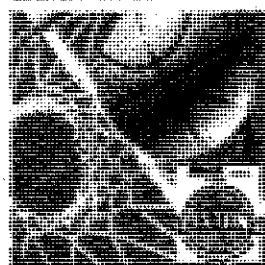




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## Pay hikes? Council says yes, no

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A united Westland City Council has rejected election-year pay raises offered to its seven members by a local commission that sets salaries for elected officials.

But, in a split decision, the council chose not to meddle in 1 percent salary increases approved next year for the mayor and city clerk.

In a 7-0 vote Monday night, the council refused to accept pay hikes of 1 percent this year and 1 percent next year. The decision spurned increases approved in February by the Local Officers Compensation Commission.

As such, pay levels will remain at \$12,515 for council members, \$13,760 for the council president and \$13,137 for the president pro tem.

Cheryl Graunstadt, the president pro tem, led the charge against pay raises in a series of motions made during Monday's

council meeting.

Had the council not placed the issue on the agenda, the raises would automatically have taken effect.

"I feel very strongly that pay increases should be decided in public," she said after the meeting. "We should vote them up or down."

Graunstadt also cited financial reasons in opposing the pay raises. This spring, city officials will start budget talks.

Under city rules, five of seven council members have to vote against the LOCC-approved pay raises to block them.

That said, the council fell one vote short of blocking a 1 percent salary increase that will take effect next year for the mayor, whose salary will inch up from \$95,974 to \$96,934.

The mayor's salary will remain unchanged this year. Mayor William Wild had told the *Observer* that he didn't want a pay increase this year, saying city officials needed time to assess the budget.

Graunstadt and council colleagues Bill Johnson, Michael Kehrer and Charles Pickering voted against the mayoral salary increase for next Jan. 1. Council members James Godbout, Dewey Reeves and Robert Stottlemeyer chose to let the 1 percent raise stand.

The vote was similar for the city clerk's salary, which will increase 1 percent next January from \$86,989 to \$87,859. The only difference in the vote was that Johnson abstained to avoid a conflict of interest because Clerk Eileen DeHart is his sister.

The pay raise issue came in an election year in which the council seats of Godbout, Johnson, Kehrer and Reeves will be on the ballot.

DeHart also plans to seek re-election this year, and mayoral appointee Wild has said he will seek election. Pickering also has said he is considering a mayoral bid.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

James Ridener, Westland's eighth police chief, sits in the Big Chair as he started his first week on the job.

## Ridener: 'Great honor to be chief'

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

James Ridener's climb to the position of Westland police chief started when he was 12 years old.

Sure, he watched television cop shows like *The Rookies*, *Starsky & Hutch* and reruns of *Dragnet*.

But a larger influence came from his Allen Park hockey coach - a police officer who

arrived for practice in a uniform and a patrol car.

"When you're young, all those things look cool - the car, the uniform," Ridener said. "And I could see that being a police officer was a chance to help somebody out. I thought that was pretty neat, too."

Ridener, 43, reflected on his career as he sat in his new office Monday, starting his first week

PLEASE SEE RIDENER, A3

## Police ticket 2 men after melee at bar

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Patrons fled a Westland bar after two men - friends of a new owner - sprayed Mace and threatened some customers with a metal baton, police said.

The melee erupted about 1:15 a.m. Sunday inside Farwell & Friends, a popular bar and restaurant on Middlebelt between Joy and Ann Arbor Trail.

The incident resulted in the two men, ages 41 and 42, being arrested and issued misdemeanor tickets for assault and battery and possession of a dangerous weapon, police Sgt. Thad Nelson confirmed.

Westland police officers went to the bar after receiving reports of a large fight. They arrived and found patrons outside suffering the effects of Mace, according to official reports.

Victims and witnesses told police the incident erupted after some patrons became upset that a new owner was making crude jokes on stage.

Two victims and a witness told authorities they were trying to leave Farwell & Friends when one of the suspects began spraying Mace while another produced what was described as a metal, collapsible baton.

One man told police he was

hit by the baton, Nelson said. One woman also claimed that an attacker threatened to hit her in the head with the weapon.

Mark Rhodes, 45, said he was sprayed with Mace and struck with the object. He had gone to the bar with his wife and another couple.

"It was just unbelievable. It was crazy," said Rhodes, a Waterford resident. "I met my wife there six years ago. Now it's a place we can't even go back to."

Rhodes said he found himself crawling after being pushed to the floor. He called it ridiculous that such an incident would erupt simply because the people at his table booed what they considered crude remarks made to a band and patrons.

"I don't want this to happen to anybody else," he said, adding that he is consulting an attorney.

One of the accused attackers denied to police that he swung the metal baton at anyone. He also denied being a bouncer for the bar, police said.

Another accused assailant denied having Mace. He also told police that he was attacked from behind and was on the ground being choked.

An attempt to reach the new owner of Farwell & Friends was unsuccessful.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Madison Elementary fourth-grader Courtney Hendra tries to hold back the tears at the bucket filling workshop where she made a list of why she loved her stepfather who passed away last year.

## Kind words, good deeds that count

### Bucket Man teaches students how to be fillers, not dippers

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

By the time Jordan Tumminello left the library of Madison Elementary School Thursday morning, he was closing in on 60 reasons why he loved and respected his mother.

By the end of the day, he was at 100 and still going strong.

"She jokes with, she laughs with me, she's concerned about me," he wrote on his sheet of paper. "She encourages me. She'll do anything for me."

His sentiments reflected the views of fellow fifth-graders who were in the library for an intensive bucket filling

workshop with none other than the Bucket Man, Merrill Lundgren.

The Brighton resident and his daughter, Stacey Lundgren, spent the morning working with fourth- and fifth-graders on his concept bucket filling which fills the pages of Carol McCloud's book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids*.

Closing in on age 88, Lundgren used the dash between his birth year and what will some day be his year of passing to show the students while they can't guarantee how long their dash will be, they "can guarantee it's a happy dash" through good deeds and kind words.

The Lundgrens showed students the difference between a filler and a dipper, using a day at school filled as an example.

The bucket dipper calls the student who fell getting on bus a klutz and doesn't help her gather her books. A bucket dipper won't let a student sit with her at lunch and tells her to go sit by herself. A bucket dipper knocks the student down in the hall and doesn't stop.

The bucket filler, on the other hand, asks if the student is OK, sits with her at lunch and stops to apologize for knocking her down.

PLEASE SEE BUCKET FILLERS, A4

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Volume 42  
Number 86



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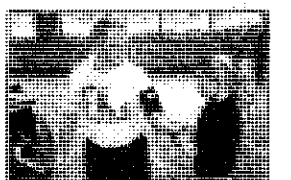
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### Coming Sunday in Health



Wellness center offers proactive approach to health.

## Three men are charged in carjackings at The Landings

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Three carjacking defendants face a Westland court hearing today following two incidents within two weeks at The Landings, a sprawling apartment complex near Warren and Central City Parkway.

Willie Antonio Williams, 23, his brother, Willie Jerome Williams, 20, and Donte Lashawn Bailey, 17, face a preliminary hearing today in Westland District Court.

The Williams brothers, both of Detroit, and Bailey, a Westland resident, are accused of taking a man's 2006 Mercedes at gunpoint about 1:45 a.m. Wednesday of last week.

Authorities captured the suspects during a traffic stop by Livonia police on I-96 near Inkster Road.

Further investigation led to charges against the older Williams and Bailey for a similar carjacking that police said happened one week earlier, when a man's Grand Prix was taken at The Landings.

No shots were fired and no one was injured during either of the incidents.

The Williams brothers and Bailey are scheduled to appear before Westland District Judge C. Charles Bokos today for a preliminary hearing that will determine whether they should stand trial.

The older Williams and Bailey are charged with two counts each of carjacking, armed robbery and felony firearm. The older Williams also is charged with carrying a concealed weapon.

The younger Williams is charged with carjacking, armed robbery, felony firearm and carrying a concealed weapon, according to a court clerk.

Not-guilty pleas have been entered for all three defendants. They remain jailed on \$300,000 cash bonds set last Thursday by Westland District Judge Sandra Cicirelli.

If convicted, the three defendants could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

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## Relay for Life organizers rally to build annual event

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

In all, 21 fund-raising teams already have formed for Westland's seventh Relay for Life - an event that helps the American Cancer Society.

Organizers hope to draw 35 teams into the fold, in an effort to top the \$100,000 mark.

"I believe we're right on track to hit our event goals," said Holly Soranno, ACS community representative.

The campaign will begin in earnest during a kickoff party planned for 6:30 p.m. today (Thursday) at the AMVETS Post 171 on Merriman south of Avondale.

"This is a one-hour informational community rally to find out more about how to get involved in Relay for Life and to learn more about the American Cancer Society," Soranno said. "This is the perfect time to come and find out more about the event."

Those who can't attend but want to become involved may contact Soranno by calling her at (248) 483-4359 or e-mailing her at

holly.soranno@cancer.org.

Soranno has offered to help teams develop fund-raising campaigns. Some groups already have started raising money for the 24-hour Relay, which will start at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 9.

Relay for Life will be in Jaycee Park at Wildwood and Hunter. It has been moved from Central City Park, which is fenced off as state environmental workers assess a problem of lead contamination.

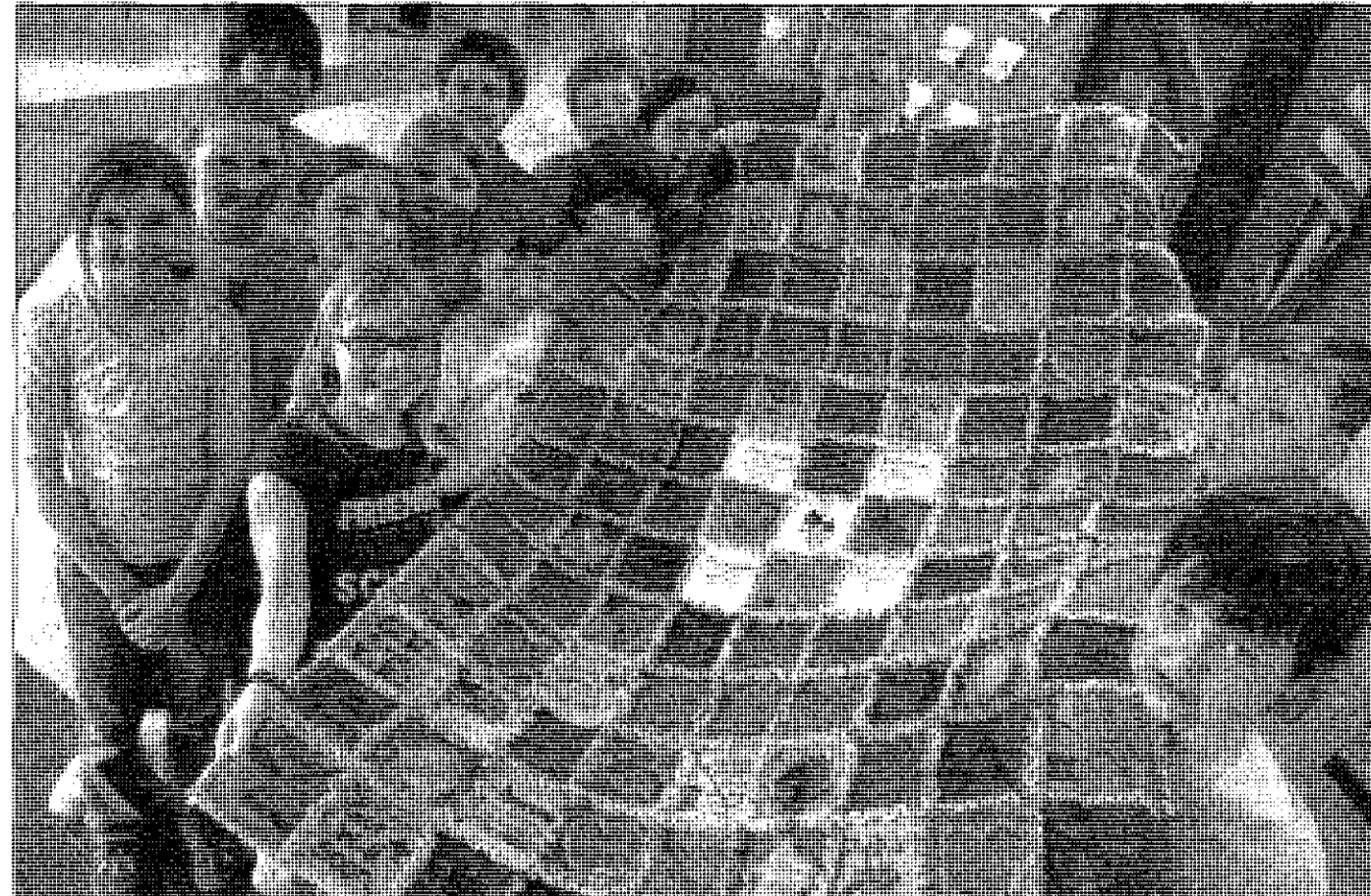
"We're excited about this year's event and the new location," Soranno said.

Westland City Councilman Michael Kehrer, involved in helping to publicize the event, said Jaycee Park is located in a more residential area.

However, he has said attempts will be made to keep noise and lighting levels as low as possible.

The event will include bands, children's games and numerous activities, including ceremonies honoring cancer survivors and those who lost their battle with the disease.

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PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hoover Elementary School students with school cook Kathy Mendrzycki display a quilt put together with messages from the students that will be sent to injured soldiers.

## Pupils patch together a piece of home for injured soldiers

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER



The quilts made at Hoover Elementary are just a small part of Operation Quiet Comfort. The group also creates general care packages for soldiers at military hospitals.

The Service Squad students at Hoover Elementary are doing some interesting things with their old blue jeans. They're cutting them up, but not out of any nod to new fashion trends.

The kids are slicing their pants into squares they've decorated with messages for injured soldiers. The squares are sewn into quilts which are then delivered to service people in military hospitals all over the world.

Karen Mendrzycki works in Hoover's kitchens and has a son in the Army. She is a member of the Michigan Military Moms, a parents' support group.

"The kids decorate the squares and I send them off to a woman in Woodhaven who turns them into quilts," she said. "I did three before I started involving the kids."

Elizabeth Casella, 9, is a fourth-grader at Hoover and has done the most squares of any of the kids taking part in the program.

"It took me a day to do a

whole stack," she said. "I gave up about eight pairs of jeans out of my closet. I only kept the pairs that still fit."

Alex Duncan, also 9 years old, said it was about letting wounded soldiers know they were being thought of.

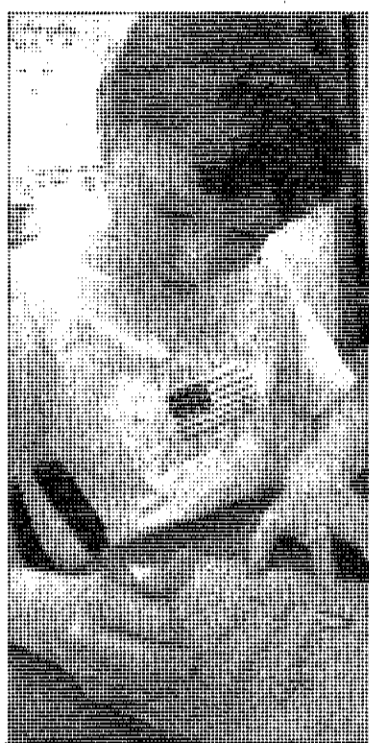
"I want to help them so they didn't feel alone in the hospital," he said. "I wanted them to feel like someone cares. It's like a gift, we're saying thanks."

Mary David of Canton is also a member of the Michigan Military Moms, she has a son in the Marines now. The quilt-making operation is just one of the things they do.

"We also put together care packages for wounded soldiers," she said. "The packages contain small items, toiletries and the like, everything a soldier might need in an environment where everything they wore when they came in the door has been cut off and thrown away."

For more information, visit operationquietcomfort.com or the michiganmilitarymoms.org websites or call Chairman Maureen Van Hooser at (313) 673-7896.

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Hoover fourth-grader Elizabeth Casella writes out a message on a piece of denim that will be sewn together with other messages into a quilt that will be sent to injured soldiers.

The kids are slicing their pants into squares they've decorated with messages for injured soldiers. The squares are sewn into quilts which are then delivered to service people in military hospitals all over the world.

## Forum tackles immigration issues

BY WAYNE PEAL  
STAFF WRITER

Immigration is one of the hottest political issues around, and a March 24 forum in Southfield promises a multidimensional look at the issue.

"We are looking to present all sides of the issue," said Judy Bateman of the League of Women Voters Detroit Metropolitan Area, which will present the two-hour forum

"Immigration Policies and Human Rights in Michigan Before and After Sept. 11" at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 24, at the Southfield Public Library.

The forum comes after action by the league at the national level.

"It was decided to study the issue for two years," said Bateman, a Huntington Woods resident.

Though the league does not endorse political candidates, it

periodically takes stands on pressing social issues.

Undocumented immigrants from Mexico became a major political issue during the 2006 election, especially as President George W. Bush failed to garner support within his party for a guest worker program which would allow immigrants to continue to work in this country under certain provisions.

The Southfield forum will feature University of Detroit-Mercy

professor David Koelsch, a self-described "conservative humanitarian" and secretary of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, as well as attorney Scott Cooper, the organization's president.

The Southfield Public Library is at 26300 Evergreen, south of I-696.

For more information, call (248) 399-2815.

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Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gully Rd., Dearborn Hgts., MI, April 7, 2007 @ 1:00 PM.

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Publish: March 22 & 25, 2007

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- 4168 - Latrice Graves - 5 Bags, Big Screen TV, Misc Items
- 3204 - Duane Cummings - Golf Clubs, Craftsman Tools, Stereo
- 4134 - Karole Beckon - Dresser, Desk, Trunk
- 5096 - Fayvian Watts - 10 Boxes, 5 Bags, Misc Items
- 4162 - Alie Faraj - 1 Box, 5 Bags, Misc Items
- 4010 - Kevin Harbour - Portable TV, 4 Chairs, Golf Clubs
- 3118 - Ronald Staples II - 20 Boxes, End Table, Suitcase
- 1300 - Sherard Brown - Washer, Dryer, Couch
- 1142 - Chantel Merideth - Toys, 5 Totes, Misc Items
- 1131 - Quartesia Fields - 10 Boxes, Couch, Love Seat

Publish: March 15 & 22, 2007

## AROUND WESTLAND

## Bowling with Bunny

Join the Grange and bowl with the Easter Bunny 1-3 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at Town 'N Country Lanes, 1100 S. Wayne Road, just south of Avondale. Each participant will receive one game of bowling, shoe rental, a hot dog and soda. Tickets are \$7 per person. A portion of proceeds will go to charity. To register, call (734) 722-6478 after 6 p.m.

## Arts and crafts

Fourth-graders at Hayes Elementary School will hold an arts and crafts fund-raiser 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at the school, 30600 Louise, Westland. In addition to several exhibitors, there will be a kids craft table and activities for a fee, door prizes and bake sale. Admission is free.

## Dems meet

The Westland Democratic Club will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, at the Dorsey Center on Dorsey at Venoy, between Palmer and Michigan Avenue. The board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Call Mike Short at (734) 788-1550.

## Coffee hour

State Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, will hold two events in Wayne Monday, March 26: a coffee hour in the morning and a town hall on strengthening education in the evening.

Residents can join Corriveau for a cup of coffee and conversation 8-9 a.m. at Cozy Corner, 35111 W. Michigan Ave., and a town hall meeting on the importance of strengthening education in Michigan at 7 p.m. at the Wayne Public Library, 3737 S. Wayne Road.

## Democratic Dinner

Presidential candidate John Edwards will be the keynote speaker at the Michigan Democratic Party's 2007 Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner Saturday, April 21, at Cobo Center in Detroit. Call the Michigan Democratic Party at (517) 371-5410 or Wayne County Commissioner Kay Beard at (313) 224-0902.

## Open skating

Residents can enjoy open skating noon-1:45 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, noon-1:45 p.m. and 6-6:50 p.m. Friday and 1-2:20 p.m. Saturday at the Mike Modano Ice Arena, 6210 N. Wildwood, just north of Ford. Admission is \$2.50 for children and senior citizens and \$3.50 for adults during the week and \$1 more on Saturday. Skate rental is \$2.50.

## A 'Wild' skater

Residents are invited to skate with Mayor William Wild 5-6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at the city's Mike Modano Ice Arena, 6210 N. Wildwood.

Admission is free, but Wild is asking participants to donate money for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event, coming this summer.

Wild has organized a team called Wild's Walkers, which has a theme of "Take A Walk On The Wild Side." Anyone who donates to Relay for Life during the skating event will receive a complimentary Wild's Walkers T-shirt.

# Retired Westland police chief is county's new undersheriff

Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans officially announced Monday that he has named newly retired Westland Police Chief Daniel Pfannes as his new undersheriff, making Pfannes the second-highest ranking officer in Michigan's second-largest police department.

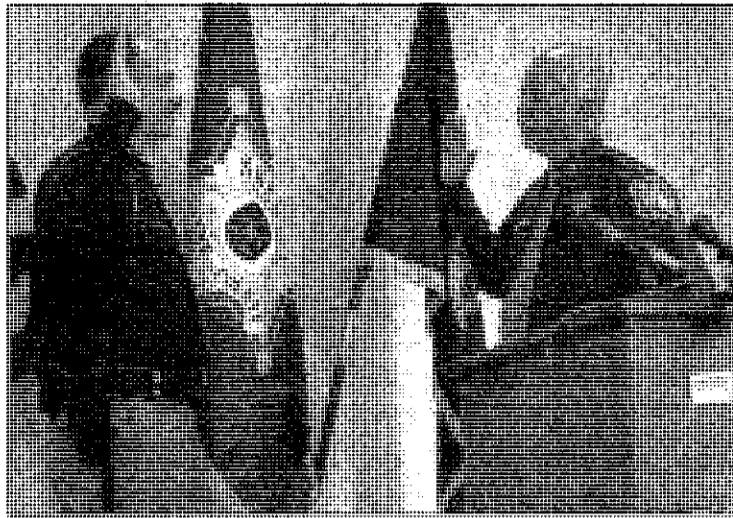
Pfannes, 47, replaces Harold Cureton, who retired early this year after serving as undersheriff for two years.

"In the four years that I have been sheriff, my office has had no better partner in the law enforcement community than Dan Pfannes," Evans said. "He is bright, experienced and, above all, an excellent administrator. We are very fortunate to have him join our team."

Pfannes officially began his duties this week. As undersheriff, he will oversee all day-to-day police operations of the sheriff's office. That includes court and jail operations and the department's field services section, which includes all land and marine patrol activities, fugitive apprehension, and specialty units such as Internet Crime, Missing & Exploited Children's Task Force, Mounted Unit, Detective Bureau, Deed Fraud, Auto Theft, Special Response Team and more.

Pfannes, who has spent his entire law enforcement career in Westland, worked his way steadily through the ranks, eventually being named chief in 2003. He joined the department in 1982.

Pfannes has served the Westland community as a police officer, evidence technician, detective, special investigations unit commander, SWAT commander and executive level administrator.



Former Westland Police Chief Daniel Pfannes, with Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans, is sworn in as undersheriff.

He has also served on a number of multi-agency task forces that have operated in the region. While working as a police officer, Pfannes obtained a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Detroit.

He is also a graduate of Eastern Michigan and Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command.

"Mr. Pfannes' prior experience as a suburban police chief will bring an important perspective to my administration as we look toward more regional and collaborative approaches to making Wayne County safer," Evans said.

During his 25 years in Westland, Pfannes received numerous citations and commendations for his role in major crime investigations including homicide, rape and robbery.

Pfannes said he looks forward to playing an important role on Evans' team.

"I always have had a great

deal of respect for Sheriff Evans and his staff," Pfannes said. "As a local police chief, I appreciated his commitment to supporting local agencies and developing data-driven crime reduction strategies. I look forward to being a part of what I believe to be one of the best and brightest law enforcement teams in the nation."

The sheriff's office has an annual operating budget of approximately \$120 million and employs more than 1,300 officers and civilian employees.

In addition to operating three jails and providing court security, the office operates a broad range of street units, including Secondary Road Patrol, Highland Park Patrol, Fugitive Apprehension Service Team, Missing & Exploited Children's Task Force, Narcotics & Morality Enforcement, Detective Bureau, Park Patrol, Marine Patrol, Special Response Team (SRT), Mounted Unit and more.

## RIDENER

FROM PAGE A1

as chief of the 102-officer Westland Police Department.

Ridener ended up in law enforcement after first studying accounting at Henry Ford College and Michigan State University.

"I got to the point where I didn't want to crunch another number," he said. "I really wanted to be with the police."

He called his father, Emmitt, a General Motors Cadillac millwright, and his mother, Joy, a Detroit schoolteacher, to tell them his decision. Then, he took \$2,000 he had saved and headed to a Lansing Community College police academy.

Ridener finished his certification in November 1986 and was hired on Feb. 23, 1987, as a rookie Westland police officer.

Since then, he has worked as a patrol officer, an undercover narcotics officer and a sergeant with the multi-city Metro Street Enforcement Team, working to nab fugitives and perform surveillance of crime suspects.

Ridener earned the rank of lieutenant in 2000, took charge of the detective bureau three years later and now sits in what his predecessor, former Chief Daniel Pfannes, calls the Big Chair.

Nicknamed Pugsley, Ridener found a sticky note from Pfannes when he arrived for work Monday. It read, "Enjoy the Big Chair Pugsley. 3/18/07." One for the scrapbooks.

On a shelf in his office, Ridener has such treasures as a model black-and-white police car, a model 1993 Corvette like the real one he owns, a law-enforcement book, and a photo album that charts his career. But, beware the cookie jar that looks like a police officer. It barks threatening orders to step back. Fortunately, it doesn't shoot.

Sitting in the Big Chair, Ridener recalled highlights of his career. He helped raid and shut down the adult Melody Theater, where "lewd and lascivious"

activities resulted in the forfeiture of nearly \$1 million to the communities of Inkster, Westland, Garden City and Wayne.

As a narcotics officer, Ridener had tense moments, such as one drug dealer who held a short-barrel shotgun while asking whether Ridener was a police officer. His answer: No. Definitely not.

He has been chased down streets with sticks and has rounded up leaders of an Ypsilanti motorcycle club that sold drugs. Through it all, he has made it safely home to his wife, Katie, and their 15-year-old daughter, Alexis.

"My wife has always been very supportive," Ridener said.

When he worked busting drug dealers, he sported a braided ponytail and a beard that rivaled rock stars ZZ Top.

He recalled taking his young daughter with him when he got a haircut after leaving the narcotics unit.

"I took her with me so she would know that it was still Dad," he said.

In his spare time, Ridener enjoys playing softball, golf and hockey, and he enjoys spending time Up North, where his parents have a place.

Ridener has become only the eighth police chief in Westland's 41 years as a city. Pfannes called him "undoubtedly the most qualified man to lead this department forward."

Mayor William Wild also has voiced confidence in Ridener's abilities. As Ridener attended his first Westland City Council meeting on Monday as police chief, Wild said, "I think he's going to do a great job leading the police department into the future."

It's not an assignment Ridener takes lightly.

"I think it's a great honor to be the police chief," he said. "It's a big responsibility, and I'm looking forward to the task."

Starys & Hutch couldn't have put it better. Clearly, Ridener is no longer one of the rookies.

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## City, DTE unveil plan for streetlight outages

The city of Westland has unveiled a new program with Detroit Edison aimed at expediting the process of reporting streetlight outages. Mayor William Wild's office has announced.

Westland's Department of Public Service (DPS) has been established as the municipal contact for streetlight outages within the City of Westland.

Westland residents should call Westland's Department of Public Service at (734) 728-1770 to relay the specific streetlight location of a non-working light and the streetlight pole number, which can be found on a 2-inch-by-2-inch placard on the light pole at roughly chest height.

Residents also are encouraged to relay any details about the outage, such as whether

the light stays on during the day or flickers at night. DPS will in turn submit each report to Detroit Edison.

"Quality lighting is essential to providing a safe environment in Westland - that is the most important factor," Wild said. "At the same time, we want to accelerate the process of reporting outages and make it easier for our residents."

Barring issues caused by weather conditions, road construction, and underground cable, the target restoration time for streetlight repairs will be five to seven business days.

Residents also should report a pole being knocked down or any other emergency to Detroit Edison by calling (800) 477-4747.

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# BUCKET FILLERS

FROM PAGE A1

## 'IT'S A CHOICE'

"It's not a secret, it's a choice," said Stacey Lundgren. "Absolutely everything in life you do is a choice, everything you do has a result. You can choose to be a bucket filler or a bucket dipper."

"When you're nice to someone, you feel nice about yourself."

Merrill Lundgren also used examples of kindness - an unknown young woman who paid for dinner for him and his wife and an airplane attendant who responded to his request for a window seat by upgrading him and his wife to first class after he told her she had a beautiful smile - to demonstrate bucket filling.

"I try every day to fill a bucket," Lundgren told the students. "It's not how long your dash is, but how good your dash is."

And to show students how to fill other people's buckets he had them list at least 10 reasons why they respected their mother, father, grandparent or significant person in their lives.

Then they were told to take the lists home and read them to that person "eyeball to eyeball."

Fourth-grader Courtney Hendra's list was for her late stepfather who died last summer while she was with her father.

"I was crying, but this makes me feel better now," said Courtney, holding her list. "I told him I love and respect him because he respected me; he took me places; he was always happy for me. I love him."

For Brittany Johnson, it was her mother, Jenny, who "makes me smile, loves me, respects me, helps me with my homework and listens to me when I talk."

## 'STILL LOVE ME'

Raquel Lentine directed her list to her father who has taught her how to play baseball and hockey and helped her with her math among other things.

"Even when you're mad, you still love me," she wrote. "You keep your promises."

Likewise Michael Gibson learned basketball and baseball from his father who "always plays with me."

"You never give up on me when I can't do something," he said

While the fourth- and fifth-graders were introduced to bucket filling in the workshops, younger students learned about it from McCloud who read from her book at an afternoon assembly.

The workshop led some students and staffers to shed tears at the emotions expressed.

"I'm touched by what I heard and I've seen," said teacher Lynn D'Angelo, calling the students' efforts a wonderful gift for their parents. "You make me feel proud and happy. You have love in your heart. You don't always show it, but you have kindness."

Among those to shed tears was Madison Principal Sue Kelly who decided to bring The Bucket Man to Madison after first-grade teacher Shawn Cornelissen brought in a newspaper story about him and hearing about the concept from Marcia Kreger.

Kreger brought bucket filling concept to her parents, staff and students while principal at Hoover Elementary in Livonia and was filled with the response.

"We used the drops and I had parents write messages for students that we hung around the school," said Kreger who came to Madison to see the workshop.

Kelly thought bucket filling "was a good idea."

"I bought copies of the book for each teacher and silver pails for their personal libraries so they could develop the concept of being a bucket filling school," she said.

By the end of the day, the school was well on its way to accomplishing that as students placed their hands on their hearts and pledged to be bucket fillers in their school life and family life.

"You're powerful enough to create an opportunity to be a bucket filler," Lundgren said. "The hardest thing will be remembering to do it."

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2111



The Bucket Man, Merrill Lundgren, talks to Madison Elementary fifth-graders about kindness and caring and how it can make people feel good about themselves and others.



Madison Elementary fifth-grader Raquel Lentine reads her list of the reasons why she loves her dad as classmates Taylor Kadlec and Rosebella Silvera listen.

**'A Bucket Filler is a person who says and does nice things on a regular basis that make others feel special. By setting a goal to fill a bucket a day, you'll make yourself a better person and you'll make the world a better place.'**

## Becoming a bucket filler

BUCKETFILLERS.COM INC. is the current name of an educational organization that Merrill Lundgren began in 1979 to help people live happier and more meaningful lives.

Its mission is to create a world of "bucket fillers," people whose daily words and actions express love, acceptance, respect, appreciation, encouragement and compassion.

According to the BUCKETFILLERS' Web site, the simple message often has a "profound" effect on children and adults. "At every stage of life, people crave love, acceptance and attention from others and feel urges to love, accept and pay attention to others. Bucket filling meets these basic human needs."

BUCKETFILLERS also has a vision of strengthening families, creating safe, positive schools, stopping bullying before it begins and making bucket filling a habit and a way of life.

"A Bucket Filler is a person who says and does nice things on a regular basis that make others feel special. By setting a goal to fill a bucket a day, you'll make yourself a better person and you'll make the world a better place."

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# Going Out Of Business Retirement Sale

## Open Letter To The Public



Rosy Yeremian • Manuel Karjian



### GOING OUT OF BUSINESS Retirement Sale

Dear Customer and Friend:

This is the hardest letter I have ever had to write. After 33 years of service to the Detroit area, the heartfelt decision has been made. My Dad is retiring so we have decided to close Rosy's Jewelry Creations by running a brief **Going out of Business/Retirement Sale**.

From his humble beginning in 1977, when Manuel Karjian first began his career in retail jewelry, the fine business principles of service with a smile, a caring attitude, honest dealings, and fair prices were always present. My Dad and I have always held these fine principles in the highest regards and have worked endless hours to create a welcoming, warm and pleasant atmosphere at Rosy's Jewelry Creations for our valued customers and friends.

We are offering our entire **One Million-Dollar Inventory**. All **Diamond, Gold, Precious Stone Jewelry, and Watches** will have **Going out of Business** pricing, nothing will be held back. Our **Going out of Business/Retirement Sale** will begin on **Friday, March 23rd**.

We cannot begin to express the void we will feel not being able to fellowship with those who have been like family to us over the years. We look forward to seeing you this week during our **Going out of Business/Retirement Sale** at the store.

Sincerely,  
Rosy Yeremian  
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# Authorities crack down on serial drunken drivers

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

Police personnel from Wayne County Sheriff's Department, the state police and seven local police departments fanned out across the area recently to haul in serial drunken driving violators before courts and judges on the warrants they've been ignoring.

Operation Last Call, an annual drive to pull the worst drunk drivers off the road around St. Patrick's Day, netted dozens of them last week.

Between Thursday and Saturday, 76 people with outstanding warrants were hauled into jail and the officers nailed another 15 drunk drivers over the weekend, one on his third (felony) arrest. Sheriff Warren Evans said he's satisfied with this year's numbers.

"They're pretty good," he said. "I'm comfortable with 76 for a couple days' work."

He launched the program three years ago after deciding the best way to help local communities deal with drunken drivers was to do more to follow up after their initial arrest.

"There were 7,500 in Wayne County back then," Evans said. "Since we've started we've arrested about 3,000. Due to the age of some of the cases (some have moved away, some have died) that's about half of the original number."

The county's Warrant Enforcement Bureau Commander Chris Clark told participating officers they were doing good works for everyone in the county.

"This is a worthy cause," he said. "Whenever you hear about someone killed by a drunk driver, it's a tragedy. You're involved in a very good operation."

Evans warned that, with St. Patrick's Day around the corner, Operation Last Call was an effort to clear the decks of the worst drunk driv-

ers.

"The singular goal of this operation is a safe St. Patrick's Day for everyone," Evans said. "We hope to achieve that by removing as many known and suspected drunk drivers possible from local roads before they have the chance to hurt themselves or someone else."

Livonia police Sgt. David Studt said all of the people they were going after were people who had been through the system and had still broken the rules.

"These are people who were arrested, posted bond and either didn't show up for court or violated their probation," he said. "You do that and you're screwed."

He added that the targets of the Last Call operation were the worst kind of addicts. The hope is that a jail sentence will force them to dry out and reconsider their lives. In the case of one of the people on the list, a third-time offender who most

recently caused an injury accident while drunk, that didn't work.

"We've got no control over sentencing," Studt said. "Sometime they get right back out on the street. This time, we can go to court and show that the accident and injury was a result of his drinking."

Studt, fellow Livonia Officers Dan Tar and Joe Boitos, and Sheriff's Deputies Corporals Lewis Yokam and Terry Yackley fanned out across Redford and Detroit Thursday afternoon.

It turned out that suspect wasn't at home when officers arrived to arrest him. Later in the day, they struck paydirt in Redford by finding a suspect hiding out in his girlfriend's house.

"He was wanted for violating his probation," he said. "He's got a warrant out of Redford and an OWI from Plymouth."

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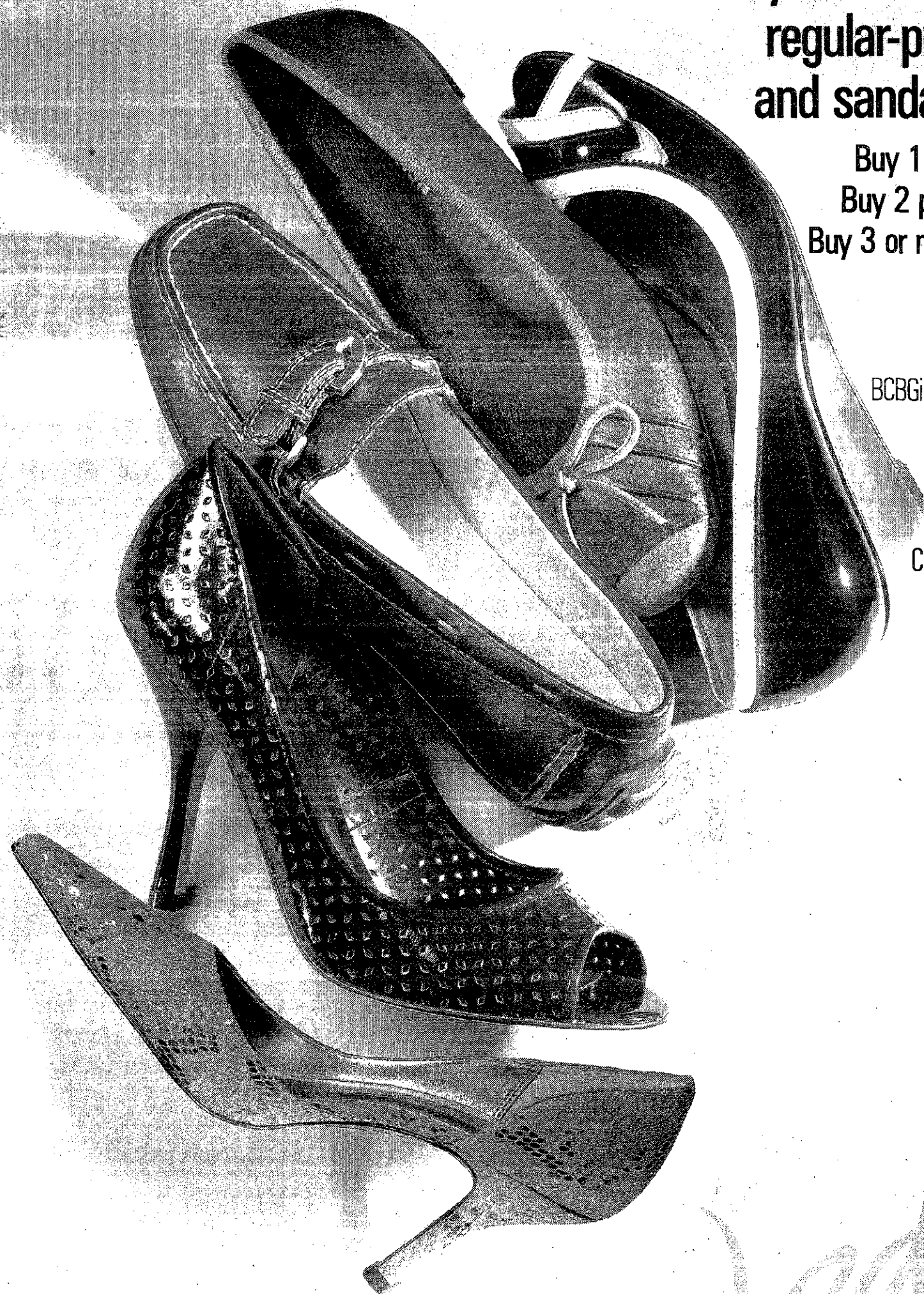
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## Local school chiefs: Alter funding mechanism

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

Education has become a big part of the discussion of where Michigan's future is headed.

However, local school superintendents believe those who make the rules in Lansing need to revamp the current system of funding education before changes can be made to accommodate students in the 21st century.

"Our leaders in Lansing, as it pertains to education, have been dismantling education for well over 10 years," said Greg Baracy, Wayne-Westland superintendent. "There have been cuts in educational programs, frozen foundation allowances from year to year, as well as other cuts in curriculum and educational programs for our children. We have to look at some very substantial changes to the way we address our educational challenges and needs, and how we are able to sustain those kinds of programs to meet the needs of the new Michigan, as well as the global economy."

Baracy was joined Thursday night by Plymouth-Canton Supt. Jim Ryan and Northville Supt. Leonard Rezmierski at an education forum hosted by newly elected state Rep. Marc Corriveau (D-Northville) at the Plymouth District Library.

"We can become a magnet for 21st century jobs for education and economic development," Corriveau said. "But it's going to take some guts and some belief."

However, Ryan has indicated he has little belief — at this time — state lawmakers can make changes in the inequities of the state's per-pupil foundation allowance, as well as reductions in health care and retirement costs, to make Michigan's schools competitive.

"How do we make a budget if we have to adopt it by June 30, but we never know if we're going to get an increase or a cut well past that time?" Ryan asked. "Right now, we're just making our best guess."

"If the two-cent increase in sales tax isn't playing well in the state, what's that cutting-edge thing that's going to put Michigan in front?" he said. "The representative (Corriveau) said nobody is proposing that right now. We're stuck in the Democrat-Republican concepts."

Pauline Koulouberis, principal of Walker-Winter Elementary school in Canton — which is in the Wayne-Westland school district — said the way schools are funded has to be changed — in a big way.

"The competition from China and India is huge, but I don't think people really understand the magnitude of that," Koulouberis said. "The infrastructure of the way education is funded hasn't been working, and our districts are suffering. Something has to change, but it can't be the little things that keep going on."

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# Concentrate on what you keep in your pocket

As 2006 tax returns are being prepared, I hear from clients and many others at local seminars about increased tax liability. The general consensus is this is a bad thing. When questioned about the increased tax liability, I don't treat it as a negative but rather a positive. Not that I think the money will be well spent by the government because I don't. The fact they are paying more in taxes is a good thing because it means that they made money.

My focus when it comes to taxes is to concentrate on what ends up in your pocket as opposed to the tax man's pocket. When your primary focus is on taxes, it is on the wrong place.

One question I always ask at seminars is who has as one of their main financial goals to lower their taxes. A substantial number of participants will raise their hand. My next question is why they don't want to win the \$3M lottery. If they win the \$3M lottery, it's going to cost \$1M in taxes. Of course, everyone wants to win the lottery because it's all about what ends up in your pocket. This simple example demonstrates the absurdity of having your primary focus on taxes.

Concentrating on what ends up in your pocket doesn't mean to ignore taxes. The key is to be smart and let the tax law work for you.

For example, if you're saving for a child's college education using a 529 Plan, the Michigan Education Savings Plan makes



**Money Matters**

Rick Bloom

sense. When you use MESP, you can deduct the contribution off your Michigan income tax return. All the income generated by the plan grows tax-free and you have a very good investment with low costs.

Another example of this is to take advantage of the Roth IRA which allows money to grow tax-free, not tax-deferred.

I am always very suspicious when financial salespeople want to discuss the tax savings of an investment as opposed to the economics. Whenever anyone talks taxes first, I generally know that they are putting their emphasis in the wrong place.

There are many strategies that attempt to lower your taxes. As far as I am concerned, the great majority of them make no sense. Yes, they lower your taxes, but they do not increase your wealth.

I see it all the time when people invest in tax-free bonds and think it is a great strategy because it lowers their taxes.

The problem is if they would have invested in a taxable bond and paid the taxes, they would have netted more money. Once again, the concentration should always be what ends up in your pocket.

One strategy I use - which does have the effect of lowering

taxes and at the same time doesn't compromise returns - is the placement of certain investments. When someone has a taxable and a tax-deferred account such as an IRA or a 401(k) plan, I try to put investments that generate ordinary income in the tax-deferred account, while items that will receive capital gains treatment are kept outside of the tax-deferred account.

Capital gains rates are substantially lower than ordinary income rates and if I'm going to defer my taxes, I would prefer to defer items that produce ordinary income, not income that is taxed at capital gain rates.

Capital gains rates are at an all time low. If I have to pay taxes, I would rather pay at my capital gains rate vs. my ordinary income rate.

Our tax laws are complicated and ever-changing. What is a good tax strategy today may not be a good tax strategy next year.

However, no matter what the government does with tax laws, the basic strategy remains the same and that is never let the tax tail wag the dog. Concentrate on what ends up in your pocket and you will make the right decision.

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



Principal Carolyn Witte welcomes Mercy parents Marty and Janet Malloy.

## Spring auction blooms with success

A spectacular spring fling was had by all at the 28th annual Mercy High School Auction, dubbed "Mercy's Garden ... Where Minds Grow," held March 3 at the Farmington Hills school.

About 450 proud parents, students, staff, alumnae and friends filled Mercy to bask in the garden, dine on delights, and bid with heart on 624 silent and live items.

Throughout the evening, there were plenty of high bids on the Detroit Tigers' "Groundskeeper for a Day," Bob Seger and Red Wings tickets, trips to Maui and

tickets to see Dr. Phil in Hollywood.

A highlight of the live auction was when a friend of Mercy raised a paddle for a generous bid of \$6,000 for the Mercy High School Administrative Team 7-course dinner.

The crowd was on their feet applauding as an outstanding second and then third matching bid were placed, all in an effort to be served a fine feast by members of Mercy's administration.

"The success of the auction is due to the contributions of so many people over the past year," said chair

Anita Sevier.

"Whether it is bidding on several little items, or a few big ones, or by helping in some other way, it all helps Mercy High School to truly be a garden where minds grow."

Mercy High School is a Catholic, college preparatory high school for young women from more than 60 metro Detroit communities. Mercy is recognized nationally as an Exemplary Private High School by the U.S. Department of Education. Throughout its 61 years, more than 12,500 students have graduated.

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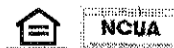
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## OUR VIEWS

### Board's vote is a step forward

Last week, the Westland Library Board took a step forward in agreeing unanimously to hire a new director.

Its decision to hire Bethel, Pa., library Director Cheryl Napsha hopefully is the first step toward calming the troubled waters that have engulfed the library since the firing of former Director John Patane last May.

Granted, the board must wait for Napsha's formal acceptance of its offer, but all indications are she will take over the job around May 1.

**The needs of patrons have been met and that is a testament to the abilities of co-directors Marilyn Kwik and Lisa Hausman to keep the turmoil surrounding the director's position from affecting the employees.**

A lot has happened since Patane's firing and, despite the ugliness of a lawsuit and the difficulty in finding a new director, the library has continued to function as it should. The needs of patrons have been met and that is a testament to the abilities of co-directors Marilyn Kwik and Lisa Hausman to keep the turmoil surrounding the director's position from affecting the employees.

Likewise, we are glad to see that the public and elected officials showed enough

interest in the library and what has been happening there to be at the meeting, and while it did not come to fruition, we believe Mayor William Wild's request for an open dialogue was an avenue for the Library Board to show others that it doesn't operate in a vacuum.

We're glad to see the board come together on such an important decision and we hope it is an indication that rifts that may have existed have been erased. Let the unanimity displayed be a prelude to a more settled time for the facility.

Hopefully, with Napsha's arrival, a new era of peace will be ushered in at the library's administrative level. The library can ill afford further conflict without diminishing its prestige in the community and surrounding area.

### Schoolcraft makes bold leap to future

As Michigan's beleaguered workforce tries to shift to fit a constantly changing economy, community colleges are playing a key role in that transition.

When Lt. Gov. John Cherry led a commission on post-secondary education it became clear that community colleges were on the cutting edge of training for in demand occupations. Many good occupations didn't require a four-year degree, but they did require the high-quality training that a community college could provide.

Under the leadership of former President Richard McDowell and current President Conway Jeffress, Schoolcraft College has been moving aggressively to fit its curriculum and its physical plant to the job needs of today and tomorrow.

The VisTaTech Center built on the success of the college's renowned culinary arts program to provide a state-of-the-art training facility. In addition, the center keyed into the needs of the business community with high-tech conference facilities and computer labs.

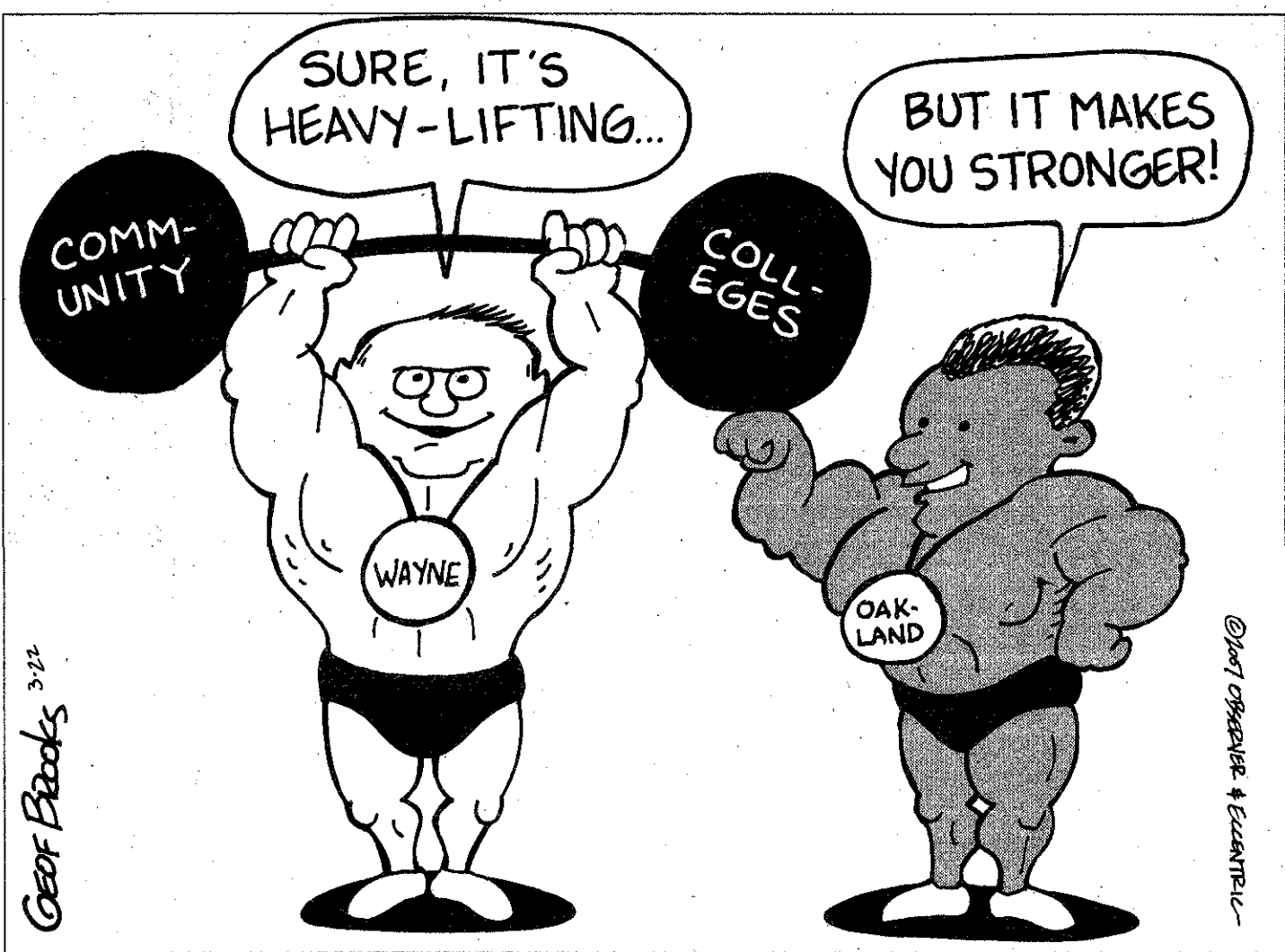
The future is in medicine, science and technology and Schoolcraft is preparing to meet those needs. In fall of 2008, Schoolcraft will open its \$12.5 million Biomedical Technology Center to answer a rising demand for health care and technical workers. The center will coordinate with a recently redesigned nurse training facility.

It will provide a state-of-the-art facility for STEM and GRIN, acronyms for the science-centered curricula that will be offered. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. GRIN stands for genetics, robotics, information and nanotechnology.

Community colleges have always been a good deal. For many, they have been an affordable way to begin a four-year degree program. For others, they have provided valuable, first-rate training toward skilled technical positions.

As the American job market changes to fit new needs, community colleges will be the prime place for training and retraining.

And as post-secondary education becomes a greater necessity than ever before, Schoolcraft's aggressive and enlightened leap into the future will serve this area with a world-class educational facility.



### Changing direction

So that's the way the wind blows ... I've been wondering about the driving force behind the efforts to hamstring the operation of the library and last week's story in this newspaper has helped to point up some of the folks I had not identified.

At first, I assumed the impetus for the operation came from Mayor Cicirelli, as she appointed the member(s) of the Library Board who played lead in the firing of our first library director and carried through with the hiring and subsequent firing of our second library director.

However, she has moved on to a judgeship, and things have not gotten appreciably better in the governance of the library. Now according to the story in last week's *Observer*, a prominent member of the city council is also dragging his feet, finding reasons why our new mayor should not try to assist in the operation of a board whose membership is appointed by the mayor and council.

So now I am left wondering if the council is, for reasons to which I am not privy, backing our former mayor, or if perhaps the original efforts to fire the library director resulted from a shared concern of both the mayor and certain council members.

Regardless of how or why this mess was created, it seems to me that our mayor is trying to move in a direction which will bring a degree of order and cooperation to the governance of our library.

I am inclined to believe that the first move would be to inform some of the members of the Library Board that they were appointed, not anointed, and their disappointment is within the realm of possibility.

Jim Cook  
Westland

### Mayor's request was right

We want to applaud Mayor William Wild for addressing the existing Westland library's turmoil.

The reasons that Mr. Charles Pickering gave for denying such a meeting are really unwarranted, in our opinion. It's been obvious to many that something really needs "fixing." If the library board apparently is unable to rid the library of rather serious problems then, indeed, someone has the responsibility to intervene.

We're very pleased that Mayor Wild is taking the initiative to see what is going on. To wait until budget talks in April, as suggested by Mr. Pickering, is delaying the inevitable. And, more importantly, it appears that the problems concern serious issues beyond the budget. Budget sessions are just that. The other problems need to be addressed.

It takes a lot of leadership on the mayor's part to then go ahead on his own to try to schedule a public meeting with the library board to which he will invite council members and residents.

We find it appalling that former library board President Jim Chuck's and other's pleas to city officials in the past regarding the library problems fell on deaf ears. Is it not the responsibility of city officials to act on such requests?

Mr. Pickering said that the library board is autonomous and responsible for its own actions. That may be. But everyone answers to someone. The library board has to answer to someone. No one is above any law. That really needs "fixing."

Furthermore, the refusal on the request

### LETTERS

for the meeting is terribly disturbing. Everyone is a winner when open meetings are held. And everyone is a loser when these meetings are denied.

The denial of this meeting by Mr. Pickering raises all kinds of red flags. What are people hiding? If nothing, then hold the meeting. Covering up issues is never any solution. This smacks, in our opinion, of a possible cover-up similar to the contaminated park issue.

Also, if the council president can unilaterally schedule or deny a meeting, that seriously needs immediate attention and requires a change. If the president alone disagrees, it should be put to the vote of the city council. The president should not have that kind of power.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for recognizing the need for a dialogue and for pursuing the meeting. Know that many of us support you. Know that many of us believe in dialogue.

Without dialogue, issues get covered up. You really inherited a heaping plate of issues. We feel confident that through your efforts, these problems will be resolved.

We also thank you for really keeping the citizens informed at the regular council meetings. Dialogue is a distinct quality of leaders. We wish you well.

Jim and Mary Murphy  
Westland

### Woodruff book is great one

On Jan. 29, ABC News anchor Bob Woodruff was severely injured when the vehicle he was riding in was hit by an IED. The injuries were extensive. He spent 36 days in a coma. When he woke from it, he could not remember family member names, couldn't remember how to say broom or hammer, etc., and half of his skull was removed on the left side of his head.

His wife Lee started keeping a journal of the daily experiences while he was in the hospital, and then they co-wrote a book, *In an Instant*. I have read the book twice since it came out last month.

I had the pleasure of meeting Lee and Bob Woodruff on Saturday, March 10, at the Borders in Birmingham. What a day. They sold out every copy of the book. Before they signed the books, they had a little reading and a question-and-answer period.

At one point, someone asked about the Tigers, and he said he was huge fans of them and the Pistons and then he said sorry about the Lions. I was sitting in front of him and I said, "So are we." He, along with everyone else, was laughing.

He has a great sense of humor. He talked about his days as news anchor for ABC. That lasted all of 27 days before the blast.

They have started a program to raise money for TBI (traumatic brain injury). They want to help all the troops coming home that have experienced this. One of our own, local resident Chaim Kozac, a Marine, also had a similar accident.

This is a great thing, that will help many of these returning troops. You can go to [www.bobwoodrufffamilyfund.org](http://www.bobwoodrufffamilyfund.org) and donate to help the troops.

I talked to Bob about my son being in Iraq and Chaim getting hurt over there. He asked me in front of the hundreds of people to thank them both for serving, and everyone there applauded both of them.

Bob called all the troops heroes and appreciated all they do, so if you want to check out a great book and help our returning troops, this is the way to do it.

Also if you know a vet, say thanks; if you know a returning soldier or Marine, thank them also. God bless all the troops.

Bud Somerville  
Westland

### New tax hurts small business

I have been reading many pros and cons regarding the proposed new service tax. I'm against it for many reasons. I believe that only a few service industries are asked to bear the brunt of collecting this new tax, while other industries are ignored.

Nowhere could I find that the advertisement industry, real estate agents, investment/financial consultants, banks fees — to name a few — would be taxed.

I do find, however, that small businesses like construction, service and repair (construction and auto and appliance repairs) and hair stylists, to name a few, would have to carry the burden of collecting this tax for our state.

Like others, I believe this will put a lot of small and/or family-owned businesses out of business. These businesses are already struggling because of the economy. A lot are now operating at losses. A lot are doing more for less money.

It seems that since big businesses are failing or leaving our state, the governor wants to target the remaining businesses, which happen to be small. While each of these businesses may be "small," there are a lot of them that add up to a great number.

I believe this service tax puts undue burdens on the construction and repair industry the most. Most small construction businesses bid on jobs as a whole number and are paid accordingly. To ask them to break down all material (each nail, pipe, part, etc.) for a service tax would create a great hardship. Does the governor believe that these businesses are going to perform these tasks for free? Consequently, prices for these services will go up because of the additional time involved. Don't be fooled, thinking that it's only 2 cents on the dollar. The bottom line will be greater than that.

Also, a lot is said about it only costing \$5 on a \$250 labor charge. Well, I hope you're not going to remodel your kitchen or bathroom, put on a new roof, build a house or garage, etc. as that will amount to more than "small change" in taxes. How does this spur the economy? Lastly, once a new tax is instituted, it will never go away. History shows it will only increase.

Mary Cauzillo  
Livonia

### 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

**"But, I'm sad about leaving the Westland Police Department. More specifically, I'm sad about leaving the people. I've had the great fortune and pleasure to work with some wonderful people during my career."**

Chief Daniel Pfannes about his retirement last Friday from the Westland Police Department.

**WESTLAND Observer**  
PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

**GANNETT**

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Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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.



## Board's focus is education, reassessing, moving forward

The LPS Board of Education has finished its third board retreat for this year. I would like to take this opportunity to share with our community the results of these important discussions. The topic of conversation at these open workshops has been how we can further the success of our district through working together and promoting a strong culture within the board. Our board's focus is the education provided every day in our schools and creating a strong future for our students.



Cynthia Markarian

Many important issues are before us that impact student learning. New state-mandated graduation requirements will affect programs for students at all grade levels for years to come. School funding issues, intensified by the struggling Michigan economy, are already influencing planning for next year's budget. Exciting new curriculum and program initiatives, such as our new elementary math program and the proposed high school International Baccalaureate program, are moving forward. All of these topics and more are high priorities on our list.

During our retreats we developed statements that all board members could support which respond to the input we've received this year.

I'd like to share the following:

■ Our Vision Statement and Collective Commitments are the foundations that guide our decisions.

■ Transition will not compromise expectations of continued excellence in student learning.

■ We value all input and perspectives. We want to hear from everyone because we are responsible to make decisions in the best interest of our district.

■ We will continue to monitor and analyze all aspects of our educational program.

You can see that these statements center on a commitment to ensure a strong future for our district. These commitments demand that we assess every aspect of our educational program, which includes the Legacy Initiative. Certainly, when any district goes through closing and consolidating schools — or any signifi-

cant change, that process needs to be monitored. We are assessing this process every step of the way and have made changes.

To improve two-way dialogue with our community, a District Communications Team has been created and we have increased the amount of information on our Web site. In addition, we have modified busing routes to limit the time elementary children are traveling. These are just a few examples of the adjustments made as a result of our monitoring process. We are committed to continuous improvement, every year better than the year before, throughout our entire district's educational program.

We know many viewpoints in the community continue to be discussed and debated. As a board we are concerned there is misleading information about the school district circulating in the community. The district has created a link on its Web site to clarify information about the Legacy Initiative. Go to the district's homepage at [www.livonia.k12.mi.us](http://www.livonia.k12.mi.us) and click on the "Easy Access Link to Legacy Initiative Information." Clear, straightforward information is important to everyone in this community.

The Board of Education continues to provide opportunities for dialogue on important issues and welcomes ongoing discussions in our community. Our next public Community Conversation is from 7-8 p.m. Monday, March 26, in the administration building, 15125 Farmington Road, Conference Room A.

We invite members of the community to attend by calling (734) 744-2510 to RSVP.

We are focused on moving forward. The Board of Education will work together to make every aspect of our school district an outstanding educational experience for all students. By taking all of our ideas and focusing them on moving forward together, we can meet these challenging times and do what's best for our students.

There are many wonderful things happening in our classrooms and schools right now, every day. It's one of our great pleasures as a board to hear about our students' many successes. We invite everyone to join us in working toward our district mission statement of "Teaming together to ensure learning for all."

Cynthia Markarian is the vice president of the Livonia Public Schools Board of Education.

### Health in the workplace

This letter is in response to your March 11, 2007, article on wellness programs in the workplace ("Reducing health care costs, diseases"). Bravo to Linda Chomin for the comprehensive reporting on employers' ability to affect positive health changes in their employees through worksite wellness programs. The proposed Wellness and Prevention Act of 2007, benefiting employers who offer health screening and disease prevention programs, is a move in the right direction for a healthier Michigan. To truly improve the health and well-being of Michigan residents, we need to meet them where they live, be it the workplace or the marketplace. Working in conjunction with physicians, but not through physicians alone, community-driven wellness initiatives save valuable health care dollars and present an excellent opportunity to catch serious illnesses earlier and, equally important, prevent and manage chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease and depression.

Ewa Matuszewski  
CEO, Medical Network One  
Rochester

### It's a war on terrorism

Regarding Hugh Gallagher's column "If you want to end war, you've got to sing loud," my perspective is that we are in a war against terrorism that is currently being fought in Iraq and not so long ago, was fought in New York City. Perhaps many people support the "Iraq War" because they feel as I do that the bigger concern is terrorism and the only ones "singing loud" are the press and the Democrats in office. Thank you for your opinion.

Mike Norris  
Rochester

### Which war do they want to end?

I am responding to Hugh Gallagher's article "If you want to end war, you've got to sing loud," *Observer & Eccentric*, March 4, 2007.

The first question, which war? The Iraq war or the war on terror? I am not sure anymore which war the Democrats want to end. I think the Democrats, to follow the mandate of the election, must pass a bill to defund the Iraq war, and override the president's veto. They must stop talking and just do it. Then, the Democrats must define the world situation when the troops come home from Iraq. No matter how the Democrats define it, we are surrendering Iraq to the terrorists, for the terrorists to create another base of operations.

But it will not end there. There will be the question when we bring the troops home from Afghanistan, and then all around the world, from the war on terror. The terrorists will call it surrender. The Democrats will call it improving our world prestige, and making it safer for Americans.

Neil Karl  
Livonia

### LETTERS

#### Firing teachers isn't answer

Regarding the equity of school funding and the 20(j) category — since the passage of Proposal A, suburban taxpayers have been subsidizing rural and poor school districts. For example, in some local school districts, only one-third of each school tax dollar sent to Lansing by taxpayers in suburban districts comes back. The rest of it goes to those less fortunate areas of Michigan in order to diminish the funding gap, and rightfully so.

One of the promises of Proposal A was the funding gap would be narrowed by bringing the bottom up — not the top down — and that's exactly what has happened. However, the 110-percent increase in funding the suburban taxpayers have financed for needy areas over the past decade to promote this goal isn't enough for some. Now, some outstate lawmakers, whose districts have benefited from this tax shift, want to completely close the gap by cutting funding to suburban schools to levels below 1994.

Among the consequences, nearly 600 teachers would need to be fired collectively in our local school districts if these outstate lawmakers have their way. The impact would be to irrevocably harm students as all of us continue to meet the mandates of accountability.

Equity in school funding is something for which all of us should strive.

Education is intrinsically valuable, and well-educated students will provide our future political leadership, and fuel the engine that will drive Michigan's economic recovery. But few know that as much as 80 percent of the gap between the richest and poorest school districts is funded by voted local taxes.

Some of that gap is also funded by a "categorical" section of the school aid act (Section 20f[j]), which was created in bipartisan fashion to carry out the true intent of Proposal A. Nearly all superintendents agree that no categorical — for at-risk students, declining enrollment, middle school math or 20(j) — should be cut, thus exacerbating the current school funding crisis. We do not support pitting school districts against each other as we address the lack of funding in our state.

Lansing has cut half-a-billion dollars out of the school aid fund in the past decade.

The future of public education in the state is about to be sealed. The real long-term solution is for legislators to prove they are ready to put consistent and stable funding for education as the first priority. It is time for citizens to be heard, to contact legislators and demand fair and equitable funding of public education for all children throughout the state.

Gary A. Faber  
superintendent, West Bloomfield Schools  
Judith P. Pritchett  
superintendent, Center Line Schools  
Randy A. Liepa  
superintendent, Livonia Schools

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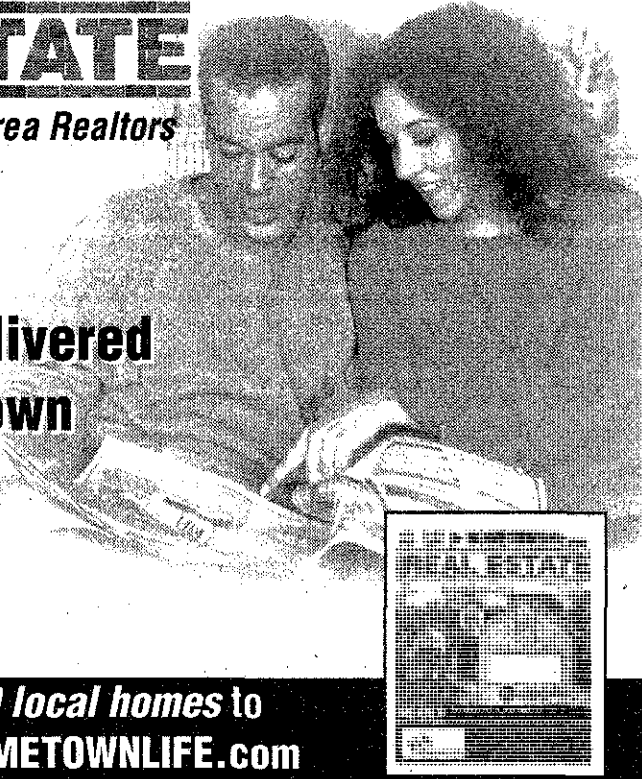
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# War opposition draws Christians to protest

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

The Christian Peace Witness taking place in Washington, D.C., last weekend drew the Rev. Bryan Smith and his 15-year-old daughter, Julia, along with a number of others opposed to U.S. involvement in the Iraq war.

The Smiths, Canton residents, flew to the U.S. capital Thursday night, accompanied by fellow Geneva Presbyterian Church members Lindsey Anderson, a student at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, and Adam Delezenne, whose fiancée is enrolled at McCormick. Bryan Smith, pastor at Geneva in Canton, observed Christians across the spectrum of the faith at the protest.

"It was something I felt I needed to do," Smith said. "For me, the Christian faith is one that requires engagement."

The protesters met Friday at the National Cathedral for worship and walked to Lafayette Park across from the White House. Earlier that day, they had training on nonviolent resistance which he found helpful.

As an American, Smith believes the war has made things worse and has not resolved terrorism. More than 3,000 U.S. service personnel have died, and up to half a million Iraqi civilians are dead.

Smith, 46, questions national resources devoted to the war. "People hit by Katrina still can't get their homes rebuilt. The way our nation uses its resources greatly disturbs me."

He's also concerned about the president being identified as Christian and that conveying the idea the war is just. Not all Christians agree the war is just, Smith said.

He's also working out his own faith and convictions, not-

ing Jesus didn't condone violence. Smith had known those teachings but is learning to take more seriously how to love enemies and not destroy them.

"That's the obligation Christ lays upon us" to oppose evil without violence.

There was a separate protest in which participants met at the Lincoln Memorial and marched to the Pentagon. In Smith's general group, some were arrested for refusing to disperse while praying.

He found the event organized and planned well, so didn't worry about his daughter's safety. Smith's not sure such protests have a great impact in the political arena.

There's no current U.S. draft, he noted, so average middle class people aren't seeing their sons and daughters impacted. Voters did send a statement in the 2006 election, he said.

His hope is that more

Christians "might be willing to speak out more in their churches. I think there's been a lot of fear used." People worry about being labeled unpatriotic, he said, but he'd like to see peaceful, rational discussions on the war.

Smith also learned more about the methods of slain civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who promoted social change without resorting to violence.

Daughter Julia didn't fear for her safety in D.C.

"I'm glad I got to experience that. It was really exciting," Julia Smith said. "It was interesting to be part of a huge group of people." She could feel the energy.

"It's not a just war," said the younger Smith, a home-schooler who recently wrote a paper on the Iraq war. "We didn't have a just cause for going into Iraq. It's just not just."



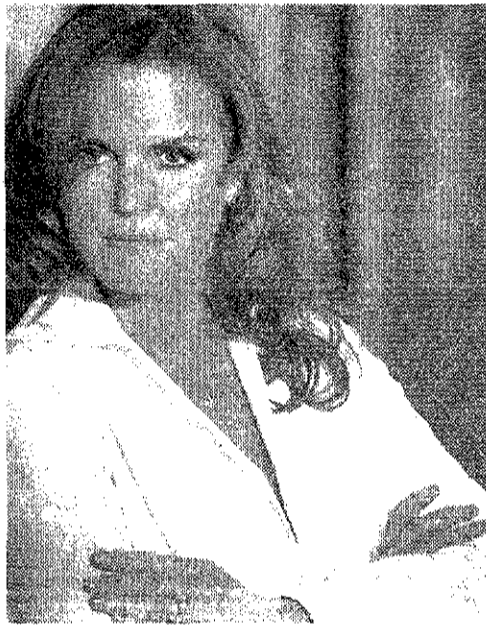
Protesters marched to Lafayette Park across from the White House.

A Republican friend of hers, also young, agrees U.S. involvement in the war is wrong, she added.

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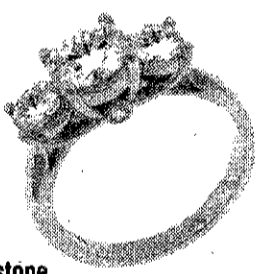
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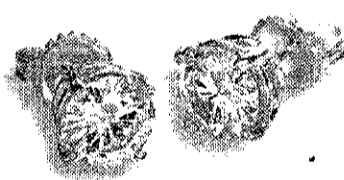
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## Parade celebrates Greek heritage

The Greek Community of metropolitan Detroit will celebrate Greek Independence Day on Sunday, March 25, 2007 with a parade in downtown Detroit.

The parade will start at 3 p.m. and will proceed on Monroe Street from Woodward to the heart of Detroit's Greektown. The parade will be led by the Grand Marshall, Philip Christopher, vice president of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad and World Coordinator for Cypriots. His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit; and political dignitaries, including representatives of the Michigan Legislature, Detroit City Council, and Consulate of Greece in Chicago will also lead the parade.

A unit of "Evzones" from Boston who replicate the famous Greek Presidential Guard, will march in full uniform with precision military maneuvers. Participating in the parade will be over 40 marching units representing Greek Orthodox churches, Greek schools, dance groups, university clubs, and cultural organizations from metropolitan Detroit and nearby communities including Windsor, Toledo, Flint, Ann Arbor, and Lansing. Numerous floats will be included in the parade.



A float celebrates Greek history in the 2006 Greek Independence Day Parade in Greektown.

After the parade, a short program will be held near the end of the parade route. A proclamation from the State of Michigan honoring Greek Independence Day will be presented, signed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm and all four Greek-American members of the Michigan Legislature; State Senator Tony Stamas (R-Midland), State Senator John Pappageorge (R-Troy), State Representative Fran Amos (R-Waterford), and State Representative Bob Constan (D-Dearborn Heights).

Senator Carl Levin will present a proclamation on behalf of the US Government.

After the program, dancers in colorful ethnic dress will perform a variety of Greek dances representing the various regions of Greece.



Marchers in traditional Greek clothing lead the 2006 Greek Independence Day Parade in Detroit's Greektown.

The Detroit Greek Independence Day Parade was revived in 2002 after an absence of over 30 years. It is

sponsored by the Detroit Greek Independence Day Committee, a non-profit corporation.

## Local pet owners worried about food recall

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER

On Monday evening Dr. Brad Davis spent two hours returning phone calls from pet owners concerned about the recall of all "cuts and gravy" style dog and cat food produced by Menu Foods Inc. at its Emporia, Kan., facility between Dec. 3 and March 6.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration released information about the recall of Menu Foods pet food packaged in cans and pouches on Saturday, March 17. The products were sold in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

There have been reports of cats and dogs developing kidney failure after eating the recalled food, and more than 14 have died as of the March 20.

For a complete list of the 51 affected dog foods, and 42 cat foods, visit [www.menu.com](http://www.menu.com).

The plant code number is 4197. For recall information, call 1-866-895-2708.

Davis suggests if pet owners suspect their dog or cat could be ill from eating the recalled pet food to call their veterinarian. Symptoms include increased thirst and urination, lack of appetite, and vomiting or diarrhea.

Davis says he has treated

animals with these symptoms, which are the same as renal failure, at VCA Animal Hospital of Garden City. The question remains is it because of the food. One dog Davis diagnosed in February with renal failure meets all of the criteria, including eating the recalled food.

"Call your veterinarian. He or she can check the blood for kidney function," said Davis, medical director of VCA Animal Hospital of Garden City and a columnist for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

"There's a lot of different food recalled. Hills and Science Diet, it's a voluntary recall, but they haven't had a case. I talked with them yesterday. It depends on the type of food. The problem isn't with all the food. Dry is safe right now."

A spokesperson for Roose Veterinary Hospital in Plymouth said calls from worried pet owners were still coming in Tuesday morning. So far, the hospital staff hasn't treated any dogs or cats sickened by the recalled pet food.

Roose Animal Hospital staff is warning pet owners not to feed any of the contaminated food to their animals.

lchomin@hometownlife.com  
(734) 953-2145

## Ficano hosts 3rd stormwater summit

The Wayne County Departments of Environment and Public Services will hold the third "Stormwater Summit" on Friday at 9 a.m. at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Fairlane Center, 19000 Hubbard Drive in Dearborn.

The event will update and educate municipal governments, engineers, developers, and environmentalists on the county's Stormwater Ordinance, which was adopted in 2000 and updated late last year.

The ordinance is required by state and federal law, and helps to improve water quality and habitat while controlling

flooding.

County Executive Robert A. Ficano will kick-off the morning event with an explanation of his new "One Stop" permitting process for Wayne County businesses. The goal of the CEO's initiative is to have all county permits approved in 45 to 60 days.

"The County's system of permits is essential to protecting the public health, environment, and safety, and we want to be the leader in making the permitting process fast and fair for our County's job creators," Ficano said.

For program details on the Stormwater Summit, call (734) 326-3936.

## Comcast holds youth talent hunt for TV ads

First, there was "American Idol," then "Grease: You're the One That I Want." Now the Comcast Casting Call presents an opportunity for young aspiring actors and actresses to make their debut. Comcast is the latest group to look to the general public to find a new "star." The Comcast Casting Call is a talent search for an 11 to 15-year-old Michigan resident - and the winner will be featured in an upcoming advertising cam-

paign.

"This is a fun and different way to find the next face and voice of Comcast in Michigan," said Luis Casanova, vice president of Communications and Public Affairs for Comcast's Michigan Region. "We're excited to involve the community and looking forward to finding the next local Comcast spokesperson."

In addition to being awarded a contract from Comcast,

the winner will be awarded the ultimate media package: an HDTV, home computer system, digital phone system and a free year of Comcast Cable, Internet and Digital Voice.

Both professionals and amateurs are eligible to enter this talent search, as long as they meet the age and residency requirements.

From the auditions submitted online, 10 finalists will be selected by a panel of eight

judges and the finalists will participate in a live audition on Saturday, March 31, 2007.

To view the rules, regulations and directions of the Comcast Casting Call and to submit an application and audition, visit [www.comcast-castingcall.com](http://www.comcast-castingcall.com).

All contestants must be legal residents of Michigan and must have parent or guardian permission to participate in the competition.

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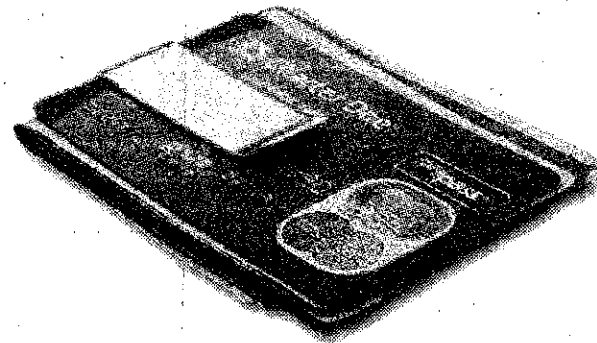
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Member FDIC. Offer available in MI and Toledo, OH, area only. To qualify for this offer, you must open or have a personal checking account at Charter One and be enrolled in Everyday Points by March 31, 2007. Receive 5,000 Everyday Points, valued at \$25, if you meet these conditions: enroll in online banking and pay at least three bills from this account by April 30, 2007. Receive 5,000 Everyday Points, valued at \$25, if you establish a monthly Steady Save transaction, with which you must transfer a minimum of \$10 at least once per month from this account to any of your Charter One savings or Money Market Accounts (other than a Passbook Savings Account) by April 30, 2007. Offers may be combined with each other but cannot be combined with any other offers. Each \$25 will be awarded in the form of 5,000 Everyday Points and can be used for your reward selection. Existing customers who do not currently use Steady Save or Online Bill Pay may also qualify - see a banker for details. Points are valid for three years from award date and may be redeemed for a gift card to our merchants or merchandise in our Everyday Points catalog, available in branch or online at [www.charterone.com](http://www.charterone.com). Point redemption values subject to change. \$25 Everyday Points annual membership fee for Green Checking customers. For Green Checking customers, an additional 3,000 points will be credited to your account and can be used to pay the annual membership fee for the first year. Your checking account must be enrolled in Everyday Points at the time the points are used to be eligible. Refer to the Everyday Points catalog for additional terms and conditions. ATM/Debit Card required for online banking. This limited-time offer is subject to change and may be withdrawn at any time. All accounts and services are subject to individual approval. See a banker for details.



**CALENDAR**

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Township Stadium 14, 3033 Springvale Drive, Walled Lake. Tickets now available at [www.FathomEvents.com](http://www.FathomEvents.com) or at presenting theater box offices for \$9. For a complete list of theaters, visit the Web site.

**ONGOING**

**Classes**

NorthRidge Church Women's Ministry invites you to participate in a variety of exciting groups and classes that began Thursday, March 8, at the church, 49555 North Territorial, Plymouth. Choose from a self defense class, Scrap-booking, Mops, Bible studies, cooking and nutrition, quilting, book club, and much more. Register on line at <http://www.northridgechurch.com/Women/>.

**Tiny Tots Preschool**

Open registration began March 14, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211.

**Recovery program**

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Northville launches Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-centered recovery program helping men and women find freedom from their hurts, habits and hang-ups (addictive and compulsive behaviors), meets every Friday evening for 6 p.m. dinner (optional), 7 p.m. praise and worship, 8 p.m. small group discussion, 9 p.m. Solid Rock Café (optional coffee and desserts). Childcare during Celebrate Recovery is free and available by calling (248) 374-7400. For information, visit [www.celebraterecovery.com](http://www.celebraterecovery.com) and [www.wardchurch.org/celebrate](http://www.wardchurch.org/celebrate).

**Bible study**

The Gospels and You Bible Study began 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, at The Basilica of St. Mary Orthodox Church activity center on the lower level, 18100 Merriman, Livonia. No charge. The study focuses on applying the Gospel of St. Luke to daily life. Sessions will be led by Rev. George Shalhoub and Jim King, the church's director of youth and outreach ministry. For information and to register, call (734) 422-0010.

**Grief workshop**

From Grief to New Hope began 7-8:45 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, and continues for eight weeks to March 26, at Ward Presbyterian Church 4000 Six

Mile, west of Haggerty, Northville. For those grieving the loss of a loved one, it is normal to feel overwhelmed, angry and alone. Advance registration appreciated. For more information, call Carol Jacoby at (248) 374-5966.

**Sunday service**

All are welcome to attend worship service at 10 a.m. Sunday in the sanctuary at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile, one block west of Inkster, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 422-1470.

**Bible study series**

St. Theodore-Catholic Church presents the Catholic Interpretation of the Book of Revelation beginning 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, and continuing for eight weeks, at the church, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland. For more information, call (734) 425-7310.

**Scripture study**

Board the Starship Evangelize, seek out and explore new worlds of scripture study - The Book of Numbers - 10 a.m. Tuesdays through May at St. Priscilla Church, 19120 Purlingbrook, Livonia. For information, call Mary Rice at (734) 522-1095.

**Worship service**

All are welcome to attend 11 a.m. worship service Sundays, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne at Hunter, Westland. Join us at 7

p.m. Tuesdays in November and December as Pastor Louise Monacelli introduces The Jesus Experience, a series of videos offering insight into the people and situations God used to expand the church around the world. For more information, call (734) 721-0800.

**Worship services**

Sunday Worship services are 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary). Sunday School & Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Sunday. Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For information, call (734) 637-8160.

**Worship service**

At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from I Peter. For more information, call (313) 255-6330.

**Adult literacy classes**

Available for those wishing to improve their reading and writing skills. Open to adults age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day and evening hours. Call (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will be in contact with you.

**Personal ministry**

Due Season Christian Church is a nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers

Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Services are currently held at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. All are welcome. For information, call (248) 960-8063 or visit [www.DueSeason.org](http://www.DueSeason.org).

**Farmington Women Aglow**

Meets from 7-9:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) on the second Monday of the month in the Visitors Center (old Spicer House) at Heritage Park on Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile roads. Call Linda Boone at (248) 476-1053.

**Scripture studies**

From 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.

**TOPS**

Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, the group meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight sensibly and keep it off. For more information, call Mary at (734) 394-1328.

**Learner's Bible study**

At 7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

# Your Invitation To Worship

<p><b>BAPTIST</b></p> <p><b>NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> 33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI (Between Wayne Rd. &amp; Merriman Rd.) (734) 728-2180 <i>Virgil Humes, Pastor</i></p> <p>Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Sunday - Worship 7:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. • Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Prayer Service 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday Family Devotions 7:00 a.m.</p>		<p><b>UNITED METHODIST</b></p> <p><b>Clarenceville United Methodist</b> 20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia <b>248-474-3444</b> Pastor Beth Librande Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Nursery Provided</p>		<p><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</b></p> <p><b>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church</b> 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 <b>734-522-6830</b></p> <p>Sunday Worship 8:15 &amp; 11:00 am • Traditional 9:45 • Modern Staffed Nursery Available</p> <p>Sunday School 9:45 &amp; 11 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413</p> <p><i>Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ</i> Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden</p>	
<p><b>CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP</b> Pastor David Washington and The CCF Family would like to invite you to...</p> <p>"Where the Word is Relevant, People are Loved and Christ is the Key"</p> <p>Join us for Worship Service at 10:30am Sunday School and/or New Members Orientation: 9:00am Located at 8775 Ronda Drive, Canton, MI, 48187 Between Haggerty Road and Lilley Road SW corner of Joy Road and Ronda Drive <b>734-404-2480</b> <a href="http://www.CantonCF.org">www.CantonCF.org</a></p> <p><b>It's not about Religion, it's about Relationships.</b> Come to a place where lives are changed, families are made whole and ministry is real!</p>		<p><b>"More than Sunday Services"</b> Worship Service 9:00, 10:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m. • Dynamic Youth and Children's Programs • Excellent Music Ministries • Small Groups For Every Age • Outreach Opportunities Pastor: Dr. Dean Klump Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert</p> <p><b>First United Methodist Church of Plymouth</b> 45201 North Territorial Road (West of Sheldon Road) <b>(734) 453-5280</b> <a href="http://www.plumc.org">www.plumc.org</a></p>		<p><b>NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.</b> "Open Hearts, Minds &amp; Doors" 36500 Ann Arbor Trail between Wayne &amp; Newburgh Rds. <b>734-422-0149</b> Worship Service and Sunday School 9:15 &amp; 11:00 a.m. <b>Rev. Marsha M. Woolley</b> Visit our website: <a href="http://www.newburgumc.org">www.newburgumc.org</a></p>	
<p><b>CATHOLIC</b></p> <p><b>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 23810 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121</p> <p>Mass Schedule: First Fri. 7:00 p.m. First Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 &amp; 9:30 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>		<p><b>FAITH COVENANT CHURCH</b> 14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills <b>(248) 661-9191</b> Sunday Worship and Children's Church 9:15 a.m. Contemporary 11:00 a.m. Traditional Child Care provided for all services Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups</p>		<p><b>BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road (Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads) at 10:00 a.m. 734-425-1174 Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!</p>	
<p><b>RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> 48755 Warren Rd., Canton, Michigan 48187 451-0444 REV. RICHARD A. PERFETTO Weekly Masses Tuesday &amp; Friday 8:30 a.m. Saturday - 4:30 p.m. Sunday - 8:30 &amp; 10:30 a.m.</p>		<p><b>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</b></p> <p><b>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE</b> 48801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1825 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3196</p>		<p><b>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)</b> 9801 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman &amp; Farmington Rds.) <b>(734) 422-0494</b> <a href="http://www.rosedegardens.org">www.rosedegardens.org</a> Contemporary Service 8:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am We Welcome You To A Full Service Church Rev. Richard Peters, Pastor Rev. Kellie Whitlock, Associate Pastor</p>	
<p><b>St Genevieve Roman Catholic Church</b> St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile &amp; Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p, Wed., Thurs. 9 a, Sat. 4 p, Sun 11a</p> <p><b>St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church</b> 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1616 (between Merriman &amp; Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a, Fri. 8:30 a, Sat. 8 p, Sun 9a</p>		<p><b>FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, PLYMOUTH</b> 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI <b>734-453-0970</b> Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. <b>734-453-0970</b></p>		<p><b>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church</b> 40000 Six Mile Road "Just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 9:00 &amp; 10:20 A.M. Contemporary Worship 11:40 A.M. Nursery &amp; Sunday School During All Morning Worship Services Evening Service • 7:00 P.M. Services Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WMUZ 580 AM For additional information visit <a href="http://www.wardchurch.org">www.wardchurch.org</a></p>	
<p><b>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH &amp; SCHOOL</b> 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA • (734) 261-1380</p> <p>SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 A.M. &amp; 11:00 A.M. PASTOR JAMES HOFF PASTOR ERIC STEINBRENNER</p>		<p><b>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</b></p> <p><b>Timothy Lutheran Church</b> A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail &amp; Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290 Jill Hegdal, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available)</p>			

For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication. To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121

# We're on the trail to spring at long last

Ninety degrees, curious coaimundis, foot-stabbing jumping cholla cacti, and extremely grungy new friends. That's what I face today as you read the paper, sip coffee and watch spring flirt and fight with remnants of winter. I find myself sun-soaked and sweaty at GPS coordinates 33 degrees 14.819 minutes north and 111 degrees 8.918 minutes west in the Northeast corner of the USGS 7.5 minute Mineral Mountain map. A knife, Pulaski and a mule hauling water are essential. Almost forgot, a compass and a topographic map are strapped to my pack straps: Anyone who relies solely on GPS, that direction dispersing automated "God in a Box" when they travel off the beaten track is a fool.

Where am I? "Sort of" on the Arizona Trail, near Picketpost Mountain, somewhat southeast of Apache Junction and the Superstition Wilderness. Lots of old mine shafts abound and the ghosts of wars, loves, conquest and shattered dreams of proud peoples seem to flicker behind every giant Saguaro. So does



**On Nature**  
Jonathan Schechter

the occasional elf owl. I better explain what I mean as "sort of" on the Arizona Trail. Every now and then I feel a need to indulge my love of wilderness and adventurous spirit. Guess I am an addict. Wanderlust fever hit. And so I grabbed the back pack and hooked up with a Sierra Club trail stewardship team. When my week is done, so will a small uncompleted section of this wild and wonderful narrow band of earth that stretches all the way from Utah down to the Mexican border. Some thought it a odd, that in my "free time" - and temporarily jobless to boot - I paid Sierra Club for the honor of working on a desert trail thousands of miles from my home. It was almost as if they regarded me as a freakish over-energized human oddity of P.T. Barnum:

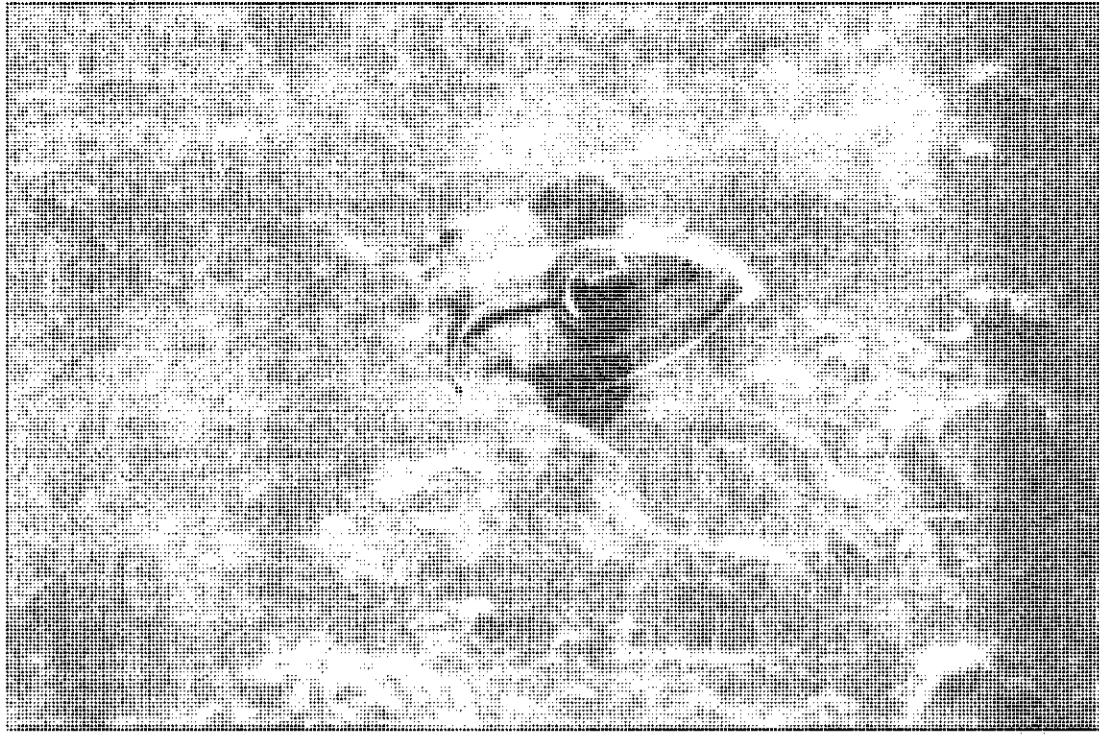
"Come and see this wretched beast, forgotten by man and God alike." But I never have been a Myrtle Beach vacation type of guy, rolling over every now and then in salty sunshine like a turkey on a rotisserie waiting for the stuffing.

Michigan has great trails. One day, our big Up North trails will stretch out like the arms of giant Saguaro Cacti and link with such wonders as Wisconsin's 1,000 mile Ice Age Trail.

Today in Oakland County our lives are enriched with the perennial favorite trails, the Paint Creek Trail, Polly Ann and Clinton River Trails as well as the much-used and loved trail West Bloomfield Trail.

One day in the not too distant future that trail that passes the nature preserve's heron rookery will link at both ends to other trails.

Talk to Gary Werner, the executive director of the partnership for national, scenic and historic trails and he says the Arizona Trail offers grater diversity than any other comparable trail in the U.S.



Frogs are a sure sign of spring.

Perhaps one day I'll do the entire 800 mile trek that encompasses 12 different life zones, and climb up and down from 1,700 feet to 9,600 feet, cross seven mountain ranges, four rivers, goes around five lakes, through three national parks, four national forests and ranges in elevation from 1,700 feet to 9,600 feet.

That big trek must wait. But I'm greeting spring stubblefaced, sleeping under stars with the old icon of the west, a moon-howling western coyotes as my songster companions. That's my Five Star living. Just have to remember to shake boots in the morning: Scorpions and western diamondback rattlers don't like being jabbed by toes at sunrise.

Want a local service project? Laurel Malvitz at malvitz@michigan.gov. For the big adventures: sierra-club.org. You never know where the trails of life and adventure lead.

Jonathan Schechter writes on nature's way in Oakland County. He can be reached at jon@nature-mad.com.

## The Motorola Sale

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**RAZR V3m**  
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With new 2 year activation.

**KRZR K1m**  
NOW ONLY \$49<sup>99</sup>

\$99.99 2 year price  
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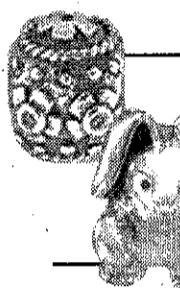
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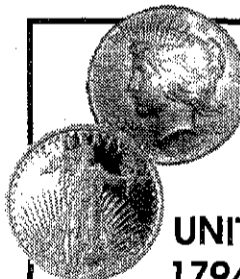
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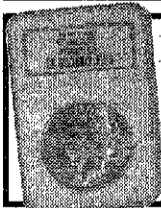
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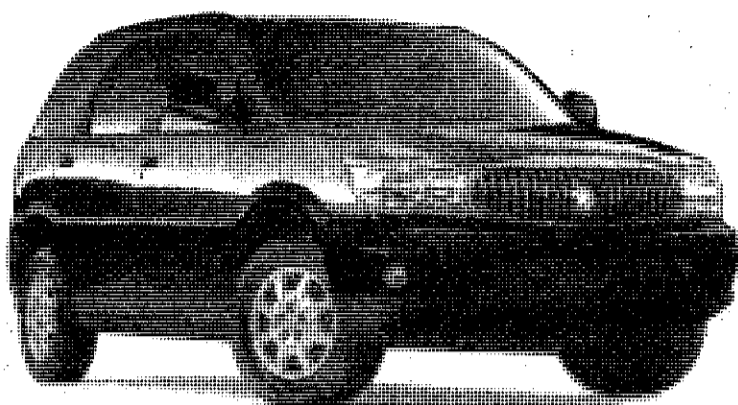
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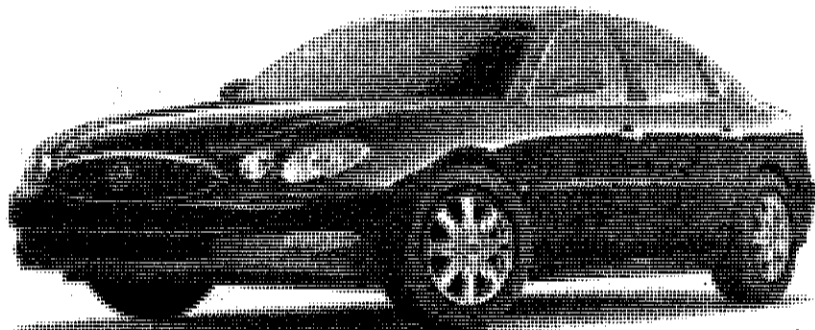
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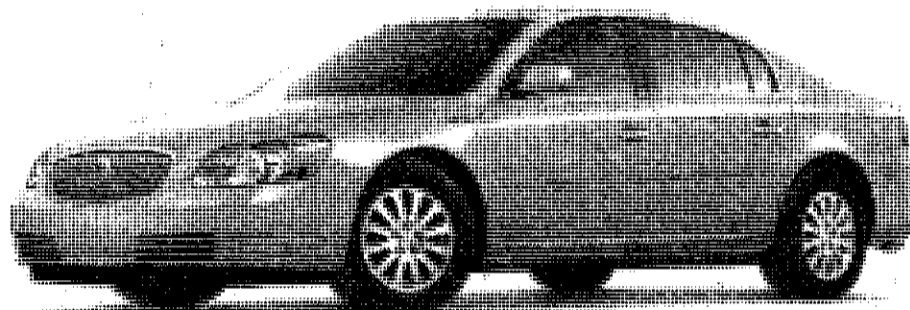
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# Churchill: Class A volleyball queens

## Krupsky lifts Chargers in finals vs. N. Branch

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

All season long they donned gray T-shirts that read: "Defend the Hill."

On Saturday, the Livonia Churchill girls' volleyball team already snapped up new ones proclaiming "State Champions."

The Chargers capped an incredible weekend in Kalamazoo by capturing their second state championship in school history with a hard-fought 14-25, 25-18, 21-25, 25-18, 15-7 triumph over North Branch before a boisterous crowd at Western Michigan's University Arena.

Kyndra Abron, the 6-foot-2 junior middle hitter, provided the offensive force with game-high 35 kills, second all-time in an individual MHSAA finals match. Senior setter Kelsey McKenzie also set a tournament match record with 61 assists-to-kills, while senior libero Kelly Archer was one of five Chargers in doubles figures in digs with 26.

But it was the play in the fifth and deciding game by senior outside hitter Lauren Krupsky, hampered all week with a sprained right ankle, which proved to be the difference.

The 5-11 senior couldn't have timed it better recording eight of her 28 kills, including the game-winner.

Churchill, which knocked off No. 1 ranked and defending state champion East Kentwood in Friday's thrilling five-game semifinal, ends its season 56-4-1 overall and earned its first Class A crown since 1991.

And somewhere former Churchill coach Mike Hughes must be smiling after the St. Patrick's Day triumph.

"It's been a magical season, a magical year," said Churchill fourth-year coach Mark Grenier, who once served as Hughes' assistant. "It's a talented group of kids and they proved it all year long. It's pretty surreal. It's a privilege and an honor to coach them."

Churchill started slowly, losing the first game convincingly against the Broncos, who came into the match ranked No. 2 to go along with a gaudy 74-3-1 overall record.

North Branch moved the Chargers around the court and kept them off balance thanks to the play of senior Samantha Fish.

"She's a great setter," Grenier said. "She's unorthodox and she pulled us out of what we wanted to do, which is play smash mouth ball."

The Chargers, however, got untracked in Game No. 2 and opened up a 19-10 lead thanks to the thunderous hits from Abron, who registered 12 kills and one block.

North Branch, however, took command again in Game No. 3 led by Rachel Heberder's four kills, putting the Broncos on the brink of their first-ever state title leading two games to one.

But that's when Abron took control again, dominating the action with 11 kills and five all-important blocks to even the count at two games-all, setting the stage for the dramatic finish.

"We played two very good teams, one team (East Kentwood) that likes quick sets, while the other (North Branch) sets the ball higher, jumps up and swings," said Abron, who is committed to Michigan State. "We played both kinds of teams during the season, so we had a lot of experience. This is the state championship and you expect to play your 'A' game

PLEASE SEE CHURCHILL, B3



Churchill's Lauren Krupsky, Kelly Archer, Kyndra Abron and Jaclyn Gribeck celebrate Friday after upsetting East Kentwood in the Class A semifinals.



Churchill's Kyndra Abron lines up a spike over East Kentwood's Lauren Jones during Friday's Division I semifinal upset at Western Michigan University. The junior had 35 kills in Saturday's championship match win over North Branch.

## Setting the table

### McKenzie filled role as team leader

It's not only in football.

Every team needs a quarterback, somebody to relay and call the signals.

That's precisely what senior setter Kelsey McKenzie did last weekend in Livonia Churchill's conquest of the state's two top-ranked teams en route to the Class A volleyball state championship at Western Michigan's University Arena.

McKenzie is a prime example when it comes to a battle of wits over skills.

In fact, she did it all season.

Not bad for somebody who was a backup setter as a junior, somebody who occasionally got into the rotation as a server and defensive specialist.

On Friday, McKenzie came up with 36 assist-to-kills. More importantly, she recorded the big block for match point in the fifth and deciding game against Miss Volleyball (Lauren Jones) to upset No. 1-ranked and defending state champion East Kentwood.

On Saturday, McKenzie set an MHSAA finals record with 61 assists in a thrilling five-game victory over North Branch, giving Churchill its first state title since 1991.

On Monday, McKenzie proudly wore her newly made state championship T-shirt with a state medal hanging around her neck, getting congratulations from teachers and students up and down the school's hallways.

On Tuesday, the senior tri-captain and her teammates celebrated their season-long accomplishments at a banquet hosted by the Italian-American Club in Livonia.

And today, the Chargers will be honored in a school-wide assembly.

"I can't believe it's over; I'm still in shock," said the 5-foot-9 senior, who plans to study occupational therapy next fall at Eastern Michigan University. "It (the banquet) was emotional, especially for the seniors. Just amazing. I got choked up. It's sad in a way, but it's exciting in a way to end a sport you love. It's a great feeling because you want to keep playing and stay with the team."



Brad Emons

PLEASE SEE EMONS, B3

# Sidelines

## Wayne lifters 4th

A team of students from Wayne Memorial High School earned a fourth-place finish out of a field of 40 teams in Saturday's Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Powerlifting Championships held at Muskegon.

Senior Josh Perusse, headed to Northwood University, led Wayne with a first-place in the 242-pound varsity class.

Other top varsity finishers for Wayne included Vernon Bryan, third (207 pounds); Nate Mosely, third (275); C.J. Kelly, third (242); Donald Ellis, fourth (165); David Freeman, fifth (181); Dwayne Davenport, fifth (207); Mike Davis, eighth (super-heavyweight); and Veto Tate, 11th (275).

In the JV class, Wayne's Renaldo Powell was runner-up at 145 pounds.

## Cardinal duo shine

Livonia Stevenson High grads Jason Christopoulos and Tony Pounders have sparked the Concordia University baseball team to its best-ever start at 6-4.

Christopoulos, a senior from Macomb Community College, was named Wolverine-Hoosier Player of the Week and is currently hitting .409 with four homers, four doubles and 20 RBI.

Pounders, a freshman shortstop, has started 11 of 12 games for the Cardinals, hitting .364 with two doubles and 14 RBI. He has also played solid defense committing just one error with a fielding percentage of .971.

## Pistons hail Antal

The Detroit Pistons and Detroit Shock, along with American Community Mutual Insurance Co., honored Livonia Churchill High senior Hilary Antal as one of its March Student-Athletes of the Month.

Antal and Daniel Olson of LaSalle H.S. each received a \$1,000 college scholarship during a half-time presentation Tuesday during a game at the Palace of Auburn Hills in Philadelphia '76ers.

Antal, who carries a 3.5 grade-point average, is a member of Churchill's varsity basketball, softball and tennis teams. She was also active her sophomore and junior years on the debate team.

She plans to attend the University of Michigan-Dearborn to earn a bachelor's degree in Political Science with aspirations of attending law school.

"Hilary Antal is truly one of the great ones," Churchill athletic director Marc Hage said. "Her character, integrity, morals and values are of the highest ethical fiber."

## Football tryouts

Tryouts for the Detroit Diesels, a minor league football team (ages 18 and up), will be from 2:30-5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24 at High Velocity Sports Center, 46245 Michigan Avenue, Canton.

The cost is \$30 per person. For more information, call (313) 294-0890.

## Spartans in NCAA

Cousins Bryan (left) and Jeff Lerg, both of Livonia, will lead Michigan State into the NCAA Regional hockey tournament this weekend at Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids. MSU, which finished third in the CCHA Playoffs last weekend at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena with a 7-6 win over Lake Superior State, will take a 22-13-3 mark into Friday's first-round game against 20-9-9 Boston University. Bryan, a junior forward who was named the Spartans' Outstanding Offensive Player at the team awards banquet Monday night, has 23 goals and 12 assists for a team-high 35 points. Jeff, a sophomore goaltender, was named the Spartans' Team MVP. He's played in all 38 games with a 2.53 goals-against average and a .909 save percentage with four shutouts. The MSU-Boston University winner takes on the semifinal winner of Notre Dame against Alabama-Huntsville in Saturday's regional championship.



## Local products Condra, Sciba keep Irish smiling

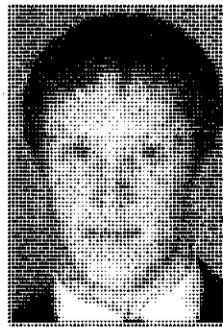
BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

You couldn't have written a better homecoming script last weekend for Erik Condra and Josh Sciba as the area duo helped Notre Dame claim the Central Collegiate Hockey Association championship Saturday night with a 2-1 St. Patrick's Day win over Michigan at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena.

Condra, a sophomore center from Livonia, notched his 14th goal of the season at 15:58 of the second period to knot the game at 1-1.

And Sciba, senior left winger from Westland, was just glad to be back taking regular shifts after missing nine games this season with a broken bone in his wrist.

Jason Paige's 11th of the season with 11:08 remaining in the final period gave the No. 1-ranked Irish the victory, their



Condra



Sciba

third straight over Michigan this season, and an automatic berth in the NCAA regional, only the second appearance in the school's history.

The top-seeded Irish (31-6-3) start tournament play at 5 p.m. Friday against Alabama-Huntsville (13-19-3) at Van

PLEASE SEE IRISH, B5

## Regular season ends with win for Whalers

Tom Sestito's power play goal at 4:45 of the third period snapped a 2-2 tie and the Plymouth Whalers defeated the Kitchener Rangers, 3-2, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Saturday night before 3,199 at the Compuware Sports Arena.

Plymouth finishes the regular season at 49-14-2-3, good for 103 points, second overall in the OHL and the second highest point total in franchise history. The 1998-99 Whalers went 51-13-4 for 106 points.

Kitchener finishes the regular season at 47-17-1-3 for 98 points.

Evan Brophrey scored the other two Plymouth goals and has 36 on the season with 71 assists for a team-leading 107 points. Chris Terry added two assists for the Whalers as the game's second star. Nazem Kadri (7) and Kevin Henderson (33) replied for Kitchener. Charles Lavigne stopped 51-of-54 Plymouth shots in goal for Kitchener as the game's third star. Plymouth goaltender

Jeremy Smith stopped 31-of-33 Kitchener shots to pick up the victory.

The teams trade a goal apiece less than one minute apart in the first period. Kadri accepted Steve Downie's cross crease pass and banged home the puck from the right wing goal line at 16:46 to give the Rangers a 1-0 lead. Brophrey tied the game at 17:42. Plymouth tied the game at 17:42 when Terry was checked on the left wing side of the Kitchener goal, the puck pinballed into the slot for Brophrey, who made no mistake.

Henderson (power play at 5:24) and Brophrey (power play at 10:30) traded goals in the second period.

Terry set up Sestito for the game winning goal. On the play, Lavigne challenged Terry, who came in tight on the left wing. As Lavigne got tied up with a Kitchener defenseman, Terry slid the puck in front to Sestito, who put the puck into the empty net.

Plymouth outshot Kitchener, 54-33.

# Whalers meet Guelph in opener

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

The pivotal moment in the Plymouth Whalers' 2006-07 regular season - the franchise's most-productive in recent memory - unfolded not on a sheet of ice, but in a locker room.

Not long after the Whalers had suffered their fifth-consecutive loss (a 5-2 setback at Kingston) on Nov. 5, head coach Mike Vellucci gathered his skaters for a heart-to-heart discussion on what he expected from them during the final 51 games of the season.

"In so many words, I told them in that team meeting that I knew we were a championship team, even though we weren't playing like one at the time," said Vellucci. "I told them if they played up to their potential, this could turn out to be a very special season because I knew we had a lot of talent on this team."

"Our turnaround started right after that meeting."

Whatever was said during the gathering should be bottled and sold. The Whalers have rolled to an incredible 41-5-5 record since the locker-room doors opened on that cold November afternoon, finishing with a 49-14-2-3 record (103

## ROUND OF 'GUELPH'

- **What:** Round 1 best-of-seven series of Ontario Hockey League playoffs.
- **Who:** Plymouth Whalers (49-14-2-3) vs. Guelph Storm (33-23-3-9);
- **When:** Game 1 is Saturday at 7:05 p.m. at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township; Game 2 is Sunday at 6:30 p.m. in Guelph; Game 3 is Tuesday at 7:05 at Compuware; Game 4 will be Thursday, March 29, in Guelph.
- **Beware the 'D':** Led by stellar goaltenders, both teams yielded less than three goals per game.
- **Tickets:** Are available by calling the Compuware Sports Arena at (734) 453-8400; or by visiting [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

points), an Ontario Hockey League West Division title and the second-most points in the entire league (London notched 104).

The Whalers will take aim at the franchise's first league championship since 1995 on Saturday night when they host Guelph in Game 1 of a best-of-seven OHL first-round playoff series. The opening face-off is set for 7:05 at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township.

The Storm finished third in the OHL's Midwest Division with a 33-23-3-9 mark.

"Even though we had a great regular season, everyone here knows the job is not done yet," Vellucci said. "The regular sea-

son is over now and the only thing a lot of people remember is how well you did in the playoffs."

"All eight teams that made the playoffs in the Western Conference are dangerous, including Guelph. Their goaltender is very good and they're not far below us in terms of goals-against average. They have a great corps of defensemen and they're a very, very hard-working team."

Statistically, it's hard to find a flaw in the Whalers, who led the OHL in goals against (173) while finishing third in goals scored (299). Their two rotating goalies - Michael Neuvirth and Jeremy Smith - both finished in the top four in the

league in goals-against average while a pair of Plymouth forwards - Evan Brophrey (107 points) and Daniel Ryder (92) - earned spots in the league's top 10 points leaders.

The Whalers' offense will be bolstered by the return of talented forward James Neal, who missed the previous two months with an injury.

Vellucci was noncommittal when asked whether he would continue splitting the goal-tending chores.

"I'm not sure yet what I'm going to do," he said. "I'm going to play it by ear, see what happens in Game 1, then take it from there."

Storm goaltender Thomas McCollum's season has paralleled Neuvirth and Smith's - at least in terms of goals-against average (2.39) and save percentage (9.18). His record (26-18-3-7) isn't as gaudy as the Whalers' combined numbers, but that's because he doesn't have the backing of the high-powered offense that Plymouth possesses.

Offensively, Guelph has been paced by Drew Doughty (73 points) and Rafael Rotter (63).

Game 2 of the series is set for 6:30 p.m. Sunday in Guelph. The two teams will return Tuesday to Plymouth for Game 3.

## Defenseman Bellemore becomes OHL plus

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

As the number of "healthy scratches" grew on Brett Bellemore's stat sheet early this season, so did the level of frustration in the Plymouth Whalers' 6-foot-4, 193-pound defenseman.

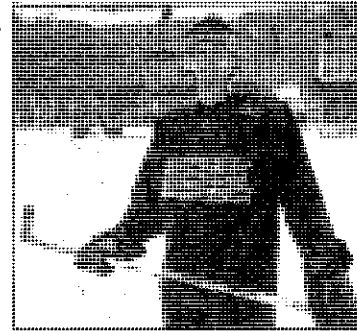
A healthy scratch - as Bellemore can readily explain - means that you're healthy enough to play in a game, but you don't because your coach doesn't think you're one of the top 20 players - or, in his case, one of the top six defensemen - available.

It may be the most humbling stat in hockey and it flattened Bellemore's season faster than a jet-propelled Zamboni.

"The first part of the season was definitely frustrating for me because I wanted to play and contribute," said Bellemore, an 18-year-old native of Windsor. "I just tried to keep working on the little things in practice and when I did get my chance, I was determined to make the best of it."

That chance came Nov. 3 against Ottawa and, boy, did he ever make the best of it.

"One or two of our defensemen got hurt the week before, so I finally got an opportunity to play in Ottawa," he remembered. "On my first shift of the game, they made a suicide pass and I hammered a guy into the boards. I got a penalty for it,



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth Whalers defenseman Brett Bellemore finished the regular season with an Ontario Hockey League-best plus-48 in the all-important plus/minus category.

but it was worth it because I started playing better and playing more after that."

To make a long story short, Bellemore went from leading the Whalers in healthy scratches to leading the entire Ontario Hockey League in the plus/minus category with an amazing plus-48. That means the Whalers scored 48 more goals when Bellemore was on the ice than they yielded when he was patrolling the blue line.

"Brett has been outstanding for us this season," said Whalers President, General Manager and Head Coach Mike Vellucci. "He started a little slowly this year, but he's been great ever since."

"Brett plays against all the top lines. He's so smart on the ice that it's scary. He anticipates

the play so well and his stick has been great. With the new rules that are in place this year, it's important that defensemen can poke check, and that's something he does very well."

"We wouldn't be where we are right now without Brett."

That's saying something considering the Whalers crafted the second-best record in the OHL over the course of the recently completed 2006-07 regular season. Although he hasn't scored a goal while netting just 12 assists, Bellemore has been a key element in the team's incredible success.

"I'm strictly a defensive defenseman," Bellemore admitted, smiling. "I try to contribute offensively when I can, but the opportunity doesn't come up very often."

He definitely contributed to the Whalers' offense on the night of Feb. 18. Thanks in large part to Bellemore's three assists, Plymouth overcame a 5-0 deficit to defeat Sault Ste. Marie, 8-6, in what may be the most memorable victory to date for the team this season.

"That's probably the highlight of my season so far," he said.

Growing up in Windsor, Bellemore was a huge fan of the OHL Spitfires, who now serve the role as the Whalers' arch-enemies. The proximity to his hometown is ideal for the 2004 12th-round draft pick.

"It's great playing so close to home because my parents, family and friends can get to a lot of my games," he said. "It's especially exciting when we play Windsor because of the rivalry between the Spitfires and the Whalers."

"I was a huge Spits fan growing up. I went to a lot of their games and I always dreamed about someday playing in the 'O'. It was very exciting getting drafted by the Whalers. It's a great group of guys and a great atmosphere to play in, especially now that we're winning like we are."

The modest Bellemore attributes his league-leading plus-minus rating more to his talented teammates than his own skills.

"We have a great group of forwards who can put the puck in the net from anywhere, anytime," he said. "I just try to get them the puck and let them do their thing."



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Game 5 - Saturday, March 31 at 7:05 p.m.  
Game 7 - Tuesday, April 3 at 7:05 p.m.

Game 2 - Sunday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m.  
Game 4 - Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.  
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Coldwell Banker/G&G Plumb. 4-5-1/9 points  
LeBlanc/Roskelly/St. Croix Division  
D&G Heating & Cooling 7-1-2/16 points  
Hunt's Ace Hardware 6-2-2/14 points  
LaSalle Bank 4-5-1/9 points  
Daily Restaurant 1-8-1/3 points  
CHAMPION - Livonia Auto Body

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Hunt's Ace Hardware 17-11-2/36 points  
Coldwell Banker/G&G Plumb. 14-11-5/33 points  
D&G Heating & Cooling 13-13-4/30 points  
Zaschak Enterprises 12-13-5/29 points  
Daily Restaurant 11-12-7/29 points  
Stante Excavating 11-15-4/26 points  
LaSalle Bank 8-18-4/20 points  
CHAMPION - Livonia Auto Body

**CHURCHILL**

FROM PAGE B1

and give everything you have. It worked out. We just came together and pushed through." It was a roller coaster match, to say the least.

"It's all about momentum and we needed to get that into our hearts," Archer said. "Coach 'G' said, 'You've got to win.' Fish would push the ball to the corners. Both games we lost our heads were not in the game. We weren't picking up the balls we should. That little No. 2 (Olivia Kohler) was a good server and hitter."

The fifth game might have been Krupsky's finest 15 minutes of her career, as she carried the Chargers to victory. After falling behind 4-2 at the outset, the Central Michigan University signee made it 5-4 and the Chargers went on a 10-3 run to end the match.

"It (the ankle) was hurting really bad, but nothing is more exciting than being in the state tourney," Krupsky said. "That fifth game I just had to focus on the here and now. I was so pumped up that the last thing I thought about was the ankle. I completely forgot about it. I just thought about putting the ball on the floor. This is the best thing that's ever happened to me. It's been a dream of mine since my sophomore year. It's just amazing. It's not



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill supporters cheer the Chargers on to their state semifinals win over East Kentwood Friday night at Western Michigan University.

about two players, it's a whole team effort."

Churchill's defense held up against the scrappy Broncos with Stephanie Bradshaw getting 17 digs followed by Anna-Marie Gatt (13), Jordan Kerr (12) and McKenzie (11).

"Kelsey (McKenzie) is a good-size setter with great timing," Grenier said. "She silently gets the job done. And we like our chances with Kyndra and Lauren being able to swing hard."

Churchill's big advantage in the final statistics was kills (69-41 margin) and blocks (15-6).

After getting an uncharacteristic 11 kills in the semifinals vs. East Kentwood, Krupsky was steady throughout the finals.

"Krupsky's a winner," Grenier said. "She's been three years on the varsity and has

never been a disappointment. After Kyndra went through the first three rotations (of the fifth game), I told Lauren to go in and be a hero. In the fifth game you want Krupsky. She went back to her old self. She forgot about the injury, just go out and play ... as did the entire group."

Jessica Curtis and Heberd recorded 11 and 10 kills, respectively for the Broncos. Lauren Strich had 18 digs, while Katie Carter added 14.

"They (North Branch) gave us fits, but I rely on my two assistants, Amanda Yaklin and Mike Francis for scouting reports," Grenier said. "They're the two people behind the scenes who enabled this to happen. They put together a nice game plan. They're great assistant coaches."

North Branch coach Larry

Fish, meanwhile, said his team performed admirably in defeat.

"We tried the same attack, work the middle and the lines," he said. "We always had two people on Krupsky and sometimes three on Abron. She (Abron) made 13 hitting errors so I think our game plan worked, but you're not going to stop her every time."

"They had 69 kills as a team and we had 41. But we had people 5-6 and 5-2 still getting touches and blocks against 6-3 and 6 feet. That's amazing."

"We also wanted to serve them aggressively and keep them out of their offense. We had 10 aces and they only aced us once."

"I'm not depressed at all. There are no regrets. There was no fear. They showed class and they're a fine team. They competed hard. Give Churchill all the props."

Churchill becomes the first Observerland team in 15 years to win a state volleyball. And ironically, it was the Chargers who last captured a state crown.

"We just had to take it one game at a time and see what happens," Grenier said. "We're fortunate to play in a great conference. Playing teams like Salem and Northville in the district prepared us. It's a win for all the teams in the Western Lakes (Activities Association). We have a good conference and they should feel they get a slice of this as well."

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**THE WEEK AHEAD**

- PREP BASEBALL**  
**Tuesday, March 27**  
 John Glenn at N. Farmington, 4 p.m.  
**Wednesday, March 28**  
 Willow Run at Wayne, 4 p.m.  
 Summitt at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.  
**Thursday, March 29**  
 Wash. Christian at Huron Valley, 4:30 p.m.  
**Friday, March 30**  
 Franklin at Garden City, 4 p.m.  
 Lathrup at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, March 31**  
 (all doubleheaders)  
 John Glenn at Farmington, 11 a.m.  
 Wyandotte at Wayne, 11 a.m.  
 Churchill at Thurston, noon  
 Novi at Stevenson, noon  
 Franklin at Allen Park, 1 p.m.
- GIRLS SOFTBALL**  
**Tuesday, March 27**  
 Harrison at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
 Huron Valley at S'field Christian, 4:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, March 28**  
 A.A. Huron at Franklin (2), 3:30 p.m.  
 Willow Run at Wayne, 4 p.m.  
 Summitt at Clarenceville, 4 p.m.  
**Thursday, March 29**  
 Stevenson at Dearborn, 4 p.m.  
**Friday, March 30**  
 Novi at Franklin (2), 4 p.m.  
 Lathrup at Clarenceville, 4:30 p.m.  
**Saturday, March 31**  
 (all doubleheaders)  
 Garden City at Stevenson, 11 a.m.  
 Redford Union at Franklin, 11 a.m.  
 Wyandotte at Wayne, 11 a.m.  
 Huron Valley at Lutheran N'west, 11 a.m.
- GIRLS SOCCER**  
**Monday, March 26**  
 Crestwood at Franklin, 7 p.m.  
 Stevenson at Saline, 7 p.m.  
**Tuesday, March 27**  
 Divine Child at Ladywood, 5:30 p.m.  
 John Glenn at F.H. Harrison, 7 p.m.  
**Wednesday, March 28**  
 Wayne at John Glenn, 4 p.m.  
 Summitt at Clarenceville, 5 p.m.  
 Northville at Churchill, 7 p.m.  
 Franklin at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
**Thursday, March 29**  
 Bishop Foley at Ladywood, 5:30 p.m.  
**Friday, March 30**  
 Clarenceville at Wayne, 5 p.m.  
 Churchill at A.A. Pioneer, 5:30 p.m.  
 Novi at Stevenson, 7 p.m.  
**Saturday, March 31**  
 Ladywood at Notre Dame Prep, 1 p.m.
- BOYS TRACK & FIELD**  
**Tuesday, March 27**  
 John Glenn at N. Farmington, 4 p.m.  
**Thursday, March 29**  
 Annapolis at Clarenceville, 4 p.m.
- Saturday, March 31**  
 Patriot Invitational at Franklin, 9 a.m.  
 Huron Relays at EMU, 10 a.m.
- GIRLS TRACK & FIELD**  
**Tuesday, March 27**  
 John Glenn at N. Farmington, 4 p.m.  
**Thursday, March 29**  
 Annapolis at Clarenceville, 4 p.m.  
**Saturday, March 31**  
 Patriot Invitational at Franklin, 9 a.m.  
 Huron Relays at EMU, 10 a.m.
- BOYS TENNIS**  
**Friday, March 30**  
 Wayne at Taylor Truman, 4 p.m.
- GIRLS GOLF**  
**Tuesday, March 27**  
 John Glenn vs. Taylor Truman at Fellows Creek, 3 p.m.  
**Thursday, March 29**  
 Wayne vs. Taylor Truman at Woodlands-Van Buren, 3 p.m.
- GIRLS LACROSSE**  
**Monday, March 26**  
 Ladywood at A.A. Pioneer, 7 p.m.  
**Saturday, March 31**  
 Ladywood Tournament, 9 a.m.
- MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL**  
**Friday, March 23**  
 Madonna at Spalding (Ky.), 7 p.m.  
**Saturday, March 24**  
 Madonna at Spalding (2), 1 p.m.  
**Sunday, March 25**  
 Madonna at Spalding (Ky.), noon.  
**Tuesday, March 27**  
 Madonna vs. Rochester College at Ilich Ballpark, 2 p.m.  
**Wednesday, March 28**  
 Madonna vs. Indiana Tech at Ilich Ballpark (2), 1 p.m.  
**Thursday, March 29**  
 Madonna vs. Siena Heights at Ilich Ballpark (2), 1 p.m.  
**Sunday, April 1**  
 Madonna at Siena Heights (2), 1 p.m.
- WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL**  
**Friday, March 23**  
 WHAC-MCC Challenge at Ind. Wesleyan.  
 Madonna vs. Grace College (Ind.), 9 a.m.  
 Madonna vs. St. Francis (Ind.), 11 a.m.  
 Madonna vs. Spring Arbor, 3 p.m.  
**Saturday, March 24**  
 Madonna at Ind. Wesleyan, 11 a.m.  
 Madonna at Ind. Wesleyan, 3 or 5 p.m.
- ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYOFFS**  
**Saturday, March 24**  
 Whalers vs. Guelph Storm at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.  
**Sunday, March 25**  
 Plymouth at Guelph Storm, 6:30 p.m.
- MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE**  
**Friday, March 23**  
 Ignition vs. California Cougars at Compuware Arena, 7:35 p.m.

**EMONS**

FROM PAGE B1

Two years ago, Churchill lost in the regional final to Saline. Last year, the Chargers fell to Temperance Bedford in the quarterfinals.

This year, the Chargers broke through to the Final Four and got a shot at East Kentwood in the semifinals. Nobody figured it would last more than four games and East Kentwood would roll into the finals.

But the Kalamazoo crowd got behind the underdog Chargers and it went to the fifth game.

Adrenaline kicked in. Churchill was hanging tooth-and-nail with the Falcons despite the fact that one of the team's top two attackers, senior Lauren Krupsky, was slowed by a sore right ankle. "We tried to take it game-by-game, but I always dreamed about winning 'state,'" McKenzie said. "And during the semis, I said, 'Wow, this is really happening.' I had a lot of confidence in the team and I was confident we could win. Our defense was amazing. We got touches and we put it down. Lauren's a trooper, she played through pain. And Kyndra (Abron) kept making big hits. Everybody played a great game. It was the best game of our lives. We had so



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill coach Mark Grenier gives instructions to his Churchill players during a timeout in Friday's semifinal victory over East Kentwood.

much heart. Both were great teams — it was a matter of who wanted it more."

Apparently McKenzie desperately wanted to be the starting setter somewhere along the line, dating back to her freshman year.

The position was considered a question mark going into this season for the Chargers with the loss of Stacy Urbats (now at Schoolcraft College), but McKenzie figured it was her spot despite little varsity playing time.

McKenzie then made a tough decision. She gave up basketball to concentrate on volleyball during the off-season.

"We talked about it after the season and she did everything you could possibly do," Churchill coach Mark Grenier said. "She busted her butt in summer

camp. She set a lot of balls (in the fall). She went above and beyond, and it was noticed by the team. They rallied around her and she gained a lot of respect. It (volleyball) became the number one priority for her."

McKenzie also had the makeup that fits a quarterback. She knew when to get serious and when it was time to let her hair down.

"Kelsey's the type of person you want to hang out with," Grenier said. "She's got that bubbly personality, knows when to have fun and keeps things light. She's got a great sense of humor."

McKenzie's development was steady throughout Churchill's 56-4-1 season. She also began to realize the coach had her back.

"(Grenier) and I had a special relationship," the setter said. "The quarterback runs the team and we talk behind the scenes. He often pulled me aside. He helped me a lot. He's a really good coach."

The early-season question mark turned into a state finals exclamation point.

"Early on, I knew she'd get better with practice and experience," Grenier said. "She was our floor leader. She had quite a drive and it was never more evident than in the North Branch match. During the timeouts she kept people up when things got tight. She delivered some big balls. "She saved her best for last."



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**200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY**  
Livonia Stevenson 1:38.64  
Salem 1:41.79  
Canton 1:44.97  
Livonia Churchill 1:48.37  
Plymouth 1:48.75

**200 FREESTYLE**  
Jeff Pauza (Stevenson) 1:45.36  
Matt Carlson (Canton) 1:46.26  
Travis Hatt (Stevenson) 1:47.21  
Nick Leone (Salem) 1:48.19  
Kyle Hermann (Stevenson) 1:48.59  
Drew Randall (Churchill) 1:50.33  
Ross Schwarz (Canton) 1:50.73  
Charles Turlo (Stevenson) 1:53.17  
Michael Cruce (Stevenson) 1:53.59  
Matt Underhill (Salem) 1:53.72

**200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY**  
Travis Hatt (Stevenson) 1:56.31  
Matt Carlson (Canton) 1:59.06  
Mike Conger (Plymouth) 2:04.87  
Jeff Pauza (Stevenson) 2:05.30  
Michael Cruce (Stevenson) 2:05.51  
Robert Luke (Stevenson) 2:08.76  
Rob Blaesser (Canton) 2:09.27  
Bryan Bielicki (Stevenson) 2:09.59  
Nick Leone (Salem) 2:10.32  
Scott Geverink (Stevenson) 2:10.62

**50 FREESTYLE**  
Travis Hatt (Stevenson) 22.16  
Jon Templeton (Canton) 22.35  
Jeff Pauza (Stevenson) 22.90  
Jason Williams (Salem) 22.91  
Drew Randall (Churchill) 23.06  
Kyle Hermann (Stevenson) 23.12  
Chris Marinica (Canton) 23.16  
Mark Gordon (Churchill) 23.19  
Nick Leone (Salem) 23.33  
Ben Lamerand (Churchill) 23.35

**1-METER DIVING**  
(11 dive total)  
Jon Whitt (John Glenn) 347.00  
Jeff Kinsvater (Stevenson) 292.75  
Chris McGinnis (Canton) 284.55  
Matt Hope (Churchill) 247.75  
Luke McKay (Stevenson) 243.00  
Dylan Thomas (Wayne) 238.60  
Kevin Smith (Salem) 238.50  
Travis Hatt (Churchill) 212.35  
Andrew Richards (Churchill) 203.80  
Kyle Wilkenson (Plymouth) 197.50

**100 BUTTERFLY**  
Travis Hatt (Stevenson) 50.82  
Robert Luke (Stevenson) 53.14  
Matt Carlson (Canton) 55.75  
Jeff Pauza (Stevenson) 55.84  
Michael Cruce (Stevenson) 55.88  
Scott Geverink (Stevenson) 56.57  
Chris Marinica (Canton) 57.00

Nick Anthony (Franklin) 57.08  
Nick Leone (Salem) 57.52  
Stan Chen (Salem) 57.88

**100 FREESTYLE**  
Travis Hatt (Stevenson) 48.04  
Jeff Pauza (Stevenson) 48.35  
Drew Randall (Churchill) 48.44  
Jon Templeton (Canton) 48.95  
Nick Leone (Salem) 49.53  
Kyle Hermann (Stevenson) 50.18  
Matt Carlson (Canton) 50.43  
Matt Underhill (Salem) 50.96  
Ben Lamerand (Churchill) 51.56  
Ross Schwarz (Canton) 51.60

**500 FREESTYLE**  
Jeff Pauza (Stevenson) 4:39.82  
Travis Hatt (Stevenson) 4:51.68  
Matt Carlson (Canton) 4:57.10  
Matt Underhill (Salem) 4:57.55  
Ross Schwarz (Canton) 5:00.52  
Michael Cruce (Stevenson) 5:04.79  
Drew Randall (Churchill) 5:07.90  
Joey Wingett (Stevenson) 5:08.68  
Nick Leone (Salem) 5:08.99  
Charles Turlo (Stevenson) 5:09.05

**200 FREESTYLE RELAY**  
Canton 1:29.98  
Livonia Stevenson 1:30.41  
Salem 1:30.85  
Livonia Churchill 1:31.19  
Plymouth 1:36.64

**100 BACKSTROKE**  
Jeff Pauza (Stevenson) 53.62  
Robert Luke (Stevenson) 54.34  
Travis Hatt (Stevenson) 54.86  
Mike Conger (Plymouth) 56.90  
Rob Blaesser (Canton) 57.68  
Matt Carlson (Canton) 58.73  
Bryan Bielicki (Stevenson) 59.89  
Matt Underhill (Salem) 1:00.16  
Michael Cruce (Stevenson) 1:00.65  
Brendan Schoff (Stevenson) 1:01.56

**100 BREASTSTROKE**  
Matt Carlson (Canton) 1:01.14  
Travis Hatt (Stevenson) 1:01.85  
Stan Chen (Salem) 1:01.95  
Joey Wingett (Stevenson) 1:04.26  
Kevin Karlinski (Canton) 1:05.30  
Mark Gordon (Churchill) 1:05.81  
John Loria (Stevenson) 1:07.67  
David Bladdecki (Stevenson) 1:07.67  
Nathan Spala (Salem) 1:08.55  
Eric Schuman (Stevenson) 1:09.04

**400 FREESTYLE RELAY**  
Livonia Stevenson 3:16.26  
Canton 3:22.66  
Salem 3:23.08  
Livonia Churchill 3:23.46  
Plymouth 3:33.44

**Senior men's golf**

A general membership meeting for the Livonia Senior Men's Golf League will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 21 at the Civic Park Senior Center, 15218 Farmington Road, Livonia. The \$25 registration fee includes a \$15 ticket to the annual awards banquet. Membership is open to all male residents of Livonia who are 62 years of age and older. League play begins Tuesday, May 1 and is scheduled through Tuesday, July 31. There are five handicapped flights. You must play at least 10 nine-hole rounds during the league year to establish a handicap and be eligible to participate in the flight championship tournament beginning in August. For more information, call league president Tom Amadori at (734) 261-4718; or league secretary Don Hooper at (734) 464-6975.

**Triathlon seminar**

An introduction to triathlon seminar will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 28 at the New Balance store, located at 37606 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. A panel of experts will be available to discuss training methods necessary to become a triathlete. Light snacks will be provided. Among the featured speakers will be Laura Sopheia, a 20-year veteran of the sport and 2006 USA Triathlon National and 2006 Ironman World Champion age group champion; Roman Krzyzanowski, 10-time Ironman finisher and USA Triathlon age-group All-American; and Jon Sherman, owner of Cadence Cycle in Saline. The seminar is free, but you need to reserve a spot by Friday, March 23 to: depeter@nbdtetroit.com. For more information, call (248) 324-0506; or visit www.nbdetroit.com.

**Colt-Palomino sign up**

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.

**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.

**AAU volleyball**

Tryouts for the Thunderbirds Volleyball Organization (TVO) for girls ages 10-18 will be Saturday and Sunday evenings throughout the month of March. Space is limited, but new and experienced players are welcome. To register for tryouts, call TVO club coordinator Gary Smart at (734) 432-5959; or e-mail smart5959@sbcglobal.net.

**Soccer sign up**

Registration is underway for the Livonia YMCA spring soccer for boys and girls ages 3-8, along with boys and girls under-9, -10 and -11. The season runs April 14 through June 2 and fees vary. For more information, call (734) 261-2161. The Livonia Soccer Club is accepting spring registrations. For more information, call (734) 464-8575; or visit www.livoniasoccer.org.

**WYAA registration**

Registration for the 39th season for Westland Youth Athletic Association baseball and softball is underway and runs through March 31 at the WYAA's Lange Compound, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road). The WYAA offers programs including: T-Ball (ages 5-6), Coach-Pitch with machine (7-8), Mustang (9-10), Bronco (11-12), Pony (13-14), Colt (15-16), Palomino (17-18), along with girls slow-pitch and fast-pitch softball. For more information, call (734) 421-0640 during normal business hours or 10 a.m. until noon Saturday and 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays; leave a message). You can also visit www.wyaa.org.

**Martian Races**

The seventh annual Martian Invasion of Races, benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma

**SPORTS ROUNDUP**

Society, will be Sunday, April 1 starting at the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus. The event, which winds through Hines Park in Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Westland, Livonia and Northville, includes the marathon (26.2 miles), half-marathon (13.1 miles), Meteor 10K (6.2 miles) and mini-marathon for kids (26.2 miles over several days). Athletes will compete for over \$3,200 in prize money. The Martian Fitness Expo, free to the public, will be from 1-8 p.m. Saturday, March 31 at UM-D. A pre-race pasta party will be from 4-8 p.m. at Dearborn Pizza Papalis also on March 31. Volunteers are also wanted. For more information, visit www.martianmarathon.com.

**Archery class**

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will offer a six-week advanced archery class for ages 10 and up from 6-7:30 p.m. Mondays, May 14 through June 25 (no class May 28) at the Archery Range, located on Glendale Avenue off Farmington Road between I-96 and Plymouth Road. Registration, which begins Monday, April 2, is at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 12100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road). The fee is \$30. Equipment will be provided, but it is recommended you bring your own finger tab and arm guard. You may bring your own equipment with instructor approval the first class. For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

**Archery range opens**

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will open its archery range from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays from April through October and 4 p.m. until dusk Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept.-October. The range is located on Glendale Avenue off of Farmington Road between I-96 and Plymouth Road. Registration for an archery range season pass begins Monday, March 5 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center's Parks and Recreation Desk, located at 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road). Resident season pass fees are \$25 (per individual); \$35 (two members); \$45 (three members); and \$55 (four or more). Non-resident fees are \$40 (per individual); \$50 (two members); \$60 (three members); and \$70 (non-resident). Daily resident pass fees are \$4 (adult) and \$2 (17-and-under). Non-resident fees are \$6 (adult) and \$4 (17-and-under). For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

**Open swimming**

Western Wayne County

Therapeutic Recreation will stage open recreational swimming from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays through May 29 at the Dyer Orthopedic Pool, located on Marquette Road (between Wayne and Newburgh roads). The one night fee is \$2 for Wayne County residents and \$3 for non-Wayne County residents. Five swim cards are \$10 for Wayne County residents and \$15 for non-residents. For more information, call Margaret Martin at (734) 722-7620; or e-mail mmartin@ci.westland.mi.us.

**MU volleyball camps**

Madonna University will stage a series of summer volleyball camps including: Elite - 8:30 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday, June 25-28; General Players - 1-4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, June 25-28; Setters - 8:30 a.m.-noon, Wednesday through Saturday, June 29-July 2; Hitters - 8:30 a.m.-noon, Monday through Thursday, July 9-12; and defensive specialist - 1-4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, July 9-12. For more information, call MU women's volleyball coach Jerry Abraham at (734) 432-5612 (office) or (734) 254-0698 (evenings).

**Northville Runners**

Runners of all levels are invited to join the Northville (formerly Redford) Road Runners, which meets at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday - with the exception of the first Tuesday of each month at Running Fit in Northville (Six Mile and Haggerty roads) - and Thursday at Northville's Hillside Recreation Center, located off Center Street just south of Eight Mile. Runners also meet during the winter months at 9 a.m. Saturdays at the Northville Community Recreation Center, located on Center just west of Sheldon. Varying distances are run, ranging from 4-to-6 miles. Visit www.northvilleroadrunners.org for more information.

**Baseball Academy**

The Bernie Carbo Pro Secrets Baseball Academy will be staging individual, small group and team skills session in velocity improvement, power hitting and fielding to showcase at any time. Former Phillies minor league All-Star Mark Rutherford will be the featured instructor. For more information, call (734) 421-4928.

**Ignition soccer camp**

The Detroit Ignition has announced the 2007 Detroit Ignition Summer Soccer Camp Program. With camp locations to be positioned throughout Metro Detroit, Detroit Ignition Soccer Camp is currently the only Detroit area soccer program that will offer registrants the opportunity to train with professional soccer players and staff. Designed for children ranging in age from 4-18, the Detroit Ignition Soccer Camp curriculum will offer a broad spectrum of training from basic soccer introduction for younger players to advanced training for older players looking for an edge on technical and tactical training. For Detroit Ignition Soccer Camp locations and schedules, visit www.detroitignition.com or call (888) 436-GOAL (4625). Detroit Ignition Soccer Camp is sponsored by the Hantz Group and Henry Ford Medical Group. Information regarding purchasing tickets to see the Detroit Ignition at Compuware Sports Arena can be obtained by calling the club at (888) 436-GOAL (4625), on online at www.detroitignition.com or www.ticketmaster.com.

**Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.**  
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 30300 Plymouth Rd. Livonia MI 48150 (734)522-2274 on 3/30/07 at 9:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of: 3085 - Rosemary Savitskie - 50 Boxes, Dresser, Wardrobe 3110 - Shawn Allison - 2 Portable TV's, DVD Player, Misc Items 2139 - Margaret Davanzo - Grill, Desk, End Table 4072 - Catherine Petroff - Shelf, Desk, Misc Items 4035 - Lynda Jordan - 25 Totes, 5 Boxes, Misc Items  
Publish: March 15 & 22, 2007

**Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.**  
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage located at 12900 Newburgh Rd Livonia MI 48150 (734)591-6447 on 3/30/07 at 10:00 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due. Personal property described below in the matter of: B011 - Curtis Granderson - Golf Clubs, Bookcase, 4 Chairs B025 - Kimberley Tarnowsky - Power Saw, 6 Totes, Misc Items C024 - Dawn McGuinness - Couch, Dryer, Washer C094 - Delia Farah - Misc Items D010 - Phyllis Johnson - 20 Boxes, 2 fans, Misc Items D052 - Shawn Bell - Refrigerator, Desk, 2 Chairs D109 - Brenda Bates - Kids Toys, Microwave, Misc Items D164 - Dan Touchette - Couch, Microwave, 10 Totes F002 - Butch Conz - 40 Boxes, Chair, Kitchen Table  
Publish: March 15 & 22, 2007

**CITY OF LIVONIA**  
**NOTICE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE NOXIOUS WEED AND REFUSE ORDINANCE**

TO: All owners, occupants or possessors of subdivided lands or lots:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Title 8, Chapter 40 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, of the City of Livonia, all noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of nine (9) inches, or any refuse or debris growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City of Livonia, shall be cut down, destroyed or removed as the case may be, by May 15 of each year and as many times thereafter as may be necessary. If any weeds so ordered to be destroyed by May 15, as aforesaid, have not been removed by the owner or occupant of the premises, then the City of Livonia is hereby authorized to enter upon the land and destroy said weeds at the expense of the owner or occupant of said land. The City may cut weeds as many times as is necessary and charge the costs to the property owner.

In the event the owner or occupant, or person or persons, agent, firm or corporation having control or management of any subdivided land in any subdivision in which buildings have been erected on sixty percent (60%) of the lots included in the subdivision and where such subdivision has a residential zoning classification of R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6 or R-U-F, or the owners or occupants, or any person or persons, agent, firm or corporation having control or management of any property, regardless of zoning classification, which abuts or is adjacent to the aforementioned subdivisions for a depth of two hundred (200) feet, or the owners or occupants, or person or persons, agent, firm or corporation, having control or management of any property, regardless of zoning classification, which abuts or is adjacent to any developed public park or any developed school or college grounds, whether public, private or parochial, for a depth of two hundred (200) feet, or the owners or occupants, or person or persons, agent, firm or corporation having control or management of any property, regardless of zoning classification, along all improved streets in common usage for a depth of two hundred (200) feet or the depth of the property, whichever is less, shall fail, refuse or neglected to comply with the above mentioned ordinance, the City shall cause said weeds, grass, brush, deleterious, unhealthy growths, rubbish or debris to be cut down, destroyed or removed. Provided, further, that any lands which are situated within the floodplains of any natural streams or watercourses, or any area between the lower or upper banks of such streams or watercourses, shall be exempted from the provisions of this ordinance. The expense incurred by the City in the cutting, destruction or removal of same together with a ten percent (10%) administrative charge will be levied and collected against such property in the manner provided by law.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Title 8, Chapter 40 of the Livonia Code of Ordinances, as amended, may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.

David M. Woodcox  
Director of Inspection,  
City of Livonia

Publish: March 8 & 22, 2007



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Northville	Sunrise of Northville	734-420-4000	16100 Haggerty Road

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**IRISH**

FROM PAGE B1

Andel Arena in Grand Rapids. The other side of the draw pits Michigan State and Boston University at 8:30 p.m. Friday, with the winners facing off at 8:35 p.m. Saturday.

"It's just amazing, it's been an exciting ride for us," said Condra, who was named to the all-tourney team and leads the Irish in points with 14 goals and 33 assists. "Growing up in Livonia, it's always been a dream of mine playing at Joe Louis Arena and winning the CCHA. I had a whole crew there. My grandpa came up from Florida. It was just awesome."

It was only six weeks ago when Sciba wondered if he was going to finish out the season after suffering the injury late January in a game against Miami (Ohio). He elected surgery instead of going with a cast, which would have put him out for the year.

"It was an unbelievable feeling, especially for the seniors going out, it was something special," said Sciba, who has seven goals and 10 assists after scoring 17 goals and adding 13 assists his junior year.

With the upperclassmen setting a good example, along with passion and single-mindedness of second-year coach Jeff Jackson, it's propelled the Irish to a banner season and just four wins away from a coveted NCAA title.

Even the Irish's current ranking and dominance of the CCHA has been quite a surprise.

"Truthfully, I didn't think so," Condra said of Notre Dame's record. "I knew we'd be better, but nobody saw this coming. A few things come to mind. We have tremendous leadership from our eight seniors. They've brought us into a system and led us through. It was good for us to have Josh back. He's a senior leader who can score at any moment."

"We also have some good, young guys who can put the puck in the net."

"And Coach Jackson just has a passion for the game. He's old-school. Discipline and hard work are his main assets. It's his preparation, too. He's not satisfied. He'll stay up all night just to make sure of every last detail."

Sciba, like Condra, was recruited to Notre Dame by former coach Dave Poulin. Sciba came directly from the Under-18 U.S. National Developmental Team based in Ann Arbor and has been part of the Notre Dame program four years.

As a freshman, he played in 38 of 39 games and was a member of the first and last Irish team to make an NCAA regional (2004), losing to Minnesota in the first-round game in Grand Rapids, 5-2.

"It's a combination of things," Sciba said, alluding to the team's success. "It's his (Jackson's) attention to detail and his passion for the job. He takes everything to heart. It's very precise. It's the way we execute our systems on and off the ice. It's a team-oriented atmosphere. It's been like that all year long. And that's how we approach every weekend."

Playing in Grand Rapids shouldn't hurt. The Irish will have plenty of support again this weekend.

"It's close to home, we'll get a good crowd there and it should feel like a home-ice advantage," said Condra, who was a seventh-round draft pick last summer of the NHL Ottawa Senators.

The Irish, No. 2 seed overall in the 16-team tournament, won't get caught looking ahead to Michigan State, with whom they split during the regular season, or Boston University for that matter.

"We have a lot of respect for Alabama-Huntsville," Sciba said. "As Coach Jackson said, we have to play as we have all season long with that 'underdog mentality.'"

"Our fans have been good all year. We'll get the student support and I'm sure a lot of my friends will be there."

If Notre Dame gets through the Grand Rapids regional, the ultimate destination is the Final Four, April 5 and 7, in St. Louis, Mo.

While Condra, a psychology and pre-med major, has two years of eligibility remaining, this is it for Sciba, who now begins to ponder life after college hockey.

"I want to try and play as long as I can," said Sciba, who will graduate with a major in sociology and computer applications. "But I'd also like

to teach and coach. It would be something special to be a part of the game and be able to stay in the game."

**Wolverines in NCAA**

Livonia natives Mark Mitera and Brandon Naurato will lead the University of Michigan hockey team into the NCAA West Regional semifinals, 5:30 p.m. Saturday at the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colo., against North Dakota.

Michigan, the No. 2 seed, is 26-13-1 overall after finishing runner-up to Notre Dame last weekend in the CCHA tournament.

North Dakota, 22-13-5 overall, is seeded No. 2. The other bracket pits No. 1 seed Minnesota against No. 4 seed Air Force. The regional final is set for Sunday, with the winners advancing the Final Four, April 5 and 7, in St. Louis.

Mitera, a sophomore defenseman and No. 1 draft pick of the NHL Anaheim Ducks, has one goal and 17 assists in 40 games with a plus-23 rating.

Naurato, a sophomore forward from Catholic Central High School, has 12 goals and 11 assists in 39 games.

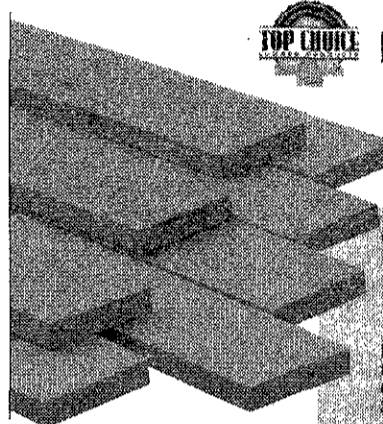
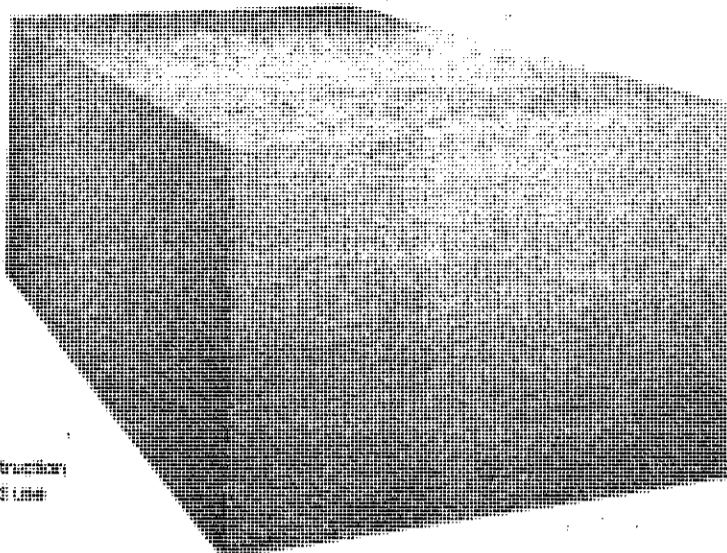


**World weightlifter**

A recent book signing at Doc's Sports Retreat in Livonia provided a chance for a reunion between Dr. Bob Suchyta, owner of Doc's, and a former coach and Norbert Schemansky (right). The restaurant hosted a book signing for Schemansky's new biography, "Mr. Weightlifting." Both men were accomplished Olympic lifters, with Schemansky (holder of four Olympic medals) being Suchyta's former coach. More than 120 leatherbound copies of the book, published by Wayne-based Immortal Investment Publishers, were sold and signed at the launch. For information on the book, call (800) 475-2066.

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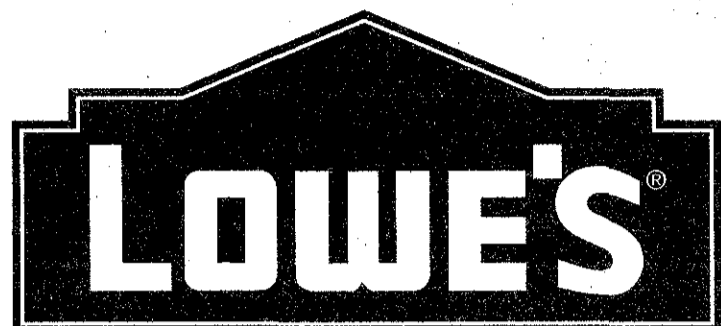
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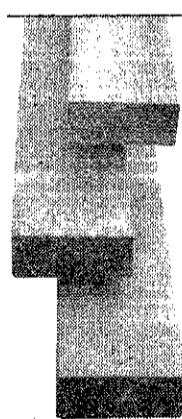
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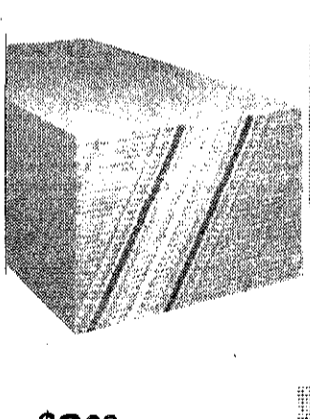
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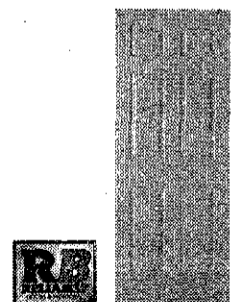
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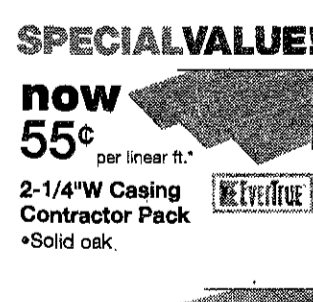


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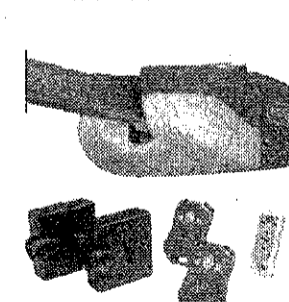
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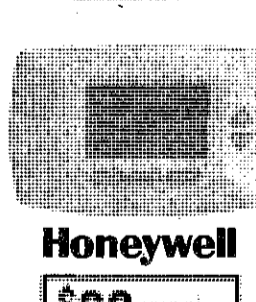
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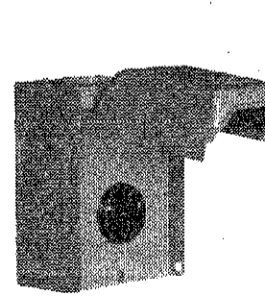
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<p><b>WESTLAND</b> <b>Blue Garden Apartments</b> Apts from \$520* MOVE IN SPECIAL DELUXE UNITS FOR BASIC UNIT PRICE SECURITY DEPOSIT \$200 • HEAT/WATER INCL. • CLUBHOUSE • PET WELCOME • MOORE UNIT Spacious 1 and 2 bdrm apartments with balcony. Cherry Hill near Merriman Call for Details* <b>734-729-2242</b></p>	<p><b>Westland Park Apts.</b> <b>RENT A 2 BDRM. FOR THE SAME RATE AS A 1 BDRM.</b> <b>\$575</b> Security Deposit \$200 2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath 936 sq. ft. 1 Bedroom 728 sq. ft. \$575. Heat/Water Included (New residents only with approved credit) 1 year lease. Very clean apartments. Excellent maintenance. Central air, intercom. Appliances include dishwasher and more. No pets Mon.-Fri. 9-6, Sat. 12-4 <b>(734) 729-6636</b></p>	<p><b>Westland RENT STARTING At \$549 ORCHARDS OF NEWBURGH</b> • 1 &amp; 2 Bedroom Apt's. • Excellence in Service • Pool &amp; Clubhouse • Carport Included <b>(734) 729-5090</b> www.yorkcommunities.com</p>	<p><b>Westland</b> <b>Westland Estates</b> <b>"WOW"</b> <b>1 Bdrm &amp; 2 bdrm. from \$475!</b> No fine print in this ad! - Heat/Water included - - \$20.00 Application Fee <b>New Resident's Only</b> <b>734-722-4700</b> Mon.-Fri. 9-7, Sat. Sun. 10-4</p>	<p><b>BIRMINGHAM 1 MONTH FREE!</b> <b>MAPLE ROAD TOWNES</b> Maple Road, btwn Adams &amp; Eton - Beautifully updated, featuring designer paint schemes, new carpet, central air, &amp; cherry hardwood flooring. Close to downtown &amp; shopping. 1 bdrm apts. from \$699. 1 &amp; 2 bedroom townhomes starting at \$799. 1 cat OK with fee. EHO Call The Benetick Group for appt. <b>248-642-8668</b> Or visit our OPEN HOUSE at 113 Columbia, Birmingham Sat. 10-5 &amp; Sun. 12-5</p>	<p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS:</b> 1 bdrm, upper level condo at 12 Mile &amp; Orchard Lake. \$675/mo. 248-478-0546 <b>LIVONIA:</b> Beautiful 3 bdrm, 3 bath, 2 level spacious 2,225 sq. ft. at 6 &amp; Newburgh Rd. Laurel Woods, \$1500/mo. 734-748-1866 734-216-2516 <b>MILFORD:</b> 2 bdrm, 1 bath, downtown, appliances. \$750/mo or option to buy. Great investment! 248-345-7086 <b>NORTHVILLE CONDO:</b> 2 bdrm, 2 bath, washer &amp; dryer, 1 car garage, \$1,200/mo. 248-348-4796 248-379-9664 <b>NORTHVILLE CONDO FOR RENT:</b> 1 bdrm, 1 bath, Heat &amp; water incl. \$650/mo. 24 hr. recorded message 866-237-2547 ext 21 <b>NORTHVILLE CONDO:</b> Sharp 2 bdrm, 2 Bath end unit ranch with fireplace in vaulted living room, finished bsmt and private patio off kitchen. Nice location in Highland Lakes. Only \$975/mo. INCL HEAT AND WATER. Avail immed. Call Mike Workman (agent), 734-740-8404.</p>	<p><b>CANTON:</b> 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath. Appliances. No pets. Ford/ Sheldon area. \$950/mo. Call 248-514-0585 <b>NORWAYNE:</b> 2 bdrm. Updated kitchen &amp; bath. New carpet, fresh painted. Utility rm, good location. \$569. 313-475-6909 <b>Flats:</b> 4040 <b>FERNDALE:</b> 1 bdrm upper. Immaculate, spacious. Living &amp; dining room, kitchen, bsmt, garage, \$595. (248) 855-5682 <b>GARDEN CITY:</b> 1 bdrm upper flat, private entrance, appliances, garage &amp; storage. \$525/mo., \$800 move-in. 313-525-1871 <b>GARON CITY- ALL NEW!</b> 1 bdrm, gas, laundry &amp; lawn service, \$650, 1st mo free. Pets neg. 734-432-0303 www.terbergdesign.com/rent <b>ROYAL OAK / BERKLEY:</b> 2 bdrm Lower Flat, bath, laundry facilities, bsmt. Immediate Occupancy. Tree lined neighborhood. Gas/ Water incl. \$775/ Mo. 313-805-5484</p>	<p><b>Canton HOMES FOR RENT "LOW MOVE-IN COST" \$99 Security Dep. *</b> 3 bdrm, 2 bath, \$699/mo. All appliances and a/c included. Pets Welcome 888-304-0078 SUN HOMES COLLEGE PARK ESTATES 51074 Mott Rd. (Between Geddes &amp; Mich Ave. off Ridge Road). Skyline/Clayton Retailer (Exp. 3-31-07)</p>	<p><b>LIVONIA:</b> 5/Farmington, 2 bdrm w/attached garage, lg fenced yard, c/a all appliances, \$950 + sec. 734-421-1459 <b>LIVONIA:</b> Rent/option to buy 3 bdrm, exc. cond. 1000 sq. ft., extra lg. 2.5 car, fenced yd. c/a, \$900/mo. 734-612-8991 <b>NORTHVILLE:</b> Charming 2 br. Appliances, basement storage. \$1,025/mo. (248)349-5237 <b>OAK PARK:</b> Cute 2 bdrm ranch, utility room, immediate occupancy, option to buy. \$550, 248-788-1823 <b>PLYMOUTH:</b> Adorable 3 bdrm bungalow downtown, meticulously maintained. Hardwood floors, C/A, new windows, huge deck, new appliances Washer/Dryer, fenced in yard. Some pets \$1295/mo 734-306-1789 <b>PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP:</b> 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, fireplace, large fenced yd. Avail. immed. \$1095/mo. (248) 735-5464 <b>REDFORD:</b> 20449 Woodworth 3 bdrm, air, full bsmt. Pets neg. \$975/mo. with option. Call: 734-461-3155 <b>REDFORD:</b> 3 bdrm brick ranch, finished bsmt, 2 car garage, C/A, appliances, option avail. \$900, 248-788-1823 <b>REDFORD:</b> Brick 3 bdrm bungalow, bsmt, garage, 1200 sq. ft., Rent/option to buy. \$900/mo. 313-515-1100 <b>REDFORD TWP:</b> 1 bdrm \$475, 2 bdrm \$635, 3 bdrm \$795, 4 bdrm \$955, Clean. Dave 313-256-5678 <b>ROMULUS:</b> Huge lot! 2 bdrm, \$750/mo + security deposit. 734-459-6968 <b>ROYAL OAK:</b> 2 bed, bsmt, garage, near downtown. 311 Marlin. \$845/mo. Agent: (248) 760-1208 <b>Taylor/Westland-Best 2 bdrm:</b> houses, Wood flrs &amp; updates. Also apt, Dearborn Heights, Hazel Park. 248-974-6469 <b>WAYNE:</b> 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath ranch, finished bsmt, all appliances, 2 car garage, fenced yd., c/a, Avail. immed. \$950/mo./sec. 734-373-8187 <b>WESTLAND:</b> 2 Bdrm, decorated, large yard, no pets. \$550/mo. (734) 326-8300</p>
<p><b>DREAM Home? SHOPPING!</b> VIEW 30,000 Additional Homes ONLINE www.hometownlife.com</p>	<p><b>WESTLAND POINT WEST APTS</b> •FREE Heat, Gas &amp; Water •Reduced Security Deposit (on approved credit) •Pets Welcome Some restrictions apply 734-729-0710</p>	<p><b>Westland THE "NEW" WESTERN HILLS NEW MANAGEMENT</b> Updated Apartments \$99 SEC. DEP. 1 MONTH FREE 1 Bdrm. \$510 2 bdrm. \$585 <b>(734) 729-6520</b></p>	<p><b>BIRMINGHAM Edgewood Court North</b> - Grant at Davis. 2 bdrm., 1.5 bath luxury townhomes remodeled and tastefully decorated. Spacious rooms and closets, cherry wood flooring, berber carpet, updated kitchen, private yard and carport. Easy access to downtown &amp; shopping. EHO \$1195 INCLUDES HEAT! Presented by The Benetick Group 248-736-1835</p>	<p><b>BIRMINGHAM TOWNHOUSE</b> 2 bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, full bsmt, hardwood, all amenities, no pets. \$1100. 248-901-0425 <b>BLOOMFIELD</b> 2 bdrm, 2 bath, modern thru-out. Pool, 1 car garage. A must see! 248-703-5423 Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL (7355)</p>	<p><b>ROCHESTER:</b> 2800 sq.ft. on Great Oaks Golf Course, 2car garage, Great place. \$1375/mo. 586-206-5976 <b>ROCHESTER/AUBURN HILLS</b> new ranch, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, many extras. No-smoking/pets \$1550/mo. 248-377-1564 <b>ROYAL OAK TOWNHOUSE</b> 2 bdrm, must see! Granite tops &amp; more! \$920. 248-895-0021 <b>SOUTH LYON:</b> 2 bdrm, 1 bath, freshly updated, new carpet &amp; hardwood. Appliances included. No pets! \$825/mo. + security deposit. 517-404-6844</p>	<p><b>CANTON:</b> 4 bdrm 3.5 bath. 1st month free! \$1695/mo. 734-620-5673 pictures at majorprop.com <b>CANTON:</b> 44055 Somerset, 4 bdrm colonial, 2 1/2 bath, attached 2 car garage, 1st floor laundry, 1830 sq.ft., \$1600/mo. 248-381-2201</p>	<p><b>HOMES FOR RENT Located in Canton Starting at \$699/mo, \$0 Application Fee</b> Sharp 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath homes from 924 sq.ft. Appliances included Pets welcome Ask about our specials Call Sandy at Sun Homes (888) 372-9017 *Offer expires 3/31/07 Exclusive Skyline/Clayton Retailer</p>	<p><b>WESTLAND VENOY PINES APTS.</b> Rent Starting At \$595 NEWLY RENOVATED KITCHENS &amp; BATHS • 1 &amp; 2 bedroom apts. some with fireplace • Clubhouse <b>(734) 261-7394</b> www.yorkcommunities.com <b>WESTLAND:</b> Wayne Rd., 1 blk. S. of Ford. 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, heat/water incl. \$900/mo. + \$400 sec. 734-462-1642</p>
<p><b>Westland Hawthorne Club Apartments</b> FREE HEAT &amp; WATER LIMITED TIME! Rents as low as \$499! 1 MONTH FREE On Select Units! LIMITED AVAILABILITY CALL NOW! (866) 262-3697 Merriman Rd. Btwn Ann Arbor Tr. &amp; Warren Rd. www.cmlproperties.net</p>	<p>A word to the wise, when looking for a great deal check the Observer &amp; Eccentric Classifieds! <b>WESTLAND POINTE WEST APTS</b> •FREE Heat, Gas &amp; Water •Reduced Security Deposit (on approved credit) •Pets Welcome Some restrictions apply <b>734-729-0710</b></p>	<p><b>Westland</b> <b>It's all here!</b> 1-800-579-SELL www.hometownlife.com</p>	<p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS - Park</b> Hotel. Furnished rooms, efficiency &amp; apts from \$150/week. No deposit. 248-474-1324</p>	<p><b>CLAWSON/ROYAL OAK</b> Broadacre at Manitou - N. of 14 Mile, E. off Crooks. WOW! Must see these beautifully updated 2 bdrm., 1.5 bath townhomes with custom moldings &amp; paint, berms, private yards, carports. Check out our 19'x12' master bedroom! \$925/mo. EHO The Benetick Group (248) 642-8686</p>	<p><b>Walled Lake/Commerce Twp.</b> Brand new 2 bdrm, 2.5 bath, attached 2 car garage, 1350 sq.ft. \$1275. (248) 343-4891 <b>WEST BLOOMFIELD:</b> First offering, great cond., 2 bdrm, 2.5 bath, fireplace, full bsmt, attached 2 car garage, all appliances, paved court yard, only \$1395. Call: 248-202-8361</p>	<p><b>INKSTER:</b> 3 bdrm remodeled, finished rm. in bsmt, jacuzzi, new appliances, big garage. \$950. 313-999-3710 <b>INKSTER:</b> Sharp 3 bdrm ranch, bsmt, immediate occupancy, option to buy available. \$600, 248-788-1823</p>	<p><b>LIVONIA:</b> 3 bdrm, brick ranch, 2 bath, 1900 sq. ft., fin.bsmt., appliances, 2 car. \$1700. O&amp;H Property 248-888-9133</p>	<p><b>WESTLAND</b> 2 Bdrm, decorated, large yard, no pets. \$550/mo. (734) 326-8300</p>

# APARTMENTS

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Your Weekly Guide to Apartment Living

**BLOOMFIELD TWP**  
Located at 15 Mile and Telegraph Roads!  
**BIRMINGHAM FARMS APARTMENTS**  
**1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments**  
• Immediate Occupancy • Cat Friendly  
• Water & Trash Removal Included  
• Carport Included • Bloomfield Hills Schools  
Call for current specials! **248-851-2340**

**PLYMOUTH**  
Welcome Spring  
**McCOOL APARTMENTS**  
Spacious 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments  
• Heat Included • Assigned Parking  
• Courtyard View • Within Walking Distance To Downtown Plymouth  
• Located on the Corner of Sheldon and N. Territorial  
**1 Bedroom Just \$499**  
CALL TODAY!  
**248-848-4941**

**WAYNE**  
**WAYNE FOREST APARTMENTS**  
Spring over to  
**SPACIOUS 1, 2 & 3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS**  
• Heat Included  
• Huge Walk-In Closets  
• Large Convenient Floor Plan  
• Individual Heat and A/C Controls  
• Individual Storage Areas  
**GREAT NEW SPECIALS!**  
**1 Bedroom just \$490**  
**2 Bedrooms just \$595**  
CALL TODAY! **(734) 326-7800**

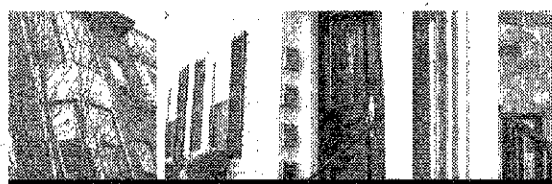
**WESTLAND**  
**Hunters West Apartments**  
Spacious ONE and TWO bedroom extreme makeover suites starting at \$450/month!  
Featuring: FREE HEAT & WATER, carpet and ceramic tile, solid maple cabinets, granite like countertops and new stainless steel appliances, an indoor pool, playground and picnic area and a new fitness center.  
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**LET'S MAKE A DEAL**  
Give us your best offer, we will do the rest!  
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• 1 Bedroom • Water Included • Cathedral Ceilings  
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**WESTLAND**  
**WILLOW CREEK APARTMENTS**  
Tax Refund Reward\$  
Your 2006 Tax \$ could get you a ZERO security deposit!  
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**Great Specials on 2 Bedrooms**  
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**WOODCREST VILLA**  
One Bedroom \$600 • Two Bedrooms \$670  
Immediate Occupancy **734-261-8010**

**Do you have vacant apartments?**  
Then you need to advertise your community and fill up those empty apartments! This page is a great way to let future tenants know where you are and what you have to offer.  
Call today for a great rate...  
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# Apartments

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<p><b>Homes For Rent</b> 4050</p> <p><b>WESTLAND</b> 2 bdrm, fenced. Carpet &amp; new paint. No appliances. No pets. \$600/mo. + \$800 sec. 33805 Casco Ct. 734-722-4317</p> <p><b>WESTLAND</b> 2 bdrm w/country kitchen lg fenced yard, nice area. Freshly painted, pets nego. \$700/mo. 248-306-3333</p> <p><b>WESTLAND</b> 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath ranch. New kitchen &amp; carpet. Basement, garage, c/a. \$1150/month. 248-346-6108</p> <p><b>WESTLAND</b> Ford/1-275 area. 3 bdrm, brick ranch, 1.5 bath, finished bsmt, clean C/A, no pets. \$975/mo. 734-531-9163</p> <p><b>WHY PAY RENT?</b> 100% financing available. All credit considered. Free pre qualification. Access National Mortgage 1-800-853-8850 Bank owned/Good standing BBB Member/Codes</p>	<p><b>Lakefront/Waterfront Homes Rental</b> 4060</p> <p><b>MULLETT LAKE FRONT HOME</b> 1400 Sq. ft. 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath, sleeps 8. Private 124 ft. sandy beach. Avail May-June \$1250/wk. Available July-August. \$1500/wk. (734) 525-6658</p> <p><b>Time Share Rentals</b> 4100</p> <p><b>NAPA VALLEY, CA; SEDONA, AZ; FLORIDA &amp; MEXICO.</b> \$500-\$1000/week. 248-217-4514</p> <p><b>Vacation Resort/Rentals</b> 4110</p> <p><b>COTTAGES ON BEAUTIFUL LAKE CHARLEVOIX</b> Call 566-293-6944 www.cedarresort.com</p> <p><b>Call to place your ad at 1-800-579-SELL(7355)</b></p>	<p><b>Vacation Resort/Rentals</b> 4110</p> <p><b>ELK RAPIDS</b> 100 ft Grand Traverse beachfront w/deck, sleeps 10, all appl. \$2500/week. No pets. 248-217-1417</p> <p><b>Living Quarters To Share</b> 4120</p> <p><b>CANTON</b> Roommates wanted, 2200 sq. ft. 4 bdrm. Storage, remodeled, 2 car. \$425/mo. 248-921-2904</p> <p><b>Rooms For Rent</b> 4140</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> \$400 per month. Util. incl. 1/3 cable. FT worker. 8 Mile/Grand River. 248-474-6494.</p> <p><b>GARDEN CITY</b> Furnished room, private entrance &amp; bath. No drinking, no smoking. \$70 weekly, \$70 deposit. Call Ann. (734) 522-7889</p>	<p><b>Rooms For Rent</b> 4140</p> <p><b>GARDEN CITY</b> Sleeping room, furnished. Drug-free. Working male. \$65/wk, security. 734-731-2657, 734-427-2778</p> <p><b>NORTHVILLE or PLYMOUTH</b> Downtown. 1st week with full deposit. Furnished sleeping rooms. Newly decorated. \$65 weekly. Security deposit. (248) 305-9944</p> <p><b>SUNRISE STUDIOS \$25 OFF With This Ad</b></p> <p>Brand NEW A/C Rooms TV/Phone / HBO/CABLE LOW RATES 734-427-1300 Livonia</p> <p><b>hometownlife.com</b></p>	<p><b>Rooms For Rent</b> 4140</p> <p><b>TRIPLE A DELUXE MOTEL</b> A/C, Jacuzzi in rooms, maid service, HBO. Low daily/wkly rates.</p> <p>Sunrise Inn 734-427-1300 Tel-96 Inn 313-535-4100 Royal Inn 248-544-1575 Fairlane 248-347-9999 Relax Inn 734-595-8990</p> <p><b>WAYNE</b> Room for Rent. Nice, clean, quiet environment. House privileges. \$450 mo. Utilities incl. (734) 722-6960</p> <p><b>Office/Retail Space For Rent/Lease</b> 4220</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> Office Space Small suites avail. Several locations. Great Rates, incl. utilities. <b>CERTIFIED REALTY INC.</b> 248-471-7100</p> <p><b>Office/Retail Space For Rent/Lease</b> 4220</p> <p><b>BIRMINGHAM</b>, 912 sq ft avail. Newly remodeled building in railroad district on Cole St. Avail Immed. (248) 765-0773</p> <p><b>BLOOMFIELD HILLS</b> 77 E. Long Lake Rd., exec. office. 170 or 290 sq.ft. office services avail. 248-540-8323</p>	<p><b>Office/Retail Space For Rent/Lease</b> 4220</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON - DOWNTOWN</b> 2 &amp; 3 rm. 400 &amp; 500 sq.ft. windowed offices, low gross rent, best location. 248-476-2050</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> Hamilton Business Center Executive suites starting at \$350/mo. T-1 internet available. Flexible lease terms. 248-324-3600</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> Office Space Small suites avail. Several locations. Great Rates, incl. utilities. <b>CERTIFIED REALTY INC.</b> 248-471-7100</p> <p><b>Sell it all with Observer &amp; Eccentric 1-800-579-SELL</b></p>	<p><b>Office/Retail Space For Rent/Lease</b> 4220</p> <p><b>FARMINGTON HILLS</b> Retail Space Great Exposure. 1300 or 1750 sq.ft. Excellent Rates. <b>CERTIFIED REALTY INC.</b> 248-471-7100</p> <p><b>GARDEN CITY</b> Single room offices from \$175 &amp; office suites from \$375. Utilities incl. 2nd floor. Ford &amp; Middlebelt. (734) 422-1195</p> <p><b>LIVONIA - 6 Mile/ Farmington</b> 2 rm. offices w/ windows 330 sq. ft. at \$455/mo. 2nd floor. Utilities incl. 734-422-2321</p> <p><b>NORTHVILLE DOWNTOWN</b> Executive Office Suites Flexible Lease Terms. 248-347-6811</p> <p><b>hometownlife.com</b></p>	<p><b>Office/Retail Space For Rent/Lease</b> 4220</p> <p><b>PLYMOUTH</b> Office-retail space, presently law offices. Many restaurants. \$900/mo. 734-453-6020</p> <p><b>REDFORD STORE</b> 27308 Schoolcraft. 15x80. \$750/mo. 248-738-9104</p> <p><b>REDFORD TWP.</b> Office Suites 400 sq. ft. -1670 sq. ft. Beautifully redecorated. Great Rates including utilities. <b>CERTIFIED REALTY INC.</b> (248) 471-7100</p> <p><b>ROCHESTER HILLS</b> 300-1200 sq.ft. in 2-level bldg. \$10.85/sq.ft. gross rent. incl. utilities/taxes. 1-75/M-59, on S. Adams Rd Shared conference room avail. 248-844-9043</p>	<p><b>Commercial/Industrial For Rent/Lease</b> 4230</p> <p><b>FRAZER</b> Available to take over. Express Cleaners with all equipment, been in business for over 10 yrs. Pay only store rent for the 1200 sq. ft. Located in Monterey Shopping Ctr. 34533 Utica Rd. Just S. of 15 mile. For info call 248-790-5182</p> <p><b>Property Management</b> 4570</p> <p><b>Ron Wallis Group Property Management</b> 30 years experience 313-568-4211</p> <p><b>When seeking out the best deal check out the Observer &amp; Eccentric Classifieds! 1-800-579-7355</b></p>
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# Home and Service Guide

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<p><b>Basement Waterproofing</b> 0220</p> <p><b>WE CLEAN DRAIN TILES</b> Int. drains aren't necessary, also urethane crack injections. Hydroblast. (248) 634-0215</p> <p><b>Brick, Block &amp; Cement</b> 0290</p> <p><b>ALL BLOCK, BRICK WORK</b> Concrete + Foundations Res. &amp; Comm. - Lic. &amp; Ins. Call Anytime. 248-476-2602</p>	<p><b>Brick, Block &amp; Cement</b> 0290</p> <p><b>PAISANO CONSTR. CO.</b> - Lic. 30 years exp. Driveways, Porches, Patios, Basement Floors. Brick, Block. We Specialize in Residential Work. 248-596-2177</p> <p><b>Building/Home Inspection</b> 0300</p> <p><b>AFFORDABLE &amp; THOROUGH HOME INSPECTIONS</b> 734-338-9293, OR CALL 734-536-7145</p> <p><b>Building Remodeling</b> 0310</p> <p><b>Interior Construction Inc.</b> Finish basements, bathrooms. Kitchen, decks, &amp; drywall Lic./Ins., Call, 734-536-0830</p>	<p><b>Carpentry</b> 0410</p> <p><b>FINISH CARPENTER</b> Crowns, Doors, Oak Railings. NO JOB TOO SMALL! 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