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August 9, 2007

# WESTLAND Observer

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## Voters pick Wild, Pickering in mayoral race

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Appointed Mayor William Wild won a landslide vote of confidence in Tuesday's primary, but opponent Charles Pickering vowed to fight back and claim victory in the Nov. 6 general election.

Wild commanded a strong lead by capturing 77.8 percent of vote totals compared to Pickering's 18.4 percent and political newcomer Daryl Novack's 3.5 percent. The top two finishers earned a spot on the November ballot.

"I'm definitely not going to take anything



Wild



Pickering

been working hard, and people are taking notice."

Pickering, president of the Westland City Council, pledged to mount an issues-oriented campaign that he said will help him

for granted," Wild, 39, said Tuesday as he celebrated with a crowd of supporters inside the VFW Post 9885 on Hix Road. "We've

to overcome Wild's lead.

"I'm going to be working very hard. I'm looking forward to the challenge, and it is a challenge," Pickering, 64, said as he gathered with supporters at the Wayne-Ford Civic League. "This is a primary. The results are in, and I'm in the race. I expect to be the top vote-getter in the Nov. 6 general election."

Wild and Pickering will battle to serve the remaining two years of former Mayor Sandra Cicirelli's unexpired four-year term. The mayoral job pays \$95,974 a year.

Wild sprinted ahead Tuesday and outpaced Pickering by a 4-to-1 margin. In

unofficial vote totals reported by the city clerk's office, Wild received 4,464 votes compared to Pickering's 1,057 and Novack's 200. Only 9.8 percent of Westland's 59,242 registered voters cast ballots.

"I'm very humbled," Wild said of the results.

Wild was appointed to the city's top post in January in a vote by his then-council colleagues. Pickering hopes to reclaim the mayoral job he had in 1982-85.

Wild has cited the hopeful cleanup of Central City Park as a top priority. He

Please see **MAYOR, A3**



Carl Caballero belts out a tune on the harmonica with the rest of the Carl Caballero Band during the G.I. Blues Festival.

## Blues fest: Light turnout, but big success

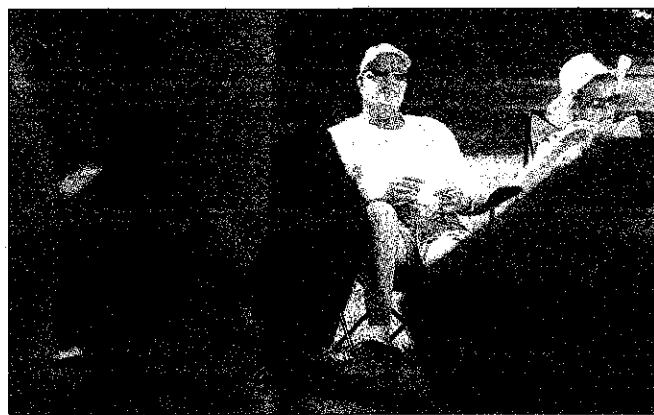
BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Despite a disappointing turnout, organizers for Saturday's G.I. Blues Festival in Westland still raised thousands of dollars to help soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Organizer Scott Romp earlier had said that 200 tickets had been sold for the 12-hour event, and some festival goers said the crowd rarely seemed much larger than that. At times, it was much smaller.

The festival, staged at the Wayne-Ford Civic League, featured a host of blues musicians, including headline act Johnnie Bassett and other Detroit-area performers. It was put on by Veterans Haven, Inc. — a Wayne-based organization that raises money to help veterans — and the Detroit Blues Society.

"It was a great event," said Westland City Councilman and music connoisseur



Bob and Linda Britton of Riverview get comfortable as they take in the music during the G.I. Blues Festival Saturday.

James Godbout, adding that "financially, it was a success."

Civic league President Vic Barra confirmed Tuesday that an estimated \$15,000 had been raised, although the final tally wasn't yet known. He credited corporate sponsors for boosting the event.

"The entertainment was outstanding and absolutely lived up to our expectations," Barra said. "Despite a light turnout, the fund-raising

effort overall was very successful due to the corporate sponsors, such as Ford Motor Co., LaSalle Bank, the Westland Rotary Club, the Westland Community Foundation and many others."

After some morning showers, the weather cooperated as the festival started at noon.

"The weather broke just in time," Councilman Michael Kehrer said.

Some festival goers said the event had to compete with other communities for patrons. For one, it was held the same day as the Dearborn Homecoming Festival and Detroit's Ribs 'n' Soul Festival.

Romp has said organizers hope to plan similar events to help veterans.

He has said the G.I. Blues Festival was important to aid soldiers coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan who lacked such necessities as medical attention and monetary benefits.

Barra, meanwhile, said the civic league will continue to host such community events.

"The civic league is looking forward to organizing two similar events next year, starting in the spring, to support other nonprofit organizations in our continued effort to play a supporting role in the community," he said.

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## Godbout, Kehrer top vote-getters in council race

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

All four Westland City Council incumbents survived Tuesday's primary, but one political newcomer clinched an impressive finish that she hopes will catapult her to victory in the Nov. 6 general election.

Elected incumbents James Godbout and Michael Kehrer emerged as the top vote-getters. They advanced to November along with council appointees Bill Johnson and Dewey Reeves and challengers Christine Cicirelli Bryant, Gary Bulson II, Mark Rodriguez and Harold Dunn.

Those eight hopefuls will compete for four council seats in November after voters Tuesday dashed the hopes of three other challengers — Todd Kangas, Sam Durante and write-in candidate John

Goci.

Only 9.8 percent of Westland's 59,242 voters cast ballots in the primary.

Of those who survived the primary, Godbout garnered the most votes with 3,466, followed by Kehrer (3,344), Johnson (2,799), Bryant (2,430), Reeves (2,015), Bulson (1,191), Rodriguez (1,029) and Dunn (908).

Bryant, the 34-year-old daughter of 18th District Judge and former Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, had the strongest showing of any newcomer. Bryant, a Target employee studying education at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, celebrated at home with her family.

"I feel good about it," she said of her fourth-place finish. "I'm very encouraged by

Please see **COUNCIL, A3**

## Local fund-raiser helps cancer patient's family

Westland resident Brett Rau has been off work since early this year as he struggles to beat throat cancer, prompting his friends and family to organize a fund-raiser.

Rau, 46, has had chemotherapy and hasn't been able to return to his job as a semi-driver for Domino's Pizza, family friend Tina Ouimet of Westland said.

"He can't work right now, and the family is really suffering," she said.

To help, Ouimet and others have announced a fund-raiser to help Rau, wife Darlene,

their two daughters and their grandson.

The fund-raiser is scheduled for noon to 9 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12, at The Penalty Box, on Plymouth Road between Middlebelt and Inkster in Livonia.

The event will include live music, raffles, 50/50 drawings and grilled hot dogs. Ouimet said performers will include Chetan Clawson, Desert Renaissance, Empty Canvas, Freakstar, Maelstrom, Morning Gray, 10-pound Head and Vince Smith.

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Number 21



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**Loans**

# Game Yard: Xbox heaven for video players

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

"This place is very cool," said Derek Nardone of Westland, his voice echoing in the headset he's wearing.

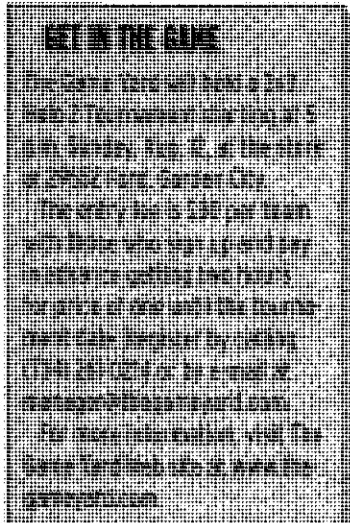
On the TV in front of him, he controls a battle-clad soldier battling genocidal aliens in Xbox's highly popular Halo game. On either side of him, his friends Troy Foust of Dearborn Heights and Wes Winters of Garden City play with him, using their own remotes on their own TVs.

Welcome to a video player's heaven, or what Chris Allers has dubbed The Game Yard. It's a video game room stocked with 16 Xbox 360s, all connected to a local network and the Internet, a like number of 32-inch high definition LCD TVs and 45 different games.

Allers, a former engineer with the Ford Motor Co., has turned his lifelong interest in video gaming into his "new full-time job." Instead of designing locks and door handles for vehicles yet to be produced, he providing video game enthusiasts with a venue where they can play with their friends or people around the world.

"I started thinking that it was unlikely I'd get the tap on the shoulder to stay, so I started thinking outside the box," the Southfield resident said. "This (The Game Yard) was something I've always had in the back of my mind, so I started looking around."

Allers discovered through iGames, a trade group, on the Internet, that there are only



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

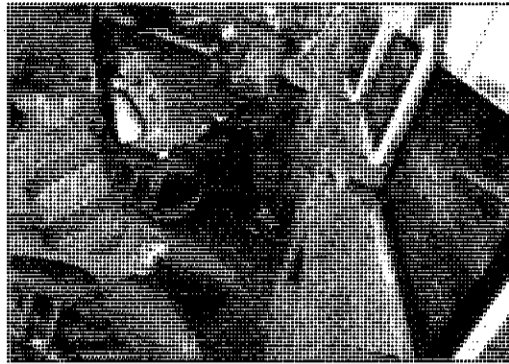
about 700 such gaming establishments around the country. They're "very popular" on the East and West Coasts, but in the Detroit area, the number was more like three, two in Ann Arbor and one in Southfield, he said.

Allers knows the area — he graduated from Crestwood High School — and liked the Garden City location because it didn't need a lot of work. He opened the doors in March, spreading the word through fliers and advertisements in school newspapers. Business has been good. By the second month he was paying the bills, by the third and fourth months, he was able to "take a little profit out."

His game room has an industrial feel. Homemade wooden consoles hold the TVs and Xboxes and serve as the counter and some of the walls are decorated with graffiti. Allers wife was going to do graffiti and he'd even downloaded images from the Internet for her to copy when



The Guitar Hero guitar and an Xbox 360 controller are tools of the trade for Chris Allers who opened up the Game Yard in Garden City after taking a buyout from the Ford Motor Co.



Eleven-year-old Chris Williams (left) of Westland plays a little "Need for Speed" while his cousin 17-year-old Joe Williams of Garden City plays some "Overlord" at the Game Yard in Garden City.

he met the real thing — a guy who actually does it in Detroit.

"Now I trade game time for the graffiti," Allers said.

At The Game Yard, gamers can pay \$5 per hour or \$18 for an all-day pass. Allers also offers birthday party packages for up to 12 players and ranging from one to three hours, as well as private parties.

The storefront is located on the southwest end of a strip

of stores at the entrance to Kmart. It's open from noon to 10 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 12 p.m. Friday and Saturday, noon to 9 p.m. Sunday and closed Tuesdays.

The game room is attracting more and more clientele, and Allers is looking to grow the business more. This Sunday, he'll hold a 3v3 Halo Tournament. It's one of several tournaments he's held. This one was suggested by a

scout looking for talent for the professional gaming circuit.

And he's considering adding game PCs in the future.

"Most players have PCs, but they're not like this," Allers said. "On the console, they'll play 1 1/2 hours, PC players will go four hours. Some are into World of Warcraft. They come in and you need a pry bar to get them out."

Nardone and his friends spotted the game room when they drove by Kmart one day and decided to check it out. The Game Yard gives them something to do between their jobs and football practice for Foust and Winters.

"It's a good place to come, especially when you don't own an Xbox 360," Foust said.

"We're usually here an average of two hours. This isn't something you can do at home."

"He has a huge selection of games," Winters said. "My brother asked me why I come here and I tell him that even if I didn't come here to play, it's a good place to meet people and hang out. It's a cool place."

"It's a good way to spend a day," Nardone added. "There's lots of cool games and the prices are low."

Their comments are music to Allers' ears, especially considering "my son thinks it's the best thing I've ever done," he said.

"I started on the Atari Commodore 64 and have always played games whenever I could get my hands on them," he said. "Now it's my full-time job."

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## AROUND WESTLAND

### Coffee Hours

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, will hold his next local coffee hour 9-10:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 13, 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 Monday, Aug. 13.

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.

### Blood drive

St. Damian Catholic Parish will hold an American Red Cross blood drive 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12, at 30055 Joy, Westland. Call (734) 716-2057 to make an blood donation appointment. Walk-ins also welcome.

### Dine and donate

Stop by Buffalo Wild Wings on Wayne Road on Monday, Aug. 13, and have 20 percent of your bill donated Westland's Kick's 4 Kids Soccer Project. Coupons are available in the mayor's Office or at the Bailey Recreation Center. Buffalo Wild Wings is at 6677 N. Wayne Road, south of Warren.

### Golf Outing

The Glenn Wrestling Program will hold its 10th annual golf outing fund-raiser Saturday, Sept. 29, at Warren Valley Golf Course. The cost is \$85 for golf, lunch and dinner, \$65 for golf and lunch and \$25 for dinner only. Prizes will be awarded for best team score, longest drive and closest to the pin. A raffle also will be held. Reservations are due by Sept. 15. Call Judy at (734) 634-4595.

### Rotary Club

The Westland Rotary Club is having a fund-raiser at 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16, at Joey's Comedy Club. The show, "Comedy for a Cause," will help the club support the Salvation Army, children at Jefferson-Barns and Lincoln elementary schools; veterans returning from Iraq; and other causes. Tickets are \$15 each. Anyone interested may call Mary Gregosky at (734) 729-5401.

### CORRECTION

The player who scored the game-winning run in the A's 2-1 victory over the Reds in the championship game of the Capitol Park Senior League (ages 13-15) was misidentified in the Aug. 5 issue of the *Observer*. Erik Ellrich scored the deciding run in the July 27 championship game at Redford's Capitol Park.

# McCotter gives business group look at D.C.'s view of Michigan

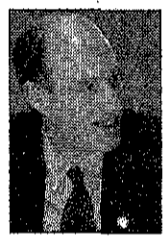
BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

There were no protesters nor was there a mention of the Iraq war when U.S. Congressman Thaddeus McCotter stopped by to talk to members of the Garden City Chamber of Commerce Tuesday morning. Instead, the Livonia

Republican spent the time talking about the three E's — the economy, education and employment.

McCotter expressed frustration at trying to make his colleagues understand that Michigan is vastly different than other states, that while they are experiencing economic growth, "what is happening here is a one-state recession."

"Las Vegas is experiencing 1,000 new residents a week; in



McCotter

the rest of the country, unemployment is 4.6 percent," McCotter said. "In Michigan, more people are employed by the state than in manufacturing."

The congressman stressed that it's the people of Michigan who must make sure their state is economically competitive. Government will not lead the people to prosperity.

"It's going to be the creativity and the genius of the people of Michigan to lead it to prosperity," he added.

The Northeast and Midwest are losing population to the South, McCotter predicts that state will probably lose one

House seat in the next population count.

The state also is losing its young people, a loss McCotter calls the "subsidizing of workers for other states."

"Michigan can't compete with Indiana for jobs, Michigan can't compete with India for jobs," he said. "The people of Michigan have to make this state economically competitive."

When asked what could be done at the federal level to control college tuition, McCotter told his audience he couldn't see anything coming from the federal government to "hold down tuition." College costs have increased higher than health care costs and part of the problem is a lack of competition, he said.

"A lot of students want to go to college and as the numbers increase, you would think the universities would want to keep their costs down to attract more students," he said. "But they don't do that, they don't

compete."

McCotter believes there should be rewards, like more federal money, for colleges and universities which do keep tuition down.

"If we continue to subsidize them, they will spend the money as they see fit," he said. "The federal government keeps giving them money, but it doesn't seem to be going to the students, it's going to administration."

A bright spot for the state in Washington is the lack of higher fuel standards in the current energy bill. McCotter said it took a bipartisan fight to prevent the government from "arbitrarily raising standards."

"In Washington, they believe the auto industry is responsible for the problem of global warming, when it's the auto industry that is the leader in green technology," he said.

He also told his audience that their taxes will be going up, by and large the result of a stance that new programs

must be "revenue neutral" or "pay-go."

With pay-go, the government must find the money to spend, while revenue neutral means changes in the tax structure must produce the same amount of revenue.

McCotter disagrees with both concepts. He said the idea of revenue neutral is the same as putting a hole on the other side of the Titanic to deal with the first hole and then patching it.

"Government doesn't pay anything, you pay for everything," he said. "Our greatness comes not from the growth of government, but from the people. People solve the problems, that's the greatness of government."

Listening to McCotter, Jacqueline Schatz of the Schatz Marine Insurance Agency and director of the Garden City Downtown Development Authority, didn't hear anything new about the federal government. However, she did find his remarks illustrated the idea that "it's easy for those who aren't involved to judge."

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE**

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 6855 Yale, Westland, MI., August 25, 2007 @ 1:00 PM.

#229 Kameca Maddox; #301 Ebonee Spiller; #308 Michael Pruniz; #321 Craig Collins; #738 Holly Lumley; #830 Alberta Williams; #667 Diane Davis; #1325 Lynne Miller.

Units contain: misc household items.

Publish: August 9 & 16, 2007

**Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.**

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 36001 Warren Rd Westland, MI 48185-6591 (734)729-7095 on 8/30/07 at 10:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:  
3140 - Lyssa Wilson - Loveseat, Couch, Misc Items  
4048 - Michael Stone - Loveseat, 2 Couches, TV  
4058 - Casey Bonds - Dresser, table, CD Player  
4148 - James Tuttle Jr - Bed, 4 TV, Misc Items  
5048 - Maureen Shepard - Dresser, Bookcase, 5 Totes

Publish: August 9 & 16, 2007

**CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

On Thursday, August 23, 2007, various items of the City Westland DPW will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction 8251 Rawsonville Road, County of Wayne, at 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Stock	Year	Make	Model	VIN
3259962	1980	Bobcat	Backhoe and Stabilizers	6560461 M 1268
3259976	1960	Military	Portable Floodlight and Generator	6230-752-2082

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition.  
Vehicle may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

Publish: August 9, 2007

# COUNCIL

FROM PAGE A1

these results, and I will continue to work hard throughout this campaign. I'm looking forward to a victory in November."

Godbout, a 52-year-old account manager for Rockwell Automation, and Kehrer, a 53-year-old excavating site inspector, savored their status as the top two vote-getters.

"I think the voters recognize that I've been doing a good job the last seven years I've been on the council," Godbout said, celebrating with supporters at the VFW Post 9885 on Hix Road.

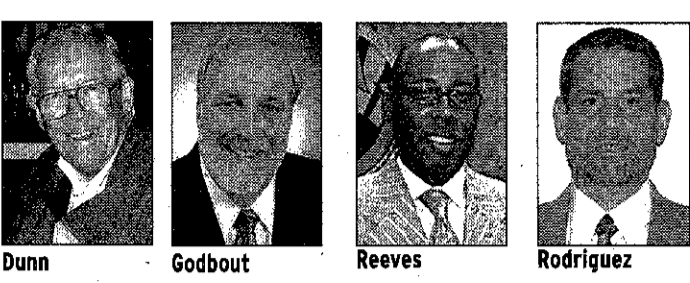
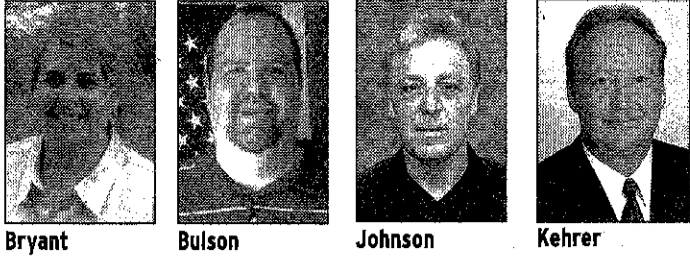
Like Godbout, Kehrer said he believes that voters recognize that the incumbents have been effective.

"Things are going well in the city," said Kehrer, also at the VFW post. "We've had some problems, but I think the voters see the current leadership as being good leadership."

Not far across town, running mates Johnson and Reeves addressed their supporters inside the Wayne-Ford Civic League on Wayne Road.

Johnson, a 57-year-old United Auto Workers plant chairman for the Wayne Assembly Plant, described himself as "ecstatic" to finish third. He and Reeves, a 54-year-old wardrobe consultant and former Washtenaw County sheriff deputy, are running mates who were appointed to the council in January.

"We're going to do bet-



Bryant Bulson Johnson Kehrer  
Dunn Godbout Reeves Rodriguez

ter in the general election," Johnson vowed, saying that many UAW workers will take to Westland streets to work for him and Reeves.

Reeves will have to improve his fifth-place standing to survive in November. But, he said Tuesday, "the best is yet to come."

Reeves, who has been active in the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association, said he will try to broaden his support by knocking on doors on the city's north side.

Bulson, 38-year-old owner of a moving company and longtime community volunteer, has said he will campaign hard to win a seat in November. He has cited public safety, senior citizen services and recreational programs for children as among his top priorities.

"I have been a successful businessperson and an active community volunteer for the last 15 years," he has told the *Observer*.

Rodriguez, 50-year-old operations manager for a Canton remodeling company, also has vowed an aggressive campaign to try to earn a council seat in November. He has been a longtime advocate for a proposal to build Frontier Park, a vast recreational complex west of Central City Park.

"Having already been in promising discussions with the county regarding this property as a park, I will be better equipped to negotiate with them to keep it as a park," Rodriguez has told the *Observer*.

Dunn, a 76-year-old retired automotive engineer, has cited lower taxes and being responsive to citizens as issues that he hopes will help him earn a council seat.

"Since it appears that bad economic times are approaching, it definitely is not the time to raise taxes or even consider it," he has said.

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# Rotary supports projects close to home and overseas

The Westland Rotary Club ended its 2006-7 year with a long list of successes, said immediate past President Mark McConnell.

"It was a fun and productive year," he said in an announcement.

Rotary members raised more than \$25,000 and spent much of it on the following projects, broken down by categories:

Serving Our Community projects included \$5,000 in scholarships to local high school students; \$3,000 for the Salvation Army summer camp; \$2,000 to the Salvation Army's after-school program; \$1,000 to help sponsor the city of Westland's Turn Off the Violence program; \$500 to be a corporate sponsor for

Westland's Relay for Life/American Cancer Society fundraiser; \$2,000 for coats, gloves, hats and clothes for students at Jefferson-Barns and Lincoln elementary schools; \$250 for Jefferson-Barns library books and \$750 for the Westland Fire Department's Fire Safe program.

Neighborhood programs included \$2,000 to Norway's Good News and backpacks and school supplies for Westland students; \$500 for the Wayne-Ford Civic League's summer baseball program to pay for Goodfellow's kids uniforms and registration fees; \$1,000 to Adams Middle School for a field trip to Cedar Point; \$500 to a family that lost their home and all possessions in

a fire; \$100 for a brick at the Westland Historic Village; \$250 to the Westland Historic Village Park; \$250 to the Westland Summer Festival; \$250 to the Second Chance at Life Walk; \$100 to the Senior Alliance holiday meal program; and \$500 to send two Norway brothers to Boy Scout camp.

International Service programs, many of them through Rotary District 6400, included \$1,000 each for Project Chinandega and Children of the Dump project in Nicaragua; the India eye cataract project; the Clean Water Project, and RELAY (Rotarians Enhancing the Learning of African Youth) for schools in Ghana.

# Dems' plan aims to protect Great Lakes

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, has thrown his support behind a plan that will protect Great Lakes water from being diverted and sold for profit to other states and nations.

Introduced by House Democrats, the "Great Waters, Great Michigan" plan also strengthens environmental protections, requires large-scale users to adopt tougher conservation practices and gives citizens the ability to hold companies accountable for violating water protection laws.

"Michigan is defined by the Great Lakes, and we must do everything we can to protect them for generations to come," LeBlanc said. "Our waters also are a vital part of our economy here in the Great Lakes State. Tourists, boaters and anglers pump billions of dollars into our economy each year.

"As we fight to get Michigan back on track, we must ensure that these valuable dollars are protected."

The "Great Waters, Great Michigan" package:  
 ■ Ratifies the Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact, which will ban diversions of water outside of the

Great Lakes Basin.  
 ■ Toughens standards for companies that try to bottle up and sell off Great Lakes and Michigan water for profit.

■ Strengthens water protection standards by requiring state approval for withdrawals above 1 million gallons per day, down from 2 million gallons per day.

■ Requires large-scale water users such as municipalities, utilities and others to implement water conservation practices.

■ Gives the public additional tools to hold companies accountable when they violate water protection laws, and increases the maximum civil fine from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for most water use violations.

The plan comes amid rising threats to the Great Lakes, including low water levels brought on by global warming. According to a June 12 news story, water levels in Lake Superior are projected to reach a record low of 22 inches below average in September. Lake Michigan and Lake Huron also could see lows of 22 inches below average while Lake Erie could reach 12 inches below average and Lake St. Clair 17

inches below average. Low water levels force shipping companies to carry less freight per trip, a cost that is passed on to consumers.

Meanwhile, within the next 10 years, 36 states expect water shortages, according to a 2003 Government Accountability Office report. As more states and countries dry up, they will turn to the Great Lakes to replenish their supplies. Over the years, proposals to use Great Lakes water have ranged from replenishing the Ogallala Aquifer on the Great Plains to sending water by tanker to Asia.

LeBlanc also noted that the three biggest industries in Michigan - agriculture, manufacturing and tourism - depend heavily on healthy Great Lakes water.

"So much of our way of life in Michigan depends on the Great Lakes and our other waterways," LeBlanc said. "From recreation to revenue, our waters are an essential part of our state. I will fight to ensure that our waters are protected from being exploited by other states and countries so that Michigan will always remain the Great Lakes State."

# MAYOR

FROM PAGE A1

ordered the park fenced off in January after officials revealed it was contaminated with lead.

Wild described himself as having a strong work ethic, and he said he will wage an aggressive, door-to-door campaign.

Pickering voiced confidence that Tuesday's outcome, with its low voter turnout, won't hold up in November. He vowed

to reach out to voters who didn't cast ballots Tuesday.

"I'll be very actively campaigning," he said.

Pickering had campaigned with a slogan of "experience is everything," and he said he will raise issues between now and November that he said will set him apart as the top candidate.

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# Shoppers flock to try out new Wal-Mart Supercenter

BY ALEX LUNDBERG  
STAFF WRITER

Shoppers from all over the metro Detroit area descended on the new Wonderland Village Wednesday morning to get that first breath of brand-new commercial air from the first Wal-Mart Supercenter in metro Detroit.

A line of people that began forming at 5 a.m. eventually stretched around the building and the new parking lot was filled to overflowing as one of the more contentious redevelopment projects of recent years came to fruition.

Betty Phillips of Livonia was there Wednesday morning for the free stuff and the discounts.

"I heard they were giving tastings and samplings," she said. "I was in line for the cake and another customer said there were good bargains on bacon and eggs. I picked up a package of bacon for \$1.50."

She said she and her husband were willing to shop at the new store since the Farmer Jack near their home was closed. Katrina Wesley of Detroit said showing up for the very first day of a store is always nice. "Everything is brand new, you get first dibs on everything," she said. "I came here so fast I got a speeding ticket."

Bobbie Carlson of Livonia said the new supercenter has everything she and her husband want between the grocery section and the hard lines. She said she'd use the new Wal-Mart before going to the Meijer down the street. She came to the grand opening for the novelty of it.

"I like the hoopla," Carlson said. "It's like going shopping on the day after Thanksgiving. You get to see people excited about picking out bananas. I think this new store will bring something to Livonia. (The Wonderland) area needs to come up so much."

She's not the only one that feels that way. Lilian Schostak is the owner of Bread Basket Deli across Middlebelt from the new supercenter and she hopes it will bring a whole new clientele to her restaurant.

"We've had a lot of their employees over here already during the setup," she said. "We're excited, we're happy they're here. Hopefully they can rejuvenate the area."

The store, at 210,000 square feet, replaces a now-closed Wal-Mart store a mile away on Middlebelt, which was less than half the size.

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TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The aisles were full as customers filled the store during the grand opening of the new Wal-Mart Supercenter in Livonia Wednesday morning.

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## Extra-large store expected to have extra-large impact

BY DAVE VARGA  
STAFF WRITER

Wal-Mart began carving out its piece of the metro Detroit grocery market on Wednesday.

For the first time in this area, Wal-Mart's shelves stocked fresh meats, tomatoes and deli items under the same roof as the usual toiletries, housewares and packaged foods. The new Livonia Wal-Mart Supercenter at Wonderland Village, which opened Wednesday, is 210,000 square feet, more than double the size of the old Wal-Mart store, just over a mile away. The new facility on the grounds of the old Wonderland Mall serves as a "one-stop" store, according to manager Rita Acosta. Customers can not only expect to find their laundry soap, children's clothes and pretzel bites, but also lawn mowers, mulch, an expanded electronics selection, bicycles, vacuums, shampoo, microwaves and more.

While there, they can also get an oil change on their car, get a haircut or their nails done, visit the bank, buy a decorated cake, and fill up with a Subway sandwich or some fried chicken at the deli.

"A lot of people know what a supercenter concept is, but unless you go to a Wal-Mart Supercenter you don't know what it's like," explained Michael Collischan, market manager.

The Livonia store will be Wal-Mart's first of eight supercenters it's opening across the region in the next year. Future supercenter stores will be in Rochester Hills, Dearborn, Commerce Township, Sterling Heights, Taylor, New Hudson and Shelby Township.

The new store, which officials say draws from a seven-mile radius from Middlebelt and Plymouth roads, will be staffed by some 540 employees, including 300 new positions. More than 5,000 people applied for the jobs. Some workers were shifted from the old Wal-Mart store, which closed at 6 p.m. Tuesday. There were times when the old, smaller store would run out of an item. That shouldn't happen in the new store, Collischan said, due to "the sheer holding power" of the building.

Environmental concerns pushed some of the designs in the new building, he said. There are natural skylights, that supplement the light-sensitive fluorescent bulbs that work when it's dark. Shoppers walk on a stained concrete flooring with a sheen that doesn't require waxing or buffing. And the store has vents that exhaust the air conditioned air (or heat in the winter) from the main store into the garden center near the cash registers.

### Shielding neighbors

As store manager, Acosta is acutely aware of its residential neighbors — many of whom opposed the construction of the huge store when it was proposed two years ago.

Worries about crime, traffic, upkeep and noise dominated the opposition, especially based on a history of problems at the Wal-Mart at Middlebelt and Schoolcraft.

To help shield the neighborhood, developer Schostak Brothers agreed to build a tall dirt berm and planted pine trees and grass on it. Wal-Mart will also limit truck traffic hours behind the building, with gates to enforce that. And, the store's tire and oil change bays were built only to open to the front of the building.

Acosta said they've tried to keep it clean behind the building. "We've made a lot of conscious efforts to make sure we're not disturbing any of the neighbors there," she said.

One of those neighbors, Andi Kolhoff said she's had mixed feelings. She's very unhappy with changes to the detention pond at the project, the extra traffic on the main roads, and the amount of dust in her house. Finishing putting the grass all along the new berm will help with the latter, she said.

Kolhoff, who is also president of the Devon-Aire Civic Association, said she did shop at the center. "I don't want to be totally negative. I did get into Target. It was beautiful. The aisles were huge. It was stunning," she said.

As for the entire project, she said: "It's very exciting to see it developed. I'm looking forward to seeing the corner developed instead of an eyesore."

### A 'real boost'

The store is part of Wonderland Village, an \$80 million project of stores and restaurants being constructed by Schostak Brothers. Just east of the new Wal-Mart is a new Target, which opened July 24. Mayor Jack Engebretson said that complaints about construction at the site have been few, though city inspectors did shut down work for a day in June due to starting work early. "It helped get their attention," Engebretson said. "It was to let them know that we're very serious about the noise ordinance." Inspectors made a couple other early-morning visits to the site to ensure construction noise compliance, according to Alex Bishop, director of inspections for the city.

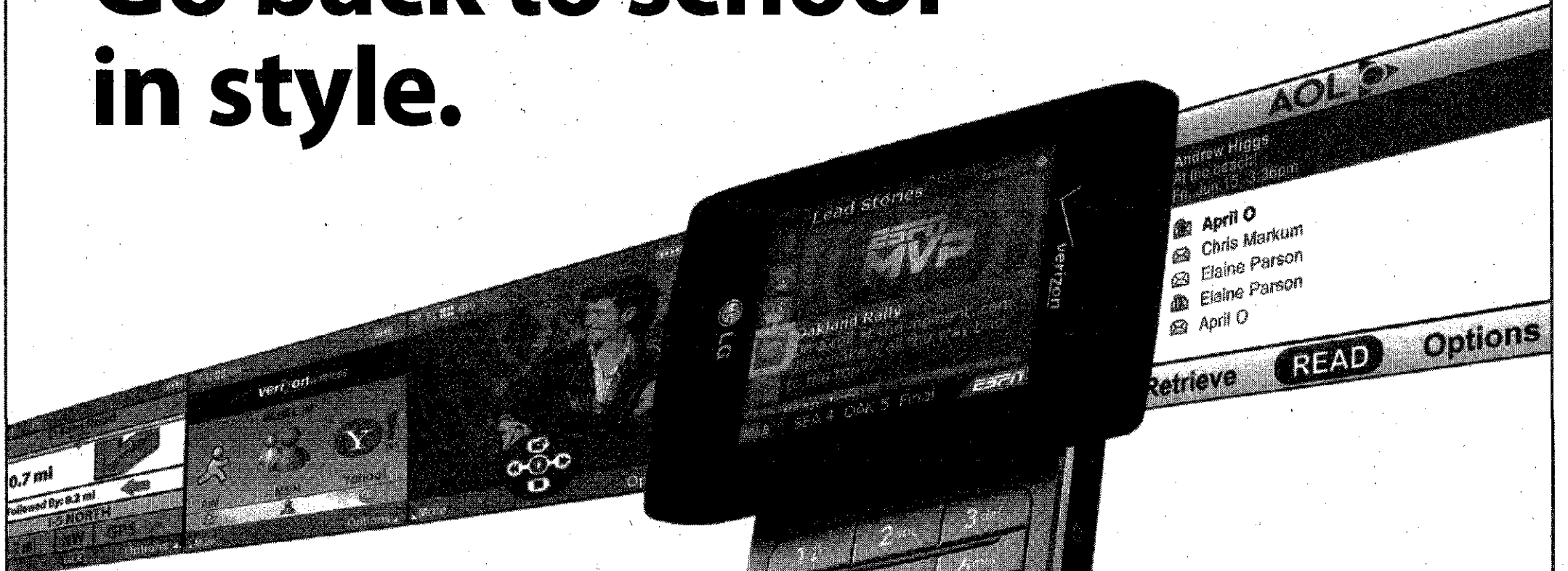
The sparkling new investments at Wonderland Village will help other stores, such as ABC warehouse waiting to open across the street, according to Engebretson. "It's my personal belief that this whole development is going to be a real boost for Plymouth Road and this whole area," he said.

Wal-Mart officials tout the fact that they've donated \$20,400 to various Livonia area charities over the years. They also note the national average wage for full-time hourly associates (taken in December) is about \$10.51 per hour.

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Plymouth DDA director of operations Sherrie Pryor (from left) and friends Ronda Silcox of Garden City, team captain Wendy Boye of Westland and Sue Brewington of Romulus have been training for more than a month, gradually building up their endurance.

# Friends hit the pavement to fight breast cancer

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
STAFF WRITER

Part of Sherrie Pryor's job as operations director of Plymouth's Downtown Development Authority is to walk around downtown talking with merchants and interacting with those who attend downtown events.

However, navigating the Norman Rockwell-like downtown pales in comparison to the challenge of walking 60 miles in three days during the Breast Cancer 3-Day walk Sept. 28-30 through Livonia, Farmington Hills and Dearborn.

Pryor, team captain Wendy Boye of Westland, Rhonda Silcox of Garden City and Sue Brewington of Romulus have been training for more than a month, gradually building up their endurance.

"I feel good, but my feet seem to feel it the most," said Pryor, who tried on more than 50 pairs of shoes before finding a pair she believes will comfortably help her finish the 60 miles. "Most people don't finish because of blisters and dehydration."

The Breast Cancer 3-Day

is a major fund-raiser for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Individuals have to commit to raising \$2,200 to participate. The team — Breast Friends 4 Life — set its goal at \$10,000. Several fund-raisers and donations from friends and family have team members well on their way with \$5,700.

Boye organized the team in hopes of finding a cure before she or anyone she knows get the dreaded disease.

"I went on a fund-raiser for a friend who's walking, and I started thinking about how it affects one-in-eight women, and how many women I know that could have the chance of getting cancer," Boye said. "Although I don't know of anyone who's had breast cancer now, we're doing it for the future."

Silcox said she was at first skeptical when approached by Boye to walk, but didn't have a hard time being convinced to take part.

"When Wendy asked me to do it, at first I thought she was crazy," Silcox said. "But then she started to tell me some of the stories she heard, and I decided it was a good thing to do."

"I have a daughter and grand-

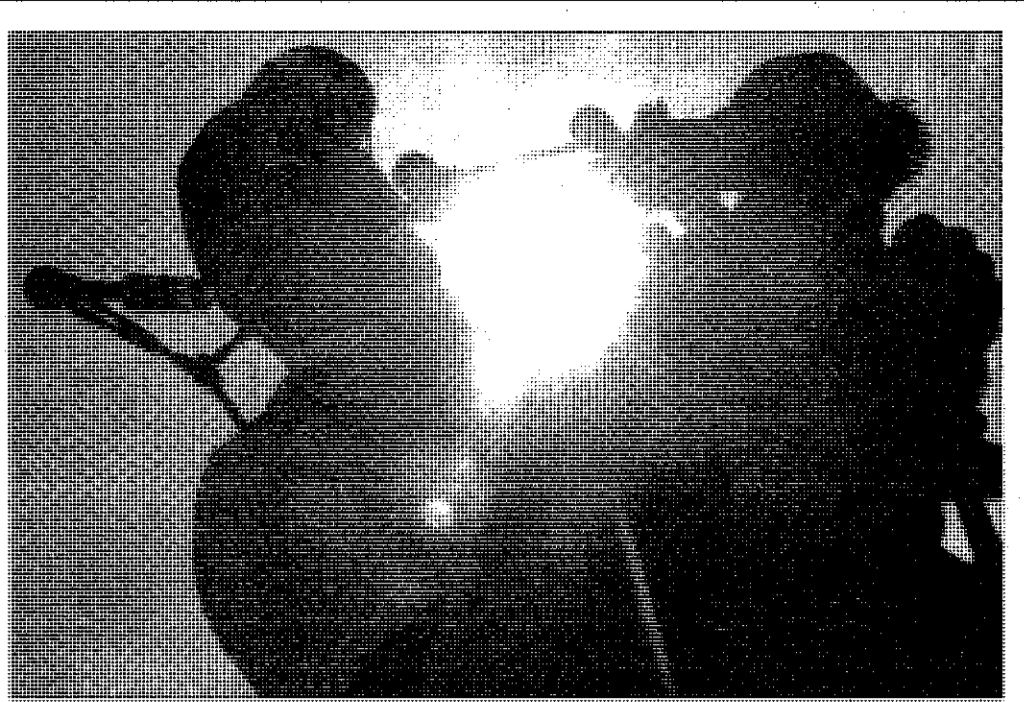
daughter, and I hope to be around for them a long time," she added. "I think this is the kind of experience that will change our lives."

Pryor said the experience of fund-raising has been gratifying. "I was very surprised at the number of people who would stop and tell us their story, or that of someone they know suffering from breast cancer," she said. "A lot of people who have donated to our team have been touched in some way, whether they've survived it or lost someone. They just feel a need to do something about it."

The women are having a wine-tasting and silent auction to help them reach their \$10,000 goal. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17, at the Wayne Senior Center. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 the night of the event. For more information call Pryor at (734) 740-0606, or e-mail Breast\_friends\_4\_life@yahoo.com.

Donations to the group can also be made online at [www.the3day.org/michigan07/sherriepryor](http://www.the3day.org/michigan07/sherriepryor).

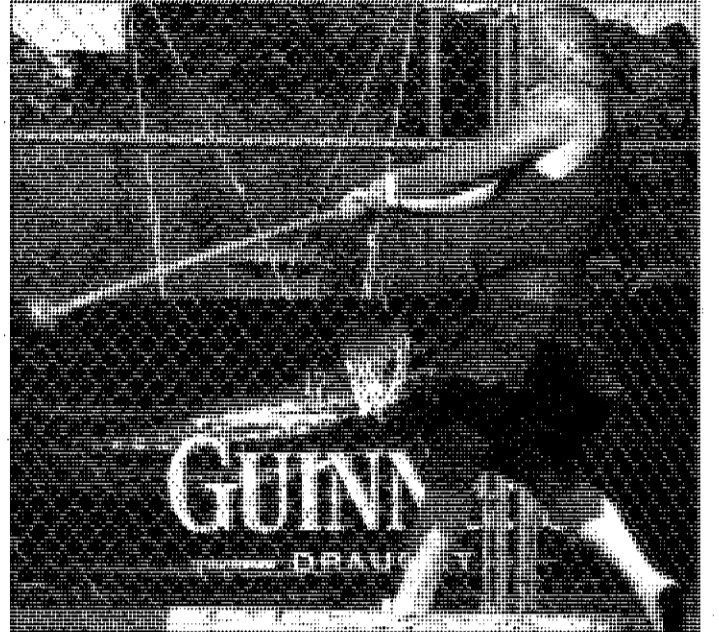
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Barton Kreger of Plymouth warms up on the bagpipes during the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit 158th annual Highland Games held Saturday on the grounds of Greenmead Historical Village in Livonia.



Eight-year-old Sara Teixeira of Toronto, Ontario, practices with her coach Nadiene Gibney before competing in the Highland Games dance competition Saturday at Greenmead.



## Great Scots!

Mark Meyerhoff, above, throws 101-foot, 6-inches in the hammer toss during the amateur competition of the Highland Games Saturday.

# LeBlanc promotes commuter rail line with Westland stop

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER



LeBlanc

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc was enthused when he visited the Westland Rotary last week.

The Westland Democrat, a first-term legislator, was there to talk about the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and the state working on a commuter rail line from Ann Arbor to Detroit, a project he's confident the project will go through — and that Westland will be among the handful of stops.

"If it does (go through), really, it is going to provide economic opportunity to Westland," LeBlanc said. The site planned for the Westland stop is Merriman and Michigan Avenue.

"It looks like a really good opportunity," LeBlanc told Rotary members and guests at the Wayne-Westland Salvation Army building. He and others hope for a federal commitment, and to work out some other logistics by November. "It's one of the things that's on the burner, and it's not a back burner."

There hasn't been great opposition from the auto industry, he said, noting people would still need cars to drive to the train stops.

The train would originate in Ann Arbor, moving on to Ypsilanti, Westland, Dearborn and Detroit.

The city of Wayne was earlier thought to be the likely stop locally, said LeBlanc, who was

circumspect in describing the change from Wayne to Westland. Having legislators from Westland, himself and state Sen. Glenn Anderson, helped, he said.

"It would be a national model. I have great hopes," said LeBlanc, a former Westland city councilman and Wayne-Westland school board member.

LeBlanc was introduced by club President Mark McConnell, who noted such visits help legislators keep in touch "and let us know what they're doing." LeBlanc opened by saying he's proud of his voting record of 273 votes, perfect to that date.

He may miss a vote soon, however, as his son's buying a home in Westland and he'll leave work for that.

"The biggest thing on most people's minds across the state is the tax situation," LeBlanc said. He agreed the personal property tax has caused business failures: "The Michigan Business Tax addresses that in a huge way." It must still go through the state Senate, he said, but will lessen tax burdens.

He cited the "ticket tax" or amenities tax promoted by Gov. Jennifer Granholm. "I'm not sure where that's going to go," he said.

He's concerned about legislative gridlock, noting Granholm has signed three bills all year. Some of his legislative colleagues are young and inexperienced, a concern to LeBlanc.

He cited his work chairing committees for the state police and Military and Veterans Affairs. LeBlanc believes the House will soon finish its work.

He also addressed the post-Proposal A real estate "pop-up" as keeping people from buying homes.

LeBlanc and his family ended up not moving within Westland because of that. "I was stunned (at the potential tax bill). That kept me from moving." Action on that would stimulate the housing market and general economy, he added.

"It's a very different world," LeBlanc said of Lansing. "It's very partisan."

He's hopeful for an economic turnaround, and isn't sure people are necessarily all losing their jobs: "Go to a restaurant in Westland on Friday night and see if you can get in. People are spending money."

LeBlanc encouraged people to attend coffee hours he holds in conjunction with Sen. Anderson. Coffee hours are 9 a.m. the second Monday of the month at the Big Boy restaurant at Wayne and Hunter in Westland. "It's a good opportunity for people to share," LeBlanc said, adding of Anderson "He makes me pay for the coffee."



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# Event celebrates 60 years of India's independence

The sights, smells and colorful beauty of India will fill the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi this Sunday for the 60th anniversary celebration of India's independence.

India Day 2007 is expected to draw at least 25,000 people from all around the region. This free event is from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12, and will feature live music and dancing, shopping, authentic Indian food, a health camp, a job fair, a visa camp and kids activities.

"This is to celebrate the cul-

ture and the history and to celebrate our independence day," said Ramesh Gudapuri of Novi, who is chairman of the event. "India is like a mini-Europe, with all of the different states. We are inviting all of the (Indian) community organizations (in Michigan) to come and showcase their culture."

The event is presented by the India League of America, in collaboration with the all Michigan Indian community organizations. The India League of Michigan is the umbrella organization of 40-

50 Indian groups in Michigan, representing different states of India.

Gudapuri said the event draws people from various ethnic communities in metro Detroit, Toledo and Windsor. There are at least 78,000 Indian Americans living in the Detroit area, Gudapuri said.

Rock Financial Showplace is located at 41600 Grand River, between Novi Road and Beck Road in Novi. For more information, e-mail [indiaday@ilamichigan.org](mailto:indiaday@ilamichigan.org).

# Benefit will help vets visit World War II memorial in Washington

Autographed items from Kenny Loggins, the Detroit Tigers and nationally acclaimed TV cooking celebrity and cookbook author Paula Deen will be auctioned off at The Big Beat Brew, a benefit to help aging World War II veterans visit the national World War II memorial in Washington, D.C.

The event will take place 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, at the UFCW Hall, 876 Horace Brown Drive, Madison Heights (south of 13 Mile, between Stephenson Highway and John R Road).

The evening will benefit Honor Flight Michigan, an organization that arranges flights for World War II veterans who have waited more than 60 years to see a memorial to their fallen comrades.

Nearly 1,500 World War II veterans die each year. For many, prohibitive health care costs have wiped out their savings, preventing them from visiting the site. It costs \$300 to fly one veteran to and from the memorial.

At the benefit, a Kenny Loggins signed guitar, autographed Detroit Tigers pictures and signed cookbook from celebrity chef Paula Deen will be up for bid at the evening's silent auction. Other items to be auctioned off are golf clubs, a Disney-themed basket, jewelry, 19th Century Morgan silver dollars (mint condition), a drum head from Don Henley of the Eagles, an Italian dinner basket from Nino Salvaggio, pre-World War II cigarette lighters, gift certificates, Detroit Tigers tickets and

much more.

A group of World War II re-enactors in dress uniforms of the period will be on hand at The Big Beat Brew. Re-enactors will appear in Class A/dress uniforms, some with insignia identifying specific units. Veterans are among the re-enactors, who also will perform swing dances from the World War II era.

Guests at the event will be treated to entertainment by Legend the Band, which will play music from the 1940s to the 1970s. Hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, dessert and coffee will be served. A cash bar will be available.

Cost of admission is \$25 a person. The public is invited. For more information, contact Melissa Downey at (248)541-4388.

# Here's your chance to dine with Coco from WJLB-FM

The *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* are teaming up with Buddy's to present "Dining With the Stars" featuring Coco of "The Coco, Foolish & Mr. Chase in the Morning Show," which airs weekdays from 6-10 a.m. on FM98 WJLB.

The show is known throughout metro Detroit for its laughs, amazing prizes, hot topics, celebrity gossip and interviews, news and more.

In 100 words or less, tell us why you're a fan of Coco and would like to have lunch or dinner with her at Buddy's Pizza in August.

Send your fan letter to [BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com](mailto:BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com) and be sure to include your name, address, daytime phone number and e-mail address.

Deadline to enter the August contest is 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 21.

A photograph of you and Coco will be published in the *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* and online at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

"We want our winners to



Coco

dine with their favorite stars and feel like a star, too," says Marcy Brontman of Buddy's Pizza.

Buddy's will also present a check for \$500 to the Detroit Recovery Project, the charity of Coco's choice which supports individuals in identifying and resolving barriers to achieving a healthy and productive drug-free lifestyle.

The August winners will be treated to a limo ride, courtesy of Pro Tran Transportation, makeover from Beauty Salon by J. Lyle Ltd. featuring stylist and makeup artist Christine Fitzpatrick, a \$100 gift certificate to the Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield and a dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

Other upcoming "Dining With the Stars" include Chuck Gaidica of WDIV-TV (Channel 4), Attorney Geoffrey Fieger, Florine Mark of Weight Watchers, health and fitness guru and *O&E* columnist Peter Nielsen, Ruth Spencer of WDIV's "Ruth to the Rescue" and Trudi Daniels of WRIF-FM.

No purchase is necessary to enter. Buddy's Pizza will review all entries and select the top four "fan" letters.

The stars featured for the month will make the final selection.

Lunch and/or dinner date is to be determined with the winner and star by Buddy's representatives.

# Volatile stock market is norm

Several times a year, I write a column to remind people the sky is not falling and that volatility in the stock market is the norm.

At a seminar last week in the Farmington Hills Library, I asked the audience: "How many people believe we're in a bad stock market?" A number of people raised their hands and I asked them why. They answered:

"Look what has happened to the market over the last few weeks."

I explained how the stock market has performed since the beginning of this year and last year. When they considered the numbers, they had a different opinion of the stock market.

Good stock market or bad market — it really all depends upon the time period. As investors, short-term time frames are relatively immaterial.

What happens over a few weeks or a few months does not give a true picture of the mar-

ket. After all, it was February when the Dow Jones Industrial Average suffered a 400-point loss. The doom and gloomers and many in the media jumped on the story and were comparing it to the crash of 1987. Investors who let the hype dictate their investment decisions rushed out of the market and missed a very nice run up to new all-time highs.

It's ironic that I'm writing a column encouraging investors not to panic when only a few weeks ago the Dow broke through the 14,000-mark and I was warning investors not to be overly giddy and excited.

The Dow went from 13,000 to 14,000 in record time and once again the news media was blaring about the great market.

As I told investors when the markets were setting record highs that they should not jump in hoping to make a short-term killing, neither should investors now jump out of the market in order to prevent a short-term downturn in their portfolio.

It would be great if we could time the market knowing when to buy and when to sell. It certainly would make life much easier. However, no one can time the market.

During volatile times, inves-

tors need to keep their emotions in check.

I recognize when it comes to investing, everyone wants the secret to success. To me, being a successful investor is no secret at all. You cannot get caught up in the day-to-day fluctuations of the market.

The key to success in the market has always been time in the market, not timing the market.

As we go through a period of increased volatility, investors need to remind themselves that if they have diversified their portfolio, spread risk across a variety of different asset classes and based their decisions on their own individual goals and objectives, they will find that over the long run they will be successful investors.

Don't panic, don't let fear dictate your investment decisions, take a deep breath and recognize that short-term volatility is the price we pay for long-term gains.

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




Money Matters


Rick Bloom

**Get on the ball. Read today's SPORTS coverage!**

**ISSUE: COMPASSION FATIGUE?**



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### August - One Winner

Two Detroit Tiger tickets plus \$100 in cash for Monday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 p.m. against the Yankees. The drawing for these tickets will be held on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.\*

### September - One Winner

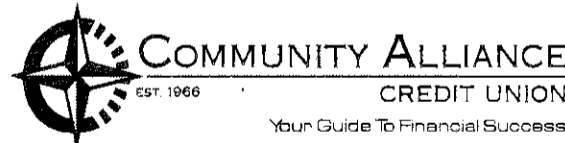
Two Detroit Tiger tickets plus \$100 in cash for Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:05 p.m. against the Royals. The drawing for these tickets will be held on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.\*



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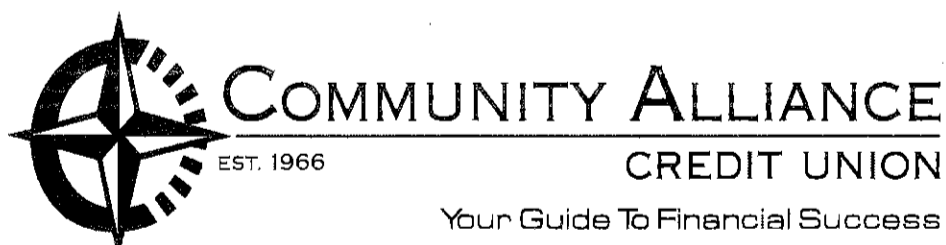
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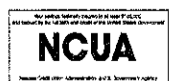
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\*Qualifying services must be opened at the time a new account is opened. One entry per member per product. The odds of being a winner depend on the total number of eligible entries received. Random drawings will be held to determine the winners. Winners will be notified by a phone call and by mail. No purchase necessary. Detroit Tiger tickets are good only for the dates listed above. There are no refunds or exchanges, and cannot be redeemed for cash. Must be at least 16 years old to open a checking account or apply for a loan/with a legal guardian as co-signer. Employees of Community Alliance Credit Union, affiliates and family members are not eligible to enter the drawings. Penalty imposed for early withdrawal from a certificate. Money Market Accounts subject to terms and conditions.



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Listings for the Community Calendar** can be submitted by e-mail at [smason@hometownlife.com](mailto:smason@hometownlife.com). They also can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or faxed to her attention at fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2112.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## School signups

St. Damian Catholic School at 29891 Joy, Westland, is accepting enrollment for the 2007-2008 school year. St. Damian offers preschool for 3-4-year-olds and full day kindergarten through grade 8. For more information or to schedule a tour, call (734) 427-1680.

## 3-Day Walk benefit

A Wine Tasting and Silent Auction will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17, at the Wayne Senior Center, Howe at Annapolis in Wayne. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door and include wine and hors d'oeuvres. The event will benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure as part of the Breast Cancer 3 Day Walk. For tickets or more information, call Sherrie at (734) 740-0606 or by e-mail at [breast\\_friends\\_4\\_life@yahoo.com](mailto:breast_friends_4_life@yahoo.com).

## Hospice help sought

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan's (VNA) hospice program needs volunteers to comfort and support patients at the end of life. Volunteers can provide companionship, write a memoir, provide respite for family or work as office support. A free 18-hour training program is provided at the VNA headquarters, 25900 Greenfield Road, Suite 600. Registration is required. (248) 967-8361 or visit [www.vna.org](http://www.vna.org).

## Volunteers needed

Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for volunteers to provide companionship to patients dealing with life limiting illness. No special skills, other than objectivity and compassion, are needed. Training provided. Volunteers are matched with patients in their own community. For more information please call Ruth at (800) 370-8592.

## Literacy Council tutors

The Community Literacy Council (CLC) is looking for volunteer tutors in Western Wayne County to help adults improve their reading, writing and communication skills. The CLC will provide training to interested volunteers. Previous experience or a bachelor's degree is not required. The council will provide free training and materials, and then match you with an adult student in your area. Call (734) 416-4906 for more information.

## Hospice training

Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in Washtenaw, western Wayne, Monroe and Livingston counties. Volunteers provide a variety of services including companionship, light housekeeping, errand running, grief support and clerical services. For more information, contact volunteer coordinator Candice Jones, (888) 973-1145.

## Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit welcomes girls ages 5-17 to discover fun and friendship, while enjoying opportunities to develop leadership skills. Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit also is looking for volunteers who want to make a difference in girls' lives. To learn more, call (313) 972-GIRL (4475) or visit [www.gsofmd.org](http://www.gsofmd.org).

[gsofmd.org](http://www.gsofmd.org).

## Explore Girl Scouting

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

## VOLUNTEERS

## Karmanos Institute

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute needs volunteers to transport cancer patients to mammogram and doctor appointments in metropolitan Detroit. Drivers are needed for Macomb and Oakland counties, Dearborn and Detroit. Volunteers must be at least 18. Mileage reimbursement is provided. Call (800) KARMANOS to volunteer.

## First Step

First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program. Call (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223.

## Drivers

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. The meetings take place 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center, Farmington Road south of Five Mile. Drivers may be offered a stipend. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others may attend the meetings. Call (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208.

## EDUCATION

## Schoolcraft College classes

The following classes are offered at Schoolcraft College in the coming weeks: Accent reduction classes are 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays (\$209); and Back to basics refresher courses in math, reading and test-taking are offered. For details, visit [www.schoolcraft.edu/lac](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/lac) or call (734) 462-4436.

## St. Damian

St. Damian School is currently holding open enrollment for preschool - three-four-year-olds - and kindergarten through eighth-grade. The school is at 29891 Joy in Westland. Call (734) 421-6130 for more information and a school tour, or check out the school's Web site at [www.stdamian.com](http://www.stdamian.com).

## Summer classes offered

The Continuing Education and Professional Development Department at Schoolcraft College offers classes. Visit [www.schoolcraft.edu/ces](http://www.schoolcraft.edu/ces) or call (734) 462-4448.

## ORGANIZATIONS

## Friends of Eloise

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

## Toastmasters

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

## Democratic Club

The Garden City Democratic Club meets at 7 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month (September through June) in Room 5 of the Maplewood Center, Maplewood west of Merriman. For more information, call Billy Pate at (734) 427-2344.

## Citizens for Peace

Citizens for Peace meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Unity of Livonia Church on Five Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster. The group is dedicated to working for creation of a U.S. Department of Peace. All are welcome. Colleen Mills, (734) 425-0079.

## Suburban GOP Women's Club

The Suburban Republican Women's Club will host immigration attorney

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

## MOMS club

MOMS Club, a non-profit support group, welcomes all western Wayne County stay-at-home mothers, offering children activities, weekly age-appropriate play groups, and family get-togethers. MOMS Club also performs service projects that benefit needy children in our community. For more details, call Birthe, (734) 458-8143 or Kimberly at (248) 231-6120.

## Vietnam Vets

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

## In Harmony

The Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Kirk of Our Savior Presbyterian Church, 36660 Cherry Hill, west of Wayne Road, Westland. Gentlemen interested in the chapter's Renaissance Chorus or who enjoy quartetting can call membership chairman Bob Wolf at (734) 421-1652, or attend a rehearsal.

## Veteran's Haven

Veteran's Haven operates a car, boat, camper and real estate-donation program. Donations are tax-deductible. For information, call (734) 728-0527. Food is distributed to veterans once a month throughout the month and there is a supplemental food program 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. The Veteran Haven's Outreach Center 4924 S. Wayne Road two blocks south of Annapolis in Wayne. Any honorably

discharged Veteran that is in need or homeless and wants a better quality of life can call (734) 728-0527.

## Silver Strings Dulcimer

Musicians and listeners are welcome to stop by and visit a traditional music jam 7-9 p.m. the first and third Thursday of the month at Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City. Acoustic instruments include hammered and mountain dulcimer, guitar, banjo, fiddle, harmonica, concertina, autoharp, recorder, pennywhistle, ukulele and upright bass. Call (734) 482-2902 or check out the Web site at <http://geocities.com/ssd-society>.

## Garden City Kiwanis

The Garden City Kiwanis Club meets for lunch at 12:15 p.m. each Thursday at Amantea's Restaurant, 32777 Warren. Guests and potential new members are always welcome.

## Garden City Rotary

The Garden City Rotary Club meets at 12 noon Thursday at Amantea Restaurant, 32777 Warren. Community service planning, lunch and socializing are enjoyed. Please join us there.

## Habitat help

The Western Wayne affiliate of Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers to help with building homes, office duties and fund-raising. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. For information, call (734) 459-7744.

## Tutorial program

A tutoring program for students is offered at the Salvation Army Wayne-Westland Corps Community Center, 2300 Venoy in Westland. The program, 3:45-5:15 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, is for students 9 and older in Wayne, Westland and Romulus. For information on participating or volunteering, call Tyrone Peterson, (734) 722-3660. Tutors need to have at least a high school education.

## Hospital retirees

The Oakwood-Annapolis Retirees meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of the month at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center, Venoy at Howe in Wayne. All Oakwood Retirees are welcome to attend.

## Radio Club

The Garden City Amateur Radio Club meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at the Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman. The club is open to people who are interested in ham radio. Call Ben (W8AAA) at (734) 425-2629.

## Garden City Lions

The Garden City Lions meet at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of every month at the Maplewood Community Center, Maplewood west of Merriman. Call Dave Fetter at (734) 425-4382.

## Garden Club

The Garden City Garden Club meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at the Maplewood Center. Everyone may attend to hear guest speakers on a variety of gardening topics and plan events around the city. Call Della Hayden at (734) 427-9410.

## Genealogical society

The Western Wayne County Genealogical Society meets the third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center on Farmington Road, south of Five Mile. Beginning genealogy and computer classes start at 6:30 p.m. Guests are welcome.

## Purple Heart

The Military Order of Purple Heart meets at 8 p.m. the third Wednesday of the month in the VFW Hall, on Ford west of Venoy. Meetings are open to combat-wounded veterans.

## FOR SENIORS

## Friendship Center

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

## Dyer Center

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

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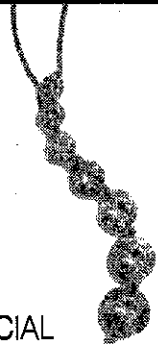
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OUR VIEWS

## City does job with tall grass

Summer hadn't even started, when Westland residents started complaining about the tall grass on vacant properties in their neighborhoods.

Inundated with complaints, the mayor and city council moved quickly to find a solution — getting the lawnmowers rolling when grass was eight inches high and billing the property owners, even if it meant putting it on their tax bills.

The city also brought in contractors to keep up with mowing and the end result is evident — a substantial drop in complaints from more than 300 early in the season to less than 20 now.

What happened in June was a nothing less than city government at its finest. City officials who may not see eye-to-eye on some things set aside their differences to solve a problem, one that is plaguing communities around the metropolitan area and the state.

These are not good times in Michigan. People are losing their jobs and their homes. Cities and school districts are having to do more with less. In spite of those drawbacks, city officials found a way to get the job done.

We applaud city officials' swift response to the problem. Westland residents take pride in their homes, their city and their schools. You need only drive down a residential street and see that pride in the neatly manicured lawns and well-tended flower beds.

We also applaud residents who took the initiative to keep the lawns of vacant homes mowed after the city knocked down the tall grass.

There are those who might think residents who do that are nuts. That's the city's job, not theirs. But we believe it shows a revival of the can-do spirit of the past where people didn't expect government to do everything for them. If they had a problem, they solved it. If it meant helping a neighbor, they did.

As a new president, John F. Kennedy challenged a generation to ask what they could do for their country rather than what their country could do for them. More than 40 years later, the message is still an important one.

If we are to come out of this economic downturn, it will take all of us, working together. Standing on the sidelines and watching will accomplish nothing.

We encourage residents to get involved and ask city officials how they can help. If it means revving up your lawnmower for some extracurricular cutting, so be it. It'll make that vacant property and your home look good and make the city look even better.

## Voter ID law much ado about nothing

Be prepared to show photo identification when voting in November.

That's when election clerks will implement a 1996 law the Michigan Supreme Court recently upheld as constitutional.

The law never went into effect before now because former Attorney General Frank Kelley, a Democrat, had ruled it violated a person's right to vote as guaranteed by the 14th Amendment.

A politicized issue that still divides, Democrats argue that the poor, elderly and minorities will be prevented from voting because they don't have driver's licenses or other photo IDs. Republicans say requiring photo IDs prevents voter fraud.

The U.S. Supreme Court may one day rule on the case, upholding or overturning the state court's decision.

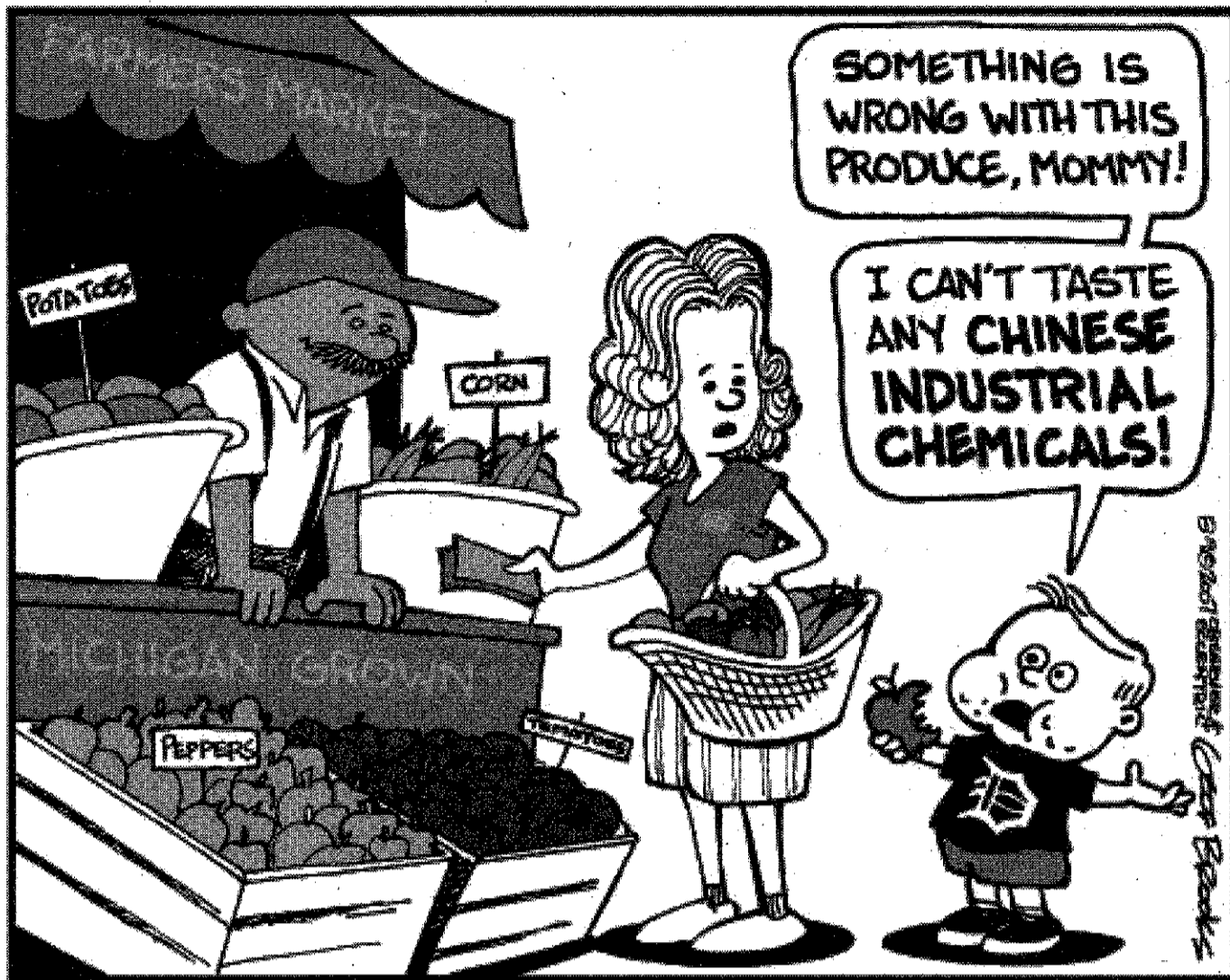
Until then, it appears requiring voters to show photo ID will be the law of the land in Michigan.

What few people realize is that voters will be allowed to sign an affidavit attesting to the fact they don't have a photo ID if they can't afford a driver's license or simply forgot and left it at home. The process will only take a few minutes, and voters will still be allowed to cast ballots, according to Michigan Secretary of State spokesman Ken Silfven.

We don't understand the need for photo ID. Michigan hasn't had a history of voter fraud like other states because of smaller precincts and the careful system of checks and balances clerks have followed for years.

In our opinion, the controversy here is much ado about nothing.

But as long as the law will be implemented, it doesn't appear citizens will be disenfranchised.



### No help in sight

I originally applied for Social Security disability in November 2003 and after being denied, requested an appeal hearing, which they received in March 2006. It has now been 19 months since the hearing request.

I have paid into Social Security for 30-some years and they always received the money right up front, but since my doctor told me I could no longer work, me and my dear wife of 31 years have suffered a long list of hardships. She was working two jobs at one time, trying to help out, but now that has taken its toll and her health is failing.

So with no insurance and no income, we are struggling to get her proper care. Cancer has been suggested and as of today has not been ruled out as she has more tests and more doctors to see. We have sold most of our belongings of any value and put our home of 24 years up for sale with no luck yet. Also, we have filed for bankruptcy, and we are still in danger of foreclosure, but trying very hard to keep our home.

I do receive food assistance and have applied to the state of for medical disability assistance which after being turned down and a subsequent hearing, I was declared disabled under SSI guidelines, guided by rule 201.10 by a state administrative law judge for purposes of SDA and MA programs, dated May 9, 2007, but I have yet to receive a dime from these programs.

A copy of this judgment along with a letter from my lawyer asking for a favorable ruling was mailed to the Social Security Administration office of disability adjudication and review, also in May, with no response. In the meantime, we are about to lose our house, and my poor wife's health is still in question. I have written Sen. Debbie Stabenow several times before with no results other than a letter from SSA saying basically they will get to me in their own sweet time while we lose everything.

It is really a shame that an institution such as the SSA can ignore a senator and ruin the lives of the very people they were created to serve and whom without they would not even exist. Do we have to be homeless and totally destitute before I can get what is really my money in the first place? It's no wonder there is so much crime and robbery in the world when this happens every day to so many people.

This letter will probably do no good either, and any God-sent inquiries on my behalf by any well-positioned Good Samaritan will probably be ignored by the almighty SSA, but if it helps to open someone's eyes, that can make a difference and ends up helping one person to avoid what we are going through it will be worth it.

As for now, all I can do is pray that my wife will be OK and we can get her care and that SSA gives me a hearing date or a favorable ruling as soon as possible so I can begin to receive my SSDI payments so we can at least survive because the SDA plan is a joke. Even if I could get what the judge says I'm entitled to, \$264 a month is not going to help much. I am not ungrateful. If I could just get it, I would pay it back whenever I get my SSD money.

I pity all the people like us who have

### LETTERS

worked hard all their lives, raising a family, and in their older years get kicked when they're down. God help us all.

Ronald A. Ross  
Westland

### Recycling's time has come

This letter is late in coming regarding the new initiative on recycling in our city. We are so pleased that our city offices are finally recycling paper, due to Mayor Wild's initiative. Actually, we were very surprised that this was not in place until now, in 2007. Where were all of the other mayors during all of the years of recycling?

This same initiative should go beyond our city buildings. It should be city-wide in all of our homes, schools, library and businesses. Hopefully, our parks will have containers for recycling next to the trash containers.

Finally, we are on the right track. We, along with many others have been recycling since day one. Now, many years later, driving our recyclables to the center is becoming more challenging. We, too, along with many others subscribed to the short-term curb-side recycling program that sadly came to a close.

It is time for us, in the 21st century, to do what is right. Stop trashing our land and recycle. We don't need any study group or consulting group to tell us what is right. Of course, if you ask people who are not recycling to begin to do so, the initial reaction to any change is no. Well, then our job becomes that much more demanding. Initially, it will take a little getting used to, however, once you start sorting recyclables from trash by simply putting them into a separate container, people will find out how easy it is.

True, there are many more recyclable items besides bottles, cans and paper; however, we need to start somewhere. With much more of an awareness today about global warming, perhaps people will be more willing to help Mother Earth.

The apparent \$7.50 per family that would be coming back to us is really not saving the residents taxes. Don't be fooled by any misrepresentation of this concept. We, along with many others, feel that even though these are hard times, that "seed money" should go into curb-side recycling in our city.

Where have all of the other mayors been all of these years? If they would have implemented city-wide recycling years ago along with cities across our country, we would not be discussing this basic issue in 2007. It is not a question of "we should," but a question of "when." It's about time that we do the right thing. Mother Earth does not belong to us. We are all only passing through. We need to save it for the following generations. It is our obligation to do so. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you, Mayor Wild, for seriously addressing this issue that was neglected by your predecessors.

Jim and Mary Murphy  
Westland

### Polich will be missed

At a recent city council meeting, the Westland Festival was brought up. We have one of the finest festivals anywhere. It was suggested that the city council

come together with the festival committee so it could be a better festival, then something was said about the demeanor of the chair for the festival.

I helped out for many years with the festival, did whatever was asked of me, probably more than I should have with my disabilities. But I did as much, if not more. Ken Mehl is not the problem with this committee. I have a lot of respect for Ken. A few years ago, he asked me if I would be interested in being on the committee. I said I would love to, but for one reason or another, with time schedules, I was not able to.

If people want to know what the problem is, they should talk to the people who have resigned the last two years. They could tell you plenty. I could tell you plenty. At the last council meeting, Barb Polich resigned after 19 years on the festival committee. What a tremendous loss. She was well-liked. I made it a point that if Barb needed me, I was there. I think I put a 100 miles on those golf carts, delivering pies to the Bailey Center, taking her to her car. She should be commended by the city for all she did to make the festival the best it could be. She will be truly missed by "most," so at this time, I would like to thank Barb for everything. I will miss you very much.

So for people to come and say that the city needs to get with the committee to make it better ... think again. Yes, if all of us worked together, we would have the best festival anywhere. But remember those famous words uttered years ago, "Can't we all just get along?" Well, we could, but there is a force greater than any one person, and if you ask the people that have quit in just the last two years, I can guarantee one name will come up by all of them.

After many years of helping out, I quit last year because of the way I was treated. I would get there at 9 a.m. and leave around midnight. I did not get paid. I was a volunteer, and I really enjoyed it. However, one bad apple can spoil the whole bunch, and mark my word, until the bad apple is contained, "Can't we just get along" are just words.

Sue, Charley, Tim and now Barb ... great people. Maybe when the bad apple is taken care of these people will be back, but no matter what, the Westland Festival will be around for many years, with or without all of us.

Bud Somerville  
Westland

### 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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Fax:  
(734) 459-4224

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### QUOTABLE

"We send a bill to the owner. If it's not paid by November, then it will be put on their December tax bill."  
- Public Service Director Kevin Buford on how the city is doing in collecting payment for cutting tall grass on properties around the city, particularly around homes left vacant from foreclosures

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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.

# What makes us worthy of our soldiers' sacrifices

In the play *Les Miserables*, one of the characters overwhelmed with grief for the loss of his friends in battle reflected on this tragedy with these words:

Phantom faces at the window  
Phantom shadows on the floor  
Empty chairs at empty tables  
Where my friends will meet no more



Terry Ahwal

Oh my friends, my friends,  
don't ask me  
What your sacrifice was for.  
Empty chairs at empty tables,  
Where my friends will sing  
no more."

As we contemplate what to do about Iraq, we must examine the words of this song and ask the question what are the soldiers' sacrifices for? But before we say that the 4,006 young men and women who lost their lives in Iraq died for our freedom, we must ask ourselves why they should sacrifice their lives for us. Is it because we deserve their sacrifices?

Are we that important to have young men and women slaughtered so we can continue to live a life of selfish arrogance built on 'what is in it for me life.' We ingrain our soldiers' minds with a sense of honor, love of country and sacrifice and yet we don't have the decency to honor them with taking a moment to vote in an election or participate in civic or political activities that can make a difference in people's life.

Memorial Day has become another day off from work. It has become so innocuous to turn the news off when the Iraq issue is on.

As congress and the president haggle over the path we should take in Iraq, the American public sits idle awaiting a stalemate that is going nowhere. As our soldiers die and the politicians work on their turf, we the American public go on with our normal lives without skipping a beat. With the exception of the soldiers and their families, who are paying the ultimate price, we live as if the war is someone else's responsibility.

Our support if any is hollow and meek at best. We cloak ourselves with flags of patriotism and turn on each other for daring to speak-out for or against the war. At the beginning we clamored for news about Iraq and the soldiers, we'd browse the news to hear about what is happening there. Today it is inconvenient to listen to news about Iraq.

We now have automatic default words and sentences that exonerate us from dealing with our soldiers and the war. For Example "They died for our freedom," "They made us proud," or "They are true Patriots."

With these words, we manage to romanticize the war. Yet few of us know how many soldiers have been killed and even fewer know

the names of the soldiers who are killed or injured in Iraq. Why should we? Based on the statistics, few of us have families or friends serving in the armed forces. Nameless and faceless soldiers don't elicit genuine grief. Further, since the problem is not in our backyard, we can afford to watch with detachment and a sense of guiltless support.

In reality, we are doing a disservice to our soldiers; our apathy derives from the lack of connection to what is going in Iraq or to our soldiers. We need to put a name and a face to those soldiers who are dying on our behalf. As my brother-in-law prepares to go on his tour of duty in Iraq, I browsed the Internet to learn about the danger he will be in, among my discoveries was a site with a calendar which lists the names of soldiers killed each day.

I scrolled to my birthday and discovered the names of three young men who died while I was busy celebrating my birthday with food and drinks in the company of my friends and family. During my celebration, I was not aware that Lance Cpl Joshua Alonzo, 21, Lance Cpl James R. Davenport, 20, and Pvt. Heath D. Warner, 19, tragically died away from home before they reached their 22th birthday. These three young men died anonymously and pointlessly, while the rest of us were busy living our own selfish life. They are dying, while the rest of us are free to buckle ourselves into the family vehicle and head off to the malls and shop and the latest vacation.

We need to shed our arrogance and work to ensure that their sacrifices are not in vain. We need to take personal responsibility. We need to be outraged that our soldiers are dying before some of them are able to be declared adults.

For 52 months, we sat idly by, while our misguided and confused leaders sent our soldiers to die. For so long, we let our politicians dictate to us the terms of this war. We gave them carte blanche to proceed without our interference to war.

We allowed fear and misrepresentation take a toll on our mind. If you are for the war, than you should be in the front of the battle field fighting instead of these children who are paying the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. If you are for peace, don't just sit there. You have the power to save these children. Do something! Our leaders, republican, and democrats are not leading us, they may be well-intentioned but their thirst for power and might is more important than our soldiers lives. Like us, they lack true courage and fortitude to stand up for what is right for the faceless nameless soldiers who are dying on our behalf.

Terry Ahwal is a resident of Canton and member of the governor's Commission on Arab and Chaldean Affairs.

# 'Bigger is better' – not so with Dream Cruise

**B**its and pieces ...  
The Dream Cruise is coming! The Dream Cruise is coming!  
Or is it already here?



Joe Bauman

Those that know me know I am not a big Dream Cruise fan. I've never been enamored with cars in general, which I guess places me at odds with my Motor City hometown. But I find myself getting less tolerant of the cruise with each passing year. Why? Because the cruise itself has ballooned from a single-day celebration of a bygone era to a corporate-backed, mass-marketed auto orgy that stretches for weeks and causes havoc along the stretch of Woodward from Eight Mile Road up to Maple Road in Birmingham.

Already my electronic mailbox is stuffed with Dream Cruise-related "news" items trumpeting upcoming events, many to be held well in advance of the "official" cruise set for Aug. 18. The Dream Cruise is absolute proof that "bigger is better" is not always true.

It was OK when the cruise grew to a two-day event, with classic car lovers using Friday to park along Woodward to show off their vehicles and take part in a pre-cruise cruise. After all, many of the cruisers travel a considerable distance to take part, and having a couple of days to celebrate seemed reasonable.

But somewhere along the way, folks started

showing up Thursday, and then Wednesday, and then Tuesday and ... well, you get the picture. Now, we hear about the official "Cruise week" and the unofficial party starts well before that.

In fact, I'd bet a copy of this newspaper that as I sit in my office on Maple just east of Woodward, there are at least a couple of classic cars zooming by. And there already have been reports of classic car diehards showing up with their lawn chairs Saturday evenings in Royal Oak and Ferndale to take in the scene.

Even the SMART bus system has gotten into the act by offering free rides along Woodward during the event. Don't have your own car to cruise in? Not a problem. Just hop on a SMART bus and join the fun.

And doesn't that sound like fun? Being stuck on a crowded bus in the middle of August as traffic crawls at about the same pace as a giant two-toed sloth makes its daily journey down its host tree.

There are positive benefits to the cruise, to be sure. It is great publicity for the region, it is a family friendly event and many nonprofit groups and charities raise badly needed funds by selling cruise-related merchandise.

But surely I am not the only one feeling Dream Cruise fatigue. And if the event is allowed to continue to spiral out of control, it could bring a hasty end to the world's largest classic car party.

Joe Bauman is managing editor for the Eccentric Newspapers. He welcomes feedback at jbauman@hometownlife.com or call him at (248) 901-2563.

## LETTERS

### Impeach Bush

It is past time for Congress to put an end to the extra-constitutional activities that have dominated the Bush administration agenda since its inception. The most egregious of these has been the catastrophic war in Iraq, based upon the deception of Congress and the American people.

The administration has sanctioned torture and illegal detention in violation of the Geneva Conventions and the Constitution. They authorized warrantless wiretapping and spied on American citizens. Members of the administration maliciously revealed the identity of an undercover agent and destroyed her vitally

important intelligence network. Senior administration officials, and possibly even the president, asserted undue political influence over the justice department in the politically motivated firings of U.S. attorneys who refused to bow to administration pressure to pursue unwarranted investigations.

Impeachment, included in the Constitution as a means of addressing high crimes and misdemeanors by the executive branch, is the method for reining in an out-of-control executive who no longer feels bound by the rule of law. It is time to put impeachment back on the table. The time to act is now.

Katie Jacob  
Birmingham

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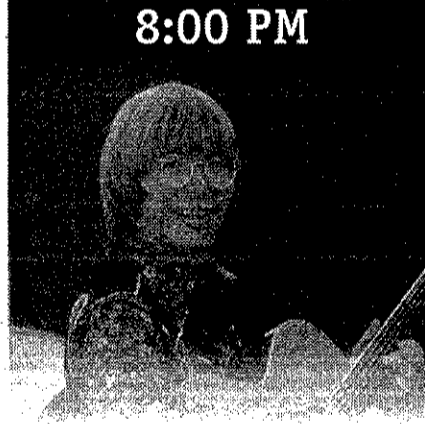
The economic downturn was like a good kick in the pants for Theodora "Teddi" Ragland. When she lost her job after 9/11, she was forced to pursue a new career. "I always wanted to teach. But I'd been out of school for three decades. I was scared to death about starting again. And then I was shocked at how well I did." Teddi credits HFCC faculty and staff for their support. "Everyone feels like they're the only one, that they're alone. Henry Ford makes you feel like you're not." Visit us at [www.hfcc.edu](http://www.hfcc.edu) to find out how we can help you.

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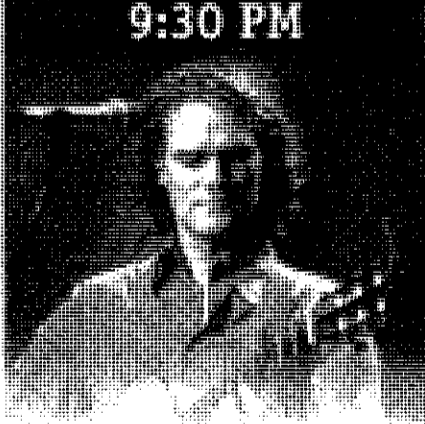
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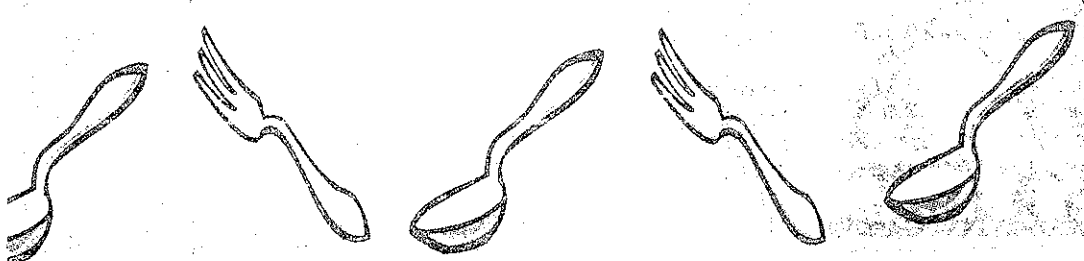
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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE A14

Worship service

All are welcome to attend 11 a.m. worship service Sundays, at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne at Hunter, Westland. Join us at 7 p.m. Tuesdays in November and December as Pastor Louise Monacelli introduces The Jesus Experience, a series of videos offering insight into the people and situations God used to expand the church around the world. For more information, call (734) 721-0800.

Worship services

Sunday Worship services are at 8 a.m. (traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (contemporary), at Grace Lutheran Church, 46001 Warren, between Canton Center and Beck, Canton. For more information, call (734) 637-8160. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study series: Heaven Can't Wait.

Worship service

At 10:30 a.m. Sundays at New

Beginnings United Methodist Church, 16175 Delaware at Puritan, Redford. Congregation is hearing lessons from I Peter. For more information, call (313) 255-6330.

Adult literacy classes

Adult and English as a Second Language literacy classes are available for those wishing to improve reading, writing and English Conversational skills. Open to adults age 18 and over. Trained tutors available for day or evening. For information, call Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City at (734) 421-0472.

Personal ministry

Due Season Christian Church is a nondenominational, multicultural, full gospel church that offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Tuesday night Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Services are currently held at Stevenson High School on Six Mile, west of Farmington Road, Livonia. All are welcome. For information, call (248) 960-8063 or visit www.OueSeason.org.

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, meets at 7 p.m. every Thursday evening at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley, Canton. Weigh-in is from 6:15-6:55 p.m. It is a weight support group that encourages members to lose weight and keep it off. Call Margaret at (734) 838-0322.

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 for information.

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.

Senior activities

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# 'Fun With the Family in Michigan' features local author, lots to do

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

If you have a question about fun stuff to do in Michigan, Bill Semion of Plymouth Township's a good man to ask.

Semion, who lived in Canton for 29 years, recently published *Fun With the Family in Michigan* (Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, Conn.)

The book, which he first penned in 1996 and has updated regularly since then, is a guide to Michigan family attractions.

"It must be fairly popular," said Semion, 59, who has worked in media relations for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan since May 2004. The first edition in 1996 was called *Family Adventure Guide* and the name was later changed.

"They have quite a few for each state," he said of the publisher. "They contact a local, hopefully knowledgeable writer."

Semion (whose wife Denise is chief of communications for Huron-Clinton Metroparks) was working on the AAA magazine when then-managing editor Larry Keller was contacted by the publisher to seek a local writer who could do the job. "I said, 'OK, we'll give it a whirl.'"

It took eight-nine months to research and write the first book, with a friend and AAA colleague, Scott Renas of Inkster, assisting with research. They "started reeling off things to put in the book." Renas had done a lot of research on Michigan tourism for AAA, a big help. The Internet has been a big help as well.

Semion's also a freelance journalist who does writing on the outdoors and travel on his own time. He writes for *Great Lakes Angler* magazine, and also for *Woods and Water News*, "whoever will have me."

The first Michigan family fun book was 156 pages, while the newest one, a complete update which is available at local bookstores, is about 300, divided into different regions of Michigan. Semion's visited many of the attractions, including the close-to-home Plymouth Orchards cider mill many times, as well as the Motown Historical Museum in Detroit.

"Of course, I ride my bike down Hines Drive a lot. I'm very familiar with this area." The Michigan native grew up in Nankin Township with a Plymouth address, in the area that's now Westland. He considered Plymouth his hometown back in those days when there wasn't a lot out here.

"My parents would take us up on vacation to the east side of the state, which is kind of an undiscovered area for people," he said. Semion remembers the Mackinac Bridge linking the Upper and Lower Peninsulas — marking its 50th anniversary this year — going up when he was a boy.

"I barely remember going over the straits in a ferry." He got his hand slammed in a ferry door, so that memory stuck.

"There are lots of great things for families to do," Semion said of Michigan. "In a lot of ways, it's changed for the better."

If you ski and get tired at Boyne Mountain, there's the big Avalanche Bay waterpark there.

"There are lots of outdoor things people can do," said Semion, who enjoys many outdoor activities. He prefers the quieter, more rustic campgrounds. "It's just a great place to get away."

Wife Denise helped with advice on the Metroparks. Semion has two adult children, 30 and 31, and stepsons, 23 and 15. He wanted the book, which includes basics like hours, days open, phone numbers, addresses and Web sites, to appeal to all. "I made sure to put things in there adults could enjoy too." He cited the Cabela's store near Monroe which has a waterpark nearby attached to a Holiday Inn Express.

Semion agreed Michiganders sometimes

belittle their state and its beauty. "I think so. I think that's exactly what we do. There are so many things you could enjoy here."

He likes his hometown and cites Ann Arbor "which is a wonderful city. It's so alive," and probably his favorite.

The *Fun With the Family in Michigan* paperback sells for \$13.95. Semion plans to update it every two years as long as he's asked.

"It's very popular, actually," said Globe Pequot Press pub-

licist Bob Sembianti. "We've had some great response."

The publisher has covered almost every state, and some individual cities like Las Vegas, Sembianti said. California is divided into north and south books, and smaller states like New England are combined into one.

"Family travel is up," Sembianti said, noting a trend to travel in the U.S. That's been good for the book series, "and no end in sight."

The first Michigan family fun book was 156 pages, while the newest one, a complete update which is available at local bookstores, is about 300, divided into different regions of Michigan. Semion's visited many of the attractions, including the close-to-home Plymouth Orchards cider mill many times



Bill Semion of Plymouth Township wrote 'Fun With the Family in Michigan.'

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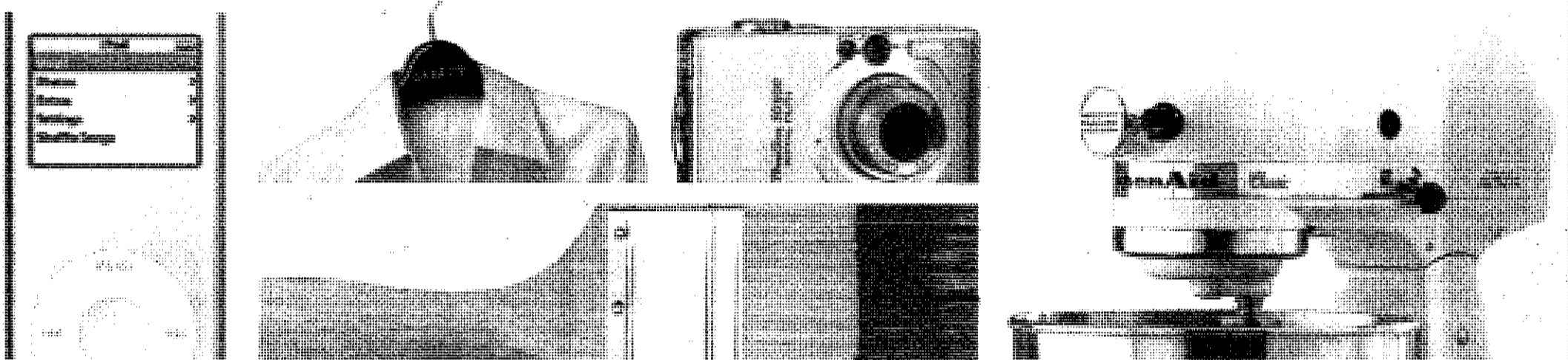
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## Ferris State linebacker riding high

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Prior to the start of Ferris State's first preseason football practice, linebacker Jeff Hollandsworth decided he and some friends would get away and spend a couple of days at Cedar Point, the Ohio amusement park.

It was time for a little fun. Thrill rides and roller coasters before the gruelling two-and-a-half weeks of two-a-days under the hot sun.

The Livonia Stevenson grad, a red-shirt junior, is one of the leaders of a

veteran defense which hopes to catapult the Bulldogs to their first NCAA Division II playoff berth since 1995.

Preseason expectations are high in Big Rapids. The Bulldogs are coming off an 8-3 season, including a 7-3 record in arguably the toughest Division II league in the nation - the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Ferris State is ranked No. 18 preseason nationally by the Lindy's annual college football publication, but only fourth in the GLIAC coaches poll behind defending Division II champion Grand Valley State and perennial conference contenders Northwood and Saginaw Valley State.

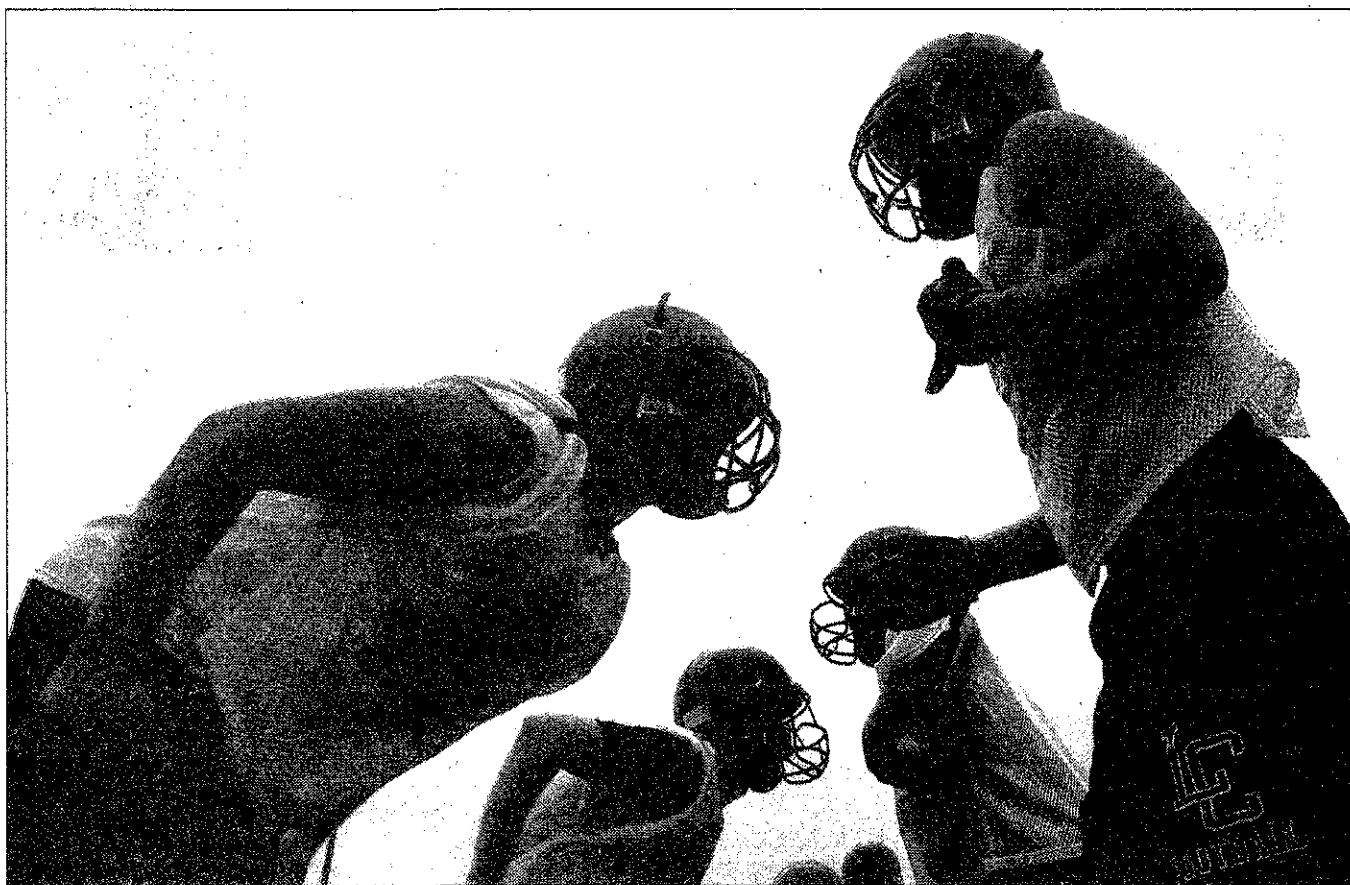
"This year we're looking to pick up where we left off," said Hollandsworth, the Bulldogs' third-leading tackler the past two seasons. "We're expected to do real well. And if we have a good year, we could be at the top of the conference. All of our defensive linemen are back (including All-America Jake Visser). We have some new guys at linebacker, but we're still solid. The secondary is young."

When the Ferris State defense is on the field, it's a good bet No. 59 will emerge from the pile of players and be credited with the tackle.

To use a few Cedar Point analogies, the 6-foot, 235-pound Hollandsworth often Corkscrews through blockers, creates Chaos and plays with a Mean Streak.

Last year in 10 games,

Please see **HOLLANDSWORTH, C2**



Churchill football players work on their tackling form as practices started up throughout the area this week.

PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Grid action heats up

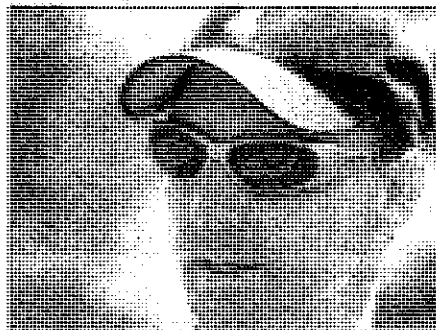
BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Bob Snell had to ditch his trusty sunglasses with the Eagle design because they took a bit of a beating last year. "They got scratched up," said the veteran Redford Thurston varsity head football coach.

But about 100 Eagles players who will comprise Thurston's freshman, junior varsity and varsity teams came out for Monday's first official workout and did just fine despite humid weather and scorching Field Turf.

"It's a little hotter on the (turf) field, but that's OK," said Snell, whose players took part in the first-ever opening day practice on the year-old surface. Thurston players, clad in helmets, shirts and shorts but not able to wear full pads until Thursday (per MHSAA regulations), went through the paces in various fundamentals drills that mostly emphasized timing and agility.

"It wasn't that bad," Snell said. "It was cloudy all morning during the first session, and there was no problem (with



Redford Thurston's Bob Snell presided over first-day workouts without the trademark 'Eagles' sunglasses he wore in previous years (above).

the heat) at all. Around 1 p.m. the sun popped out. But we've been conditioning all summer and that's why the heat doesn't hurt them that much."

Snell said the opening practice went "pretty typical, it was a very smooth day for the first day, really."

Also on Monday were opening-day workouts at Redford Union, Garden City and Redford Covenant.

### KEEPING TABS

RU varsity head football coach Miles •

Tomasaitis said about 80 players were being closely monitored by coaches and trainers to make sure they weren't getting overheated.

"It has been hot, but we're keeping a close eye on kids weights and water consumption," Tomasaitis said.

Before and after every practice, players are weighed. If somebody loses three percent or more of their total body weight, they are kept out of subsequent workouts.

"Some kids have been on the cusp," he continued. "But no kids have been held out yet."

Garden City players such as freshmen Jon Frost and Koby Richardson (both expected to play on the JV) either poured ice water over their heads or drank it in attempts to stay cool. Coaches also made sure they did just that.

"With it being so hot and muggy, there's a ton of water breaks," noted Cougars varsity head football coach Mike Salter. "We're making sure we're keeping a good eye on our kids."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

## Rams squander golden chance

The Michigan Rams couldn't close the deal in Tuesday's second-round matchup in the 20-and-under All-American Amateur Baseball Association Tournament in Johnstown, Pa.

Johnstown Realty of Altoona erased an 8-3 deficit, rallying for 11 runs in the top of the ninth inning to stun the Livonia Collegiate Baseball League representative, 14-10, at Lilly Field.

Altoona collected five hits and took advantage of six walks and a hit batter to earn the comeback win and stay in the winner's bracket of the 16-team tournament.

Rams starting pitcher Ryan Gunderson pitched 7.1 innings, allowing just three

### COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

runs on five hits and six walks. But relievers Steve Karchefske, Bobby Henderson and Justin Mazur couldn't hold the lead.

Henderson, who faced just five batters, gave up five runs on one hit, three walks and hit a batter in taking the loss. The Catholic Central High grad did not get an out.

Austin Horman went 2-for-5 with three RBI to lead Altoona. Tyler Stiffler added two hits and two RBI, while Kevin Scholley also knocked in two runs.

Reliever J.D. Mason, who worked the final five innings, allowing five runs on

seven hits, four walks and a hit batter, got the victory.

The Rams outhit Altoona, 14-10, in the loss as Andrew Stafford went 3-for-6, while Mike Wiseman, Nick Urban and Max Kelmigian each contributed two hits and two RBI. Kyle Gendron also went 2-for-4 with an RBI, while Ryan Shay knocked in two runs. Kyle Hurtt contributed the other RBI.

### Rams roll in opener

In Monday's AAABA opener at Revloc Field, the Rams built a 9-0 lead and took

Please see **RAMS, C2**

## McCurley wins City Challenge on clutch 'bird'

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Tiger Woods wasn't the only golfer to enjoy a great week of golf.

Zack McCurley enjoyed quite a week himself.

On July 31, the Canton native and senior-to-be at Belleville High captured his first Adams Junior Tour event, shooting a 72 to win the Boys 16 and up age division at the JAWS Classic held at Stone Ridge G.C. in Bowling Green, Ohio.

And over the weekend, McCurley won the 2007 City Golf Challenge

Championship at Fellows Creek by defeating Westland's Brian Harnos, a Garden City H.S. grad, with a birdie on the third hole of a sudden death playoff to earn overall medalist honors.

"This year my turnaround is just practicing more and dedicating more to the game of golf," said McCurley, who shot rounds of 72 and 71 for a two-day total of 143 (1-under par). "I just felt if I stuck to my game, I had a chance of winning. My short game - getting up and down - is normally what I do best."

Harnos, who forced a playoff with a 143 total, matched McCurley on the first two par-4 holes on the south side course, but

Please see **GOLF, C2**

## Bucks reach PDL title match again

BY DAN STICKRADT  
STAFF WRITER

Michael Holody is never going to relinquish his secret on which way he goes when taking a penalty kick.

That's a good thing.

Holody converted his penalty kick in the fifth round of a shootout Saturday night at Lake Orion High School, good enough to send the Michigan Bucks to a 5-4 edge in the extra session and a 2-1 victory over the Brooklyn Knights in the USL Premier Developmental League national semifinals.

The Bucks, the defending national champions owned by Livonia native Dan Duggan, will face host Laredo Heat at 9:30 p.m. EDT Saturday for the title. The Bucks (15-4-3, 13-2-3) defeated Laredo 2-1 in last year's title match held in Texas.

"I don't want to give it away, but I always know which way I'm going when I go up

there," Holody, a Clarkston native and current University of Michigan standout, said about the shootout. "I was pretty confident."

Holody's game-winner was set up after goalkeeper Steve Clark (Oakland) stopped the Knights' second man in the shootout, Danny Drogai, formally of Schoolcraft College.

All five of the Bucks' shootout selections - Kenny Uziogwe, Nik Djokic (Livonia Stevenson), Eric Brunner, Ty Shipalane and Holody - converted their attempts.

Clark was brilliant during the two 45-minute halves and 30 minutes of overtime, finishing with seven saves, including a pair of acrobatic, leaping stops to preserve the 1-1 tie heading into the penalty-kick tiebreaker. Among Clark's saves was one at 69:30 when he stopped Ricky Charles on a breakaway in the box. Charles is a member

Please see **BUCKS, C2**



Michigan Bucks defender Michael Holody, the hero in the shootout, helped defeat the Brooklyn (N.Y.) Knights, 2-1, Saturday night to advance to this weekend's Premier Developmental League men's soccer national title game in Laredo, Texas.

## Sidelines

### ThunderCats win

The ThunderCats advanced to the Division 2 championship game of the Metro Detroit Soccer League playoffs with a 2-0 win Sunday over top seeded Michigan Yemen Soccer Association.

Chris Popovski scored on a one-timer off a header from Michael Gotro for the game-winning goal in the second half. After ThunderCats' goalkeeper Nick Dordeski stopped an MYSA breakaway, teammate Steve Abernathy put the game away on a goal from Rich Keith.

### Glenn cager signs

The Marygrove College men's basketball program announced the signing of three players including Westland John Glenn's Rob Jones, a 6-foot-4 forward who averaged 12 points per game for the Rockets, who captured the Lakes Division title in the Western Lakes Association.

Marygrove, a first-year NAIA members school, also added Rob McCarty of Warren Lincoln and Shane Averitte of Armada.

### Area golf divots

■ Canton's Zach Conrad fired a 75 to finish third in the Boys 13-14 age group in the Meijer Junior Players Tour (event No. 20) held Aug. 2 at Stonehedge Golf Course in Augusta.

■ Jackson Koert of Sparta defeated Garden City's Hagan Risner, 1-up to win the Charles Watson Memorial Match Play event, Aug. 1-3, at Stonebridge G.C. in Ann Arbor.

■ Josh Proben, a Livonia Churchill High senior, shot 73-73 to place third last weekend at the Southfield Open held at Beech Woods and Evergreen courses.

### Hole-in-one club

Garden City's Lance Antrobus, using a 5-iron, aced the 196-yard, No. 5 hole, Saturday, at Whispering Willows Golf Course in Livonia.

It was the first hole-in-one for Antrobus, who has been golfing 11 years.

### Meet CHS teams

Livonia Churchill High's annual Meet the Team Night, for all 2007-08 athletes and their parents, will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20 at James P. Carli Auditorium.

This will be the only group meeting of the year as opposed to the previous three times yearly format. All athletes and their parents should attend.

For more information, call the Churchill athletic department at (734) 744-2650, Ext. 46117.

# HOLLANDSWORTH

FROM PAGE C1

Hollandsworth racked up 43 solo tackles and 37 assists after recording 38 solo and 53 assists in his first season for the Bulldogs after being red-shirted his freshman year.

Hollandsworth recovered from off-season shoulder surgery, but suffered a setback during rehab when he broke his hand from a fall while lifting weights. He was in a cast for eight weeks, but has been cleared to begin practice.

"Jeff's gone through some adversity, but he's done a great job overcoming those challenges," FSU head coach Jeff Pierce said. "Jeff has a tremendous work ethic and with another year's experience has emerged as a competitive player at this level. It's not only his work ethic, but his competitiveness. There's no player who gives more than Jeff."

The year he spent practicing as a freshman prepared him for the rigors of the GLIAC and now his has emerged as one of the Bulldogs integral parts.

"He's among an excellent group of leaders in a group that we look up to in this program," Pierce said. "He leads more by example than being a vocal, or rah-rah type of guy."

Hollandsworth was among a group of 40-plus players who spent the summer lifting, running and working out while reporting for a five-day-a-week, 9-to-5 job on campus.

"It's good commitment, we feel like we have a chip on our shoulder and have something to prove," said the former All-ObsERVER pick. "We're not cocky, but we're confident. We hope to turn a few heads and see what we can do."

For Hollandsworth, who is majoring in marketing and sales, there's always room for improvement.

"Personally, I have to get better against the run, get more tackles for loss, more sacks," he said. "I have to be better as a run support stopper."

Hollandsworth comes from a football family. His uncle Rob played at Central Michigan (1973-74), as did his father Tim, who enjoyed a four-year career while earning All-Mid-American Conference honors as a linebacker (1979) for the 10-0-1 Chippewas during his senior year.

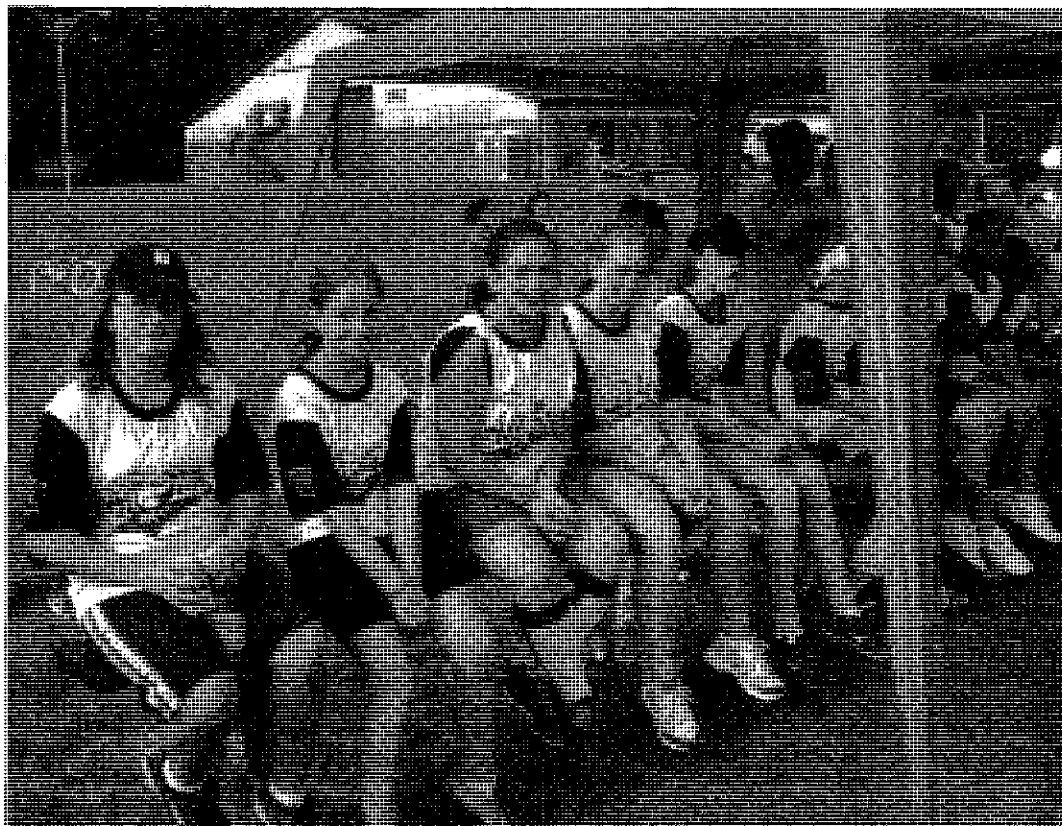
"My dad gives me a lot of advice, he has a lot to tell me, and I listen," Jeff said. "He knows the position, but he lets me do my thing. He says a lot of things and he encourages me."

With his injuries behind him, Jeff Hollandsworth is ready for the dog days of pre-season camp.

"The toughest thing is the two-a-days, in general - all the drills - it wears you down" he said.

But before preseason camp starts, Hollandsworth had to enjoy a little fun, take one more ride on the Demon Drop and the Wicked Twister.

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The Junior Girls East all-stars won their game, 26-16, the first of three hard-hitting contests played at Devon-Aire Park on July 28.

# Devon-Aire flair

Livonia league toasts 49 years of softball with games, picnic

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds came out to Devon-Aire Park in Livonia on July 28 to enjoy the culmination of the 49th year of the Devon-Aire Softball League.

Families and friends gathered there to witness a fun tripleheader of season-ending all-star games (for the Junior Boys, Junior Girls and co-ed Seniors) while munching on tasty free hot dogs donated by Dearborn Sausage Co. and enjoying other refreshments provided by various league sponsors and volunteers.

But the softball games and community-wide camaraderie promise to be even better in 2008.

"Next year's our 50th anniversary and we want to go big," said Livonia's Tom Wood, coach of the Drifters (Junior Boys division) and Guys & Dolls (co-ed senior division).

"Right now, we're going to get committees together and start brainstorming." Wood, along with league president Anthony Perez and others, undoubtedly can't wait to begin the task of contacting as many former players and coaches as possible to make sure the 2008 picnic is a major success. (Perez said those inter-

ested in the 50th celebration should e-mail him at mistergraphics1@yahoo.com or call Wood at 734-427-3095.)

According to Perez, the longevity of the non-profit league has a lot to do with families who have stayed involved through the decades. For example, his 18-year-old daughter, Kara (a recent graduate of Livonia Franklin), started playing in the league as an 8-year-old. It wouldn't be too surprising if, down the road, she returns as a coach.

That's standard procedure with the league, Anthony Perez emphasized.

"I think its longevity has to do with the people," he said. "Basically, year-by-year we have new coaches that have come on and that carries on the tradition. Kids played, they stayed on a long time and then they leave and come back to coach. So it goes from generation to generation."

Knowing first-hand about long-term family involvement is Wood. He has a 9-year-old son, Steven, on the Drifters and two daughters (Sarah, 13; Rachel, 17) competing on the co-ed Guys & Dolls.

But he is just as enthusiastic about how kids between ages 7-12 in the two junior divisions and 13-18 in the senior division

get a lot more than just softball games for the season registration fee of \$40.

"This is fantastic," Wood said. "You couldn't end the season any better than this. The kids get together, the families get together. And for what we charge to play in the league, to be able to put out a full season of baseball and then put on a picnic like this is really nice. Plus, all the kids get trophies, not just the all-stars."

Speaking of the all-stars, all three games on July 28 had plenty of offensive excitement. In the first contest of the day, the Junior Girls West all-stars defeated the East team, 26-16. Game Two provided many more hits, with the Junior Boys East squad winning 15-7 over the West.

In the senior co-ed game that wrapped up the action, the West took care of the East, 10-6.

Meanwhile, although registration for the 2008 season won't begin until April, Perez said he couldn't delay in thanking all of the volunteers, sponsors and parents "whose support and encouragement we have received throughout this year. Without you, the success of our league would not be possible."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

# BUCKS

FROM PAGE C1

of the Granada national team.

"Steve Clark played a great game; both goalkeepers did," Bucks second-year head coach Dan Fitzgerald said. "He has been like that all season, but this may have been his best game yet."

The Knights scored first at 14:10 in the first half. Taking advantage of a defensive lapse, Tarik Smith was left all alone at the top of the penalty box and he one-timed a blast that

eluded Clark inside the near post from 18 yards out.

That lead stood until the Bucks' Khelli Dube picked off a Brooklyn clearing attempt following a corner kick and his blast from 25 yards carried off the left goal post, crossed the goal mouth and slammed off the right post before going into the net at 32:41. Knights goalkeeper Steven Diaz finished with eight saves heading into the shootout.

Michigan outshot Brooklyn 20-13, including 9-8 with shots directly on goal.

"I thought they had the play

more in the first half and us the second half," Fitzgerald said. "And we both had chances in overtime. That was a very good team, one of the best we've played."

Brooklyn held a slim 7-5 shot edge in the two overtime periods, but the Bucks had the better chances throughout the match. Twice Uzoigwe hit shots off the post, while another second-half blast from Djokic deflected off the crossbar.

"It's great to be going back," said Holody, who plays sweeper for the Bucks. "We're hoping the experience helps us."

# RAMS

FROM PAGE C1

advantage of five Columbus (Ohio) Big Katz errors en route to an 11-4 triumph.

Winning pitcher Justin Collop (University of Toledo) pitched seven strong innings, allowing three runs on six hits and two walks. The

Wayne Memorial High grad struck out five. Reliever Drew Churchward gave up one run on four hits and a walk during his two-inning stint.

The Rams played error-free defense and won despite being outhit 10.

Frank Persichino went 2-for-5 with a double and two RBI to lead the Rams. Churchward added two RBI, while Urban went 2-for-4 with

a sacrifice and a run scored. Shay also knocked in a run, while Hurtt scored twice.

Troy Baldur went 2-for-4 with three RBI to pace Columbus. Jordan Smith, Shane Swearingin and Justin Wentworth each added two hits in the loss.

Losing pitcher Jared Strayer gave up eight runs on six hits, two walks and four hit batters in six innings of work.



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# GOLF

FROM PAGE C1

McCurley sunk a 10-footer for birdie to take home the first place trophy giving him back-to-back titles for the week.

The City Challenge matched the top golfers from Westland, Wayne and Canton.

The five-some which included Harnos, who works for Westland Municipal G.C., Brian Gabbart (145), Mike Tolson (160), Ray Lanczki (160) and Josh Brist (161) gave Westland the title with a 769.

Wayne was runner-up with a total of 868 thanks to the efforts of Ted Salvatori (160), women's medalist Sandy Felan (161), Bill Hawley (162), Rick Stoner (169) and Darlene Hawley (216).

Canton's total of 915 was paced by Zack McCurley, his father Tim McCurley (151), Ken Eck (170), women's runner-up Lisa Bain (213) and Linda Grandfield (238).

Tim McCurley, a 4-handicapper, shot rounds of 77-74, but the accountant for the City of Wayne was upstaged by his son.

"It's on-and-off, but I've been 'on' more this year," Tim McCurley said of the father-son rivalry. "My dad's very good. He let's me do my thing. He's a go-with-the-flow type of guy."

Tim leans on his dad's friend and neighbor, Jerry Caldwell,



Zack McCurley (middle), the medalist in the 2007 City Golf Challenge, is flanked by father Tim McCurley (right) and Ken Eck (left), who finished second and third, respectively, among Canton golfers.



Felan

for advice, along with Pine View G.C. teaching pro Scott Schimmoeleer.

Tim McCurley helped his Belleville team to a second-place finish in last year's Mega Conference's White Division.

But he has loftier goals with year. After he plays in this week's Herb Fowler Junior Tournament at Huron Hills, McCurley begins his high school season.

"Last year I didn't qualify for 'state,' I'd like to get to 'states' this year and see how I do there," he said.

Another week like this, McCurley could be headed to the state tournament.

### CITY GOLF CHALLENGE RESULTS

Aug. 4-5 at Fellows Creek

#### MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

Westland: 1. Brian Harnos, 143; 2. Brian Gabbart, 145; 3. (tie) Mike Tolson and Ray Lanczki, 160 each.

Wayne: 1. Ted Salvatori, 160; 2. Bill Hawley, 162; 3. Rick Stoner, 169.

Canton: 1. Zack McCurley, 143; 2. Tim McCurley, 151; 3. Ken Eck, 170.

#### MEN'S FIRST FLIGHT

Westland: 1. James McComb, 165; 2. Kelly Rickard, 167; Bob Decker, 190.

#### WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

1. Sandy Felan, 161; Lisa Bain, 213.

#### WOMEN'S SENIOR FLIGHT

1. Virginia Sexton, 208; 2. Darlene Hawley, 216; 3. Linda Grandfield, 238.

#### MEN'S SUPER SENIOR FLIGHT

1. Bob Weibel, 176.

Got Game? Yep, got scores, too.

SPORTS

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

## CC inductees

Longtime Novi-Detroit Catholic Central wrestling coach Mike Rodriguez, along with former varsity basketball coach and football defensive coordinator Rick Coratti, will be among 2007 class of 15 inductees into the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Sunday, Sept. 16 at Central Michigan University.

A banquet and awards ceremony, which begins at 1 p.m., will be at the Terrace Room of CMU's Student Services Building.

The MHSAA will also honor Don Lessner, Executive Director, of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association as a Distinguished Service Award recipient.

Tickets are \$25 each and may be order from Dan McShannock, executive secretary, 4709 Pinewood Drive, Midland, MI 48640.

For more information, call McShannock at (989) 835-5609.

## Tommy Titan Tune-up

The third annual Tommy Titan Tune-up will be Wednesday, Aug. 15, at Cass Benton Park in Northville.

The race is open to runners of all ages and ability levels, and is a prelude to the 21st annual Running Pit/Tommy Titan Invitational in September.

The women's cross country race, long (5,600 meters) and short (3,330 meters) courses will run concurrently, starts at 6:30 p.m. The men's long and short course concurrent races follow at 7:15 p.m.

The cost is \$5 per entrant. Team rates are \$25 (six to 14 runners) and \$50 (15 or more). Coaches with teams entered run at no charge. Teams planning on attending with more than five runners should send in a team roster prior to Aug. 15. There is no team scoring. Awards will be determined and given in the chute.

Detroit cross country T-shirts are available for \$10. For more information, call University of Detroit Mercy coach Guy Murray at (313) 993-1724; or e-mail murray-gr@udmercy.edu.

## Churchill Pompon

The ninth annual Livonia Churchill varsity pompon clinic for ages 6-14 will be from 9 a.m. until noon, Saturday, Aug. 25, at the high school gym (located on Newburgh between Joy and Ann Arbor Trail).

The cost is \$35 per person

includes T-shirt, music CD and snack.

Participation is limited to the first 100 registrants. Participants will be invited to perform their routine at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 27, at a Churchill varsity boys soccer game.

For more information, call Robin Schwarz at (734) 464-0556.

## Big Day tickets

The Westland John Glenn Booster Club is offering discounted pre-sale tickets at \$7 for students and \$9 for adults for the Big Day III Prep Football Showdown when the Rockets take on Livonia Franklin beginning at 8 p.m., Friday, Aug. 24, at Eastern Michigan University's Rynearson Stadium.

The all-day ticket includes admission for the Warren Cousino-Fraser game at 2 p.m. followed by the Allen Park-Detroit Finney game at 5 p.m.

The Glenn Boosters will offer the advanced tickets at the south entrance of the school from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9; 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Aug. 11, and 4-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16 during Glenn's home four-way scrimmage between Southgate, Trenton and Algonac.

Tickets at the gate are \$10 for students and adults. (Children 5-and-under are free).

## Youth baseball tryouts

The Michigan Bulldogs Baseball Club will be holding tryouts for their new U10 team for the 2008 season from 10 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday, Aug. 11 and 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12 at Bicentennial Park, Diamond 6 in Livonia. Players not turning 11 prior to May 1, 2008 are eligible. For more information, contact Scott Linsner at (734) 740-7498 or e-mail coachscott@michiganbulldogbaseball.com.

Garden City's Michigan Blue Thunder U11 boys travel tournament baseball team will hold tryouts for the 2008 season on the following dates: 2-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12; 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:30-5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18; 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 22.

All of the tryouts will be at the Garden City Park Baseball Diamonds (Cherry Hill east of Merriman).

For more information, call (734) 756-1090.

Individual tryouts for the 2008 13-and-under WaCo Wolves, member of the Midwest Super League, will be staged throughout the month of August. The Wolves, who

will also play in a local league and travel to tournament in Tennessee, Kentucky and Nebraska, are seeking three highly-skilled and dedicated players.

For more information, call Bill Hardin at (734) 560-0820; or e-mail BJHWolves@aol.com.

The Livonia Travel Baseball Club, along with the Livonia Baseball & Softball Association, will stage 2008 tryouts for the following age groups for players who are committed to playing at a high level while preparing them for high school baseball.

Tryouts for the following age groups will be at Rotary Park (fields nos. 1 and 2) on Saturday, Aug. 25:

Under-9: 9-11 a.m.; under-10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; under-11, 1-3 p.m. (rain date is Sept. 8);

Tryouts will also be held for the following age groups on Sunday, Sept. 9 at Rotary Park including: under-12: 10 a.m.-noon; under-13: noon to 2 p.m.; and under-14: 2-4 p.m. (rain date is Sept. 15).

Players ages are determined as of May 1, 2008. Arrive 30 minutes early to register and warm-up.

For more information, call Bruce Rosen at (313) 531-0721; or e-mail mlbr1218@aol.com.

## Fastpitch tryouts

Tryouts for the 2008 Livonia Storm girls fastpitch softball teams will be held two different weekends including 10 a.m. to noon (10- and 12-and-under) and 1-3 p.m. (14-, 16- and 18-and-under) Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 1-2 and Sept. 8-9, at Bicentennial Park (fields nos. 9 and 10).

You need to attend just one of the four dates above in order to make a team. Non-residents are welcome. Additional teams are sought for each age division.

For more information, call Ken Jewell at (734) 266-9109; or e-mail kjewell@livonias-torm.com. Information is also posted on www.livonias-torm.com.

## RU volleyball tryouts

Here comes the first sign that high school sports seasons are indeed changing.

With volleyball moving from the winter to fall, Redford Union varsity girls volleyball coach Marchelle Johnson is trying to inform those interested in playing this season that tryouts for the upcoming season are imminent.

All prospective RU players, whether looking to play varsity, junior varsity or freshman, are invited to attend fall tryouts on Monday, Aug. 13 at the

high school gym. Tryouts for the junior varsity and freshman teams will be 6-7:30 p.m. while varsity tryouts are slated from 7:30-9 p.m.

Athletes must bring a completed physical card in order to participate.

Those interested in the tryouts should contact Johnson at (313) 300-2131.

## Run Thru Hell

The Pinckney Running Club will sponsor its annual Run Thru Hell, a 4.8- and 10-mile foot race beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 11 at the Hell Creek Ranch, located on Cedar Lake at Patterson Lake Road.

Late registration is \$22.

Trophies will go to the top six finishers in each age group.

You can sign up online at www.gaultracemangement.com.

Call (734) 878-6640 for more information.

## WYAA frosh football

Westland Youth Athletic Association still has openings for junior freshman football players, ages 7-8 (by Sept. 1). Junior freshman football is new to the Westland Youth Athletic Association and games will be played prior to regular games of the Westland Comets and Westland Meteors.

Registration is 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 12 noon Saturdays at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford Road).

For more information, call (734) 421-0640 or call Galen Huren (Meteors) at (734) 716-6047, Mark Simkow (Comets) at (734) 732-1176 or Keith DeMolay, (734) 516-9269.

## Baseball lessons

The Bernie Carbo Pro Secrets Baseball Academy will be staging individual, small group and team skill sessions in power pitching, hitting and fielding.

Marketing showcase sessions for high school players are available.

Former Phillies minor league All-Star Mark Rutherford will be the featured instructor.

## Gavie Tournay signals another new year

The 71st annual John P. Gavie Memorial Tournament is slated for Monday, Aug. 20 at Thunderbowl Lanes in Allen Park.

The Detroit area is historically tied to the sport of bowling and "The Gavie" as it is more widely known, is certainly in the forefront of the tradition, history and stature of bowling in our own local scene.

In the early years, the event was tied closely to the Michigan State Fair, and there was always a big parade up Woodward Avenue from downtown to the Fairgrounds with local celebrities and star bowlers riding in open convertibles all the way.

The lifestyle was much different then, but bowling is still the same grand old game now as it was then, 10 pins felled by one ball is still a strike.

Years since his uncle John P. passed away, and he has now instituted a youth event which precedes the regular tournament by one day.

"We have the John Gavie tournament to kick off the bowling season, so I thought it would be a good idea to have the third annual Frank Gavie Scholarship Tournament to kick-off the season for the youth bowlers as well" said Frank said.

"This year we are going to have PBA members, high school coaches and Lou Marquez, the master instructor from Turbo Tech, to give some coaching to any youth bowlers who would like to come in about an hour and a half before starting time."

The youth event features scholarship prize money in amounts of \$300, \$200 and \$100 for both boys and girls. In the regular adult team events, the senior division bowls with the 3 p.m. squad and the open and women's divisions will bowl with the 7 p.m. squad. Teams consist of five bowlers with an entry fee of \$20 per bowler.

The Metro Detroit U.S. Bowling Congress has devel-



Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison

oped a new program to serve its members, who are now tied in with a travel agency, which will book your next trip at rates comparable to whatever you might be able to click on

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This is a bright idea, and should benefit all.

Form more information, visit www.mdusbctravel.com; or call the association office at (248) 443-2695; or call toll free at (888) 753-6350.

The Metro Detroit USBC will also be holding supply distribution and schools at the new office located at 28200 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village.

The next date will be 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15. Approximately 40 bowling centers in the jurisdiction have scheduled individual schools and supplies for their own leagues.

Roger Dalkin has announced his retirement as CEO of the USBC. He served in the original American Bowling Congress as CEO prior to the merger of ABC, WIBC, YABA and USA Bowling in which he was instrumental in bringing it all to reality. Thus ends a remarkable 30 years of service and leadership to the sport.

Kevin Dornberger will take the interim position of acting CEO while a search will be held for Dalkin's successor.

Al Harrison is a resident of Southfield and a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America. He recently won an award from the USBC in bowling writers competition for editorial category in 2006.

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# Bryan Lerg named Spartans' captain; Jeff as an alternate

Cousins Bryan and Jeff Lerg figured prominently last spring in Michigan State's first NCAA Division I ice hockey championship since 1986.

The Lergs will also be at the forefront for the 2007-08 title defense as MSU coach Rick Comley named Bryan, a senior forward, captain of the Spartans.

Comley also announced that Jeff Lerg, a junior goaltender, will serve as an alternate captain along with senior forward Chris Mueller (Buffalo, N.Y.) and junior forwards Justin Abdelkader (Muskegon) and Tim Kennedy (Buffalo, N.Y.).

"Bryan had tremendous support from all of the players and coaching staff," Comley said in an MSU Web Site release. "He had been an excellent player for us for three years, and we expected that he will be an outstanding senior captain. We are all confident that Bryan will help us reach the goals that we

have set for our program." Bryan Lerg has appeared in 127 career games with the Spartans, and has 48 goals and 41 assists. As a junior, he led MSU with a career-best 23 goals and 13 assists to rank second on the team with 36 points. Lerg led the nation with eight game-winning goals and was named MVP as the Spartans captured their 11th Great Lakes Invitational Tournament.

"All of our guys have been working really hard this summer to make sure that we're prepared to come in and be ready to go once practice starts," Bryan Lerg said. "We're confident we can have an exciting season."

Jeff Lerg has excelled in each of his first two collegiate seasons, earning Central Collegiate Hockey Association MVP honors in 2006, while earning 2007 Midwest Regional MVP honors while securing a spot on the Frozen

Four All-Tournament team. He allowed just five goals in four NCAA Tournament games a year ago and owns a career 1.50 goals-against average and a .949 save percentage in six NCAA Tournament contests.

Last spring, Jeff Lerg was named USA Hockey College Player of the Year, MSU team MVP, and CoSIDA Academic All-District in 2006-07.

"Jeff Lerg is a guy whose main concern is team success - any of the individual stuff is nice to him, but he's really just concerned with helping our team win," Comley said. "With everything he's battled, he's always proven himself - and that makes him a guy that brings the team together."

MSU, which finished 26-13-3 overall in 2006-07, begins its season Saturday, Oct. 13 in Grand Forks, N.D. when it takes on the University of North Dakota in the US Hockey Hall of Fame Game.



## Champion'Ships' Ahoy!

The Plymouth-Canton Pirates 14U travel baseball team captured a pair of tournament titles this past summer. In May, they won the Northville Early Bird Tournament before taking first in the VanderCook Lake Summer Bash tournament last month. Pictured (back row from left) are Coach Bruce Price, Anthony Pappas, Devin Price, Dan Adsit, Austin Payne, (front row from left) Charles Ashton, Scott Devine, Alec Khouri, Jake Beauchamp, Alex Bodner, Adam Payne and Coach Denny Devine.

## Dustin'em off

Dustin Brewer of Westland's Dynamic Boxing Club captured both of his bouts July 13-14 weekend. Brewer, who resides in New Boston, defeated Yousef Galaeb of Warriors Boxing the first night in Milford and earned the championship belt with a decision over Alexandro Castro at Palomino's Night Club in Detroit. Meanwhile, Dynamic's Josh Ivezaj lost a close decision to Glen Beck of Lansing, while teammate Willie Price (165 pounds) lost by decision to No. 1 nationally rated Ramon Valenzuela of Chicago, Ill. Dynamic Boxers are competing this week in Kansas City, Mo. at the Ringside World Championships.



## Cooperstown trip

The Livonia Baseball and Softball Association's boys 12-and-under travel team, sponsored by the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation, played nine games in seven days recently at the Cooperstown (N.Y.) Dreams Park Tournament. The squad, coached by Gerry Hool, Bruce Rosen, Dennis Russ and Cort Murdock, failed to place, but it was an experience of a lifetime as they visited both the National Youth Baseball Hall of Fame and the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Team members include: Tom Hool, Zac Rosen, Matt Russ, Kevin Murdock, Jeff Thomas, Tony Wilson, Nick Lagerstrom, Nick Rutherford, Alex Frey, Dan Hensley, Ryan Baker and Mike Korte.

# Diesels stymie Patriots, 16-6

BY CHRISTIAN YOUNG  
CORRESPONDENT

Don't be fooled. The Detroit Diesels chalked up another North American Football League victory, this time against the Genesee County Patriots, 16-6, Saturday at Livonia Franklin High School.

Whereas one may look at the score and think that was a close game, it was actually about as close as California is to New York.

Genesee County couldn't squeeze out a first down until the second half. The Detroit

defense blanked out the Pats until there was 1:56 left in the contest, shutting down the inside run and harassing the Patriot quarterback into tossing five interceptions. The Genesee County score was set up by an interception return to the Diesel red zone.

Westland John Glenn graduate Randy Sinnott went 10-of-22 for 123 yards and two touchdowns, both going to Farmington High alum John Craven. Musa Odeh hit a short field goal and an extra point. Bob Curtis ran for 57 yards, and Wayne Memorial grad T.J.

Dillard ran for 53. Defensively, Anthony Price picked off two passes, safety Mark Carter had one, and Absalom Goode had a pick for the Diesels. Earl Blanchett had a sack for Detroit.

The Diesels are 3-1-1 overall and 2-0-1 Great Lakes Region of the Northern Conference. Genesee falls to 1-2 in the Great Lakes.

The Diesels will head on the road this Saturday to face the London Silverbacks (2-1, 2-1) at Labatt Field. They will return Aug. 18 at Franklin to face the Tri-City Titans.

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## Talking Smack!

LESSON ON GOLF

By Jeff Lesson

You would think the guy would have learned by now. Earlier this year, Rory Sabbatini, after getting smoked by Tiger Woods, stated that "Tiger appears more beatable than ever." A ridiculous comment, after just getting pasted by the world's number one.

History repeated itself at the Bridgestone Invitational this past weekend. Sabbatini led Woods by one shot entering the final round and again opened his mouth -- in effect calling out Tiger again to beat him.

All Tiger did was go on to an eight stroke victory while playing head to head with Sabbatini in the days final group.

Sabbatini's comments notwithstanding, he is a breath of fresh air to the PGA Tour. Why shouldn't the guy believe in himself? Sure, he has yet to back it up against Woods head to head. But at least he is not afraid to speak his mind like so many others on the Tour.

Most others on tour from Phil Mickelson on down are too afraid to challenge Tiger mentally or physically and just wither away. At least Sabbatini has shown some metal in that department. He just has to transfer it to the golf course. Until then he still looks foolish.

Meanwhile Tiger enters this weeks final major of the year (The PGA) playing his best golf of the season. He is hitting fairways again. If he hits the fairways off the tee this week at Southern Hills he will win his first major of the year.

Jeff Lesson is a WWJ Sports Anchor/Reporter and host of the award winning feature "Lesson on Golf" on WWJ Newsradio 950 weekend mornings at 5:45, 6:45,

7:45 and 8:45 AND every Saturday morning 7-8 am on 1270 XYT The Sports Station. Don't forget to check out [lessonongolf.com](http://lessonongolf.com) for half off golf at great courses!

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