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Local officials blast proposed state funding cuts

BY DARRELL CLEM AND SUE MASON
STAFF WRITERS

Already grappling with budget problems, Westland city leaders and school officials had new worries Friday after the state Senate whacked money for schools and local governments.

The Republican-led Senate rejected Gov. Jennifer Granholm's 2 percent

tax on certain services, slashed school aid by \$34 per pupil and chopped \$40 million in revenue sharing for local governments.

The state House appears certain to fight the proposals, which drew a swift and sharp response from local officials.

"I'm extremely disappointed in the actions of the Senate," said Wayne-Westland Community Schools Superintendent Greg Baracy. "This will

only further drive us into deficit spending."

WHERE'S THE MONEY?

The district already had to tap into its surplus to stave off a \$3 million revenue shortfall that Baracy said would only worsen under the Senate plan. He accused state officials of increasing education requirements without providing money.

"The parties need to put their disagreements aside and work together for the betterment of our children and the state," he said.

Westland Mayor William Wild said the unfolding developments, especially a proposed 10 percent cut in state-shared revenue, could force him to revise his budget even after it is due to the Westland City Council by early April. "We may have to take a number to

move the budget forward with and then come back," he said.

Wild's administration had begun partly planning the budget on earlier indications that cities would receive a possible 2.5 percent increase in state revenue sharing.

"It's tough because we started the budget process thinking we would be in

PLEASE SEE CUTS, A5



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Trophy fever

Churchill students reach out to touch the state championship trophy as Kelsey McKenzie and her volleyball teammates show off the hardware during an assembly Thursday honoring the 2007 state volleyball champions. For more on the event, see today's Sports section.

Wild is 1st to file mayoral petitions

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Westland Mayor William Wild has become the first mayoral candidate to file his petitions with the city clerk's office and secure a ballot spot in this year's election.

Wild, a former Westland City Council member, filed his nominating petitions just 11 weeks after he won council support to become the mayoral appointee.

Wild, 38, replaced former Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, who stepped down after being elected district judge.

Wild could face a challenge from at least one mayoral hopeful. Council President Charles Pickering, a former mayor, has said he is seriously considering running for the office.

If three or more candidates enter the mayoral race, the field will be narrowed to two in the Aug. 7 primary. If no more than two hopefuls launch a campaign bid, they will face off Nov. 6.

Wild took over the \$95,974-a-year job amid a whirlwind of changes. He cited some of his actions in a prepared statement issued late in the week.

- He ordered Central City Park fenced off in early January until the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality can further test for contamination. Certain areas have elevated levels of lead.

- He assembled a park task force to keep residents informed, and he set up a toll-free information line at (888) 7CC-PARK.

- Due to some retirements, Wild made several administrative appointments, including Deputy Mayor Courtney Brown; Community Development/Housing Director Terry Carroll; Public Service Director Kevin Buford; and Construction/Maintenance Superintendent John Blevins. Wild also welcomed new Police Chief James Ridener after former Chief Daniel Pfannes became an undersheriff to Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans.

- Wild, saying he wanted to underscore the importance of professionalism, made business attire mandatory for his staff

PLEASE SEE WILD, A5



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Blue Ribbon moment

Walker-Winter Elementary Principal Pauline Koufouer holds the Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Award presented to the Canton school Friday afternoon while Wayne-Westland School Superintendent Gregory Baracy holds a framed resolution, signed by State Superintendent Mike Flanagan and Kathleen Straus, president of the state Board of Education. For story and photos see Thursday's issue of the Westland Observer.

PLEASE SEE CARJACKING, A5

Study session looks at snow ordinance

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A proposed ordinance to penalize Westland property owners for pushing snow onto city streets will likely be revised following a small avalanche of criticism.

Westland City Councilman James Godbout had suggested penalizing residents and businesses for dumping snow back onto streets after city workers plow through neighborhoods.

But a proposal drafted by the city attorney's office also would punish property owners for putting snow in the public right of

way - the area between sidewalks and streets.

"My intent was not to prevent people from putting snow in the right of way," Godbout said Thursday. "The intent was just to prevent people from dumping the snow into the street and causing the potential for hazards."

City ordinance violations can lead to penalties ranging up to \$500 in fines or 90 days in jail.

The issue will be revisited during a public study session scheduled by council President Charles Pickering for 6 p.m. Monday, March 26, on the second floor of Westland City Hall.

Godbout proposed the snow ordinance after he received complaints from residents who accused their neighbors of creating unsafe conditions by pushing snow onto city streets.

One Westland resident, Shauna Jaynes, has said she saw an accident in her neighborhood when a driver ran across snow that had been pushed from private property into the street.

But some residents and city leaders have called the proposed ordinance unrealistic, especially as it applies to putting snow in rights of way.

Councilman Michael Kehrer

has voiced concerns that residents with properties sloping toward the street would have a difficult time pushing snow back to their yards, rather than using at least the public right of way.

Many surrounding communities already have snow ordinances. Any new Westland rule likely wouldn't have much of an impact until next winter, but officials want to resolve the issue before then.

Pickering indicated that City Attorney Angelo Plakas' office may be asked to revise the ordinance after Monday's meeting. Pickering said it's premature to say when the council might vote on the issue.

Police: Missed bus to Detroit led to carjacking

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Defendants charged in two Westland carjackings blamed their alleged actions on missing the bus back to Detroit and on the need to replace a car that had burned, court testimony indicated Thursday. Those reasons surfaced as Westland

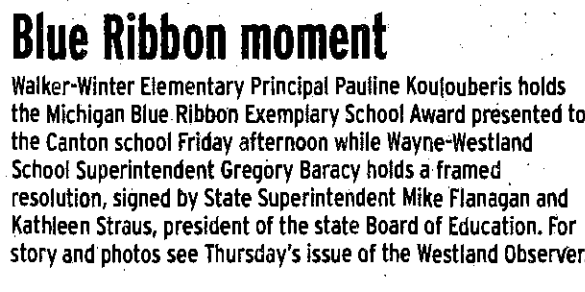
police Sgts. Thad Nelson and Ed Price read statements during a preliminary hearing for three defendants.

Nelson and Price recapped earlier confessions made to them following two carjackings within two weeks at The Landings, a large apartment complex near Warren and Central City Parkway.

The hearing ended with Westland

District Judge C. Charles Bokos ordering trials for defendants Willie Antonio Williams, 23, his brother, Willie Jerome Williams, 20, and Donte Lashawn Bailey, 17.

The Williams brothers live in Detroit; Bailey is a Westland resident.



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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Volume 42
Number 87



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INDEX

APARTMENTS	E5
AUTOMOTIVE	F3
HOMETOWNLIFE	C1
CROSSWORD	E3
CLASSIFIEDS	D1-F6
JOBS	D1
NEW HOMES	E1
OBITUARIES	C7
PERSPECTIVES	A7
REAL ESTATE	E3
SERVICE GUIDE	E4
SPORTS	B1

Coming Thursday in Filter

READERS' FAVORITES

Check out Thursday's Filter for our Readers Choice list of favorite restaurants, nightclubs and family entertainment venues.

'She's our spirit'

Fund-raiser to help pay for stem cell transplant for young skater suffering from cancer

BY TIFFANY L. PARKS
STAFF WRITER

As her slender, French-manicured tipped fingers finish lacing up her white ice skates, Natalie Salazar flashes a wide grin and then heads to the ice at Canton's Arctic Edge Ice Arena.

The bubbly 13-year-old has done this hundreds of times but as her parents watch her twirl in the middle of the rink, their smiles are tinged with sadness.

Natalie, whose chiffon periwinkle skirt sways with each of her graceful movements, was diagnosed with a form of cancer called neuroblastoma in September 2006.

"We used to watch stories on television about other families (with sick children) and have tried to put ourselves in their position but you can't," said Natalie's mother, Maria Salazar, as her voice quavered. "I can't imagine that my daughter might die. She's our spirit. When she is feeling good, I feel so alive but when she is sick, I feel so empty in my heart."

A self-described "girly girl" who loves the color pink, Natalie speaks with an intelligence beyond her years about blood cell counts, chemotherapy and bone density.

"Neuroblastoma usually only affects babies so my doctors were really surprised when I was diagnosed," she said. "I've probably had it since I was little."

The National Cancer Institute defines neuroblastoma as "a cancer that arises in immature nerve cells and affects mostly infants and children." The disease has four stages. The second and fourth stages are divided into two categories.

Natalie, who's in the fourth stage of the condition, is hoping to undergo a second round of cancer treatment that could include a stem cell transplant. Her mother and father, Sumorfin Salazar, are waiting to see if their insurance will cover the expenses.

Sumorfin, a longtime Ford Motor Co. engineer, recently took a buyout from the automaker and Maria is a stay-at-home mom.

In efforts to help finance what could become a costly procedure, the Arctic Figure Skating Club is having a fund-raiser for the honors student on

BENEFIT FOR NATALIE

- When: 7 p.m. Friday, March 30
- Where: Arctic Edge Arena, 46615 Michigan Ave.
- Cost: Minimum \$10 donation
- The exhibition will feature the award-winning skaters: Tanith Belbin & Ben Agosto; Brooke Castile & Ben Okolski; Meryl Davis & Charlie White and Alissa Czisny
- For more information, call Nancy Fees at (248) 891-6256

March 30 at Arctic Edge. The event, which requires a minimum \$10 donation, will feature exhibitions by several accomplished skaters including Alissa Czisny, and Olympic silver medalists Ben Agosto and Tanith Belbin.

"We've been waiting to see what else we could do to help," said Nancy Fees, vice president of the skating club. "This has been a total community effort."

Natalie, an ice skater since age 3, is a member of the skating club and used to practice five to six times a week. Since her diagnosis, she's only taken to the ice a handful of times.

"It hurt a lot when they told me I couldn't skate," Natalie said. "I love it so much."

Her parents proudly reference a poster board of photographs that show a beaming Natalie in various skating costumes with waves of auburn hair falling past her shoulders.

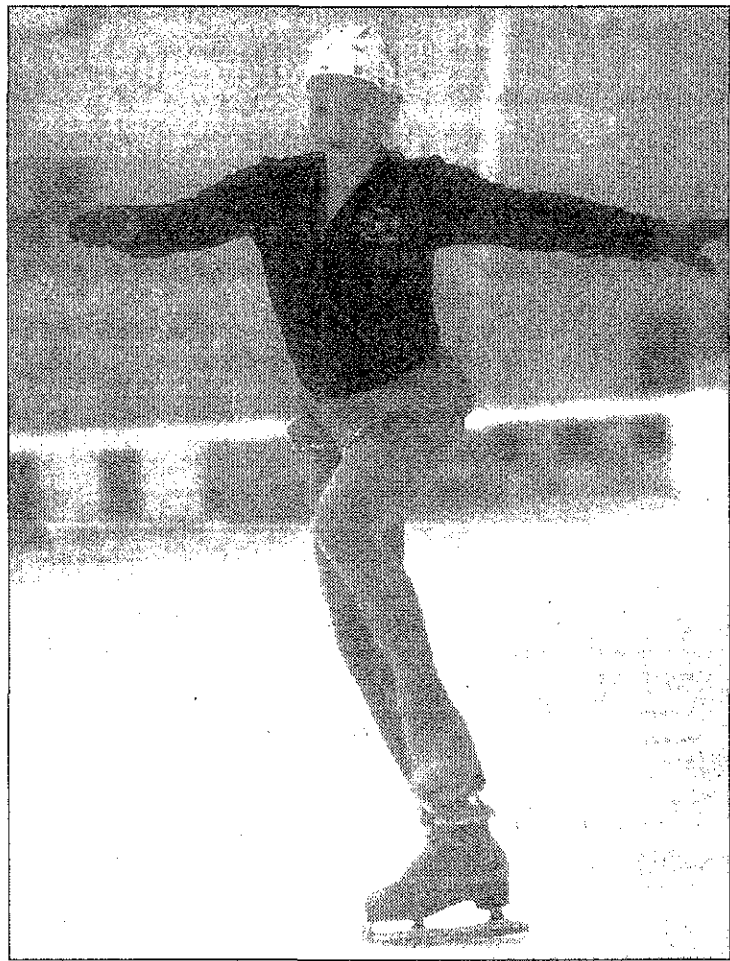
"She's wonderful," Sumorfin said while glancing at his daughter. "She's the best."

Natalie, who attends the church and school of St. Anselm Parish in Dearborn Heights, received her confirmation Thursday.

The Salazars, who have a 23-year-old son, said they are hopeful their youngest child will survive the cancer that has spread to many of her bones.

"We have faith in God that she is going to survive," Maria said. "She brings to us happiness everyday."

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PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Natalie Salazar laced up her skates and spent some time on the ice, something she hasn't been able to do much since becoming ill.



Natalie Salazar, 13, laces up her skates. Unfortunately her illness has kept her away from the ice more than she would like.

INFORMATION CENTRAL

Unlike the United States, with its revolution and Civil War, Canada's birth was heralded more by bureaucracy than bullets. Canada came into existence in 1867 by an act of the British Parliament, known as the British North America Act.

As Canada grew in maturity, various British and Canadian acts gave her more independent power. Despite being seen as a sovereign nation, her founding document was still an act of the British Parliament, so any constitutional changes had to be passed by the British Government.

This finally changed on April 17, 1982, when Queen Elizabeth signed into existence The Canada Act. This changed the constitution into a Canadian act, and rescinded any power the British Government and Crown had over Canadian law and politics.

As with any birth, however, there are labor pains. The Constitution could not be repatriated without a structure in effect to amend it, and without a Charter of Rights.

Years of federal/provincial wrangling, and interprovincial battles, finally thrashed out both, with one notable exception. The Province of Quebec, concerned with preserving her unique identity, was deeply concerned with the amendment process and refused to sign the act. In fact, the day of the proclamation, then Premier René Lévesque ordered all flags in the province to be flown at half-staff in protest.

With the Constitution under her jurisdiction, Canada was able to change it, for example, an entirely new territory, Nunavut, was created in 1999.

Laws have had to be changed to protect individual rights as granted under the new Charter of Rights. For example, in 1999 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that same-sex couples have the same benefits and obligations as heterosexual couples under the Charter.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of this ground-breaking document, why not learn more about the history of your northern neighbor through Internet sites like the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation at www.cbc.ca, or The Canadian Encyclopedia at www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com.

We also have many books on the history of Canada, including *A Short History of Canada* by the world-renowned Canadian historian Desmond Morton (# 971 Mor).

Highlighted Activities

Science Fiction and Fantasy Discussion Group: 7 p.m. March 28.

This month we're reading Callahan's *Crosstime Saloon*, the first in the epic Callahan's series by Spider Robinson. We'll be comparing this early Spider work with *Variable Star*, our January feature. We welcome anyone interested in Speculative Fiction to attend, but please read the book first. The blog is fun, too, check it out at swestlandlibrius.blogspot.com.

Internet 101: 7 p.m. April 2.

A beginner's guide to the Internet - how do I get around a Web site, what is a Web site. No registration is required. Walk-ins are welcome.

National Library Week is April 15-21. "Come together @ your library."

Information Central is compiled by reference librarian Jane Lowry of the William P. Faust Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

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The Westland Observer - Publication NO. USPS 663-530 Published every Thursday and Sunday. Periodical postage is paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150
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LPS board candidates discuss Legacy and funding at forum

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Communication, finances, student programs and leadership are the main issues among the six Livonia school board candidates who appeared at their first forum Thursday.

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County hosted the candidates' night, posing questions that had been e-mailed or collected from the audience of about 80 or so people at city hall. They had to do with the Legacy Initiative, funding and the candidates' previous involvement in school elections and parent-teacher associations.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Two incumbents face two challengers for two, four-year seats in the May 8 election.

Incumbent Robert Freeman said he's a visionary who makes decisions "in the best interest of our students today, tomorrow and 10 years from now."

Eileen McDonnell talked about

restoring fiscal responsibility and said it is important to make sure everyone is brought in on decisions and have their positions noted.

Incumbent Lynda Scheel highlighted her longtime involvement through the PTA and pledged to earn people's trust. "I believe that my leadership skills have served the district well."

Steve Futrell said the district is facing leadership, trust and financial issues. "We need to change the school board in order to bring back trust."

Three candidates, all newcomers, are running for a one-year term.

Patrice Mang said she wants to lead the district down a fiscally responsible path and that the community must find common ground.

Gregory Oke said during tough times, "we need strong leadership if we are going to keep our schools strong."

Ralph McComber, also seeking the one-year seat, did not appear at the forum.

As for the Legacy Initiative, the incumbents, Scheel and Freeman, sup-

ported their decision. Futrell, McDonnell and Mang criticized it. Oke and Scheel said the initiative could be improved.

"The Legacy Initiative was a plan that was destined for failure from the beginning," Futrell said. It was not designed to solve the district's financial problems, he added.

"I believe the Legacy Initiative was destined for success," Scheel said, but added that closing schools was "extremely, extremely hard to do."

"The Legacy Initiative was not designed to fix our school funding. To improve upon it, yes," she said.

Freeman said if the district hadn't closed schools, it would have had to cut programs. Some things were lost, but fifth and sixth-graders have other opportunities now, like drama club, he said.

McDonnell said, "The cost of the Legacy Initiative outweighed any benefit." LPS should reopen more neighborhood schools, she said.

All of the candidates listed communication among their top three priorities.

Oke suggested reaching out to parents through a telephone survey. Mang said the board should host coffee or breakfast meetings.

McDonnell said changes whether to math curriculum or grade configuration must be communicated. With the Legacy Initiative and Everyday Math decisions, that hasn't happened, she said.

Futrell said the board should allow more time for open dialogue and that citizens shouldn't face a "stonewall environment" during public comment at board meetings.

Scheel said the board has made "great strides" toward improved communication, citing monthly community conversations.

Freeman said the board should try to provide a response to citizens' questions quickly, but he added that not many people came to open houses in advance of the Legacy Initiative or come to the community conversations.

Candidates shared some ideas for improving state funding and the district

budget.

"We have serious funding issues with public schools in Michigan," Scheel said. The per-pupil foundation allowance does not cover costs, she added.

Freeman blamed Proposal A for the problems and said proposed changes to how districts can spend voter-approved sinking funds would help.

Oke suggested lobbying legislators. Mang said the district's budget has not been tightened up enough to warrant dipping into the rainy day fund.

Futrell suggested seeking help from businesses and the community to build up the LPS Foundation account. "We're going to struggle to get money out of the state," he said.

McDonnell said the district needs to make do with what it has. "It's time for the school district to look at their budgets and not rely so much on the state of Michigan."

The forum will be shown at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, on BrightHouse Networks cable Channel 12, with other dates and times to be scheduled.

2 events benefit Veterans Haven

Veteran's Haven is teaming up with the Firing Line to help homeless veterans by sponsoring a shooting competition to help homeless veterans May 14-18 at the Firing Line, 38427 Webb Dr. off of Hix Road, just north of Ford.

Participants will compete 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. throughout the week. The cost is a \$15 donation for every time a participant shoots. Participants can shoot more than once with the highest score being recorded.

There will be two divisions - military or non-military - however, people who don't need to compete can come out and shoot for fun.

A sponsorship program is available for businesses and individuals with three levels - Sharpshooter, Marksman and Sniper.

All money raised will go to Veteran's Haven to help fight homelessness with our veterans. For more information, call Don at the Firing Line at (734) 326-7320 or Scott at Veteran's Haven at (734) 478-0822.

All awards and prizes will be presented will be presented at an Armed Forces Day Dinner 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, May 19, at the Wayne Ford Civic League, 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

The cost of the dinner is \$30 per person and includes a buffet dinner, open bar and entertainment by the Christy Howard Band.

Tickets are available at the Veterans Haven Outreach Center, 4924 Wayne Road, Wayne, or by calling Scott Romp at (734) 478-0822.

Sentencing delayed in embezzlement case

A Westland woman's sentencing has been delayed on charges she embezzled \$1,000 in her job overseeing a city-based family assistance program.

Tonya Cramier-Onca, 39, is now scheduled for sentencing April 19 in front of Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Carole Youngblood.

She had been scheduled for sentencing on Wednesday.

Cramier-Onca has pleaded no contest to charges she used a check to embezzle money that was supposed to go to a client.

She could face penalties ranging up to 14 years in prison.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Hazardous waste

Wayne County residents can drop off hazardous household waste 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 31 at the Sumpter Township Department of Public Works, 23501 Sumpter Road behind the Police Department. Wayne County is sponsoring the collection.

For more information, call (734) 326-3936 or visit the county Web site at www.waynecounty.com/doe/de_fault.htm.

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. For more information, 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. For more information, 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 6-8:50 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.

Read-In

The Lutheran Church of Our Savior will hold its first annual African American Read-In 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, at the church, 29425 Annapolis, Westland.

The event will celebrate African American Literacy during National Reading Month. There will be free books for those 18 years and younger, book displays and reading lists of African American literature, the reading of the work of African American writers and refreshments.

Call (734) 728-3440.

Crafters wanted

Craft space is available for St. Damian's annual spring craft show Saturday, March 31, at 30055 Joy, between Merriman and Middlebelt, Westland. Table rental is \$25. For more information, call (734) 721-4758 or e-mail at nelius@comcast.net. Show hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission will be \$1.

Mom 2 Mom Sale

St. Damian School is holding its Spring Mom 2 Mom Sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21, 30055 Joy, between Middlebelt and Merriman, in Westland. Rental is \$20 per table rental and \$5 per rack. Call Dawn at (734) 983-0221 for more information.

Marathon bingo

Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 will hold a marathon bingo noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at the post hall, 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. Proceeds will support the post's veterans projects.

Tax preparation

AARP tax preparation is available free of charge to seniors with low to moderate income 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each Monday and Friday from through April 13 at the senior Friendship Center is at 1119 N. Newburgh south of Ford. Sessions will continue. Appointments are necessary. Call (734) 722-7628.



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Carroll Griffen (left) and Richard Schuck of the Dyer Senior Center get ready to fill backpacks that will be given out at the Kindergarten Roundup in 17 Wayne-Westland elementary schools Tuesday, April 3.

Wayne-Westland rounds up class of '20

Class of 2020, where are you? It's a call being put out by the Wayne-Westland Community Schools as it prepares for its annual Kindergarten Roundup Tuesday, April 3.

The district's 17 elementaries are inviting parents and their youngsters who will be attending kindergarten this fall to come to school 9-10 a.m. that day to tour the school, meet the principal and kindergarten teachers, discuss the curriculum and review registration materials.

For youngsters, there will be free T-shirts and backpacks. Parents also can enter to win a Leapster Learning Game System from LeapFrog.

It's members of the Dyer Senior Center who annually volunteer to fill the backpacks with ABC and number charts, crayons, a Mother Goose activities book and Audrey Penn's The Kissing Hand book, to use to prepare for school in the fall. For parents who can't attend the morning program, school offices will be open 6-7 p.m. April 3 for registration only.



Double checking the backpacks, Irene Volakakis (foreground), Frances Sytkowski and other senior members at the Dyer Center.

Youngsters who will age 5 by Dec. 1, 2007, are eligible for kindergarten enrollment this fall. Parents must provide the child's original birth certificate with raised seal, a current immunization record and three proofs of residency, such as a current mortgage/lease agreement or tax statement, current bank statement, current utility bills or current employment record.

Parents also can get information on the district's all-day kindergarten program which has been expanded to seven schools - John Hick in Inkster; Wildwood, P.D. Graham, Lincoln and Jefferson-Barns in Westland; Walker-Winter in Canton and Roosevelt-McGrath in Wayne.

Families who don't live in those school attendance areas can apply through the district's Schools of Choice program.

Applications are available online at www.wwcsd.net. The deadline for applying is April 20. For more information, call (734) 419-2083.

There's also are before and after school programs available at 13 of the district's 17 elementaries as well as an extended day kindergarten programs at Kettering and Wildwood with a free one-way shuttle service.

The programs are provided by Champions. For more information, call (734) 722-9157.

Not sure what school to visit? Parents can find out by calling (734) 419-2000.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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

#141 Willie Espy III, #220 Emette R. Wynn, #727 Lee Spong. Units contain: misc. household items.

Publish: March 22 & 25, 2007

CE0651424

**LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
15125 FARMINGTON ROAD
LIVONIA, MI 48154**

The Livonia Public Schools Board of Education, Livonia, Michigan, hereby invites the submission of sealed bids for:

DATA NETWORK ELECTRONICS AND DISTRICT-WIDE ELECTRONICS SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Sealed bids will be received until 10:00 A.M. on the 4th day of April, 2007 at the Board of Education, Business Office, Livonia, Michigan. At this time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read. Vendors are encouraged to attend.

Specifications and bid forms are available at the Business Office of the Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids in whole or in part in the interests of uniformity, design, equipment, delivery time or preference, to waive any informalities and to award to other than low bidder, with rationale to support such a decision.

All questions regarding this bid may be directed to Sandra Pollack, Supervisor of Finance (734) 744-2528 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Publish: March 25 & April 1, 2007

CE0651499

**SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL DISTRICT
2006-2007
REVISED**

Regular meetings of the Board of Education of the Livonia Public Schools School District shall be held at 7:00 p.m., in the Board of Education offices, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia, Michigan, 734-744-2500, on the first and third Mondays of each month with the following exceptions:

- a. A regular meeting will not be held on July 3 or 17, 2006
- b. A regular meeting will not be held on August 7 or 21, 2006
- c. A regular meeting will not be held on September 4, 2006
- d. A regular meeting will not be held on January 1, 2007
- e. A regular meeting will not be held on February 5 or 19, 2007
- f. A regular meeting will not be held on April 16, 2007

Therefore, regular Board meetings will be held on the following dates:

July 10	August 14, 28	September 18	October 2, 16
November 6, 20	December 4 18 (Cancelled)	January 15, 29	February 12
March 5, 19	April 2 (Cancelled) 23	May 7 (Cancelled) 21	June 4, 18

Publish: March 25, 2007

CE0651433

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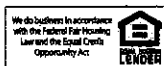
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LPS to lease unused ground behind school

Livonia Public Schools will earn an extra \$500 per month leasing an otherwise unusable space.

T-Mobile USA, the cell phone company, wants to lease space from DTE Energy to add an antenna on the DTE tower at the eastern portion of the Johnson Upper Elementary

school property in Westland. The company has also proposed leasing a 14-foot by 20-foot space from the district for equipment storage shed under the DTE high-tension power lines. It would access the tower through the Scottsdale Apartments property. Although Westland city officials

gave approval, LPS school board members must also agree. The board is expected to vote on the five-year lease at their March 19 meeting. At \$500 per month, the lease works out to less than \$2 per square foot, but as Rod Hosman, LPS director of administrative services, points

out: "This is space we would never use for anything else." The equipment would be located about 700 feet from the playground. The district already has three cell towers, one located on each of the high school properties.

- By Rebecca Jones

CUTS

FROM PAGE A1

line for this 2.5 increase that the governor was talking about," Wild said.

Democrats have acknowledged that Granholm's proposed 2 percent tax on many services and entertainment appears dead as the state battles a \$940-million deficit that is only worsening.

OPPOSITION TO TAX

Republican lawmakers approved Granholm's proposed cuts and then swung the budget ax even harder, slashing money for schools and local governments.

GOP officials have pledged to oppose tax increases.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, became the lone Democrat to vote against the 2 percent tax, although he sided with his party in opposing the deeper cuts affecting schools and local governments.

Anderson, who also represents Garden City, Livonia and Redford, voiced concerns that the 2 percent tax on services would hurt families already struggling to make ends meet. "A lot of folks are just barely hanging on, and I'm concerned about not impacting those folks in a negative way and making things harder for them," he said Friday.

But he lashed out at Republicans for voting "under the darkness of night" to slash money for schools and local governments.

"The Republican cuts, revealed on the Senate floor (Thursday) night, show all that is wrong with politics these days. These cuts hurt children and families," Anderson said. "They will cripple the ability of our local governments to provide public safety, and they will further damage our business climate. These cuts would strip millions from school funding that, if enacted, would force schools to let teachers go or close their doors early."

"This Republican plan robs our future to pay for our present and we cannot afford to let that happen," Anderson vowed.

Senate Republicans said the governor's executive order cuts didn't go far enough in addressing budget problems.

"The governor released her

executive order, which began the process. The governor's executive order, however, didn't go all the way to balancing the budget," said Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, R-Rochester. "So it is incumbent upon the legislature to balance the budget and that's what we did with the cuts."

Local officials indicated it's time for state lawmakers to work for real solutions.

"It's time for lawmakers to evaluate the real expectations for the state," said Baracy. "It's time to stand up and be counted and take steps to make Michigan the thriving state it should be. The legislature can't cut its way out of this structural deficit. It's very disheartening."

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

CARJACKING

FROM PAGE A1

As they await trial in Wayne County Circuit Court, each defendant remains jailed with a \$300,000 cash bond earlier set by Judge Sandra Cicirelli.

Authorities captured three suspects during a traffic stop on I-96 near Inkster Road, shortly after a 2006 Mercedes was taken at gunpoint about 1:45 a.m. March 14.

The other carjacking involving a Grand Prix happened one week earlier.

All three defendants are charged in the March 14 carjacking. Two of them - the older Williams and Bailey - are charged in the March 7 incident.

If convicted, the Williams

brothers and Bailey could face penalties ranging up to life in prison on charges of carjacking, armed robbery and felony firearm. Police said both incidents involved a gun.

In court, Price testified that Willie Antonio Williams admitted that he and Bailey did the Grand Prix carjacking because Williams' old car been burned.

Nelson testified to earlier statements that the defendants took the Mercedes because the Williams brothers had missed a late-night bus they needed to catch to get back to Detroit.

No shots were fired and no one was injured during either carjacking. Both vehicles have been recovered.

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WILD

FROM PAGE A1

and ordered his directors to wear their credentials during working hours.

"Following the closure of the park, my next priority was to meet with my staff to convey the necessity of putting our residents first," Wild said, in a prepared statement. "It is imperative that our city directors be identifiable and accessible."

- Wild also implemented a citizens complaint program to address concerns in a timely fashion.

- More recently, Wild has been working on a budget proposal that will be submitted to the council by early April.

Wild served as a former council president and was a member of the Westland Planning Commission 1999 to 2001.

He also owned a Wayne business, Scrap Busters U-Pull-It Auto & Truck Parts.

He said he won the Automotive Recyclers of Michigan presidential award in 1996 and served as the organization's president in 2000-02. He was a regional director for the Automotive Recyclers of America Association.

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Ennis Center for Children, Inc. is looking for caring, loving foster parents willing to open their homes to children and adolescents with specialized foster care needs.

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Please call Tamara Morris at 313-342-2699 for more information.

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GARDEN CITY 28982 Ford Road
ROMULUS 5875 Middlebelt Road
WAYNE 34620 Michigan Avenue

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Democrats meet

"Iraq for Sale ... The War Profiteers," a documentary on the waste and fraud in military spending on the war in Iraq, will be sponsored by the 11th Congressional District Democrats at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 5, at the Quality Inn, 30375 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Melanie Goldberg, immigration attorney and member of the Coordinating Council of Detroit Area Peace With Justice Network, will discuss the topic and lead a question-and-answer session following the film. For more information, call (248) 624-4753.

Career Day/Youth Summit

Ford Motor Company and the Detroit Branch NAACP will host the seventh annual Career Day and Youth Summit 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28, at the Cobo Conference Center in Detroit. The half-day event includes interactive workshops and a college and university career fair, all designed to prepare students for their futures. Ford will also award \$20,000 in scholarships to the winners of an essay competition. Admission is free, and pre-registration is required. For more information and to register, visit www.fordnaacpcareerday.com online or call (313) 203-7038.

Peace benefit set

A strolling supper fund-raiser will be held by the Citizens for Peace from 6-9 p.m., Friday, March 30, at Madonna University Center, 14221 Levan, in Livonia, to finance a peace book collection for the Civic Center Library. The event will involve dramatizations of historical peacemakers, views of the Peace Collection Bibliography and the sharing of an evening with peace-minded people. For more information or to register for the event, phone (248) 863-7705 (after 5 p.m.) or (248) 476-0791.

Lunchtime lecture

Learn more about advance directives for medical care at a free lunchtime lecture noon-1 p.m. Friday, March 30, hosted by Eldercare Resources at Madonna University. Attorney Sharon S. Miller, an assistant professor of gerontology at Madonna, will educate

people on designating surrogate medical decision-makers should they become unable to make their own choices. Miller will share her knowledge of living wills, power of attorney and health care proxies. Coffee, tea, and fruit will be provided, and participants are invited to bring a bag lunch. The lecture will be in Room 2213 of the Academic Building of Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft Road at Levan Road, Livonia. For more information, call Sharon Miller at (734) 432-5531.

Crafters wanted

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

Hospice care help sought

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided; the next training session is April 14, 21 and 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required. (248) 967-8361 or visit www.vna.org.

Explore Girl Scouting

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

BINGO

VFW Bingo

Veterans of Foreign Wars 3323 Auxiliary has bingo 6:30 p.m. every Thursday at 1055 S. Wayne Road, Westland. There is a snack bar. The post has bingo at 1 p.m. every Sunday at the same place. Call (734) 326-3323.

St. Mel Church

Bingo begins at 6:45 p.m. Fridays in St. Mel Church activities building, on

Inkster Road north of Warren. Doors open at 4 p.m. Food is available.

Shamrock Bingo

Bingo begins at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 35100 Van Born, east of Wayne Road in Wayne. Doors open at 9 a.m. Food is available. Proceeds go to charity. Call (734) 728-3020.

K of C Bingo

Pope John XXIII Assembly of the Knights of Columbus Council 1536 hosts bingo games at 6:45 p.m. Thursdays. The games are in the Livonia Elks Lodge, 31117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia. Call (734) 425-2246.

FOR SENIORS

Friendship Center

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

Senior dinners

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

Crochet & Knit

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

Visually Impaired

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

Hearing checks

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

Exercise

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

Travel Group

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

Dyer Center

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

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Eating Disorders

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

Advocacy group

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

TOPS

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

Menopause & More

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

Support group

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

AIM

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

Childbirth classes

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

Childbirth Association

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

Fibromyalgia

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

HISTORIC

Pioneer trek

The Nankin Township Pioneer Trek has been designed to introduce travelers to the history of the area. Travelers will visit sites that affected the development of Westland as a community. Those who complete the trek will receive an embroidered patch. To start the trek, first visit the Westland

Historical Museum and pick up a packet. The museum is at 857 N. Wayne Road and is open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, except before a holiday. The trek is sponsored by the Westland Historical Commission and the Friends of the Westland Museum. For information, call (734) 326-1110.

Friends of Eloise

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

Friends of Museum

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

ORGANIZATIONS

Toastmasters

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

Suburban GOP Women's Club

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

Vietnam Vets

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

Friends of Library

The Friends of the William P. Faust Public Library organization meets at 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the library, 6123 Central City Parkway. Call (734) 326-6123. Meetings last about one hour and are open to the public.



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4. Trees around your home can increase its value by up to 15% or more. Studies of comparable houses with and without trees place a markedly higher value on those whose yards are sheltered by trees.
5. Trees help clean our rivers and streams. Trees hold the soil in place and reduce polluted runoff into our waterways.
6. Trees conserve energy in the winter. Trees can slow cold winter winds, and can cut your heating costs 10-20%.
7. Trees fight global warming. As they grow, trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, the major contributor to global warming. Trees planted near our homes and in our communities moderate temperatures and reduce the need for air conditioning and heating produced by burning fossil fuels, a major source of excess CO2.
8. Trees make your home, and your neighborhood, more beautiful. Trees

- mark the changing seasons, and add grace and seasonal color. Trees make a house feel like a home.
9. When you plant trees, you support Tree City USA where you live. Tree City USAs have community forestry programs to plant and care for trees. You can do your part.
10. It's easy, and fun! Here's how: Join the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation and we'll send you 10 trees...FREE...with easy-to-follow planting instructions.

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With a little bit of vision, county can reverse decline

Two weeks ago, Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano was telling *Observer* editors about the challenges facing a county with 2 million residents.



Hugh Gallagher

Well, not exactly. According to U.S. Census figures released Thursday, the county's population is down to 1,971,853, a 4-percent decline since the 2000 census, representing a loss of 89,309 people.

Though, undoubtedly, many of those people have made their way to the booming counties of the south and west, many have also just moved around to Oakland, Macomb, Livingston and Washtenaw counties. Livingston grew by a healthy 18 percent in the same period, Washtenaw by 7 percent and even blue-collar Macomb by 6 percent.

Detroit has seen its population wither away and the process goes on unabated. Estimates are that the big city is now under 900,000. Older housing, high crime, fierce poverty, troubled schools and a lack of retail shopping are driving Detroit's population into the suburbs. This has been a trend since the early 1960s and now the city's majority black population is making the move once made by white Detroit residents.

Some sections of Wayne County, particularly Canton, have been growing despite the state's economic problems. But communities closer to the central city such as Redford are continuing to lose.

It's easy to get panicked by these figures. Everyone remembers the 1970s and the jokes about the last person leaving Michigan. Foreclosures are at record numbers. The auto companies seem to be laying off thousands of workers every other week. Other businesses are more quietly going out of business. Only the hurricane-devastated counties of south Louisiana have lost more residents than Wayne County.

Though the state's population is holding steady, that's not enough to offset the growth in Florida, Texas, Arizona, Nevada and California. Experts predict we will lose a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and the political clout that implies.

But in a glass half full view, the fact that many residents are moving within the region rather than away from it says something about

a desire to hang on and see if things can turn around.

Ficano sought inspiration in another Democrat facing dire economic challenges, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Ficano said Roosevelt probably failed at 70 percent of the ideas he advanced in his first term. But his programs and his optimism gave people hope and helped them survive through the Great Depression.

With that in mind, Ficano has been vigorously promoting several ideas. On top of that list is a renovated and expanded Cobo Center. As Ficano sees it, Cobo is central to reviving downtown Detroit, keeping the city as a major venue for conventions and trade shows, particularly what Ficano calls the city's trademark, the North American International Auto Show. He is also tossing out some interesting tax proposals — making Cobo a tax-free zone (and possibly the airport as well) and a tax holiday during the shopper-heavy, back-to-school period.

More long range, Ficano envisions Wayne County's future centering around its two airports along I-94, Metro and Willow Run. If anything holds a promise of reversing the population trend for Wayne County, the aerotropolis is the most visionary and also the most practical.

The two airports could serve as a hub for high-tech businesses demanding just in time delivery, for warehousing operations, for growth in research and development at corporations and at the University of Michigan and Wayne State University.

It's argued that those businesses will stimulate residential and retail growth. Ficano argues that mass transit, realistically a combination of mainline commuter trains and buses, is essential to the overall development.

This model has been successful in several European and Asian countries.

In April, Ficano will be leading a delegation to Amsterdam and Frankfurt to see how it works in the real world.

Cobo Center, the aerotropolis and restoring and revitalizing the city of Detroit are important not just to reversing Wayne County's population decline. They are central to the future health and vitality of Michigan.

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

New hope flickers in an old (but still cherished) area

I spent a good part of a recent Saturday afternoon in the cold confines of St. Albertus Church in the old Poletown section of Detroit.

St. Albertus is perhaps the most beautiful church in Michigan and certainly one of the most historic. What brought me there was a call from the Polish American Historic Site Association, a group of dedicated volunteers who are slowly restoring the great church. They're ratcheting up their efforts to get more people involved and gain more recognition for the church.

St. Albertus was built in 1885 and was soon embroiled in controversy. In those days, churches were focal points of communities and neighborhoods. St. Albertus was at the core of the Polish immigrant community in Detroit at the intersection of Canfield and St. Aubin.

A dispute with the pastor led to riots there, and one person was shot and killed during one of the melees. The Detroit press had a field day covering the doings of "Poletown," as they dubbed it. Gradually the dispute waned and, alas, so did the neighborhood.

By the 1950s, suburban flight took its toll. The riots of 1967 led to even more flight, and the construction of the GM "Poletown" plant in the early 1980s pretty much devastated what was left of the neighborhood.

But there are still stirrings of life down there, even though the parish was officially closed in the early 1990s. These days, Mass is celebrated once a month. But a group of dedicated young volunteers is working slowly to restore the church and rectory next door. Actually, much of it is still in fairly good shape. Some plaster has peeled from the ceiling here and there, but the majestic murals are still in excellent condition. The massive altar remains incredibly ornate and the stained glass windows glow with color.

St. Albertus, and Sweetest Heart of Mary Church, just a block away, are remnants of another age.

They were more than places of worship.

They were made as statements of faith and dedication. And while it may run counter to the teachings of Christ, they were also sources of great pride. That's why people literally fought for them and over them.

It would be nearly impossible to build a church like St. Albertus today. Finding the craftsmen capable of doing the stone and wood carving would be a challenge. And the cost today would be astronomical. Just the amount of fine marble used is staggering.

St. Albertus has weathered many storms of many sorts over the past century and more. The original steeple, in fact, was taken down by a storm. And the congregation has withstood many challenges even as it dwindled to just a handful.

But while the surrounding neighborhood is somewhat bleak, the church continues to be an island of hope. That is especially reflected in the young volunteers who are working so hard to restore it. As one of their key activities, they want to bring tours to the church, which is where I came in. I do tours of St. Florian, another great church just a few miles north of St. Albertus, and I know what interest there is in these fine old buildings.

It's our intent to bring more people down to that historic area to see these buildings, and learn what architectural, social and historical treasures they are.

We're working on a joint tour operation that will prove fascinating.

It isn't right to write off the old Poletown neighborhood. It certainly is extremely depressed, but that is mainly because it has become depopulated, not because of overriding fears of crime.

In a way, the neighborhood has reverted to what it once was: semi-rural and semi-industrial.

But the young people working on St. Albertus are a sign of new life. They are showing a dedication that would make the original parishioners proud. You can see more for yourself at www.stalbertus.org.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the *Birmingham Eccentric*. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gwalski@hometownlife.com.

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Public safety expo

Recruiters educate job seekers and bring out the big equipment

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Considering Michigan's tottering economy, it was understandable that a recruiter from the Dallas, Texas, Police Department was getting a good response March 21 at Schoolcraft College's Public Safety Career Expo at the college's Radcliff Center in Garden City.

But why was Dallas coming to metro Detroit?

Population is booming and the need for police is growing.

"We have 350 openings and we'll have 1,500 over the next five years," said Monique Alex, a senior corporal with the Dallas Police Department. "We tested in January at Schoolcraft and had a good response. With the economy here, we do testing and recruiting. Yesterday, we tested 126 applicants. The last time, we tested 186."

The Dallas Police was among many local, state and federal safety and law enforcement organizations putting their best foot forward for job seekers.

A recruiter from Fairfax County, Va., was telling some young future police officers that things were booming in Virginia. But many local police and fire departments were making their pitch as well — Canton, Livonia, Kalamazoo, Troy and Wayne and Oakland county sheriff's departments, plus the state police.

TOUGH MARKET

But job seekers were not optimistic.

"It's hard to find a job," Bryan Kubasta of Detroit said. "It's really competitive."

Kubasta and Josh Wischmeyer of Redford are students in Schoolcraft's fire academy.

"It's always been the job for me," Wischmeyer said. Wischmeyer and Kubasta were interested in seeing what is available.

Marty Heator, director of marketing at Schoolcraft, said having the departments from other states at the fair gives Schoolcraft students and other job seekers another option.

Alex said Dallas had much to offer. "We're offering a \$10,000 signing bonus, which helps," she said. "We're also selling climate. I'm from Alaska and went to Texas for the warmer weather."

EDUCATING APPLICANTS

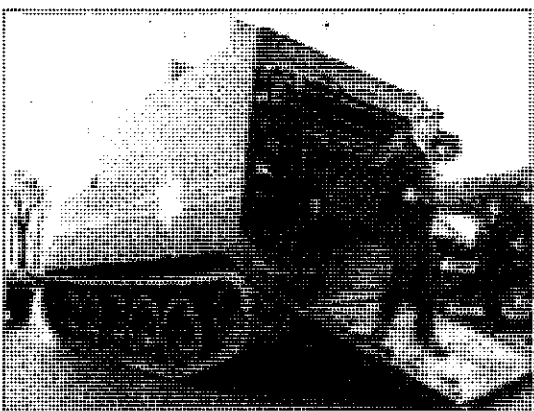
In addition to enticements, recruiters were also educating job applicants on what they need to do to get the job they want.

For Tom Kiurski of the Livonia Fire Department, it's a matter of explaining what being a firefighter means.

"I tell them, the minimum requirements are certification and training as a paramedic.



Dan Keltvirts, with the Michigan State Police bomb squad, talks with Rob Hunter and Rob Domenzain, both from Canton.



Mike Twigg, from Garden City, checked out Wayne County's armored personnel carrier, used by the special response team.

An associate's degree can come later," he said.

The paramedic requirement comes as a surprise to some.

"This has been changing over the last 10 years," Kiurski said. "We were not on the cutting edge, but somewhere in the middle on this."

For Cheryl Lozen, forensic scientist with the Nashville laboratories of the Michigan State Police, it's a matter of separating fact from the highly popular fiction of the CSI programs. She said many are surprised that most forensic scientists do not go out to the crime scene, but do their work in the laboratory.

"That's a surprise to a lot of people," she said. "It's really a science degree, rich in chemistry and biology."

She said CSI glamorizes and exaggerates what real forensic scientists do.

"We don't wear high heels and tank tops to crime scenes," she said.

But there is an element of show business to police and fire work. The state police had an officer from the bomb squad demonstrating bomb protection gear and a bomb detecting robot. Outside on the Radcliff parking lot, a carnival atmosphere prevailed with fire engines, motorcycles, rescue units and a tank-like personnel carrier on display.

The armored personnel carrier was one of several vehicles displayed by the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, which has motorcycle, patrol car, mounted and marine units. The black box on a rubber track



Pittsfield Township brought their largest fire truck.



Hailey Robinson and Erika Dickman, both of Canton, talk with Monique Alex of the Dallas, Texas Police Department.

was drawing a steady line of visitors according to Lt. Richard Holme.

"It's to get members of the team into hostile situations," he said. "Say a barricaded gunman

in a house. This gets us as close as possible. It stops just about anything and it's very solid."

Other participants at the expo included the federal Immigration, Customs and

Choose a mortgage that is right for your needs

We are in the process of purchasing a new home. We have not purchased a house in a number of years and I wanted to get your thoughts on the type of mortgage that we should get. In addition, does it make sense to purchase the most expensive home we can afford considering real estate prices in Michigan?

In today's mortgage world, there are virtually hundreds of mortgages that an individual can obtain. To me, there is no one right answer. It is similar to investing because you have to choose the best strategy for your situation. The key to determining the right type of mortgage is knowing how long you plan to be in your home. If you plan to live in the house for a short period of time, less than five years, then one of the adjustable-rate mortgages may make sense. On the other hand, if you plan to be live in the house longer than five years, a traditional fixed-rate mortgage is what you should get. Mortgage rates are favorable at the present time and I would lock in for the long term.

If you are going to be in your house long term, the issue is whether to choose a 15-year or 30-year mortgage. I recommend the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage. My theory is based on the fact mortgage interest is tax-deductible. After taxes, in today's market, the mortgage is costing you 4-5 percent, which is relatively inexpensive. I would take advantage of the inexpensive money and lock up the mortgage for 30 years.

I recognize many people do not want to have a mortgage 30 years from now and that is why they choose a 15-year mortgage. A better strategy is to have your house paid off in 15 years, get a 30-year mortgage and then have the discipline on a monthly basis to take the savings of a 30-year vs. a 15-year mortgage and invest it on a regular basis in a good growth mutual fund such as the Selected American Shares Fund. Fifteen years down the road, you should have enough to pay off the mortgage and have money left over.

In today's market, I only recommend adjustable-rate mortgages for someone who is going to be in their house short term. One of the reasons the sub-prime mortgage market is going through some difficulty right now is that too many people went with adjustable-rate mortgages in order to get into a house they could not afford using a traditional fixed-rate loan. The longer you stay in a home with an adjustable-rate mortgage, the more risk you have when rates begin to climb.

How much should you spend for your home? My view is that houses are great for quality of life, but not good investments. After all, many people in Michigan are in a situation where they paid more for their house than it's now worth. You have to make sure you own your house and it doesn't own you. In deciding how much you can afford for a home, factor into the equation other financial goals



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

that you have, such as saving for retirement or a child's college education. And don't forget to factor in the other costs that go hand-in-hand with the more expensive house, such as increased maintenance, homeowners insurance and property taxes.

I am 54 years old and will not retire for at least 10 years. I heard something on your radio show regarding Roth IRA conversions. Can you tell me when someone should consider converting into a Roth IRA?

When it comes to converting an existing IRA into a Roth IRA, my general rules are as follows:

■ You have to have the money to pay the taxes on the Roth conversion without touching any of the money converted.

■ You should convert an amount that will not push you into a higher tax bracket.

■ You can invest the money long term, generally at least five to seven years.

If you meet those three criteria, then it generally pays to convert. The advantage of converting an existing IRA into a Roth IRA is from this point on money would grow tax-free vs. tax-deferred. Money in a traditional IRA is always subject to ordinary income taxes money when withdrawn. In a Roth IRA, withdrawals made after age 59 are never subject to income taxes. In addition, in a Roth IRA you are not subject to the minimum required distribution rules. At 70, in a traditional IRA, you must begin to make withdrawals. That is not the case with a Roth IRA. A Roth IRA can grow tax-free for as long as you choose.

The downside of converting into a Roth IRA is that you must pay income taxes on the money. However, by taking a short-term hit on taxes, you will have a long-term gain. Remember, a Roth IRA grows tax-free, not tax-deferred. By converting to a Roth IRA, you are paying your taxes earlier, but you would have always had to pay the taxes down the road if you stayed with the traditional IRA.

Many seniors who are over 70 are under the mistaken belief that they cannot convert their IRAs into a Roth IRA. That is not the case. Although you cannot convert your required minimum distribution, you can convert anything above and beyond that.

One last note, you have until April 17 to make a Roth IRA contribution for 2006.

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. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

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SPORTS

B (LW)

Sunday, March 25, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chargers take a bow

Livonia Churchill High athletic director Marc Hage (left photo) holds up the MHSAA Class A girls volleyball state championship trophy during a schoolwide assembly staged Thursday afternoon in the school's gym. (Top photo) Seniors Kelly Archer (left) and Lauren Krupsky (right) appear delighted as they open up boxes of state champion sweaters and T-shirts which were presented to the entire team after it took the title last weekend in Kalamazoo with victories over North Branch and No. 1-ranked and defending state champ East Kentwood.

Sidelines

MU cagers hailed

Madonna University's players D.J. Bridges (Canton) and Martina Franklin (Redford Union) were recently recognized on the 2007 NAIA Division II All-America men's and women's basketball teams, respectively, earning honorable mention honors.

Bridges, a 6-foot-3 junior forward, made first-team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference after averaging 19.8 points and 7.0 rebounds for the 12-19 Crusaders. He is just five points shy of the 1,000 career-point mark.

Franklin, also a junior forward, averaged 17.9 points and 9.3 rebounds for the 15-18 Crusaders, who reached the WHAC tournament championship game. The first-team All-WHAC selection is the school's all-time leader in blocks and already has surpassed the 1,000 career-point mark.

NAIA All-Academic

Madonna University basketball players Adam Kerfoot (Gaylord St. Mary) and Caryn Inman (Oxford) were named to the Daktronics NAIA All-American Scholar-Athlete teams in men's and women's basketball, respectively.

Kerfoot, a senior guard majoring in Fire Science, averaged 10.7 points and 4.6 assists per game while carry a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale). He made third-team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference.

Inman, a Biology and Secondary Education Major, averaged 9.1 points and 5.8 rebounds per game. She was also a second-team NAIA All-America in volleyball as a senior and was also named to the Daktronics All-Academic team.

Aid CHS baseball

Thomas's Family Dining, located on 33971 Plymouth Road, Livonia, will donate 20 percent of its proceeds to the Livonia Churchill High baseball program starting at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 25 through 9 p.m. Thursday, March 29.

To participate, obtain a coupon via e-mail from Churchill varsity baseball coach Ron Targosz at rtargosz@livonia.k12.mi.us.

Walleye 101

Pro walleye fisherman, author and speaker captain Lance Valentine will address Metro West Steelheaders of Livonia monthly membership meeting starting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 3 at the Livonia Senior Citizens Center, on the southeast corner of Farmington and Five Mile roads. All meetings are open to the public.

Valentine will share excerpts from his Walleye 101 series along with information on all facets of walleye fishing in Lake Erie and the Detroit River. A marine electronics expert, Valentine has published several magazine articles and was a featured speaker at the Ultimate Fishing Show and other shows.

Miss Hockey delivers

Ladywood's Szwed is multi-talented performer

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to the water, Livonia Ladywood High's Laura Szwed has both sides of the rink covered.

On frozen pond, the senior was honored recently in a banquet held at Livonia's Laurel Manor as Miss Hockey, recognizing the top girls high school hockey player in the state.

And when it warms up, she spends her summers on Brendel Lake near her home in White Lake perfecting routines as a barefoot water skier where she competes both nationally and in world competitions.

Last September, in 2006 Barefoot Water Ski World Championships held in Adna, Wash. (Lake Silverado), Szwed earned a bronze medal in tricks and fourth in the slalom for a sixth-place finish overall. She was also a member of the first-place U.S. Elite Barefoot Water Ski Team.

"I like both sports equally," said Szwed. "My brother (Kyle) and my dad (Chris) competed (in water ski-

ing). My mother (Pat) roots us on."

The family also had plenty to cheer about this winter as Laura led the Blazers to a 17-3-1 record and a berth in the semifinals of the Michigan High School Girls Hockey League playoffs.

Szwed ended her career (March 8) at Livonia's Edgar Arena with a pair of goals in a 5-2 loss to Bloomfield Hills Kingswood, giving her 42 for the season to go along with 17 assists.

Needless to say, Szwed earned first-team All-State honors along with teammate Brittney Holtz, a senior defenseman, and was one of six considered in the final voting for Miss Hockey.

"I figured I was in the running, but I was really shocked when they announced it," Szwed said.

Szwed, who carries a 3.4 grade-point average, plans to continue her hockey career in college. She would like to study International Business and is leaning toward Utica (N.Y.) College, an NCAA Division III school which offers hockey for women.

Despite standing only 5 feet, 2 inches, Szwed was adept at making big plays when the Blazers needed

them the most. In 67 games at Ladywood, Szwed finished her career with 139 goals and 62 assists.

"I just try to use my speed out there," the new Miss Hockey said.

Szwed began playing at age seven and competed on boys teams until a Pee Wee division (age 12) was offered for girls. She decided to attend Ladywood because it had a high school girls hockey program.

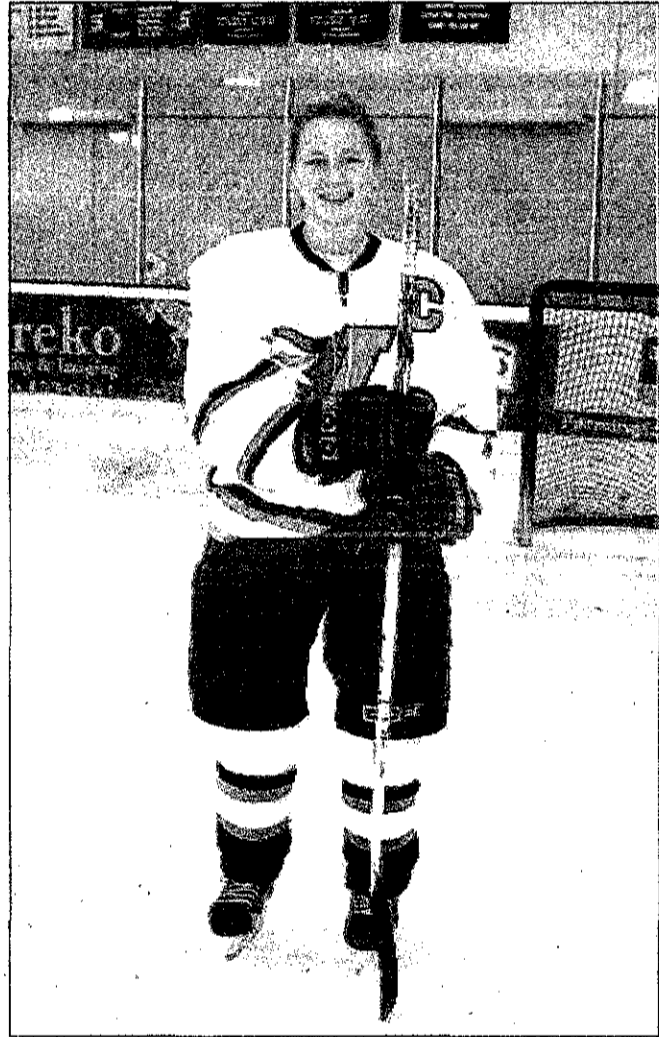
"It's sad to be leaving, I really enjoyed playing," she said. "A lot of us have been playing together for three and four years."

There's a huge void that needs to be filled now that Szwed's prep career is over.

"We'll miss her leadership and her two-way style of play," Ladywood coach Bruce Peck said. "She's not tall, but she really knows how to position herself on the ice. She has strong legs. It no doubt comes from the water."

"And she's the nicest person you'll ever meet. She's very humble and team-oriented. She's good in the classroom, very positive, and fun to be around."

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Livonia Ladywood's Laura Szwed was recently named Miss Hockey.

4 hitch on to coaching carousel

Area girls soccer teams under new leadership

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

There's been a changing of the guard in the coaching ranks for area girls soccer high school soccer teams.

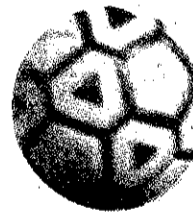
Four new coaches will be on the sidelines this spring including two in the Metro Conference.

Trevor Johnson takes over for Jake O'Brien at Livonia Clarenceville, while Sam Makki will handle the reins at Lutheran High Westland replacing Ken Shingledecker.

Livonia Ladywood also has a new coach - 21-year-old Brent Petkus. Wayne Memorial also has a new coach in 22-year-old Evan Baker.

Johnson, who played at Walled Lake Western and coached two seasons of JV soccer, inherits a Clarenceville squad that finished a respectable 10-9 a year ago in its inaugural varsity campaign.

Makki, meanwhile, took the job just two weeks ago after spending time training players at Farmington Hills Harrison High. He owns his own training academy and played professionally 12 years in Division 1 and 2 leagues in Scotland. He also coached three years in the Scottish Professional League before coming to the U.S.



'I just want to give back to the sport and it was a good fit being a Christian school.'

Sam Makki
New coach, Lutheran High Westland

PREVIEW

where he got involved with the Troy Football Club and Athens High School.

"I just want to give back to the sport and it was a good fit being a Christian school," said Makki, whose team takes over a team that finished 3-11-1 last year.

Petkus, who replaces Jill Logsdon, spent two years as Ladywood's goalkeeper coach and he becomes the youngest head coach in the area at 21. Last year, the Blazers finished 6-11-4, but won the Division 2 district crown.

The 2004 Detroit Catholic Central High grad has been a back-up keeper the past two seasons at Bowling Green State University, where he commutes back-and-forth daily to Ladywood.

"I drive a lot of miles, that's why I have a fuel economy car," said Petkus, who will become BG's captain next year.

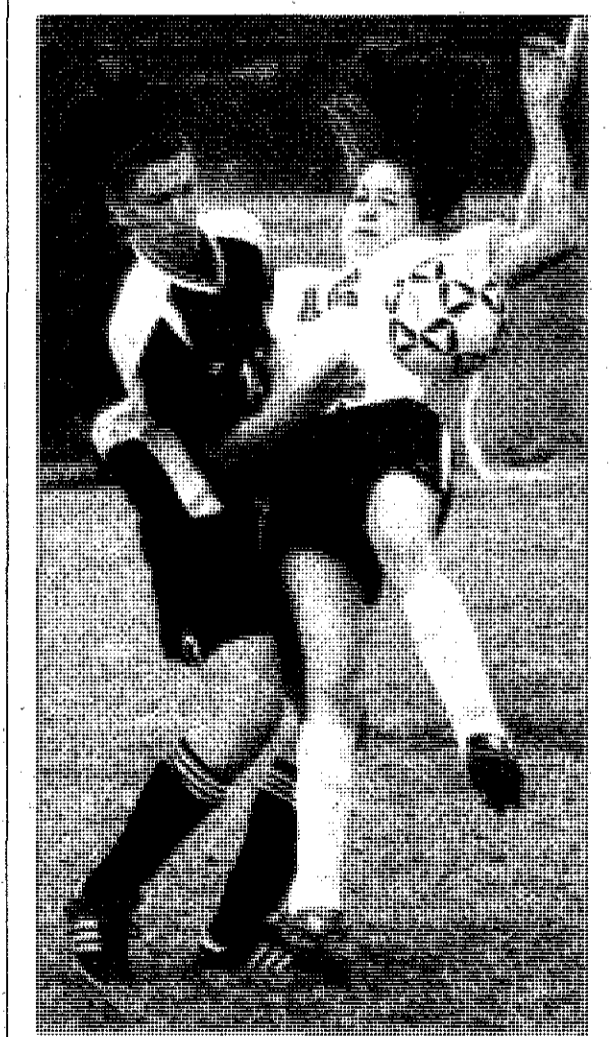
The second youngest coach in the area is Wayne Memorial's Evan Baker, a Canton High grad who played at Madonna University.

He replaces longtime Wayne coach Larry Brenner, who resigned after 12 seasons. The Zebras, members of the Western Lakes Activities Association, are coming off a 2-16-1 season.

"The attitude among the girls is incredibly positive, and I think they've really bought into the idea that we can be successful this year," Baker said. "When you're trying to create an environment that's conducive to winning, the first thing that needs to change is the attitude. The girls have to believe they can win. It's not going to happen by itself."

Two WLAA teams have already launched their seasons with Westland John Glenn, 3-14-1 overall last year, losing to Redford Thurston, 5-2, on Wednesday.

PLEASE SEE SOCCER, B4



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Contact sports

Thurston sophomore Alena Alessandrini (left) collides with John Glenn freshman Ashley Bailey in Wednesday's season girls soccer opener. See story on page B4.

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
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
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
Thursday, March 29
Wayne vs. Taylor Truman at Woodlands-Van Buren, 3 p.m.
John Glenn at Edsel Ford, 3:15 p.m.
GIRLS LACROSSE
Monday, March 26
Ladywood at A.A. Pioneer, 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 31
Ladywood Tournament, 9 a.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL
Sunday, March 25
Madonna at Spalding (Ky.), noon.
Tuesday, March 27
Madonna vs. Rochester College at Iltich Ballpark, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, March 28
Madonna vs. Indiana Tech at Iltich Ballpark (2), 1 p.m.
Saturday, March 31
Madonna vs. Siena Heights at Iltich Ballpark (2), 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 1
Madonna at Siena Heights (2), 1 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Saturday, March 31
Madonna vs. Cornerstone at MU University Park (2), 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 1
Madonna at Siena Mts. (2), 1 p.m.
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYOFFS
Sunday, March 25
Whalers at Guelph Storm, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 27
Whalers vs. Guelph Storm at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
Thursday, March 29
Whalers at Guelph Storm, 7 p.m.
Saturday, March 31
Whalers vs. Guelph Storm at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m.
Sunday, April 1
Whalers 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.

Late Prybyla leaves lofty bowling legacy

They all called him "Mr. P." George Prybyla was a standout leader in the local bowling scene. Sadly, he passed away last week, preceded in death by his loving wife of 57 years, Natalie, by only 18 days.



Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison

Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park. He had a great passion for the sport of bowling, and he and his father built the Nortown Bowling alley in 1940. In 1962, he opened Thunderbowl with 50 lanes, and it was later expanded to its pres-

ent complement of 96 lanes, making it the second-largest bowling center in the USA.

Throughout his years, Prybyla served the bowling community in many capacities. He was a member of the Bowling Proprietors Association of Michigan for 60 years and served as president in 1978.

He was instrumental in bringing the Detroit Bowling Hall of Fame to a home of its own, finding suitable space right in the concourse of Thunderbowl Lanes. George was inducted into the hall of fame in 1980.

The Detroit All-Stars have called Thunderbowl Lanes their home for many years. Some of the area's strongest leagues, both men's and women's are based there as well.

It also became the host site of the annual John P. Gavie Memorial Tournament every August and the annual Old Timers Tournament in November. Both events became highly successful under George's leadership.

He was quite an innovator and when George talked people listened. He was highly respected everywhere and by all who knew him. George Prybyla will be missed by many.

Now there are nine. That is the number of senior bowlers in the Mayflower Wednesday Men's Senior Classic to score a perfect game this season.

Last week it was Bill Holloway of West Bloomfield with a 300 game. That same day also featured Rich Walczyk of Flat Rock who bowled an 800 series.

Circle May 2 on your calendar. That's the date of the U.S. Bowling Congress Queens finals from Charlotte, N.C. Five of the world's top women bowlers will be competing for the top prize of \$30,000.

Three hundred women bowlers will be shooting at a total prize fund of \$200,000. The TV finals will feature the five finalists who survive the four days of qualifying and match play. If you miss, it will be re-aired at 1 p.m. on Sunday May

20 on ESPN.

It's not just the old guys in senior leagues with those 300 games. How about 13-year-old Michael Nadratowski. He rolled a perfect game on March 4 in the Western Wayne Youth Traveling Classic at Lodge Lanes.

Michael averages 191. His older brother, 17-year-old Dan, is pretty good, too; he averages around the 200 mark.

Both boys started bowling at the age of 5. Dan has also won a \$1,000 scholarship prize in the Westland Bowl Youth Tournament. A good measure of their success is due to the lessons they took with Aleta Sill and Michelle Mullen at Country Lanes. Their proud parents are John and Kim Nadratowski of Canton.

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

Ignition clinch playoff berth vs. California

The Detroit Ignition defeated the California Cougars, 17-8, before a sellout crowd at Compuware Sports Arena Friday night to secure a Major Indoor Soccer League playoff berth in their first year of existence.

The Ignition improved to 17-10 while the Cougars slipped to 6-22.

The game-winning two-point goal was registered by league-leading scorer Jamar Beasley at the 6:22 mark of the third quarter. Beasley led all Ignition scorers with six points, including his 100th of the season.

Hewerton ignited the scoring with a goal to hand the Ignition the early 2-0 advantage at 2:17 of the opening frame.

Detroit defender Jonathan Greenfield registered the club's second shorthanded goal of the season, a two-pointer off a pass from Droo Callahan, to extend the advantage to 4-0 just over five minutes later.

Greenfield close the first-quarter scoring with his second

goal of the night five minutes before the break.

The second frame began with a two-point goal from Ricardinho at 4:44, extending the Ignition advantage to 8-0.

California midfielder Brian Farber put the Cougars on the board for the first time at 10:05 to make it 8-2. Cougars midfielder Craig Scheer brought the Ignition's lead down to 8-4 with a two-point goal at 11:12 at the end of the second quarter.

The third quarter began with a two-point goal just 59 seconds in by Farber, his second of the game, as the Ignition was cut to 8-6. Beasley then recorded a power-play net-finder for the Ignition at 6:22 to pad his team's edge to 10-6.

Carlos Farias's 16th goal of the season, a two-pointer past Cougars netminder Bayard Elfvn, made it 12-6.

Ignition goalkeeper Danny Waltman (4-1) earned the victory between the pipes for the Ignition.

MISL final in Plymouth

The Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL) announced this week that the 2007 MISL Championship Series final game has been scheduled for Saturday, April 21, at Compuware Sports Arena, home of the MISL Detroit Ignition in Plymouth Township. The opening kick is set for 4 p.m.

Tickets for the 2007 MISL Championship Series Final are available through the Detroit Ignition Box Office, online through TicketMaster and at all TicketMaster locations, or by phone at 888-436-GOAL (4625).

The MISL Championship Series final game will be nationally televised on VERSUS, to a potential audience of over 72 million homes. This marks the first-ever nationally televised soccer match originating from Compuware Sports Arena.

"We are honored and excited to be selected to host the 2007

MISL Championship Series Final," stated Greg Bibb, president of the Detroit Ignition. "We look forward to bringing the league's marquee event to Compuware Sports Arena as a finale to our inaugural season in the MISL. We're eager to present a first-class sports entertainment experience to not only the fans in the arena, but to our fans around the country on VERSUS."

The 2006-07 regular season concludes on Saturday, April 7. The 2007 MISL Championship Series is scheduled to begin with the semifinal round on the weekend of April 13-15. The Championship Series consists of four teams. The MISL regular-season champion will earn an automatic bid to postseason play and receives the No. 1 seed as determined by regular-season winning percentage. Other postseason spots are allotted to the three teams with the next best regular season win percentage, determining the No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4 seeds.

MU falls in Kentucky series

After more than a week of inactivity due to rainy, snowy March weather, Madonna University finally returned to action Friday in Kentucky, losing 6-5 to host Spalding University. The Crusaders trailed 5-4 until shortstop Kyle Fedorka doubled in the tying run in the top of the ninth. But Fedorka's error in the bottom half of the frame enabled the Golden Eagles to come away with the victory.

Taking the loss for MU (8-6) was senior right-hander Mike Hand, who came on for Regits to

COLLEGE BASEBALL

open the eighth. After playing Saturday and Sunday games against Spalding, Madonna will - weather permitting - open the home portion of its schedule 2 p.m. Tuesday against Rochester College at Iltich Ballpark in Livonia. Madonna already has had two home doubleheaders cancelled - March 17 against Malone and March 20 against Indiana Wesleyan.

Advertisement for Red Wing Shoes featuring 'Size Matters... And We Have Yours!' and 'Spring Clearance Closeouts Starting at... \$30.00!'. Includes address: 18762 Middlebelt Rd., Livonia, MI 48152, phone: 248-476-9600. Also features a map and a coupon for 15% off any shoe or boot.

BOYS HOOPS

2007 ALL-WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS
ALL-CONFERENCE: Alvin Storr, 6-1 Sr. G, Northville; Luke Knochel, 5-9 Sr. G, Livonia; Stevenson; Ryan Waldmann, 6-7 Sr. F, Canton; Earl Hardison, 6-1 Jr. G, Westland; John Glenn; Grant Stone, 6-4, Jr. F, Salem; Mike Lee, 5-9 Jr. G, Wayne Memorial.
COACH OF THE YEAR: Dan Young, John Glenn.
ALL-LAKES: Stefan Marken, 6-3 Jr. G, John Glenn; Keshawn Martin, 6-0 Jr. G, John Glenn; Cody Rzeznik, 6-3 Jr. F, Walled Lake Central; Matt Guldan, 6-4 Sr. F, W.L. Central; Chris Mulcahy, 5-10 Sr. G, Stevenson; Ryan Rosenick, 6-2 Jr. F, Livonia Churchill; Ryan Bahmiller, 6-4 Sr. G-F, Walled Lake Northern.
ALL-WESTERN: Bret Spencer, 6-3 Sr. F, Northville; Dan Kirkpatrick, 6-5 Jr. F, Northville; Neil Sharma, 6-4 Jr. F, Canton; Josh Butler, 5-11 Sr. G, Canton; John Hill, 6-2

Jr. F, Wayne; Quinton Cooper, 6-2 Soph. F, Walled Lake Western; Brandon Roberts, 6-0 Jr. G, Plymouth.
HONORABLE MENTION
Northville: Mike Rogers, David Burke; Canton: Eric Thornton, Devarone Jackson, Ryan Langdon; Wayne: Jeremy Lovelady, Robert Woodson; W.L. Western: Eddie Yushaj, Sean Armstrong; Plymouth: Jake Hager, Dan Jeong; Livonia Franklin: Tyler Canyock, Alex Reid, Gary Cobb, Matt Mills, Andy Ring; John Glenn: Rob Jones, Austin Anderson; W.L. Central: Joe Marshall, Bryan Peterson, Brandon Joseph; Salem: Ross Davis, Dan Cassidy; Stevenson: Derek Severson, Nate Wilson, Ryan Aneed; Churchill: Brad Evans, Ryan Whitman; W.L. Northern: Robert Johnson, Steve Knurick, Tim Ferenc.
2007 ALL-METRO CONFERENCE BOYS BASKETBALL FIRST TEAM
Macomb Lutheran North: Steve Doerffinger,

Jr.; Richie Beebe, Sr.; Samia Kellani, Sr.; Harper Woods: Bobby Gibson, Sr.; Xavier Fowler, Sr.; Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook: Chris Rencher, Sr.; Xander Strek, Jr. (at-large); Lutheran Westland: Kyle Ramthun, Sr. (MVP); Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest: Jeff Beauzegeard, Sr.; Hamtramck: Bryon LeFlore, Sr.; Livonia Clarenceville: Lonnie Fairfax, Sr.; Clawson: David O'Connell, Sr.
SECOND TEAM
Lutheran Northwest: Brian-Budchuk, Jr.; Drew Dennison, Jr. (at-large); Harper Woods: Dexter Jackson, Sr.; Cranbrook: Matt Broder, Jr.; Adam Morris, Sr.; Lutheran Westland: Sean Vandenbrink, Sr.; Josh Haller, Sr.; Lutheran Northwest: Jeremy Simmons, Sr.; Hamtramck: Reed Alsbani, Jr.; Clarenceville: Jeremy Gainer, Soph.; Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett: Carlton Snyder, Sr.
COACH OF THE YEAR
Gary Gutenkunst, Lutheran North

GIRLS HOCKEY

MICHIGAN METRO GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE ALL-STATE TEAMS
First-team: Katie Zeminick, Grosse Pointe North; Katie Zimmerman, Plymouth-Canton-Salem; Laura Szwed, Livonia Ladywood (Miss Hockey); Keely Kowalski, Plymouth-Canton-Salem; Brittney Holtz, Ladywood; Clarice Grantham, Ann Arbor.
Second-team: Audrey Stapleton, Bloomfield Hills Kingswood; Ariel Magidson, Kingswood; Elizabeth Palmer, Grosse Pointe Woods University-Liggett; Angie Chronis, Ann Arbor; Erica Schilkey, Harper Woods Regina; Catherine LaGrasso, Kingswood.
ALL-LEAGUE
Goalie: Kristie Kowalski, P-C-S.
Defense: Jacq Roberg, Mercy-Marian; Alex Sturgeon, Ann Arbor; Lauren Krajewski, Walled Lake; Shuana Siebert, P-C-S; Carolyn Gard, Kingswood; Erin Hietala, Northville;

Monique Squires, Liggett.
Forwards: Maura Gregory, Mercy-Marian; J.J. Chronis, Ann Arbor; Joann Meserve, Regina; Marissa LaValley, Grosse Pointe North; Shami Enteman, Grosse Pointe South; Amanda Marsh, Grosse Pointe South; Molly Baker, Walled Lake; Lindsey Szutka, Walled Lake; Nikki Songer, P-C-S; Adrienne Cerceno, P-C-S; Krysten Ruzlyo, Northville; Penelia Semma, Ladywood.
HONORABLE MENTION
Goalie: Meghan Smerecki, Regina; Tori Bogan, G.P. North; Lauren Hutchinson, Walled Lake.
Defense: Carly Moczny, Regina; Lauren Walsh, G.P. North; Pilar Ming, Kingswood; Melissa Koztowny, Northville; Angie Iafano, Ladywood.
Forwards: Rachel Vogel, Ann Arbor; Annelise Heeringa, Ann Arbor; Lexie McGillis, Regina; Caitlin Lariscy, Regina;

Alexa Quinlan, G.P. North; Lisa Fishbeck, Northville; Danielle Hirka, Northville; Heather Sartorius, Ladywood.
ALL-ACADEMIC (by Hockey Weekly)
Liggett: Elizabeth Palmer (4.5 grade-point average); Monique Squires (4.13); G.P. South: Shami Enteman (4.3); Elizabeth McCaughy (3.56); Amy Hathaway (3.55); Regina: Tara LaMiza (4.13); Lexie McGillis (3.94); Jenna Moore (3.85); Brandy Gertley (3.81); Diana Langlois (3.68); Joann Meserve (3.64); Liz LaRiviere (3.63); Morgan Copp (3.6); Kingswood: Kelsey Goin (3.96); Ariana Shane (3.55); Elizabeth Belen (3.5); G.P. North: Katie Zeminick (3.94); Ladywood: Rachel Killian (3.8); Brittney Holtz (3.57); Angie Iafano (3.56); Plymouth-Canton-Salem: Kristin Callahan (3.78); Ann Arbor: Annelise Heeringa (3.5).

SPORTS ROUNDUP

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. 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 Sophea, 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: depeterson@nbdetroit.com. Call (248) 324-0506; or visit www.nbdetroit.com.

MU continues winning trend with sweep vs. Spring Arbor

The Madonna University softball team picked up its fifth consecutive victory last Tuesday afternoon after earning a doubleheader sweep over Spring Arbor College.

After taking a 4-1 victory in the opener, MU defeated Spring Arbor, 11-3, in a five-inning nightcap.

Shannon Noder picked up the win in game one after tossing a complete game, while scattering four hits and allowing just one run, a solo homer in the second inning for the Crusaders, who improved to 13-6 overall.

Livonia Ladywood product Stephanie Day, Heather Richardson (Canton) and Caitlin Sidor (Churchill) each had two hits each against Spring Arbor (3-13).

Sidor and Richardson each recorded a double and Sidor led the Crusaders with two RBI.

In game two, Liz Ballinger picked up her seventh win of the season after allowing five hits and three runs in a complete game effort.

Richardson again led the Crusaders at the plate with a 3-for-4 performance with a double, a home run and four RBI.

Day, Sidor, Tedi Johnston and Hannah Godfrey all racked up two hits to help the MU offensive attack.

Freshman infielder Britney Scero (Canton) continued her assault on opposing pitchers by recording a hit in each game to stretch her hitting streak to 18 games.

Crusaders beat Urbana

Madonna wrapped up a three-day tour of Ohio with a doubleheader sweep Sunday at Urbana, winning 8-3 and 8-6, the latter in nine innings.

In the opening game, the Crusaders pushed across four runs in the first two innings to claim a 4-2 lead.

Madonna added their fifth

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

run in the fourth inning after Sidor scored on an error with Scero at the plate.

Sidor started MU's rally in the sixth inning with a single and later scored on an RBI single by Christina Finch. Scero and sophomore outfielder Hannah Godfrey also scored in the sixth inning to increase the lead to 8-3.

Senior lefthander Shannon Noder earned the win after tossing a complete game and striking out six batters.

Noder (5-4) also picked up the win in game two after pitching four innings in relief of Ballinger - who lasted four-and-one-third innings and allowed four runs, all of which were unearned.

The Crusaders scored five runs in the fourth inning to take a 5-4 lead, capped off by Sidor's first collegiate homer, but the Blue Knights (7-7) plated a run in the fifth inning off Ballinger to tie the game 5-5.

After heading into extra innings, neither team could muster much offense until the ninth inning when MU busted through with three runs.

Freshman Samantha Bell, Godfrey and junior Heather Richardson (Canton) all

scored to put the Crusaders ahead for good.

MU sweeps honors

The Crusaders swept the weekly conference honors after the league office announced today that junior lefthander Liz Ballinger (St. Johns) was named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Week, while sophomore outfielder Hannah Godfrey (Waterford Mott) was named Player of the Week after helping the Crusaders to a 4-2 mark during the week.

Ballinger (6-2), who also earned NAIA Region VIII Pitcher of the Week honors, picked up two wins in three appearances during the Crusaders trip to Ohio.

For the week, Ballinger went 19 innings with just two earned runs allowed and struck out 12 and posting a 0.74 ERA. She also went the distance in wins over Shawnee State and Cedarville.

Godfrey batted .565 in a 13-for-23 performance at the plate and hit safely in every one of the Crusaders' six games during the week. Godfrey also had no less than two hits in each contest.

The 5-3 outfielder also slugged at a .739 clip with two triples, two RBI and a pair of stolen bases.



CYO cage champs

The Livonia St. Michael JV1 boys basketball team recently finished its Catholic Youth Organization season with a 16-1 overall record. The Gaels won the CYO Division title, along with the Novi-Detroit Catholic Central Christmas and University of Detroit-Jesuit Thanksgiving tournaments. Members of St. Michael JV 1 include (bottom row, from left) Jacob Broda, Evan Cernik, Tyler Fisher, Mitch Sykes, Dan Hensley, Ernie Babon, Patrick Clancy; (top row, from left) Nick Orzel, assistant coach John Modes, Jake Fenech, Scott Yaroch, Michell Gaynier, Sean Kaczmarek, Tom Hool and head coach Joe Hart.



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- **Grilled Shrimp Salad...** Two bountiful shrimp skewers served atop a wealth of mixed greens and vegetables. Your choice of dressings. Try our homemade ranch dressing!
- **Southwest Salad...** Bed of mixed greens, vegetables, our homemade tortillas, and your choice of crispy chicken, grilled chicken or shrimp with salsa and sour cream dressing or salsa and ranch.
- **Shrimp Scampi...** Shrimp sautéed with butter and garlic and topped with mozzarella, Monterey jack and cheddar cheeses then baked. Served with long grain wild rice and your choice of soup or salad.
- **Choice New York Strip Chibatta...** 8oz. Choice New York Strip smothered with grilled onions and mushrooms, topped with your choice of cheese and served on a chibatta roll with steak or seasoned fries.
- **Chicken Club Wrap...** Crispy chicken, ham, bacon, Swiss cheese, American cheese, lettuce, tomato and our homemade ranch dressing. Served with coleslaw and steak or seasoned fries.
- **Salmon Alfredo...** Fettuccine noodles with our homemade Alfredo sauce topped with grilled salmon. Served with your choice of soup or salad.
- **Albert's Cajun Mama...** 8oz. Angus beef burger served Quesadilla style with two tortillas, pepper jack cheese, grilled onions and mixed peppers. Served with Cajun mayo on the side, homemade chips and salsa. WOW!
- **Sweet and Sour Wild Wings...** Two pork wild wings with sweet and sour sauce served atop a bed of rice and served with your choice of soup or salad.

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Champion Knights

The Livonia Knights, coached by Tim Jahn, recently captured the girls 16-and-under Michigan Amateur Hockey Association state championship with a 1-0 victory over Midland. Team members include Renee Wright, who scored the game-winning goal; goaltender Nicole Million, Katie Yee, Ashley Rose, Kelsey Armstrong, Mersadeez Mento, Meghan Jahn, Tarrah DeBord, Andrea Slusser, Kim Yaroch, Hailey Tomlinson, Sarah Gumbleton, Krissy Wood, Brittani Sims, Megan Blaszk, Abbey Woolsey and Tia Caldwell. Assistant coaches include Scott Yaroch and Scott Tomlinson, while the team manager is Bill Wood.

GIRLS CAPSULE SOCCER OUTLOOK

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Head coach: Dave Hebestreit, sixth year.
League affiliation: Western Lakes Activities Association (Lakes Division).
Last year's overall record: 11-4-4.
Notable losses to graduation: Stephanie Thom.
Leading returnees: Bailey Brandon, Soph. MF (first-team All-Area; nine goals, eight assists); Stefanie Turner, Jr. GK (second-team All-Area); Lindsay Marlow, Jr. Def. (second-team All-Area); Alyssa Mira, Soph. MF (second-team All-Area); Alisha Lussiez, Jr. F; Hannah Otto, Soph. F; Jessica Stroud, Soph. Def.; Rachel Yarbrough, Sr. MF; Kellie Green, Sr. Def.; Julianne Puroli, Jr. F; Kayla Johnson, Soph. MF; Tessa Allen, Soph. Def.
Promising newcomers: Andrea Lopez, Soph. Def. (transfer from Livonia Stevenson); Callie Mack, Soph. F; Megan Bauman, Soph. GK; Sam Reamy Jr. Def.; Lindsay McMullen, Soph. MF; Emily Clairmont, Soph. MF; Julie Greco, Soph. MF.
Hebestreit's 2007 season outlook: "This year will be one of reckoning for us. We came in last year a little under the radar and surprised a lot of people. Those teams will be ready for us this year, plus we've added some competitive teams to our non-league schedule. Furthermore, we play everyone in our division twice this season, which will make for entertaining return legs between rivals. We have become stronger in the last year, as a majority of the girls played together in the off-season, but we're still tremendously young. As everyone knows, there is little that substitutes for experience. Our team is full of talented players, and if we can play as a team, a lot of nice things could happen this year. This is a fun group to work with and one that is technically and physically gifted. They come to training ready to work and learn."



Victoria Slavin Stevenson, Kat Griffith Stevenson, Bailey Brandon Churchill

(Frederick), but we feel Lauren (Whitt) and Katie (Yax) can do the job. The key to our season is communication. We have to move the ball better and work on finishing. We have a lot of people back, which is good in a way because they've played together for a year. They're good kids, but sometimes they get a little complacent."

WAYNE MEMORIAL

Head coach: Evan Baker, first year.
League affiliation: WLAA (Western Division).
Last year's overall record: 2-16-1.
Notable losses to graduation: Kelly MacDonald, Becky Sikora, Angie Jones.
Leading returnees: Danielle Borg, Jr. sweeper (co-captain); Chrissy Jones, Sr. F (co-captain); Kellie Newsted, Sr. MF; Amanda Vacheresse, Sr. MF; Whitney Jacobs, Jr. Def.; Liz Hardy, Sr. Def.; Chelsea Odom, Sr. Def.; Nickole Jarvis, Jr. GK; Samantha Dye, Soph. F.
Promising newcomers: Megan Fr. C-MF; Cassie Hardy, Soph. Def.; Kristen Miller, Soph. Def.; Alicia Jacobs, Fr. F; Jessica Spytka, Soph. MF; Kaylee Artman, Fr. MF; Monica Kmet, Soph. MF; Lea DeGiusti, Fr. Def.
Baker's 2007 season outlook: "Defensively, it's going to take all 11 players getting behind the ball and playing solid team defense, holding our shape, and move together as a unit. Offensively, we're going to play to our strengths - getting the ball to our quick outside midfielders and letting them go one-versus-one to the goal, or serve crosses to our forwards. Something I learned from coach Tino Scicluna (at Madonna University) is that our outside midfielders, who aren't afraid to take the ball to the goal when isolated one-on-one, can be a huge scoring threat."

LIVONIA LADYWOOD

Head coach: Brent Petkus, first year.
League affiliation: Catholic League (Central Division).
Last year's overall record: 6-11-4.
Titles won last year: Division 2 district champs.
Notable losses to graduation: Jessica Tuggle, Kathleen Bohrer, Erin Szczypka, Jackie Sulkowski.
Leading returnees: Allison Szczypka, Jr. F-MF (tri-captain; second-team All-Area); Kaitlyn Vitale, Jr. C-MF (tri-captain); Jessie Benaglio, Sr. Def. (tri-captain); Erika Doroghazi, Jr. Def.; Sarah Kempa, Jr. Def.-F; Lindsey Maler, Soph. F; Amanda Field, Jr. MF; Caitlin Szczypka, Soph. MF.
Promising newcomers: Michele Ring, Soph. GK; Christina Eryon, Fr. Def.; Sara Burnosky, Fr. MF; Kristen Schiasky, Jr. MF.
Petkus's 2007 outlook: "Things look very promising even though we have a lot of young girls. We'll be defensive-minded, but we can counter-attack easily. Ring was our JV keeper last year. She's one of our best players. She's always in great position, can make big saves and keep us in the ball game. If we have a weakness, it's being able to put the ball in the back of the net. We'll play our forwards by committee and look for a scorer."

LIVONIA CLARENCEVILLE

Head coach: Trevor Johnson, first season.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's overall record: 3-11-1.
Notable losses to graduation: Lisa Rotenheber, Cathryn Gena.
Leading returnees: Hannah Moody, Jr. MF (second-team All-Area); Chelsea Gregg, Sr. GK-F; Season Belcher, Sr. Def.; Shannon McNeilly, Sr. Def.; Mallorie Lemon, Sr. Def.; Tori Bunker, Soph. MF; Kaitlyn Schneider, Sr. Def.; Jordan Fyffe, Soph. MF-F; Mariah McClain, Soph. MF; Crystal Wheeler, Sr. Def.-F; Jill Brown, Soph. F.
Promising newcomers: Kristin Jolly, Fr. F.
Johnson's 2007 outlook: "We have some people back. I have high hopes. I really don't know much about the conference right now. It will take a couple of games before the break to get a feel for this team. We'll run two forwards and four midfielders. (Amanda) Moody and (Tori) Bunker will be our best offensive threats, but they'll play from center-midfield. They work well together and Jordan (Fyffe) should be able to score some goals. Chelsea (Gregg) has some schools looking at her. She should have a good season if we play good defense in front of her. She should be All-Conference."

LUTHERAN WESTLAND

Head coach: Sam Makki, first year.
League affiliation: Metro Conference.
Last year's overall record: 3-11-1.
Notable losses to graduation: Kayla Noel and Angel Day.
Leading returnees: Hannah Kamrath, Sr. MF; Samantha Paul, Sr. MF; Allyson Yankee, Soph. F; Emma Swartz, Jr. Def.
Promising newcomers: Abigail Gieschen, Soph. C-Def.; Lauren Gieschen, Soph. F; Brianna Jones, Soph. C-MF; Chelsea Kyles, Soph. GK; Danielle Voetberg, Soph. Def.; Hannah Mielke, Soph. F-MF; Julieann Thomas, Soph. F; Megan Fisher, Soph. MF; Ashley Pnielwiski, Fr. MF; Amber Pnielwiski, Fr. MF; Carly Girolamo, Fr. Def.; Emily Meier, Fr. Def.; Lauren Switzer, Fr. C-MF.
Makki's 2007 season outlook: "Our skills need to be developed, but I like to take a team that's a challenge, and build up their skills. What I see is a new team. They haven't played a lot of soccer, but I have no complaints. I think the attitude is good. They'll work hard and never give up."

Eagles' Fisher grounds Rockets

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The first game of any season usually isn't one for the time capsule, and that was the case Wednesday afternoon as Redford Thurston defeated host Westland John Glenn, 5-2, in the opener for both varsity girls soccer teams.

But despite some inconsistent and even sloppy play from both squads, the non-conference contest proved to bring a sigh of relief to Thurston head coach Jason Brater - simply because he saw that forward Bernadette Fisher still has what it takes after missing all of last season with a knee injury.

Fisher scored the first and last goals in the match for the Eagles (1-0), who also received goals from Elaine Nelson, Ashlie Ingold and Nicole Tolentino. "She's definitely lost a step," said Brater about Fisher, a senior who scored 25 goals in the 2005 season. "But not as many steps as I think she had thought or that I had thought. She's still gritty... and she's getting used to the way she can cut, the way she can move. But she pulled the trigger nicely on the two goals she scored."

The Rockets (0-1) actually took a quick 1-0 lead when senior forward Jessica Easter converted a nice crossing feed from sophomore forward Megan Nikula (two assists).

But Fisher didn't need long to even the score, blasting a shot behind starting John Glenn goalkeeper Lauren Whitt after taking a pass from sophomore midfielder Ashley Bagazinski about nine minutes into the game.

Thurston added two more goals before halftime, with sophomore center-midfielder Nelson scoring on a 25-yard direct kick and Ingold knocking in the rebound of a chance by junior Erin Cavanagh.

A near miss by Glenn and a goal on the ensuing rush by Thurston pretty much put the game into the victory column for the visitors.

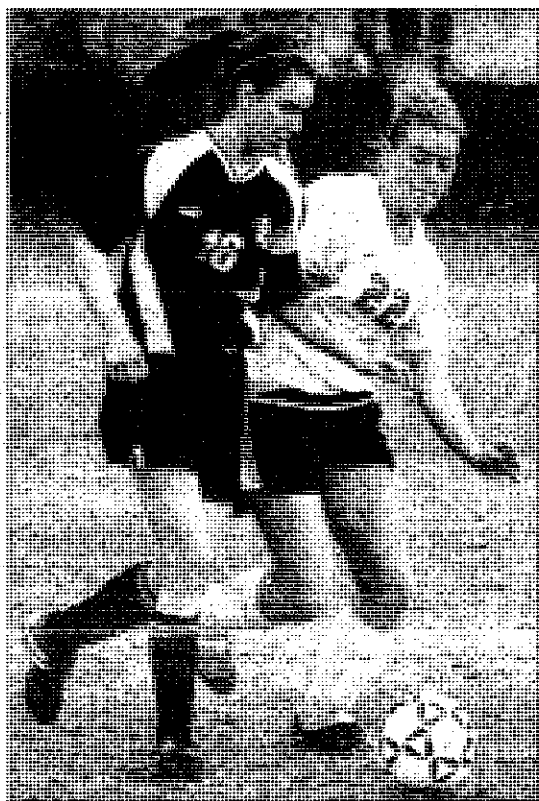
The Rockets nearly cut the lead to 3-2 about six minutes into the second half, when a rising shot by sophomore Cassandra Gizel dinked off the crossbar behind Eagles junior goaltender Megan Schulz (nine saves).

But less than a minute later, the Eagles opened up a 4-1 margin as Tolentino chipped the ball into a wide open cage.

With 26:36 remaining, freshman forward Ashley Bailey took advantage of a communications breakdown deep in Thurston's zone and scored.

Thurston's defense limited any dangerous offensive tries by the Rockets from that point on, and the Eagles added some insurance when Fisher scored with 5:16 remaining.

On the goal, Fisher received Nelson's through ball, dashed in on John Glenn freshman goalie Katie Yax (who played the second half) and lofted a perfect shot high into the net.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Thurston sophomore Elaine Nelson (left) and John Glenn's Margie Shupe jostle for position during Wednesday's season opener.

According to John Glenn head coach Jerry Poniatowski, the opener was "kind of disappointing."

"We have a lot of seniors who played together before," he said, "and they can really move the ball a lot better" than they showed against Thurston. "They were all fired up before the game and then they came out flat."

Poniatowski said there weren't many positives out of the game, other than he saw some progress as the game went on in the area of "getting into the spaces and knowing what to do. They were executing a little bit better."

Brater, meanwhile, said he would like his team to sharpen up on defense, do a better job finishing offensive chances and do away with the kind of communication problems between goaltender Schulz and defenders which led to the second Glenn goal.

"It's the first game," Brater added. "But my only reservation is the girls have already played together."

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LIVONIA FRANKLIN
Head coach: Jen Barker, seventh year.
League affiliation: WLAA (Western Division).
Last year's overall record: 8-8-2.
Notable losses to graduation: Jessica Austin (first-team All-Area); Mary Lambert.
Leading returnees: Meghan Horgan, Sr. Def. (second-team All-Area); Kristine Dstrosky, Sr. Def.; Kelly Roulier, Sr. MF; Diana Brda, Sr. MF; Cassie LaPrairie, Sr. MF; Jackie Covert, Sr. F; Kelly Powers, Jr. F; Molly Perkins, Jr. F; Corie Ringe, Jr. F; Melissa Roumayah, Jr. MF; Courtney Smith, Soph. Def.; Renee Berger, Soph. Def.; Brooke Killeen, Soph. Def.; Sara Ramseyer, Soph. F.
Promising newcomers: Amy McGaughey, Jr. F; Erica Pepper, Jr. GK; Kelsey Lank, Fr. Def.; Brittany Bourdage, Fr. F.
Barker's 2007 season outlook: "This could prove to be a very interesting season for us. We've got some new players that we're looking to make an impact early and some returning players with new roles. With the change in the conference play, it will be interesting to see how we can adjust for each game and then readjust, if necessary, for the second time we play a team. We're working hard to find what works for us and we're excited to see how things will turn out. It's going to take some time to see how we fill each position, but there are plenty of choices and a variety of playing styles."

LIVONIA STEVENSON

Head coach: Chris Pinta, sixth year.
League affiliation: WLAA (Lakes Division).
Last year's overall record: 14-5-2.
Titles won last year: Lakes Division champs.
Notable losses to graduation: Kate Howe (first-team All-Area); Ally King (second-team All-Area); Alana Lavery, Shaina O'Connor, Rachel Thompson.
Leading returnees: Kat Griffith, Sr. F (first-team All-Area, six goals, 11 assists); Victoria Slavin, Jr. F (first-team All-Area, 16 goals, nine assists); Amber Sharp, Jr. Def (second-team All-Area); Jamie Chandler, Sr. Def.; Mallory Fox, Sr. Def.; Amanda Keedle, Sr. GK; Kaitlyn O'Hara, Sr. MF; Lindsey Talon, Sr. MF; Elizabeth Tokarsky, Sr. Def.; Taylor Adkins, Jr. MF; Stephanie Gulkowski, Jr. MF; Julia Schroeder, Jr. Def.; Brittany Vella, Sr. GK; Taleen Merjian, Soph. MF.
Promising newcomers: Lauren O'Connor, Sr. MF; Jennifer Gately, Jr. Def.; Rachel Stevens, Jr. MF; Rachel Simari, Jr. GK; Kayla Kimble, Fr. MF; Molly McConnell, Fr. MF; Shannon Merritt, Fr. F.
Pinta's 2007 season outlook: "Losing Howe, King and Lavery definitely hurt us in the scoring department, and (Shaina) O'Connor had her best year in goal for us as a senior. However, Slavin and Griffith return to our forward line and they were very productive last season, leading the team in goals and assists, respectively, and proving to be two of the best forwards in the conference and state. We return a large core of starters to this year's team, and with some new faces, have what appears to be a pretty deep bench once we all get healthy. We've suffered a couple of early injuries, which has left some question marks at certain positions. But with the improved returning players, and some new talent, competition for starting spots is as good as it's ever been."

WESTLAND JOHN GLENN

Head coach: Jerry Poniatowski, third year.
League affiliation: WLAA (Lakes Division).
Last year's overall record: 3-14-1.
Notable losses to graduation: Melissa Frederick (first-team All-Area keeper); Megan Johnson, Jessica Williams, Melanie Stawkey.
Leading returnees: Sarah Davis, Sr. FB; Jamie Allen, Sr. MF; Joslyn DeGroot, Sr. MF; Jessica Easter, Sr. F; Justin Easter, Sr. MF; Michelle Gulkowski, Sr. MF; Margie Shupe, Sr. FB; Cassandra Gize, Sr. FB-F; Melanie DeVieu, Sr. utility; Matilda Feto, Jr. MF; Stephanie Hornbeck, Jr. MF; Danielle Levy, Jr. FB; Lauren Whitt, Jr. GK; Kalleigh Coleman, Jr. FB-MF; Megan Nikula, Soph. F; Amber Sportsman, Soph. MF-F.
Promising newcomers: Ashley Bagazinski, Soph. MF; Amelia Clark, Soph. F; Ashley Bailey, Fr. MF-F; Katie Yax, Fr. GK.
Poniatowski's 2007 season outlook: "We're really going to miss Missy

SOCCER

FROM PAGE B1

And WLAA-Lakes Division champion Livonia Stevenson, 14-5-2, fell Friday at home to a strong Ann Arbor Pioneer squad, 4-0.

The Spartans are led by two first-team All-Observer performers Kat Griffith, a senior forward, and Victoria Slavin, a junior forward, the latter whom tallied 16 goals and nine assists.

"Our division and conference will be tough as always, but I'm certain we'll be up for the challenge," Stevenson coach Chris Pinta said. "As always, how

well we come together as a group will determine how much we accomplish as a team."

One team on the upswing is Livonia Churchill (11-4-4), which returns its coach Dave Hebestreit (back from a heart transplant last spring at the Cleveland Clinic), along 10 starters.

The Chargers are led by sophomore midfielder Bailey Brandon, a first-team All-Observer choice.

"I'd like to look ahead, but in this conference that's a mistake," Hebestreit said. "Our division (Lakes), and our conference (WLAA), is laden with talented teams. We will need to

come with our hard hats on every day during the regular season."

Livonia Franklin (8-8-2), a Western Division member of the WLAA, will miss first-team All-Observer Jessica Austin and goalkeeper Mary Lambert, but return a slew of players led by senior defender Meghan Horgan.

"I'm anxious to see what we can produce and I know that we will find our successes," Franklin coach Jen Barker said. "We're looking to find what will work for us early, and then build off of that to improve on last year's record."

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What exactly is perfect, anyway?

Why are teenagers so involved and worried about our looks? Who did this opinion come from that everyone has to be perfect? And what exactly is perfect?

Done with Perfect
Garden City

This is an excellent question! And it's one that doesn't come with an easy answer. But here goes ... adolescence is a time when you are working on forming your own identity. Deciding who you are or what you want to be like is uncharted territory and can be scary. Sometimes, our self-esteem hits an all-time low because of this uncertainty and fear. And when we're not feeling great about ourselves, sometimes the desire to feel better consumes our thoughts and our actions. As a result, we do things to try to make us feel better and one of these things is to "improve" our looks. Who hasn't felt better after a great haircut or buying some awesome clothes? Unfortunately, another way people try to make themselves feel better is by putting

other people down, criticizing them, or even taunting them in a bullying way. And when you really think about it, who wants to be the on the receiving end of a bully? So, we try our best to look "perfect" to avoid being humiliated. All of these things, along with TV and movies glamorizing an impossible state of perfection, work together and contribute to teens



Teen Talk

Monica Fulton

being worried about their looks. In the end it doesn't really matter what anybody else thinks ... if you're happy with who you are, others will be too!

My mom is sick and it is tough to look after her, go to school and balance work at the same time. How do you balance things when more than one thing is important to you?

Juggling Act
Garden City

It sounds like you have a lot of responsibility! Taking care of a sick parent is hard on so many levels. I'm sure you're worried about your mom, your future, school, work, friends ... being worried causes stress. And if we don't deal with stress, stress deals with us! Make sure to set aside time to enjoy doing something you like ... find some alone time to listen to music, call a friend, draw, write in a journal, or play video games. If you don't take care of yourself emotionally, you won't be able to balance your responsibilities. We have a saying at my house: "If the lifeguard goes down, the whole pool is in trouble." So, after you set time aside for taking care of yourself, I recommend keeping a planner and recording your work schedule, your school deadlines, any doctor appointments your mom needs to go to, and the time you've set aside for you. By writing down your commitments, appointments, and responsibilities your brain won't have to work overtime to remember everything. It will just need to remember to tell you to look in your planner. Most importantly, find someone to talk to on a regular basis about how you're feeling. A counselor, trusted adult, church pastor, or someone at school can help by listening to your concerns and giving you a safe place to talk about the feelings you're struggling with.

Do you think it will be easy at all to get a job if you don't go to college?

Unwritten Future
Garden City

The times have definitely changed. Many of our parents were able to find a job with the auto companies right out of high school. Those jobs provided a good living for their families. However, those types of jobs are disappearing and the job market is shifting. I think college is important, but it's not for everyone. At the very least, I think continued education in a trade school or business school is going to be needed if people are going to find jobs to support the kind of life they want to live. However, a college education will open more doors for you. It's important to do what you love, so make sure to take the time find out what it is you love to do!

Monica Fulton is the supervisor of the Family Resource Center in Garden City, working on youth and family problems. She can be reached by e-mail at monicafulton@sbcglobal.net.

Derby Girls



Roxie Hurt, also known as Dawn Deonellas, of Novi, is ready to rumble.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cold Fusion (left) aka Emelia Emerson of Redford, mixes it up with Sass Knuckles aka Genevieve Harrison of Roseville.

All-woman league mixes strategy, speed and agile skating on the roller rink

BY SHARON DARGAY
STAFF WRITER

Roller derby is a physically demanding, rough and tumble sport of strategy, speed and strength. And according to Lesley Krul of Beverly Hills, it's also a bit like driving a car with stick shift.

'Every position multitasks and on top of that, you've got to be steady on your skates. You have to be able to skate'

Lesley Krul
Beverly Hills

"It's overwhelming at first, but after a while it becomes second nature. You've got to pay attention to so many things. You're playing offense and defense at the same time," said Krul, 32, a single mom and high school science teacher in Southfield schools. "Every position multitasks and on top of that you've got to be steady on your skates. You have to be able to skate." Most of the original members who founded Detroit Derby Girls (DDG) league two years ago didn't even roller skate, let alone know anything about falling correctly or scrimmaging on wheels.

Krul, known as "Ima Wrecker" when she skates with her DDG team, the D-Funk Allstars, at Masonic Temple in Detroit, had roller-skated as a hobby, but hadn't competed before she and others formed the league.

When Emelia Emerson, 24, of Redford joined nearly two years ago, she was more familiar with dance skating, being "in synch" with a partner and looking graceful on the hardwood floor.

Dexterity, speed and good communication with team-

PLEASE SEE DERBY, C3



Barberica (Erika Propst of Commerce Township) plays team freeze tag during a practice.

Spaghetti dinner funds enable students to return to school

Dean Cassar talks about the aid he received from the Women's Resource Center to help him continue his schooling in the nursing program at Schoolcraft College.



BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Dean Cassar refers to the staff of the Women's Resource Center as his guardian angels. Cassar spoke about his experiences on Tuesday night during the annual Spaghetti Dinner and Wine Glow to raise funds for the center at Schoolcraft College. The proceeds go toward scholarships for students in need.

Cassar was in the process of returning to school to change careers when he was laid off from his job in the audio-visual field. His wife, Julie, was pregnant with their third child at the time.

"They paid for all my classes and books," said Cassar of Redford. Cassar is nearly half way through completing a two-year nursing program at the college in Livonia. "I didn't have to worry about how to pay for

PLEASE SEE DINNER, C2



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Women's Resource Center Director Nancy K. Swanborg gives her report on the organization's 2006 highlights and plans for 2007 during the annual Spaghetti Dinner scholarship fundraiser at Schoolcraft College Monday night.

YMCA to present performing arts recital

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

When Vickie Kimler goes looking for talent in the community, she doesn't stop at Farmington and Farmington Hills but reaches out to dancers and singers in West Bloomfield, Troy, Southfield, and Pontiac.

On Saturday, March 31, they'll gather for a performing arts recital at the Farmington Family YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit

on the corner of 12 Mile and Farmington roads. Curtain time is 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 at the door. Children under age 12 are free. The sixth annual recital raises money for the Strong Kids Campaign to provide funding for those who cannot afford the Y programs and camps. For more information, call Don Deisenroth (248) 553-40210, ext. 106.

Several of the dancers are

from Kimler's class at the Y where students learn to create dance steps with a basic instructional format. The movements are based on the musical inspiration of the moment. No previous dance experience is required.

"The concert is called Segue!" said Vickie Kimler, artistic director and dance instructor. Kimler is a Farmington Hills resident.

"We'll have ballet soloists, a variety of acts and we're bringing in outside people. We're finding

the hidden talents in people in the community.

"We'll also have Y employees, several pianists, solo dancers, and one of the dances is a reading from The Cat in the Hat. Miss Oakland County Kelly Zander is going to perform a tap solo, Shout and Feel It, from The Swing Kids. And members of the Finnish American Singers perform two German canons."

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Vickie Kimler (right front row) works with students rehearsing for the annual Farmington Family YMCA dance recital.

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DINNER

FROM PAGE C1

this." Instead, Cassar was able to concentrate on making the Dean's List and earning a Michigan Nursing Scholarship from the state. He now works part time at Garden City Hospital while going to school.

Cheryl Hagen, dean of student services at Schoolcraft College, says that's why "the dinner is very important."

CHANGING LIVES

Laura Stanton didn't even know how to turn on a computer when she enrolled in WRC's CHIPS program to learn basic skills. In addition to financial assistance, the center provides a variety of programs for women and men in transition. Stanton was a recently divorced mother of four children. Today she is the Project and Volunteer coordinator for Michigan Campus Compact AmeriCorps Vista, the domestic version of the Peace Corps. She graduated in 2005 with a liberal arts degree and now works with students on campus.

"I was petrified," said Stanton, who eventually became a tutor for the CHIPS program.

"Today I work to get students involved in community service

projects. It's a very exciting job."

Unfortunately her position expires in July, but Stanton is undaunted. The Dearborn woman is working on a business administration and leadership degree at Concordia College.

Daughter Jessica Stanton admires her mom. The 21-year-old Schoolcraft student was also assisted by the WRC.

"My mom is definitely the family role model," said Jessica, who's in her second year of studying office information systems. Jessica received WRC scholarships for tuition and books.

Nancy Swanborg and her WRC staff are always there for students in need - female and male. During the program, Swanborg proudly spoke of the beginnings of the center in 1974 to one of the newest programs to encourage girls in high school to go on to college.

Although the final figures won't be in for a couple of weeks, all 432 tickets were sold for the event. New this year was a raffle of baskets which brought in even more money for the center.

"All students are welcome at WRC," said Swanborg, director of the Women's Resource Center.

Mary Bloedel of Livonia was able to land a job as a secretary to the director of counseling at Schoolcraft College after receiving assistance from the WRC. In fall 2000 she started the CHIPS computer skills course offered through the center.

"After my first semester I knew I wanted to get a degree," said Bloedel, who earned an associate's degree in office administration at Schoolcraft. "The CHIPS program gives students the confidence they need, the ability. We worked on career, personal and physical skills. It builds a friendship and camaraderie with the group. I'm still in contact with some of the women."

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Thanks to money raised by the dinner, WRC was able to provide 420 students with 545 scholarships and grants during the 2005-06 academic year. A total of 126 of the 2005-06 Schoolcraft graduates were funded through the WRC at some point.

Faye Schuett, English professor and faculty director of the Honors Program, has been coming to the dinner ever since she began teaching at Schoolcraft College 15 years ago.

"WRC was one of the selling points of the college. The dinner raises money for students to come back to school," said Schuett of Farmington. "I'm moved by the way education transforms lives. It's a wonderful testimony to individual courage and what a little bit of money and personal attention can do. It takes a lot of courage to go back to school."

Linda Burnett has been coming to the dinner for 15 years as well. She and Schuett were

among a group of friends sharing a table. Barbara Fried, a Livonia resident and retired Detroit schools teacher, was attending for the first time.

"The food's great and I love hearing the stories," said Burnett, a geologist from Farmington. "It's a great cause."

SUCCESS STORIES

Bloedel, Stanton and Terri Lamb were among the student success stories featured in a video during the program portion of the dinner. Lamb donned her math super hero cape for a light-hearted segment. A Pinckney resident, Lamb was a student and tutor in the college's Radcliff Center in Garden City in the 1990s. At the time she was going through a divorce and was a single mom with three children.

The WRC helped pay for her books and classes. She is now a math specialist in the learning center and remarried. She earned two associate's degrees from Schoolcraft and a bachelor's degree in math from Eastern Michigan University.

"They were very supportive," said Lamb. "Marlene (Kershaw) and Faye (Driscoll) were always there, and Nancy Swanborg, in that tough time I was going through."

For more information about the Women's Resource Center, call (734) 462-4443.

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Arthritis Today

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DETROIT DERBY GIRLS

■ Teams: D-Funk Allstars, Detroit Pistoffs, Devil's Night Dames and Pistol Whippers. Members from each team make up the DDG Travel Team.

■ Members: About 60, with others in training.

■ Ages: Range is from 18 to 40-plus.

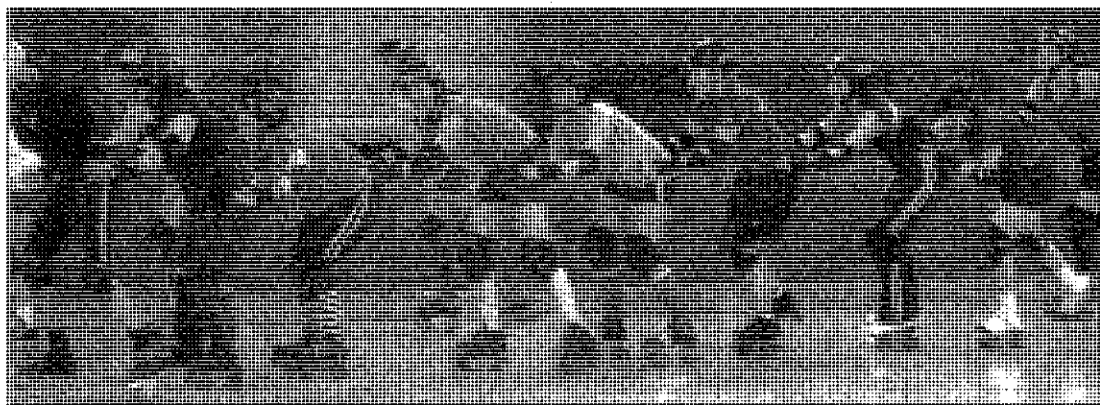
■ Positions: Jammers earn points for their team by passing members of the opposite team; blockers try to prevent the opponent's jammer from passing through the pack of skaters; and pivots are blockers - one from each team - who skate at the front of the pack, leading its speed.

■ Essentials: \$30 monthly dues; annual \$35 fee to USA Rollersports (for insurance); skates, helmet, elbow and knee pads, wrist guard, mouth guard, practice clothing and bout uniform.

■ Commitment: Average 12-15 hours weekly with Monday/Wednesday practice at Riverside Arena in Livonia; volunteering and committee work for the non-profit organization; competing at scheduled times.

■ In training: Women who try out and are accepted into training can expect to spend about 12-14 weeks learning the ropes. They must pass a basic skills skating test before being allowed to scrimmage.

■ Web sites: www.detroit-derbygirls.com for more information on the teams, trying out and volunteering for the DDG staff; www.wftda.com for more on the Women's Flat Track Roller Derby Association.



Team practice builds roller derby skills.

DERBY

FROM PAGE C1

mates is more important to her now as a derby skater.

"I'm a blocker," said Emerson, who's married and has a 13-year-old daughter. "I like being a blocker. You need to be really comfortable with knowing what's going on behind you, because the action is always coming up behind you. You need to be able to move at the last minute. And you have to be able to be good at taking hits and giving hits."

Emerson skates with the DDG team, The Pistol Whippers, under the name "Cold Fusion." The moniker is a tip of the hat to her career as a science teacher and grad student working toward a masters degree in multidisciplinary science at Wayne State University.

If she and other skaters make the game look easy, it's because they spend "a lot of time practicing" and learning how to fall in order to minimize injuries.

"It took us seven or eight months before we even started scrimmaging," recalled Jody O'Neill of Ypsilanti, aka "Crash Baby," and one of the League's founders. "There were 10 or 11 leagues in existence around the country and we e-mailed them and they started giving us advice on how to get started."

"We had no money. Practice space was expensive and we had a hard time getting it."

LEAGUE RESURGENCE

The group has come a long way in two years. Now into its second competitive season, DDG consists of four teams

DERBY MATCHES

Who's skating:
 April 21 - D-Funk Allstars vs Detroit Pistoffs
 May 12 - The Pistolwhippers vs Devil's Night Dames
 June 2 - Detroit Pistoffs vs Devil's Night Dames
 June 23 - The Pistolwhippers vs D-Funk Allstars
 July 21 - DDG 2007 Championship Bout
When: Bouts start at 8 p.m.
Where: Masonic Temple, 500 Temple in downtown Detroit
Cost: \$15, children under age 12 free
Buy tickets: In advance at www.startickets.com

that challenge each other from late February through July at Masonic Temple in downtown Detroit and a travel team that goes head to head with other members of the Women's Flat Track Roller Derby Association throughout the country. Two coaches run the women through demanding skill exercises, endurance skates and practice scrimmages every Monday and Wednesday night at Riverside Arena in Livonia. Referees make sure the games are played according to the rules and volunteers - including the skaters - staff everything from penalty box time-keepers to publicity to merchandise sales.

DDG is part of a new wave of all-women roller derby leagues that have steadily grown in membership and fans

over the past few years. Most teams compete on flat tracks, unlike their coed predecessors who skated on banked floors in the 1950s and 60s. Many leagues are grass roots and non-profit. Broken bones, bruises and the occasional fight are real, as opposed to staged confrontations of roller derby in the early 1970s.

"We are a sport and all of us treat it as a sport," said Donna Malchie of Farmington, aka "Vicious Vixen," a member of DDG's D-Funk Allstars team. "We practice and train hard for our bouts. The outcome is never fixed. Everything is very real. But anger and grudges stay 'on the track.'"

Members say the atmosphere is friendly, even though teams compete against each other. Heidi Hillenbrand, 23, of Clawson, says being a Detroit Derby Girl skater "is like having 60 sisters."

"It's like a sisterhood. They accept you in and it's really fun," said Hillenbrand, who graduated from Rochester Adams High School in 2001. Hillenbrand works as a web designer in Southfield and skates under the name, "Addy Mantium" for Devil's Night Dames.

NAMES WITH ATTITUDE

Skaters register their names with the Women's Flat Track Roller Derby Association and must get permission before using a name that's similar to one already in use. Laura Hinojosa, a Ferndale resident who grew up in Livonia, calls herself "Vega Vendetta" when she skates with the D-Funk Allstars and the DDG Travel Team.

"I love sports," said Hinojosa,



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vicious Vixen aka Donna Malchie, of Farmington Hills, laces her skates for the practice.

who works as an art director at an agency in Bloomfield Hills. "I was in softball before I joined derby. Derby took over because softball became boring."

Hinojosa, who joined the league in April 2005, likes the speed and excitement of roller derby. As a jammer, she weaves in and around the pack of skaters, trying to score points for her team while dodging the opponent's blockers. She's a moving target on the track.

"All the girls are my friends. I love the exercise," she noted. "The outfits are great - part fashion and part sport."

Most teams wear short skirts with shorts underneath, short sleeve shirts or tank tops, fishnets or socks.

O'Neill said an attendance policy and dues requirement tend to screen out potential members who "are most likely

to get hurt because they're here just to look cute."

The league requires all potential members to pass a basic skills skating test after 12-14 weeks of practice before they are allowed to scrimmage. Newcomers also learn how to fall correctly so they're less likely to break bones or bruise.

Members stress that joining Detroit Derby Girls requires a big commitment.

"If you're going to play on a team you have to come to practice. And you have to join a committee," Krul noted.

"I like it because I like team sports. I've met a lot of great people. It's good exercise and it's fun."

"I think it's a positive thing for women to have their own team sport. We're strong women and we're a good role model for girls."

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Before AFTER

Sweet! Fruit has healthy benefits in its own league

Allison from Lake Orion has been hearing about the benefits of pomegranate juice and e-mails for more information on its emerging popularity.

Allison, pomegranates are not as well-known as their fruity counterparts, but when it comes to healthy benefits they are in a league of their own! Studies now confirm that the juice reduces LDL, bad cholesterol, and that is just for starters. Just 8 ounces of pomegranate juice per day reduced high blood pressure by 5 percent in some test subjects. In fact, the juice mimicked the effects of some hypertension drugs. Like tea, pomegranate juice is packed with cancer-fighting antioxidants called polyphenols. It's also low in calories, about 140 in an eight ounce glass. One of the most widely marketed pomegranate juice products is called POM Wonderful. It has no added sugars and comes in a variety of flavors. It is not cheap, but well worth the price. Whole pomegranate fruit is also a delicious addition to your healthy diet strategy!

Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

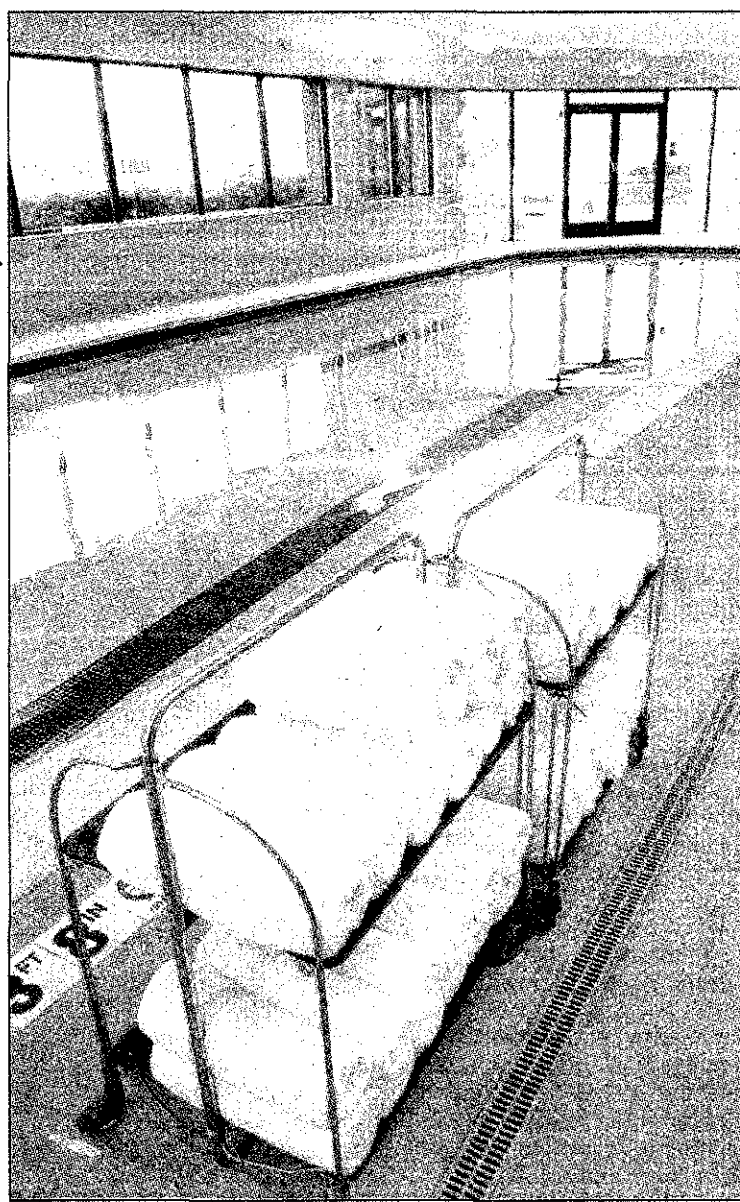
Randy from Port Huron is a longtime smoker who wants to know the life span for folks who manage to kick the habit in middle age.

Randy, I did the research and in this case it is never too late to get a nicotine-free new lease on life! Most studies now show that long-term smokers lose up to 10 years off their lives depending on how much they smoke and for how long. An interesting study out of Oxford University highlights the importance of quitting regardless of your age. The study followed 35,000 doctors over the course of 50 years. As I just mentioned, the long-term smokers died an average of 10 years sooner than their nonsmoking colleagues. But the study also shows that quitting can put years back onto your life expectancy. Quitting between the ages of 30 and 60 can add anywhere from three to 10 years back to expected life span.

Life expectancy has increased dramatically over the last century, but that trend does not hold true for folks who insist on making smoking a part of their lives!

If you have a health or fitness question you would like answered in the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, e-mail Peter through his Web site www.peternielsen.com. Contact him at Peter Nielsen's Personal Training Club in West Bloomfield or Nielsen's Town Center Health Club in Southfield.

New breed of health club



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The facility contains an aquatics center with a lap pool where AquaFit aerobics is taught and a 92-degree therapy pool for low intensity exercise.

'I appreciated the health assessment. It gave me a good indication of my upper and lower body strength, blood pressure. I work out on the treadmill, stepper machines and bikes. I have overall better health. It's comfortable and relaxing.'

Todd Lipa



Fitness Specialist Cristina Noble checks Tom Cetnar's blood pressure. Cetnar is a Livonia resident.

Botsford Hospital opens fitness center based on medical model

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Todd Lipa's in the prevention business so it makes sense that he should set an example when it comes to fitness. When the opportunity recently arose to bid on a six-month membership to the Botsford Center for Health Improvement, Lipa was determined to win. He had put on a few pounds since playing football at Farmington High School.

Botsford Hospital's new medically based health club offers a proactive approach to fitness and wellness. Lipa hopes to be in shape by fall to launch a healthy kids program in conjunction with Botsford Hospital in Farmington. As director of youth and family services for Farmington/Farmington Hills Special Services, Lipa worked for the last 11 years to help kids make better lifestyle choices.

"I run after school programs in five different buildings for 250 to 300 kids per day," said Lipa, 48. "I coach football at Power Middle School and noticed last fall it was a little more difficult."

ASSESSING HEALTH

Lipa arrives at 6:30 a.m. three mornings a week to work out, alternating between cardiovascular and strength training equipment. Two evenings per week he spends time in the pool. The routine was prescribed especially for Lipa after a fitness assessment which included a health history. A second appointment orients members to the equipment. Afterward, certified health specialists and physiologists are available to answer questions during workouts.

"I appreciated the health assessment," said Lipa. "It gave

PLEASE SEE BOTSFORD, C5

Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind Woman to See Again

Dr. Sheldon Smith helps those with low vision to enjoy daily activities like reading and driving.

By Elena Lombardi

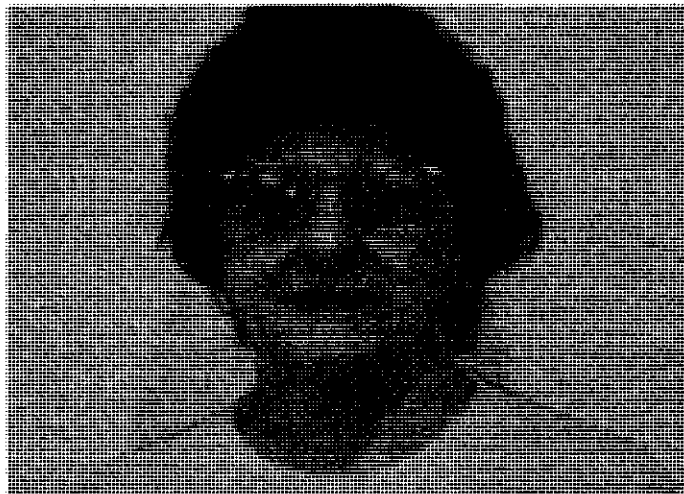
Low vision is defined as vision that cannot be corrected with regular prescription glasses or contact lenses. For most people, low vision means they cannot drive or do daily activities like reading a newspaper. With specialized treatment people with low vision can get back to doing the things they enjoy.

Michigan Optometrist, Dr. Sheldon Smith helps people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and other eye conditions. Just like looking through a pair of field glasses or binoculars, telescopic glasses make things look bigger, closer, and much easier to see.

"Many of my patients consider me the last chance to help their vision," states Dr. Smith.

Macular degeneration is the most common eye disease among the senior population. Twenty five percent of people over 65 years of age have some degree of degeneration. When the macula, a small part of the retina, degenerates it leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision making it hard to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

The cause of macular degeneration is unknown. However, it has been shown that



Dr. Smith's Patient with Bioptic Telescopes for Driving.

UV light from the sun, smoking, poor nutrition and aging are contributing factors. In addition, 15% to 20% of macular degeneration cases have been shown to be genetic.

"People don't know that there are experienced doctors who can help them with low vision care," says Dr. Smith. "My job is to figure out anything and everything possible to help a person see at the best level possible."

Valerie Bassett, 79, a music teacher and church organist from Essexville, Michigan was turning down music students because she could not see the music from the teacher's position. Dr. Smith fit Valerie with telescopic glasses with an adaptor to read music. "Now I use my glasses to participate in worship service, sing hymns and read the bible. I can read music. It's wonderful to be able to see again. I have a new lease on life!" says Valerie.

There are as many low vision devices as there are various activities. Bioptic telescopes help some people continue driving, while special prismatic glasses can help for reading and other hobbies. Devices range in price from \$500 to \$2,500.

"Every situation is unique. Each person's level of vision varies and every patient has different desires," states Dr. Smith. "Our ultimate goal is getting patients doing those things they most wish to do. The impact on quality of life and independence is remarkable."

Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, St. Clair Shores and the Lansing area. To see if low vision care can help you or your loved one call Dr. Smith today at Suburban Low Vision.

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BOTSFORD

FROM PAGE C4

me a good indication of my upper and lower body strength, blood pressure.

"I work out on the treadmill, stepper machines and bikes. I have overall better health. It's comfortable and relaxing."

Monica Pagels leads a tour through BCHI pointing out the more than 70 new pieces of equipment, aerobics center with floating floor to reduce joint strain, sauna, and aquatics center with a lap pool where AquaFit aerobics is taught and a 92-degree therapy pool for low intensity exercise.

The area previously housed Botsford's Total Rehabilitation and Athletic Conditioning Center (TRACC) which has since moved to another building in the complex on Grand River, west of Haggerty in Novi.

After six months of renovation, BCHI's 30,000 square feet boast an indoor walking track and rooms for group exercise classes for yoga, tai chi, pilates, and spinning. Group exercise B room is bare except for the balls used in classes to strengthen the core.

A fitness class for seniors and others unable to participate in standing exercise also takes place here. Classes occur every day but Sunday.

Membership is less than \$60 a month and includes classes. A variety of services are offered at an extra cost including consultation with a registered dietitian, massage therapy, and assistance for those unable to exercise independently.

"There's no reason for them not to be successful. We keep them reaching their goals," said Pagels, manager of BCHI and an exercise physiologist.

"We talk to members daily about lifestyle changes and refer them to a registered dietitian for weight management and sports nutrition."

BCHI was a dream conceived more than 18 years ago, according to Jay Berry, director of the Botsford Wellness Complex which includes BCHI, TRACC, and the Botsford Center for Lifestyle Management for diabetes management.

'SAW A NEED'

"We saw a need with TRACC for people who would finish with rehabilitation and say now what," said Berry. "Hospital administrator Steve Faine was one of the administrators pushing for the center, saying wouldn't it be great if there was a wellness center, a preventative process."

"Over the years, the environment has changed. The medical community realizes it has to be preventive especially with rising health care costs. The question was how do you teach people to take care of themselves."

Deidra Jarmon knew she "needed to do something" when her physician prescribed medications for high blood pressure and cholesterol levels more than one year ago. On Jan. 6, she started coming to BCHI four to five times a week before heading to work at Blue Care Network in Southfield. In addition to walking on a treadmill, Jarmon takes classes including AquaFit and she's set up an appointment for nutrition counseling with a registered dietitian.

"I like the location, like the fact it was new and sparkling and clean," said Jarmon, 40, of Novi.

"I've lost weight, but I'm still on medication. My hope is to slowly wean myself off, but even if I don't I might be able to lower the doses."

Patricia Karimalis was recently diagnosed with diabetes. Her "internist told her she has to exercise." She has lost seven pounds since early March. She comes to the center four times a week.

"I've been in different exercise programs," said Patricia Karimalis, 60, of Novi. "When I came here I saw how beautiful it was, not restricted, you can do whatever you want."

"I like it so much. The people are nice and if I want my blood pressure taken they will."

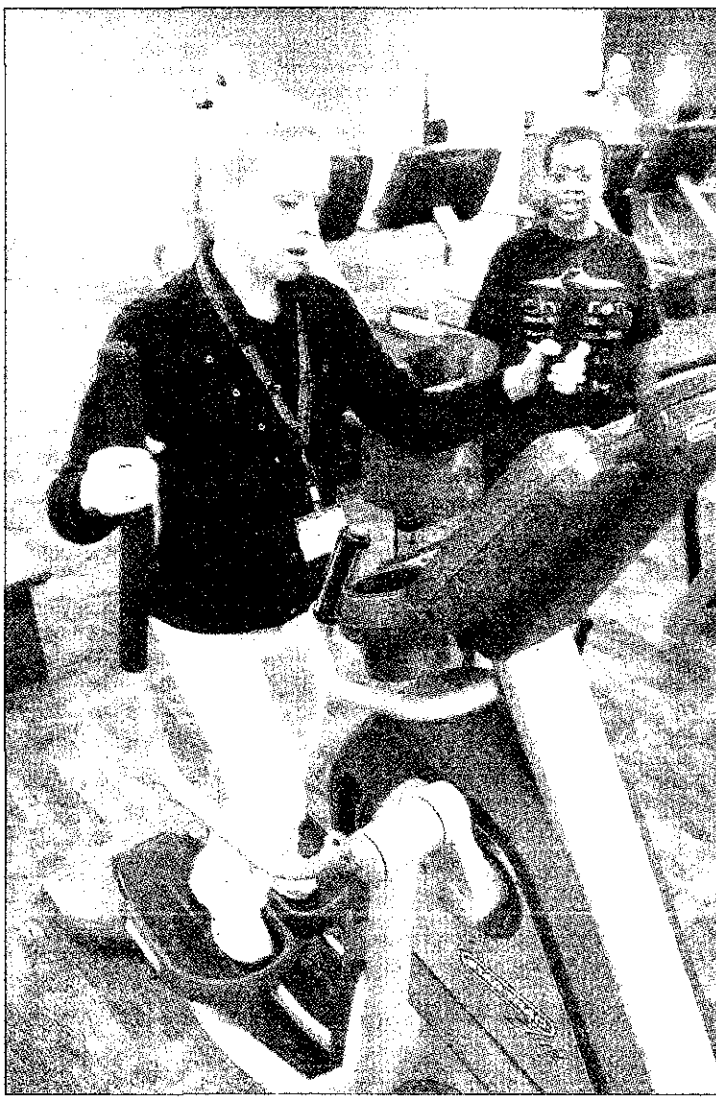
The Botsford Center for Health Improvement is open seven days a week. For more information, call (248) 473-3100 or visit www.botsford.org/bchi.

ichomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145



PHOTOS BY BILL DRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The walking track.



Botsford Fitness Specialist Cristina Noble demonstrates the use of an elliptical trainer to client, Darnell Jefferson. Jefferson is a Southfield resident.

Young cancer survivors sought for scholarships

The American Cancer Society Great Lakes Division Foundation's Young Survivor Scholarship Program is currently accepting applications for the 2007-2008 school year. Applications are due 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 17.

Since 1997, the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division Foundation has proudly supported young cancer survivors with \$1,000 scholarships as they pursue ambitious career goals. To date, more than 350 first-time scholarships and nearly 300 renewal scholarships have been awarded to students in the Great Lakes area of Indiana and Michigan. Scholarships are available annually, based on academic performance, community service and leadership, among other criteria, and may be renewable up to three additional years.

A limited number of tuition scholarships are available for the upcoming 2007-2008 school year. To qualify for the scholarship program, applicants must be a cancer survivor age 20 or younger (as of April 17, 2007); a U.S. citizen and legal resident of Indiana or Michigan, and attend, or plan to attend, an accredited college or university in Indiana or Michigan in fall 2007 as a full-time student carrying 12 or more credit hours per semester.

The college scholarship program is made possible by generous donations to the American Cancer Society Great Lakes Division Foundation.

Interested students may download an application online by visiting www.cancer.org/scholarships or by calling (800) 723-0360.

Chronic Daily Headaches?

The Michigan Head Pain & Neurological Institute is seeking individuals 18 to 65 years of age to participate in a research trial to evaluate an investigational medication to treat chronic headaches.

You may qualify for this study if you:

- Have a history of chronic headaches for at least 6 months
- Experience 15 or more headaches per month

Qualified participants will receive study-related examinations and medication at no cost and may also receive compensation for time and travel.

Please contact one of our clinical research coordinators for additional information at (734) 677-6000 x4.

Michigan Head Pain & Neurological Institute
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FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Mature Lifestyle EXPO

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TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007 9 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Schoolcraft College Livonia Campus in the VisTaTech Center
Haggerty Road between 6 and 7 Mile Roads

Exhibitor Package Includes:

- BOOTH INCLUDES:** Covered table and two chairs, identification tent care, with ample space for your giveaways, demonstrations and promotional materials.
- PRINT ADVERTISING:** Ad in our special Mature Lifestyle section distributed on Thursday, May 17, 2007
- EXHIBITOR LISTING** on the center spread of Mature Lifestyle section and newspaper promotion of the event during April and May, 2007.
- FOOD:** Continental breakfast plus two boxed lunches for exhibitors.

For more information about this popular Expo and to reserve your exhibit space, contact:
Frank Cibor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Classified Manager
734-953-2176 or fcibor@hometownlife.com

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Cheap shots focuses on images created with plastic cameras

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Ralph Krawczyk, Jr. never thought he would shoot photographs with film again until a friend told him about the Holga. The inexpensive toy camera produces images unlike digital. The simple plastic lens creates blurring, light leaks and other distortions to create a mood.

Two of the photographs Krawczyk shot with a Holga are part of a group show presented by the Krappy Kamera Club of Ann Arbor. Observer Newspapers photographer Bill Bresler of Livonia also has work in the exhibit titled Cheap Shots: The Silver Dreams of Plastic Cameras.

The show continues to Friday April 6, at Gallery 4, 212 Nickels Arcade, on the second floor above Arcade Barbers, Ann Arbor.

Gallery hours are 3-7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, and by appointment.

According to club member Michael C. Myers, there are 17 photographers in the show, which features 28 images created with toy, pinhole, old and Polaroid cameras.

Krawczyk's images include a dramatic black and white of a goat at the Kensington Petting Farm, and Illuminated (from Behind), a photograph capturing the sun coming through



Ralph Krawczyk, Jr. used a Holga camera to shoot Illuminated (from Behind). It is one of the photographs on display in an exhibit titled Cheap Shots: The Silver Dreams of Plastic Cameras.

colorful autumn leaves.

"I started last summer taking photos with a Holga," said Ralph Krawczyk, Jr. of Redford. Krawczyk became a member of the club about six months ago after visiting www.flickr.com, an online photo sharing community.

"It has more soul, more mood, natural vignetting

around the edges, some blurring and distortion, but the central focus point is totally clear."

Since discovering the Holga, Krawczyk says he's been "shooting just about anything with it - abandoned buildings, the zoo. Anywhere I go I take pictures."

"I like things that are older

and show some character."

Krawczyk developed an interest in photography while he studying graphic design at Eastern Michigan University. Today, he works for General Motors Creative Services designing exhibits for auto shows and corporate events.

"It really goes back to boy scouts," said Krawczyk. "I was always into photography."

"I plan to experiment with different types of cameras. I recently went to an estate sale and picked up cameras from the 30s and 40s."

For those interested in learning more about the cameras used by club members, a workshop takes place 2-5 p.m. Sunday, March 25. Ross Orr and Matt Callow explain pinhole photography and guide participants through building their own with a few cheap everyday items. No charge.

Dust Off Your Old Cameras and Get Busy 1-2 p.m.

Saturday, March 31, when vintage camera expert Mark O'Brien shows examples of "orphaned" cameras found hidden away in attics and basements. He'll also talk about restoring the cameras (Argus, Brownies, old SLRs, etc.).

Both workshops take place at Gallery 4.

For more information, visit www.mattcallow.com/cheap-shots.html.

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Talented young people wanted for commercials

First, there was *American Idol*, then *Grease: You're the One That I Want*. Now the Comcast Casting Call is searching for a talented 11 to 15-year-old Michigan resident to be featured in an upcoming advertising campaign.

"This is a fun and different way to find the next face and voice of Comcast in Michigan," said Luis Casanova, vice presi-

dent of Communications and Public Affairs for Comcast's Michigan Region.

In addition to being awarded a contract from Comcast, the winner will be awarded 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 age and residency requirements. From 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.

To view the rules, regulations and directions of the Comcast Casting Call and to submit an application and

audition, visit 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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'04 KIA SPECTRA, 4 door, Silver. **\$6899**
'06 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER, 19K, Silver. **\$20,895**

SALE HOURS: Mon, Thurs 9am-9pm; Tues, Wed, Fri 9am-7pm; Sat 10am-4pm
SERVICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm; Sat 8am-2pm

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