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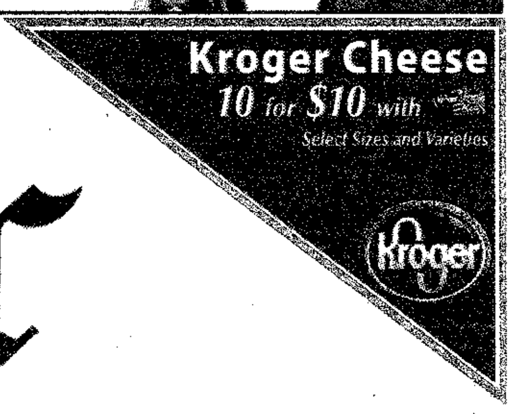

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Greenfields get probation in Civic League case

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Wayne County judge has defended his decision to place two former officers of the nonprofit Wayne-Ford Civic League on probation for embezzling money.

Circuit Judge Gregory Dean Bill has come under fire for placing former league President Neal Greenfield and ex-wife Shari Greenfield, one-time vice president, on probation for three years.

One day after imposing his sentence, Bill told the *Observer* on Tuesday that he followed sentencing guidelines and that he ultimately wants to force the Greenfields to repay money they stole.

Moreover, Bill warned that he could send the Greenfields to prison for up to five years if they violate their probation.

That did little to appease new civic league President Vic Barra, who called the probationary sentences "a slap on the wrist."

"What type of message does that send to the next criminal-minded person who wants to steal money from a charitable organization, if they know they're not going to face justice for their choices?" Barra asked. "I just feel it's a terrible message to send to society as a whole."

Abed Hammoud, lead attorney for the Wayne County Prosecutor's office, confirmed Tuesday that he sought prison terms of one to five years for Neal Greenfield, 43, and Shari Greenfield, 41.

"They abused the public trust," Hammoud said, "and they should pay for it."

The Greenfields will return to court March 23 for a hearing that will determine the amount of money they will be ordered to repay. Hammoud confirmed that he will seek restitution of more than $150,000.

Bill sentenced the former couple after they pleaded no contest in January to one count each of embezzling between $1,000 and $20,000. However, Hammoud said he still can seek restitution of a far greater amount.

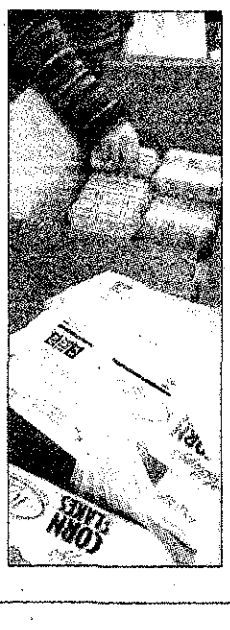
The Greenfields originally had been charged with embezzling more than $20,000, but they decided to plead no contest to reduced charges. They were accused of taking money from a nonprofit organization that supports such activities as youth baseball and senior citizen programs.

Shari Greenfield's attorney, Paul Bricker, said Wednesday that the no contest plea "is no

PLEASE SEE **PROBATION, A6**

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

City of Westland employees Shirley Jones (left) and Jennifer Middleton (right) work on assembling the bags of food commodities at the Dorsey Center Thursday.



Bags filled with corn flakes, milk, hamburger meat and beef stew were on hand at the Dorsey Center Thursday as part of the federal food commodities program for low-income residents.

Food programs help low income people

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

There is usually a line of people waiting when doors open to the monthly food commodities program at Westland's Dorsey Community Center.

Last week the foods provided to low-income residents included canned beef stew, frozen hamburger, corn flakes, cranberry juice and milk.

"How many people we get depends on what we're passing out. We have meat today — that's a big factor," Community Development Specialist Bob Patterson said. "Weather can be a factor too."

About 150 people participate in the monthly commodities program at the Dorsey Center and the Taylor Towers subsidized senior housing. That number doesn't include food provided to residents living south of Michigan Avenue who pick up their food at St. James United Methodist Church and Greenwood Villa residents in the city's north end.

With the poor economy, Patterson said he hasn't really seen an increased demand for the supplemental food.

"I'm surprised that there aren't more people taking

PLEASE SEE **FOOD, A6**

City worker pleads no contest to embezzlement

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman has pleaded no contest to charges of embezzling $1,000 from a client she was supposed to help in her job overseeing a city-based family assistance program.

Tonya Cramier-Oncza, 39, faces sentencing March 21 following accusations she used a check to embezzle money that a struggling mother needed to buy a car.

Cramier-Oncza could face penalties ranging from probation to 14 years in prison when she is sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Judge Carole Youngblood.

The defendant wasn't offered a sentence agreement in return for her plea, said Wayne County Prosecutor's Office spokeswoman Maria Miller.

Cramier-Oncza's plea was accepted under a statute that says she took advantage of a vulnerable adult, Miller said.

Local authorities welcomed the Feb. 16 no contest plea, which came just 15 days after the defendant was ordered

PLEASE SEE **NO CONTEST, A6**

LOCC gives elected officials meager increase in wages

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Citing economic worries, a local commission has approved meager pay raises for Westland's seven elected officials.

The latest plan, adopted Monday by a majority of the Local Officers Compensation Commission, will cost the city just $2,622 over two years.

"I think this is a good compromise," LOCC member Connie Hierta said, during a meeting at City Hall.

The mayor's salary will remain the same at $95,974 this year and inch up 1 percent to $96,934 next year. Mayor William Wild had told the *Observer* he didn't want the mayor's pay raised this year.

The city clerk's pay will remain unchanged at $86,989 this year and increase 1 percent to $87,859 in 2008.

An LOCC majority approved pay increases of 1 percent this year – and 1 percent in 2008 – for seven council members.

Even though council positions are part-time, LOCC members indicated that the council puts in long hours outside of their public meetings.

The council president's pay will climb from $13,760 to $14,037 during the two-year period, while the president pro tem's pay will go from $13,137 to $13,401.

Pay levels for the remaining five council members will inch up from $12,515 to $12,766.

LOCC Chairman Bobby Turner Jr. cast the lone dissenting vote against pay raises for the mayor and city clerk. He said he is concerned about the city's financial position and whether Westland will have to find money to help clean up the contaminated, county-owned Central City Park.

The raises for the mayor and city clerk won support from Hierta and LOCC members

After the LOCC's decision is filed with City Clerk Eileen DeHart's office, the raises will automatically go into effect unless the council votes within 30 days to override the increases.

Katrina Coleman, William Gabriel, Leslie Marvaso, Donald Niemiec.

The LOCC approved negligible raises amid concerns that the state economy and the city's financial position may not improve much during the next two years.

"I'm not buying into (speculation) that the economy is going to get better in the next two years," Gabriel said.

Turner and Coleman voted against the council pay raises. Turner again cited concerns about finances, but Coleman said she believed the council should receive a 2 percent increase for each of the next two years.

Even though LOCC members disagreed on some pay raises issues, they did so amicably. Their meeting never became hostile as the commission – newly appointed by Wild – wrapped up its work for two years.

The LOCC made no changes in expenses allowed for the mayor ($5,000), the clerk's office ($800) or the council ($1,500 spread among all seven members).

After the LOCC's decision is filed with City Clerk Eileen DeHart's office, the raises will automatically go into effect unless the council votes within 30 days to override the increases.

An override would require a vote by five of the seven council members.

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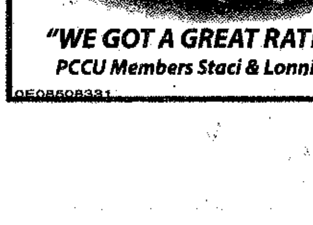

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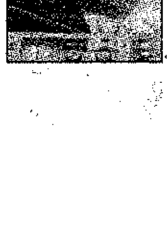
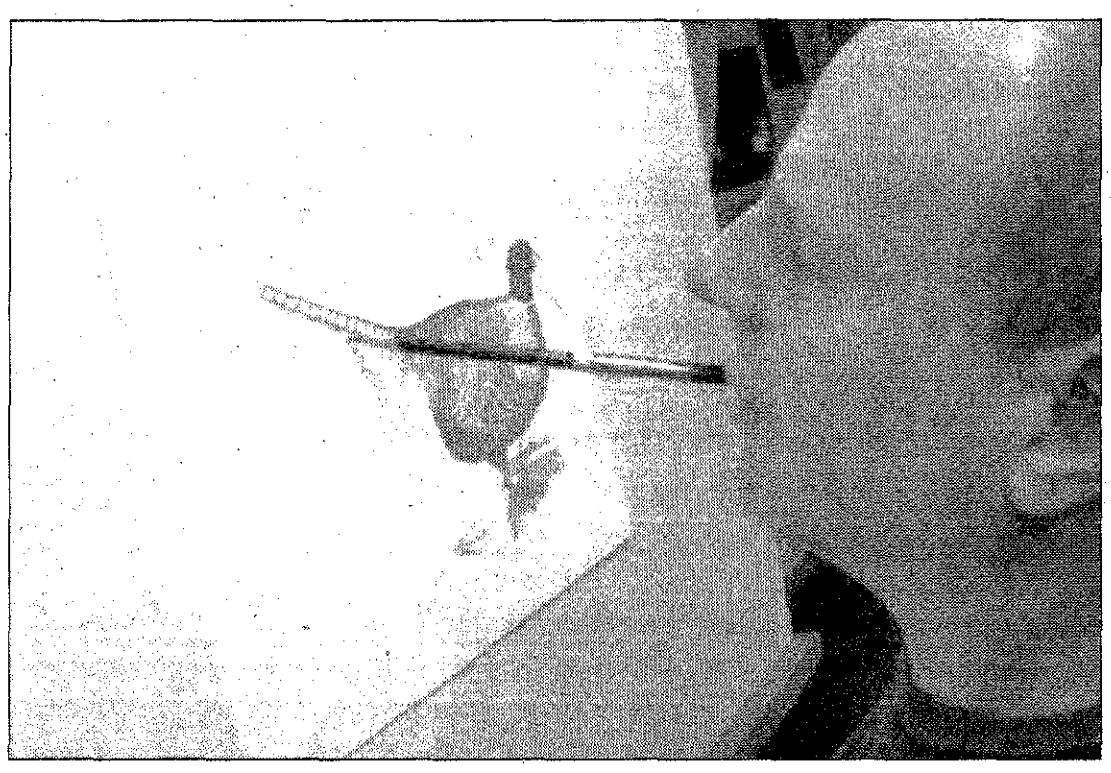
INDEX

Apartments	B8
Automotive	C3
Classified	B6-C4
Crossword	B8
HometownLife.com	D1
Jobs	B10
Movies	E14
Obituaries	A12
Opinion	A8-9
Real Estate	B6
Service Guide	C3
Sports	B1

Coming Sunday in Health



Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is saving limbs.



A quadriplegic, Will Pardee of Freemont, Mich., draws by holding pencils in his mouth. The pencils are inserted in a plastic tube to make them easier to clinch between his teeth.

Mouth stick artist featured at art show

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

In August 1981, Will Pardee dove into shallow water, a decision that left him permanently paralyzed from the shoulders down.

At home, he soon became bored with the limited number of activities he could do, so his wife Sarah suggested he try drawing by holding a pencil in his mouth.

He tried it "reluctantly."

"I think I have a hidden God-given talent I didn't know I have," said Pardee, who lives in Fremont, Mich. "It took me two or three months to develop and we started selling at art shows a year after I started."

Known as the mouth stick artist, Pardee will be among 100 artists who will be selling their work Saturday, March 3, at the Lutheran High School Westland's 18th annual Spring Celebration spring arts and craft show.

"It's going to be a good one," said Lisa Haller, who is helping with the show. "Will will actually be there drawing."

The juried show will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the high school at 33300 Cowan Road, east of Wayne Road in Westland. Featured will be such things as handmade pottery, jewelry, oil and watercolor paintings, garden art, furniture and handpainted clothing.

Pardee works in artist pencil and colored pencils, doing designs taken from photographs. He does commission work and some of the lithographs he will bring to the show will be reproductions of such work. His selection includes motorcycles, wild life and apples in a bushel basket.

"I listen to what people say they like," Pardee said. "I work from photographs. The motorcycles were commissioned and I've been allowed to do prints."

Pardee keeps the cost of his prints relatively low. Prices range from $10 for a 9- by 12-inch print of a largemouth bass to $25 for a color print of a John Deere tractor, also 9- by 12-inch in size.

"All of the originals go for a lot of money, but I keep the prices down on the prints so people can afford them," he said.

All of his artwork is signed with "In Christ" to give praise to the God of his salvation, from whom all blessings come, as well as to share his faithfulness with others, he notes on his Web site, www.willpardee.com.

According to Haller, there also will be a display of artwork by students of the high school, which attracts teens from throughout the Detroit area.

The show also will feature a kids craft corner, hourly door prize drawings, entertainment by Lutheran High Chamber Singers and individual instrumental performances.

Lunch also will be available, and back by popular demand is the Maurice salad that will take showgoers back to having lunch at J.L. Hudson's.

Admission is $2.

Money raised through the show goes to the booster organization and helps support athletic and academic programs, as well as drama and choir at the high school.

It also helps to pay for the school's dues to belong to the Lutheran High School Association.

"Our show is unique in the fact that we have very high standards as far as only accepting handcrafted items, which is something that is very important to artists and crafters," Haller said.

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Leadership

Democratic strategist says leaders must be dealers of hope

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

There on the left is Paul Begala, former adviser to President Bill Clinton, and on the right is J.C. Watts, former Oklahoma congressman.

The two political commentators will take their respective Crossfire positions tonight at the Michigan Political Leadership Program's 12th annual Fund-raising Dinner at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

The MPLP is a program of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University's College of Social Science. Annually since 1992, the program has offered 24 fully paid scholarships for training in personal leadership, public policy, running for office and effective governing. The 2006 Fellows will graduate before the $125-a-plate dinner and the 2007 class will be welcomed to the dinner. A breakfast will be held in Grand Rapids on Friday with Begala and Watts also speaking.

LEGISLATORS RECOGNIZED

This year for the first time, the program will recognize former state legislators. This year, former state Rep. Dianne Byrum and former state Sens. Robert Emerson, Shirley Johnson and Ken Sikkema will receive Leadership and Service Awards.

Though Begala and Watts have opposing views on most political issues, both share a strong interest in the political process. Begala and his longtime business partner James Carville were instrumental in Bill Clinton's election. Watts has served as the chairman of GOPAC, the Republican organization that recruits candidates.

J.C. Watts first gained national attention as an all-star quarterback for the University of Oklahoma Sooners, leading them to Big Eight and Orange Bowl championships in the late 1970s. He served in the House from 1995 to 2003 before deciding not to seek re-election. He is a minister in the Southern Baptist Church, which has been a big influence on his political beliefs.

Watts was unavailable for an interview, but Begala shared some of his views of the current political scene in a phone interview.

Begala

Watts

Though Begala and Watts have opposing views on most political issues, both share a strong interest in the political process.

The Democrats regained control of Congress in last fall's election, but the war in Iraq is proving a difficult problem.

For Begala, the Democrats have to insist on accountability.

"The Democrats have held more hearings and done more to hold Bush accountable in seven weeks than the Republicans did in four years," Begala said. "But we have to be realistic. It's the hardest problem on the planet Earth."

Begala said the decision to escalate the war was Bush's over the objections of military leaders and the Iraqis. But, he said, it is a terrible idea to withdraw funding while there are troops in the field.

"No one talks about the practical problems of a retreat. George Washington was a brilliant tactical retreat general. He saved his men time and time again from superior forces," Begala said.

But, he said, Democrats shouldn't make the mistake of Bush and (Vice President) Cheney by expecting flowers from the Iraqis for retreating.

Begala grew up in Texas, in the district that Tom DeLay once represented in Congress, but he was drawn to the Democratic Party.

"I always thought the Democrats are for the little guy and I'm a populist," he said. "I have a lot of confidence in what Bill Clinton called walking around folks."

GOT HIS START

He got his political start working with now Texas Congressman Lloyd Doggett. It was while working on a campaign for Doggett in 1983 that Begala met James Carville, the ragin' Cajun of American politics.

"We've been in business now for 23 years. We've run campaigns, written books and never had an argument over money. Over tactics, but never over money," he said.

Following Clinton's successful campaign in 1992, Begala went to work at the White House. He is said to have inspired the Josh Lyman character in *West Wing*.

He continues to admire the Clintons and supports Sen. Hillary Clinton's candidacy for the presidency.

"The biggest thing I learned from Bill Clinton, you have to trust people. I'm more idealistic today than 23 years ago. Most of the time if you trust the people they get it right," he said.

He said he blames John Kerry not the people for Bush's re-election.

"The main thing is they didn't have a message, framing what you're for and against. Bush had a message – I'm strong and he's weak. He's French," Begala said.

Trading messages is part of Begala's political role on television, where he appeared for several years as the liberal on CNN's Crossfire.

But he has been able to separate the politics from the person on the other side.

"Robert Novak is my friend, Tucker Carlson is my friend, Oliver North is my friend," Begala said.

As a devout Catholic, he said he tries to love those on the other side.

"Crossfire helped me a lot in that. I sat across the table from them. When you have to sit there, it's better than lobbing press releases at each other," he said.

When speaking to the recent leadership graduates, he will draw again on the wisdom of Bill Clinton.

"Clinton said a leader must be a dealer of hope," he said. "Clinton ran during a recession, people had lost hope, they didn't think it mattered. Clinton never lost hope. He always believed in our country and its system."

For more information about MPLP, contact Program Administrator Barbara Knuth at knuth@msu.edu or by phone at (517) 353-0891.

CORRECTION

Westland City Council President Charles Pickering said a story about pay levels for city department heads in Sunday's *Observer* could possibly be misleading. While Mayor Wild hasn't recommended any pay increases this year, department heads potentially could receive a pay increase July 1 — if the deputy police chief receives a raise. Certain pay increases for city directors are "tie-barred" to pay levels still to be negotiated by a police union.

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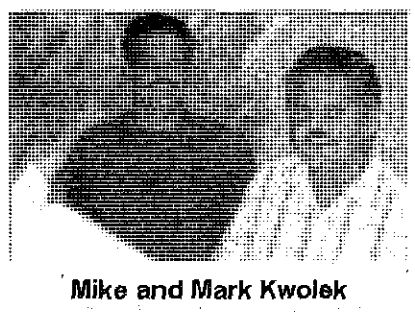

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Career Tech's IVD car wins state award

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Students and staff at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center thought they had come home with "two huge trophies" when they won the Convergence Education Foundation's Vehicle Performance Award and Ambassadorship Award for their innovative design vehicle, Thunderbolt II, last fall.

That was until earlier this month, when the IVD program received a 2007 Excellence in Practice Award from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth's Bureau of Career Education Programs.

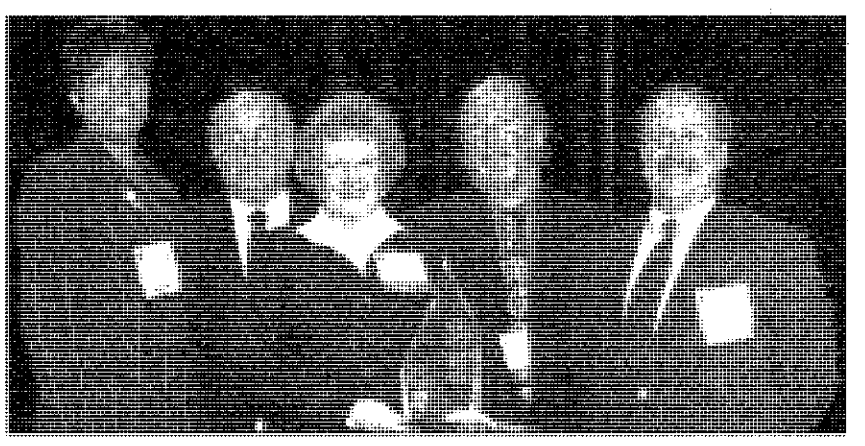
"We are thrilled, it is huge to win the state award," said Sue Wilk, IVD project coordinator.

"I knew we had a good shot at winning the award just because of the depth of the project," added Principal Ginny Kowalski. "It was no small potatoes. It took 1 1/2 years and so many students from so many levels."

The award was one two presented at the 2007 Michigan Career Education Conference held in Detroit. The Branch Area Careers Center in Branch County received an Excellence in Practice Award for its welding engineering technologies program.

The award "recognizes exemplary practices in preparing Michigan's students for higher education and career." Intermediate school districts around the state nominate a program within their area for the award. Wayne County RESA nominated the Wayne-Westland program.

An initiative of the Convergence Education Foundation, the IVD program partnered Career Technical students and teachers with a corporate partner — Continental Automotive Systems — to help them plan and develop the car. The project involved such center programs as auto collision and auto technology, computer-aided manufacturing, draft/design, electronics, graphic design, Oracle and welding.



Sue Wilk (center), IVD project coordinator holds the Excellence Practice Award. Joining her on stage are Patricia Talbot (behind Wilk, from left), state consultant for Engineering, Manufacturing, Industrial, Technical Pathway, Zachary McLean, Jim Schirmer and JC Irvine.

Posing at the IVD display at the conference are Ginny Kowalski (from left), principal of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, Halyna Bialczyk of Wayne County RESA, and center teachers Zachary MacLean, JC Irvine, Jim Schirmer and Sue Wilk, the IVD project coordinator.

Thunderbolt II is a one-passenger, three-wheel vehicle that used a ToothPIC microprocessor with Bluetooth technology to allow information to be transmitted to a PDA mounted on the dash for the driver and to a computer in the pits.

Since it first debuted last fall, Thunderbolt II has been taken to the Detroit and Auburn Hills, thanks to the trailering efforts of auto technology teacher Jim Schirmer and his teaching assistant Len Sheko. It has been driven around Cobo Hall and the former Renaissance Center, to Madison Elementary to be part of the school's recent SPARK Day.

"It's one more thing we can gloat about," added Kowalski. "I only wish it was smaller so we could take it more places."

This was the first time the Career Technical Center participated in the program and won't be the last, Wilk said.

The staff is "already putting our heads together" to look at a project for the October 2008 Convergence Foundation competition.

"We're looking at parameters to improve the vehicle," she said. "We may not start with a kit, we may build it from scratch. This will be a new vehicle, we won't scavenge anything from Thunderbolt II."

The team is looking at a three- or four-wheeler with electric power and new technology. Fuel cells, electric cells, even regenerative braking are all being considered.

According to Kowalski, the computer aided design people have already looked at the frame of Thunderbolt II and how it's made. Welding and computer aided manufacturing also have checked it out.

"We now have a blueprint of the vehicle and an idea of the things we want to change," she said. "And I think we can do it all at the center."

Twenty-two students worked on the IVD, and the enthusiasm of younger students who worked on the project is bringing in new students. A "chance to ride in the vehicle" is catching their interest, Wilk said.

"A project has to be relevant to kids, something they're passionate about, and cars are it," Wilk said. "I think what we teach is very relevant to the recovery in Michigan. This project speaks to that."

Public supports state police, but still leery of new taxes

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

There was at least one new suggestion offered for addressing the Michigan State Police budget during a public hearing held Monday at Westland City Hall.

"The state police have their finger on the pulse of the community — we don't want an outside agency taking care of homeland security," Jim Murphy said. "On the income tax (return), I'd like a box you could check for $1 to adopt a state trooper."

Most of the other speakers supported maintaining funding for the state police or urged legislators to figure out a way to live within their means and not seek any tax or fee increases.

More than 25 people turned out for the hearing, which also took comments on the Military and Veterans Affairs budget.

Part of the proposed state police budget would eliminate funding for a 50-recruit trooper academy and reduce staffing in an effort to reduce spending by $5.4 million. Other reductions proposed include fewer staff for Forensic Science and Enlisted Command, possibly resulting in post closings.

"I'd rather have as many state police as we can. They are well-trained and very professional," Westland resident Elenor Swistak said.

Another resident, Gerald Young, questioned the need for possibly laying off 30 state troopers.

"Is there no place else you can cut? It's not that much money when it comes to public safety," Young said. "You keep cutting and cutting. These are professional people with integrity. Most of these troopers have jobs lined up in other states."

The last state police recruit school trained 80 troopers, he said, and the proposed layoffs would send 30 troopers to benefit law enforcement in other states.

"Some of the higher brass needs to step aside to save these jobs — the ones not on the road," Young said. "It's been done in the auto industry. I've done it myself."

Acknowledging he was among the top brass bottleneck, state police east region commander Maj. Tony Gomez reviewed services provided across Michigan by the state police in traffic, investigations, support services and a variety of cooperative task forces supervised by the state police.

There are already 332 fewer state troopers than in 2001, Gomez said, adding other law enforcement agencies had lost 788 officers due to funding cuts.

The Military and Veterans Affairs budget proposal would actually increase the budget by nearly $5 million due to additional revenue from the new Michigan Regional Training Institute at Fort Custer, expected federal funding increase and spending reductions in some areas.

Michael Harris, executive director of the Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of American, called for the Legislature to allow veterans organizations to offer Michigan Lottery Keno games with the revenues earmarked for veterans programs.

"The idea was floated in the Legislature last year, but they decided not to go forward," Harris said. "The motive was to put revenues into veterans programs."

Calling for the state to operate within its existing revenues and not pass additional taxes or fees was Dave Marshall.

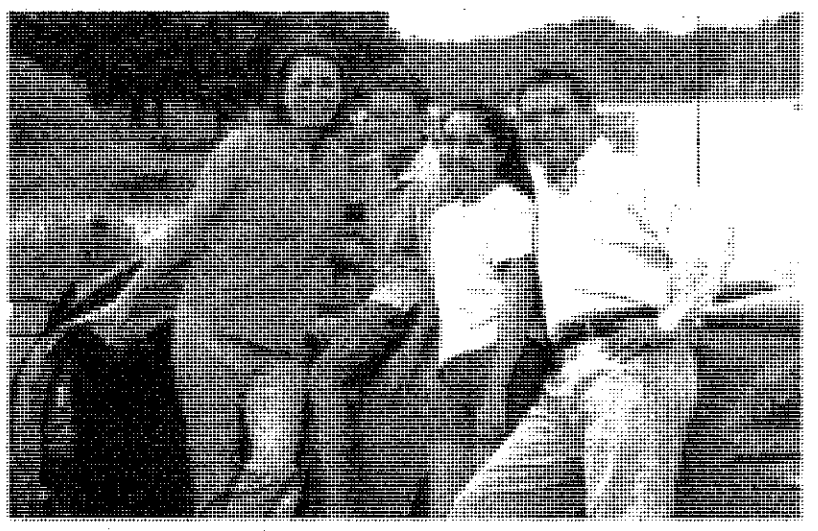
"We spent too much at Christmas, so in January and February I was deprived of going to restaurants," he said. "The wife said we're cutting back, that we have bills to take care of. You've got to get rid of the bills first and don't come back for more taxes."

The comments and suggestions would all be forwarded to the appropriate parties, said state Rep. Richard LeBlanc (D-Westland), who chaired the meeting.

"There is going to be a lot of deliberations over the next weeks and months," LeBlanc said, chair of the state police and military appropriations subcommittee.

lrogers@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2103

It's Not About the Car ...



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Group delivers anti-war letters to McCotter

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

A group of about 30 gathered outside U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter's office in Livonia Thursday to protest President George W. Bush's plan to deploy 20,000 additional troops to Iraq.

The protest was part of a national campaign sponsored by the liberal political group MoveOn.org. With the theme "Congress is the Decider," the group planned to deliver 25,000 personal letters protesting the war to members of Congress from both parties.

Letters were delivered at noon to each congressional district office. The 11th District group formed outside the office building at 17197 Laurel Park Drive, Livonia, where McCotter has his 11th District headquarters. He also has an office in Milford.

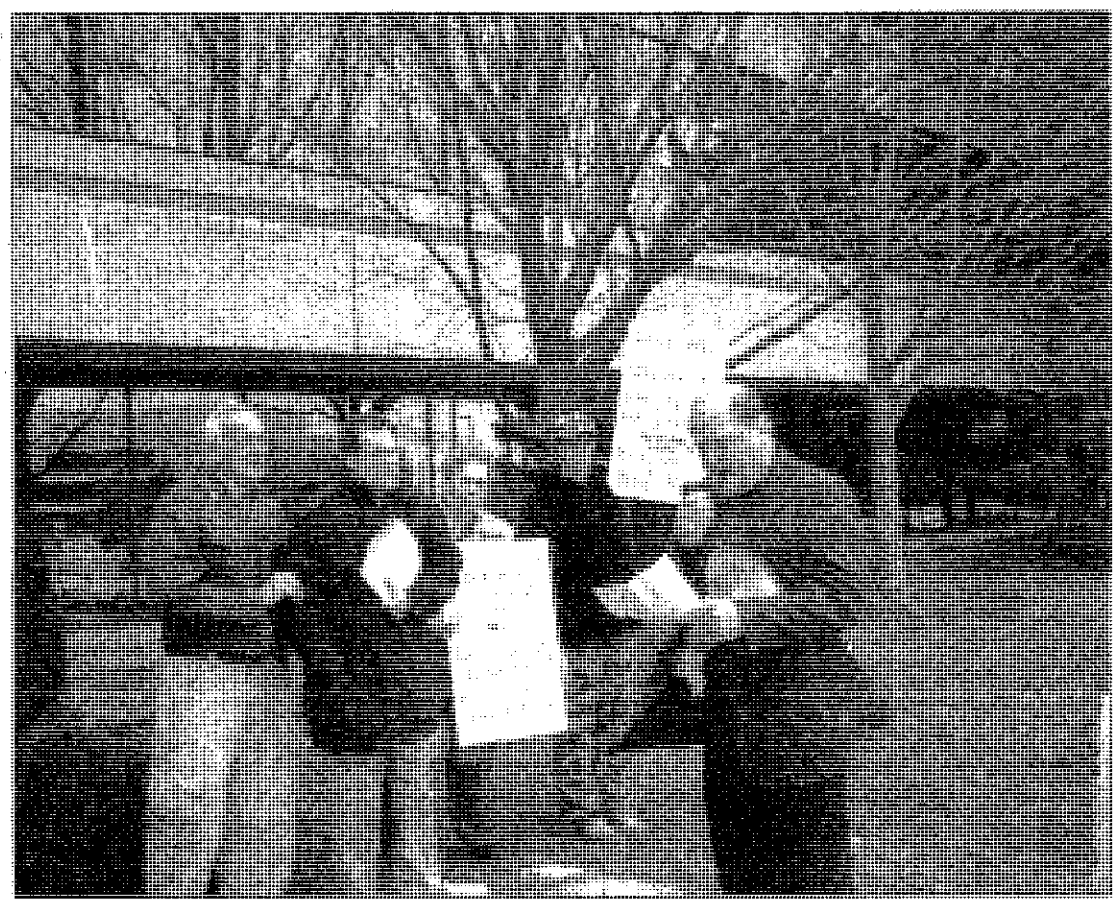
McCotter, a Republican, has been a steady supporter of the war in Iraq. On Feb. 15, he voted against a Democratic-sponsored non-binding resolution against the deployment of the additional troops, calling the resolution "impotent and immoral."

Participants took turns denouncing the war through a megaphone, as a steady wind whipped printed and hand-drawn signs around. In addition to "Congress is the Decider," other signs read: "Our soldiers fulfilled their mission without question. It is our duty to question the mission in their behalf," "Troops Home Now" and "Iraq War, Who dies, Who Pays, Who profits."

When the protesters moved inside, they were briefly challenged by the building manager, who told them McCotter was not in the building and that the congressman's staff did not want to meet with the group.

"You can make an appointment with him. You're not a tenant of the building," he told them.

After a brief discussion, the protesters proceeded up to McCotter's second-floor office. The manager told them not to be disruptive to other tenants.



Larry Betzler of Milford, a Vietnam veteran, reads his letter against the war in Iraq during a protest Thursday outside of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter's Livonia 11th District office.

The group's letters were accepted by a staff member.

Robin Reading of Highland organized the 11th District protest. He began a Huron Valley chapter of MoveOn.org a couple of months ago.

"I've voted Republican most of my life," he said.

But he said he can't see anything changing under the Bush administration.

"Obviously, the American people are against the escalation. You've got the bipartisan Iraq study against it, (former Secretary of State) Colin Powell against it, the military leaders against it," he said. "March 19 will be the third anniversary of the Iraq War. We've lost 3,000 American lives, we've lost 10,000 lives of Iraq men, women and children not involved in combat."

The group included several former members of the armed services.

Larry Betzler of Milford is a U.S. Army veteran who served from 1967-70, including two tours of duty in Vietnam.

"I was part of the escalation of troops ordered by President Johnson," he said. "That escalation led to a significant increase in attacks, including the Tet offensive. The only thing we saw was a greater determination by the enemy to fight."

In his letter to McCotter, Betzler said the situation in Vietnam only improved through diplomacy rather than military action.

"... (E)ventually we withdrew our troops and over the course of the last 30 years our government chose a more civil path in our relationship with the Vietnamese government and its people," he wrote. "Today, we have won the hearts and minds of the Vietnam government and the people of Vietnam. Today, Vietnam is a friend to the U.S. government and U.S. people and is a major U.S. trading partner. This was accomplished, not through escalation of military troops, but through much diplomatic discussion."

Another veteran, Roy Lindhardt of Livonia, said he served five years in the Navy in the early 1960s. He said he would support impeachment of Bush, Cheney and others in the administration. He said he worries about the extent of the president's emergency powers as tensions grow over the war.

The majority of those gathered at McCotter's office were middle-aged and older. Rachel Lamontagne, 24, of Commerce Township was the exception.

"My mother has been involved with political activism for years," she said. "I went to the rally in Washington two years ago and will go again next month. I am so fed up with President Bush."

She said she wished that more people from her age group would get involved in the protest.

Lamontagne is a criminal justice student at Wayne State University.

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(734)953-2149

AROUND WESTLAND

St. Patrick's Day

Join Michigan troubadour Neil Woodward for a family friendly evening celebrating the contributions of Irish folk music 6 p.m. Saturday, March 17, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland.

Sponsored by the Westland Parks and Recreation Department and the Grange No. 389, the evening includes an Irish style dinner and dessert served during intermission of the 7:30-9:30 p.m. concert.

Tickets cost $12 for adults, and $7 for children ages 12 and under. Seating is limited. Tickets are available at the Bailey Center. For more information, call (734) 722-7620 or by e-mail at mmartin@ci.westland.mi.us.

Grand opening

If you're in the area of Warren and Central City Parkway Wednesday, stop by Leo's Coney Island. The restaurant, located in the Starbucks/Qdoba plaza, will be celebrating its grand opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 7.

Baseball registrations

The Wayne Ford Civic League, at 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland, is registering children ages 4-10 years old for its co-ed baseball league 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday through April 14 or until all the teams are filled, which ever comes first.

T-Ball players (ages 4-6) and Coach Pitch players (ages 7-8) cost $65 per player, Mustang players (ages 9-10) cost $80 per player. There is no residency fee charged for children living outside Westland and no fund-raising requirements associated with this year's program.

Managers, coaches and umpires are always needed. Online registration forms can be obtained at www.wayneford.org/youth/youth.html.

Cigar party

Firing Line Indoor Gun Range and Gun Shop in Westland will sponsor its annual fund-raiser to benefit the Westland Police Department's Tactical Response Unit. Doors will open at 5 p.m. Saturday, March 3, at the Hellenic Cultural Center for the fifth annual cigar party fund-raiser. The center is located on Joy Road east of Newburgh.

The evening will include food, drinks, a silent auction, Vegas-style games, prizes and mock video horse racing, dubbed *A Night at the Races*.

Tickets are $60 and can be purchased by calling The Firing Line at (734) 326-7320, the Westland Chamber of Commerce at (734) 326-7222 or Westland police Officer Jeffery Kavanaugh at (734) 722-9600.

Bowling event

The Westland Chamber of Commerce will hold its 2007 Winterfest Charity Bowling Event 1-5 p.m. Saturday, March 4, at Westland Bowl, 5940 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

Four-person teams will bowl alternating every fourth frame. There will be contests and prizes and a buffet dinner at Marvaso's Italian Grille.

Tickets cost $120 per team or $30 per person. The price includes bowling two drinks and dinner. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m. with the tournament starting at 1 p.m. For more information, call the Chamber office at (734) 326-7222.

Bingo

The Ladies Auxiliary of Harris Kehrer VFW Post 3323 will hold a marathon bingo noon-5 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at the post, 1055 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Money raised will go to support the Youth Activities Adopt A Troop project for overseas veterans.

Poker tournament

The Westland Jaycees will hold a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament and Vegas Night on Saturday, March 10, at the Bailey Recreation Center on Ford Road.

The tournament will begin at 6 p.m. for a shot at a top prize up to $1,000. Spots are available at the door and through pre-registration. The pre-registration price is $50 until March 1. After that date, there will be a $10 late registration fee.

The games in the Vegas Room will include Big Wheel, Blackjack, 7 Card and Let it Ride. Food and beverages also will be available. For more information, call (734) 226-0400 or visit the Jaycees' Web site at www.westlandjaycees.org.

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5 of 9 top LPS administrators got step, longevity pay hikes

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Five of Livonia Public Schools nine top administrators received raises this year totaling $7,036, based on their contracts.

The pay increases ranged from $320 to $4,477 a year, said Jack Bauman, personnel director.

Administrators sign individual contracts, which mirror the terms of the Livonia Educational Administrators union agreement, he said. LEADS members, teachers and cabinet members are due for 2 percent increases next year under their contracts, but none of the groups received across-the-board raises for the current year. Pay increases took effect July 1, but have been the subject of recent curiosity.

Citizens for Livonia's Future member Brad Wolkan has collected years' worth of LPS wage information under the Freedom of Information Act. He said he wants to compare how the current cabinet's compensation stacks up to similar positions in the past. He's also concerned about overhead costs.

Wolkan said he had a clue what to expect, but what he's found, "does raise an eyebrow."

The nine LPS cabinet members have a combined salary of more than $1 million.

"Their salaries are in line with other districts our size," said school board trustee Cynthia Markarian. "They do make a good wage, but they are hard-working people who are making some important decisions for our district."

Charlotte Worthen, director of instructional services, makes $4,477 more because she moved up from the first responsibility step to the second and final step, Bauman said. Worthen's salary is $115,456.

Lisa Levesque, director of business services, got a $1,279 raise for the year, as she moved up the administrative experience scale. Levesque earns $128,569.

Each administrative experience step earns an employee a 2 percent increase each year until they hit the maximum, Bauman said. Step increases are calculated as a percentage of the employee's base salary, Bauman explained. The total salary includes other factors including responsibility step increases, experience steps, longevity and the number of weeks the administrator is scheduled to work outside of the regular school year.

Sheila Alles, director of academic services, will earn another $640 this year as a result of attaining 10 years' seniority. Her salary is now $130,488.

Communications director Jay Young received a $320 annual bump for hitting the 20-year mark, bringing his salary to $114,817.

Controller Margaret Flower also had a 20-year anniversary, adding $320 a year to her income, now set at $92,109.

Other cabinet-level administrators include:

- Rod Hosman, director of administrative services, who makes $129,529 annually.
- Robert Dietiker, director of student services, who earns $122,492 per year.
- Bauman, who earns $116,096 per year.
- Dorothy Chomicz, human resources director, who earns $126,970 per year.

rrjones@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054

City receives grants for new trees, pool program

The city of Westland is the recipient of two valuable grants, according to Mayor William Wild's office.

The Westland Department of Public Service has been accepted into the 2007 Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Tree Planting Grant Program, while the Westland Parks and Recreation Department was one of eight communities awarded a grant through the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Access Grant Program.

Both grants will provide necessary funding for programs within the respective departments.

Westland's application for the EAB Tree Planting Program was among 43 that were submitted. The new trees will provide replacement for the thousands removed due to the devastation caused by the emerald ash borer.

The $20,000 federal grant will enable the Westland DPS to offset the cost of planting 160 trees, which reduces the resident's cost to a nominal fee.

The trees will include a variety of 30 species that are 12-16 feet tall.

Residents may contact Kevin Buford of DPS at (734)728-1770 to register for the program.

Meanwhile, the grant awarded to the Bailey Recreation Center will supply half of the purchase and installation cost of a wheelchair lift for the Bailey Pool. The installation of the new lift is expected to be completed by Memorial Day weekend, which begins the 2007 pool season.

"Westland is certainly in the position to put these funds to solid use," Wild said. "I think our residents will be pleased with how these grants will enhance the quality and service that both our DPS and parks and recreation will provide."

In other city news, the Westland Parks and Recreation's Therapeutic Recreation Program was the recipient of an Excellence in Programming Award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) at the association's conference held recently in Grand Rapids.

The program's wide variety of recreational activities and programs for people with impairments in the Western Wayne County earned them the accolade.

"It is a great honor and we feel that we offer a diverse program for people with challenges," Westland Parks and Recreation Director Robert Kosowski said. "This award would not have been possible without the innovative programs and tireless dedication of (therapeutic program Supervisor) Margaret Martin and our staff."

The Westland Therapeutic Recreation Program has continually provided a wide variety of community-based programs for people with impairments and aims to develop new programs while continuing to provide many of the traditional favorites.

Presentation earns an invitation to speak to board, receive award

It didn't phase Brayden Morris that his audience included the superintendent of schools, seven school board members and a host of school officials.

The Edison Elementary third-grader was right at home with a microphone in hand, talking about his science project.

Brayden was invited to appear before the school board earlier this month after Supt. Greg Baracy saw his classroom presentation.

"This was very special, this third-grader doing this presentation," said Baracy, who tries to visit two or three school buildings every week or so. "It caught my heart, he was so enthusiastic."

That enthusiasm prompted Baracy to present the youngster with his Superintendent's Award. Brayden was the first-ever recipient of the medal.

"This is an example of the high standards in Wayne-Westland," Baracy said, pointing out that students were given five weeks to select an animal, read about it, write a scientific research paper and create a shoebox diorama. "Brayden did it in three. He set the bar very high."

Brayden chose the porcupine as his topic. For his diorama, he painted a box brown and covered it with pieces of bark and pine boughs.

As for the porcupine ...

"We used my mom's sock she never wears and stuffed it with cotton and covered it with bunny fur and used pieces for the paws," Brayden told his audience. "We used bird feathers for the quills."

Each board member was invited to ask him about his project, although board Vice President Terrance McClain used his few minutes to praise Brayden and his work.

"You did such a wonderful job, capturing the audience's attention," he said. "You were so engaging."

"I think you did a wonderful job on this report," board President Frederick Weaver added.

– By Sue Mason

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Entertainment center, leather sofa, hitch rack, clothing, barstool, household items.

Tara Doyle – C143
Dinette, stereo, dressers, fans, baby toys, floor lamp, boxes, ironing board.

Jay-Tee Dean – Unit C170
Table w/4 chairs, dolly, vacuum, tools, floor lamp, large pictures, Grecian style pedestal, boxes and bags.

Gerald Markham – Unit E139
Maytag dishwasher.

Diann Briscoe – D147
Dresser, futon, sled, chair lift, misc. furniture & household items.

Margaret Cumbus – Unit B102
Misc. furniture, patio furniture, TV, tree, lamps, king and twin mattress and box springs, boxes, household items.

Latoya Sayles – Unit C106/C107
Lamp, vacuum, mirror, table, household items.

Chaneca Shaw – Unit A409
Leather sofa/chair, rocking chair, black sofa, coffee tables, dresser drawers, ironing board, 3 pc. sound system, folding lounge chairs, bins, shelving unit, twin/crib mattresses, misc. boxes, household items.

Publish: March 1 & 8, 2007

Bond set at $1 million for 2nd man charged in Feb. 3 shooting case

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Extradited from West Virginia, a Westland man was arraigned Monday on attempted murder and robbery charges for a Feb. 3 shooting on the city's south side.

Vincent Edward Emery, accused of fleeing Michigan in a Greyhound bus, was jailed after Westland District Judge Sandra Cicirelli set a $1 million cash or surety bond.

Emery faces a March 8 preliminary hearing for allegations he shot a 29-year-old man in the left arm during a robbery inside a residence on Belding Court, in the Norwayne neighborhood.

The victim, treated at Garden City Hospital, was visiting with a 23-year-old woman who told police she had known Emery since high school.

Emery, 25, was arraigned by Cicirelli on charges of assault with intent to murder, armed robbery, felonious assault, felony firearm, and being a felon with a weapon. He is charged as a third-time offender.

A not-guilty plea was entered for the defendant as he awaits his hearing.

A second defendant, accused of holding the same gun and threatening the female visitor, already was ordered to stand trial following his mid-February hearing.

Jason David Shuford, 24, isn't accused of firing any shots. He faces trial in Wayne County Circuit Court for charges similar to those against Emery, except that Shuford isn't charged with assault with intent to murder.

If convicted, both men could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

Shuford was arrested in Michigan after the incident, but police Sgt. Michael Harhold said Emery was arrested Feb. 7 near Huntington, W.Va., where he had been doing work for a Red Roof Inn.

Authorities received an undisclosed tip of Emery's whereabouts. The defendant waived his extradition after his arrest in West Virginia.

Residents get heat with gas line repair

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Consumers Energy had restored natural gas service Monday night to 149 homes left without heat after a gas line ruptured, city officials said.

Service had resumed around 9:30 p.m. for homes in the Belliveau and Hix Road area, on the city's northwest side, said Westland Public Service Director Kevin Buford.

Customers had started reporting problems about 4:30 a.m. Monday, he said.

Consumers Energy and Westland's public service employees worked through the day to fix the problem and restore heat to the homes, according to Mayor William Wild's office.

Consumers Energy workers helped residents restart their furnace pilot lights, and the city made sure homes received letters explaining what had happened, Buford said.

The gas line rupture occurred near the same area where the city last week had a water main break, he said.

While repairing the water main, city workers had noticed that there appeared to be "a heavy amount of frost" near the gas main — a possible cause of the gas line rupture, Buford said.

Workers shut off a gas main to avoid any larger problems while the problem was being fixed. The rupture caused no explosions, and no one was injured.

Public service and Consumers Energy workers went to the scene early Monday morning.

"We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused our residents, but shutting off the gas main was a necessary step in ensuring the safety of those in the affected area," Wild said. "We are, however, impressed with the timely response of Consumers Energy and our workers at DPS."

During business hours, residents who have questions should contact the public service department at (734) 728-1770.

After hours, they should call (734) 467-3245, Buford said.

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

DEATHS

B

Virginia D. Beason
Beason, 46, formerly of Westland, died Feb. 23.

John N. "Johnny" Bergman
Bergman died Feb. 25.

C

Julie M. Clark
Clark, 42, died Feb. 23.

Joseph W. Colombatto Jr.
Colombatto, 78, of Farmington Hills, died Feb. 24.

D

Dward H. David
David, 82, died Feb. 24.

G

Lewis "Russ" Gibson
Gibson, 69, of Punta Gorda, Fla., died Feb. 23.

J

Virginia B. Jacobson
Jacobson, 78, of Troy, died Feb. 21.

K

Marjorie L. Kietzer
Kietzer, 85, died Feb. 27.

R

Doris M. Rehburg
Rehburg, 77, died Feb. 23.

Donald William Robinson
Robinson, 60, of Birmingham, died Feb. 24.

S

M. Pamela Stump
Stump, 79, of Grosse Ile, died Feb. 19.

Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in Passages on page A12.

PROBATION

FROM PAGE A1

admission of guilt." He said his client, who works at a bar/cafe, entered the plea to avoid potentially huge expenses and the uncertainty of a jury trial.

"She doesn't have unlimited resources," Bricker said.

Bricker indicated he will vehemently contest attempts to force Shari Greenfield to pay any amount beyond the $1,000 to $20,000 amount to which she pleaded no contest.

Neal Greenfield's attorney, Dan Waszak, said late Wednesday morning he would have to check with his client before issuing any statements.

The state has restored bingo licenses it revoked from the civic league amid the criminal investigation, and Barra said games will resume today.

Bill, meanwhile, said he has attached a long list of stipulations to the Greenfields' probationary sentences because he wants to "monitor them and ensure there's payment" for money they took.

Bill has ordered the Greenfields to perform 100 hours of community service and to avoid contacting the civic league. He also has ordered them to pay hundreds of dollars in court costs and to try to find "legitimate employment" and work at least 30 hours a week.

Bill has warned that the Greenfields could be placed on a tether if they fail to start paying back the money they owe — and ultimately they could go to prison if they violate their probation.

According to statements made in court, Bill said, Shari Greenfield is working at a cafe, and Neal Greenfield is receiving a truck driver's license in another state.

Barra, who has received criticism of his own from some former league members, has said he believes it's "highly unlikely" that the organization will ever be repaid the money it is owed by the Greenfields, although he is hopeful.

Regardless, he said the bingo games should start to bring in new revenues for programs the league supports.

"I'm extremely optimistic that the civic league will be around for many years to come, due to the hard work of the executive board and members that took control of the league in August of 2004," he said.

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

FOOD

FROM PAGE A1

advantage of it. I'm taking a lot of calls looking for assistance," said Patterson, who makes referrals to the Salvation Army and local churches. "I get three or four calls a week looking for food. A lot people just walk in off the street."

In Garden City, Maplewood Community Center Supervisor Cheryl Stepanian said about 100 families are signed up for the monthly food commodities program.

"That could be a family of one senior citizen or it could be three to five people in the household," Stepanian said. "I think it's a little higher number than we've had."

The Maplewood Center, which includes Garden City's senior citizen program, has about 15-20 younger families receiving food commodities, Stepanian estimated.

"That's partly a change. I opened the program up to all ages a few years," she said. "I'm open-minded to doing more — to doing as much as we can for the community."

Acceptance into the food commodities program is based on income and the number of people in a family. For example, under the current Emergency Food Assistance Program eligibility guidelines, a single person could have income up to $12,740 annually — $15,680 for a senior over 60 years.

"It's surplus food and it's not a lot. Some people get frustrated. It's supposed to be additional food — a supplement," Stepanian said.

Two women picking up food last Thursday at the Dorsey Center were both relatively new participants in the commodities program. Neither woman wanted their names used.

"This is the third time I've used the program. I work retail and my hours have been cut. I'm not working full-time," said one woman, 46.

Her friend, a 50-year-old woman, said this was her second month getting food. She said works one day a week as a cleaner, her husband is retired and she cares for elderly parents.

"I heard about this program in the *Observer Newspaper*. It helps us out a whole lot," she said. "I never thought I'd ever use the program, but I'm caring for my grandson and my husband only gets paid once a month. It makes it hard."

To participate in the food commodities program in Westland or Garden City, residents have to show proof of residency at the appropriate community along with evidence of low income status. That could include items such as a current Medicaid card, current food stamp card, income statement from Social Security or two most recent paycheck stubs.

Advance registration is required for the food commodities program. Westland residents can call the Dorsey Community Center for more information at (734) 595-0288, Ext. 221. For Garden City residents, stop by the Maplewood Center office or call (734) 793-1850.

lrogers@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2103

NO CONTEST

FROM PAGE A1

to stand trial by Westland District Judge C. Charles Bokos.

"I believe the plea validates the police department's position that Ms. Cramier-Oncza violated the public trust," Westland Police Chief Daniel Pfannes said. "I am pleased that justice has been served and that this case can be put to rest."

Cramier-Oncza, who oversaw the federal Family Self-Sufficiency Program at Westland's Dorsey Community Center, had earlier denied any wrongdoing.

"This is just not right," she had said after Bokos ordered her to stand trial.

Court testimony during a Feb. 1 court hearing indicated that Cramier-Oncza deposited $2,000 in FSS funds into her personal bank account and then turned over just $1,000 to client Yolanda Parker.

In court, Parker said her name had been forged on the $2,000 check. A bank teller also testified that Cramier-Oncza came to the bank and claimed that Parker couldn't accompany her because she was disabled, which she isn't.

Parker learned about the $2,000 check after she received a $1,000 check from Cramier-Oncza and coincidentally went to the same bank teller the following day to cash it.

"I was shocked. I started crying," she testified during the Feb. 1 preliminary hearing.

Cramier-Oncza has been dismissed from her Dorsey Center job. She also has sent a letter to Mayor William Wild to resign her appointed position on the Westland Historical Commission.

Her attorney, Brian Stacey, couldn't be reached Tuesday for comment.

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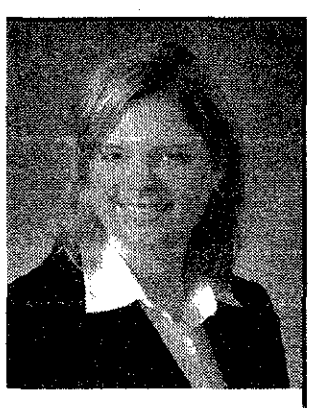

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Listings for the Community Calendar should be submitted in writing. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, by fax at (734) 591-7279 or by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Court Justice to talk

Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly will be the guest speaker at a luncheon meeting of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County on Saturday, March 10, at the Civic Center Library.

The public is invited to attend the event, which begins at 12:15 p.m.. A modest lunch will be offered; $5 donation requested.

For more information, contact Paula Bowman at (734) 455-4726.

AAUW's 'The Petticoat Ladies'

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host a public performance by "The Petticoat Ladies" at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, at Fox Run Retirement Community, 41000 13 Mile Road, Novi (just west of M-5). Beth Ann Knisely, (248) 305-8992.

Sportsmen's Banquet

The Metro-West Steelheaders will hold their 22nd annual Sportsmen's Banquet at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at Roma Banquets, 32550 Cherry Hill, Garden City. There will a silent auction featuring wildlife prints that are framed, matted, signed and numbered, and prizes like choice of firearm valued at more than $1,250, more than 50 brand named shotguns, muzzle loaders and riffles, an assortment of fishing and hunting supplies, charter trips for salmon and walleye and rods and reels. All guns supplied by Michi-Gun. Tickets are $35 each and include buffet meal and open bar. Tickets must be purchased in advanced, and are available by calling Randy Emery at (734) 368-7360 (cell) or (734) 332-6044 or by e-mail at RandyEmery@aol.com. Proceeds go to MUCC Camp for Kids, Michigan rivers and lakes to support future fishing projects, and private organizations in their endeavors to make Michigan a better place to enjoy the great outdoors.

Academic Pathways

Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool, at 30330 Schoolcraft in Livonia, will host an open house form 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, March 6. Enroll in classes Tuesday and Thursday mornings for 3-year-olds, and Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings for 4-year-olds. Potty training not required; certified teacher. (734) 459-6689 or visit academicpathways.tripod.com.

Health workshops

Dr. Carol A. Fischer will present a free workshop, Eat Your Way Thin, 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at the Noble Library, 32910 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Learn why diets do not work, ways to avoid weight gain and how to lose weight with diet/nutrition and exercise. Learn what to eat, when to eat, how to eat. Learn why eating fat will not make you fat.

Fischer also present Less Stress with Pressure Point 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, at Contours Express, 6558 Wayne Road in Westland. Participants will learn to perform a 5-10 minute massage therapy technique that can be used to relieve headaches, neck tension, and stress. Bring a partner. Seating is limited for both workshops, reservations are requested. Call (734) 425-8588.

Mini courses

Madonna University is offering a variety of mini courses through its Office of Continuing Education and Professional Studies. On tap are:

March 2 - Buying, Selling and Shipping on eBay, 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m. Free and open to the public.

March 3 - How to Improve Your Web Site Overnight, 10 a.m.. to noon; Windows XP II, 12:30-2:30 p.m. and PowerPoint, 10 a.m.-noon.

March 7 - Basic Photography, 7-9 p.m. and Introduction to Wines, 7-9 p.m.

March 10 - Jewelry and Beading I, 10 a.m.-noon; Writer's Workshop, noon-2 p.m.; Basic Word Processing, 10 a.m.-noon, and Basic Windows XP, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

March 14 - How to be a Solid Facilitator and Presenter, 7-9 p.m., and Great Wines You've Never Heard Of, 7-9 p.m.

March 17 - Jewelry and Beading II, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and Smart Choices for Personal Finance, 10 a.m.-noon.

For registration information, call the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Studies at (734) 432-5804.

Crafters wanted

Crafters and vendors are wanted for a spring craft show and bazaar at the Inkster Recreational Center, at 2025 Middlebelt. The show will be 1-6 p.m. Saturday, April 28. Cost is $30 per booth. Send an e-mail toVdotson@twmi.rr.com or call (734) 595-1083 for an application.

Genealogy workshop

The Livonia Civic Center Library and the Western Wayne County Genealogical Society will host a free beginning genealogy workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 3, at the library. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. A beginner's genealogy packet will be $5. Topics include Census Records, Cemetery Records, Libraries/Archives, and Immigration and Naturalization. Contact Sue Cromwell at (248) 477-5846 or Brenda Halseth at (734) 513-0619. Register at (734) 466-2197 by March 1.

"Eat for Education"

"Eat for Education" Taste Fest with Silent Auction will be hosted by Academic Pathways Cooperative Preschool, at 30330 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia, 6-8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10. Tickets are $10, as a fund-raiser for the school. Local restaurants and bakeries will serve signature dishes, while the auction features hotel packages/weekend getaways/spa packages, etc. (734) 261-9540 or visit academicpathways.tripod.com.

VNA volunteers

The Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's hospice program needs compassionate volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. In as little as 2-4 hours per week, volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family members or provide office support. A free 15-hour comprehensive training program is provided. The next training session is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 10, 17. All training takes place at the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan headquarters at 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. For more information or to register, call (800) 882-5720, Ext. B361 or visit the Web site at www.vna.org.

Explore Girl Scouting

Girls ages 5-17 can discover how much Girl Scouts has to offer all. Scouting isn't just about camping and cookies anymore. Girls learn a lot about themselves and the world around them, form lasting friendships, become more confident, independent, helpful and resourceful. Through Girl Scouting, girls learn the importance of community service and challenge themselves and develop value systems they use the rest of their lives. See what Girl Scouts has to offer. Call (800) 49-SCOUT (497-2688.)

Lenten retreat

Madonna University will hold a Lenten Retreat 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 3, at the University Center, 14221 Levan. The cost is $18 and $10 for students, faculty and staff and includes lunch. Sponsored by Campus Ministry, the retreat theme is "With Mary on the way of the Cross." It will be presented by the Rev. Charles Fox, associate pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows. To register, call (734) 432-5524 or send an e-mail to cmws@madonna.edu. by Feb. 27. Walk-in registration will be accepted, the fee is $22.

PHOTO BY SHARON LEMIEUX

In rehearsal

Level 2 student Tanis Daniels-Wanamaker and level 5 student T'nai Sanders, both from Westland, watch as kids rehearse for the Gaudior Academy all-school talent show. Gaudior Academy, located at Middlebelt and Avondale Roads, is hosting its annual auction 1:30-6 p.m. Saturday, March 3. Admission is free. Two cash door-prizes to be given away during the day. For more information, call (313) 792-9444.

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center

The Senior Resources Department (Friendship Center), 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland, offers a variety of programs for older adults. The Web site www.ci.westland.mi.us offers more information. Call (734) 722-7632.

Senior dinners

The Wayne Ford Civic League hosts Senior Dinner Dances with live entertainment several times each month for couples and singles 50 years and older. The cost is $8 donation for members of the league and $10 donation for non-members. All dances start at noon and run until 3-3:30 p.m. Meals include beer, wine, and fountain pop. For information and schedules, call (734) 728-5010

Crochet & Knit

A crochet and knit group meets 9:30 a.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center on Newburgh near Marquette. Beverly Kaminski is the instructor. Participants should bring a type "G" crochet hook. Those interested can sign up at the center's front desk or call (734) 722-7632.

Visually Impaired

The Visually Impaired Persons (VIPs) support group meets 12:30 p.m. every Friday at the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh, Westland. Participants share information and meet others. Those interested in joining can be scheduled on a bus route for transportation. For information, call (734) 722-7632.

Hearing checks

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

Exercise

Simply Jazzercise is designed for exercisers older than 50. The program provides a low to moderate workout. The exercise improves strength, flexibility, balance, posture, coordination and cardiovascular endurance. It incorporates simple dance routines with walking or jogging patterns and resistance exercises. Wear loose-fitting clothing and comfortable shoes. Light weights and an exercise mat are suggested. Classes are 10:15 a.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Wednesday, 10:15 a.m. Friday, at $3 per person per class. Sign up at the front desk at the Westland Friendship Center or call (734) 722-7632.

Travel Group

The Friendship Travel Group meets 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month (unless a large event is scheduled) in the Westland Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh. Programs include celebration of birthdays, door prizes, description of new classes or programs, speakers from tour companies, overview of day/ overnight trips and refreshments. Call (734) 722-7632.

Dyer Center

The Wayne-Westland school district's Dyer Senior Adult Center offers activities Monday-Thursday at the center, on Marquette between Wayne and Newburgh roads. Mondays, Senior Chorus at 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, arts, crafts and needlework at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesdays, kitchen band, 10 a.m., bingo at 1 p.m.; Thursdays, ceramics, arts, crafts at 9:30 a.m.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Eating Disorders

Get help, get real information and real expectations, at an eating disorder support group which meets 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium of Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, Garden City. All meetings are closed - for people of all ages with eating disorders and are free of charge. Family and friends support is on the second Wednesday of the month while parents support is on the fourth Wednesday of the month. For more information, call Darlene at (734) 324-3089.

Advocacy group

The Wayne-Westland Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a self-help and advocacy group, meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church, 555 S. Wayne Road, at Bayview, Westland. For more information, call (734) 362-8825.

TOPS

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) No. 28 meets at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Weigh-in is 6-6:45 p.m. For more information, call Jackie at (734) 722-7225.

Menopause & More

A Menopause & More support group for women meets 7-9 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month in Classroom 2 of the west addition of the Marian Women Center of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia. No registration is necessary, and the group is free of charge. For more information, call (734) 655-1100.

Support group

A support group for people with chronic illness meets on Fridays every other week, at the Westside Mental Health Services, 32932 W. Warren, Suite 103, Westland. The support group is a service of Awareness Counseling Services. There is a $10 for each meeting which will be facilitated by a professional. For more information, call (734) 513-8295 or (313) 562-2800.

AIM

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

Childbirth classes

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

Childbirth Association

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

Fibromyalgia

The Great Lakes Fibromyalgia and CFS Association Support Group meets 1-3 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Merriman Road Baptist Church on Merriman south of Ford. There are guest speakers and discussion on a variety of topics. There is no membership fee, however a small donation is greatly appreciated. Call Lucy Rowley at (734) 462-1768.

HISTORIC

Pioneer trek

The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. For information, call (734) 326-1110.

Friends of Eloise

The Friends of Eloise group meets 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the dining room of the Kay Beard Building, on Michigan between Middlebelt and Merriman. All are welcome. For information, call Jo Johnson, (734) 522-3918.

Friends of Museum

Friends of the Westland Historical Museum meet at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday each month except December at the Collins House, located at the museum complex, 857 N. Wayne Road. Call Jim Franklin at (734) 595-8119. Everyone is welcome.

ORGANIZATIONS

Toastmasters

The Westland Easy Talkers Toastmasters Club can help people overcome their fear of speaking in front of people by teaching public speaking in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. Monday Cozy Corner Family Dining, 35111 W. Michigan Ave. at Wayne Road, Wayne. For more information, call Vicki Brannon at (734) 467-7224 or Curt Gottlieb at (734) 525-8445.

Suburban GOP Women's Club

The Suburban Republican Women's Club will host immigration attorney Kathleen Poppenger answering questions on America's problems with illegal immigration at a dinner at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at the Pick-A-Bone Restaurant, 30325 Six Mile Road in Livonia. Cost is $18. For reservations and menu choice, call (248) 320-5473. Visitors and guests welcome.

Vietnam Vets

The Plymouth-Canton Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 528, meet at 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of every month at the Plymouth VFW Post 6695, on S. Mill Street, just north of Ann Arbor Road. If you served in the U.S. military between 1964 and 1975, even, if not, "in country" (combat zone) you are still eligible to become a member. Visit the Web site at www.mihometown.com/oe/Plymouth

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CITY OF WESTLAND
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 4 – 2/20/07

Presiding: Council President Pickering
Present: Godbout, Graundstadt, Johnson, Kehrer, Reeves, Stottlemyer
66-Approved minutes of regular mtg held 2/5/07
-Approved Motor City Chapter Ride for Life 6-9-07.
-Approved Lions Club fundraisers 4/27/07-5/5/07 and 11/25/07-12/24/07.
-Approved revised prepared resolution approving the hiring consultant by Western Wayne 800 MHZ Digital Comm. Syst. Assoc.
68-Approved purchase agrmnt ext., Parcels #083-99-0027-001, 083-99-0029-001, 086-01-0787-002, 083-01-0791-003, 083-01-0793-000.
69-Approved rev. Site Plan for proposed storage garage & dumpster enclosures, Hunter's West Apartments, 6501 Yale, n. w. cor of Yale & Hunter Ave., w/contingencies.
70- Approved revised Site Plan for Brookfield Phase II, Brookfield Planned Unit Development, Parcel #050-99-0005-007, 051-99-0054-701 & -702 and 0057-001, n. side of Cherry Hill Road, w. of John Hix Rd, NW-18/SW-19, w/contingencies.
71-Approved land division, Parcels #069-99-0005-001 & -0006-003, e. side of Merriman Rd, s. of Cherry Hill Rd, w/contingencies.
72-Grants Special Land Use for proposed auto repair & sales, 38276 Abruzzi Drive, Parcel #052-05-0021-000, e. side of Abruzzi Dr., e. of Hix Rd, s. of Ford Rd., w/contingencies.
74- Confirmed appt. of D. Niemiec to Westland LOCC, term ending 2/20/14.
75- Confirmed appt. of L. Marvaso to Westland LOCC, term ending 2/20/14.
76- Confirmed appt. of W. Wild as delegate to CWCSA, term ending 6/30/07.
77- Confirmed appt. of S. Chopek to Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, term ending 2/20/10.
78-Approved the Rev. Appointed Officials & Mayor's Ofc.Pay/Benefit Pkg. Plan for 1/1/07 thru 12/31/07.
79-Approved checklist: $823,353.61 and Prepaid: $4,370,927.77.
80- Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

CHARLES W. PICKERING
Council President

EILEEN DEHART
City Clerk

Publis: March 1, 2007

OE08508580

CITY OF GARDEN CITY
2007 BOARD OF REVIEW DATES

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

Tuesday	March 6, 2007	9:00 a.m.

The Board of Review will meet in session on the following days and times to hear appeals on the 2007 assessment roll:

NOTE: Meetings located in THE GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM with late night appointments on Tuesday & Wednesday

Monday	March 12, 2007	9:00 am-5:00 pm
Tuesday	March 13, 2007	1:00 pm-9:00 pm
Wednesday	March 14, 2007	1:00 pm-9:00 pm
Thursday	March 15, 2007	9:00 am-5:00 pm
Friday	March 16, 2007	9:00 am-5:00 pm

APPEALS BY APPOINTMENT or WRITE-IN. Write-ins must be received by Monday, March 12, 2007.

Tentative ratios and factors for the 2007 tax year are:

CLASS	PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RATIO	PROJECTED EQUALIZATION FACTOR
Commercial	49.43%	1.0000
Industrial	47.28 %	1.0575
Residential	49.05 %	1.0100
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Taxes are paid on **TAXABLE** value, which is the lower assessed value or capped value, unless there is a property transfer. The capped value is based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index), which will increase 3.7% for 2007. As a result, all Taxable Values will increase 3.7% unless there has been a transfer of ownership or an addition to the property.

The 2007 Assessment Roll will be open for inspection from March 7, 2007 through March 9, 2007 in the assessment office from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p. m. And 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m..

ALLYSON BETTIS
TEASURER-CLERK

Publish: February 25, March 1 & 4, 2007

OE08508713

CITY OF WESTLAND
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL
2007 SCHEDULE FOR BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS

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

CALL (734) 467-3160 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

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

Written Appeals Must Be Received by 2:00 P.M. on
Friday, March 16, 2007

Publish: March 1 & 8, 2007

OE08505682

GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
6000 MIDDLEBELT
GARDEN CITY, M I 48135

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. The auction is to be held at Westland Car Care Towing, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI 48185.

Please Note: The bidding will start at the towing and storage charges.

YEAR & MAKE	STYLE	VIN#
1997 JEEP	SW	1J4FY29P9VP490266
1995 CHEVY CAVALIER	4 DR	1G1JC5244S7138183
1995 CHEVROLET	SW	1GBEG25KXSF182446
1995 CHRYSLER LHS	4 DR	2C3HD56F6SH526572
1997 DODGE RAM	PU	3B7HC13Y5VG801463
1992 DODGE	SW	2B4GH4533NR550935
1994 FORD TAURUS	SW	1FALP5745RG167236
1992 FORD T-BIRD	2 DR	1FAPP64R2NH159333
2004 FORD EXPEDITION	SW	1FMFU18L64LA86806
1989 FORD	SW	1FDEE14N5KHB05829
1991 FORD TAURUS	4 DR	1FACP50U2MG101715
1994 MERCURY	SW	4M2DV11W9RDJ61328
1997 PLYMOUTH	4 DR	1P3EJ46X5VN709371
1999 PLYMOUTH	4 DR	1P3EJ46C6XN611207
2000 PONTIAC	2 DR	1G2NW12E4YM710692
1998 VOLKSWAGEN	4 DR	3VWSA81H3WM126462
1993 NISSAN	4 DR	1N4EB31F1PC722371

Publish: March 1, 2007

OE08506886

OUR VIEWS

District shines with new honors

In the span of just five days, two Wayne-Westland Community schools collected prestigious state honors.

On Feb. 12, members of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center were at the 2007 Michigan Career Education Conference in Detroit to receive one of only two Excellence in Practice Awards presented by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth's Bureau of Career Education Programs.

The award recognized the rigor, relevance, relationships and results of the staff's and students' work on the Innovative Vehicle Design car, Thunderbolt II, built through a Convergence Education Foundation program.

On Feb. 16, the district also received word that for the second time in as many years, one of its elementaries — Walker-Winter in Canton — had been named by the state Board of Education as a Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School. The school follows in the footsteps of Edison Elementary in Westland, which won its Blue Ribbon designation in 2005.

For years, the Wayne-Westland district has labored in the shadows of neighboring districts that are seen as academically superior, offering programs and opportunities to students that have translated into better MEAP scores and state and national honors.

Neither one of these awards are gimmes. It took hard work on the part of the staff, students and parents to achieve them. It took a school district committed to being the best it can be.

New and improved schools with the latest technology, athletic facilities that rival those of small colleges and curriculum aligned to meet state standards are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to what Wayne-Westland has done to set itself apart from its neighbors.

And these two awards are a testament to efforts.

We congratulate the William D. Ford Career Technical Center and Walker-Winter Elementary School on their achievements. What they have accomplished clearly shows the district was on target when it adopted the motto of "Great futures start right here."

Senate GOP must give budget details

Senate Republicans have rejected Gov. Jennifer Granholm's 2007 budget proposal that would combine budget cuts and an excise tax on services to balance the current fiscal year budget.

Sen. Majority Leader Mike Bishop (R-Rochester) says that Senate Republicans have found enough spending cuts to deal with this year's $800 million state budget deficit without raising taxes or reducing the school foundation grant in the middle of the school year.

That's great news. Nobody likes to pay taxes. School officials will be delighted that their piece of the state pie will be preserved.

So where are these cuts going to be made? Health care and pension benefits for legislators? Trimming road and bridge projects? Dropping community grants for police and fire? Closing state parks?

Bishop won't say. He doesn't want the proposal "negotiated in the media."

But the time has come to let the people of Michigan in on the secret. If the Republicans in the Senate say they can provide a more efficient, streamlined, less-expensive and responsive state government, then tell us how to do it. If they can eliminate unnecessary programs or privatize services at a cost savings, let's get the details.

The residents of Michigan have a right to know, understand and discuss whatever plans the governor or the state Legislature have for their tax dollars. They have a right to raise questions, shout hurray or give a Bronx cheer to whatever ideas the governor and the Legislature propose.

Granholm has done her part; she's put forward an interesting and controversial plan for this year and next.

It is now incumbent upon legislators from the governor's party and the opposition to work with the governor toward a reasonable compromise.

In an interview last week with the *Lansing State Journal*, Granholm said: "I put out the best plan that we came up with after a lot of hard work. The Legislature refuses it. They have to put out specifics about what they would find acceptable and then we negotiate. I'm not going to continue to put out different plans on the hopes that something will fly. They've got to tell us what they will do ..."

Now is the time. Let's hear the details.

WESTLAND Observer
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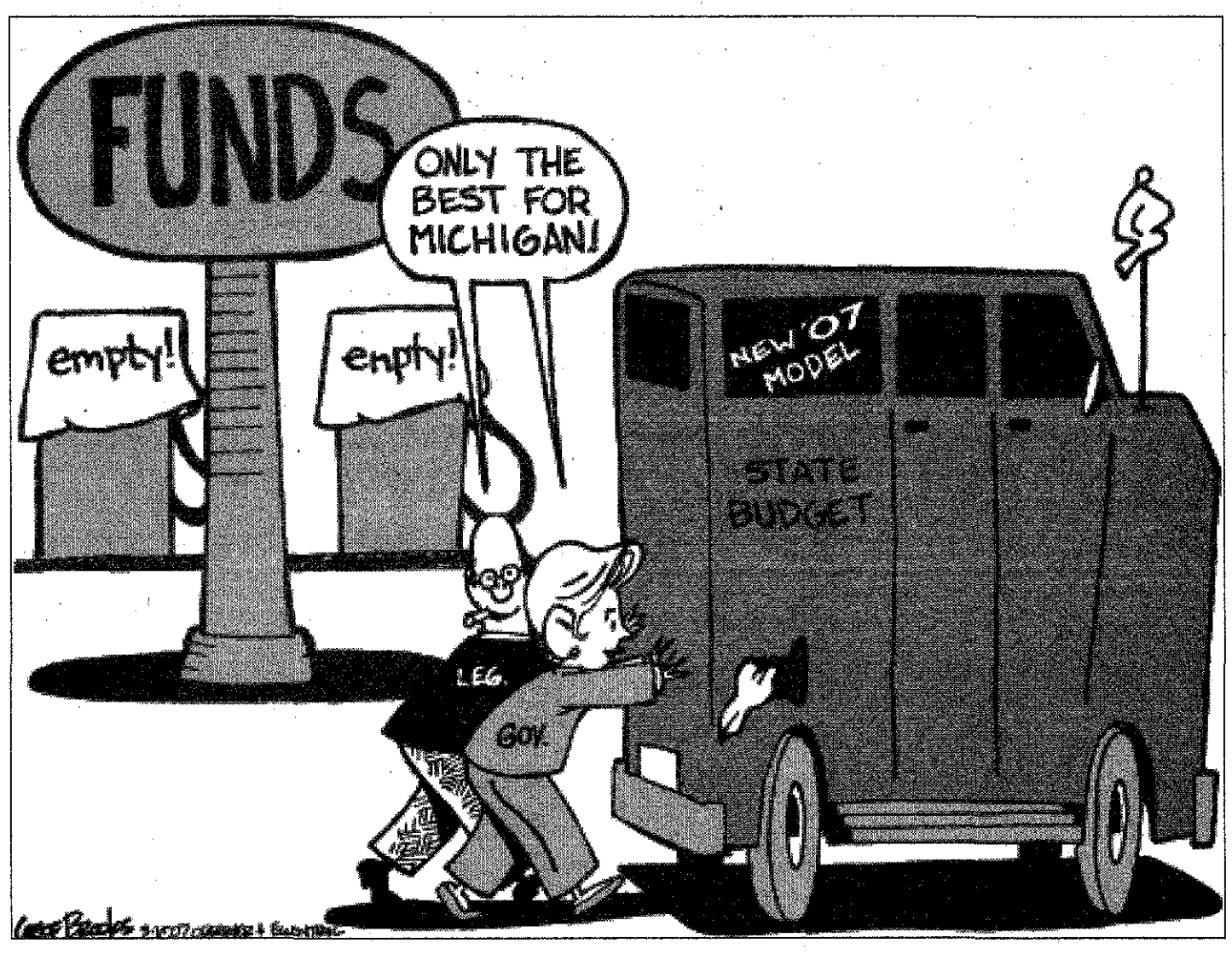

LETTERS

Death of 'the King'

When I was a kid growing up, my dad told me about this guy who had four people on his team and would go all over the world and beat FULL softball teams. He told me he struck out Hall of Famers Ted Williams, Willie Mays and Roberto Clemente among others.

Needless to say I thought my dad was crazy.

The man's name was Eddie Feigner of "The King and His Court." He passed away on Feb. 9, and though I knew he had ill health for the last several years, it still came as a shock.

I had the pleasure of meeting him several times. The last time I saw him he was signing his book, *From an Orphan to a King*, which was published by Immortal Investments in Wayne. What a book, great story. If you get a chance and want to read some great stories, get the book. I read it in about two hours, I couldn't put it down.

But my best memory of him was when they came to Westland a number of years ago, and I was asked to play against him. I jumped at the chance. I love softball.

Well, we had a team, well, 10 people anyway. They had one outfielder, one shortstop/third baseman and one first baseman. We played the game on the John Glenn football field. As the pitcher was pitching from second base and striking everyone out, I can honestly say that I fouled off two pitches before I sat down. They beat us like they beat everyone. What a day.

Some of the stories are incredible, and you will find them in the book. He pitched against some of the GREATEST MAJOR LEAGUE baseball players of all time and sat them down also, so I truly felt like a king having faced the "King and His Court."

Eddie gave me first base that day and signed it, and then told me that was the closest anyone had seen of it all day. I still have it.

My thoughts go out to Anne Marie, his wife, and the Court, Rich and everyone else over the years. Eddie may be gone but he will never be forgotten. Rest in peace.

Bud Somerville
Westland

Thanks for participating

I would like to thank everybody that participated and helped our "Bowling For Homeless Veterans." We raised close to $1,500. Again, thanks and I will sending out the information on our next fund-raiser. Help Us Help Our Heroes!

Scott Romp
public relations
Veteran's Haven

Must take action

Something is bothering me concerning the problems that have occurred with our library. It is not the building, which is quite impressive and bears the name of a political leader who was highly regarded locally and in the State Legislature. If my memory of him is at all accurate, I suspect the senator would be saddened by the situation in which his namesake institution finds itself.

My concern has to do with the way the people who sought positions of leadership in our community, which includes the governance of our library, have been discharging their duty to the library and the taxpayers.

A good deal has been said about the behavior of the Library Board and some of its members, but I suspect there are other elected officials whose behavior regarding the library has contributed to the present situation. If, as I understand it, both the mayor and council play a part in the appointment of members of the Library Board. Then they, by their inaction, have condoned the foolishness that has gone on for the last two years.

What motivates this willingness to allow continual chaos in the governance of the library? The citizens of this community are paying for the library. I for one would like to see our mayor and council get off their several duffs and demonstrate some of the leadership they tried to convince us they possessed when they wanted us to vote for them.

Jim Cook
Westland

Yes to HEART for Women Act

Heart disease and strokes kill more women in Michigan than the next five causes of death combined. The harsh reality of this statistic is heart disease is not only the No. 1 killer of women in our state, but in the whole country.

I could've been part of that statistic. At age 53, I suffered a massive heart attack while driving home from the office. My family was told I probably wouldn't make it through the night. Swift thinking on my part saved my life, but it was a rude awakening to discover that 1 out of 3 women die of heart disease every minute due to lack of education and appropriate health care.

That's why I am a strong supporter of the HEART for Women Act — bipartisan federal legislation aimed at reducing death and disability from heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

The HEART for Women Act (www.heartforwomen.org) would improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases in women by educating both women and health care providers with prevention programs using the most effective treatments for women.

The bill would also tighten Food and Drug Administration requirements for gender-specific reported data on heart medication in clinical trials and expand WISEWOMAN, a screening program for uninsured and underinsured women.

We have to stop thinking of heart disease, strokes and other cardiovascular diseases as a "man's disease." They are killing our mothers, sisters and friends while there is so much more Congress could do.

I urge our lawmakers to co-sponsor the HEART for Women Act and help us save lives. We don't want to be No. 1 anymore!

Susan Dubin
West Bloomfield

Governor trying to get jobs

In response to the letter, "*Nothing to offer*," let me say this: First of all, I do not think that we "are living in a black-hole" as you have put it. I apologize for saying this, but if that is the mentality the people have, then we are seriously doomed.

People need to recognize the fact that the governor is going to great lengths to secure jobs for the people of Michigan. It has to be understood that the mess we now face is NOT the result of bad leadership from Gov. Granholm or the Democrats. If you will recall, it was then Gov. John Engler who brokered all of the deals for his party!

We have gone through the Engler Era, but now face the reality for what he did to this state and needless to say the ongoing problems that the "Resident of the White House" is continuing to inflict on the American people.

If your husband or anyone is having trouble finding work, then the next time you see someone driving an import, say to them "Hey, THANK YOU for putting AMERICANS out of work!"

I won't let anyone park an import in my driveway! This state CAN and WILL pull through! It is the PEOPLE of this great state that will see Michigan through these tough times.

Our Democrats in Lansing are working extremely hard to push ahead and get our state back on track. I am confident that with people like Sen. Glenn Anderson, Reps. Richard LeBlanc and Marc Corriveau who represent this area, we can sleep safely knowing that they are fighting for ALL of us!

I don't have any easy answers for the letter writer. I can only offer to you that things WILL GET BETTER. It may take some time, but it will get better. We need to support those who we voted to represent us to get the job done, and they will.

Ask yourself this: What has Thaddeus McCotter and George W. done for you lately? All I can see is that they are letting the big oil companies once again stuff their pockets with my money when I pay at the pump!

I wish you well, and honestly do hope that your husband will be able to find work soon.

Here's an idea: Instead of blaming the governor, why don't you call George W. and tell him you want a job? This is the number: (202) 456-1414, or try (202) 456-1111. If you would like to send a fax: (202) 456-2461.

Mark Blackwell
Wayne

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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QUOTABLE

"These people have a right to speak, and you're not supposed to sue people for speaking. ... It seems to be intended to shut them up, and this is not what the legal system is for."

T.J. Andrews, a Traverse City attorney representing a citizens group that opposes the Maida Woods project

Bipartisan cooperation only way to find a solution for Iraq

The House of Representatives recently debated the Iraq war and cast a vote on a nonbinding resolution expressing opposition to President George Bush's new troop strategy. I voted against this resolution. Here's why:

The vast majority of Americans are of two minds when it comes to Iraq. We want the war to end as soon as possible, but we want to be supportive of the brave men and women who are fighting for our country in Iraq. We want our troops to come home, but we want them to return in victory, not defeat.

The war has taken a wrong turn. Mistakes have been made and the status quo is not acceptable. We need a new direction in Iraq that results in the Iraqi government taking responsibility for the security of their country.

Joe Knollenberg

The vast majority of Americans and their representatives in Congress agree with these statements. We also need to acknowledge that important things have been accomplished in Iraq.

Our military deposed one of the most brutal dictators the world has ever known. Saddam Hussein was a menace to his own people and a threat to our friend and ally, Israel. With Hussein gone, the Iraqis now have the opportunity to benefit from the freedom of democracy. It's time for them to seize this historic moment and forge ahead with democracy.

The war is unpopular, but those of us in elected office need to act responsibly and understand that the stakes are high for America.

With the election behind us, it's time for partisanship to end and for the statesmanship to begin.

Nonbinding resolutions that have no bearing on whether additional troops will be sent to Iraq are counterproductive. They will not bring our troops home quicker. And they will not defend our long-term national security interests in the Middle East.

The Democrat majority needs to work with Republicans and President Bush to find bipartisan solutions for Iraq. Our troops, who sacrifice so much, deserve no less.

I am offering my conditional support to the Bush plan to send additional troops to Iraq in hopes of ending the sectarian violence in Baghdad. It's time for the Iraqi government to step up to the plate. If we can help them do this with a troop surge, it might be the quickest and best way to secure a victory in Iraq and bring our troops home.

My support for the president's new Iraq plan is conditional, not carte blanche. My patience is growing thin with the war. We need to see real progress on the ground soon.

After the surge is complete and 90-120 days have passed, we will need to re-evaluate our options if progress has not been made.

Everything should be on the table at this point. But as we move forward, one thing is certain: Democrats, Republicans and the president must put America and our soldiers first and leave the politics behind.

Bipartisan cooperation is the only way to solve the problem of Iraq.

Joe Knollenberg is the representative from Michigan's 9th Congressional District.

LETTERS

Smokefree workplaces needed

The American Lung Association of Michigan (ALAM) wholeheartedly supports Michigan House Bill 4163 and Senate Bills 0109 and 0110 which call for prohibiting smoking in workplaces, including restaurants and bars.

In our effort to prevent lung disease and promote lung health, we believe that everyone is entitled to breathe smokefree air in the public arena. Why? The effects of secondhand smoke are devastating:

Exposure to secondhand smoke is the second leading cause of preventable death in Michigan. Between 1,400 and 2,500 adults, children and babies in Michigan die each year from exposure to secondhand smoke.

Children and adolescents exposed to secondhand smoke are at increased risk of asthma, ear infections, colds and pneumonia.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of cancer in humans. In women, lung cancer kills nearly 70,000 per year, more than breast, cervical and ovarian cancers combined.

Secondhand smoke contains hundreds of toxic or carcinogenic chemicals.

Secondhand smoke exposure causes disease and premature death in children and adults who do not smoke.

Secondhand smoke causes about 3,400 lung cancer deaths in adult nonsmokers in the U.S. each year.

Nonsmokers exposed to secondhand smoke at work are at increased risk for adverse health effects.

Levels of environmental tobacco smoke in restaurants and bars were found to be two to five times higher than in residences with smokers and two to six times higher than in office workplaces.

We are working tirelessly to promote clean air, provide smoking cessation and prevention programs – especially keeping cigarettes out of the hands of children – and advancing the cause of women's lung health through our year-long, statewide campaign called Catch Your Breath.

We call on our state legislators to consider the health and well-being of all Michigan citizens by holding public hearings and voting on smokefree legislation. With the passage of such legislation, we can help improve lives, one breath a time.

Raymond J. Maloni
CEO,
American Lung Association of Michigan

Support Michigan

Our Michigan economy depends on the success of the American auto companies.

The survival of your business, the survival of your job, the resale value of your home and the supply of jobs available for your kids after graduation, all depend on the success of Michigan's core industries — General Motors, Ford and their suppliers.

If you have bought a foreign vehicle, you have supported the economies of Japan, Germany, Korea, etc. You have sent Michigan jobs and Michigan wealth out of our country.

Even if the foreign vehicle is built elsewhere in the U.S., Michigan jobs go to that state and the profits go to a foreign company and economy. The lack of support for the Michigan auto companies is even forcing them to relocate operations and seek suppliers outside of our country.

Michigan residents who drive foreign vehicles are damaging their own economy and needlessly jeopardizing their own financial future.

At the Detroit Auto Show, General Motors won "Best Car of the Year" and "Best Truck of the Year."

Our Michigan auto companies have products that can compete with the best in the world. When you buy or lease your next vehicle, support your own economy.

Jack Orava
Bloomfield Hills

Protect our lakes

I recently returned from a vacation on the southern Florida Gulf coast where the beaches are seriously spoiled by piles of "red algae." It is a nightmare, apparently resulting from the flow of manmade nutrients carried by the Caloosahatchee River from Lake Okeechobee.

Now, upon my return, I read that our lakes may be threatened by Hydrilla, a dreaded water weed, which is aggressive, fast-growing, and chokes out fish and plant life while providing stagnant water that breeds mosquitoes.

When will we learn to protect our precious waters for drinking and recreation?

We need to be much more cautious about what we allow to be deposited in our waterways, whether the source is what we put on our lawns and gardens, what we carry from lake to lake by not cleaning our boats, or allowing our streams and lakes to be used as storm sewers. Clean water is not a renewable resource!

What kind of legacy are we leaving for our grandchildren?

Tom Stone
Clarkston

Two cents too much

Hello, is anyone listening? (The proposed state tax on services) is not 2 cents. It is 2 percent. It is $1.47 billion. Yes that is a 'B,' for fiscal year 2008. That is the number we need to be thinking about.

Sure it may not impact the "average" resident, but let's think about how it will affect businesses in our state.

Rumor has it that DaimlerChrysler is looking to build a new engine plant somewhere in southeast Michigan. Let's say for easy math that the cost of the "services" part of that plant construction is $10 million. So now let's add .02 on every dollar of services DCX will have to pay for the privilege of doing business in Michigan.

And let's see if we can add in the cost of the lawyer who reviews the contracts, the accountant that makes sure the money trail is correct. Do you see how this can impact the state?

Now perhaps DCX might look a little south of the border line — in, say, Toledo.

They know right off the bat they can save a couple of hundred grand and I am sure that is not even close to the real number, since I have no idea how much this venture might actually cost.

Seems logical to me that businesses would be avoiding the state of Michigan as a place to do business even more than they do now. So rather than think of it as 2 cents on your dry cleaning or haircut, let's use the more meaningful number $1.47 billion with a 'B' for fiscal year 2008.

Before the folks in Lansing get their hands on any more of my money, I would like to suggest the following: cut your spending. First off, let's cut one person from each legislator's staff, then let's cut their office budget by another 20 percent and then let's eliminate all the perks.

I think if the residents of Michigan put our heads together, we could come up with a long list of where legislators should cut first before we tax ourselves out of the red.

Just say no to letting Jennifer give us her 2 cents worth.

Linda M. Thielfoldt
Troy

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ATTENTION
Wayne County Residents

Do You Need More Time To Pay Delinquent 2004 Taxes On Your Home?

Michigan law requires the Wayne County Circuit Court to foreclose on property with unpaid 2004 delinquent taxes in March 2007. If you cannot pay the 2004 delinquent taxes on your home **APPLY FOR A FINANCIAL HARDSHIP EXTENSION** by contacting:

Taxpayer Assistance Department
(313) 224-6105
Or visit our website at:
www.treasurer.waynecounty.com

TO APPLY YOU MUST:
1. Own your home.
2. Live in your home as your principal residence.
3. Meet certain income requirements.

IF APPROVED YOU MAY RECEIVE A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION TO PAY YOUR 2004 DELINQUENT TAXES.

Applications must be received by March 15, 2007.

Raymond J. Wojtowicz
Wayne County Treasurer
400 Monroe, 5th Floor, Detroit, MI 48226
08507557

Saturday, March 3

Open early at 7am

caretoshare

community day
one day sale

Receive a Community Day coupon booklet with your $5 donation.

Inside you'll find:

- **A $10 coupon** to use on a single regular or sale price merchandise item of $10 or more throughout the store. We're doubly paying you back for your $5 donation. Some exclusions apply; see coupon for details.
- **Eight savings coupons** to use on regular and sale price merchandise throughout the store all day long and on top of our One Day Sale prices! Some exclusions apply; see coupons for details.

Don't have a coupon booklet? Purchase your booklet at any register through the end of the day Saturday!

7AM-1PM DOOR BUSTERS
Here are a few of the great offers you'll find!

Available while supplies last. Due to the already incredible prices, Community Day coupons are not valid on Door Busters.

DOOR BUSTER
50% off
Exclusively ours! Entire stock of Ruff Hewn sportswear for her. Tees, woven tops, sweaters, denim, bermudas and much more. Misses' sizes S-XL, 4-16. Reg. $29-$69, **Door Buster 14.50-34.50.**

DOOR BUSTER
60% off
Juniors' fashion knit tops. The latest looks in burnout patterns, solids or prints by Love Rocks and Eyeshadow. Sizes S-XL. Orig. $24, **Door Buster 9.60.**

DOOR BUSTER
12.97
Exclusively ours! Relativity and Studio Works woven tops. Wrinkle-free tops in stripes or solids and novelty tunics in solids. Misses' sizes S-XL. Similar styles in Petites' sizes. Orig. $28-$34. Similar styles in Women's sizes. Orig. $34, **Door Buster 14.97.** PW

DOOR BUSTER
50% off
A huge selection of Joseph A. and Parisian Signature fine-gauge sweaters. Many styles in great colors. Misses' sizes S-XL. Reg. $44-$58. **Door Buster $22-$29.**

DOOR BUSTER
5 for $20
Entire stock of famous maker and novelty panties by Rene Rofé, HUE, Barelythere, Vanity Fair and Bali. Many styles and silhouettes to choose from. Reg. $5-$10 each.

DOOR BUSTER
65% off
Entire stock of sterling silver jewelry. Pendants and earrings featuring inlay, stones and more. Orig. $24-$60, **Door Buster 8.40-$21.**

DOOR BUSTER
15.97
Entire stock of Vanity Fair and Bali bras. Comfortable support styles in fashion and classic colors. Orig. $21-$36.

DOOR BUSTER
9.97-14.97
Kids' sets. 2- and 3-pc. sets by Nannette, B.T. Kids and Kids Headquarters. Infants' and Toddlers' sizes, Girls' sizes 4-6X and Boys' sizes 4-7. Reg. $28-$50.

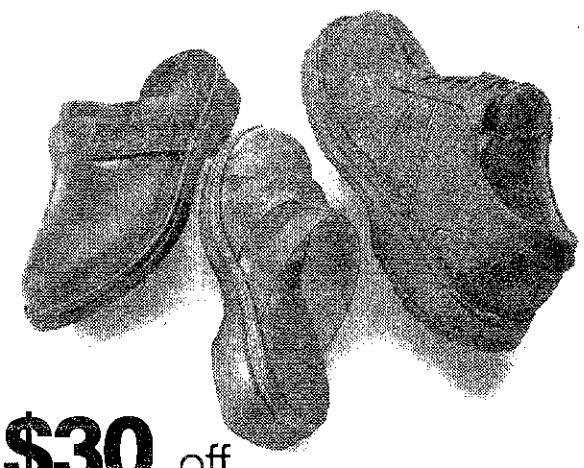
DOOR BUSTER
50% off
Layette by Carter's and Little Me. Creepers, bodysuits, cardigan sets and more for your littlest ones. Reg. $8-$20, **Door Buster $4-$10.**

DOOR BUSTER
17.97
Savane Deep Dye pants. Choose from flat-front or pleated styles. Waist sizes 32-42. Reg. $52.

ALL-DAY OFFER!

free 8-pc. gift
With any Elizabeth Arden purchase of 22.50 or more. Stop by the Elizabeth Arden counter for your free gift and for ONE DAY ONLY, receive an additional sample with a consultation. Limit one each per customer; available while supplies last. Community Day coupons are not valid on cosmetics or fragrances.

BONUS BUY!



$30 off
Entire stock of Clarks shoes for Women & Men. Choose from a great selection of comfortable styles. Women's sizes 6-10M; Men's sizes 8-13M. Reg. $70-$90, **Bonus Buy $40-$60.** Community Day coupons are not valid on Bonus Buys; available while supplies last.

PARISIAN

Community Day Door Buster prices effective 7am-1pm Saturday, March 3, 2007. All other Community Day One Day Sale prices effective all day Saturday, March 3, 2007. No price adjustments for previously purchased clearance merchandise. Clearance and Incredible Value merchandise is excluded from Entire Stock offers. Regular and original prices reflect offering prices in effect during the 90 days before or after this sale, but not necessarily during the past 30 days. Savings may not be based on actual sales. Intermediate markdowns may have been taken. Merchandise, style and color availability may vary by store. Sorry, not available by mail or phone order. [13241A]

Stevenson football family mourns loss – B2

3/1

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REFERENCE ONLY

Churchill nips Spartans in tourney test, 1-0

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

It wasn't easy, but the state's No. 1-ranked hockey team cleared a major obstacle in its quest for a Division I state championship.

Livonia Churchill proved to be resilient in a tight-checking 1-0 pre-regional triumph over rival Livonia Stevenson before a near-capacity crowd Wednesday night at Edgar Arena.

Nathan Milam's second-period goal proved to be the difference as the Chargers improved to 22-2-2 overall and advanced to the regional final against the Royal Oak winner. (Game time is 7 p.m. Saturday at the Dearborn Indoor Skating Center's Kilpatrick Arena.)

Churchill netminder Scott Lewan turned away all 22 shots in the victory, while his counterpart on the other end, Drew MacEachern, was sharp in goal as well, making 27 saves.

Milam, a catalyst all night for the Chargers on both ends of the ice. He helped secure the victory by sprinting the length of the ice and beating a Stevenson defender to the puck in the waning seconds to nullify an icing call after the Spartans pulled their goaltender for the extra attacker with 1:26 to go.

"Nate is an extremely dynamic player," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "It's the way he should play every night. And if he plays at that level, we're tough to beat."

Milam's game-winning goal came off a rebound at 3:34 of the second period. Garrett Miencier and Keith Yackley drew the assists.

"Garrett took the shot, it went off his (MacEachern's) toe, I pulled it out and reached around," said the Churchill junior forward. "It was a tough game because it's a crosstown rival. It was a close game, but those one-goal differentials are the best games to play, especially when the goalie gets the shutout. When we needed it the most, Scott (Lewan) came up huge."

In two previous meetings, Stevenson had earned a 2-2 tie and lost to the Chargers, 4-2.

"They're a good hockey team, they've proved it the last two games against us," Mazzoni said of Stevenson. "We were fortunate to get the puck to bounce our way."

The Chargers had the better chances, including a point-blank first-period shot by defenseman Andy LaBerge that bounced off the crossbar. Churchill, however, found itself fighting off 5-on-3 situations in both the first and second periods.

Churchill racked up eight penalties through two periods, while Stevenson took six.

"I think it was the hype, the emotion of a big game," Mazzoni said. "The first period was extremely slow and emotions got the best of us. We've gotten a lot of work on the penalty killing this year, and we've gotten pretty good at it. But your goalie is your best penalty killer because he can

PLEASE SEE HOCKEY, B3

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill's Garrett Miencier (left) and Stevenson's Mark Bekkala battle along the boards for the puck in Wednesday's Division I pre-regional clash at Edgar Arena.

Wayne boys earn tournament spot

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

PREP BOWLING

In only its first season of varsity boys bowling, Wayne Memorial proved Saturday it belongs in the Division 1 team state tournament.

The Zebras earned one of the three qualifying berths for the team finals Friday morning at Sterling Heights' Sunnybrook Lanes by finishing runner-up in last Saturday's regional hosted by Drakeshire Lanes in Farmington Hills.

The regional consisted of six Baker games (alternating shots) and three regular games, with South Lyon taking first with a total of 4,473 followed by Wayne (4,402) and Woodhaven (4,225).

The Zebras posted a high Baker game of 263 and a regular middle game of 1,154.

Junior Zac Kyle paced Wayne with a 658 series on games of 226-240-192.

Other top scorers included junior Mike Solarz, 184-231-223—638; senior Trey Raynes, 217-224-190—631; junior Eric Robertson, 202-255-146—603; and junior Josh Gonzales, 203-204-178—585.

Junior Cory Harden, who bowled two Baker games, and sophomore Ryan Gabriel round out the Wayne lineup.

The Zebras, led by Raines' 219 average, were impressive during the regular season, finishing 7-1 overall with a third place in the Dearborn Heights Crestwood Invitational with a total of 3,684. They also made match play in the Wayne County Tournament.

"After we bowled a while, I we figured we had a shot," Wayne coach Bob Jawor said. "I thought the talent was there. They may have exceeded expectations, but it was not out of the realm of possibility to make it that far. They did a great job. They showed a lot of heart after getting off to a slow start."

Rival Westland John Glenn, which finished the regular season with a 10-3 dual-match record, including 3-3 against WLAA teams, took sixth in the 14-team regional with a total of 4,062.

Glenn boasted a pair of 204 Baker games, while hitting a 1,008 in the first regular game.

The Rockets' Justin O'Hara is headed to Saturday's Division 1 singles individual finals at Sunnybrook Lanes after finishing fifth out of 72 bowlers at the regional with a six-game block of 1,326.

Meanwhile, Clarenceville's Andrew Abbott is coming off a Division 2 regional win with a total of 1,326 and will bowl in the singles individual finals Saturday at Nottke's Lanes in Battle Creek.

State champs

Samarco's 3-point barrage yields title for Schoolcraft

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

After a somewhat disappointing regular season, the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team brought home the Michigan Community College Athletic Association tournament title trophy Saturday.

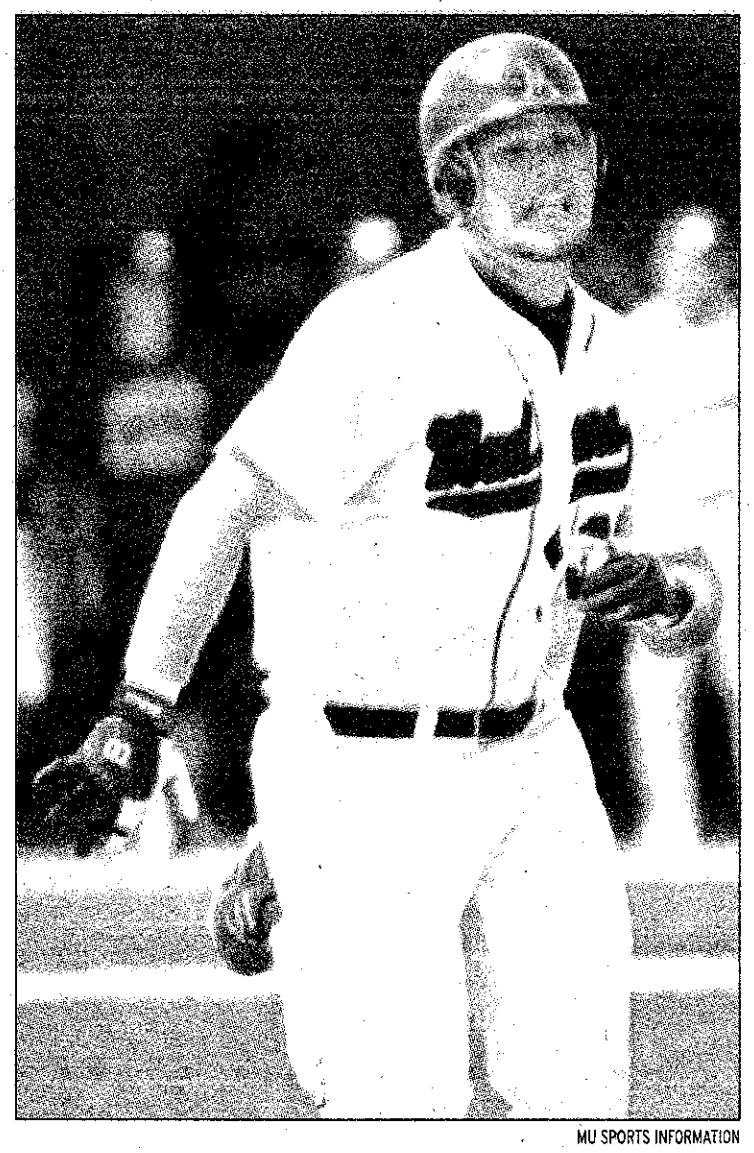
Schoolcraft, runner-up in the Eastern Conference of the MCCAA, got 30 points from guard Josh Samarco (Belleville), who made 6-of-7 3-point attempts, in a 103-96 triumph over Lansing CC at Kalamazoo Valley.

Schoolcraft, under first-year coach Mike Brown, jumped out to a commanding 59-35 halftime lead before holding off the Stars.

Purdue University transfer Nate Minnoy added 25 points and 10 rebounds, while another former Boilermaker, Korey Spates, had 18 points and 13 assists. Central Michigan transfer Jon Yeazel contributed 17 points.

The Ocelots made 13-of-21 3-point attempts

PLEASE SEE SCHOOLCRAFT, B3



MU SPORTS INFORMATION

Time to play ball

Madonna University junior first baseman Dave Herrick, an alum of Livonia Churchill, is one of several players the team will need to overcome the graduation of 2006 big-gun Ben Ramsey. See preview on page B5.

Clean tournament sweep

Chargers claim fifth straight WLAA crown

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Five and counting.

That's the number of consecutive Western Lakes Activities Association volleyball tournament titles for Livonia Churchill.

The state-ranked Chargers put it all together Saturday, defeating Northville in the championship match, 25-20, 25-14, at Walled Lake Northern High School.

Churchill, which improved to 49-2-1 overall, reached the final with a 25-13, 25-22 victory over Livonia Stevenson following a 25-17, 25-18 quarterfinal triumph over Walled Lake Western.

The Chargers also finished undefeated in pool play with wins over Wayne Memorial (25-2, 25-10), Stevenson (25-17, 25-18) and Western (25-10, 25-9).

"Winning the conference championship is always a good thing," Churchill coach Marc Grenier said. "And thankfully we were all on the same page. Everybody played a role and did their job.

"We were able to execute the whole day, stay focused and get the job done."

Churchill's top attacker once again was 5-foot-11 senior outside hitter Lauren Krupsky, who finished with 78 kills on the day. Kyndra Abron, a 6-1 junior, added 54 kills and seven blocks.

Senior libero Kelly Archer added 76 digs, served eight aces and serve-received at 95 percent. Junior defensive specialist Anna-Marie Gatt had 35 digs, eight aces and was 96 percent on serve-receive.

Other contributions came from setter Kelsey McKenzie, 116 assist-to-kills; Jordan Kerr, 27 digs; Sarah Button, eight kills, nine assists, five blocks and seven digs; Jaclyn Gribeck, five blocks; and recent JV callup Lindsey Graciak, 20 digs with 88 percent serve-receive and 100 percent serving.

On Friday, Churchill begins it state tournament quest by hosting a competitive district which includes two of the WLAA's top four teams.

"We'll enjoy what we've been able to accomplish, but we know the teams in the district will get another crack at us and there's a bull's-eye on our backs," Grenier said. "We just have to continue to work hard this week in practice, stay humble and take care of business."

Spartans in final 4

Livonia Stevenson went 3-2 on the day and reached the semifinals of Saturday's WLAA tournament.

The Spartans, now 21-15-2 overall, lost both matches to rival Churchill, but scored victories over Walled Lake Northern (25-20, 25-18), Wayne (25-9, 25-16) and Walled Lake Western (25-19, 25-21).

Hannah Diebel was the Spartans' top attacker with 30 kills on the day, followed by Laura Khalil (23), Kelly Snitchler (19), Meg Iafrate (10) and Victoria Slavin (eight).

Defensively, Jordan Pilut and Stephanie Labby recorded 25 and 23 digs, respectively. Setter Jill Flaugher also had 25 digs to go along with 74 assists and seven kills.

Mustangs oust Pats

WLAA runner-up Northville eliminated Livonia Franklin in the quarterfinals, 25-9, 25-21.

In pool play, Franklin lost to

PLEASE SEE VOLLEYBALL, B2

Snippets

Perusse signs

Josh Perusse, a first-team All-Observer offensive lineman from Wayne Memorial, signed an NCAA Division II football letter of intent this week with Northwood University of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The 6-foot-2, 250-pound senior excelled on both sides of the ball for the 5-4 Zebras.

Offensively, the All-Western Lakes Activities Association selection had only two bad snaps all season in Wayne's shotgun attack. Defensively, Perusse recorded 70 tackles, including three sacks.

He carries a 3.5 grade-point average.

Franklin All-WHAC

Madonna University junior forward Martina Franklin (Redford Union), who averaged 17.7 points and 8.9 rebounds per game, was named to the first-team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Conference in women's basketball.

Franklin, the eighth MU player to surpass the 1,000-point mark, recorded 13 double-doubles this season.

Freshman guard Stephanie Piotrowski (Ida), who averaged 9.1 points per game, was named to the All-Newcomer team.

Junior forward Caryn Inman (Oxford) was one of six players named to the conference's Champions of Character team. MU's Carl Graves also earned the same honor for coaches.

Inman and junior guard Rebecca Rufli (Linden) made the All-Academic team for juniors and seniors based on a grade-point average of 3.25.

New MU signees

■ Madonna University men's basketball coach Chuck Henry announced the signing of two players for the 2007-08 including 6-foot-1 guard Ryan Robinet from Riverside (Ontario) Secondary School and along with Richland Gull Lake's Gordy Hyde.

■ MU cross country coach Pat Daugherty announced the signing of Livonia Franklin senior Kari Saarela, who has earned All-Western Division honors in the Western Lakes Activities Association along with honorable mention All-Observer. Saarela posted a career best of 20 minutes, 39 seconds in the 5,000-meter run.

CHS Hall of Fame

The Livonia Churchill Athletic Patrons will stage their fifth annual Hall of Fame dinner 6 p.m. Thursday, March 22 at Italian-American Club in Livonia.

Among the honorees are former basketball standout Ken Landini, boys basketball coach Pat Montagano and the 1972 undefeated Charger football team coached by Ken Kaestner.

Several members of the '72 football team still need to be located.

For more information, or to reserve a spot at the banquet, call the Churchill Athletic Office at (734) 744-2650, Ext. 46117.

Warriors finish runner-up to North in Metro tourney

Macomb Lutheran North held serve in Saturday's Metro Conference girls volleyball tournament.

The top-seeded Mustangs finished the season 11-0 in conference play by winning the Metro Tournament against host Lutheran High Westland in three games, 25-13, 25-21, 25-15.

North is now 35-7-4 overall, while Lutheran Westland falls to 26-4-4 overall and 9-2 in the Metro.

The Warriors reached the championship match by defeating Bloomfield Hills Kingswood, 25-17, 25-15, after disposing of Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest in three games, 17-25, 25-18, 15-8.

"We played well for the most part on the day," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade said. "The loss to North hurts because you never want to lose. But give them credit. They're a very good team."

Sophomore Becca Refenes led the Warriors, ranked No. 7 in the latest Class D statewide poll, with 27 kills, 10 solo blocks (17 kept in play) and 11 digs.

PREP VOLLEYBALL WRAP

Kayla Gieschen added 16 kills and served at 100 percent, including 35 points to go along with six aces. She also had a team-high 32 digs.

Setters Julie Jongsma and Lauren Gieschen combined for 42 assists with 22 and 20, respectively. Jongsma also had 18 points serving with five aces.

Other standouts included Katey Ramthun, 10 kills; Lauren Schwecke, 19 digs, seven kills and 100 percent serving; Lauren Harris, nine points serving (1 ace); and Rachel Becker, three solo blocks (seven kept in play).

"We're not too discouraged or disappointed," Wade said. "We've had a great season and we still have a lot of volleyball left to go. We're looking forward to competing in the upcoming state tournament."

Hawks flying high

Junior Emily Helwig collected 12 kills, while setter Amanda Gruenewald added 22 assists Tuesday as host Westland Huron Valley Lutheran downed Taylor Light & Life Christian in four games, 29-27, 20-25, 25-18, 25-22, in first-round Class D district tourney action.

Taylor Baptist Park won the other first-round match against Newport Lutheran South, 25-18, 25-11, 25-20.

In a makeup match Monday, the host Hawks, now 22-9-3 overall, finished unbeaten in the MIAC-Red Division with an 8-0 mark thanks to a 25-18, 25-18, 26-24 victory over Taylor Baptist Park, which finished 4-4.

Helwig and Lauren Adlof had five and four kills, respectively, while Gruenewald added 13 assists and three kills.

On Saturday, Gruenewald finished with 31 assists as the Hawks went 0-2-2 in the University of Michigan-Dearborn Tournament.

In the Silver Bracket, Waterford Kettering beat Huron Valley, 25-2, 25-10. Ortonville-Brandon also defeated the Hawks, 25-17, 25-13. The Hawks split with Madison Heights Bishop Foley (25-13, 14-25) and Marine City (11-25, 25-18).

C'ville girls roll into Battle Creek

Nottke's Lanes in Battle Creek is the next destination for the Livonia Clarenceville girls bowling team.

The Trojans, who reached the Final Four in Division 2 at year ago, will be making its fourth straight trip to the state team finals this Friday after finishing runner-up to Richmond at Oak Lanes in Westland.

Only 18 total pins separated the top two teams with Richmond holding the edge, 3,539-3,521. Lansing Waverly also earned a trip by finishing third with 3,370.

Clarenceville led most of the day, only to have Richmond pull ahead on the 10th frame of the final game.

"We had three 'opens' on the 10th and you just can't do that at this level," said Clarenceville coach Pam Jones, who led the state-ranked Trojans to an undefeated dual-match season at 14-0. "We'll work on that this week and hopefully learn from it going into the state tournament."

Clarenceville's individual singles qualifiers for Saturday's Division 2 state tournament at Nottke's Lanes in Battle Creek include first-place boys finisher Andrew Abbott along with third-place girls finisher Kayla Barber (top left) and fifth-place finisher Danielle Fecso.

Senior Danielle Fecso was Clarenceville's top scorer with a total of 638 on games of 168-243-227.

Other top scorers included juniors Kayla Barber (147-180-182-509) and Sara Brown (165-176-158-499); and senior Erica Charboneau (179-151-141-472).

Jones' strongest bowler in the six Baker games (alternate shots) was junior Elizabeth Sinclair.

Sophomore Amanda Dailey, junior Danielle Maples and junior Kari Cummins also made contributions.

The Trojans also had Barber (third) and Fecso (fifth) earn spots in this Friday's Division 2 individual state finals in Battle Creek.

In a six-game block at the regional, Barber recorded a total of 1,113, while Fecso finished with a 1,099.

Livonia Ladywood's Jenelle Farris also made the cut with a sixth-place finish (1,097).

Stevenson football family mourns loss

Jack Gabel, 77, remembered

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Jack Gabel, instrumental in the success of Livonia Stevenson High football as a longtime assistant coach, passed away Sunday night at the age of 77.

He joined longtime Stevenson head coach Jack Reardon in 1966 in the Spartans' inaugural varsity season and helped mold one of the area's top programs. Gabel was inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1989.

Reardon coached under Reardon through 1982 before stepping down for a two-year sabbatical (1983-84). He then rejoined Reardon and the Stevenson staff from 1985-88. The physical education instructor retired from the Livonia Public Schools in 1989 after 31 years.

"It's very sad, Jack was such a wonderful guy to work with," said Reardon, who now resides in Tallmidge, Ohio. "Jack was a wonderful person with good, morale character. I had so much trust in him because he could coach any and all positions.

"We both agreed on discipline and how to treat kids. We saw eye-to-eye and did not argue. Once in awhile we'd debate, but not very often in all the years we worked together. We both had the same attitude as far as teaching and coaching. The kids respected Jack a great deal."

Among the survivors are his son, Tim, who has been the Spartans' varsity head football coach since 1995 when he replaced the Reardon, along with two other sons, Bob and Mike, and a daughter, Jenny (Miller). Gabel's wife Joan passed away in 2002.

A memorial mass will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, March 5 at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, located at W. Chicago and Inkster roads, in Redford.

"We had a good relationship on-and-off the field," Reardon said. "My wife Rosemary and Joan were good friends. Socially we were very close. We've got a lot of wonderful memories, and we'll cherish those."

The late Gabel, a native of Bellvue, Ohio, was recruited as a scholarship football player and arrived at the University of Michigan in 1948, but had to forego his freshman season to take care of an ailing sister, according to his son Tim.

After graduating from U-M, Gabel spent three years in the U.S. Navy in Special Services where he launched his coaching career.

Gabel taught two years in the South Redford Schools before taking a teaching and coaching position at Riley Middle School in Livonia where he won numerous City titles in both football and track and field from 1958 through 1966.

VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE B1

Salem (13-25, 21-25), defeated Plymouth (25-15, 25-23) and split with Westland John Glenn (24-26, 25-23).

Top performers for the Patriots, now 14-18-4 overall, included Liz Dempsey (33 kills), Laura Marshall (15 kills), Ashley Price (12 kills), setter Kelly Powers (65 assists) and Jenna Boettcher (seven aces).

"Liz had a great tournament offensively and defensively," Franklin coach Linda Jimenez said. "She is the backbone of our team.

"Against Salem and Northville, we switched to a taller lineup with the Taylor twins, Briauna and Brittany, and had some success triple blocking."

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WLAA VOLLEYBALL RESULTS

2007 WLAA VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT (Feb. 24 at Walled Lake Northern)

Championship final: Livonia Churchill defeated Northville, 25-20, 25-14.

Semifinals: Churchill def. Livonia Stevenson, 25-13, 25-22; Northville def. Salem, 23-25, 27-25, 15-8.

Quarterfinals: Churchill def. Walled Lake Western, 25-10, 25-9; Northville def. Livonia Franklin, 25-9, 25-21; Stevenson def. Walled Lake Northern, 25-20, 25-18; Salem def. Westland John Glenn, 17-25, 25-15, 15-11.

ALL-WESTERN LAKES TEAMS

All-Conference: Joanna Foss and Krysta Cicala, Northville; Kyndra Abron, Kelly Archer and Lauren Krupsky, Churchill; Teresa Coppiellie and Lauren Kurtz, Salem; Liz Dempsey, Franklin; Jill Flaugher, Stevenson.

All-Lakes Division: Jansan Falcusan and Nikki Mersch, Salem; Anna-Marie Gatt, Churchill; Jordan Serra, Walled Lake Central; Jordan Pilut, Stevenson; Sandy Rambow and Melissa Stack, W.L. Northern; Virginia Butler and Kirstin Kirk, Westland John Glenn.

All-Western Division: Amanda Marquardt, Katie Moran, Kristen Ehehalt and Jackie Elder, Northville; Marie Martin, Canton; Sam DeYonker and Allie Lubanski, W.L. Western; Kelly Powers, Franklin.

HONORABLE MENTION

Lakes Division: Brittany Holbrook and Kija Colts, John Glenn; Sarah Button and Kelsey McKenzie, Churchill; Courtney Seiler, Katrina Cope and Kelly MacDonald, Salem; Stephanie Kramer, Stephanie Schultz and Sarah Bile, W.L. Centra; Brooke Burmeister and Laura Ford, W.L. Northern; Jamie Poundrs, Laura Khalil, Amber Sharp, Stevenson.

Western Division: Allison Holmes and Elise Fleishaker, Northville; Olivia LaFortune, Wayne Memorial; Paige Partenio, Kelsey Guiliani and Carly Zeittin, W.L. Western; Jenna Boettcher, Andrea McCall, Ashley Price; Clare Baptist, Rachel Heaton, Chelsey Quinlan, Brittany Hengesh, Plymouth; Kacy Moran, Jordn Kielty, Hannah Mills and Joellen Heldt, Canton.

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Western Division: Franklin and Northville; **Lakes Division:** John Glenn.

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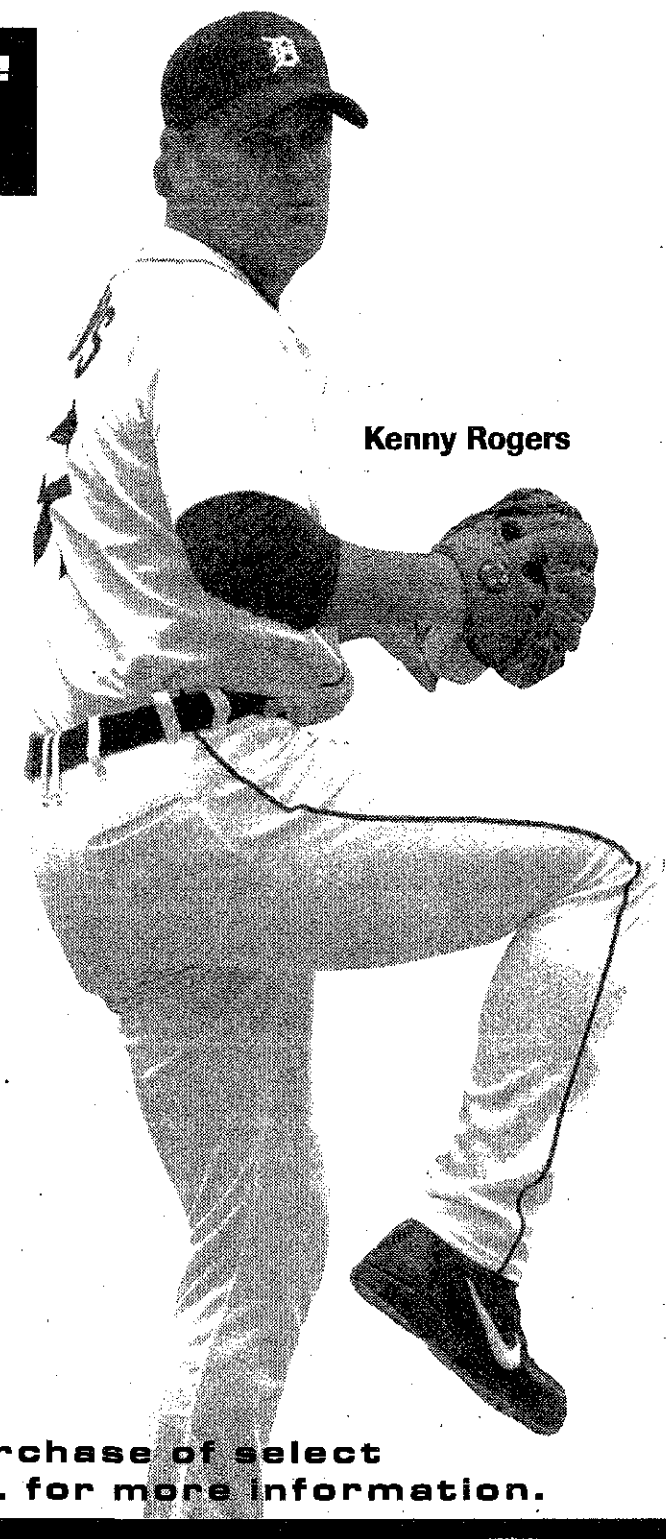
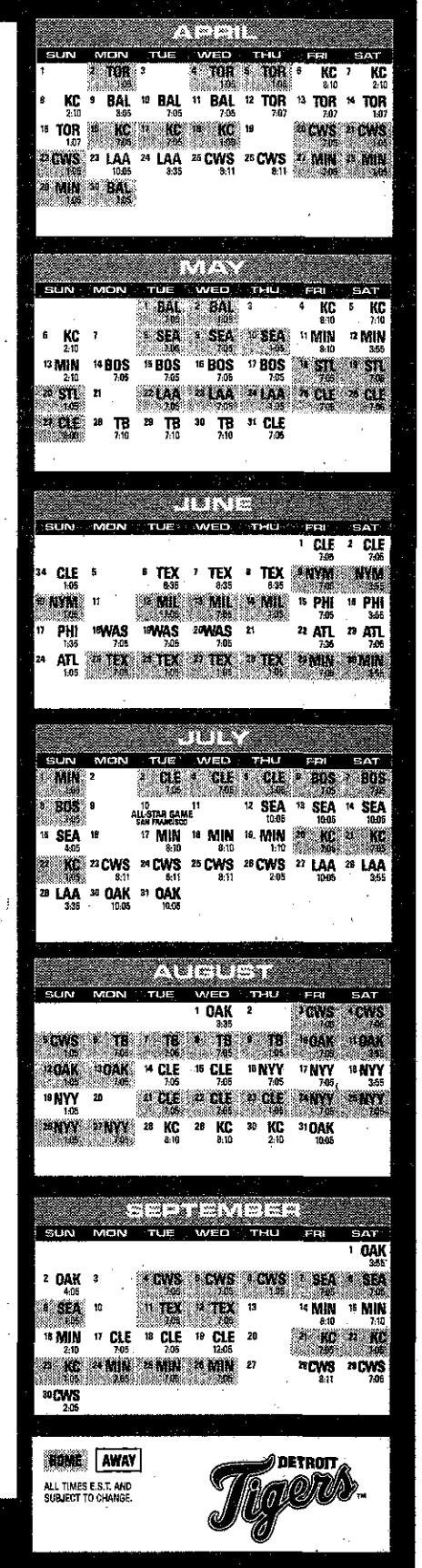
April 22	Tigers Calendar First 10,000 fans	Red Robin
April 28	Pre-Game On-Field Clinic	Red Robin
April 29	Tigers Pin Album First 10,000 fans	Detroit Newspaper Partnership
May 19	2006 World Series Rally Towel All fans	MasterCard
May 26	Pre-Game On-Field Clinic Gary Sheffield Replica Baseball Glove First 7,500 kids 14 & under	Ball Park Franks/Meijer
May 27	Floppy Hat First 10,000 fans	National Coney Island
June 30	Justin Verlander 2006 A.L. Rookie-of-the-Year Baseball First 10,000 fans	
July 1	Magglio Ordoñez Bobblehead First 10,000 fans	Esurance
	On-Field Photo Day	Ball Park Franks
July 4	Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular	Verizon Wireless
July 21	Negro Leagues Tribute Game	Comerica Bank and Blue Cross
July 22	2006 Tigers A.L. Championship Cap First 10,000 adults 21 & over	Budweiser
Aug 5	Carlos Guillen Bobblehead First 7,500 kids 14 & under	Chevrolet
Aug 11	Tigers Youth Cap First 10,000 kids 14 & under	Detroit Medical Center
Aug 12	Joel Zumaya T-Shirt First 10,000 fans	Northwest Airlines
Sep 9	Duffel Bag First 10,000 kids 14 & under	AAA
Sep 21-22	Fan Appreciation Weekend	Comerica Bank
Sep 23	Fan Appreciation Weekend/Shirt Off Our Back	Comerica Bank





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Chargers freeze Redford; Spartans blank Dearborn

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Redford Unified hit the ice in high gear Monday against top-ranked Livonia Churchill in a pre-regional hockey game at Edgar Arena.

But after getting three quick shots against Chargers senior goalie Scott Lewan, Unified hit a collective rut and never recovered.

Churchill (21-2-2) scored seven times in the first two periods and went on to an 8-2 victory and advance to Wednesday's pre-regional final against Livonia Stevenson (17-6-2).

"I thought we were flying in the beginning," said Unified coach Larry Singer following the season-ending defeat. "I think we may have surprised them because we have some speed and we have some strength. But what's hurt us all year is defensive zone coverage."

The Chargers scored three times in the first 5:14 against Unified junior netminder Ryan Wagner to go up 3-0, and the rout was on.

Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said it was good to see his team break out early, because "at a tournament you never know, you can run into a hot goaltender, or the pucks don't bounce your way."

"You've got to take care of business tonight to move on," he said. "We feel we've got a lot of hockey left in us."

Wagner played exceptionally well over the last two periods, stopping 37 of 45 shots. Singer said that after Churchill junior forward Nate Milam (one goal, two assists) scored with 7:23 left in the first to make it 4-1, Wagner "started to make a statement."

Churchill, however, continued to roll with another marker at 2:21 of the middle stanza, to go up 5-1. A slap shot by junior defenseman Mitch Carpenter was deflected into the Unified goal by senior forward Matt Heinzelman (one goal, one assist).

Churchill also got goals from senior defensemen Phil Wendecker and Jason Proctor before the second period ended to take a 7-2 lead into the locker room.

Senior forward Dustin Wischmeyer scored his second of the game with 12:24 to play for the only goal of the third.

Collecting one goal and two assists for Churchill was Carpenter, while senior forward Tony Ross and junior forward Keith Yackley each recorded two assists.

Senior forwards and co-captains Bill Cetnar and Ben Pisko scored for Redford Unified (10-14).

HOCKEY PRE-REGIONAL WRAP

STEVENSON 4, DEARBORN-EDSEL 0: R.J. Kierdorf had two goals and one assist Monday as Livonia Stevenson (17-6-2) opened Division I district tourney play with a victory over Dearborn-Edsel Ford (5-14-4).

John Vella's power-play goal at 10:51 of the first period from Marcus Voran and Kierdorf proved to be the game-winner.

Kierdorf notched his first goal with 52 seconds left in the second period from Vella.

The Spartans scored twice in the final 1:03 to put the game away including Kierdorf's empty-netter (from Voran) followed by Mike Jahn (from Sean Lerg).

Stevenson netminder Drew MacEachern made 17 saves en route to the shutout, while Dearborn's Ish Gregory had 32 stops.

"This is a game we were glad to see end," said Stevenson coach Mike Humitz, whose team outshot Dearborn-Edsel, 39-17. "We were on the power play all night, but could not solve their goalie.

"Usually when that happens, it comes back to haunt you. But tonight we were able to overcome it. It was also nice to get past Dearborn in a playoff game."

NOVI 5, FRANKLIN 0: Rob Lewis scored a pair of goals Monday as the host Wildcats blanked Livonia Franklin (3-21) in the opening round of the Division I district tourney at the Novi Ice Rink.

Andy Haggerty Shawn Baxter and Kyle Potocki also tallied goals for the Wildcats, who outshot Franklin 39-14.

Kevin Michalzuk earned the shutout in goal for Novi, while Franklin netminder Austin Mesler made 34 saves.

"We played a very good first period and were down by one goal," Franklin coach Terry Jobbitt said. "The second period we were in penalty trouble again as the same players put us short again."

Franklin ended its regular season Friday at Edgar Arena with a 9-1 loss in the Western Lakes crossover to Walled Lake Central.

Rob Archambault scored twice for the Vikings, while Tyler Barnes had the lone Franklin goal, a power-play, from Ron Perian and Stefan Witte.

Central netminder Brett Malbin stopped 24 shots, while Mesler had 33 saves for the Patriots.

"There were many good points about this year's very young and inexperienced team," Jobbitt said. "Many of the new players really stepped up and gave us more than we expected."

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

cover a lot of mistakes."

Mazzoni said his Chargers have gone the extra mile during the tourney in their commitment to defense. Churchill put a dragnet around Stevenson's dangerous skating forward Marcus Voran.

"You've got to be willing to take the big hit, go down and block a shot, take a two-hander and walk away," Mazzoni said. "Scott (Lewan) maybe didn't see a lot of shots, but he's been in a zone lately. The puck looks like a beach ball to him right now."

Stevenson, which bowed out at 17-7-2 overall, tried to apply pressure late in the game, but the Chargers were able hold on during the final minute.

"They (Churchill) didn't play as wide-open as they usually do," Stevenson coach Mike Humitz said. "They were not as aggressive offensively. But they have a good team and you don't have to open it up if you have enough good players to get goals.

"Our goal was to be even with them the first 20 minutes into the game, then it was anybody's game, and that proved to be the case. But we couldn't get one by him (Lewan). We had plenty of opportunities, but their three-man penalty killing was good tonight. We moved the puck well, but didn't have a lot of opportunities."

Despite the loss, Humitz had no complaints.

"I told them (afterwards) there's a lot of disappointment, but at the same time there's a lot to be proud about," he said. "We had a good season. We had a lot of question marks going in, and a lot of them were answered."

Plymouth 3-pointer at buzzer sinks Pats

WLAA BASKETBALL

Plymouth junior guard Brandon Roberts should consider joining the school's Drama Club.

He definitely has the credentials after his buzzer-beating three-point shot lifted the Wildcats to a thrilling 55-53 victory Tuesday night over host Livonia Franklin.

Roberts, whose late-game heroics have either won games for the Wildcats or sent them into overtime, released his dramatic shot from the dead corner with one second showing on the clock.

Roberts stole the hero's tag from Franklin's Tyler Canyock, who had given the Pats a 53-52 advantage with 11 seconds left on an old-fashioned three-point play.

The victory improved Plymouth's regular season-ending record to 7-13. Hard-luck Franklin dipped to 2-18.

Plymouth led 16-13 after one quarter and extended its lead to 24-11 at one point in the second quarter before the Patriots surged back to take a 29-28 halftime lead. Plymouth led 44-38 with eight minutes to play.

Junior guard Dan Jeong led all scorers with 20 points – 18 of which were the result of six triples. Canyock paced the Patriots with 18 points. Alex Reid chipped in with 11.

Franklin buried 13-of-20 free throws. Plymouth was 5-of-7 from the stripe.

SALEM 50, STEVENSON 48: Junior forwards Grant Stone and Ross Davis scored 16 and 14 points, respectively, as the Rocks (10-10) clinched fifth place in the Western Lakes Activities Association tournament with a victory Tuesday over visiting Livonia Stevenson (5-15).

Salem was able to overcome Luke Knochel's game-high 25 points for the Spartans. The senior guard tallied 17 in the opening half, including four triples, to stake the Spartans to a 31-26 lead.

"We put three different players on him (Knochel), he's hard to stop," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "The second half we used the same three players and held him to eight. It was good team defense as far as hedging and helping out."

Knochel, who kept the Spartans close in the final quarter with a four-point play, missed a three-point try for the win as his shot bounced off the rim as time expired.

WAYNE 39, W.L. WESTERN 31: A zone defense did the trick Tuesday night as host Wayne Memorial (11-9) captured seventh place iu the WLAA tournament with a triumph for the third time this season over Walled Lake Western (4-16).

Western jumped out to a 20-12 first-quarter advantage, but was limited to just 11 points over the final three periods.

"They hit shots against our man-to-man so we went to a zone and they (Western) had trouble with it," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said.

John Hill led the Zebras with 11 points and 11 rebounds, while 6-foot-9 junior center Jeremy Lovelady added 10 points and 12 rebounds. Robert Woodson chipped in with nine points.

Dramel Hogan scored nine for the Warriors, who were outscored 27-11 during the final 24 minutes.

CHURCHILL 62, W.L. NORTHERN 50: In a WLAA consolation game Tuesday, visiting Livonia Churchill (10-10) climbed back to the .500 mark with a win over Walled Lake Northern (8-12) thanks to 24 points from Ryan Wittum.

The junior guard did all his scoring in the first and fourth quarters as Churchill outscored the Knights, 40-23. Whittum was 8-of-10 from the floor, including three triples, and was 5-of-6 from the foul line.

Junior guard Andrew Vagnetti chipped in with 14 points, including a pair of three-pointers.

"Our guards kept us in it and they were able to handle their guards," said Churchill coach Jim Solak, whose team was 18-of-24 from the foul line (75 percent).

Junior forward Nick Seger, who grabbed eight rebounds, also limited the high-scoring Bahnmiller to 11.

Senior forward Ryan Bahnmiller and senior guard Chris Boggs each tallied 11 for Northern.

Gainer pays dividends in C'ville win

Some sophomore jinx.

Jeremy Gainer, a 6-foot-3 10th-grader, scored 27 points and grabbed 15 rebounds Tuesday as Livonia Clarenceville rolled to a 72-53 boys basketball win at Plymouth Christian.

Junior DeCarlos McDonald chipped in with 18 points, while junior Lonnie Fairfax finished with 14 assists for Clarenceville (5-14).

Senior guard Nick Garant also played a solid floor game and finished with seven points for the Trojans, who led 35-23 at halftime.

Trevor Zinn led the Eagles (7-13) with 10 points.

PREP CAGE ROUNDUP

LUTHERAN WESTLAND 58, URBAN 52: "It was a nice, gutsy, comeback win," said Lutheran Westland coach Dan Ramthun, whose Warriors (11-7) earned a non-conference triumph Tuesday at Detroit Urban Lutheran (10-9).

Senior guard Sean Vandenbrink paced the Warriors with 17 points and six steals. Senior guard Kyle Ramthun added 14 points, while senior forward Josh Haller and sophomore forward Sam Ahlersmeyer had eight apiece.

Urban, which led 25-22 at intermission, got 19 points from senior forward Jordan Jefferson. Senior forward Steve Matthews added 14 for the Vikings.

"It was a good, ugly win, and we'll take it," Ramthun said. "We did not play our best. We were down as much as 11 the first half. We got back in it with defense."

BISHOP FOLEY 67, CLARENCEVILLE 63: Junior forward Clifton Powell scored a game-high 24 points Monday to lead visiting Madison Heights Bishop Foley (13-6) past Livonia Clarenceville (4-14) in a non-conference encounter.

Foley, which hit 15-of-24 free throws on the night, outscored the Trojans 27-22 in the decisive final period.

"They (Foley) are used to winning and they did the little things to win," Clarenceville coach Corey McKendry said. "They know how to win and it paid off."

Sophomore center Jeremy Gainer scored 14 of his team-high 21 points in the first quarter. Sophomore forward Jamie Stewart added 19.

Cornerstone denies MU in title matchup

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Madonna University women's basketball team came up one game short of advancing to the NAIA Division II National Tournament after being knocked off Monday night by host Cornerstone, 71-56, night in the WHAC Tournament championship game.

Madonna (16-17) shot only 27 percent (18-of-68) in the contest, including just 25 percent (6-of-24) from beyond the arc.

The Golden Eagles (22-10), who earned an automatic bid to the national tournament, held MU's leading scorer Martina Franklin (Redford Union) to only nine points.

The loss also marks the end of the collegiate basketball careers for Crusader seniors Lindsay Klemmer (Salem) and Diane Foley. Klemmer scored 10 points and collected three rebounds in her final appearance.

Madonna was led by freshman guard Stephanie Piotrowski who scored 14 points, including 12 from beyond the arc.

Franklin led all players on the boards with 15 rebounds in the loss.

On Saturday, the Crusaders advanced to the WHAC title game with a 72-70 win over No. 18-rnaked Davenport.

Sparking MU to the victory were Franklin (26 points) and sophomore guard and Salem alum Alyssa Guerin (17 points).

Contributing 14 points for the Crusaders was junior forward Caryn Inman.

Davenport (25-7) was led by WHAC Player of the Year Jeanette Woodberry, who scored 19 points – but only two in the first half, when MU built a 35-26 margin.

SCHOOLCRAFT

FROM PAGE B1

and 24-of-27 free throws in the victory. Schoolcraft shot a blistering 33-of-56 from the floor (58.9 percent).

Herschal Rodgers led the Stars (19-11) with 30 points. Ron Ferguson and Andy Clark added 19 and 17, respectively. Vamar Allen and Jordan LeuVoy finished with 10 apiece.

Spates leads way

Korey Spates poured in a game-high 35 points as Schoolcraft survived a scare Tuesday afternoon from Wayne County CC in an 86-79 opening-round win in the NJCAA Division II-District 8 Tournament at Kalamazoo Valley CC.

Spates, a 6-foot-2 guard from Warrensville Heights, Ohio, hit 11-of-20 shots from the floor, including 3-of-6 from 3-point range. He also made 10-of-13 free throws.

Nate Minnoy added 19 points and 14 rebounds, while Jon Yeazel chipped in with 10 points for Schoolcraft, which improved to 22-9 overall.

The Ocelots, who committed 26 turnovers on the night, including nine by Spates, were tied 38-all at halftime.

Jeremy Thompson led the Wildcats (0-25 because of forfeits) with 25 points. Thomas Johnson and Aswad Thomas added 14 and 13, respectively, while Bryan Edwards had 10.

Schoolcraft meets Glen Oaks (18-10) in today's quarterfinal.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Kids martial arts

Western Wayne County Therapeutic Recreation will offer kids martial arts for children ages 7-15 with disabilities from 5-6 p.m. Thursdays, March 1 through April (Session I); and April 19-May 17 (Session II), at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road, Westland.

The fee is $24 for Wayne County residents and $25 for non-residents. The instructor is David Reicher. Pre-registration is required by Tuesday, Feb. 27.

For more information, call Margaret Martin at (734) 722-7620; or e-mail mmartin@ci.westland.mi.us.

LJAL fastpitch softball clinic

The Livonia Junior Athletic League will stage a fastpitch softball skills clinic for ages 7-15 from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 3, at Frost Middle School, located at Stark Road between Lyndon and I-96.

The cost is $25 per child (includes T-shirt). The registration deadline is Sunday, Feb. 25.

Northville 3-peats in WLAA meet; runner-up Stevenson eyes 'state'

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Saturday's finals of the Western Lakes Activities Association boys swim meet reaffirmed what everyone suspected all season long – Northville and Livonia Stevenson remain the class of the league.

Northville garnered its third WLAA title in a row by scoring a team-high 671 points, while Stevenson was runner-up with 564.

Canton finished a distant third with 360.5, while Walled Lake Northern and host Salem placed fourth and fifth, respectively, with 334 and 261.5. Livonia Churchill placed sixth with 192.

Northville captured five events, including two relays, in a meet where 18 places are scored.

Brody Blickle figured in four firsts to lead the Mustangs, including individual wins in the 50-yard freestyle (22.05) and 100 backstroke (54.27). He also was a member of Northville's first-place 200- and 400 freestyle relay teams. Northville's other victory came from Chris Keady in the 200 freestyle (1:43.32).

"We figured 600 (points) was the magic number," Northville coach Richie Bennetts said. "On Thursday (the prelims), we swam really well and that set us up today for the finals. Everything clicked even though Stevenson made a big run, but we got ourselves up enough so they couldn't catch up."

Stevenson coach Jeff Shoemaker was pleased with his team's showing despite settling for second.

"I thought we both swam really good," the seventh-year coach said. "We had a lot of lifetime bests. I thought our senior captain Jeff Pauza had a good day as did Sam Loria. And Kyle Hermann also made two state cuts (100 and 200 freestyle). They (Northville) just had more horses. That's why they're number two in the state."

Stevenson individual winners included junior Robert Luke, 100 butterfly (53.97); senior Travis Hatt, 100 freestyle (48.04); Jeff Pauza, 500 freestyle (4:43.84).

The Spartans' 200 medley relay team of Luke, Joey Wingett, Hatt and Michael Cruce also emerged victorious in 1:39.78.

Canton senior Matt Carlson also made a strong showing by winning the 200 individual medley in a school-record time of 1:59.06 followed by a first in the 100 breaststroke (1:02.21).

The 1-meter diving champion was Westland John Glenn senior Jon Whitt, who scored 347.00 points.

Meanwhile, both Stevenson and Northville hope to make waves at the Division I state meet, March 9-10, at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Natatorium.

Last year, Stevenson edged out Northville for third place overall by 1.5 points.

"Top five again in the state would be a good finish," Shoemaker said. "We have more kids going to the state meet, which is good.

"We have three big horses who could finish in the top eight and our top two relays could land us in the top five."

Although Birmingham Brother Rice is the odds-on favorite to win the Division I state title, Bennetts is confident his team can be a contender.

"We'll see how it all shakes out," the Northville coach said. "We hope to be in the running. If we swim the way we're capable, maybe we can push them – if for some reason – they don't swim as well. But there are other teams to consider like Zeeland, Grand Haven, ourselves and Stevenson.

"We hope this meet (WLAA) sets us up well. We had five additional state cuts and now we have nine, so we hope this gives us added confidence."

Seven members of the Livonia Stevenson boys swim team have qualified for the Division I state meet, March 9-10, at Eastern Michigan University's Jones Natatorium. Among the participants will be seniors Sam Loria, Travis Hatt and Jeff Pauza; juniors Kyle Hermann and Robert Luke; and sophomores Michael Cruce and Joey Wingett.

WLAA BOYS SWIMMING RESULTS

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING MEET
Feb. 22-24 at Salem

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Northville, 671 points; 2. Livonia Stevenson, 564; 3. Canton, 360.50; 4. W.L. Northern, 334; 5. Salem, 261.5; 6. Livonia Churchill, 192; 7. Plymouth, 147; 8. W.L. Western, 127.5; 9. W.L. Central; 10. Westland John Glenn, 90; 11. Livonia Franklin, 84; 12. Wayne Memorial, 78.5.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

200-yard medley relay (A-Final): 1. Livonia Stevenson (Robert Luke, Joey Wingett, Travis Hatt, Michael Cruce), 1:39.78; 2. Northville, 1:40.55; 3. W.L. Northern, 1:43.64; 4. Salem, 1:44.60; 5. Canton, 1:45.06; 6. Plymouth, 1:48.97; **(B-Final):** 7. W.L. Central, 1:50.81; 8. Wayne, 1:52.20; 9. W.L. Western, 1:54.61; 10. John Glenn, 2:00.40; 11. Churchill, 2:03.60; 12. Franklin, 2:04.21.

200 freestyle (A-Final): 1. Chris Keady (N), 1:43.32; 2. Jeff Pauza (LS), 1:45.36; 3. John Bardsley (N), 1:47.39; 4. Kyle Hermann (LS), 1:49.68; 5. Nick Leone (S), 1:50.03; 6. Drew Randall (LC), 1:50.33; **(B-Final):** 7. Ross Schwarz (C), 1:51.73; 8. Charles Turlo (LS), 1:53.17; 9. John Blickle (N), 1:54.68; 10. Richard Zhang (C), 1:55.37; 11. Clay Mailoure (N), 1:55.44; 12. Sam Loria (LS), 1:58.23.

200 IM (A-Final): 1. Matt Carlson (C), 1:59.06; 2. Will Blickle (N), 2:00.79; 3. Greg Sheppard (N), 2:03.78; 4. Mike Conger (P), 2:04.87; 5. Michael Cruce (LS), 2:05.81; 6. Joe Kargula (N), 2:06.89; **(B-Final):** 7. Colin Smith (N), 2:08.00; 8. Robert Blaesser (C), 2:09.86; 9. Scott Geverink (LS), 2:10.62; 10. Nick Anthony (LF), 2:10.85; 11. Kevin Karlinski (C), 2:11.50; 12. David Olson (S), 2:14.04.

50 freestyle (A-Final): 1. Brody Blickle (N), 22.05; 2. Matt Zavislak (WLN), 22.38; 3. Travis Hatt (LS), 22.43; 4. Chris Culkin (N), 22.71; 5. Kyle Adams (N), 22.89; 6. Dimitry Bugrimov (WLW), 23.02; **(B-Final):** 7. Ryan Gerber (WLN), 23.08; 8. Jon Templeton (C), 23.11; 9. Chris Marinica (C), 23.30; 10. (tie) Chris Marinica (C) and Jason Williams (S), 23.42; 12. Mark Gordon (LC), 23.80.

1-meter diving: 1. Jon Whitt (WJG), 347.00 points; 2. Will Fankell (N), 336.15; 3. Stephen Kruse (N), 321.05; 4. Jeff Kinsvater (LS), 292.75; 5. Chris McGinnis (C), 284.35; 6. Jason Mahakian (WLW), 261.05.

100 butterfly (A-Final): 1. Robert Luke (LS), 53.97; 2. Eric Erdos (WLN), 54.81; 3. Joe Kargula (N), 54.95; 4. Michael Cruce (LS), 56.10; 5. Chris Marinica (C), 57.00; 6. Riley Cole (WLN), 58.08; **(B-Final):** 7. Nick Anthony (LF), 57.08; 8. Scott Geverink (LS), 57.43; 9. Brad Nedrow (WLC), 57.60; 10. Stan Chen (S), 58.76; 11. Clay Mailoure (N), 1:00.24; 12. Jake Lane (N), 1:00.44.

100 freestyle (A-Final): 1. Travis Hatt (LS), 48.04; 2. Chris Keady (N), 48.43; 3. Matt Zavislak (WLN), 49.08; 4. Chris Culkin (N), 49.31; 5. Ryan Gerber (WLN), 49.62; 6. Drew Randall (LC), 49.65; **(B-Final):** 7. Kyle Hermann (LS), 50.24; 8. Kyle Adams (N), 50.38; 9. Nick Leone (S), 50.43; 10. Jon Templeton (C), 50.66; 11. Dimitry Bugrimov (WLW), 50.77; 12. Jim Mammano (N), 50.95.

500 freestyle (A-Final): 1. Jeff Pauza (LS), 4:43.84; 2. John Bardsley (N), 4:51.86; 3. Will Blickle (N), 4:56.61; 4. Matt Underhill (S), 5:00.52; 5. Ross Schwarz (C), 5:02.87; 6. John Blickle (N), 5:09.21; **(B-Final):** 7. Anthony Adamowicz (N), 5:05.09; 8. Joey Wingett (LS), 5:09.00; 9. Charles Turlo (LS), 5:09.05; 10. Paul Coldren (WLN), 5:13.97; 11. Ben Schonek (N), 5:15.87; 12. Aaron Marecki (LS), 5:22.73.

200 freestyle relay (A-Final): 1. Northville (Brody Blickle, Kyle Adams, Jim Mammano, Chris Culkin), 1:29.67; 2. Stevenson, 1:30.41; 3. Churchill, 1:31.59; 4. W.L. Northern, 1:31.97; 5. Canton, 1:32.34; 6. Salem, 1:34.80; **(B-Final):** 7. Plymouth, 1:36.64; 8. W.L. Western, 1:37.29; 9. John Glenn, 1:37.82; 10. Franklin, 1:39.47; 11. W.L. Central, 1:40.39; 12. Wayne, 1:46.39.

100 backstroke (A-Final): 1. Brody Blickle (N), 54.27; 2. Robert Luke (LS), 54.82; 3. Mike Conger (P), 57.03; 4. Robert Blaesser (C), 58.49; 5. Greg Sheppard (N), 59.18; 6. Taylor Tannous (WLN), 59.27; **(B-Final):** 7. Bryan Bielecki (LS), 59.89; 8. Matt Underhill (S), 1:00.89; 9. Colin Smith (N), 1:01.35; 10. Brendan Schoff (LS), 1:01.56; 11. Nate Lunn (N), 1:02.06; 12. Riley Cole (WLN), 1:02.48.

100 breaststroke (A-Final): 1. Matt Carlson (C), 1:02.21; 2. Stan Chen (S), 1:03.60; 3. Joey Wingett (LS), 1:04.69; 4. Kevin Karlinski (C), 1:05.30; 5. Brian Carter (WLN), 1:05.38; 6. Mark Gordon (LC), 1:06.71; **(B-Final):** 7. Erik Peterson (N), 1:07.65; 8. (tie) David Bladecki (LS) and John Loria (WLN), 1:07.67; 10. John Shaw (WLN), 1:07.70; 11. Morgen Hummel (WLN), 1:08.64; 12. Nathan Spala (S), 1:09.01.

400 freestyle relay (A-Final): 1. Northville (Brody Blickle, Will Blickle, Chris Culkin, Chris Keady), 3:16.78; 2. Stevenson, 3:20.96; 3. Canton, 3:23.75; 4. Salem, 3:25.60; 5. Churchill, 3:28.38; 6. W.L. Northern, 3:30.53; **(B-Final):** 7. Plymouth, 3:33.44; 8. W.L. Western, 3:35.06; 9. W.L. Central, 3:35.55; 10. Wayne, 3:42.31; 11. John Glenn, 3:43.30; 12. Franklin, 3.45.30.

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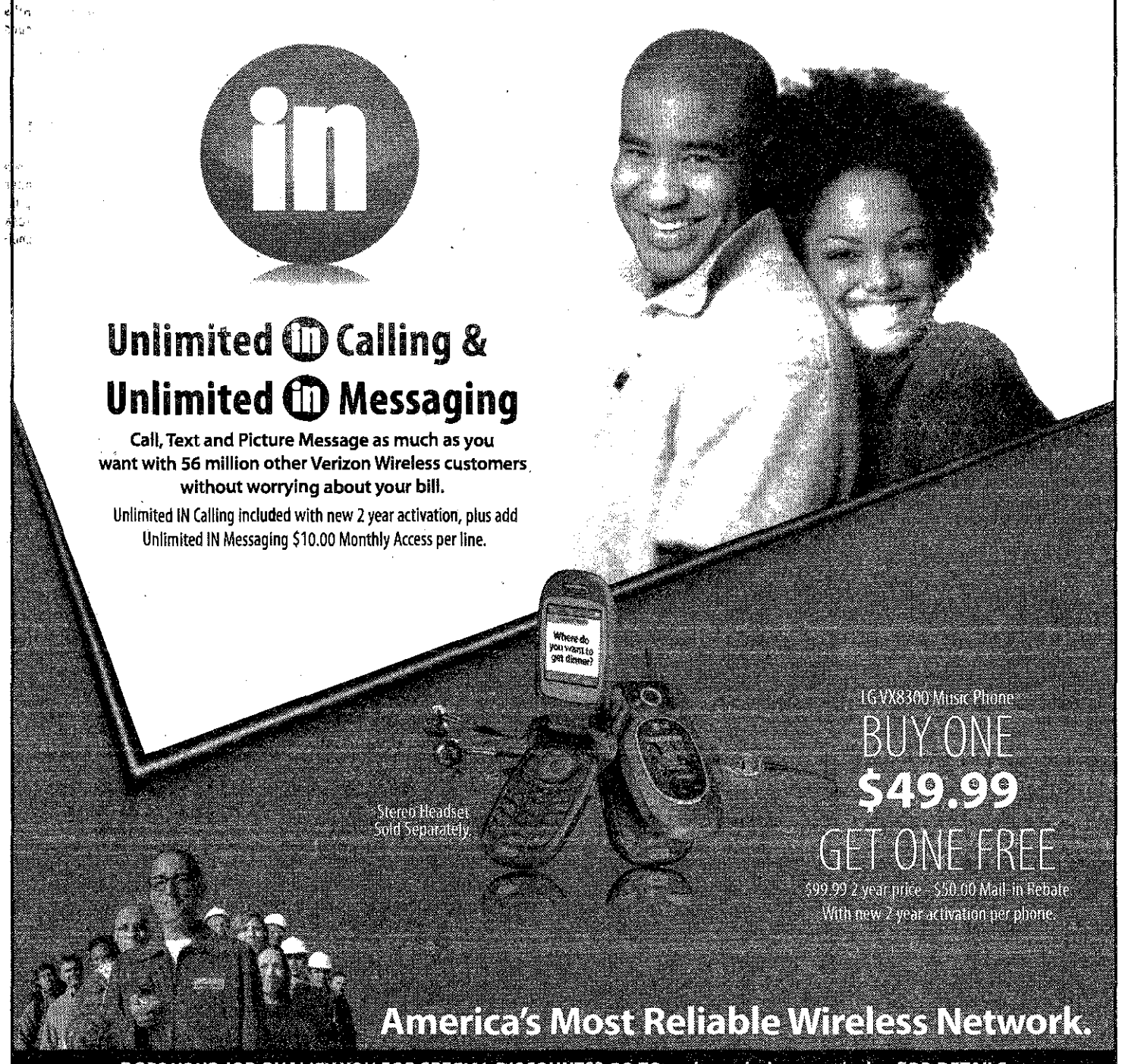

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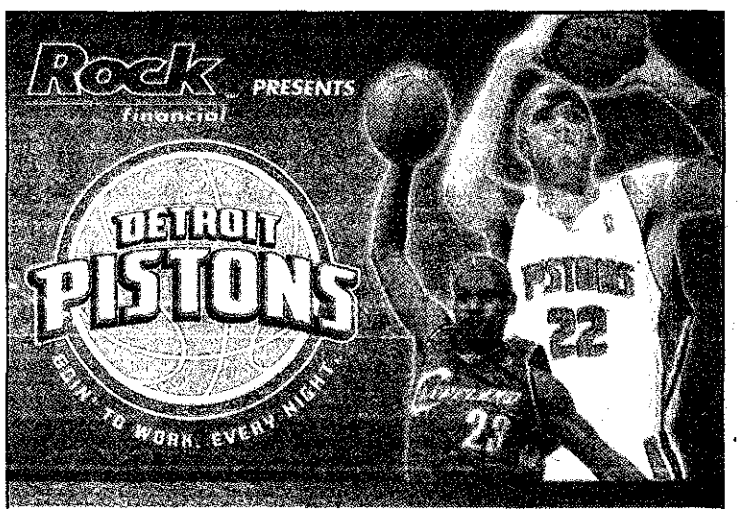

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Forecast warm for MU baseball

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

This week marks the first trade of the year for Madonna University's baseball team, and it is a warm and welcome one.

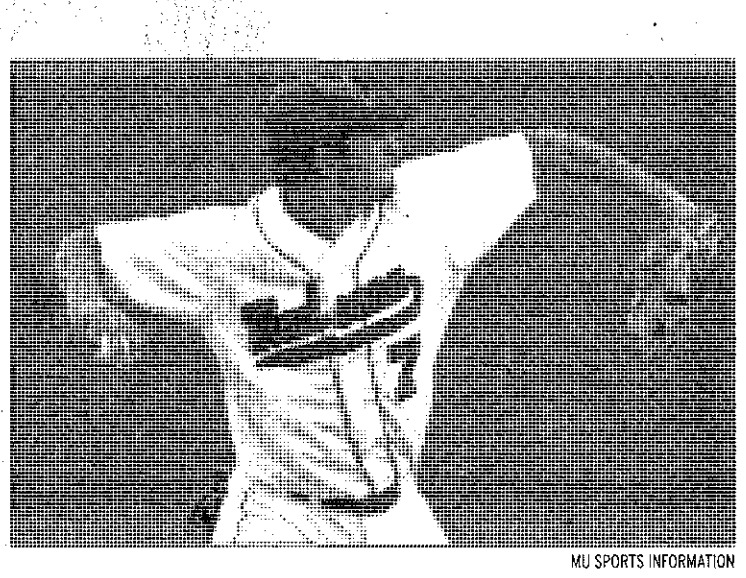
The defending Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference champions leave behind indoor workouts at the MU Activities Center and travel to Pensacola, Fla. for the start of a week of games that includes five doubleheaders in five days.

By the time head coach Greg Haeger and his team returns to Ilitch Ballpark for the March 17 season opener against Malone College (Ohio), he and everybody else will have a pretty good idea how the 2007 season could play out.

"We still have some questions we haven't answered yet in terms of who's going to play where and what our batting lineup will be," Haeger said. "But overall, the staff and I are quite pleased and we're headed in the right direction."

With the snow still flying around MU's Livonia campus, the right direction for senior shortstop Kyle Fedorka is Florida.

"Any time on the road helps (team camaraderie)," said Fedorka, a steady shortstop who hit .316 last year and Haeger's closer to start the season. "We're all together all the time. I think it helps us."



MU SPORTS INFORMATION

Not only will senior shortstop Kyle Fedorka be an infield cog for Madonna University this season, he will open the year as the team's closer.

One of the guys who will have a lot to do with how quickly the team bonds during the trip to the 2007 Russmat Collegiate Challenge is junior first baseman Dave Herrick (Westland/Livonia Churchill).

"I try to lead by example," Herrick said. "But I'm also a very vocal person. I like to talk. Our team is going to have to work very hard and we're going to have to grind out all of our games."

Overlooked

Because the team lost a dozen seniors to graduation – including power-hitting third baseman Ben Ramsey (.379, 13 HR, 64 RBI) and elite starter Derek Dufrane (8-2) – Haeger will be counting on Herrick and senior outfielder Tony Luttman to do plenty of talking with their bats.

In 2006, Herrick hit .331 and drove in 30 runs while Farmington Hills product Luttman compiled 11 homers, 64 RBI and a .321 average to help Madonna cruise to a 35-21-1 record.

"Tony got lost in Ben Ramsey's headlines last year," Haeger said.

Luttman shrugs at such a comment, because a number of players will need to step up to make up for the loss of Ramsey and others.

"One person isn't going to pick up Ben's slack," Luttman stressed.

As significant as their baseball abilities, the veteran coach knows all three set the tone for 23 newcomers with a work ethic that is outstanding. They all know how to get things done and what will be expected of them during the WHAC slate.

"Each of them is integral for a different reason," Haeger explained. "Tony is definitely a quieter kid, but he definitely works hard, he never takes a day off and he never takes an at-bat off.

"Kyle Fedorka is the competitor. He just gets out there and loves to play, loves to compete. And he's the type of kid that isn't afraid to push people."

What about Herrick?

"Dave's the mouth, Dave's the vocal kid, the guy with the personality," the MU coach noted. "All three are to be respected for their baseball ability but are also to be respected for the intangibles they bring."

According to Herrick, there's nothing the Crusaders can't accomplish this year if they work hard as a unit and grind away every time on the field. His coach tends to agree with him.

"We're now trying to hammer out our identity," Haeger said. "In order for this team to be successful, as successful as it really can be, it's all about work ethic.

"They're getting the ideas, they're getting the concepts right now. And they're doing well with them. We expect a lot out of this group."

He'll quickly find out if they are up to the task. The Crusaders open the Florida trip 6:30 p.m. Saturday against Urbana (Ohio).

Pitching name of game for Crusaders

MU coach Haeger banks on solid starting rotation

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Madonna University baseball coach Greg Haeger said the graduation of several outstanding players won't be easy to overcome.

Missing from the Crusaders team that won last season's WHAC title are third baseman Ben Ramsey, pitcher Derek Dufrane, second baseman Jason Barbeau (.347), first baseman Todd Kalmbach (.339) and outfielder Kevin Entminger.

But he likes the mix of returnees and newcomers that again could become a force in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Of course, it all starts with pitching, particularly with WHAC teams facing opponents six times instead of four this year.

"We graduated probably the best pitcher we've ever had at this university (Dufrane)," Haeger said. "Derek was just unbelievable. We had a true college ace here for two years. Replacing that is hard to do."

But Haeger is confident his rotation will still be solid thanks to the talents of junior Will Kennedy (Westland John Glenn), junior Eric Wendling, junior Ryan Bardoni (who pitched the NAIA-Region VIII championship game in 2006) and senior transfer Josh Regits.

All are righties except Wendling.

Backing up that quartet for starts to help handle regular doubleheaders will be senior righty Mike Orehek (Livonia), sophomore right-hander Joe Kennedy (Belleville) and junior transfer Carl McDevitt (Canton), another righty who Haeger said is "throwing the ball real well, with a lot of velocity."

Although Fedorka opens the season as closer, Haeger likes the potential of senior flamethrower Mike Hand (North Farmington) for that role.

Catching competition

Meanwhile, Haeger said he has no problem moving shortstop Fedorka to the mound to wrap up games during the early going thanks to the presence of defensive gems in senior infielder Matt Humenay (Westland/Livonia Churchill) and sophomore Ryan Morrow.

One issue Haeger will try to figure out during the trip to Florida is who the pitching staff will be throwing to. As of now, junior transfer Ryan Powell (Canton), junior Garrett Ignasiak and freshman Zach Flavin.

"We have a lot of candidates (for catcher) but no answers," Haeger explained. "Definitely, Ryan has thrown himself into the mix. He's done a great job defensively and that's what we like."

Both Ignasiak and Flavin can contribute more from an offensive standpoint, although coaches continue to help them improve behind the dish.

Talented infielders

Around the horn, the Crusaders likely will go with senior Gary VanAllen at third base, Fedorka and either sophomores Ryan Morrow or Gary Rule (both transfers) at second and power-hitting Herrick at first.

Haeger said how VanAllen does at the hot corner could be very interesting to watch this season.

"Last year, he (VanAllen) got stuck in a numbers game," Haeger continued. "With Ben being here, he took his job away and Gary struggled. But in 2005 as the every day starter at third he played excellent defense and was a clutch hitter, always around .300."

The steady play of Fedorka will do much to help Madonna's pitching staff, but the other side of the keystone combo is less certain. Haeger cited five players are in the running for second base, led by Morrow and Rule.

"They're totally different offensive players," the coach said. "They're night and day. Ryan is more of a slap, an Ichiro-type hitter. He's going to put the ball on the ground and run. Gary is more of a power hitter. He's extremely strong and probably could bat in the middle of the lineup (and see time at designated hitter)."

First base duties

Handling first-base duties is Herrick, described by Haeger as "a very competitive kid" who hit well out of the five-hole spot last year.

"Our hope is that he can play both sides now," Haeger said, "being in better shape and being able to handle the defensive work."

Backing up Herrick are two players who could also see some time at designated hitter – sophomore Matt Rodeghier (Farmington/Redford Catholic Central) and junior John McCracken, trying to bounce back from a broken finger.

"Matt is another kid who has shown power," Haeger said. "He's got pop and he could be a kid that finds his way into the lineup."

Outfield positions

Madonna's corner outfield spots are taken, by senior Manny Alvarado (Southfield) in left and Luttman in right.

Alvarado batted .267 but came on in the power department with six homers and 28 RBI. Luttman will be another cog in the heart of the order, looking to duplicate his excellent 2006 season.

"Tony had a wonderful year," Haeger said. "He was tied for the team lead in RBIs, hit a fair amount of home runs and after a really difficult start in California really came on.

And Manny was much the same way for us. He got better as the season went along. So we're very happy to have those two kids back."

Both junior Mike Cauzillo (West Bloomfield) and senior Dan Miller are battling it out for the starting job in center. Cauzillo brings outstanding defense and baseball instincts, but will need to improve on his .127 batting average.

Other players with Observerland ties on the roster include freshman infielder Brad Sullens (Belleville), sophomore infielder Dave Neu (Canton), freshman infielder Dave Cardenas (Salem), sophomore righthander Ryan Brodowsky (Farmington), junior righthander Richard Hammer (Garden City), freshman outfielder Shawn Little (Canton) and freshman catcher Tarik Khasawneh (Canton).

tsmith@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2106

Trip to Palace awaits regional champions Kharbush, Elswick

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Stevenson's Ziad Kharbush and Wayne Memorial's Jeff Elswick are on a roll heading into next week's Division I individual state wrestling finalsat the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Both are undefeated in the state tourney after winning district and regional titles at 160 and 171 pounds, respectively.

Kharbush will take a 42-6 record into finals (March 8-10) following two close decisions in the Novi regional. The junior edged Darin Tims of Woodhaven in the semifinals, 1-0, and then got past Novi-Detroit Catholic Central's Stefan Gatt for the title, 2-1.

"The competition has been strong all year in his weight class and he's nearing 50 wins," Stevenson coach Dan Vaughan said. "He did a nice job on Saturday getting by a returning state placer in Tims and a tough kid from CC (Gatt) that he also had to beat in the district."

Kharbush is also carrying the family torch passed on from his brother Imad, a former state prep champion at 160 who was a Pac-10 champ at Stanford and competed in two NCAA Nationals.

Imad Kharbush is now working in the investment banking business in New York City.

"He looks up to him and Ziad uses Imad as inspiration," Vaughan said. "They're similar in stature and they're both in the same weight classes. He (Ziad) wants to duplicate what Imad did.

"You can see the influence. Ziad is not a brawler. He's very quick and he's about not making mistakes and scoring at the opportune time."

Elswick, a senior, was among three Wayne grapplers to make the state cut joining junior Chad Dunn, who was runner-up at 103, and senior Jamie Preiss, who was fourth at 119.

Elswick upped his record to 41-5 overall by pinning Livonia Franklin senior Pat Roumayah in 39 seconds for the championship after pinning Eric Mitchell of Ypsilanti Lincoln in the semifinals in 3:43.

"Jeff is a hard-working individual," Wayne second-year coach Steve Vasiloff said. "When I met him at the start of last season, I knew he would be a great wrestler. He's the kid that I have wrestled with every day for the last two seasons.

"After a three-hour practice, Jeff and his father go to the gym and get in another two-to-three hours of work. It is Jeff's work ethic and attitude that have gotten him this far. He also has a lot of great people supporting him."

Dunn, who lost in the finals to Canton's Donnie Watkins, will take a 39-9 mark into the Palace. Preiss also qualified for the second straight year and owns a 39-9 record.

Franklin qualified three wrestlers including regional runner-ups Roumayah (171) and Nate Turco (152). The Patriots' Josh Billiau (125) also added a fourth.

It will be Turco's second straight trip to the state finals. The senior is 48-8 overall after falling to Temperance Bedford's Alex Ortman in the championship match, a pin in 3:50).

"Nate always seems to turn it on this time of year," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "He's very talented and has great balance. Last year he didn't place, but wrestled pretty well. I think this year he has a great chance to place high."

Along with Billiau, Roumayah is an astounding 44-7 this year after going 1-5 last year on the varsity and 9-7 on the JV.

"He would have been a million-to-one shot going into this year," Chiola said of Roumayah. "He showed no signs of this for three years, and then 'boom.' He's one of the guys we relied on all year and he has beaten some quality kids. This should be a true inspiration to any kid that struggles with this sport for awhile and shows any coach that you never know who is going to surprise you."

Westland John Glenn, meanwhile, moved two into the state finals including regional runners-up Jim Wood (140) and Shamir Garcia (215).

Wood, a senior, is 41-5 overall after falling to Canton's undefeated Corey Phillips in the finals, 10-3. Garcia, also a senior, also lost in the championship match to Saline's Bryce Rabajian, 5-2, and will take a 44-8 record to Auburn Hills.

Livonia Churchill senior Greg Roberts also made the cut with a third-place finish at the Novi regional at 130 pounds. He is now 35-7 overall.

In the Division IV regional meet at Riverview Gabriel Richard, Lutheran Westland's Stephan Kemp (152) was the lone state qualifier with a fourth-place finish after losing to Chase Weber of Pittsford, 8-4.

WRESTLING RESULTS

PREP WRESTLING
DIVISION I REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS
Feb. 24 at Novi
(top 4 qualify for state meet)

103 pounds: Donnie Watkins (Canton) decisioned Chad Dunn (Wayne Memorial), 7-0; **3rd place:** Jon Lichorobiec (Novi) pinned Tom Fox (Temperance Bedford), 2:14.
112: Zac Stevens (Monroe) p. Jonny O'Anna (Northville), 4:22; **3rd:** Sean Turner (Monroe) dec. Jamie Preiss (Wayne), 4-1.
119: Christian Cullinan (Wyandotte Roosevelt) dec. Dustin Zak (Belleville, 9-4; **3rd:** James Fisher (Bedford) dec. Josh Billiau (Livonia Franklin), 6-4.
130: Billy Osborne (Bedford) dec. Brian Augsberger (Belleville), 9-7; **3rd:** Greg Roberts (Livonia Churchill) dec. Jorden Belous (Lincoln Park), 9-8.
135: Dan Clark (Bedford) dec. Jerry Boggess (Wyandotte), 3-2; **3rd:** Shea Hasenauer (Novi-Detroit Catholic Central) dec. Richard Perez (Wyandotte), 7-1.
140: Corey Phillips (Canton) dec. Jim Wood (Westland John Glenn), 10-3; **3rd:** Steve Coak (Belleville) won by major dec. over Kelly Poupard (Monroe), 10-1.
145: Colin Arnold (Bedford) won by major dec. over Chris Gniewek (Southgate), 18-7; **3rd:** Ryan Thomas (Novi) dec. Peter Meisner (Dearborn), 4-3.
152: Alex Ortman (Bedford) p. Nate Turco (Franklin), 3:50; **3rd:** Ryan Brown (CC) dec. Enrique Zepeda (Wyandotte), 5-2.
160: Ziad Kharbush (Livonia Stevenson) dec. Stefan Gatt (CC), 2-1; **3rd:** Darin Tims (Brownstown Woodhaven) dec. Wassim ElAwadi (Belleville), 3-2.
171: Jeff Elswick (Wayne) p. Pat Roumayah (Franklin), 0:39; **3rd:** Andrew Hein (John Glenn) p. Anthony Simons (Belleville), 2:11.
189: Marc Shaw (Lincoln Park) dec. Joe Kinville (CC), 6-5; **3rd:** Nick Whittenburg (Bedford) dec. Matt Aubrey (CC), 8-5.
215: Bryce Rajabian (Saline) dec. Shamir Garcia, 5-2; **3rd:** Ryan Conners (Ann Arbor Pioneer) dec. Nick Barnett (Saline), 2-1.
285: Donnie Laramie (Canton) p. Sean Lathrup (Lincoln Park), 1:59; **3rd:** Joe Everett (Saline) dec. Mike Martin (CC), 5-2.

THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL
Thursday, March 1
Lutheran Westland at N.B. Huron, 7 p.m.
Immac. Concept. at Huron Valley, 7 p.m.
Friday, March 2
Clarenceville at Hazel Park, 7 p.m.
Huron Valley at Taylor Light & Life, 7:30 p.m.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
DISTRICT TOURNEY DRAWS
CLASS A
(Friday, March 2)
at LIVONIA CHURCHILL
First round: (A) Salem vs. (B) South Lyon, 4 p.m.; (C) Northville vs. (D) Plymouth, 4 p.m.
Semifinals: Livonia Churchill vs. A-B winner, 5:30 p.m.; Canton vs. C-D winner, 5:30 p.m.
Championship final: 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals at West Bloomfield vs. Southfield district champion.)
(Saturday, March 3)
at SOUTHFIELD
First round: (A) Redford Thurston vs. (B) Southfield, 9 a.m.; (C) Redford Union vs. (D) Livonia Franklin, 10:30 a.m.
Semifinals: Farmington vs. A-B winner, noon; Livonia Stevenson vs. C-D winner, 1:30 p.m.
Championship final: 3 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals at West Bloomfield vs. Livonia Churchill district champion.)
at YPSILANTI
Thursday, March 1: (A) Westland John Glenn vs. (B) Ypsilanti, 6 p.m. (C) Garden City vs. (D) Romulus, 20 minutes after first game.
Saturday, March 3: Belleville vs. A-B winner, 10 a.m.; Wayne Memorial vs. C-D winner, 20 minutes after first game.
Championship final: 20 minutes after second game. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals at Ypsilanti Linocin vs. Dearborn district champion.)
CLASS B
(Saturday, March 3)
at DETROIT COUNTRY DAY
First round: (A) Bloomfield Hills Kingswood vs. (B) Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day, 10 a.m.
Semifinals: Livonia Clarenceville vs. Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, 11:30 a.m.; Livonia Ladywood vs. A-B winner, 1 p.m.
Championship final: Approximately 3 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals at Milan vs. River Rouge district champion.)
CLASS D
at WESTLAND HURON VALLEY LUTHERAN
Friday, March 2: Lutheran High Westland vs. Taylor Baptist Park Christian, 4:30 p.m.; Wyandotte Mt. Carmel vs. Westland Huron Valley Lutheran, 6 p.m.
Championship final: 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals at Auburn Hills Oakland Christian vs. Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett district champion.)

BOYS HOCKEY
REGIONAL FINALS
DIVISION I
at DEARBORN INDOOR SKATING CENTER
(Kilpatrick Arena)
Saturday, March 3: Livonia Churchill vs. Royal Oak pre-regional champion, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the state quarterfinal 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 7 at St. Clair Shores Arena vs. St. Clair Shores Lakeview regional champion.)

PREP BOWLING
STATE FINALS
(Team Competition)
Friday, March 2
Division 1 at Sterling Heights
Sunnybrook Lanes, 8:25 a.m.
Division 2 at Battle Creek
Nottke's Bowl, 8:25 a.m.
Saturday, March 3
(Singles Competition)
Division I at Sterling Heights
Sunnybrook Lanes, 9:25 a.m.
Division II at Battle Creek
Nottke's Bowl, 9:25 a.m.

GIRLS COMPETITIVE CHEER REGIONALS
Saturday, March 3
Division II at Allen Park, 10 a.m.
Division IV at Hudson Area, 10 a.m.
Division I at Southgate, 11 a.m.

PREP FIGURE SKATING
Saturday, March 3
District Event at Novi Ice Rink, 8 a.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
(NJCAA Division II-District 8 Tourney)
Schoolcraft vs. Glen Oaks
at Kalamazoo Valley CC, 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Thursday, March 1
(NJCAA-Region 12-District H Playoffs)
Schoolcraft vs. Lakeland CC (Ohio)
at OCC-Highland Lakes, 1 p.m.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL
Saturday, March 3
Madonna vs. Urbana (Ohio)
at Pensacola, Fla., 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Friday, March 2 at Tucson, Ariz.
Madonna vs. Trinity Int. (Ill.), 2:30 p.m.
Madonna vs. Univ. of Mary (N.D.), 5 p.m.
Saturday, March 3 at Tucson, Ariz.
Madonna vs. Azuza Pacific (Calif.), 11:30 a.m.
Madonna vs. Hope Int. (Calif.), 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 4 at Tucson, Ariz.
Madonna vs. Viterbo (Wis.), 11:30 a.m.
Madonna vs. Jamestown (N.D.), 1:30 p.m.

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Friday, March 2
Whalers at Kitchener Rangers, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 3
Whalers vs. Sarnia Sting
at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
Sunday, March 4
Whalers vs. Mississauga Ice Dogs
at Compuware Arena, 2 p.m.

MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE
Sunday, Feb. 25
Det. Ignition vs. Philadelphia KiXX
at Compuware Arena, 4:35 p.m.
Friday, March 2
Det. Ignition vs. Milwaukee Wave
at Compuware Arena, 7:35 p.m.
Sunday, March 4
Ignition at Milwaukee Wave, 2 p.m.

OVER 30 HOCKEY

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LaSalle Bank 3-2-1/7 points
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3390.....Southfield-Lathrup
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3410.....Troy
3415.....Union Lake
3420.....Walled Lake
3423.....Waterford
3424.....Wayne
3430.....Webberville
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3450.....White Lake
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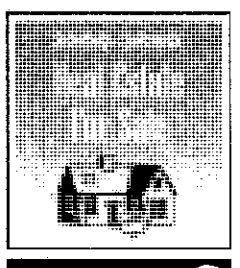

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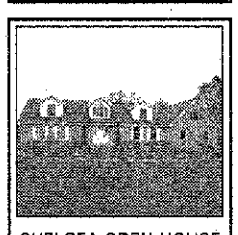

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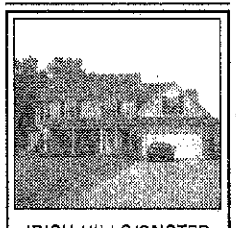

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Centruy 21 Town Country
294 E. Brown, Birmingham

Westland - Open Sun. 1-4
33136 Hiveley (Cherry Hill & Venoy) 3 bdrm, completely modern remodel. All new appliances. Jacuzzi tub, Ikea kitchen, laminate wood floors, full bsmt, 2 car garage. $145,000. Or call for appt. 734-476-2407

Berkley 3047

MOVE IN perfect. Charming well-decorated ranch w/ hardwoods, CA, newer windows & appliances. Newly finished bsmt w.5 bath, 10x24 rec room, 2 sump pumps. $165,000 (EC62HA)
248-644-6300
Weir Manuel Realtors

Beverly Hills 3049

LOVELY RANCH situated on acre+ of well landscaped grounds. Updated kitchen, baths. Spacious living room w/fireplace. Inviting family room. $329,000 (EC05BE)
248-644-6300
Weir Manuel Realtors

Bloomfield 3055

By Owner
BLOOMFIELD TWP
3 or 4 bdrm ranch, on corner lot, 0.5 acre. Westchester Village Sub. Birmingham schools, beautiful refinished, white Oak floors, newly painted and carpeted, built-ins, fireplace, all appliances, updated kitchen and bath, great home or investment. $299,000. Agents welcome.
248-884-4863
248-553-8213

Brighton 3060

NEW SUB-14 LOTS AVAIL.
Walk out sights, close to x-press ways. From $250,000.
810-225-8944

Dearborn Hgts 3115

BAD CREDIT OKAY Land contract or rent-to-own. Big 3 bdrm, 2 bath, bsmt., 2 car. NO work needed. 888-856-7034

Detroit 3120

CITY CERTS. Complete, home warranty included. 2-story by Marygrove College, fresh paint, beautiful hardwoods, natural fireplace, large kitchen, 2-car garage. $114,900. (EC45RO)
734-455-6000
Weir Manuel Realtors

Farmington Hills 3145

By Owner
FARMINGTON HILLS
Open House March 4, 1-4. 21020 St. Francis. Large 4 bdrm, 2 bath Tri-level home on 1/4 acre lot. 2 car attach garage, remodeled bath and kitchen, new paint thru out. $215,000. Call 734-427-2202 or see Online @ www.owners.com

Garden City 3170

CLEAN
3 Bdrm, 2 bath Ranch, nice kitchen, full bsmt, 2 car garage. $129,899.
3 BDRM.
Large kitchen, finished bsmt, garage, many updates. $142,900.
Century 21 Castelli
734-525-7900

Hartland 3200

HILLTOP SETTING!
Wonderful 3 bedroom, 3 bath ranch that is adjacent to Dunham Hills Golf Course. Great room with vaulted ceiling, bay window and gas fireplace, dining room with wet bar. Spacious backyard deck for entertaining. Family room in lower level plus full bath with whirlpool tub and sauna, 2 car & privileges to Dunham Lake. $249,500.
England Real Estate
(810)632-7427

PRIVATE SETTING!
Well maintained 3 bdrm home on almost 6 acres. Spacious kitchen w/maple cabinets, living room, family room w/natural fireplace & master BR w/private deck. 3 season room, hot tub & multi-level decking. Insulated & heated 2.5 car garage, 28x30 barn & 22x20 barn. $289,900.
England Real Estate
(810)632-7427

Livonia 3250

A FANTASTIC PRICE in a great area. 3 bdrm, 2 bath brick ranch built in 1992. Livonia schools. Neutral decor. 2 car garage. Large great room w/cathedral ceilings. Private deck w/nice back yard. $179,900 (EC34GR)
734-455-6000
Weir Manuel Realtors

IMMACULATE - BUILT 1998 3 bdrm 1.5 bath ranch.1325 sq ft, large lot, attached garage,. Custom kitchen w/nook, Top of the line inside and out. $238,000. 248-767-8354

NEWER CONSTRUCTION. Beautiful colonial on park-like lot. Neutral colors. Living room has natural fireplace. 3 bdrm, 1.5 baths. $219,900 (DW50BA)
734-455-6000
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WESTSIDE. Brick ranch, 3 bdrm. Refinished hardwoods, living & all bdrms. New kitchen cabinets, counter tops, fixtures, sink, floors. Updated bath. $179,900 (EC20FA)
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Weir Manuel Realtors

Northville 3280

BELIEVED TO BE cities oldest home. Renovated Greek Revival expanded to include master w/ upscale contemporary bath, morning room w/private deck, family & bdrm. $675,000 (EC80WA)
734-455-6000
Weir Manuel Realtors

Rochester 3360

ROCHESTER
3 bdrm, garage, $198,500.
ROCHESTER HILLS
4 bdrm, 3.5 bath, $360,000
HOLLY
3 bdrm, 2.5 bath, $439,900
ShareNet Realty 248-642-1620

Royal Oak 3370

FAB NEWER construction was builder's model. Still looks new! Top of line everything: kitchen w/premium stainless appliances. Master w/marble tile. $325,000. (EC05AN)
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METICULOUSLY MAINTAINED ranch w/great family room addition & fireplace. Neutral decor, extensive use of hardwoods, gracious living room w/fireplace. $260,000 (EC30PA)
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Troy 3410

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS! Crisp, clean decorators delight. Many updates. 2-way fireplace, vaulted ceilings, large yard w/patio. Simply charming a must see home. $259,000 (EC65BO)
248-651-3500
Weir Manuel Realtors

West Bloomfield 3440

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS Totally updated, 3 bdrm, 2 bath. $239,900. Call: 248-497-6779 Fax: 248-538-9926

By Owner
WEST BLOOMFIELD
5702 Branford Dr.
Gorgeous 5821 sq.ft., 2 story brick luxury home. New kitchen, 4 bdrms, 4 1/2 baths, 2 fireplaces, 3 car attached garage. Great location, immaculate, like new. $3,000,000. 586-764-7115 or 586-323-9367

Westland 3445

CLEAN!
4 bedroom, 2½ bath home. Features newer flooring, roof, windows, kitchen. Appliances stay. 2 car garage. $169,900, (35CA)

STOP LOOKING!
Sprawling 3 bdrm Ranch. Lg Family Room. Fireplace. Nicely finished basement. $184,900, (35BI)

Century 21 Hartford South
734-464-6400
www.c21-hs.com

FOR SALE BY OWNER- 3 bdrm, 2 bath, totally remodeled, owner financing avail. $164,900. 734-218-4751

FOR SALE/LEASE - 2200 sq.ft. ranch, 3 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, finished bsmt, $139,900 / $1200
734-344-2221

NO QUALIFYING
Land Contract, 2 & 3 bdrms homes, $2500 down, $650/monthly. Ross Realty
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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4
33136 Hiveley, 3 bdrm, completely modern remodel. All new appliances. Full bsmt, 2 car garage. $145,000. Or call for appt. 734-476-2407

Ypsilanti 3490

PULTE GREENE FARMS. Vaulted ceilings, dining & large family room w/fireplace. Large bdrms. Master w/large walk-in, full bath. Finished bsmt w/rec room, 4th bath. $234,900 (EC21CA)
734-455-6000
Weir Manuel Realtors

Lapeer County 3515

DRYDEN - Exquisite custom ranch on 30 acres. Gourmet granite kitchen, cherry cabinets, Brazilian cherry flooring & oak molding. Enormous master w/doorwall to deck, $875,000 (EC25RO)
248-651-3500
Weir Manuel Realtors

Oakland County 3540

By Owner
WASHINGTON TWP
Aprox 4200 sq. ft. ranch, 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, 2 full kitchens, finished basement, walk out to pool. Outdoor pool bathroom, home theater, vaulted ceiling, custom woodwork. 3.5 car garage. Home site sits on 2 ponds. $1,450,000. For more info. 810-602-3368 Appt. Only

Lakefront/Waterfront Homes 3580

NORTHERN MI.
Watar Front Home
4 bdrm, 3 bath, A/C, 3 car garage with a loft: 6 miles from West Branch. Serious Inquires only.
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(989) 343-6861 or
(989) 240-5967

Real Estate Services 3640

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Condos 3720

BIRMINGHAM, DOWNTOWN 2 bath, 2 bdrm. Washer, dryer. 2 parking (1 covered), pets. $215,000; 248-421-3113

CANTON - Golf Course Setting - 2 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, many updates, finished bsmt, $239,000. 734-595-0013

CANTON
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Stephen Wickland.
734-216-2498/734-669-5845
Charles Reinhart Co. Realtors

Condos 3720

INDEPENDENCE - Premium wooded lot. Condo w/3 bdrm, 3 full baths, spacious kitchen, hardwoods that flow to great room w/cathedral ceilings & gas fireplace. $244,900. (EC61NO)
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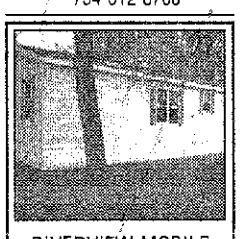

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Lots & Acreage/Vacant 3820

NOVI
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Plymouth Twp - 1/2 Acre lot, across from Golf Course, Beck & Ann Arbor Rd. area. $69,900/best. (810) 691-8554

SALEM TOWNSHIP
South Lyon Schools. Perked & surveyed. 2.08 acres. $119,900. 248-486-6079

Time Share 3830

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Cemetery Lots 3880

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GLEN EDEN CEMETERY LOTS- 2 side by side, $1300 each. 248-477-6604

GLEN EDEN LUTHERAN MEMORIAL PARK
2 plots, Garden of rest, block 2, sec 224, plots 1 & 2. $850 ea or $1600/pr. 606-845-3039

PARKVIEW MEMORIAL
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Investment Property 3970

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Inquiries/Offers: c/o P.O. Box 85132, Westland, MI 48185

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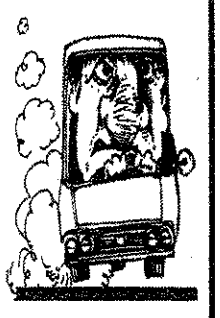

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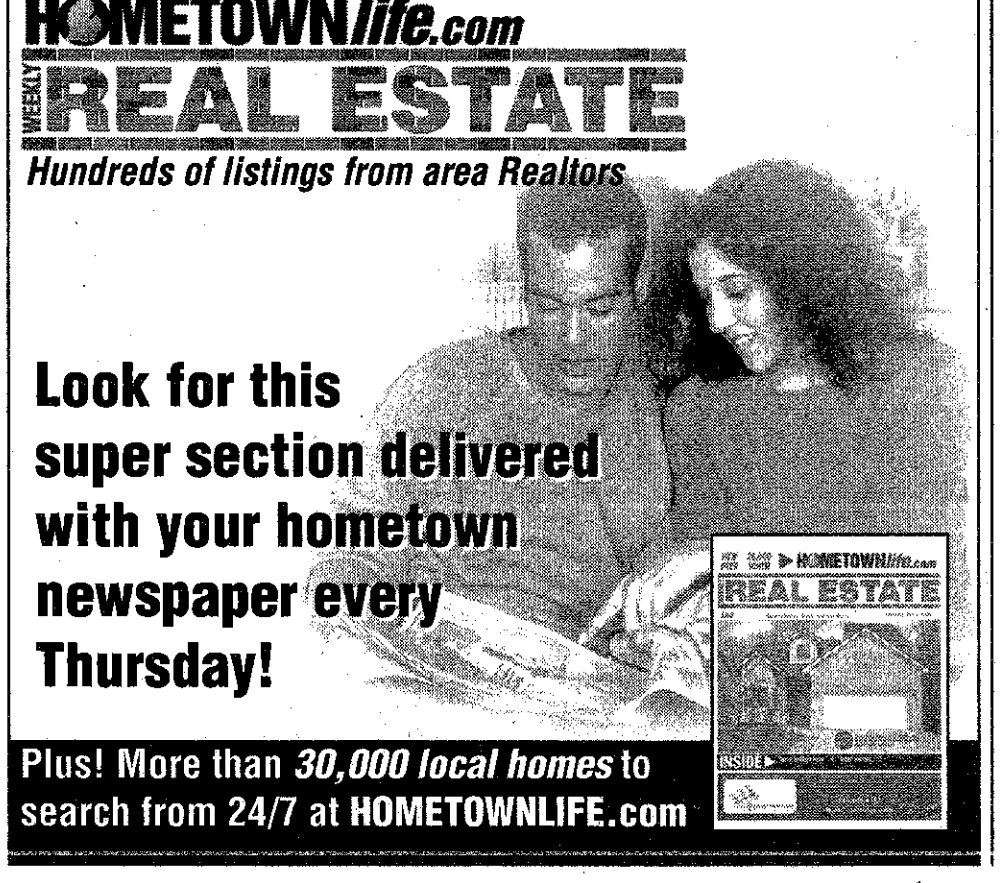

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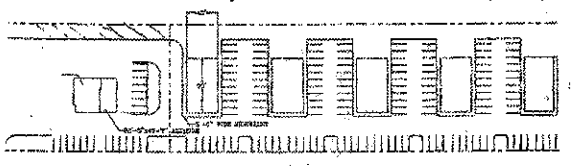
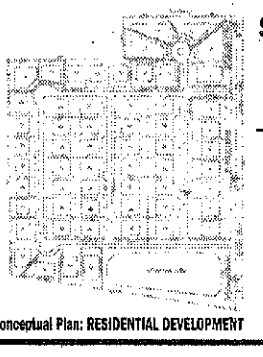
CANTON: Canton Center / Warren Road · 2.7 Acres zoned for Medical Condos/Offices.....$1,100,000



Proposed: CANTON MEDICAL CONDOMINUIMS



Conceptual Plan: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP:
Parcel with 58 lots at Bemis and Ellwell Roads zoned R-2..$850,000

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Domenic at 248-380-6418
or Joe at 734-455-1300
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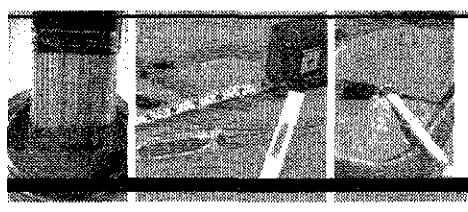

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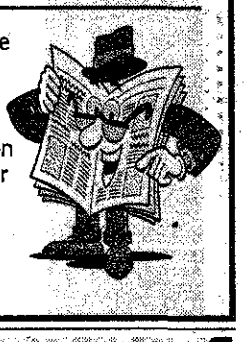

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Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Didn't spoil
5 Q-Tip
9 Gym pad
12 Out of whack
13 Next in line
14 Tax shelter
15 Date part
16 Proficient
17 "When We Was —"
18 Loud kisses
20 Blow gently
22 No, to a laird
23 Cobra kin
24 Sects
27 Ouch!
28 Branch
32 — -Magnon man
33 Like some showers
36 Depot info
37 Ancient empire
39 Concerning
40 In front
42 Gypsy Rose —
44 Couple
45 Drew on
47 Colorful annual
50 Age
51 Trot or gallop
53 Clingy fabric
55 Fond du —, Wis.
56 This, in Toledo
57 French I verb
58 Variety
59 By the — of one's teeth
60 Prescribed amount

DOWN

1 Boastful knight
2 Pasture grazers
3 Tot's transport
4 Cruel king
5 Seal a deal
6 Fly catchers
7 Be under the weather
8 Makes coffee
9 Irk
10 Smell — —
11 Dinner check
19 Throw
21 Talented
23 Blow away
24 201, to Claudius
25 Tall vase
26 Rapper Tone —
27 Fiesta shout
29 Like some hours
30 Give — — try
31 Traipse about
34 Ill temper
35 Early morning
38 Malt beverage
41 Beeped
43 Moves cautiously
44 Powerful magnate
45 Eurasian range
46 Brown bag
47 Pasta choice
48 Gung-ho about
49 Opens the window
50 Yale athlete
52 Set a price
54 Rock concert souvenir

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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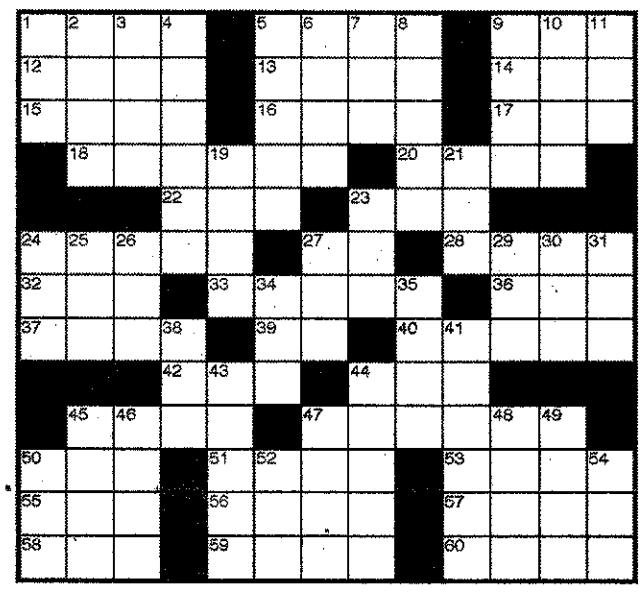


SUDOKU

			1					
				5	3	2		
6	7	2						3
		5			4	3		
			2	1				
					5		8	
8	5		6					
1		9				6		
	3			7		1	4	

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

BASIC	INTERPOL	ROM
CD-ROM	LASER	SCUBA
DOS	NASCAR	SONAR
HUD	RADAR	YUPPIE

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

Y	U	P	I	E	I	N	T	E R
U	S	C	U	B	B	A	R	A D
P	N	A	S	C	A	R	R	A M
P	T	H	U	D	L	A	Z	E A
I	N	T	E	R	P	O	L	R B
E	H	I	D	O	C	R	A	V U
C	D	R	O	M	B	A	S	I C
D	A	S	D	D	F	D	E	G S
R	H	J	S	O	N	A	R	K L
O	W	E	B	S	N	R	O	M M

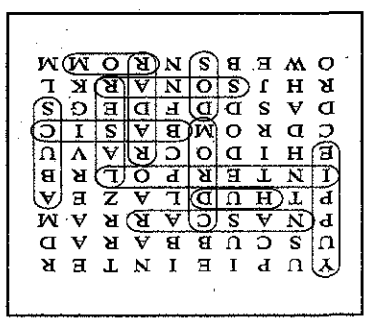
CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

SUDOKU

5	9	3	1	2	6	8	7	4
4	8	1	7	5	3	2	6	9
6	7	2	4	9	8	5	1	3
7	1	5	9	8	4	3	2	6
3	6	8	2	1	7	4	9	5
9	2	4	3	6	5	7	8	1
8	5	7	6	4	1	9	3	2
1	4	9	8	3	2	6	5	7
2	3	6	5	7	9	1	4	8

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

SEEK AND FIND



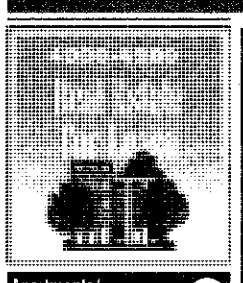
OE08502219

Apartments

4000's Real Estate For Lease

4000 ..... Apartments/Unfurnished
4010 ..... Apartments/Furnished
4020 ..... Condos/Townhouses
4030 ..... Duplexes
4040 ..... Flats
4050 ..... Homes For Rent
4060 ..... Lakefront/Waterfront Homes Rental
4070 ..... Mobile Home Rentals
4080 ..... Mobile Home Sites
4090 ..... Southern Rentals
4100 ..... Time Share Rentals
4110 ..... Vacation Resort/Rentals
4120 ..... Living Quarters To Share
4140 ..... Rooms For Rent
4200 ..... Halls/Buildings
4210 ..... Residence To Exchange
4220 ..... Office/Retail Space
4230 ..... Commercial/Industrial
4240 ..... Land For Rent
4300 ..... Garage/Mini Storage
4400 ..... Wanted To Rent
4410 ..... Wanted To Rent Resort Property
4500 ..... Furniture Rental
4560 ..... Rental Agency
4570 ..... Property Management
4580 ..... Lease/Option To Buy
4590 ..... House Sitting Service
4600 ..... Convalescent Care
4610 ..... Foster Care
4620 ..... Home Health Care
4630 ..... Homes For The Aged
4640 ..... Misc. To Rent

1-800-579-SELL



Apartments/Unfurnished 4000

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Apartments/Unfurnished 4000

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- Low Move-In Cost!
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Apartments

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Apartments/ Unfurnished 4000

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Westland-
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$99 Deposit*
Spacious 1 Bdrm
*some restrictions apply
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Apartments/ Furnished 4010

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Condos/Townhouses 4020

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IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS.. Observer & Eccentric Classifieds!

Condos/Townhouses 4020

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BIRMINGHAM TOWNHOUSE 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, full bsmt, hardwood, all amenities, no pets. *$1100. 248-901-0425*

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CANTON-
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CLAWSON/ROYAL OAK
Broadacre at Manitou – N. of 14 Mile, E. off Crooks. WOW! Must see these beautifully updated 2 bdrm., 1.5 bath townhomes with custom moldings & paint, bsmts., private yards, carports. Check out our 19'x12' master bedroom! $925 /mo. EHO
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LAKE ORION Atwater Commons Condo. 2 bdrm, 2 full bath, den, 1 car, $975/mo. Avail May 1st. 248-627-9214

LIVONIA Beautiful 3 bdrm, 3 bath, 2 level spacious 2,225 sq. ft. at 6 & Newburgh Rd. Laurel Woods, $1500/mo. 734-748-1866 734-216-2615

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Duplexes 4030

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Duplexes 4030

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Flats 4040

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Homes For Rent 4050

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BIRMINGHAM- 2 bdrm with basement, 1188 Bird St. 14 mile/Woodward $775/mo. Bob (248) 360-2095 ShareNet Realty 248-642-1620

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Homes For Rent 4050

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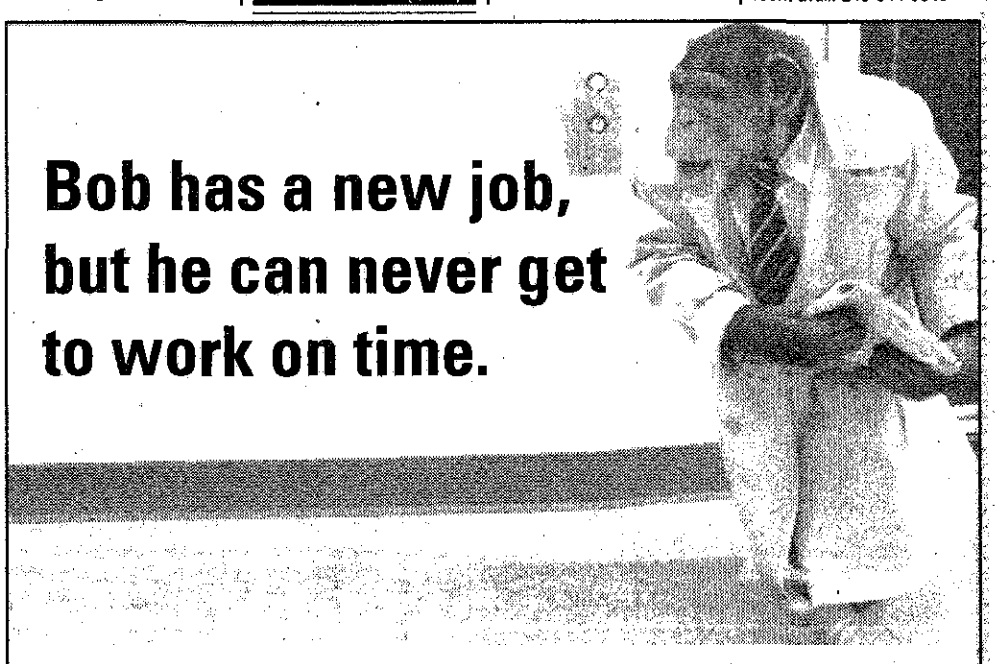

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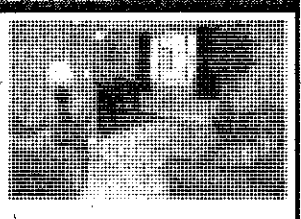

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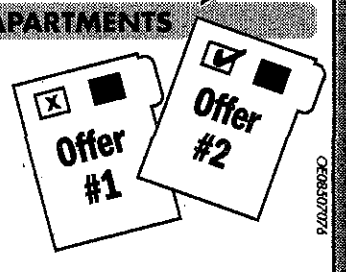

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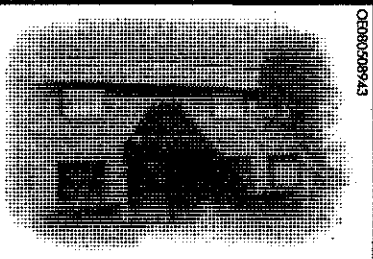

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'BLIND SPOTS' AND OVERLOOKED OPPORTUNITIES

WORKWISE

by Mildred L. Culp

If you're overlooking work-related opportunities, several factors may be at play. "Blind Spots: Achieve Success by Seeing What You Can't See" (Wiley, forthcoming, May, $24.95), a book by Claudia Shelton, maintains that, if you're a high-achiever, your mindset may be the culprit: "you may be looking for what's wrong . . . I prefer to think about (BEGIN ITAL)what is possible(END ITAL)."

Shelton describes five common situations that create blind spots:

- excessive reliance upon strengths;
- ingrained habits;
- negative expressions of stress;
- failure to read others accurately; and
- miscommunication.

But the problem might not be psychological or a result of communication failures. Robert Baron, Dean R. Wellington Professor of Management at the Lally School of Management & Technology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., indicates that if you can't see patterns, you may not recognize an opportunity. "We go through the world connecting the dots to make patterns," he says. "People see different things in different situations because their backgrounds are different. Some people come with the cognitive framework -- like a filter,"making the recognition possible. He points out that in viewing an auto accident, for example, a physician might pay attention to injury, an accountant to financial ramifications and an attorney to the person involved.

Erika Weinstein, president and co-founder of the executive search firm Stephen-Bradford Search in New York City, disagrees with "Blind Spots" and Baron. "It's not that most people overlook opportunities,"she maintains. "It's simply the case that they're not looking and that successful people don't have the time to indulge themselves to pursue other 'opportunities.'"

Distraction cuts through attentiveness. In fact, Baron says, it can be so powerful that "you could even be looking and still not paying attention. You might see opportunity, but not pursue it because you don't see the scope of it." In the search arena, Weinstein states that receptiveness depends upon timing and the manner in which opportunity is presented.

How common are blind spots in relation to opportunity? Baron states from the standpoint of an entrepreneur, "Probably, almost everyone misses a good opportunity now and then. The answer really depends on what one means by 'opportunity.' If you mean a good business opportunity a particular person could, perhaps, develop, then the percentage is still high." Entrepreneurs, he thinks, often have the opposite problem – seeing opportunities that really aren't there. He advises that you investigate a pattern before going broke on an idea. Informal market research can provide the information you need. He illustrates this point by relating the story of a veterinarian who gathered the opinions of clients in her practice as research for her small mobile pet fountain for cats, which tend not to drink enough water. It passed.

Claudia Shelton, author of 'Blind Spots.'

Weinstein quips, when asked about the numbers of people who miss opportunities, "I'm not sure, because if you're good, you're going to get calls about opportunities and if you're not, probably you're not missing many opportunities."

All is not lost if you're missing them. Baron says that people can be trained to develop the "mental framework by searching for patterns – like a file system we develop in our heads to process information – by being given a very wide range of experience."He states that an airline pilot designed wheeled luggage after using carts for his own bags and realizing that passengers could benefit from something similar.

If your career is stalled for opportunity, consider the advice Weinstein offers. "Read industry trades and go on the Web. Look for companies going gangbuster, companies that are 'hot.'"They should be seed-beds of opportunity. She also recommends consulting your network for a contact to an individual in the company. "This person," she adds, "can be your advocate and at the very least channel your information to the right person and/or department." No blind spot there.

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. Copyright 2007 Passage Media.)

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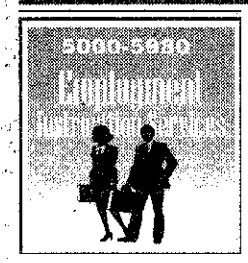

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(248) 471-5200

Direct Care
At Home With Seniors, Inc.
Seeking compassionate individuals to provide in-home assistance to seniors in tri-county area. Flexible part/full time schedules. Minimum $9 per hour.
Please respond to:
P.O. box 517
Walled Lake, MI 48390

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

Direct Care-- Make a difference! Support people with disabilities living their life the way they want to! Assist with personal care, meals, taking care of their homes, getting places etc. Many locations, many shifts! If you are at least 18 years old, have a valid Michigan's Driver's License & are CLA, inc. trained, call our Job Line 734-728-4201, 0#.

Direct Caregivers
To support people with disabilities in living their lives. Requires good driving record. Jobs in Plymouth, Taylor, Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Wayne, Livonia, Westland. Pay starts at $7.30/hr. Untrained. $7.80/hr. Trained.
Call (248)477-5209
Justin x107 Mary Ann x109

REAL-ESTATE at it's best! Observer & Eccentric

Help Wanted-General 5000

DRIVER/O-OPS
EDS EXPEDITE NOW HIRING
OWNER OPS/FLEETS
Tractor/Trailer, 24' St. Trucks, Vans
New pay pkg.. **$1000 SIGN ON BONUS..** Weekly pay
Be a part of the Elite,
Where drivers are our priority,
2 yrs verifiable exp. req.
888-595-7874
Lori at ext. 8031
Doug at ext. 8030

DRIVERS - CDL A & B & GENERAL LABOR
CRIMBOLI NURSERY, INC.
Phone: (734) 495-1700
Fax: 734-495-1131

Sell it all with Observer & Eccentric
1-800-579-SELL

EXPEDITER
Precision tool manufacturer has an opening for an Expediter. A good work ethic, along with the ability to communicate with our customers, and customer service department, a must! Computer skills such as, Microsoft Word, & Excel also helpful! We offer a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, competitive salary & full benefits package.
Fax, or Apply in Person.
MOELLER MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.
43938 Plymouth Oaks Blvd
Plymouth MI 48170
Fax: (734) 416-2200
www.moellerpunch.com
E.O.E.

FACILITY ATTENDANT (Front Desk)
Canton Township is accepting applications for part-time Facility Attendant (Front Desk). Duties associated with, but not limited to working at the Front/Express Desk and Express Desk and/or in the Fitness Center. Qualified applicants must be at least 16 yrs. of age and have previous exp. dealing with the public in a mature and responsible manner. Friendly and enthusiastic personality required. Must be available to work evenings and weekends. Must be able to possess CPR certification, and be available to work days, evenings, and weekends. $7.73 per hr. Applications available at the Township Administration Building, Human Resources Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188. A Canton Township application form must be completed in its entirety and on file with the Canton Township Human Resources Division by 4 p.m., March 9, 2007. An application form is also available on the Canton Township website at www.canton-mi.org.
The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

FIRE YOUR BOSS!
Lower your grocery bills! 30 second commute to your office. Unlimited income potential! 5 positions open to motivated person seeking unlimited income potential.
313-531-3551

FOOD DEMONSTRATOR
Full Time in Wholesale club store. Exp. in food industry an asset and car required. Please submit resume w/salary expectations. Fax 1-888-277-9733. admin@oranoventure.us

Help Wanted-General 5000

GENERAL LABORER
We are expanding our operations, and we have various positions available. With an excellent benefit package, overtime, competitive wages, air-conditioned facility, and opportunity for advancement.
Dayshift and afternoon shifts available.
We're sure to have the right job for YOU!
Wages commensurate with experience
Fax or Apply in Person:
MOELLER MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.
43938 Plymouth Oaks Blvd
Plymouth, MI 48170
Fax: (734) 416-2200
E.O.E.

GENERAL LABOR
Work available on call & as needed. Apply on-line at: r-minc.com or 734-595-3884

GREEN RAINGER LANDSCAPING
lawn maintenance employees with 2+ yrs also snow removal & salting exp. Hardworking & good attitude. Health insurance. 734-427-9353

HAIRSTYLISTS WANTED
Esalon: The Hairplace for Everyone is currently looking for talented, enthusiastic hairstylists who are ready to advance in their career of cosmetology. We are looking full-time and part time positions at our Westland location at the Merriman Plaza. We offer guaranteed wage versus commission, competitive health benefits, 401 K, contests with prizes, vacation, free ongoing training, and much more! Come join the team! You provide your cosmetology license and shears, we supply the rest. Call 1-888-888-7778 ext. 1220 and ask for Lori!

IMAGING SPECIALIST
Strong attention to detail is required. Previous data entry experience is a plus. Must be comfortable utilizing a computer. Responsibilities include scanning documents, reviewing the scanned images for accuracy, adjusting necessary fields, uploading images to the carrier and reviewing transmission log to ensure successful transmission. Location in Novi. Send resumes to: bkellmann@hcaweb.net

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS
$15 base/appt. Customer sales/service, no experience necessary. Conditions exist.
Apply Now! **(248) 426-4405**

JANITORIAL
Part-time, Evenings.
For Livonia area. $8/hr. to start. 313-537-2451

LANDSCAPE FOREMAN/ SALESPERSON/ DESIGNER
Immediate Full Time. Hourly wage plus commission. Paid vacation & benefits. Up to $20 per hr. to start.
CRIMBOLI NURSERY, INC.
Phone: (734) 495-1700
Fax: 734-495-1131

LATHE & BRIDGEPORT OPERATOR
Apply within
12651 Newburgh Livonia

LIFEGUARDS
Experienced guards needed in West Bloomfield; part time- early to mid mornings; must have Red Cross, CPR, WSI and First Aid certifications. Contact:
E. Gray 248-432-5502 or **egray@jccdet.org**
EOE Employer

Help Wanted-General 5000

LEASING AGENT
West Oakland apartment complex seeking friendly, customer focuseo individual or couple for on site management. Exp. and computer skills required. Must be depend-able with good communication skills and familiar with all aspects of leasing, tenant relations and collections. Fax resume 248-358-3776 or email to propertymanager123@gmail.com

LOCAL COUNTRY CLUB
Hiring for summer positions. Lifeguards, Pool Director, and Pool Grill Staff. Starting immediately Child Care & Maintenance. 248-363-7112.

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Observer & Eccentric
1-800-579-SELL

LOOKING FOR A CAREER (not a job,) a Career?
Change your life-
Real Estate Sales Agent.
Feel good about yourself, personally and financially.
CALL ED BOWLIN
AT 734-591-5940, EXT. 107

MACHINE MAINTENANCE & REPAIR
Wholesale food Mfg in Detroit looking for qualified individual to PM & repair various types of production & building equipment. Must have 3 phase electrical exp. Excellent rates & benefits Send resume to: HR, 3319 Greenfield Rd, #235, Dearborn MI 48120

Management
MULTI SITE PROPERTY MANAGER
Property management company has an opening for a Multi-Site Manager to oversee a portion of our Michigan apartment community portfolio. Primary responsibilities are to oversee all community operations including scheduling, marketing and resident relations, with a focus on staff motivation and development. Additional responsibilities include budget control, vendor selection and operational accountability. The position provides full benefits including a 401k with employer contributions, a bachelor degree or equivalent multi-site management exp. is required. Please send resumes to:
Box 1492 Observer & Eccentric Newspapers
36251 Schoolcraft Rd.,
Livonia, MI 48150

MANAGER
National retail optical chain seeks optician to manage area store. Salary, commission, benefits, 401K and more. Call: 1-800-248-2255 EOE

MANAGER
Large apt. community is seeking individual who is motiviated, has outgoing personality & computer knowledge. Requirements: have first contact with prospective clients, do follow-up calls, process service calls & leases. Excellent pay. Minimum 3 yrs. exp. required. Email resume to: wilshire555@hotmail.com

MERCHANDISER
for Golf Club
Meadowbrook Country Club Private Club. Apply at: 40941 W. Eight Mile Rd., Northville.

Help Wanted-General 5000

MECHANIC HEAVY DUTY 3rd Shift
Experience with motor coaches preferred, but not mandatory. Heavy equipment & air conditioning experience required.
- Excellent Pay & Benefits
- 401K with company contribution
- Paid Health Insurance
- Holidays and Vacations

We are looking for a career minded person who is interested in contributing to the success and growth of a stable and secure company. A self-starter who knows how to get results. Serious inquiries only.
Contact Bob Erickson at:
1-800-292-3831
Fax resumes:
989-725-6185
or send resumes to:
28685 Smith Rd.
Romulus MI 48174

MICHIGAN ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE is looking for a unique individual who has strong customer service skills and can multi task in a fast paced environment. Email marleague@aol.com or fax 248-335-0261

NEED ENERGETIC PERSON immediately for Mall Kiosk. $7/hr. + commission.
Call 248-615-4100

Nursing

If you've always wanted support and respect for your abilities, welcome to a career at HCR Manor Care, one of the leading operators of rehabilitation and complex medical care.

ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT
Part Time
Medical Experience Preferred

Interested candidates should apply in person, or send resume to:
Heartland-Dorvin
29270 Morlock St.
Livonia, MI 48152
(8 Mile & Middlebelt area)
PH: 248-476-0550
FAX: 248-477-5391
Email:
4041-hr@hcr-manorcare.com
EEO/ Drug Free Employer

People. Strength. Commitment.

Observer & Eccentric Classifieds
Just a quick call away.....
1-800-579-SELL

★ Oil Change Technicians ★
10 Minute Oil Change experience or will train. Full &/or part-time. Apply in person: 34680 W. 8 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills. ½ mile W. of Farmington Rd. 248-476-1313

Help Wanted-General 5000

TIER 1 / TIER 2 MANUFACTURING SUPPLIER IN PLYMOUTH
Is currently seeking candidates for....
Highly skilled and experienced **CNC Lathe & Mill Job Setters** for the night shift. Candidates need to have solid experience in a production machine shop with strong leadership abilities. MUST have 5-7 years of progressive CNC Lathe & Mill background. Programming skills necessary.
Please forward salary requirements with resume to:
oeresume@hometownlife.com
Reference Box #1490

Help Wanted-General 5000

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POLICY

All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department, Observer and Eccentric News-papers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 (734) 591-0900.) The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reser-ves the right not to accept an advertiser's order, Observer and Eccentric Newspapers sales representatives have no authority to bind this news-paper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors is given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference limitation, or discrimination". This news-paper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc, 724983 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative ad-vertising and marketing pro-gram in which there are no barriers to obtain housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity". Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.

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Continued In The NEXT SECTION