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THURSDAY November 8, 2007

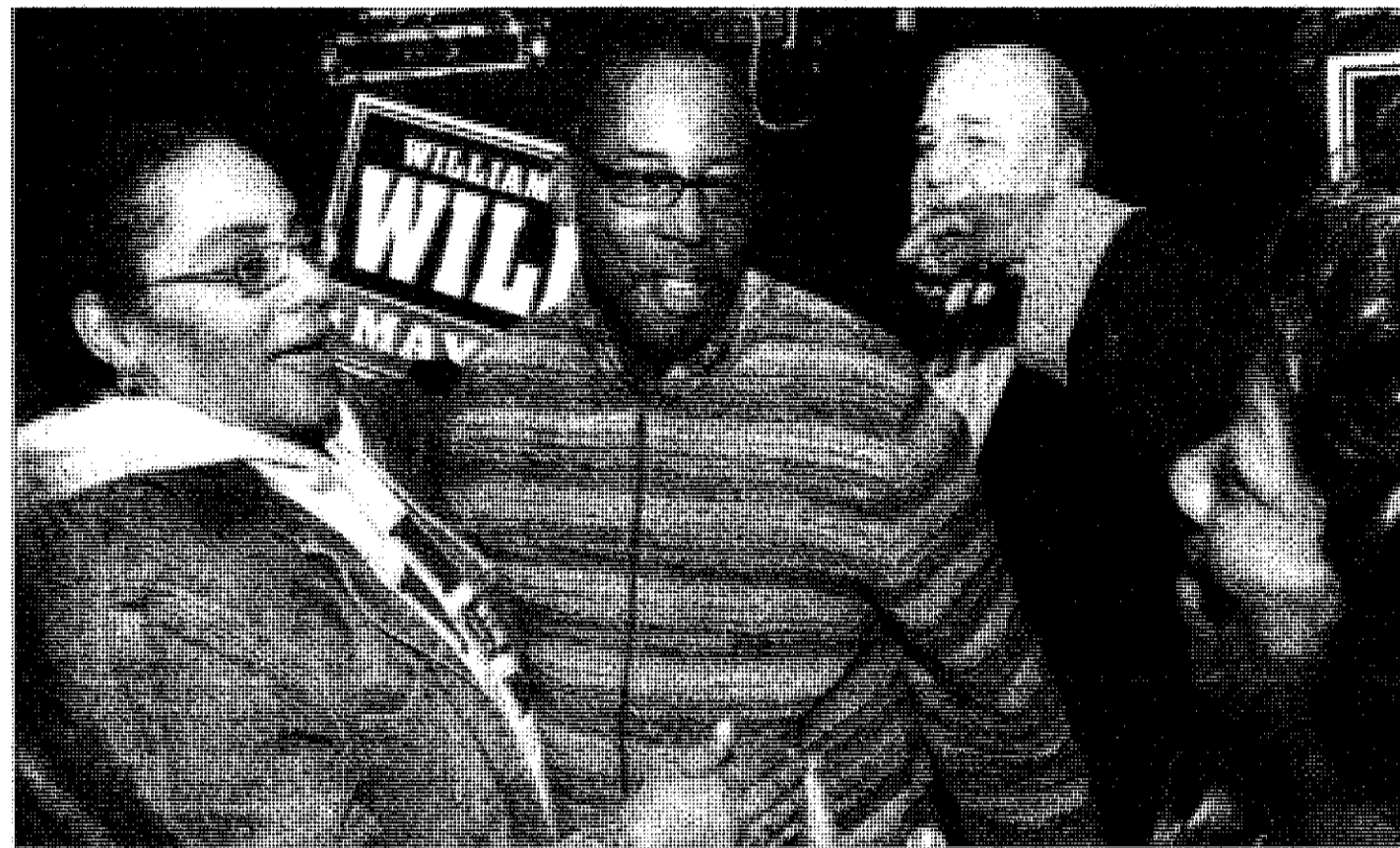
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Status quo: Familiar faces returned to city hall



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dewey Reeves is congratulated by Lori Wilson (left) and other supporters after he was elected to a two-year term on the Westland City Council. Behind Reeves is veteran Councilman James Godbout, who won a four-year.

Wild: Results inspire him to work harder

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

As a victorious Mayor William Wild took the stage Tuesday night to salute a fired-up crowd of supporters, a disc jockey crowned the moment by blasting the song Wild Thing.

Never mind that Wild, 39, wasn't even born when the hit song by The Troggs topped the U.S. music charts in 1966.

It didn't matter. This was his night to be No. 1. "For some reason, I like that song," Wild said, amid cheers from a large crowd that jammed the Wayne-Ford Civic League.

Wild, the city's mayoral appointee since January, was elected to a two-year term by trouncing challenger Charles Pickering — the current Westland City Council president and former mayor — in unofficial vote totals.

With his wife, Sherri, at his side, Wild savored a landslide victory as voters gave him 77 percent of vote totals compared to Pickering's 23 percent.

In raw numbers, Wild garnered 7,947 votes while Pickering received 2,368.

In all, only 10,397 of Westland's 59,446 voters cast ballots in Tuesday's election — a 17.5 percent turnout.

Table with election results for Westland City Council, Mayor, City Clerk, and Wayne County Community College District.

Even though Pickering estimated he knocked out tens of thousands of doors in a tireless campaign, he didn't close the huge gap that separated him and Wild in the August primary.

Please see MAYOR, A3

Vote shows council doing good job

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tony Wager shares a laugh with James Godbout, who earned a new four-year term on council in Tuesday's election.

As three of his Westland City Council colleagues seized early leads in Tuesday's voting, only one incumbent, Dewey Reeves, had the power to make a nervous crowd hold its collective breath as he staged a come-from-behind victory.

Did he ever. Reeves and challenger Christine Cicirelli Bryant locked in a nail-biter contest until absentee vote totals came in, allowing his supporters to

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exhale as he took the lead to defeat her by a mere 332 votes out of 10,397 ballots cast. Only then did Reeves and council incumbents James Godbout, Michael Kehrer and Bill Johnson know that they had all swept to victory.

giving a large crowd the nod to celebrate inside the Wayne-Ford Civic League.

Reeves, who was appointed to the council along with Johnson in January, held a microphone as his supporters cheered.

"I'm your newly elected council member, Dewey Reeves," he said.

With that, the party was on. Across town at the Willow Creek Apartments clubhouse, Bryant indicated that she will

Please see COUNCIL, A3

DeHart is eager to serve Westland residents

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER



DeHart

Westland City Clerk Eileen DeHart scored a crushing victory over challenger Bruce Paige in Tuesday's election, accumulating more votes than any other candidate for city office.

DeHart captured 83.7 percent of vote totals compared to Paige's 16.3 percent. In raw

numbers, DeHart garnered 8,123 votes while Paige received 1,580 in his first bid for public office. DeHart, 60, won her second four-year term. She became Westland's first elected clerk

four years ago. "I feel absolutely ecstatic," she said, smiling just before she drove away from City Hall to join victorious mayoral and council candidates who already had started their celebration at the Wayne-Ford Civic League.

Unlike them, DeHart and her staff had to work Tuesday night until the last ballots had been turned in and counted.

DeHart, a former state representative and Westland City Council member, enjoyed the largest landslide of the night. She said she is eager to serve residents for four more years and to continue working with her employees, calling them "a team."

To his credit, Paige waged a

Please see CLERK, A2



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mayor William Wild, with his wife, Sherri, is congratulated by Sylvia Kozorosky-Wiacek, former senior director, after being elected as mayor. For more election day photos, see the gallery on the Westland home page at www.hometownlife.com.

Brother, sister face trial for assaulting her ex-boyfriend

BY DARRELL CLEM STAFF WRITER

A Taylor woman and her brother will face trial in Wayne County Circuit Court following allegations they attacked her ex-boyfriend — the father of her 6-year-old child. The attack happened Oct.

19 at the Westland Meadows mobile home park and initially left the victim paralyzed from the waist down, police said, but Sgt. Michael Harhold said the victim has since regained use of his body.

Amanda Pugh, 25, is accused of driving a van into the victim after he grabbed onto the

vehicle and then stood in front of it. Her brother, 19-year-old Nicholas Pugh, is accused of getting out of the van and beating the victim with a metal object.

The Pughs had gone to Westland Meadows to pick up Amanda Pugh's son when the incident happened around

11:55 p.m. Oct. 19, authorities have said.

Since then, Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos has ordered the Pughs to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court. His decision came after the pair waived their right to a preliminary hearing last Thursday in his courtroom.

Nicholas Pugh faces trial on charges of assault with intent to do great bodily harm (less than murder) and assault with a dangerous weapon. If convicted, he could face penalties ranging up to 10 years in prison.

Amanda Pugh faces trial on a charge of assault with

a dangerous weapon. If convicted, she could face penalties ranging up to four years in prison.

Not-guilty pleas have been placed on record for the Pughs as they await the outcome of their case.

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# Surplus food dates set

Eligible Westland residents can pick up surplus federal food next week.

All residents north of Michigan Avenue can pick up the commodities 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15, at the Dorsey Community Center, 32715 Dorsey Road, north of Michigan Avenue and south of Palmer.

The pickup time and location for Westland residents south of Michigan Avenue is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12, or the second Monday of each month, at St. James United Methodist Church, 30055 Annapolis, between Henry Ruff and Middlebelt. Call the church at (734) 729-1737.

Seniors living in Taylor Towers should contact their

building manager for the date of distribution.

Greenwood Villa residents also pick up their food items at their complex.

The November distribution will include bakery mix, peanut butter and vegetable soup. The program is administered by the Wayne County Office of Senior Services.

## AROUND WESTLAND

### Coffee hour

State Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will hold local coffee hours in Westland and Redford Monday, Nov. 12.

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

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

### 'Power of Praise'

The Lutheran Church of

Our Savior will host a "Power of Praise" concert, featuring the Eastern Michigan University Gospel Choir, 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at the church, 29425 Annapolis, Westland. Light refreshments will be served.

Tickets cost \$10. For more information, call (734) 728-3440 or visit www.thelutheranchurchofsaviors.com.

## CLERK

FROM PAGE A1

good-spirited campaign against DeHart. During an earlier interview with the *Observer*, he complimented her on the job she has done, but he said he had ideas for doing it differently.

DeHart launched her campaign by saying she had kept promises she made to voters, such as earning her ranking as a certified municipal clerk from the International Institute of

### Municipal Clerks.

Her office also has routinely returned money to the city's general fund that had been budgeted for her department. In the last fiscal year alone, she gave back \$12,000 that had been allocated for new furniture, saying "it wasn't the right time" due to tough economic times.

DeHart also oversaw 10 elections in her first term, and she helped lead the transition to electronic informational packets for the City Council, saving the city \$8,000 in the first year

alone.

DeHart became the city's first elected clerk four years ago after voters had approved a ballot measure to make the job an elected position. Earlier, it had been a council-appointed post, but the controversial firing of former Clerk Patricia Gibbons touched off a firestorm that prompted residents to seize control of the post.

The clerk's job pays \$89,816 a year.

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PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Going to the polls

(Pictured above) Frances Masse, 88, walked the four blocks to P.D. Graham Elementary School with her daughter Janet Middleton to vote. 'I come to vote for Mr. Wild,' said Masse. Wild, the current appointed mayor, was successful in his bid to serve out the remaining two years of the mayoral term once held by District Judge Sandra Cicirelli. Election volunteer Anna Alvarez hands out literature and other items to voter Wayne Brewer of Westland outside Schweitzer Elementary School.



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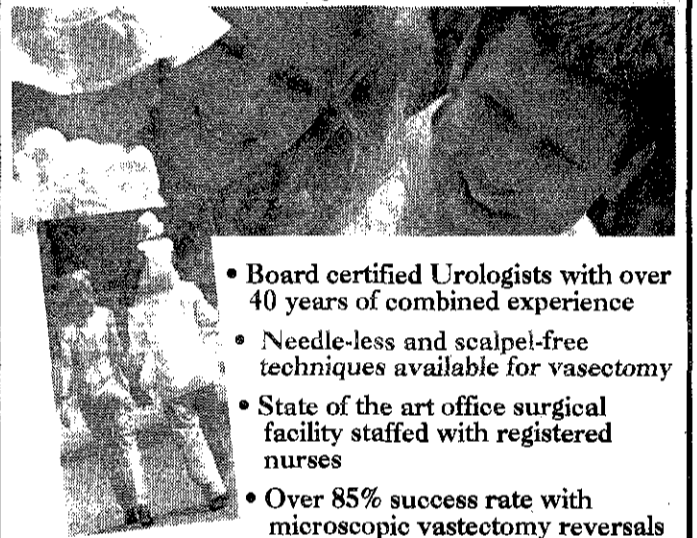
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# Suburban 'no' votes doom WCCC tax plan

BY MATT JACHMAN  
STAFF WRITER

Despite support from Detroit voters, a strong antitax vote in the suburbs brought down a Wayne County Community College District millage renewal proposal on Tuesday.

Incomplete and unofficial results from Wayne County on Wednesday afternoon showed 60 percent of voters cast bal-

lots against the WCCCD plan to renew a 1.5-mill property tax for 10 years. With the possible exception of Ecorse, which had not reported results, Inkster was the only one of the 34 suburbs the WCCC district includes, in all or in part, where a majority of voters favored the plan.

In Redford Township, most of which is in the WCCCD district, 3,759 people voted against the tax renewal, 754 in favor.

In Westland, a portion of which is in the college district, the vote was 4,521 to 2,081 against the tax. And in Canton Township, a small part of which is in WCCCD, 555 people voted against the plan, 240 for it.

A college spokeswoman blamed the loss on a low voter turnout, Michigan's economy, and what she said was voter backlash against the recent state income tax increase and

the new tax on some services.

"I think people are very, very reluctant at this point right now to deal with tax issues on any level," said spokeswoman Tina Bassett. "I think we're having a very difficult time economically in the state of Michigan."

The weather, confusion over the new voter identification law and low voter awareness of the issue also played roles, Bassett said.

"We really weren't able to get our message (out) as strongly as we needed to," she said.

According to WCCCD, the millage raises more than \$40 million a year — about 40 percent of its annual budget of \$102 million.

The renewal would have taken effect in 2011, after the current 1.5-mill tax expires. The tax means \$1.50 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable

value — \$105 a year for the owners of a home with a taxable value of \$70,000. That same home would have a market value of \$140,000 or more.

The renewal plan will go to voters again, Bassett said.

"Without this millage passage, the school could not operate at the level it operates today," she said.

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## COUNCIL

FROM PAGE A1

try her luck again in two years during the next round of city elections.

"I'm young, I'm energetic, and I'm ready to go," said Bryant, the 34-year-old daughter of Westland District Judge and former mayor Sandra Cicirelli.

Although Reeves — a 54-year-old wardrobe designer and former Washtenaw County sheriff deputy — kept his supporters in suspense, Godbout, Kehrer and Johnson commanded early leads and paced themselves throughout the evening.

Reeves won a two-year term as the fourth-place finisher, while his three colleagues earned four-year terms.

Godbout, a 52-year-old account manager for Rockwell Automation, never lost the first-place status he had established in the August primary. He will start his eighth year on



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland City Council candidate Christine Cicirelli Bryant greets voters at precincts at P.D. Graham Elementary School.

the council in January.

"I just think the voters feel that I'm doing a good job and wanted to keep me on the council," Godbout said. "I'm very honored to come in first place."

Godbout received 6,606 votes, followed by Kehrer's 6,218, Johnson's 5,585, Reeves' 4,744, Bryant's 4,412, Mark Rodriguez's 2,639, Gary Bulson II's 2,195 and Harold

Dunn's 2,039.

Godbout and other incumbents said they believe that voters are confident in their leadership as the city — like the entire state — continues to weather tough economic times.

Kehrer, a 53-year-old excavating site inspector, had no complaints about his second-place finish. He will be starting his seventh year on the council in January.

"Second place is good enough for me," he said. "It was my aim to get a four-year term. I think the citizens realize that Westland is doing a good job and holding its head up while many other cities are having a hard time."

Johnson, the 57-year-old United Auto Workers plant chairman for the Wayne Assembly Plant, credited his UAW supporters for helping him and Reeves. He also thanked his sister, City Clerk Eileen DeHart, and Mayor William Wild.

"You have long coattails," he told them publicly, "and I'm glad to be riding them."

Johnson and Reeves had been appointed to the council in January, when former Councilman Wild was appointed as mayor and when ex-Councilman Richard LeBlanc became a state representative.

Johnson and Reeves also won a separate election

Tuesday as write-in candidates to finish out the few weeks between the election and Jan. 1.

The four incumbent winners in Tuesday's election will join council holdovers Cheryl Graunstadt, Robert Stottlemeyer and Charles Pickering, who lost his may-

oral bid Tuesday.

Council members are paid \$12,515 except for the president, who gets \$13,760, and the president pro tem, who receives \$13,137.

Currently, Pickering is the president and Graunstadt the president pro tem.

## MAYOR

FROM PAGE A1

"He got the favorable results and I didn't," Pickering, 64, said, after his supporters had trickled out of the Willow Creek Apartments clubhouse.

Wild and Pickering competed to finish the unexpired two-year term of former Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, who stepped down in January to become a district judge. The mayoral job pays \$95,974 a year.

Wild, who owns an auto recycling business in Wayne, commanded an early lead in unofficial vote totals and never lost his momentum.

"It's a good feeling," he said. "It's very humbling. We've tried to put the residents first, and it looks like they've responded to it."

"This is a good vote of confidence," Wild said, "and it will

inspire me to keep working hard."

He cited several goals, including settling contracts with the police and fire unions that expired in June; working to clean up the contaminated Central City Park; seeking a way to start a curbside recycling program; and protecting the city's finances and its \$2 million budget surplus.

Wild, former council president, has had a whirlwind year that included the birth of his and Sherri's youngest daughter, 9-month-old Payton. They also are the parents of Luke, 5, and Lily, 2.

"I am so proud," Sherri Wild said of her husband's victory. "It just makes me feel so good to see all of his hard work and dedication pay off. I'm very happy and proud."

Wild pledged to continue moving Westland forward with the help of the city coun-

cil.

Pickering still has two years on his council term. He said he hasn't decided what his political future may hold after that.

Pickering thanked employees of one city union, the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Workers Local 1602, for working on his campaign.

"I think they went above and beyond to help me," he said.

Pickering said he built his campaign on issues that voters told him were important, such as fighting crime, adding police officers and trying to ease the tax burden. He said many residents who indicated support for him apparently didn't take time to vote.

Pickering didn't have any harsh words Tuesday for Wild, saying, "I wish him well."

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## Duo to stand trial in Cashland holdup

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

A former Cashland employee and her boyfriend will face trial for accusations that they faked a robbery and embezzled money from the Westland store where she worked.

Ashleigh Nicole Adkins, 23, and Jeremy Russell Wagner, 33, will face trial in Wayne County Circuit Court following testimony last Thursday that they took money from the cash-advance business on Wayne Road north of Glenwood.

A neighbor testified in Westland 18th District Court that Wagner was seen behind the store July 19 before Adkins called police to report that a masked intruder robbed her and bound her with duct tape. Adkins told police she had opened the back door to smoke a cigarette.

An investigation of the inci- dclcm@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2110

dent indicated to police that the robbery was an inside job, and police Sgt. Steve Borisch has said "we suspected this from the beginning."

Adkins and Wagner face trial on charges of embezzling more than \$1,000, larceny over \$1,000 and larceny in a building. If convicted, Adkins could face penalties ranging up to five years in prison, but Wagner could receive a lengthier sentence because he has a criminal history.

Wagner remained jailed Thursday in lieu of a \$50,000 cash bond set by 18th District Magistrate Donald Vandersloot. Adkins has been released on a personal bond after she turned herself in and cooperated with police, Borisch said.

Wagner already has served about 14 years in prison for a 1992 offense of driving drunk and causing a death.

## Patterson, chamber rally to repeal service tax

BY STEVE KOWALSKI  
STAFF WRITER

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson is starting another statewide petition drive to repeal a tax on business services.

Upset over the state Legislature's approval of a 6-percent sales tax on services, Patterson came to Troy last week to promote a Coalition to Ax the Tax.

The press conference, hosted by the Troy Chamber of Commerce, was the second stop on the Patterson-led petition drive. Earlier in the morning Patterson rallied before a couple of hundred supporters on the steps of the state Capitol.

The service tax, which would apply to business consultants and other small businesses and recreational activities - a mix that includes landscaping, fortune telling, salon treatments and snow skiing, but not golf - was part of a \$43 billion budget approved Wednesday morning and set to take effect Dec. 1.

The service tax was initially approved during the early morning hours of Oct. 1 when the Legislature passed a one-month extension to the 2006-07 budget.

"The (service tax) was concocted under the cover of dark-



Patterson

ness, passed at 4 a.m. a month ago today, and when the light of day hit and the tax was examined, the impact was nothing short of devastating," Patterson said. "The uproar has been loud ever since."

Petition leaders need to gather more than 304,000 signatures to put a statutory initiative on the November 2008 ballot to repeal the service tax.

Actions by the state Senate Thursday indicate the service tax may have a chance to be repealed without a petition drive.

The Republican-majority Senate passed two bills: one to push back to Dec. 20 the start of the service tax to give lawmakers more time to repeal it, and one to abolish the service tax by Dec. 20, according to Sen. John Pappageorge, R-Troy.

The bills need approval from the House and Gov. Jennifer Granholm's signature to become law. Removal of the service tax would leave a better than \$700 million hole in the budget that needs replacing.

"Some argue they want to (replace the service tax) with cuts, some all with tax increases," Pappageorge said. "My position is we look at cuts first,

not talk taxes until we're done talking about cuts. My first choice is we don't talk taxes until we're done talking about cuts."

The governor has left open the possibility of repealing the service tax through the Legislature but under three conditions, according to her spokeswoman Liz Boyd.

"The governor is open to changes in what was approved but adamant on these three factors: Any adjustment or replacement has to be revenue neutral, has to have bipartisan support and it has to be permanent," Boyd said.

A year ago, Patterson successfully led a petition drive to remove the state's Single Business Tax.

Estimating the "mood of the public and anger of businesses," Patterson predicted there would be no trouble getting enough signatures for the petition drive.

The new budget includes spending increases of \$750 million in the general fund (an 8.5 percent increase over last year), which Patterson characterized as "just obscene." The service tax is estimated to raise approximately \$725 million, but Patterson questioned whether it would generate only half of that.

Patterson said he's in favor of repealing the service tax and replacing the revenue lost with spending cuts.

"We're in a one-state recession and there is no reason for the governor to ask for a dollar-for-dollar replacement (tax)," Patterson said. "She calls that revenue neutrality, I call it greed. (The governor) looks at a 'bipartisan' solution to give her cover for next year - an election year."

Boyd said Patterson's objection to spending is not shared in his party.

"Despite what Mr. Patterson says, the Republicans in the Legislature did not support massive cuts that would be needed to balance the budget," Boyd said. "Together with Democrats, the Republicans approved a 2008 spending plan that is based on revenue that will come with the service tax."

State Reps. Chuck Moss, R-

Bloomfield Hills, and Marty Knollenberg, R-Troy, attended the rally in support of the petition drive. Both were among the majority of Republicans who voted against the service tax.

"This isn't a 'fat cat' tax, this is an ordinary people's tax, a 'Mom and Pop' business tax," Moss said. "What if a single mom is doing people's nails, an independent landscaper or personal trainer gets this tax? The 6 percent kills them."

"(The service tax) was something that wasn't very well thought out, came at the '11th hour,'" Knollenberg said. "Nobody really knew who would be impacted by it, and it's my hope that those members realize they made a mistake and change their minds to vote to repeal this tax."

Knollenberg agreed with Patterson that trimming spending would be the best replacement for the service tax.

"You're going down the wrong path if you want to replace this tax with another tax," Knollenberg said. "Michigan residents are having a hard time as it is. Salaries are being cut, benefits are being cut, job security is not as secure. To hit them with more taxes, which takes away from their ability to pay fixed expenses, sends the wrong message, especially at a time we're trying to attract new people and businesses to move here."

Matt Friedman, partner in a Farmington Hills communications firm that opened Jan. 2, said a service tax would stunt growth and take business from the state.

"There are Chicago firms licking their chops to come in to Michigan" and take advantage of the service tax, he said. "(Out-of-state firms) have a competitive advantage - a 6-percent competitive advantage. "We should be primed for growth, and now we're threatened from the government that is supposed to create jobs. We have 4,400 square feet of office space ready to fill with employees. A service tax trumps relationships and our collective skills set."

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gully Rd., Dearborn Hgts., MI, November 17, 2007 @ 1:00 PM.

#428 Christina M. Breitenbach, #655 Angela Ajaero, #943 Keven S. Gamburd, #1301 Billie Wiacek.

Units contain: misc. household items.

Publish: November 1 & 8, 2007

020867378 - 211.5

### CITY OF WESTLAND PUBLIC NOTICE WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION

THE WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION WILL BE OPENING ITS WAITING LIST FOR THE PROJECT BASED ASSISTED LIVING SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM FOR THE FRAIL ELDERLY ONLY BEGINNING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007 AT 10:00 AM UNTIL 4:00 PM. APPLICATIONS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP AFTER DECEMBER 4, 2007 MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 AM UNTIL 4:00 PM. UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE AT THE WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION OFFICE LOCATED AT 32715 DORSEY ROAD, WESTLAND, MI 48186. THE WAITING LIST WILL REMAIN OPEN AND APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

APPLICATIONS CAN BE PICKED UP BY ANYONE AGE 18 YEARS OR OLDER WITH A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE ID WHO CAN PROVIDE THE NAME AND BIRTH DATE OF THE APPLICANT. ONLY ONE APPLICATION WILL BE ISSUED PER PERSON. ALL APPLICANTS MUST ATTACH A COPY OF BOTH SIDES OF THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE ID TO THE APPLICATION. IF APPLICANT IS HANDICAPPED OR DISABLED, WRITTEN CERTIFICATION OF A HANDICAP/DISABILITY OR A COPY OF THEIR SOCIAL SECURITY/SSI BENEFIT STATEMENT MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE APPLICATION.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED, SIGNED, AND DATED AND MAILED TO THE WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION, ASSISTED LIVING APPLICATION, 32715 DORSEY RD, WESTLAND, MI 48186. NO HAND DELIVERED OR FAXED APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

APPLICATIONS POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 31, 2007 WILL BE PLACED ON THE JANUARY 2008 WAITING LIST BY RECEIVED DATE, APPLICATION NUMBER, AND WESTLAND PREFERENCE.

THE WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION WILL NOT ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 55 YEARS NEEDING ASSISTED LIVING SERVICES AS PART OF THIS PROCESS.

APPLICANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 55 YEARS OLD AND REQUIRE ASSISTED LIVING SERVICES. THE APPLICANT'S TOTAL GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME MUST NOT EXCEED THE LIMITS ESTABLISHED BELOW:  
(1) PERSON: \$24,450 (2) PERSONS: \$27,950 (3) PERSONS: \$31,450

THE WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION WILL NOT DENY ANY ELIGIBLE FAMILY THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION INTO THE PROJECT BASED ASSISTED LIVING PROGRAM FOR THE FRAIL ELDERLY, NOR DENY ANY ELIGIBLE APPLICANT THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEASE A DWELLING UNIT SUITABLE TO THE APPLICANT'S NEEDS ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, MARTIAL STATUS, HANDICAP AND/OR FAMILIAL STATUS.

WESTLAND HOUSING COMMISSION  
LAUREN BILA, INTERIM PRESIDENT  
TERRY CARROLL, DIRECTOR

Publish: November 8, 2007

020868941 - 246.6

# ADRAY

# Camera Canton

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Canton store only

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# Sale

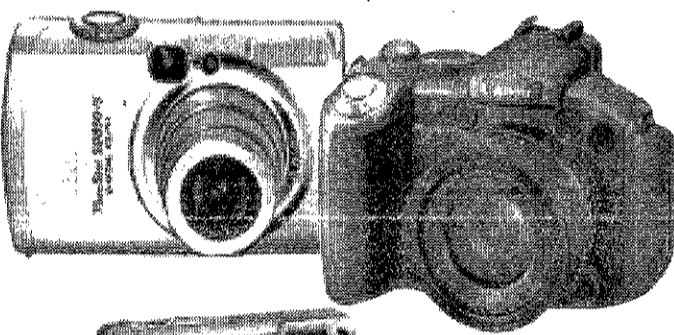
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**All Printers also On Sale!**

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New and demos



Many other Sony and Canon Camcorders On Sale!

Subject to prior sale

All Books, Albums and Frames

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### Filters

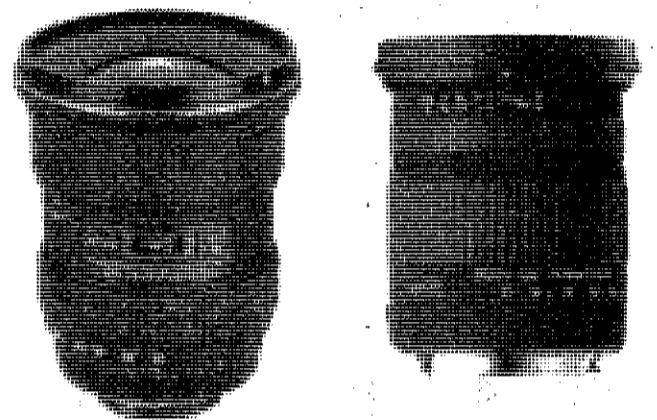
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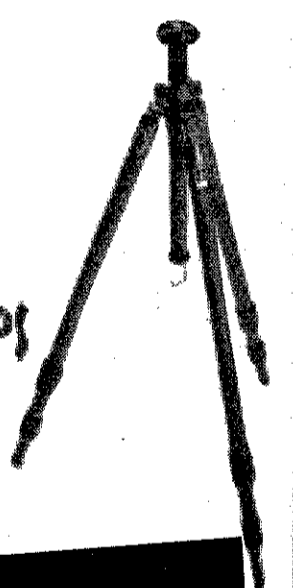
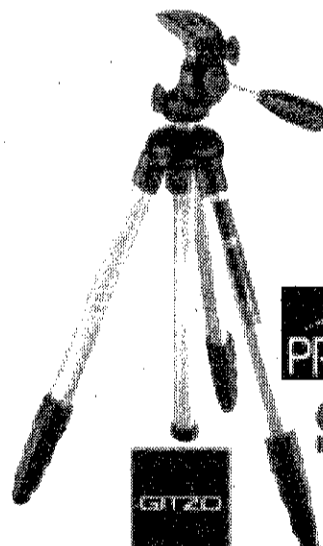
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Quantities limited • Hurry in for best selection  
All items subject to prior sale

## Fund-raiser benefits Westland resident

Friends and the family of Richard Ruth of Westland will stage a bowling fund-raiser 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, at the Ford Lanes Bowling Center, 23100 Van Born, Dearborn Heights.

Ruth is battling Multiple System Atrophy, also known as Shy-Drager Syndrome, a neurological disease resulting from degeneration of certain nerve cells in the brain and spinal chord.

The benefit costs \$20 per person and includes bowling, pizza, 50/50 raffles, silent auction, fishing game, tin can raffles and a flat screen TV raffle.

Prizes include an auto-

graphed Detroit Lions football signed by Coach Rod Marinelli and 10 players, an autographed hockey puck signed by Chris Osgood of the Detroit Red Wings, a 32-inch flat screen TV, Detroit Red Wing tickets, a ride in a World War II Navy torpedo bomber and a fly fishing trip on the Au Sable River.

Donations can be made payable to Richard Ruth/Shy Drager Organization and can be dropped off at Ford Lanes or mailed to Ford Lanes, Richard Ruth Fund-Raiser, 23100 Van Born, Dearborn Heights, MI 48125. For more information, call (313) 292-1700.

# UPS delivers kids' packages to Iraq

BY SUE MASON  
STAFF WRITER

Youngsters in Baghdad will soon be able to do their school work, thanks to students at St. Raphael School in Garden City.

Fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders at the school collected more than 200 pounds of school supplies like pens, pencils, crayons and folders which are en route to Iraq, via Kuwait, with the help of UPS.

"We wanted to do something to teach the students to reach out and make them more globally aware," said fourth-/fifth-grade teacher Barb Dyke.

The supplies are being sent to Dyke's brother-in-law, Army SFC John Richardson, who will distribute the items to students and teachers in Baghdad. Richardson was deployed to Iraq just before the start of the school year and Dyke's class adopted him. He's been sending e-mails about the humanitarian work being done with the schools in Baghdad and has also sent photos showing the condition of the schools.

That led to the collection drive which also brought in donations of toiletries for the troops.

"It's clear the kids put their faith in action," said Dyke.

Operating under the belief that they would be able to send the 14 packages through the U.S. Postal Service for \$7.95 each, the students and staff were shocked when they found out that the charge was by weight and the cost was going to be substantially more.

Not knowing how they would get the boxes to Iraq, they called state Sen. Glenn Anderson for help. He in turn called longtime friend Linda Long, UPS Community Relations Supervisor for Metro Detroit District.

"It's pretty amazing what you've done," he told the students who staged a small patriotic ceremony before they helped load packages on a cart destined for UPS driver Rick Wheeler's truck. "It would be great if every school followed your lead and let the soldiers know we care about them."

UPS representatives and



Fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students sing 'The Great Defender of the U.S.A.' during a ceremony thanking Sen. Glenn Anderson and UPS for their help in getting the school supplies shipped to Iraq.



St. Raphael students Justin Query and Dakota Mahkimetass help UPS employee Rich Wheeler load supplies destined for school children in Iraq.

Anderson received a certificate and thank you card for their help in getting the packages to Iraq. The students also sang several songs, including *The Great Defender of the U.S.A.* which they plan to record and send to the troops, for their guests.

In return, Anderson presented the school with a framed Senate resolution, recognizing

their efforts.

"I played a small part in this, you, your teachers and the school were the driving force," he said.

James Baier, UPS human resources manager, estimates the packages would have cost \$1,400-\$1,500 to send to the Middle East. UPS is doing it for free as part of its commitment to community involve-

ment. "We invest in communities so many different ways," said Baier. "There's a tremendous need in the area and it's not hard to find someone to help."

"It was huge on their part," said Principal Jeannine Kenny. "It was obvious we wanted to get it over there, We're glad they helped."

Dyke said the students will continue to write to Richardson and possibly begin writing to the Iraqi schoolchildren.

"He has access to a translator, so hopefully we can write to the boys and girls," she said.

Wheeler was tapped to pick up the special shipment because St. Raphael is part of his route. He also was instrumental in seeing that the packages were all documented and packed properly.

"Have a good day everybody," he said as he welled the packages out of the door following the ceremony.

"I can't say enough how grateful St. Raphael students and I are to UPS and Sen. Anderson for their help in getting these packages delivered," Dyke said. "They truly are the answer to our prayers."

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

## Area poet wins award

A poem written by Canton author and poet Cheryl A. Martin, *More Than 58,000 Names Etched*,

has been awarded honorable mention in the non-rhyming poem category of the 76th Annual Writer's Digest Writing Competition.



atcher

Her name, along with the other winners, will be published in a book by Outskirts Press, which also published Martin's book of poetry, *Woman Reclining*, which can be viewed at outskirtspress.com/womanreclining. E-copies of her book can be purchased for \$5 on her Web page.

"I am ecstatic about winning an honorable mention for my manuscript," Martin said. "I am glad that my poetry regarding Vietnam Veterans is being recognized. As a poet it is an honor to win a prestigious national award such as this."

Martin is busy teaching writers and poets how to hone their craft. She has two upcoming classes that she is teaching through Wayne-Westland Community Schools' Adult and Continuing Education Program.

For the haiku artist, she has a two-week class titled, "Writing Haiku and Poetry," which will be held on Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 at John Glenn High-School in Westland, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

"In this class the haiku artist and poet will be composing pieces during class. It will be inspirational for everyone," she said.

To register, call (734) 419-2426.

Martin is the owner of Pero Inc., and is an award-winning fine arts photographer. Additionally, her company offers a complete writing, editing, consulting, and publishing company. She can be contacted via e-mail a peroinc5@comcast.net or by calling (734) 397-1626.

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

**PRIORITY COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION**

## VEHICLE SALE

**Date: Saturday November 10th, 2007**  
**Time: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Location: Priority Community Credit Union Main Office - in the parking lot**  
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# Santa Arrives...

Sat., Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>

Entertainment starts at 10:15 am in our East Court

Other entertainment this month includes the Phil Gram All Stars performing on Tuesday, November 20 and Tuesday, November 27 6 pm- 8 pm

Don't forget the mall is open at 7 am Friday, November 23

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# Franklin marchers are comeback kids at state finals

BY DIANE HANSON  
CORRESPONDENT

Some 10,000 appreciative fans cheered more than 4,000 teenagers that filled Ford Field with an amazing display of musical, marching talent Saturday at the 28th annual Marching Band State Finals.

And among the top 40 bands in the state were the hometown marchers from Livonia Franklin High School.

"The kids did a fantastic job," said Franklin band director Kristi Jasin. "This is the first year we've been back to state finals in a while and the first time for the seniors. It's also our first year back in Flight I."

The 71-member band was a Flight II band for several years due to a smaller enrollment at the high school.

There are some 80 bands that belong to the MCBA, approximately 20 in each of Flights I, II, III and IV, with the largest schools in Flight I. Only the top 10 highest-scoring bands in each Flight (determined by scores achieved at local competitions throughout the fall) make it to the state championships.

"This is my first time here, so it's very exciting," said Rachel Wood, Franklin's senior drum major. "We worked so hard this season



Percussionists Nate Warrick (left) and Andrew Florkowski keep their eyes on the drum major for timing during the Patriot Marching Band's competition performance of their program, 'Fire and Ice,' Saturday at the Marching Band State Finals at Ford Field. The 71-member band made the cut of the top 10 bands in Flight I in order to compete at the daylong finals event.



Mellophone players Maribeth Olsen (on top) and Justin White (right), along with baritone player Aaron Johnson (center), play from atop a prop while guard member Carolanne Cucci dances off during Livonia Franklin's competition performance of their program, 'Fire and Ice,' Saturday at the Marching Band State Finals at Ford Field.

and it really paid off."

The Patriots' program, "Fire and Ice," was a colorful crowd-pleaser and earned them a 10th place in Flight I with a score of 71.0.

And the Patriots were winners in sportsmanship on Saturday as well. The band was the first group to perform at

the championships and when they learned that the Grandville Marching Band, one of their competitors, was missing a trombone, they were quick to lend them one of theirs.

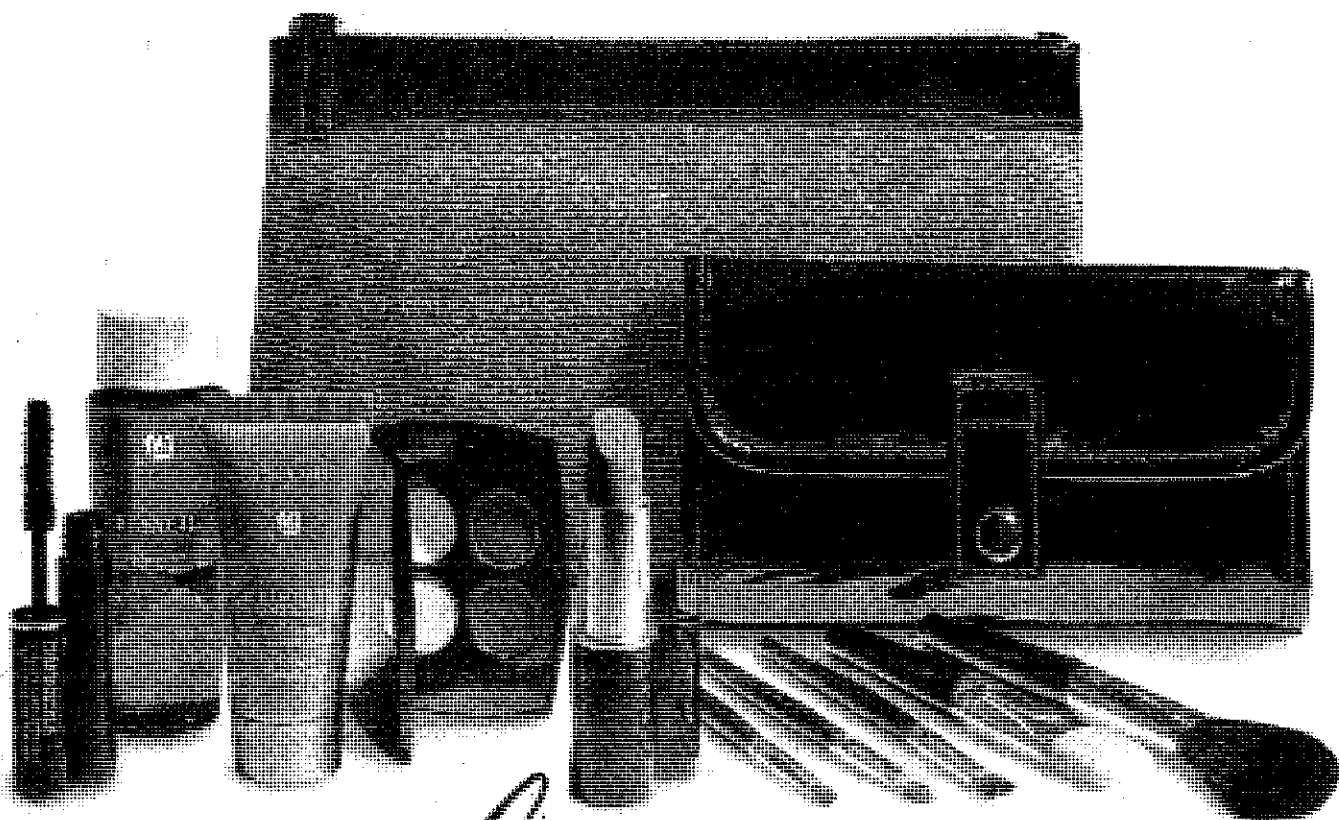
Saturday's first-place trophies went to Flight I, Plymouth-Canton, 91.7; Flight II, Muskegon's Reeths-

Puffer, 89.1; Flight III, Ferndale, 86.85; and Flight IV, Brooklyn's Columbia Central, 83.8.

The Livonia marchers will be competing next at the Grand National Championships in Indianapolis' RCA Dome Nov. 15-17.

## LANCÔME

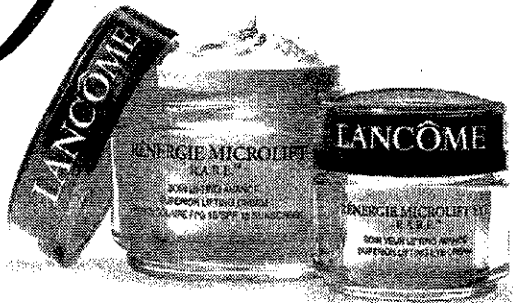
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### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

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.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Free health program**  
The Wayne County Extension, Family and Community Education Association will hold a free health program 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Nov. 15, in the classroom at the Wayne County Extension Regional Education Center, 5454 Venoy Road, Wayne. The featured speaker will be Andrea Sparks of St. Mary-Mercy Hospital, who will talk about prevention of falling and stability of balance. Sparks will provide information and actions to prevent dangerous falls. She is an expert in Tai Chi and an instructor in Reiki. The public is invited to attend. Dessert and coffee will be served. For more information, call Pat Atkinson at (734) 721-3599.

**Martial arts clinic**  
The fourth annual Martial Arts Clinic, featuring Grandmaster Daniel Suchon, will be held Friday-Sunday, Nov. 9-11, at Guardian Martial Arts on Ford Road in Garden City and in the Cheer Room at the Livonia Stevenson High School in Livonia. Grandmaster Suchon holds a seventh-degree black sash in Nei Wai Chia Kung Fu. The clinic will be comprised of classes in Arnis, Tai Chi fighting, ground techniques and more. For more information, call Julie Evans at (734) 502-5399 or go online to www.NWCMartialArtsAcademy.com.

**Railroadiana**  
The Ss. Simon and Jude Ushers Club will sponsor a buy-and-swap toys and trains show noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, at the church hall, 32500 Palmer west of Merriman, Westland. Admission is \$2 per person, \$4 per family. Food is available and parking is free. There will be operating train layouts of various gauges and more 150 dealer tables. Tables are \$10 per table. Reserve tables by calling (734) 595-8327. Dealer setup is at 9 a.m. the day of the show.

**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

**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.higherrockcafe4t.com or call (734) 722-3660.

**Health programs**  
**Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, a holistic physician and clinical nutritionist, will present "Enjoy the Holidays and Eat Your Way Thin" 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, at the Alfred Noble Library, 32901 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Are you confused about good and bad oil? Not sure if the carb diet will work? Is butter really better? Sugar substitutes vs. real sugar, is there really a difference? Exercise? Who has the time? Take a natural approach to a healthier, new you. Seating is limited to 30 people for the free class. Call (734) 756-6904 to make a reservation.**

**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 willing 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 on 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.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Stage fright

Producer Mandrake Masterfiend (center), played by David Sumlin, shares with his guest that gossip columnist Rona LaMona, played by Ashley Dunn is dead, in a scene from the John Glenn Theatrical Guild production of "The Poisoned Pen." The play will be presented at 7 p.m. this evening through Saturday at the high school on Marquette west of Wayne Road. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students, available at the door.



# New tax laws make year-end planning now essential

If you are thinking of doing any year-end planning, now is the time.

Year-end tax planning used to be easy, however, laws have changed and have become more complex, so tax planning is more difficult than ever.

To get started, pull out last year's tax return and use it as a guide. Check whether you are subject to the alternative minimum tax and whether you will itemize or take the standard deduction.

If you itemize, it generally makes sense to accelerate deductions into this year. For example, making charitable contributions before the end of the year or paying property taxes this year.

If you are using the standard deduction this year, you would defer deductions until next year. Unfortunately, the only



**Money Matters**  
Rick Bloom

way to determine whether you will itemize this year is to run through calculations using last year's tax return as a guide.

For taxpayers who are subject to the alternative minimum tax year, planning takes on a whole new perspective. Filers subject to the alternative minimum tax in most situations should delay deductions until next year. The alternative minimum tax used to be levied only on the very wealthy. Today, however, even middle-income taxpayers can be subject to the tax. If you are subject to this tax, the services

of a qualified tax expert can be invaluable.

One area many taxpayers will benefit from is a law that allows an individual 70½ and older and subject to required minimum distributions from retirement accounts to donate up to \$100,000 from their retirement accounts to a qualified charity. The distribution counts toward the required minimum distribution. The benefit of this transaction can be substantial.

In the past, filers who used the standard deduction would take the required minimum distribution, pay tax on the distribution and then make their charitable contribution. However, they would not be able to itemize their deductions. Under this law, the individual — by directly transferring money from the IRA to

the charity — would not have to pay income tax on the distribution.

This strategy also helps people who are in a high tax bracket and who are no longer eligible to deduct their charitable contributions. They can save a substantial amount on taxes by donating to a charity directly from a retirement account.

Another year-end strategy is to consider whether to convert a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. This allows an individual to convert tax-deferred money into tax-free money. In addition, money in Roth IRAs is not subject to required minimum distributions.

Roth conversions must be completed before the end of the year and they are not for everyone. However, for many individuals doing a

Roth conversion for either all or a portion of their retirement account makes a sense. To qualify, you must have an adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less.

The key to year-end tax planning is to be smart with taxes and increase your net worth. It's important to recognize at this time of year many gimmicks about taxes start appearing. Ultimately you are responsible for your tax return, and if you get involved with gimmicks, you are the one that will be held responsible. If you do use the services

of a professional, make sure he/she has the professional credentials to be giving you tax advice. If you make mistakes on your tax return, the IRS will be looking to you for any additional taxes, penalties and interest.

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

## 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,

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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, make-over 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



Mark

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.

## Speaker to bring Polish palaces to life

Marion Owczarski, artist-in-residence and director of the Galleria of St. Mary's College at Orchard Lake, speaks at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington Road.

Owczarski presents a program about Polish manor houses, castles and palaces enhanced with photographs and other visual examples. He is best known for his high impact sculptures in stainless steel.

There is no charge for the program presented by the Friends of the Livonia Library. For more information, call (734) 466-2495.

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OUR VIEWS

## District needs to challenge data

Wayne-Westland Schools Supt. Greg Baracy has labeled a Johns Hopkins University study that labeled Wayne Memorial High School a "dropout factory" as irresponsible and inaccurate.

The report is based on a school's promoting power, which compares the number of seniors enrolled in a school to the number of freshmen four years earlier. Schools with a promoting power of 60 percent or less were deemed dropout factories.

Researchers used enrollment data from the U.S. Department of Education freshman enrollment data in 2001, 2002 and 2003 and senior enrollment data in 2004, 2005 and 2006 and calculated that Wayne Memorial had a promoting power of 58 percent.

They admit the term is harsh and unfair, but use it to describe "under-resourced and over-challenged high schools which educate primarily low-income and minority students and year after year are unable to graduate the majority or near majority of students who enter the school."

If you listen to Baracy, Wayne Memorial doesn't fit the researchers' description of a dropout factory. As calculated by the Michigan State Department of Education, the school has a graduation rate of 86.5 percent and a dropout rate of 4 percent for the 2006-07 school year.

When you're comparing apples and oranges, it's hard to say who's correct. Wayne Memorial could well have a large turnover in students. It does draw students from portions of the district that have a large transient population. But it is making adequately yearly progress and meeting the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and its graduation rates are high.

The label is a stinging rebuke for the district, which has worked long and hard to improve its image. A lot of time and money have been invested into updating schools and the curriculum. The educational program is the first priority and students are showing in improvements at all levels.

The label of a dropout factory is just another hurdle the district faces in its push to be a top-notch school district. It now falls on school officials to prove the researchers are wrong. It won't be easy, but it won't fall on deaf ears. Researchers have already updated the report, removing four schools from the list because of inaccurate data.

## Protect Great Lakes before thirsty neighbors come calling

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who is currently seeking the Democratic nomination for president, fired off a warning shot recently that should make everyone in Michigan and the Great Lakes region take notice.

At a campaign stop last month, Richardson suggested states in the arid Southwest, like California, Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico, should look to the Midwest to help quench their insatiable thirst for water. Richardson said he advocated a system of "water delivery and water production" to move water west, noting that "states like Wisconsin are awash in water."

Although he referenced Wisconsin, those of us in Michigan should be equally alarmed, especially as more and more people move out West, where there are already major water shortages.

It almost defies logic that desert states like Nevada and Arizona are in the midst of population explosions. Take Arizona, for example. Between 1990 and 2000, the state experienced a 40-percent population growth rate, which was three times the national average, and is expected to have 6.4 million residents by the year 2025.

The population of Las Vegas, which is one of the fastest growing cities in the nation, is just shy of 2 million residents, up nearly 50 percent since just 1999.

Considering their geographic location and this staggering growth, it's not surprising that these places have already tapped out most of their water resources. So the question is, where will they look in the future? Richardson's comments seem to provide an answer.

And it's not just the Southwest that is experiencing unprecedented water shortages. The southeastern states of Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia are currently experiencing their worst drought conditions in more than a century. Some cities have used up their water resources and are now having to truck in water to their parched residents.

So it's fair to say it won't be long before Michigan and our Great Lakes neighbors have a big bull's-eye on our water resources. That is why we need to put protections in place that will prevent a major water grab by our thirsty neighbors.

A good place to start would be for our state lawmakers to pass Great Lakes protection legislation that was introduced in both the state Senate and House back in August, and includes the eight-state Great Lakes Compact and accompanying laws. This legislation will put in place safeguards against water diversions from the Great Lakes basin, which holds 18 percent of the world's fresh water supply.

Our lawmakers need to act with some sense of urgency on the legislation, because, as Richardson's comments make very clear, there are plenty of people out there who are thirsting for our water.



LETTERS

### End of a tradition

For many years the football game between John Glenn and Wayne Memorial has been the last game of the year. It was a tradition.

Well, this last game between them was the last time they will ever play the last game of the season for the city championship. Next year, Western Lakes and Kensington merge together and then the tradition ends.

I can tell you as a former player for John Glenn, having two sons who played for Glenn and having been vice president of the Football Boosters the last two years, I will miss this game very much, as will many others. We will still play Wayne, but it will be somewhere between the third and seventh game of the season. It will still be for the city championship, it just won't be the last game.

Since 1975, when I graduated from Glenn, I have been to every Glenn-Wayne game except for one, and I was out in California at that time. All schools have tradition and that is a great thing. With Glenn winning the city championship this year, the three previous seasons it went to the other team, I am glad I was there to see it, the last time.

Next year, Wayne will come to Glenn and it starts over. City championship on the line, hard-hitting football the way it should be on both teams this year. I had kids that I coached in football (Comets) who played in this game. I really enjoy watching all of them play. To all of you whom I had the pleasure of coaching, thank you for some great years.

To all the players and coaches from both teams, thank you for a great game, and congrats to the Rockets this year. All of you who played in this game you did a great job. I am proud of all of you, and I would like to say, see you next year, but not at the last game.

Maybe a new tradition can start.  
Bud Somerville  
Westland

### Give thanks by giving

If everyone in Wayne and Westland would take a minute to send a \$1-\$10 to the homeless shelter for Thanksgiving dinner, before they have their huge dinner, we all would feel more satisfied, that we did something nice for someone else (a good deed).

So how about it, people. I am broke, but I just did that. I not tooting my own horn, but if I can do it, how about starting a new tradition and give back a little something that God gave you in the first place.

I know I feel a lot better. I know we are all broke, but every bit counts. Don't give until it hurts.

Just give a little. How much is coffee for a week? Give that much.

I know in my heart those people I gave to will be thankful in their hearts and that's all I need to know. I will give thanks at my dinner that I was able to do that for my fellow man. Next year we

may be in that boat, so give now, so you won't be there next year.

Mari Squire  
Westland

### Support kids, not Big Oil

The term "socialized" is a term used principally in the United States to describe a system which operates by means of government regulation and subsidies derived from taxation.

Bush and his supporting Republicans, including Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, recently blocked a national health care plan for children in the U.S. In Iraq alone, our tax dollars have socially paid \$190 billion-plus, and counting. Adjusting the official aid to 2001 dollars in purchasing power, Israel has been "socially" given \$240 billion since 1973. In addition, the U.S. has socially given Egypt \$117 billion and Jordan \$22 billion in foreign aid in return for signing peace treaties with Israel. The United States signed an unprecedented \$30 billion "socialized" military aid package with Israel in 2007. Israel is not required to spend this only on military — it can be used for schools, children in Israel, etc.

■ Power, natural gas, and oil producers now qualify for manufacturing tax deductions — these "socialized" deductions will cost taxpayers \$76.5 billion from 2005-14.

■ Tax break for three oil companies to build an Alaskan natural gas pipeline — "socialized" cost to taxpayers: \$150 million, with oil company reaping all of the profits.

■ Oil company tax break, Title VII, Section 707 — "socialized" cost to taxpayers: \$295 million.

■ Tax breaks for oil refiners, Title III, Subtitle C, Sections 328-329 — "socialized" cost to taxpayers: \$119 million

■ Home Depot gets its ceiling fan subsidy — "socialized" cost to taxpayers: \$44 million in just three years.

I find it morally reprehensible that the Republicans in Congress and Bush have continued the institution of socialized war, occupation, Israeli funding, big oil, and corporations, but they lack any morality whatsoever to socialize the cost of making sure the children in the U.S. have health care.

It's too bad our children aren't rich, powerful lobbyists — but we are. Know who you are voting for next November. Demand every child in this country get health care. Put it on Israel, Exxon, and Home Depot's bill!

A. Hudak  
Canton

### Improve health care

It is a disgrace that the U.S. is the only capitalist democracy in the world that does not guarantee health care to its citizens. The uninsured are unable to pay hospital costs. Many cannot and do not receive necessary medical attention. Administrators in nonprofit hospitals earn extraordinary wages. On the federal level, President Bush vetoed

a bill which would have provided health care for children, supported by many Republicans.

Democratic candidates for president Clinton, Obama, and Edwards have offered similar plans which would give persons choices: 1. You can keep your current plan if you like it. 2. If you don't like it or are uninsured, you can choose from a list of private plans offered to members of Congress. 3. You can opt for a new public plan patterned on Medicare. Republican opponents including candidates for president, reframe this crucial issue with the words "socialized medicine." I believe they are ethically challenged and morally corrupt.

Hannah Provence Donigan  
Commerce

### The green buck

Green is the hip and current trend, but don't tell Starbucks. Recent news reports state that the cups it uses are not recyclable and there are no plans to change these cups to green-friendly products.

Think about the lack of concern and recourse this action has had on the earth. Does Starbucks only care about the buck? The only way to ensure this company complies with the environmental standards is to boycott these coffee hangouts until they comply.

I enjoy a sip of java like the next guy, but if you consider the number of people who drink coffee from earth unfriendly containers, we have a serious environmental challenge that is occurring right under our so-called green noses.

Boycotts seem extreme, but they work and even if this boycott is for one day, it will send a message. The green movement has come to us with great zeal for the survival of our green spaces, but even one company that refuses to comply can jeopardize this movement and make it nothing more than a hip trend that will pass, as all trends do.

Get mad and address your local Starbucks and become an activist for change.

Green is good for all and especially for corporate America.

Ron Austin  
Franklin

### SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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### QUOTABLE

"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. There's no sound in space, other than the sound that comes through the com."

- Cmdr. Sunita Williams talking to students at St. Damian School about life about the International Space Station

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Richard Aginian - Publisher Emeritus

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

## Too many make immigrants scapegoats for nation's ills

A couple weeks ago, members of the social justice committee at St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church in Canton invited Detroit Bishop Daniel Flores to come speak about the subject of immigration.

The topic had been something the members of the committee had been discussing during meetings, and they thought Flores, an Hispanic who hails from Texas near the Mexican border, could offer some personal insights on the matter. They also thought that what he had to say would be something the general public would be interested in as well, considering immigration, or more specifically illegal immigrants, is such a hot topic these days.

While acknowledging America has "a serious political problem to solve" because of the influx of illegal immigrants crossing over from Mexico, Flores implored those in attendance to remember that immigrants, even those here illegally, are human beings too, and deserve to be treated as such. He said Christians, especially, need to treat all humans with respect and dignity.

At the conclusion of his thought-provoking sermon, Flores was hoping to field a few questions, but was instead bombarded by people looking to pick a fight about the issue. There weren't many questions, mostly just long, drawn-out rantings — the same kind of stuff you would hear from a right-wing talk radio.

It didn't take long before Flores concluded the session, and you could tell he was a bit perturbed. I couldn't help but feel bad for him. Here he was trying to spread a message of love, in a church no less, and he was largely met with anger and hatred.

Let's face it, anger and hatred (and probably some racism sprinkled in) have been the guiding voices in America's crusade against illegal immigrants from Mexico.

And it only seems to be getting worse. Illegal immigrants seem to be getting the blame for all of America's ills lately. They steal our jobs, attend our schools for free, scam our welfare system, and on and on. Heck, I heard several people say they believed illegal immigrants were responsible for setting the fires in California.

Some members of Congress, including Thaddeus McCotter of Livonia, said one of the reasons they voted against expanding the State Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) was that too many illegal immigrants would take advantage of it.

Personally, I find it a great irony that aboriginal peoples of North America are being labeled immigrants to this country.

But there is no question that we have a problem in this country. There has been a major tide of immigrants, both legal and illegal, that have come to America. In March 2006 the Pew Hispanic Center estimated the undocumented population was around 12 million, a number supported by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. The majority (more than 80 percent) are from Mexico and Central America. And it's not hard to see the impact they've had on the American employment landscape.

When I was younger, I worked for a landscaping company. We bought all of our plants and trees from local nurseries. When I first started, you would see a few Mexican workers. A decade later, every nursery we dealt with employed mostly Mexican workers, most of whom knew no English.

And then they moved into the trades like brick laying, painting, drywall, etc. I remember a couple of the new subdivisions where we worked that were being developed by Pulte Homes, and all you would see were Mexican workers building the homes.

A lot of my friends who were in the trades suddenly found themselves with little or no work. So there has definitely been an impact.

Yet, I shake my head when I hear people say illegal immigrants have stolen American jobs. You can't steal a job. If you could, I would be the CEO of some Fortune 500 corporation. Someone has to give you a job.

And that brings me to the solution to America's illegal immigration problem. It really is simple — start throwing the people who hire them in jail. All the owners of the factories, landscaping and construction companies, and restaurants who reap more profits because they don't want to pay a decent wage to American workers should be arrested and given harsh prison sentences.

Without the lure of jobs, immigrants are not going to come here. Unfortunately, there are far too many companies willing to hire them — illegally. People who are so upset about this issue should direct their anger against those people, not poor, desperate Mexicans, or people like Bishop Flores, who have sympathy for them and plead with people to treat them like human beings.

I refuse to hold it against someone because they are trying to provide a better life for their families. That's what brought my ancestors to these shores. Fortunately for me, the political climate was a little different back then.

Kurt Kuban is community editor for the Canton Observer. He welcomes feedback at [kkuban@hometownlife.com](mailto:kkuban@hometownlife.com) or call him at (734) 459-2700.

## Hunting down those elusive Michigan legislators

We stopped off at Plymouth Orchards, our favorite cider mill, in Superior Township this past Sunday. We took the trek out from church in Canton and were glad to see neighbors while out there. It was the final day the larger cider mill building was open for this year, so we wanted to get all our goodies.



Julie Brown

A news tip came my way. It seems the Michigan Legislature won't be in session Nov. 9, tomorrow, until the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 27.

I'm not a hunter and the purpose of this column isn't to debate the pros and cons of hunting. It seems to be, however, that if Mr. or Ms. Legislator were a hunter, a break of two and a half weeks wouldn't be needed to head North and view late fall's splendor.

The Legislature's been in the news a lot lately, what with budget battles and now recall actions against Speaker of the House Andy Dillon, D-Redford, and other Democrats. My news source suggested, and I agreed, that a lengthy break right now isn't really such a good idea. Christmas will be here soon enough and presumably there'll be even more time off then, some of it certainly justified as we non-legislators get to spend time with our families and friends then as well.

Back in the 1950s, my dad served in the state Legislature, representing a portion of Oakland County as a Republican. He was

paid \$5,000 a year. There were no legislative staffs, but rather a secretarial pool for each political party where necessary correspondence was taken to be typed and mailed.

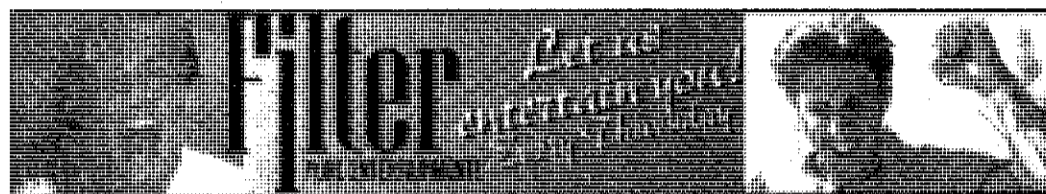
It's been 50 years since then and there's no doubt our state has grown and changed. Still, it seems we could learn something from those simpler times about downsizing.

A lot of our state legislators are good about constituent services, keeping in touch with the common man and woman by hosting regular coffee hours at the local library or a coffee shop or restaurant. This is certainly a good use of a legislator's time. Many are good about making the rounds of service club meetings, taking time to keep residents and business people up to date on legislative/government affairs.

I think a case can be made for an aide or two, now that our state's grown in population and prominence. Still, there's a great need to make budget cuts and to get down to business.

The people's business can hardly be conducted while in the woods around Gaylord or Petoskey, and the legislators belong at their desks and offices in Lansing, as do their staffs. People in the private sector manage to find time for short hunting treks, and our representatives in Lansing can certainly do the same.

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



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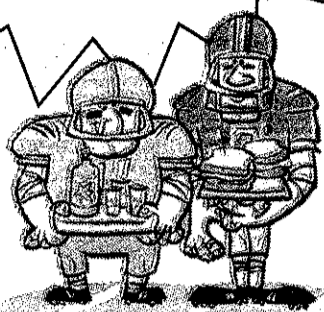
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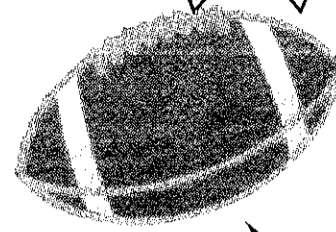
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# SPORTS

**B** (LW)

Thursday, November 8, 2007

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Brad Emons, editor . (734) 953-2123 . [bemons@hometownlife.com](mailto:bemons@hometownlife.com)

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## Stevenson's defense rises to the occasion

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Unsung, unheralded, but not overlooked.

Livonia Stevenson's front seven defensively certainly has received high marks for their performance this season even though they've taken a back seat to an offense which has averaged 38.5 points per game.

It's no accident that the Spartans, who play rival Livonia Franklin again this Friday in the Division 1-Region 4 title game, are 11-0 overall.

The Spartans have given up only 715 net yards rushing all season, an average of 65 yards

per game.

"We have not given up a lot of points against some good offenses," said Stevenson coach Tim Gabel, whose Spartans' opponents have combined for only 130 points (11.8 per game).

It starts, of course, in the trenches led by returning senior tackles Trent Judis (5-10, 245) and Chris Golonka (6-2, 310), both starters a year ago.

"Both are in double-digits as far as tackle for losses," Gabel said. "Both are technically sound, good sized kids. They're big and experienced and that takes the pressure off our line-

Please see **STEVENSON, B4**

### THE REMATCH

**Division 1-Region 4 Franklin (7-4) at Stevenson (11-0)**  
When: 7 p.m. Friday.  
The winner meets: Either Troy (9-2) or Warren Cousino (11-0) Saturday, Nov. 17, in the state semifinals.

**The first meeting (Aug. 30):** Stevenson piled up 419 yards in total offense, including 289 on the ground en route to a 38-26 victory. The visiting Spartans overcame first-half deficits of 14-3 and 20-17. Franklin, missing eight regulars including starting running backs Cole Kelly and David Fortin, went exclusively to a passing attack as quarterback Jesse Carpenter hit 15-of-29 for 242 yards. Stevenson quarterback Mitchell White was 6-of-12 for 130 yards. He accounted for 163 total yards, while Austin White rushed for 119 yards on 19 carries.

## Pats' offensive line making big strides

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

There's a big reason why Livonia Franklin has won seven of its last eight football games — start with improved play from its offensive line.

"It's been a major work in progress," said Franklin coach Chris Kelbert, who takes his 7-4 Patriots Friday to 11-0 Livonia Stevenson for the Division 1-Region 4 championship game. "The last four weeks we've rushed for an average of 250 yards. We've come along. It started even before David (Fortin) came back healthy." Fortin, who missed eight reg-

ular season games with an arm injury, including a 38-26 Week 2 loss to Stevenson, has rushed for 238 and 188 yards in two playoff games since his return.

The 5-foot-10, 190-pound junior, however, would be the first to credit the guys in front of him for paving the way.

Franklin's offensive line is anchored by three-year starter Pat Cecile, a 6-3, 235-pound senior who has transitioned from center to guard the past three games.

"He knows he's a physical force and we've put him at guard for his athleticism,"

Please see **FRANKLIN, B4**

## Sidelines

### MU harriers 12th

Both the Madonna University men's and women's cross country teams earned 12th-place finishes in Saturday's NAIA Region VIII cross country championships Saturday at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids.

Aquinas College won the men's title with 48 points, while MU was scored 358 in the 14-school field.

Top finishers for the MU men included Keith Hearn (Livonia Stevenson), 51st (27:12.09 for 8,000 meters); Jacob Burman, 82nd (28:13.96); Charles Wolfe, 89th (28:39.52); Max Guy (Livonia Stevenson), 97th (29:10.89); and Brian Robertson (Livonia Churchill), 109th (29:37.7).

Indiana Tech edged Indiana Wesleyan for the women's title, 59-64.

MU (333 points) was led by Kirsian Tyler (Livonia Franklin), 28th (19:26.93 for 5,000 meters); Kari Saarela (Franklin), 53rd (20:13.17); Devan Walley, 102nd (21:36.09); Jessika Friend, 128th (23:00.41); and Amanda Weaver, 134th (24:06.96).

### LSC registration

The Livonia Soccer Club currently has open registration for all ages for the spring 2008 season.

Registration must be completed by Wednesday, Feb. 27. For more information, visit the LSC Web site at [www.LivoniaSoccer.org](http://www.LivoniaSoccer.org).

### Lady Ocelots 5th

Rebecca Rehberg (Livonia Stevenson) earned a 12th-place finish in 21:15 (5,000 meters) as the Schoolcraft College women's cross country squad took fifth place in the NJCAA Region XII meet Oct. 28 at Grand Woods Park in Lansing.

Other placers for Schoolcraft (119) included Emma Czapliski, 25th (22:20); Britni Strong, 28th (22:38); Allison York, 40th (23:42); and Sheray Brown, 42nd (24:13).

Lansing CC edged Oakland CC for the team title, 36-39.

## Warriors advance

### Lutheran Westland to host tough regional

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Lutheran High Westland made quick work last Saturday of two opponents in the Class D girls volleyball district hosted by the Warriors.

Becca Refenes, a 6-foot-2 junior middle hitter, had 16 kills as Lutheran Westland improved to 28-4-5 overall with a 25-14, 25-16, 25-5 over Taylor Baptist Park Christian in the finals after disposing of next door neighbor Westland Huron Valley Lutheran in three straight, 25-9, 25-8, 25-15.

Other kills leaders for the Warriors in the championship final included Chelsea Kyles (6), Myrian Storck (5), Allyson Yankee (4) and Katy Ramthun (3).

Ramthun and Refenes had four and three solo blocks, respectively.

Ramthun was also 51-of-52 serving with 19 points (including two aces). She also led with five digs.

Lauren Gieschen led with 13 assist-to-kills, while Julie Jongsma added seven and Cathy Haller finished with five. "We definitely had a good

day today, we performed well," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade said. "We worked on quite a few things this week in practice and that hard work definitely paid off on Saturday."

In the semifinal win over Huron Valley, Refenes had 10 kills, while Yankee added seven.

Ramthun contributed five kills, three solo blocks and six aces.

Gieschen and Jongsma each had nine assists, while Abi Gieschen and Refenes both finished with five digs.

Huron Valley, behind the hitting of Emily Helwig and Lauren Adlof, advanced to the semifinals with a 25-10, 25-17, 25-9 first-round win over Taylor Light & Life Christian.

Baptist Park took out Newport Lutheran South in the other first-round match in three games.

Earlier this season, Huron Valley (16-19-2) split a match in pool play with Lutheran Westland in the Hawks' own tournament, but the rematch proved to be a mismatch.

"We did not put enough balls away and we had chances,"

Huron Valley coach Mike Dest said. "They (Lutheran Westland) played well, but we did not play as well as we could. We had to play really well to beat them. They also played pretty good defense. I tip my hat off to them."

The Warriors advance to the regional Saturday at home, but only two state-ranked teams will be there. It was discovered Wednesday that top-rated Adrian Lenawee Christian used an ineligible player last week in the district and had to forfeit its matches. That means No. 2-ranked Hillsdale Academy takes on Plymouth Christian Academy in one semifinal beginning at 11 a.m., while the Warriors will receive a first-round bye and will face the winner.

The regional champion moves on to the state quarterfinal Tuesday, Nov. 13 at Hudsonville Freedom Baptist to face the Climax-Scotts regional champion.

"We need to put together another good week of practice in preparation for the regional tournament," Wade said.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lutheran Westland senior Sam Terranella tips one over Huron Valley Lutheran senior Emily Helwig (left) and freshman Leah Miller (right) in Class D district action on Saturday.

## Stevenson bids adieu with 19th WLAA title

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

One coach who will definitely miss the Western Lakes Activities Association is Livonia Stevenson's Greg Phill.

He could have been singing *Auld Lang Syne* following Saturday's conquest of another WLAA girls swim title at the Salem High pool, the Spartans' 16th in the last 17 years.

Next year, Stevenson and the rest of the WLAA will join forces with the Kensington Valley Conference and two schools from OAA (Waterford Mott and Kettering) in the new 24-school Kensington Lakes Conference.

Stevenson will be paired



Marecki



Timson

up in one division with Novi, Northville, Salem and the two South Lyon schools.

"I think it will be all screwed up," Phill said of the new league setup. "We have one of the better leagues and I don't like the way things have been voted on. We'll have to wait and see. The coaches mapped out a scenario, but they didn't use it. They let people

who don't know anything about it, make the decision. I don't see a reason for going over there."

As far as the final WLAA meet, Stevenson scored a team-best 574.5 points with Northville finishing a distant second with 391. Canton placed third with 312, edging the host Rocks who settled for fourth with 300. Walled Lake Central (260) and Westland John Glenn (223) rounded out the top six.

"We came into the meet 166 points up, according to the seedings, and we were up 202 after the prelims," said Phill, who took a ceremonial dip in Salem's pool following the win. "We did well. Where we were seeded going into the finals,

it was going to be hard to improve. For Northville to go from 202 down (in the prelims) to 183 in the finals is a credit to them. They swam well."

Stevenson captured firsts in eight of the 12 events with seniors Brynn Marecki and Laura Timson leading the way, each figuring in three firsts.

Marecki took individual titles in the 200-yard freestyle (1:55.35) and 100 breaststroke (1:06.19), while Timson captured the 200 individual medley (2:10.41) and 500 freestyle (5:08.23).

Marecki also teamed up with sophomore Ashley Gordon, senior Megan Holycross and senior Blake Holtz for a first in the 200 medley relay (1:51.9).

Timson swam the lead-off leg in the victorious 400 freestyle relay (3:39.07) along with freshman Savannah Hatt, freshman Kaylee Dolinski and Gordon, nearly eclipsing the WLAA mark of 3:39.04 set by Stevenson in 2000.

"Both are great kids and hard workers," Phill said of his senior tandem. "They're swimming well right well and we look forward to the state meet. This was a step on the way. Literally, they've been excellent all season."

Marecki won two events recently in the Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association meet held Oct. 13 at Eastern Michigan

Please see **SWIMMING, B3**

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## Garden City spikers stop Glenn in final

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Coach John Pace predicted Saturday's Class A girls volleyball district would be a battle and it lived up to the advanced billing.

With a little luck, Pace's Garden City squad barely got past upstart Westland John Glenn and sensational junior middle hitter Brittany Holbrook in the four-game final of the Wayne Memorial-hosted district.

That "luck" amounted to the Rockets' penchant for short serves and attacking errors at fortuitous times for the Cougars.

An errant attack extended Game 4 enough for Garden City (29-16-3) to stay alive and avoid a do-or-die fifth game.

"Oh, absolutely," said Pace in a relieved tone of voice about finishing off the Rockets in four. "When you go to Game 5, it's up for grabs. I'm sure there were a lot of people in this gym that thought it was going to go five." "I was like 'We've got to do everything we can to stop this right now.'"

It also included Garden City senior setter Christina Seward's relatively quick recovery from a hyper-extended right wrist to help the Cougars close out the 25-22, 25-21, 13-25, 27-25 triumph and win a third consecutive district title — the second in a row against the Rockets.

Garden City advances to Friday's Class A regional semifinal 6 p.m. at Glenn. The Cougars go up against Temperance Bedford.

"I think they (team) could have rolled with it either way," said Pace, about reacting to Seward's injury. "... But it's Tina's senior year, it was her last district, and you hate for seniors to not be able to play."

"She set us for four years, and to get injured and if we would have lost it would have

(who missed half of Game 2 and all of the third game) said there was no way she would let her senior swan song end on the sidelines.

"That's why I toughed it out and tried to play," Seward said. "It was kind of ugly, but I wanted to play real bad."

The Cougars eked out the Game 1 victory, despite a late seven-point service run (including four aces) by Holbrook, who finished with 33 kills, 10 digs, four aces and three blocks.

That string turned a 21-15 Garden City lead into a one-point Rockets advantage.

But instead of closing out the win for Glenn (10-22-6), Holbrook's service error knotted the score at 22-22 and Cougars sophomore outside hitter Stephanie Stevens (14 kills) wrapped up the game with three points from the line.

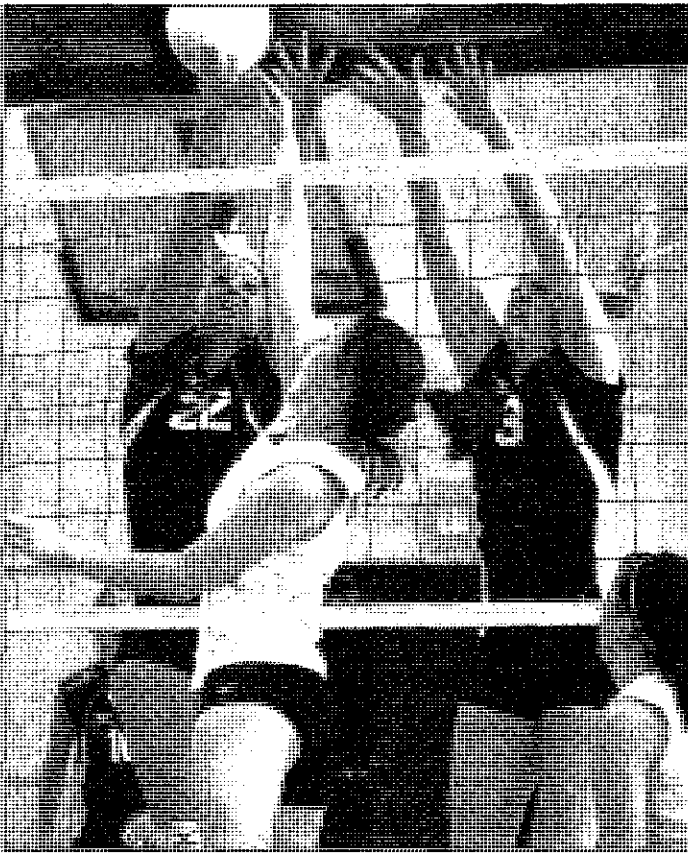
"We're a high-risk serving team," Glenn coach Julian Wargo said. "When you try to emphasize things like jump-serving, there's a certain risk factor that we take. Our passing broke down a couple of times, which was just enough for GC to step through the door. We were not able to deliver the big kill or tough serve when we needed it."

Game 2 was deadlocked at 11-11 when Seward hurt her wrist while landing awkwardly trying to keep a rally going.

Glenn then went up 14-13, but Garden City sophomore middle blocker Kellyn O'Brady (five kills) added her first serve and then added four more points and the Cougars had a lead they wouldn't give up.

Junior outside hitter Amanda Quartz subsequently served up four points, including an ace, to put Garden City on the cusp of a 2-0 match lead.

"We weren't going to let that (injury) stop us," said Quartz, who tallied 15 defensive digs, 11 kills and five aces against the Rockets.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Glenn's Brittany Holbrook (left) and Stacey Truskowski (right) go up to block Wayne's Katie Wilson in Saturday's district semifinal matchup.

service runs of five and six points, respectively, by junior defensive specialist Emillie Cichowski and senior libero Aranda Phare (19 digs).

Of course, the 6-foot Holbrook was the player who finished points for Glenn — towering above the net and hammering the ball.

Game 4 stayed true to the day's white-knuckle theme, although the Cougars grabbed an early advantage (aided by Stevens' three-point service run) and held on.

It was 20-15 Garden City after a defensive kill by Glenn's Halie Baker (seven kills, fourth blocks) put senior teammate Kirstin Kirk (50 digs) on the line.

Kirk reeled off four points and suddenly it was a close game again.

The Rockets soon were up 24-22 with a chance to clinch. But a service error ended that opportunity.

Taking advantage, Seward served up two clutch points and Stevens provided another on a defensive block to put the Cougars ahead 26-25.

Stevens then served up what would be match point,

istrict title for the Cougars.

"We played our best volleyball today," said Wargo, whose team trounced Wayne in one semifinal. "I have to give credit to John's kids. They were consistent serving and they kept us back on our heels."

### Glenn whips Wayne

Holbrook registered 22 kills, while Stacey Truskowski and Kirk added seven each, in the Rockets' 25-15, 25-11, 25-9 semifinal victory over the host Zebras (1-27).

Kirk recorded a team-high 22 digs, while Phare added 18.

"Rivalry matches are always intense," Wargo said. "This one was no different. Wayne passed everything that we served at them. We were able to match up with them at the net, which gave us the advantage. We stepped up our defensive movement, which allowed just to run the attacks we wanted. Our setter, Lauren Baker, distributed the ball well."

Glenn also defeated Romulus in three games, 25-9, 25-11, 25-10, as Holbrook had 20 kills and 10 digs.

## Churchill girls earn another top-10 finish at state finals

BY BRAD EMONS  
STAFF WRITER

Livonia Churchill has been a model of consistency the past four years at the Division 1 state girls cross country championships held at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

On Saturday, coach Sue Tatro's Chargers earned their fourth consecutive top-10 finish by placing seventh with 225 points.

Rochester took the team crown with 108, while Grand Haven was runner-up with 154.

Churchill was led by senior Rachel McFarlane, the Western Lakes Activities Association champion who earned All-State honors (top 30) for the third straight year by finishing 15th overall with a lifetime best time of 18 minutes, 22.4 seconds on the 5,000-meter course.

Livonia Stevenson, led by junior Courtney Calka's 17th-place finish in 18:27.3, wound up 18th in the team standings with 422 points among the 26 schools.

Other Churchill finishers included junior Sara Kroll, 41st overall (18:57.7); sophomore Amanda Southwell, 45th (19:00); junior Alyssa Mira, 48th (19:01.7); and junior Hannah Otto, 138th (20:07.6).

Churchill's non-scorers included senior twins Michelle (148th) and Kim Verellen (168th) with times of 20:15.4 and 20:36.1, respectively.

"I'm very proud of the team and I feel that overall we had a very respectable performance," said Tatro, who guided the Chargers to a runner-up finish in 2006. "Each of the seven girls either ran a season, or lifetime P.R. I'm especially proud of Rachel (McFarlane) for being All-State three years in a row. This is an accomplishment no other Charger cross country has attained. She has worked hard for four years and it's very exciting to see an athlete accomplish what she has during her tenure."

Calka, the regional champion who earned All-State honors for the third straight year, was followed by senior teammate Denee Mier, 111th (19:47.3), sophomore Victoria Saferian, 114th (19:50.2);



McFarlane Calka

senior Samantha Kay, 153rd (20:18.9); and freshman Katie Capeneka, 161st (20:28.2).

Stevenson's non-scorer was senior Julia Schroeder in 165th (20:33.9).

Waterford Mott ninth-grader Shannon Osika was individual medalist in 17:35.8.

In the Division 2 meet, Livonia Ladywood individual qualifier Amanda Field, a senior, took 116th in 20:53.2.

Sloan Secord of Gaylord took first in 17:49.7.

### Division 1 boys meet

In the Division 1 boys state meet, individual champion Brian Hawkins (15:26.9) led Pinckney to the team title as the Pirates edge Saline, 124-141.

Livonia Churchill's Joe Varilone, a senior, took 54th overall in 16:21.4. Teammate Mark Waterbury, a junior, placed 113th in 16:40.0.

Livonia Franklin senior Evan Sirena closed out his career in 91st with a clocking of 16:34.1, the second fastest time in school history. Meanwhile, Livonia Stevenson junior Shawn Howse took 174th in 17:14.3.

### Division 4 boys meet

Lutheran High Westland placed 26th out of 27 schools in Saturday's Division 4 state finals at MIS.

Among the finishers for the Warriors included junior Spencer Lyle, 111th overall (17:52.5); Josh Rice, 128th (18:02.6); senior Ross Pursifull, 217th (19:47.8); junior Cameron Banks, 223rd (19:59.3); and junior Alex Kemp, 226th (20:28.2).

Lutheran Westland's non-scorer was senior Paul Bealafeld in 238th (21:17.7).

Pottsville edged Hesperia for the team title, 144-150. Kevin Oblinger of Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart was the individual winner in 15:49.3.

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**PREP GIRLS SWIM RESULTS**

**WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOC. GIRLS SWIM MEET**

Nov. 1-3 at Salem H.S.

**TEAM STANDINGS:** 1. Livonia Stevenson, 574.50 points; 2. Northville, 391; 3. Canton, 312; 4. Salem, 300; 5. Walled Lake Central, 260; 6. Westland John Glenn, 223; 7. Walled Lake Western, 218; 8. Walled Lake Northern, 213; 9. Plymouth, 189; 10. Livonia Franklin, 154.5; 11. Livonia Churchill, 114; 12. Wayne Memorial, 65.

**FINAL HEAT RESULTS**

**200-yard medley relay:** 1. Stevenson (Ashley Gordon, Brynn Marecki, Megan Holycross, Blake Holtz), 1:51.90; 2. W.L. Western (Alexia Fregonara, Sarah Krueger, Adina Bohr, Stephanie Standriff), 1:56.64; 3. John Glenn (Jordan Burgess, Khiry Sparks, Ashley Sells, Casey Peterson), 1:57.22; 4. W.L. Central (Jordan Daykin, Rebecca Lee, Madison Sewell, Sarah Roeser), 1:57.99; 5. Salem (Emily Nelson, Sara Spala, Kathryn Gorman, Kristin Hartwig), 1:59.10; 6. Northville (Ashley Filipowicz, Kelly Burford, Becca Myers, Allison Davidson), 2:00.79; 7. W.L. Northern (Kayla Knight, Michelle Carter, Kelsey Slayton, Chloe Reuter), 2:03.34; 8. Canton (Katie Kubacki, Sara Krebs, Kayla Eyster, Christine O'Keefe), 2:04.24; 9. Churchill (Stephanie O'Annunzio, Eren Ural, Emily Hiser, Haley Fox), 2:09.68; 10. Franklin (Jordan Haymour, Rose Carpenter, Dominique Jordan, Jessica Gilbert), 2:12.87; 11. Wayne (Amanda Fill, Kaitlin Durden, Kellie Spahr, Krystle Crandall), 2:28.92; 12. Plymouth, disqualified.

**200 freestyle (A Final):** 1. Marecki (LS), 1:55.35; 2. Savannah Hatt (LS), 1:57.83; 3. Meghan Kanya (N), 1:58.63; 4. Kaylee Dolinski (LS), 2:00.11; 5. Monica Blaesser (C), 2:02.29; 6. Whitney Aumiller (S), 2:03.06.

**(B Final):** 7. Adina Bohr (WLN), 2:01.44; 8. Rachel Englert (N), 2:01.60; 9. Natalie Cote (LF), 2:02.60; 10. Jessica Varana (WLC), 2:04.40; 11. Michelle Chang (P), 2:06.07; 12. Jordan Burgess (WJG), 2:07.31.

**200 Individual medley (A):** Laura Timson (LS), 2:10.41; 2. Ashley Gordon (LS), 2:14.68; 3. Maggie Carlson (C), 2:15.90; 4. Ashley Sells (WJG), 2:17.54; 5. Emily Hopcian (N), 2:18.64; 6. Emily Nelson (S), 2:19.68.

**(B):** 7. Madison Sewell (WLC), 2:20.86; 8. Sija Hao (P), 2:21.86; 9. Catherine Irwin (C), 2:22.96; 10. Emily Bair (S), 2:23.45; 11. Kayla Knight (WLN), 2:26.12; 12. Emilee Montini (LS), 2:28.02.

**50 freestyle (A):** 1. Allison Schmitt (C), 24.16; 2. Jessica Weber (N), 24.87; 3. Alexia Fregonara (WLN), 25.75; 4. Lauren Cockels (WLN), 26.01; 5. Sarah Roeser (WLC), 26.31; 6. Kathryn Gorman (S), 26.41.

**(B):** 7. Alyssa Liakos (P), 26.46; 8. Blake Holtz (LS), 26.48; 9. Samantha Curry (N), 26.93; 10. Kari Schmitt (C), 26.97; 11. Andrea Wozniak (WLN), 27.00; 12. Madelynn Sevil (WN), 27.45.

**1-meter diving:** 1. Carla McNamara (LS), 342.70 points (11 dives); 2. Katrina Koetting (S), 337.00; 3. Leah Dunville (WLC), 303.10; 4. Hannah Saarinen (WLN), 287.40; 5. Desiree Clenney (JG), 282.80; 6. Bri Waldie (WLN), 275.25; 7. Kelsey Libbe (N), 268.40; 8. Sophie Daugherty (WLN), 253.20; 9. Kailea Stancer (LC), 242.45; 10. Jennifer Jones (N), 241.40; 11. Jessica Krueger (WLN), 235.55; 12. Kara Hattemer-Plant (WLC), 231.50.

**100 butterfly (A):** 1. Ashley Sells (WJG), 59.41; 2. Adina Bohr (WLN), 59.92; 3. Emily Hopcian (N), 1:00.73; 4. Rachel Englert (N), 1:01.88; 5. Megan Holycross (LS), 1:03.97; 6. Kayla Douglas (LF), 1:05.39.

**(B):** 7. Kathryn Gorman (S), 1:05.84; 8. Sarah Opdyke (LS), 1:06.53; 9. Faith Miller (N), 1:06.76; 10. Catherine Irwin (C), 1:08.29; 11. Emily Hiser (LC), 1:08.43; 12. Kelsey Slayton (WLN), 1:09.08.

**100 freestyle (A):** 1. Allison Schmitt (C), 51.49 (meet record); 2. Jessica Weber (N), 54.35; 3. Whitney Aumiller (S), 57.04; 4. Michelle Chang (P), 57.16; 5. Jessica Varana (WLC), 57.38; 6. Blake Holtz (LS), 57.71.

**(B):** 7. Jordan Daykin (WLC), 58.07; 8. Samantha Reid (LC), 58.25; 9. Lauren Cockels (WLN), 58.34; 10. Kari Schmitt (C), 58.45; 11. Alyssa Liakos (P), 59.44; 12. Andrea Wozniak (WLN), 59.91.

**500 freestyle (A):** 1. Laura Timson (LS), 5:08.23; 2. Savannah Hatt (LS), 5:08.66; 3. Kaylee Dolinski (LS), 5:20.32; 4. Sija Hao (P), 5:27.46; 5. Monica Blaesser (C), 5:28.94; 6. Jordan Burgess (WJG), 5:35.98.

**(B):** 7. Natalie Cote (LF), 5:32.86; 8. Emily Bair (S), 5:33.77; 9. Casey Peterson (WJG), 5:36.71; 10. Amanda Suokas (N), 5:41.25; 11. Allison Burke (S), 5:44.92; 12. Michaela Keady (N), 5:46.08.

**200 freestyle relay (A):** 1. (tie) Northville (Kanya, Hopcian, Englert, Weber) and Canton (Krebs, Carlson, Kari Schmitt, Allison Schmitt), 1:42.33 each; 3. Stevenson (Timson, Hatt, Dolinski, Holtz), 1:44.09; 4. Salem (Gorman, Heaney, Bair, Aumiller), 1:45.53; 5. Plymouth (Palczynski, Masiyk, Liakos, Chang), 1:45.79; 6. W.L. Northern (Wozniak, Pawolski, Reuter, Cockels), 1:47.41.

**(B):** 7. John Glenn (Burgess, Peterson, Fielhauer, Sparks), 1:47.25; 8. W.L. Central (Varana, Moskal, McCarthy, Roeser), 1:47.61; 9. Franklin (Cote, Kent, Douglas, Anthony), 1:47.65; 10. Churchill (Cabadas, Nelson, Fox, Reid), 1:52.55; 11. W.L. Western (Standriff, Ostach, Krueger, Johnson), 1:57.67; 12. Wayne (Randies, Bevil, Crandall, Windsor), 1:58.13.

**100 backstroke (A):** 1. (tie) Kayla Douglas (LF) and Ashley Gordon (LS), 1:01.04 each; 3. Meghan Kanya (N), 1:03.36; 4. Emily Nelson (S), 1:03.88; 5. Alexia Fregonara (WLN), 1:04.33; 6. Megan Holycross (LS), 1:05.51.

**(B):** 7. Charlotte Buckley (LS), 1:05.57; 8. Jordan Haymour (LF), 1:07.92; 9. Kristin Hartwig (S), 1:07.95; 10. Ashley Montini (LS), 1:08.29; 11. Ashley Filipowicz (N), 1:08.66; 12. Catherine Moeller (LS), 1:09.00.

**100 breaststroke (A):** 1. Brynn Marecki (LS), 1:06.19; 2. Madison Sewell (WLC), 1:10.44; 3. Maggie Carlson (C), 1:10.64; 4. Rebecca Lee (WLC), 1:10.83; 5. Elle Palczynski (P), 1:11.77; 6. Sarah Krueger (WLN), 1:14.83.

**(B):** 7. Kayla Perchall (LS), 1:14.16; 8. Casey Peterson (WJG), 1:14.38; 9. Kelly Burford (N), 1:15.33; 10. Shannon Pawolski (WLN), 1:15.94; 11. Sara Spala (S), 1:16.78; 12. Megan Trotter (N), 1:16.82.

**400 freestyle relay (A):** 1. Stevenson (Timson, Hatt, Dolinski, Gordon), 3:39.70; 2. Northville (Kanya, Hopcian, Englert, Weber), 3:40.75; 3. Canton (Kari Schmitt, Carlson, Blaesser, Allison Schmitt), 3:44.81; 4. W.L. Central (Daykin, Sewell, Lee, Varana), 3:51.76; 5. Salem (Bair, Nelson, Aumiller, Burke), 3:54.21; 6. Plymouth (Chang, Masiyk, Liakos, Hao), 3:56.95.

**(B):** 7. W.L. Western (Standriff, Fregonara, Johnson, Bohr), 3:56.83; 8. W.L. Northern (Wozniak, Knight, Bell, Cockels), 3:57.82; 9. Franklin (Cote, Kent, Douglas, Anthony), 4:00.87; 10. John Glenn (Humbach, Alholinna, Raley, Fielhauer), 4:04.73; 11. Churchill (Cabadas, Hiser, D'Annunzio, Reid), 4:08.47; 12. Wayne Memorial (Bevil, Randies, O'Mara, Windsor), 4:24.60.

**SWIMMING**

FROM PAGE B1

University's Jones Natatorium, the site of the Division 1 state finals (Nov. 16-17).

"Brynn will probably go in the IM and breaststroke," Phill said. "And with Laura, we'll have to talk about it."

Stevenson, winning its 19th WLAA title since 1983, also got a victory in the 1-meter diving event as sophomore Carla McNamara led the way with 342.70 points (for 11 dives).

Gordon, meanwhile, tied Livonia Franklin freshman Kayla Douglas in a dead heat for first in the 100 backstroke (1:04.04 each). Douglas is believed to be the Patriots' WLAA champion since Anne Shepler captured the 100 breaststroke in 1986.

Other WLAA individual winners included Canton's senior start, two-event state champion Allison Schmitt, who captured the 50 freestyle (24.16) and set a league record in the 100 freestyle (51.49), eclipsing the mark

of 51.57 (set by Stevenson's Anne Aristeo in 1994).

John Glenn junior Ashley Sells took the 100 butterfly in 59.41, while Northville's quartet of Meghan Kanya, Emily Hopcian, Rachel Engler and Jessica Weber and Canton's foursome of Sara Krebs, Maggie Carlson, Kari Schmitt and Allison Schmitt hit the wall simultaneously to dead-lock for first in the 200 freestyle relay (1:42.33 each).

But overall the meet belonged to Stevenson.

"I thought our freshmen swam well," Phill said. "Kayla Perchall did a good job, and both the Montini twins (Emilee and Ashley), along with our two aces, Savannah Hatt and Kaylee Dolinski, who were just awesome."

The Spartans, who hope to improve upon last year's fifth-place Division 1 finish, will take a total of nine swimmers to the state meet.

"I like the way we're positioned," Phill said. "Our best relay is the 200 medley. That's where (Ann Arbor) Pioneer is the most vulnerable."

**Lady Ocelots wear Region 12 title, 10-1**

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

**WOMEN'S SOCCER**

At halftime Saturday, Schoolcraft College's women's soccer team enjoyed a two-goal lead against College of Lake County (Ill.) in an NJCAA Division 1 district championship game — leaving the host Lady Ocelots just 45 minutes from qualifying for the nationals in Georgia.

Schoolcraft obviously did not want to let that chance slip away and proved it by scoring seven unanswered goals in the second half to rout the Lancers, 10-1.

Tallying two goals each for Schoolcraft (13-1-0) were freshman midfielder Allyson King (Livonia Stevenson), freshman forward Michelle Dowdy and sophomore for-

ward and Livonia Franklin alum Jessica Austin. Sophomore midfielder Gloria Soyad chipped in with a goal and two assists, freshman forward and Plymouth product Clare Baptist registered a goal and Austin tallied four helpers along with her two goals.

Other goal-scorers were freshman forward Adrianna Guerrero and sophomore midfielder Katie Sterling (Livonia Stevenson) while freshman defender Sally L'Esperance also picked up an assist against Lake County (15-3-0).

"It is a great satisfying feeling when you look down at the stats and see that every player that played today had a part in the goal scoring," said

Schoolcraft head coach Deepak Shivraman, whose team also received an assist from the winning goalkeeper, Livonia Ladywood's Jessica Tuggle.

Shivraman said his squad seized the victory thanks to an outstanding second half.

"I felt that we did a much better job of maintaining possession of the ball and capturing the momentum" following halftime, he said.

The third-seeded Lady Ocelots will next play 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15 against No. 6 Iowa Western in the NJCAA Division 1 National Championship to be held in Albany, Georgia. Schoolcraft and seven other squads will compete over a five-day period at Darton College.

tsmith@hometownlife.com

**PREP VOLLEYBALL**

**2007 (FALL) MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION ALL-REGION 18 TEAM**

**Livonia Churchill:** Kyndra Abron, Lindsey Graciek, Kirsten Nalecz, Jordan Kerr.

**Livonia Stevenson:** Meg Jarrate, Kaylee McGrath.

**Westland John Glenn:** Brittany Holbrook, Kirstin Kirk.

**Garden City:** Christina Seward, Shannon Pietruszka, Stephanie Stevens.

**Plymouth:** Rachel Heaton, Briana Beyer.

**Salem:** Jansen Falconsun, Kelly McDonald.

**Canton:** Jordan Kleity, Marie Martin, Kacy Moran.

**Livonia Franklin:** Ashley Price.

**Redford Union:** Shanedra Greeley.

**Livonia Ladywood:** Catherine Phillips, Julie Rhodes.

**Lutheran Westland:** Becca Refenes, Kately Ramthun.

**Plymouth Christian:** Miriam Monroe, Sara Ross.

**Northville:** Krysta Cicala, Beth Foucher.

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## STEVENSON

FROM PAGE B1

backers and frees them up." Senior defensive ends Matt Broome (6-3, 235) and Jason Bajas (6-0, 213) play both ways.

Bajas is a jack-of-all trades, having played inside and outside linebacker, along with tackle and end. He may be undersized, but usually holds his own against bigger opposition, according to Gabel.

Broome, meanwhile, is a three-year varsity player. "They're always the first in the weight room," Gabel said. "They've both done a good job lifting and that's why I think maybe they haven't gotten worn down as much."

Stevenson's other defensive end spot has been shared by a committee of three players.

Junior Rich Sayig (6-1, 232) was making strides before getting injured in the last regular

season game against Brighton, which required season-ending knee surgery.

Senior twins Mark (6-1, 170) and Kevin Marchelletta (6-1, 205) have had to pick up the slack.

Mark has filled in nicely on-and-off all season, while Kevin earned his first action of the season in a first-round playoff win against Plymouth.

Kevin Marchelletta was feared lost for the season after undergoing foot surgery, an injury suffered in a summer job while driving a Hi-Lo just prior to the start of preseason practice.

Meanwhile, senior linebackers John Saaman (5-10, 208) and Joey Doulette (5-9, 186) have thrived all season.

Saaman started every game last year as a junior as the Spartans made the playoffs and finished 6-4.

"John had a slow start at the beginning, but has been very good the last six or seven weeks," Gabel said. "He played

some fullback in (preseason) practice. He's big, fast with great instincts as far as reacting and playing downhill."

Doulette was a part-time starter a year ago.

"He's just very, very crafty, an undersized inside linebacker with great instincts," Gabel said. "He has a great way of avoiding blocks and getting to the ball."

The Spartans, who defeated an injury-riddled Franklin squad in Week 2, 38-26, may face their toughest challenge to date.

"We always thought they were always one of the more talented teams in the league," Gabel said of the 7-4 Patriots. "They had some kids out and we have no delusions. We'll obviously have our hands full. And obviously when throw that fact that it's a playoff game and it's a city rivalry, it makes them formidable."

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## FRANKLIN

FROM PAGE B1

Kelbert said. "He's pulling more than being a down blocker at center."

While Cecile adeptly handled the switch from center to guard, Kelbert searched for a starter at the opposite guard position before settling on senior Anthony Berna (6-1, 205) in a game Sept. 21 against Plymouth.

"We used five different guys there, initially he (Berna) was never in the picture," Kelbert said. "He's stepped up and done a good job. He's a kid who came to practice every day, played on the scout team and worked hard every day. There was no reason. He just got his shot and did not give the position up."

Senior Steve Fotiu (5-7, 216) did not start the season opener against Westland John Glenn, but has solidified the center spot.

"He's a kid who gives you everything he's got," Kelbert said. "He may not be the biggest or strongest kid, but what

he makes up for in size, he gives you in aggressiveness. He just gets the job done."

Senior Dan Woodall (6-3, 190), a standout on the Franklin wrestling team, also changed positions, moving from guard to tackle.

"He plays the weakside where you need to be quick," Kelbert said of Woodall. "He's a better reach blocker. He gets us the edge better at tackle than pulling at guard. It's a better fit for him and he's more comfortable."

The other tackle may be the Patriots' most pleasant surprise — 6-3, 280-pound sophomore Nate Coleman.

"He has all the potential, he's a very good on two feet, good athleticism," Kelbert said. "He's a basketball player who could start on the varsity. He's also a smart, carries a 3.6 grade point (average). He knows where he has to be, even if he doesn't get there. He knows all his assignments."

Franklin also has one of the better blocking and receiving tight ends in the area — 6-3, 235-pound Jeff McCullough, who starred last week at

defensive end with two interceptions, including a touchdown return, and two sacks in a 20-8 win at Dearborn Fordson. The senior returnee also has 25 catches and three TDs.

"He's made a tremendous transition the last two weeks on both sides of the ball," Kelbert said. "He's stopped pressing. He's more relaxed and has been that much better."

But despite their late-season resurgence and playoff run, the Patriots remain an underdog against Stevenson, which is coming off an impressive 42-21 win over Novi.

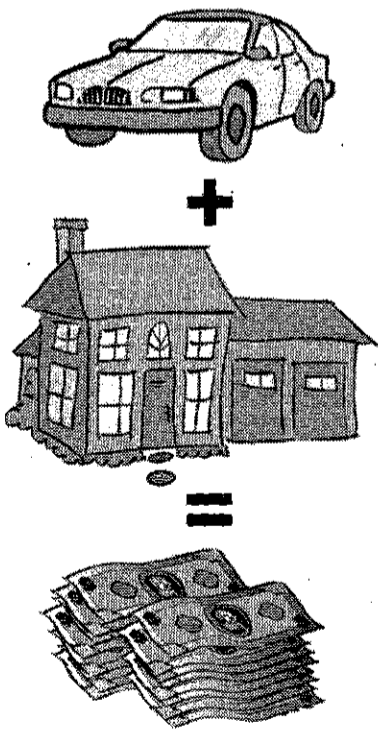
"Scheme-wise there's nothing different, they're just playing with confidence and that's what makes them so good," Kelbert said of the Spartans. "They just don't have team speed at quarterback, running back or receiver. They have speed everywhere. Their linemen and linebackers are quick. And they're always well-coached. Tim's (Gabel) system is basic, but it's amazing how many plays they run."

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ALL-WLAA, METRO FOOTBALL TEAMS

ALL-WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION 2007 FOOTBALL TEAMS ALL-CONFERENCE (OFFENSE) Center: Ricky Bell, 6-0, 245, Sr., Livonia Stevenson.

Franklin: Alex Bledsoe, 5-10, 185, Jr., Wayne; Revnell Couch, 5-10, 185, Sr., W.L. Western.

Weatherman Gross rolls out releases

Among the local personalities, Paul Gross of Farmington Hills is best known for his weather reports on local TV Channel 4.



Ten Pin Alley Al Harrison

If it's too rainy to golf, they can always go bowling. If the nasty weather closes down the schools, the kids can somehow get to the nearby lanes, as they always manage to stay open.

group had no increase in their scores while the latter group showed marked improvement.

The folks at the University of Michigan School of Business created this experiment and have been able to extrapolate studies like this into the business world.

Pawlowski, of Garden City, also passed at the age of 75. Tom was a teammate of mine in the Mayflower Senior Men's Classic and was among the inaugural members when the league was put together by the late John P. Gavie.

THE WEEK AHEAD PREP FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS Friday, Nov. 9 (Division 1-Region 4 Championship) Franklin (7-4) at Stevenson (11-0), 7 p.m.

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# Crusaders' '07-08 plan: Gain NAIA women's hoop tourney

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Just one bitter defeat to Cornerstone in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference tournament championship kept Madonna University's women's basketball team from stepping onto the national stage.

This time around, the last kick at the can as it were for talented seniors including Cali Crawford, team captain Caryn Inman and honorable mention All-America Martina Franklin, the Crusaders and second-year head coach Carl Graves will be looking for a little redemption beginning with Tuesday's road contest against Purdue-Calumet.

"We defeated everybody up to the championship game and then we just didn't play well (against Cornerstone)," said Graves, the winningest first-year head coach ever at Madonna (15-18 overall), whose team fell just one game short of reaching the NAIA Division II National Tournament. "So we left on a sour note. Still, there was a lot of satisfaction for us, and we're hoping to build on that."

The first two months of the new season will be especially challenging, however.

The Crusaders open without high-scoring guard Stephanie Piotrowski, who decided to leave the MU program after just one year.

Martina Franklin (Redford Union), meanwhile, recently rejoined the squad and is "really working hard to catch up." The 5-10 forward, who earned first-team All-WHAC honors after averaging 18 points and 9.3 rebounds, will provide hard-nosed leadership and plenty of determination in the paint.

Graves will be looking for others to make up for the unexpected loss of Piotrowski, who left to attend classes at Monroe Community College (she isn't playing basketball). Piotrowski averaged nearly nine points per contest as a freshman and led MU with 82



MU SPORTS INFORMATION  
Senior-eligible Caryn Inman (left) is anxious to get the Madonna women's basketball season started. The former MU volleyball star can concentrate solely on hoops this time around.

treys.

"Her (Piotrowski) shots came in the flow of the offense and we have a whole team of people that can step up and hit shots," Graves emphasized. "They can all shoot the basketball."

One player at the top of that list will be point guard Crawford (6.4 points, 3.5 assists), who worked hard during the off season on her outside shooting.

"She's probably the fastest player in the conference and I think she's gotten smarter," Graves said. "And offensively, she can score a little more. She's improved her outside shooting."

Another Crusader who can find the target from beyond the three-point arc is 5-9 junior forward Christie Carrico, who averaged nine points and six boards per contest in '06-07.

Carrico, the only Madonna player named to the preseason All-WHAC squad, sank 29-of-127 three-point tries a year ago (second to Piotrowski).

"She (Carrico) is obviously a key component to our team and the rest of the WHAC recognized how big she was for our last year and what her impact will be heading into this season," Graves said.

Carrico also will need to "step up and score, especially in the first half of the year," he continued. "She has the ability to do it and now she will be a marked woman on the court, so her job becomes harder."

Yet another key Crusader is senior-eligible Inman, likely to start on the wing but who

## BASKETBALL PREVIEW

could play anywhere. For the first time in her Madonna career, Inman's basketball season won't be impeded by volleyball, a sport she achieved All-America status in.

"Caryn was an easy choice to be captain, she brings so much to the program," Graves said. "She can play every position on the floor and she can do so much off the floor... And this is her first year of all basketball, so it's a new experience for her."

Graves has another player who could see time anywhere on the court in junior guard-forward Alyssa Guerin (Plymouth Salem), who tallied about 7.5 points and five rebounds per game in '06-07.

"She plays a lot bigger than she is," Graves said. "She rebounds the ball well and is one of our best shooters."

Two other seniors will be coming off the bench in tandem to play in the backcourt. Both Rebecca Ruffli (shooting guard) and Lahnna Waybrant (point guard) are a "package deal," having been teammates at Oakland Community College.

"When we put them on the floor together, collectively they do some wonderful things," Graves said.

The coach said his 2007 recruiting class of 6-0 guard-forward Tabatha Wydrick, Sheryl Jager and Amy Walker will all see plenty of playing time and could start to build solid careers at Madonna.

"We're hoping they can learn some things," Graves noted. "We will have five seniors going out the door, so we hope they can pick up the pace. We're excited about their chances for the future."

Also learning some things are first-year assistant coaches Michelle Harakas (Livonia Ladywood alum and former Illinois State player) and Ebony Vincent (Royal Oak Shrine alum), who take over positions left by Kelly Jaskot and Nicole Wickenheiser.

# Crusaders suffer OT loss in opener, 91-88

Despite five players reaching double figures in points, Madonna University's men's basketball team lost Saturday's season opener, 91-88 in overtime to host Grace (Ind.) College.

The Crusaders (0-1) enjoyed a 45-44 halftime lead in the non-conference tilt, but were outscored 14-4 at the free-throw line during the second half to enable the No. 13-ranked Lancers (1-0) to go up 82-80 in the waning moments of regulation. But Madonna junior wing guard Cedric Sims (Wayne Memorial) hit a field goal with just 20 seconds left to force the extra session.

Grace, spearheaded by 23-point games from Eric Gaff and Austin Kaiser, emerged with the win after outscoring MU 9-6 in overtime.

Sims led the Crusaders with 16 points, hitting seven of 12 from the field, and collected a team-leading eight assists.

Senior forward D. J. Bridges (Canton) scored 15 while senior point guard Charlie Henry (Agape Christian) and senior guard Jon Battle each tallied 13. It was Battle's MU debut; he



MU SPORTS INFORMATION  
Madonna University junior Cedric Sims, an alum of Wayne Memorial, sent Saturday's opener against Grace (Ind.) College into overtime when he hit a field goal with just 20 seconds left in regulation. But the Crusaders were edged in the extra session, 91-88.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Ocelots drop opener

starred at Indiana Tech last season. Junior guard Kevin McLoughlin drained four of five three-point attempts to score 12 points.

The top rebounder was 6-7 freshman forward and Canton alum Ryan Waidmann, with eight boards. Chipping in with six rebounds and eight points was senior forward Mike Rashad (Wayne Memorial).

On Saturday, host Schoolcraft College lost 83-70 to Owens Community College in the season opener for both men's basketball squads.

The Ocelots could not stop David Davis (21 points), DeAndre Hall and Wes Taylor (19 each).

Bright spots for Schoolcraft included Ryan Matthews (11 points, five rebounds, two blocks, two steals) and Darius Hardrick (11 points).

# Lady Ocelots start off 2-0 at Tip-Off Classic

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Two games, two different ways to win.

Schoolcraft College's women's basketball team showed its collective versatility at the annual Schoolcraft "Tip-Off Classic," winning a blowout Friday against Lansing before coming from behind to trip up Grand Rapids the following afternoon.

The Lady Ocelots (2-0) needed a second-half rally to earn a 71-65 victory over Grand Rapids, trailing 47-40 with about 14 minutes remaining. They finally went

up 59-57 with 7:10 to play, but didn't really finish off their opponent until Heidi Warczynski (16 points) made four free throws in the final minute.

Leading all scorers, with 27 points, was Janelle Harris. Tallying nine and eight points, respectively, were Antoinette Brown and Shana King. Harris and King each pulled down 10 rebounds to spark the Lady Ocelots.

Rebecca Moore scored 16 for Grand Rapids (0-2), with Aunjuli Stewart chipping in

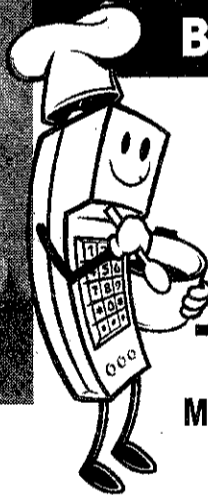
with 14.

On Friday, Schoolcraft scored the game's first 13 points and led 21-4 with 10 minutes left in the opening half and rolled to a 79-52 victory against Lansing.

Leading the attack was Adrena Walker-Price, with 13 points, along with six steals. Collecting 10 points each were Brown, Warczynski and Shannon Collins while Harris contributed nine points and nine rebounds.

In other tournament games, St. Clair defeated Grand Rapids 56-53 on Friday while Lansing defeated St. Clair in Saturday's other game, 71-61.

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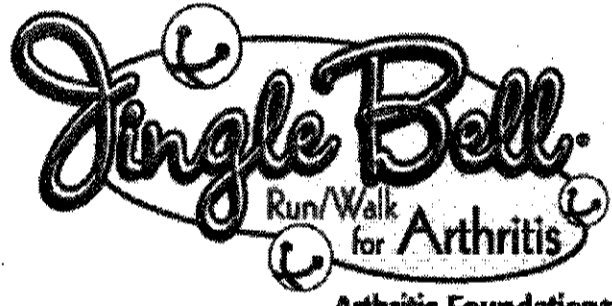
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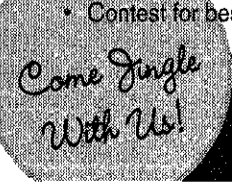
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# Ignition win season opener with 17-6 triumph over Philadelphia

BY ED WRIGHT  
STAFF WRITER

Late Saturday night, it appeared as if the Detroit Ignition had registered a statement-making, out-of-the-gate 17-6 victory over the defending Major Indoor Soccer League champion Philadelphia KiXX in the season opener for both teams.

Less than 48 hours later, it turned out the win was also a going-away present of sorts for head coach Mark Pulisic.

On Tuesday, the MISL club announced that Pulisic had relinquished his job behind the bench for the newly formed position of Director of Soccer Operations. His former role will be filled by recently hired assistant coach Bob Lilley, a nine-year veteran head coach in the United Soccer League.

"Bob has a great soccer coaching mind and he relates extremely well with the players," Pulisic noted in a press release that was distributed Tuesday morning. "The Detroit

Ignition, as an organization, is quite fortunate to have him as their head coach."

If the Ignition plays as well for Lilley as it did for Pulisic on Saturday, he's in for a glorious tenure. With the majority of the roster intact from last season's runner-up finish in the MISL, Detroit played a nearly flawless first half before subduing a late KiXX rally.

New first-string goal-keeper Danny Waltman was stellar between the pipes, shutting out the KiXX over

the opening 30 minutes.

Offensively, the winners were paced by a pair of native Brazilians - Hewerton Moreira and Ricardinho - who each tallied a pair of net-finders.

"To win the home opener in front of a big crowd is always special," Pulisic said following the game. "The guys know how important it is to get that first one under their belt. We were very good in the first half. In indoors, the momentum can change a bit in the second half, which it did tonight,

but we held on for a nice win."

Detroit's initial goal of the season was one for the highlight reel. Hewerton threaded a cross-field pass to Ricardinho, who tapped a no-look backward dish to Jonathan Greenfield, who rifled a low, hard laser past KiXX net-minder Peter Pappas to make it 2-0 just 2:25 into the contest.

The Ignition padded its lead to 5-0 with one tick left in the first quarter on a three-point goal by Hewerton that came off a free kick. Ricardinho notched the assist.



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## Whalers finish road hat trick

It's a long-standing custom to award three stars for every hockey game in the Ontario Hockey League.

There were more than three stars, however, for the Whalers in three victories last weekend on the road in Niagara (4-0), Erie (3-2) and Mississauga (5-2).

The three victories move Plymouth to 10-6-1-0, good for 21 points and third place in the West Division and fourth overall in the Western Conference. The Whalers are sailing along at a 10-4-0-0 clip since the start of October. The road sweep also improved Plymouth's record to 7-2-1-0 away from Compuware Arena.

There were plenty of heroes in the Whaler victories in Niagara, Erie and Mississauga:

Andrew Fournier and Chris Terry: The Whaler co-captains had a huge weekend, with Fournier getting nominated for OHL Player-of-the-Week with five goals and three assists for eight points over the three games. Fournier figured in on eight of the Whalers' 12 goals on the weekend, including two goals and two assists in Niagara as the game's first star, an assist in Erie and the natural hat trick in the third period in Mississauga - another first star effort.

Terry was nearly as good as Fournier with a goal and six assists for seven points over the weekend. After getting two assists in Niagara, Terry brought Plymouth back from a 2-1 deficit in the third period in Erie with a shorthanded goal to tie the game and then set up the game-winning goal by AJ Jenks with an outstanding play with 20 seconds left in regulation.

Jeremy Smith and Michal Neuvirth: Smith pitched a 28-save shutout in Niagara against one of the highest-scoring teams in the OHL.

Neuvirth was outstanding in Erie when the Whalers struggled through a second period when they were outshot, 10-1. Neuvirth made several key stops to hold Plymouth in the game. He also played well the next day in Mississauga. Smith and Neuvirth continue to show why they are the best goaltending tandem in the Canadian Hockey League.

Whaler Penalty Killers: Plymouth penalty killers pitched a complete shutout in the victories in Niagara, Erie and Mississauga, going a perfect 24-for-24 over the weekend. The Whalers have been dominant on the penalty kill through their first ten road games this season, going 79-for-85 during that stretch for 92.9 percent.

While Joe McCann and AJ Jenks continue in last season's role as an effective duo, veteran Joe Gaynor has stepped up his play as well.

"Gaynor's done a good job for us in a defensive role," said Plymouth assistant coach Joe Stefan. "He's a big man who doesn't mind blocking shots. It's a dirty job sometimes, but he's willing to do it and that has really helped us."

What Can Brown (and Mahalak) Do For You?

The Whalers are getting good play out of a forward line featuring Gaynor with two local Whaler pups, Tyler J. Brown (Westland) and RJ Mahalak (Monroe). The line doesn't score much, but doesn't allow goals against, either.

The line often gives the Whalers energy and allows Brown and Mahalak to continue work into regular ice time as they learn about the OHL.

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