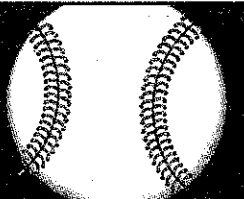


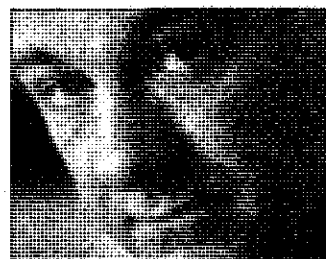
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Man faces hearing in felony stalking

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Wayne man who already did jail time for repeatedly beating his ex-wife, a Westland resident, was arraigned Monday on felony stalking charges.

Martin Wayne Montecinos — accused of going to the 46-year-old victim's apartment, assaulting her boyfriend and calling her dozens of times with threatening messages — is jailed anew on a \$100,000 cash bond.

Montecinos faces a preliminary hearing April 12 — his 46th birthday — after being arraigned Monday in front of Westland District Judge C. Charles Bokos.

If convicted of felony stalking charges, he could face penalties ranging up to five years in prison, a \$10,000 fine and probation for life. A not-guilty plea has been placed on record for

Montecinos faces a preliminary hearing April 12 after being arraigned Monday in front of Westland District Judge C. Charles Bokos.

him as he awaits his hearing.

Montecinos was released from jail last August after serving several months for a third incident involving domestic violence, according to a state corrections Web site. He also has charges of forgery and driving drunk on his record.

Montecinos' probation included orders not to contact his former wife, but police reports indicated he went to his ex-wife's apartment near Wayne and Glenwood roads at around 2:30 p.m. March 23, then later called her cell phone.

Around 10 p.m. that same day, Montecinos is accused of returning to the apartment and assaulting his ex-wife's new boyfriend before police arrested him in the parking lot.

According to police reports, Montecinos was turned over to the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and is accused of making about 30 collect calls to the victim while he was in the Wayne County jail.

Montecinos was released March 26, and police reports indicated he called his wife on her cell phone and at her job as many as 12 times a day.

The victim has told police that she fears Montecinos. The defendant has told authorities that he was drunk and didn't remember leaving threatening messages, according to police reports.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Paws for a hug

Madison Elementary third-grader Kamrey Dingeldey gets a hug from Paws after receiving a Detroit Tiger towel for answering correctly a question about the story, *Casey at the Bat*. Paws was at the school as part of a baseball-themed reading assembly. For story and photos, see Page A6.

1 of 4 defendants pleads guilty in home invasion

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

One of four defendants charged in a brutal home invasion on Westland's northwest side will spend seven to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty Friday to armed robbery.

Laquinta Cuntez Terry, 19, admitted his guilt in an incident that happened last Sept. 20 at Westwood Village Apartments, on the southeast corner of Joy and Hix roads.

A 47-year-old victim told police that intruders came in his doorwall, robbed him a gunpoint, tied him up and put packing tape around his mouth and head. He said they ransacked his apartment and stole a gun, liquor, credit cards and a cell phone before fleeing in his 2005 Monte

Carlo.

Terry's guilty plea came after prosecuting and defense attorneys reached an agreement for a sentence that will be imposed April 13 by Wayne County Circuit Judge Michael Hathaway.

"He'll do at least seven years," Westland police Sgt. David Heater said.

Terry, a Southfield teenager, pleaded guilty after prosecutors agreed to drop other criminal charges, including first-degree home invasion and stealing a vehicle.

Terry's arrest for the home invasion came after he was paroled on an earlier conviction involving a stolen vehicle.

Three other defendants have rejected offers to plead guilty in return for lengthi-

PLEASE SEE INVASION, A6

Barrel alert

Construction project to close northbound Wayne Road at Joy

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Traffic will be shut down on northbound Wayne Road at Joy as early as next week for a major construction project that will force motorists to find alternate routes, officials said.

Call it the orange-barrel headache season. Victoria Holland, Wayne County engineering director, predicted Tuesday that northbound traffic will be rerouted all summer and possibly longer, closing off a major Westland-Livonia thoroughfare.

So, prepare. Construction crews are expected to move in early next week for what Holland said will be a \$1.2 million project. She couldn't say exactly when northbound traffic will be shut down.

The entire stretch of Wayne between Joy and Plymouth will be resurfaced. Work crews also will rip out the surface and fix a bridge along the stretch of road.

"They'll be tearing off the (bridge) surface that cars drive on right down to the steel," Holland said.

Southbound traffic will be maintained, giving motorists one-way access to homes and businesses.

Westland Public Service Director Kevin Buford alluded to the construction project this week. Northbound traffic will be rerouted to Merriman Road, he said, although some motorists may choose other thoroughfares, such as Newburgh.

Holland said the official detour route will be for motorists on northbound Wayne to travel east on Warren and then north on Merriman.

Holland said the entire project is slated for completion by Dec. 1.

"The bridge (work) will be the longest part of the project," she said.

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City looks at where semitrailers park

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Big rig operators could soon be singing the truck-driving blues in Westland.

Semitrailer drivers who camp near vacant storefronts have fueled numerous complaints to City Hall, prodding officials to consider ticketing them.

"This is in the top five things we get calls on in the mayor's office," Mayor William Wild said.

Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt raised the issue during a meeting Monday. She said she has received complaints about trucks parking near the closed Uncle Bob's Trade Center, on the southeast corner of Merriman and Ann Arbor Trail.

Wild reported problems near other vacancies, specifically the former Sam's Club on Central City Parkway and the old Service Merchandise on Nankin Boulevard.

"I would like to see the city get aggressive on this," Wild said. "We're trying to fight blight," he said, "and I think that's blight."

Westland Planning Director Bruce Thompson pledged Monday to file a complaint with a city code-enforcement officer.

Graunstadt has received complaints about drivers parking their entire trucks — or sometimes just part of a rig, such as the trailer — at Merriman and Ann Arbor Trail.

She also has fielded complaints that the corner needs cleaning up because of broken concrete chunks, piles of gravel and weeds.

Graunstadt suggested the city consider cleaning up such areas and billing property owners who refuse to tidy up their properties.

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INDEX

APARTMENTS	B9
AUTOMOTIVE	C3
CLASSIFIED	B7-C4
CROSSWORD	B8
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM	D1
JOB	B11
MOVIES	E14
OBITUARIES	A14
OPINION	A9-10
REAL ESTATE	B7
SERVICE GUIDE	B11
SPORTS	B1

Coming Sunday in Health

Cause for hope for people with multiple sclerosis



Teachers accept LPS buyout offer

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

The \$40,000 incentive worked. By late Friday, 85 Livonia teachers have submitted their conditional retirement in response to an early retirement incentive. Livonia Public Schools announced the plan in February, designed to triple the number of retirements and provide a short-term fix to the budget, said Supt. Randy Liepa. Retirees will get severance pay and \$40,000 paid out over four years. Incentives for three groups – teachers, principals and cabinet members – hinged on at least 70 teachers accepting the buyout package. By Friday afternoon, two administrators had also taken the district up on this offer, said Jack Bauman, director of

personnel. Monday is the deadline. Would-be retirees have one week after that to change their minds. The early retirement package will save the district about \$2.7 million next year, by replacing long-term employees with those at the lower end of the pay scale and eliminating jobs through attrition, avoiding layoffs, Liepa said. The district planned to replace about 50 of the teachers, Liepa said. The district's enrollment is falling, with a further decline expected for next year, which affects revenue and staffing needs. The school board approved the plan with a 5-1 vote at its Feb. 12 meeting. LPS typically has 20 to 30 teacher retirements each year, Liepa said. More than 100 teachers were eligible for retirement, he said.

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First-grader Cassidy Collins (right) and the rest of her team celebrate their correct answer during Garfield Elementary School's Battle of the Books.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Books battle tests students' memory

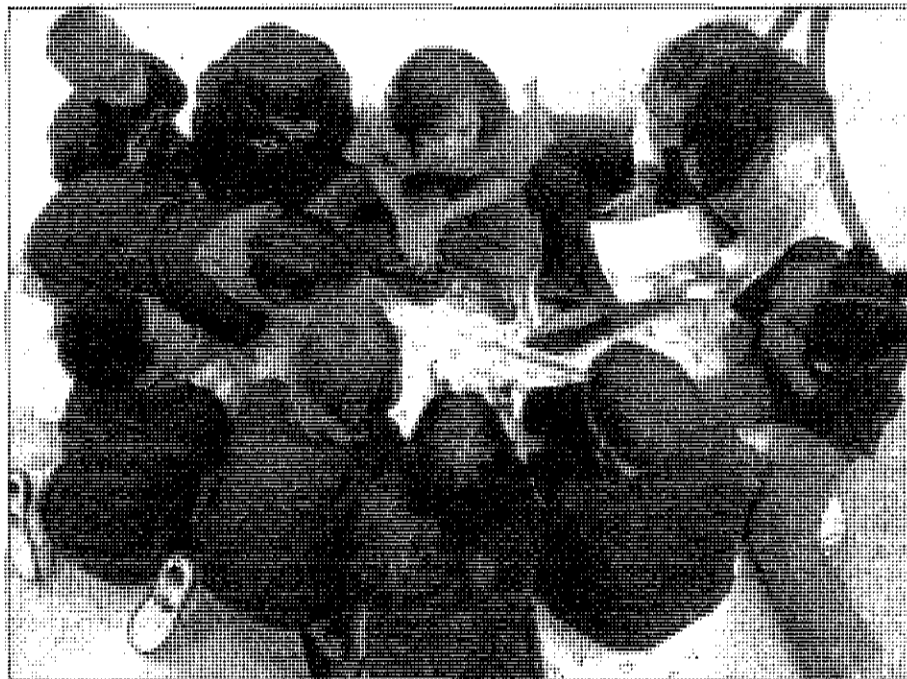
Eight teams of Garfield Elementary book lovers played a memory game to wrap up reading month. In the annual Battle of the Books on March 31, participants in first through fourth grade were asked to remember details from 15 books. Questions ranged from the number of lions who showed up for "Dinner at the Panda Palace" to Eugene's special talent in "The Best School Year Ever." "I read all of them," said second-grader Mitch Chopp, a member of the winning Orange team. "I love to read." As part of the Orange team, Chopp participated in a huddle with his group and ran at top speed to deliver the team's answer to judges. Going into the last question, the Orange team could not be beat. They won the game with 20 points. "It feels like we're champions," Chopp said. He and teammates received a medal and \$5 bookstore gift card. Light Blue and Red tied for second with 18. "I feel good about it," said Light Blue team member Samantha Tucker, a fourth-grader. "It's my first year doing it. I'm happy with second place."



Battle of the Books judges Andy Rose (left) and Candy Reaume confer to decide what type of bird is featured in the story, *Today is Monday*, during a reading competition.

Battle of the Books gets bigger every year, said teacher Kim Mitchell. This year, the Garfield PTA provided colored team shirts for the first time. Students began signing up for the competition in early January. They have been reading books for the past six weeks. So, what color was the snake who ate spaghetti in "Dinner at the Panda Palace?" Green of course.

By Rebecca Jones



A team discusses the answer to a book trivia question during the competition.

Parent: 2nd check of bus drivers is needed

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Public Schools officials say they know who their bus drivers are. Trinity Transportation has conducted background checks on theirs. But parent Kim Naccashian wants LPS to double-check Trinity's drivers, who have been hired as district contractors. "If they're going to out-source," she said, "we need to have something on file to document who's driving our kids." Naccashian first told the school board in October that she thinks LPS should run its own background checks. Now, she's offered to pay for them herself. "We as parents need the assurance our children are safe from drunk drivers, criminal sexual conduct, etc. on our buses." Naccashian raised the issue again after reading January news reports of a school district in Ohio that had to shut down for a day when a check of their contracted bus drivers showed that eight had drunken driving convictions. Another was charged with cocaine possession, according to the Associated Press articles. Rod Hosman, administrative services director for LPS, said that Trinity has performed its own background checks, and that under the law, substitute bus drivers are held to the same standards as those employed directly by LPS. "We follow all of the guidelines set forth in Michigan law," said Tracy Akers, general manager for Trinity Transportation of Wyandotte. "We meet or exceed all of the requirements... Fingerprinting is included in the program."

Under the state's Pupil Transportation Act, all bus drivers must meet physical qualifications and have background checks on file with their employer, which specifically note if the driver has ever been convicted of sexual assaults or attempts, child abuse or possession of child pornography. By law, school bus drivers must be 18 and have no more than six points on their driving records. A stricter law, called the Pupil Protection Act, requires fingerprints and state and federal criminal records checks for all school employees and contractors, including bus drivers. Schools – public and private – have until July 1, 2008, to collect the information. Schools will be required to fire anyone convicted as a sex offender. Other felons may work for schools if the superintendent and school board approve.

Hosman said the district is in the process of gathering fingerprints for its employees, starting with new hires. Until the new law takes effect, he said the district was told that Trinity's checks are sufficient. "If (the Michigan Department of Education) gets back to us and tells us something different, we will comply," Hosman said. LPS uses six or seven Trinity drivers regularly, and LPS is comfortable with those drivers, Hosman said. LPS has an unusual number of drivers on medical leave this year, he said. Trinity Transportation also has contracts with other districts in Southgate, Dearborn, Trenton, Wyandotte and Lincoln Park.

CORRECTION

A story about Abstraction Theatre's April 6 production of *Nineteen Variations on Hamlet* should have read that curtain time is 7 p.m. Friday, at Grantland Street Playhouse, 27555 Grantland, Livonia. Tickets are \$10. Call (313) 535-8962 or visit www.meyt.org for more information.

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Livonia district hears offers for empty buildings

BY REBECCA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Changing demographics led to the closing of seven Livonia schools last year.

Another set of changing demographics could help dictate how those buildings are used.

Livonia Public Schools has reportedly received a letter expressing interest in turning some of those buildings into senior housing to accommodate the fastest-growing segment of the population.

It is one of many letters the district has received, according to Jay Young, community relations director. However, he noted, the district's asset utilization committee had not discussed that proposal yet.

The asset utilization committee – a group of parents, staff and school board members – is charged with studying the district's vacant properties and buildings and determining "options for their potential use and/or disposition."

Supt. Randy Liepa, responding to a parent's inquiry at a Monday, March 12, school board committee meeting, stated that the district is not in negotiations with any developers.

"We do get contacted by different organizations at different times," Liepa said. "The

asset utilization committee hasn't gotten into specific recommendations or options for buildings, but at some point they will do something."

The 19-member committee has met four times since Nov. 9. So far, the group has reviewed properties and buildings that are available and discussed what could be done with each. Those choices could include selling vacant land for housing, holding onto property for future district use, or offering properties to the city, community groups or other entities. The group has talked about pros and cons of different options.

Notes from the asset utilization committee, information about available properties and meeting agendas are available online www.livonia.k12.mi.us/asset.

The committee will eventually present its report, with pros and cons, to the school board.

In the short term, the district has leased space at some of its buildings.

McKinley Elementary School near Franklin High School is nearly completely leased, Young said.

Plymouth-Canton Schools leased the Washington Elementary building while one of its schools is being renovated, Young said.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

An OC Bee good time

Marika Wegiel of Westland from Old Country Buffet in Westland reads *Buzz, Said the Bee* for the kindergartners of Laura Janik's class at Hamilton Elementary School. Wegiel, the OC Bee, school officials, police officers and firefighters were at the school to read to students as part of a March is Reading Month activity.

Family dines out, then pays with fake money

Bogus money

An employee of LongHorn Steakhouse told police that a family of four dined at the restaurant on the afternoon of March 31 and paid their bill with counterfeit \$20 bills. The family also paid their tip with fake bills, according to police reports.

A waitress told police she noticed that one of the \$20 bills didn't feel authentic. She alerted the manager who agreed, but the family already had left the restaurant, on Warren west of Wayne Road.

Home break-in

Intruders broke into a furnished, for-sale home on Lemon, in the Westland Meadows mobile home park, on the evening of March 28, a real estate employee told police.

CRIME WATCH

The back door of the home was found open. Furniture had been taken, including a dining room table and four chairs, two living room end tables and two bedspreads.

Home invasion

A woman told police someone broke into her house in the 1700 block of Ackley by kicking in the back door. The incident happened sometime March 19.

She told police that she noticed several items missing, including two video game systems and various game cartridges. The items were taken from her son's bedroom. The woman also told police that she noticed jewelry missing from her bedroom.

By Darrell Clem

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VAIR068

Daughter tells father's story of surviving concentration camp

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Dana Kent remembers her father's nightmares.

"Even as a child I have memories of him waking up and screaming, thinking he was still in the camp and about to be killed," she said.

Mitchell Pawlak spent three years in Nazi concentration camps in Poland, enduring torture, beatings, harsh forced labor and a starvation diet. He watched hundreds die around him. But he survived.

His story is unusual because he was an American Catholic trapped by the Germans before he could return to his native land.

Kent of Livonia tells his story through his eyes in a short but compelling book, *The Life of an American Survivor: Memories of the German Concentration Camps*.

"When I became a teenager, he talked so much about the camps that I would write term papers and reports about the concentration camps," she said. "Later when I was in college, he kept talking about letting people know that he had survived and he had been a Catholic. Everyone hears about the Jewish people who died, but there were many priests in the camp, there were other people besides the Jewish people and he thought their story should be told."

Pawlak, now 86 and a long-time resident of Redford, was born in 1920 in New Jersey. Pawlak's father lost his job as a bus driver in the Depression and was encouraged by cousins to return to Poland and start a farm. But, Kent said, her father always dreamed of returning to the United States.

When the war broke out, Pawlak traveled to the American embassy in Berlin



Dana Kent with a copy of her book on her father's memories of his time in German concentration camps.

with his brother seeking papers to return to the States, but he was told he had to register for the Selective Service. That and his involvement as president of his local Catholic Youth Organization made him an immediate target for the Gestapo.

"He tried to hide for a while, but his mother became very sick and he wanted to get back to see her and that's when he was arrested," Kent said.

IN HIS VOICE

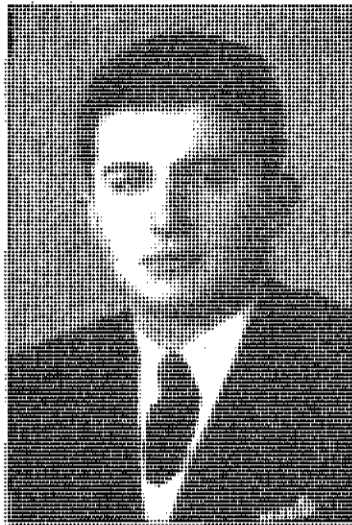
Kent tells her father's story in the first person, in his voice.

"I collected all of his journal entries," she said. "He had pages and pages of handwritten notes, every experience that had happened. He had pictures that the soldiers who liberated him had given him at the camp, Camp Dachau. I wrote it as if he were telling the story, as I was using many of his notes to explain everything. I thought it would have more meaning if it were him telling the story."

It took Kent many years to find the time to tell her



The entrance to Camp Dachau. The words on the gate, "Arbeit Macht Frei," is German for "Work makes you free." This picture was taken by American soldiers who liberated the camp at the end of World War II.



Mitchell Pawlak was a young man of 21 when he was arrested by the Gestapo and began three years of internment in German concentration camps.

father's story. She was a business teacher in Novi for 25 years, worked for a while as a legal secretary and raised two daughters.

"But at the back of my

mind, I knew I wanted to tell his story," she said.

She tells the story in short, direct chapters, following Pawlak's movement from camp to camp, finally coming to the death camp at Dachau in November of 1942. She describes the endless beatings, physical and psychological tortures, wretched conditions and inadequate diet that the prisoners endured.

Yet, Kent said her father's only criticism of the book is that it "isn't brutal enough."

AN ABIDING FAITH

But Pawlak survived that brutality, because he had a strong religious faith that was reinforced by the example of Catholic priests who continually defied the Nazis to carry out their religious obligations and help others in the camp.

Kent writes: "In Camp Dachau, the older priests were usually harnessed to a roller and whipped by the guards to

pull it along. Often the priests were given humiliating tasks and treated miserably. Some of them were sent to clean the gutters or wash the latrines. We could see them doing their jobs without complaint, sometimes having to carry excrement with their bare hands. I would witness the terrible way the priests were treated with frustration that I could do nothing to help them. I couldn't even help myself escape the captivity."

Kent writes that her father was aware in the camp of Pope Pius XII's accommodations with the German government.

"He didn't like it, but he was a true blue Catholic and felt if the pope was saying that, he must have been doing it for a reason," she said. "He believed that faith led him to different things and faith created different situations that arose throughout the war. He had a strong faith and he used that

to overlook what had happened with the pope."

When Dachau was liberated, Pawlak reconnected with a neighbor girl, Jean, whose brother Eddie had also been taken off to the concentration camp. They married and petitioned to go to the United States. Despite a promise from a U.S. ambassador, there were delays. Finally, Pawlak confronted the ambassador and he and his wife, now pregnant with their daughter, boarded a ship to the United States.

"My mother had a brother in Michigan and she had promised to look for him. Their goal was to find a place in Michigan and find a job. The most logical place was Hamtramck because that was where most of the Polish people were residing," she said.

Pawlak began working for General Motors as a tool and die worker. He tried to make contact with groups for Jewish concentration camp survivors and, Kent said, was told to find a group for Catholics. He did make contact with individual survivors and they shared their experiences.

In addition to Jews, the Nazis also imprisoned Catholics, political leftists, homosexuals and others who opposed them. William Styron's famous novel *Sophie's Choice* was about a Polish Catholic camp survivor.

The Pawlaks moved to Redford Township in the mid-1950s. Kent said her mother has been confined to bed for the past two years and Pawlak, though an invalid himself, has been caring for her.

Kent's book is published by Publish American and is available online at Amazon.com, Publishamerica.com and barnesandnoble.com.

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Students score hits for reading month

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Susan Kelty is waiting for better weather before she takes to the roof of Madison Elementary School. That's where she has to go to settle up a bet with her students.

The bet? If more than 80 percent of them met their reading goals for March, she would read them a story while sitting on the school roof.

"It's a lot of fun to do, but I don't like the climb up," said Kelty who's the Madison principal.

Reading on the roof is only one part of the school's Strike One for Reading program during March. Classrooms became baseball teams like the Milwaukee Brewers, Pittsburgh Pirates and Cleveland Indians and students scored "hits" by reading a half hour each night.

They used paper baseballs to graph their progress in hopes of being the champions. That honor goes to Patti Ringe's classroom, the Chicago White Sox, which exceeded its reading goal by 821 percent.

"They just keep reading, reading and reading," said Kelty.

Second place went to Amanda Duvall's Chicago Cubs classroom which came in at 433 percent of their goal, while third was Rene Love's Los Angeles Dodgers class with 400 percent of goal.

Tying in with the baseball theme was an assembly last week that featured Detroit Tigers mascot Paws who pantomimed the story while Kelty read *Casey at the Bat* to students.

Ringe organized Paws' visit and by luck it came at the end of the month and just before opening day of the baseball season. Students and staff dressed in the Tigers' colors of orange and blue for the assembly. Youngsters had to pay attention to the story to answer Paws' 12 questions. Six boys



Madison Principal Susan Kelty issued a growl in introducing Paws to students.



Following Paws' signs, youngsters let out a cheer for mighty Casey of Casey at the Bat during the assembly.



Paws, the Detroit Tigers mascot, gets a huge welcome from students at an assembly at Madison Elementary School in Westland.

PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

and six girls each received a Paws autographed Detroit Tigers towel for answering such story-related questions as where the game was played, what the crowd did when there was a strike out, and what they did when Casey came to bat.

There also were questions like when is opening day and what song is sung during the

seventh-inning stretch which lead to them singing *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*.

"It was a fun assembly, Paws had hand signals students had to watch for," Kelty said. "When he touched his mouth it meant quiet, thumbs down meant boo and hands up meant cheer. They really had to pay attention."

The assembly also was a time to celebrate students who reached their reading goal. Each received a family ticket voucher for four tickets at \$20 each.

And if that wasn't enough baseball, there also was hot dog day on Friday.

As for the mystery of who was Paws, Kelty has the

answer.

"Most of the kids thought it was (fifth-grade teacher) Mrs. (Madeline) Sommerman, but it wasn't, it was the real Paws," said Kelty. "She was at a conference and came back at the end of the day."

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Plan will boost growth of small businesses

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, is embracing a new plan that aims to stimulate Michigan's economy by creating a culture of entrepreneurship and offering incentives to people willing to start their own businesses and become the job providers of tomorrow.

"Encouraging entrepreneurs to strike out on their own and giving them the tools and resources to do so will help create a new culture in Michigan," LeBlanc said. "Small businesses are critical to our economy in Michigan. By investing in new ideas and diversifying our economy, we can rebuild our economy and get Michigan moving in the right direction."

The Michigan Spirit of Entrepreneurship Initiative aims to make Michigan first in the nation for supporting small-business growth. The plan will:

- Provide health care tax credits to new business owners and tax deductions for personal income invested in small businesses.

- Provide transferable research and development tax credits to help more innovations get to the market.

- Give small businesses access to the state's bulk-purchasing program to reduce costs.

- Offer free tuition to students of any age who enroll in entrepreneurship courses.

- Create a grant program to encourage student participation in programs such as Junior Achievement that teach business skills and financial literacy.

- Establish a statewide center for entrepreneurialism.

According to the Web site, www.michigan.gov/beyourownboss, companies with 500 or fewer employees represent 99.7 percent of all employees in the United States.

In Michigan, more than 1.4 million citizens work at one of the 230,000 firms that employ less than 50 people. Nearly 90 percent of Michigan's employees work for companies with 20 or fewer employees.

"This plan will help make the dream of becoming a business owner a reality for many of our residents," LeBlanc said. "Removing barriers will help make it easier to succeed in the business world for those who have the courage and determination to start their own business."

INVASION

FROM PAGE A1

er sentences stemming from the Westwood Village incident, Heater said.

Those defendants are James Michael Hobson, 18, and Harry James Taylor, 23, both of Canton, and DeCory Lamar Sharpe, 19, of Westland.

Their trials by separate juries are expected to start in early May.

Hobson, Taylor and Sharpe face trial for torture, armed robbery, first-degree home invasion, stealing a vehicle, weapons charges and being habitual offenders.

Taylor and Hobson rejected a plea agreement that would have sent them to prison for 15-25 years, plus a mandatory two-year term for a felony firearms charge, Heater said.

Sharpe also refused a plea agreement. He would have received 12-25 years plus the two-year term for felony firearms, Heater said.

Westland police arrested the suspects last October after allegedly linking fingerprints to one of the defendants from another investigation in Canton.

A search warrant was executed in Canton, and Westland police Sgt. Steve Borisch said in court that evidence was found of more than one home invasion.

The case against the defendants allegedly mushroomed following statements that some of them made to police, authorities have said.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Skate park

Concrete Jungle, the Westland-based skate park, has opened for the season.

Sessions are 3:30-7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon-3:30 p.m. and 4-7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$3 for children and \$5 for adults for a session, or \$5 for children and \$7 for adults for an all-day pass.

The park is featuring bike nights 4-7:30 p.m. every Sunday in April. No skateboarding is allowed during those times. Admission is \$5 per person.

The park is having 18 and older skate nights 8-10 p.m. every Friday in April. Admission is \$5.

A skate park blast will be featured Friday, April 13, with \$1 admission all day and special prizes.

Spring Break at the Concrete Jungle is scheduled for noon-3:30 p.m. and 4-7:30 p.m. April 6 through 15, with the park closed for Easter Sunday.

A season kickoff party is planned noon-8 p.m. Saturday, April 28, including food, prizes and live music. Admission is \$3.

Tax help

Senior citizens with low to moderate incomes can get help preparing their taxes through an AARP program offered at the Westland senior Friendship Center, on Newburgh Road south of Ford.

Sessions will continue 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each Monday and Friday through April 13, but appointments are necessary. Call (734) 722-7628.

Food distribution

The City of Westland will distribute surplus federal food to eligible residents Thursday, April 19.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up their commodities on between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Dorsey Community Center at 32715 Dorsey, north of Michigan Avenue and south of Palmer.

For Westland residents south of Michigan Avenue, the pickup day is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the second Monday of each month at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. Call (734) 729-1737 for information.

Senior citizens living in

Taylor Towers can collect their food at the building. They should contact the building manager for the distribution date.

Greenwood Villa residents must pick up their food items at their building.

Tuna, peanut butter and powdered milk are being offered for the month of April. The program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services.

For more information, call the Dorsey Center's surplus food hotline at (734) 595-0366.

Golf outing

The Westland Rotary will hold its annual golf outing Thursday, May 24, for the benefit of the Salvation Army summer camp program and Westland Rotary Charities.

The outing will be at Fellows Creek Golf Course in Canton and feature an 11 a.m. shotgun start to 18 holes of golf, lunch and beverages on the turn, balls, tees and goodies, door prizes, dinner and dessert. There also will be a skins game, and prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive for men and women, a hole-in-one contest and other tests of skill.

The cost is \$125 for individual golfers, \$450 for a foursome and \$500 for an "eagle" - a foursome and the "birdie" hole sponsorship of a sign on the course and recognition in the program. Other sponsorships available include community champion for \$1,000 and classic premium at \$300. Banquet only tickets are \$50.

Registration can be completed by sending forms to Westland Rotary Golf Outing, 5854 N. Wayne Road, Westland, MI 48185 or by fax to Mary at (734) 729-5436.

For more information, call Mary Gregosky at (734) 729-5401, Jade Smith at (734) 261-5451, Dr. Kim Shunkwiler at (734) 728-5533, Mark McConnell at (734) 421-5510, Hugh Doody at (734) 710-0380 or Andrea Holmes at (734) 261-2161.

Coffee Hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, April 9, at the Westland Big Boy, 6360 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland.

Citizens are welcome to visit with LeBlanc and discuss

issues and/or concerns. The local coffee hour takes place on the third Monday of each month.

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, also will hold local coffee hours in Westland and Redford on Monday, April 9.

He will be at the Westland Big Boy 9-10 a.m., then move to Redford for a 10:30-11:30 a.m. coffee hour at the Redford Community Center, 12121 Hemingway.

Constituents who would like to address an issue with Anderson but are unable to attend may contact him by mail at P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI, 48933; by phone at (517) 373-1707; or by e-mail at SenatorAnderson@senate.michigan.gov.

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

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.

Bingo

The Dyer Senior Center invites residents to play bingo at 1 p.m. Wednesdays at the center, 36745 Marquette, Westland.

For more information, call Mary Browe at (734) 419-2020.

Pancake breakfast

The Westland senior Friendship Center holds an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast second Thursday of the month at the center on Newburgh south of Ford. The cost \$4 per person for buttermilk or multi-grain pancakes, coffee, juice, low fat milk, sausage and bacon.

Sugar-free syrup will be available. The center holds pancake breakfasts on the second Thursday of the month.

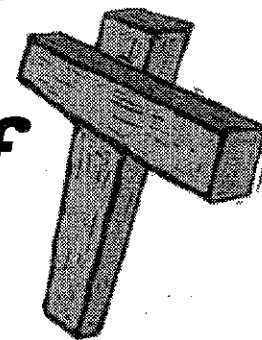


Setting a record

Students at Walker-Winter Elementary School in Canton raised a record \$7,102 with Jump Rope for the Heart. Jump Rope for the Heart, benefits the American Heart Association while promoting the value of physical activity to elementary school children. Students secure sponsors and raise money for the fight against heart disease and stroke by jumping rope. According to physical education teacher Mel Long, Walker-Winter consistently is one of the top fundraising schools in Wayne County.

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CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES MTG. 6 - 3/19/07

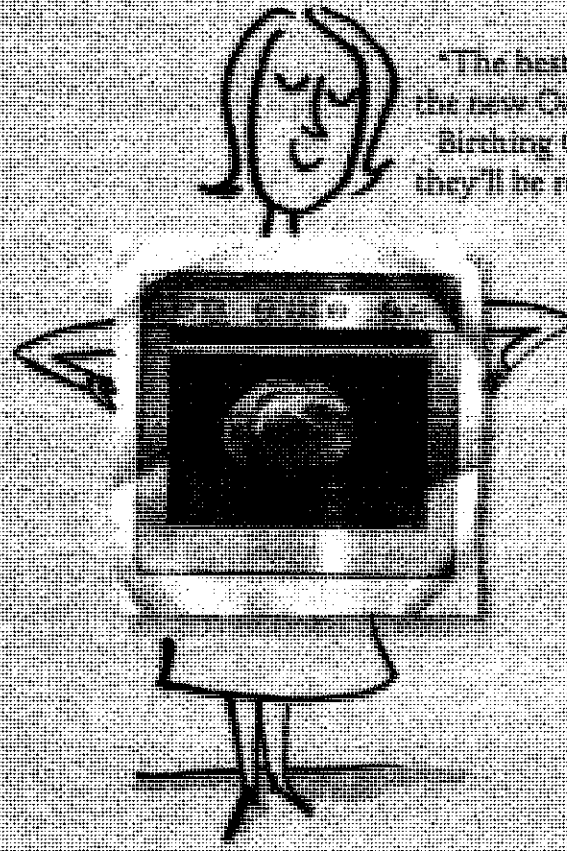
Presiding: Council President Pickering
Present: Godbout, Graundstadt, Johnson, Kehrer, Reeves, Stottlemeyer
90-Approved minutes of regular mtg. held 3/5/07.
-Approved request from Wayne Ford Civic for flower sale/fundraiser on 4/6/07-4/8/07 & 5/12/07-5/13/07.
-Approved application to Mich. Natural Resources Trust Fund for grant for soccer complex @ Curtis Woods Park, amt. \$70,980.00.
-Adopted Budget Amendment 2007-10, Major Rd Fund, amt \$300,000.00.
-Adopted Budget Amendment 2007-11, General Fund, amt. \$10,000.00.
-Adopted Prep. Res. for Designation of Street Administrator.
-Approved bid from Metro Fire Alarm Sys. for Bailey Ctr., amt. \$20,892.00.
-Authorized pay for new Police Chief @ 100% of Grade One salary.
92-Set public hearing date of 5/7/07 for 2007-2008 City of Westland Budget.
93-Adopted prep. Res. No. 2, Street paving District 06-P-1, for paving of Florence.
94-Adopted prep. Res. No. 2, Street Paving District 06-P-2, for paving of Columbia.
95-Approved spec. land use for Adult Day Care Ctr., Parcel #066-01-0543-301, w. side of Venoy, s. of Cherry Hill Rd.
96-Approve prop. rezoning from CB-3 & R-1, to PUD, Parcels #018-99-0014-000 & -0015-703, e. side of Newburgh Rd, s. of Joy Rd.
97-Approved rev. site plan for prop. utility bldg., DTE Training Facility, Parcel #053-99-0031-701, s. side of Cherry Hill Rd., w. of Newburgh Rd.
98-Approved City Clerk's Pay/Benefit Package for 1/1-12/31-07.
99-Approved Deputy City Clerk's Pay/Benefit Package for 1/1-12/31/07.
100-Adopted Prep Res. for Designation of Street Administrator, K. Buford.
101-Confirmed appt. of R. McKnight to Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, term to expire 2/18/2010.
102-Confirmed appt. D. Walker as Alt. to ZBA, term to expire 5/12/07.
105-Rejected LOCC salary recommendation for Council President.
106-Rejected LOCC salary recommendation for Council Pro-Tem.
107-Rejected LOCC salary recommendation for Council Members.
108-Approved Checklist Activity: \$836,963.33 and Prepaid \$5,268,308.93.
Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.
Minutes available at the clerk's office.

Charles W. Pickering
Council President

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk

Publish: April 5, 2007

CE00518649



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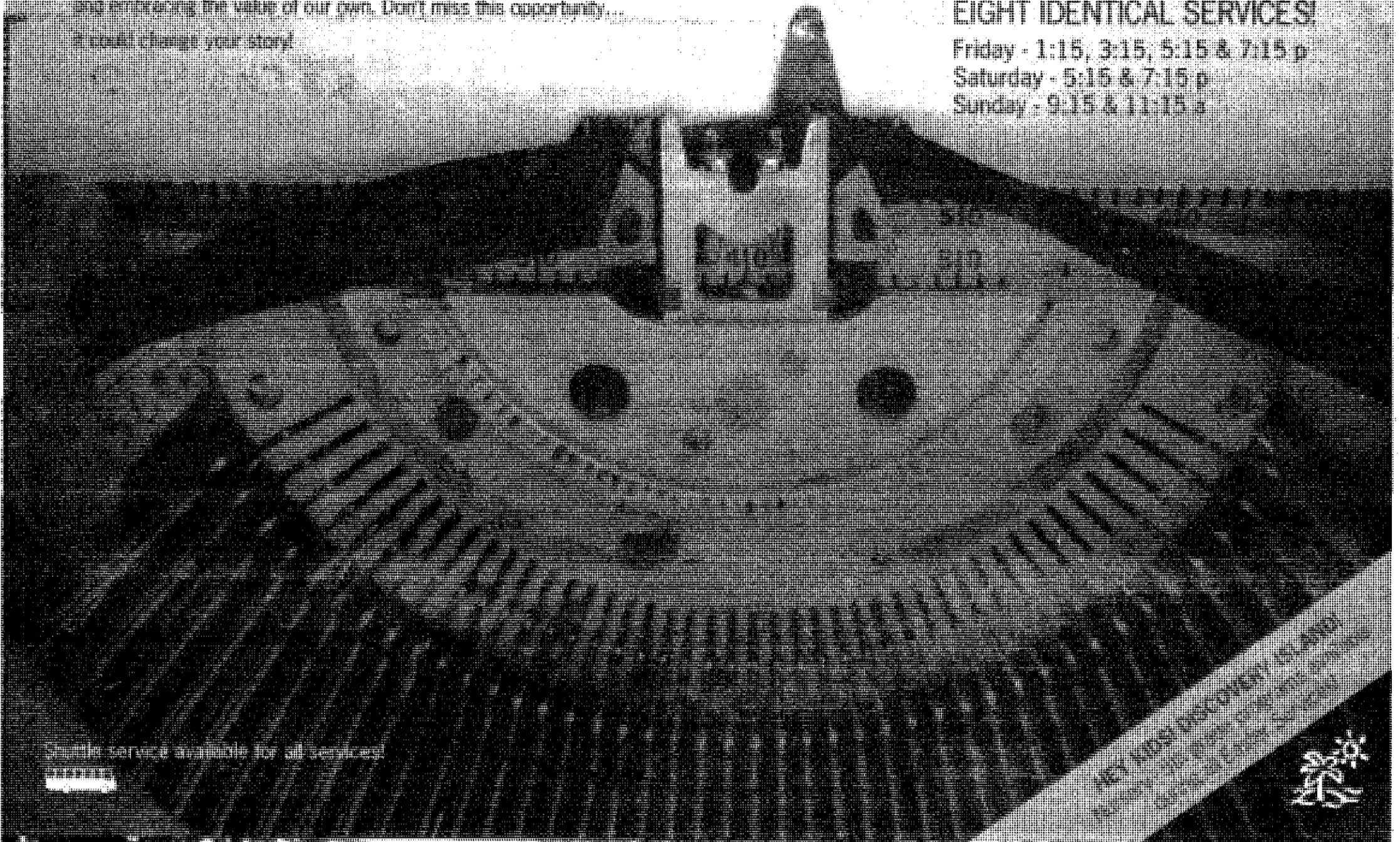
Though Jesus' value and impact is no secret to most in our world today, the reality is that for most of His life He was the poster boy for "ordinary." This Easter, come join us as we uncover the extraordinary story of Jesus and those who accepted, rejected, or simply ignored Him. Though missed by most, the reality is that knowing Jesus' story is foundational to discovering and embracing the value of our own. Don't miss this opportunity... it could change your story!

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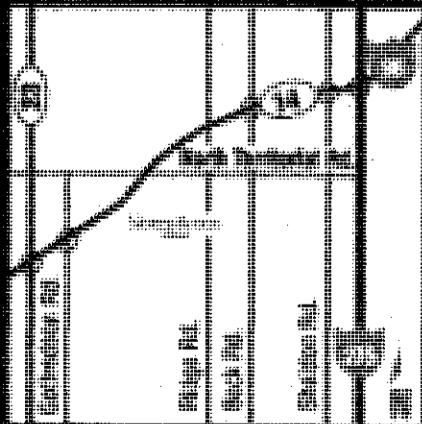
JUNGLE

Out There!

It's a Jungle Out There!
Starting April 6

When it comes to relationships, it REALLY is a jungle out there. Whether with co-workers, a spouse, children, parents, friends, or you name it...relationships are hard work. They don't reach their full potential without clearing out all of the naturally growing "underbrush" that keeps us from experiencing them at their best. Whatever relationships you're finding difficult to discover, develop, and/or experience in your life, this series will help you to identify the tools you need for clearing away the natural obstacles and making them work. It may be a jungle out there, but jungles were meant to be tamed.

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Local church volunteers reach out to help rebuild Gulf Coast

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in August 2005, and conditions there are still cause for concern.

"It's still pretty bad," said Barb Fichtenberg of Canton, who recently traveled with a church group to Orange Grove, Miss., to work on home repair and rebuilding.

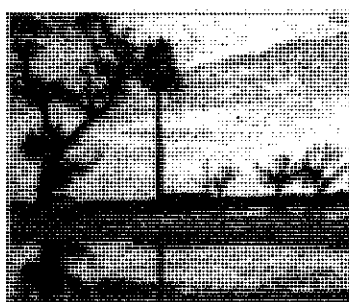
Fichtenberg, a medical technologist at Garden City Hospital, noted the contrasts while she was in the region in March. There would be brand-new construction adjacent to leveled restaurants and apartment buildings, toilets by the

side of the road and draperies still stuck in trees.

Orange Grove is close to Biloxi and Gulfport, and the seven people from Geneva Presbyterian Church in Canton worked in those communities. They spent March 10-18 in the region as part of a group of more than 100 from the Presbytery of Detroit.

"There were people doing anything from drywall, siding, mudding, painting and trim," said Fichtenberg, global mission elder at her church.

Some homes had to be gutted. "They were all at various stages," she said. Skill levels of the volunteers also varied, and they were assigned according-



Only the golden arches remain standing at this McDonald's near Gulfport.

ly, with a number of seniors volunteering for the mission.

"There's still a lot of work to be done. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has made a seven-

year commitment to the area," Fichtenberg said.

She was impressed with the large number of volunteers, including "tons of college kids on alternative spring breaks. The place was flooded with volunteers and everybody was so grateful."

The local group stopped briefly in New Orleans, where a waitress when they were eating made a speech to thank volunteers. Fichtenberg met an 80-year-old woman whose house had been bulldozed; she received \$2,900 for insurance and still had mortgage payments.

"Those people are still in some pretty bad situations,"

she said. Volunteers found some contractors who aren't legitimate had taken advantage of residents, and some work had to be redone.

"I think almost all of us are interested in going back," said Fichtenberg. "The people were very warm, grateful, friendly."

Thomas Friedow of Plymouth Township, a regular visitor at Geneva, also made the trip to Mississippi. "I was redoing a kitchen," said Friedow, a mechanical engineer for an auto supplier in Livonia. His work included hanging cabinets, putting in a sink and stove, and doing some electrical wiring.

Friedow, from Germany,

had wanted to go to the Gulf Coast as a volunteer at the time of the disaster. "It just came up, the opportunity," he said of the March trip.

"There's still a lot of houses where you see all the devastation," Friedow said. He too was impressed with people's faith.

"I was really happy that I took this opportunity to go. I think it strengthened my faith." He plans to return in November 2007 for another presbytery mission project in that area.

Friedow found reaction at his company, Elringklinger Sealing Systems, positive. Staffers donated to support a microwave venting system.

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Summit on the Park Easter Brunch

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Summit on the Park • 46000 Summit Parkway • Canton

Reservations can be made by calling 734-394-5487

(or stop by the Summit Banquet Sales Office, Monday-Friday, 9:30-4:30)

Adults...\$24.95 • Children 4-12 yrs...\$12.95

(Brunch is complimentary to children 3 yrs. and under)

Brunch Includes:

- Seasonal sliced fruit
- Assorted breakfast cereals
- Scrambled eggs with chives
- Breakfast sausage
- Hash browned potatoes
- Pancakes with maple syrup
- Freshly baked morning pastries
- Fruit preserves, butter
- Fresh squeezed orange juice
- Fresh brewed coffee & brewed decaffeinated coffee
- A selection of herbal teas

Omelet Station:

- Made to order omelets with your choice of savory items

Carving Station:

- Honey baked ham
- Roasted turkey
- Pasta Primavera with fresh basil
- Sautéed chicken breast with wild mushroom sauce
- Almond crusted sea bass with herb remoulade
- Shanghai beef stir-fry
- Dauphinois potatoes
- Chicken strips
- Macaroni and cheese
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Easter Brunch Menu

1st Course

- Assorted Juices and Breakfast Pastries
- Mini Bagels and Cream Cheese
- House Made Gravlax

2nd Course (Choose One)

- House Made Soup Du Jour
- Wild Green Salad
- Mediterranean Quiche
- Sweet Mascarpone Baked French Toast and Bananas Foster
- Fresh Berry Blintz with Chantilly Cream and Creme Anglaise
- Caesars Salad (add chicken, shrimp or salmon for an additional charge)

3rd Course (Choose One)

- 6 oz. Tenderloin Tips with Whipped Potatoes and Seasoned Vegetables
- Linguini Pomodoro
- Pork Medallions with an Apple Brandy Blue Cheese Sauce
- Served with Stewed Fingerling Potatoes
- Char-grilled Salmon laced with Asparagus,
- Lump Crab Meat and Béarnaise Served with rice pilaf

4th Course (Choose one)

- Assorted Sorbets
- Granola and Yogurt parfait
- Lemon Curd Tart
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OUR VIEWS

Stalling pop-up tax is good first move

The state of Michigan is facing a crisis unmatched in decades. State government is bankrupt; our best and brightest residents continue to flee in droves in search of jobs and a brighter future, and our elected officials seem unable — or, worse, unwilling — to do anything about it.

To say that Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop have been derelict in their duties by placing political partisanship over their jobs to find a solution to the growing crisis is a huge understatement. Both political parties — Democrats led by Granholm and Republicans led by Bishop — appear perfectly content to spend all of their time blaming each other for the colossal mess instead of working together to do something about it.

Enough is enough. Granholm and Bishop accepted the public's trust to lead this state, and the current stalemate threatens to do irreparable harm to Michigan's economy and its residents. The two parties need a starting point, even if it is something relatively minor they can agree upon to gain traction to solving the larger budget issues.

One starting point could be a proposal to place a moratorium on the so-called real estate pop-up tax. Both parties appear to be in agreement that halting the pop-up tax, which would allow the buyer of a home to inherit the property tax amount the seller currently pays, would spur home sales and provide a jump-start to the economy.

Proposal A capped annual property tax increases to 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever was less. Under current law, when a home is purchased it is reassessed to its full market value, which can dramatically increase the property tax bill of the new owner, which has helped stifle the sales of existing homes.

A healthier real estate market would mean more business for home supply stores and remodeling professionals, which will add badly needed sales and income taxes to state coffers.

Will halting the pop-up tax solve the state's budget crisis? No. But it could be what Granholm and Bishop need to find a starting point in working together to lead the state instead of continuing to play the blame game.

Easter promise is for all, Bible says

Trumpets will blare, cymbals will clang and Christians will shout "Hallelujah. He is risen!" in churches everywhere Easter Sunday.

Christians will celebrate because they believe Jesus Christ raised himself from the grave that first Easter morning 2,000 years ago after being crucified on a cross three days before.

What's more, they believe Jesus will take them to heaven for eternity after they die because he paid the penalty for their sins through his death.

The Christian religion is unique in that it teaches believers have forgiveness of sins and eternal life simply through faith in Jesus, not by following rules or living up to a certain standard.

The Bible says everyone sins and need forgiveness from God. But because God loves all people and wants them to be saved, he sent Jesus, his only son, to Earth to live a perfect life and take the punishment for everyone else's sins by dying on the cross.

The good news, according to the Bible, is that forgiveness and eternal life are available to not just churchgoers on Easter morning, but all people everywhere through faith in Jesus Christ.

The lessons of Passover

Jewish families from throughout the metro area began observing eight days of Passover at sundown Monday.

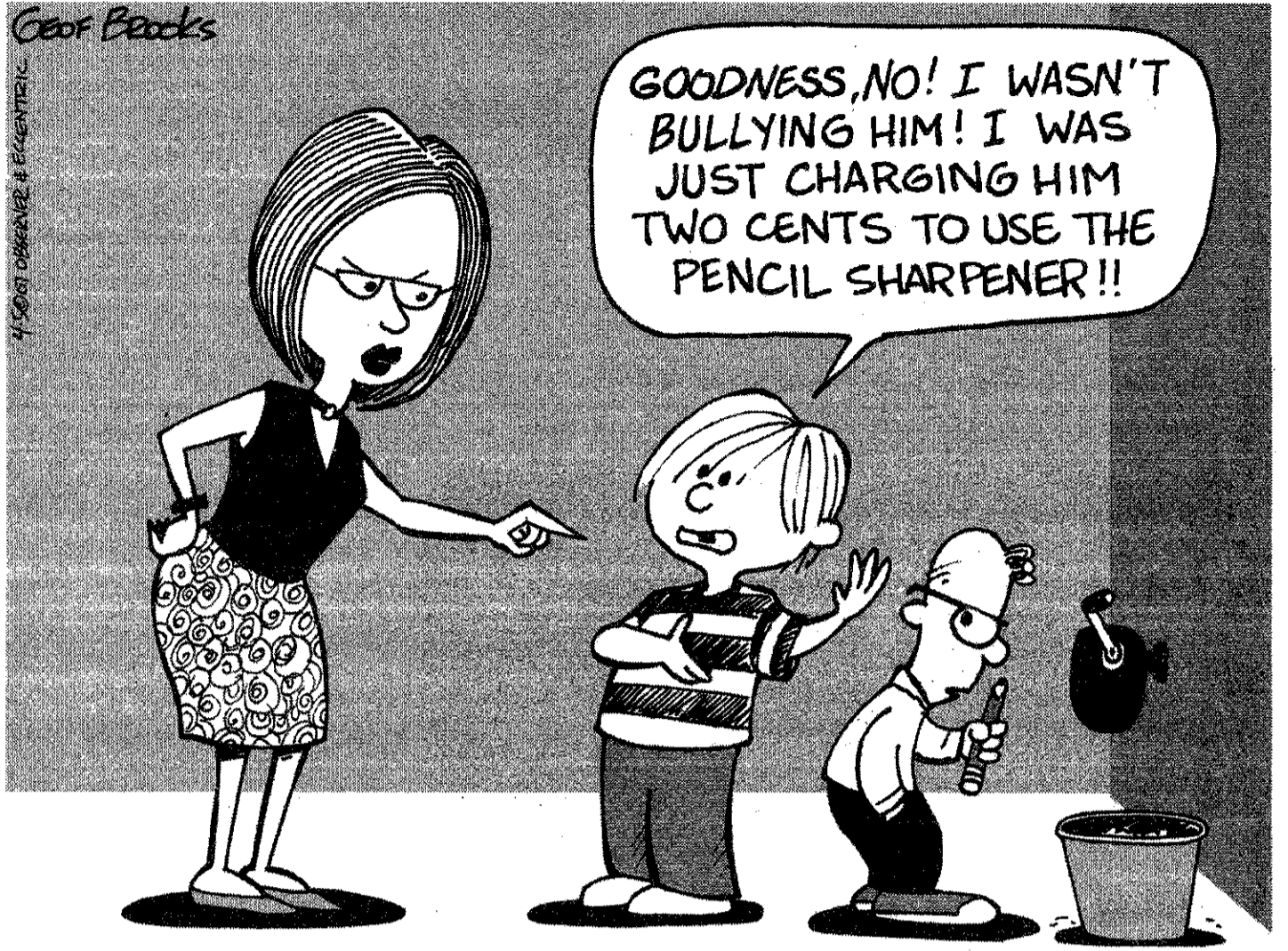
Anyone who has struggled for freedom can appreciate the significance of Passover, which celebrates the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and their slavery under the pharaoh's reign.

Passover is time of family and community. The National Jewish Population Survey conducted by United Jewish Communities indicated that some 67 percent of Jews will host or attend a Seder.

The Seder, with its special foods, customs, songs and prayers, is steeped in tradition and serves as a focal point of the Passover celebration. One of the primary symbols of Passover is matzo, unleavened bread which recalls the urgency of Jewish families who fled Egypt so long ago.

As the Passover celebration comes to a close, may we all be reminded that freedom is something we shouldn't take for granted. May we also be reminded it should be celebrated and passed on from generation to generation.

Geoff Brooks



LETTERS

Organ donation is important

The article in the March 8 edition of the *Westland Observer* titled "A new heart brings a new start and a brighter future" is a wonderful and inspiring story. It is an example as to why donating organs after death is so important.

In the article, it explains how a man needed a heart transplant due to cardiomyopathy, an illness he had been sick with for years. It goes on to say he received a new heart and is now living a healthy, full life, including playing and coaching soccer.

I believe the importance of organ donation isn't being discussed enough. The message isn't being driven home. People don't understand the crisis until they are faced with a similar situation. Unfortunately, a lot of people find it weird or are uncomfortable talking about the subject of organ donation. Let's be frank, no one wants to face their mortality.

However, let's face it, our organs are of no service to us when we die, but could mean a chance at life for someone else. Also, I feel if we treated the issue like other diseases, such as cancer and diabetes or some other well-known illness, it would be heard by more people. The message would be getting out there on a regular basis. People wouldn't be able to pretend the issue doesn't exist. Or even dedicating a month just for organ donation awareness. Too many people are dying because people aren't being educated enough about the donation crisis we face. Let's face it, if people are afraid of the unknown, education is the key!

I am very passionate about the issue of organ donation because my mother passed away waiting for a heart transplant. She suffered from cardiomyopathy, just as the gentleman in your article did. I was thrilled to see that the man in the story received his heart and is living his life fully. I wish there were more people like you, bringing this tough and often controversial subject to the front burners. If there were, I believe fewer people would suffer and die needlessly.

Jenny Mattson
Westland

Losing something precious

The landscape has changed so much in the seven short years since I bought my house near Newburgh Lake. I have watched in silent disgust the destruction of acres of wooded land and natural habitats. In the name of progress, this life-sustaining natural beauty has fallen prey to the screech of chainsaws and the roar of bulldozers. In their wake, the land is laid barren. Left is a muddy mess, silently witnessed by the bloody carnage of wildlife on the road.

At a time when there is no market for existing homes and Michigan foreclosures are the highest in the country, it seems absurd that this devastation is taking place to make room for yet another subdivision of suburban mini-mansions.

Now it is about to happen again. This time the chainsaws and bulldozers will be accompanied by a wrecking ball and we also will lose a precious part of human history.

On a dreary day just after Christmas, three generations of the Smith family locked the doors of Clyde Smith and Sons

Nursery for the last time. The door closed on a rich heritage that will never be seen again. The Smith family was one of the first to settle in the Westland-Livonia area, then called Nankin Township.

The word pioneers usually conjures images of the settlers on the western prairie, but the Smiths, their spouses and children were our pioneers. In a time when Newburgh, Warren and Joy were no more than muddy wagon trails, they created community.

Since 1834, this hard-working, industrious farm family sculpted life from the earth. Their perseverance and ingenuity exemplifies a time, a people and a lifestyle that respected and appreciated the land. They lived an intimate union with the earth and were rewarded with all of its magnificence.

For almost 175 years, the generations of the Smith family have shared those gifts with us. Their produce market and nursery allowed us to enjoy all the bounty and beauty of the land.

After enduring a long, bleak Michigan winter, a trip to the nursery was a sensory delight. The yard and green houses overflowed with new life. It was a joy just to watch the bustling crowds, with their carts of color, all dreaming of how beautiful their yards would be.

For myself and many, it was a glorious family outing. Even the kids peacefully tolerated the endless picking and choosing because in the end there was a visit to the old barn. There they could enjoy all the barnyard animals and the emus.

Thank you to the Smith family for all the joy you have given. You will be missed!

It is a harsh reality that those days are over. The property has been sold to a developer and, March 31, all remaining merchandise and equipment was auctioned off. It is too late to save the farm and nursery, but perhaps it is not too late to save some of our history.

The property sold includes the original produce store and family farm house, built in 1800. These structures could be moved and preserved, but something needs to be done now. Greenmead Historical Park cannot take the buildings because they are in Westland and it only accepts Livonia buildings.

The Westland Historical Commission would love to have the buildings, but simply doesn't have the space for them. However, it is saving one of the booths, the original sign and many historic photographs.

At least a piece of our heritage will be persevered, but I haven't given up. I've been trying to contact the Wilson Barn Commission and Greenfield Village. If nothing is done, this legacy will be lost forever.

Kim Petersen
Livonia

Saddened by the loss

When I read the article about Clyde Smith's farm market closing, it really saddened me. I have visited there since I was a child. But since I am also a nature and wildlife enthusiast (my yard is registered with the National Wildlife Federation through its Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program, certificate No. 9074), my first thought was how wildlife will once again

have the squeeze put on them.

Will large beautiful trees be destroyed? Animals won't know there will be a boundary between this 120-house development and Holliday Park Nature Preserve which runs along Clyde Smith's. Will these people who buy these homes complain because raccoons or deer are in their back yards? Will People tramp through Holliday Park and not respect it?

It would be close dumping ground for some or a handy spot for teen-agers to drink or get high. I would imagine wildlife was free to roam the back yard of Clyde Smith's.

I have seen so much cruelty towards wildlife by people around me, I can't help but be concerned. It's a shame that all land eventually gets developed and not left alone. There are a lot of big buildings sitting empty, why not put houses in these spots.

I pray that the developer who is taking on the project takes into consideration that there is a nature preserve very close by. If the animals could talk, I'm sure they would say, "We were here first."

I know this kind of thing will keep going on as long as there is a little land to keep cramming houses on. I could go on and on, but I'll shut up for now.

Vickie and Rosa Brown
Garden City

Overspending occurring

Since day one, it has been a ploy for Michigan to say that profits from the gambling casinos goes to support schools. Obviously, this was used to get voter support.

But the fact is, the money goes directly into the coffers of the state of Michigan. The state then transfers this money to schools in place of what it is required by law to do even without the gambling profits.

This money is not in addition to normal school budgeted money, but supplants it. Over the years, the state has used the normal school money for other purposes (some good and some bad).

Apparently, it's part of the overspending that has been going on. Give them a buck and they will say "Where can we spend it?"

Dave Mackley
Oakland Township

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"It's an opportunity a lot of students might never have via their family. It's a great week for them to explore and branch off."

Band director Scott Cramer about a trip by John Glenn and Wayne Memorial High School students to Walt Disney World

WESTLAND
Observer
PUBLISHED THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

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

State Legislature fumbles education financing ball

Your boss tells you in May that you'll get a 4 percent raise come September. Come September, he tells you that it's really going to be a 3.5 percent raise in December.

In December he tells you he's probably going to have to cut your salary by 1 percent in January.

Wouldn't you wonder about your boss' budgeting skills, if not his sanity?

Yet that's the position Michigan school districts find themselves in this year with regard to the state Legislature.

At various times, it had been announced that school districts would receive anywhere from \$210 more to \$14 less per student for the current school year, which by the way is heading into its final months with no firm decision from Lansing either way.

Is that any way to run things? Of course not.

Yet, that's how we do it in Michigan. Some, of course, argue that we already pay too much for public education, that union salaries and benefits are hopelessly inflated and far out of line with today's economic realities.

School officials, some argue, need to "get the message" when it comes to collective bargaining.

There's some truth to that. But it's worth noting that in, for example, Southfield — long one of Michigan's softest touches on wages and benefits — school board members have gone well over a year without reaching contract agreements and have even gone on record advocating a two-tier pension system for school retirees, a change which would save millions each year for the state's financially strapped public school districts.

Contracts, however, aren't bargained every year. Any cut in state spending is more likely to be reflected in layoffs or program losses rather than wage and benefit concessions.

Michigan long ago took school financing out of the hands of locals and gave it to the Legislature.

Yet unless legislators are firm and fast in their budget-making — and they're not — even the most frugal school districts to shoot at continually

In the most recent "Smartest State" ranking — an evaluation based on a state's support for public education — Michigan ranked a mere 39th. On that list, we're not just behind New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts, but also behind Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia.

moving budget targets. Michigan's economy is crumbling before our eyes, but education remains our best option, perhaps our only option, out of our state's economic morass.

Yet, in the most recent "Smartest State" ranking — an evaluation based on a state's support for public education — Michigan ranked a mere 39th. On that list, we're not just behind New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts, but also behind Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia.

Worse, Michigan fell 12 places from the previous ranking and it was the biggest drop of any of the 50 states. On the bell curve, the student in 39th place out of 50 gets a D-minus. Maybe that's the grade Lansing deserves on support for education.

The survey is compiled by the Morgan Quitno Press, a Kansas-based organization which compiles state rankings on a variety of factors including public health and public safety. Its Smartest State rankings are based on 21 factors ranging from school spending, to student scores on standardized achievement tests to teacher/pupil ratios.

The survey and methodology behind it are available at www.morganquitno.com. They might be valid or might be hokey.

But given the crazy way we finance our schools, I'm leaning toward the former.

Wayne Peal is editor of the Southfield Eccentric. You can write him at 605 E. Maple, Birmingham, send him an e-mail at wpeal@hometownlife.com or send him a fax at (248) 644-1314.



Wayne Peal

Vote for Proposal 1

May 8, 2007, is the date for a critical vote in our community of Wayne. Proposal 1 asks you to vote to approve 1 mill for 25 years for the purpose of maintaining and repairing city roads and sidewalks. These funds can be used only for the actual work.

In our present economy, where the state continues to cut our city's revenue, the city has few dollars available to take care of our roads and sidewalks. Therefore, in order to maintain this critical service, you are being asked to approve Proposal 1.

With the passage of the Proposal 1, it will cost each homeowner the following:

- House worth \$100,00, cost to homeowner \$50 per year.
- House worth \$150,00, cost to homeowner \$75 per year.
- House worth \$200,00, cost to homeowner \$100 per year.
- House worth \$250,00, cost to homeowner \$125 per year.

Well-maintained roads and sidewalks are vital to our community. Whether your road is gravel, asphalt or concrete, it needs attention to prolong its usefulness, as do sidewalks.

Currently your area may have brand new roads due to sewer replacement projects, but the preservation of these roads takes money that our city does not have. Asphalt roads need the same attention. Gravel roads need to be professionally graded, and the city has neither the equipment to do it nor the money to have it done.

Public sidewalks — which often heave or crack, causing safety hazards — would be taken care of under Proposal 1. The city would become responsible for the repair of all of the public sidewalks fronting residential and business properties located beside city, county and state roads.

No matter where you live in Wayne, your well-being is impacted by the quality of the city streets you drive upon or the sidewalks where you walk. Please consider this issue carefully and join with me in voting yes for Proposal 1 on May 8, 2007.

Donna McEachern
Wayne

GOP plan hurts Michigan

In a series of late night votes, Senate Republicans finally revealed their "plan" for Michigan. It will hurt Michigan families and it will not allow us to make critical investments in Michigan's future. The bills include:

- (1) Cutting \$34 in education funding per student (which means a cut, for example of \$4 million for Detroit, \$528,000 for Lansing, \$232,00 for Battle Creek, etc.) This will have a very drastic effect on our Wayne-Westland School District.
- (2) Eliminating funds for Ambulance Services, Adult Home Help, Doctors Services and Community Mental Health.
- (3) Slashing \$34 Million in funding for economic development and private job creation projects.
- (4) Cutting Medicaid.
- (5) Reducing funding for child care, food stamps and foster care.

In part because the bills were kept secret and then introduced and offered for votes late Thursday, March 22, the details remain unclear.

The bottom line is this: The Republicans' "plan" will hurt Michigan people, and it cuts the very things we need to end Michigan's economic crisis and revitalize Michigan's economy.

LETTERS

In tough economic times, it is critical to invest in our people to prepare for the knowledge-based jobs that will grow Michigan's economy. We cannot afford to slash investments in education, public safety and health care at the exact moment when the economy demands this kind of investment to ensure that Michigan is competitive.

The governor's plan is comprehensive. It includes spending cuts, government reforms and revenues.

On Thursday, March 22, the governor introduced an executive order cutting spending by \$344 million for this year. Many of the cuts are painful, but she protects the most vital investments for Michigan's future, and vital services that Michigan citizens depend on. Yet this is only the first step, covering just 10 percent of the \$3.4 billion deficit.

The governor's full plan will help Michigan's people succeed — in school, in the global economy and in life.

Mark Blackwell
Wayne

Silence is deafening

As is the case every time I read an article by Ms. Ahwal, I find myself angered at her arrogance and wonder why she is even given a voice in this paper. Maybe so that people like me will get angry enough to write in to rebuke her self-serving comments.

Ms. Ahwal is now claiming that "demeaning Arabs is becoming a national sport" and that "hateful rhetoric" is "dehumanizing an entire Arab-Muslim world." Well, the second part I certainly agree with. My view of the Arab-Muslim world is pretty de-humanized. Let's see ... beheadings, kidnappings, mass murder, persecution of religious groups, kidnapping and killing of neutral reporters, suicide bombers, Chlorine-laced bombs, education of children to hate and become martyrs, refusal to recognize the state of Israel and renounce violence, systematic oppression against women.

The list goes on and on from Belsan, Russia, to Thailand, to Madrid, to London, to the United States, to Mogadishu. But yes, the groups that perform these acts are just a small minority that has hijacked the peaceful religion of Islam.

Well, the enormous outcry of condemnation from the peaceful majority of the 1.4 billion Muslims worldwide has been absolutely deafening! Instead, we hear from the Muslim community that we are racists, bigots, colonialists, murderers and liars. That I have certainly heard.

Yes, please, let's end this war now and get our U.S. citizens out of that madness and let the radicals kill each other. What started as a noble cause has turned into some kind of sick display of human depravity. Even worse, U.S. citizens are dying over there and those stateside are fighting one another in a war of words.

Let's face it, most of the Arab-Muslim world is much different than American society with a long history of violence and religious strife. How foolish of us to think that toppling a brutal dictator would bring order and peace to this region. Let's get out and get out quick!

Ah, but then the big, bad U.S. will be criticized as racists for allowing the ethnic cleansing to take place. I can hear Ms. Ahwal's fingers typing now. Americans don't need more lecturing from the likes of Terry Ahwal. I believe her efforts would be better spent on getting her own Arab-Muslim community to stand up and demand change within its own ranks.

Up until this point, your silence has been deafening — in southeast Michigan, throughout the U.S. and worldwide!

Brian Hill
Plymouth

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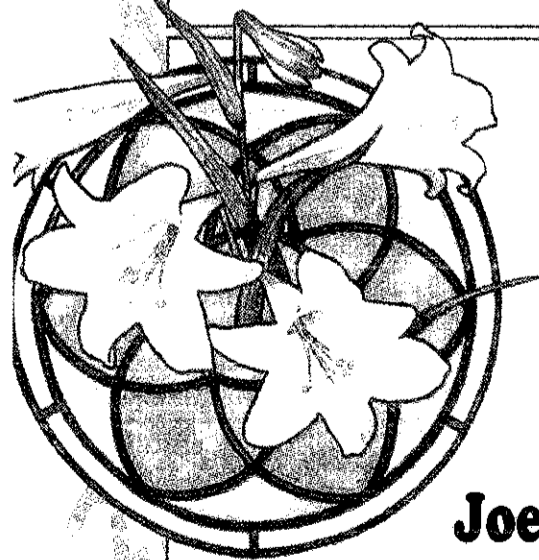
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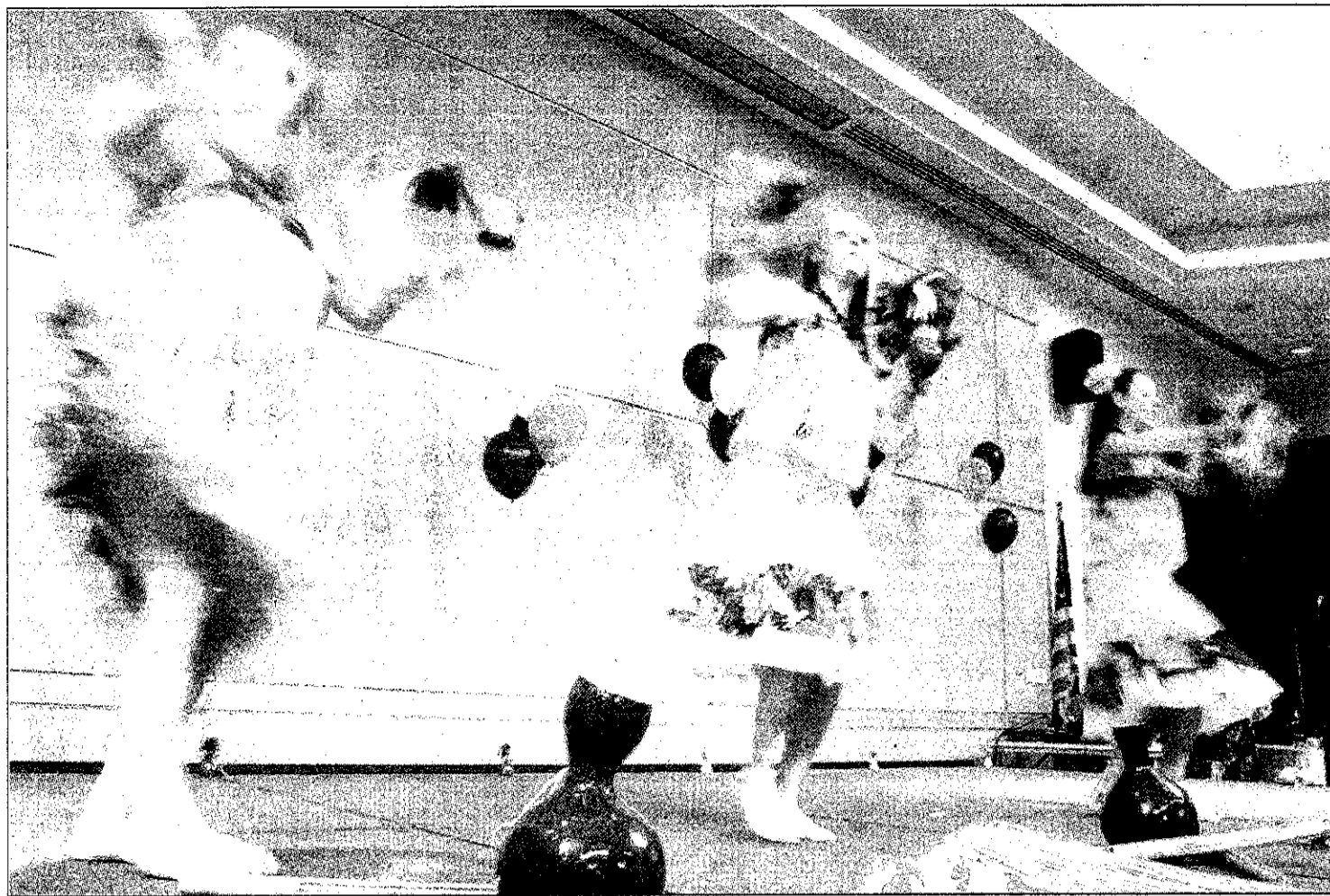
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Dancers from Sandy Adams School of Dance perform some traditional Hawaiian dances during the Schoolcraft College Multicultural Fair Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

MHS sponsors summer day camp

Back by popular demand, the Michigan Humane Society's Summer Tails Day Camp returns for its second season. The week-long camp is a hands-on, interactive animal learning experience for children this summer.

Summer Tails Day Camp will be offered in seven one-week sessions beginning June 25 at the three MHS centers for animal care, held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Summer Tail Day Camp will be offered at the following dates and MHS locations:

■ Detroit adoption center the weeks of July 30 and Aug. 6.

■ Rochester Hills adoption center the weeks of Aug. 20 and 27.

■ Berman adoption center in Westland the weeks of June 25, July 16 and July 23.

Summer Tail Day Camp is age-appropriate, with program materials suited to learning styles and maturity levels. The program is open to Junior Paw Pals (children ages 7 and 8), Paw Pals (children 9 to 11) and senior Paw Pals (ages 12 and 13).

"Summer Tails offer kids with a love for animals the opportu-

nity to experience animal welfare first-hand," says Kimberly Korona, community humane initiatives coordinator at the Michigan Humane Society.

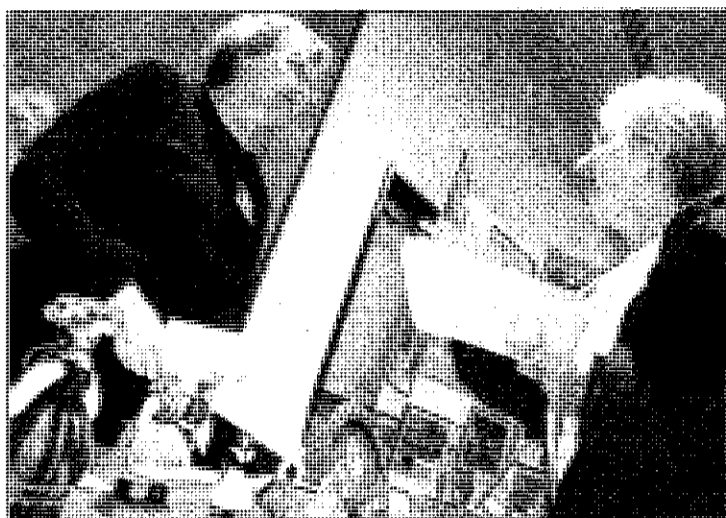
To provide the optimal learning experience for each Paw Pal, MHS has collaborated with other animal welfare organizations to expand and enhance knowledge of animal issues, humane training techniques and veterinary medicine. Children will also learn about ferrets from members of the Midwest Fellowship and may even get a visit with one of the stars of the Animal Planet *Animal Cops*, Detroit.

A scholarship program is available to ensure Summer Tails Day Camp is available for all children interested in attending. Registration and scholarship forms are available at all three MHS locations: 7401 Chrysler Drive, Detroit; 3600 W. Auburn Road, Rochester; and, 900 N. Newburgh Road, Westland.

For more information about Summer Tails Day Camp, visit www.michiganhumane.org or contact Kimberly Korona at (248)799-7400, ext. 127 or kkorona@michiganhumane.org.



Schoolcraft College student Kristen Persh gets a Hawaiian dance lesson during the Schoolcraft College Multicultural Fair.



Evelyn Nash of Westland, right, talks with Joanne Napiewocki-Brady at the Poland display during the Schoolcraft College Multicultural Fair Wednesday.

Schoolcraft celebrates world cultures

Schoolcraft College students and the community has an opportunity to take a trip around the world March 29 while never leaving the DiPonio Room at the VisTaTech Center.

Schoolcraft's Sixth Multicultural Fair 2007 featured exhibits, food and dance from every continent in the world.

Hawaiian and Tahitian dancers gave way to Irish Step

Dancers and the Philippine tinkling "Bamboo Dance." Display tables featured items from as faraway as China and India to as close to home as Canada and Native Americans artifacts. Visitors could converse in Arabic, French, Hindi, Korean, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian and Spanish.

At the Indian exhibit, the ancient art of henna painting was demonstrated while a video showed a Bollywood pro-

duction. The Multicultural Fair was started to promote cultural sensitivity and increase an awareness and appreciation for other cultures. The fair was organized by the Schoolcraft College International Institute.

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CALENDAR

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Worship service
At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from 1 Peter. For more information, call (313) 255-6330.
Adult literacy classes
Available for those wishing to improve their reading and writing skills. Open to adults age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day and evening hours. Call (734) 421-0472. Leave your name and phone number and someone will be in contact with you.
Personal ministry
Due Season Christian Church is a non-denominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Services are currently held at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. All are welcome. For information, call (248) 960-

8063 or visit www.DueSeason.org.
Farmington Women Aglow
Meets from 7-9:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) on the second Monday of the month in the Visitors Center (old Spicer House) at Heritage Park on Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile roads. For more information, call Linda Boone at (248) 476-1053.
Scripture studies
From 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the lower level of Our Lady of Loretto Church, Six Mile and Beech Daly, Redford. Call (313) 534-9000.
TOPS
Stands for Take Off Pounds Sensibly, the group meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weight-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight sensibly and keep it off. For more information, call Mary at (734) 394-1328.
Learner's Bible study
At 7 p.m. Mondays, in Room A101, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 W. Six Mile, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.
Church service

Loving God by loving people, meets at 10 a.m. Sunday at Westwood Community Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road at Hunter, Westland. Doughnuts and coffee served. Call (734) 254-0093.
Senior activities
Gathering for seniors 50 years and older at 11:30 a.m. on the third Friday of every month at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 464-0990. Put together a salad dish and come out and meet other seniors. Lunch is served followed by fellowship with some games and stories.
Church activities
St. James Presbyterian Church offers a Thursday dinner at 6 p.m. for \$5 prepared by Susan Navarro. The Cookie Lady, followed by Bible study at 7 p.m. and Chancel Choir rehearsal at 8 p.m.; Thrift store is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday; 10 a.m. women's study group second Saturday of the month, and Sunday worship at 10 a.m. (nursery available) and children's class at 10:15 a.m. at 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Eucharistic adoration
The monthly program of Parish Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration continues the third Wednesday of each month at St. Michael's Church of Livonia, corner of Plymouth and Hubbard roads. The church will be open for worship from 10 a.m. until the 7 p.m. Benediction service. For information, call (734) 261-5331.
Worship services
All are welcome to attend worship service at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Five Mile and Inkster roads, Livonia. Service is held at 10 a.m. every Sunday with an education hour all for ages at 9 a.m. Call (734) 422-1470.
Unity of Livonia
Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays at 28660 Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster roads. Call (734) 421-1760.
Shabbat services
The doors of Congregation Beit Kodesh, a Conservative synagogue at 31840 W. Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, are open to the Jewish community of southeastern Michigan. Call (248) 477-8974.
Bet Chaverim

Services are open to all living in the western counties including Canton, Plymouth, Livonia, and Northville. The congregation follows traditions of Reform Judaism. Interfaith families welcome to attend services at 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. Call (734) 646-3864 for information or visit www.betchaverim.com.
Detroit World Outreach
A nondenominational church with cutting edge drama productions, energized contemporary music, high-tech video and lighting, programs for kids and teens, for college students, singles, married adults and seniors. Services are at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday (6:30 p.m. the first Sunday of the month), Sunday school for all ages at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call (313) 255-2222.
Trinity Episcopal Church
Sunday Services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Wednesday service at 6:15 p.m., Bible Studies and Worship Center for all ages, at 11575 Belleville Road, (four miles south of Michigan Avenue), Belleville. Parents with Young Children Bible Study at 6 p.m. Sundays, includes dinner and child care. Call (734) 699-3361.

Shabbat Rocks
A musical celebration precedes traditional Shabbat service once a month at Adat Shalom Synagogue, 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. For more information, call (248) 851-5100 or visit www.adatshalom.org.
English classes
Conversational English as a Second Language classes are being offered for adults of all ages and backgrounds at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. Tutors will work on a one-to-one ratio to help students better understand and speak the English language. No charge. To register, call (734) 525-0191 or (734) 522-6830.
Sunday school
Congregation Beit Kodesh, at 31840 Seven Mile, between Farmington and Merriman, Livonia, is registering children, age 4 and up, for Sunday school. Financial assistance available. Special discounts for new members. For more information, call (248) 477-8974.

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11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship
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For Church Directory changes and information regarding advertising in this directory, please call Donna Hart (734) 953-2153 the Friday before publication. To mail copy: The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or Fax to (734) 953-2121

Weigh pros and cons of taking early Social Security benefits

Recently, I sat down with couples who have taken early retirement from the auto industry and many of them also are eligible to collect Social Security. The question is whether it is beneficial to accept Social Security early or not. One client stated that she had heard it is never beneficial to accept Social Security before you can collect your full benefit. My answer to her was there are very few absolutes in the financial world and, in fact, in many cases taking Social Security early is a good move.

It is important first to understand the rules. Many believe they receive full benefits at age 65, but this is not the case. If you were born between 1943 and 1954, your full benefits don't kick in until you reach 66 years of age. Therefore, the benefit of receiving early benefits is that you are going to receive Social Security payments for a longer period of time. The downside, of course, is that your benefits are reduced. Everyone is eligible to begin to receive Social Security at 62, however, if you accept benefits at that point you will receive up to a 25 percent reduction in benefits.

Although there are a variety of factors to consider, the break-even point is approximately when someone is in their early 80s. That means if someone accepts early benefits and they are living past their early 80s, they would have collected more if they would have deferred benefits.

Another item is the give back rules. If you accept early benefits and you continue to work, you may have to surrender some of those benefits. If you make more than \$12,960 in 2007, for every two dollars you earn over the limit (\$12,960) you will surrender one dollar in benefits. Therefore, if you make \$25,000, you are \$12,040 over the limit which means you will lose a little over \$6,000 in benefits. This is not a permanent loss because future benefits are recomputed and adjusted. Taking early benefits is a permanent lifetime reduction.

Another issue is tax consequences. Many people believe Social Security is not taxed. However, that's not the case. To determine whether your Social Security is subject to tax, start with what is known as a base amount (basically your income plus half the Social Security benefits you receive plus any income from municipal bonds). If you are single and your base amount is over \$25,000 or married and your base amount is over \$32,000, then 50 percent of your Social Security is subject to income tax. If your base amount is \$34,000 and you're single or \$44,000 and you're married, then 85 percent of your Social Security is subject to income tax.

After factoring in various



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

issues, my general rule is only consider taking early Social Security benefits if you need the money to cover your living

expenses. If you don't need the money, then it pays to delay taking the benefits.

In addition, if you are subject to the give-back rules and you were going to give back half or more of your benefits, then it generally pays to delay taking benefits. On the other hand, if your pension does not cover your living expenses, then taking Social Security early may be a benefit to you.

If it comes down to tapping your investments or collecting Social Security early, it depends upon the type of investor you are. If you are conservative and investing in CDs and government bonds, then for those individuals I would recommend using my investment portfolio for my income needs and delay accepting Social Security. If you have stocks and growth

mutual funds in your portfolio then I generally would recommend tapping Social Security early to cover my needs allowing the investments to reinvest and grow. The theory is over the long run a well-balanced and diversified portfolio will return substantially more than the loss from Social Security.

The bottom line of whether to accept Social Security early or not is an individual deci-

sion. The key is to base it upon the factors I have discussed, not what everyone else is doing.

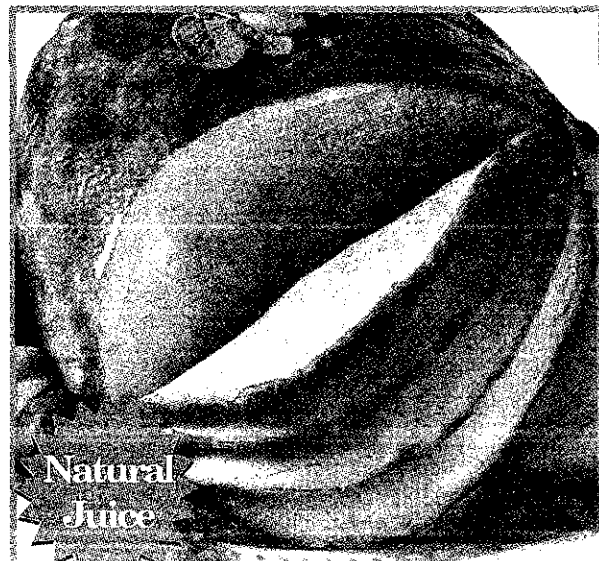
Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money-matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit his Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

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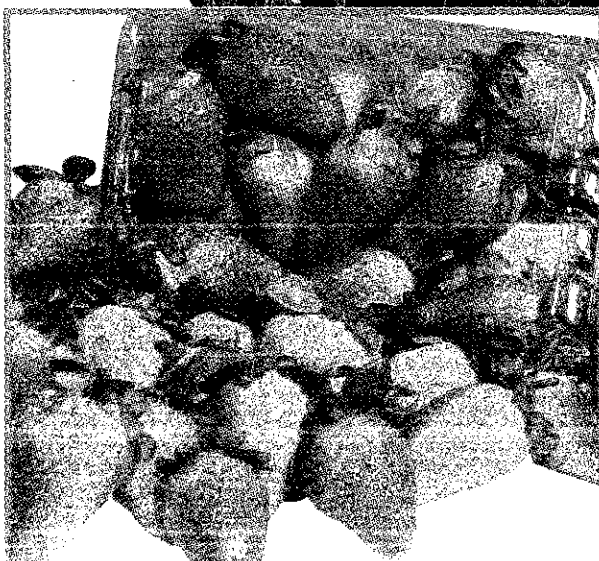
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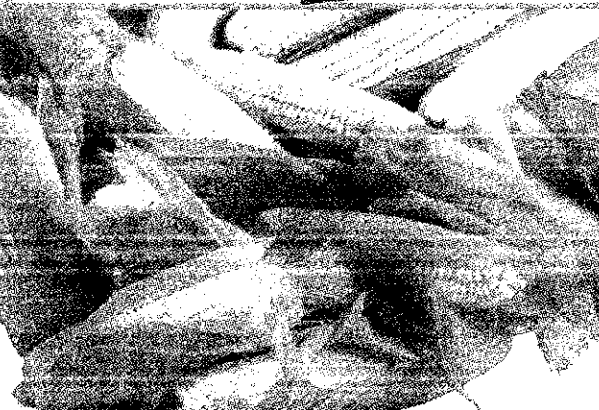
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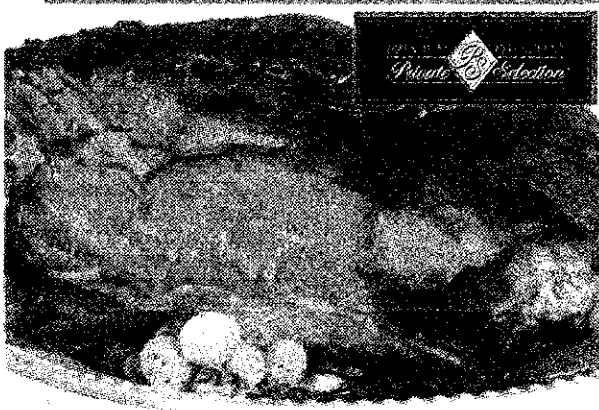


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SPORTS

B (LW)

Thursday, April 5, 2007

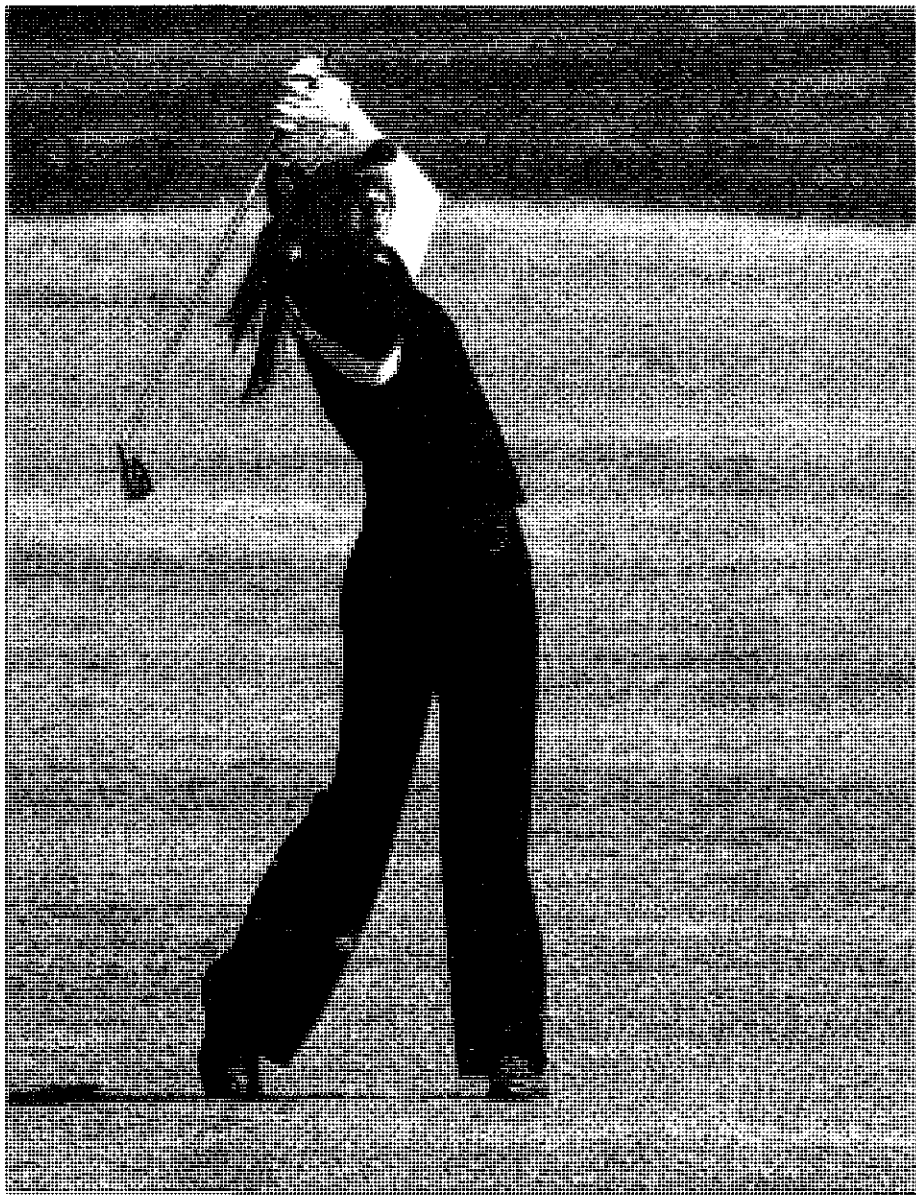
The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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So what happens next?

Sports seasons turned upside-down; athletes feel pinch



Churchill's Shannon Warner is the Division 1 girls golf defending state champion.

Livonia Churchill High's Shannon Warner didn't feel too good at all Monday at school.

That's because she's already become the area's poster child — or first big casualty — of the U.S. Supreme Court decision which mandates Michigan's prep sports seasons to be aligned with the 49 other states.

The sports seasons switch, which moves girls basketball to the winter and volleyball to the fall, affects Warner and thousands of athletes in this state who must now choose between one sport or another — beginning this fall.



Brad Emons

The nine-year legal battle also will have a ripple effect on coaches and administrators — and, yes, force fans to make difficult and painful choices for the 2007-08 school year and beyond.

Communities For Equity, a Grand Rapids-based parent group, filed the suit because it deemed the Michigan High School Athletic Association used discriminating practices in its sports seasons schedule.

The resolution of the case also means boys and girls golf and tennis will flip-flop seasons — girls golf now goes to the fall (with volleyball) and boys golf switches to the spring; boys tennis is now set for the fall and girls tennis moves to the spring.

Where does Warner come in? She's the defending Division 1 state medalist in girls golf and a key reserve on Churchill's recently crowned Class A state championship volleyball team.

And unless the Livonia Public Schools



Shannon Warner (bottom) also plays volleyball, but it conflicts with golf during the fall season after the MHSAA lost its gender equity case.

allows her the opportunity to do both sports in the fall — a policy that would have to change — Warner will have to choose between golf and volleyball.

In fact, four other Churchill volleyball players, including two swimmers (Kathryn Krupsky and Rachel Elery), two cross country runners (Jaclyn Gribeck and All-Stater Sara Kroll), along with one pom pon team member (Kristy DeClercq), are now faced with similar decision.

"I'm kind of upset because those are my two most favorite sports," Warner said. "The two sports are totally different. Winning 'states' (in volleyball), going to play with all the girls on the whole team,

PLEASE SEE EMONS, B2

Sidelines

MU golfers 3rd

The Madonna University men's golf team returned to the links over the weekend and placed third out of seven teams at the Kenyon College Invitational at Apple Valley Golf Course in Howard, Ohio.

Wittenberg (Ohio) University, took home the team title led by medalist Andrew Flint's two-day total of 155.

The Crusaders finished 19 shots behind second place College of Wooster (Ohio) and 26 shots behind Wittenberg.

Westland's Steve South (Livonia Franklin H.S.) carded a 161 during the two-day event to finish in ninth place.

Steve Robinson (Livonia Churchill) recorded a tournament best 75 on the second day of the tournament. He finished in 12th place with a 163 overall.

Justin Taurence (Wyandotte Roosevelt) and Tom Voyer (Ortonville Brandon) tied for a 17th place finish after each shot 167 during the tournament.

The Crusaders will return to the links on Saturday at the Siena Heights Invitational at Lenawee Country Club in Adrian.

Chandler signs

Madonna University women's soccer coach Paul Thomas recently announced the signing of five Michigan high school seniors to join the Crusaders squad for the 2007 season.

The recruits include Livonia Stevenson's Jamie Chandler along in-state prospects Ellen O'Rear, Madison Heights Bishop Foley; Chelsea Skinner and Katie Kozlowski, both of Dearborn Heights Crestwood; and Sarah Rokuski, Algonac.

Chandler, a senior captain, is a three-year varsity player who earned All-Division honors as a junior.

"Jamie is a very versatile and tenacious player," Thomas said. "She can fit in multiple positions along the back row or in the midfield. Her versatility will help to provide depth to our roster next fall."

MU adds catcher

The Madonna University women's softball team recently added their third recruit for the 2008 season, signing prep catcher Ashley Shay (Dearborn Divine Child HS) to a letter of intent.

The All-Catholic League and Division II All-Region pick is coming off a junior season that saw her hit .380 with two home runs and 34 RBI's for the Falcons.

She becomes the third player to sign with the Crusaders for the 2008 season, joining Tara LaMilza (Harper Woods Regina) and Kelly Lesko (Trenton).

Shay is a National Honor Society member with perfect attendance and plans to study Nursing when she officially enrolls at MU.

Lergs lead MSU to Frozen 4 frontier

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Cousins Jeff and Bryan Lerg of Livonia would like to do remake a 1944 Oscar-winning production this weekend, and call it, *Meet Me in St. Louis*.

That's where the NCAA Hockey Tournament, known as the Frozen Four, will be held starting today at the Scottrade Center when Michigan State (24-13-3) takes on Maine (23-14-2) followed by North Dakota (24-13-5) and Boston College (28-11-1).

The winners meet for the championship on Saturday.

It is MSU's first appearance in the Frozen Four since 2001 and the 11th overall, courtesy of a 2-1 victory March 24 over top-ranked Notre Dame in the Midwest Regional final held at Van

COLLEGE HOCKEY

Andel Arena in Grand Rapids.

In that game, MSU got goals from Chris Mueller and Tim Kennedy and a spectacular effort from Jeff Lerg (19 saves), who was named Regional Tournament MVP.

Jeff has appeared in all 40 games for the Spartans, while Bryan Lerg, a 5-10, 175-pound junior forward, has also been making music all season long. Bryan had an assist in the win over Boston College and ranks second in point production for the Spartans with 23 goals and 13 assists with a plus-12 rating.

Bryan, who came through the U.S. National Team Development program, has eight game-winning goals this season. He was named the team's

Outstanding Offensive Player at the team's banquet.

The 5-foot-6, 150-pound Jeff Lerg certainly stood tall in both regional wins, upstaging two of the nation's top goal-tenders including David Brown of Notre Dame and John Curry of Boston College (in a 5-1 semifinal victory).

"First off, I have said all along that these guys (Brown and Curry) deserve all the recognition they get," Jeff Lerg said in a postgame MSU press conference release. "They have been Nos. 1 and 2 in the nation all year. But, I know that when I am on my game and keep things simple, I can compete with anyone. I know that if I can make all the saves I am supposed to plus two or three big ones, I give the team a chance to win.

PLEASE SEE LERGS, B4

Patriot coach Jobbitt bids adieu, retires

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

On the heels of his induction into the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association Hall of Fame only last month, Livonia Franklin's Terry Jobbitt decided it was time to bow out.

The 57-year-old Jobbitt, the Patriots' varsity coach the past 25 years, leaves with an overall record of 292-257-56.

"The decision to resign was one of the hardest decisions I have ever made," Jobbitt said.

"I feel that 25 years is enough time at Franklin. The last couple of years my knees have been getting worse and it has become difficult to skate and do the things the things the way I would like on the ice. The mind is still good, but the body is going. Another reason is I have coached at one level or another since 1971."



Jobbitt

Jobbitt guided Franklin to one regional title (1985) and two runner-up finishes (2001 and 2002). He also led the Patriots to a Western Division crown in the Western Lakes Activities Association (2001).

"Coaching at Franklin has been pure enjoyment," Jobbitt said. "I have hundreds of good memories that will always be with me. I have made countless friends with my former players and they still remain in contact with me. In fact, four of them came back and were my former assistant coaches — Dan Phelps, Tim Olschanski, Scott Williams and Ryan Tracy."

Jobbitt, who works in the insurance business and lives in Canton with his wife, Kathy, also devotes much of his time as a volunteer for Special Olympics. He has also taken an active part in the community with the local chamber of commerce.

PLEASE SEE JOBBITT, B4

Cougars' day

Chargers no match, fall 10-0

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Making their hits count, Garden City routed Livonia Churchill 10-0 in a Tuesday nonleague varsity softball contest.

Garden City (4-0) needed just 4.5 innings to win the mercy-rule shortened game against the visiting Chargers (1-1).

"They got key hits when they needed to," lamented Churchill rookie coach Meghan Misiak-Hall.

The biggest was a grand slam to left by senior shortstop Kelly Floetke, to give the Cougars a 6-0 margin in the second. Soon, the score was 10-0, largely thanks to a two-run triple in the third by junior catcher Katie Torok.

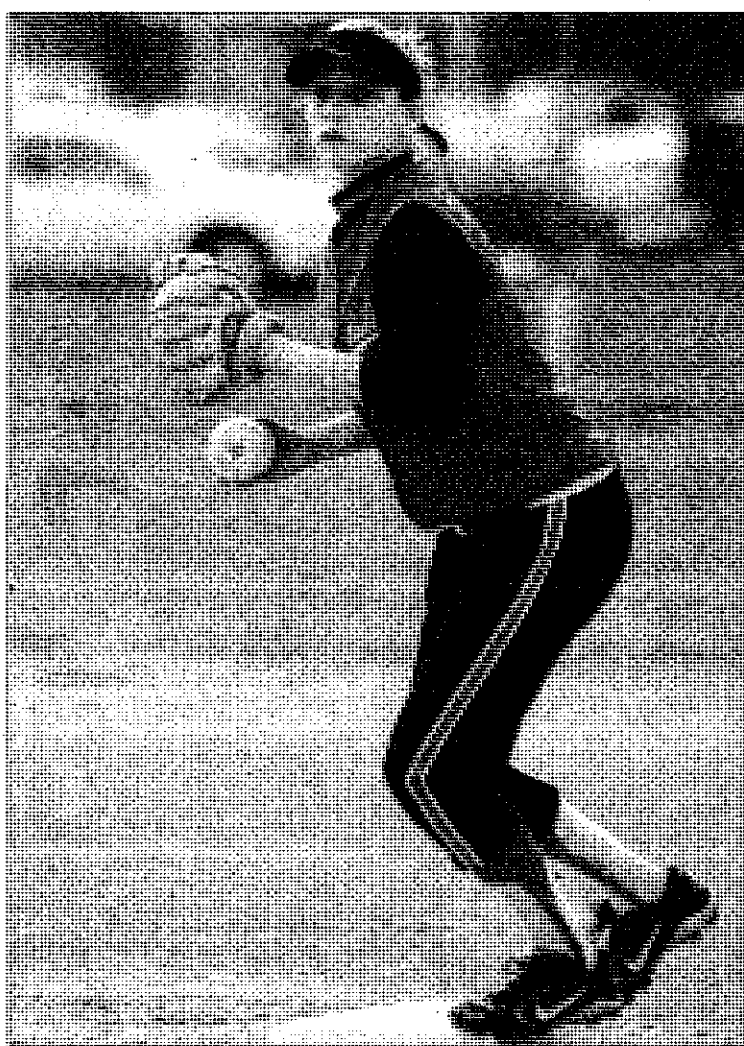
"Floetke had the really big swing to break it open," said Cougars head coach Barry Patterson. "She was able to hit it on a line, and it kept rolling and rolling out there. That put enough distance between us and made it hard for them (Chargers) to come back."

Hall said mental mistakes by her defense helped fuel some of the Garden City scoring.

For example, infielders waited too long to throw to first base on some plays, enabling batters to reach safely. Another time, a pop up fell between two hesitant outfielders to kick-start a four-run rally in the third that made it 10-0.

"We'll try to overcome and learn from our mistakes," she said.

It turned out there was little margin for error because the Chargers really hit the ball hard only in the first against Garden City junior pitcher Hallie Minch, who had



Churchill second baseman Paula Guzik looks to make the turn after a putout against Garden City.

PLEASE SEE COUGARS, B3

MHSAA director Roberts defends group's actions

BY MARTY BUDNER
STAFF WRITER

John E. "Jack" Roberts, Executive Director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, was disappointed with Monday's loss in the sports gender-equity lawsuit case.

But he was not disappointed with the effort his organization gave.

Diane Madsen, a mom from the state's west side who believed all along that Michigan's prep female athletes were discriminated against, was thrilled that the Supreme Court decided not to hear an appeal of a U.S. District court decision originally levied against the MHSAA back in 2001. She's glad the whole gender-equity issue is finally resolved and the girls are now on equal footing with the boys.

Roberts felt the MHSAA was simply upholding the wishes of its membership schools across the state. Time after time, in surveys filled out by various high school administrators, the mandate was given to continue the fight against Communities for Equity (CFE) - Madsen's Grand Rapids-based group that filed the original lawsuit in 1998.

Backed by his constituency and financed by a \$2 million insurance policy, Roberts firmly battled for nine years to maintain the status quo in the state's prep sports seasons schedule.

Just because Michigan was the only state in the country where girls played basketball in the fall and volleyball in the winter, the MHSAA insisted it was not a good enough reason to change. Roberts believed his organization complied with all Title IX regulations and was non-discriminatory in the way it conducted its scheduling.

Roberts defended the decision to continually challenge the various court setbacks over the years.

"If ever our constituents had said we should not defend the current seasons because they are not beneficial to boys and girls, then the MHSAA would not have defended those decisions," he said at a press conference at the MHSAA's East Lansing headquarters late Monday afternoon. "Because our constituents believe their seasons structure is much better than what the District Court had ordered, the MHSAA gave its best effort to defend those seasons. And we did so without any expenditure of time or money by schools, and without any distraction from MHSAA services to those schools.

"Ultimately our efforts to preserve the schools' seasons have been unsuccessful. We have to apologize to schools, not for making the efforts, but for not making successful efforts. We are disappointed with the results; but we couldn't have lived with ourselves if we were also disappointed with the effort."

Madsen and the CFE, on the other hand, consistently argued it was disadvantageous for the girls to play winter volleyball. The CFE believed the girls were not only discriminated against, but were not afforded the proper scholarship opportunities as players across the nation were.

"I am very happy that young women in Michigan will now have all the opportunities and benefits that they are entitled to under the law that the boys have had all along," said Madsen on Tuesday evening. "The overall importance of this decision is not about athletics. The overall importance is that gender discrimination is wrong. That can't happen in Michigan.

"I realize that it will be a tough couple of years of change, but it's time for everyone to get together. Forty-nine other states have done it this way and we can learn from them."

EMONS

FROM PAGE B1

is awesome. It was the atmosphere, and everybody there to celebrate, it was so much fun."

Warner said she would like the opportunity to do both sports in the fall if she can work it out.

Several area schools are affected, but Churchill appears to be the hardest hit.

Varsity volleyball coach Mark Grenier would lose his freshman and JV coaches, Jacqui Gatt and Amy Szymanski, because they play for Madonna University in the fall.

Girls golf coach Gary Harper is also an assistant in football, while Reid Friedrichs is the varsity boys tennis and soccer coach. Chad Jenkins, a JV coach, will now have to choose between girls or boys basketball.

"They talk about opportunities, but it denies," Grenier said. "It definitely puts a chink in the armor. It's certainly a tough scenario in the short term. Kids now have five options in the fall. You won't see the ill effects until two or three years down the road."

Jack Roberts, the MHSAA executive director who fought valiantly for nine years on behalf of the member schools who unanimously supported his cause, must be doing a slow burn along Trowbridge Road in East Lansing. His legacy is at stake to some extent, but he certainly has thousands of sympathizers.

Ironically, in all my travels over the years discussing this case, I have yet to find one female coach or female administrator who didn't support the MHSAA's stand.

Communities For Equity's argument was that volleyball being played in the winter put Michigan female athletes at a disadvantage for college scholarship opportunities. But in all truth, Michigan got over-

CHANGES IN THE WIND

When the United States Supreme Court decided not to hear the Michigan High School Athletic Association's appeal, it opened the doors for the following changes in the high school sports schedule:

- girls basketball will be moved from the fall to the winter;
- girls volleyball will be moved from the winter to the fall;
- boys tennis will be moved from the spring to the fall;
- girls tennis will be moved from the fall to the spring;
- boy golf will be moved from the fall to the spring; and
- girls golf will be moved from the spring to the fall.

recruited by colleges in both sports because of the "abnormal seasons."

"I disagree with the whole thing totally," said Stevenson's Kelly Graham, who has coached track and field and volleyball for 20 years. "Michigan was in the top three (states) for volleyball scholarships. It was not a great argument for whoever. Some schools (colleges) are going to lose scouting time. It's not a good move."

The big winner in all this is "the beast," AAU volleyball, which now gets a contiguous six-month season (winter and spring).

But the big loser is high school girls basketball, which could butt heads for media attention on Friday nights with hockey and boys basketball.

The Western Lakes Activities Association athletic directors have a contingency schedule already in place — except for boys and girls basketball.

The ADs from the WLAA met Tuesday in response to season switches and will continue to study a schedule plan at another meeting set for April 26.

Do you play girls and boys basketball on the same night at opposite sites?

The Kensington Valley Conference has decided the boys and girls basketball teams will play the same opponent at opposite sites Tuesdays, while the second game of the week

will feature boys and girls alternating between Thursdays and Fridays.

It seems every conference or league has a different idea.

"Several things have to be considered," Franklin Athletic Director Ron Hammye said. "Of course, you've got to consider officials, fan base, the parents. Some schools have facilities issues, fitting in practices on those days if you're playing a triple-header (freshman, JV, varsity) in basketball. You also have to make sure you're still providing for the other sports in the winter like wrestling and competitive cheer."

And yes, what about officials? Will the better ones gravitate to the boys games or for the better paycheck at the college level? Are there enough of them to go around if boys and girls basketball play during the same season, while butting heads with the collegiate ranks?

Volleyball might also experience a shortage as well.

Not only do eight of coach Jerry Abraham's Madonna University players coach JV or freshman volleyball teams in the winter, but 10 of his girls are registered MHSAA officials.

They, too, will face conflicts in the fall.

"As it stands, we're struggling to find good coaches, especially at the JV and freshman levels, and it's hard to find

refs," he said.

MU has also hosted high school tournaments during the winter, but since the sport is going to the fall, Abraham won't be around to run them because his college team will be playing at the same time.

And Abraham, who led Redford Bishop Borgess High to a pair of state runner-up finishes before taking the MU job, believes the notion about Michigan's volleyball players being at a disadvantage for recruiting is basically nonsense.

"I've been one of the few (college coaches) against it (the change in seasons) the whole time," he said. "Maybe it helps all the big (NCAA) Division I programs because now they can all recruit through the big club (AAU) tournaments, but for the non-Division I schools, it's going to be a big adjustment. It forces us to recruit at the club level. I'm sure the big colleges are for it. They recruit kids when they're sophomores and juniors in high school anyway, but I guess they want it all on one level.

"Great players get recruited anyway for Division I schools or even some non-Division I schools for that matter. But a lot happens during your senior year and I'm still recruiting those kids.

"I guess I'm selfish in my posture. I'll take the same approach (recruiting). I'll just have to adjust to what they're going to do."

Kristen Galles, a Virginia civil rights attorney who represented Communities For Equity, was quoted in a *Detroit News* story that "People forget all the different ways" girls were discriminated against in Michigan high school athletics.

My question to Galles today would be: Can you look Shannon Warner in the eye and tell her she's being provided a better opportunity?

Brad Emons is sports editor of the *Livonia and Westland Observers*.

THE WEEK AHEAD

GIRLS GOLF
Thursday, April 5
John Glenn vs. N.B. Huron at Fellows Creek, 3:15 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL
Thursday, April 5
Madonna at Indiana - N'west, 2 p.m.

Friday, April 6
Madonna at St. Xavier (Ill.), 5 p.m.
Saturday, April 7
Madonna at St. Xavier (2), noon.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Thursday, April 5
Madonna at Aquinas College (2), 3 p.m.

Friday, April 6
(St. Francis, Ill. Tournament)
Madonna vs. St. Francis, 4:30 p.m.
Madonna vs. Ind. Wesleyan, 6:15 p.m.
Saturday, April 7
(St. Francis, Ill. Tournament)
Madonna vs. Lindenwood (Mo.), 10 a.m.

Madonna vs. St. Xavier (Ill.), 1:30 p.m.
Madonna vs. Harris-Stowe (Mo.), 3:15 p.m.
OHL PLAYOFFS CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
Friday, April 6
Whalers vs. Kitchener at Compuware, 7:05 p.m.
Sunday, April 8
Whalers at Kitchener, 7 p.m.



WHALERS

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Game 3 - Tuesday, April 10 at 7:05 p.m.

***Game 5 - Friday, April 13 at 7:05 p.m.**

***Game 7 - Monday, April 16 at 7:05 p.m.**

Game 2 - Sunday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Game 4 - Wednesday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

***Game 6 - Sunday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m.**

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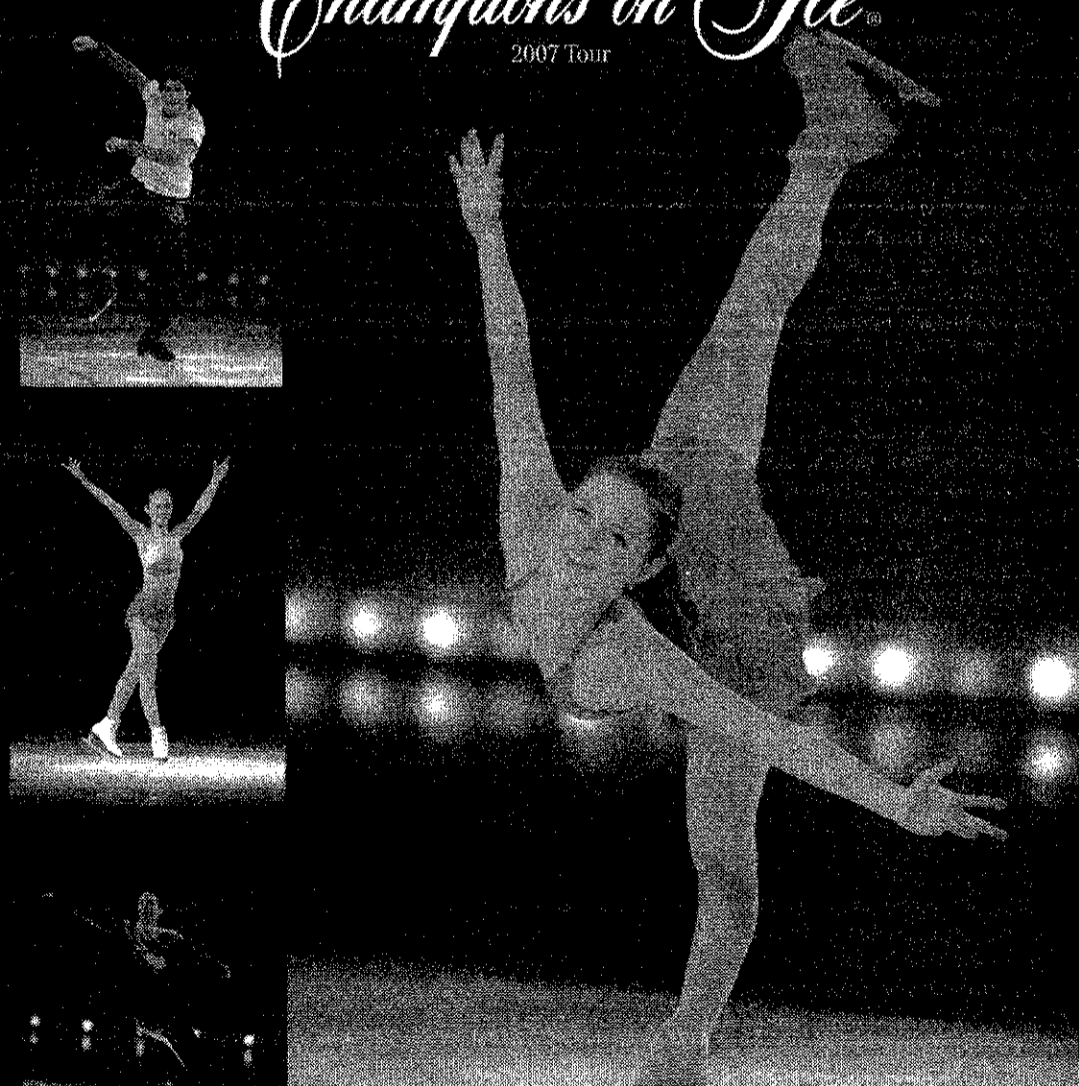
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JOBBITT

FROM PAGE B1

"I am sure that I will miss coaching at Franklin," Jobbitt said, "but I won't miss the bus rides, scouting and all the hours of preparation for games and practices. I will also miss the game within the game of playing the referees and trying to make the right moves during the game to get the advantage over my opponent. I will miss the good times with my players and fellow coaches."

"I have been very fortunate at Franklin to surround myself with great assistants - Tom Abraham, John Valsilco, Pete Caprara, Jim Wheaton, (Dan) Phelps, (Scott) Williams, (Tim) Olschanski, and (Ryan) Tracy."

Jobbitt, meanwhile, plans to stay connected to the school. "All three of my athletic directors have been great and have been very supportive through the good and bad seasons," Jobbitt said. "I can't say enough good things about the great administrators we have

at Franklin. They are very supportive of their student athletes and their coaches.

"I plan on being around high school sports, but as a spectator. I bleed red, white and blue and will be a Franklin Patriot the rest of my life."

Franklin athletic director Ron Hammye said the job will be posted through April 18, but has not set a timetable yet to hire a replacement.

"I think the thing that probably impressed me the most is that regardless of the situation, Terry tried to do it the right way and accomplish that goal," Hammye said. "He has been a part of Franklin High School the past 25 years and will remain a part of it as long as he likes. He was an inspiration to the kids involved in the Franklin program."

Those interested in the vacant varsity job should send a letter of application and resume to: Dorothy A. Chomicz, director of Human Resources, Livonia Public Schools, 15125 Farmington Road, Livonia 48154.

bemons@oe.homecomm.net | (734) 953-2123

LEGRS

FROM PAGE B1

"I was confident, and I knew I couldn't let a weak one in or they would have shut the door at the other end. It was just one of those things where I wanted to make a statement and prove myself. We have had an up and down year, but things are on the up now."

Jeff has improved his numbers during the postseason with a 1.5 goals-against average and a .949 save percentage. During the regular season, his numbers were 2.46 and .911, respectively.

And Jeff Lerg's value to the Spartans hasn't gone unnoticed by the coaching staff.

"He is very honest - as honest a kid as I have ever been around after all these years," MSU head coach Rick Comley said. "Honestly, he didn't deserve to be all-league this year because the numbers just weren't there. But in a big game, you watch him, and he just gets it done. He doesn't discredit anyone, this is his team, and they rally and focus around him."

"I think being a smaller goaltender just makes him quicker. I don't think it hurts him at all. I don't know what happened early this year, he didn't play to well, but he found a way to turn it around. We didn't give up a lot of quality opportunities, and we blocked a lot of shots, but when we needed a big save, he came up with it. He just doesn't get fazed."

Jeff's father Ken played at Ohio State, while his uncle Dan (Bryan's father) played at Michigan. Jeff migrated to East Lansing after playing for the Omaha Lancers of the U.S. Hockey League.

"This school's tradition is the reason I came here," Jeff said. "I grew up watching Michigan State go to Frozen Fours and come so close back in the day. This sophomore class, we are a real tight class. We play well together and all see opportunities down the road."

"As Chris (Mueller) said, 'We learned how to lose last year against Maine,' and we thought about it all summer. We didn't want that to happen again. We'll get another chance at them and see what happens."

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Madonna takes 3-of-4 during WHAC weekend

The Madonna University softball team swept visiting Cornerstone Saturday and followed with a split Sunday at Siena Heights, to get Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference play off to a 3-1 start.

Madonna improved to 16-9 overall while Siena Heights dropped to 10-13, 1-3.

Senior pitcher Shannon Noder earned her seventh victory of the season in Saturday's opener, a 10-1 thumping of Cornerstone.

Noder gave up six hits and did not walk a batter in seven innings of work.

At the plate, the Crusaders got off to a 4-0 first-inning lead and were never threatened.

The big gun was junior first baseman Christina Finch. She homered among three hits in four at-bats, with two runs and three RBI.

Chipping in with two hits each were Godfrey, sophomore catcher Danielle Richardson and freshman first baseman Caitlyn Sidor (Livonia Churchill).

In the second game, extra-base power sparked the

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Crusaders to a 7-2 victory. Madonna plated two runs in the third and three in the fourth to seize control early.

Junior rightfielder Heather Richardson (Canton) doubled and sophomore centerfielder Hannah Godfrey tripled - each knocking in a teammate.

And sophomore shortstop Tedi Johnston hit her second home run of the year.

Sidor hit two doubles in three at-bats, scoring two runs and driving in four.

Sunday at Siena Heights, the Saints prevailed 3-0 behind the shutout pitching of Dani Bailey, but the Crusaders rebounded in Game 2.

MU plated two runs in the top of the seventh to win 7-6 and avert a sweep as Finch keyed the winning rally, which culminated with a sacrifice fly by Danielle Richardson.

Godfrey and Sidor each collected two hits and an RBI in the win.

Noder won despite giving up five earned runs and 10 hits.

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Chargers get hat trick happy; Ladywood edges Divine Child

Livonia Churchill got a pair of hat tricks Monday in an 8-0 girls soccer victory over host Livonia Franklin.

Bailey Brandon tallied three goals and one assist in the victory, while Hannah Otto contributed three goals, including two in the second half as the Chargers improved to 2-0-1 overall.

The game ended on an eight-goal mercy with four minutes left on Julianne Puroll's second goal of the night.

Kayla Johnston and Alisha Lussiez each contributed two assists for the Chargers, who led 2-0 at halftime. Tessa Allen also drew an assist.

"Franklin played solid defense the first half," Churchill coach Dave Hebestreit said. "They packed it in the back, but we made some adjustments with our offensive formations in the second half and we got two quick goals."

That's when Franklin goalkeeper Erica Pepper left with an injury and was replaced by senior midfielder Kelly Roulier.

Stefanie Turner played the first 60 minutes in goal for the Chargers before giving way to Megan Bauman to combine on the shutout.

The Western Lakes Activities Association crossover setback drops Franklin to 1-2 overall.

"The night started out well, but things just didn't fall our way," Franklin coach Jen Barker said. "I was pleased overall with how we played - we were doing things that we wanted to and were starting to develop some chances. We adjust well to their change in system and continued to do what we had set out to do.

Things took a huge turn when our goalkeeper left with a concussion - the team came together to help out Kelly. Considering all the injuries, etc... that came up last night, the result really isn't indicative of how well we played.

GIRLS SOCCER

LADYWOOD 1, DIVINE CHILD 0: Sarah Kempa's goal midway through the second half on an assist from Caitlin Szczyпка gave Livonia Ladywood (2-2, 1-2) the Catholic League Central Division victory Tuesday at Dearborn Divine Child (1-2, 0-2).

Goalkeeper Michele Ring made nine saves for the Blazers en route to the shutout.

Coach Brent Petkus also like the aggressive play of freshman forward Shea McPartlane, who "pressured their defense very well."

STEVENSON 3, WAYNE 0: Victoria Slavin scored three of her four goals in the opening half to lead Livonia Stevenson (2-2-1) to a WAAA crossover win Monday at Wayne Memorial (1-1).

Stephanie Gutkowski and Kayla Kimble each added two goals for the Spartans, who ended the game on an eight-goal mercy rule with 25:127 left.

Kaitlyn O'Hara also contributed two assists in the victory.

LADYWOOD 4, THURSTON 1: Four different players scored Monday as Livonia Ladywood (1-2) earned its first win for rookie coach Brent Petkus against host Redford Thurston (2-2).

Sara Burnosky, Shea McPartlane, Sarah Kempa and Allison Krueger each tallied goals for the victorious Blazers, who pulled away from a 1-all halftime deadlock.

Kaitlyn Vitale assisted on the goals by Burnosky and McPartlane.

Goalkeepers Michele Ring and Alison Szczyпка combined for six saves for Ladywood.

Nicole Tolentino scored the lone goal for the Eagles, who led 1-0.

Goalkeeper Megan Schulze made nine saves in the setback.

NOTRE DAME PREP 2, LADYWOOD 1: In a Catholic League Central Division matchup Saturday, Angela Michael scored the game-winning goal on a penalty kick with only three minutes remaining to give host Pontiac Notre Dame Prep (1-0-1, 1-0-1) the win over Livonia Ladywood (0-2, 0-2).

It was 1-all at halftime as Sara Burnosky scored for the Blazers on an assist from Alison Szczyпка.

Michael countered with the first of her two goals for the Irish.

Ladywood goalie Michele Ring made 10 saves, while Notre Dame Prep's Kara Stolz had six saves.

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.

For more information, call league president Tom Amadori at (734) 261-4718; or league secretary Don Hooper at (734) 464-6975.

Drop in H.S. hockey

High school drop in hockey will be available from 3:30-5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Eddie Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon, Livonia.

The fee is \$8 per player. It is limited to 24 players and four goalies.

All players must show their high school I.D., read and sign a rules form, along with a liability waiver form.

Colt-Palomino signup

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

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

Rosters may be limited. Early registration is encouraged and forms are available in

the high school business offices. Coaches are also wanted for both divisions.

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

Girls fastpitch

Registration for the 2007 Westland Lightning girls fastpitch softball program (ages 8-16) is being held from 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. until noon Saturdays at the Westland Youth Athletic Association Compound, 6050 Farmington Road, Westland.

Birth certificates are required.

For more information, call (734) 421-0640; or visit www.wyaa.org.

Soccer signup

Registration is underway for the Livonia YMCA spring soccer for boys and girls ages 3-8, along with boys and girls under-9, -10 and -11.

The season runs April 14 through June 2 and fees vary.

For more information, call (734) 261-2161.

Komen Bowl-a-Thon

Livonia Clarenceville High School varsity girls and boys bowling coach Pam Jones will hold a fund-raiser as she participates in the Susan G. Komen for the Cure 3-day, 60-mile walk for breast cancer.

The bowling fund-raiser will be at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 12 at Country Lanes, 30250 W. Nine Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

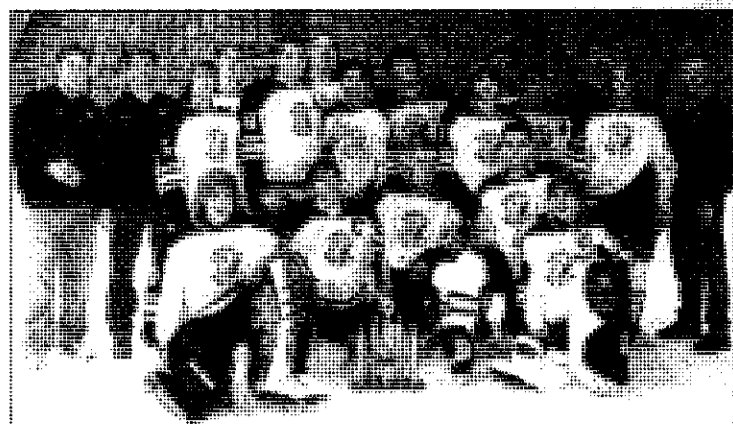
The cost is \$20 per person (includes bowling, mystery games, pizza).

Reservations are required. For more information, call Jones at (248) 476-3201.

Need pom coach

Livonia Stevenson High School has an opening for a varsity pom pon head coach.

For more information, call Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman at (734) 744-2894.



2nd in Caesars

The Livonia Bruins, a Midget B team, reached the Tier 1 championship game of the Little Caesars Amateur Hockey League before falling to the Port Huron Grizzlies, 2-1, in the championship game March 18 at Detroit's Joe Louis Arena. The Bruins, who earned a divisional title after finishing the regular season 16-1-1, advanced in postseason with playoff wins over the Woodhaven Leafs (6-4), Livonia Sharks (4-1) and Jackson Generals (3-2). Members of the Bruins, coached by Bob Regan, include: T.J. Cavanaugh, Corey DeCamillo, Kyle Ennis, Ryan Felton, Alex Hoelzel, Tod Jaggi, Andrew Kamrath, Christian Leathley, Bryan Malick, Matt Regan and Matt Yaroch, all of Livonia; Eric Anderson and Carl Anderson, Farmington Hills; Bill Streicher, Northville; Corey Edwards, Westland; and Trevor Davis, South Lyon. Assistant coaches include Terry DeCamillo, Gary Malick, Chris Lantto and Bob Leathley. The team manager is Nancy Jaggi.



Grizzlies go 10-2

The Livonia Junior Athletic League JV Grizzlies recently finished a 10-2 season with the championship game on March 12. Members of the Grizzlies include (top row, from left) Coach Jeff Lewan, Nick Armbruster, Chris Miller, Elijah Drewery, Chris Lewan, coach Tim Gorman; (middle row, from left) Jacob Wirick, Mark Daniels, Andrew Rumon, Malek Salameh, Danny Cline, Dominic Suitana; (bottom row, from left) Daniel Butler, Josh Gorman, Eric Kornaga, Danny Brumar and Jason Casorso.



U-11 Jags prevail

The Novi Jaguars '96 Girls Green squad was the champion of the recent Jefferson Cup soccer tournament in Richmond, Va. The Jaguars, coached by Livonia's Mario Galindo and Canton's Andrea VanWashenova, earned the title with a shootout victory over D'Feeters from Texas. The Jags - ranked second nationally, higher than any other Michigan youth team - advanced to the finals in the U-11 championship division after defeating teams from New Jersey, Georgia and Pennsylvania. Members of the team, listed alphabetically, include: Jade Antolec, Novi; Reema Bzeih, Northville; Caitlyn Cook, Novi; Gabby DeLeon, Novi; Sierra DiMaggio, White Lake; Katie Erdman, Novi; Jenna Kentgen, a guest player from Naperville, Ill.; Jacqui Kozlowski, Novi; Kendall Kramer, Novi; Mary LeAnnais, Ferndale; Kerri McMahon, Novi; Kate Morris, Plymouth; Jordan Newman, Swartz Creek; Julia Palushaj, Northville and Heather Rolls, Fenton.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2007-08 BUDGET

In compliance with "Act No. 43," State of Michigan Public Act of 1963, and "Act No. 2," State of Michigan Public Acts of 1968 ("Section 16" of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act), Schoolcraft College publishes this notification of a public hearing on the proposed 2006-07 College budget. This hearing is to take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, 2007, at the Grote Administration Center, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the above address during normal business hours.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

Jill F. O'Sullivan
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Publish: April 5, 2007

DE0516990

The Senior Alliance will host two Public Hearing Sessions for input regarding the FY 2008 Annual Implementation Plan for services to persons age 60 and older in Western and Southern Wayne County.

Monday, May 7, 2007
Romulus Senior Center
36525 Bibbins
Romulus, MI 48174
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Monday, May 14, 2007
The Senior Alliance
3850 Second Street, Suite 201
Wayne, MI 48184
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

A summary of the FY 2008 Annual Implementation Plan will be available online Friday, April 20, 2007 at www.aas1C.org. Written comments accepted through Friday, May 18, 2007.

For more information, call 734.727.2058.

Publish: April 5, 2007

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| 3349...Beverly Hills | 3415...Livonia Lakes |
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| 3390...Clarkston | 3445...Westland |
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| 3450...Farmington Hills | 3520...Livingston County |
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Fab home. Hardwoods, crown moldings. Bright, airy kitchen. Family room w/built-in bookcases. Master w/luxurious bath. Finished bsmt. \$434,900. (EC75W0) Weir Manuel Realtors 734-455-6000

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All advertising published in the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers is subject to the conditions stated in the applicable rate card. (Copies are available from the advertising department. Observer and Eccentric News-papers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 (734) - 591-0900.) The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers reserve the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Observer and Eccentric Newspapers sales representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order. When more than one insertion of the same advertisement is ordered, no credit will be given unless notice of typographical or other errors is given in time for correction before the second insertion. Not responsible for omissions. Publisher's Notice: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which states that it is illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination" based on race, color, religion, or national origin. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal housing opportunity basis. (FR Doc. 724963 3-31-72) Classified ads may be placed according to the deadlines. Advertisers are responsible for reading their ad(s) the first time it appears and reporting any errors immediately. The Observer and Eccentric Newspapers will not issue credit for errors in ads after THE FIRST INCORRECT INSERTION. Equal Housing Opportunity Statement: We are pledged to the letter and spirit of U.S. policy for the achievement of equal housing opportunity throughout the nation. We encourage and support an affirmative advertising and marketing program in which there are no barriers to obtain housing because of race, color, religion or national origin. Equal Housing Opportunity slogan: "Equal Housing Opportunity" Table III - Illustration of Publisher's Notice.

CLASSIFIEDS

THAT WORK FOR YOU! 1-800-579-SELL

Observer & Eccentric **Classified** HOMETOWNlife.com

4 easy ways to place your ad:
PHONE..... 1-800-579-SELL (7355)
FAX..... 734-953-2232
ONLINE..... hometownlife.com
EMAIL..... eoads@hometownlife.com

Deadlines:
Sunday edition 5 p.m. Friday
Thursday (Clarkston, Lake Orion, Oxford)..... 5:30 p.m. Tuesday
Thursday (All other papers)..... 2:30 p.m. Wednesday

Offices and Hours:
Eccentric office.....805 E. Maple, Birmingham
Observer office36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia
Hours8:30 - 5:00 Monday - Friday

Open House SATURDAY 4/7/07

Romulus

7760 Cogswell • S. of Ecorse • E. of Highway

Wonderful like new Cape Cod on 5 1/2 wooded acres, merely minutes from Livonia, Dearborn, etc. Built by present owner using Insulated Concrete Formation, giving sound, cost, and insect protection.

COME SEE THESE AND OTHER SHARP FEATURES

- Hickory Granite Kitchen • First Floor Master Suite is Terrific
- 4 Bedrooms, 3 1/2 Magnificent Baths • A Designer Shed to Take Care of Storage • 2 Great Large Porches for Wildlife Watching - Rocking
- 5,000 in Closing costs to Buyers. • 12 Mos. Home Warranty

For more information please call:

CHARLIE JACKSON
(313) 820-3702
41860 Six Mile Road • Northville, MI 48167

COLDWELL BANKER
SCHWEITZER REAL ESTATE

"That's it! That's our new home!"

They logged on to our website, **hometownlife.com** and then clicked on HOMES in the menu bar at the top of our home page. They selected a Realtor® and looked at a whole lot of listings and—bingo!—they found their next home. As easy as that. They never left the house. They discovered that **hometownlife.com's** HOME site is user-friendly, interactive and has tens of thousands of local listings from area Realtors. Are you looking for a home? Log on to hometownlife.com and get ready to have a "That's it!" moment.

Your next home is just a click away

THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS ONLINE AT **HOMETOWNlife.com**

FIND YOUR HOME ON...

AREA REALTORS • MORE LOCAL HOMES • MORE LISTED FEATURES • MORE PHOTOS • VIRTUAL TOURS • INTERACT WITH YOUR REALTOR

Thursday PUZZLE CORNER

Challenging fun for ALL ages

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

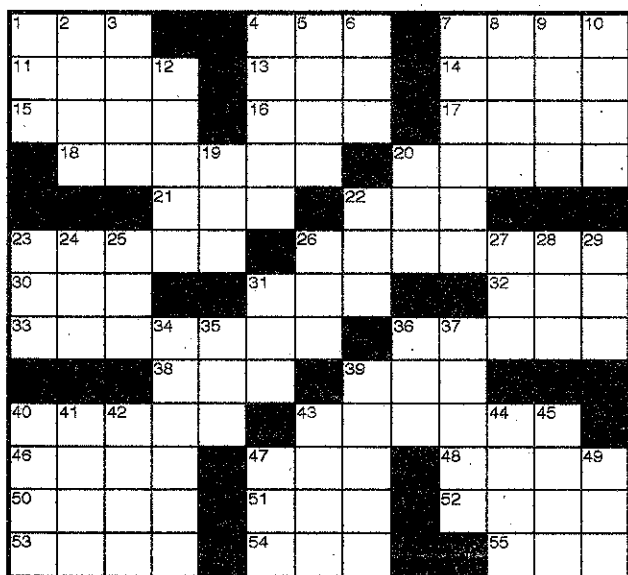
- ACROSS**
- 1 Canadians' queries
 - 4 Make a wager
 - 7 Think ahead
 - 11 Marble streak
 - 13 "Yecch!"
 - 14 Cartoonist - Goldberg
 - 15 Hence
 - 16 Install carpeting
 - 17 Island near Corsica
 - 18 Knight's gear
 - 20 Musical key (2 wds.)
 - 21 Right to decide
 - 22 Travel word
 - 23 Yard tool
 - 26 Slaw ingredient
 - 30 Ms. Lupino
 - 31 Grain morsel
 - 32 Delay, with "off" star
 - 33 "The Natural"
 - 36 Coffeehouse order
 - 38 Supplement
- DOWN**
- 39 Crooner - Damone
 - 40 Found out
 - 43 Mississippi explorer
 - 46 Pickling ingredient
 - 47 Just bought
 - 48 Colorless
 - 50 Passion
 - 51 Fruit drink
 - 52 Agree with
 - 53 Rip
 - 54 Buy at auction
 - 55 Soup container

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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- 10 Spruce
- 12 Unwanted sound
- 19 Sense organ
- 20 Overalls front
- 22 Dye container
- 23 Old space station
- 24 Poetic tribute
- 25 Roll of bills
- 26 No gentleman
- 27 Promising
- 28 Clean a fish
- 29 Paris season
- 31 California's Fort -
- 34 Tractor owner
- 35 Unmatched
- 36 Like Dogpatch's Abner
- 37 Etching fluids
- 39 Took an oath
- 40 Tool handle
- 41 Newsman - Abel
- 42 Faint glow
- 43 Skywalker, finally
- 44 Fromm or Clapton
- 45 Mock fanfare (hyp.)
- 47 Catch a crook
- 49 Movie rat



SUDOKU

		2	4		8	5	1	7
		3	5		1	9	4	
1		5	7			8		6
				9	6			4
	8						6	
2		6			4	7	9	
	5		9			4		
	9		2	1				
7								5

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| CAT | JAGUAR | LYNX |
| CHEETAH | LEOPARD | PANTHER |
| COUGAR | LION | TIGER |

THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

I P O R T Y A J P W
A T S C A D N A M C
L I O N C O U G A R
R G E K P L I U P O
L E O P A R D A W I
Y R I S N A X R V R
N E R T T U I O L M
X B C E H D A S R T
W C H E E T A H O J
P L V D R E U M N D

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE

SUDOKU

6	9	1	8	7	9	8	2	7
8	7	9	9	1	2	4	6	8
3	2	4	7	8	6	1	5	9
1	6	7	4	9	8	9	8	2
5	9	8	2	7	1	6	8	4
4	8	2	9	6	1	3	1	9
9	3	8	6	2	7	9	7	1
2	4	6	1	9	5	3	7	8
5	1	7	8	3	4	2	9	6

SEEK AND FIND

P	L	V	D	R	E	U	M	N	D
W	C	H	E	E	T	A	H	O	J
X	B	C	E	H	D	A	S	R	T
L	I	O	N	C	O	U	G	A	R
I	R	I	S	N	A	X	R	V	R
L	E	O	P	A	R	D	A	W	I
J	A	G	U	A	R				
R	G	E	K	P	L	I	U	P	O
L	E	O	P	A	R	D	A	W	I
A	T	S	C	A	D	N	A	M	C
I	P	O	R	T	Y	A	J	P	W

Real Estate

Royal Oak 3370

CLASSIC CAPE COD
layout, sure to please. Spacious room flow on main floor - bdrm, living/dining room, eat-in kitchen overlooks backyard. Screened porch. \$228,000 (EC29EL)
Weir Manual Realtors
248-644-8300

Oakland County 3540

OAKLAND TWP
Brick 2 story colonial on cul-de-sac, private backyard bordering park preserve. Kitchen w/granite, see thru fireplace between nook & family room. \$789,000 (EC68TU)
Weir Manual Realtors
248-651-3500

Condos 3720

NOVI/RENT TO OWN
New Construction
Putta Condos
For more info Call:
(248) 594-5566
www.forterenttown.com

Manufactured Homes 3740

DRASTIC REDUCTIONS
\$599 Moves you in!
Home price \$500
Security Dep. \$99...
*Other fees waived.
24x40 3 BED, 2 BATH
APPLIANCES & DECK
ONLY \$12,900!
14x60 2 BED, 1 BATH
APPLIANCES & DECK
ONLY \$6,900!
Quality Homes at
KENSINGTON PLACE
on Grand River, across
from Kensington Metropark
(248) 437-2039

Mobile Homes 3750

RIVERVIEW MOBILE HOME PARK
Has for Sale-Beautiful refurbished, like new mobile homes. Use your tax refund for your down payment. We will finance the balance. Call 734-721-7215
2555 Henry Ruff Rd.
Inkster, MI 48141

Troy 3410

WOW!
Very attractive NW ranch ready for new owner. Open flowing floor plan, great room w/natural fireplace to large deck. Large master w/walk-in, private bath. \$289,900 (EC52CH)
Weir Manual Realtors
248-644-8300

Waterford 3423

CONVENIENT TO
Cass Lake, several marinas, Dodge Park. Great newer built home located in pleasant neighborhood of higher end homes. Fab interior features. \$219,900 (EC70LA)
Weir Manual Realtors
248-644-8300

West Bloomfield 3440

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS Totally updated, 3 bdrm, 2 bath \$239,900. Call 248-497-6779 Fax: 248-638-9926

Westland 3445

RARE, 2.77 split able acres - 1800 sq. ft. home, 3-4 walkout sites \$589,000. Bruce (248) 360-6070, cell (248) 467-9103

Ypsilanti 3490

PULTE GREENE FARMS
Vaulted ceilings, dining & large family room w/fireplace. Large bdrms. Master, walk-in, full bath. Finished bsmt, rec room, luxury bath. \$234,900 (EC21CA)
Weir Manual Realtors
734-455-8000

Real Estate Services 3640

BANK FORECLOSURES! Homes from \$10,000! 1-3 bedroom available! Repos, REOs, FDI, FSBO, FHA, etc. These homes must sell for listings call
1-800-425-1620 ext 3421.

Manufactured Homes 3740

CASH FOR MOBILE HOMES
Private party pays cash for Mobile Homes, same day closing.
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AFFORDABLE!
Own a Home in NOVI
14 x 70
2 bed/1 bath
Refurbished
ONLY \$4900!
16x60 3 bed/2 bath
Appliances
ONLY \$12,900!
Hurry-Won't last!
NOVI SCHOOLS
QUALITY HOMES
at
HIGHLAND HILLS ESTATES
on Sealey Rd., N. of Grand River
(248) 474-0320

Mobile Homes 3750

DON'T WAIT
RELOCATE YOUR HOME TO COLLEGE PARK TODAY!
Receive \$5000 on a single-section or \$7000 on a multi-section towards your moving costs. Plus pay only \$279 per month for rent for 2 years.
1-888-721-8515
JOIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD TODAY!
COLLEGE PARK ESTATES
51074 Mott Rd.
(Between Geddes and Mich Ave. off of Ridge Road)
Skyline/Clayton Retailer
(exp 4/30/07)

Southern Property 3810

NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAINS are calling! Come see the breathtaking views, rushing streams and quiet hollows. Experience the peace of the mountains! (800) 632-2212
http://valleytownrealty.com
valleytownrealty@verizon.net

Lot's & Acreage/Vacant 3820

NORTHVILLE TWP.
fifteen (15) 1/2 acre residential lots. Highest elevation in Northville. overlooks Stonewater. Paved, all utilities.
734-422-2577

Time Share 3830

Timeshare Resales The cheapest way to buy, sell and rent timeshares. No commissions or broker fees. Call 1-800-640-6886 or go to www.buytimeshare.com

Lease/Option To Buy 3840

LIVONIA 3 bdrm, 2 bath ranch. Finished bsmt, 1/2 acre lot, fenced yd. \$205,000 or \$1200/mo. 734-564-9837

Cemetery Lots 3880

CEMETERY PLOTS 2 Intermment Plots for sale - UNITED MEMORIAL GARDENS Garden of Faith. \$2000 or best offer. 630-752-1743

Business Opportunities 3900

FIXER UPERS- CHEAP- ALL AREAS- FINANCING AVAILABLE.
Please call 248-225-2375

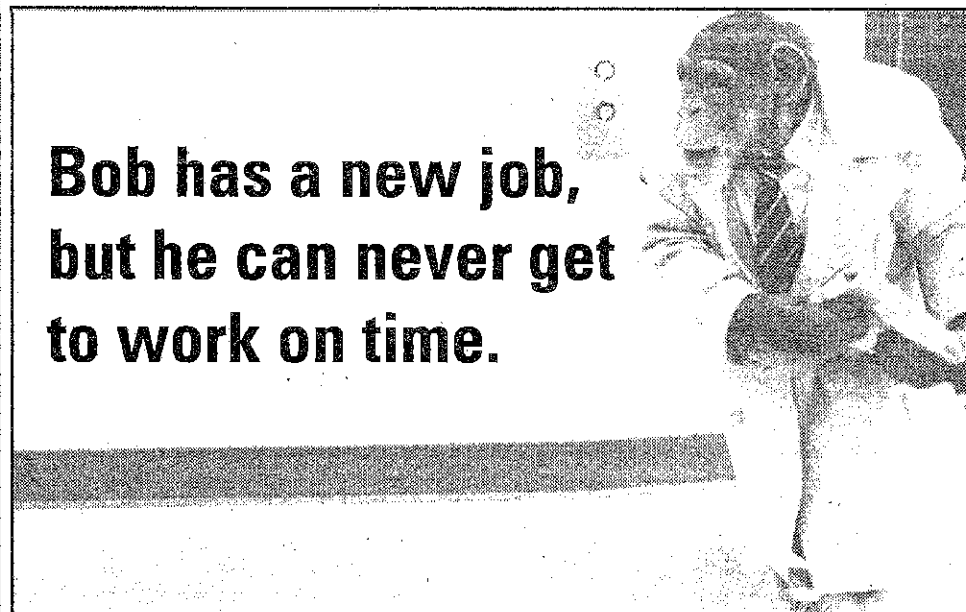
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Bob has a new job, but he can never get to work on time.

We have someone who will. Heck, we even have Bob's next job. Go to CareerBuilder.com or call us at 800-579-7355 to place your next Help Wanted ad. Web plus print.

Discover the value.

THE Observer & Eccentric NEWSPAPERS
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A better employee is out there.

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OR FAX:
734-953-2232

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Internet:
www.hometownlife.com

Apartments

Observer & Eccentric
HOMETOWNlife.com

4000's Real Estate For Lease

4000.....Apartments/Unfurnished	4220.....Office/Retail Space
4010.....Apartments/Furnished	4230.....Commercial/Industrial
4020.....Cordons/Townhouses	4240.....Land For Rent
4030.....Duplexes	4300.....Garage/Mini Storage
4040.....Flats	4400.....Wanted To Rent
4050.....Homes For Rent	4410.....Wanted To Rent
4060.....Lakefront/Waterfront Homes Rental	4500.....Furniture Rental
4070.....Mobile Home Rentals	4560.....Rental Agency
4080.....Mobile Home Sites	4570.....Property Management
4090.....Southern Rentals	4580.....Lease/Option To Buy
4100.....Time Share Rentals	4590.....House Sifting Service
4110.....Vacation Resort/Rentals	4600.....Convalescent Care
4120.....Living Quarters To Share	4610.....Foster Care
4140.....Rooms For Rent	4620.....Home Health Care
4200.....Halls/Buildings	4630.....Homes For The Aged
4210.....Residence To Exchange	4840.....Misc. To Rent

1-800-579-SELL

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

FIVE, Five, Five. ONE MONTH FREE
To Qualified Studio, 1 & 2 Bdrm Applicants. Gorgeous new kitchens and baths. Available in town Birmingham. 565 S. Old Woodward. Call Michelle (248) 645-1191

GARDEN CITY 2 bdrm, clean quiet remodeled. Heat & water included. 1/2 month security. 248-474-3005

GARDEN CITY-Lg one bdrm. Newly decorated. Heat, water, appliances incl. \$535 + sec. 734-464-3877/734-261-8663

LINCOLN PARK Deluxe 1 & 2 bedrooms. Starting at \$399 a month. Quiet, private balcony's, storage, laundry, ceiling fans w/ lights & blinds. 313-386-6720

LIVONIA 5 Mile/Middlebelt. Deluxe 1 unit, washer & dryer hook-up. Starting at \$640. 248-521-1978

NORTHVILLE CONDO-2 bdrm, 2 bath, newly renovated. washer, dryer, C/A, carport. No pets. \$900/mo. (734) 422-1195

NORTHVILLE Country Living Setting! Several unique 1 bedroom apts. starting as low as \$675. Also available 1 bedroom w/ den & full size washer/dryer, water and heat included starting at \$785. Call for details! EHO THE TREE TOPS Novi Road at 8 Mile 248-347-1690

Novi WESTGATE VI Apartments
1 MONTH FREE On 1 Bedrooms! Starting at \$605

- REDUCED Sec. Dep.
- FREE City Water
- Carpets included
- Motorcycles Allowed With Restrictions

CALL NOW! (866) 238-1153
On West Park Dr. Just S. of Pontiac Tr. www.cmpproperties.net

NOVI-MAIN STREET AREA!
Up to 3 mos. free rent!
1 & 2 Bdrm Apts. Washer/Dryer, Private Entrance & Balcony. 248-348-0826 EHO

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

Reduced Rates Starting At \$559 FREE HEAT Newly Upgraded 1 & 2 Bedroom Apt's. Plymouth Manor Plymouth House
Minutes From Downtown Plymouth!
734-455-3880
www.yorkcommunities.com

Southfield TWO GREAT SOUTHFIELD LOCATIONS!
Spacious One bedroom apt. homes from \$595. Just minutes from I-96, I-96, M-10 and M-39. Come visit your new home today! Features include:
• Free water
• Fully equipped kitchens
• On site laundry
• Carport
• 24 hour service
Please Call: 248-557-1582, 586-754-7816

Walled Lake SPECIAL: \$250 Security Deposit* plus 1st Month Free
• 2 Bdrm, 1 1/2 bath TOWNHOMES or
• 1 Bdrm
• Walled Lake schools, large closets, cats/ small dogs ok
(248) 624-6606 EHO
*some restrictions apply

WAYNE FOREST APARTMENTS
Great Spring Specials 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments (734)326-7800

WAYNE Special! 1 bdrm Apt. Safe & peaceful. Regular rent \$500/mo. \$375-1st 4 months. 248-879-6540

WESTLAND A \$0 MOVE-IN!
Warren & Middlebelt. Large 1 bdrm. Free heat & water. \$585/mo. 734-459-1160

"It's All About Results"
Observer & Eccentric
1-800-579-SELL

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

Westland-Awesome Location!
1ST MONTH FREE \$99 Deposit*
Spacious 1 Bdrm
*some restrictions apply
734-721-6899 EHO

WESTLAND Blue Garden Apartments
Apts from \$520*
MOVE IN SPECIAL DELUXE UNITS FOR BASIC UNIT PRICE SECURITY DEPOSIT \$200

- HEAT/ WATER INCL.
- CLUBHOUSE
- PET WELCOME
- MODEL UNIT

Spacious 1 and 2 bdrm apartments with Balcony.
Cherry Hill near Merriman
Call for Details* 734-729-2242

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Westland Park Apts. RENT A 2 BDRM. FOR THE SAME RATE AS A 1 BDRM. \$575
Security Deposit \$200
2 Bedroom, 1.5 bath 936 sq. ft.
1 Bedroom 728 sq. ft. \$575
Heat/Water Included
(New residents only with approved credit) 1 year lease.
Very clean apartments
Excellent maintenance
Central air, intercom
Appliances include dishwasher and more.
No pets
Mon.-Fri. 9-6, Sat. 12-4
(734) 729-6636

For the best auto classifications check out the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper. 'It's all about RESULTS!'

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

FARMINGTON HILLS
1 BDRM 1 MONTH FREE! Spacious 1 & 2 bdrm. Laundry in unit. Water & carport incl. \$575-\$700. (586) 254-9511

Farmington Hills
1 bdrm. - \$545
2 Bdrms. - \$610
3 Bdrms. - \$745
Water & lg. portion of heat od. Small pets ok. 248-615-9920

FARMINGTON HILLS ANNIE APTS.
FREE HEAT! 1 bedroom \$505 9 Mile/ Middlebelt 248-478-7489

FARMINGTON HILLS
Apartments available for month to month or 1 yr. lease from only \$799.
Creekside Apts. 248-474-4400, E.H.O.

Farmington Hills MAPLE ROSE
\$200 Sec. deposit w/50% off 1st 3 mos. rent w/ approved credit.
23078 Middlebelt Spacious 1 & 2 bdrm. C/A. Carport avail. 248-473-5180

FARMINGTON MANOR APTS.
Deluxe studio & 1 bedroom, carport. starting at \$475. 248-888-0868

FARMINGTON PLAZA APTS.
Studio Apts. \$580 includes heat and water. (248) 476-8722

Sell it all with Observer & Eccentric
1-800-579-SELL

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

A BLOWOUT SPECIAL! FREE RENT. Now leasing 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms. Apts! (248)344-7123 ask for Mary

BIRMINGHAM 1 MONTH FREE
To Qualified Studio, 1 & 2 Bedroom Applicants. Gorgeous new kitchens and baths. Available in town Birmingham at the 565 Building! Call Michelle (248) 645-1191

BIRMINGHAM DOWNTOWN
1 bdrm, hardwood floors, heat & water incl. 1 yr lease. No pets. \$675/mo. 248-643-0562

BIRMINGHAM-DOWNTOWN
1 bdrm apt furnished/unfurnished, wood floor, new bath, very clean. Call 313-806-2727

BIRMINGHAM MAPLE ROAD TOWNES

- Central air
- Designer paint
- Berber carpet
- Cherry Flooring
- Updated kitchens
- Cedar wardrobes
- Walk to downtown & shopping!

1 bdrm apts from \$699
1-2 bdrm townhomes from \$799
Maple blwn Adams & Eton (248) 736-1635 EHO

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

PLYMOUTH Adorable Apartment
1 bedroom
• Ranch Style
• Private Entry
• Washer/Dryer
Call for details! (734) 459-6840 EHO

PLYMOUTH BROUGHAM MANOR
1 Bdrm. \$575, 2 Bdrm. \$550
First Month Free!
With 1 yr. lease.
Heat & water included, Walk-in closets. (734) 455-1215

PLYMOUTH - Clean, large 1 bdrm \$575 (incl heat/water). 2 bdrm \$650 incl water. Laundry on-site. 248-446-2021

PLYMOUTH Downtown, 1 bdrm, new carpet, paint, c/a. includes heat water & electricity. \$580/mo. (734) 453-2904

PLYMOUTH Downtown 1 bdrm upper, appliances, \$550/mo. + sec. Small pet considered. 734-453-8375

PLYMOUTH, Large 1 bdrm, \$575/mo. incl. heat and water. Month to month lease. 734-641-7751, LYNX C.I.R. Inc.

PLYMOUTH - Lg 1 bdrm triplex, all appliances, C/A. near downtown, off-street parking. \$650+ \$1075 sec. 248-661-5141

PLYMOUTH - Near downtown, spacious 1 bdrm apts in newly renovated building, \$600/mo. Heat, water & appliances incl. 586-634-2814, 248-787-8721

PLYMOUTH Park Manor Apts - Move in special! 1 bdrm \$480; 2 bdrm-\$535. Non-smoking, includes heat & water. No pets. 1 parking space per apt. 734-454-9274

IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS... Observer & Eccentric Classifieds! 1-800-579-SELL

REDFORD - Large 1 Bdrm FIRST MONTH FREE \$99 Security Deposit!
Incl: central air, private storage. Lots of windows. (313) 937-3319 EHO
*Some restrictions apply

REDFORD ONE MONTH FREE RENT! \$99 MOVE IN! FREE HEAT & WATER! 24715 Five Mile, Quiet, clean, 2 bdrm \$600, parking, storage, appliances, new carpet, paint. No pets. Mon-Sat. 11-6. 313-945-0524

REDFORD Studio apt. very clean. Stove, refrigerator, laundry avail. \$350/mo. plus utilities. (313) 534-0600 (9-4pm)

SOUTH LYON MEADOWS OF SOUTH LYON
2 & 3 bdrm, starting at \$695
Laundry, Pet friendly
248-767-4207

Walled Lake SPECIAL: \$250 Security Deposit* plus 1st Month Free

- 2 Bdrm, 1 1/2 bath TOWNHOMES or
- 1 Bdrm
- Walled Lake schools, large closets, cats/ small dogs ok

(248) 624-6606 EHO
*some restrictions apply

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1 MONTH FREE!
Fitness Center
Central Air
From \$595
(866) 413-1672
On Ann Arbor Trail Between Middlebelt & Inkster Rds.
www.cmpproperties.net

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Move-in Special! 1 bdrm, clean & quiet. Vertical blinds & appliances \$425/mo. + sec. dep. 734-728-7427

For the best auto classifications check out the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper. 'It's all about RESULTS!'

Country Court and Village WESTLAND WOODS
1 and 2 bedrooms, lots of amenities including intercom or private entry, cathedral ceilings, walk-in closets plus free storage, picturesque Courtyards and sparkling pool. Just minutes from highways, walking Distance to major grocery shopping plaza.
Call today for great Specials! (734) 721-8500

Dearborn Heights Rent Starting At \$569 FREE HEAT CAMBRIDGE APARTMENTS (313) 274-4765
www.yorkcommunities.com

Apartment/Unfurnished 4000

NOVI-MAIN STREET AREA!
Up to 3 mos. free rent!
1 & 2 Bdrm Apts. Washer/Dryer, Private Entrance & Balcony. 248-348-0826 EHO

REAL-ESTATE at it's best!
Observer & Eccentric

NOVI
Need space? We have it!
Very large 1 & 2 bedroom apts from \$699. Unique decor, Novi schools, large patios/balconies, full size washer/dryers, carpets available and much more! EHO
Tree Top Meadows
10 Mile W/of Meadowbrook 248-348-9590

PLYMOUTH 1 bdrm. washer/dryer, stove, fridge, \$595/mo. CANTON- 1 bdrm. \$525/mo w/heat. 734-455-0391

Redford ONE MONTH FREE RENT! \$99 MOVE IN! FREE HEAT & WATER! 24715 Five Mile, Quiet, clean, 2 bdrm \$600, parking, storage, appliances, new carpet, paint. No pets. Mon-Sat. 11-6. 313-945-0524

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- 1 Bdrm
- Walled Lake schools, large closets, cats/ small dogs ok

(248) 624-6606 EHO
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CHEATING ON TESTS, FERRETING OUT BETTER INFORMATION



WORKWISE
by
Mildred L.
Culp

"I don't think companies do what the Roper Corp. did back in the 70s," e-

mails Eva Rosenberg of TaxMama.com. "They sent a personality/psych test to my (then) husband to fill in and send back. He was applying for a position in sales."

"We crawled into bed that night with the test pages spread out and read each question out loud," she continues. "Then we asked how a salesman/sales personality would answer this question. That's the answer he chose. He got the job. And within two years, after some training, he was salesman of the year! So perhaps my teaching him how to think as a salesman helped?"

Clearly, that man had what it took to be a salesman, and psych-ing out a test might not have been essential to his being hired. Michael Josephson of the Josephson Institute of Ethics in Los Angeles expresses extreme scepticism about tests, saying, "You have assume that most people when trying to get a job will do whatever it takes. They're not going to take it neutrally. Anyone with an IQ over 100 won't get trapped. I think the test-taker is smarter than the test-maker."

PROPONENTS

Rod McKinnis of The McKinnis Consulting Group L.L.C., in Chandler, outside of Phoenix, and Robert Troutwine of Troutwine & Associates Inc., in Liberty, Mo., a suburb of Kansas City, have developed assessment tools. McKinnis specializes in tests for salespeople, which focus upon 21 behaviors that salespeople need. "The questions aren't easily manipulated," he says. "You can't answer them hypothetically. They're real life examples. If you don't have the actual experience in answering them, they will pick up on it." He abjures personality tests because of "research that found no correlation between personality and sales productivity." He correlates personality tests with skills but says that they can't measure a "person's desire and what drives them to make sales." For the field of sales, such behavioral tools are essential, he maintains, because, sales, unlike the medical and legal professions, lacks standardized training.

Troutwine doesn't believe that any one category of test should be discounted. "You can't classify a test, behavioral or personality," he states, "as easy to cheat on. Some tests are very transparent and others aren't. It doesn't seem related to the category or type. It's more in the items and test construction." He says that most cheaters, whether "elusive or not totally frank," will be "tripped up."

BEYOND TESTING

Should employers do more -- or do without -- these assessment tools? McKinnis would make a lot of people happy in remarking that "the role of the employer isn't to select the right person but know how to manage and develop that person." His tools help with that, too, because they identify which behaviors a salesperson needs to hone. McKinnis achieves high accuracy in six-month predictions -- more than 90 percent in predicting washouts, more than 80 percent in predicting top performers.

What's the best source of information for hiring? Josephson believes that employers can secure more reliable information not just by interviewing applicants but by conducting background checks "beyond the first layer of people." This involves obtaining referrals from the person's initial list of references to other people. "Judgment, diligence, drinking habits," he comments, "those not so closely attached to them" might be more



Rod McKinnis advocates behavioral tests. He is based near Phoenix at the McKinnis Consulting Group, L.L.C., in Chandler, Ariz.

forthcoming.

What does this mean for the applicant? Assessment tools have become big business, but not something to fear. Troutwine advises, "Be yourself, because the purpose is to see if it's a fit. You want a job, but do you really want one with behaviors you're uncomfortable with or not natural with?" Meanwhile, employers and applicants need to get together to remove what Josephson calls "the motive to lie in an intake exam."

(Dr. Mildred L. Culp is an award-winning journalist. Copyright 2007 Passage Media.)

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Huron Valley Physicians Association, P.C.
An independent physicians association (IPA)

REGISTERED NURSE

Huron Valley Physicians Association, an independent practice association is seeking an experienced Registered Nurse to plan, organize and implement specific disease management interventions throughout our physician network. The position requires a person who can work both independently and as a team member with excellent organizational and communication skills. Responsibilities include management and implementation of clinical projects, disease specific interventions and relationship building with physician offices. Competitive pay and benefits offered. Qualified and self motivated candidates should email their resume roberdeb@trinity-health.org or fax to (734) 975-1248

American Laser Centers

Hair Removal & Skin Rejuvenation

LEGAL SECRETARY

Exceptional Farmington Hills Corporation Seeks Full-Time Legal Secretary.

Excellent organizational, filing, typing, computer skills along with Excel background preferred. Familiarity with leases and worker's comp. are an added plus. Must be able to work independently and meet short deadlines. A positive and professional mind-set is essential. Salary is negotiable. Generous benefit package provided.

Please email resume to:
careers@alpartner.com
or fax to Attn: HR at:
248-477-1479
Our company can be examined at www.americanlaser.com

Help Wanted-General 5000

Adult Carriers Needed

S/E OAKLAND COUNTY AREA

Independent Contractors

Deliver newspapers one day per week on Friday afternoons in the Royal Oak, Clawson, Berkley and Ferndale areas.

(866) 887-2737

For The Opportunity To Be Seen On This Page Call
1-800-579-7355
Or E-Mail Your Ad To careers@hometownlife.com