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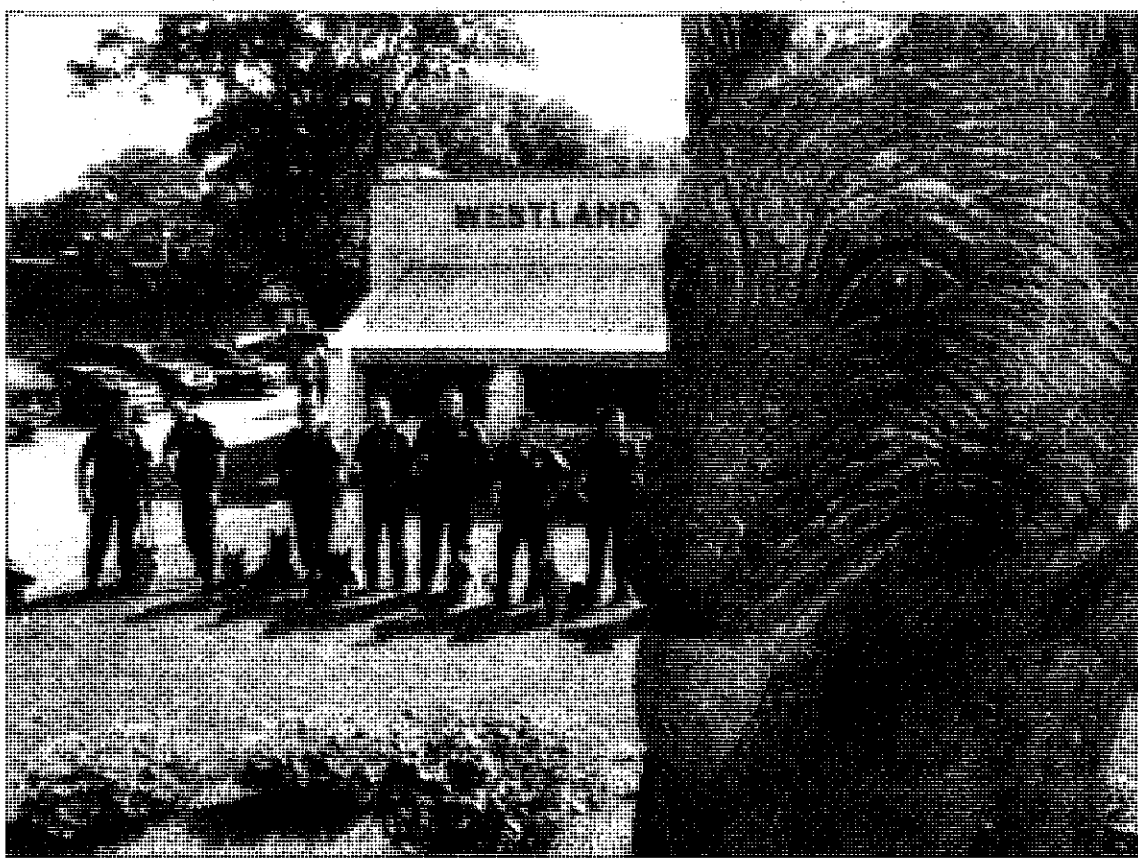
THURSDAY August 30, 2007

# WESTLAND Observer

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The statue of the late police dog Zeke faces Wayne Road, across from Westland Shopping Center.

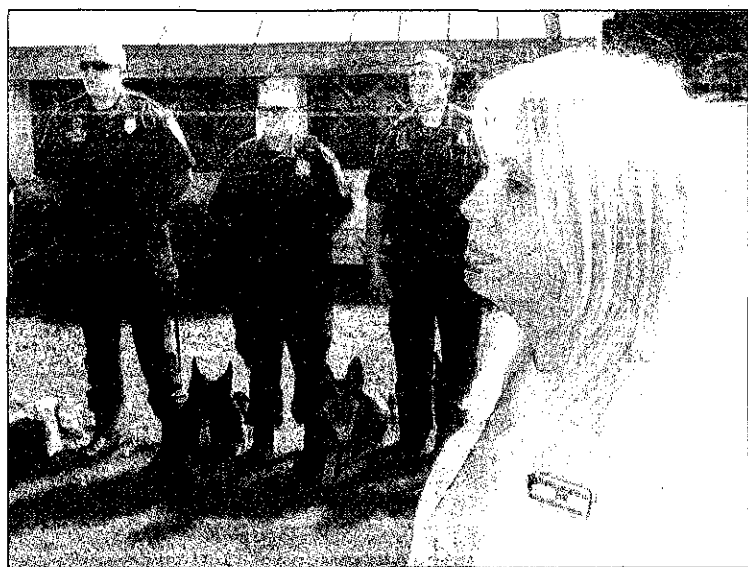
## In honor of Zeke

### Police officers and K-9s turn out for memorial's dedication

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

**D**oggone it. What was all the commotion Wednesday morning that brought police dogs and uniformed officers from 32 communities to the Westland Veterinary Hospital?

Had Dr. Sharon Lawrenchuk — highly regarded, upstanding business owner — done something wrong? Hardly. Rather, she had made a remarkable gesture to support the police



Dr. Sharon Lawrenchuk commissioned the statue of police dog Zeke.

dogs — especially deceased Westland canine Zeke — that have received loving care at her Wayne Road clinic.

Lawrenchuk had a dedication ceremony for a wooden statue of

Zeke, a German shepherd who valiantly tracked down many a criminal with uniformed partner Grant Allen before dying of kidney

Please see **ZEKE, A3**

## Man is arraigned in shooting death of his girlfriend

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man was arraigned Tuesday afternoon on charges of shooting and killing his deaf girlfriend while she was in bed at the home they shared on Gloria, near Merriman and Cherry Hill.

Timothy Joseph Catalano, 45, who also is deaf, said through an interpreter in Westland District Court that "it was an accident."

But police Sgt. Steve Borisch said during Catalano's arraignment that the defendant confessed to shooting 44-year-old Tammy Susalla — his girlfriend of 24 years — with a 22-caliber rifle.

"He confessed that he did in fact shoot the victim in the head with a rifle," Borisch told Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos.

Susalla was shot shortly after 1 a.m. Monday in a three-bedroom ranch home. She was flown to the University of Michigan Hospital, where police Lt. Daniel Karrick said she died Tuesday morning.

Borisch told Bokos that Catalano shot Susalla and then woke their 19-year-old daughter, Jessica, who had been sleeping in the basement. The daughter's boyfriend also was in the basement.

Bokos arraigned the defendant on first-degree murder and felony firearms charges and ordered him jailed without bond. Bokos entered a not-guilty plea and set a Sept. 6 preliminary hearing to determine whether Catalano should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

If convicted as charged, Catalano will spend the rest of his life in prison.

Borisch said in court that Susalla was planning to end her relationship with Catalano, and he "was very upset about that."

Catalano left the scene after the



Catalano

shooting and went to his father's house in Jackson County, Borisch said. The detective was with the couple's daughter when a call came from Catalano's father, saying the defendant was there.

Borisch said Jackson County authorities were contacted, and they arrested Catalano and turned him over to Westland police.

Borisch told Bokos that Catalano confessed to the killing during an interview with police Sgt. David Heater.

After Tuesday's arraignment, Heater said it was the first time that Catalano had characterized the shooting as an accident.

An attorney for Catalano hadn't been named Tuesday.

The defendant initially asked for a court-appointed lawyer but then indicated through the interpreter that his mother would be hiring an attorney to represent him.

As court officers led Catalano from the courtroom, he turned and waved.

Susalla's death marked the second homicide in as many weeks in Westland.

Just eight days earlier, drywall worker Gregory William Dean Jr., 45, was stabbed in the head outside of Country Court Apartments, on Wildwood north of Ford.

Police said Dean muttered a racial slur after he was denied a hit off a cigarette by 18-year-old defendant Christopher Long, a Country Court resident.

Police Sgt. Thad Nelson said Long went into his apartment, got a knife and stabbed Dean as Dean allegedly swung at him.

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

## Barra describes break-in at Civic League as 'devastating'

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Plagued earlier by an embezzling scandal, the Wayne-Ford Civic League has new worries following the weekend theft of \$1,782 and two computer towers that contain three years of stored information, including bank records, officials said.

"We were looking at turning the corner soon, and the corner just got shoved a mile away," league President Vic Barra said.

One or more intruders forced open the league's back doors and then broke into Barra's locked office sometime between 8:30 p.m. Saturday and 7:30 a.m. Sunday, he said.

"They literally took my life out from under me information-wise," Barra said. "I feel just like any other homeowner would feel — that their private space was invaded by intruders who had

no business being there. It was devastating to me. It just chipped away at my spirit."

The theft prompted league officials to implement new money-handling procedures at the facility, located on Wayne Road south of Ford.

"New procedures are in place so that cash will not be left in the building overnight," Barra said. Police Lt. Daniel Karrick confirmed that the incident is under investigation.

The stolen \$1,782 was earmarked for utility bills that Barra said are due this week. The money came from the nonprofit league's concession counter and sports recreation fees for its soccer program, he said.

The struggling league now needs help paying its utility bills, Barra said, adding that he hopes a donor will come forward.

The theft of two computer towers could potentially have much broader implications if a hacker is able to tap into three years of stored

information. Barra said he believes that private passwords will protect what was stored on the hard drives.

The computer monitors weren't stolen.

Barra confirmed that the hard drive information included bank records, meeting minutes, letters to community officials and requests for fund-raising support for various organizations. The league sponsors bingo and other events to raise money for programs such as youth sports.

Without the computer passwords, Barra said he doubts that thieves can retrieve any sensitive league information.

In his opinion, he said, "The minute they unplugged them, they were useless to them. The public's information is protected."

Barra pleaded with the intruder or intruders to at least return the hard drives.

"I appeal to the people who took this action to at least have the decency to send me the hard

drives," he said. "I'm trying to save 2,000 hours worth of work."

Barra urged anyone with the hard drives to drop them in the mail or to put them in the league's mail box.

Lt. Karrick urged anyone with information to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 721-6311 or (734) 722-9600. He also said anonymous tips for a reward up to \$1,000 may be made to Crime Stoppers by calling (800) SPEAK-UP (773-2587).

The latest incident comes as the league's former president and vice president are serving three years' probation for pleading no contest to allegations they stole between \$1,000 and \$20,000. Authorities had said in court that much more money was actually taken from 1999 to 2004.

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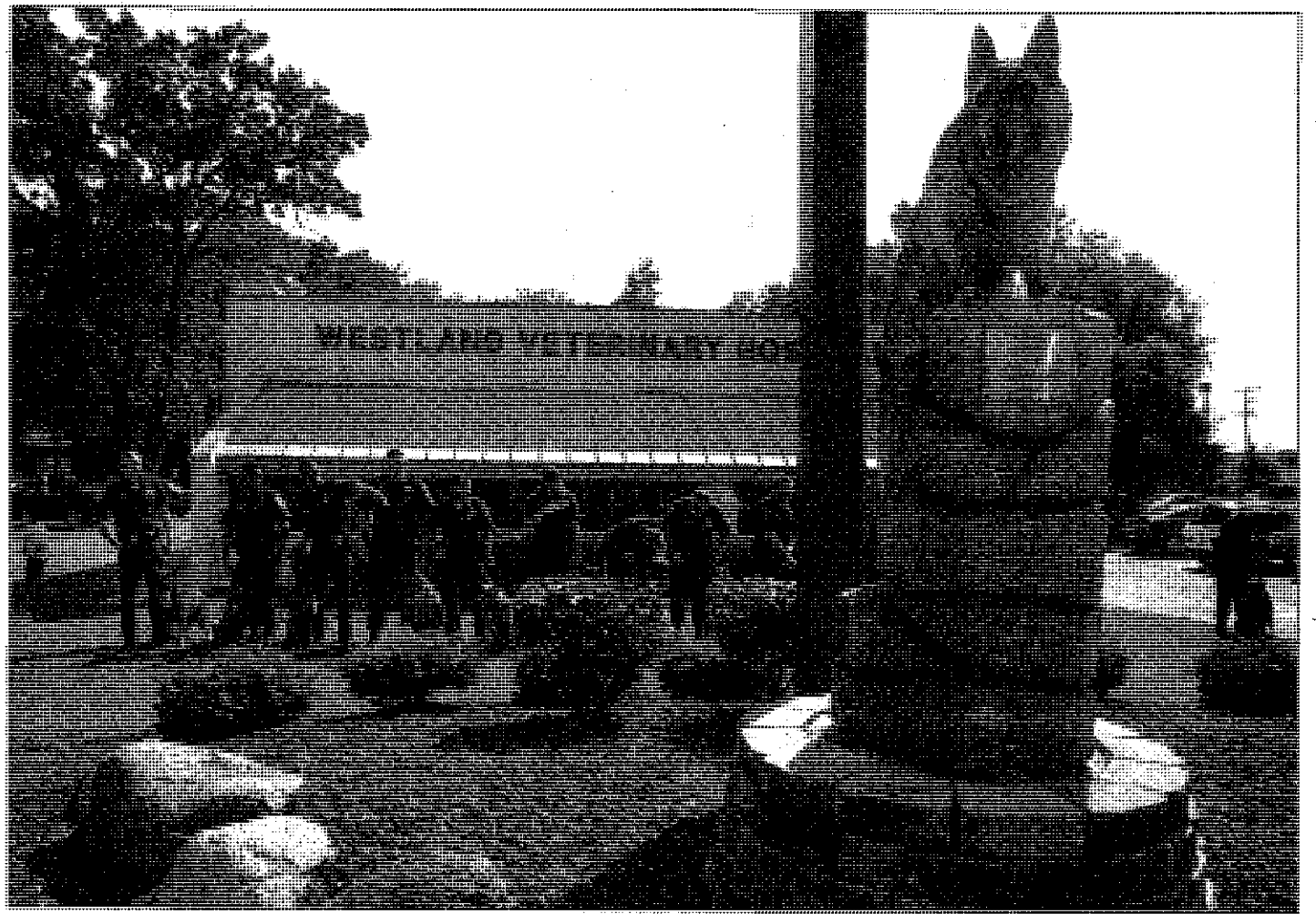


**ZEKE**

FROM PAGE A1

failure Sept. 24, 2002. Zeke was 6½ years old. "I still miss him," Allen said before the ceremony started. Even though he now has a new canine partner, Drago, Allen still wears a necklace with a locket containing ashes from Zeke's cremated remains. Police dogs and officers from Westland, Garden City, Redford, Canton, Plymouth Township, Farmington Hills, Wayne and many other communities formed a large row in front of the veterinary hospital to pay their respects to Zeke. "This truly is a brotherhood," Westland Police Chief James Ridener said, addressing the crowd. Zeke's statue faces Wayne Road and stands tall, in a show of protection for Westland. Authorities praised Lawrenchuk for her decision to erect a statue to honor police dogs. She hired Chesterfield wood carver Milan Emil Szkipala, who created his work in June using a chainsaw and a picture of Zeke.

Wild told the crowd that police dogs investigate 500 cases a year in Westland alone, sniffing out drugs and rounding up suspects for a variety of crimes. "To say that's hard work would be an understatement," Wild said. Westland City Council President Charles Pickering recalled attending a 2002 memorial service for Zeke that drew police dogs and officers from some 40 departments. He called it one of the most emotional services he has ever attended. Terry Foley, owner of the K-9 Academy training facility in Wayne, commended police officers for their work with canine partners, saying they make personal sacrifices to do their jobs. "A lot of them pass up promotions to handle a dog," he said. Back in June, Allen had sprinkled some of Zeke's remains in a concrete base that supports the statue. "I'm very honored," Allen said. "Zeke would be honored and humbled, too. I think he did a very good job of taking care of the police officers and the citizens of Westland. This is an honor for him."



Officers and their canine partners gather for the dedication of the wood sculpture of Zeke, who died in 2002.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**City receives ACS award**

Westland has been awarded the 2007 Five-Star Investor Award by the American Cancer Society for its strides in wellness, volunteerism and active awareness. The annual award recognizes work sites that are active in fighting cancer on multiple fronts through the ACS's workplace solutions program. Mayor William Wild accepted the award from ACS representative Holly Soranno at Monday's Westland City Council meeting. The city won the award by accomplishing the following

- goals:
- Patient navigation, or making cancer service information available to employees.
  - Employee Wellness, or offering insurance coverage for cancer-related screenings.
  - Relay for Life, a 24-hour event in which teams raise money and participate in a community event.
  - Volunteerism, in which the city had over 100 hours of service within the last year.
- "I'm fortunate to work with a community that is so passionate about becoming one step closer to finding a cure,"

Soranno said. Relay for Life, the single largest event for the American Cancer Society in Westland, raised more than \$101,000 this year, alone. Next year's Relay is scheduled for May 31 and June 1 in Westland's Jaycee Park. The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to cancer research, education, advocacy, and service. More information may be obtained by visiting their Web site, www.cancer.org.

**City completes 2nd round of mosquito abatement**

The Westland Department of Public Service has successfully completed its second and final round of this year's mosquito abatement program. The program includes treating 11,000 catch basins and areas such as retention ponds. The first round was completed in May. In a prepared statement, Mayor William Wild called the program an important step to protect public health, due to the West Nile Virus. In addition, DPS offers the following items for purchase to condominium associations, apartment managers, local

- businesses and the general public:
- Bactimos briquettes, also known as "mosquito dunks," which are primarily used in birdbaths, gutters, small ditches, ponds, septic fields or any small area up to 100 square feet to eliminate mosquitoes.
  - Vectolex WSP biological larvicide water-soluble pouches, which eliminate mosquito growth in catch basins, storm drainage systems, and other medium size areas that hold or retain water.
  - Altosid XR extended residual briquettes, which are used to treat larger areas

that are wooded or difficult to reach. In an effort to provide a savings to residents, these products are offered at cost. For rate information, call (734) 467-3242. Moreover, city officials advised residents and business owners to consider an additional line of defense by emptying and changing the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels, and potted plant trays at least once a week. Keeping swimming pools treated and circulating and rain gutters unclogged is also recommended.

**YOUTH ASSISTANCE**

The Westland Youth Assistance Program is at 36701 Ford Road in an addition to the Westland Police Department. The separate glass entrance facing City Hall and comfortable waiting area allows for private, professional, environment to assist families in Westland. Westland youth ages 7 through 16 are referred to Youth Assistance by the police, courts, schools, parents and other agencies. Once referred, an intake appointment is scheduled to

explain the programs services to the youth and parents (guardians), and to offer them the opportunity to discuss their concerns and to ask questions. All information discussed is confidential. All services are free to Westland residents. If the assessment determines that a youth is appropriate for Youth Assistance, the following services may be required for the youth:

- Life Choices classes.
- Drug screens.
- Supervised Community

Work Service.

- Jail/prison tour.
- Team Adventure Challenge.
- Mentoring.
- Karate.
- Counseling.

Parents are required to participate in a Parenting Skills and Support Group. For more information, call Executive Director Paul Motz or Deputy Director Michele Bracy at (734)467-7904. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Evening appointments are available by request.

**LeBlanc shows support for Charlie's Bill**

State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, has joined the state House in passing a plan to protect the families of Michigan service members killed while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. "Charlie's Bill" requires employers to provide a brief period of paid bereavement leave for a spouse, parent or child of a service member killed on active duty. "Our United States military men, women and their families continue to make great sacrifices in order for us to have the freedoms that we have here at home," said LeBlanc, Appropriations

Subcommittee chair, State Police and Military and Veterans Affairs. "Charlie's Bill" shows Michigan's military families that we support them in their time of greatest need, and that we recognize the sacrifices they continue to make to keep us safe. "Charlie's Bill" is named in honor of U.S. Army Sgt. Charles "Charlie" Drier of Tuscola County, who was killed during combat in Iraq in May 2005. He was 28 years old. The House plan requires employers to grant paid bereavement leave of up to 10 days or 80 hours. It also prohibits an

employer from firing or punishing any employee who requests or takes the leave. LeBlanc said he was pleased that "Charlie's Bill" garnered bipartisan support. The legislation passed the House by a vote of 105 to 1. The plan now heads to the Senate. "Michigan's fallen heroes sacrificed their lives to protect us," LeBlanc said. "During this time of upheaval and uncertainty, these families who have lost so much already need to know that their next paycheck is still coming and their jobs are safe."

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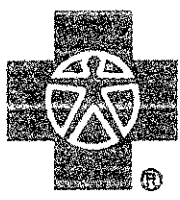
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# 6 hopefuls vie for Miss Wayne County title

Two Westland women are among a group of young women vying for the Miss Wayne County crown.

Ashlee Baracy and Joy Jano will join Christina Hastie of Dearborn, Nicole Blaszczyk of Novi, Jessica Wells of Belleville, Julienné Kobylasz of Flat Rock in competing in the 17th annual Miss Wayne County Competition at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at Livonia Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh, north of Joy.

Miss Wayne County Organization Executive Director Sheila Sigro said she is impressed with the caliber of this year's contestants.

"We are very pleased with the number of intelligent, ambitious and talented young women who have entered the competition," Sigro said. "With the number of outstanding contestants, it will be a challenging task for the judges to choose the next Miss Wayne County."

Contestants will compete in five phases of competition, including interview (25 percent), lifestyle and fitness in swimsuit (15 percent), talent



Joy Jano (from left) and Ashlee Baracy of Westland, Christina Hastie of Dearborn, Nicole Blaszczyk of Novi, Jessica Wells of Belleville, Julienné Kobylasz of Flat Rock will compete for the honor to replace current Miss Wayne County Alicia Jaros (seated) in the Sept. 8 pageant.

(35 percent), evening wear (20 percent) and on-stage question (5 percent).

During the competition, each

contestant will also discuss her chosen platform, a social community issue of concern to herself and our society at large.

The winner of the Miss Wayne County Competition will be awarded \$750 in scholarship funds for her college or

graduate school education. The first runner-up will receive a \$250 scholarship and the second runner-up will receive a \$150 scholarship.

Each non-finalist will receive a \$100 scholarship. The People's Choice winner, voted on by the audience, also will receive a cash scholarship. Special Award winners – overall talent, overall swimsuit, non-finalist talent, and Miss Congeniality – will be recognized during the competition.

During her year of service, Miss Wayne County will travel across the county, speaking to government officials, business leaders, community groups and all types of citizens about her platform issue and encouraging them to become involved in her cause. She will also be eligible to compete for the Miss Michigan title in Muskegon in June.

"I have truly enjoyed my year of service as Miss Wayne County 2006 and am proud to have traveled Wayne County and the state of Michigan, raising awareness for the special needs community," Alicia Jaros said. "I know that the

leadership skills I have gained from this experience will help me as I continue pursuing my undergraduate degree in public relations at Eastern Michigan University."

"Miss Wayne County will not only serve as a role model for young women and as an ambassador for the Miss America Organization, she will also urge girls and young women to develop their leadership skills and to take an active role in their communities," said Sigro.

Established in 1991, the Miss Wayne County Scholarship Organization provides opportunities for young women to achieve their personal and professional ambitions. Contestants also participate in community service activities and develop leadership skills that help them excel in their chosen career and life goals.

Winners of the annual Miss Wayne County Competition are eligible to compete in the Miss Michigan Competition. Four Miss Wayne Counties have captured the title of Miss Michigan and have gone on to compete at Miss America.

## Buy cotton and get \$20 gift check at mall

Westland Shopping Center and Cotton Incorporated are sponsoring a Back-to-School cotton promotion which offers shoppers the opportunity to get a \$20 gift check good towards their next cotton purchase at the cotton retailer of their choice.

Shoppers choosing to take advantage of this promotion simply need to present receipts from cotton merchandise purchases made between Aug. 20 and Sept. 4 totaling \$200 or more, to the Westland Shopping Center Customer Information Center and they will be given a \$20 gift check.

Westland Shopping Center, managed by Jones Lang LaSalle, is among 20 malls throughout the country participating in this promotion.

"So many things in our closets are denim – jackets, shirts, bags and skirts – but first and foremost denim is synonymous

with jeans," said Paula G. Rosario, Cotton Incorporated's vice president for consumer marketing – strategic alliances. "Americans, especially teens, have a true love affair with jeans, and this promotion speaks to them at their favorite place to hang out and shop – the mall."

"This Back-to-School promotion will encourage consumers to think about cotton and identify with it more directly."

There's a "Viral Marketing Campaign" and shoppers need simply ask the Customer Service assistant how they can win a \$150 Westland Shopping Center gift card or one of three \$50 Westland Shopping Center gift cards to find out all the details. For more information about the Back-to-School promotion at Westland Shopping Center, call the Customer Information Center at (734) 421-0291.

## Brown joins staff of Botsford Hospital

Dr. Rashanda Brown of Westland has joined the medical staff at Botsford Hospital.

A member of the American Osteopathic Association, the Michigan Osteopathic Association, the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians and the American Academy of Family Physicians, Brown practices at Pembroke Primary Care in Livonia.

She received her medical education from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and performed her internship and family practice residency at Botsford Hospital.

Botsford Hospital, an inde-



Brown

pendent, acute care, 330-bed community hospital in Farmington Hills, is nationally recognized for quality, safety and medical education programs. It received the 2005 Solucient 100 Top Hospitals: Performance Improvement Leaders award and the 2005 Governor's Award of Excellence for Improving Care in the Hospital and Emergency Department Settings.

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Southland Mall 23000 Eureka Rd. (in the JC Penney wing) TROY: 1913 E. Big Beaver Rd. (Troy Sports Center) 248-526-0040

Oakland Mall (inside Main Entrance, next to food court) WARREN: 5745 Twelve Mile Rd., Heritage Village 35105 Warren Rd. (southwest Corner of Warren & Wayne Rds.) 734-722-7330

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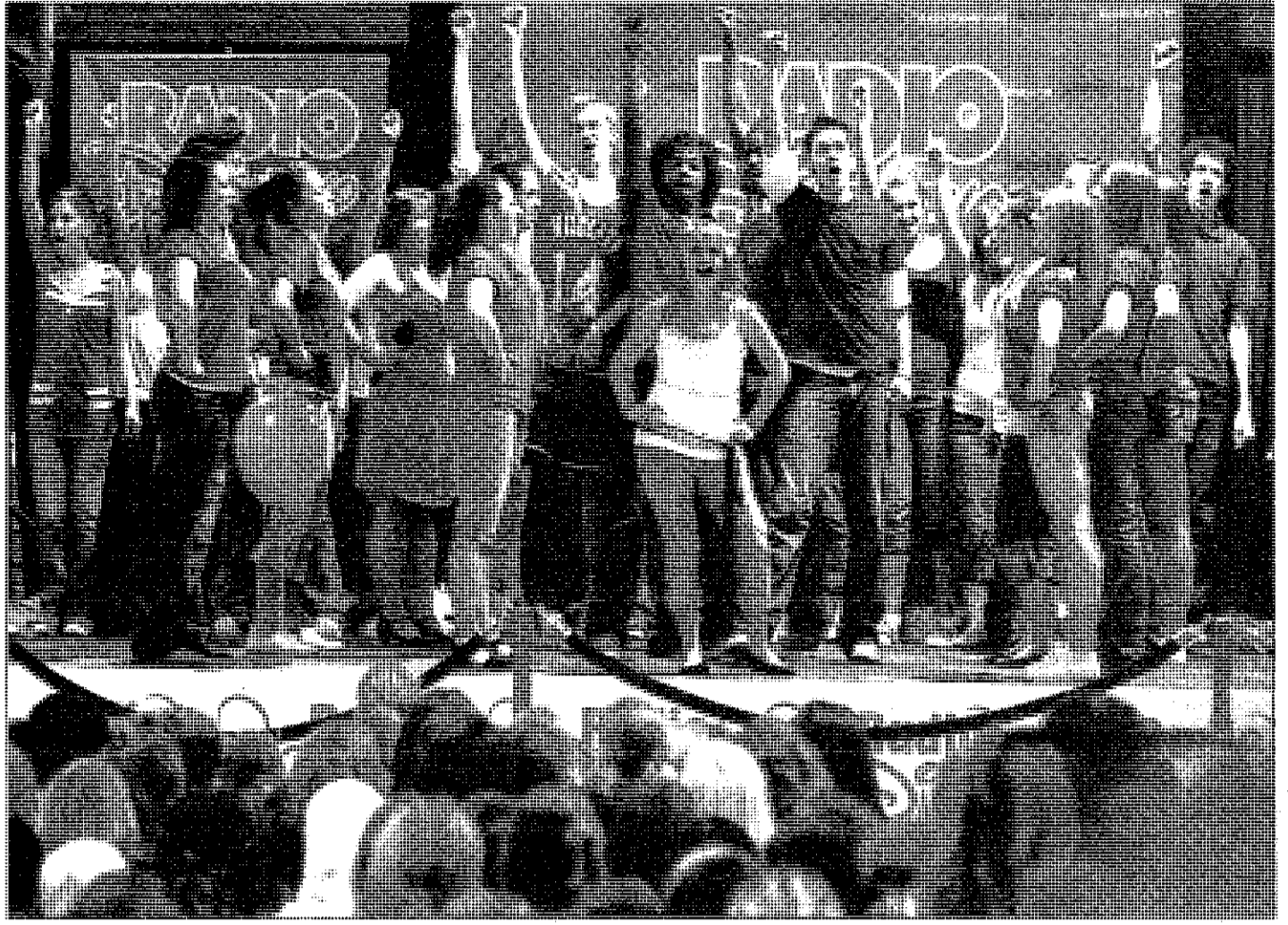




Six-year-old Livonia resident Molly Lancaster follows along with the steps during a "High School Musical 2" dance instruction, part of the Livonia Public Schools back to school party at Laurel Park Place.



Amber Whitlow, 8, of Riverview gets her face painted at Laurel Park Place during the Livonia Public Schools back to school party Tuesday.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A packed crowd at Laurel Park Place watches "High School Musical" performances during the Livonia Public Schools back to school party Tuesday.

## Musical party whets students' appetite for new school year

BY REBECCA JONES  
STAFF WRITER

With the start of classes just days away, thousands of students can't get enough of a fictitious high school where everyone sings catchy tunes and shuns stereotypes.

At Laurel Park Place on Tuesday, Livonia Public Schools celebrated the dawning of the new school year with a "High School Musical" party theme.

Drew Seeley, a singer from the original Disney movie, made a guest appearance and signed autographs. Students also took their turn at the mike, singing karaoke numbers from the movie.

Creative and Performing Arts students performed the musical this winter.

Brittany Harris, a junior who played one of the Wildcat cheerleaders, and castmates Sarah Babinski, Madelyn Prebola and John Argue couldn't help but dance along to songs they knew so well.

"I think it's a good way to get people involved," Harris said of LPS' welcome back party. "It's going to be a good year."

Students from high school to preschool, and from cities like Novi, Taylor and Dearborn joined in the fun. Activities included dance instruction, face painting and double-Dutch jump roping.

It wasn't the first "High School Musical" party Jessica and Jenna Smith of Livonia have been to this summer. When "High School Musical 2" played on TV a few weeks ago, the sisters had friends over.

On Tuesday, they stood in line with Jessica and Emily Wagner from Coolidge

Elementary to have a caricature artist draw their pictures.

Between 5,000 and 7,000 people showed up for the event, said Patrick Derrig, the mall's marketing director.

Many of them dressed for the occasion.

Kennedy Elementary second-grader Kylie Vinitzki wore a shirt that said "I (heart) Troy," referring to the character Troy Bolton. She picked up the shirt at the stage version of "High School Musical" with her mom and sister.

"High School Musical" on ice is in the works.

"I want there to be a 'High School Musical 3,'" said Taylor resident Baylie Kirk, a third-grader who wore a shirt with Seeley's picture on it that she picked up at the "High School Musical" concert in January. Having met the actor face-to-face, Kirk confirmed that he is cute.

Frost Middle School eighth-grader Chad Maura sang karaoke to "Getcha Head in the Game." He's "kind of" excited for the start of the school year. "My friends — I want to see them again," he said. "I have a new locker. I have speech and drama this year, so I'm kind of excited."

Maura wants to be a singer and actor himself and is considering getting involved in the CAPA program when he gets to high school.

Donna McDowell, the district administrator who helped organize the event, said it was a success. "It's so fun because everyone had a chance to see people before the school year began."

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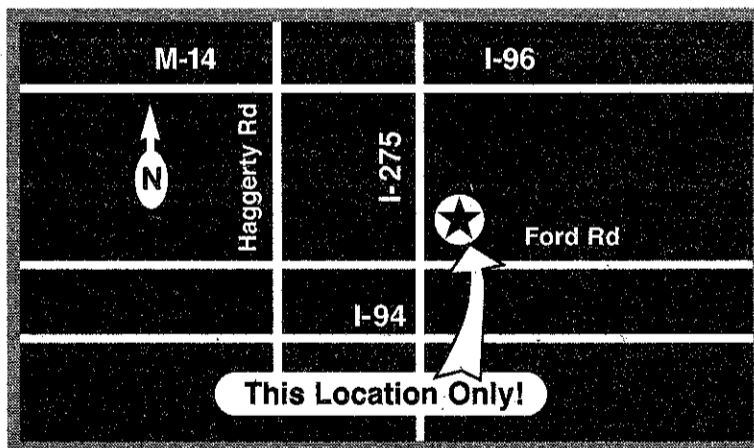
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# Fieger blasts prosecutors, Bush administration

# Anderson opposes cut in State Police budget

BY JAY M. GROSSMAN  
STAFF WRITER



Fieger

Armed with a team of high-profile defense lawyers, accused attorney Geoffrey Fieger gathered the media at his office Tuesday to blast the Bush administration and outline his defense strategy.

Famed attorneys Alan Dershowitz and Gerry Spence are representing Fieger and his law partner, Vernon Johnson, who were indicted Friday for allegedly conspiring to make more than \$125,000 in illegal contributions to the 2004 presidential campaign of John Edwards.

Fieger also made his first court appearance - as the accused. He was arraigned Tuesday in federal court

cated the motion would be presented again on Wednesday. Johnson has not yet been arraigned.

The allegations amount to a violation of federal election laws, a criminal charge that carries a penalty of up to five years in jail and a \$250,000 fine.

At Tuesday's press conference, Spence read a statement that was prepared by Dershowitz.

"This selective prosecution has been political and partisan from the very beginning," Spence read from the statement. "There is no way that a Republican who did precisely what Geoffrey Fieger is accused of doing would have been prosecuted by this Justice Department and this administration."

"Indeed the record suggests that any

United States attorney who tried to prosecute a Republican under comparable circumstances would have been fired and replaced by someone with more partisan instincts."

A federal indictment unsealed Friday charges the two attorneys with creating "straw donors" to make contributions to the Edwards campaign in the then-maximum allowable amount of \$2,000 per donor.

The contributions were actually paid for by the Fieger firm rather than the named donors, according to the indictment.

In his statement, Dershowitz said the Federal Election Committee rather than the Attorney General's office should be the one deciding whether or not the filings were legal.

before U.S. Magistrate Judge Steven Whalen on the campaign charges. A not guilty plea was entered on his behalf.

The court also struck a motion of dismissal on behalf of Fieger and Johnson, but a secretary from Fieger's office indi-

A western Wayne County senator was among lawmakers voting last week against an unexpected budget amendment that would cut funding for public safety services.

After months of careful study, the Appropriations Committee came to a bipartisan agreement to increase State Police funding by 5 percent. However, Senate Republicans introduced a last-minute substitution to the budget to cut funding for public safety by more than \$7 million, which amounts to roughly 63 state troopers.

"Our state cannot afford this type of disinvestment in basic public services," said Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland. "Michigan's citizens need and deserve adequate police protection, and this cut means we'll have fewer cops on the streets to keep our communities safe."

According to Anderson, the action reflects a significant funding reduction compared to the 2007 budget, which means the State Police will have fewer resources at their disposal to protect Michigan citizens.

In addition, Anderson also opposed a similar amendment that would cut more than \$860,000 from Military and Veterans Affairs services.

"The men and women who serve our country in uniform put their lives on the line on a daily basis," he said. "The least we can do is offer them access to basic services through the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs."

According to Anderson, Senate Republicans passed an additional \$75 million in cuts onto departments without direction on how those cuts should be implemented after reaching bipartisan agreements in the Appropriations Committee on multiple budgets.

The Michigan Constitution requires the legislature to produce a balanced budget; but those budgets do not meet that requirement because this action passes that responsibility onto the departments themselves, he added.

## Rochette joins MARVAC board

David Rochette, president of Westland Camping Center in Westland, has been elected to the board of directors for the Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds (MARVAC).

Rochette, an Ann Arbor resident, was elected to the board for a 2007-2008 term. An RV and campground industry veteran, he brings more than 30 years of experience to the position.

The new board is made up of 14 people from various sectors of the RV and private campground industries. Board representatives serve two-year terms.

MARVAC is a nonprofit trade association representing the RV and private campground industries. Through legislation, education, marketing and public awareness, the organization works to improve the business climate for its members and to encourage growth in the industry, while contributing to the quality of Michigan tourism.

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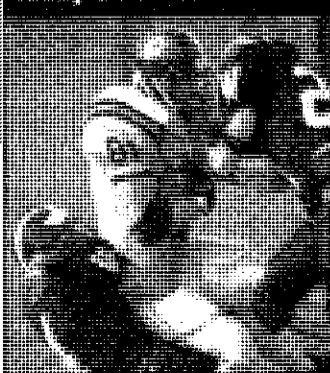
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# Madonna reception features Tuscany

Madonna University launches its first Continuing Education Welcome Reception entitled, "Tastes, Sights & Sounds of Tuscany" 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26.

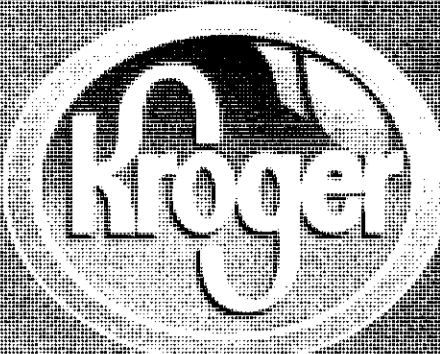
Tantalize your tastebuds with Italian wine, appetizers, and desserts at the strolling reception, which will feature artwork capturing Italy's character and sprawling landscapes. Guests will enjoy hearing personal stories and memories of Italy, and possibly win a door prize.

"Our speakers are gifted and talented individuals, who have rich life experiences to share with attendees," said Joan Stephens, director of Continuing Education. "It is a great opportunity for the community to have fun while learning about Tuscany."

The reception features author Perry J. Martini, photographer Monte Nagler and art historian Deborah Kawsy. Martini, the author of "My Father's Compass: Leadership Lessons for an Immigrant Son," will discuss his journey from the hills of an Italian Abruzzo village to north-eastern Ohio. Displaying his fine art photography of Italy, Farmington Hills artist Nagler then will share his travel insights. Wrapping up the evening will be Plymouth resident Kawsy, who will take the audience on an art history tour of Italy via a slide presentation.



"Tastes, Sights & Sounds of Tuscany" costs \$24 and will be held in the University Center, 14221 Levan Road in Livonia, north of St. Francis Pond.

To register, call (734) 432-5804 or visit [www.madonna.edu](http://www.madonna.edu).



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OUR VIEWS

## State's job losses dampen Labor Day

Thousands of Michiganders will break out their walking shoes Monday and follow the governor across the Mackinac Bridge. Typically, between 50,000 and 65,000 people take part in the annual Labor Day event, where participants walk across the five-mile span that connects Michigan's two peninsulas.

The Mackinac Bridge Walk, which has taken place on Labor Day since 1958, is a distinctive Michigan tradition that offers a unique perspective of our state. There may be no other view in Michigan as grand as the one from atop the bridge, looking out across beautiful Lakes Huron and Michigan, with Mackinac Island dominating the eastern horizon.

But it won't just be the majestic view the governor and the rest of the participants will be there to celebrate. They will also recognize the importance of Labor Day, which in Michigan has always been a big deal because of the state's long history of organized labor. In fact, the national holiday, which dates back to 1882, has generally been associated with unions and "Big Labor."

These are not the best of times for organized labor. In this climate of outsourcing and consolidation, Michigan has been shedding manufacturing jobs at an alarming rate. But it isn't just factory jobs we are losing.

Recent numbers released by the Department of Labor and Economic Growth indicate the state has lost 9 percent of its total jobs since June 2000. Manufacturing jobs account for more than half of the total — nearly 300,000 lost jobs since 2000, which is a staggering statistic.

Losing these jobs, which provided the backbone of middle class for generations, has had a trickle-down effect, and other sectors of the job market have also been impacted, including plenty of white-collar positions. In fact, the total number of people working in Michigan is now only about 4.2 million — the lowest total since July 1995, according to the Senate Fiscal Agency. The state has experienced six consecutive years of job loss, a trend that is expected to continue through 2007.

And these job losses have impacted everything from public school funding to the real estate market — Michigan is now one of the leading states in home foreclosures.

Despite this grim reality, politicians in Lansing have continued their partisan bickering and sniping. That's the last thing we can afford at a time when we need a cohesive economic strategy to stem the tide of job loss, and actually attract new employers to our state — something Democrat and Republican leaders both say is important.

Well, talk is cheap. At some point, lawmakers need to find some kind of consensus and actually get something done. Step up and walk the walk. Perhaps they will be inspired by the thousands who Monday will make their way across the Mackinac Bridge.

## Michigan should join those going smoke-free

The Michigan Legislature has debated banning smoking in bars and restaurants for nearly a decade, and it appears unlikely a vote on the controversial issue will take place again this year.

But the issue of smoking in public places is sure to heat up again next year, and sooner or later state lawmakers will have to vote on the proposed ban. And when they do, we urge them to join an ever-growing list of cities and states around the country in snuffing out smoking in public places.

For years, the battle over smoking has focused on individual rights: The rights of the nonsmoker to be free of the intrusion and potential health risks of second-hand smoke vs. the rights of the smoker to light up when and where he or she pleases.

With mounting evidence that second-hand smoke presents a true public health concern, one could argue that allowing smoking in public places represents dangerous behavior. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that about 38,000 nonsmokers die from lung cancer or heart disease each year as a result of exposure to second-hand smoke.

Bills that would prohibit smoking in restaurants and later in bars were first introduced in 2000, and have been staunchly opposed by the Michigan Restaurant Association and the Michigan Licensed Beverage Association. The trade groups warn that such a ban would be a death knell for many of their members, and that individual restaurants and bars should have the right to decide whether to allow smoking.

But one of the reasons why the push to ban smoking is gaining steam is the bar and restaurant industry has done a poor job of protecting nonsmokers from those exercising their right to light up with little regard for their fellow patrons. Designated smoking areas are not properly sealed off from the rest of the establishment or, worse in the case of many bars, do not exist at all.

It is never easy for a politician to take on a powerful interest group that spends lots of cash on campaign contributions, but at least 15 other states have stepped up and banned smoking in restaurants and/or bars.

The time has come for Michigan to join that list.



### Special treatment

While more than 300 homes are in foreclosure, more than 700 are vacant in the city of Westland, the preferred employees in this city government continue to enjoy a "cash cow" called optical reimbursement. In the year 2004, two employees were reimbursed \$764.46; in year 2005, three employees were reimbursed \$1,002.05; year 2006, two employees were reimbursed \$1,950.50.

These are the same employees year after year, and although hard to believe, it has been documented in the vouchers. Why is there such a system that gives away dollars under the cover of optical reimbursement. Does income tax get paid on these "cash cow" reimbursements?

For the first six months of 2007, optical reimbursements totaled \$25,490.22 for the city of Westland employees. It is time to get in line with the general population which is hurting but is forced with high taxes to support this giveaway.

How many taxpayers are aware that their taxes contribute to the Police/Fire Retirement Pension Fund, however, four people in a city of 86,000 plus were permitted to go to Hawaii on a boondoggle called a "pension fund" conference. Two half days were spent for conference and the other time, pleasure which Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer paid for!

Start by trimming the "fat" at the top ... two classes of people, (1) the poor who are losing their homes supporting the crooks, and (2) preferred city employees, current and retired, who are sucking life's blood from the taxpayers. (How many employees are getting a car allowance and what is the total dollars spent?)

Angeline Ludwick  
Westland

### Mine is bad decision

I read Kurt Kuban's column on Michigan's decision to allow a sulfide mine to operate in the Upper Peninsula. I am very concerned, as I am from Butte, Montana. I was born and raised in Butte for 19 years, but have lived in Michigan for the last 36 years. I would hate to see happen in Michigan what the Berkeley Pit has caused in Butte.

It created many jobs for my parents' generation, but when it stopped operating, it filled up to be a very large body of caustic water. To find pictures and articles about the Berkeley Pit and the environmental damage it caused, Google "Berkeley Pit."

I hope this letter makes people think before this devastation is done to Michigan. Thank you.

Bonnie Ministrelli  
Livonia

### League will continue push

Aug. 26, marked the 87th anniversary of the day that the U.S. Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote. While American women now comprise more than half of our nation's voting age population, the struggle to become full participants in the political life of the country has yet to be fully realized.

This anniversary of the 19th amendment, Women's Equality Day, provides us with an opportunity to reflect with pride on the progress made on voting rights in

### LETTERS

the past 87 years.

This year, we've witnessed a number of remarkable milestones for women. For the first time, a female has been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, and a major contender for the 2008 Presidential election is a woman. And of course, Governor Granholm is the first woman governor of Michigan.

These achievements, however, do not mark the end of our journey. In communities across the country, citizens still lack real representation by their elected officials and the policies they pass. It is only with the continued work of citizens and leaders of all backgrounds, that this can change.

The League's current and recent projects include the launch of a national voter education Web site, www.VOTE411.org, lobbying against the disenfranchisement of eligible voters, a campaign to end "taxation without representation" for D.C. citizens by granting D.C. a voting representative, and continuing voter registration drives nationwide.

It is our goal at the local level to provide the best, non-partisan candidate and issue information to the electorate by conducting candidate forums and providing voter guides on our local Web site: www.lwvwww.org.

It is crucial that we continue to engage more citizens in the democratic process, on every level. Today is a time to celebrate the progress achieved by active citizens over the past eight decades, but it is also a time to look to what still needs to be done to make democracy work for all Americans.

The League of Women Voters will continue to be the place where hands-on work leads to a better democracy for all.

Paula Bowman, President  
League of Women Voters of NW Wayne County

### Vision needed

I am writing this letter to the Democratic presidential candidates to express my deep concern about the direction of education policy in our country. I am particularly troubled by No Child Left Behind, and the devastating impact it has had on public education. As a retired educator and former superintendent of schools in Bloomfield Hills, I feel I must speak out on behalf of America's public school educators and students.

It is my hope that the Democratic candidates, most of whom supported this legislation, will listen and change course for the sake of our children.

This ill-conceived legislation is only beneficial to test makers and private sector profiteers who market and sell pre-packaged educational programs of questionable efficacy. Standardized testing never has and never will result in greater accountability and will not prompt the kind of systemic education reforms necessary to prepare our students for life in the 21st century. I believe the late Sen. Paul Wellstone, who wisely voted against this legislation, said it best in his March 31, 2000, address at Teachers College, Columbia University:

"Making students accountable for test scores works well on a bumper sticker and it allows politicians to look good by saying that they will not tolerate failure. But it represents a hollow promise. Far from improving education, high stakes

testing marks a major retreat from fairness, from accuracy, from quality and from equity."

The problems with NCLB are far deeper than the simplistic notion that "it can be fixed with more funding" suggests.

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution states very clearly that public education is a state, not a federal responsibility. Policymaking must happen at the local level, not in Washington, D.C., and in corporate offices. NCLB needs to be dismantled. Efforts to restructure this legislative travesty are a waste of time, and will only further delay and hamper meaningful school reform.

America needs a leader who has the common sense to empower teachers, parents, administrators and local school boards to become the primary architects of school reform. We need a leader who understands that NCLB and other bureaucratic intrusions move us away from creating dynamic learning environments that will optimize student learning.

It is my hope that a presidential candidate will step up to this important challenge and articulate a truly compelling vision for our schools, while speaking out forcefully against the re-authorization of NCLB.

Gary M. Doyle  
Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.

### A way to solve state budget

I was reading in the newspapers about how "Governor Taxholm" was crying about how there wasn't enough money in the general fund to pay state troopers' salaries and they would have to lay off about 60 to balance the budget. I have a wonderful suggestion and that is ... to pass a state law that would prohibit using a cell phone while operating a vehicle and use those funds to help pay troopers' salaries.

I know of communities that have policemen, after putting in eight hours of regular work, who can come in and take an unmarked car equipped with radar and write as many tickets as possible and receive time and a half to pay for judges salaries and maintenance of court buildings. If you don't believe me, check with some of the surrounding communities. But this will never happen because so many politicians are talking on their cell phones.

Robert Siedlik  
Livonia

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- David Bourque, a STEP resource center director, about the agency's Tried and True Thrift Store in Wayne which provides employment for disabled adults

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# Newspapers shedding reporters, but who will search for the truth?

Vacations don't just refresh the body; they help concentrate the mind and renew and refresh the soul.

My wife Kathy and I have just returned from some days in our cabin on the south shore of Lake Superior. We had family — including two adorable little granddaughters — with us. And we had deep blue sky, long winding trails, clear waters and happy dinners.

Plus time to reflect. One chain of reflections has to do with the trade I practiced for most of my life — newspapers and journalism. I was a newspaper publisher for more than 40 years. I sold my company a few years ago, as it became more and more evident that the business model that had sustained my industry was in the process of dissolving.

The world I made my living from is now a direct casualty of massive changes caused by the Internet, a medium that did not even exist in 1987. Today, newspapers everywhere are in trouble. Nationally, newspaper readership and circulation are way down, and advertising revenue figures are worse.

Nationally, newspaper readership and circulation are way down, and advertising revenue figures are worse. Knight-Ridder, which for many years owned the *Detroit Free Press* and many other distinguished titles, has disappeared. The *Chicago Tribune*, one of the historic monuments of Midwestern journalism, has been tentatively sold in a transaction that looks increasingly shaky.

On Wall Street, newspaper stocks are performing dismally across the board. In an attempt to preserve operating profits, newspaper publishers have cut costs to the bone. Even great papers like the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* have decreased the width of their pages this year to reduce newsprint costs.

Newspapers have clustered operations into regional groupings to achieve economies of scale in production and business office operations. Finally, they've cut staff, especially in the newsroom.

This is an industry that has existed in its present form since the 1830s, and which has provided the most important form of communication throughout most of the history of this republic.

Yet now many people (including me) are wondering whether the newspaper industry is in an irreversible downward spiral.

Maybe so, maybe not. But what is clear is that something very important in America is in the process of radical change, perhaps even near elimination. I don't refer to the business enterprise we call the newspaper industry, but to one particular group of professionals.

These are folks who have played a remarkably important role in American public life for more than two centuries — reporters.

Thousands and thousands of reporters have been employed by newspapers — whether daily, weekly or monthly — in virtually every community across this land. Few of us really know how important they are and have been. Their job, which they have sometimes done very well and sometimes done poorly, has been to ask impor-

tant and sometimes impertinent questions. That is, to speak truth to power.

How come the mayor's first cousin got the contract to haul garbage? Why did the school board decide to put a new school near that wealthy subdivision and give the construction contract to the rich local big shot? How did it happen that a very large corporation was given free rein by state regulatory authorities to pollute a world-class trout stream that has run clean and sparkling for centuries?

Some of what they ask are just things that people in a community want to know, because knowing them is what makes a group of people a community: Who graduated first in her class and who married his high school sweetheart just before going off to war?

Reporters. I have no idea how many thousands of them there are, and I don't think anybody really knows. But their questions have nourished the life of this republic for more than two centuries.

They've shined the light of disclosure on murky places and they've contributed the information basis for reasoned discourse and shared conscience to the lives of the communities they served.

And what is sad and virtually certain is that there will be far fewer of them in years to come than in the past. Mostly, again, that's all due to newspaper economics in the age of the Internet.

*Booth Newspapers*, a subsidiary of Newhouse's Advance Publications, runs eight daily newspapers in Michigan. Earlier this summer, they cut the number of reporters in its highly regarded Lansing bureau from eight to three. Meanwhile, the big Detroit dailies have cut their newsrooms time and again as their circulations have dropped. I'm neither immune nor innocent, by the way; when I was a publisher, I did my share of cost-cutting over the years.

In an age when there are thousands and thousands of bloggers hammering away at all hours of the day, I happen to think we may be on the cusp of something that might be called "citizen journalism."

Indeed, it might be that community news could become more community-driven (and less newspaper-owner determined) than in the past. It might be less "professional," but it might be more passionate and far more broadly democratic.

Thanks to our Constitution, we all have as much right to do journalism as the editors of the *Washington Post*.

New York University Professor Jay Rosen put it this way: "No one owns the practice of reporting or assigns the right to do it. It's a democratic thing to tell others what's going on and 'show your work.' Some people will not be deterred from doing that. Most of them don't care what you call them. They do care if their story stands up."

Just so. But looking at the deep blue skies on a U.P. summer day, I can't but worry what our public life might be without thousands of curious, impertinent folk pecking away in communities all over our country.

Phil Power is president and founder of The Center for Michigan, a moderate think-and-do tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are his own and do not represent official policy positions of The Center for Michigan. Power welcomes reader comment at [ppower@hcn.net](mailto:ppower@hcn.net).



Phil Power

# Region's offerings seem fresher after hosting visitors

Earlier this summer, Tom Watkins, with whom I sometimes share this page, wrote a column about Michigan's many tourist offerings. Watkins, a business/education consultant who was Michigan's school superintendent, made a good point about all our great state has to offer visitors and those who call Michigan home.

I read that column with more than passing interest, as my husband and I have just hosted friends from England for a two-week stay, accompanied by their daughter who turned 15 while here. Some of the stops like Henry Ford Museum were obvious, but we worried a bit about how to fill two weeks with fun things to do.

The daughter picked the Detroit Zoo for her birthday, a big hit, especially the Arctic Ring of Life and butterfly house. The Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe (Westland) cake capped off the evening well.

We were surprised at how much they liked the everyday Plymouth things, including a Plymouth Community Arts Council concert in Kellogg Park Aug. 15, the farmer's market put on by the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Saturday mornings, and a Contemporary Books book discussion (*The World Is Flat* by Thomas Friedman) at the Plymouth District Library. Even our regular visits to Hiller's for groceries elicited considerable interest, with an opportunity to compare to Tesco's and other British grocery stores. Hiller's has a British foods section, which prompted some discussion as to authenticity, but American foods (other than root beer and Life Savers) were what they really wanted to try.

A big hit as well was a drive out to Michigan International Speedway for NASCAR qualifying. The day was sunny and warm and the Goodyear blimp over the track was a sight to see for our visitors. We had a rainy Sunday to fill, but managed with a drive into Detroit for Pewabic Pottery (my sister-in-law's suggestion, thank you), combined with a trip to Belle Isle, where my husband and I saw how cleaned up the site was in preparation for the Grand Prix.

While on Belle Isle, we stopped at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, definitely worth visiting. We had a nice chat with a couple there about Bob-Lo memories, visiting Bob-Lo for rides and how great the boat trip was.

We ate in Greektown (Laikon) that Sunday and found ourselves back in Detroit a couple days later for a visit to the Motown Historical Museum. The tour guide was excellent in describing this rich part of

Detroit's history. The ladies had a chance to sing *Stop, In the Name of Love* in Studio A (known to the musicians as the "Snake Pit"), while the men performed a part of *My Girl*. Photos weren't allowed inside, but our friends took plenty of the famous Hitsville U.S.A. building front.

While at that museum, we visited with a businessman from Brazil, up for some training at the Rouge plant. He was so excited to see where the Motown hits were made, especially his favorite group, The Four Tops.

That afternoon, we crossed the border for a brief visit to Windsor's scenic park on the river. That gave our friends a chance to say they'd been to Canada, and we would have liked to show them more of our good neighbors' country. My mom hosted us that evening at Hogan's in Bloomfield Township, my in-laws a couple days later for a Chinese buffet (Peking Buffet) in Livonia.

A big hit was Frankenmuth (a colleague had told me British people love it, and she was right). We got to Frankenmuth at 10:15 a.m. and didn't leave until after 9 p.m., with our friends even missing out on Bronner's Christmas store interior, as it had closed at 9. The chicken dinner at Zehnder's, all you can eat, was popular after a day of walking and shopping. I even ran into a former teacher, Jay Schwalm, from Birmingham Public Schools in the dinner line and had a nice chat.

Our group later wanted to visit a beach, and found Kensington Metropark's Martindale beach did just fine and was close to home. The park looked great, and our friends commented on how reasonable admission was.

Tom Watkins' suggestions came in handy, thank you, and we needn't have worried about how to fill two weeks. Shopping was popular as well particularly with the strength of the pound, and it was a challenge for our friends to pack everything and get it home.

A friend had somewhat jokingly asked if we had wanted to give the "nice Detroit" tour or the "shock" one. We know southeast Michigan's far from perfect, but our friends enjoyed their visit, and commented often on the good customer service that surpassed what they find at home. The tourist stops were popular, especially Frankenmuth and Michigan International Speedway.

It helped my husband and me to see our hometown and region through someone else's eyes to gain a new perspective. We Detroiters may too often run down the place we call home, but let's not forget all the good people and things here.

Julie Brown of Plymouth Township is presentation editor for the *Observer & Eccentric* Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2111 or via e-mail at [jcbrown@hometownlife.com](mailto:jcbrown@hometownlife.com).



Julie Brown

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# State fair competition not new to Canton resident

BY JULIE BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

Kelly Bunting of Canton started entering competitions at the Michigan State Fair at 12 or 13. Now 33, she's returned four or five years ago to entering each year and took several awards in the event which wraps up Labor Day.

"I do it every year," said Bunting, married to Brad and mom to sons ages 6 and 2. "I actually was a little disappointed in my performance this year." She took first place/best of show in Greenery for a table setting for two in brown and gold. That had her Thanksgiving china for judging, although she took that home when the public display went up.

Bunting also took first place/best in show for Fall Arrangement, a pumpkin with fresh flowers. In Hanging Basket, she took a third place for mixed bedding plants designed to highlight that industry in Michigan. The hanging basket on display with the other entries at the Community Arts Building of the fairgrounds features trailing petunias, million bells, bacopa, and a sweet potato vine.

"I got third for that. This late in the season, that's OK," the gardener said.

Her best friend, Teresa Sirois of Oxford, encourages Bunting to enter each year. Sirois is also a regular entrant, among many from



Kelly Bunting took a first place/best in show for Fall Arrangement with this pumpkin/fresh flowers display at the state fair, which continues through Monday, Labor Day, at the fairgrounds, Woodward and Eight Mile.

the metro area whose work is displayed through Monday at the fairgrounds.

Bunting, a homemaker, grew up in Dearborn and graduated from Greenhills School in Ann Arbor and Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. She has a bachelor's degree in psychobiology,

that college's combined psychology/biology major, and an art history minor.

Bunting, who worked in human resources for Domino's world headquarters before her children were born, also entered in baking this year at the fair. "I guess I didn't fulfill exactly what

they were looking for," she said. She won the Pillsbury Refrigerated Pie Crust Challenge at the state fair in 2005, and her aunt won that last year.

In that competition, the baker uses Pillsbury packaged pie crust to make a fruit pie. "It's supposed to be an original recipe," she said, and can include such things as a lattice top.

Gardening's a family affair for Bunting, whose mom grew up on a farm. Her mom has 13 acres of land in Superior Township, much of it landscaped and a raised bed for growing vegetables.

The state fair's a perennial favorite for the Bunting family, although the couple's younger son can't yet appreciate his mom's efforts.

"I enjoy going to the fair," she said. She appreciates the recognition for what she does. "My kids really enjoy going and seeing my ribbons. I love to go and see what's new and exciting." It's good for next year's competition, noted Bunting (who also does canning at home) to see other entries.

She's met other women her age who'd like to learn about canning and how to preserve the season's bounty of Michigan produce for the winter.

"They're very interested in learning now but have no idea how to start," said Bunting, whose family has long done home canning.

# State Fair: Country fun in the big city

The 2007 Michigan State Fair will continue through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3, at the fairgrounds, corner of Eight Mile and Woodward Avenue in Detroit.

The fair is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors age 62 and up as well as children ages 3-12. Children age 2 and younger are admitted free. An Adult Seasonal Gate Admission Pass is \$35 and \$10 for seniors 62 and older as well as children 3-12.

Parking is \$7.

This year, the Michigan State Fair, which opened Aug. 22, has introduced several new attractions, along with classic favorites that have made the fair a Michigan summer tradition. New and exciting attractions include the all-new Michigan Sports Hall of Fame and Sports FanFest. This attraction allows enthusiasts to participate in sporting activities including interactive basketball, baseball, football, golf, hockey and soccer.

There is also a sports memorabilia show with original sessions with a new pro athlete daily. Also new to the fair is the Building of Science and Technology which features a "You Be the Chemist Challenge" and "For

Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST)." Featured alongside these attractions are such traditional favorites such as the Contest Corner for children and adults, daily parades, dance and baton competitions, The Miracle of Life exhibit, The Michigan Mart, and The Outdoor Zone.

This year's fair also includes free headliner concerts in the Band Shell with a returning performance by rocker Alice Cooper.

"The 2007 Michigan State Fair is one of the most exciting and awaited summer events in the state of Michigan," said Steve Jenkins, general manager for the fair. "We are proud to offer thrilling new attractions and events, combined with traditional favorites. Generations from the state of Michigan and around the country have enjoyed the State Fair for many years.

"We invite everyone to come and share this wonderful experience with their family and friends while creating a spectacular experience and memories for everyone," Jenkins added.

For more information, call the State Fair office, (313) 369-8250.

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CALENDAR

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

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Women of the Word

Women of the Word Bible Studies offers a choice of 2 studies this summer at Calvary

Baptist Church, 43065 Joy Road, Canton. To register, call (734) 455-0022. Ext. 4, or download a registration form at www.vchurches.com/cbcwomem.

The first study is on 1 Samuel, a Precept Ministries study began 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, July 10. Video lectures by Kay Arthur will expand on the material covered in the discussion group. Cost for workbook is \$15. Second study is Loving Well, a four-week of heart-to-heart messages from Beth Moore 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Cost for workbook is \$8.

Sunday school classes

New adult Sunday School classes began July 1, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth Road, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. Classes include The Joy of Signing (sign language), Inside the Middle East, and Keys to Spiritual Freedom.

Worship schedule

10 a.m. Sundays through Sept. 9, when fall worship schedule resumes at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., at Faith Community Presbyterian Church, 44400 W. 10 Mile, Novi. For more information, call (248) 349-2345.

We are constantly confronted with competing faith claims. What to make of them? Indeed, is truth even knowable? Explore the Catholic option and see if curiosity leads to conversion. Tuesdays, started Aug. 21, at 7:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall (church building), at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Road, Livonia. For information, call (734) 425-5950.

J.O.Y. meeting

The J.O.Y. Builders (Just Older Youth, ages 50 plus) meet 11:30 a.m. the third Thursday of the month for lunch, fellowship and fun, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth roads, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990. All are welcome to join in. There is no charge, although organizers ask that you bring a luncheon dish to share.

Higher Rock Cafe

Second and fourth Friday of the month, doors open at 7:30 p.m., live bands begin at 8 p.m. presented by Salvation Army of Wayne/Westland, 2300 S. Venoy, between Michigan Avenue and Palmer. For information, call (734) 722-3660 or visit www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com.

Worship service

10 a.m. Sundays, at The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. Sunday

School for children. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Youth wanted

Twens and teens age 12 and up are invited to join in various youth activities held at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh Road (corner of Plymouth), Livonia. Come to one of our regular classes on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. or Wednesdays at 7 p.m. For details, call (734) 464-0990.

A healthy you

Join with others as we discover ways to keep our minds and bodies healthy through a four-week class that is open to the public and free of charge at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh Road (corner of Plymouth), Livonia. Day and night classes available. To register, call (734) 464-0990.

Summer worship

Summer schedule for worship to Sept. 2, is 10 a.m. Sunday services (with nursery), and 7 p.m. Wednesday Contemporary Service, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

Sunday worship

10 a.m. at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour,

29425 Annapolis, Westland. For information, call (734) 728-3440.

Preschool registration

Ward Preschool now enrolling children for the 2007-2008 school year. Morning and afternoon sessions available for ages 3, 4 and 5 by Dec. 1. Preschool is at 40000 Six Mile, west of Haggerty, Northville. Schedule and tuition information can be viewed at www.wardchurch.org. For information, call (248) 374-5911 or send e-mail to carol.nowacki@wardchurch.org.

Sunday services

Pastor Dan Strength leads services at Living Water Church (Pentecostal Church of God), 11663 Arcola, one block west of Inkster road on Plymouth road. Sunday School is 10 a.m. followed by worship at 11 a.m. Bible study 7 p.m. Wednesdays. Call (734) 425-6360.

Worship services

Regular church services 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays with Nursery, Sunday School during 9:30 a.m. service, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414. Adult Bible Study weekly on Tuesday and Sunday at 11 a.m. Visitors welcome. Visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Your Invitation To Worship

Grid of church advertisements including: BAPTIST (New Hope Baptist Church), UNITED METHODIST (Clarenceville United Methodist, Redford Aldersgate), LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD (Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church), CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD, HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL, RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL, ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, FAITH COVENANT CHURCH, BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH, WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church, RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH, CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE, PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE, ST. GENEVIEVE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, ST. MAURICE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, TIMOTHY LUTHERAN CHURCH.

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

# Identify risk and make informed decisions to handle it

Last week's storms should remind us how unpredictable life can be and the importance of understanding risks.

Whether in an investment portfolio or a family emergency, it is possible to manage risk, but impossible to eliminate it. The key is to identify risk and then make an informed decision how to handle it. In a family emergency, the best way to manage risk is to make sure you have proper legal documents. In a portfolio, the best way to manage risk is to invest in different asset classes.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

As for last week's storms and subsequent damages, make sure you can identify your losses and that your homeowner's insurance policy is up to date.

## MANAGING RISK

I recommend a current video inventory of home and assets because it's a reminder of what you own. It's almost impossible to remember everything you own — particularly, in time of crisis. A video inventory is a good way to refresh the memory.

Videotape the entire premise, from floor to ceiling and everything in between. In addition, talk your way through the video. This helps to jog your memory with respect to various belongings.

Another benefit of a video inventory is if you do have a

claim, it can provide additional evidence to the insurance company of any losses. If you have collectibles and receipts or appraisals, these should be included in the video inventory.

Whether you live in a house or an apartment, a video inventory is important.

## REVIEW POLICIES

Another essential aspect to risk management is to review your homeowner's insurance policy.

Unfortunately, most people purchase a policy when they purchase their home and never update it.

It's difficult for most of us to read and understand our homeowner's policy. After all, policies are written by lawyers for lawyers. If you haven't met with your home-

owner's insurance agent, now is the time. Most insurance agents I know encourage their clients to sit down with them to make sure coverage is up to date. If your agent doesn't want to meet, it's a clear indication you need a new agent.

## SHOP AROUND

One mistake homeowners make is to assume all insurance policies are the same. There are several differences between companies. Different policies and different companies work better in different situations. The key is to have the policy that matches your individual situation.

And every so often, it's important to shop around for competitive bids. However, the lowest bid isn't necessarily the

best bid.

In shopping for homeowner's insurance, there are more options available today than ever before. Make sure, if you are using an agent, he/she works for your best interest.

## TYPES OF AGENTS

There are two types of agents when it comes to homeowner's insurance.

The first is what's known as a captured agent. A captured agent works for one insurance company. The advantage is that he/she is generally better informed about the policies and the workings of the company. Thus, if you had a claim, they potentially can be of more assistance to you.

The other is an independent agent who represents many different insurance compa-

nies. The advantage of this agent is he/she has a variety of products available to match your individual situation.

All things being equal, I generally prefer an independent agent. However, the most important qualities of an agent are someone you can communicate with and feel comfortable asking questions.

It would be nice if we could eliminate risk from our lives, but that's impossible. The best we can do is manage it so when a crisis occurs, we have the tools to deal with it.

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

# YOUR BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

An opportunity to know more about the businesses in your area.

## COMPUTER CARE AND SAFETY

by Aaron E. Earle  
Owner AE&E Corporation

Computers have revolutionized our lives making us always connected and ever dependent on them for communicating. Computers require care and maintenance. Just as a car needs oil, rotations, and regular inspections computers need upkeep from a trained technician. Without scanning, de-fragmentation, and inspection computers can quickly become slow and seize just like a car without service.

Unlike cars, our computers store very sensitive information. It would not make a lot of sense to leave our door unlocked with our wallet lying on seat, yet so many computers today have inadequate protection mechanisms creating a very similar situation. Without protection, anyone could quickly find themselves in a wrath of legal, financial, and ethically wrong situations. Recently issues have surfaced were innocent victims faced jail time for what their computers did unbeknownst to them. Computer hackers have the ability to robotically troll the internet finding and compromising insecure computers all without manual intervention. Once a machine is compromised, it can become a host to a magnitude of

illegal activity. Studies have shown that an insecure computer lasts no more than 15 minutes before becoming attacked and receives over 500 attacks within a 24-hour period. Ensuring your computer's safety is more than just something you should do it is a risk that could very easily take your freedom away.

For more information on why computer security is something you need to be confident about just admit "I need security" and call click or visit us today at 1-877-IT-Audit or www.IneedSecurity.com.

About the Author and Owner of AE&E Corporation:

Aaron Earle has been securing computer and network systems just shy of a decade. In this time he has accumulated seventeen certifications and one corporation. He has taught for prestigious security organizations such as Computer Security Institute (CSI) and Information Systems Security Association (ISSA). Aaron has also instructed personnel from almost every United States three or four letter government agency including NSA, FBI, CIA, and safeguarding governments and companies alike.

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# Sacred Heart celebrates 50 years as it revitalizes

BY DAVE VARGA  
STAFF WRITER

The Rev. Joseph Marquis had occasionally heard the questions about how long Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church on Six Mile east of Middlebelt would carry on, whether it was going to close.

As an answer, he'd point to the image of a small tri-bar cross, a symbol of the Eastern Rite Catholic faith, visible in a new walkway in front of the church.

"Is it set in concrete? Yes. We're staying," Marquis said. Sacred Heart is undergoing a major rebirth, with plenty of construction and new projects during this its 50th year serving the western suburbs.

Unlike its sister Roman Catholic parishes which are generally much larger in this country, Byzantine and other Eastern Rite churches tend to be smaller.

Sacred Heart serves 106 families from Redford, Livonia, Farmington Hills, Westland, Detroit, Plymouth and well beyond. Marquis describes the parishioners as very loyal. "We have people drive here from as far away as Clarkston, so it's not something passive," he said.

The Byzantine Rite is "something of a hybrid," Marquis said. Its Liturgy and traditions share much in common to the Eastern Orthodox Church — from the heavy use of incense and chanting of hymns to the vestments and icons. However, it's fully a Catholic rite, in communion with the Pope. Compared to their Western rite counterparts, Byzantines put greater emphasis on the mystery of God.

The parish was started as an offshoot of St. Nicholas Church in Detroit, when it was located on East Grand Boulevard. The church provided \$10,000 to help the fledgling church, led by 14 families who were closer to the west side.

They originally founded Sacred Heart in 1957 on Beech Daly in Redford (the former Redford Jaycees site), according to Aileen Karlewski, a charter member and currently part of the parish finance council.



The Rev. Joseph Marquis inside Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church on Six Mile near Middlebelt. The parish draws from a wide geographical area.

Aileen and her late husband, Richard, had their son, Rick, baptized there that summer — the first baptism at Sacred Heart.

## STARTING TO AGE

Ten years later, the church moved to its current location on Six Mile in Livonia. Through a series of several priests, Karlewski remembers how the church grew, built a hall that hosted regular Bingo games and had an active parish, with parish festivals and more.

"This used to be quite a vibrant parish here, from what I'm told," Marquis said.

In recent years, though, Sacred Heart had begun to age. Its operative pastor, the Rev. Nicholas Ivan, began suffering health problems. "As his health declined, the campus went into a slow decline also," Marquis said. "Presently, we're in a renewal process."

Drivers on Six Mile would notice a new sign, the demolition of an old rectory building, the newly paved and striped parking lot and the big hole right in front of the church — it will soon hold a new rectory.

There's also a for-sale sign, for

a 2.4-acre plot of land behind the building.

Less apparent are other changes. The banquet and conference center has a new roof, newly updated carpeting and renovated wood flooring. It's getting new doors, kitchen improvements and more. New heating and cooling systems will grace both the church and the center.

All of the improvements are courtesy of a loan from the Eparchy of Parma, which serves as a diocese in the Byzantine Church. "Fortunately we're blessed with a bishop who is very supportive," Marquis said.

When it comes to support, Karlewski is among the parishioners who credit Marquis for helping to reinvigorate Sacred Heart, including bringing in younger people.

"He has a lot of ideas and he wants us back on the map," she said. After all, Karlewski said, she was preparing a poster-board of parishioners for the jubilee event and began noticing how many were no longer around. "We're going to be passing on, so we need the young blood," she said.

## MARRIED, THEN ORDAINED

Marquis, 58, came to the priesthood through what some might call an unusual route.

After he was discharged from the Navy, Marquis studied graphic design at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. He then worked in an advertising studio, eventually doing restoration art work on mannequins and creating floats for Hudson's and its annual Thanksgiving Parade in Detroit.

He studied theology, was ordained a deacon 21 years ago and then worked as the Director of Chaplaincy at Holy Cross Hospital and most recently as a hospice chaplain with St. John Health. Along the way, he worked as Santa Claus and St. Nicholas in numerous venues.

And he married his wife, Mary. They've been wed now 35 years.

Marquis arrived as a deacon at Sacred Heart to help out Father Ivan in June 2005, but just a few months later, Ivan suffered a massive stroke that

later forced his retirement.

That vacancy and a great shortage of priests led to Marquis being ordained to be a priest by Bishop John Kudrick in Parma, Ohio, in February 2006, before being assigned to Sacred Heart.

That's another difference between Catholics of the Eastern and Western rites. "Our code of canon law allows married priests," he said, noting rather matter-of-factly that he's one of several in North America.

Plans for celebrating Sacred Heart's 50 years will include a Divine Liturgy celebrated by Bishop John Kudrick and concelebrating clergy at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23. A formal dinner in the banquet hall — now being run by Thomas's Catering — follows at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35, \$25 for children 12 and under. Call (734) 522-3166 to reserve a seat.

But Marquis, who recently overcame cancer, has even more plans for the church. It has leased out space in the conference center for Pascha Books and Gifts, which sells Eastern books and icons and was once nearby on Six Mile.

The store's owner, Richard Shebib, has his own history at Sacred Heart — it's where his sons were baptized. He likes the revitalization effort and hopes his store (which opens Sept. 8) will help. As for Father Joseph, Shebib says, "He was like my guardian angel."

And then there's next year.

Sacred Heart is planning to host a day-long family concert for the community called "Goodstock." The parish is also planning a reprise of this year's successful Laff-tracks comedy show for the Saturday after the Super Bowl, with a family-friendly, clean comic. And there will be more. "With God's grace, we're trying to turn things around here," Marquis said.

dvarga@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2119

## Priest had Emmy-winning career as St. Nicholas

The Rev. Joseph Marquis might look familiar. Check out his eyes, picture him with red robes and a big white beard.

This is a man who has played Santa Claus and St. Nicholas for decades, from numerous television appearances at Detroit's Thanksgiving Day Parade back when it was sponsored by J.L. Hudson's.

He has conducted the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as Santa Claus, annually received the key to the city from then-Mayor Coleman Young, appeared on ABC and Catholic television, and even performed with the Four Tops, the singing Motown act.

Marquis owns costumes that transform him into either the Western version of St. Nicholas — that is, Santa Claus — or the Eastern version. For the latter, his robes were made in Moscow. His beard is yak hair, which he points out is stronger than the human version.

"St. Nicholas is an important figure in my life, obviously," Marquis said. In fact, as a man who has actually won an Emmy for portraying Santa Claus, he's working on a book about his experiences.

"My ministry is the top priority, obviously, but if Christmas was 12 months of the year, portraying Santa could be a fulltime job," he said.

These days, his work as St. Nicholas has slowed as he serves the priesthood at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia. However, he'll still make appearances at the Detroit Athletic Club and will perform Nov. 11-12 at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland in Frankenmuth.

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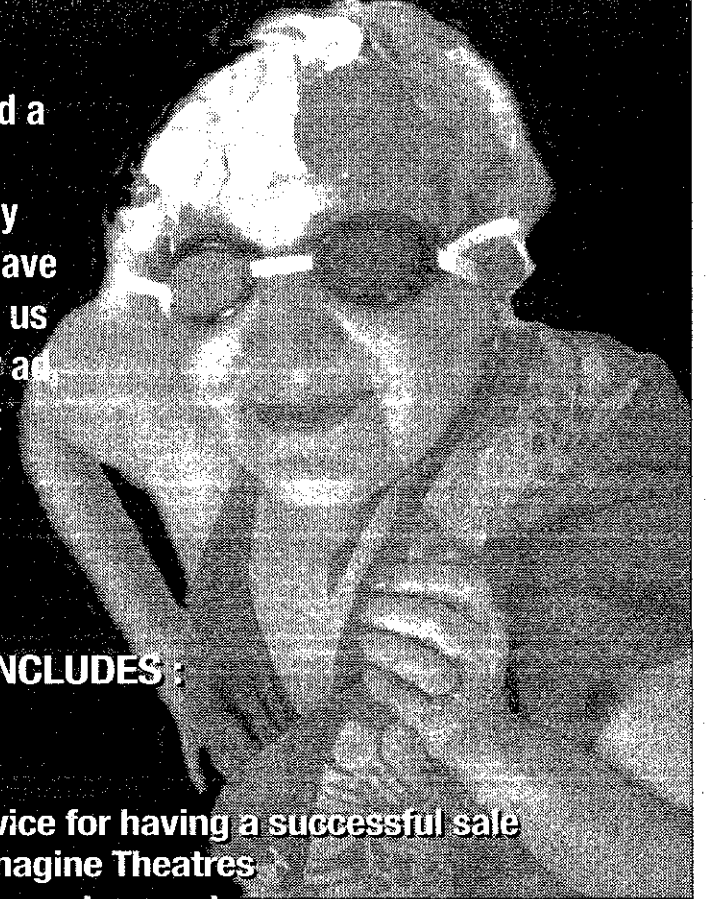
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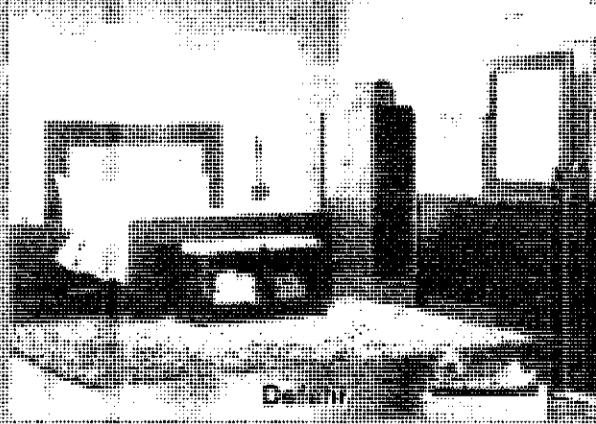
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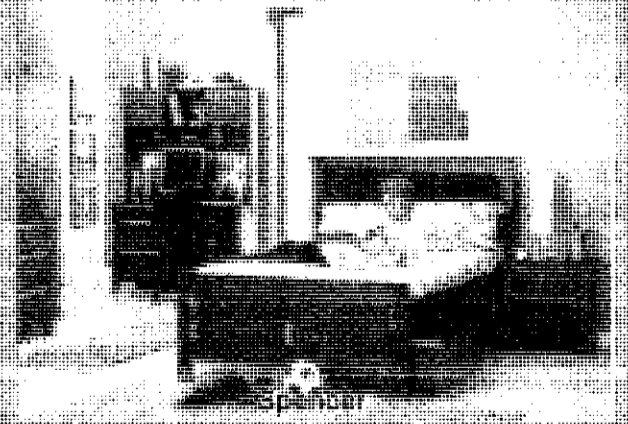
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# Volleyball is here

## State Class A champion Chargers eye title defense

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill didn't have much time to savor its 2007 dream volleyball season.

The defending state Class A champions, who captured their second state title in school history back in mid-March, returned to the floor Aug. 13 for the first day of practice following the federal court-mandated MHSAA seasons switch.

And although some teams got an early jump on the fall season last weekend, Churchill doesn't open play until Sept. 8 at the Portage Northern Invitational.

So can you expect much of a drop-off from last year's 56-4-1 squad?

Coch Mark Grenier has several holes to fill, losing several key performers to graduation including first-team All-Area selections Lauren Krupsky (now at Central Michigan University) and Kelly Archer, along with second-team All-Area setter Kelsey McKenzie and third-team All-Area outside hitter Stephanie Bradshaw.

"Even though we lost an outstanding group of seniors who will be extremely hard to replace, I think this team may be more athletic, and at some point they very well may be an even better team than last year's," Grenier said.

That may be bad news for the rest of the area teams, who still must contend with 6-foot-3 middle hitter Kyndra

### Capsule outlook of area teams, C2.

Abron, who recorded 35 kills in the state Class A championship match victory over North Branch, which ranks her second all-time in an MHSAA final.

Abron, headed to Michigan State, registered 698 kills during her junior year, which ranks her among the MHSAA leaders for a single season.

Other returnees include 5-10 middle hitter Jackie Gribeck, 5-5 senior defensive specialist Shannon Warner, 5-5 defensive specialist-Libero Jordan Kerr, and 5-6 junior setter Kristy DeClercq.

Who is apt to challenge Churchill again in the Western Lakes Activities Association is anybody's guess.

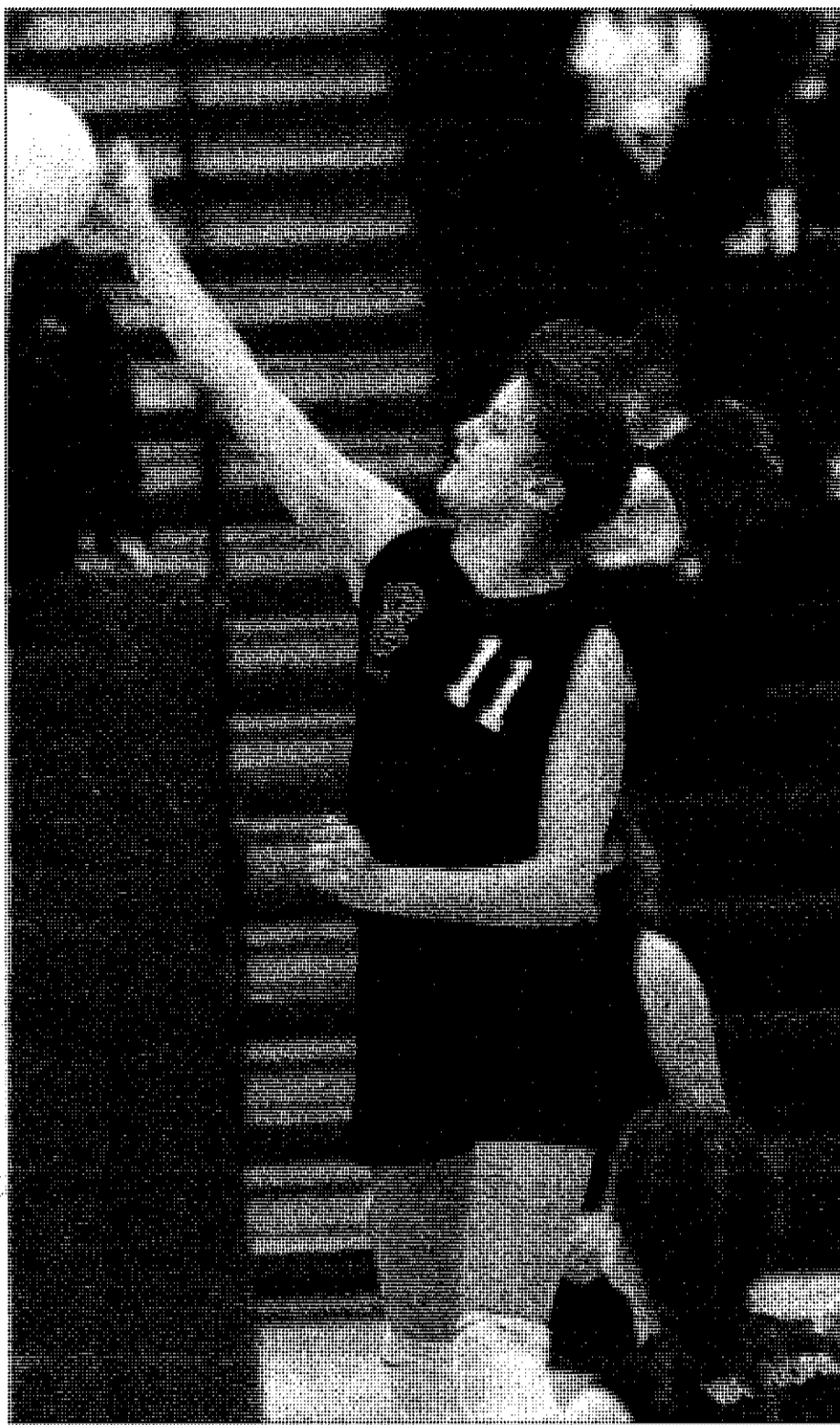
Livonia Stevenson (21-16-2) lost a top-notch first-team All-Area setter in Jill Flaughner, but returns senior Libero Jordan Pilut and junior middle hitter Meg Iafrate.

Livonia Franklin (16-19-4) reached last year's Class A district final before losing to Farmington. Second-year coach Linda Jimenez must replace three-time first-team All-Area pick Liz Dempsey (Madonna University). Hoping to pick up the slack is senior outside hitter Ashley Price, along with the Taylor twins, Brianna and Brittany, a pair of 5-9 junior middle hitters.

Westland John Glenn (14-19-5), a Class A district finalist, too, hopes to be improved under second-year coach Julian Wargo.

The Rockets are led by senior out-

Please see **VOLLEYBALL, C2**



Lutheran Westland sophomore Becca Refenes, shown here in an earlier Metro Conference match, was a catalyst in Friday's Class D district conquest at Westland Huron Valley Lutheran.

## Sidelines

### Thompson signs

Right-hander Drew Thompson, a 2006 Livonia Franklin High grad, has accepted a scholarship offer to pitch for Northwood University.

Thompson, who will transfer from Eastern Michigan University and major in marketing, pitched this summer for the Mud Hens of the Livonia Baseball & Softball Association.

### Elk shoot champs

Eight winners were crowned Aug. 20 in the ninth annual Elks Soccer Shoot contest co-hosted by Livonia Elks Lodge No. 2246 and the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation.

Boys age-group winners included Thomas Ashmore (12-13), 34-of-75 points; Andrew Smutek (10-11), 45-of-75; Joseph Choma (8-9), 26-of-45; and Drew Alsobrookst (7-and-under), 24-of-45.

Girls age-group winners included Angelica Woods (13-14), 32-of-75; Samantha Manchesky (10-11), 31-of-75; Conner Huggins (8-9), 38-of-45; and Kayla Martinez (7-and-under), 34-of-45.

Boys and girls winners advance to the state finals, Oct. 20, at the Canton Community Recreation Center.

### Triathlon champs

The fourth annual City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation Youth Triathlon drew a total of 50 participants ages 6-14 on Aug. 18 at the Clements Circle Park.

Among the top girls placers for the bike, run and swim included:

(Ages 13-14): 1. Colleen Anthony; 2. Megan Wickens; (11-12) 1. Mairi Van Dyke; 2. Brittany Gates; 3. Kelly Glynn; (9-10) 1. Katie Leginza; 2. Sidney Cervantes; 3. Jessica Wagner; (8-and-under) 1. Sylvia Cervantes; 2. Emily Evasic; 3. Cynthia Jia.

Top boys finishers included:

(Ages 11-12): 1. Max Humitz; 2. Jacob Van Dyke; 3. Sean Reppenbagen; (9-10); 1. Kyle Reppenbagen; 2. Blake Beck; 3. Arther Nemeth; (8-and-under); Brad Gibson; 2. Connor Beck; 3. Teodor Gomulka.

### Run Like Wind 5K

The ninth annual Run Like the Wind 10-kilometer run and 5K run-walk starts at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 1 at the Nankin Mills Picnic Area in Hines Park in Westland.

All proceeds will go back to the sport of running through support of youth track clubs and the Michigan Running Foundation Scholarship Fund.

Race day fees for the 10K and 5K events are \$20 (with shirt) and \$15 (no shirt).

For more information, call Chuck Block at (517) 702-0226.

# Warriors fall in opener vs. Harper Woods, 41-0

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

It was not the kind of start to the 2007 football season that Lutheran Westland coach Paul Gusé envisioned.

His Warriors never got untracked Saturday at home against Harper Woods, one of the Metro Conference's pre-season favorites, losing their opener, 41-0.

Senior quarterback Anthony Bevere hit 5-of-8 passes for 212 yards and two touchdowns, while sophomore running back Terrance Hartfield, a 6-foot-2, 190-pound sophomore, added 135 yards on the ground on 14 carries to lead the Pioneers.

Lutheran Westland committed a total of seven turnovers and were outgained 372-77 in total yards.

"They've got good athletes," Gusé said of the Pioneers, "but I was disappointed with our

### PREP FOOTBALL

play up-front considering all of our offensive linemen are returning guys. They're bigger, but I thought we'd show something up-front. And when we got decent blocks, our backs did not hold onto the ball."

Harper Woods led 14-0 after one quarter as Bevere hit Areen Fowler on TD passes of 47 and 51 yards. Sandwiched in between was a two-point safety when Warriors' QB Eric Shoats was tackled in the end zone by Tom Pellegrinni for a 6-yard loss.

Things didn't get any better for the Warriors in the second quarter as Hatfield scored on a 4-yard TD run following a Lutheran Westland fumble. Fowler then scooped up another Warrior fumble near midfield and raced 35 yards for a score with 2:54 left to make it 28-0 at halftime.

The Warriors' best quarter

was the third as Troy Golze recovered a Harper Woods fumble and Sam Ahlersmeyer prevented a potential Pioneers' TD at the goal line when he stripped the ball away from Bevere. (Shoats added an interception in the first quarter.)

Fourth-quarter TD runs by Vincent Bright (2 yards) and Hatfield (18 yards) completed the Harper Woods scoring as the final 7:20 was played under a running clock because of the 35-point mercy rule.

"All they really run is six plays," Gusé said of the Pioneers. "We knew what they were going to run. But every time we'd do something good defensively, we'd turn the ball over."

"Clearly they're the better team, but I know we're a better team than what we showed. It's embarrassing."

Please see **WARRIORS, C3**

# Glenn coach DeLuca takes on alias (Tom) that wins

OK, the 2007 prep football season is officially under way.

I found that out quickly because that's when the mothers come out of hibernation and start e-mailing.

Our reporter at Friday's Big Day III Showdown, Brad Kadrich, the *Plymouth Observer* community editor, came through in the clutch to cover the late Westland John Glenn-Livonia Franklin game at Eastern Michigan University's Rynearson Stadium.

The game was scheduled for 8 p.m., but it didn't start until almost 9 p.m. because of the stormy weather.

The game also provided its first mild surprise of the season-when John Glenn, coming off consecutive 3-6 seasons, upended Franklin, picked by many to win the Western Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association, 26-17.

And like clockwork, it didn't take long for somebody to point out an error in one of our game



Grid Picks

Brad Emons

Kadrich's story stated.

Of course, I should have known better myself.

As an editor, it's my first fumble of the season. A bad catch. I dropped the ball.

But as it turns out, I discovered the Big Day III program listed coach DeLuca indeed as Tom.

Maybe it's his middle name. I'll have to find out. Or maybe he purposely changed his first name for the sake of shaking things up this season for the Rockets.

Please see **PICKS, C3**

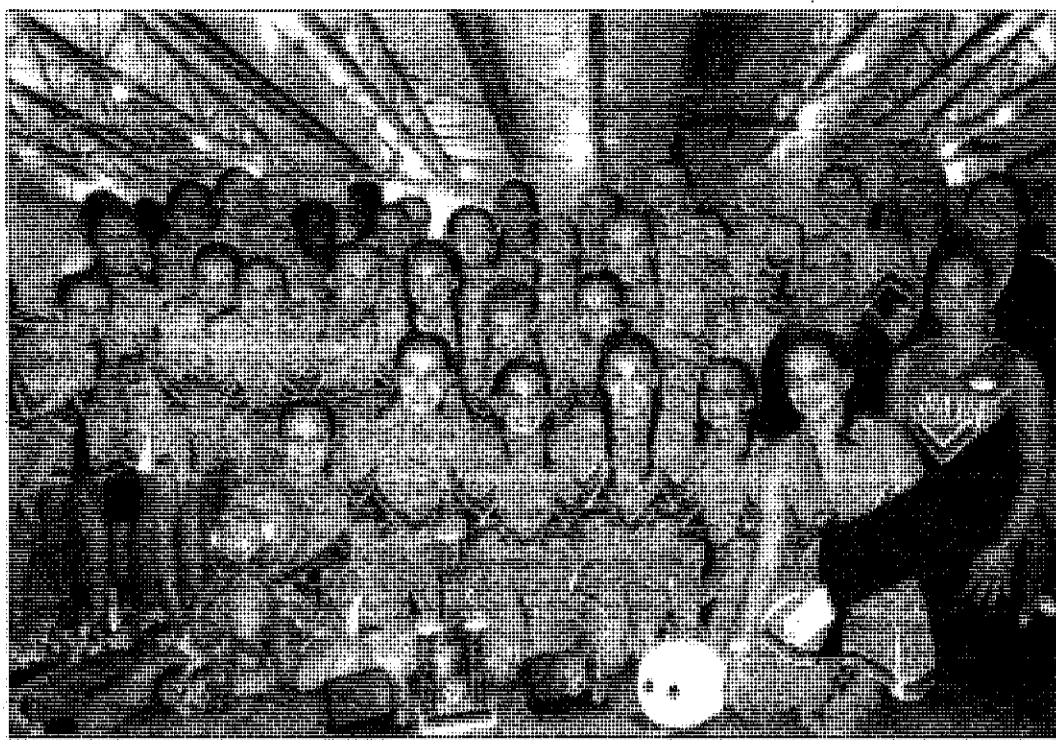
## Ringside entourage

Westland's Dynamic Boxing Club came up with one champion and three finalists in the Ringside World Boxing Championships, the world's largest amateur tournament, Aug. 1-4 in Kansas City, Mo. Detroit's Moe Taylor, Jr. came away with the 132-pound belt, while Livonia's Josh Ivezaj (112), Detroit's Willie Price (155) and Livonia's Paul Soucy (165) were runners-up. Soucy, the 2005 and 2006 Masters champ, lost a close decision to Robert Guidry of Baton Rouge, La. Among the team members included (front row, from left) coach Richard Roland, Detroit; Jason Ivezaj, Livonia; Cody Hay, Livonia; Dustin Brewer, New Boston; (second row, from left) coach Gary Stewart, Commerce; Dynamic owner Chuck Phillips, Plymouth; Soucy, Kevin Moore, Lincoln Park; Josh Ivezaj, Livonia; (back row, from left) Brad Chaiken, Detroit; trainer Anton Ivezaj, Livonia; and Dan Smith, Garden City. Other Dynamic participants (not pictured) included Sean Sedgeman, Garden City; Jamale Odum, Westland; Travis Davis, Detroit; Steven Ledesma, Garden City; Willie Price, Detroit; Germaine Price, Detroit; Taylor, Jr.; coach Moe Taylor, Sr., Detroit; Simon and Sajed Fradi, Dearborn Heights.









### Pom champions

The Livonia Middle School Pom team earned Grand Champs status last month at the Mid American Pom Camp held at Northwood University. The team, comprised of 28 girls ages 11-14, also won the Overall Peppy Pom, Most Showmanship and Most Congenial Team awards. Members of the squad include (first row, from left): Becky Snyder, Brittany Rees, Alison McDonald, Ciara Diamond, Lauren Karnesky, Hayley Tsermengas; (second row, from left) Megan Mila, Samantha Earhart, Shelby Stec, Autumn Stahl, Callie Gurski, Mallory Mager, Tegan McGrorty, Tina Oiter, Jennifer Alberts, coach Ashley Thomas, Mid American Pom staff sister Sarah; (third row, from left) Angela Bannoura, Alanna Byrd, Heather Swirls, Ajhia Jackson, Jessica Fedrigo, McKenzie Douglas, Amber Prong, Jenn Mezigan, Becca Yaremy, Jessica Hatfield, Shelby Mitchell, Shelby Miscavage, Natalie Robinson, coaches Allison Estes and Andrea Shook.

## Diesels steam past Admirals to take divisional lead, 27-16

BY CHRISTIAN YOUNG  
CORRESPONDENT

Now it's squared away. It's always a big game when two unbeaten rivals meet late in the season. But this game's significance was amplified even more because these two teams had battled their way to an unsatisfying 21-21 tie on July 21.

The stage was set to handle unfinished business - not to mention first place in the Central Lakes Division of the North American Football League, a playoff spot, and home field advantage.

Throughout the entire division schedule, as the Detroit Diesels and the Michigan Admirals were both buzzing through their schedules and they knew it would come down to Aug. 25.

The stage was set Saturday at Livonia Franklin High School, as the Diesels came back from a three-point deficit to beat the Admirals 27-16.

With the win, Detroit (7-0-1, 6-0-1) stands alone atop the Central Division, and now has control of its own destiny.

"The rest of the season is set and we hold our fate in our own hands," Diesels coach Rob Streeter said. "Our defense handled everything they threw at us; games between us always seem to be big defensive battles."

The first quarter occurred like the two top defensive teams in the Central Lakes should - with no scoring on the board. It was a battle of field position the entire first

half, with Admirals punter Phil Brabbs trying to keep the Diesels deep, but the Diesels Ernie Smith answered every kick with a great return.

Phil Brabbs put the only first half points on the board with a field goal late in the second quarter. The Diesels went to their locker room at halftime down 3-0.

After a locker-room gut-check, the Diesels came out pumping again, as Eric Newton (Redford Union) barreled in for Detroit's first - and go-ahead - score.

Later on in the third quarter, pressure from the Diesel defensive line forced Admirals quarterback Justin Kinney to throw it to Lamarr Miller. It was a nice pass, but here was the problem - Miller plays for the Diesels, and his streaking 102-yard interception return TD broke the game open for Detroit, 14-3.

Michigan would score again on an Andre Broach run, but the two-point conversion was stopped by the Diesels' defense.

The Diesels continued to march downfield behind the expert blocking of the Diesels front five - Chuck Sikora, Adam Swauger, Ted Howard, Ed Somerville and Dave Tuttle.

The "big nasties" got Detroit all the way to the 3-yard line, then blasted open a hole for Lance Nichols to squeeze through to put Detroit up 21-9.

Michigan scored again with less than two minutes left in the game to get back in range, and then recovered their outside kick to have another chance.

The Admirals were able to

get off a couple of plays in the final moments of the game. But with eight seconds left, quarterback Kinney was sacked and lost the ball.

Officials, however, not rule it a fumble. With only one second remaining, the Admirals thought they were set up for a miraculous comeback, but the Diesels weren't finished yet.

As Kinney dropped back for one final "Hail Mary," the Diesels Anje Shaw, Miller and Kassem Rizk converged to hit the Admirals' QB and this time caused a legitimate fumble.

Anje Shaw scooped it and raced back for the last score of the game with no time left on the clock.

The Diesels defense played a stellar game limiting the Admirals to under 100 yards rushing. Defense standouts were Rizk, Earl Blanchette, Hassan Hazime, Ernie Smith, Shaw, Christian Young and Miller, who combined for seven sacks and a pair of defensive scores.

"I couldn't be more proud after coming back the way we did," Diesels general manager and owner Allen Seder said.

The Diesels will take off Labor Day weekend, after which they will roll to Cleveland to take on the Cardinals on Sept. 8. The regular season finale will be at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22 at Franklin as they host the London (Ontario) Silverbacks.

During halftime at the season finale, the Diesels and sponsor Tennyson Chevrolet will host a "Kick for a Car" contest as they attempt to give away a 2007 Chevrolet HHR.

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## Farmington High splashes Chargers in 2007 opener

BY DAN O'MEARA  
STAFF WRITER

Farmington High produced a victory for new coach Courtney Graft in her debut as the girls swim coach Tuesday, winning 114-72 over visiting Livonia Churchill.

"I was very impressed and very pleased," Graft said. "The girls have done a lot of hard work in the last few weeks."

"I'm ecstatic with what I saw tonight. We're very excited about the rest of the season; I can't wait to see what happens. We really started off on the right foot tonight."

Lauren Nash won two freestyle races and helped the Falcons to a pair of relay

### GIRLS SWIMMING

victories. She posted times of 2:13.66 in the 200-yard freestyle and 5:45.91 in the 500 freestyle.

Nash teamed with Kelly Smith, Molly Tyler and Danielle Graessle - all individual winners, too - to win the medley relay (2:07.36).

Tyler took first place in the butterfly (1:04.26), Graessle in the 100 freestyle (1:02.12) and Smith the breaststroke (1:18.69).

Nash anchored the 400 freestyle relay team that included Sarah Fredericks, Sheelagh McCarthy and Tyler; the Falcons had a winning time of 4:11.45.

Fredericks led a 1-2-3 fin-

ish for Farmington in the 50 freestyle; she was clocked at 27.51, Tyler 27.78 and Graessle 28.15. Farmington's Rachel Leads also won the diving with 193.5 points.

Churchill's Samantha Reid captured the 200 individual medley (2:35.6) and anchored the winning 200 freestyle relay team.

Emily Hiser, who was first in the backstroke (1:15.01), Erin Ural, Ashley Cabadas and Reid swam the 200 medley relay in 1:58.7.

In a close backstroke race, Farmington's Jessica Vial (1:16.63) and Fredericks (1:16.80) were second and third. Smith's sister, Mackenzie, was the runner-up in the breaststroke (1:25.23).

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### The Fed Ex Cup

LESSON ON GOLF

By Jeff Lesson

The PGA Tour, in its infinite wisdom, wanted to create an event that would keep the Tour in the news after the playing of the PGA Championship. In previous years, all the buzz for professional golf has gone

away after the final major of the year. The same thing is happening this year despite the Tour's wishes.

The Tour thought that just throwing up a \$10,000,000 prize at the end of the rainbow would be all they needed to do to create a "major" type event. But this approach is not working. So much so, the number one player in the

event, cannot be pleased.

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 XLT The Sports Station. Don't forget to check out **lessonongolf.com** for half off golf at great courses!

Views and opinions expressed in Jeff Lesson's column don't necessarily reflect those of the Observer & Eccentric Mirror Newspapers and/or the Golf Association of Michigan (GAM).

spend. He cited being "tired" after winning the Bridgestone and The PGA Championship.

The bottom line is Tiger probably wouldn't be "tired" if the next event was a major or a high importance tournament on the PGA Tour. But since this event is all about money without any tradition, Tiger is taking a pass on week one of the Fed Ex Cup. The PGA, despite all the positive spin they are trying to put on Tiger's snub of the Barclays

event, cannot be pleased.

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