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and for Thursday evening session; \$30 Friday evening and \$40 Saturday evening

Order tickets: Send a cashier's check or money order made payable to Michigan Dance Challenge, to P.O. Box 2177, Royal Oak, MI 48068. For more information, call (248) 561-7711, e-mail markbrock@comcast.net or visit www.michigandancechallenge.com.

Rhythm and International Latin are the other two categories. The international styles came from Europe and are the forerunners of American ballroom.

Litvinov, who lives in New Jersey and competes professionally with Yulia Ivleva, coaches Ford in International Standard, which consists of tango, waltz, foxtrot, Viennese waltz and quickstep. Abrams dances with Lena Sidyelnikova out of the studio he co-owns in Milwaukee, Wis., and teaches Ford American Smooth ballroom, which includes tango, waltz, foxtrot and Viennese waltz. She's also working with him on lifts.

"Oh my God, it's like flying. The first time I did one was last June. I had so much fun. I did little bitty lifts and now I have to do big ones. I have to trust him. I don't have any fear. He's very strong," Ford said.

"John flies here from Milwaukee and that's how I've been able to do American ballroom. He comes in once a month and I take 15 lessons from him. He has a theater production in Wisconsin in June and I'm going to be a stripper. We're trying to get me away from being this sophisti-

cated standard dancer. We're even talking about perhaps doing a rap because we're trying to get me to be very different."

"Igor thinks that John's teachings are getting me to be more theatrical."

LONG-DISTANCE DANCER

Every month, Ford flies to New York and then drives to New Jersey to meet with Litvinov and Ivleva. During her 2 1/2-day stay, she takes 15 lessons. At home, she practices without a partner and studies her homework.

"There are 42 steps to learn in just the waltz alone," Ford says, showing a dance pattern Yulia had drawn for her. "They gave me three like this with the name of the step, the sequence, the alignment. You can see it's a very scientific thing."

They also quiz her about dance, asking questions about weight distribution for particular moves and proper foot placement.

"I was honored when they accepted me," she said. "It's a lot of work to have an out-of-town student. You've got to have resources, motivation and be able to sustain it. Now they are trying to save me money by

meeting me at the airport. It's very expensive to dance with two different men, but I'm able to do 15 lessons, five without stopping, because I'm physically pretty conditioned. The one gift I have is energy."

IN SHAPE

Abrams has encouraged Ford to begin stretching exercises to help with flexibility during lifts. Litvinov wants her to incorporate some ballet into her dance practice.

"If I could, I'd be a walker. I like to walk, especially if I have to think about problems with my patients," she said, adding that discipline, consistency, proper eating and "visualization of being a winner" are essential to success in competitive dance.

"Avoid high-sugar foods, get rest, avoid caffeine and stay steady. You have to have endurance. And if you can't see yourself winning, you're not going to."



Kay Ford, 68, of Bloomfield Hills began ballroom dancing 15 years ago. She won a world title in a pro-am competition, dancing with her teacher, Igor Litvinov.

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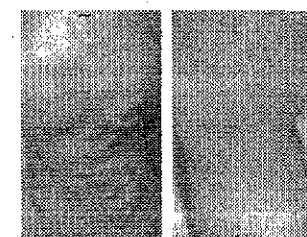
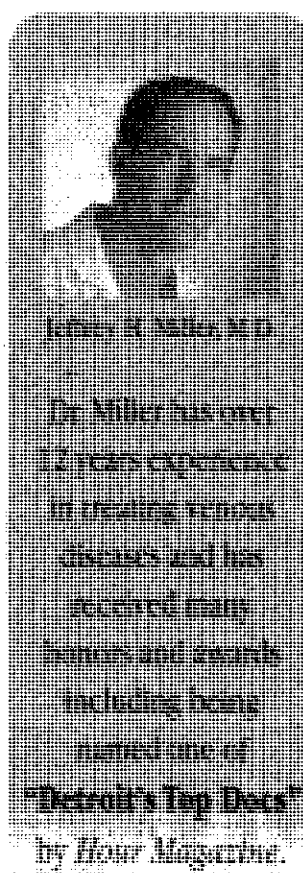


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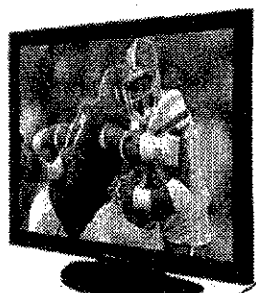


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