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**SUNDAY**  
March 2, 2008

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**Observer**

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**Teen testifies about online sex-for-pay scheme**

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A teenage prostitute testified in explicit detail Thursday how she worked for a Westland couple charged with using the Internet to arrange sex-for-pay trysts between young women

and clients.

Kelly Brenda Davis, 17, accused the couple of posting her nude pictures on Craigslist and driving her to meet customers who paid \$200 or more for sex. Davis said she was only 16 when she worked for Davina Shirley Lloyd, 26, and Lanard Mack Henley, 24, while

living with them at Woodcrest Villa Apartments on the city's north side.

"They asked me to lie about my age," Davis testified during a preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court.

Davis accused Lloyd of slapping her and threatening her

when she lied about being raped by a customer, in hopes of getting time off work.

"Davina said I'd end up dead in an alley if I lied to her," Davis said.

She finally confessed to her mother, who lives in Detroit, and they went to Westland police.

Their allegations triggered a criminal investigation that resulted in Lloyd and Henley being arrested at the Fairfield Inn in Canton and arraigned in January on multiple prostitution-related charges.

Davis' testimony prompted 18th District Judge Sandra

Ference Cicirelli to order the defendants to stand trial in Wayne County Circuit Court. The charges against them are punishable by up to 20 years in prison, if they are convicted.

Lloyd faces trial for child

Please see **HEARING, A3**

**'It's an incredible place, it's definitely God's country'**



Jon Kimble (second from right) joins the Trail Breakers for a picture underneath the finish line of the 2007 Iditarod in Nome, Alaska.

**He leads way as Iditarod Trail Breaker**

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

At 2 p.m. Alaska time today, 96 mushers will head out in what's been called the last great race on earth, the 2008 Iditarod. They'll follow a more than 1,150-mile trail stretching from Wasilla in southern Alaska to Nome on the coast of the Bering Sea.

But they won't be blazing a new trail through some of Alaska's roughest terrain. That job is being handled by a team of volunteers on snow machines who are making the trail along the Iditarod's northern route.

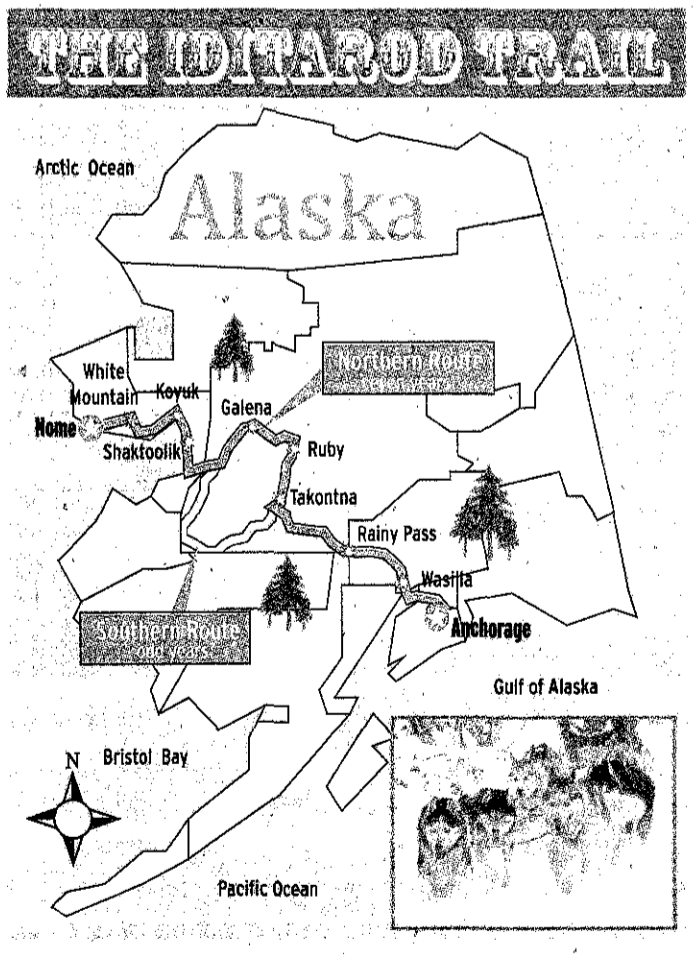


Jon Kimble

"We try to stay a good day, day and a half a head of them," said John Kimble, a former Westland resident who's in his second year as an Iditarod Trail Breaker. "We have to make the trail so the dogs don't have to plow through deep snow."

The Iditarod Trail Breakers have been described as some of the most hard-core snowmobilers in the world. They make a "highway" across Alaska every

Please see **IDITAROD, A3**



**Civic league pays \$11,000 in taxes, avoids foreclosure**

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland nonprofit organization has averted a threatened foreclosure by paying thousands of dollars on its delinquent tax bills, an official said.

With an uptick in bingo revenues, Wayne-Ford Civic League President Vic Barra said he managed Wednesday to pay \$11,000 in back taxes from 2005.

Wayne County had threatened to foreclose on the civic league for unpaid water and street-lighting bills that got slapped onto the organization's tax bills. The league sponsors youth athletics and senior programs, and it offers a hall for rentals for weddings, political parties and other events.

"The civic league is no longer in threat of foreclosure," Barra told the *Observer* on Wednesday.

Barra had told the newspaper last November, when a story was published about the organization's financial woes, that the civic league was "gradually climbing that mountain of debt."

He conceded that the league still owes \$4,500 on back taxes from 2006, "and 2007 isn't even on the radar," but he predicted the organization will ultimately get caught

up. "We expect to take care of those (remaining back taxes) soon so that we're not in the same predicament next year" with a foreclosure threat, Barra said.

Bingo players have started returning to the civic league, he said. "Business has been good for the last quarter," he said. "The bingo crowds are again warming up to the civic league."

The league will now have a year to catch up on the remaining \$4,500 it owes in back taxes before the possible threat of foreclosure. The league, established in 1952, is located on Wayne Road south of Ford.

Barra said the league's problems have made him sympathetic to homeowners and other property owners who have been foreclosed.

"It's been very stressful on me having this burden hanging over my head," he said, adding later, "My heart goes out to all the families and businesses who find themselves in the situation the civic league was in. I'm glad that the civic league will be able to continue youth sports and senior programs in the upcoming year."

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**Man faces trial in molestation case**

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man charged with molesting his great-niece when she was only 6 years old will face trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Raymond Lawrence Perkins, 55, faces trial after he voluntarily waived his preliminary hearing Thursday in front of Westland 18th District Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli. His decision averted testimony from the girl, who is now 12.

Perkins was arraigned Feb. 5 on two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct after the girl came forward in December and told police she remembered being molested six years earlier. She told authorities she was asleep and woke up to find Perkins fondling her, police Sgt. Debra Mathews has said in court.

Perkins, who is jailed in lieu of a \$1 million bond, is charged with a 15-year felony, but a conviction

could potentially bring a lengthier sentence because he is considered a repeat offender.

Perkins was released from prison in June 1991 after he served 3½ years for molesting a nephew who, along with the nephew's mother, now lives in Perkins's residence on Alberta, in the city's Norwayne neighborhood. The mother has told authorities that Perkins has been forgiven.

Perkins also has confessed to sexually molesting two other nieces and one nephew years ago, Mathews has said in court. However, he can't be charged for those allegations because no one came forward before the statute of limitations had expired, she said.

Mathews, who has investigated sex crimes for seven years, called the Perkins case among the worst of its kind that she has seen.

"It's one of the worst I've seen in sheer number of victims," she said.

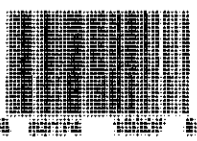
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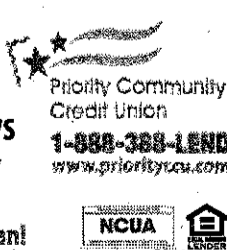
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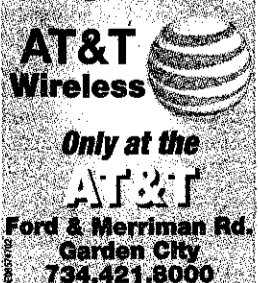
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# Lifesaver: Fruit wins MADD's state award

BY DARRELL CLEM  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland Police Officer Robert Fruit is the kind of cop who makes drunken drivers see red.

His skills at arresting them make others take notice. Fruit earned a LifeSaver Award in February as Mothers Against Drunk Driving honored nine officers from across Michigan during a ceremony in Lansing. Next, he will receive another LifeSaver honor when MADD of Wayne County hands out its awards March 13 at Livonia's Burton Manor.

Fruit, who arrested 236 drunken drivers in 2007 alone, also won a LifeSaver Award from MADD of Wayne County for his efforts in 2006, making him one of Westland's most decorated officers for making local roads safer.

"He has a truly amazing dedication to keeping the streets safe from drunk drivers," Police Chief James Ridener said. Fruit's efforts through the



Westland Police Officer Robert Fruit (left), who won a LifeSaver Award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving, also receives a proclamation from state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, during a MADD banquet in Lansing. The tribute from Anderson also was signed by state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland.

department's alcohol enforcement team put him in line for this year's county award, along with Wayne Police Officer Kevin Berger and 29 other law-enforcement officers.

"Within our campaign to eliminate drunk driving, we need law-enforcement officers because they are the first line of defense against drunk driving," said Néchole McClendon, program director for MADD of Wayne County. "Without them, we can't imagine how many individuals would be losing their lives or getting injured."

For his state award, Fruit became one of only nine winners among hundreds of nominees. Fruit also received a proclamation in his honor signed by state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, and state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland.

Glynn Birch, national president of MADD, presented the awards in Lansing.

Fruit won the county LifeSaver award last year along with fellow Westland Police Officer Ron Buckley.

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# LPS grad who lived nearby charged in Webster arson, four others

BY REBECCA JONES  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

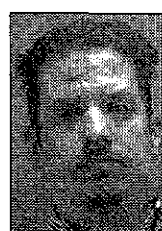
The suspect in the Webster Elementary School arson was supposed to start a new job on Friday. Instead, he faced a judge on five felony counts.

Donald Carlson, 32, faces two, 10-year felony charges and three, five-year felonies for alleged arsons or arson attempts that occurred between Dec. 12 and Feb. 28, including the Feb. 18 fire that caused extensive damage to Webster and forced the school's approximately 350 students to move to another school.

He is also suspected in three attempted vehicle arsons in the neighborhood surrounding Webster on Thursday morning, and in the arson at Randolph Elementary School on Feb. 21, said Livonia Police Lt. Greg Winn.

Carlson waived formal reading of the charges and stood mute in Judge Kathleen McCann's 16th District courtroom.

"Based on the offenses that are charged, I have a concern, particularly since it's an ongoing situation," McCann said. She set bond at \$500,000



Carlson

cash or surety. A preliminary exam was set for March 11. Carlson is a 1993 graduate of Churchill High School and lived in the neighborhood off Lyndon west of Newburgh where the arsons occurred.

Livonia police caught him Thursday. According to Livonia police reports, officers were called to a house in the 38000 block of Mason to check on a 1999 Ford E150 van that was found Wednesday morning with its gas lid open and a rag stuck inside the fuel tank. The rag had been lit, but the vehicle did not catch fire.

Later that same morning, officers were called to investigate a similar attack on a 1988 Lincoln in the 14000 block of Nola that was found with a partial pack of cigarettes jammed into the gas cap and a line of unidentified liquid leading to a pile of partially burned flammable debris on the ground. The car had suffered some burns. A third vehicle, a 1997 GMC

Sonoma, parked in the same block of Nola was similarly damaged. The Livonia police's new K-9 unit, Gandalf, was called to the scene and led police to Carlson's door.

It appears that he acted alone in all of these cases, police said. Police said Carlson, who is currently on probation for larceny from a vehicle, did not offer a motive in this case. "He has no grudges against the school district," Winn said.

Carlson's attorney, Joseph Larkin, who was retained by the defendant's mother, said his client has three and a half years of college and had earned an associate's degree. He was laid off, but found a new job and was supposed to start on Friday.

Livonia Public Schools released a statement saying: "Our entire school community is relieved to hear the police have someone they believe is responsible for the fire. We are grateful beyond words for the outstanding work of our local police and fire departments."

Observer staff writer Alex Lundberg contributed to this report.

rrjones@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2054

**CITY OF GARDEN CITY WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

To all residents and interested parties, the Council minutes will be available for review on the internet at: [www.gardencitymi.org](http://www.gardencitymi.org)

You can access this information at City Hall or the Garden City Library during regular business hours or in the Police Station Lobby 24 hours a day.

Allyson M. Bettis, City Clerk/Treasurer

Publish: March 2 & 9, 2008

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**CITY OF GARDEN CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, March 10, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 154.005, DEFINITIONS, SECTION 154.067, MINIMUM OFF STREET PARKING, SECTION 154.136, AUTOMOTIVE AND/OR VEHICLE SALES, 154.162, REGULATED USES, 154.301, PERMITTED USES AND STRUCTURES, 154.357, DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Garden City.**

Section 154.005 DEFINITIONS. This section contains the definition of the terms used in the ordinance.

Section 154.040 OUTDOOR DISPLAYS; PROHIBITIONS. This section limits displays in terms of the time and location of the displays.

Section 154.067 MINIMUM OFF-STREET PARKING. This section contains the schedule of required parking spaces per square foot of area.

Section 154.162 AUTOMOBILE AND/OR VEHICLE RENTAL ESTABLISHMENTS. This section contains the grading, surfacing, drainage and setback requirements and the servicing and broadcasting prohibitions applicable to the establishments regulated under this ordinance.

Section 154.136 AUTOMOBILE AND/OR VEHICLE SALES. This section contains the grading, surfacing, drainage, driveway location, setback and minimum lot area requirements and the servicing and broadcasting prohibitions applicable to the establishments regulated under this ordinance.

Section 154.170 REGULATED USES. This section contains a list of the uses prohibited in certain concentrations (i.e. 3 within 1000ft radius), and an application and waiver process.

Section 154.301 PERMITTED USES AND STRUCTURES. This section establishes the principal permitted uses and the special land uses permitted in certain zoning districts.

Section 154.352 PERMITTED USES AND STRUCTURES. This section regulates special land uses and existing uses with drive-through facilities.

Section 154.357 DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS. This section establishes development standards applicable to site plan review, exterior design review, and required conditions applicable to outdoor storage, personal vehicle rental or sales, exemptions and definition.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Office of Community Development, City of Garden City, 6000 Middlebelt Rd., Garden City, MI 48135. The sections provide that the Ordinances shall take full force and effect upon publication. Copies of the complete text of this Ordinance are available at the office of the Community Development Department, Garden City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan 48135, during regular business hours.

Paul C. Zelenak  
Community Development Director

Publish: March 2, 2008

**CORRECTION**

The Plymouth-Canton AAUW production of Snow White will be presented at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, March 6-7, at Garden City High School's O'Leary Auditorium, 6500 Middlebelt. Presale tickets cost \$5 and are available at Fanatic U, 30409 Ford, Garden City, call (734) 266-0893; The Book Cellar, 840 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, call (734) 455-2665; and Perkos Shoes, 33426 Five Mile, Livonia, call (734) 427-3477. They also will be available at the door for \$6 each.

**KNOW THE SCORE**  
check out the numbers in today's SPORTS section

**CITY OF WESTLAND RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL 2008 SCHEDULE FOR BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS**

Monday, March 10	9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon	1:30 - 4:30 P.M.
Tuesday, March 11	1:00 - 4:00 P.M.	5:30 - 8:30 P.M.
Wednesday, March 12	9:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon	1:30 - 4:30 P.M.
Thursday, March 13	1:00 - 4:00 P.M.	5:30 - 8:30 P.M.

CALL (734) 467-3160 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Board of Review Meetings will be held at Westland City Hall 2nd Floor - Council Chambers 36601 Ford Road Westland, MI 48185

Written Appeals Must Be Received by 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, March 13, 2008

Publish: February 24 & March 2, 2008

**AROUND WESTLAND**

**ON THE WEB**  
For Community Calendar and an expanded version of Around Westland, visit our online edition at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com) and click on Westland.

also available at the Village of Westland. There is no age requirement for the program. Appointments at both locations may be scheduled by calling the Friendship Center at (734) 722-7632.

**Constituent hours**  
The staff of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, will hold office hours in several locations in January. The time is set aside so that the citizens served by the congressman have the opportunity to speak with a staff member one on one regarding any federal issue that they might have. Tuesday, March 4, office hours are 9-10 a.m. Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Redford Community Center, 1-2 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Westland Senior Friendship Center. The Thursday, March 6, hours are 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Summit Senior Center, 11 a.m.-noon at the Northville Senior Center, 1-2 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Van Buren September Days Senior Center. The congressman has two offices in Livonia and Milford the district to serve constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-0314 and the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

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Thank You!

## Assessing office adds hours to accommodate residents

Residents with questions about the tax assessment notices can get them from the Westland Assessing Department during extended office hours Monday and Wednesday, March 3 and 5.

In addition to its regular hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, the department in Westland City Hall will remain open until 9 p.m. those two days to answer questions related to notices that were mailed out Feb. 25.

"It's our hope that these hours will more easily accommodate the schedules of our residents," said Westland Mayor William R. Wild.

During the extended hours the assessor's staff will assist residents with any questions

they may have about Board of Review procedures should property owners wish to appeal the assessor's decision.

The Board of Review, a three-person body made up of resident taxpayers who can increase or decrease an improper assessment. It will hear appeals Monday, March 10, through Friday, March 14, in the Council Chambers of Westland City Hall. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. and 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

The Westland Assessor's Office is on the second level of Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford. For more information, call (734) 734-467-3160.

## Iditarod: World's longest dog sled race

The Iditarod is the world's longest dog sled race. The trail runs 1,151 miles from Anchorage to Nome along an old mail route known as the Iditarod Trail. It is run each year to commemorate the emergency delivery in 1925 of diphtheria antitoxin to Nome, Alaska.

The race starts in Anchorage on the first Saturday in March every year in downtown Anchorage. However, the first day is just a ceremonial start, and teams run only from Anchorage to Eagle River, 25

miles away. On the following day, the race is re-started in Wasilla, about 50 miles from Anchorage.

The race trail crosses the Alaska Mountain Range at Rainy Pass, the highest point on the trail at elevation 3,500 feet, and then crosses the Alaskan interior to meet the Yukon River. The race trail takes one of two routes as it crosses the interior and runs on the Yukon River.

In even-numbered years, the race heads north from the cold camp of Ophir and reaches the Yukon at Ruby.

The trail turns down river for 150 miles to Kaltag. In odd-numbered years, the trail heads south from Ophir and meets up with the Yukon River just south of the village of Anvik. From Anvik, the trail follows the Yukon river for 150 miles to Kaltag.

Once at Kaltag, the two trails meet and are the same to Nome.

The record currently stands just over eight days, 22 hours, set in 2002 by Martin Buser of Big Lake, Alaska. The record longest time to finish the Iditarod is 32 days.

Currently, the top 20 teams usually finish in under 11 days, and the last-place team finishes in 14 or 15 days.

The Iditarod champion receives more than \$68,000 in cash plus a brand new Dodge pickup truck. The last place team receives the Red Lantern Award, known as the Widow's Lamp. It is lighted at the finish line in Nome and lantern burns day and night until the last musher finishes the race.

From www.lucidcafe.com/library/iditarod.html

## HEARING

FROM PAGE A1

sexual abusive activity, using a computer to commit a crime, pandering for purposes of prostitution, accepting earnings of a prostitute, and two counts of transporting a female for prostitution. Henley has similar charges against him, except for the count involving a computer.

Not-guilty pleas have been placed on record for both defendants as they await trial.

Under questioning by Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Keith Clark, Davis said she first met Lloyd and Henley in November at a gas station in Detroit. She said she was attracted to Lloyd and that Henley gave her a business card, telling her to call the telephone number on it and saying she could make money.

Davis testified that she called a couple days later and arranged to meet the couple at the same gas station, and she said she returned with them to Westland. She said they told her she could make money as a prostitute, and she said they gave her the name Candy.

Davis accused Lloyd and Henley of showing her sex acts she would be expected to perform for pay, and she said pictures were taken of her, both alone and also posing with

another prostitute, Star. Davis said Star also was living with the defendants and working as a prostitute to pay off debts she owed to the couple.

Davis testified she worked as a prostitute several times after clients called Lloyd, using a cell phone number posted on Craigslist. Davis said Lloyd and Henley would take her to places where she met customers.

Defense attorneys Todd Perkins and Joseph Niskar sought to raise questions about Davis' credibility. At one point in her testimony, Davis indicated she didn't leave Westland because she didn't know how to get back to Detroit, but she later conceded that she had made visits to the city while living with Lloyd and Henley.

Davis, currently in a Wayne County juvenile facility for an unrelated domestic violence incident, said she finally told her mother that she had been working as a prostitute. She said they went to Westland police.

Police Sgt. Mark Engstrom has said that Lloyd and Henley were arrested Jan. 17 after an undercover officer arranged to meet a different prostitute, 18, at the Fairfield Inn in Canton. Authorities seized a laptop computer that Engstrom said contained evidence of prostitution activity.

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

## IDITAROD

FROM PAGE A1

winter, using some 10,000 surveyor's stakes to mark the trail. They also use ribbons and tripod markers in places like the Alaska Mountain Range and the Bering Sea coast.

Kimble, a 2005 John Glenn High School graduate, joined the six-member team last year, replacing his boss, Roger Ashcraft, who had heart surgery. Ashcraft is back this year and it will be he and Kimble who will pull four-foot wide, 14-foot long trail groomers on the trail.

## BEING PREPARED

Kimble is prepared for long days and bitter cold temperatures. He has stocked up on Polar-Tec gear and invested in a \$400 sleeping bag that's good to -40 degrees "just in case we sleep outside." Most times, the team sleeps in frame houses or cabins, although last year they slept in a tent house where the heat was accidentally turned off and they woke to find their gear frozen.

"Our longest day last year was 22 hours on snow machines," Kimble said, adding that the team carries GPS because "when you're in a lot of snow and breaking trails you can get turned around."

The GPS is good news to his mother, Sheila Kimble, who tracks the Trail Breakers progress on an Air Force Web site. She thinks it's "awesome" that her son 20-year-old son is involved with the Iditarod.



Jon Kimble (center) poses for a picture with the Trail Breakers team along the trail. The snow machine at right is filled with the markers they use line the trail for the mushers.

"I'm nervous this year, but he's been living his dream since he moved to Alaska," she said.

Sheila Kimble admits that last year she was dismayed because she knew how rugged the land and weather is. Her concern was heightened when she talked to a friend who told her that a Trail Breaker was killed the previous year in an avalanche.

"Last year was very, very tough," she said. "But it's quite an honor to be on the team. It's been a good learning experi-

ence for him, although it's not near as hard as it is for the mushers and their dogs."

According to his mother, Kimble went to Alaska just out of high school after a friend of his father mentioned that he was looking for workers. He went up there for a summer job and before she knew it, he was getting an Alaskan driver's license.

"His plan was to do community college or an aviation program at Willow Run," she said. "After we visited him up

there, I understand why he's stayed. It's quite a life. It's an incredible place, it's definitely God's country."

## 'OUTDOORSMAN'

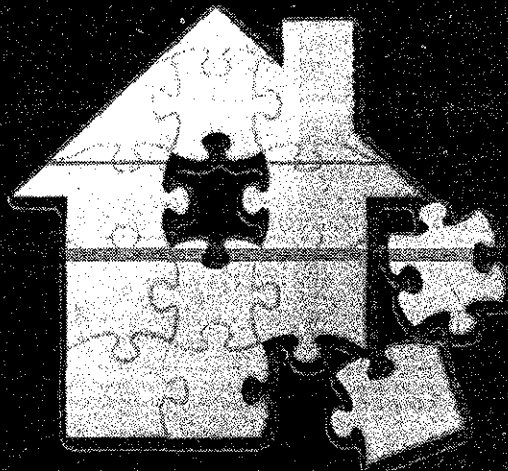
Kimble describes himself as an outdoorsman who loves to hunt and fish, interests he shares with his brother, Eric, a senior at John Glenn. According to his mother, Eric also plans to head for Alaska. With her husband, David, retired, friends are now asking when they will move to the 49th state. She's frank in her answer: "I can't do those kind of winters," she said.

As a Trail Breaker, Kimble will cross the Iditarod finishing line in Nome ahead of the mushers. He'll watch the end of the race and hope his favorite musher, Lance Mackey, wins the race. Mackey won last year and recently won the recent Yukon Quest International Dog Sled Race.

"He's a good guy," he said. The Kimbles are proud of what their son is doing. Sheila Kimble said her husband thinks it's "just the proudest thing." "When I fret, he's a typical father/husband," she said. "He tells me not to worry. He's very proud of him. They're very close."

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# Ficano pushes Cobo plan in State of County speech

BY HUGH GALLAGHER  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano used his annual State of the County address Wednesday to continue his embattled fight for an expanded Cobo Convention Center.



Ficano

"The expansion of Cobo is not about headlines. It's about real people and real jobs," he told a standing-room-only audience at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History.

Ficano has proposed a 120,000-square-foot expansion of Cobo at a cost of \$323 million. Legislation has been introduced to extend a three-county (Wayne, Oakland and Macomb) hotel and statewide liquor tax for seven years to pay for the expansion. Legislation has also been introduced to create a convention center authority and to make Cobo a tax-free zone.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson has been a steady vocal critic of Ficano's plan, challenging Ficano's financing arrangements. Recently, Detroit political leaders have criticized the plan for creating an authority that would take ownership of the hall away from the city.

On Feb. 22, Gov. Jennifer Granholm met with representatives from the three counties and the city of Detroit to begin preliminary discussions about their differences.

On Wednesday, Ficano recognized several supporters from

Oakland and Macomb, whom he said would benefit from the expansion.

An opening film and several slides shown while Ficano spoke showed Ficano and Patterson enjoying each other's company.

"We're fighting to preserve our crown jewel and will not sit by waiting to see what happens," he said. "We're going to make something happen for the good of our region and state."

Ficano and others argue that if Cobo is not expanded, the city would lose the annual North American International Auto Show.

"This show is worth nearly \$600 million to this region each year — the equivalent of five Super Bowls or 40 World Series games," he said.

Wednesday's speech did not contain the usual laundry list of new initiatives that spotlighted Ficano's five previous State of the County addresses. He used the language of change and can-do optimism to describe the area's future in spite of recent hard times. He congratulated county AFSCME union employees on reaching a tentative four-year agreement, though some members were picketing outside the museum.

Accomplishments cited included the deal to buy the Guardian Building as the new County Building and ongoing discussions about purchasing the historic County Building, which the county leases from a private owner.

He also touted the county's TURBO program which provides incentives for redeveloping residential and business property throughout the county. "Thanks to TURBO, we have:

new retail projects in Highland Park and Detroit; manufacturing facilities in Van Buren Township and Livonia; hotels in Romulus; and food service facilities in Canton Township and Taylor," he said.

Among those recognized by Ficano, were Deborah Rush and her three children, Shawn, Chris and Angela. The Rush family were the subjects of a story by *Observer* reporter Darrell Clem on the Wayne County Family Center in Westland during the holidays. Following the story, many area people came to the support of the family. They were also recognized by Ficano.

New initiatives by county government and private developments in the county included:

■ Creation of the Second Chance Through Expungment Program (STEP). Residents who have only one, nonviolent conviction and have lived a clean life for at least five years will be eligible to set aside the past conviction.

■ IAV Automotive Engineering, a German-based company, will locate its North American headquarters in Northville Township this year. IAV will build a \$16.5 million R&D facility that would create 65 engineering jobs and 180 total jobs over five years.

■ A proposal before the county commission to create a Job Creation Fund to offer financial incentives to bring jobs to the county.

■ Next month, the county will begin construction of a mile and a half long sewer extension for the Pinnacle Aeropark near Metro Airport.

"This will be the first major infrastructure improvement at Pinnacle and it paves the way for businesses to locate there as part of the aerotropolis," Ficano said.

■ Altermery, a Delaware company, is building a 25,000-square-foot biodiesel fuels production plant in Romulus.

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## Giving thanks

Pastor Bill Hales of The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Westland, delivered the Senate invocation on Thursday, Feb. 14, as a guest of State Sen. Glenn S. Anderson, D-Westland. Lt. Gov. John D. Cherry (right) joined Anderson and Hales at the Senate rostrum following the invocation.

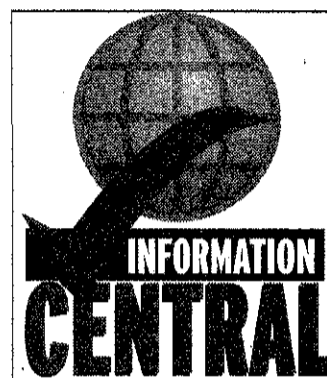
# Last great race on earth

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race is often referred to as the last great race on earth. Covering more than 1,150 miles in 9-17 days, mushers and their teams of 12-16 sled dogs traverse dense forests, frozen rivers, mountain passes and vast stretches of wilderness. Add blizzards, gale force winds, temperatures far below zero, long hours of darkness and treacherous climbs, and you have the Iditarod experience!

In the early 1900s, dog sleds were the only reliable form of transportation in the wintertime. They were used to deliver mail and supplies. Around 1910-1912, the sleds hauled tons of gold back from Nome during America's last great gold rush.

In 1925, there was a deadly outbreak of diphtheria in Nome. Life-saving serum was transported from Anchorage to Nenana by train, but the last 674 miles were only accessible by dog sled. To learn more, check out the children's book, "The Great Serum Race: Blazing the Iditarod Trail."

By the mid 1930s, the gold rush had wound down and supplies were delivered by air transport. The Iditarod Trail fell into disuse. In the late 1960s, some short dog sled races were held, followed by the first Iditarod race in the 1973. In 1978, the Iditarod Trail



was designated as a National Historic Trail.

You can find many books about the Iditarod at the Library: "Racing Sled Dogs: An Original North American Sport," "Mush! Across Alaska in the Longest Sled-dog Race" and "Iditarod Fact Book: A Complete Guide to the Last Great Race."

Look for biographies like "Winterdance: The Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod" and "Father of the Iditarod: The Joe Redington Story." The Library also owns the video, "Iditarod - A Far Distant Place."

This year's race began at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 1, in downtown Anchorage. Participants spent the night in Wasilla, where the race is

restarted at 2 p.m. today, Sunday, March 2. You will surely hear news of the Iditarod in days to come. For more information, go to [www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com).

**Highlighted Activities**  
**Intermediate Microsoft Word:** 7 p.m. March 5.

Learn more advanced word processing skills, including how to use graphic elements, bulleting and numbering lists, cut/copy/paste functions and headers and footers. Prerequisite is Introduction to Word. This is a hands-on class. Space is limited. Register in advance at the reference desk or by calling (734) 326-6123.

**Everyone's Reading Book Discussion:** 7 p.m. March 11.

As part of the seventh annual Metro Detroit Book Discussion, join us for a sharing of ideas about "The Beekeeper's Apprentice," written by Laurie R. King. Pick up a copy of the book at the library. Please read the book before the meeting. All are welcome.

**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.

**CITY OF GARDEN CITY  
BOARD OF REVIEW DATES**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO all property owners of the City of Garden City that the Board of Review will meet in session on the following date and time to examine the assessment roll for the current year:

Tuesday	March 4, 2008	9:00 a.m.
---------	---------------	-----------

The Board of Review will meet in session on the following days and times to hear appeals on the assessment roll:

NOTE: Meetings located in THE GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM with late night appointments on Tuesday & Wednesday

Monday	March 10, 2008	9:00am -5:00pm
Tuesday	March 11, 2008	1:00pm- 9:00pm
Wednesday	March 12, 2008	1:00pm- 9:00pm
Thursday	March 13, 2008	9:00am -5:00pm
Friday	March 14, 2008	9:00am -5:00pm

**APPEALS BY APPOINTMENT or WRITE-IN.** Write-ins must be received by Monday, March 10, 2008.

Tentative ratios and factors for the 2008 tax year are:

CLASS	PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT RATIO	PROJECTED EQUALIZATION FACTOR
Commercial	47.71%	1.0480
Industrial	47.27%	1.0578
Residential	53.43%	0.9358
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Taxes are paid on **TAXABLE VALUE**, which is the lesser of the calculated Assessed and Capped value, unless there is a property transfer. The capped value is based on the CPI (Consumer Price Index), which will increase 2.3% for 2008. As a result, all Taxable Values will increase 2.3% unless there has been a transfer of ownership or an addition to the property.

The 2008 Assessment Roll will be open for inspection from March 5, 2008 through March 7, 2008 in the assessment office from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m..

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FRISAT LS 11:40  
**NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN** (R)  
1:40, 9:40

© CHARLIE BARTLETT (R)  
12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25  
FRISAT LS 11:40  
**JUMPER** (PG-13)  
12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:35, 9:45  
FRISAT LS 11:50

**DEFINITELY, MAYBE** (PG-13)  
11:00, 4:20, 7:00

**WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS** (PG-13)  
11:20, 1:55, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

**27 DRESSES** (PG-13)  
11:55, 6:55

**THE BUCKET LIST** (PG-13)  
9:45, 9:00 FRISAT LS 11:15

**JUNG** (PG-13)  
2:25, 4:40, 9:20  
FRISAT LS 11:35

**ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS** (PG)  
12:00, 2:15, 4:30

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# Reporting agencies must make credit histories available

Dear Rick: Is it true that you can get a free credit report? I see all these ads on the internet for free credit reports and I am somewhat leery.



Money Matters  
Rick Bloom

Yes, you can receive a free copy of your credit report. There are three major credit reporting agencies, Equifax, TransUnion and Experian. Each is now required to provide customers, upon request, a copy of their credit report every 12 months. The key is you must request a report. To receive a free credit report go to [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call (877) 322-8228. These are the only places you can go to get a free report without strings attached.

There are many others that advertise free credit reports. Unfortunately, most of these so-called free offers have strings attached and in many cases hidden fees.

In the old days, credit reports were only used to

obtain credit. Today, credit reports are used by auto insurance companies to determine premiums. In fact, credit reports are also used by potential employers. The bottom line is credit reports are used in situations that have nothing to do with credit and that is why it is important to make sure your report is accurate.

If you find your credit is inaccurate, take steps to correct it. The Fair Credit Reporting Act outlines an individual's rights under the law.

Unfortunately, the process of removing inaccurate information can be a frustrating time-consuming process. However, the time spent correcting your report

can save you a substantial amount of money.

One other frustration. A report can be accurate at one company and inaccurate at the other two companies. So it is important to review reports from all three companies. Do not request your credit reports all at the same time but rather stagger them throughout the year.

Dear Rick: I'm giving advice to my daughter who is 23 and has been employed full time since last year. Last year, on my recommendation, she opened a Roth IRA. This year her employer plans to offer a 401(k) and there will be no employer match. There are about 10 fund options for the new employees. My recommendation for her is to max out her Roth IRA first. What do you think?

I love the advice you gave your daughter. At her age it is a slam dunk that she funds her Roth IRA first. If she has

additional money, then use the 401(k) plan.

My advice would only be slightly different if she had a matching program through work. In that case, I recommend funding the 401(k) Plan up to the match and then use the Roth IRA.

The advantage of funding the Roth before the 401(k) is having her money grow tax-free vs. tax-deferred. When your daughter eventually retires and begins to withdraw money from her Roth, the money can be withdrawn tax-free. Money in a traditional 401(k) is taxed at the ordinary income tax bracket. Typically, your ordinary income tax bracket is the highest bracket.

The one downside of the Roth you are investing post-tax money. In a 401(k) plan, you are investing pre-taxed money. By funding the Roth IRA first you pay a little higher tax today. The slight increase in tax now is more than offset by the future benefit.

Roth IRAs, however, are not subject to required minimum distributions. Typically, when someone turns 70½ they must begin taking required minimum distributions from their retirement accounts. Roth IRAs grow tax-free for as long as you choose.

Take advantage of a Roth IRA. It's not too late to make a 2007 Roth IRA contribution.

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

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## Griffin family opens third west-side funeral home

BY REBECCA JONES  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The new Livonia location of L.J. Griffin Funeral Home is full of activity as the family-owned business prepares to open its third site.

The funeral home, at the corner of Joy and Wayne roads, will begin serving local families late this week, but first, an open house is scheduled for 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 6.

Although the building, which used to be Ziomek Funeral Home, served the same purpose before the Griffin business took it over in August, it needed extensive renovation, said David Griffin, whose father, Lawrence, started the business in Detroit in 1954.

"We wanted the inside to look just right," he said. David's wife, Stacy, took on the interior decorating, selecting artwork and paint.

Stained glass windows will be arriving from Chicago in less than two weeks. Outside, room for additional parking will be added this spring on a vacant parcel of land to the north. Architects are developing plans for a chapel, which will be added on to the south of the building.

Although the original Detroit location is now closed, the company also has funeral homes in Westland, which opened in 1972, and Canton, which opened in 1994.

Serving 600 families per year, L.J. Griffin is the largest family-owned funeral home service on the west side of the city.

David and his brother, Larry, serve as funeral directors, and their parents are still involved in the business.

Their mother, Geraldine, was one of the first female licensed funeral directors in the state in 1956. She served



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Larry Griffin, left, and his brother, David, talk about the casket selection room in their new L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, at Wayne and Joy roads in Livonia.



The new L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, at Wayne and Joy roads in Livonia, will host an open house March 6.

as president of the women's funeral director's association.

Larry's son, also named Lawrence, currently attending school in Chicago, will become the third generation operator.

Up to three families can be served at one time at the 7,500-square-foot Livonia site. A lounge with counters and refrigerators allows enough room for two groups to congregate.

The funeral home also offers a new approach to casket selection. Griffin understands it can be intimidating to walk

into a room such as the basement at the Westland funeral home filled with 23 empty coffins, lined and opened. At the new site, mourners or those pre-planning their own funerals can choose from a display that is very much like a kitchen and bath showroom.

"It's a more relaxing environment," Griffin said.

The casket selection room also includes basic coffins that are appropriate for viewing followed by cremation, and urns.

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## The Kilpatrick scandal is far more than just bad publicity

**K**wame Kilpatrick has really mucked it up this time. There's no need to rehash the details of the mess he is in. By now even the Martians are talking about it. But this is far from over, and who knows what the repercussions ultimately will be.

For all of Michigan this is an embarrassment, but for the folks who live south of Eight Mile Road, there could be consequences far beyond bad publicity.

Let's set aside the real crime here, that the mayor of Detroit apparently tried to destroy the careers of two good cops who were just doing their jobs, and look at what impact this sordid mess can have on the rest of the city.

For the past few years Detroit has been on a remarkable rebound. I've been watching it on the streets, where it really matters. Housing developments are going up all over the place. Condos, apartments, lofts — for heaven's sake — even a bed and breakfast — have been built. New businesses are beginning to creep into areas of Detroit, like the lower Cass Corridor, which I assumed were thoroughly dead. Ghastly ruins of deserted houses were being cleared.

This kind of redevelopment is as important, if not more so, than the much more highly visible showcase pieces like Riverfront Walk and the new casinos.

A few blocks from where I live there is an abandoned hospital that was being systematically stripped of every scrap of metal inside. Hookers and crack dealers were using it. We held a community meeting, which was attended by Detroit City Council President Ken Cockrel Jr., and pleaded with the city of Detroit to remove the barriers that were preventing a potential new owner from buying the building. He wanted to renovate it and turn it into a charter school but was blocked by Detroit and Wayne County bureaucracy.

After that meeting Cockrel met with the key parties involved to get the roadblocks removed.

He did.

Now the building is in the process of being completely restored. It's not an overstatement to say the neighborhood is being saved. I suspect there are more such stories in other areas of Detroit.

But now everything is being overshadowed by the scandal in Detroit city hall.

It is yet to be seen if major investors interested in Detroit are going to be put off by the continuing story. But what company wants to be associated with the Kilpatrick administration now?

Who wants to invest in the laughing stock of the nation, which is what Detroit is becoming? If the revitalization of Detroit does stall because of this horrendous story Mayor Kilpatrick should be held fully accountable.

It's a shame. I like Kwame Kilpatrick. He's extremely bright, personable and energetic. In another reality he might have ended up being one of Detroit's greatest mayors — the man who engineered the city's rebirth.

But now he should resign and be left as no more than a footnote in Detroit's history.

Too bad. Too, too bad.

Greg Kowalski is editor of the Birmingham Eccentric. He can be reached at (248) 901-2570 or by e-mail at gkowskisk@hometownlife.com.

### An important decision

I am worried about the upcoming election for president of the United States. I have seen the picture of all the candidates on stage with their hands over their hearts, all except one and that would be Barack Obama. He is the only one in the picture not showing the respect our flag deserves.

Then his wife Michelle, during one of her campaign stops, said the following: "For the first time in my adult life, I am proud to be an American." I was pretty confused. You have a candidate that does not respect the flag and our country, his wife who apparently hates this country, and yet they are running for the most important position in the free world.

Someone help me here. Why would he not show respect for our flag? Why does his wife not like the United States, and what would be the reason to run for a position that you obviously don't like? She only likes the U.S. now. Why, what's the reasoning behind this? I would like to know.

This could be the one of the most famous elections we have ever had. First we have a woman running, and second, we have a black man running. I have no problem who runs for any election — man, woman, black, white, green — as long as they love the country in which they live and are NOT AFRAID to show the support for it.

We have so many veterans who gave their all for this country because the government asked them to. What Barack Hussein Obama did was upsetting and a direct slap in the face to every American and most importantly, every veteran.

So on election day, make the right choice. Do you want a former first lady or a Muslim senator who won't respect our flag, or a decorated war hero in John McCain? I am a Democrat, but I can tell you this election is important to ALL OF US, and I will be thinking long

### LETTERS

and hard for this one. I certainly hope all of you do the same and stand up for your country with the right selection.

**Bud Somerville**  
Westland

### Wrong kind of support

Are you kidding me? Obama sought out the support of Ted Kennedy? The same Ted Kennedy who is a serial adulterer, an alcoholic and arguably responsible for at minimum the negligent homicide if not outright homicide involving Mary Jo Kopechne?

If you don't recall, note that he purportedly crashed his car at 12:40 a.m. and did not report it to the police until after spending the night in his hotel room as well as after he found out the body had been discovered around 8 a.m. the next morning.

If this is the sort of person's support that you seek out to help you win the presidency, why would I vote for you?

**Ed Johnson**  
Royal Oak

### Expand broadband availability

Right now, Congress has the opportunity to make broadband available in more markets. How? By passing the Federal Universal Service Reform Act, HR 2054, which will:

1. Expand the federal universal service definition to include broadband as a "supported service" thereby making more broadband available to more markets;
2. Expand the Universal Service Fund (USF) contribution base requiring all communications providers to equitably invest in the fund, thereby reducing — by almost half — the percentage consumers are billed each month for USF.

TDS, your local communications company, with customers in 30 states, has worked diligently

to get this legislation introduced in Congress. Now we need your help to secure passage and make broadband available in more markets.

Please contact your member of Congress. Tell them to support rural America's telecommunication needs and urge them to co-sponsor HR 2054. Call them in Washington, D.C., at (202) 224-3121 or visit [www.capwiz.com/itta/home](http://www.capwiz.com/itta/home) and click "Take Action!"

Together, we will make broadband available in all communities — big, small, urban or rural.

Sincerely,  
**Dave Wittwer**  
President and CEO  
TDS Telecommunications Corp.

### Bad tax choices

Only in Michigan ... Does the 2008 assessed value of private property decrease from its 2007 value. But the taxable value increases.

A decrease of 12.7 percent in value, and an increase in taxable value of 2.3 percent.

"Estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that Michigan's population has decreased by 30,500 from 2006 to 2007.

According to the new estimates, Michigan had the nation's third-highest rate of net domestic out-migration in 2007, surpassed only by New York and Rhode Island. Michigan has the nation's seventh-highest rate for the entire period since the 2000 Census, surpassed by New York, the District of Columbia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Illinois." — [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov)

Tax decisions such as those recently made by our Legislature and that described above will only exacerbate the migration to other states. And they will not serve to beckon new people and manufacturers to our state.

**Tom Shipley**  
Birmingham

KNOW THE SCORE: Check out the numbers in today's sports section

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Romulus pierces Rockets in district finals

Glenn ambushed, 65-44

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland John Glenn needed to play its 'A' game to beat highly-regarded Romulus.

The Rockets actually would have settled for a 'C-plus' showing following a 65-44 setback in the Class A district championship final Friday night at Wayne Memorial.

It was all Eagles as they dominated on both ends of the floor, and the backboards, to improve to 19-3 overall and earn in spot in Monday's regional semifinal against Saline.

"I just think they (Romulus) defended pretty darn good and that set the tone for the game - they played at a championship level," Glenn coach Dan Young said. "They took us out of our offense. They took us out of the flow and we did not rebound the way you have to in a championship game."

A 19-5 first-quarter run put Glenn on its heels the rest of the night and forced to play catch-up. Glenn also had two starters, Jordan Manier and Earl Hardison, each pick up two fouls during the first four minutes.

The Rockets trailed 33-15 at halftime and never got closer than 11 the rest of the way.

Young didn't even get a chance to use a 1-3-1 zone defense, which worked so well in Wednesday's 66-61 semifinal victory over Wayne.

"We had some zone stuff ready, but we got down quickly," he said. "To do that you have to control the tempo."

Romulus came in as the favorite having lost to only defending state Class A champion Saginaw, Saginaw Arthur Hill and defending state Class B champion Beverly Hills-Detroit

Please see **GLENN, B3**



John Glenn's Stefan Marken drives to the bucket defended by Romulus guard Dominique Buckley during third-quarter action in Friday's Class A district final at Wayne Memorial.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Sidelines

### C'ville bowlers 9th

#### Livonia

Clarenceville just missed out on match play round by one spot in Friday's Division 2 MHSAA Girls Team Bowling Finals held at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights.

The Trojans placed ninth in the 18-team field with a total pinfall of 3,112, just 20 behind eight-place finisher Flint Kearsley.

The Trojans posted scores of 164, 111, 175, 140, 133, 202, 143 and 171 in the eight-game Baker set.

They added regular game totals of 882 and 991.

Tecumseh captured the team title by defeating Coldwater in match-play finals, 1,746-1,645.

Tecumseh reached the championship round with wins over Kearsley and Coloma, while Coldwater knocked off Owosso and Bay City John Glenn.

### WYAA registration

Registration for Westland Youth Athletic Association baseball and softball will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays and 7-10 p.m. Wednesdays through March 29 at the Lange Compound Building, 6050 Farmington Road (north of Ford road and south of Warren).

The WYAA, celebrating its 50th anniversary, will offer baseball programs for T-Ball (ages 5-6), Coach-Machine Pitch (7-8), Mustang (9-10), Bronco (11-12), Pony (13-14), Colt (15-16) and Palomino (17-19).

WYAA softball programs included: slow-pitch (local travel), ages 9-10, 11-12, 13-15, 16-18. A competitive fast-pitch program is also offered for ages 10-, 12-, 14- and 16-and-under. Call (734) 421-0640; or visit [www.wyaa.org](http://www.wyaa.org).

### LJAL grid signup

Registration on a first-come, first-serve basis for Livonia Junior Athletic League football and cheerleading will be from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, March 15 at the Frost Middle School cafeteria.

The cost is \$165 for football (tackle) and \$85 (flag).

Football squads will be based on the following ages and weights: flag (6-7); freshman (8-9, up to 125 pounds); JV (9-11, up to 140 pounds); varsity (10-13, up to 170 pounds; and 14-year-olds, up to 135 pounds).

Cheerleading squad will consist of freshman (grades 3-4), JV (grades 5-6) and varsity (grades 7-8).

For more information, call Phil Adkins at (734) 425-4098.

## Spartans win 'rubber match,' 4-1

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Opportunistic hockey was Livonia Stevenson's calling card Thursday night as the Spartans used the power-play to their advantage in a 4-1 win against rival Livonia Churchill before a near-capacity crowd at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

The Division 1 pre-regional game pitted the state's top-two ranked teams, which split during the regular season.

Stevenson, 23-1-2 overall, advanced to Saturday's regional final against Grosse Pointe-North at the St. Clair Shores Civic Arena. (See [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com) for more details.)

North, meanwhile, earned a 2-1 pre-regional victory Wednesday night against the University of Detroit-Jesuit.

"They (North) play in that tough league (Michigan Interscholastic), they don't have many nights off and they play hard," Stevenson first-year coach We have our work cut out for us."

The No. 2-ranked Chargers, the only team to beat Stevenson this season, bowed out at 20-6 overall.

Churchill hurt itself with a total of 11 penalties, but none more costly than a pair of infractions coming back-to-back during the final 15 seconds of the second period.

And Stevenson, clinging to a 2-1 lead, made the Chargers pay dearly as John Vella, who took three penalties of his own on the night, tallied back-to-back goals at the 0:44 and 1:32 marks of the final period.

The first goal, coming off assists from Mark Bekkala and R.J. Kierdorf, was a result of a two-man advantage. Vella's second goal was assisted by Mike Voran and Ryan Baraton.

"Even though he took some penalties, we have all the confidence in John Vella as we do in all our guys," Mitchell said. "He's one of the guys who got us here. I just tried to calm him down (between periods) and talk to him about 30 seconds, let him know what he meant to this team."

Meanwhile, the damage had been done as Stevenson was able to keep the Chargers off the board the rest of the way despite being outshot 24-21 on the night.

"Five-on-five we were the



Stevenson's Mike Voran (right) fights off Churchill's Mitch Carpenter for the puck during Thursday's Division 1 pre-regional at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

better team tonight, but we were way too undisciplined," said Churchill coach Mazzoni, whose team outshot the Spartans 24-21. "In all three games the power-play has been a factor. It was very uncharac-

teristic losing our composure and playing undisciplined.

"I thought he (Derrick Daigneau) played very well (in goal). All four were power-play

Please see **SPARTANS, B2**

## Zebras lose rematch vs. Glenn, 66-61

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland John Glenn was "in the zone" during Wednesday night's Class A district boys semifinal basketball showdown with host Wayne Memorial.

The Rockets, coming off a stingy 21-point setback just six days earlier to the Zebras in the Western Lakes championship game, used a 1-3-1 defense to turn the tables on their rivals, 66-61.

Glenn, 19-2 overall, advanced to Friday's championship game to play state-ranked Romulus (18-3), which moved on with an easier-than-expected 62-34 triumph over Belleville.

A 23-8 first-quarter run made all the difference for Glenn, which forced the Zebras out their comfort zone offensively.

"We played more 'zone' than we have all year," Glenn coach Dan Young said. "But a lot of it was will. We were just determined. We were

Please see **REMATCH, B6**

## Tourney blues Plymouth Christian ends Warriors' run

Lutheran High Westland started its 2007-08 boys basketball season with a win 59-45 over Plymouth Christian Academy.

But in Friday's Class D district championship final, the host Eagles turned the tables and ended the Warriors' season with a 58-55 triumph.

Brothers Brent and Trevor Zinn paced PCA, now 7-16 overall, with 15 and 13 points, respectively.

Three Warriors scored in double figures led by Sam Ahlersmeyer's game-high 16 points. Josh Kruger and Adam Zehel chipped in with 12 and 10, respectively.

Lutheran Westland led 29-20 at halftime, but the Eagles stormed back with a 22-15 third-quarter run. PCA then outscored the Warriors 16-13 in the decisive fourth quarter.

"It basically came down to execution - they (PCA) did and we didn't," said Lutheran Westland coach Brandon Bekius,

whose team bowed out at 6-17 overall. "We made some turnovers in crucial situations and they capitalized. We had our chances, but did not finish."

PCA was 13-of-25 from the foul line, while Lutheran Westland hit 13-of-23.

Despite the loss, Lutheran Westland made strides toward the end of the year.

"We definitely improved," Bekius said. "We started to make good offensive plays instead of forcing shots."

On Thursday, three players scored in double figures as the Warriors earned a 70-51 district semifinal basketball win over Detroit West Village Academy.

Kruger paced Lutheran Westland, which led 36-19 at halftime, with 17 points.

Ahlersmeyer and Eric Shoats chipped in with 16 and 12, respectively.

West Village, bowing out at 11-7 overall, got 17 points from Randy Williams and 14 from Sammie Hasley.



Lutheran Westland's Adam Zehel tries to steal the ball from Plymouth Christian's Reid Barber in the closing seconds of Friday's Class district final. Sam Ahlersmeyer also converges on the play. Plymouth Christian won 58-55.

TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



# Full-court tactics

## Chargers exit under Thurston's pressure

BY TIM SMITH  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

### BOYS DISTRICT HOOPS

Redford Thurston's quick start carried the Eagles to a 60-49 Class A district boys semifinal victory Wednesday night over Livonia Churchill in a game played at Livonia Stevenson.

Thurston forced 13 first-half turnovers that led to transition points — and held off the Chargers to move on to the district championship.

The Eagles, now 19-3 overall, will face Farmington High (13-9) for the title beginning at 7 p.m. Friday at Stevenson.

The Falcons stymied Redford Union in the other semifinal on Wednesday, 43-24.

Tallying 15 and 13 points for Thurston, respectively, were senior forward Delmichael Youngblood and junior guard Josh Miller.

Adding 11 points, all in the second half, was senior forward Jarmel Bloodsaw.

Junior guard Greg Morgan finished with nine points and four assists, but seven of his points came in the first quarter to help the Eagles get going.

Still, the Eagles had some

anxious moments during the second half, largely because of Churchill 6-foot-3 senior forward Ryan Rosenick (11 points, 12 rebounds).

Rosenick powered his way to several baskets and had a lot to do with keeping Thurston players from driving the lane during portions of the contest.

Churchill (12-9) did close the gap to 37-33 early in the third on a Rosenick layup and it was 43-37 late in the frame following a basket by senior forward Nick Seger, who finished with seven points.

But a timely triple by Bloodsaw and a layup by Miller, after he stole the ball near mid-court, bumped Thurston's lead to double digits once again.

Key moments down the stretch for Thurston included back-to-back field goals by Bloodsaw with less than three minutes left, to make it a 56-43 margin.

"That gave us some breathing room," said Eagles' head coach Brian Bates. "We needed that. We were struggling with what they were doing to us."

Bates had praise for the hard-nosed effort turned in by Rosenick.

"Rosenick's so good, I was really worried about him crashing the boards," Bates said. "But I thought we rebounded well, too, although it was by committee."

Churchill head coach Jim Solak said the applause that fans gave Rosenick near the end of the game couldn't have been more appropriate.

"He's done that for three years now, he's going to be hard to replace," Solak said. "He averages 12 rebounds a game and he just plays his heart out every game."

"I'm proud of where he came from as a sophomore to where he finished."

Junior guard Ryan Woods led the Chargers in scoring with 15 points.

Solak said his team just made too many costly turnovers, which resulted in too deep of a hole to escape.

"We made a couple nice runs in the second half," he said. "But during one stretch we missed five out of six free throws and two open threes. When you're coming from behind, you need to convert those. But the kids never gave up."

## GLENN

FROM PAGE B1

Country Day. The Eagles also defeated Detroit Pershing.

"We certainly respected them (Glenn) going into this game," Romulus coach Nate Oats said. "They're a well-coached team and they run a great motion offense."

"But I don't think they've seen the kind of defense we played all year and that's a credit to our schedule. We're used to playing at a high level."

Glenn committed total of 20 turnovers and shot only

13-of-39 from the floor. The Rockets, usually money at the foul line, shot an uncharacteristic 12-of-18.

Romulus senior forward Devin Pankey gave Glenn fits with a game-high 19 points, while Will Clyburn and Martell Anderson chipped in with 13 and 12, respectively.

Iowa State signee Dominique Buckley, the team's senior point guard, finished with six points, but dished out eight assists and controlled the action.

Glenn's only player to score in double figures was senior forward Stefan Marken, who finished with 15 points.

Senior point-guard Keshawn Martin added 11, while the team's leading scorer, Earl Hardison, wound up with just six.

"We wanted to deny Keshawn everything, pressure their other guard Austin (Anderson) and stay up on Earl," Oats said. "We also did a great job keeping Earl off the boards. We decided not to guard their screens 20-feet off the ball and sag more inside because they like to play off that and drive. I think it took some of their aggression away."

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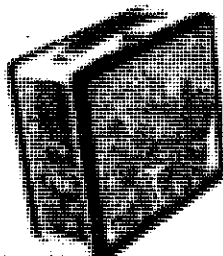
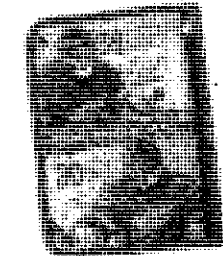
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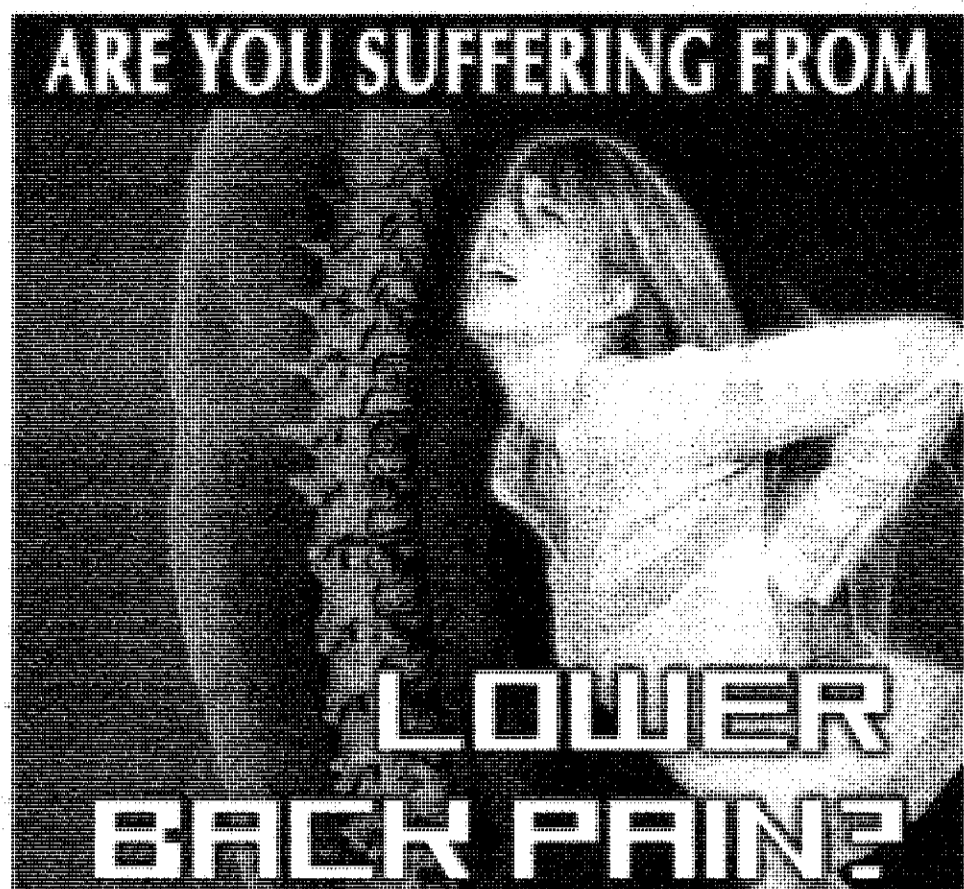
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## S'craft women reach tourney final with win over Muskegon

### COLLEGE HOOPS

#### MU decks Cardinals

A 22-5 run to end the first half catapulted the Schoolcraft College women's basketball team to a 78-57 triumph Friday over Muskegon CC in the semifinals of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association tournament held at Flint Mott CC.

Schoolcraft, 26-3 overall, trailed 20-19 with six minutes left in the half before taking control and taking a 41-25 advantage at intermission.

Janelle Harris led Lady Ocelots with 18 points and 11 rebounds, while Antoinette Brown chipped in with 14 points and eight rebounds.

Heidi Warczynsky finished with 11 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds, while Sheray Brown finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Eastern Conference champions.

Lenisha Williams led Muskegon (24-3) with 18 points.

Freshman forward Tabatha Wydryck scored 21 points lifting the fourth-seeded Madonna University women's basketball team to a 70-51 Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference first-round playoff win Thursday night at home over Concordia University.

The Crusaders, 13-16 overall, took on WHAC regular season co-champion Davenport University (27-4) in a semifinal game Saturday in Grand Rapids.

Wydryck, who hit 8-of-13 shots from the floor including 4-of-7 from three-point range, got plenty of support as Cali Crawford and Christie Carrico each added 13 points. Carrico also grabbed 11 rebounds, while Crawford dished out six assists.

Caryn Inman chipped in with 12 for the Crusaders, who led 37-

29 at halftime. Jennifer O'Neil scored 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds for the Cardinals, who finished 14-17 overall.

#### Lady Ocelots win opener

Eastern Conference top seed Schoolcraft College opened Michigan Community College Athletic Association playoff action Wednesday with a 66-56 win over visiting St. Clair County CC.

Antoinette Brown paced the nationally-ranked Lady Ocelots, now 25-3 overall, with 18 points. Heidi Warczynsky added 11, while Janelle Harris finished with nine points and 11 rebounds.

Sheray Brown also helped the Schoolcraft cause with eight points and seven rebounds.

Kim Lackowski and Kelly Burton led the Lady Skippers (13-15), who trailed 37-28 at intermission, with 22 and 15 points, respectively.

## REMATCH

FROM PAGE B1

ready to play and last Thursday hurt. We talked all season about winning a league championship and it hurt. We felt horrible about it and we paid a hard price."

It was a different Keshawn Martin, meanwhile, than in the previous meeting for Glenn.

The 6-foot speedy senior point-guard, who led the Rockets with 22 points, put on a dazzling first-half performance with his penetrating moves and dribble drives.

The Michigan State football signee also drained a pair of first-half 3-pointers as Glenn led by as many as 17 early in the second period.

"We were on our heels early in the game and that's the best Keshawn played against us in the three games," Wayne coach Wayne Woodard said. "He took the ball to the basket hard and hit outside shots."

"He's a great athlete. I watched him on the football field and he's the best athlete on the floor."

Despite finding itself mired in

a deep hole, Wayne rebounded during the second quarter behind the three-point shooting of 5-11 senior guard Martez Abney, who came out smoking with four consecutive triples to start the period.

Abney tallied 15 of his game-high 25 points to spark a 22-13 second-quarter run as the Zebras clawed back to within six at intermission, 36-30.

"The 1-3-1 we hadn't seen before," Woodard said. "We did not expect it. We had to take a timeout to get our shooters in the right shooting spots."

Martin, however, scored six points in the third quarter as the Rockets re-upped their lead to 55-43.

But Wayne refused to fold, slicing the deficit to five, with only 3:05 remaining on Abney's fifth triple of the game.

Martin then answered by kissing a high-banker off the glass on a drive with 2:35 remaining to push Glenn's lead back up to seven, 59-52, and the Rockets were able to hang on for the victory.

"Offensively we were just better," said Young, whose team hit

23-of-53 shots from the floor after going 14-of-55 in the previous meeting. "We were sharing the ball and the tempo allowed us to get in the flow. It also helped us on the defensive end."

Senior forward Earl Hardison chipped in with 13 points and 12 rebounds for the victorious Rockets, while junior Austin Anderson scored 11 and dished out eight assists. Stefan Marken contributed eight points.

Wayne, meanwhile, connected on 22-of-52 shots from the floor.

"We knew they (Wayne) could score in a lot of different areas," Young said. "We just tried to do some things to slow them up."

Senior guard Mike Lee, who torched Glenn for 32 in the WLA final, finished with 18. Jeremy Lovelady added seven as the Zebras bowed out with a 19-3 record.

"We just did not defend early in the game," Woodard said. "We gave up transition layups. We were down 15 right off the start and you can't afford to do that against a good team. We cut it to five (points) and had a couple of chances, but just didn't get over the hump."

## Madonna men pass first WHAC test

D.J. Bridges scored 18 points and Charlie Henry added 17 as the Madonna University's men's basketball team earned a spot in Saturday's Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference semifinals with a hard-fought 70-67 win Wednesday night over visiting Siena Heights.

The Crusaders, 19-12 overall, overcame a 37-32 halftime deficit

and will travel Saturday to Fort Wayne to face 19-12 Indiana Tech. (Game time is 3 p.m.)

Jon Battle, a transfer from Indiana Tech, added 13 points.

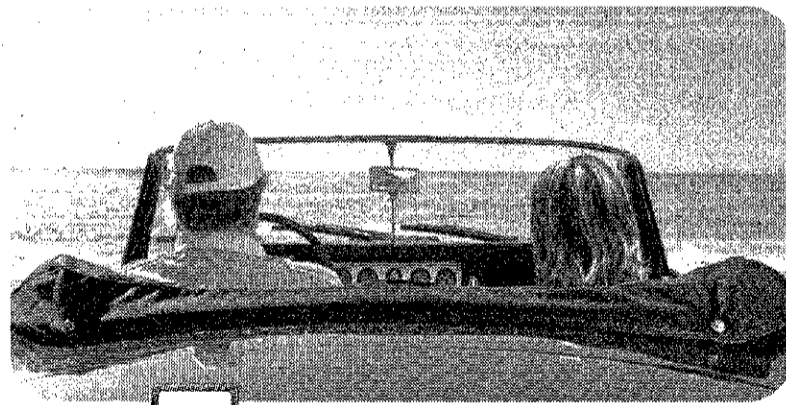
Cedric Sims (Wayne Memorial) contributed nine points and a team-high 10 rebounds. Keith Hearn (Livonia Stevenson) came off the bench to score eight.

The Crusaders won despite hitting 14-of-27 free throws (51.9 percent). MU was 23-of-55 from the field (41.8 percent).

Sean Nowaczyk led Siena Heights (10-21) with 16 points, while Corey Umfress and Brian chipped in with 12 and 11, respectively.

Champine also grabbed 10 rebounds.

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Christian Cash as Jean-Paul Marat and Stephanie Lee as Simone Evrard rehearse a scene from 'Marat/Sade,' a drama which takes place in an insane asylum. Marat is stabbed to death by Charlotte Corday (played by Melissa Humphrey, not pictured) while taking a bath.

## This is madness

'Marat/Sade' deals with dark side of human nature

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Michael Ludlum likes to think of Hannibal Lecter, the serial killer in the *The Silence of the Lambs*, when re-creating the Marquis de Sade. The Canton man plays the French aristocrat in the Schoolcraft College production of *Marat/Sade* opening March 21.

*Marat/Sade* is a play within a play and based in part on history. De Sade, for whom sadism was named, wrote plays while an inmate in an insane asylum in Paris. Set in 1808 in an asylum where patients are putting on a play, the drama culminates with the assassination of revolutionary journalist Jean-Paul Marat in a flashback to 1793. Marat and de Sade spend much of the play debating relevant issues of the time.

Besides learning his lines Ludlum had to research the period after the French Revolution. He is a part-time Web development instructor at the college who's fairly new to acting. He appeared in his first Schoolcraft play, Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, last season.

"I analyzed the character and the historical figure," said Ludlum. "The Marquis de Sade wrote things in a very manipulative way to enforce his beliefs."

### 'MARAT/SADE'

**What:** Peter Weiss' drama about the Marquis de Sade, Jean-Paul Marat and patients in an insane asylum in early 1800s France

**When:** 6:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 21-22 and March 28-29 (dinner theater), and 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 4-5 (performance only)

**Where:** Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, between Six Mile and Seven Mile, Livonia

**Tickets:** \$24 (dinner theater), \$12 (performance only). Vegetarian dinner available. Call (734) 462-4596.

James Hartman did his research before he took on the job of directing Peter Weiss' play at the University of Cincinnati many years ago. This is the third time the Schoolcraft College professor has staged the play. He warns, the production is not for children. Hartman remembers walking to the car with his stomach in knots after seeing the play at a theater in Cincinnati.

"I got permission to go through an asylum. I needed background information," said Hartman. "I saw some pitiful, awful and horrifying things some of which I put on stage, some things I could not. It was a scary experience."

Ever since directing the play 14 years ago at Schoolcraft College, Hartman says at least one audience member at

Please see **MADNESS, C3**



Trevor Wnuk as Herald rehearses a scene for the Schoolcraft College production of 'Marat/Sade.'



Schoolcraft College theater professor James Hartman, left, directs Michael Ludlum as Marquis de Sade, right, with actors from left, Diana Oswald, Lia Liade Biasi, and Paige Pavlos as they rehearse a scene from the college's production of 'Marat/Sade.'

## Friendships need a break sometimes

I have a friend that gets into a lot of trouble ... I mean, A LOT of trouble. She's even been to juvie. She has spent a lot of time at my house but she keeps getting arrested for things. I want to help her and be a good friend to her, but now she's mad at me for hanging out with other friends. What should I do?

Caring Friend  
Westland



Teen Talk

Monica Fulton

It sounds like you really need to ask yourself if this is the kind of friend you want to have in your life. Have you been friends for a long time? How good of a friend is she to you?

It sure sounds like you go out of your way for her ... does she go out of her way for you? Besides, it's OK to have lots of different friends. Why is this friend

angry that you've been hanging out with other people? Being possessive of you isn't being a good friend.

Sometimes, friendships need a break. Maybe this is a good time to take a breather from the friendship and explore other activities and other friends. You might want to ask your parents for help and support during this "break" so that you can think clearly about what you want in a friend. But, make sure you're not saying negative things about this friend to other people. Just because you two aren't getting along right now is no reason to be mean. And this includes teaming up with other friends to harass or bully this friend. Just focus on what you want and surround yourself with people that will help you, not hurt you.

I'm trying to stay sober but everyone around me drinks or uses drugs. My friends, my family ... everybody! What should I do?

Almost Sober  
Garden City

It's important to surround yourself with people that are not using drugs or alcohol. If you're not comfortable attending Alcoholics Anonymous, you might want to try Ala-Teen. There are lots of teens dealing with families that are alcohol or drug involved, as well as dealing with sobriety themselves. Many local churches, community centers, hospitals, and Salvation Army centers have AA, Al-Anon, and Ala-Teen groups. One of the biggest things you can do to help yourself is to avoid places where there will be alcohol and/or drug use. If your family is having a big celebration where you know most of them will be drinking heavily, choose not to go. But be prepared, your family isn't going to like it. Simply tell them that you aren't interested in being around a bunch of people that are drinking. Creating a new support circle of friends who don't use is important too. Seek out activities that don't involve alcohol and drugs, and you'll find people who don't drink or use drugs. Sounds simple enough - right? It's a little more challenging than that because you're using friends aren't going to like you breaking away from their circle. Just remember to keep your own best interests at the top of your list. You are in charge of realizing your goals ... make sure you're on the right road to get to them!

One of my really good friends recently died and I'm having a really hard time dealing with it. It's hard to see his parents, it's hard to go to school, it's hard to go to the movies ... everything reminds me of him. Help!

Grieving In Garden City

It is so hard to lose someone you care so much about. It's especially hard when that person is so young, with his whole life ahead of him. It is going to be hard to do things or go places without reminding you of the loss of your friend. It's important to recognize that this is normal. It's also important to understand that there are different stages of the grief process. Denial, anger, bargaining, and acceptance are all normal feelings. When we're in the denial stage, we almost don't remember that the person died. We look for the person in public places, we go to the phone to call the person, or we think about the person in the present tense. During the anger phase, we tend to feel angry at the person who left, angry at God, and angry that we don't have control over the situation. When we are in the bargaining stage, we tend to avoid doing things that we used to do with the person who died as a way of trying to keep the person alive in our minds. Finally, during acceptance, we can move forward in our lives and have memories of our loved one that brings a smile to our faces and lifts us up, rather than bringing us down. Give it time. Recognize that grief is a process. And by all means, talk to a school counselor, a parent, or another adult that you're comfortable with about what you're feeling. Reach out to other kids that knew your friend ... you might find out that you're not alone in how you feel.

Monica Fulton is the supervisor of the Family Resource Center in Garden City working on youth and family problems. She has a master of arts degree in clinical psychology. She can be reached at [monicafulton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:monicafulton@sbcglobal.net).

## Mama Jazz receives Salute to Women

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Midge Ellis started promoting jazz back in high school in Kentucky. The 84-year-old Livonia woman hasn't stopped since. In recognition of her support for the music Ellis was recently presented with the 2007 Salute to Women award from the Livonia Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Once a year, women are nominated for their contributions to the community. Laura Callow received the award in 1978 for her work on behalf of furthering the Equal rights Amendment.

"We look for women who have made a contribution to the community and Midge certainly has made a number of contributions through her career. She actually improved not only life in Livonia but the region," said Callow, co-

president of the AAUW, Livonia branch. "She brought many musicians to the Clarenceville school district helping to further and preserve the true American art form which jazz is."

### SCHOOL DAYS

Ellis chuckles when she remembers her student days in Corbin, Ky.

"The first band I hired was in high school. I was on the prom and year book committees and talked them into bringing a big band to the prom instead of a year book," said Ellis. "I've been promoting jazz since 1945. I started right after my husband got out of the service and we joined a country club and started bringing in bands for dances in Greenwood, Mississippi, then Baton Rouge."

Ellis has been bringing musicians to the Livonia area for nearly 40 years. Local jazz fans

were fortunate to be able to see and hear the big bands thanks to her efforts on behalf of the Clarenceville series. The big band concerts ran from 1969 to 1982 in the high school's Louis Schmidt Auditorium in Livonia.

"They had built the new auditorium. It was big and beautiful and the taxpayers were saying why do we have it," said Ellis. "We brought in children's programs that didn't pay for themselves. I suggested bringing in bands. At the time big bands were traveling all over the country. We got Buddy Rich. He was the first."

Over the years Stan Kenton, Maynard Ferguson, Woody Herman, Harry James, and Count Basie were among the bands spotlighted on the series. While in town the musicians shared their knowledge with

Please see **SALUTE, C2**



Midge Ellis (right) received the Salute to Women Award from the Livonia Branch of the American Association of University Women at the annual luncheon. Janet Bennett (left) is chairperson for the award.

SALUTE

FROM PAGE C1

students. It was during this time the late Detroit Free Press columnist Bob Talbert gave Ellis the nickname, Mama Jazz. Talbert, who announced many of the concerts, began noticing how the musicians would go to Ellis to sew on buttons and take care of them like a mother.

"We had clinics and brought in jazz students. The 940 seats would be full. They would come in from high schools from all over Michigan," said Ellis.

NOT SLOWING DOWN

After 1982, Ellis was so busy as coordinator of special events at Schoolcraft College she didn't have time to book bands. Then in the early 1990s she and vibraphonist Jack Brokensha met with the owner of the Botsford Inn to bring jazz to the Farmington area on a weekly basis.

Then Ellis was asked to use her organizational skills to coordinate the Michigan Jazz Festival, the dream of big band leaders Johnny Trudell and the late Emil Moro. The event had been held at Freedom Hill for the first time in 1995. For the next four years it was held at the Botsford Inn before outgrowing the space and moving in 1999 to Schoolcraft College where it continues to take place.

Ellis serves as vice president, treasurer and director of the annual event which means she organizes the fund-raisers to make the festival a reality. Right now she's working on the April 13 program featuring jazz pianist Cliff Moner and his group, the annual Father's Day brunch, and a fall fundraiser Oct. 12. For more information, call (248) 474-2720.

"We look for somebody who's done an outstanding job in the community (over a lifespan)," said Janet Bennett, chair of the Salute to Women award. "Midge provided that kind of support for jazz. She brought public attention to Louis Schmidt Auditorium which is marvelous for its acoustics and the Livonia Symphony now uses it. She made a real contribution."

Bennett was the one who informed Ellis that she was receiving the AAUW's Salute to Women. The award is hanging in place of honor in Ellis's living room. "When she called and told me I'd won I couldn't believe it especially when it was for the education of jazz," said Ellis. "That's been my mission in life to teach about jazz so they can love it as much as I do. I love it because it's an American art form. It started here in the United States. The freedom in the music is what our forefathers fought for. There's such a freedom because of the improvisation. The musicians are not reading the music. They can play a solo one night and the next night not be the same. Each instrument plays such a vital part in the music."

lchomin@hometownlife.com | (734) 953-2145

Livonia Symphony Orchestra celebrates spring

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The weatherman is calling for another 3 to 5-inches of snow but Tom Bjorklund doesn't seem to care. He's looking forward to the Livonia Symphony Orchestra's Marching into Spring concert Saturday, March 8, at Clarenceville High School Auditorium in Livonia.

On the program is Robert Schumann's Spring Symphony which was inspired by the February of 1841, First Cuckoo of Spring by Frederick Delius, and several marches. For sure the cuckoo calls that identify with nature should be fun and there's nothing like a rousing march to boost the spirits.

"The music committee has put together some neat pieces," said Bjorklund, president of the LSO board of directors. "I'm looking forward to it. The Schumann symphony is going to be a lot of fun to listen to. I encourage people to come and listen."

"It's such a bargain to listen to our great musicians in an auditorium with great acoustics for a grand total of \$17 and only \$5 for students and children. We lowered the price (for chil-

MARCHING INTO SPRING

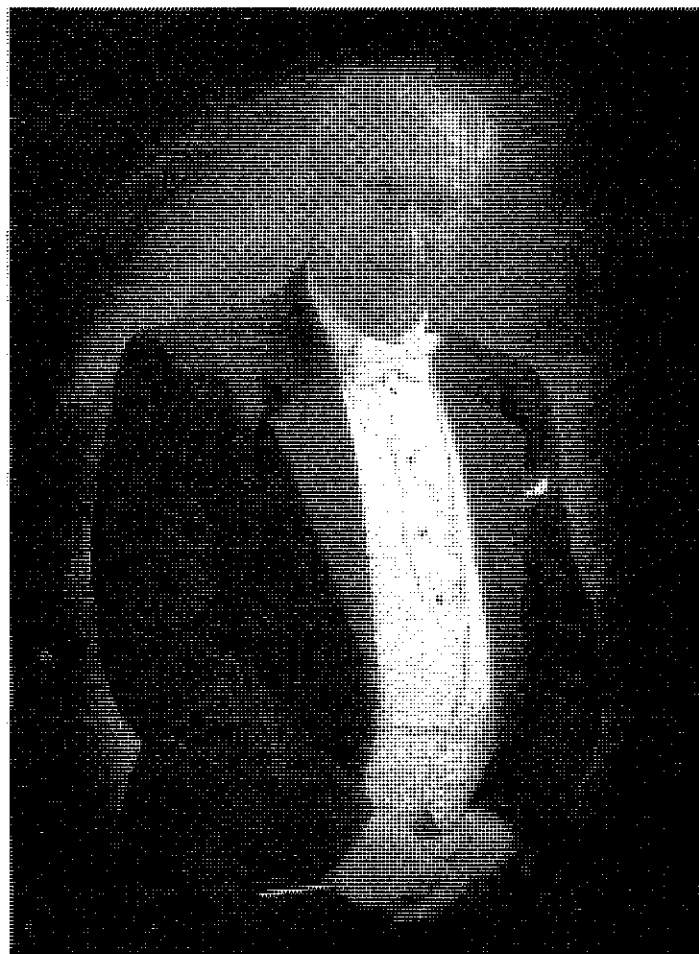
What: Livonia Symphony Orchestra concert featuring Schumann's 'Spring Symphony' and marches
When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8
Where: Clarenceville High School Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt, south of Eight Mile, Livonia
Tickets: \$17 adults, \$5 children and students. Call (734) 421-1111 or visit www.livoniasymphony.org

dren and students) a couple of years ago and it's nice to see an increasing number of young people because they enjoy the music."

Like all nonprofits, the LSO continues to struggle to raise the funds to keep the LSO alive.

"It's not just our problem," said Bjorklund. "There's not a symphony orchestra in the country that can get by just with ticket sales. Fund raising is an important part. With the economy in Michigan as it is, I encourage people to send in their donations and attend the golf outing in June and the concerts."

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Volodymyr Shesliuk conducts the Livonia Symphony Orchestra in its Marching into Spring concert on March 8.

Bowlathon to raise money for Goodwill work programs

Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit is registering teams for the first annual Goodwill's Motor City Bowlathon. The month long event, which culminates on March 31, encourages Metro Detroiters to Bowl for Jobs at 11 area bowling centers in an effort to raise thousands of dollars to put people to work in Southeast Michigan.

Registration information and other details are available online at www.MotorCityBowlAThon.com. Blue Ribbon Quality Bowling Centers will host the event at 11 locations throughout Metro Detroit.

"The Bowlathon is an opportunity for families, co-workers, neighbors and friends to get together, have a fantastic time and contribute to a cause that impacts everyone in Michigan," said Ed Deeb, president and CEO of the Michigan Food & Beverage Association and the Michigan Business & Professional Association, and co-chairman of Goodwill's Motor City Bowlathon. "Every pin that falls and every dollar raised will help put people to work in this region."

The total cost to participate in Goodwill's Motor City Bowlathon is \$150 per team of three, four or five individuals. Each participating team member will receive two games of bowling, shoe rental, two pieces of pizza or two hot dogs, and a soft drink. Proceeds from all registration fees benefit Goodwill Industries of

Greater Detroit. "Everyone in Southeast Michigan recognizes the importance of jobs to the future of our communities," said Jerry Harris, proprietor and general manager of Blue Ribbon Quality Bowling Centers member locations in Novi and Farmington Hills and co-chairman of the Bowlathon. "We're looking forward to providing the places where bowlers from across the region can come together to support this initiative."

Eligible participants will have the opportunity to win a number of prizes including a lease on a new vehicle for the individual bowler with the highest score among all participants and two trips to tropical destinations. Any bowler recording a perfect 300 score during the Bowlathon will have the chance to win an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) from Motor City Harley-Davidson.

The first bowler rolling a turkey (three strikes in a row) on each team will win a \$15 Meijer Gift Card courtesy of Meijer. Participants will also be entered into a raffle for a number of other prizes. Those wishing to contribute to the Bowlathon, but are unable to bowl may submit suggested donation of \$30 via the Web site. By doing so, donors will be eligible for the raffle. In addition to prizes awarded for bowling accomplishments, Goodwill's Motor City Bowlathon also will award a prize to the team producing the best one- to two-minute video promoting the fund-raiser.

Entries will be shown on Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit's YouTube Web

site, www.youtube.com/goodwilldetroitpr. The winning team will receive up to five digital video camcorders.

"At its core, the mission of Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit is to put people to work, not just in the city of Detroit, but throughout Southeast Michigan," said Lorna Utley, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit.

The organization's clients include individuals facing a wide range of barriers to employment. Many were recently laid off and left lacking the skills to find new work in the changing economy. Others require assistance developing life skills necessary to communicate with customers and handle stressful situations. Still others suffer from physical or mental disabilities or have transportation or housing issues.

Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit provides people with opportunities to become independent, self-supporting citizens through training, work experience and employment in the community. In 2007, the organization successfully put nearly 1500 residents to work in the counties of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and provided nearly 14,000 individuals with employment and training services.

Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit provides people who have disabilities and other barriers to employment with opportunities to become independent, self-supporting citizens through training, work experience and employment in the community. For information, visit www.goodwilldetroit.org.

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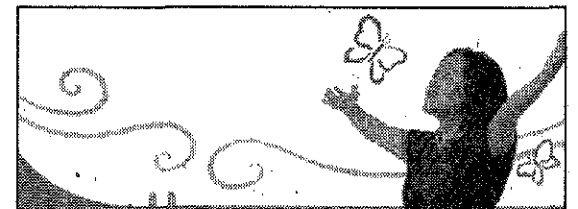
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