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# WESTLAND Observer

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## Pickering, Wild spar over talks with library board

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Mayor William Wild called Monday for talks between city leaders and the Westland Library Board, which has been smacked with a lawsuit as it searches for a new library director.

But Westland City Council President Charles Pickering has refused Wild's request for the meeting, calling the timing "inappropriate" as the library board continues its director search while facing an

unresolved lawsuit.

Wild, urged by some residents to intervene in the library's turmoil, had asked Pickering to schedule talks next Monday between city officials and the library board.

Wild's request came 10 months after a divided library board fired former Director John Patane, who still hasn't been replaced.

The mayor's request also came five weeks after former library administrative assistant Debbie Nogle filed a lawsuit claiming she was sexually

harassed by library board member Michael Rintz and wrongfully fired in January by acting co-directors Marilyn Kwik and Lisa Hausman.

Wild had asked for a study session with the library board, the council, and Kwik and Hausman.

"I would like to request a study session ... to get an update on the continued search for a director, finances and negative publicity of late," Wild wrote in a Monday memo to Pickering.

Wild also publicly asked for the meeting during a council session Monday night.

He complimented the library, saying its employees and city residents don't deserve the turmoil that has resulted in negative publicity.

But Pickering confirmed Wednesday that he will not be scheduling the meeting. He said the library board should be left alone with its director search, which he said was moving ahead Wednesday night with interviews with three candidates.

Pickering also said he doesn't believe anything

PLEASE SEE LIBRARY, A6

## Showtime: He aims for Autorama honor

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

As Norm Fasescas sees it ... Al Rose and Rock Santavy are his saviors. Without their help, he would not be taking his 1937 two-door Ford to Cobo Hall this weekend.

The car will be among more than 1,000 chopped, channeled, dumped and decked hot rods that will be on display at the 55th annual Murray's Autorama.

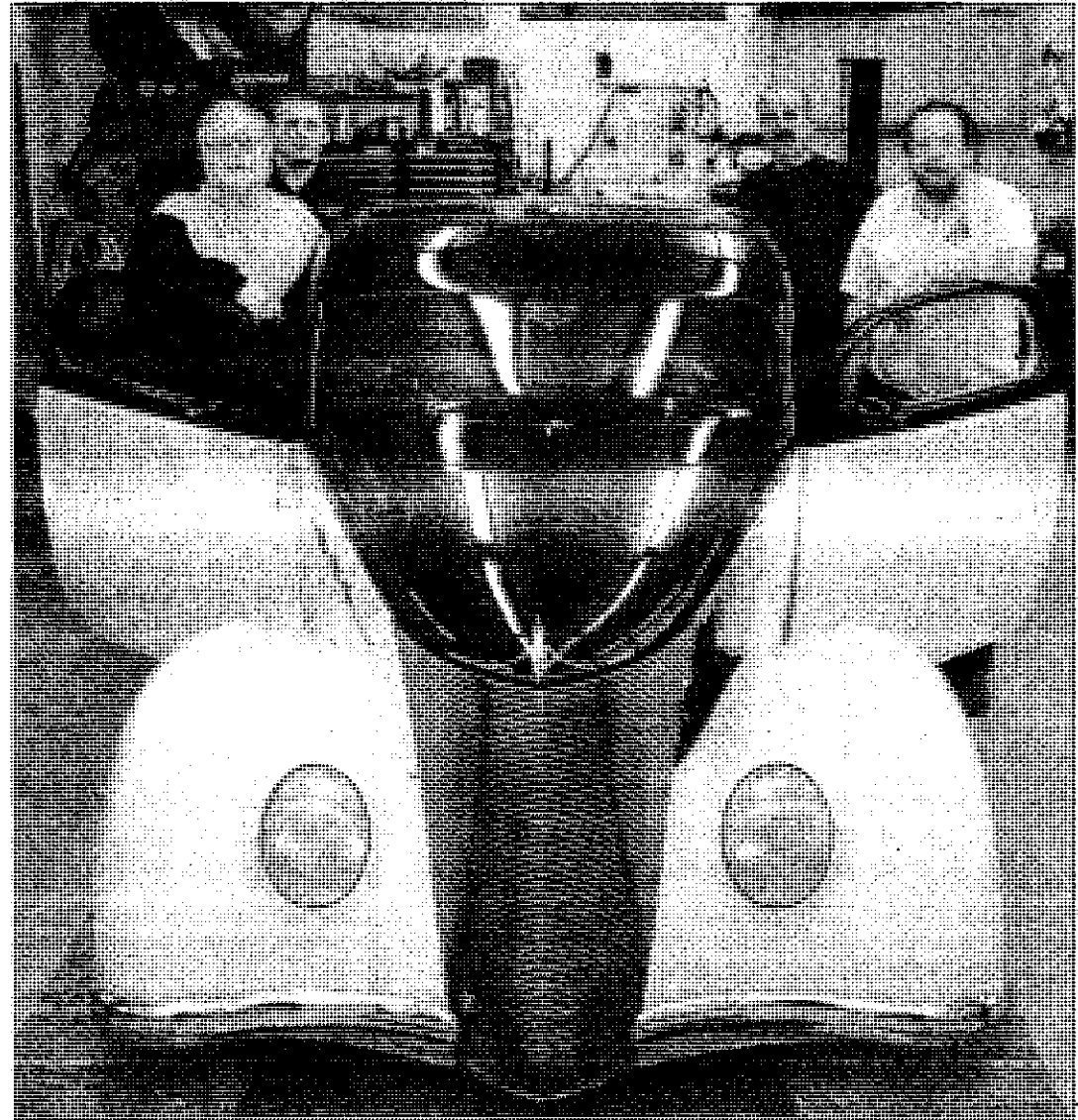
"They've been working on it with me since the beginning," said the Westland resident. "Without them, I never could have done it."

Fasescas has been involved with cars for years, but the 1937 Ford is the first one he has done for himself. But it looked like he might not succeed after having a heart attack four years ago. His two friends stepped in and helped him finish the car, which is making its first appearance at Autorama and its first bid for the coveted Riddler Award given to the best vehicle that's being shown for the first time.

The award draws a slew of competitors with big buck cars, many done professionally, but Fasescas is certain he had a shot at the award.

"It's a garage-built car that can compete with the professionals," he said. "It can compete and hold its own against those big bucks cars that are coming. I'd be proud to get into

PLEASE SEE AUTORAMA, A4



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Norm Fasescas (right) and his team - Al Rose, John Jaranson and Rock Santavy - get his 1937 two-door Ford ready for this weekend's Autorama. Fasescas is hoping the car will be considered for the Riddler Award given to the best vehicle that's being shown for the first time.

## Godbout proposes ordinance to restrict protests at funerals

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Saying families of slain soldiers shouldn't be harassed during funerals, a Westland City Council member has called for local measures to restrict protesters.

Councilman James Godbout has asked the city attorney's office to draft an ordinance to protect funeral-goers while still guaranteeing First Amendment rights.

The Westboro Baptist Church based in Topeka, Kan. has made nationwide news by protesting at funerals of soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. It blames U.S. casualties on God's anger over tolerance of gays.

"A number of protests are going on throughout the country, and it's not fair to the families of those soldiers to allow this disruption at a time when they're trying to mourn their loss," Godbout said. "They deserve the respect and the courtesy of being able to bury their dead without protesters being there and harassing them."

Protesters have attended funerals carrying signs with such messages as "Thank God for Dead Soldiers," "God Hates Fags" and "America Is Doomed."

Rumors had surfaced that protesters would appear in November during funeral services in Westland for Marine Sgt. Bryan Burgess of Canton Township.

That demonstration never materialized, but if such a protest ever does happen in Westland, Godbout said he wants the city to be prepared.

During a council meeting Monday, Godbout said slain soldiers should be afforded the courtesy of being "buried with dignity."

Many communities, including Livonia, already have adopted

PLEASE SEE PROTESTS, A5

## Teen gets juvenile detention in Franklin attack

BY REBECCA JONES  
STAFF WRITER

The 17-year-old who slammed a classmate on his head in the Franklin High School cafeteria in November was sentenced to juvenile detention Tuesday.

The defendant will remain in custody until he is 21 or the court decides he is rehabilitated.

He must also pay restitution for the victim's medical bills, including a \$7,000 helicopter ride to Ann Arbor, where the 16-year-old victim was treated for a skull fracture.

The victim's mother, Debra Carlin, said she still doesn't know why the defendant attacked her son Nov. 22.

"My son states that he never even knew him," Debra Carlin said in court at the Lincoln Hall of Juvenile Justice. She

asked Judge Jerome Cavanagh to go beyond the sentencing recommendation of probation for the first-time offender.

The defendant, who is not being named because he was charged as a juvenile, pleaded guilty to assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder. He had been charged with assault with intent to murder.

The assault took place before school began. It was reportedly precipitated by a text message exchange a few days earlier between the victim and a friend of the defendant.

Cavanagh said it doesn't matter what circumstances led to the attack.

"This was unprovoked," Cavanagh said, addressing the defendant. "The action you took to resolve this dispute was egregious and outrageous."

The defendant will be placed in what

was described as a low-level security residential facility. The teen, who has been attending Oak Park High School since mid-December, will have periodic hearings in court to determine his progress. He must also write letters of apology.

"What I did in the past, I'm sorry for," the defendant told the judge. "This is the first big problem that I've ever been into. I don't look for trouble."

He said he had a C-minus average and hoped to study computers in college.

"I was not impressed with his speech," Debra Carlin said. "I don't think he fully comprehends what he did to Nathan."

Nate Carlin, who returned to school less than a week after the assault, still suffers from hearing problems, she said.

"I wanted him to go to juvy," said Nate Carlin, who sat side-by-side with his twin sister during the court proceeding.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Pumped up

Leading the excitement for the John Glenn Rockets is senior Virginia Butler (center) during a time-out in the district volleyball championship game. Glenn lost the nail-biter in five games to the Garden City High School Cougars of Garden City this past weekend. See story and photo in today's Sports Section.

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**INDEX**

APARTMENTS	B8
AUTOMOTIVE	C3
CLASSIFIED	B6-C4
CROSSWORD	B7
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM	D1
JOBS	B10
MOVIES	E14
OBITUARIES	A12
OPINION	A8-9
REAL ESTATE	B6
SERVICE GUIDE	B9
SPORTS	B1

**Coming Sunday in Health**

Wellness legislation promotes screenings and prevention programs in the workplace.



# Westland woman faces trial in fatal crash

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
STAFF WRITER



Comcast Michigan region Vice President of Communications and Public Affairs Luis Casanova (left) and General Manager of Telephony Tracy Taylor (right) recognize Shelly Nix of Wayne as the 2 millionth customer in the nation to take advantage of Comcast Digital Voice phone service.

## Wayne resident wins digital home makeover

If Wayne resident Shelly Nix needs a luck number, she may want to consider 2 million. That's the number that won her a digital home makeover and other prizes, courtesy of Comcast. Nix received the prize after being the 2 millionth customer to sign up for Comcast Digital Voice, the company's home phone service. "People are discovering the tremendous savings gained by selecting Comcast Digital Voice over traditional carriers such as AT&T," said Dave Buhl, region senior vice-president, Comcast Michigan. "Reaching the two millionth customer right here in Michigan is a testament

to the popularity of Comcast Digital Voice in this state. We know that as more customers compare costs, value and our superior technology they too will make the switch to Comcast Digital Voice." According to Comcast, surpassing two million Comcast Digital Voice customers underscores the record growth the company continues to experience as it rolls out its Triple Play package of services. Triple Play, which bundles phone, high-speed Internet and video services into a value-added package, gives customers the convenience of using one company and receiving one monthly billing statement for all three services.

Minutes before being involved in the accident that killed a Garden City woman, Julie Meyer fled the scene of a minor accident after the other driver said he thought she was drunk and was calling police. Meyer, 40, has been ordered bound over for trial on three felonies — second-degree murder, which carries a sentence of up to life in prison; operating while intoxicated causing death; and driving with a suspended license causing death, both 15-year felonies — in the Oct. 12 death of Shelly Mepyns, 42.

At a preliminary examination Monday in 21st District Court, Joseph King testified that he stopped for a red light while traveling southbound on Middlebelt at Warren. After his pickup truck was struck from behind and pushed into the intersection, King said he continued south after the light changed and turned onto the first side street followed by the other vehicle.

Having inspected the two vehicles for damage, King said he spoke to the other driver, whom he identified as Meyer, as she sat in her minivan.

"The first thing she said was, 'My husband can fix the damage.' I said I believed she was under the influence and I was calling 9-1-1," King said. "She backed up and left the scene. She drove out onto Middlebelt."

Within 10-15 minutes, a Westland police officer had responded. The accident hap-

pened north of the Garden City city limits. The officer asked King to go to the second accident scene at Maplewood and Henry Ruff.

When he arrived, King said he recognized Meyer, who was in an ambulance, and the minivan from the earlier accident.

Two other witnesses reported seeing Meyer driving at a high rate of speed along Maplewood prior to running a stop sign and colliding with Mepyns' vehicle.

Entered into the record was a report on the analysis of Meyer's blood drawn following the accident. Meyer was reported to have a 0.28 blood-alcohol level — three and one-half times the legal limit for intoxication — as well as Valium in her blood.

Arguing for Meyer to be bound over as charged, Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Molly Kettler said the defendant's high blood-alcohol level combined with Valium demonstrated gross indifference to public safety.

Noting Meyer's driver's license had been suspended for alcohol offenses, Kettler said the defendant might well have problems, but she still chose to drive intoxicated.

"No one is suggesting that she intended to kill this lady, but she should have known that driving that inebriated and after the first crash, that there was a high probability of killing or injuring someone," she said.

Defense attorney Robert Plumpe disagreed, offering his example of the malice needed for the second-degree murder charge.

"When you have people fleeing the police traveling 80 miles per hour and they run a red light — that's malice," said Plumpe, who didn't argue against binding over on the other two charges.

But Judge Richard Hammer Jr. found that example was appropriate.

"The police weren't behind the defendant with overhead lights on, but the defendant certainly feels them pursuing," said Hammer, who ordered Meyer bound over for trial on all three charges.

Based on the evidence, Hammer said there was no doubt that Meyer was driving and hit the car of Mepyns, which was already lawfully in the intersection.

"The defendant was fleeing the scene of a prior accident in anticipation of police arriving," Hammer said. "You can debate whether she was traveling 45 or 60 miles per hour, but it's a 25 mile-per-hour zone. It doesn't matter; 40 miles per hour is too fast on Maplewood."

Noting Meyer was extremely intoxicated and had taken prescription medication, Hammer said she showed a total disregard for the safety of others. Plumpe requested a review of the bond for Meyer, a former Livonia Public Schools employee, who has been in custody since her Feb. 21 arraignment in lieu of \$100,000 cash bond.

Noting Meyer's husband and other family members were present, Plumpe said his client wasn't a flight risk. The mother of an 11-year-old daughter, Meyer suffers from a blood dis-

order that causes clots, Plumpe said.

About 18 months ago, Plumpe said his client also was incorrectly diagnosed with lung cancer.

"After surgery, it was determined to be an abscess caused by the blood disorder," he said, adding his client had been diagnosed with severe depression and anxiety disorder.

Seeking a bond reduction to \$100,000/10 percent, Plumpe said his client could receive better medical treatment and also care for her daughter, if released on bond.

Based on Meyer having been bound over on charges that could result in up to a life sentence if convicted, Kettler said she may be more of a threat to the public, if released.

"If the court hypothetically tells her not to drive (if released), she doesn't care. She had no license before," Kettler said. "The lady who was killed had children and grandchildren. The defendant drove highly drunk on a street where there is a school. This woman is an extreme danger to the community."

Once charges are brought, Hammer said there is an increased flight risk.

"The safety of the public needs to be taken into consideration. It was the same situation with her health in October," said Hammer, who refused to reconsider the bond, but did agree to refer Meyer to Pretrial Screening Services at circuit court.

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## LeBlanc: 'We are all in this together'

Saying that "we are all in this together," State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, said he "won't sit on the sidelines" in making sacrifices to help resolve Michigan's financial crisis.

LeBlanc made the remarks in announcing cuts to the state legislative budget to ensure that lawmakers share in the sacrifices residents are being asked.

The cuts include ending life-long health care for lawmakers and cutting the House budget.

"Our residents have been making sacrifices to make ends meet in these tough times as Michigan struggles to get back on track," LeBlanc said. "I want our residents in Westland to know that my colleagues in the House and I won't sit on the sidelines. We're working to turn Michigan around, and we're starting by cutting our own budget in the House."

The House Democratic plan will:  
- End lifetime health care coverage for new state repre-

sentatives once they leave office. The plan also requires current lawmakers to pay more for health care coverage, ending the special treatment lawmakers get and ensuring they pay the same amount for health care that all other state employees pay.

- Increase monthly health care co-pays for state representatives, their staff members and other legislative workers.

- Cut the budget for the House of Representatives by more than 5 percent.

- Ban the use of state funds for out-of-state travel for state representatives.

- Cut positions within the House of Representatives to eliminate redundancies.

"Michigan is facing a serious budget crisis, and we all must do our part to find solutions," LeBlanc said. "Michigan's economic crisis affects all Michigan citizens, from the auto worker to the police officer to the state representative. We are all in this together."

### WESTLAND Observer

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RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL	
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 A.M. - 12:00 noon	1:30 - 4:00 P.M.

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Board of Review Meetings will be held at  
Westland City Hall  
2nd Floor - Council Chambers  
36601 Ford Road  
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Written Appeals Must Be Received by 2:00 P.M. on Friday, March 16, 2007

Publish: March 1 & 8, 2007

#### CORRECTION

An editorial in the Thursday, March 1, Observer & Eccentric incorrectly made reference to legislative pensions. Legislative pensions were eliminated in 1997 and legislators elected after that are not covered by a pension.

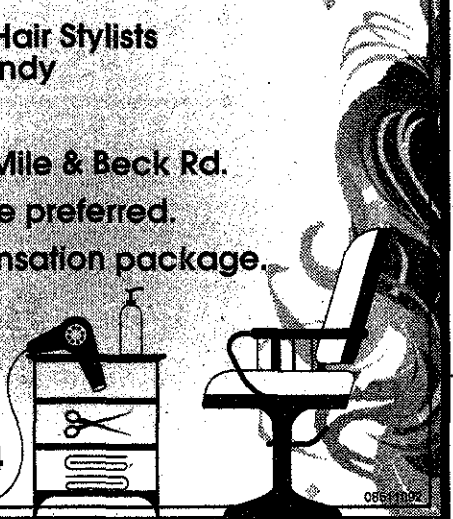
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# Baker: Junior Miss program 'awesome'

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

For 17-year-old Kelsey Baker, last weekend's trip to Alpena was nothing short of "awesome."

The Wayne Memorial High School senior was in the north country for the 49th installment of the Michigan Junior Miss Program. The 2007 Wayne-Westland Junior Miss, Baker was the first runner-up in the scholarship program.

"I was definitely surprised when they called my name," said the teen in an interview Tuesday. "I didn't win any of the overall categories, so I didn't expect to win anything."

Baker, the daughter Carol and Brian Baker, was among 12 high school seniors competing for the honor to represent the state at the America's Junior Miss program in Mobile, Ala., in June. She was "neck-and-neck" with Lauren Schultes, Grosse Pointe Park Junior Miss, leading up to the judges' announcement, she said.

"I was a little bit disappointed, but it's still great to be that close," she said. "It's an awesome place to be in and I'm glad I won something."

That something is a \$750 scholarship which will go toward studies at Wayne State University in Detroit. Baker plans to study dance education with an eye toward teaching dance.

Baker, who won the Wayne-Westland Junior Miss title in November, estimates she put in "a whole bunch of hours" preparing for the state program. She received a DVD of the program's fitness routine which she had to learn in the time between the orientation and the actual program.

She also had to keep abreast with current events to prepare for questions from judges during the interview portion of the



Westland Junior Miss Kelsey Baker gets a hug from her cousin Evelyn Fairchild of Wayne after being selected first runner-up in the 2007 Michigan Junior Miss Program.



Wayne-Westland Junior Miss directors Dennis and Pat Hermatz were on hand as Kelsey Baker vied for the 2007 Michigan Junior Miss title.

program. She went online to read the news as well as watching TV news and CNN every night.

"I'm still going to watch the news, I'm interested in what's going on in the world," she said. "I'll still watch, but not every night."

Baker went to Alpena on Thursday, March 1, where the contestants were ferried to a welcoming dinner in a limousine. The teens also met the host families they stayed with

during the event.

On Friday, the 12 girls were busy from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. rehearsing for the Saturday evening program. Saturday morning was spent in interviews with the judges.

For Baker, the interviews are the hardest part of the Junior Miss program. They're the hard to prepare for and hard to keep up with and remember the current events.

"I think it's an excellent program," she said. "It gives girls

confidence. It helped me be more confident about myself. It gave me social skills and I got to meet new people. It's an awesome program."

Baker plans to spread the word about the program to friends and other students at Wayne Memorial. And even after she gives up her title in November, she will remain active in the Wayne-Westland program. Her mother will be taking over from Pat Hermatz who will be working with the state program to get more local programs started. Wayne-Westland currently is the only local Junior Miss program in the state.

And she suspects her younger sister Kirstin, 14, will be following in her footsteps.

"She's been watching what I've been doing the past few months," Baker said. "She's seen me develop and think she'd like to do it, too."

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# St. Damian student spells glockenspiel to win spelling bee

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Nerves are starting to set in for 12-year-old Darcy Vines who will test her ability to spell in the Wayne Regional Final spelling bee Saturday in hopes of advancing to the 80th annual Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

A student at St. Damian School, Darcy successfully spelled the word glockenspiel to become one of four champions selected to represent Wayne County in the regional competition.

"I had seen the word before, but I wasn't sure how to spell it, I sort of guessed at the ending," said Darcy, a seventh-grader at the Westland school.

"She just continues to go above and beyond our expectations," said her father Chuck Vines. "She went to Cabrini High School for the Academic Olympics and won a gold medal in English."

Darcy correctly spelled the word paprika in the St. Damian spelling bee, advancing to last weekend's competition in Detroit. She studied words each night after finishing her homework, using the book provided for the spelling bee which was open to students in fifth-eighth grades.

"If I hadn't heard it before, I looked it up in the dictionary," she said of her study habits. "It's easier to spell when you know what it means."

So far she has not had to ask for a definition to spell a word in competition.

According to her father, Darcy gets her wordy ability from her mother Maureen.

"They go back and forth, correcting spelling in the newspaper, on billboards," Vines said.



Vines

"We mostly do it like when we're driving and we see a typo on a marquee or a sign," added Darcy. "It's kind of who finds the first one. My dad

gets annoyed because we do it so much."

Darcy, however, isn't so sure the game is where she gets her spelling skills. Her penchant for words could be because she's an avid reader.

"I see a lot of words," she said. The regional spelling bee will be at WXYZ-TV, Channel 7's studio in Southfield.

Contestants will have to be there at "9 a.m. sharp" Saturday. The spelling bee will be taped to be shown on Sunday.

"That'll seem a little weird," she said of the cameras. "I think it'll make me more nervous, but my mom and dad have told me 'don't notice anyone looking at you' and things like that."

Saying "this is all new to us," Vines can understand his daughter's building nervousness after watching Darcy in competition last weekend.

"One word and you're out, it's brutal," he said. "You're up there and there's judges there with computers and you're waiting for that annoying little bell ... It's very nerve-wracking for a 12-year-old. I can't imagine the pressure."

Nerves aside, Darcy is continuing to look over her words to prepare for this weekend's spelling bee.

"There's not much else I can do," she said.

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# Marshall students, staff mourn loss of teacher James Daniel

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Members of a school crisis team remained at Marshall Middle School Wednesday to help students and staff cope with the loss of longtime physical education teacher James Daniel.

Mr. Daniel died unexpectedly Monday night of a stroke at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

"The kids are really shaken up by this," said Principal Robert Van Valkenburg. "They just adored him. He was very well thought of and well-respected by kids and the staff"

According to Van Valkenburg, Mr. Daniel had been around the area "for a long time." He grew up in Westland and attended Marshall Middle School. His son also is a student at Marshall.

According to Deputy

Superintendent Charlotte Sherman, he joined the school district as a full-time teacher in 1991 after working as a substitute teacher. Sherman added that it appeared he had spent his entire teaching career at Marshall.

Staffers from around the district were brought in to work with Marshall's social worker and psychologist "because he was very loved by the children," she added.

Mr. Daniel was head of the physical education department at Marshall and coached the boys' wrestling team and boys' and girls' swim teams. He also was the varsity swim coach at John Glenn High School up until this year.

The news of his death came as a shock to the staff and students. Van Valkenburg said Mr. Daniel was very active and worked out every day.

"I know there were always kids

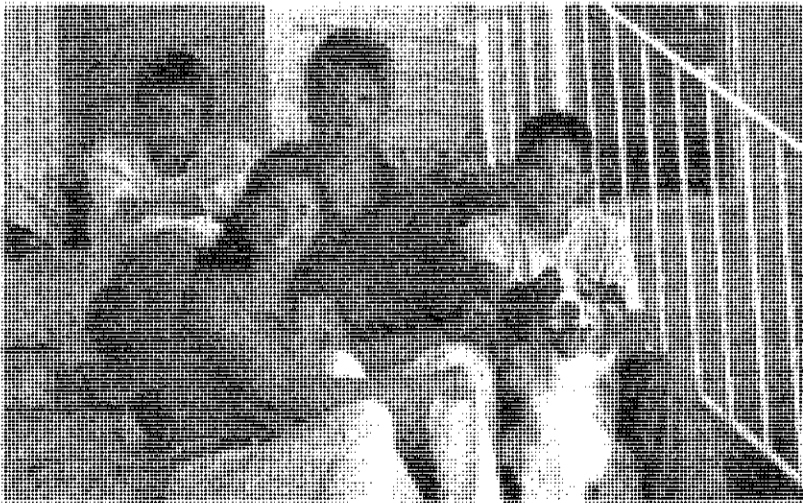
around him, he was always talking to the kids," he said. "The kids really adopted him, especially the wrestling team."

On Tuesday, students made posters to remember him and some asked for his photograph to carry with them, Van Valkenburg added. Those students seeking help were counseled in vacant classrooms around the school.

"This is really hard for the kids," Van Valkenburg said. "They may see something like this at home, but not in school where you see someone everyday."

Funeral arrangements are being handled through Vermeulen Funeral Home on Newburgh at Marquette in Westland. While still incomplete as of Wednesday afternoon, arrangements had been made for visitation 5-9 p.m. today and noon to 9 p.m. Friday. Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday.

# It's Not About the House ...



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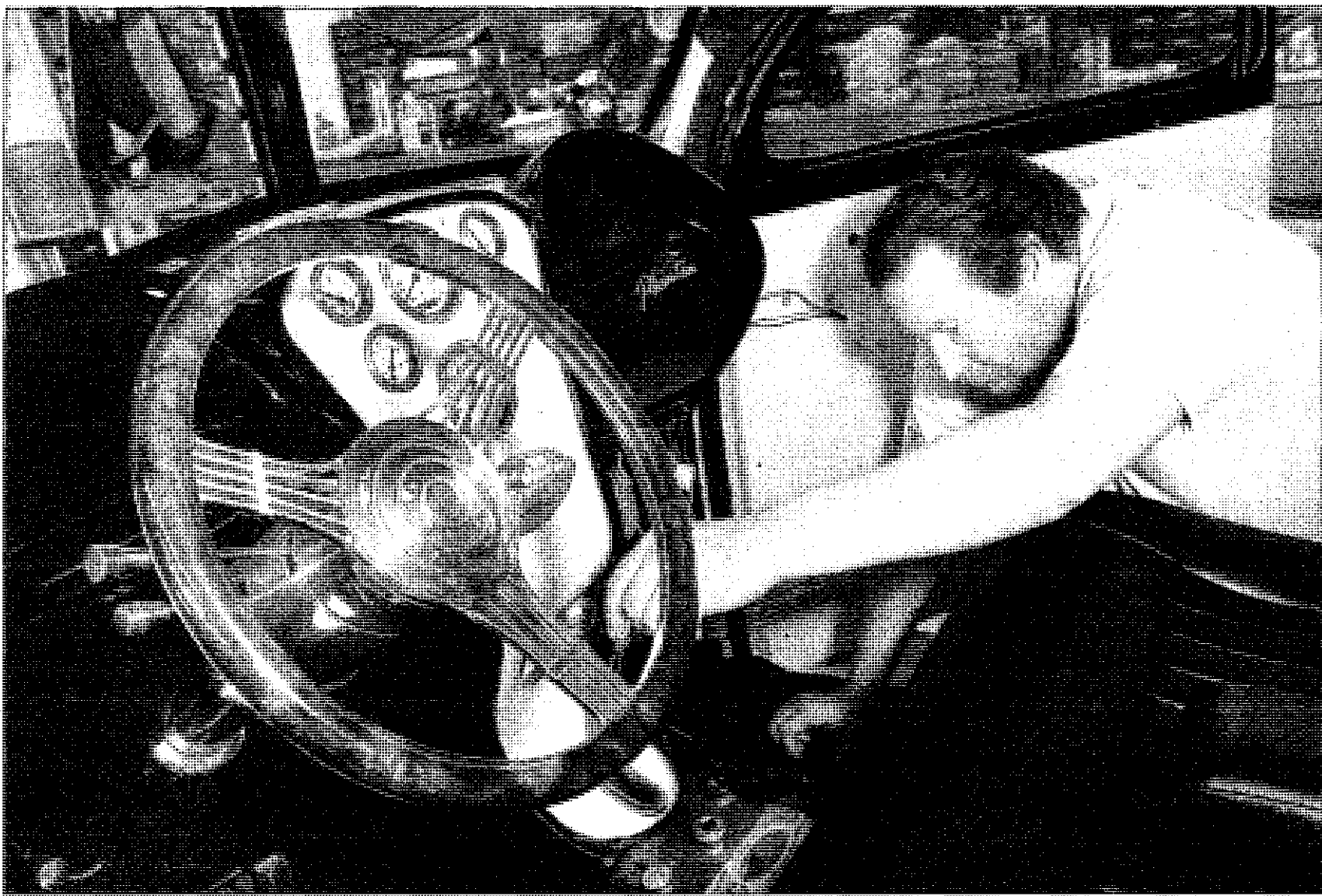
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Norm Fasecas and his crew complete a few more detail items on the interior of the car.

PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Autorama show has cars, cars and more cars

The 55th Annual Murray's Autorama, Presented by Meguiars roars into Cobo Center Friday-Sunday, March 9-11.

Billed as America's Greatest Hot Rod Show, the super buffed, turbo charged Detroit tradition features the hottest hot rods, custom cars and '50s classics in the country and attracts visitors from across the U.S.

This year's show features award winning customs from across the country, including Chip Foose's latest masterpiece Hemisfear, Hot Wheel's Deora II and a stunning tribute to the 75th Anniversary of the '32 Ford with 32 examples of the iconic hot rod.

The entire lower level of Cobo Center features Detroit Autorama Extreme presented by The Tuning Factory. This successful addition to Autorama, now in its third year, is a show within a show and features more than 200 extreme traditional rods, tuners and cool customs as well as musical performance by such rock bands as Twisted Tarantulas and Volcanoes, U.S.

The Pinstripers Showcase and Auction features more than 100 of the most outrageous pinstripers from across the country. They will apply their artistry to items of every variety, demonstrating for the crowds and auctioning the items throughout the event. Proceeds going to Rainbow Wish Connection.

Other features include the Kavalcade of Kustoms exhibit, the 50th Anniversary of the '57 Chevy exhibit presented by Be Cool, the 134th Annual Toy A Rama and the Hot Rod Heritage Fine Art Exhibit.

There also will be appearances by WWE's Torrie Wilson 7-9 p.m. Friday and Rey Mysterio noon-2 p.m. Saturday, Detroit Tiger Nate Robertson 4-7 p.m. Saturday, March 10, 4 to 7 p.m. and Chip Foose and Chris Jacobs, co-hosts of "Overhauled," Sunday.

Hours are noon-10 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. Tickets at the door are \$16 for adults, \$5 for children age 6-12 years and free for those age 5 and under. Discount tickets are available at all Murray's Discount Auto Stores at \$14 for adults and \$4 for children.

For information about Autorama, call (248) 373-1700. For up to the minute information and last minute additions, visit the Web site at [www.autorama.com](http://www.autorama.com).

## AUTORAMA

FROM PAGE A1

the second round of the Riddler Award judging."

Fasecas worked in prototype design at Ford Motor Co. and drew on his experience in assembling the car.

The car is styled after the two-door Phantom that Ford wanted to produce but it never came to fruition because of World War II.

A coupe, it has a top chop of 3 1/2 inches and is chopped 3 inches through the center. It has a GM 502 Ram Air fuel-injected engine and chromed and powder coated, even underneath the car.

"It has a lot of one-of-a-kind single prototype parts," he said.

One element, the dashboard, was made by stereolithography, a fabrication process utilizing a vat of UV-sensitive photopolymer and a laser to build parts a layer at a time, he added.

While it's a 1937 Ford, he also opted for a GM color combination of the 1950s. The deck lid,

roof and trunk lid are painted jet black while the remainder of the car is coral in color.

"The hardest thing to figure out is how to paint the car," he said. "There's so many incredible paints, an incredible amount of variety."

Fasecas may talk about those big buck cars, but his was no small amount to put together. He estimates he's spent around \$50,000 for the car.

"It's very simple to spend three-four times more than I did," he said. "The body frame was \$20,000, then there's the engine, that's another \$6,000. It starts adding up real quick."

Fasecas is delivering his car to the show today and plans to be with it throughout the weekend. Judging for the Riddler Award begins Friday. The number of cars entered will be whittled down to eight from which a winner will be selected.

Fasecas will find out Sunday evening if his dream of winning the award will come true. And standing there with him will be his two friends.

"Oh yeah, they'll be there, too," he said, adding. "Making it to the final eight would be very nice, but I want to win it all."

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John Jaranson, the artist of the group, works on the car's logo.

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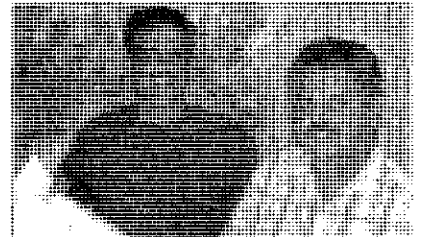


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# Woman accused in theft of wallets at senior center

A woman ordered to perform community service by cleaning Westland's senior citizen Friendship Center was cleaning up all right - by stealing seniors' wallets, police said.

The 44-year-old woman had been assigned to the senior citizen and given a chance to keep an earlier larceny off her record as long as complied with orders from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

But senior officials contacted Westland police after being told that seniors were missing wallets from coats they hung on a coat rack - and that the suspect had been seen going through pockets.

On Friday afternoon, police Sgt. Steve Borisch and Chris Benson went to the senior center and planted a wallet with credit cards, papers and \$4 in a coat that was hung on the rack. Then, they started watching by closed circuit TV.

About 1:40 p.m., the defendant was seen taking the wallet and placing it in her jeans pocket. Borisch and Benson promptly confronted her and recovered the stolen property.

The woman was arraigned Sunday on charges of larceny in a building. She faces a March 15 court hearing that will determine whether she should stand trial on the charge, punishable by up to four years in prison upon conviction. The defendant was jailed on a \$10,000/10 percent bond Sunday, but she was released after posting the necessary \$1,000, Borisch said.

## Robbery arrests

Westland police arrested two men following a robbery that happened about 12:40 a.m. Saturday at the Pit Stop, a party store on Merriman Road near Palmer.

A police officer on routine patrol was dispatched to the party store following accusations that two men had just taken money from a cash register and fled on foot.

One officer chased one suspect and fired a Taser gun at him to stop him. The officer said the suspect had reached in his pocket as if to possibly retrieve a weapon, although none was found. However, authorities did find several hundred dollars in cash on the suspect, described as a 22-year-old man from Norfolk, Va.,

## CRIME WATCH

according to police.

Soon after, officers captured a second suspect after searching the neighborhood where the robbery occurred, police said.

Criminal charges were pending with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, said police Sgt. Chris Benson.

## Mall theft

Police arrested a trio of suspects last Thursday following a retail fraud and vehicle crash at Westland Shopping Center.

When police arrived around 2:45 p.m., security officers were trying to apprehend the suspects - one of whom had started driving away in a truck only to hit several other vehicles during the attempted escape, according to police reports.

The incident started when store personnel noticed two female suspects, both 25, trying to return bed sheets without a receipt, police said. The same suspects were believed to be the same woman who, on several occasions, had returned stolen sheets for refunds, according to police reports.

The females were denied a refund last Thursday, and security noticed the women take the bed sheets out of a bag and then saw a male suspect, 31, putting T-shirts inside the bag before walking out of the store, police reports said.

A security officer followed the male outside and asked him to return to Kohl's department store, but the man started running and put his hand in his jacket pocket as though he might have a weapon, police said.

The man ran through the parking lot and jumped into the back of a black pickup truck being driven by one of the female suspects, police said. The woman tried to drive away but hit several other vehicles, according to police reports.

Officers reported finding stolen bed sheets, T-shirts and other clothing in the truck bed. The man was placed under arrest for armed robbery, and the two women were arrested for retail fraud.

By Darrell Clem

## PROTESTS

FROM PAGE A1

Local ordinances to force funeral protesters to maintain a certain distance from mourners. The state also has a law that former state Sen. Laura Toy sponsored through the Veterans' Affairs committee in Lansing. "We were hearing from families of loved ones who'd died who saw those displays when they came out of the funeral home," she said. "Some of them were getting calls and e-mails, too. It was unbelievably sad testimony."

The state reached a compromise to keep protesters 500 feet from funerals, although some lawmakers had sought distances up to 1,500 feet.

For a possible Westland ordinance, Godbout hasn't proposed a specific distance that protesters would have to keep from funeral-goers. He has asked City Attorney Angelo Plakas to study what other communities have done and to issue a recommendation.

Staff writer Alex Lundberg contributed to this story.

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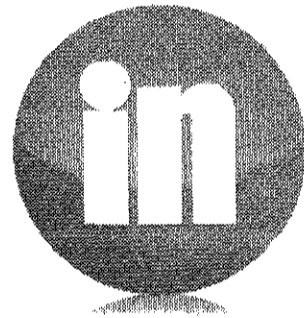
## Blankets everywhere

The Linus Blanket Foundation has more than two dozen fleece blankets to distribute to sick patients, thanks to the efforts of Girl Scout Junior Troop 271 in Westland. The 14 girls, along with troop leader Deanne Richter and co-leader Pam Trierweiler, made the fleece blankets to donate to the Dearborn/Wayne County Chapter of the Linus Blanket Foundation. Each blanket contained a personalized note card with words of hope to the recipient. The card was attached to the blanket with a button.



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# Early spring forward comes with a glitch

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
STAFF WRITER

Daylight-saving time will arrive three weeks earlier this year and stay around a little longer, an energy saving plan that has spread fears of a mini Y2K-style computer breakdown.

But just as Y2K (the turning of the calendar from 1999 to 2000) proved less than catastrophic, computer techies are taking the problem in stride and don't expect any catastrophes.

In 2005, President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The act moves the start of daylight-saving time from the first Sunday of April to the second Sunday of March. Daylight-saving time will end on the first Sunday of November instead of the last Sunday of October.

This year in the United States and Canada, we will spring forward at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 11.

The idea is to save money by pushing daylight later into the evening, when more people are using electric lights than in the early morning hours.

The glitch — many computers, computer-operated alarms, cell phones and other devices have been programmed to automatically adjust for daylight-saving

time, but the old daylight-saving time.

"A lot of people are not aware of it," said Dave Wisniewski, owner of Canton Computer in Canton and Redford Discount Computers in Redford. "If system clocks are not set, meetings can be missed. There can be some confusion in the first week or so."

But Wisniewski and other computer experts aren't that concerned. Microsoft has created patches that can be applied to computers to correct the error. Wisniewski said that with 10 different operating systems, Microsoft has had to develop a different patch for each system.

"There will be a lot of adjustment. If you've got Microsoft updates, that should fix the problem," he said.

Dave Wiltrakis, director of networking and security at Schoolcraft College, said the college uses the Microsoft update service. He said the college does have computers that don't have the Windows software and other patches will have to be found to adjust them. But he's not overly concerned.

"Y2K was more of a big issue," Wiltrakis said. "It causes a little extra work on the older machines. Big companies put out the patches. They were on it. We address it as time goes on."

Charles Allen of PC Replay in Redford said it is a problem for computers using older software, Windows 2000 and older. He said they would have to be manually adjusted.

Wisniewski said there may be some timing problems for devices like school boilers, lighting systems and airline systems.

"The big concern I see is if alarm systems don't get updates. Some have alarms that go on automatically," he said.

He said another problem is that Mexico and Europe will not be changing to daylight saving at the same time.

In the United States, switching to daylight-saving time is not a federal mandate. Arizona and Hawaii do not observe daylight-saving. For many years, portions of Indiana did not observe daylight-saving and for parts of the year the state had three different times, depending where you were.

Experts say that cell phones, TiVo's and other digital products connected to a system will be adjusted because provider companies are aware of the problem. VCRs, and clocks and other devices not connected to a system will have to be adjusted manually.

hgallagher@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2149

# Don't panic over stock market correction

There is no question that we have just experienced some difficulty in the market. Whenever this happens, investors almost always tend to overreact. It is this overreaction that hurts investors, causing them to unnecessarily lose money.

It has been often said that there are two emotions that investors need to conquer before they can be a successful investor — fear and greed. When investors let fear and greed dictate their investment decisions, almost always they will end up making the wrong one.

In looking at the recent market volatility, I've seen many stories comparing the drop to the stock market crash of 1987. However, the recent volatility has nothing in common with the crash of '87. First, the 500-point drop in October '87 represented nearly a 25-percent drop in the value of the Dow Jones Industrial Average. At the time of the crash, the market was valued at a little over 2,000. The 400-point drop that we recently experienced with the Dow valued at over 12,000 represents a 3-percent drop. Therefore, as a percentage, the drop was minor compared to what happened in 1987. Investors need to focus on percentages as opposed to raw numbers. That doesn't mean that a 400-point drop is not painful — it is. However, it doesn't come close to what happened in 1987.

Corrections are normal occurrences in the market. If you go back over time, you will see that retreats in the market are relatively common. There is no reason for investors to panic or feel that they need to change their portfolio in light



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

of what happened recently. However, it is a good time for investors to take another look at their portfolios to make sure they are diversified, balanced and well-matched to your tolerance for risk. Whenever the market is gaining ground, investors forget about their risk tolerance level and tend to add stocks to their portfolio without concern as to how they fit into their overall portfolio.

The successful investor is one who has a game plan and then allocates investments according to their plan within a wide range of investment alternatives. A well-balanced and diversified portfolio contains not only domestic stocks, but international stocks as well as a fixed income side to the portfolio. Whether the fixed income portion of the portfolio is invested in bonds or fixed or equity-indexed annuities, those investments play a key part in an overall strategy.

I have been asked many times over the last week how I am changing the portfolios that I manage. My answer is, I am not. Nothing that hap-

pened over the last week leads me to believe that there has been a fundamental change in the long-term prospects for our economy. Yes, it appears that our economy is slowing and that, consequently, the world economy will probably slow down somewhat. That does not mean, though, that it will change the overall strategy of how I manage money.

Many investors will beat themselves up, saying that they wish they would have been out of the market or hope that they could have predicted the recent downturn. First of all, no one can predict the market over the short run. The idea that people can look at different signals in the market and know when to buy or sell is a fool's game.

We've seen corrections before and one thing has always occurred — markets do recover. Patience is a key element for a successful investor. Remember, what makes a successful investor is not timing the market, but rather time in the market. Don't panic and don't let fear dictate your investment decisions.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. *Observer & Eccentric* readers can submit questions at [money@hometownlife.com](mailto:money@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit his Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com). You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

# Justice Marilyn Kelly speak at League luncheon

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. The public is invited to attend and enjoy a modest lunch (\$5 donation requested). The meeting will be held at

the Livonia Civic Center Library at 12:15 pm. For more information, please contact Paula Bowman at 734-455-4726.



## CELEBRATE VOLUNTEERS

Recognizing HomeTown Heroes

## Nominate Outstanding Community Volunteers

Winners will be honored at United Way for Southeastern Michigan's Celebrate Volunteers...Recognizing HomeTown Heroes Awards Luncheon, April 16.

The award categories are as follows:

- Bernie Firestone Labor Award**
- CorPLUS Award**
- Exemplary Group Service Award**
- Governor's Honor Roll**
- Heart of Gold Award**
- Outstanding Youth Award**
- Young Adult Award of Excellence**
- Outstanding Business Award**

Call United Way at 313-226-9430 for complete nomination information or go to [www.uwsem.org](http://www.uwsem.org). All nominations are due to United Way by 5 p.m., March 16.



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**Simply Self Storage**  
Notice is hereby given that on Friday March 16, 2007 on or after 10:00 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien process by public auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are cash only. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34383 E. Michigan Ave., Wayne, MI 48184 - 734-728-8204.

Andrinque Phelan - Unit E101  
Fans, Mini fridge, 2 bikes, toys, steam cleaner, aquarium, household items.

Russell Gawryluk - Unit A412  
Weight bench, weights, ice chest and boxes.

Troy Sandy - D145  
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-Tea 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 Cumbs - 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.

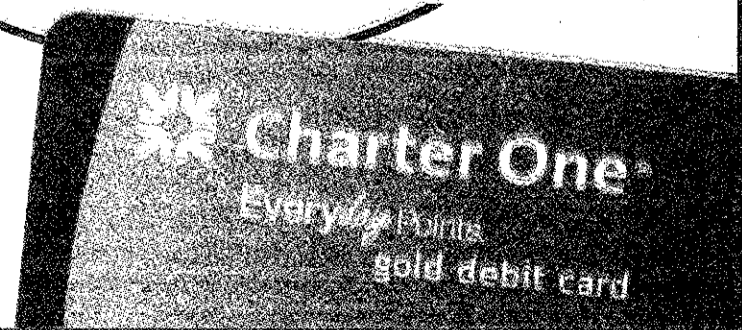
Publish: March 1 & 8, 2007

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**OUR VIEWS**

## On Sunday, take time to check smoke detectors

It's simple to do and not all that expensive, either. But with daylight-saving time coming again Sunday — yes, it's earlier than last year and, likewise, it will last longer — it's a good time to check the smoke detectors in your dwelling and, if necessary, change the batteries.

Smoke detectors are the single most important means of preventing house and apartment fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal — so families can escape. Smoke alarms are one of the best safety features you can buy and install to protect yourself, your family and your home.

**Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning. For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside the sleeping area.**

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning. For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside the sleeping area.

The U.S. Fire Administration recommends that smoke alarms be installed on the ceiling or 6-8 inches below the ceiling on side walls. Since smoke and many deadly gases rise, installing your smoke alarms at the proper level

will provide you with the earliest warning possible.

Also consider the age of smoke detectors in your residence. If you bought them 8-10 years ago, they should be replaced. Like most electrical devices, smoke alarms wear out. You may want to write the purchase date with a marker on the inside of your unit. That way, you'll know when to replace it.

Most of us will never have to deal with a house fire yet all of us, at one time or other, have probably left our smoke detectors inoperable, most likely without even knowing it.

Firefighters say that daylight-saving Sundays are a particularly good time to check detectors. They encourage residents to check their detectors as they go room to room changing the time on their clocks.

That's a good habit to get into, and this Sunday is as good a time to start as any.

## Daylight-saving is earlier this year

When you go to bed Saturday night, don't forget to set your clocks an hour ahead. Daylight-saving time begins at 2 a.m. March 11, three weeks earlier than last year. And it will hang on for an extra week in the fall, ending Nov. 4.

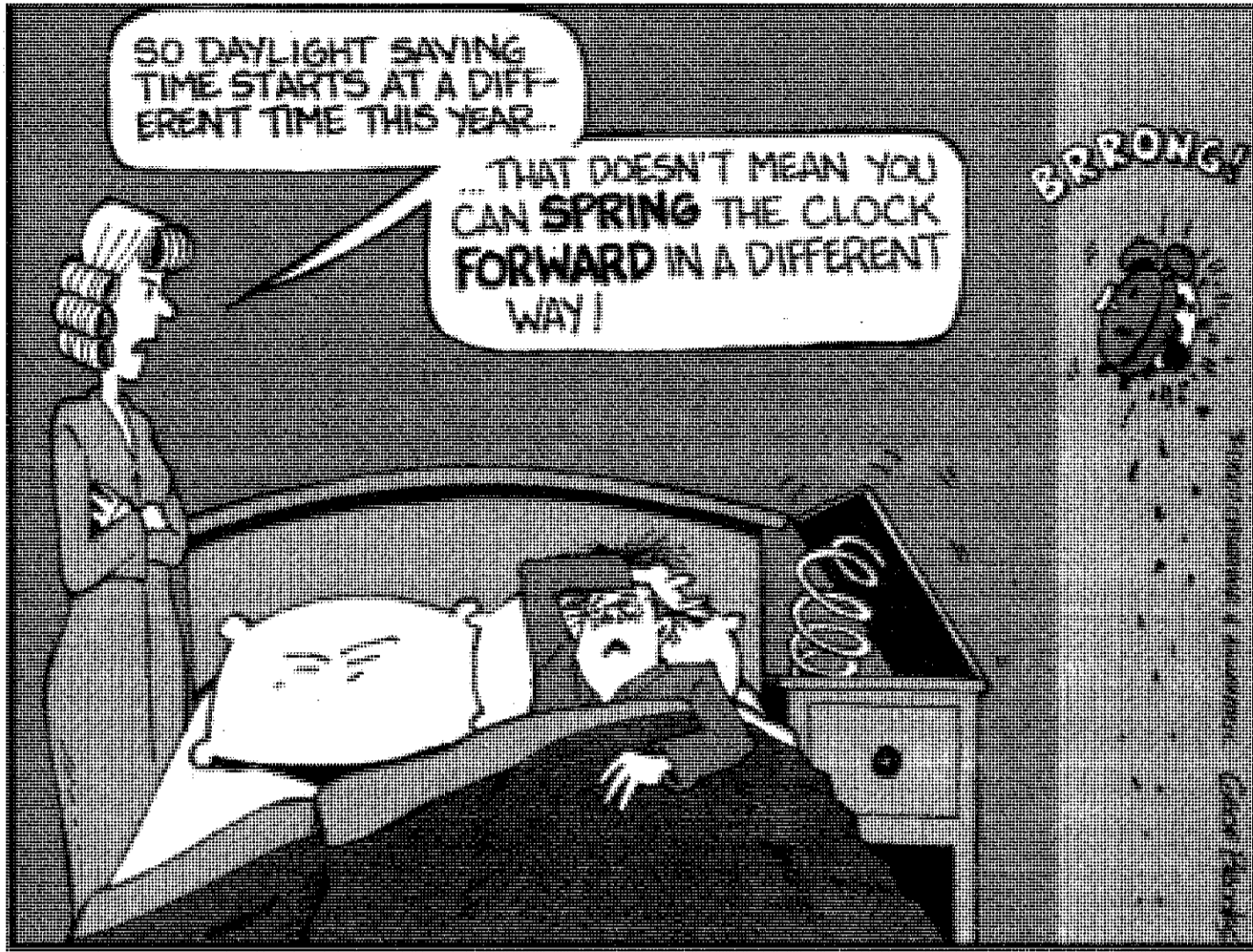
The new change was instituted by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The idea is to save energy by putting more daylight into the evening hours, when people are home and likely to be using more electricity.

The change has created a stir in the computer world. As an unintended consequence, many preset computer clocks will not reset properly. Computer clocks have been set to automatically adjust for changes to and from daylight-saving time based on the previous start and end cycle. In addition, computer-controlled systems, cell phones and other devices have been similarly programmed.

The problem has been compared to a mini-Y2K, the concern about computers possibly confusing the year 2000 with 1900. But computer experts seem to be confident that problems will be few because of special computer patches and service updates that will correct the problem. Some older operating systems will have to be manually readjusted. But most experts believe that the word has gone out and that adjustments will be made.

In a time when concern over energy conservation is a top national priority, daylight-saving time seems to be a sensible approach to conserving some energy. In addition, we all need to be mindful of our own personal energy use — dial down the thermostat, turn off lights, use energy-efficient bulbs and generally try to limit our energy use as much as possible.

So remember, spring forward Saturday night and check your clocks Sunday morning.



**LETTERS**

**Recalculate assessments**

I found it perplexing that our recent assessment contained an increase in value, thus an increase in property tax on our home.

Michigan leads the nation in unemployment, layoffs and property value decline. In fact, homes on our street alone have sat for sale for more than a year unsold. Local real estate agents admit that homeowners will need to price their homes at a lower price to sell and have indicated that home values have dropped over the past year, not increased.

So why is it that Westland homeowners are now faced with assessments on the rise? Perhaps our new interim mayor should request his assessment board to recalculate based on decreasing home values?

Brenda Gracin  
Westland

**Story was misleading**

I am sending this in response to the "Walker-Winter wins Blue Ribbon award" article in last week's paper. The way the article is written, readers are easily misled into thinking that Walker-Winter is part of the Canton district.

I'm angry that you waited until the third paragraph to clarify that it's a Wayne-Westland school. How about giving credit where and when credit is due?

As a Canton resident with children attending Walker-Winter, I've endured a lot of grief from members of my community who are convinced that all Plymouth-Canton schools are superior. Articles like this only fuel their fire.

You clearly waited too long to credit Wayne-Westland with this high honor.

Kim Laschober  
Canton

**God bless our heroes**

While watching the most recent City Council meeting, I was deeply moved when Normie Brazier came up and talked about her son the captain coming home. I listened carefully to everything she said. Normie, in no way should you feel guilty because your son is coming home.

We should all welcome him home with open arms. We have talked before about our sons serving in Iraq and how proud we are of them and all the troops.

Your son did his time, he served bravely. He went above and beyond his call to duty and now he is home. Congratulations. He is home safe, you are now able to talk to him in person and not on a phone from another country. We all wait for that day.

I can tell you now my son is on his second tour of Iraq. He was just named top Marine in his battalion. He will be home in August, and we are counting the days. We will not feel guilty because he is coming home, we will be filled with absolute joy and happiness because, just like your son, he will have done his time, served his country and, God willing, he will be home safe in August.

All of these men and women are heroes. Every day, troops come home safely and I can bet not one family feels guilty their loved ones are home. They feel the same way we did when David came home after his first tour of duty. We were relieved and

were finally able to breath normally. I did not have to stand at my front window, praying Marines were not walking up our driveway to tell us bad news.

As a parent of a Marine — or any soldier, for that matter — we worry daily. We watch the news and hear of troops getting killed or wounded, and we start worrying all over again.

I worry every day for all our troops. I have been to two Marine funerals this past year. I did not know them, but being in the family of a Marine, I felt I owed it to thank them in person. And that is why I went, to show my support for the family.

So to all the families of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, when I hear your loved ones are home, I am happy for you. We wait for that day. Feel honored they are safe and sound. Do not feel guilty. That is the last thing that any soldier's family would want you to do.

So until August, our worry is heavy on our hearts, but I am happy as hell to know troops are coming home... and ours will be home soon enough. Not soon enough for my wife, though.

God bless our troops and all of our heroes that are home.

Bud Somerville  
Westland

**Two-cent tax is 2-percent tax**

I would like to comment on an article in your *Westland Observer* on Feb. 11 by Darrell Clem. His article was on the so-called two-cent service tax.

I'm surprised that a newspaper reporter would not dig a little deeper than local barber shops for his tax information. It seems that most reporters are interviewing this type of service provider to down play the impact of this tax on most households.

I happened to be in a state that put in a service tax, where most people were thinking along the same lines as your reporter. You really need to look a little further too really see the impact of a service tax. I notice that our governor keeps mentioning this as a two-cent tax, where it is really 2 percent.

This is one way it makes it sound trivial to people. She said in her address that the service tax will amount to about the price of a cup of coffee to most people. I beg to differ on this statement.

Let's say you want to move into Westland, a growing, thriving city with good schools. You will need to purchase a house or rent (service) an apartment to live in while here. Notice I didn't include motels, as they are already taxed separately. The rent will be taxed, so this has to be added into your figures of cost to live in Westland.

Oh, you want to build instead? OK, the survey on your property is taxed (service), the title company is taxed (service), the real estate company is taxed (service), the digging of a basement is taxed (service) and the cement is taxed along with the people that pour it (service).

It doesn't stop there. The brick layer, the carpenter, the carpet layer, the plumber, the furnace installer, etc., are all taxing you for their services. You are paying for all the services that you need to build that house.

Now, let's say you purchase a house that is already built. As the builder had to pay the taxes, now you end up paying them. A

\$150,000 house will now cost you around \$3,000 more just to pay for the service taxes.

Now, if you are a business and want to build your company here, do you think your company would like to pay the extra \$20,000 for the \$1 million building they want to put up?

Would you like to move to Michigan, much less Westland, now? Just don't have your car break down or get into an accident in Michigan or again you will see what a tax on that service will cost you (wrecker, repairs, hospital services, doctors, lawyers, etc.).

You need to look at just what constitutes a service before agreeing to what this governor is proposing.

Oh, the state that I was living in at the time the service tax was put into place? After discovering just how much pressure it put on small businesses and the building industry, it was rescinded after only six months. However, the state made its money off the fees that the small businesses had to pay in order to get tax numbers from the state, so it still got rich.

Jack Stange  
Westland

**Concern for the troops**

Recent spin by supporters of Bush-Cheney Iraq policy have begun to argue that any effort to redeploy troops or guarantee troop readiness before deployment is, somehow, an attack on U.S. troops.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Our troops must carry out lawful orders and fulfill any mission they are assigned. The rest of us have to protect them by demanding that the politicians formulate sound military policy and give our troops the training and equipment they need.

Not only have Bush-Cheney and their supporters botched military and foreign policy, they refuse to change course and to commit the resources needed to support troops at the front or to care for them properly when they come home with debilitating wounds.

Only Democrats like John Murtha are acting responsibly in calling for both redeployment and adequate support for our soldiers.

Camron Michael Amin  
Berkley

**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**

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

Ginny Kowalski, principal of the William D. Ford Career Technical Center, about working on an innovative vehicle design.

**WESTLAND Observer**  
PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

**GANNETT**

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.



# A new heart brings a new start and a brighter future

Congestive heart failure. Dilated cardiomyopathy. Ventricular tachycardia. These are just a few of the labels I have shed in the past year of my life.

My name is David Hebestreit and I am 35. How does a 35-year-old, in otherwise good health, get to that point? Good question.

In 1996, I underwent brain surgery to repair an aneurysm. In 1997, I had open-heart surgery to replace heart valves destroyed by an infection developed during the brain surgery. Most recently, though, I had a heart transplant to replace the one that no longer pumped well enough to sustain life.

On March 5, 2006, after 88 days of waiting as a patient in the hospital, the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel seemed as though it would never again shine upon my face. In and out of the heart failure ICU, hooked up to a central line that fed life-supporting IV meds to my failing heart, I was at rock bottom.

Whatever the reasons, for the better part of 10 years, I dealt with a medical condition that I could never have fathomed as a young adult.

Remarkably, I did recover quickly after the first two surgeries. For the most part, I returned to normal activities. After open heart, because I was left with two mechanical heart valves, I could not play contact sports and was in constant fear of bleeding to death because of an anti-coagulant necessary to prevent clotting of the valves.

Over the years, I got used to the changes. I even grew accustomed to the ticking of the titanium valves that could be heard by anyone standing next to me in a quiet room.

I found the positives. Dogs and cats found it comforting. Friends and family found it interesting. Plus, I always had a story to tell. But, gone was any chance of my becoming an international spy or poker superstar.

Although the valves did their job, the initial damage done to the heart was irreparable. In 2001, I was accepted into the heart failure and transplant program at a local hospital. A transplant was vital. After 10 years of poor health, and seeing no progress in the aforementioned program, I came to one conclusion: I was responsible for my own health care, including selecting doctors, surgeons, and hospitals based on my needs and desired outcomes.

I learned that hospitals and doctors are the same as in any other profession. There are those that are good and those that are not so good. Getting a heart, though, is much the same as shopping for a digital camera.

The first retailer that you go to is going to do their best to insure that you buy from them. They are not in the business of pointing you down the

street to a competitor who can quickly deliver the same merchandise at a better price. They won't mind, either, if you miss out on a few hundred important photographs in the interim.

On March 6, 2006, I would learn why The Cleveland Clinic is the best cardiac care and transplant center in the nation, 12 years running. On this day, they accomplished what most refer to as a miracle. They found the perfect donor heart!

Since then, I have returned to playing and coaching soccer, as well as teaching high school English without feeling miserable. They did in a little under six months what had not been accomplished in the four years prior to my getting their opinion. Spectacular!

The most meaningful moment through all of this occurred the second night after transplant. During a shift change, as the incoming nurse was evaluating me, I asked if I could borrow his stethoscope because I noticed two things: First, the ticking of the valves was gone and second, that this heart functioned much differently than the one with which I was born.

He obliged, and, as seconds stretched into minutes, I was captivated by the strong and rhythmic beat of someone else's heart in my body. The tears ran down onto my chest as it became the most powerful moment in my life.

A miracle? Not really. According to the surgeon, it is more like replacing a spare tire on a car rather than working on the axle. Cut out the old one. Put in the new one.

The only miraculous aspect of this endeavor was what made it possible, the donation of the heart by the family of the person whose heart today pumps in my body.

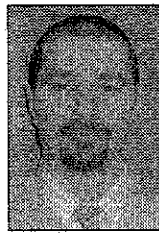
Assuredly, the countless lives touched by my transplant, I am certain, has been replicated many times over for each organ donated. What better than to be remembered for touching the lives of literally thousands of people after death?

Most of the time I tell this story for the entertainment value. This time, though, there is a different purpose. This time it is a call for anyone who reads this to consider organ donation. It is a simple, lifesaving act that each of us can accomplish.

Without this selfless act, I most certainly would not be writing this piece, teaching high school English, playing soccer, nor having dinner with my friends and family.

Cleveland Clinic heart-transplant #11 of 2006. CC heart-transplant #1,288 of all time. Registered organ donor. Happy. Healthy. Alive. These are just a few of the labels I can wear proudly for the rest of my life thanks to a real miracle, the gift of life via organ donation.

David Hebestreit of Livonia is a teacher and soccer coach at Livonia Churchill High School. For more information on organ donation, visit [www.giftoflifemichigan.org](http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org) or call (800) 482-4881.



David Hebestreit

## LETTERS

### Members just don't get it

Calling all Livonia residents who care about the Livonia Schools and its budget problems with the current board members! I urge all residents to start watching the board meetings on Monday nights at 7 p.m. and see your board members in action completely failing our tax dollars. As we all know, these members are our employees and they just don't get it when it comes to watching the spending problem. With complete exception to Steve King, who is the only one that questions the proposals brought forth to the board!

Last week, Mr. King saved the district \$28,000 in shipping costs for the new math course for K-4. Not one member questioned the monies for the shipping except Mr. King! Now with buses ... why not try a new four-cylinder bus; it's cheaper to buy, also cheaper to fuel! Oh wait, the bus garage doesn't want to learn a new engine style, they won't step out of the box. Three new tractors that are not necessary for about \$45,000 more that the district just doesn't have.

And the decline of enrollment still going up due to the Legacy. A close friend just pulled her daughter out of the Riley Upper Elementary two weeks ago due to problems not getting resolved and is now home schooling. I know myself I'm going to start investigating the home schooling programs out there!

So come on, Livonia residents, help out this election and let's fill those seats with people who question and care about the future of the schools!

Jenny Cupler  
Livonia

### Three-minute limit violates bylaws

The bylaws of Livonia's Board of Education require that public body to keep itself informed "about the wishes of the public." One wonders how that goal can be achieved when individual citizens are limited to speaking three minutes on all occasions at formal board meetings. Aside from being just plain nuts, it demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of the board's own policy.

Those bylaws state very clearly, "In order to permit a fair allotment of time to participants, the board shall have the option of limiting the time a person may address the board to twice during any one meeting for no more than five minutes each time." Note that the 10 minutes per meeting standard is an *option* that is not mandatory. It is also the absolute *minimum* time allocated to citizens of Livonia who wish to speak at board meetings.

It is true that, if 40 people are lined up to address the board, establishing some sort of time limitation makes practical sense. Otherwise, it does not.

When only a few wish to address the board,

there is no reason for the board to exercise its option of limiting public discussion by an individual citizen to 10 minutes. Indeed, there are circumstances when time should be limited only by the reasonableness and logic of this dialogue. Because understanding and resolution of conflict do not occur without adequate communication, primacy should be given to a citizen's right and obligation to fully express an opinion on the record at public meetings. When reasonable to do so, time should be a secondary concern.

It is also a matter of simple fairness, something too many on this board do not seem to understand, let alone practice. This community will continue to pay a harsh price for the intentional censorship of public input during discussion of the Legacy Initiative. The ill will created during that period is going to be with us for the foreseeable future. Continuing it with a three-minute rule inconsistently applied and at odds with existing bylaws simply rubs salt in an open wound.

The next time a bond issue is to be put on the ballot, it is a certainty that the board will not be keeping the public at arm's length.

Al Churchill  
Livonia

### Vote for Scheel, Freeman

To have 11 candidates apply for the vacated LPS school board seat, many who were well-qualified, is proof that so many are committed to this community. To have applicants state the importance of moving this district forward despite the uneasiness of the past year is something our current board has been working at and is a step in the right direction for the citizens of this community. I thank Mr. Hiltz for accepting this position and for unselfishly stepping up to help the kids of the Livonia Public Schools.

After watching the interviews, I had to stop and ask myself, what sets Rob Freeman and Lynda Scheel apart from others equally qualified in our community to sit on the board of education? It didn't take long to come up with the answer. Both Rob Freeman and Lynda Scheel have proven they can make tough decisions and stick by them for the greater good of our district.

Both Rob and Lynda continued their volunteer efforts outside their position as school board trustee despite a lawsuit and recall attempt. These are two individuals who have proven their commitment to the children of our school district, before, during and after the Legacy Initiative.

Please join me in re-electing Rob Freeman and Lynda Scheel as school board trustees May 8.

Maggie Feher  
Livonia

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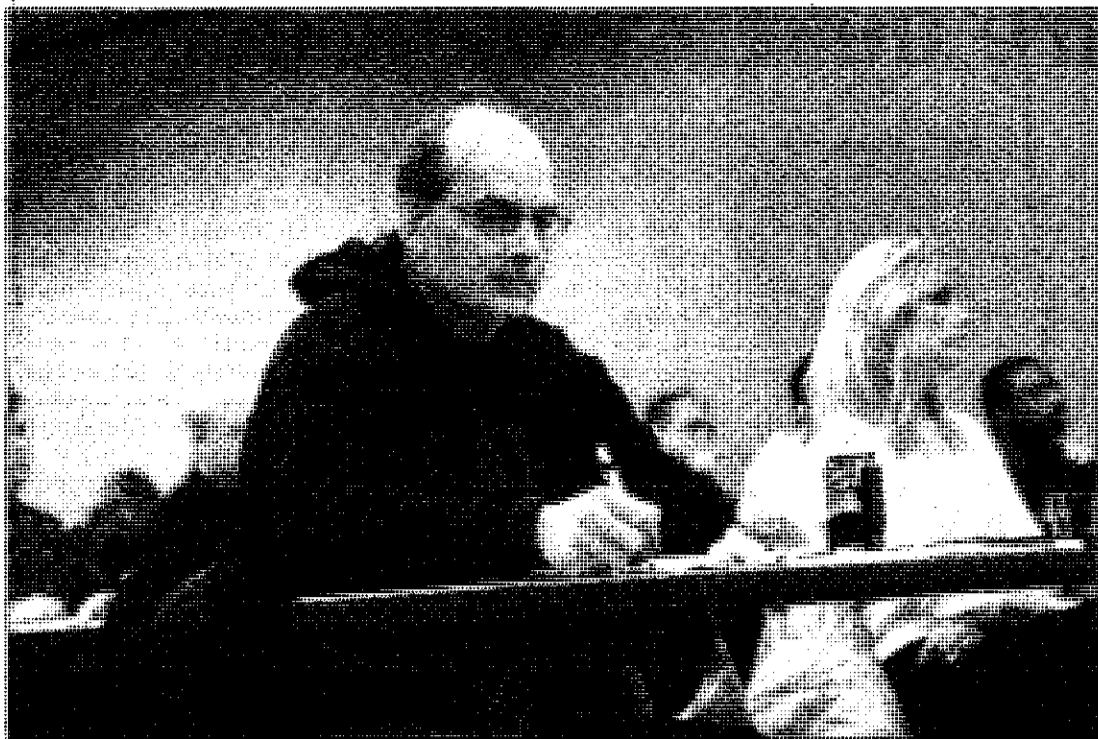
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Jeff Stevens of Westland takes notes during a Workers in Transition program at Schoolcraft March 1.

## Schoolcraft offers seminars for displaced workers

Workers who have been displaced, downsized, bought out or asked to leave their jobs early are invited to Schoolcraft College for a free Workers in Transition information session.

Sessions are 5-6:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center, Room 460. Free pizza and pop will be served before the session begins. The next sessions are scheduled for Thursday, April 5 and Tuesday, May 1.

The April 5 kickoff speaker

is Dianne Cojei, president of the Canton Chamber of Commerce; for May 1 it is Whitney McClellan, executive director of the Greater Novi Chamber of Commerce.

The informational event is free and directed at displaced workers looking for new options. Career counselors will talk about where to look for a new job; salaries and training requirements for some of today's better careers; how to earn college credit for life

experience; and how to apply for financial aid. Schoolcraft representatives will explain the variety of college class formats available, including online, hybrid, open entry/open exit, certificate programs requiring a year or less for training and continuing education courses.

Registration is required and enrollment for each session is limited. For more information or to register by phone, call 734-462-4479.

## SC Trustee Scholarships application deadline March 30

Current high school seniors, who will graduate in spring 2007, can apply now for a Schoolcraft Trustee Scholarship. The application deadline for the fall 2007 semester is March 30.

Seniors are eligible to apply for these scholarships if they have been officially admitted to Schoolcraft College. With the application, students must submit a seventh-semester high school transcript showing a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade-point average. A minimum ACT composite score of 18 also is required.

In fall 2006, the college granted 92 initial trustee scholarships and renewed 83 for second-year students. The amount awarded totaled approximately \$145,000.

Trustee Scholarships are awarded for the fall and winter semesters, in the amount of \$700 each semester. The award is renewable for the second year at Schoolcraft if the awardee maintains a 2.75 grade-point average for all Schoolcraft courses.

If students are not yet admitted, they can apply for college admission online through WebAdvisor on the Schoolcraft Web site at [www.schoolcraft.edu](http://www.schoolcraft.edu). Applications for the Trustee Scholarship should be available at area high schools. They also can be found at [http://www.schoolcraft.edu/pdfs/aid/2007\\_trustee\\_scholarship.pdf](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/pdfs/aid/2007_trustee_scholarship.pdf).

Regina Mosley, director of financial aid, said the college received more than 200 applications in 2006.

"We do look at grade-point averages and composite ACT scores when awarding scholarships," she said. "Candidates must be admitted to Schoolcraft and receive a student identification number. Then the scholarship application itself takes about five minutes to complete."

Mosley added that high school students who are taking classes at Schoolcraft because of special or dual enrollment must complete a new admission application.

## EMU hosts series of lectures on ethics

Eastern Michigan University's College of Business will host its inaugural Ethos Week celebration beginning Monday, March 12. Ethos Week, the first of its kind in the nation, will feature several guest speakers, including New York Times "Ethicist" columnist Randy Cohen.

"EMU's emphasis in business and education sets us apart from many business schools across the country," said David Mielke, dean of the College of Business. "Like other schools, we seek to achieve academic excellence, but we are equally committed to fostering an environment where students can learn to be ethical leaders in their future careers. Ethos Week is a fundamental component of our program, raising student awareness of ethical considerations in a variety of business and personal contexts."

Ethos Week begins March 12 with an open invitation for College of Business students, alumni, faculty, staff and local members of the business community to sign an ethos banner that bears the newly adopted school-wide Ethos Statement. The

Statement, written by students, faculty and staff, emphasizes six core values: integrity, honesty, trustworthiness, respect, learning and the work ethic.

"During the past several years, this country's business climate has shown that business leaders would benefit greatly from an understanding of personal and professional ethics," Mielke said. "Local business leaders and EMU alumni understand this need. This program exists because those individuals communicated a desire for it. Ethics training at undergraduate and graduate levels enables future business leaders to improve the future business climate."

In addition to Randy Cohen, the College of Business will host six local business leaders as speakers throughout the week. EMU students and the general public are welcome to attend the free lectures, scheduled in room 114 of the Gary M. Owen Building, 300 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti.

Scheduled speakers are: 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 13, Mary Kramer, publisher of Crain's Detroit Business.

5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, James Webb, chairman of Southfield-based AON Risk Services.

11 a.m. Wednesday, March 14, Karla Kretzchmer, human resources consultant.

5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, Lou Bitonti, president and chief executive officer of LD3 Event Management in Southfield.

11 a.m. Thursday, March 15, Harry Cendrowski, chief executive officer of Cendrowski Corporate Advisors in Bloomfield Hills.

5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15, David Carleton, chief executive officer of Plymouth-based Maximum Data Solutions.

12:30 p.m. Friday, March 16, Luncheon featuring Randy Cohen, columnist for the New York Times at EMU's Student Center, 900 Oakwood Street, Ypsilanti.

Tickets for the Cohen luncheon cost \$5 for EMU students or \$35 for general public and can be purchased by phone at (734)482-2282 or in person at the ticket office in the Student Center Convocation Center of Quirk Theatre. For more information, visit [www.eob.emich.edu](http://www.eob.emich.edu).

## Madonna University offers 'Power Lunches'

Learn about new trends and strategies for growing your business at Madonna University's new monthly "Power Lunches," beginning March 21. Designed for self-empowerment through education and advice from industry leaders, these lunches offer great networking opportunities.

The first Power Lunch is "Feed Your Brain for Success," 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, at Madonna's University Center, 14221 Levan, (North of Schoolcraft) in Livonia.

Biochemist Sandy Baumann is the featured speaker. She has been promoting "brain foods" for a healthier lifestyle for 18 years. She'll explain the link between nutrition and learning as well as strategies for enhancing your memory, improving sleep habits, reducing stress and boosting your ability to learn new tasks.

"From nutrition to the art of negotiation, each luncheon will deliver fresh approaches for cultivating your business," commented Joan Stephens, director of the Office of

Continuing Education and Professional Development and series organizer.

The cost for each lunch is \$15. Reservations should be made by calling 734-432-5804.

Future Power Lunches: Wed., April 18, 2007 Angela Riehn, Edward Jones investment representative "A Holistic Approach: How Your Financial Health Can Affect Your Business' Growth"

Wed., May 16, 2007 Any Clarke, educator "Portrait of a Successful Inventor"

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# Six days, six fires, 28 fire deaths! Be prepared

In the six days between Feb. 6 and 11, there were six fires that killed 19 children and nine adults from across the nation, including the nearby Ypsilanti apartment fire that killed three children. That fire started on a stovetop in the kitchen. A Texas house fire killed three small children and a man who tried to save them. In Kentucky house blaze killed a total of ten people, six of them children. A fire broke out in an upper floor bedroom in Tennessee that killed four children.

Everyone should sleep in homes that have smoke alarms. While 96 percent of U.S. homes have the lifesaving



Tom Kiurski

the homes not protected by smoke alarms. Is there any more motivation needed than that? Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling, and be tested monthly. Batteries should be changed annually, and units should be totally

replaced after ten years. Children should be taught at a young age some basic fire safety behaviors. If their clothing catches fire, they should automatically practice the "Stop, Drop and Roll" behavior. They should also know how to crawl low (simulating crawling under smoke) to their bedroom door, and take that path to the nearest exit door. They should also know how to crawl from their bed to their bedroom window and be able to open it without using their eyes. A real fire would give off smoke that would make it difficult to see through, and it would aggravate their eyes, making sight

nearly impossible.

Statistics tell us that most people feel that fire won't happen to them. They believe that it is usually someone else that will be struck by fire. I have responded to a number of fires in my years on the fire department, and I haven't found one family that felt they would have a fire destroy their lives. Planning is key to personal safety during any emergency. Plan how to get out of your house by going into every room with your family and discussing the escape. Doors are usually the fastest and easiest way out. If fire is blocking the exit, a secondary escape must

be used. In most cases, that

would be a window. Does the person in the bedroom know how to open the window easily, and can they get out safely in an emergency? Obviously, an infant cannot do this, and a more responsible person who sleeps nearby should be assigned the responsibility of getting the child out.

If you have family members who sleep upstairs, take a look out each window to see what the next step is. Some windows lead to a lower level roof, like a garage. By crawling onto the roof and to a low point, the ground may only be a dozen feet away. A neighbor may get

a ladder to help you off the roof, but jumping may be considered if fire threatens them. The best option is a box containing an emergency escape ladder kept under the bed, and practice using it. The ladder can be purchased for two- and three-story homes, and hangs from the window, supplying the climber with steps to lower them to safety.

Safety is something we can all spend some time thinking about. Better yet, involve the family every step of the way so they know what to do if fire strikes.

Tom Kiurski is a Livonia firefighter.

# Nominate an outstanding volunteer by March 16

Do you know of a tireless volunteer, committed to improving the community around him or her, who deserves to be recognized for their unending efforts? Now is your chance to honor them. United Way for Southeastern Michigan is accepting nominations to recognize metro Detroit's outstanding volunteers at Celebrate Volunteers ... Recognizing HomeTown Heroes, a special recognition event held on April 16.

The annual luncheon takes place during National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, and provides individuals and organizations an opportunity to show appreciation for those who enrich our community through volunteerism. Nominations are being

accepted in eight categories that honor youth, young adults, and retirees as well as outstanding businesses or groups who volunteer.

To obtain nomination forms and guidelines, please log on to [www.uwsem.org/celebrate](http://www.uwsem.org/celebrate) or contact United Way's George W. Romney Volunteer Center at 313-226-9430, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Nominations must be received at United Way no later than 5 p.m., March 16, 2007.

The award categories are as follows:

■ **Bernie Firestone Award** (Sponsored by United Way for Southeastern Michigan's Labor Department) - Recognizes an out-

standing rank and file member of a local labor union dedicated to community service. A \$1,000 donation is given to an agency of the winner's choice.

■ **CorPLUS Award** (Sponsored by the Junior League of Detroit) - Recognizes a retiree whose volunteer efforts exemplify the highest standards of service that benefits metropolitan Detroit. A \$1,000 donation is given to an agency of the honoree's choice.

■ **Exemplary Group Service Award** (Sponsored by United Way for Southeastern Michigan) - Recognizes families, couples or groups who strive to improve the lives of neighbors, friends and their

community through volunteer work. A \$500 donation will be made to an agency of the winning group's choice.

■ **Governor's Honor Roll** (Sponsored by the Junior League of Birmingham) - This non-competitive award recognizes individuals for outstanding community service, selected by the organization's they serve.

■ **Heart of Gold Award** (Sponsored by United Way for Southeastern Michigan) - This has become one of the most distinguished volunteer recognitions in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Awardees receive a 14 carat gold heart in tribute to their dedication.

■ **Outstanding Youth Award** (Sponsored by United Way for Southeastern Michigan) - Recognizes youth ages 12-18 who are taking action to make our world a better place to live through volunteering.

■ **Young Adult Award of Excellence** (Sponsored by United Way for Southeastern Michigan) - Recognizes adults ages 19-25 who represent the highest standards of service, leadership, commitment, and character in their community. A \$250 donation will be made to an agency of the winner's choice.

■ **Outstanding Business Award** (Sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Corporate Volunteer Council and United Way) -

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## Norsemen halt Churchill tournament run, 3-2

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

### PREP HOCKEY

Livonia Churchill's glorious hockey season ended unexpectedly Wednesday night in the Division I quarterfinals at the St. Clair Shores Civic Arena. The No. 1-ranked Chargers stormed back with a pair of third-period goals by Tony Ross to erase a 2-0 deficit, only to have Grosse Pointe North's Alexander Davenport notch the game-winner with only 2:51 remaining to give the Norsemen a 3-2 triumph.

Churchill finishes at 23-3-2 overall, while North, 14-13-1, advances to the state semifinals against Marquette, 6 p.m. Friday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena. North was only one of two teams to beat Churchill during the regular season - 3-1 on Jan. 27 - despite being outshot 31-13. The shots in the rematch were more evenly distributed with Churchill holding a 19-15

edge. "We played well enough to win, but not smart enough to win - we hurt ourselves," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "This time they (North) we better defensively down low. They were more aggressive and physical around the net than the first time." North took advantage of a Churchill penalty in the opening minute to score on power-play when Ben Scarfone's slap shot from the left point got through at 1:53. Davenport and Jeff Rohrkemper drew assists.

Churchill, meanwhile, couldn't convert on three power-play opportunities before the period ended and Nate Milam's backhand grazed off the post. In the second period, Davenport set up Dante Deseranno on a pretty pass on a two-on-one rush, scoring a short-handed goal at 5:06 of the second period to give the Norsemen a 2-0 lead. North sophomore goaltender Eric Rohrkemper also denied the speedy Milam on a breakaway attempt with 4:41 left in the same period.

"We work on breakaways in practice daily and I think it paid off," said North coach Scott Lock. "They (Churchill) were looking for a turnover and chip it up the ice. We knew number 11 (Milam) had good speed and good hands. That certainly was a big save." Faced with the exact same situation just three days earlier in a 3-2 regional overtime win over Troy, the Chargers came out flying in the final period and knotted the count at 2-all.

PLEASE SEE **PREP HOCKEY, B2**

## Sidelines

### Terek 3-peats

Livonia native Paul Terek became the first three-time winner at the 2007 USA Indoor Combined Events Championships held Sunday at the University of North Carolina. His previous titles came in 2003 and 2004. The 2004 U.S. Olympian from Franklin High and Michigan State University led the men's heptathlon from Day 1 with 3,267 points after four events. He held off 2002 NCAA Division III decathlon champion Chris Boyles to win his third indoor crown with 5,960 points to Boyles' 5,702. The runner-up at last year's event, Terek captured three individual events including the long jump (23 feet, 5.5 inches), pole vault (17-5.5) and 1,000-meter run (2:44.39).

### Clement honored

Coe College (Ia.) senior wrestler Brian Clement (Livonia Churchill) earned All-America honors last weekend with an eighth-place finish last weekend in the 125-pound class at the NCAA Division III Nationals held at the Five Flags Convention Center in Dubuque, Ia. Clement decided Munkhbaatar Baatar of St. John's (Minn.) College, 6-4, in the consolation quarterfinals. Rated seventh in the final Division III poll, Clement ended the year 32-13 overall with a career record of 93-58.

### SHS frosh champs

Livonia Stevenson's freshman team, coached by Eric Kaltz, captured first place in the Western Lakes Activities Association cheer competition Feb. 24 at Northville High School. Members of the squad include: Courtney Adkins, Kristina Allen, Shannon Angel, Rachel Buttigieg, Jordan Cumbo, Chelsea Davis, Lauree Glover, Heather Hourigan, Emily Korpela, Casey Krist, Sara Lubanski, Holly Mykolaitis, Ashley Naubert, Gina Pearson, Hannah Smith, Amanda Sonkiss and Tiffany Strobl.

### Girls fastpitch

Registration for the 2007 Westland Lightning girls fastpitch softball program (ages 8-16) is being held from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays at the Westland Youth Athletic Association Compound, 6050 Farmington Road, Westland. Birth certificates are required. For more information, call (734) 421-0640; or visit www.wyaa.org. The Livonia Storm girls fastpitch softball team is seeking more players to fill current and new teams to attend tryouts on Saturday, March 24 (location and time to be determined). For exact times and locations (based on weather), visit www.livoniastorm.com. For more information, call Ken Jewell at (734) 266-9109; or e-mail kjewell@livoniastorm.com.

## Luke's No. 1

Spartan guard sets record in 48-36 win over rival Churchill

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Luke Knochel added his own chapter to the history of Livonia Stevenson boys basketball in Monday's Class A district opener. After struggling early, the 5-foot-9 senior ended up with a game-high 27 points and became the school's all-time scoring leader in the Spartans' 48-36 victory over rival Livonia Churchill. Knochel entered the game needing only 11 points to tie the career scoring mark of 1,112 established by Dave Hall (1977-80), who later went on to play quarterback and letter in three different sports at the University of Michigan. Knochel's 3-pointer with 4:22 left in the third quarter broke the record and gave the Spartans a 26-18 advantage. Knochel, 9-of-11 from the free-



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson senior Luke Knochel drives through the middle past Churchill's Ryan Rosenick and Andrew Vagnetti (22) during the opening round of the Class A district tournament.

PLEASE SEE **LUKE, B4**

## Livonia teams garner spot in state finals

In its first season of being de-unified, two Livonia gymnastics teams - Blue and Red - are headed to the state finals this weekend at Troy Athens. Host Canton earned one of the four spots by finishing first in Saturday's regional. The Chiefs scored a team-best 143.800 points to edge Livonia Blue, which scored 143.650. Livonia Red placed third with 142.650, while Northville earned an at-large berth in fourth with 142.200. Last year, Livonia's combined team consisting of members from Churchill, Franklin and Stevenson high schools, finished runner-up to Tri-Farmington in the state finals. Team competition begins at 4 p.m. Friday at Athens followed by Division I and Division II individual action at

### PREP GYMNASTICS

noon and 3:30 p.m., respectively, Saturday, also at Athens. Livonia Blue freshman Emily Quint was the Division I all-around champion at Plymouth with a total of 37.85 points. She took first on the uneven bars (9.2); second on floor exercise (9.7); tied for second on vault (9.3); and fifth on balance beam (9.35). Livonia Red's Andrea Pisani placed third overall with 37.35 thanks to a first on floor exercise (9.725); second on beam (9.525); fourth on bars (9.15); and seventh on vault (8.95). Teammate Paula Guzik earned a fifth in the all-around (36.675). She placed first on beam (9.625); tied Quint for second on vault (9.3); and took fourth

on floor (9.5). Blue's Meghan Powers earned a sixth in the Division I all-around (36.275) with her best finish coming on beam (8.45) to go along with a sixth on bars (8.875). In the Division II all-around, Livonia Blue's Laura Nomura took third with 35.425. She was runner-up on vault (9.05); third on floor (9.1); and fifth on beam (9.075). Blue's Kelly Tapella also qualified in two individual events after finishing second on bars (9.05) and sixth on floor (8.8). Other Livonia individual state qualifiers included Red's Brittany Swazey, seventh on vault (8.5); Blue's Katie Bridge, eighth on floor (8.75); and Red's Margarita Lazarevska, eighth on vault (8.45).

## Glenn's O'Hara, Trojans' Fecso reach quarters

It took the state champion to eliminate Westland John Glenn's Justin O'Hara in the quarterfinal round of the MHSAA Division 1 boys singles bowling finals held Saturday at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights. Abed Daher of Woodhaven needed three games to beat the Glenn junior, 229-246, 205-195, 212-187. O'Hara reached the match-play round of 16 by finishing 15th out of a field of 60. His total of 1,285 included a six-game block of 190-213-172-223-219-268. O'Hara then captured his first match against Jeremy Lapak of Sterling Heights Stevenson by scores of 212-212 (49-38 tiebreaker), 201-247, 190-166. In the Division 2 girls singles finals Saturday at Nottke's Bowl in Battle Creek, Livonia Clarenceville's Danielle Fecso was also a quarterfinalist. Ashlee Mefford of Coldwater ousted the senior captain in three games, 214-168, 194-213, 279-205. Fecso finished fifth in the six-game qualifying block with a total of 1,246 on games of 207-234-234-195-191-185. In the round of 16, Fecso ousted Jody Wycech of Harper Woods Regina in two games, 206-167, 210-185. Teammate Kayla Barber, a junior, missed the match-play cut after finishing 25th out of 60 with a total of 1,104 on games of 171-180-188-170-169-226. Livonia Ladywood junior Jenelle Farris was 41st in the qualifying with a total of 1,019 on games of 180-171-172-149-179-168. Clarenceville's lone qualifier in Division 2 boys singles was senior Andrew Abbott, who was tied for 31st in the qualifying block with a total of 1,1159 on games of 199-177-190-214-183-196. Jared Ball of Jackson Lumen Christi won the boys title, while Felicia Goll of Regina took the girls crown.

## Rockets' near-miss

Cougars edge John Glenn in five games

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

For a moment last Saturday, dreams of a long and successful postseason run became hazy in the minds of Garden City volleyball coach John Pace and his players. The Cougars were up against it - literally - in their Class A district final against Westland John Glenn. All of a sudden, they were faced with an unexpected do-or-die situation. Thankfully for Pace and Garden City, junior setter Christina Seward (33 assists, eight kills) finally provided what the Cougars missed throughout the see-saw five-game match with the Rockets - a string of service points. Leading just 8-7 in the fifth and deciding nailbiter at Ypsilanti High School, Seward reeled off two aces

among five points to help Garden City finally take care of the upstart Rockets 15-9 and win the match, 3-2. "It was nerve-wracking, but it was fun," Seward said after the district title win, which advanced Garden City (42-6-3) into this Saturday's regional semifinal at Ypsilanti Lincoln. "I just tried to hit my spots and serve it aggressive to them." According to Pace, her clutch serving "wasn't anything unexpected. The timeliness of it was fantastic, though." Actually, serving the clinching point for GC was freshman outside hitter Stephanie Stevens, with senior right-side hitter Karra Cappelli providing the kill. "We played the best volleyball of our season today," Rockets first-year coach Julian Wargo. "We brought everything



John Glenn's Virginia Butler goes up for the kill with Garden City's Danielle Campbell defending in Saturday's Class A district championship at Ypsilanti.

PLEASE SEE **VOLLEYBALL, B3**

# Late Charger flurry yields regional title

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

## PREP HOCKEY

For nearly 38 minutes, Livonia Churchill's No. 1-ranked hockey team couldn't find the right combination to unlock Troy High goaltender Colin Bronsteen.

The Chargers found themselves down 2-0 and one period away from elimination in the Division I state tournament in Saturday's regional final at the Dearborn Indoor Skating Center's Kilpatrick Arena.

But Churchill scored twice in the final 7:04 and tallied the game-winner just 1:47 into the first 8-minute overtime to beat the upstart Colts, 3-2, and advance to Wednesday night's state quarterfinal against Grosse Pointe North 7:30 p.m. at St. Clair Shores Civic Arena.

"I thought we were playing well, but we had a couple of bad breaks, a couple of bad bounces," said Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni, whose team is 23-2-2 overall. "I felt we could wear them down. After we scored the first goal I could see our guys pick it up. We never panicked and nobody tried to

do it all by themselves.

"We didn't change one thing during the course of the game. We wanted to get as much traffic in front of the net and get the puck deep behind their goal. We were bound to get one."

The Chargers, who outshot Troy 42-13 for the game and 18-4 in the final period, pulled to within one, 2-1, on Josh Proben's slap shot from the right circle. Dustin Wischmeyer and Tony Ross drew assists.

Then came the play of the night.

Junior Nate Milam made a scintillating end-to-end rush out of his own end and deked a Troy defender just inside the blueline and slipped a backhand past Bronsteen with only 3:19 remaining to knot the game at 2-all.

The Chargers followed with power-play opportunity with 2:02 to go, but the man-advantage lasted only 1:17 when Churchill's Garrett Miencier was sent off for slashing with 43.8 remaining in regulation.

"We talked about killing off the penalty (in the overtime)

and I told them if we killed it off, we'd win the hockey game," Mazzoni said.

The Churchill coach was right on the mark as Milam ripped a low driving slap shot from the left point that eluded the Troy netminder, and the Chargers celebrated their first regional title since 1999.

"Nate (Milam) is a phenomenal hockey player," Mazzoni said. "Right now he's just more focused."

"I'm happy for the kids. This has been the most enjoyable season I've had in coaching and I have a kid on the way... life is good."

Despite being outshot 10-3 in the first period, Troy led 1-0 on Kevin Taki's high wrist shot from the left circle that caught Churchill goaltender Scott Lewan off-guard. The goal came directly off a face-off won by teammate Mark Sikorski.

And with 1:17 to go in the second period, Troy's when Stephen Duane slipped in and poked away a slow-rolling puck that Lewan couldn't clear.

The Colts, despite being two goals ahead midway through the final period, couldn't fend off the constant pressure applied by the

Chargers and eventually gave up the equalizer.

"I think their depth wore us down," Troy first-year coach Tom Zimmerman said. "Our goalie was hot, but once they scored, it was like a waterfall. It was hard to stop. We had a golden opportunity in the overtime on the power play, but we did not get a shot."

The Colts committed themselves to playing defense and waiting for a Churchill mistake. The strategy worked for the most part.

"We always kept a forward back," Zimmerman said. "It depends on the team. We don't do it all the time, but we had to against a high-powered team (like Churchill) because we knew they could score a lot of goals."

Troy High, in its first season since being de-unified by the MHSAA with neighbor Athens, finished the year a respectable 17-5-5 overall.

"We had real good senior leadership, especially in practice," Zimmerman said. "I'm pleased with the way we developed this season as a team."

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

### BOYS BASKETBALL DISTRICT PAIRINGS

**CLASS A**  
at LIVONIA STEVENSON  
Friday, March 9: Livonia Stevenson vs. Redford Hurston, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals at Detroit Cass Tech vs. Detroit Central district champion.)  
at ROMULUS  
Thursday, March 8: Garden City vs. Ann Arbor Huron, 5:30 p.m.; Belleville vs. Romulus, 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday, March 10: Championship final, 7 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals at Ypsilanti Lincoln vs. Dearborn district champion.)

**CLASS D**  
at REDFORD COVENANT CHRISTIAN  
Thursday, March 8: Detroit Westside Christian Academy vs. Lutheran High Westland, 6 p.m.; Westland Huron Valley Lutheran vs. Redford Covenant Christian, 8 p.m.  
Friday, March 9: Championship final, 6 p.m. (Winner advances to the regional semifinals at Hillsdale Academy vs. Webberville district champion.)

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL REGIONAL PAIRINGS**  
(all Saturday, March 10)  
**CLASS A**  
at WEST BLOOMFIELD  
Semifinals: Livonia Churchill vs. Farmington, 10 a.m.; Novi vs. Farmington Hills Mercy, noon.  
Championship final: Approximately 2 p.m. (Winner advances to the state quarterfinals 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 13 at Saline vs. Hartland regional champion.)

**CLASS B**  
at MILAN  
Semifinals: Carleton-Airport vs. Riverview, 11 a.m.; Livonia Ladywood vs. Dearborn Divine Child, 1 p.m.  
Championship final: Approximately 3 p.m. (Winner advances to the state quarterfinals Tuesday, March 13 at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep vs. St. Clair regional champion.)

**CLASS D**  
at AUBURN HILLS OAKLAND CHRISTIAN  
Semifinals: Lutheran High Westland vs. Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett, 10 a.m.; Auburn Hills Oakland Christian vs. Birmingham Roeper, noon.  
Championship final: Approximately 2 p.m. (Winner advances to the state quarterfinals Tuesday, March 13 at Almont vs. Port Hope Community regional champion.)

### MICHIGAN METRO GIRLS HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

at LIVONIA'S EDGAR ARENA  
Thursday, March 8  
Ply-Canton-Salem vs. Ann Arbor, 7 p.m.  
Ladywood vs. Kingswood, 8:45 p.m.

Friday, March 9  
MMGSHL championship at Edgar Arena, 7 p.m.  
PREP WRESTLING INDIVIDUAL STATE FINALS at PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS  
Thursday, March 8  
Round 1, 2:45 p.m.  
Friday, March 9  
Round 2, 8:30 a.m.; Round 3, 11 a.m.; Round 4, 2 p.m.; Semifinals, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, March 10  
Round 6, 8:30 a.m.; Round 7, 10:10 a.m.; Round 8, noon; Finals, 4:45 p.m.

**BOYS SWIMMING**  
Friday, March 9  
Division I state preliminaries at EMU's Jones Natatorium, noon.  
Saturday, March 10  
Division I state finals at EMU's Jones Natatorium, noon.

**GYMNASTICS STATE FINALS at TROY ATHENS**  
Friday, March 9  
Team competition, 4 p.m.  
Saturday, March 10  
Division I individual, noon.  
Division II individual, 3:30 p.m.

**MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL**  
Thursday, March 8  
Madonna vs. Urbana (Ohio) at Pace, Fla. (2), 1 p.m.  
Friday, March 9  
Madonna vs. Judson College (Ill.) at Bay Minette, Ala. (2), 11 a.m.

Saturday, March 10  
Madonna vs. Fisher (Mass.) at Pensacola, Fla. Catholic (2), 10 a.m.  
**WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL**  
(Tucson, Ariz. Invitational Games)  
Thursday, March 8  
Madonna vs. Judson (Ill.), 6 p.m.

Madonna vs. William Penn (Pa.), 8:30 p.m.  
**ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
Thursday, March 8  
Whalers at Windsor Spitfires, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, March 9  
Whalers at Erie Otters, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 11  
Whalers vs. Soo Greyhounds at Compuware Arena, 2 p.m.

# Szwed goal keeps Ladywood afloat

Livonia Ladywood found a way to win in the quarterfinal round of the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League playoffs on Monday.

Laura Szwed figured in all three goals, including an assist on the game-winner by Heather Sartorius with 10:53 to go in the final period, as the Blazers edged Harper Woods Regina, 3-2, at Livonia's Edgar Arena.

Ladywood, now 17-2-1 overall, advances to tonight's semifinal round against Bloomfield Hills Kingswood. Game time is 8:45 at Edgar Arena. The other semifinal pits regular season champion Plymouth-Canton-Salem against Ann Arbor at 6 p.m. The championship game is slated for 7 p.m. Friday at Edgar.

"I'm pleasantly happy we won because they (Regina) are

a good all-around team," Ladywood coach Bruce Peck said. "We played a solid game."

Szwed scored unassisted at 1:04 of the first period, but Regina's Marissa LaValley answered at 2:09 to make it 1-1.

Szwed then notched her 40th goal of the year from. Brittney Holtz and Heather Sartorius 8:56 of the second period, only to have the Saddletes' Alex Quilan knot

the count again at 2-all at 13:42.

Sartorius tallied the deciding goal 4:07 into the final period from Szwed and Maria Rotondo.

Ladywood netminder Michelle Wyniemko stopped 22-of-24 shots.

Regina's Tori Bogen made 23 saves on the night as the Saddletes were swept in the season series by the Blazers, 3-0.

## PREP HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

Ross popped in a rebound at 2:03 of the third with Kody Strong and Garrett Miencier assisting. Ross then got the game-tying goal on a wrap-around rebound with Josh Proben drawing the assist at 5:01.

"When a goal is scored against your power play, it deflates you," Mazzoni said. "But we really felt that after we got the first one, it was only a matter of time before we'd get the next one. Tony (Ross) was 'Johnny-on-the-Spot.' His line-

mates were working hard and there were pucks laying around. Some kids have the knack for that."

With Churchill applying pressure late in the game, North got the break it was looking for with only three minutes remaining.

Davenport stole the puck at the blueline from a Charger defenseman and raced down the ice, flipping a shot top-shelf over the shoulder of Churchill goaltender Scott Lewan.

The Chargers pulled Lewan for the extra attacker with just over a minute left, and had two decent attempts, but North withstood the pressure and held on for the win.



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## Farmington ends Franklin's bid in Class A final at Southfield

Livonia Franklin made quite a run in Saturday's Class A district girls volleyball tournament hosted by Southfield High.

The Patriots earned victories over Redford Union (25-20, 25-22, 25-9) and Livonia Stevenson (25-16, 23-25, 25-16, 25-23) before running out of steam in Saturday's championship match against Farmington High (25-27, 23-25, 12-25).

Kaitlyn McKenna, a 6-foot-1 senior, led Farmington, now 29-20-5 overall, with 13 ace serves, 11 blocks and 15 kills.

"Our preparation during the week concentrated mainly on

defense," Franklin first-year varsity coach Linda Jimenez said. "We wanted to try and match Stevenson's defense, which is great, and be ready for Farmington's big hitters. We also talked about 'bringing it' and being aggressive right from the start, and we did."

Franklin was led by senior Liz Dempsey's 33 kills (.391 percentage) and 29 digs on the day. Other Patriot leaders included Laura Marshall, 26 kills (.456) and 18 digs; Ashley Price, 22 kills (.264) and 10 digs; and junior setter Kelly Powers, 70 assist-to-kills.

Among the defensive standouts were Amy McGaughey (19

digs), Jenna Boettcher (17 digs) and Andrea McCall (13 digs).

"The Stevenson match was exciting and rewarding," Jimenez said. "We want to build a competitive volleyball program like Stevenson's."

"Against Farmington we let a 21-17 lead slip away in the first game, but battled back in Game Two and fell short. I'm proud to say that we did not lose from a lack of effort, we battled."

Franklin ended its season at 16-19-4 overall.

"We'll miss our seniors as players, but more as great individuals with high morals and

outstanding leadership," Jimenez said. "They will be truly missed."

Meanwhile, Stevenson finished the year at 21-16-2 overall.

The Spartans got a team-high 26 assists from setter Jill Flaughner, while the defense was led by Jordan Pilut (16 digs) and Amber Sharp (13 digs).

"Even though our goals for the season did not come true, I'm pleased and proud of the girls I had this season," Stevenson coach Kelly Graham said. "They continued to improve throughout the season and were peaking at the right time in the end."

Kelly Snitchler led in kills with 10 followed by Meg Iafraite (eight), Laura Khalil (seven) and Hannah Diebel (six).

"We did not plan on have a starter out due to injury and another player gone for the two most important dates of the season," Graham said. "However, moving Hannah (Diebel) to middle for districts and starting a sophomore JV player in Brooke Knochel at the district match - they both did a fantastic job."

"The entire team worked hard, gave everything they could, and were a great bunch of girls to work with."



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Palace-bound

The Wayne Memorial trio of Jeff Elswick (foreground), Jamie Preiss (standing) and Chad Dunn will compete today at the Palace of Auburn Hills in the Division 1 individual state finals.

### VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE B1

we could. I'm very proud of my kids."

The Cougars won the opener 25-19 and led 18-12 in Game 2 before Glenn started to come on - particularly middle hitters Brittany Holbrook (15 kills) and Virginia Butler (11 kills).

The Rockets came back to win the second game, 25-23.

"We were a little tight today and they were loose," Pace said. "They played tremendous volleyball. They got to a lot of balls that we're used to getting down and that tightened us up a little bit."

After Garden City took Game 3 by a 25-18 score, the Rockets bounced back yet again to even the match at 2-2, taking the fourth game 25-22.

In the deciding game, the Cougars started to get back into an aggressive rhythm, keyed by the always-strong presence of Cappelli (12 kills, nine digs) and senior middle blocker Courtney Provencher (13 kills, four aces, 14 digs).

Wargo, whose team ended the season 14-19-5, said the Cougars were merely deeper and more dangerous on offense.

"Their ability to hit hard and tip, how they mixed up their attack made it difficult for us to defend against," said Wargo, whose team reached the dis-

trict final with a 25-16, 25-13, 25-21 triumph over Belleville thanks to the timely serving of Kija Colts, good ball distribution from Katie Tratar and a spark defensively off the bench from Aranda Phare.

But the fact Garden City is moving on doesn't diminish what the Rockets accomplished against the favored Cougars.

"We played not just possibly the best game of our lives," Wargo said, "but I think (with) the most heart. It just wasn't enough today."

And that is fine with Provencher, who breathed a sigh of relief after the clincher.

"We're moving on to regionals, bigger and better things," Provencher said. "I wasn't expecting to come in here and have it be a cakewalk and it wasn't. It was a good game."

### GC sweeps Wayne

In the semifinal Saturday, the Cougars took care of Wayne Memorial by scores of 25-14, 25-11, 25-15.

Wayne coach Kevin Miller said his team displayed a lot of spirit against the Cougars, particularly seniors Kellie Newsted, Stacy Stone and Olivia LaFortune, along with juniors Claire Moro and Chelsea Randles.

"From the beginning of the season to now," Miller said, "my team has improved dramatically. They're playing better as a team and they're hustling."

## Ladywood beats Catholic League nemesis Notre Dame Prep in final

Seniors once again played a pivotal role in Livonia Ladywood's Class B district volleyball tournament conquest last Saturday at Beverly Hills-Detroit Country Day.

The third-ranked Blazers improved to 46-12-2 overall with a victory in five games over Catholic League nemesis Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, 28-30, 25-17, 22-25, 25-22, 15-13.

Ladywood, which captured its sixth straight district championship under coach Erin Craggs, moves on the regional semifinals, 1 p.m. this Saturday at Milan against another Catholic League foe, Dearborn Divine Child. The other semifinal, at 11 a.m., pits Carleton-Airport against Riverview. (The finals are set for 3 p.m.)

Seniors Lauren Boehmer and Erin Henneberger recorded 16 and 10 kills, respectively, in the victory. Another senior, Becca Zajac, paced the defense with 17 digs, while senior setter Megan Hodges recorded 36 assist-to-

kills.

"We have strong senior leadership, they refuse to lose at this point of the season because every point, every game and every match is an elimination situation," Craggs said.

Ladywood overcame the sterling play 5-foot-9 junior Molly Coldren, the Fighting Irish's All-State junior outside and middle hitter.

In the semifinals, Ladywood ousted Bloomfield Hills Kingswood, 25-9, 25-22, 25-19, while Notre Dame Prep eliminated Livonia Clarenceville, 25-20, 25-12, 25-11.

Senior Shannon McNeilly was 7-of-7 serving with five kills for the Trojans (5-19-1).

Junior Amanda Moody added 13 digs and four kills, while Amber Mills was 10-for-10 serving with three aces and two blocks.

### CLASS B DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL

### OVER 30 HOCKEY

#### LIVONIA MEN'S OVER 30 HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYOFF STANDINGS (as of March 4)

##### Fairmag/Fitzpatrick/Foglietti Division

Livonia Auto Body 3-3-3/9 points

Zaschak Enterprises, LLC 4-4-0/8 points

Stante Excavating 4-4-0/8 points

Coldwell Banker/G&G Plumb. 3-5-1/7 points

LeBlanc/Roskelly/St. Croix Division

Hunt's Ace Hardware 6-0-2/14 points

D&G Heating & Cooling 5-1-2/12 points

LaSalle Bank 3-4-1/7 points

Daily Restaurant 0-7-1/1 point

### PREP VOLLEYBALL

#### 2007 ALL-METRO CONFERENCE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

**First team:** Katie Wiegand, Sr., Macomb Lutheran North (MVP); Kristen Beckwell, Sr., Lutheran North; Rachel Thomas, Jr., Lutheran North; Becca Refenes, Soph., Lutheran Westland; Kayla Gieschen, Sr., Lutheran Westland; Lauren Schweske, Sr., Lutheran Westland (at-large); Sarah Kauper, Sr., Bloomfield Hills Kingswood; Erin Kelley, Sr., Kingswood; Samantha Troyanovich, Sr., Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett; Carrie Taylor, Sr., Liggett; Tami Ross, Sr., Clawson; Katie Ross, Jr., Clawson; Shannon McNeilly, Sr., Livonia Clarenceville; Allene McAuliffe, Sr., Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest; Charita Stewart,

Soph., Harper Woods.

**Second team:** Alicia Schwark, Sr., Lutheran North; Chelsea Drake, Sr., Lutheran North; Julie Jongasma, Jr., Lutheran Westland; Katie Blessing, Soph., Kingswood; Paige Simmons, Soph., Cranbrook; Chelsea Baumgarten, Sr., Liggett; Sarah Edwards, Jr., Clawson; Meghan Hauswirth, Sr., Clawson; Amanda Moody, Jr., Clarenceville; Sara Pridmore, Jr., Lutheran Northwest; Amanda Herman, Jr., Harper Woods; Ester Chochla, Jr., Hamtramck.

**Final standings:** 1. Lutheran North; 2. Lutheran Westland; 3. Kingswood; 4. (tie) Liggett and Clawson; 6. (tie) Clarenceville and Lutheran Northwest; 8. Harper Woods; 9. Hamtramck.

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Schoolcraft College's bowling team, headed to a national tournament in Buffalo this week, include (front row, from left) Nick Kulhanek, Heather Kubacki, Steve Stombaugh and (back row, from left) Steve Jacobs, Andrew Guzik, coach Greg Colling and Brendan South. Not pictured is Scott Jones.

## Schoolcraft bowling coach encouraged by early results

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

When Greg Colling took the job as head coach of Schoolcraft College's first-year bowling team, he thought it would be a chance to go up against other colleges in metro Detroit.

Unfortunately, 2006-07 has been disappointing from the standpoint that only the Ocelots and Wayne County CC stuck it out for the season - with two other schools dropping out before the opening match.

But a saving grace for Schoolcraft - based out of Merri Bowl in Livonia - has been tournament competition, and the Ocelots are doing just fine in that area. Schoolcraft finished 18th out of 30 four-year colleges at the Saginaw Valley State Tournament held Feb. 10 at Cherry Hill Lanes in Dearborn Heights.

The next day, the same teams reconvened at Westland Lanes and the Ocelots did even better (13th).

Colling and his seven-player

squad now are heading off to Buffalo, N.Y. for a two-day tournament involving 90 community colleges from around the country. Schoolcraft will compete Friday and Saturday at the tourney.

"We jumped in for the competition and the experience," said Colling, noting that some of his players have spent time on high school bowling teams.

Schoolcraft's debut roster includes Garden City native Steven Stombaugh, Livonia's Andrew Guzik (Churchill), Scott Jones (Stevenson) and Brendan South (Franklin); Westland John Glenn alum Stephen Jacobs, Heather Kubacki (Canton/Plymouth) and Nicholas Kulhanek (Belleville).

Meanwhile, the coach is optimistic that 2007-08 will feature a more-regular slate of matches, with other schools possibly joining the fold.

"It's still in its infancy," Colling said. "It's our first year and hopefully there will be four to six schools next year."

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

### WWSL meeting

The Wayne-Westland Soccer League will stage an informational mandatory meeting for coaches to pick up packets and photo signup at 8:15 p.m. Monday, March 12 at the Bailey Recreation Center (upstairs), 36651 Ford Road, Westland.

For more information, call Rhonda Gates at (734) 728-6100, Ext. 128.

### Hitting-Fielding Clinic

A hitting and fielding clinic for students currently in grades 3-8, conducted by the Livonia Stevenson baseball coaching staff, will be from 1-3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at the high school fieldhouse.

The hitting session involves proper grip, stance, balance, stride and swing. The field session gives participants the chance to learn proper glove techniques, footwork, positioning, throwing and drills.

The cost is \$35. Enrollment is limited to the first 60 registrants.

For more information, call Stevenson varsity baseball coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623; or e-mail Berry3724@aol.com.

### Spring baseball camp

The Livonia Franklin baseball staff, led by Matt Fournier, will stage a spring baseball camp for boys and girls in grades 4-6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 10 inside the high school fieldhouse.

Each camper will be assigned to groups according to age and ability.

Session I (9-11:30 a.m.) will feature hitting and base running skills. A break follows from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (bring your own sack lunch). Session II (12:30 p.m.-3 p.m.)

will consist of pitching and defense.

The cost is \$25 per session or \$45 for both.

For more information, call Fournier at (734) 968-0499; or e-mail mfournie2@livonia.k12.mi.us.

### Young pitchers clinic

The Livonia Stevenson High baseball coaching staff will conduct a clinic to learn the basics of pitching for current grades 3-8 from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 10, at the school's fieldhouse.

The two-hour clinic with teach young pitchers proper throwing mechanics, injury prevention, wind-up, stretch, pick-off moves and the mechanics of different pitchers. Parents and coaches are welcome to attend.

The cost is \$35. Enrollment is limited to the first 40 registrants.

### Hunter Safety

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a hunters safety class from 6-9:30 p.m. Friday, March 9; and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road).

Hunter safety allows individuals of all ages, 10 and up, to gain an understanding of proper techniques, legal requirements and a wide variety of equipment. Any person born on or after Jan. 1, 1960 must receive certifications in order to obtain a hunting license. All participants must bring a bag lunch. Children ages 11-and-

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

under must be accompanied by an adult.

The fee is \$15. Space is limited.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

### Recumbent ride

The Wolver-Bents Recumbent Cyclists will hold a bicycle ride at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 10 at Willow Metropark's Washago Pond center, located off Exit-11 off I-275.

The ride is open to all bicyclists. For more information, call (734) 487-9058 or visit www.wolverbents.org.

### Football signup

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

Registration is open to boys entering grades 4-8 and is a member of the following parishes or schools: St. Michael, St. Maurice, St. Genevieve, St. Aidan, St. Damian, St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Sabina, St. Thomas a'Becket, Divine Savior, St. Theodore, St. Bernadine and St. John Bosco.

For more information, call John Widmer at (248) 471-6767, Ext. 11; or e-mail jwidmer@frohmwidmer.com.

### Devon-Aire Softball

Registration for the Devon-Aire Softball League will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, March 6-8, at the McKinley Elementary School (lobby), located at 9101 Hillcrest, just north of Joy between Henry Ruff and Merriman roads.

Leagues offered include Junior Boys (ages 7-12), Junior

Girls (7-12) and Seniors Coed (13-18). Ages are determined as of June 1, 2007 (bring a birth certificate if new to the league).

The cost is \$40 for the first child; \$35 for each additional child.

For more information, call Devon-Aire Softball League president Tony Perez at (734) 525-2884.

### Colt-Palomino baseball

Registration for Livonia Baseball-Softball Association Colt (ages 15-16) and Palomino (17-18) baseball will be from 10 a.m. until noon, Saturday, March 31; and from 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18, at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Two divisions of play will be formed. It includes a highly competitive select division for those members of their high school baseball teams along with a non-select division for youths currently not playing for their respective high school squad.

Rosters may be limited. Early registration is encouraged and forms are available in the high school business offices. Coaches are also wanted for both divisions.

For more information, call George Coram at (248) 478-5071 or Curt Kreutzfeld at (734) 522-5413.

### Basketball clinics

The Basketball Workshop is offering shooting and post-play clinics for males and females from 1-3 p.m. Sundays during March and April at Livonia Ladywood High School, located on 14680 Newburgh Road.

Middle school, high school and collegiate-level players are invited.

The registration fee is \$50. Enrollment is limited.

For more information, call Paul Tripp at (248) 563-0858.

## PREP BOWLING

### 2006-07 WAYNE-OAKLAND BOWLING ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

Boys first-team: Jon DeBellis, Farmington-Harrison; Mike Erlingis, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central; Mike Jacoboni, Northville; Andrew Abbott, Livonia Clarenceville; Lee Pierson, Dearborn Divine Child; Brandon Bingham, Farmington-Harrison; second-team: Brandon Bentley, Clarenceville; Collin Harris, Divine Child; Brian Carroll,

Northville; Conor Milroy, Catholic Central; Blake Brezinsky, Divine Child; Dan Beger, Northville; Mike Horton, Catholic Central; honorable mention: Tyler Andries, Brother Rice; Kyle Bridges, Catholic Central; Jason Bertera, Clarenceville; Kevin Kujawa, Divine Child; Scott Hinger, Farmington-Harrison; Dirk Roberts, North Farmington; Dan Dwyer, Northville; Nick Eastman, University of Detroit-Jesuit.

Girls first-team: Danielle Fecso, Clarenceville; Sara Richards, Divine Child; Paige Marshall, Farmington Hills Mercy; Erica Charboneau, Clarenceville; Kayla Barber, Clarenceville; Sara Brown, Clarenceville; second team: Marisa Moffett, Mercy; Kristen Clarahan, Farmington-Harrison; Angie Ramsey, Northville; Tosh Seriguchi, Mercy; Stephanie Hazel, Mercy; Chisea Hewitt, Ladywood; honorable mention: Danielle

Maples, Clarenceville; Kara Drapala, Divine Child; Stephani Gadsby, Farmington-Harrison; Jenelle Farris, Ladywood; Kristen Audette, Marian; Carey Kloster, Mercy; Lindsey Plummer, North Farmington; Laura Means, Northville.

Special note: Mercy's Paige Marshall received the medal for most points. She won 25 head-to-head matches. Teammate Tosh Seriguchi received the medal for high game with a 261.

# MEMBERSHIP

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## St. Patrick's Day Fun Run and Pancake Breakfast

Sat., March 10th

Registration begins at 7:15 am

1 mile at 8:30 am, 3 mile at 8:00 am • 5 mile run at 8:00 am

Event is in the YMCA Fieldhouse and parking is at Frost Middle School

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