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ELECTION COVERAGE

You can find stories about candidates and ballot proposals online at www.hometownlife.com. Click on the election icon to check out our recent election coverage as well as today's editorial page which recaps our endorsements. Our Web site also will results and post election day photos as soon as they're available.



Astronaut Sunita Williams stands in front of poster filled with stars signed by the students at St. Damian School in Westland.

Students connect with 'their' astronaut Friday

BY SUE MASON
 STAFF WRITER

The last time students at St. Damian School talked to Sunita Williams, it was a long distance call. This time, there was no audio connection routed through Texas. It was up close and personal as Williams spoke to them in the school gymnasium Friday afternoon. Williams came to the school to continue a conversation with the students that started last May as a telephone call from the International Space Station, where she was the flight engineer. "When you're up in space, you live in a little can, a tube, and you don't hear the leaves rustle in the fall," she told students. "There's no sound in space, other than the sound that comes through the com." The school made the connection with Williams through her cousin Nicki Pandya, an eighth-grader at St. Damian. His mother approached the school about the students making cards for the different holidays to send during her 6 1/2-month-long space mission. The students did, and on Friday Williams acknowledged their work, saying, "when I get them, they will come back to you as space artifacts." For her visit, Williams brought NASA flight director Bob Dempsey who was in

charge of her mission. For Dempsey, it was a chance to come home. He grew up in Redford and attended St. Hillary School. The two spent almost an hour talking to students about the space station and about working for the space agency. Williams found NASA through her military service. She wanted to be a veterinarian because of her love of animals, but after applying to and not being accepted by several colleges, she went into the military and became a helicopter pilot. She eventually became a test pilot and was at the Johnson Space Center in Texas when she met John Young, who told her that astronauts trained with helicopters. She decided to give it a try. Dempsey told students he had an interest in space while at St. Hillary School. In college, he even studied astronomy. Too short to be an astronaut, he worked for several years with the Hubble Space Telescope before moving to Houston to become a NASA flight controller and a few years later a flight director. "The space station is a house in space, but it needs someone monitoring it on the ground," he said. "Basically, I'm the team captain that all the controllers on the ground watch." Using slides a video shot while she was aboard the space station, Williams gave stu-

Please see **ASTRONAUT, A3**

Competency ruling results in delay in murder hearing

BY DARRELL CLEM
 STAFF WRITER

A Westland man charged in the shooting death of his deaf girlfriend has been declared mentally incompetent — for now — to face court proceedings against him. Timothy Joseph Catalano, 45, will remain in a psychiatric facility until forensic experts rule that he is competent for a hearing in Westland 18th District Court that will determine whether he should stand trial. Catalano, who also is deaf, is accused of killing his 44-year-old girlfriend, Tammy Susalla, as she lay in bed around 1 a.m. Aug. 27 at the three-bedroom ranch home they shared on Gloria, near Merriman and Cherry Hill. The victim died the next morning at the University of Michigan Hospital, where she was flown by medical helicopter. Dressed in green jail clothing, Catalano appeared Thursday in front of 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos, who adjourned a preliminary hearing until the defendant is found competent. If convicted of first-degree murder and felony firearms charges, Catalano will face life in prison. Bokos and Catalano communicated with help from an interpreter. Catalano is accused of shooting his girlfriend

with a 22-caliber rifle after she intended to end their 24-year relationship, police Sgt. Steve Borisch has said. Catalano was described in court by Borisch as "very upset" over the impending break-up. However, Catalano said through an interpreter during his arraignment that the killing "was an accident." The couple's 19-year-old daughter and her boyfriend were sleeping in the basement of the home when the shooting occurred, authorities have said. In court Thursday, Bokos adjourned the hearing after reading a letter from Dr. Thomas Shazer of the Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Ann Arbor stating that Catalano is incompetent and couldn't assist in his own defense. However, Shazer indicated in his letter that the defendant, with treatment, should eventually be competent for his preliminary hearing and possible trial. Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Luke Skywalker didn't object to Bokos adjourning the hearing while Catalano is receiving psychiatric treatment. "They will place him in an appropriate facility," Bokos said. Catalano's condition is expected to be reviewed every 90 days. When he is ruled com-

Glenn thespians offer whodunit

BY SUE MASON
 STAFF WRITER

David Sumlin can't believe his luck. Last spring he ventured in to theater for the first time, landing a role in John Glenn High Schools' spring musical, *Footloose*. Sumlin will play the role of movie mogul Mandrake Masterfiend in the John Glenn Theatrical Guild production of *The Poisoned*

Please see **WHODUNIT, A3**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Producer Mandrake Masterfiend (center), played by David Sumlin, shares with his guest that gossip columnist Rona LaMonia, played by Ashley Dunn is dead, in a scene from the John Glenn Theatrical Guild production of 'The Poisoned Pen.'

Woman deemed incompetent to stand trial in suffocation try

BY DARRELL CLEM
 STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman charged with trying to kill her blind mother by suffocating her with a pillow will not face trial, authorities have ruled. Diane Paul, 64, remains in a psychiatric hospital and has been declared "permanently incompetent" by forensic experts, Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos confirmed Monday. Bokos accepted a motion earlier in October by Assistant Wayne County

Prosecutor Luke Skywalker to drop a charge of assault with intent to murder against Paul, nearly two years after she was accused of trying to kill her mother. "To my knowledge, she has been institutionalized since the incident," Bokos said. Even early on, authorities called the incident tragic and sad both for the victim and the defendant. A police investigation indicated that the incident, which happened Nov. 25, 2005, may have happened

because Paul mistakenly believed she had somehow botched her mother's ability to receive Medicaid and Social Security benefits, police Sgt. David Heater has said. "She blamed herself for it, and she dreaded caring for her mother without the money," Heater said at the time. "She wanted her mother to be at peace. She didn't want her to suffer." Paul's mental status had been repeatedly reviewed until forensic experts finally ruled that she was

permanently incompetent, Bokos said. "I've never seen a case quite like this before," he said. Paul had confessed to police that she intended to kill her mother, but she gave up after a struggle, Heater said. The mother survived the incident. Paul had told one police officer that "she couldn't bring herself to finish it," Heater has said. Afterward, the blind victim had reached for a telephone near her bed

and began randomly pressing numbers until an operator came on the line and notified police. Paul had cared for her mother for at least a decade, authorities said, and there had been no indication that the two of them had argued prior to the assault. After Paul was charged, her mother was described as Heater as being in tears "because her daughter was in jail." dclcm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

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Teen faces trial in armored car robbery

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

One of two teens charged with robbing an armored car in Westland will face trial after he gave up his right Thursday to a preliminary hearing in 18th District Court. Christian Hall, 18, of Sterling Heights is facing trial in Wayne County Circuit

Court on charges of unarmed robbery and attempted larceny of a firearm. He is accused of trying to take a gun from an armored car driver Oct. 17 outside the Sav-a-Lot store at Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman. Police said the victim held Hall until officers arrived. Another defendant, 19-year-old Jerrel Pittman of Detroit, will have to wait until Nov. 29

to learn whether he will face trial on a charge of unarmed robbery. He is accused of grabbing money from the armored car worker and fleeing before he was captured in a nearby neighborhood by Police Chief James Ridener and Officer Mark Cholak. In Westland court Thursday, Pittman's attorney, Regina Triplett, asked that his hearing be delayed because she wanted to further investigate the case, including having Pittman appear in a police lineup for potential witnesses. The two defendants remained jailed in lieu of \$100,000 cash bonds. A not-guilty plea has been entered for them.

On Thursday, Hall's attorney, James Sullivan, asked for a bond reduction. Sullivan described Hall as a Sterling Heights student who lives in "a structured family setting," and he said Hall could fall behind at school by being in jail. But Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Luke Skywalker told Bokus that Hall tried to take the armored car worker's gun and that nearly \$15,000 is still missing from the robbery. Bokus refused to lower the bond, saying he believes that Hall poses a danger to the community.

Jury clears day care center director

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman who served as the director of the Childtime Learning Center in Plymouth Township was cleared Thursday of failing to report suspected abuse of a 2-year-old girl.

A 35th District Court jury took less than 90 minutes to acquit Jacqueline Hadwin, who was removed as director of the child care center when the state closed it shortly after the girl, Allison Newman of Canton, died in September 2006. Her foster mother, Carol Ann Poole, is scheduled to go on trial for murder in January.



Hadwin

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Lora Weingarden said she was disappointed in the verdict.

"I was disappointed in the verdict, but I'm glad we prosecuted her," Weingarden said. "It's important for all mandated reporters to take their responsibilities seriously. If they fail to report, a child could end up injured or dead." "This case serves as a reminder to all mandated reporters that they need to report," she added. "It also should remind regular people they should get themselves involved if they're concerned a child is being abused or neglected."

Hadwin was arrested after workers at the facility said they'd reported their suspicion that Allison was being abused to Hadwin. Hadwin, however, did not report the suspicions to the state.

Allison's death was not allowed to be mentioned during the trial, as stipulated by both parties. Weingarden said Friday the verdict may have been different.

"But it would not have been fair to this defendant if the jury knew the child was ultimately killed," she said. Neither of Hadwin's attorneys, Todd Flood nor Gerald Evelyn, could be reached for comment.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller said Thursday that the acquittal of Hadwin won't affect the timing or strategy in Poole's upcoming murder trial.

"The Hadwin case was predicated on the defendant's failure to report signs of abuse on the now deceased child," Miller said. "The Carol Poole case is predicated on the fact that she caused the death of the child."

Childtime spokesperson Amy Popp said in a statement officials at the center's parent company were "pleased with the verdict." "As demonstrated in this case, we have always been committed to providing a safe environment to the children in our care," Popp said. "All of our teachers take their role as caregivers and mandated reporters very seriously. We do not hesitate to notify the appropriate authorities when we believe a child may be in danger and have strict policies in place to ensure this."

Weingarden said notification of suspected child abuse is of paramount importance. Anyone suspecting abuse can call (800) 716-2234 or (800) 942-4357.

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

CITY OF WESTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On NOVEMBER 13, 2007 the Westland Police Department will conduct a public auction of impounded, abandoned vehicles. The auction will begin promptly at 11:00 am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

YEAR MAKE	BODY STYLE	COLOR	VIN
1994 Geo	Prizm/4 Dr	Black	1Y1SK5387RZ036740
1993 Plymouth	Voyager/SW	Blue	2P4GH2539PR119182
1999 Dodge	Neon/2 Dr	Silver	3B3ES42Y6XT561893
1987 Lincoln	2 Dr	Black	1LNBM93M0HY638239
1995 Ford	Taurus/4 Dr	Maroon	1FALP52U1SG189151
2006 Ford	500/4 Dr	Gray	1FAFP28116G132186
1999 Ford	Expedition/SW	Gray	1FMRU1862XLC15409
1994 Pontiac	Grand Prix/2 Dr	Green	1G2WJ12M1RF216645
2000 Ford	Taurus/4 Dr	White	1FAFP5529YA223341
1989 Toyota	Camry/4 Dr	Red	4T1SV21E8KU071776
2000 Pontiac	Sunfire/2 Dr	Silver	1G2JD12T6Y7216780
1989 Ford	Cutaway Van	White	1FDKE37HKKHB89831
1991 Chevy	Lumina/2 Dr	Red	2G1WN14T4M9218078
1995 GMC	Sierra/2 Dr	Red	1GTFC14H1SZ517194
1984 Ford	Bronco	Red/White	1FMCU14S8EUB96767
1995 Dodge	Stwgn	Blue	1B4GK54R1SX590506
1990 Geo	Storm/2 Dr	Green	J81RF2360L7504721
2005 Chevy	Mt Carlo/2 Dr	Red	2G1WW12E159203850
1994 Ford	F150/2 Dr	Black	1FTEF15NXLB52720
1993 Ford	Mustang/2 Dr	Black	1FACP41MXPF117566
1997 Buick	Park Ave/4 Dr	Gray	1G4CU5214V4652040
1991 GMC	Sonoma/2 Dr	Black	1GTCS14E4M2513149
1994 Ford	Taurus/4 Dr	Green	1FALP52U4RG110453
1992 Mercury	Sable/4 Dr	Green	1MELM534XNG625368
1999 Pontiac	Grand Am/4 Dr	Green	1G2NW52E9XM781800
1996 Saturn	4 Dr	Red	1G8ZJ5275T2195891

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

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Ticket bearers must be 21 or older and must provide picture ID at the event. Ticket bearer assumes full responsibility for the consumption of alcohol.

WHODUNIT

FROM PAGE A1

Pen Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 8-10, in the high school auditorium. He also joins Sheri Grove, Belinda Walakonis-Semak and Rachel Anderson in directing the play, a comedy written by Craig Sobaro.

"It's quite an honor," said Sumlin, a senior at the Westland high school. "Working with Mrs. Grove is always an honor."

The play is set at Masterfiend's mansion where he brings together a collection of has-been starlets, directors, up-and-coming stars who haven't found their break and a vicious gossip columnist for his birthday. When the columnist turns up dead, it opens the door for Charlotte Wright, the star of "Sabrina Slade, Girl Detective," played by Danya Krushlin, to track down the killer, but not before two more people die.

"Who doesn't love a whodunit?" said Grove, who is producing her 25th play as the high school drama teacher "It's unique because the entire cast is on stage almost the entire time. There's no leads, everyone shares the stage."

There's also a movie within the play, and Sumlin, whose character is known for producing the schlockiest horror movies, does more than perform on stage.

"I get to interact with the crowd," he said. "I jump up and I'm almost like a heckler."

Sumlin, who is helping with ticket sales and fliers promoting the production, said it was



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Producer Mandrake Masterfriend played by David Sumlin helps actress Charlotte Wright, TY show detective played by Dayna Krushlin, look for clues in the killing of the gossip columnist.

'THE POISONED PEN'

What: The John Glenn Theatrical Guild production of 'The Poisoned Pen.'

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8-10.

Where: John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, Westland.

Tickets: \$8 for adults and \$5 for students, available at the door.

Walakonis-Semak who urged him and a friend to try out for the spring musical after seeing him in class. He did, but the friend didn't and he landed the role of Shaw in the spring production of *Footloose*.

The cast, which also includes Jacory Frowner, Jessica Kidd, Jeremiah Austin, Matt Benyo,

Julianna Stewart, Megan Kelly, Kelly Sutherland, Megan Walker, Vanessa Callanan, Sarah Buckingham, Sarah Mellas and Ashley Dunn, has been rehearsing for about six weeks. Dress rehearsals will be held Monday and Tuesday evening in preparation for a performance Wednesday for seniors from the Dyer Senior Center and selected students from Marshall and Stevenson Middle schools.

"We do it to expose the students at Marshall and Stevenson to what we do here at Glenn," Groves said.

The play will be presented at 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Tickets cost \$5 for students and \$8 for adults and are available the door.

smason@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2112

ASTRONAUT

FROM PAGE A1

dents a close-up view of life in space, everything from floating through the air, cooking food and using a vacuum for a bathroom.

"Everything you do in space you have to do differently," said Williams who ran the Boston Marathon on a treadmill while on the space station. "You have to exercise because you lose muscle strength. You have to do two hours a day to come back healthy."

"Space is fun, you get really used to it and forget how to walk. You get very adapted to floating."

They also talked about the work being done on the space station, calling it a "construction zone," and how the work there will be adapted for use when the space mission returns to the moon and heads for Mars.

"We're constructing the space station inside and out, the space station is a test platform," Williams said. "They're comparing the Russian space equipment and the U.S. space equipment and



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

St. Damian students waved flags to greet astronaut Sunita Williams and NASA flight director Bob Dempsey during an assembly Friday afternoon.

will optimize them for the moon and Mars. We hope to go back there, but we have to prove we can do things like produce oxygen."

Williams received a St. Damian polo shirt and pin as well as a jar of peanut butter and marshmallow fluff, her favorite snack food, and in return had copies of her mission patches for the students.

While the students and local dignitaries were excited about her visit, Williams was also excited.

"I sort of thought I would

talk to Nick's class, but as the time got closer and I saw the itinerary, it started to look overwhelming," she said. "But it's really exciting, because I know they followed part of my mission."

Dempsey said the visit was cool and that he would have liked to do it at his former school.

"I would have enjoyed talking to the students, but I'm concerned, all of my schools are closed," he said.

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History of Eloise

For a unique opportunity to learn about the history of Eloise, come to the Public Library of Westland at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7. Local historian Jo Johnson will give an informative talk and show pictures of Eloise.

Betty Zimmerman has many fascinating stories to tell about her childhood and will share them at this event. Her father was a psychiatrist at Eloise, and she was born and raised on the property.

Eloise opened in 1839 as a poorhouse on Michigan Avenue in Westland. Over the years, it developed into a medical complex that included a psychiatric division, a tuberculosis sanitarium and a trauma hospital.

In its heyday, Eloise covered 902 acres and held over 75 buildings. Eloise had its own farm, cannery, bakery, cemetery, employee housing, police and fire departments, trolley and train stations, post office, movie theater and more.

Books written about Eloise are available at the library. "Eloise: Poorhouse, Farm, Asylum and Hospital, 1839-1984," by Patricia Ibbotson was published in 2002. (Copies of this book will be available for purchase at the program.) "History of Eloise: Wayne County House, Wayne County Asylum," by Stanislas M. Keenan, was written in 1913, and "A History of the Wayne County Infirmary, Psychiatric, and General Hospital Complex at Eloise, Michigan 1832-1982," by Alvin C. Clark, was published in 1982.

Books about the history of Westland may also include information about Eloise. "Westland," by Daryl and Sherrye Bailey (2004) and "History of the City of Westland," by Susan Oglesbee (1975), are both available at the library. We also have binders of the "Westland Historian" and the "Nankin Historian," which were historical newsletters distributed locally between 1999 and 2005.

If you would like to take a more personal interest in the history of our area, consider joining the Friends of Eloise or the Westland Historical Society. For more information on either, call Jo and Ernie Johnson at (734) 522-3918, or ask for more information at the Eloise program on Wednesday, Nov. 7.

The History of Eloise should be a very popular program. Make sure you reserve your seat. Call the Public Library of Westland at (734) 326-6123. We are located at 6123 Central City Parkway. Visit our Web site at www.westland.lib.mi.us.

Highlighted Activities

Secrets of Preventing Type II Diabetes: 7 p.m. Nov. 7.
Featured Speaker Dr. Brian K. Brackney from the Foundation for Wellness Professionals will be discussing ways how to reduce your risk of Type II diabetes. Stop by the library or call (734) 326-6123 to register.

Internet 101: 10:30 a.m. Nov. 10.
A beginner's guide to the Internet - how do I get around a Web site, what is a Web site. No registration is required. Walk-ins are welcome.

Winter Holiday Bead Art: Two sessions at noon and 4 p.m. Nov. 10.
Join us for a craft class taught by an expert bead artist. The adults will meet first noon-2 p.m. and will be making a beautiful winter bracelet. The teens will meet at 2 p.m. will be making a cell phone charm. Use for yourself or a gift! All materials are supplied for you. Space is limited to 15 adults and 15 teens. Stop by the library or call (734) 326-6123 to register.

Information Central is compiled by reference librarian (and local history guru) Janet Sowards. The William P. Faust Public Library is at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Orchestra openings
The Livonia Youth Philharmonic of Michigan, a regional orchestra, has openings for interested student musicians in its intermediate and advanced orchestras, as well as a sax choir. Rehearsals are on Saturday mornings at Churchill High School on Newburgh north of Joy Road, Livonia. For more information, call Kathy Bilger at (734) 464-8704 or by e-mail at auditions@LYPM.org.

School Open House
St. Damian School is having an Early Childhood Open House from noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11, at the school at 29891 Joy, Westland. Check out the preschool 3-4 year-old programs and the full-day kindergarten program. For more information, call the school office at (734) 427-1680.

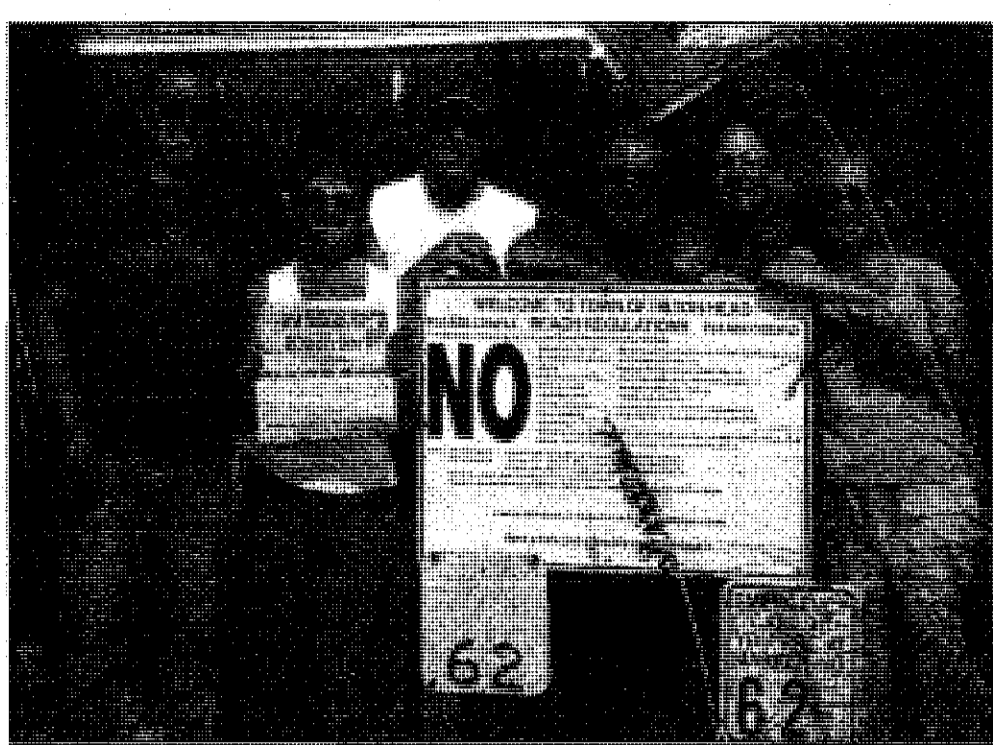
Higher Rock Cafe
The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 8 p.m. Check it out on the Web at www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660.

Wine tasting
The Oakwood Foundation will hold its 12th annual Wine for the Spirit fundraiser at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at Ford Field, 2000 Brush St., Detroit. The evening will include a sampling of wines from around the world, food stations, silent auction, raffle and entertainment by The Bomb Squad. Tickets cost \$125 per person and are available by contacting Kim Kelly at (313) 586-5234.

Coat drive
Local residents wishing to help those less fortunate have a chance with a coat drive being sponsored by the Children's Christian Alliance. The event is a coat drive to raise 600 coats for kids and families living in public housing in the Detroit area. The coats will be distributed Nov. 10. Donors wishing to help can donate clean, gently used or new coats, hats, mittens and boots. Blankets will also be accepted. To donate or for more information, call Jill Berry, (734) 812-4502.

Casino fund-raiser
Enjoy an afternoon at the Greektown Casino on Sunday, Nov. 18, to benefit

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Wish you were here

Moe and Barb Price of Garden City, Lynda Szyszko of Canton, Steve and Sue Kincaid and Larry Willett had a swell time in Hilton Head, S.C., where they posed for Wish You Were Here. According to the Prices, "the weather was in the 80s and the Atlantic Ocean was warm and inviting." If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Garden City Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

St. Damian Youth Group. Tickets are \$25 and include charter bus transportation to and from the casino and a \$15 coin voucher to use at the casino. The bus departs from St. Damian, 30055 Joy Road in Westland at 1 p.m. and will return back to the church at 7 p.m. Get tickets by calling (734) 421-6130.

Fish Dial-A-Ride
One-day-a-month volunteer drivers are needed to transport seniors and disabled who are unable to drive to medical appointments. Phone messenger volunteers are also needed. To help set up rides to the medical appointments. This is also a one-day-a-month opportunity that can be done right from home. People interested in helping can call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101 or contact him by e-mail at GCHS.MCLX@yahoo.com.

Golf meeting
The American Singles' Golf Association will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, Nov. 15, at the Maples Club, 31260 Wakefield Road, off of 14 Mile Road between M5 and Novi Road, in Novi. Cocktails and mingling will be at 6 p.m., with a brief meeting at 7 p.m. followed by a live auction for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. For more

information about the club, call Diane at (248) 347-0379.

CRAFT SHOWS

Westland Jaycees
Crafters are needed for the Westland Jaycees' community craft show 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 10-11, at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford, Westland. Booth space - 7 feet by 9 feet - costs \$35 for one day, \$65 for both days. There's a \$5 discount on additional space and \$5 charge for electricity. Deadline for applying is Oct. 31. Send signups to Suesanna Towne, 622 N. Brandon, Westland, MI 48185. For more information, call her at (517) 879-1803.

Craft show
Vendors wanted for upcoming holiday craft show at Wayne Recreation Center at Howe and Annapolis in Wayne. The event will be 1-10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 29. There are 25 available tables. People interested in reserving a spot can call (734) 595-1083.

Sts. Peter and Paul
St. Peter and Paul Church will hold its 19th annual arts and crafts show 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, in the church hall, 750 N. Beech Daly,

Dearborn Heights. Admission is \$1. In addition to crafts, there will be a raffle, and bake sale, with cabbage rolls and ethnic food available. For more information, call Virginia at (734) 522-9653 or Deb at (734) 946-0173.

Garden City Presbyterian
Garden City Presbyterian Church will hold its annual Holiday Bazaar from 4-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at the church, 1841 Middlebelt, one block south of Ford, Garden City. There will be a cookie walk, silent auction, arts and crafts, grandma's treasures, bake sale and more. A turkey dinner will be served 4:30-7 p.m. Friday and cost \$7 for adults and \$4 for children ages 3-12. Lunch will be available on Saturday. For more information, call (734) 421-7620.

Franklin High
Those who make hand-made crafts or fine art are invited to participate in the Juried Franklin High School Craft Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17. Money raised goes to the athletic department at FHS. For more information, contact Julie Culp, (734) 522-0039.

St. Edith
Crafters are needed for the St. Edith Fall Craft Show, set for Saturday, Nov. 10, at the St. Edith School. Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To apply, call Dawn at (734) 420-6959 or Michelle at (734) 591-7773.

ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

TOPS
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) M128 of Westland meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Good Shepherd Reformed Church, 6500 N. Wayne Road, at Hunter, Westland. For more information, call Pat Strong at (734) 326-3539 or Mary Lowe at (734) 729-6879.

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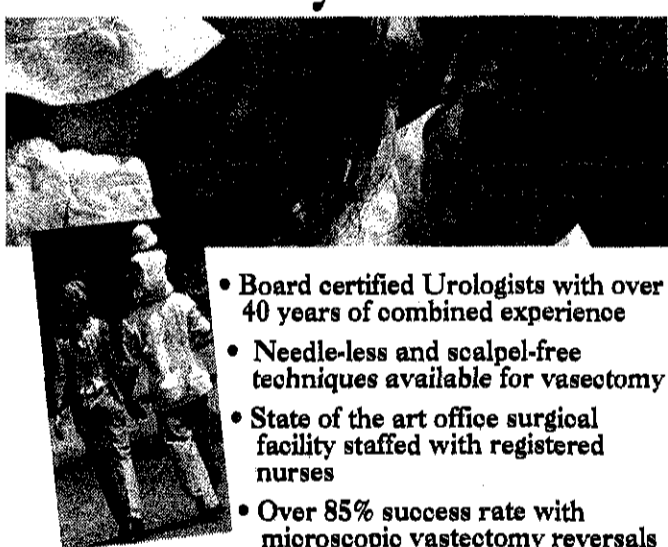
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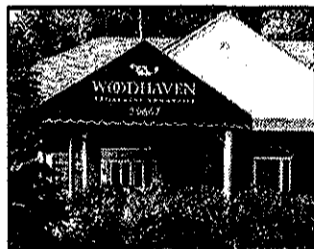
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Enter for chance to dine with Mark

The *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* are teaming up with Buddy's to present "Dining With the Stars" featuring Florine Mark of Weight Watchers. Mark is known throughout metro Detroit as a successful businesswoman and philanthropist.

In 100 words or less, tell us why you would like to have lunch or dinner with Florine Mark at Buddy's Pizza.

Mark has a "healthy" pizza named after her on the Buddy's menu. It's "The Florine Mark Pizza" with brick/fat-free cheese blend, spinach, mushrooms, diced tomatoes, garlic and black olives.

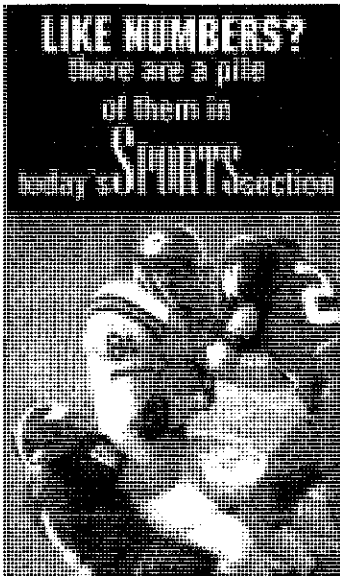
Send your fan letter to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com and be sure to include your name,

address, daytime phone number and e-mail address.

Deadline to enter the contest is **5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16.**

The winner will be treated to a limo ride, courtesy of All Class Transportation, makeover by Utopia Salon & Spa on Main Street in Northville (hair by Sebastian and makeup by ILSE), a \$100 gift certificate to the Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield and a dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

No purchase is necessary to enter. Buddy's Pizza will review all entries and select the top "fan" letters. The star featured for the month makes the final selection.



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RETURN APPOINTMENTS: WHY & WHEN

If you see your doctor for a joint problem, he may have said: "I want to see you in a month." If you see him at a later time for a similar joint pain, he may say: "Come back as needed."

What guides a physician's decision on when to see you again often comes from his use of medication. If the doctor places you on a medicine, then he has a high level of need to follow your course.

Every medicine carries the risk of unwanted side effects. Even a well tolerated medication such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) can, under certain circumstances cause liver damage. Other drugs, such as methotrexate, a drug widely used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, are potentially toxic even after years of use. Such a drug requires monitoring on a regular basis, usually every four to eight weeks. That monitoring includes not only laboratory tests but also asking questions about particular changes in your health and examining you for unobserved drug related changes. If your medication is potentially very toxic, seeing you in a month is reasonable.

If your diagnosis is unclear, then a return visit in a week to ten days is in order. In other instances a return in six months is appropriate. Each medical condition calls for a doctor to weigh the state of your health and on that basis determine a return appointment.

If you question the doctor's decision, speak up. He will listen to your concerns and explain the reasons for his choice. Likely, you will be able to reach a compromise suitable to both of you.

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WOW! USDA Select Boneless **NY STRIP \$4.99**
STEAK 6 Steak Value Pack lb.

Farm Fresh Grade A **CUT UP \$0.99**
CHICKEN lb.

Lean Tender Boneless **DELMONICO \$2.79**
PORK ROAST lb.

Fresh Ground Beef **GROUND \$2.39**
SIRLOIN lb.
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Oven Ready **STUFFED \$1.99**
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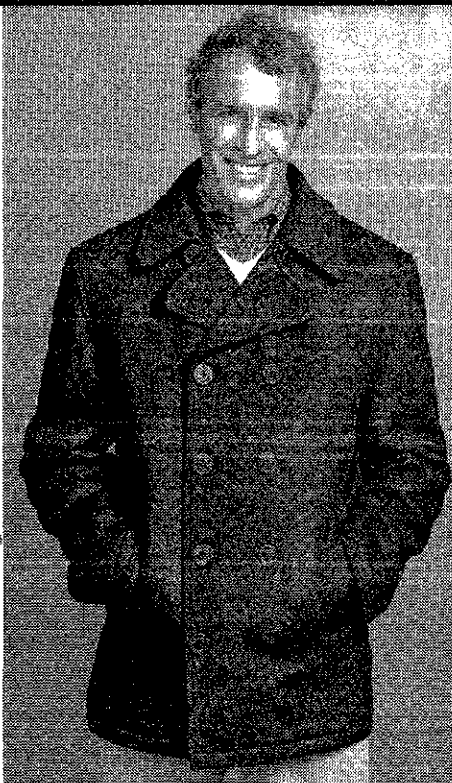
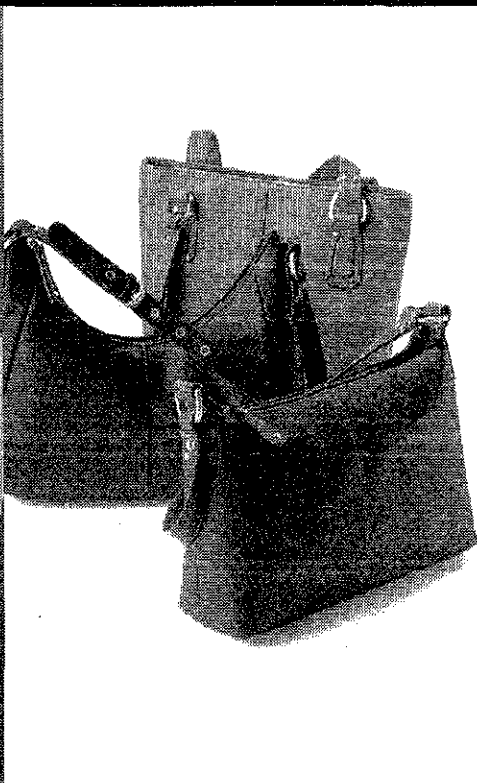
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Environment a big part of trade mission

BY BRAD KADRICH
STAFF WRITER

While his first two trade missions to China focused largely on the automotive industry, Wayne County Executive Bob Ficano wanted the third trip — taken Oct. 11-21 — to expand into other areas.

That's why people from the county's Department of the Environment, the Wayne County Airport and educational fields, including students, made the trip.

And, with four Memorandums of Understanding in hand, Ficano returned and declared the trip a success.

"It's all about building relationships," Ficano said. "We have definitely started to set up circumstances where we know Chinese companies are going to start investing in us."

While there was still some auto industry representation, much of the work done on the trip involved environmental issues. Ficano walked away with MOUs from leadership in four Chinese cities — Chongqing, Wuhan, Nanjing and Bengbu — who pledged to commit to environmental issues.

LOCAL EXPERTISE

"The (Chinese) government requested we bring over as much expertise in that area as we could," Ficano said. "They historically saw the challenges we faced, especially in the '70s. They realize the issues and challenges we face (river, air quality, water quality). Now they've asked for companies with technology to help them solve those issues."

According to Plymouth Township resident Kurt Heise, director of the county's environmental department, the four cities who signed MOUs are all related by the Yangtze River, which makes the issues they face similar to those faced by Wayne County communities hooked into the Rouge Watershed.

Since they represent part of the industrial hub of the county, Heise said, they face many of the environmental problems U.S. industrial areas face.

"I was shocked by the level of air pollution," Heise said. "In some communities, you'd wake up to a nice, pink sky in the morning and by 2 or 3 in the afternoon you're under a gray-silver mud that obscures everything."

Ficano and Heise both said no demands were made in terms of the environment as it related to any business

agreements, but that Chinese officials told them they were committed to improving their environmental conditions.

"We don't have standing to impose our environmental standards on them," Heise said. "(But) We see China as an opportunity. They want to have a first-class economy, and you can't do that with a fourth-class environment."

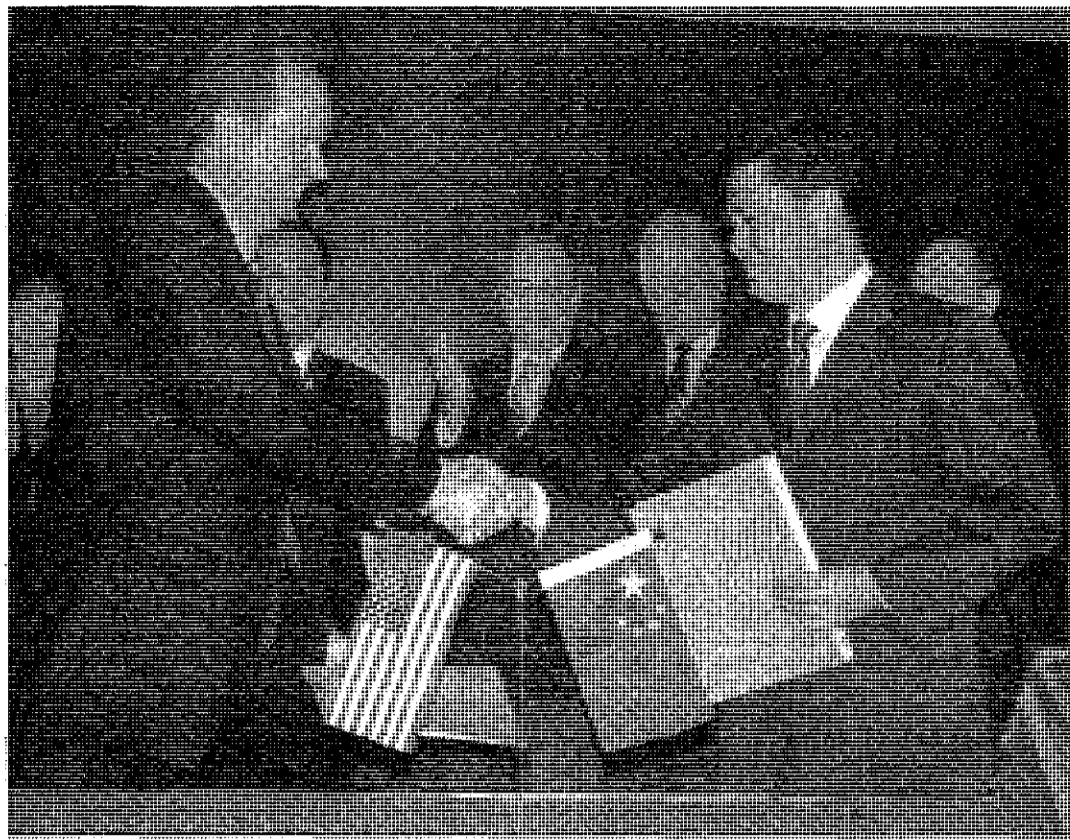
"For me that's what made the trip so successful," Heise added. "I was overwhelmed by their enthusiasm to talk about the environment."

OTHER ISSUES

Wayne County officials also had no standing to demand any improvements in other quality-control areas, but Ficano said issues such as food quality and the recent controversy over tainted toys coming into the U.S. from China were discussed.

"They told us they were recommitting to quality control," Ficano said. "At the same time, they have found in the automotive field those same issues haven't arisen as much as the toys. But they are conscious of it."

Ficano said Wayne County is an attractive landing spot for Chinese business. Already, he said, more than two dozen Chinese companies have facili-



Kurt Heise of Plymouth Township (left), director of the Wayne County Department of Environment, shakes hands with Mingsheng Pan, the director of the Environmental Protection Bureau of Bengbu, China, after signing a Memorandum of Understanding during a trade mission to China.

ties in the county, and a few others who are currently renting offices have begun looking for permanent homes.

Part of the attraction, Ficano said, is the proximity to Canada and first-rate educational institutions.

"They realize we sit on an international border, our infrastructure is solid and we have

a university system that's second to none," Ficano said. "In our area we have U-M, Wayne State and Michigan State, all within close proximity. Those are all assets they find attractive."

With the third one in the books, Ficano has said there will be more trips to China. "China is the fourth-larg-

est economy in the world, and they could be No. 2 in another five years," he said. "The economy is global, and that's not going to change. Our job is to create an environment where they're willing to invest in this area."

bkadrich@hometownlife.com
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Bill would keep money away from terrorist countries

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, has co-sponsored a package of bills that would require various state funds to be divested from companies that actively engage in business with terrorist countries. The five nations that currently meet this definition are Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria.

"Every time a member of the Senate offers a memorial tribute for one of our fallen soldiers during session, I am reminded of the sacrifice they are making overseas," said Anderson. "As elected officials, we have an obligation to protect our citi-

zens at home and abroad."

So far, 16 states have enacted similar divestment measures, with an additional 28 states considering such legislation. During the 1980s, the State of Michigan divested from companies doing business with the apartheid government in South Africa.

The Divestment from Terror Act would require the fiduciaries of the following state agencies to identify investments that should be divested and establish a timeline for divestment: Children's Trust Fund, Community

Colleges, Michigan Trust Fund, Michigan Strategic Fund, Michigan Education Trust, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Public Employee Retirement System, State Lottery, Veterans' Trust Fund and the Treasury Surplus Funds.

"There is no justifiable reason for taxpayer funds to be supporting companies that profit from terrorism," said Anderson. "With such strong bipartisan support, I am optimistic that these bills will receive the swift attention they deserve."

Homeownership is focus of free seminar

A free educational seminar on home ownership and retention is available to residents in Garden City and Westland.

The Michigan Mortgage Brokers Association (MMBA) is hosting "My Home, My Future" The seminar will be 9-11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7, at the Cobo Exhibition and Conference Center, 1 Washington Blvd., Detroit.

"Many of Michigan's working families purchased their homes at a time when our state's economy was better and interest rates were lower," said State Rep. Richard

LeBlanc, D-Westland in announcing the program.

"During these difficult economic times, many of Michigan's families are scraping by doing everything they can to keep their homes. The 'My Home, My Future' educational forum is a great opportunity for homeowners or potential homeowners to learn more about the many challenges facing today's families."

The free consumer education seminar will focus on homeownership, homeownership retention, budgeting, credit issues, the lending pro-

cess, preventing foreclosure, financing options, and finding a mortgage professional to work with when purchasing a home.

The forum will feature presentations by MMBA professionals and educators. There also will be HUD counselors from across Michigan, industry experts, information for free credit reports, finance and budgeting forms and consumer homeownership tips available onsite.

For more information, visit the MMBA Web site at www.mmbaonline.com or call (517) 371-8023.

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Entry deadline is Friday, November 9, 2007 at noon.
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2008 CALENDAR

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Caleendars are currently available for \$14.95.

Caleendars can be ordered from HAVEN's website at www.haven-oakland.org, by calling 248-334-1284, ext. 340 or by email at calendar@haven-oakland.org.

They can also be purchased at participating retail locations including all Hollywood Market locations, Oliver's Trendz in Birmingham, all Oxford Bank locations and the Print Gallery in Southfield.

Caleendars make great holiday gifts! Proceeds benefit HAVEN services. Show your support by ordering yours today. Quantities are limited.

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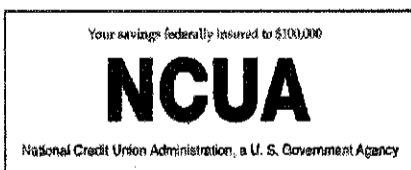
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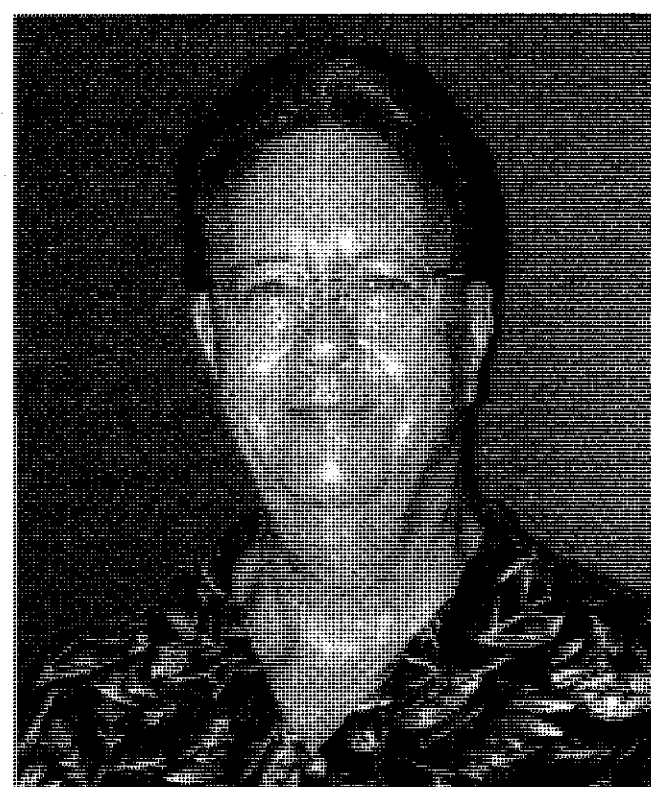
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Federal agency can help track down pension information

Dear Rick: I worked for the same company for over 20 years. When I left I was told I would have a pension. The company has been sold a number of times and I have lost track of it. Is there any way to find out if I'm entitled to my pension?

It is not unusual for people to lose track of their former employers. With all the mergers and acquisitions in today's world, it does get difficult. However, there is a way to determine if you are entitled to a pension.

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), an agency of the federal government, insures pensions. Because so many people have not claimed their pension, the PBGC maintains a Web site that can tell you if you are entitled to benefits. Go to www.pbgc.gov search.

Unfortunately, not all pensions in the United States are covered by the



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

that does not mean you are not entitled to your pension.

Locating the company may be difficult. In addition to using the resources on the Internet, I also recommend contacting the local chamber of commerce where the business was located. Another option is to contact a former employee. He or she may have some information.

Dear Rick: I have a financial

PBGC. Therefore, if you believe you are entitled to a pension and you're not listed in the data bank then you have to try to locate the surviving company. After all, just because the company you worked for was bought and sold a number of times

adviser who works on commission. I like him and I think he works for my best interest. He's approached me about buying a fund that has a Class A and a Class B share. Which do you recommend?

Although I am not a fan of commissions in the financial industry, I believe the best salespeople never worry about commissions they worry about taking care of their clients.

It's important to have an adviser you trust and have confidence in and who will work for your best interest. It appears you have that type of financial adviser. Class A shares are issued by mutual funds and have an up-front commission. Commissions can be as high as 8.5 percent but typically a Class A share would be in the 5-6 percent range. The commission comes out of your money prior to being invested. If you invested \$50,000 in a 6 percent Class A mutual fund, \$3,000

would be paid in commissions and the remaining \$47,000 would be invested into the fund. In a Class A mutual fund, like all mutual funds, there is also an ongoing management fee. In addition, some funds charge you commission on reinvested dividends and capital gains.

A Class B share fund has no up-front commission. If you invest \$50,000 typically the entire \$50,000 will be invested into the fund. However, the fund company pays the financial salesperson an upfront commission. In order to for the fund company to recoup these commissions they will charge higher on-going management fees and a back-end redemption fee if the fund is not kept for several years.

Typically, if you sell shares of a Class B fund or the entire fund prior to completing a five-year holding period, a penalty would be assessed against your proceeds. The

typical penalty starts at 5 percent and generally descends by one percent a year. If after two years you decided to sell the mutual fund, your proceeds would be reduced by 3 percent.

In some Class B share funds, after you've held the fund for a period of time they will automatically convert you into the A Share fund which has a lower on-going management fee. The back-end penalties and the higher on-going management fees have the same effect as commissions and that is to reduce an investor's return on investment.

When comparing Class A versus Class B shares, I would typically favor Class A shares. Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at money matters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

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Airport Authority completing work on new Master Plan

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

At the center of Wayne County's aerotropolis future is Detroit Metro Airport.

The Wayne County Airport Authority is preparing a Master Plan for the next 20 years that would include expanded terminals, a monorail system, new cargo facilities, a central car rental building and, most controversial, a seventh runway.

Wayne County Airports CEO Lester Robinson is making the media rounds to explain the plan and its importance to the region's economic development.

"Twenty years ago, we did one of these. I wasn't there when it was done," Robinson said at a meeting with *Observer* editors Oct. 18. "If you identify a structure as demand grows, it doesn't mean you need it tomorrow."

But the airport does need to plan far in advance for an operation that represents a major economic force in the community.

"The airport is important to the southeast Michigan region.



This is an artist's rendering of the new North Terminal, which is scheduled to be completed in fall 2008. It will replace the Smith and Berry terminals at Detroit Metro.

The University of Michigan-Dearborn calculated that in Wayne County, the impact is a \$5 billion demand for goods and services," Robinson said: "18,600 people work at the airport, only 730 work for the airport authority."

He said the employment figure is equal to four or five large auto factories. The figure includes employees of airlines, service companies and concessionaires.

A task force chaired by John Rakolta has been working in plans to develop the area around Wayne County's airports, Detroit Metro and Willow Run, both operated by the Airport Authority. Wayne County is developing an area south of airport as the Pinnacle Aeropark project.

FAA SETS GUIDELINES

The major components of the Master Plan from the

mid-1980s have been implemented. They've included the McNamara Terminal on the airport's south end, expanded airfield facilities, a new control tower and a southern entrance.

The Airport Authority has developed its new Master Plan under guidelines set down by the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA process includes doing an inventory, a forecast of aviation activity, a demand/capacity study for facility requirements, a development of concepts and recommended developments and, finally, implementation. The FAA must approve the plan.

Public hearings have been held and more will be scheduled.

The airport currently registers 18,200,000 enplanements a year with a projected growth to 29,000,000 enplanements over the next 20 years.

"This plan includes an additional runway on the eastern border," Robinson said. "It also plans an intermodal transportation system on the north side of the airport. It plans a consolidated rental facility, called CONRAC for short, across the freeway from the airport, expansion to the north terminal and it plans significant expansion of the McNamara Terminal. On the west side there is 190 acres planned for cargo."

The North Terminal is currently being built to replace the aging Smith and Berry terminals. It is scheduled to open in fall 2008.

The McNamara Terminal houses gates for the Northwest Airlines and its associate airlines. Detroit is a major hub for Northwest. The new North Terminal will serve passengers flying on other airlines associated with two major airline alliances and small independent airlines.

RUNWAY CONCERNS

The proposed runway as currently proposed would run north-south on the eastern end of the airport. The runway would cross Middlebelt and Eureka roads into what is now a residential section of Romulus.

Robinson said the actual building of the runway could

be 10 to 15 years away but that work needs to start soon. He said an environmental study needs to be made and that could take two to three years to complete.

He estimates that 500 homes would be displaced through eminent domain to accommodate the runway.

"We're not saying it's not a hardship on the community," he said.

On Sept. 27, Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert sent a letter to Deven Judd, with airport developers Jacobsen Daniels Associates, outlining the city's concerns. Lambert cites among the concerns: the loss of 805 single-family residential properties valued at \$59,108,700; displacement of 11 industrial properties; displacement of 10 commercial properties; and displacement of 3,471 residents, approximately 15 percent of the population. The letter also cites the need to close an elementary school.

Tim Keyes, Romulus economic development director, said the city wants to be sure that the Airport Authority has looked at ways to improve safe and efficient operations at the airport without new land acquisition and expansion.

"The City of Romulus and the airport have a great relationship. It's a great economic engine not only for city but for the state and region," Keyes said. "But the city of Romulus has paid a heavy cost for hosting the airport."

Keyes said the airport represents 20 percent of Romulus land, "the hole in the doughnut." He said its large central position requires school buses, police, ambulance and fire trucks to take longer routes.

Keyes said the airport could do a better job of handling its current traffic to avoid the stacking of planes. He said he believes the authority has enough land to meet its needs without expanding. The city has suggested alternate runway options.

"We find the authority an incredibly capable group of people to work with and very insightful," he said.

Keyes said Romulus was marketing itself as an airport

city long before the aerotropolis idea took off. He said they have been at the forefront of discussions and have been actively working to develop ancillary business activity north of the airport.

Robinson said the airport doesn't have the expansion room available to airports in Denver and Dallas-Ft. Worth. He said an alternate site farther north would intrude on sections of Taylor and Dearborn.

To pay for the Master Plan improvements, Robinson wants to increase the passenger facility charge to \$7. The current charge of \$4.50 is added to every passenger ticket. The airlines are opposed to an increase.

"The airlines consider it to be a tax and government takes more revenue out of the ticket," Robinson said.

Robinson argued that the charge is a "user fee" paid only by those who used the airport. Money raised from the PFC can only be used on capital investments.

The FAA must approve any increase in the PFC.

The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 (HR 2881) includes a provision to raise the maximum to \$7.

The Air Transport Association of America opposes the increase. Their Web site states: "Airports do not need an additional \$2.2 billion from the airline passengers in order to fund necessary capital improvements. According to the latest financial reports filed with the FAA, commercial airports have more than \$24.8 billion in unrestricted financial assets including cash."

"Passengers want lower fares, and they want to see results for billions of dollars they have already paid. They do not want a \$2.2 billion tax increase."

The Airport Authority is planning more meetings with stakeholders and public workshops. The FAA must approve the Master Plan's Preferred Development Plan before the Master Plan becomes official. The final plan will be provided to the FAA for approval in January 2008.

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LETTERS

Our view: These candidates deserve your vote

Retain Wild as mayor

By now, most everyone who is interested, knows of the upcoming election. We certainly hope, along with many others, that Westland citizens will turn out in great numbers and make their voices heard. Because of all that Mayor William R. Wild has already accomplished during his short time as mayor of our city, we hope that he will be given the chance to continue his outstanding work. Most of us recall the Central City Park mess that he inherited from the former mayor. Mayor Wild was elected on one day and on the very next day, his first day in office as mayor, he had this contaminated park fenced off immediately. Usually, a mayor is elected in November and then takes over the new office in January. Well, let's not forget that Mayor Wild did not have any grace period. Again, he was voted in on one day and he took office the very next day. And since then, he hasn't stopped.

For anyone who is questioning the handling of the Central City Park issue, they should question the former mayor. Our present mayor is going full speed ahead.

Because Westland, we believe, is still the fourth largest city in Michigan, the mayor indeed needs an assistant. Call that person whatever you want, but in no way can a present sitting mayor do the outstanding job that Mayor Wild is doing without the current deputy mayor.

One of Mayor Wild's outstanding gifts is he is willing to sit down at meetings and listen to people. Recall how he handled the recent library issues? He arranged to meet with them and problems were resolved, contrary to a council member who refused to arrange such a meeting. We need a mayor who is willing to negotiate, not one who refuses to even meet. Another attribute that we see in Mayor Wild is his ability to bring together people with opposing views and then work with them. Isn't that yet another sign of a good leader?

Unfortunately, we were not aware of the recent candidates' night. Had we been there, we would have voiced our comments there.

We feel that Mayor Wild has done an outstanding job as our mayor under very challenging circumstances. He has accomplished a lot in a very short time in office. So please vote on Nov. 6, and please, let's keep Mayor Wild.

Jim and Mary Murphy
Westland

On Tuesday, Westland residents will go to the polls to decide who will lead their city for the next two years. Two men — William Wild and Charles Pickering — are vying for the right to fill the remaining two years of the unexpired term of former Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, now a district judge.

Both candidates have the experience and knowledge to lead the city, but we believe residents would be best served by electing William Wild as mayor.



Wild

Wild was appointed mayor in January and has accomplished a lot. His administration is proactive and has been quick to respond to residents' concerns. At the forefront was his fencing off of the contaminated Central City Park just days after he took office. It sent a clear message to residents that their health and safety are a priority.

There are plenty of issues facing the city of Westland, and the city needs someone who is prepared to take the lead. We believe that person is William Wild and urge residents to elect him to the two-year term as mayor. He has done a lot as the appointed mayor and deserves the opportunity to do even more.

It was the decision of Westland voters that transformed the city clerk's position from council appointee to elected official. And it also was the decision of voters that Eileen DeHart should be the person to fill that elected position.

City clerk

Four years later, DeHart is now telling voters she has the experience, the knowledge and the professionalism to remain city clerk, and we agree.

In the four years she has served as the city's second highest ranking elected official, she has implemented a new voting system in the city and

transitioned the City Council to an electronic meeting packet. She has successfully overseen 10 elections and taken on the extra duties of overseeing school elections for the Wayne-Westland Community Schools and the Westland portion of the Livonia Public Schools.

She has also taken the time to get her municipal clerk certification from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

That said, we believe Eileen DeHart is the best choice and urge voters to re-elect her Westland city clerk.

Council race

Eight candidates are vying for a seat on the City Council. Only four will be elected — three to four-year terms and one to a two-year term. They have been involved in the community and many as volunteers have devoted years to improving the community.

We believe residents would be best served by re-electing incumbents James Godbout and Michael Kehrer and electing appointed incumbents Dewey Reeves and Bill Johnson to the City Council.

Godbout and Kehrer have the benefit of experience with their lengthy service on the council. They have the knowledge and experience to deal with the issues the city faces, including the possible loss of the city's trash hauler.

Reeves and Johnson were appointed to the council in January to fill the seats of William Wild and Richard LeBlanc until Tuesday's election. They are campaigning for full terms on the council as well as write-in candidates to serve the few short weeks between the election and Jan. 1.

The two men have done their



Godbout



Kehrer



Johnson



Reeves

homework and have taken time to learn about city operations. Reeves also brings diversity to the council and provides representation for a growing segment of the city's population.

The council makeup is such that members can agree to disagree but still get the work done that needs to be done. We believe it's a chemistry that should continue and urge residents to vote for James Godbout, Michael Kehrer, Dewey Reeves and Bill Johnson in the Nov. 6 City Council election. We believe these four candidates have what is needed to move this city forward in these difficult times.

Voters in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools portion of the district also are being asked to approve a 1.5-mill tax renewal for the Wayne County Community College District. The current tax, which represents 40 percent of WCCCD's annual revenue, will expire in 2001.

Keep in mind that this is not a new tax. It is not an increase. It is one that residents in the college's 32 communities are already paying. For own-

ers of homes with a taxable value of \$70,000, the millage translates to \$105 a year.

When WCCCD first asked for the millage, it said the money would be used re-invent itself as an urban and suburban college. It has retooled its curriculum to meet the needs of today's students and improved the facilities at its five campuses — three in Detroit, one in Taylor and one in Van Buren Township.

College officials have done what they would do when they sought the millage in 2001, although we believe the college district needs to do more to market the district to students in Westland where it faces stiff competition from colleges like Schoolcraft and Henry Ford.

We urge residents to vote YES on the Wayne County Community College District's request for 1.5-mill renewal in the Nov. 6 election.

You can read all the stories we wrote about all of the candidates by clicking on the election logo on the Westland page of the *Observer & Eccentric* Web site at www.hometownlife.com.

Whether you do or don't agree with our endorsements, we urge voters to get out and vote on election day. Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you can't, remember you can still vote absentee at Westland City Hall tomorrow during business hours.

And if you do go to the polls on Tuesday, be prepared. It will take a little longer to get through the voting process because, as of this election, voters must show picture identification or sign an affidavit attesting that he or she is not in possession of picture identification.

The photo ID can be a driver's license, federal or state-issued photo identification, U.S. passport, military identification, student ID with photo from a high school or accredited institution of higher education or a tribal identification card with photo.

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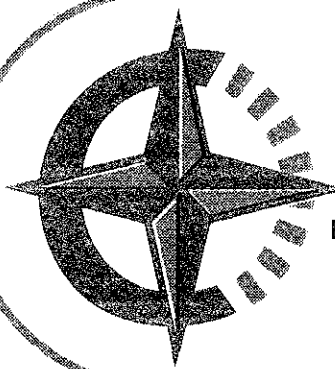
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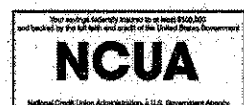
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SPORTS

B (LW)

Sunday, November 4, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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Stevenson, Franklin on collision course

Spartans' Quarterback White shreds Novi

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
SPECIAL WRITER

Livonia Stevenson brothers Mitchell and Austin White decided to play catch, which left the Novi Wildcats to play catch-up Friday night in the Spartans' Division 1 district-title-clinching football encounter.

Sophomore Austin White scored four touchdowns, which included TD catches of 12 and 44 yards in the 42-21 rout over the visiting Wildcats (9-2). The running back also scored on runs of 1 and 13 yards.

On Friday, Stevenson (11-0) will host inter-city rival Franklin (7-4), which upended host Dearborn Fordson, 20-8. Two months ago (Aug. 30), the Spartans beat the host Patriots, 38-26, in a regular season game.

"They're dangerous," Stevenson quarterback Mitchell White said of

the Patriots. "They have all their guys back. We have respect for each other, but on the football field we don't like each other much."

White, who returned from a shoulder injury after missing last week's 27-21 playoff win over Plymouth, played like he never missed a beat, connecting on 14-of-26 passes for 220 yards and three touchdowns.

And the Spartan brass liked what they saw offensively. Stevenson pounded the ball, using senior running back Emanuel Onwuemene to blast through from seven yards to open the scoring in the first quarter.

Austin White's deft running allowed the Spartans to spread the field, which enabled Mitchell White to seemingly pass at will.

On his 44-yard toss to Austin White, the senior signal caller threw a shoulder fake that froze the Wildcat secondary and left his younger brother wide open. The TD with 10:56 in

the first half put Novi on its heels.

The Spartans led 21-14 at halftime. "Usually I'm patient, but tonight I was like, 'Please find me an open receiver,'" Mitchell White said. "(Novi's) defensive backs were all over. I was trying to move around the pocket to see through the lanes. I was kind of making my own passing lanes, which was a nice feeling."

Mitchell wore a restraint over his left shoulder due to a ligament strain. The brace didn't hinder his ability to pass, though.

"When I was throwing, I could feel it," he said.

His coach was happy to see the senior return.

"I think Mitchell knows our offense very well and understands what people are going to do," coach Tim Gabel said. "That's part of being a senior. Hopefully, as the play unfolds, he

Please see **STEVENSON, B2**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson quarterback Mitchell White scrambles away from Novi defender Joe Pritchard during Friday night's 42-21 Division 1-Region 4-District 1 championship win.

Sidelines

MU top 25 vote

The Madonna University men's basketball team received one vote in the NAIA preseason top-25 poll released Thursday, marking the first time ever that MU has garnered a vote in the men's basketball poll in program history.

Men's All-WHAC

Four Madonna University men's soccer players earned first-team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honors included defender Pat Kolodziejczak (Livonia Stevenson), goalkeeper Kris Lyons, midfielder Doron Drai and forward Makesi Lewis, who was also voted WHAC Newcomer of the Year.

Midfielder T.J. Djokic (Stevenson) and defender Darrell Quinn were named to the second-team, while Dan Pichler (Stevenson) was named to the WHAC Character of Champions Team.

All-Academic picks included Drai, Quinn and Kolodziejczak. MU's Tino Scicluna was named Coach of the Year.

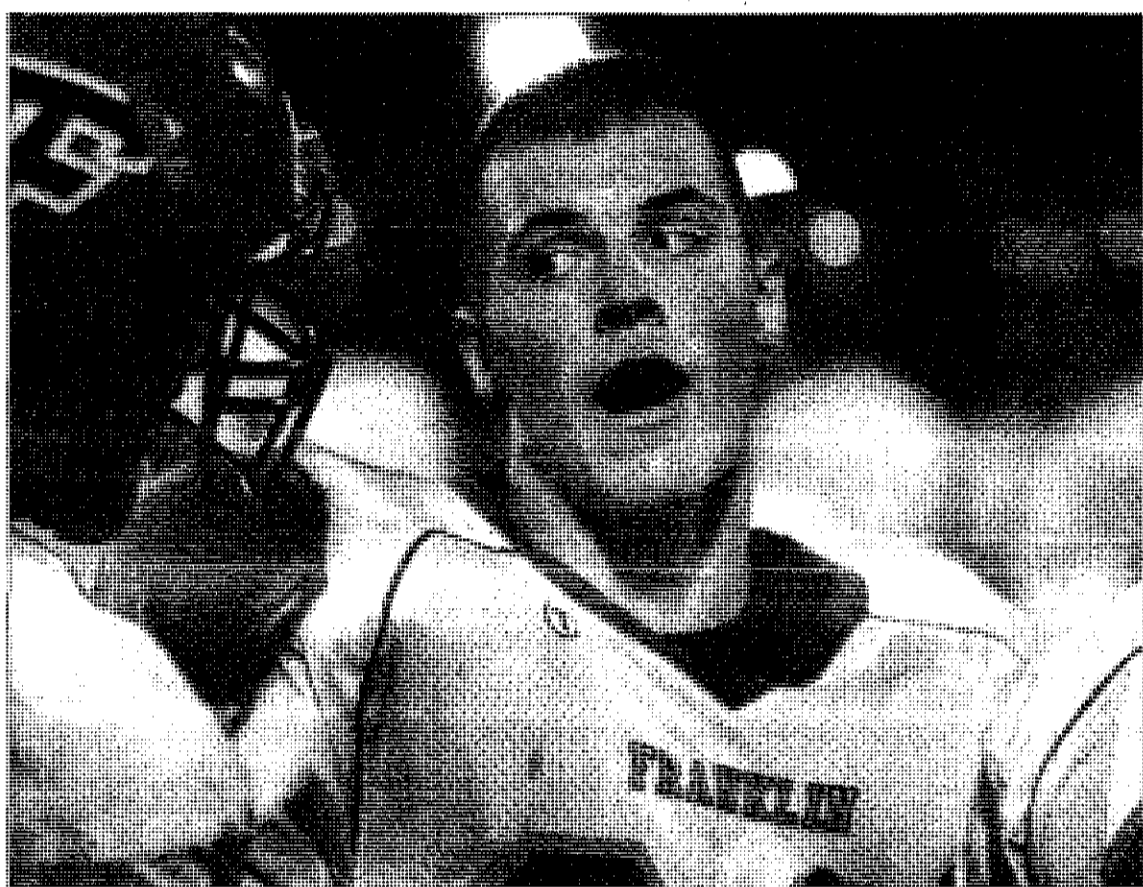
Women's All-WHAC

Madonna University's Lauren Hess (Livonia Ladywood) and Ashley Stoychoff recently earned first-team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honors in women's soccer.

MU's Gina Leone was voted to the second-team, while Andrea Johnson (Canton), Rachaelle Mirro and Lia Melasi earned honorable mention.

Champions of Character Team honorees included MU's Rachaelle Mirro, Melasi and Johnson.

All-Academic picks for the Crusaders included Dina Allie (Livonia Stevenson), Traci Anderson, Andrea Muscat (Stevenson), Johnson, Mirro and Stoychoff.



Franklin junior David Fortin, in only his second game back after missing the Patriots' final eight regular season games, had another outstanding playoff night with 188 yards rushing on 22 carries in a 20-8 victory over Dearborn Fordson.

Patriots' big plays stall Fordson, 20-8

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Franklin continues to prove that regular season records don't mean much.

The upstart Patriots used timely plays once again to come up with another football playoff win Friday night when they defeated host Dearborn Fordson, 20-8, in the Division 1-Region 4-District 2 championship game.

The victory sets up an all-Livonia Region 4 title game matchup this Friday night when the 7-4 Patriots travel to 11-0 Stevenson in a rematch of Week No. 2 of the regular season (won by the Spartans 38-26). Stevenson, meanwhile, advanced with a 42-21 win Friday night at home over Novi.

"We're accustomed to being the underdog and that's fine with us, we'd like to keep it that way," said an elated Franklin coach Chris Kelbert, whose team pulled off Week 1 playoff shocker against top seed Monroe, 39-38, in double overtime.

Big and odd plays dictated the outcome in what was primarily a defensive struggle.

With 3:53 left in the first quarter, Franklin senior defensive end Jeff McCullough picked off a Fordson middle screen

Please see **PATRIOTS, B2**

Chargers trip RU in title defense

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

After Redford Union bounced Livonia Stevenson in one of Friday's Class A volleyball semifinals at Livonia Churchill, the reward was a date against the defending state champion Chargers and All-State powerhouse Kyndra Abron.

Virtually from the get-go, the Panthers had no answer for the Michigan State University-bound middle hitter. The 6-2 Abron continually slammed the ball down for points time as Churchill earned a 25-18, 25-14 and 25-16 victory and advanced to the Novi-hosted regional semifinal to face the Highland-Milford district champion.

"She is dominant, she's a point-getter, she's a scorer for us," said Churchill coach Mark Grenier about Abron, who tallied 23 kills against RU. "We can always count on her for some points. She comes through time and time

again, not just with some swings, but she's developed a nice serve."

Others chipped in against the Mega White co-champion Panthers, namely junior setter Kayla Johnston (42 assists), junior outside hitter Kristen Nalez (18 kills) and junior libero Lindsey Graciak (22 defensive digs).

"We've got a complement of other kids that are a fantastic cast of kids that also do a nice job," Grenier added. "As good as she (Abron) is, we're certainly not one dimensional."

Abron also was on her game in the semifinal against Farmington, contributing 14 kills as Churchill (45-2-3) earned 25-17, 25-18 and 25-19 wins.

According to RU coach Rachel Clor, whose red-hot team smoked the Spartans 25-10, 25-17 and 25-22 to avenge a loss in the 2006 districts, her team played hard against the Chargers - but suffered some untimely lulls they couldn't bounce back from.

"I thought we were in the match every game," Clor said. "And then there

was a let-up and we just let them take control."

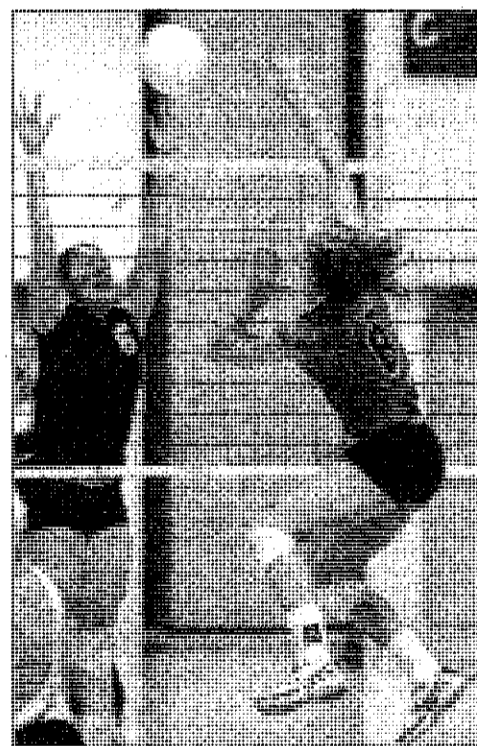
Senior libero Shaheda Greeley (32 digs) served up an ace among two points to start the match on an upswing for RU, but Abron's kill from the left corner started a match-long trend and before long the Chargers were up 12-5 and on their way.

The middle game went back and forth until senior defensive specialist Shannon Warner (eight digs) and junior outside hitter Katelyn Matz each served up three points to pad the lead.

Abron knocked down three points during a four-point service run from senior defensive specialist Jordan Kerr in Game 3, giving Churchill a commanding 21-13 advantage.

The Panthers (26-11-4) also received 15 assists from senior setter Allison Patra, 20 digs from junior outside hitter Danielle Sweeney, 15 digs from

Please see **CHARGERS, B4**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Churchill's Kathryn Krupsky puts a spike past Farmington's Lynn Nagengast during Class A district semifinal action Friday.

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Ladywood takes C'ville district

Livonia Ladywood repeated Friday night as Class B district girls volleyball champions with a 25-14, 25-19, 25-19 win over Detroit Public School League champion Renaissance at Livonia Clarenceville.

The Blazers, now 17-16-5 overall, advance to Saturday's Class B regional semifinal at Carleton Airport to face the New Boston Huron district champion.

Middle hitter Catherine Phillips, the only senior on the Ladywood roster, recorded a team-high 11 kills in the victory. Junior setter Julie Rhodes chipped in with 25 assist-to-kills, while sophomore outside hitter Ashley Hines had 10 kills and five aces.

Renaissance, which defeated Detroit Chadsey in the other semifinal, bowed out at 28-7-2 overall.

"We played well tonight," said Ladywood coach Erin Craggs, whose team did not make the Catholic League A-B Division playoffs after going

PREP VOLLEYBALL

49-12-4 a year ago. "We were able to control the ball, which gives us options offensively. We served aggressively and did not allow them to get into rhythm. Catherine (Phillips) really stepped up with tough attacking and serving."

In the semifinals, Phillips had eight kills and junior Rachael Fuller added seven as the Blazers ousted host Clarenceville (13-18-3) in three games, 25-11, 25-9, 25-19.

Rhodes finished with 32 assists, while libero Alex Mirabatur added 10 digs.

On Thursday, Clarenceville opened district play with a 25-6, 25-12, 25-8 win over Detroit Southwestern.

Clarenceville coach Wendy Merschman emptied her bench as senior Amanda Moody led the way with nine aces and 14 digs. Kat Hall contributed six kills, while Katie Blacker was 17-for-17 serving with four aces.

PATRIOTS

FROM PAGE B1

pass and returned it 21 yards for a touchdown. But the score remained at 6-0 when the Patriots failed to convert the extra point.

Fordson answered quickly, only 1:29 later in the period, on a strange turn of events, the play coming on first down from their own 32.

Quarterback Mohammad Bazy threw a lateral pass that fell to the turf. With the Patriot defense assuming the play had been blown dead, and as a result of a forward pass, Fordson's Saied Bakker alertly scooped up the ball, hesitated, then picked up a wall of blockers and raced untouched 70 yards for a TD.

"It was a backwards pass and our sophomore (No. 19) was smart enough to pick it up and he was able to encourage his teammates to go with him and convince them that the play was still alive," Fordson coach Fouad Zaban said.

The TD play, meanwhile, had Kelbert scratching his head.

"I thought the ball was tipped at the line (of scrimmage) and the official on the far side said the ball was kept in play," he said. "Personally I've never seen that play before. Our guys apparently thought the play was dead. Obviously you've got to play until you hear a whistle."

The Tractors then broke the 6-all deadlock when Hassan Amen ran in for the two-pointer following a pair of Franklin offsides penalties while Fordson was lining up for the extra point.

After Franklin went three-and-out, punter Jesse



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brian Humenay's 82-yard TD catch and run salted away the playoff victory in Franklin's 20-8 win over host Dearborn Fordson.

Carpenter pinned the Tractors down on their own 1.

Amen, who rushed for 124 yards on 11 carries, squirted away from a sea of Franklin tacklers at the line of scrimmage on the first and raced 99 yards into the end zone for an apparent TD, zig-zagging his way down the field.

But the play was called back to the Franklin 33 after a Fordson blocker was detected for clipping with 18.6 seconds left.

The Tractors, however, couldn't capitalize on their deep field position and punted to the Franklin 9.

That's when junior tailback David Fortin, the hero in last week's win over Monroe, continued his postseason magic when he busted through the Tractors' line and raced 85 yards up the gut for what

proved to be the game-winning TD with 9:33 left in the first half.

Carpenter's extra point made it 13-9.

Late in the third quarter and with Franklin driving, Fordson defensive back Abdallah Alrfifeh picked off a Carpenter pass and returned it to his own 49.

The Tractors then drove down to the Patriots' 19 and were faced with a fourth-and-one with 10:12 remaining.

Franklin's defense, which limited their opponent to 243 total yards, came up with a clutch stop when 6-foot-4 Israel Woolfork, who also plays wideout, shot in from his safety position and denied Amen short of the first down marker on fourth down.

"Israel (Woolfork) came off the edge and stopped him," Kelbert said. "He's been a key player for us on both sides of the ball."

Franklin then put the game away following the critical fourth-down hold as Carpenter came out of a Fordson injury timeout and hit Brian Humenay in stride over the middle for an 82-yard TD pass with only 9:07 remaining. Carpenter converted the PAT to make it a 12-point cushion, 20-8.

"They (Fordson) were bringing their linebackers up and they shut down the run in the second half," Kelbert said. "So we took a chance and were able to pop the slant route. We've done it twice this year with Brian (Humenay) and they've both been touchdowns. That's his route."

Franklin's defense did the rest as the 6-foot-5, 235-pound McCullough forced Fordson to punt when he came up with a sack. His second

interception of the night with 1:49 to go sealed the victory.

"Time after time he (McCullough) has made big stops for us," Kelbert said. "He's settled down into (his) spot and has played his game. He's made some huge plays."

The Patriots had a total of 305 yards. Each team made nine first downs.

"They (Fordson) are very physical, but I thought we matched that and our players didn't back down," Kelbert said. "I thought we had a good game plan. They (Fordson) run an unbalanced line where they tried to out-flank us, but I thought we had a good grasp of what they wanted to do. I thought we ran the game plan well."


Fortin, a 5-10, 195-pound junior who missed Franklin's final eight regular season games with a broken bone in his arm before returning with 238 against Monroe, led all rushers with 188 yards on 22 carries.

"He (Fortin) is a tough runner with a strong line," Zaban said. "He was able to carry a few of our guys."

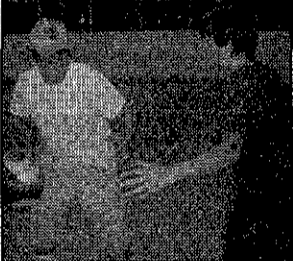
The Fordson coach said the nullified TD run in the first quarter and failing to make a first down in the final quarter proved costly.

"The touchdown - where we got the clip - changes the momentum," said Zaban, whose team finished 8-3 overall. "And we lost our best lineman (Mohamad Moukdad) just before that fourth-down play and that hurt us. But I have to give them (Franklin) credit. They're well coached and they played a good game. They made plays and we didn't. That's the bottom line."

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STEVENSON

FROM PAGE B1

knows where different people are going to be."

Defensively, the Spartans were able to contain the Wildcat tandem of quarterback Mark Heard and run-

ning back Arshaun Hall, particularly in the second half.

In the first half, Hall scored on a 3-yard run with 7:54 left to tie the game 14-14. Novi's other first-half TD came on a 4-yard pass from Heard to Brandon Bradford in the first quarter.

Heard also connected with Aaron Pugh for a 12-yard strike two minutes into the fourth quarter.

"They were able to put

the ball in the air and put it into the end zone at times on some broken coverages," Novi Coach Tab Kellepourey said. "That hurts us a bit. We couldn't get enough points on the board to secure some things."

The Spartans converted three turnovers - two fumbles and an interception - into scoring drives.

Defensive back Chris Summers pounced after

Novi's quarterback stumbled and dropped the ball while in the grasp of defensive end Matt Broome.

Three plays later, Onwuemene scored.

In the third quarter, Chris Golonka's fumble recovery led to an eight-play scoring drive capped off by Austin White's one-yard run.

Linebacker John Samaan's interception resulted in Austin White's fourth TD.

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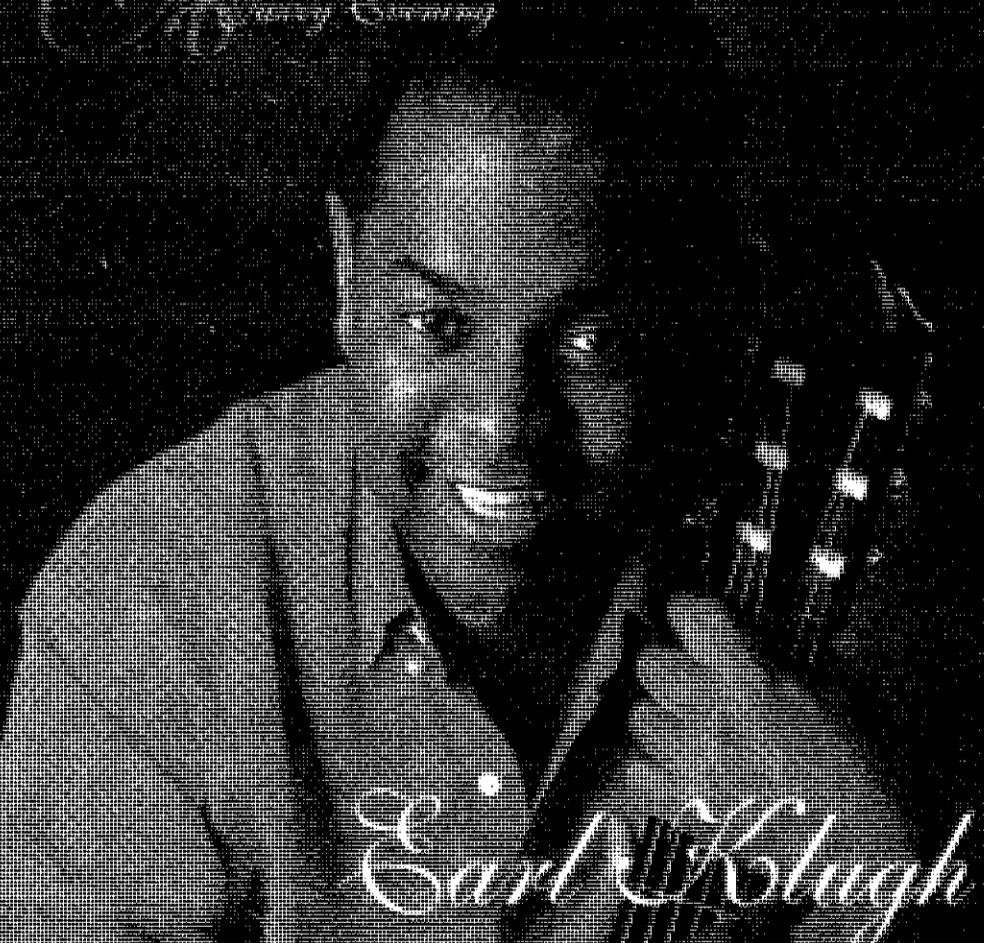


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Lafata reloads Lady Ocelots' lineup

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Getting bounced in the first round of last season's regionals didn't sit well with Karen Lafata.

In fact, it gnawed at the Schoolcraft College women's basketball coach's stomach all summer.

Lafata's core of returning players also didn't like how an exceptional regular season, including the MCCA-Eastern Conference championship thanks to a 17-1 record, wound up meaning little thanks to the post-season pratfall.

"Winning the national tournament is our goal and I was very disappointed with the way we finished last year," said Lafata, whose 10th season at Schoolcraft begins with the Tip-Off Classic Friday and Saturday. "All summer it was eating at me. Then the kids came in this summer and worked really hard, so they must have felt the same way."

Several months later, the 2007-08 squad is described by Lafata as "the best-conditioned team I've ever had."

Even though Schoolcraft is nowhere to be found on the preseason polls, for the first time in several years, the coach is raring to get the new season started — to forget about the regionals and perhaps prove the pollsters wrong.

"We're under the radar," she emphasized. "Which is a good thing. ... I think we'll surprise a lot of people."

Fans who come out to Schoolcraft for the Tip-Off Classic will recognize three starters from the 2006-07 team, which wound up with a record of 25-5 overall.

Sophomore point guard Brittney Ivey returns and brings a solid resume including nearly eight points and six assists per game last year. She also will be a co-captain.

Other returning starters



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Brittney Ivey returns at guard for the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team.

are 5-11 frontcourt players Janelle Harris and Antoinette Brown, who both averaged 11 points per contest a year ago. Harris will be slotted at center for the time being, looking to reach double digits in rebounds per contest (she averaged about nine in '06-'07).

But it is a sophomore transfer player from D-1 Central Connecticut State who

really has Lafata anxious to get the games going. Heidi Warczinsky, a 5-7 wing guard who went to Saginaw Arthur Hill during her prep career, is a lean, mean machine who the coach described as "the whole package."

"Wait until you see this kid play," Lafata said. "She's really tough."

Warczinsky, also named a co-captain, can shoot the bas-

ketball but brings defensive savvy and oozes intensity that Lafata is hopeful will rub off on other players.

"They picked her co-captain, so that shows you what the other kids think of her," Lafata continued.

Other returnees with important roles will be 5-7 forward Shana King (who likely will start) and 5-6 guard and Detroit Country Day product Adrena Walker-Price (7.3 points off the bench last season, with a team-leading 45 treys).

Walker-Price will be expected to provide similar results, again as the first player to enter the game off the bench.

The Lady Ocelots will have other capable reserves vying for minutes.

Lafata's backups include Wayne Memorial alum LaDwan Jones (guard) and forward Tayler Langham (Plymouth Salem) — who the coach described as "a really good athlete. Tayler can really get up and down and she fits our system really well."

The coach said Jones "is a nice player, she knows the system. She can play D."

Sophomore transfer students Regina Crawley (Moberly CC, Mo.) and Erica Ott (Tiffin University in Ohio) will give Lafata even more options at guard and forward, respectively.

Rounding out the roster are freshman forward Sheray Brown, 6-0 freshman center Shannon Collins and 5-9 freshman forward Japera English.

This weekend's openers against Lansing (7:30 p.m. Friday) and Grand Rapids (4 p.m. Saturday) jump-start what Lafata said will be a challenging early season schedule.

"We have a tough non-conference schedule," she said. "After 10 games we'll see what we're all about."

tsmith@hometownlife.com

New-look Schoolcraft cagers hope to play at a faster pace

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

New coach, new team, new approach.

That's the preseason prospectus for the Schoolcraft College men's basketball squad, which opens its season at 11 a.m. Saturday at home against Owens Tech (Ohio).

Gone is coach Mike Brown, who bolted the Ocelots after one year to take the Director of Basketball Operations position at Kent State.

He is replaced by Randy Henry, a teammate of Doug Collins at Illinois State, who coached most recently at Detroit Renaissance High after stints as an assistant at Highland Park CC, Orchard Lake St. Mary's College and the University of Detroit.

Also gone off last year's 23-10 squad, which captured the Michigan Community College Athletic Association playoff crown, is Nate Minnoy (Central Michigan), Corey Spates, Jon Yeazel (CMU), Josh Samarco (UD-Mercy) and 7-footer Gabe Garcia (Kent State).

The starting lineup will be entirely new with 5-foot-11 Darnell Thurston (Detroit University Prep running the point-guard spot flanked by 6-1 off-guard Marvin Walker (Highland Park).

Starting in the front-court will be 6-6 Anthony Wafer (Belleville), 6-4 Greg Leavell (Farmington Hills Harrison) and Henry's son, 6-3 Eric Henry (Renaissance).

"We're not a big team, but we have a lot of athleticism and guys who can shoot," said Randy Henry, who has a roster made up entirely of all freshmen. "We'll be pressing and trapping all over. We'll play zone (defense) only if we get in foul trouble."

The up-tempo style means that Henry will go deep into his bench with the likes of 6-7, 215-pound freshman center Ryan Matthews (Detroit Urban Lutheran), 6-6 Darius Hardrick (Belleville), 6-2 Alex Nason (Clawson), 6-2 Anthony Harbin (Novi), 6-4 Narmer Dudley (Harrison) and 5-10 Larry Wilson (Livonia

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

Churchill).

"We'll sub two, three, four guys at a time, we'll play fast-paced," Henry said. "But if we don't make good decisions, we'll burn ourselves. We'll be in constant motion. We can't afford to walk it down, but if we have to pull it out, we'll run both motion and flex (offensive sets)."

Thurston's development as the Ocelots' floor leader could be the key.

"He's the only true point-guard we have," Henry said. "Marvin (Walker) is a combo guard, a guy who can jump with tremendous lift. Leavell is a tremendous offensive player who can drive it to the basket and he can shoot the ball. We just have to convince him to play the other end."

"Eric (Henry), my son, is a scrapper, a rebounder, a strong, tough guy. Wafer is a thin guy with a lot of speed who likes to play fast."

Henry said Matthews has been the Ocelots' "most improved from Day One," while Harbin, who was cut from Eastern Michigan University's team, is "a good shooter who can play either guard position." Dudley, who is Leavell's cousin, is "defensive stopper who makes mistakes, but only because he's young," according to Henry.

Nason, meanwhile, was reputed to be a prolific scorer at Clawson. He spent a year at Wayne State before transferring to Schoolcraft.

"He's ambidexterous, he can use either hand, left or right," Henry said of Nason. "He's an older guy, more settled."

The 6-6 pencil-thin Hardrick, meanwhile, gives Schoolcraft length at the guard slot on both ends of the floor.

"I'm excited," Henry said. "We've have a couple of guys who have been out of basketball for a year and it's a new chapter in my life. We hope to do the right thing, go to class, and come ready to play out of the gate."

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CHARGERS

FROM PAGE B1

senior defensive specialist Leslie Mooradian and 11 digs from junior defensive specialist Tory Hebner.

RU bounces Stevenson

Patra, who had 13 assists against Stevenson, said winning against the Spartans was pretty sweet.

"Well I've definitely got to say that beating Stevenson was one of the best feelings ever, because two years ago, when we won the league, they killed us (in the districts)," she said. "And we lost to them in a tournament this year. We came in this year and played harder and beat them in three, so I was really excited."

Praising the Panthers was Stevenson coach Kelly Graham, whose team scrapped on every play, but could not turn momentum around after RU hit the floor running in the opener.

"The difference I would say is they moved a little bit quicker than us," said Graham, whose team finished 20-21-4 overall. "We were a little bit slow getting off the net and moving into defensive position so their transition was a lot faster than ours. But I am really proud of my girls, they really, really were tough in that match."

Spartans edge Franklin

Stevenson needed five games to eliminate Livonia Franklin (7-26-8) in the opening round, 22-25, 16-25, 25-15, 26-24, 15-12.

Ashley Price led the Patriots with 14 kills and 13 digs.

Briauna Taylor added nine kills, while setter Liz Hollaway added seven. Libero Amy McGaughey contributed 21 digs.

"We played not to make a mistake (after Game 2)," Patriots coach Linda Jimenez said. "And they (Spartans) played with a sense of urgency because they were going to be done."

"Despite our loss and our record, the season was a great learning experience. Fortunately, I had a great group of young ladies to work with. We battled together and will be stronger next year. I will truly miss the seniors."

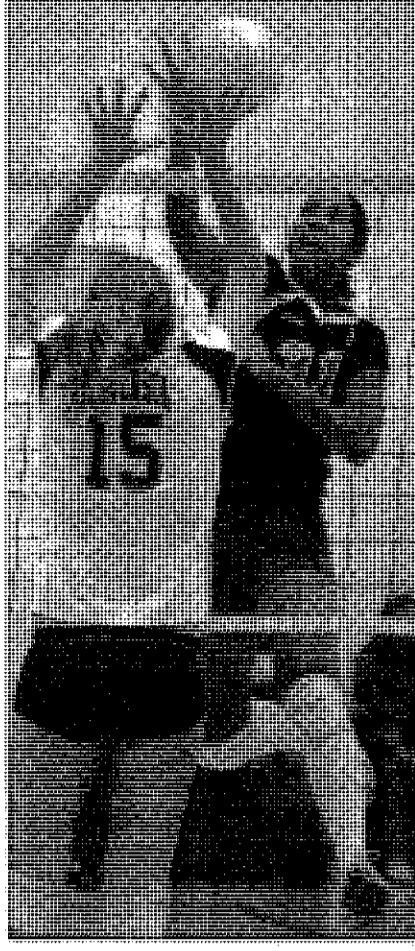
The most evenly contested match of the district was a five-game quarterfinal triumph by Stevenson over Livonia Franklin while the Falcons easily took care of Redford Thurston in the other quarterfinal (25-6, 25-16, 25-8).

Falcons oust Thurston

Farmington High earned a 25-6, 25-16, 25-8 first-round win over Redford Thurston.

"It's disappointing because I think we could have put up a lot better showing than we did," said Thurston coach Catherine Boven said.

Top leaders for Thurston (14-7-2) were seniors Megan Schulz (16 assists), Bobbie DeBolt (six kills) and junior Jessica McBay (six digs).



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Briauna Taylor gets blocked by Stevenson's Kaylee McGrath in first-round Class A district action Friday at Churchill.

Crusaders roll in season finale

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Wrapping up the regular season in style Thursday night, the Madonna University women's volleyball team swept Warner Southern in Lake Wales, Fla. and now will gear up for the postseason.

The Crusaders, who finished the regular schedule with a 29-10 record and 11th consecutive Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference championship, were paced by junior All-America and current WHAC Player of the Week Lubovj Tihomirova's 18 kills. The 6-foot-3 Latvian hit at a .600 clip (18-for-30) and had just three errors for MU.

Also in double digits in kills for the Crusaders were junior middle hitter Whitney Puelling and sophomore outside hitter Mary McGinnis, with 14 and 13, respectively.

Region VIII Setter of the Week Inta Grinvalds (47 assists) and WHAC Libero of the Week and Livonia Churchill alum Jacqui Gatt (17 digs, three aces) also chipped in.

So did Livonia's Brynn Kerr as the sophomore defensive specialist posted 10 digs in helping Madonna earn 30-24, 30-21 and 30-25 victories over the Royals (8-12).

The Crusaders will now wait until Friday to return to action in a WHAC semifinal match to be hosted by the Crusaders (although the exact site is yet to be determined due to continuing installation of a new floor at the MU Activities center).

THE WEEK AHEAD

<p>PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS Friday, Nov. 9 (Division 1-Region 4 Championship) Franklin (7-4) at Stevenson (11-0), 7 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL Friday, Nov. 9 (WHAC Semifinals at Madonna Univ.) Quarterfinal winner vs. UM-DeARBORN, 6 p.m. Quarterfinal winner vs. Madonna, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10 WHAC Tourney at Madonna, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL Friday, Nov. 9 (See Lion Classic at Point Loma, Calif.) Madonna at Point Loma Nazarene, 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10 Schoolcraft at Alpena CC, 6 p.m. (See Lion Classic at Point Loma, Calif.) Madonna vs. San Diego Christian, 8:30 p.m. WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL</p>	<p>Tuesday, Nov. 6 Madonna at Purdue-Calumet (Ind.), 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9 (Campbellsville, Ky. Univ. Tournament) Madonna vs. Lindsey Wilson (Ky.), 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10 Schoolcraft at Alpena CC, 4 p.m. Madonna vs. Campbellsville (Ky.), 6 p.m. ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE Sunday, Nov. 4 Whalers at Mississauga St. Michael's, 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9 Whalers vs. Mississauga St. Michael's at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10 Whalers vs. Guelph Storm at Compuware Arena, 7:05 p.m. MAJOR INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE Sunday, Nov. 10 Ignition at Philadelphia XIX, 7:05 p.m.</p>
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 Demarcko Fields - C179 - Household Items
 Demarcko Fields - C180 Household Items
 Bernard Kulas, Jr. - C109 - Tools, Pressure Washer, Lawn Equipment
 Theresa Skowronski - D104 - Couch, Dresser, Table
 Donnell Waggoner - D141 - Computers, Dresser, Television
 Jessica Mockerman - A175 - Exercise equipment, Washer/Dryer

Publish: October 28 & November 4, 2007 OEO868941 - 2/3

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CIRCUS DREAMS

Enter an original drawing of the circus for a chance to win passes to the Ringling Bro. Circus at the Palace. Mail original art work to: O&E Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150 to the attention of Choya Jordan or scanned and emailed to cbjordan@hometownlife.com. Please include the name and age of artists along with the city of residence. All entries must be received by 11/9/07. Tickets will be distributed in family 4-packs. Artwork from children ages 2-16 only please.

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Turning white

Book uncovers reporter's struggle with skin disorder

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Lee Thomas's new book marks a turning point in his struggle with the skin disorder, vitiligo (vit-ill-EYE-go). For nearly 15 years the Fox 2 Detroit entertainment reporter has not only battled to regain pigmentation in his skin but the emotions that come with the autoimmune disease that triggers stares.

Although not life-threatening or contagious, vitiligo changed Thomas's life. At age 25 he was an aspiring feature/entertainment reporter for the flagship station of the American Broadcasting Company in New York City when a dermatologist told him there was no cure for his vitiligo. Thomas first became aware of the white spot on his scalp while working as an entertainment reporter in Louisville, Ky. He had dreamed of interviewing celebrities since he was a 5-year-old growing up in Oklahoma.

His new book, *Turning White: A Memoir of Change*, relays the conversations with his ceiling about whether to continue his career. Thomas has always been a positive person. He decided to wear makeup on camera for the Fox 2 morning news program in Detroit, but not color the growing areas of white on his face, ears and neck when going about daily life.

Although he went through three years of light treatment, three times a week, Thomas says he probably would not again because while skin does repigment the color soon starts to fade.

"Michael Jackson has vitiligo but most people don't believe it. Vitiligo is not publicized because it's not life-threatening," said Thomas, 40. "It's an emotionally devastating situation to deal with. I've talked to people who haven't been out of their homes for months. The book is an unbelievable thing because it helps me help people. Everybody has their thing. You can just see mine. One of the things I struggle with is evident. I can be an example of living through struggle."

While Jackson made a fashion statement by wearing only one glove, Thomas chooses not to cover his white hands. Photographs in the book reveal the loss of pigmentation on not only his face, but arms, legs, and chest.

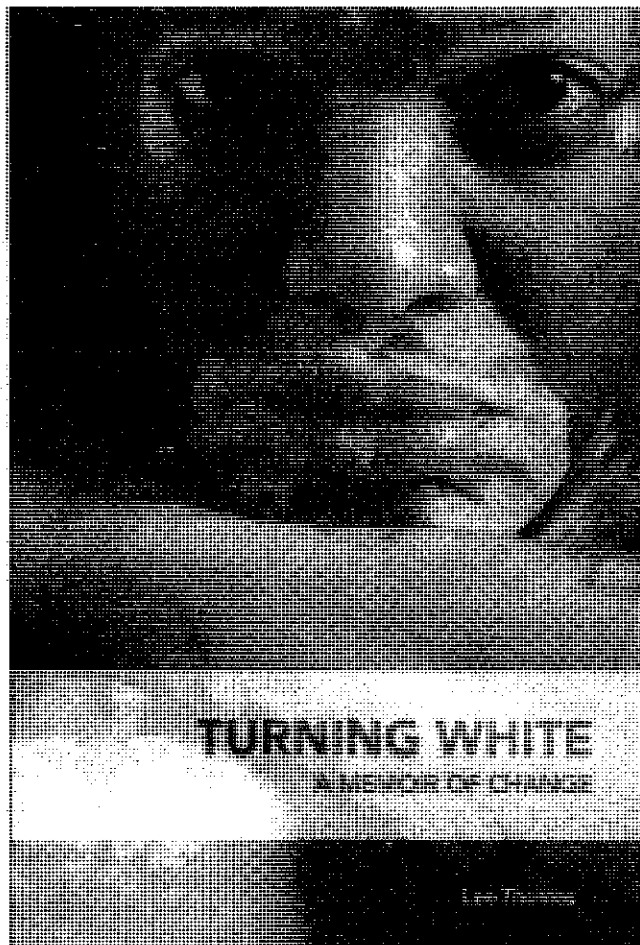
Instead of continuing light treatments, Thomas is living a healthier lifestyle, avoids alcohol, coffee, beef and pork, and eats fruit, vegetables and fish, drinks water and natural juices. In 2005 he was diagnosed with Crohn's, a digestive disease for which he takes no medication only cod liver oil pills and probiotics. For exercise he plays basketball a couple of times a week.

When he spoke at the National Vitiligo Foundation annual meeting Oct. 27, his message was for patients to live their lives.

"The audience was half scientist, half patients, I told the patients don't disengage, show up," said Thomas, a four-time Emmy Award winning broadcaster. "I wanted doctors to understand how difficult it is for patients to leave their house, drive to their office. They need to have compassion for this plight. To patients I looked into their eyes. They see that I understand and they're not alone. The way out is sharing. Engage people because that's what life is all about."

Thomas originally revealed his struggle with vitiligo to viewers in 2005 after a young man asked Thomas to share his story. Since then, Thomas has made a documentary which airs on Fox 2 and myfox-detroit.com 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 4. National Vitiligo Foundation statistics estimate 1 to 2 percent of the U.S. population or 2 to 4 million people have the disease which affects Caucasian as well as African American skin.

Dr. Henry W. Lim began treating vitiligo patients 10 years ago. Over the last decade, he says many more treatments have become available including ointments and creams, different types of light, and laser with success rates ranging



from 50 to 70 percent. According to Lim, skin on the face responds best to treatment, tips of toes and fingers the least. The Henry Ford Multicultural Dermatology Center treats patients of all races dealing with vitiligo and other skin disorders.

"Many of the treatments do work quite well. For a long time we used to tell the patient to live with it. Now we offer treatments that are successful with the majority of patients in color coming back," said Lim, chairman of the Henry Ford Hospital dermatology department.

"Scientists are beginning to look at the gene. It's still very early, in the experimental stage of looking at a susceptible gene."

In the meantime Thomas established the Turning White Foundation (www.

turningwhite.com) to provide emotional support for vitiligo patients. Together with the Henry Ford dermatology department and National Vitiligo Foundation, Turning White held its first support meeting in September.

"I met a lady who hadn't been out of the house in two months," said Thomas.

"The room was for 75 to 80 people and it was full. The most important thing is for people to look at the pictures (in the book). Next time they see someone like me to give them a little bit of compassion. By writing the book I feel I'm actually helping people. I got letters from kids with autism, from parents with a Down's child. Whatever you have you can get through it."

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Panic attacks could mean trouble

Marilyn from Waterford e-mails about her panic attacks. She finds they are so severe she has a hard time breathing. She wants to know how concerned she should be?

Marilyn, you need to really keep an eye on those attacks. They could cause

more trouble down the line. A study of more than 3,000 older women found those who reported at least one full blown panic attack during a six month period were three times more likely to have a heart attack or stroke over the next 5 years. Experts say panic attacks may trigger heart rhythm problems and stress hormones released during an attack may harm the heart. If you suffer with panic attacks, talk to your doctor about the risk of heart problems.

Peter's Principles

Peter Nielsen

Jeff from Commerce e-mails asking about getting a flu vaccine. He is 70 years old. How important is it for him to get a vaccine?

Jeff, getting that flu shot could actually save your life. Researchers studied data from more than 70,000 people each flu season. They found seniors who got the flu vaccine cut their risk of dying from the illness in half! It also reduced their risk of hospitalization from pneumonia and the flu by 27 percent.

Some 36,000 people die each year in the United States from the flu, most of them are elderly. Only 65 percent of people over age 64 get a flu shot each year.

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

Enjoy an afternoon of chocolates while helping Alzheimer's Association

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

If you love chocolate you won't want to miss the 23rd annual fund-raiser for the Great Michigan Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association noon Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Ritz Carlton in Dearborn. The Chocolate Jubilee begins with a gala luncheon followed by the chocolate tasting 2:30-4 p.m. Thirty chocolatiers and pastry chefs provide the goodies this year.

Tickets are \$150 for the entire event, \$50 per person for the Jubilee chocolate tasting only. Reservations requested by Nov. 7, by calling (248) 351-0280.

Supporters of the Alzheimer's Association can participate in the fund-raiser in many ways. A 50-50 raffle ticket costs \$50 and offers the chance to win 50-percent of a more than \$10,000 pot.

During the luncheon listen to the story of keynote speaker, Richard Taylor, a former psychologist, who was diagnosed five years ago at age 58 with dementia, probably of the Alzheimer's type. Taylor's book, *Alzheimer's from the Inside Out*, reveals his thoughts, fears and frustrations of living with the disease that is robbing him of his mind. A collection of

more than 80 short essays published by Health Professions Press, the book covers topics ranging from loss of independence to communication difficulties with caregivers, and the uncertainty of his future. For more information, visit www.healthpropress.com.

"I've read parts of it and met with him," said Mark Berke, the chapter's development director. "It's very powerful. You're receiving insight from someone going through the disease. It's from a different perspective."

Come as early as 11:30 a.m. and take your Sweet Chances to purchase items valued up to \$1,000 for only \$25 or \$75 (for a gift bag including certificates, items donated by businesses. This part of the fund-raiser closes at 3 p.m.

"People love it," said Berke. "We saw auctions were struggling. This is a twist on that. You know you're going to get something. People buy multiple bags. It all goes to help fund the Great Michigan Chapter. It is a first class event but we run it as lean as possible."

85-percent of the funds from the event go to support services for Alzheimer patients and their families. A \$500 donation provides one-hour counseling sessions for five families.

"The goal this year was to

gross over \$1 million and we're at \$1.3 million. We're thrilled. The event accounts for about 25 percent of our overall operating budget," said Berke.

"We provide core services, a 24-hour help line seven days a week, a wide variety of support groups, individual and family counseling. We have a counselor on staff who can assess the needs of the family and coordinate care. We offer in-home respite programs and two adult day care facilities, one in Southfield and one in Southwest Detroit. It allows a family to bring their loved one to a nurturing environment whether they have to work or go grocery shopping."

The Alzheimer's Association also provides education and training for caregivers and health care professionals. That need is expected to grow as the population ages.

"We're starting to see an increase right now. The Alzheimer's Association estimates there are over 5 million Americans with the disease and it's expected to quadruple by 2050," said Berke. "This benefit is vital. There's no cure for the disease right now. We're here to take care of people with the disease and their families."

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MEDICAL DATEBOOK

NOVEMBER

Vegetarian extravaganza

20th annual Holiday Tasting event takes place 11 a.m., 12:45 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 4, in the Metro Adventist School Gymnasium, 15585 Haggerty, north of Five Mile, Plymouth. Cost is \$14 adults, \$5 for ages 6-12. For information, call the Hotline at (248) 446-9176.

Flu shots

St. Mary Mercy Hospital is offering flu shots for ages 6 months to 18

years, 1-5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 5, and for adults 1:30-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7, in Classroom 11 of the Marian Professional Building, 14555 Levan, Livonia (south entrance of the hospital). For directions or information visit www.stmarymercy.org. Appointments required due to limited supply of doses for children and adults. There is a \$22 fee. Call (734) 655-8950 for appointment or information.

Team in training sessions

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's

Team in Training offers informational meeting (all begin at 7 p.m. except where noted) Monday, Nov. 5, Courtyard by Marriott, 17200 N. Laurel Park Drive, Livonia; Wednesday, Nov. 7 (noon, lunch provided), Troy Sports Center, 1819 E. Big Beaver; Thursday, Nov. 8, Rochester Community House, 816 Ludlow; Saturday, Nov. 10 (9:30 a.m.), Oakland University Recreation Center, 2200 N. Squirrel, Rochester; and Monday, Nov. 12, Troy Athens High School, 43333 John R. For information, call (800) 456-5413 or visit www.teamintraining.org/mi.

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Lady Ocelots rule Region 12 tourney Owens CC boots S'craft men, 2-1

Two goals by Jessica Austin (Livonia Franklin) and single tallies by Gloria Soyad and Plymouth alum Clare Baptist proved to be plenty as Schoolcraft College's women's soccer team knocked off host Cincinnati State, 4-1, in Saturday's NJCAA Region 12 championship match. Baptist also served up an assist on Soyad's goal, which gave the Lady Ocelots (11-1-0) an early lead that they

WOMEN'S SOCCER

never relinquished. Schoolcraft head coach Deepak Shivraman added that Austin's speed and play-making abilities helped put pressure on the Cincinnati State defense and "in return provided several opportunities early in the game that helped (us) get a good lead." Other Schoolcraft assists were picked up by Kayliegh

Maurer (on Austin's first goal) and Livonia Churchill alum Margaret Mayer, who set up Baptist. Stopping seven shots for the win was goalkeeper Jessica Tuggle (Livonia Ladywood). The Lady Ocelots now will travel to face College of Lake County (Ill.) in a NJCAA District D championship match on Saturday. The Lancers bring a 15-3-0 record into the contest.

Owens Community College scored in golden goal overtime to defeat Schoolcraft College, 2-1, in the 2007 National Junior College Athletic Association Region 12 Men's Soccer Division I tournament on Oct. 27, ending a successful season for the Ocelots. Scoring the lone goal for Schoolcraft (14-4-2) was Brent Kempster, on an assist from Michael Iyoha. The play started on a corner

COLLEGE SOCCER

kick, and Iyoha "caused some problems in the box for Owens and the ball squirted to Brent who calmly finished through the traffic in front of him," said Ocelots assistant coach Eric Scott. But Schoolcraft could not stop Region Player of the Year Sean Bucknor, who scored both goals for the Express,

who went on to lose 2-1 on Sunday to Region 12 champion Macomb Community College. Several individual Schoolcraft players earned honors for their efforts at the tournament. Both Louie Djokic (Livonia Stevenson) and Dave Ukjic earned first-team All-Region 12 honors while Kempster (Walled Lake Western) made the second-team.

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Brother's smoking causes concern

My brother is a smoker. Do you know how I can help him and tell him that it is very bad and should stop now? Do you know any way to get him to stop smoking because I don't want him to die anytime soon of lung cancer or any other cancer or disease he could get. Please help me find a nice, helpful way to get him to stop.

Concerned Brother in Garden City

It sounds like you care a lot about your brother! It must be hard to watch someone you love harm himself and shorten his life. Unfortunately, I don't have any magic words that will make your brother quit smoking. But, I can tell you that it's important



Monica Fulton

to tell your brother that you love him and you don't like seeing him hurt himself by smoking. Simply tell him you want him to live and that you don't want him to die because of tobacco. You can also ask him not to smoke around you. That way, you'll keep yourself safe from second-hand smoke and send

a strong message to your brother that smoking is harmful. You might also want to check out the tobacco companies' Web sites. They are required, thanks to a class-action lawsuit, to provide free information about quitting smoking and ways to keep teens from starting to smoke. The Phillip Morris Company has a great Web site with a Parent Resource Center and a section on quitting. Check it out at www.philipmorrisusa.com. The Web site might give you some suggestions on what to say and how to help your brother.

How can I better balance school, sports, and a job? It just doesn't seem like I have time to get everything done.
No Time in Garden City

It's that time of year, isn't it? Schoolwork is piling up, tests are looming, and fall sports are in full swing. And then there's the job ... if it seems like you don't have enough time to get everything done, you might actually be overlooked. Or, it might be a time management issue. If you're not keeping a planner or calendar up-to-date, my guess is that you're having a time management issue. By effectively managing your time, you might actually "find" extra time to relax or do things you enjoy as a way to reduce stress. Reducing stress will help you stay calm and feel less overwhelmed (which add to the feeling of not having enough time). Record all your school due dates and tests, sports practices and games, and work hours in a planner or on a calendar. Check it often and add to it when needed. Schedule time to study for tests prior to the test date and write it in the planner. And my best advice for improving time management is: Don't procrastinate. Don't decide to do a task later when you have time to do it now ... this will just cause a traffic jam when "later" comes up.

If you do have an up-to-date planner that has every day booked with something to do and you can't squeeze in some down time, I would say you are definitely overbooked and don't have enough time to get everything done! You might have to look at your schedule and decide what you can do without. This is tough; some part of you wants to do each and every activity you signed on for while still doing well in school. You'll need to decide what's most important to you, then decide what's next important to you, and then next, etc ... whatever turns up at the bottom of the list is the first place you should look at toning down. Life seems to be getting tougher and more stressful — but we can do something about it ... Relax and smell the coffee once in a while!

I have problems focusing in school. My grades aren't so good anymore. How can I pay better attention and learn to put school first so my grades won't suffer?
Distracted in Garden City

Putting school first isn't so much about learning to do it as it is choosing to do it; you have to make the choice to put schoolwork first before doing anything else. If you're having problems paying attention during class, you might not be getting enough sleep at night. Or, it could be a sign that you're under an unusual amount of stress. Try going to bed earlier and reducing the amount of caffeine you have during the day — especially at night! And this goes for those energy drinks that are being marketed to teens, too! As for stress, you should ask yourself if you're worried about something or if you're feeling a lot of pressure about something. If you are, you can work on some relaxation techniques to de-stress. Things like deep breathing and visualization can help. Hopefully, this will lead to better concentration during school and better grades!

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

Thriller unveils religious persecution in China

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Deep inside a Chinese prison, a Roman Catholic bishop endures torture and deprivation with a stoic determination to keep his faith. Even when the government turns on his flock, the bishop remains steadfast and faithful.

Thousands of miles away, an ailing pope honors this brave man by keeping him always in his heart and, to save him from more danger, elevating him to cardinal in pectore, in his heart without revealing it to any but a few close advisers.

This is the volatile setup for *The Secret Cardinal*, Tom Grace's fifth international thriller featuring Nolan Kilkenny, a former Navy Seal and technology wizard, whom the pope implores to rescue the bishop from the communist prison.

Grace, who grew up in Livonia's Kimberly Oaks subdivision, is taking his Kilkenny techno thrillers into a real life political situation, the suppression of religious organizations in China.

"Back in March 2000, I caught a fragment of reporting about Joseph Lieberman and it got me intrigued

as he was talking about a secret cardinal," Grace said. "I'm a cradle Catholic and I'd never heard the term secret cardinal before and I didn't know where it came from."

Lieberman's speech on the floor of the Senate was a tribute marking the death of Cardinal Ignatius Kung Pin-Mei.

"It was a case of state-sponsored religious persecution on a par with what the Romans were doing when Christianity first rose up," Grace said. "I'm used to thinking when people are being martyred, it's something that happened 2,000 years ago, not in the 20th century. I was interested in the whole political thing between the Vatican and China."

The Secret Cardinal follows two parallel stories — Kilkenny's attempt to rescue the Chinese bishop and the death of the pope and election of a new pope in Rome.

"It took a lot of research on both the Vatican and Chinese side," Grace said. "I

THE DETAILS

Title: *The Secret Cardinal*

Author: Tom Grace

Publisher: Vanguard Press

Price: \$24.95 hardcover,

also available

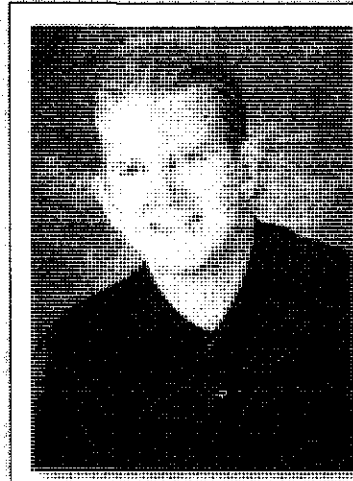
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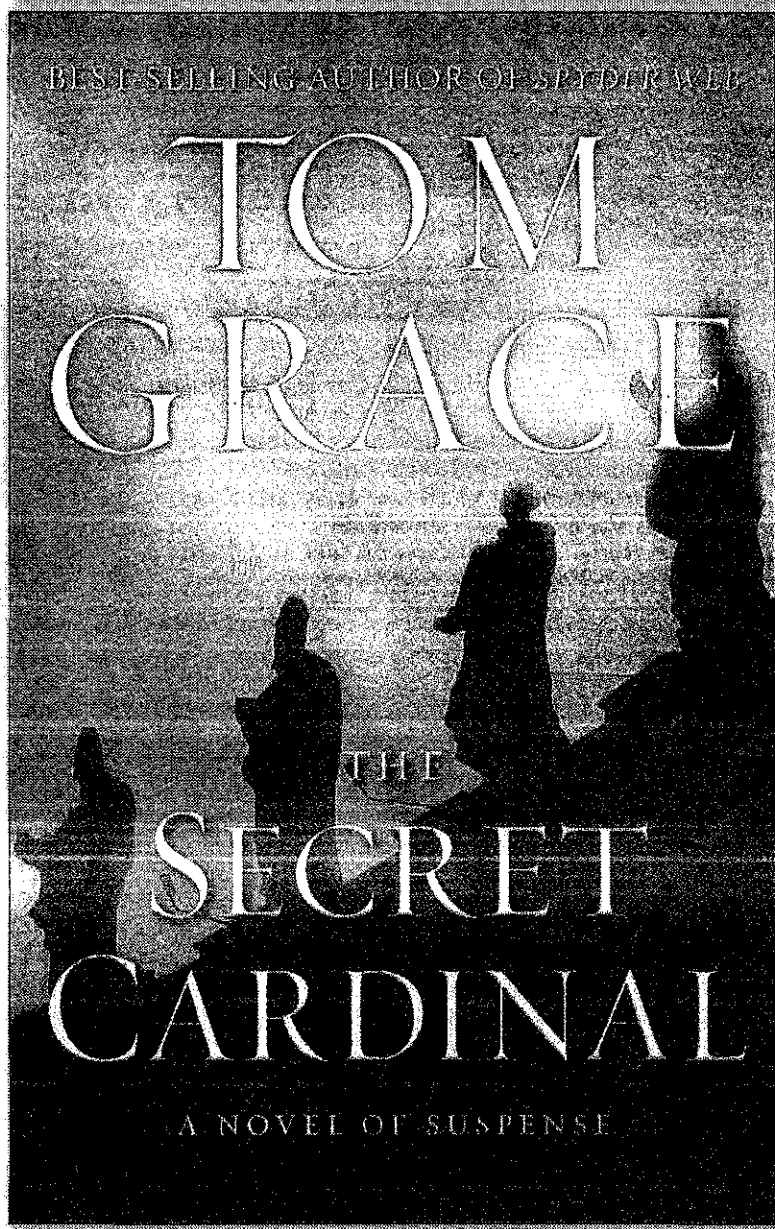
Available: At all area

bookstores and online.



"It was a case of state-sponsored religious persecution on a par with what the Romans were doing when Christianity first rose up. I'm used to thinking when people are being martyred, it's something that happened 2,000 years ago, not in the 20th century. I was interested in the whole political thing between the Vatican and China."

— TOM GRACE, author of *The Secret Cardinal*.



Please see **THRILLER, C5**

Literary publisher sets up shop in Westland



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Publisher Dan Wickett shows three of Dzanc's new titles.

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

For years Dan Wickett was a numbers guy.

"Numbers were always more interesting to me when I was growing up," he said.

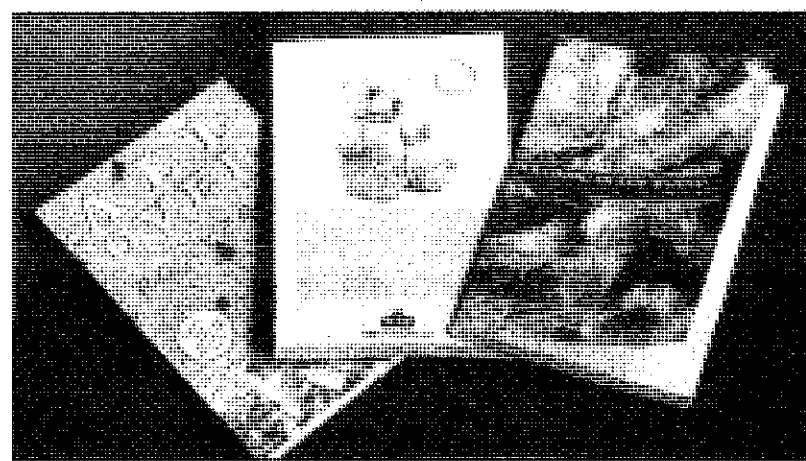
He earned a master of science degree in statistics and worked in quality control in the auto industry using his math skills.

But there was another side to Dan Wickett.

"I've always liked reading. My parents are voracious readers and my sister and I followed suit," he said.

The word side is winning out. Last year Wickett co-founded Dzanc Books, a literary publishing company based in, of all places, Westland.

Wickett works out of his Westland home as executive



The first offerings from Dzanc Books include a novella by Ray Keesey and short story collections by Kesey and Yannick Murphy.

director and publisher of Dzanc, founded with writer and philanthropist Steve Gillis of Ann Arbor. He is the only full-time employee.

"It's weird but it makes sense for stuff to be sent to me," Gillis said.

"It reads odd. Ann Arbor based sounds normal, makes more sense and people have heard of it."

But Wickett has lived most

Please see **PUBLISHER, C4**



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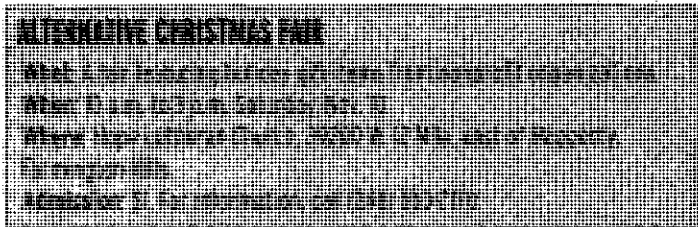
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Alternative fair offers gifts that keep on giving

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Students at Burger School for the autistic have been busy for weeks baking dog cookies. The all-natural goodies were a popular seller at last year's Alternative Christmas Fair at Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills.

This year nearly 40 nonprofits offer a variety of items for holiday gift giving Saturday, Nov. 10. In addition to dog cookies, Burger students are making chocolate turkeys, cat treats, soaps, and Christmas bags and tags. Make-a-Wish Foundation, Paws With A Cause, Providence Center for Healing Arts, Seedlings Braille Books for Children, Sweet Dreamzzz, Donate Life Coalition, Lutheran Adoption Service, Heifer International, and Haven are among the organizations selling Christmas ornaments, jewelry, handmade silk scarves, dry soup



mixes, holiday cards, Zambian/African goods, work by Mayan artists, children's toys, and items too numerous to mention. Heifer International allows gift givers to buy chickens and goats that will provide food and income for a family in need.

"This is the second year as part of our micro enterprise class each class has a product that they make and sell. They pay back the cost of the product or supplies and then pay themselves," said Rebecca Viola, a teacher at Burger School for Students with Autism in Garden City. "Students work as a team, determine a product and look for a market. I bought some items

at the craft show last year and came back with a couple of ideas for us. We're always on the look out for new ideas."

Hope Lutheran Church searches for new ideas to keep the fair fresh and profitable for participating charities. Last year, \$26,000 was distributed to 43 organizations.

"One of the things I'm most excited about is this year we're working with St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills," said chairwoman Jessica Beamer. "We've made sure that the leadership is an ecumenical group. The fair is non-denominational. It's based on service and reaching out to the com-

munity. This year we have two churches leading it together. We hope next year to make it three. We want to see this as a community, not a church event."

"This year Forgotten Harvest is new. They collect food and get it into the hands of who need it. The Hope Lutheran Lap Quilt Group benefits Project Compassion, a nursing home ministry in Detroit. They'll have lap quilts, scarves, home made bears. I gave my new nephew one last year."

Beamer could go on endlessly about the nonprofits in the show.

"M.I.N.D.S., Mental Illness Needs Discussion, does programs to educate youth about mental illness and suicide prevention. Our children's craft is to benefit them this year, and as part of their booth they'll have a manger and holiday scenes to take pictures and they'll receive the professional photo in the mail," said Beamer. "Equal Exchange offers fair trade products. The farmer is getting a fair percentage. Our church sells Equal Exchange coffee, tea all



Robin Danko holds one of the bears in the Make-a-Wish Foundation booth at the Alternative Christmas Fair in Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills.

year round."

The Salvation Army World Services assists people wherever and whenever needed. This year volunteers sell lapel pins, stocking stuffers, candy cars and trains for kids packages, and lighted glass blocks that look like gift packages.

"Many people don't realize that The Salvation Army is a church," said Debby Drake, a Farmington Hills resident. "The money goes for world services, missions around the world to

help feed and clothe people, to orphanages. We're in more than 150 countries. Our people went to Sri Lanka after the Tsunami. We donate our time and money to make things for the fair. 100 percent goes to the organization. It's a different type of fair. Whatever you're purchasing you're helping an organization as well. You're going to buy a gift anyway so why not buy a gift for a friend and make it more meaningful."

Bruce Calderwood will be at the fair once again selling mixes for soups, brownies, cookies, and cornbread for Motown United Ministries, a collaboration of the Detroit Rescue Mission; MCREST, a collaboration of 84 churches in Macomb County that take turns housing homeless people, and Trinity Lutheran Church in Utica. A favorite stop for shoppers, the booth features a new tortilla soup. The items are packaged by members of Trinity and shelter residents. Proceeds go to Motown United Ministries which is comprised of shelters in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. The Detroit Rescue Mission provides about 3,500 meals and 1,200 beds a day.

"The mixes are another way to get people thinking about someone not having warm soup today," said Calderwood. "Last year we dispersed about \$17,000 to shelters they wouldn't have had. It goes for heat, water, soap and towels. All those towels taking up space in your closet, hotel soap, collect it and we'll be thrilled to take it, canned food, all kinds of stuff."

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THRILLER

FROM PAGE C1

can't acknowledge the number of people I talked to, particularly on the Chinese side. It's too dangerous to do so. There are seminarians in the United States illegally."

Grace said the religious persecution in China is not restricted to Catholics and other Christians, but also involves Muslims, Buddhists and others. China recognizes religious freedom, but requires that believers belong to a state-operated church.

"It creates an Alice in Wonderland situation, a government running a religion," he said.

For the Vatican side of the story, Grace said he received help from both the Lansing and Detroit dioceses and from people who have lived in Rome and could give him an insider's view of the city.

Grace presents a detailed and politically contentious account of a papal election.

"There is politics, there is betrayal; no organization is perfect," he said. "This book is a story about honor, loyalty and faith. The fact that this man endured what he endured in a Chinese prison."

Grace said the bishop was a composite of several bishops in China who continue to resist.

A PERSONAL CHALLENGE

Kilkenny uses his technological knowledge in his efforts to rescue the bishop. High-tech equipment, combined with martial arts expertise, has been the base for the previous four Kilkenny books, beginning with *Spyder Web*.

Grace, a graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School, is a professional architect. He began writing his first novel during lunch breaks while working at his alma mater, the University of Michigan. The Dexter resident now works for an Ann Arbor architectural firm.

"I was always told that everyone has a book inside them, the trick is to make it come out," he said. "I am an avid reader and I've always enjoyed writing, but never thought of it as a career."

He set a goal of writing a novel, just to see if he could do it. Then he set out to market

his first book, which led to the series.

Kilkenny shares Grace's Irish Catholic background and his love for technology. Kilkenny even lives in Dexter, but there are differences.

"Nolan Kilkenny is a venture capitalist in his mid-30s. He's a bright guy, he went to the Naval Academy did a stint with the Seals, about six years," Grace said. "He did his master's work at MIT and then came to the university (of Michigan) to work part time for his father's company."

This is the first novel to deal with a real world political situation. The first four novels were about technology. In those novels, a new technology or scientific idea was the main object of contention.

"In this book, it's a person and what the person symbolizes," he said.

Grace has considered the possibility of optioning his books for movies, though he said "no one's written me a

check." The Web site for the book www.tomgrace.net features a movie trailer for the book, in case any producers are interested.

He said his books are cinematic and could easily be translated to the screen.

"The odds of getting a book made into a movie are extremely long," he said.

Meanwhile, he has other ideas for new books, with and without his Nolan Kilkenny character.

Grace said his books have been modestly successful, but he's keeping his day job while he writes his novels at night.

"When everyone is in bed, I have free time," he said. "It's time for Leno to come on and I can either do that or work on my book. This is what I do to relax."

Grace and his wife, Kathy Hopps, have five children, four daughters and a son.

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The Avalon String Quartet performs Nov. 9, as part of Schoolcraft College's Friday Evening Recital Series.

Concert to spotlight young string quartet

The Schoolcraft College Foundation and Schoolcraft Music Department presents the Avalon String Quartet 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9, in the VisTaTech Center on campus, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia.

Regarded as "one of the most exciting young string quartets in America" (The Washington Post) the Avalon String Quartet has established itself as one of the country's leading chamber ensembles and has earned international acclaim for the bold musicality and passion-

ate intensity of its performances. Read more about them at <http://www.avalon-quartet.com/>

The program includes String Quartet Op. 10, No. 1 in G Major, Onslow; String Quartet Ainsl La Nuit, Dutilleux, and String Quartet in F Major, Ravel.

This is the second concert in Schoolcraft's new Friday Evening Recital Series. Seating is limited. Reservations encouraged. To reserve seats on line, visit <http://www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation/events.asp> or by phone at (734) 462-4403.

Angela Hospice '60s Bash raises \$125,000

Hippies, go-go dancers, Sgt. Pepper, and even Jackie Kennedy came out to support Angela Hospice at its "Groovin' and Cruisin' through the Sixties" Light Up a Life Benefit. The event took place Saturday, Oct. 13, at Rock Financial Showplace-Diamond Center in Novi. With auctions, raffles, and a diverse cast of costumed guests, the event raised over \$125,000 to support the organization's programs for patients and their families.

"I am grateful to all who helped make this event possible. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by over 400 people," said Angela Hospice president and CEO, Sister Mary Giovanni. "One hundred percent of the proceeds will go toward enabling us to care for more terminally ill patients and their families."

Ron T from WOMC 104.3 FM emceed the event, and guests enjoyed performances from The Stubbs Girls and The Reflections, who played before a packed dance floor.

When the band took a break, it was time for the best dressed contest. Nancy Chapman of Canton wowed the crowd with her Jackie Kennedy ensemble; Mike Quinn from Bloomfield Hills took first place for men with his nerd outfit, complete with twin slide rules; and Joe and Sandy Consiglio of Northville won best dressed couple as Sgt. Pepper and Cher.

The evening also included the drawing for the 1969 Buick Electra 225 convertible, donated by Classic Auto Rentals of Birmingham. A Livonia businessman won the classic car which was displayed in the ball room during the benefit.

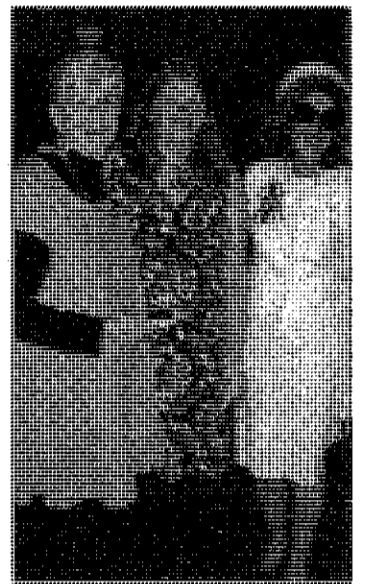
"This was our most exciting event yet," said Alice Barringer, development manager for Angela Hospice. "We were so happy to have such a positive response from our sponsors and guests."



Matt and Kathy Ward of Redford and Sandy and Joe Consiglio of Northville enjoy a performance by The Stubbs Girls. The Consiglios won the contest for best dressed couple.



Syndie Best of Westland, Georgia Scappaticci of Plymouth, and Bruce and Debby Kearns of Dearborn show off their groovy style at the Light Up a Life Benefit.



As a member of the Light Up a Life committee, Volunteer Gerry Besh of Northville coordinated the donation of jewelry items for the silent auction. She is pictured with her daughter Dina Sowers of Commerce Township and fellow committee member Nancy Chapman of Canton. Chapman won best dressed woman with her Jackie Kennedy ensemble.

Talent wanted for show at Albert's on the Alley

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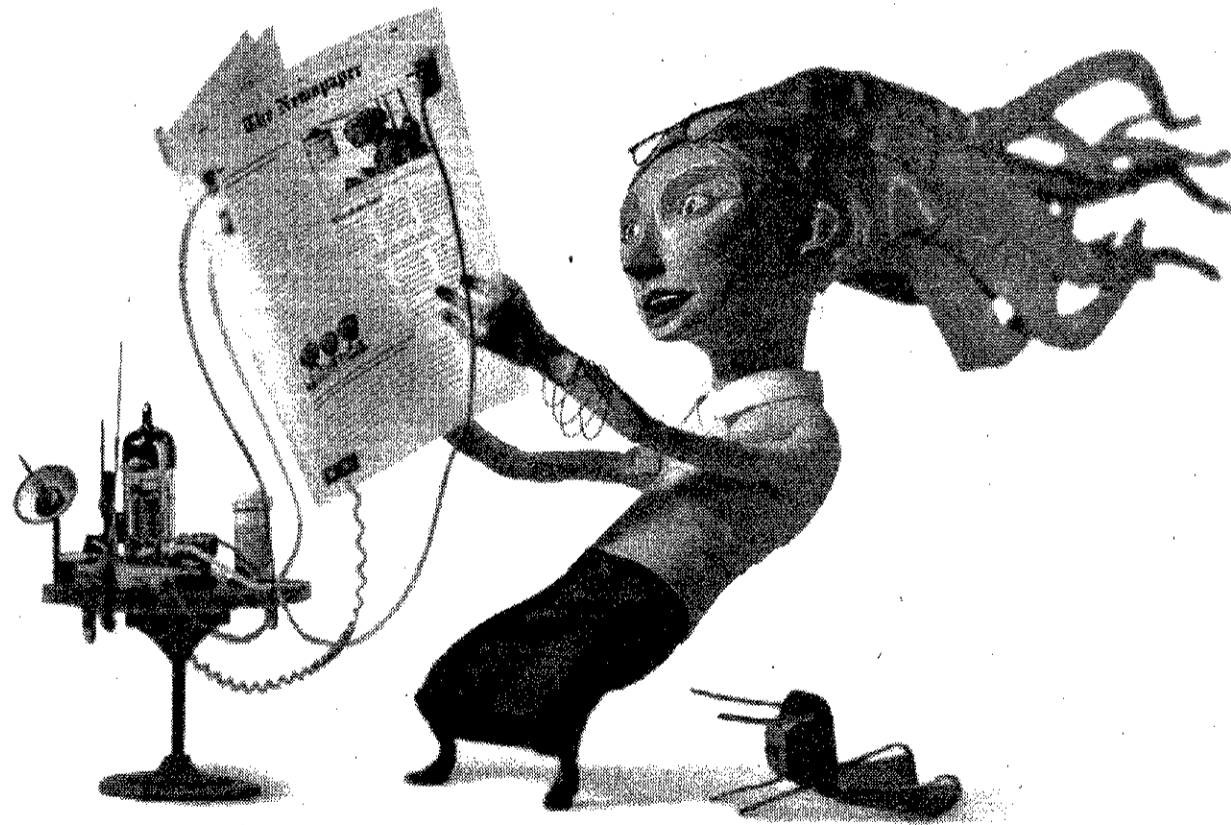
Join hosts Craig Alan and John Thiede for an evening of amateur talent, improvisational theater, comedy, and a chance to win cool prizes.

Those that wish to perform, should arrive a half hour prior to show time or contact Alan at (734) 546-5207.

Alan performs magic and mindreading at Albert's on the Alley 9-11 p.m. every Friday.

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Dodge Sprinter: weird name, big van

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Advertising Feature

CAReport



**By Dave Menard
Avanti News Features**

I would have liked to be in the meeting in which Dodge decided what to call its commercial passenger/cargo van. The name the company chose - Sprinter - couldn't be less fitting, unless it was called the "Shrimp."

About the last thing this van does is "sprint" anywhere, but, then again, commercial vehicles usually don't. What the 2007 Dodge Sprinter does do is move cargo (people or other types), and it can do so in a variety of ways.

You won't see many Sprinters in the driveways of America; it's targeted to commercial-type customers, and, unless you're the Brady Bunch, you won't need to move 10 people at once. The Sprinter can be set up as a 10-passenger van or with no rear seats to haul cargo. Set up as a cargo van, the Sprinter can haul up to 600 cubic feet of cargo, and can handle a payload of up to 5,770 pounds. My colleagues in Michigan tell me they see Sprinters all the time, though, so they're obviously very popular with metropolitan Detroit small business owners.

If this thing were to appear in your driveway, as it did in mine, the first thing that would strike you is just how big it is. It comes in three vehicle lengths - 233, 273 and 289 inches - on two wheelbases (144 inches, 170 inches or 170 inches with extended with 15-inch longer rear overhang).

Standard roof height is 65 inches, but you can get the Sprinter in 73-inch and 84-inch heights, as well. Be careful going through drive-through windows, and low clearance garages - make sure you can actually get through.

I know that driving out of my subdivision I scraped the branches of a tree each and every time. I just kept forgetting how high that roof line was.

The test vehicle was set up in the 10-passenger configuration, with the 144-inch wheelbase and the high roof option. Rather than go through all the available options for each configuration, I'll concentrate on the setup I had.

There's not much to say about the styling of the Sprinter. It seems silly to even think about it. This is a working van, not something you show off to your buddies. Even so, for what it is, it's not bad-looking. It's just so darn big.

The high roof means 6-footers can actually stand up inside the van's passenger area, and that can come in handy. It's fairly easy to get people in and out - that's what it's designed to do. In the driver's seat, you'll find the seats are



2007 Dodge Sprinter is built to move cargo - people or other types!

fairly comfortable and provide good support. You'll also feel like you're driving a bus. You're obviously in a higher driving position than in a standard van.

You can get upgraded seats for the driver and front passenger, along with what Dodge calls "comfort headrests," and the seats can be heated. The instrument panel is complete, with a tachometer, temperature gauge, voltmeter and oil-pressure gauge.

The Sprinter comes with air conditioning, rear window defroster, but most everything else you have to add as part of a package. The standard audio system is an AM/FM/CD system; you can upgrade the audio system to one that includes a six-disc changer and telephone connection. Cruise control, rear door windows with wiper/washers, courtesy lamps, reading lamps, fog lamps, headlamp washers, power locks, keyless entry and power windows are available as parts of packages.

If you are getting the 10-passenger van version of the Sprinter, be sure to get the optional heavy duty rear air conditioning.

One of the other packages includes safety equipment like a security alarm, first-aid kit, road hazard warning lamp and supplemental front seat and side curtain front airbags.

Driving the Sprinter can be an interesting experience. It's powered by one of two available engines - a 3.0-liter V6 diesel or, like the test vehicle, a 3.5-liter V6 gasoline engine that's rated at 254 horsepower. That engine is mated with a five-speed automatic transmission that shifts well-enough. You're not looking to win any races, and you won't in the Sprinter, but you won't be holding up traffic, either.

The good news - the engine only requires oil changes every 10,000 miles and maintenance intervals of 30,000 miles. The Sprinter also come with a tool kit, hydraulic jack,

an automatic transmission cooler and auxiliary heater.

The Sprinter handles like you'd expect a vehicle of its girth to handle -- ponderously. It never lets you forget it's a cargo/passenger van.

It does come with traction control and adaptive Electronic Stability Program. The adaptive ESP includes sensors to take into account how the vehicle is loaded and adjust the center of gravity accordingly. The Sprinter comes with power rack-and-pinion steering, and it does a good job of controlling the vehicle.

Parking is always an issue. Between its bulk, its height and its large turning circle, it's an adventure in parking. Plan ahead and don't count on squeezing between cars at the mall.

The Sprinter starts at a little over \$34,000. "Packaged-up," the test vehicle checked in at about \$45,000. That includes most of the options discussed here, plus a larger battery and alternator.

I wouldn't want one as my everyday vehicle, but the Sprinter is a versatile, hard-working cargo/passenger van and should rate a look if you're carrying lots of people, or their stuff.

Now about that name ...

Dave Menard, who also sometimes handles ponderously, can be reached at avanti1054@aol.com. He is senior editor of Avanti NewsFeatures. @2007, Fracassa Communications LLC.

2007 Dodge Sprinter
Vehicle class: Heavy duty van.
Power: 3.5-liter gasoline engine, five-speed automatic transmission.
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