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SUNDAY
February 24, 2008

WESTLAND Observer

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Wayne-Westland schools lose 160 students

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The February student count didn't bring good news to the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, which lost an additional 160 students since the start of school in September. "We know that 70 students have moved out of the state," said Superintendent Greg Baracy. "We have to determine

how many moved in (with) relatives. We had students move to the Upper Peninsula and the upper Lower Peninsula."

The district, which has more than 13,400 students, showed an enrollment loss of 200 from the 2006-07 school year in September. That count as well as this month's count will be blended — 75 percent of the September figures and 25 percent of the February count —

for state school aid purposes.

According to Baracy, the loss of students "seems to be a trend" across the county and is tied to the state's economic problems. He added that for the first time, the state is acknowledging the loss.

At the January revenue conference, state officials said more than 25,000 students left Michigan and they expect the trend to continue through this

school year and into next year, Baracy said.

According to the year-end balance estimates released in January, the state's ability to provide for per-pupil funding increases "has been significantly enhanced in recent fiscal years by a steep decline in the number of pupils funded." The report noted that the number of pupils funded statewide declined 86,267 students from

fiscal 2002-03 to fiscal 2008-09.

"It's all about jobs and the economy, and I don't see those improving," Baracy said.

He added that the "state-of-the-art" William D. Ford Career Technical Center has the ability to provide retraining for unemployed adults. However, a cut in state funding has shrunk the adult education program from 2,000 students

to just 200.

"We could give these workers the skills to find jobs," he said. "The state used to pay for that retraining."

He added that students are continuing to graduate, leave their families and leave to find jobs out of state.

"How does that help our economy? It doesn't," he said. "We'll continue to lose students as families leave Michigan."



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy speaks to seniors about elder abuse at Westland's senior Friendship Center.

Prosecutor warns: Elderly abuse on the rise

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Abuse of elderly people, even by their own children, has become the fastest-growing crime in Wayne County and the nation, and the problem will only worsen as baby boomers age, officials said Wednesday.

"It can be financial, physical or emotional, and the consequences can be deadly," Westland Mayor William Wild told nearly 150 seniors who attended a seminar at Westland's senior Friendship Center.

Elder abuse by nursing home and assisted-living facility workers, financial predators, siblings, adult children and even spouses has spiraled into one of the most troubling crimes facing law-enforcement agencies, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said.

"Elder abuse is the fastest growing crime we have in



Seniors listen as Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy offers tips for avoiding financial scams.

America," Worthy said during the seminar, which she led along with Wild, Westland Police Chief James Ridener and county Adult Protective Services investigator Monique King.

Worthy's office has an Elder Abuse Unit that was started

in 2004 and includes just two prosecuting attorneys who investigate some 250 cases every year. Despite the workload, they boast a 99 percent conviction rate on crimes that get reported.

Nearly two-thirds of elder abuse crimes involve finances

stolen by health-industry workers, relatives and other caregivers, Worthy said. Some seniors have had to find jobs after losing their life savings, she said.

One mortgage industry worker, now in prison, bilked tens of thousands of dollars from 83 seniors in southeast Michigan by swindling elderly homeowners of money they were supposed to receive from reverse mortgages — loans made possible by converting home equity into cash.

BE AWARE

Other scams involve caregivers who steal personal checks or credit cards from seniors and use the information to pay for items ranging from groceries to vehicles, Worthy said. One defendant stole from an elderly couple battling dementia and Alzheimer's disease, she said.

Please see **ELDERLY, A3**

Man charged with trying to shoot girlfriend

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland man was arraigned Friday afternoon on charges of trying to shoot and kill his girlfriend as she drove away from a domestic dispute at their home on Genesee Court, on the city's south side.

The shot struck the driver's side of the victim's car around 5:45 a.m. Thursday, police Sgt. Michael Harhold said, but the woman escaped injury.

Kevin Antonio Reid, 29, was jailed in lieu of a \$100,000 cash/surety bond after he was arraigned in Westland 18th District Court on charges of assault with intent to murder, having a short-barrel shotgun, felonious assault, felony firearms and domestic violence.

Both Reid and his 28-year-old girlfriend are hearing impaired,

and an interpreter was brought to court for the arraignment. Magistrate Donald Vandersloot entered a not-guilty plea for the defendant and ordered him back in court March 6 for a preliminary hearing that will determine whether he should stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The incident began unfolding in the Norwayne neighborhood after the couple argued about their relationship, Harhold said. Reid is accused of assaulting the woman before she fled the house.

The woman's car was parked in front of Reid's vehicle in the driveway, and she caused damage to both vehicles and to a fence as she tried to get away, Harhold said.

The woman briefly got out of her car, then got inside and started to drive away as Reid was

Please see **CHARGED, A3**

Webster fund-raiser planned

See related story on Page 2A

A rocking chair and a rug used for second-grade story time, a quiz bowl game, and other touches made Webster Elementary classrooms feel like home to students and teachers are the kinds of things that insurance probably won't cover after Monday's fire.

The PTA is planning a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser for 6 p.m. Friday, March 7, at Webster's new headquarters, the Taylor Elementary building.

"Obviously the school has insurance," said Shelly Morell, mother of a second-grader and organizer for the fund-raiser. "Those things aren't going to be replaced unless we get some money to replace them."

A September PTA walk-a-thon raised \$14,000, which provided funding for items the teachers requested, like digital cameras, mobility aids and other learning tools.

Some of those items arrived a week before the fire. "Those teachers put even more of their own personal money into their classrooms," said Morell, of Webster.

Restaurants including Buca di Beppo, Eastside Mario's, Laurel Manor, Corsi's Banquet Center, Luigi's and Valentino's offered to help.

Two Westland City Council members pledged funding. Tickets for the fund-raiser are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Organizers plan to serve salad, entrees (including some appropriate items for a Friday in Lent), beverages and desserts. The event is open to families from all the schools.

Donations are also being collected for a silent auction.

Anyone who can help, should e-mail Morell at smorell@wowway.com.

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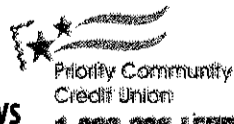
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Woman awaits trial on fraud charges

CHARGED
FROM PAGE A1

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman, charged with forging a neighbor's checks while on probation for embezzling in her former job with the city's housing department, has been released from jail as she awaits trial along with her teenage son.

Tonya Yvonne Cramier, 40, was released after a visiting judge in Westland 18th District Court reduced her bond Thursday from

\$500,000 cash or surety to just \$25,000/10 percent, allowing her to walk free after \$2,500 was posted for her.

Visiting Judge Anthony Nicita reduced the earlier bond set by 18th District Judge Sandra Cicirelli, who had said a cocaine charge against Cramier might explain four counts of forgery, legally referred to as uttering and publishing.

Cramier already was on probation from April 2007 for embezzling money from

a client she was supposed to help while working for a family-assistance program at the city's Dorsey Center. Now she is accused of forging checks totaling \$3,800 that belonged to a neighbor woman who was hospitalized for a car accident.

Cramier is accused of making the checks out to herself and, in one instance, to a nonprofit organization she had formed, called Ways To Family Self-Sufficiency.

Her 18-year-old son, Jason David Cramier, is charged

with one count of uttering and publishing on allegations he cashed a \$150 check belonging to the 55-year-old neighbor. He was on probation for a marijuana charge.

Police Sgt. David Heater has said that Cramier's other son, who is not charged, had been given the keys to watch the alleged victim's house and feed her dog while she was in a hospital. She told police she noticed the missing checks after she came home.

Heater has said in court that cocaine and a straw were

found in Tonya Cramier's house when police executed a search warrant.

In court Thursday, the Cramiers were ordered to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court after they waived a preliminary hearing — a move that averted pretrial testimony. The forgery charges are punishable by up to 14 years in prison upon conviction. The cocaine charge against Tonya Cramier can carry a four-year term.

accused of getting a shotgun, the detective said.

"She drove her car around the corner to Grand Traverse and heard a shot that struck the driver's side of her vehicle," Harhold said. "She crashed into a neighbor's fence, but she was not injured."

Reid is accused of fleeing the scene, but he was arrested a short time later at a relative's house in Westland, the sergeant said.

If convicted as charged, Reid could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy speaks with Donna Yurich of Wayne after the elder abuse seminar. Yurich, a member of Westland's senior Friendship Center, said, "It was good to hear about the scams." In the background is Westland Mayor William Wild, who brought the program together.

ELDERLY

FROM PAGE A1

"I don't want you to be paranoid," Worthy told the crowd. "I just want you to be aware."

Elderly people can be victims of home-improvement scams, mortgage fraud, bogus sweepstakes offers and inheritance theft, Worthy said. Even going shopping has its risks to those who aren't careful, she said, because a predator can use a cell phone camera to take pictures of credit cards that are pulled from purses and wallets.

Worthy offered warning signs of possible elder abuse: Caregivers often have expensive gifts supposedly given to them, or their names are added to bank accounts. Financial records are missing. Victims may appear fearful, depressed or confused, and they may make contradictory

statements. Offenders may exhibit aggressive behavior or try to prevent seniors from talking to others.

In all, two-thirds of elder abuse victims are women, Worthy said, and 80 percent of victims have annual incomes of less than \$10,000 a year. The average age of those abused is 75.

Wayne County prosecutors have asked officials with the county purse strings to try to allocate more money to hire elder abuse attorneys, but that has been difficult amid tough economic times, Worthy said. She urged anyone who suspects elder abuse to call their local police departments, which work with the prosecutor's office to get convictions. In Westland, the phone number is (734) 722-9600.

Ridener said local police aggressively investigate complaints they receive, whether those involve physical or emotional abuse, neglect or exploi-

tation.

King also said complaints may be made to Adult Protective Services by calling (877) 963-6006 in Wayne County or (800) 996-6228 elsewhere. King said investigations can range from one day to several months.

Seniors who attended Wednesday's seminar found it helpful.

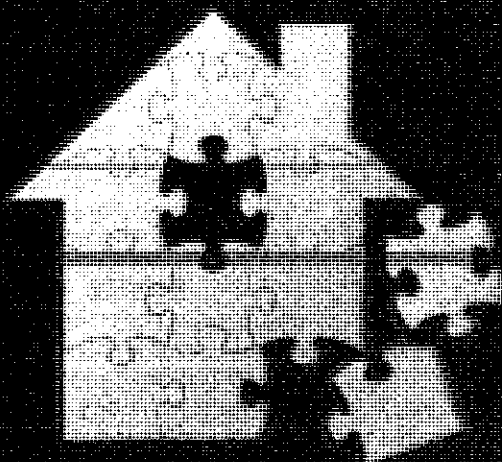
"It makes us aware that it is not only a local concern but also a national concern," said Reather Everett, area representative for the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association.

Everett voiced hope that victims will come forward with suspected abuse, even though they may feel embarrassed that they allowed someone to take advantage of them.

"It's OK to admit that something is wrong," she said.

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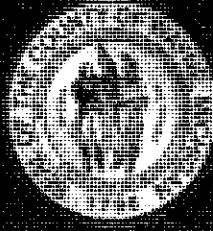


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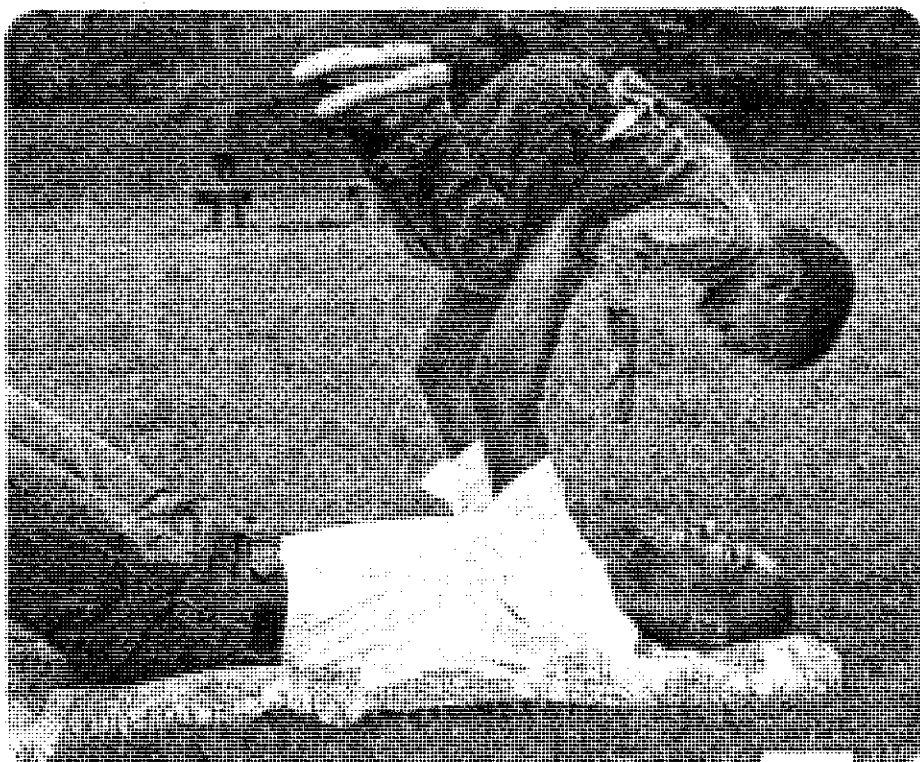
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Hospital programs focus on wellness

Garden City Hospital, 6245 Inkster Road, offers a weekly schedule of health and wellness programs for residents. The lineup this week includes:

Monday, Feb. 25

Get Up and Move at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. This is an invigorating exercise program designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect complement to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Childbirth Education (sixth of six classes) at 6 p.m. This six-week course prepares the expectant mother and coach for labor and delivery. Class runtime is 2½ hours and there is a \$60 fee. Medicaid is accepted. A refresher course also is available. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information or to register.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

Get Up and Move at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. This is an invigorating exercise program designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect complement to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Diabetes Self-Management

Education (second of four classes) at 9:30 a.m. This comprehensive series is planned to help people Live Well With Diabetes. Participants learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. The program is certified by the Michigan Department of Community Health to assure quality and compliance with State and National Diabetes Education Standards. Physician referral is required. There is a fee, but reimbursement is available by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans. Call (734) 458-3481 for more information or to register.

Strength and Stretch at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. This is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help you strengthen and define your muscles, as well as increase your flexibility. Each class

will combine a variety of equipment, including free weights, medicine balls, balance balls, and Therabands in order to isolate and tone each of the major muscle groups. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Power Hour at 3 and 5 p.m. An intense exercise class designed to take you to the next level in fitness. Every class will be different, but we guarantee that each one will be challenging and fun, with a variety of aerobic exercises to experience. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Yoga (fourth of four classes) at 4 p.m. Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind. This four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Cardiac Rehab. Call (734) 458-3242 for details and to register.

Wednesday, Feb. 27

Power Hour at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. An intense exercise class designed to take you to the next level in fitness. Every class will be different, but we guarantee that each one will be challenging and fun, with a variety of aerobic exercises to experience. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

CPAP and BIPAP Mask Fitting Clinic at 5 p.m. Attention, CPAP and BIPAP users: Did you know that most insurances cover new supplies every year? Have you been wanting to try a new style of mask, but don't know how to get one? Garden City Hospital's Sleep Disorders Center can help. Visit the Sleep Disorders Center in Room 329 at Garden City Hospital, 5-6 p.m. any Wednesday for a free mask fitting clinic. No appointment is needed. Call (734) 458-3330 with any questions or for more information.

Eating Disorders Support Group at 7 p.m. This support group is for those individuals with anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive and binge eating disorders. Both males and females are invited to attend. This meeting is held in the Garden City Hospital Auditorium. Call (734) 458-4330 for more information.

Thursday, Feb. 28

American Red Cross Blood Drive 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Garden City Hospital will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive in the Lower Level Classrooms of the Allan Breakie Medical Office Building, located on the Garden City Hospital campus, 6245 Inkster Road. Appointments may be scheduled by

calling (734) 458-4259. Walk-ins are always welcomed.

Strength and Stretch at 11 a.m. This is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help you strengthen and define your muscles, as well as increase your flexibility. Each class will combine a variety of equipment, including free weights, medicine balls, balance balls, and Therabands in order to isolate and tone each of the major muscle groups. Fee is \$30 per month; for more information please call 734-458-3242.

Get Up and Move at 4 p.m. This is an invigorating exercise program designed to help you get up and get moving, and is the perfect complement to your diet program. These classes will help you to make an easy transition back to an exercise program or help you to get started for the first time. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Yoga (first of four classes) at 6:30 p.m. Learn how to relax, stretch and breathe while creating balance, strength and flexibility for both the body and mind. This four-week session is \$32. Classes meet at Garden City Hospital's Cardiac Rehab. Call (734) 458-3242 for details and to register.

Diabetes Self-Management

Education (second of four classes) at 6:30 p.m. This comprehensive series is planned to help people Live Well With Diabetes. Participants learn self-care skills of nutrition, exercise, medication management, monitoring of blood sugar levels, foot and skin care, prevention of problems and psychosocial issues. The program is certified by the Michigan Department of Community Health to assure quality and compliance with State and National Diabetes Education Standards. Physician referral is required. There is a fee, but reimbursement is available by Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurance plans. Call (734) 458-3481 for more information or to register.

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Power Hour at 10 a.m. and 1, 3

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Strength and Stretch at 2 p.m. This is a non-aerobic exercise class designed to help you strengthen and define your muscles, as well as increase your flexibility. Each class will combine a variety of equipment, including free weights, medicine balls, balance balls, and Therabands in order to isolate and tone each of the major muscle groups. Fee is \$30 per month. For more information, call (734) 458-3242.

Daily Programs

Garden City Hospital's Health Enhancement Center offers daily programs Monday through Friday in Phase II and III Cardiac Rehabilitation/ Cardiac Wellness, a Peripheral Vascular Disease Exercise and Strength Training Program, and a Diabetes Exercise Program. These classes are presented and monitored by certified exercise physiologists. Contact the Health Enhancement Center at (734) 458-3242 to select an exercise program specifically designed for you.

HURON VALLEY HONOR ROLL

Named to the honor roll for the first semester at Huron Valley Lutheran High School in Westland were:

Ninth Grade

Highest Honors - David Joseph Adlof of Plymouth and Leah Marie Miller of Chelsea.

High Honors - Ivan Christopher Bell of Livonia, Meghan Shelby Brennan of Livonia, Shane Robert Bunde of Westland and Matthew Robert St. John of Livonia.

Honors - Rebecca Lynn Lovell of Plymouth, Lindsay Lou Nocella of Monroe, Ashley Kristina Samuel of Livonia and Shawn William Schaffer of Westland.

10th Grade

Highest Honors - Hannah Ruth Good of Plymouth, Sarah Elise Helwig of Livonia and Matthew Lester Kemppainen of Livonia.

High Honors - Michael John Cyr II of Westland, Bryan Thomas Gruenewald of Livonia, Kimberlee Faith King of Plymouth and Michaela Danielle Van Patten of Howell.

Honors - Katherine Marie Cromwell of Livonia, Kelly Anne Kubinski of Westland, Rachel Marie Purdue of

Westland, Mark Patrick St. John of Livonia and Claire Elizabeth Wood of Westland.

11th Grade

Highest Honors - Samantha Jane Barber of Westland and Kayla Ann Stockdale of Westland.

High Honors - Abby Rose Hoff of Livonia.

Honors - Lindsay Michelle Bushong of Redford, Chad Allen Fielek of Livonia, Crystina Maria Gutierrez of Livonia, Lauren Ashley Lovell of Plymouth, Katie Jane Markham of Westland, Marris Ann Stalker of Westland and Kyle Ronald Tacia of Plymouth.

12th Grade

Highest Honors - Lauren Elizabeth Adlof of Plymouth, Colin John Beerbower of Livonia, Emily Ruth Helwig of Livonia, Katie Marie Kipmiller of Flat Rock and Catherine Elizabeth St. John of Livonia.

High Honors - Lorna Renee Sweet of Livonia.

Honors - Ryan Matthew Jones of Westland, Brandy Lynne Nocella of Monroe and Robert Andrew Allan Russ of Westland.

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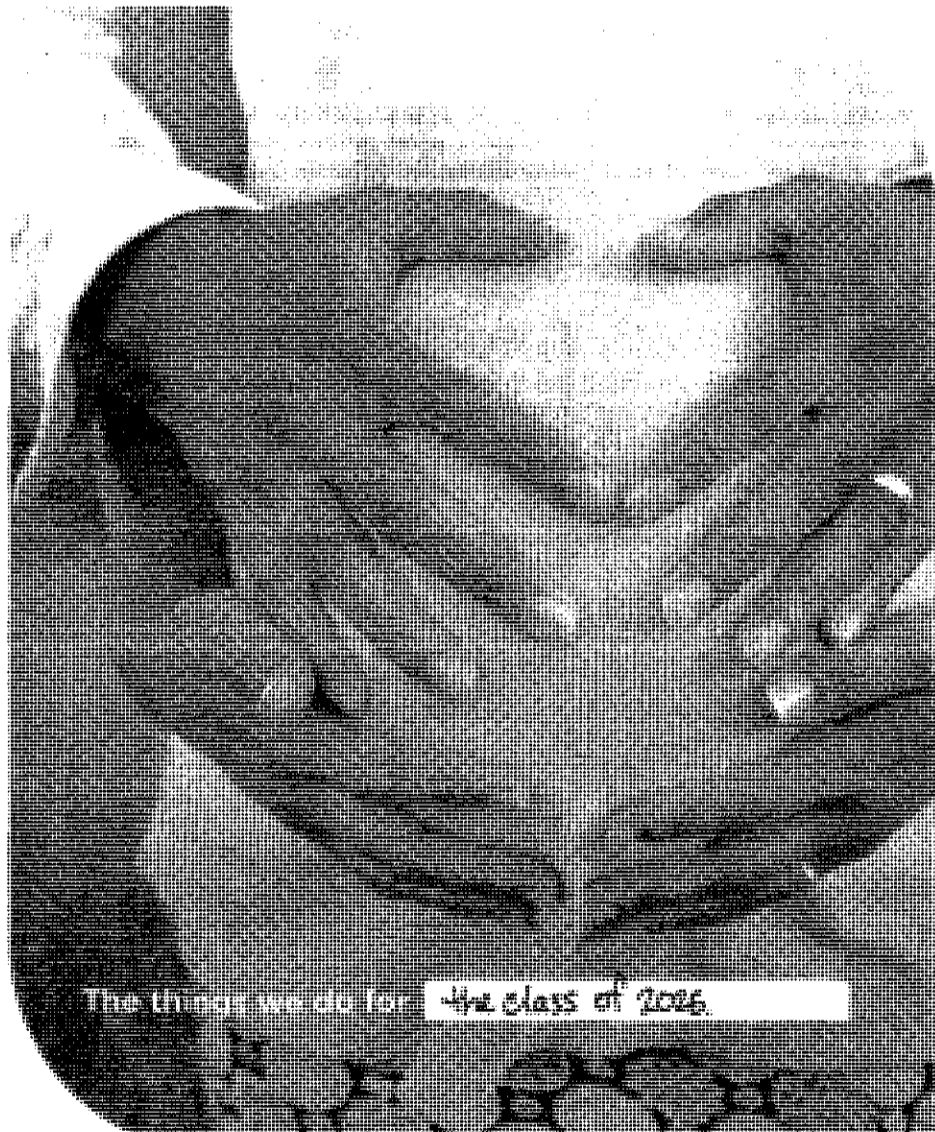
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Coffee

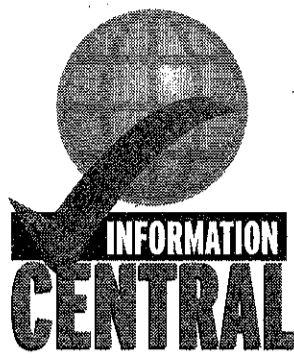
Enjoy the aroma of coffee brewing in the morning? Who doesn't. In fact, if you're like a majority of people in the world, you rate coffee as the number one drink in the morning to get you going.

According to *The Book of Coffee* by Jacki Baxter, a young goatherd noticed his goats "had become exceptionally lively" after munching on some red berries, so he decided to taste them himself. Lucky for us he liked what he had tasted and felt the same invigorating and uplifting behavior that the goats felt. It has turned into an \$18 billion industry (U.S.) full of lattes, mochas, cappuccinos, iced drinks, and regular, black coffee.

Coffee became very popular in the Arab and Turkish worlds (the first coffee shop culture!) in the 13th century and eventually made its way into Italian culture via a trade between the regions in 1615. The church at first wanted to banish the drink, but decided later that its taste and aroma would inspire too popular of an uprising to quell, so Pope Clement VIII blessed it and coffee quickly became an essential part of European culture.

There are two different types of coffee beans grown in the world, Arabica and Robusta. Of the two, Arabica is milder and better suited for drinking than Robusta, but the Robusta is a more resilient plant containing 40-50 percent more caffeine, so Robusta is most often used by commercial coffee companies. Coffees can range in roasting from light to medium to high to Italian Roast, with light containing higher amounts of caffeine and darker roasts being a smoother flavor.

In addition to *The Book of Coffee*, the Public Library



of Westland also has many other resources for your use, including *The Book of Coffee and Tea*, by Joel Schapira, *Making Your Own Gourmet Coffee Drinks* by Matthew Tekulsky, and *The Art of Coffee* (VHS). If you are a big fan of the Starbucks way or want to learn how they got so big by selling coffee, we have *Pour Your Heart Into It: How Starbucks Built a Company One Cup at a Time* by Howard Schultz and *Starbucked: A Double Tall Tale of Caffeine, Commerce, and Culture* by Taylor Clark.

Please visit us on Central City Parkway or give us a call at (734) 326-6123 to learn more about these materials. You can also see if the books or video are in by visiting www.westland.lib.mi.us.

- Andy Schuck

Highlighted Activities

"CSI: lessons of life from the dead" Feb. 25, 7 p.m. Join us for another installment in our medical lecture series hosted by The Foundation for Wellness Professionals featuring Dr. Brian K. Brackney. Learn how to really live while you are alive and how to unlock your healing potential. For more information, call (734) 326-6123.

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

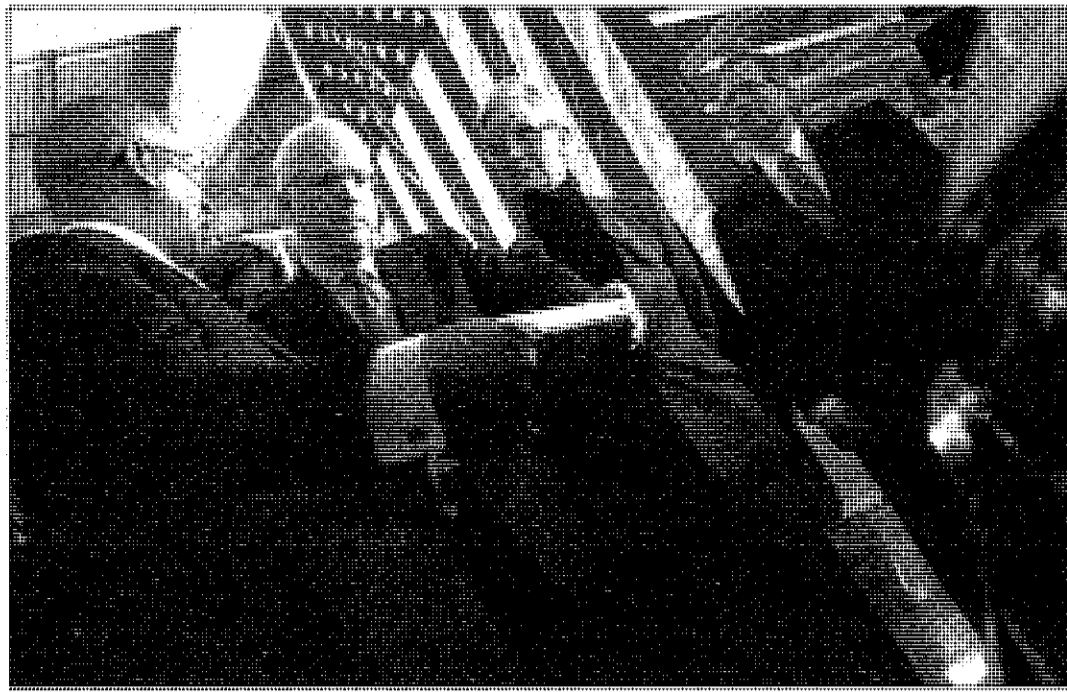
McCain tours Ford Wayne Assembly Plant

John McCain wasn't talking. The Republican presidential candidate toured Ford Motor Co.'s Wayne Stamping and Assembly Plant Thursday but canceled a planned post-tour press conference. Ford Motor officials kept the press at arm's length from the Arizona senator, the presumptive Republican nominee.

McCain made his visit on the afternoon following a *New York Times* article quoting anonymous sources about McCain's relationship with a woman lobbyist during the senator's first run for the presidency in 2000. The article quoted former campaign aides who said they were concerned about whether McCain's relationship would be seen as "inappropriate" and whether the relationship had any influence over pending telecommunications legislation before the Senate Commerce Committee which he chaired.

McCain, standing with his wife, Cindy, held a press conference Thursday morning in Toledo to deny the substance of the accusations. He said he was "disappointed in the article."

The *Times* has been criticized for the timing of the article and its use of anonymous sources. The article received more than 2,000 online comments, the majority opposing



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Republican presidential candidate John McCain, his wife Cindy, and Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox, right, are given some information on some of Ford's new environmentally friendly vehicles from Ford director of vehicle environmental engineering Robert Brown, left, during a tour of the Ford assembly plant in Wayne Thursday afternoon.

the newspaper's decision to run the story.

At the Ford plant, McCain, his wife, Attorney General Mike Cox, who had resigned as McCain's Michigan campaign chair last year, and others were given an escorted tour of the assembly plant. Robert Brown, Ford's director of environmental engineering, explained

Ford's new hybrid technology and the new Sync System in the Ford Focus. The system provides hands-off access to several computer operations from cell phones to MP3 players.

Around the plant, Ford workers had posted signs supporting Democratic candidates Barack Obama and Hillary

Clinton. There weren't any McCain signs visible.

Later Thursday afternoon, McCain met with executives from Ford, Chrysler and General Motors at the Somerset Inn in Troy to discuss his plans for helping the ailing U.S. auto industry.

- By Hugh Gallagher

Deadline is Monday for video contest

The deadline to register your high school team for the Buddy's Pizza/Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers public service video contest is 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25.

The winning team will receive \$1,000 to be divided among the participating students.

Schools throughout the tri-county area are invited to produce a 30-second PSA video focusing on teen issues.

"The contest will give high school students an opportunity to send a powerful message that impacts their peers and the community on topics including, but not limited to,

the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, bullying, cyber-bullying and violence," said Marcy Brontman of Buddy's.

Completed student PSA videos are due by midnight Tuesday, April 1. They will stay on the Buddy's Web site throughout April for the public to view and vote for their favorite video. Detroit media professionals will select the winner from the top 10 public favorites.

Student teams interested in participating should e-mail or fax their school name, student project manager and name of high school adviser with address, telephone and e-mail contact to Buddy's Pizza, Attn:

Michelle at (248) 855-6329 or mawton@buddyspizza.com by 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25.

CONTEST RULES

Each video must include some representation of Buddy's Pizza and the *Observer & Eccentric* or *Mirror Newspapers* (i.e. filmed at a Buddy's Pizza location, Buddy's logo in video, *Observer & Eccentric* and/or *Mirror Newspaper* visible at some point in video). Also included must be the tagline "Sometimes you just need some Buddy's... Seriously!"

A school team (one per high school) entering the contest must have a school staff mem-

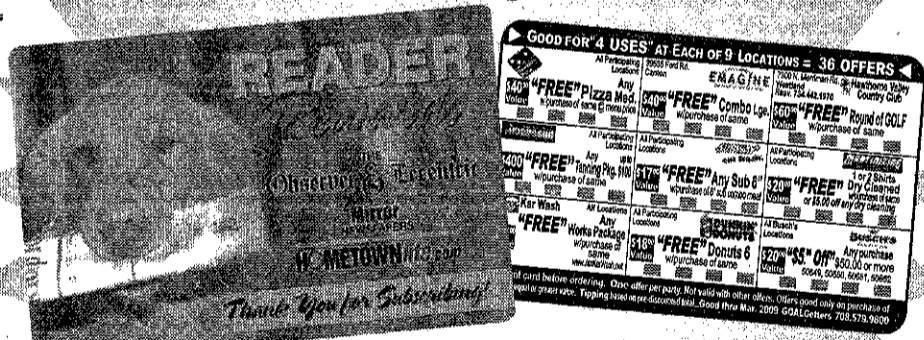
ber to supervise the project. No copyrighted audio or video materials will be allowed. Only public domain and royalty free music is allowed. No obscenities, vulgarity or lurid material will be permitted and disqualification will be at the discretion of the judges.

Each school can submit only one video for judging.

For more information on uploading submitted videos to YouTube and a complete list of rules, contact Michelle Lawton at (248) 855-6222, ext. 212, or via e-mail at mawton@buddyspizza.com or Brontman at (248) 626-0250 or visit Buddy's on the Web at www.buddyspizza.com.

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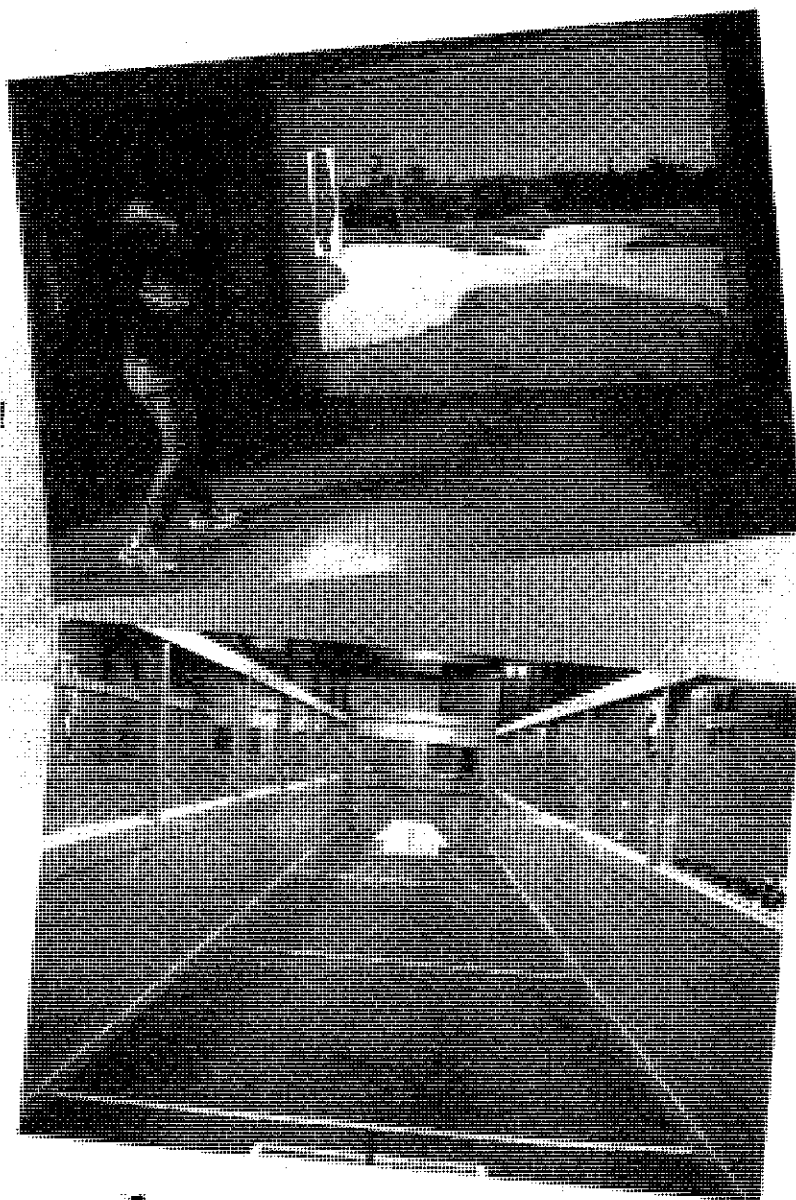
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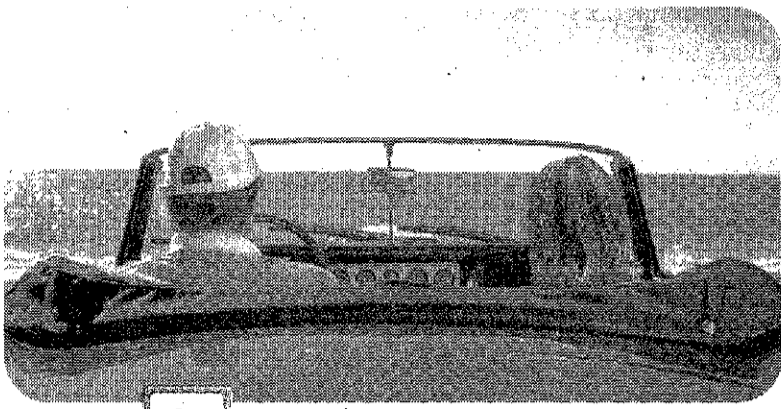
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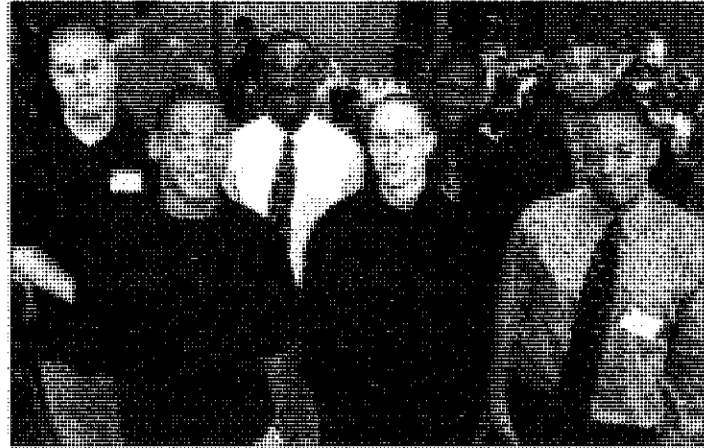
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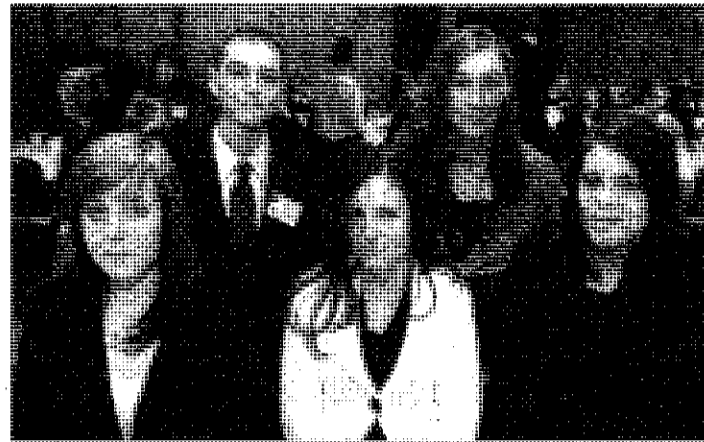
Growth Works lauds young people, community supporters

BY JULIE BROWN
STAFF WRITER



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Receiving academic awards for their efforts in obtaining their GED were, from left, Patrick Young, Anthony Tyler, Anton Mills, Nick Jadcak, Julius McCants, Theodore Storm, and Jomiah Washington during the Growth Works Recognition and Awards Dinner held Thursday night at the Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center in Plymouth.



Receiving awards for their efforts in the Growth Works program were, from left, Stephanie Watt, James McCormick, Ashley Holland, Linda Langford, and Mariah Mikesell during the during the Growth Works Recognition and Awards Dinner held Thursday night at the Fox Hills Golf and Banquet Center in Plymouth.

They could have given up on themselves, but they didn't. For their efforts, young men who earned their GEDs were among honorees Thursday at Growth Works' annual dinner.

"What these young men have done is certainly commendable," said master of ceremonies Marc Smith as the honorees assembled in caps and gowns with *Pomp and Circumstance* playing in the background.

Growth Works Inc., serving at-risk youth and their families in western Wayne County, held its 19th annual Recognition & Award Dinner Thursday, Feb. 21, at the Fox Hills Golf & Conference Center. The agency, providing services in the areas of juvenile justice and chemical dependency for more than 35 years, celebrated the achievements of young people and their parents and community members that have contributed to their success.

Honoree Theodore Storm of Canton is now a student at Eastern Michigan University, while honoree Nick Jadcak will enroll in community college. Anthony Taylor of Livonia has been accepted at Delta College in Saginaw. "I want you to stay positive about what you started in these past few months," Growth Works executive director Dale Yagiela told the young people. "What I see today is a lot of promise in you guys. There are going to be times when you get discouraged."

Yagiela urged the young people to remember the Feb. 21 dinner and their recognition.

Youth Program Recognition Awards were received by Stephanie Watt of Dearborn, Mariah Mikesell of Dearborn, Ashley Holland of Westland, James McCormick of Westland and Adam Vega of Beverly Hills for their special achievements and outstanding efforts over the past year. Linda Langford, whose child also receives services, was recognized for her commitment to change while participating in the parent program.

Achievement Awards were presented to a number of youth who received their GEDs while participating in agency programs. They include Patrick Young of Wixom, Jomiah Washington of Redford, Anton Mills of Westland, Theodore Storm of Canton, Julius McCants of Shreveport, La., Anthony Tyler of Livonia and Nick Jadcak of Redford.

Westland resident Holland was lauded for her commitment to recovery. She was brought to Growth Works by her grandmother in October 2005, and later began to make recovery a priority. Holland's made good peer choices, attends AA and has a good relationship with her grandmother. McCormick, also a Westland resident, was cited for helping others in his unit and his dedication to treatment. He's been accepted at Delta College. "I just want to thank Growth Works for always supporting me," said McCormick, who also thanked his group.

GWI board member Tom Fielder, former mayor of Belleville, received a Community Award for his efforts aimed at improving the lives of young people. Fellow board member Bill Ventola of Plymouth was honored for his role as chair of the Growth Works golf outing for the past 10 years. Master of ceremonies Smith also took a moment in remembrance of Charles "Chuck" Allegrina, a longtime board member and supporter of Growth Works, who died last fall.

Outgoing board member Rita Lowenstein of Plymouth Township was also recognized. Yagiela thanked the board members, noting their significant involvement. "They come because they have their hearts in it," he said of the board members and their expertise. "They keep us honest and they keep us on the straight and narrow."

Yagiela also thanked partners including the Conference of Western Wayne, Southeast Michigan Community Alliance, which helps with residential care for drug treatment, and Wolverine Human Services.

"We have a great staff, a great staff," Yagiela said. "I'm very proud of all of you." Tough economic times have made staffers' jobs even more challenging, he added.

For further information about Growth Works, Inc., call (734) 455-4095 or visit www.growth-works.org.

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David Haines, M.D., is a Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine for Beaumont Hospitals and a nationally recognized expert in heart rhythm disorders. He is director of Beaumont's Atrial Fibrillation Center which offers the latest technology and therapies for atrial fibrillation, including catheter ablation with laser and high-intensity focused ultrasound. Beaumont Royal Oak is top-ranked in Michigan, and 12th in the country for heart care on the U.S. News & World Report "America's Best Hospitals" list.

Photographer sees gradual change for a Cuba without Fidel

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, an ailing Fidel Castro, 81, resigned as president of Cuba, ending almost 50 years as leader of the Caribbean island communist country. Today, the Cuban parliament will select a new leader, probably Castro's brother Raoul, 76, who has been acting as president since Castro fell ill in 2006.

Photographer Jack Kenny, the owner of Quicksilver Photo Service in Plymouth who has traveled to Cuba more than 40 times in the last decade, said Wednesday that any changes in the government would be gradual.

"A year and a half ago, Raoul took over as acting president. In that time he has talked about changing to the China model, which is free-market communism, a contradictory term, but that's what China does and we know what we do with China, our number one trading partner," said Kenny, 63, who lives in Ann Arbor.

Kenny said it is possible that Raoul may move back to his position as leader of the military, opening the way for council vice president Carlos Lage, 56, to move into the political leadership.

"Lage is a good choice and we'll know more on Sunday," Kenny said. "If Raoul is the leader of the country, I think you'll see some changes. But you won't see anything on this side of the border. I don't think he'll do anything drastic. But he's talking about opening up travel for the Cuban people, where they have freedom to come and go, which they don't have now, and expanding private businesses, which they've been doing since the 1990s."

IN LOVE WITH CUBA

Kenny's love affair with Cuba began in 1996, when he was invited to accompany some friends who were shooting a documentary. On that trip, he met Roberto Salas, a noted photographer who has worked with Fidel Castro since 1959.

"I met him the second day I was there, became fast friends, brought some of his pictures back. All my friends loved them, all my revolutionary friends," Kenny said. "They said 'I want to get some of those.' So I started a little enterprise to bring back art and photography and went three more times that year."

Kenny's Quicksilver office is decorated with dramatic, iconic photos by Cuban photographers of boxing champ Rocky Marciano, Ernest Hemingway, Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Fidel Castro and Havana street scenes.

"When I first went, the questions were, 'Aren't you afraid to go? Don't you know you'll be followed everywhere? Don't you think it will be dangerous?' So I went," he said. "When I got there, it was the complete opposite of all the impressions given to me. Not having studied Cuba particularly, it was 180. It was presented as a small island with a dark cloud over it, military oppression. When



Jack Kenny, photographer and owner of Quicksilver Photo Services in Plymouth.

I got there it was a vital place, lots of art and culture."

Kenny, who began taking photographs when he was serving in the army in Vietnam in 1967, said Cuba was an enigma to him. It had good educational and health care systems, but the people lived in poverty. He said some of that is the result of U.S. policies, but some the result of Cuban government actions.

"They are educated, healthy people with no economic opportunities. The average wage is \$20 a month," he said. "But the people were inviting, open, gregarious. As I walked around with my camera, I would be invited into people's houses, invited for a cup of coffee and I didn't speak Spanish at the time."

He began taking pictures of Havana street scenes and scenes from the countryside. He created a Web site, www.cuba-photo.com, to sell his photos and photos by noted Cuban photographers. In 2005, he published a coffee table book of black and white photos, *Cuba* (available from Corazon Press at www.corazonpress.com).

"In 1933, Walker Evans went to Cuba on assignment and did street photography in Cuba

and that book has inspired me," Kenny said. "What I have tried to do is update what he did in the '30s. Several of these photos could be picked up and put into his book and you wouldn't notice the difference."

Kenny also met and fell in love with a Cuban woman. In May 2006, he married Niurka Sanchez Cutino. Last November, Cutino and her 13-year-old son moved to Michigan from Havana and experienced their first snowfall.

Kenny said he hasn't been bothered by the State Department about his travels. He flies from Toronto under a general license as a publisher.

Cuba is a complex problem for the United States, which is home to a large Cuban expatriate community in Florida. They have been strong vocal critics of Castro.

"The problem with the expa-

triate is that the core group left 45 years ago," Kenny said. "They are very disconnected from the country. I've talked to some who don't even know there was a highway built in the country 15 years ago. They are largely a white population, not representative of Cuba and people in Cuba do not respect them or want them back."

Kenny said the U.S. made a mistake in not opening up Cuba long ago.

"Fidel gets all of this power from the embargo. He blames all of his economic woes on the embargo. Most are self-inflicted, but some are from the embargo," Kenny said.

Kenny is also critical of the "One Foot on Dry Land" policy, that allows any Cuban who reaches U.S. soil to remain. He called the policy "propaganda."

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A wedding in Havana.

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Dental team brings tooth health to kids

Doctors and hygienists at Parkside Dental Team are again preparing for their annual, Children's Dental Health Awareness Month Program, a program they're introducing to Westland schools.

National Children's Dental Health Awareness Month is sponsored by the American Dental Association each February in an effort to raise awareness about the importance of dental health. The month-long program aims to improve oral health habits among young people and ultimately, to prevent dental disease later in life.

"We know that the key to a healthy adult smile is learning the basics of proper dental care early in life," said Dr. Steven Cohen, one of Parkside's four dentists. "Our goal is to make oral hygiene both fun and rewarding so that good habits stick."

This March, Parkside Dental Team is relocating to a new facility in Westland and the staff plans to continue the tradition of dental health education in its new home. Program coordinators already have lined up a dozen schools, including St. Damien, Cooper, Kettering and Patchin Elementaries, and



Dr. Steven Cohen and dental hygienist Kelly Brumwell meet with a student and teacher during their visit to Edison Elementary School.

are confident that the program will be a huge success.

"Students love our multi-media presentation. They look forward to us coming back year after year," said Kelly Brumwell, a dental hygienist at Parkside

Dental Team.

Parkside team members have volunteered their time and efforts to promote dental health awareness for the past 15 years. The program has reached more than 20,000 students to date.

The free program is designed for kindergarten through fourth-grade students and is both fun and educational. For more information or to reserve a presentation date, call (313) 271-6160.

Westlander celebrates 1st race win as trainer

For Natalie Zabrzenski of Westland, winning her first race as a trainer was nothing special. Until she realized it was.

Zabrzenski got her first training win on Jan. 28 when Brooklyn Khaki won by 2 1/4 lengths over Junes Jaguar at Monticello Raceway in New York. The 4-year-old pacer, owned by Zabrzenski, was driven by Jordan Stratton.

"At first, it was kind of a delayed reaction," Zabrzenski, 26, said. "I treat every horse I've ever groomed as my own personal horse and want them to do well. I was just so hyped on the fact the horse had won. My boyfriend (Jon McFadden) was standing next to me and said, 'That was your trainer win.' I said, 'Oh, my God.' That makes it twice as good."

"It still trills me. It's an awesome feeling."

Less than two weeks later, Zabrzenski picked up her second triumph with Brooklyn Khaki. It also gave her the first win streak of her burgeoning career.

Zabrzenski's interest in har-

ness racing stems from her father, owner Joe Zabrzenski.

"He used to take me to the fairs with him," Zabrzenski said. "In the middle of my senior year of high school, I started going to the farm and helping the trainer my dad had. When I graduated, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, but this just felt right. It's all I've ever known to do. I get a kick out of doing it."

In addition to harness racing, Zabrzenski has been involved in racing Standardbreds under saddle and during a stretch of time spent in South Carolina was a groom for polo horses. She once even participated in a practice match.

Currently, Zabrzenski has five horses, three of which are racing. She is stabled in Middletown, N.Y., not far from Goshen.

"I like it here a lot," Zabrzenski said. "We've thought about going up to Toronto to see if our horses would fit up there. We were up there for three months last year and did all right. We want to try to make our mark somewhere."

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Michigan Eye Doctor Helps Legally Blind

Dr. Sheldon Smith fits special glasses to help those with macular degeneration and other eye conditions keep reading and driving.
By Elena Lombardi

Most of us take things like reading, watching TV or playing cards for granted. But poor vision from conditions like macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetes or cataracts makes these tasks difficult or even impossible. When people have insufficient vision to do the things they want to do, they have low vision.

Today Michigan Optometrist Dr. Sheldon Smith has the answers many of these people have been seeking. Dr. Smith, a Low Vision Specialist, helps people with these types of eye diseases see better. A Fellow of the International Academy of Low Vision Specialists, Dr. Smith is one of a select group of doctors serving the visually impaired.

"People don't know that there are experienced doctors who can help them with specialized low vision care," says Dr. Smith. "Many people are told by their own doctors that nothing more can be done for their eye condition, but there are ways to improve vision" says Dr. Smith. "We fit special devices to help patients meet their various visual goals."

Patients often end up using weak, clumsy handheld magnifiers trying to help themselves see better. Conversely, Dr. Smith prescribes hands free devices that are easier to use. "We use the same

telescopic devices surgeons use during operations," says Dr. Smith. "That's how powerful and convenient they are.

Special prismatic reading glasses and microscopes help make reading a little easier. Telescopic glasses primarily focus on distance objects like TV, passing neighbors or scenery. Telescopes can also be adapted to closer tasks like playing cards or computers. "Telescopes can even help people meet the vision requirement for driving" Dr. Smith explained. Michigan is one of the 46 states that allow bioptic telescopic glasses for driving.

Mr. Charles Willim, age 81, of Taylor came to get his driver license restored after macular degeneration reduced his vision to 20/70. Dr. Smith fit him with special driving telescopes that improved his vision to 20/40. A few weeks later Charles passed his road test and is now a licensed driver again. "Those telescopic glasses are pretty darn good" he said.

Buddy Standafer, age 70, of Westland had diabetic eye problems. He came to reinstate his driver license and read better. His regular vision as 20/200 but with special driving telescopes he saw 20/50. Prismatic reading glasses got him reading newsprint. Two months later his license was restored. "Now I see the traffic lights much better. I am happy to be on the road again. I tell a lot of people about Dr. Smith "Buddy said.

Buddy Standafer wearing driving telescopes

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Dr. Smith has offices in Livonia, Warren, Shelby Township and the Lansing area.

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Cox's license opinion sends wrong message

Two days after Christmas, while Lansing was silent and largely deserted for the holiday season, Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox issued an opinion indicating that only permanent Michigan residents may get a driver's license. It appeared to say that people living here legally, but on a temporary basis, couldn't get one.

That opinion came in response to a request by state Rep. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge. It was clearly not produced overnight. The opinion was five single-spaced pages in length and was accompanied by 13 footnotes and case citations.



Phil Power

Nobody I talked with in preparing this column — and I talked with plenty of people — knew Cox's opinion was coming. But it was a bombshell.

It provoked a round of furious finger-pointing with Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, his fellow Republican. Her office was responsible for implementing Cox's complex ruling. It enraged the business community, which employs nearly 400,000 aliens legally in Michigan on valid visas. It infuriated state universities when they suddenly discovered that thousands of their students and faculty members living legally in Michigan could not get a driver's license.

It wounded economic developers across the state, who found themselves trying to explain that Michigan really didn't want to slam the door against international business expansion. And it provoked official protests from the governments of Japan and India.

All this from one little opinion by a state attorney general. Of course, there was a political dimension to all this (surprise, surprise). The subject of illegal aliens has been one of consuming interest during the presidential campaign, especially to many Republicans, who want the border

with Mexico closed and all illegals chucked out. (That is, unless they employ any on the sly.)

And the issue has more than just Republicans squirming. Sen. Hillary Clinton got herself into trouble during the presidential debates with a series of confusing and contradictory responses when asked whether illegal aliens should get driver's licenses.

Most Lansing sources I talked with figure that Cox was doing little more than pandering to the anti-immigrant wing of the GOP. I tried to ask Cox's PR guy about this, but my call was not returned.

In any event, once people returned to Lansing and the national press started saying that Michigan was now the toughest state in the country for aliens to get driver's licenses, all hell broke loose.

Jim Epolito, CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., was politely furious. He fired off a letter to Cox noting that his troops "have been receiving frantic telephone calls, e-mails and letters from Michigan's international business community regarding this issue. Your opinion, issued with no advanced warning to the business community and with no opportunity for a hearing or public comment, has given the international business community the perception that Michigan is not open for business."

Epolito cited more than 375,000 employees who were in Michigan on perfectly legal visas, who could not effectively conduct their business without being able to drive a car.

And Birgit Klohs, the highly effective economic developer for Grand Rapids, told me she'd been on the phone at all hours trying to explain what was going on to angry foreign companies considering — at least, they had been — Michigan as a possible place for expansion.

Universities were just as dismayed. University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman pointed out that our universities are on the front line of bringing capable people to Michigan. I got a call from Linda Lim, the head of

U-M's Southeast Asia Center, saying that she had an office full of students in tears.

Meanwhile, once the secretary of state's office started figuring out what the opinion really meant, they ran into all kinds of trouble trying to work their way through the complex opinion. Lawyers quickly pointed out that Cox's language appeared to mean that even U.S. citizens living in Michigan temporarily could not obtain a driver's license. Implementing rules were issued Jan. 22, and were promptly attacked by a suit from the American Civil Liberties Union.

Cox's office complained that the secretary of state "misread" the opinion, which is the legal equivalent of "I wrote it, but it's your problem to figure out what I meant."

Fingers were pointed back and forth all over Lansing, with feelings (mostly anger) running especially high between the attorney general's office and that of the secretary of state, both Republicans.

Meanwhile, Gov. Jennifer Granholm urged the Legislature to find a fix to overturn the Cox opinion. Acting with unusual speed and bipartisanship, both the House and Senate overwhelmingly passed legislation that allowed foreign citizens living temporarily in Michigan to obtain a driver's license. The governor promptly signed the bill last Friday.

But the damage has been done. With his state facing terrible economic times, with Michigan desperate for skilled immigrant workers and students, Cox's opinion succeeded in holding our foot up to be shot with our own pistol. What's sad, embarrassing and all-too-predictable about this particular episode of pandering-gone-wrong is that it was totally, and completely, unnecessary.

Phil Power is founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a think tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are Power's own and do not represent official views of The Center. He welcomes reader comment at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grateful for generosity

I am writing on behalf of the 30,000 children who received holiday gift packages from the Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit this past Christmas. The Detroit Goodfellow organization is extremely grateful for the overwhelming support we received from the metropolitan Detroit community.

Our thanks go to the generous individuals who purchased a newspaper from a Detroit Goodfellow member or a Detroit Police Officer on our Sales Day. We also appreciate the individuals, corporations, churches and foundations, which made contributions through the mail or on our Web site, www.oldnewsboysgoodfellows.org.

Their donations enabled us to surpass our goal of raising \$1.375 million for 2007 and helped to ensure our 93-year pledge of "No Kiddie without a Christmas."

We are truly grateful for the continued support and generosity of the residents of metropolitan Detroit especially during these difficult economic times. On behalf of all of the children in Detroit, Highland Park and Hamtramck who benefited from your generosity, thank you, thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter W. Waldmeir
president, 2007, Detroit Goodfellows

others' perceptions of that actual lack, should he become president. Here's hoping.

Edward A. Johnson Jr.
Royal Oak

Has Hillary pulled another scam?

First, her faked crying. Second, more crying at Yale. Third, has she faked the writing of her personal check of \$5 million to her campaign in order to make her followers feel bad so they would send the \$6 million she received after the announcement from her staff that they were not being paid?

Of course the Clintons have the plan to have the superdelegates to vote her in instead of being elected by the people and will do so if Obama is the choice. Just look at the superdelegates she trusts — Gore, Berger, Carter, Dean, Reno, and the list goes on and on. The entire group has lots of baggage and carries no credibility in the Washington political scheme.

Have't we experienced enough untruths with the Clintons since coming out of Whitewater and the other disgraces the president and the first lady did while they reduced our national security with all their cuts in military spending, the opening of several gate scams and the expense of the impeachment process?

Every voter should be made aware of all the scams we in the Detroit area have seen with our own elected governor and mayor's election — it will be the same no matter which Democrat is the final candidate. Either Democrat will disgrace the U.S.A. by pulling our troops out of Iraq before we win this war.

Don Wharff
Rochester Hills

Superdelegates disfranchise vote

As a reasonably intelligent senior — my academic credentials are somewhere between a G.E.D. and a Ph.D. — and having passed Civics 101 during the building of the Great Pyramid, and just when I was beginning to fathom the RNC/DNC-controlled gobbledygook of the Electoral Kindergarten, a new and further bastardization of the system envisioned by the founders has ratcheted up my political quandary. As the King said: "It's a puzzlement!"

Now we're told that if the Clinton-Obama race becomes inconclusive, another anomalous, mind-boggling, quixotic political obfuscation called superdelegates will decide the nominee. Who are these supers? Ostensibly they're a coven of 800 super wise, contemplative Merlins, i.e., party big shots and a smorgasbord of unknown political lackeys, who will tell us who our choice is. Gawd! And to think we used to make jokes about the Soviets' one-candidate system!

William Carruth
Royal Oak

Diminish discrimination

In support of your editorial position of Feb. 17, it is our fervent hope that the gender, race, religion, or lack of religion, will have diminished relevancy in this year's presidential election. We are quite hopeful that the next four years, these irrelevant factors will be complete non-issues.

The celebration of diversity is a core strength of this country. If voters disagree with the policy positions of Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Obama, Mr. Huckabee or Mr. McCain, fine. But not because of race, gender or religion. These are all fine candidates and we can choose because we live in a country that celebrates diversity.

Of course, there are a handful of people holding onto their individual hatreds. Hopefully, this number also diminishes.

Thanks for a quite good Presidents Day editorial.

Gerald and Dolores Maxey
Farmington Hills

Lack of experience a concern

Hope is not a presidential platform. In reading *The Audacity of Hope*, I grew very concerned at a potential Obama presidency. This light, uplifting but low-calorie book screamed of a lack of experience.

One can hope that he will not make the same mistakes of a JFK (Bay of Pigs, escalating the arms race, venturing into Vietnam, sex scandals, the Cuban missile crisis, etc.) due to his lack of experience or

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IRS won't allow you to apply rebate to taxes you owe

Dear Rick: I completed my 2007 tax return and I owe money. I want to apply the tax rebate to the taxes I owe. Can I do it and if yes, how?

Unfortunately, you cannot offset your tax liability with the rebate. What you need to do is file your return and pay your taxes. If necessary, borrow the money from another source and when you receive a rebate later this year settle up your accounts.

The government will begin issuing rebate checks in May and will probably continue sometime into the summer.

Although there are no forms to complete to get the rebate (it is done automatically), it is



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

important to file a 2007 return. You will not get a rebate until you file a 2007 tax return. Therefore, if you file for an extension, it will delay when you receive your tax refund.

Although I could not confirm this with the IRS, I believe if you electronically file a 2007 tax return, your rebate check also will be directly deposited into your bank account.

In addition, the IRS has not issued any rules as to

whether taxpayers who owe money to the IRS will get that rebate, or whether the money will be withheld.

One last note regarding the rebate. The rules are still somewhat unclear for some individuals who do not have to file tax returns but who are eligible for a rebate. If you're in this category, contact the IRS.

Dear Rick: A group of friends meet every quarter to discuss our investments. A few of us have our money professionally managed and an issue has come up with regard to fees. I pay 1.5 percent in management fees. I recently found out in addition to management fees, I am

paying commissions on many funds. When I asked my advisor about this, his explanation was less than convincing. I generally like my advisor, however, now I'm not so sure. What should I do?

I congratulate you and your friends for spending time to discuss investing. I believe the more you know the better. Even if you use a professional advisor, it is important to be informed.

My philosophy with any professional - lawyer, doctor or financial advisor - is you must have trust and confidence in them. If you can't count on them to give you straightforward answers, particularly about fees, it's probably an

indication you should move on.

Having money professionally managed is something more and more people are doing because it is difficult to stay current with investments.

The theory behind professional management is that the advisor establishes a game plan then watches and manages the portfolio for a fee.

The manager, since he/she is receiving a fee, should be independent of the investments and make decisions good for you - the client.

In regard to fees. The standard is generally a certain percent of the money under management. The

norm is around one percent.

When you pay a fee to have your money professionally managed, why should there be commissions paid in addition? I believe it is double dipping.

A true professional has no problem discussing fees. When it comes to handling your money, if you pay for the service, make sure you pay for a professional.

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 noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK 1400 AM.

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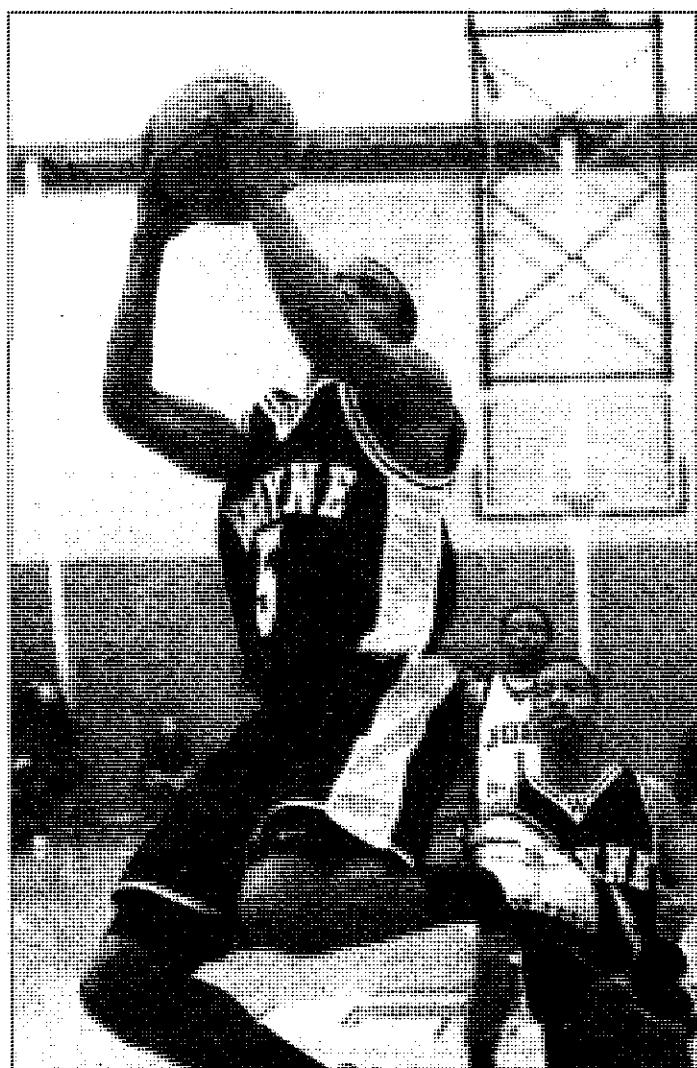
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Sunday, February 24, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

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TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wayne's Martez Abney drives to the hoop for two points with teammate Mike Lee trailing on the play. The duo combined for 45 points in a 74-53 triumph in the WLAA final over host Westland John Glenn.

Wayne takes home WLAA boys cage championship

Lee catalyst in 74-53 win vs. Glenn

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

To say the Wayne Memorial boys basketball team is in a groove right now would be a huge understatement.

The Zebras walked into Westland John Glenn's gymnasium Thursday night and walked out with a Western Lakes Activities Association championship trophy thanks to a convincing 74-53 win over the Rockets in a battle of divisional winners.

Both teams enter Class A state tournament play with 18-2 records and could meet again in next Wednesday's district semifinal at Wayne.

Glenn won the first meeting at Wayne back on Dec. 21 by a 72-63 score, but in the rematch, senior point-guard Mike Lee was the catalyst for Wayne, scoring a game-high 31 points with a dazzling display of shots and

moves to the basket.

Lee also had plenty of help as senior guard Martez Abey added 14, while junior guard Robert Woodson contributed 10. Five other Zebras also scored.

Lee's crowd-pleasing dunk with 2:31 left in the first quarter, subsequent three free throws — two courtesy of a Glenn bench technical foul — gave the Zebras a lead they would never relinquish, 17-14.

Wayne held a narrow 30-29 halftime advantage, but came out roaring in the third quarter as Lee scored 10 points to spark a 20-11 run.

The Zebras continued to dissect the Glenn defense in the fourth quarter as Lee scored six quick points within a span of 1:23 to open up a 14-point cushion and the Zebras coasted from there.

"Mike was pretty tough," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard

said. "Sometimes he gets a little too excited and he needs to harness his passion, but tonight he was pretty focused the whole game. He was money."

Wayne, winners of 15 in a row, stopped Glenn's 13-game winning streak. The state-ranked Rockets hadn't lost since Dec. 29 (against Detroit Renaissance).

"Everything seemed like a struggle, we could not get anything going," Glenn coach Dan Young said. "For whatever reason we could not make any shots. When you can't score, you run out of gas, than you start chasing people."

"Wayne was pretty patient. Their guards controlled the tempo and they made all their free throws (21-of-25)."

Earl Hardison paced the Glenn scoring attack with 20 points, but he had only two field

Please see **BOYS HOOPS, B3**

Sidelines

C'ville bowlers 2nd

For the fifth straight season the Livonia Clarenceville girls bowling team is headed to the Division 2 state finals.

In Friday's team regional at Canton's Super Bowl, the Trojans finished runner-up to Tecumseh to qualify for next weekend's state team finals hosted by Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights.

The Trojans posted baker games of 209, 161, 143, 216, 201 and 192.

In the regular game set, Clarenceville first and 828, 703 and 814.

Kayla Barber rolled a 216 in the first game, while Sara Brown had a set of 180-140-204. Amber Cummins added a 171 game.

The Clarenceville boys, second after the six-game Bakers, fell to sixth and did not qualify.

FHS baseball camp

Livonia Franklin will stage its second annual Future Stars Spring Baseball Camp for boys and girls in grades 4-6 on Saturday, March 1 at the high school field-house.

Session 1, consisting of hitting and base running skills, will be from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m. followed by Session 2 focusing on pitching, infield and outfield defense will be from 12:30-3 p.m.

Each camper will bring their own sack lunch, which break between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The cost is \$25 per session or \$45 for both. Campers should bring a glove, bat and athletic shoes.

Checks should be made payable to Franklin High School and sent to: Matt Fournier, Franklin Baseball Camp, 31000 Joy Road, Livonia, MI 48150.

For more information, call Fournier at (734) 968-0499; or e-mail him at mfournie2@livonia.k12.mi.us.

Livonia ice show

The City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation will stage its 21st bi-annual ice show "On the Radio" at 7 p.m. Friday, March 14 and 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday, March 15 at Edgar Ice Arena, 33841 Lyndon (north of I-96 between Stark and Farmington roads).

Tickets go on sale beginning Monday, Feb. 25 at the Livonia Community Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard (at Five Mile Road). Tickets are \$4.75 (children 12-and-under); \$7 (seniors 55-and-up); and \$8 (adults).

For more information, call (734) 466-2900.

Moving on

Franklin girls rule district, 57-32

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

It's been 15 years since Livonia Franklin last appeared in a girls basketball regional.

The Patriots punched their ticket Friday night with a 57-32 win over rival Livonia Churchill in the Class A district final at Redford Thurston.

Franklin, 18-4 overall, tangles with 17-6 Brighton in a 6 p.m. regional semifinal Tuesday at Walled Lake Western. Brighton won 46-44 Friday at Western (a team Franklin split with during the regular season).

In 1993, Franklin, coached by Mary Jarvis, reached the regional finals with a sub-.500 record (12-13) at Ann Arbor Huron before losing to Adrian.

The Franklin girls were jubilant afterwards, but also took it all in stride as they hoisted the championship trophy.

"These girls have been very humble, they have not looked past anybody or any game," Franklin first-year coach Dave McCall said. "And because of that, they accomplished a great season."

Coming off a heart-stopping 60-58 win Wednesday night over host Thurston, the Patriots took control early against Churchill and cruised

to victory despite a late first-half slip-up.

Briauna Taylor, coming off a 31-point effort against Thurston, scored eight of her game-high 27 points in the first quarter as the Patriots took a 14-6 lead. Twin sister Brittany, recovered from a badly sprained ankle which limited her to five minutes the previous game, contributed six of her eight during the surge.

Franklin built a 24-6 lead with 3:38 to go in the second quarter on a basket by freshman Chelsea Williams, but Churchill responded with a 9-0 run in the final 1:35 to pull within nine at halftime, 24-15.

Chelsea Manasian, who led Churchill with 12 points, hit a shot with 6:52 left in the third quarter to cut the deficit to seven, 24-17. But Franklin regrouped and went on an out-score the Chargers 33-15 the rest of the way as Samantha Floyd (10 points) nailed a pair of triples in the final period to spark an 18-7 Patriot run.

Turnovers were Churchill's Achilles Heel.

The Chargers committed a total of 31 on the night, while Franklin had 23.

"Offensively, we could not get started or even enter the ball

Please see **FRANKLIN, B2**



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Franklin's Briauna Taylor drives to the basket in Friday's Class A district final at Redford Thurston. Defending on the play for Churchill is Alysa Boldiszar.

Serowoky stars as Blazers stop Salem in showdown

BY ED WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Arguably the toughest Class A girls basketball district in the state was won Friday night with arguably the best defensive effort in the state.

In a battle of top 10-ranked teams, host Livonia Ladywood applied the defensive clamps on the Rocks early and often to claim a 47-32 victory.

The 20-3 Blazers earned a berth in next week's regional semifinal showdown against North Farmington at Walled Lake Western High School. The game is set to tip off at 8 p.m.

Salem capped its season with a 20-3 mark.

The tournament included three champions — Ladywood (Catholic League Central Division), Salem (Western Lakes) and Novi (Kensington Valley) — who entered the postseason

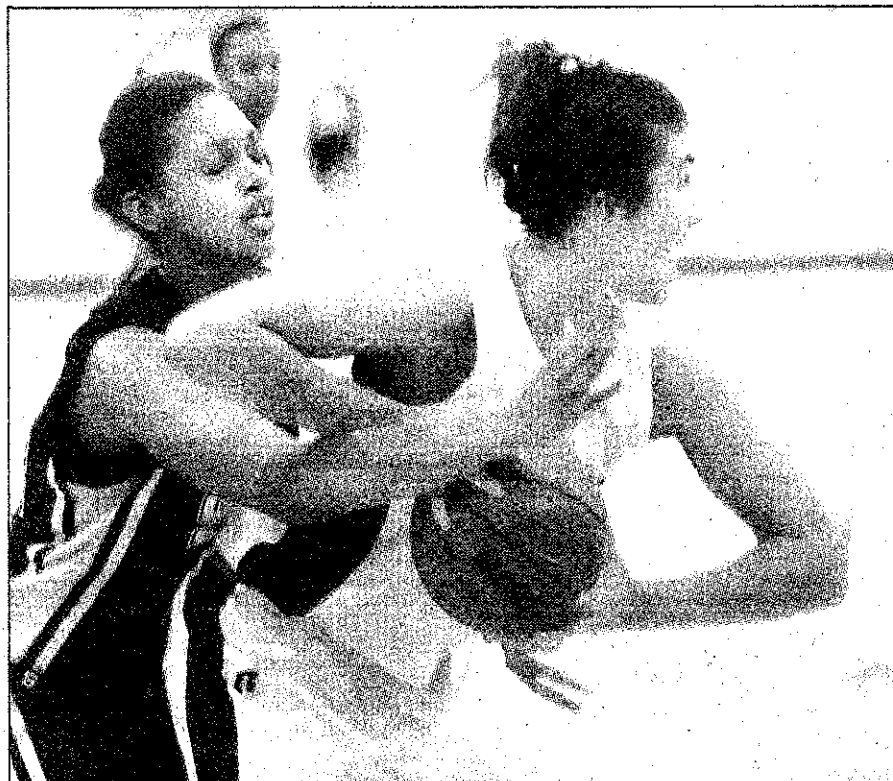
with a combined record of 52-8.

The usually hot-shooting Rocks connected on just 10-of-38 field goals (26.3 percent) against Ladywood's relentless defense that was about as easy to penetrate as barbed wire.

The Blazers forced the Rocks into 16 turnovers, 10 of which came in the momentum-changing second quarter when Ladywood outscored Salem 9-4.

"Number one, we wanted to keep (Alaya) Mitchell in front of us and I thought we did a pretty good job of keeping her from getting to the basket," said Ladywood coach Andrea Gorski, whose squad held the Rocks' biggest offensive threat to nine points. "I thought Mary Fitzgerald did an outstanding job on Mitchell. And our help defense was good on the times we did get beat."

Please see **GIRLS HOOPS, B2**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Salem's Chelsea Davis (left) defends Ladywood's Alex Serowoky during Friday night's Class A District final.

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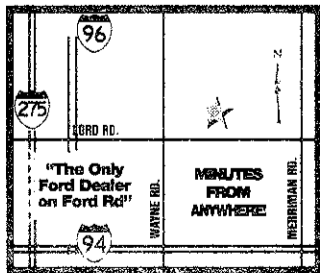
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Hugh Gallagher, editor . (734) 953-2149 . hgallagher@hometownlife.com

Gifts in relationships can come in many forms

Several years ago, when I first began writing for the *Observer* newspapers, I wrote an article I called "A Gift for Valentine's Day." In it, I suggested that often the gift of a card is to make nice with your partner after a big blow out or blow up. Sometimes, the card is the only way that a couple communicates. It keeps up appearances and gives both the public and that couple the impression that they still have a relationship.

Now, it is true that there are all kinds of relationships. In the consulting room, I and other therapists see many different kinds of relationships. While many would not be the kind of relationship I might want to be a part of, my job is to help the couple develop the kind of relationship that will work best for them.



Chat Room

Paul Melrose

But having said this, there is still a sense with many couples that they are unhappy, dissatisfied, don't know what to do about it, have even given up, are willing to stay with the status quo because it is familiar or get to the point where one party feels that nothing about this relationship can be saved; in that case someone walks.

The faith aspect of my work has given me a sense that there is often hope when one thought there was none. Let me be clear, however; hope often leads one down a road of different possibilities, not the re-creation of what was and no longer is.

In the case of relationships, the sense of hope might be that a couple has reached the breaking point, they will split, but each, after they have worked at it, may gain some important new insights and/or skills which will improve relationships and make for greater potential in a future relationship.

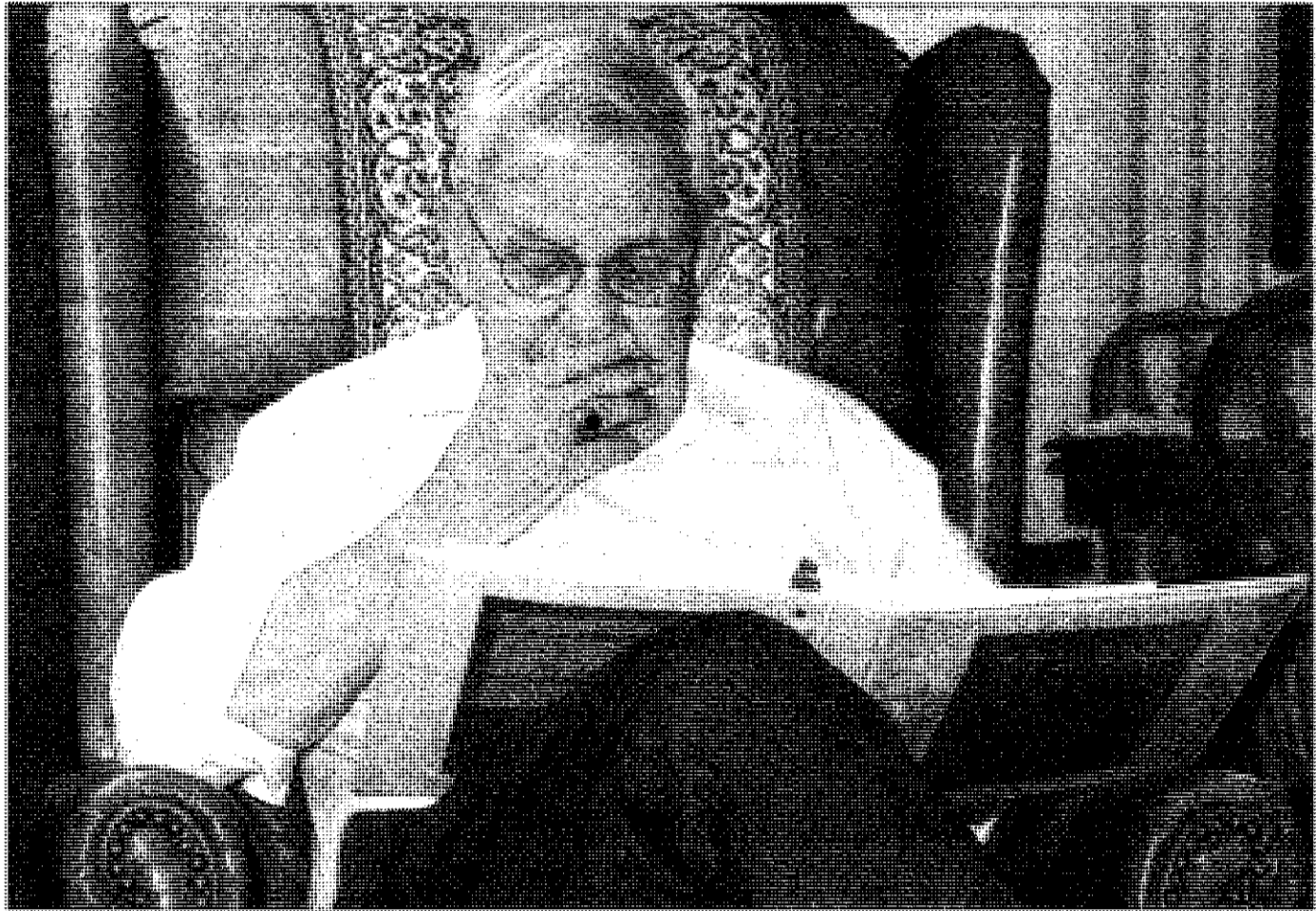
The caveat here is that one or both parties to a relationship that is on the rocks will have had enough commitment to themselves and those they love to look carefully, with the help of counseling, at what is not working, stay with the process long enough to see if it can be saved, and if not, what are the possibilities for the future that are best for all concerned.

I think the gift I would suggest we offer our partner is the gift of honesty; let's see how our relationship really is and how we feel about it. After that, if there is work to be done, give yourself and your partner the gift of commitment, the willingness to explore the situation fully and completely, as hard and as complicated as that may be, to work together for, as Christian scripture puts it, "a more abundant life."

It is both a psychological and a spiritual truth that you must pay as much attention to yourself as you need to pay to your partner for both to be happy. That, perhaps, is the final gift. Take your life seriously enough to pay attention to those areas that need care: your loneliness, your low self-esteem, your lack of self-confidence, your depression, and your anxiety. You know what those parts are. This kind of attention to self and relationship could provide a greater life-filling gift than you might have thought.

Dr. Paul J. Melrose is executive director of the Samaritan Counseling Center of SE Michigan, based in Farmington Hills. He can be reached at www.paulmelrose.com or through (248) 474-4701. The staff of the Samaritan Center can be reached through www.samaritancounselingmichigan.com or through (248) 474-4701.

All fathers are . . .



Wallace Caminsky reads through the manuscript of 'All Fathers are Giants' during his 85th birthday celebration at his Redford home.

GIANTS

Author inspired by childhood in Hamtramck

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER



Wasil Caminsky and his son, Wallace, in the back yard of their Hamtramck home.

Wallace Caminsky's short stories might have remained hidden in a filing cabinet if not for his son, Jeffrey. The two sit side by side to talk about the project to publish *All Fathers are Giants*. The collection of short stories and poems was inspired by the elder Caminsky's childhood experiences as the son of immigrants in Hamtramck and later as a young father raising a family in the suburbs of Detroit.

Wallace Caminsky speaks fondly of his father, who was born in a little town outside of Kiev. Wasil graces the cover of the book. His long-suffering death from cancer was very traumatic for Caminsky.

"My favorite is still the first one about my father," said Caminsky,



Wallace and Alice Caminsky enjoy Jeffrey's first Christmas at home in Royal Oak.

85, of Redford. "It was written about 40 to 50 years ago. My father spent most of the Depression out of work. We were poor. One time my mother gave me a plate of mashed potatoes (and nothing else) for dinner and I liked it but it sent her upstairs crying."

Caminsky went on to earn a scholarship to Wayne University

and for the next 20 years worked at one of the Big Three automobile companies. It wasn't until President John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963 that he decided to go to law school at night. He retired as an administrative law judge for Aid to Dependent Children in the late 1980s.

Please see **FATHERS**, C2

Sassy has a career outside of the show ring as well. She recently attended the North American International Auto Show's black tie charity preview as one of the Celebrities Against Autism. Pictured with Sassy is owner Terry Seraceno of Farmington Hills. The two also do pet therapy work with Doctor Paws.



DKC shows to spotlight pampered pooches

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Terry Seraceno starts conditioning her golden retrievers Blue and Sassy about a month before big shows like the two presented by the Detroit Kennel Club at Cobo Center Saturday and Sunday, March 1-2. That takes a lot of shampooing and blow drying not to mention exercising them on a treadmill to keep their muscles in shape.

"I take better care of the dogs than myself," said Seraceno of Farmington Hills.

"I bathe and blow dry them every other day. Golden retrievers have a lot of fur. For a shiny coat, there's a special shampoo with conditioners. I'm feeding a good healthy diet, give them vitamins mixed in with food every day. In the winter it's hard to exercise your dog. Many owners train the dog to run on a treadmill at home."

After all of her hard work Seraceno plans to enjoy the show as a spectator. She's hired a professional handler to show and stay with

Please see **POOCHES**, C3



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Guests to share laughter at March 13 fund-raiser

Humor heals and it's good for our health. That's the reason Angela Hospice is hosting Laughter Lifts You Up Thursday, March 13. More than 300 women are expected to attend the event at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

"Our invitations have gone out and so far the response has been very positive," said Barbara Paul, events coordinator at Angela Hospice in Livonia. "Ladies are very excited about coming to this event and having a fun night out with their girlfriends."

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with registration, appetizers and serenading from a

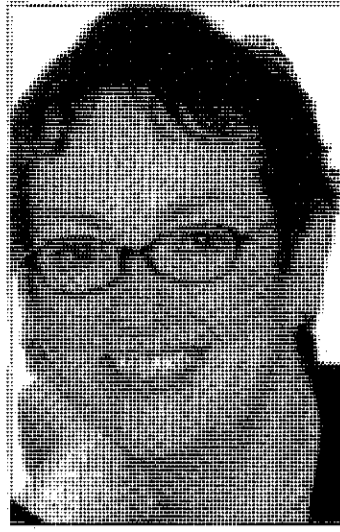
barbershop quartet. A plated dinner of Chicken Wellington will follow before the main event with guest speaker Maureen Burns who has presented to groups in the U.S., England and Canada, and is the author of the bestselling book *Run With Your Dreams*. She has been called warm, witty, down-to-earth, uplifting, and memorable.

"Some of our committee members saw Ms. Burns speak a number of years ago and are still raving about her," said Paul. "She'll be talking about how humor affects our health."

Following Burns message, guests will be treated to a fruit

and dessert bar.

Reservations are \$40 per person and can be made by calling Barbara Paul at (734) 953-6014. Proceeds from the event will benefit ALS patients at Angela Hospice. For more information or to download an invitation, visit www.angelahospice.org.



Nationally known speaker Maureen Burns explores how humor affects our health at Laughter Lifts You Up, a women's event hosted by the staff and volunteers of Angela Hospice.

FATHERS

FROM PAGE C1

LOVE OF WRITING

"I enjoyed writing from high school and overseas while serving in the Army on a ship. I came home and started working for Buick and wrote at night," said Caminsky. "The stories are based upon what happened to me or I heard about. *Always* is about a retarded boy my sons grew up with."

Caminsky started writing novels about being on the ship but never finished them. In fact after returning home from the Army, Caminsky didn't do much writing. He was busy courting Alice, his soon-to-be wife. Alice is a former speech teacher and later taught English as a second language for Redford Union Schools. The couple has lived in Redford since 1954. They married nearly 60 years ago.

"After we were married one of the things she said to me was you're not going to quit writing, are you. She encouraged me," said Caminsky. "She liked the stories. She proofread the stories and sometimes made suggestions."

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Jeffrey began editing the stories early last spring after wading through file cabinets full of manuscripts with the hope of publishing his father's book as a surprise for his 85th birthday on Oct. 28, 2007.

Jeffrey remembers reading his father's writing as a kid then he started writing. Jeffrey Caminsky and his New Alexandria Press published his book, *The Referee's Survival Guide*, last year. The Livonia man's next project was *All Fathers are Giants*. Wallace Caminsky continues to work on new stories. Jeffrey has a series of science fiction novels he's written coming out later this year.

Both of Wallace's sons, Jeffrey and Christopher, followed in his footsteps and became lawyers. Jeffrey is an assistant prosecutor for Wayne County. He admires his father's writing.

Jeffrey says short stories are very challenging to write since the author doesn't have much time to capture the reader's attention or develop the story, but his father has a very poetic writing style and a good ear for a descriptive turn of phrase.

"Since I shared some of the same experiences from a different perspective, I can recognize many of the people and places in many of the stories, but like any artist he uses his life as a point of departure and paints his stories with words."

All Fathers are Giants can be ordered through any bookstore, autographed copies through the publisher's Web site www.newalexandriapress.com. Locally, copies are available at the Book Connection in Livonia.

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However, several features of Allopurinol make physicians careful in ordering its use. First are side effects. The drug can cause mouth sores and a rash. In rare instances, but still more frequently than physicians want, the medication can cause a life threatening hepatitis.

Second is the timing in starting Allopurinol. You cannot use the drug during an acute attack of gout or begin Allopurinol soon after an attack ends. If used during such times, the drug will make the gout worse or cause another flare of the arthritis. If you wait too long to start the medication, you may have another attack of gout and need to further delay the start of this effective medication.

Third is the difficulty in determining the proper dose. Some individuals need as much as 900 mgm a day, while others because of prior kidney or liver damage should take no more than 100 mgm.

Allopurinol is a fine medication but as good as it is, it is not the ideal. Better gout medications are in development, and may soon become the treatments of choice.

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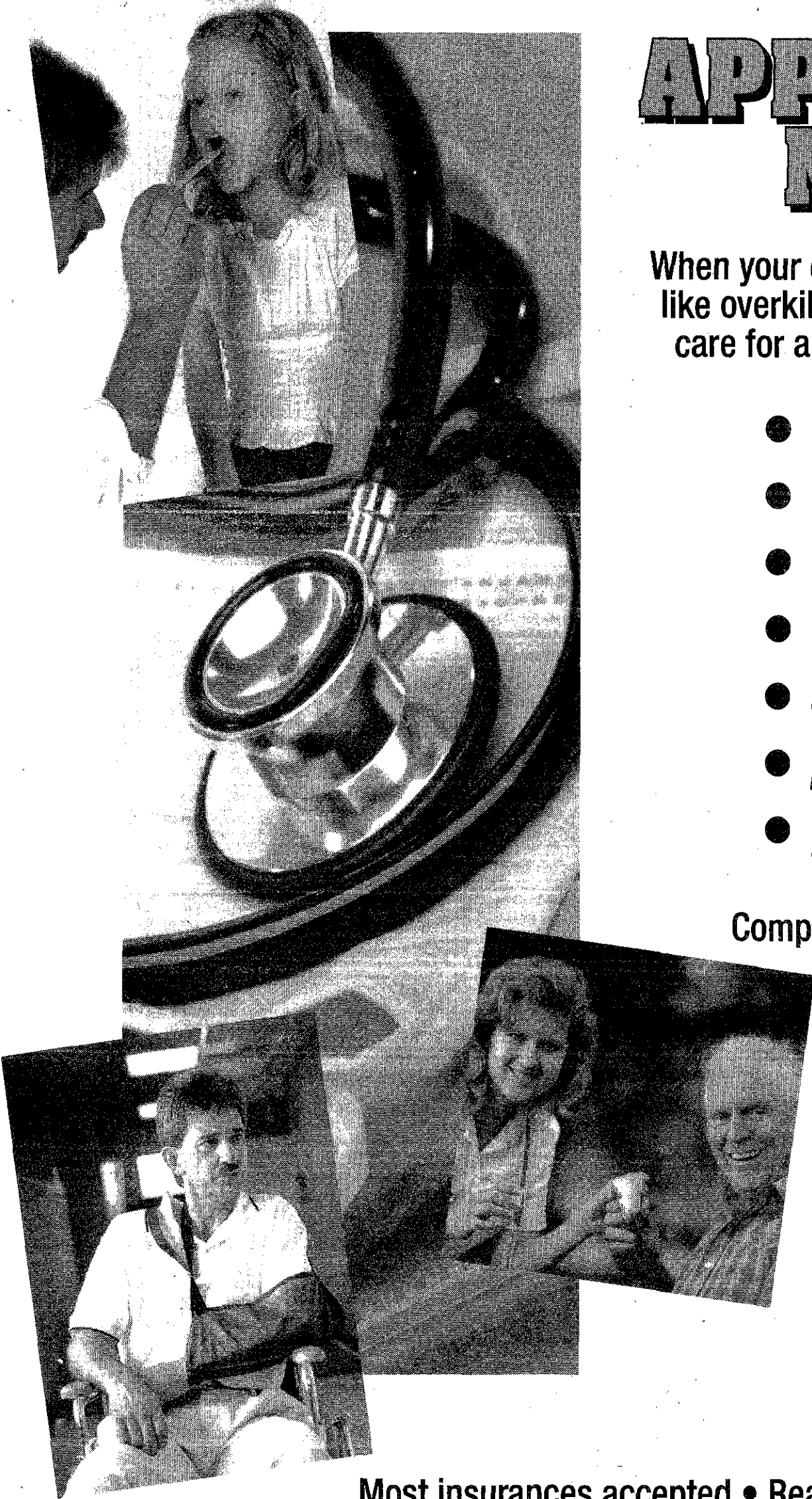
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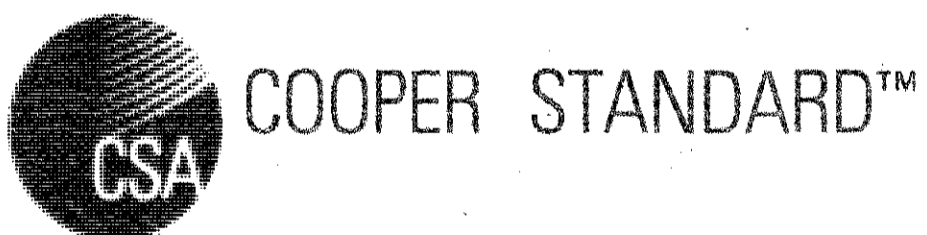
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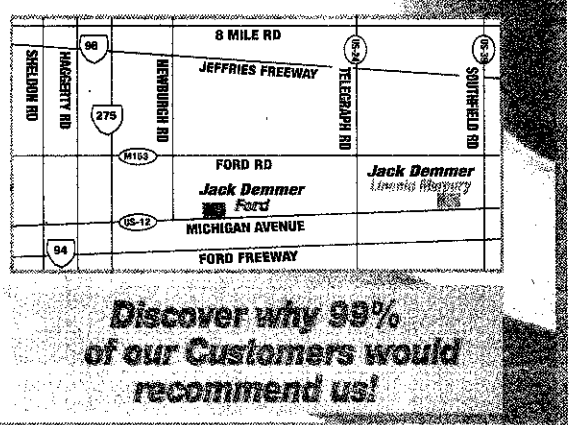
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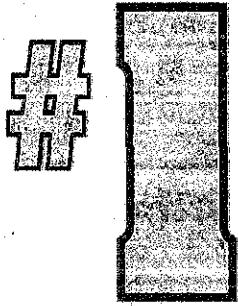
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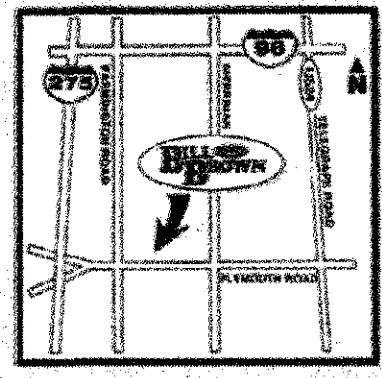
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