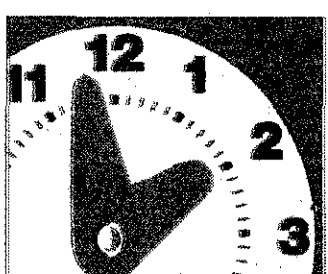


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Beard's resignation leaves 'big shoes to fill'

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Veteran politician Kay Beard has resigned as the Wayne County Commission's longest-serving member ever, citing health reasons and ending a 30-year reign in a district where voters strongly embraced her leadership. "I've enjoyed my run,"



Beard

Beard, whose 12th District includes Westland, Inkster and southern Livonia, said she officially

steps down today (Thursday) — the same day the commission is expected to choose an interim successor to serve the rest of the year. She formerly represented Garden City before her district was redrawn.

Beard, a staunch Democrat, had hoped to serve the rest of the year and finish her 15th consecutive two-year term, but her doctor and her children

insisted she step down due to health reasons. "I didn't have much choice," she said, adding that she will recommend a successor to the remaining 14 county commissioners.

Beard inspired other local politicians and helped open doors for women in office. "She is one of my mentors," said Westland 18th District

Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli, a former mayor and city councilwoman. "From the very first time I ran in 1989 for City Council, Kay was there to offer her advice and support. She has been a role model and mentor to me.

"She has worked hard," Cicirelli added. "She has done tremendously good things for the city of Westland. I'm sad

to see her go, but she deserves to have some retirement to herself."

HARD WORKING
Beard shrugged off numerous political challenges during her tenure and won landslide victories over candidates, such as former Westland Mayor

Please see **BEARD, A3**



Maxi Horn of Westland (in the foreground) is among 40 employees who work in the Comcast's new Digital Voice center on Hix in Westland. Growth of the CDV service led to the creation of a 10,000-square foot facility and up to 20 new jobs.

Comcast brings new jobs to city

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A multimillion dollar investment by Comcast in Michigan translates into some 20 new jobs in the city of Westland. Comcast is spending \$165

million in Michigan, including facilities investments and major upgrades in Westland and Roseville. The communications giant expects to create more than 300 new positions in Michigan this year. "Part of the creation of news

jobs and our investment in Michigan is to help with customers service," said Tracy Taylor, vice president for telephone for Comcast's Michigan Region. "Our voice service customer base has grown so quickly that we recently became

Michigan's third largest provider of home voice service." The growth has led to Comcast acquiring and renovating a 10,000-square-foot building on Hix north of Ford

Please see **COMCAST, A3**

Man charged with sexual assault of 8-year-old

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man was arraigned Tuesday afternoon on charges of molesting his live-in girlfriend's 8-year-old daughter, showing her pornographic movies and furnishing her with alcohol.

What's more, 22-year-old Tadarion Derwin Sims is accused of the crimes while his girlfriend was hospitalized with pregnancy complications involving a baby boy he fathered, police Sgt. Debra Mathews said. The newborn

survived.

The girlfriend, who has since left the hospital, came forward to police Saturday after her daughter told her what had happened, Mathews said. An officer arrested Sims the same day at a Westland restaurant. "He confessed," Mathews said.

The detective revealed details about the case when Sims was arraigned Tuesday afternoon in front of Westland 18th District Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli, who ordered the defendant jailed in lieu of a \$500,000 cash bond. Cicirelli entered a not-

guilty plea for Sims and scheduled a March 13 preliminary hearing that will determine whether he should stand trial.

Cicirelli arraigned Sims on four counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, three counts of second-degree CSC, distributing obscene matter to the girl, and furnishing her with alcohol. If convicted, the defendant could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

Sims' 24-year-old girlfriend now has four sons and the one daughter, but Sims is the father only to the newborn boy, Mathews said.

Sims is accused of molesting the girl during the month leading up to his arrest. He was caring for the girl and her siblings in a Norway neighborhood residence while the mother was hospitalized, Mathews said.

Sims has no known history of criminal sexual conduct, Mathews said, but he was charged a few years ago with delivering marijuana and carrying a concealed weapon. In court Tuesday, Sims asked for a court-appointed attorney to defend him.

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Council gives OK to fitness center

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

One of the nation's fastest-growing health-and-fitness chains will start building a \$5 million facility as early as this summer on the old Quo Vadis movie theater site on Wayne Road north of Warren, officials confirmed Monday.

LA Fitness plans to demolish the Quo Vadis, shuttered since 2002, as early as June to start building a 45,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art fitness center in the heart of Westland's core shopping district, said Ernie D'Ascenzo, representing developers Lake Bellaire Properties LLC.

The company's plans made giant strides Monday as the seven-member Westland City Council gave sweeping approval to the fitness chain's newest site plan. LA Fitness, headquartered in Irvine, Calif., will move here as it starts a push for a share of southeast Michigan's fitness dollars.

Construction could begin as early as this summer and will likely take eight to 10 months to complete, D'Ascenzo said.

City leaders embraced the company's plans, although the demolishing of the Quo Vadis will end a campaign by local teenagers Don Gurka and Zachery Gizicki to save

What do you think about this issue? Comment online at hometownlife.com or e-mail your responses to smason@hometownlife.com.

the movie theater and its unique architecture.

D'Ascenzo confirmed Monday that the teens will be allowed to go inside the Quo Vadis one last time to take pictures of the once-plush theater, which was in decline even before it closed.

Westland Planning Director Bruce Thompson called LA Fitness' plans to invest in Westland a welcome development on "a very vital piece of property" across from Westland Shopping Center.

The fitness center's main entrance will face south. Council President James Godbout said the company has proposed "a gorgeous-looking facility."

Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt agreed and said she hopes Westland residents, struggling amid tough economic times, will be able to use the facility.

"I hope the community can support it," she said. "It sounds like a wonderful facility."

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Police look for information about suspect in robbery

Westland police are asking for help in finding a knife-wielding man who robbed the 7-Eleven early Sunday at Wayne and Joy roads.

The bandit robbed the store of an undisclosed amount of money around 4:30 a.m. Sunday and fled on foot, police Sgt. Ed Price said.

Neither the cashier nor a manager in the back room was injured, Price said.

The suspect was described as a white male, about 28 years old, with a mohawk hairstyle and a ponytail. He wore a multicolored bandana, a dark sweatshirt, blue jeans and a dark green jacket.

Price urged anyone with information to call the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600 or (734) 721-6311.

-By Darrell Clem

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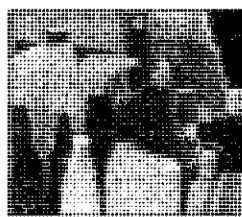
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Coming Sunday in Health



Toxic homes: What's lurking in your cupboards?

Motown legend highlights library's history program

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Crank up the old Martha & the Vandellas hits. Summer isn't here, but it still might be time for dancing in the street.

Don't forget to tell Jimmy Mack that he's invited when Motown legend-turned-politician Martha Reeves comes to the Westland public library for a program titled *Memories of Motown with Martha Reeves*.

Reeves, now a Detroit City Council member, has agreed to headline the program at 7 p.m. Friday, March 14.

"I'm really excited that she

was willing to come to our library, and I hope to have a good turnout," library Director Cheryl Napsha said.

Reeves' program will coincide with Women's History Month in March, said Marilyn Kwik, the library's department head for adult services.

The program will mark an after-hours program for the library, which usually closes at 5 p.m. on Fridays, Kwik said.

"We're real excited about that," she said.

Martha & the Vandellas had numerous hits that also included *Nowhere To Run*, (*Love Is Like a Heat Wave*, *Honey*

Chile and Quicksand.

Reeves' visit to the library will not be her first to Westland. Several years ago she had students dancing in the gymnasium when she came to a school, the Academy of Westland, to talk about the importance of education.

Kwik suggested that anyone planning to attend the library program call ahead at (734) 326-6123 so that employees know what size crowd to expect. But, she said, don't be deterred by last-minute plans. "No one will be turned away."

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PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Kristy Buchakian works on animation in a flash program in a Web design class at the Livonia Career Technical Center. A new agreement between the district and Davenport University allows students to earn college credit for their work.

Competitors, developers look to fill La Shish void

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

La Shish, one of the first and certainly the best-known Middle Eastern restaurant chain in southeast Michigan, closed its doors Saturday, putting more than 300 people out of work from its 11 locations, including one in Livonia.

According to published reports, the owner of the restaurants, Talal Chahine, was tied to terrorism and subsequently fled the country. The restaurants and their assets will be sold to recoup outstanding tax debts, reports said.

Darren Frankel of the Stuart Frankel Development Company leases three of the Middle Eastern restaurant's locations, in Livonia, Farmington Hills and Canton.

"It was just reported and I've already had calls from people interested in (taking over the eatery's locations)," Frankel said Monday. "I don't anticipate too much downtime."

"I had someone call that wanted all three," he said, adding that he believes the locations will be revamped under a new name.

The La Shish restaurant in Livonia, in a shopping mall at Six Mile and Newburgh, was chained and padlocked on Monday. A hastily written sticky note was left on the

door. On the note, a regular customer informed fellow regular lunch date customers where the new meeting place would be.

Around the Detroit area, restaurants of all kinds are no doubt looking to be that next place to meet and eat now that La Shish is no longer there.

Sam Sobh, owner of PineLand restaurants in Farmington Hills and Westland, said the disappearance of the biggest name in Middle Eastern cuisine bodes well for him and he invites La Shish's customers to give his restaurants a try.

"We have our own customers, but that name means a lot," Sobh said. "It's 'shish' like shish kebab, everyone knows it."

He said business at his restaurants had doubled — carry-out and dine-in — since La Shish closed its doors and he expects that to continue for the immediate future. That means he's getting ready.

"We're 100 percent ready for it," he said. "We're getting more help and we're doubling the operation here. If we make hummus or kibbeh, we make twice as much as we normally would."

Of course, there's no avoiding the subject of why the big name in the business has disappeared. He said whatever the cause was, it was avoidable.

"I don't know what their problem was," Sobh said. "But a businessman should learn to follow the rules."

Westland Shopping Center marketing manager Denise Mills also suggested former La Shish customers might want to try Mideast Cafe, on the Warren Road side of the mall. She said the restaurant opened late last year.

John Cassetta is the manager of Antonio's Cucina Italiana in Farmington Hills, right next to a shuttered and chained La Shish location on 12 Mile Road. He said business may pick up, but that patrons will find lesser-known Middle Eastern restaurants.

While Antonio's — like almost every other restaurant — also offers healthy choices, low-fat items dominate the Middle Eastern cuisine, Cassetta said.

"It's some of the healthiest food you can get," he added. Hussein Bazzzy is the manager of the Kerby's Koney Island down the mall from the Livonia La Shish. He said the change isn't going to resonate so much there.

"We had some extra business (Sunday), but it's mostly the same crowd," he said. "We don't offer the same kind of food, (the closing) won't affect us at all."

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LPS's career tech credits will transfer to Davenport University

BY REBECCA JONES
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Davenport University said it will give credit where credit is due.

And some of that credit is due to high school juniors and seniors in certain courses offered at the

LIVONIA SCHOOLS Livonia Career Technical Center.

LCTC students will be able to earn up to 32 college credits at Davenport University through an agreement between the two educational entities signed on Friday.

That equates to one year's worth of college classes at Davenport, where undergraduate tuition is about \$420 per credit hour.

Where course outcomes match up, students who have a grade point average of 3.0 or better will be able to earn Davenport credits.

For example, students in the two-year Web site Design & Interactive Media program at LCTC can earn up to 32 computer and networking class credits.

Marketing, building trades, architectural technology, engineering, automotive technology, health sciences, cosmetology, criminal justice technology and hospitality management credits will also transfer. Some supplant specific courses offered at Davenport; others transfer as general business credit. A few of the classes are also offered as part of the curriculum at the district's three high schools.

Students would have to



Senior Briana Carras works on building a model of her dream house in the computer aided design class at the Livonia Career Technical Center. By taking some LCTC classes, students can start earning college credit at Davenport University.

enroll at Davenport within 27 months of graduating from high school.

"It gives them a great jump start for getting into a program at Davenport," said Kevin O'Halla, executive vice president for enrollment and student development. "They could save a chunk of change."

Davenport, based in Grand Rapids, will open a Livonia campus this fall.

LCTC Principal Janet Haas said people from both organizations met over the summer to see where efforts are being duplicated.

This way, students don't have to repeat work they performed in high school and don't have to pay for it either. "They are able to move forward and continue with their education," Haas said.

About 600 students have already enrolled in career center programs for next year, and

enrollment is ongoing, Haas said.

"Our focus at the career center is not just employment. It's continual education," Haas said.

Davenport Provost Thomas Brown said recent tracking shows career technical center students fare better than first-year students out of high school without career center backgrounds. They have an interest in the subject matter and a clear picture of what they want to study, he said.

Davenport has similar articulation agreements with career technical centers, community colleges, high schools and international colleges and universities in Michigan and northern Indiana, said Christopher L. Marx, Davenport's director of transfer articulation.

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AROUND WESTLAND

Free animal care

The Michigan Humane Society's Berman Center for Animal Care in Westland is hosting a low-cost sterilization event for low-income residents of western Wayne County on Sunday, March 9. Cats and kittens can be spayed or neutered for a co-pay of only \$20.

Those interested having cats or kittens sterilized must meet certain income requirements. For more information on qualifying, as well as additional details regarding the event, call the Berman Center for Animal Care Veterinarian Center at (734) 721-4195 2-5 p.m. now through Friday, if possible, or visit the MHS Web site at www.michiganhumane.org for more details.

The Berman Center for Animal Care is located at 900 N. Newburgh Road between Marquette and Cherry Hill Road in Westland.

Tribute Show

The Bova VFW Post 9885 will host a Tribute Show

ON THE WEB

For Community Calendar and an expanded version of Around Westland, visit our online edition at www.hometownlife.com and click on Westland.

Saturday, March 8, featuring Dan Spencer as Toby Keith, Maria Kajat as Stevie Nicks, Lou Richards as Elvis, Dave Knight as Trace Adkins, Brien Grob as Buddy Holly and Tyrone Hamilton as Ray Charles. The tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Amy Tessanne at (734) 634-4058 or at atessanne@w3creations.com. The Bova VFW Post is at 6440 Hix, between Ford and Warren Road, Westland.

WYAA sign-ups

The Westland Youth Athletic Association is holding its baseball and softball registration now through March 29. There

are openings for T-Ball (ages 5-6), Coach-Pitch (7-8), Mustang (9-10), Bronco (11-12), Pony (13-14), Colt (15-16), Palomino (17-18), Slow-Pitch softball (10 U, 12 U, 14 U, 16 U) and Fast-Pitch Softball (same as fast-pitch).

Registration can be completed 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays at 6050 Farmington Road north of Ford. For further information, check the Web site at wyaayouthsports@gmail.com or call the office at (734) 421-0640 during regular business hours.

Lenten fish fry

The Sgt. Stanley Romanowski VFW Post 6896 is holding fish fries 5-7:30 p.m. Fridays during Lent and 3:30-8 p.m. Good Friday at the post, 28945 Joy, east of Middlebelt, Westland. There's also a bake sale every week. The cost is \$6.95 for adults and \$3.50 for children under age 8. Carryouts are available. For more information, call the post at (734) 525-9454.

Westland man gets prison time for robbery

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man will spend three to 15 years in prison for an armed robbery that happened in December at a Livonia business, but he will avoid trial for an attempted robbery that occurred in his hometown.

Ian Edward Kiligian, 19, was sentenced in February for a robbery that occurred Dec. 6 at Greenwood Pets & Plants on Joy Road east of Middlebelt, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections.

His plea in the Livonia incident has resulted in prosecutors dropping charges for an attempted robbery that occurred two days later not far

away, at the Dunkin' Donuts on the southeast corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Middlebelt in Westland.

In the latter incident, Kiligian was accused of demanding money from a 17-year-old female worker after brandishing a drywall saw that resembled a knife, Westland police Sgt. Steve Borisch has said.

"She acted like she couldn't open the cash register, and he ended up leaving," Borisch said. Still, it was Kiligian's capture in Westland on Dec. 8 that helped lead to charges against him in both cities.

Police said he fled to the London Townhouses, a complex where he lived north-

east of Ann Arbor Trail and Middlebelt. Meanwhile, the Dunkin' Donuts worker, with help from a friend, identified the perpetrator as someone they had known from school, Borisch said.

Officers went to Kiligian's residence, but the defendant was hiding elsewhere in the townhouses complex before he darted across Middlebelt into a residential neighborhood and hid under a swimming pool deck on Fremont, Borisch said.

Westland Police Officer Grant Allen brought in police dog Drago, who led authorities to the suspect.

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CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland, 36601 Ford Rd., Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **March 31, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.** for the following (no exceptions will be made for late filings):

Coin Operated Arcade Games at the Mike Modano Ice Arena
Westland Municipal Golf Course
Bailey Recreation Center

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at 36601 Ford Rd., Westland, Michigan, 48185. Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Robert Kosowski, Parks & Recreation Director at (734) 467-3255. Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

JADE M. SMITH
Controller

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Lawyer: Polygraph casts doubt on ID

BY BRAD KADRICH
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Accused killer Alexander Letkemann took and passed a polygraph test the results of which his attorney believes proves he was never in a Canton hardware store two days before the murder of 26-year-old Daniel Sorensen.

Letkemann, 18, of Westland and 17-year-old Jean Pierre Orlewicz of Plymouth Township are accused of luring Sorensen, an acquaintance of theirs from River Rouge, to a Canton Township garage and killing him Nov. 7. Prosecutors say the pair then beheaded Sorensen and burned his body in an attempt to impede identification.

Orlewicz, a Canton High School student, and Letkemann, a former Livonia Churchill student, face an April 7 trial date on charges of first-degree murder, mutilation of a corpse and felony murder. The latter charge, originally dismissed by 35th District Court Judge Michael Gerou at the

preliminary hearing, was reinstated by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Annette Berry, who called it a "matter for the jury to decide."

At their preliminary hearing in 35th District Court in November, Lucy Heenan, the store manager at a Canton ACO Hardware store, identified Letkemann as someone she saw in the aisle containing hatchets and torches.

According to police reports, Heenan told Canton police she "couldn't be 100 percent sure" it was Letkemann she saw in the store, and later admitted she may have recognized him from media accounts of the crime.

At the preliminary exam, Heenan denied making those statements.

In a motion asking Berry to suppress Heenan's testimony, Raymond Cassar, Letkemann's attorney, called Heenan's identification "suspect" and asked Berry to suppress it, based on Heenan's statements and the results of the private polygraph test administered by Leonard West of West Polygraph and

Consulting in Farmington.

During that test, West asked Letkemann if he had driven Orlewicz to the ACO and whether he had himself gone into the store. Letkemann, according to Cassar, answered "no" to all questions.

In a letter to Cassar, West wrote, "It is the opinion of this examiner, based upon the examination given, that the subject told the TRUTH to the above relevant questions."

Cassar wouldn't comment on the test because of the gag order continued by Berry on attorneys and law enforcement officials.

However, in his brief to support the motion, Cassar wrote, "Ms. Heenan's identification of (Letkemann) was suspect at best due to the statements she made during her identification."

Prosecutors reportedly declined to administer a polygraph of their own to Letkemann, and Berry denied the motion to suppress Heenan's identification.

While the polygraph does nothing to determine

Letkemann's guilt in the murder, it could be used, sources say, to refute premeditation on Letkemann's part.

Brian Stacey, a lawyer from Plymouth, said Friday he'd never seen a polygraph used in such a manner.

"I've never seen a polygraph used in that fashion, unless it was an ultimate determination of guilt or innocence," Stacey said. "I've had many cases that were not pursued because my client took a polygraph with the prosecutor's office and passed it. Of course, every case is different, and I don't know enough of the details of this case."

Berry also denied motions to suppress evidence found in the Canton garage belonging to Orlewicz's grandfather, where the murder took place, and to prohibit the use of the term "thrill kill," originally used by Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy to describe the crime, although she will require prosecutors using the term to back it up with evidence.

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Mom found competent to stand trial

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland woman has been found competent to stand trial on charges she tried to kill her newborn boy by placing him in a trash bag and putting him in her parents' garage, where the baby was found alive, authorities confirmed Monday.

Valeeka Gartrell, 27, was found competent Monday in Wayne County Circuit Court, but her trial hit another snag after her defense attorney asked that she receive a psychiatric evaluation to determine whether she should be held criminally responsible.

At issue is whether Gartrell understood what she was doing when she was accused of giving birth at her parents' home April 23 and putting the baby in a trash bag, Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller said. Gartrell is expected back in court June 9 for a possible ruling on criminal responsibility.

Gartrell is charged with attempted murder and first-degree child abuse for an incident that police said occurred near Joy and Hix roads on the morning of April 23.

Gartrell waived her right to a preliminary hearing in Westland 18th District Court in June and was ordered to stand trial. Until Monday's court order, however, she had been declared incompetent to stand trial. That meant she wasn't able to assist in her own defense.

If convicted, she could face penalties ranging up to life in prison.

Last summer, Gartrell was released on a \$50,000/10 percent bond after one of her cousins offered to watch over her and give her a place to stay while her trial is pending. The defendant was released after her family posted \$5,000.

Police have said her baby and her 3-year-old daughter are in the custody of Gartrell's parents.

Police Sgt. Chris Benson said Gartrell woke her mother on April 23 and told her that she was bleeding. Her parents took her to St. Mary Mercy Hospital, where doctors discovered that the baby already had been born.

Relatives returned to the Gartrell house and found the baby after hearing cries coming from the garage.

COMCAST

FROM PAGE A1

into an operations center for its Comcast Digital Voice operations. The facility houses more than 40 employees and Comcast plans to add another

20 in the coming months.

According to Taylor, the operations center had been housed in Comcast's network center that's just east of the new facility. The Westland center will support Comcast's customer base in Michigan, remotely assisting company field technicians around the

state as they connect and service CDV customers. They also will handle many of the pre-installment functions.

"If there's a repair issue, our group will be assisting technicians in the field as troubleshooters," Taylor said. "This center supports the voice product so customers have a good

experience out the door."

According to Patrick Paterno, director of communications-Michigan, Comcast also has made improvements to its call centers in Plymouth and Macomb County.

"That goes with our message about customer service," said Paterno. It's also improved

equipment and procedures at its Roseville training center that house 10 technician trainers and a manager. The facility is able to handle up to 70 service technician trainees at any given time.

Comcast has had a 10-year presence in the city and has 1.3 million customers in Michigan. It is the third largest telephone

provider in the state and fourth largest in the country. The Westland center has the capacity for up to 80 employees and can be retrofitted for more, if necessary, Taylor said.

"We're still in the process of filling the positions," he added.

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BEARD

FROM PAGE A1

Robert Thomas, who tried to test her unflinching popularity with voters. She would have marked 30 years on the commission on April 6.

"Throughout all those years, she has been the hardest working commissioner any district would want to have as a representative," said Bill Johnson, the commission's director of administration. "Her life was her work in her district. That's why she was able to be elected time and time again.

"She was just the tops," Johnson said. "She will be remembered for the fine things she has done. I have nothing but the highest praise for her as a commissioner." Beard's decision to step down will likely result in candidates scrambling for election this fall in the 12th District, a long-time Democratic stronghold. Beard said she hopes her seat will be retained by a Democrat and a woman.

Beard gained a solid reputation for appearing at seemingly every important event in

her district. Her longtime supporters always greet her with smiles and hugs.

"She's definitely a legend, and whoever follows in her footsteps will have some big shoes to fill," Westland Mayor William Wild said. "What she brought to the table is that she was consistent. She always made sure for the residents of her district that their county taxes were spent wisely. She never backed down from a fight."

Beard hopes that her time in office will be remembered for her untiring dedication to her constituents.

HER LEGACY

"I think my legacy is that I've tried very hard to maintain good relationships with everybody that I could, and I tried to keep things going behind the scenes," she said. "I really do appreciate the support I've had through the years. I've also been fortunate to have good relationships with city officials. I've done my best, particularly behind the scenes, to make sure the commission does things in the proper way."

Beard didn't back down

from political fights with heavyweights like former Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara. Even so, he named a building after her a few years ago on the site of the old Eloise county hospital.

When Beard heard the news, she said, "I almost fell over." The Kay Beard Building was officially named in 1997, and she recalled that "it was a lovely day."

Beard began her commission service as an appointee in April 1978. She was elected the following November and has

successfully defended her seat ever since.

Beard served as the commission's vice chair for five terms. According to a county Web site, she also has served on the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) and the National Association of Counties. The county organization named her Commissioner of the Year in 1989.

Beard also has served as president of the Michigan Democratic County Officials. In 2000 she won the highest honor given by the Michigan

Democratic Women's Caucus, which named her its recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Award.

Just this year, the commission appointed Beard to the MAC board of directors. She also has been serving as the commission's representative to the county's Head Start governing board. She has been involved on two National Association of Counties steering committees — the Large Urban County Caucus, and Labor and Employment.

In 1995, then-Secretary

of Education Richard Riley and then-Secretary of Labor Robert Reich jointly appointed her to the National Advisory Council for School-to-Work Opportunities. Beard also was a founding member of Hospices of Michigan, and she served nine years as vice chair of the United Way Community Services board of directors. She is a longtime member of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan Senior Advisory Council.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. Pat's Celebration

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Village of Westland. "Dell and Friends" with their unique Irish music at 1 p.m. Monday, March 17. Refreshments will be provided. Wear green and receive a gift from the pot of gold. The Village is at 32001 Cherry Hill. Call (734) 762-8928 for more information.

Mom2Mom

The Livonia YMCA will host a Mom2Mom Sale, 2-5 p.m., Sunday, March 30, at the YMCA, 14255 Stark Road, just north of Schoolcraft. Tables are still available by calling Jean at (734) 261-2161 or (248) 615-1080. There will be a large item room, with furniture and baby equipment and a bake sale and hot dogs for sale to benefit the YMCA. Admission is \$1. Strollers are allowed after 3 p.m.

Crop for a Cure

An all day scrapbooking event, Crop for a Cure, will be held 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 29, in the gymnasium at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, west of Merriman, Garden City. The cost is \$35 per person and includes lunch, dinner, beverages and snacks. Pay by March

20 and receive five free prize tickets for a raffle of scrapbooking and non-scrapbooking related merchandise. A Close to My Heart consultant will be on site with some cash-and-carry stock and limited supplies for purchase. Registration fee is non-refundable. First come, first serve. For more information, call Dawn Downer at (734) 502-4277 or contact her by e-mail at dawn@comcast.net. All proceeds will benefit the 2008 Michigan 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk.

Baseball registrations

The Wayne Ford Civic League will hold baseball registrations for children ages 4-10 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays at the leagues hall at 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland. Registration fees are \$65 for T-Ball and Coach Pitch leagues and \$80 for Mustang League. Registrations will continue each Saturday until all the teams are full. For additional information, call the hall at (734) 728-5010 or by e-mail at vbarra@comcast.net.

Love of Lace XV

The Great Lakes Lace Group Inc. will present Love of Lace XV 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 3, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, east of Farmington, in Livonia. The event is a day of lace making, with demonstrations, try-it tables, vendors and displays. Admission is free, public is welcome. For more information, go online to www.GLLGI.org.

Spring craft show

The Westland Jaycees will host its spring craft show at the senior Friendship Center on Newburgh south of Ford in Westland 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8. Admission will be \$1 or two dry good items. Children age 12 and under will be admitted free. For more information, call the Jaycee hotline at (734) 226-0400.

Wrestling Club

Westland Bottle Rockets is a wrestling club for ages 5-14. The club meets on Monday and Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Gym 4 of John Glenn High School, 36105 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland, Michigan. The club runs from November through March and costs \$20. For questions or more information, contact Judy at judydawn122@yahoo.com or calling (734) 634-4595.

Higher Rock Cafe

The Wayne-Westland Salvation Army presents the Higher Rock Cafe the second and fourth Fridays of the month at its facility at 2300 Venoy, south of Palmer, Westland. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., live bands perform beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free, however, a free will offering will be taken to support the bands. Check out Higher Rock on

the Web at www.tsa.higherrockcafe.4t.com or call (734) 722-3660.

Fish Dial-A-Ride

A new volunteer organization, F.I.S.H. Dial-A-Ride, provides assistance for Westland residents in need of rides to locations beyond the Westland's local Nankin Transit service area. Free rides to medical and social service appointments are available to both seniors and disabled Westland residents by calling (888) 660-2007. The free transportation is available Monday through Friday, except holidays. Those interested in volunteering may call Gary Simon at (734) 751-4101.

Free workshops

Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, a holistic physician, wellness consultant and clinical nutritionist, is presenting several free workshops now through March 19. Reservations required for the workshop, call (734) 756-6904 or go online to www.TLCHolisticWellness.com. "Eat Your Way Thin" will be presented 7-9 p.m. Wednesday March 19, at the Civic Center Library. Take a natural approach to a healthier, new you. Learn why diets do not work, ways to avoid weight gain and how to lose weight with diet, nutrition and exercise. When to eat, what to eat and how to eat will be discussed. Seating limited to 15 guests.

VOLUNTEERS

Karmanos Institute

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute needs volunteers to transport cancer patients to mammogram and doctor appointments in metropolitan Detroit. Drivers are needed for Macomb and Oakland counties, Dearborn and Detroit. Volunteers must be at least 18. Mileage reimbursement is provided. Call (800) KARMANOS to volunteer.

First Step

First Step, which has been active in the effort to end domestic violence and sexual assault in western Wayne County and Downriver communities for more than 20 years, is looking for volunteers. Interested people must be at least 18, willing and able to travel to the Downriver area and complete a 55-hour training program. Call (734) 416-1111, Ext. 223.

Drivers

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport area residents to meetings of the Western Wayne Parkinson's Disease Support Group. The meetings take place 7-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in the Livonia Senior Center, Farmington Road south of Five Mile. Drivers may be offered a stipend. Parkinson's patients, caregivers and others may attend the meetings. Call (734) 459-0216 or (734) 421-4208.

Starfish offers parenting classes

Parents and caregivers in the community can get expert advice on raising happy and healthy children through Starfish Family Services' two new parenting classes offered at its Family Resource Center beginning the week of March 11.

The classes - "Happiest Baby on the Block" and "Love and Logic" - are the first of many parent training sessions that will be offered on a consistent basis in the Family Resource Center. Each class will be taught by a Starfish Family Services trainer with expertise in child and family therapy.

The "Happiest Baby on the Block" will provide techniques on what calms a baby and how to increase the amount of sleep for the newborn and parents. The class is available to expectant parents, those with a baby four months and younger and childcare providers. It will be offered 4-5 p.m. Thursdays, March 11-April 10.

The "Love and Logic" class will focus on providing parents with tools in raising happy,

healthy and cooperative children and is geared toward parents of school aged children. It will take place 5-6:30 p.m. Thursdays, March 13-April 10. Dinner and childcare will be provided for this class.

Both classes are open to the public and are of no charge to participants. For more information please call (248) 615-9730, Ext. 4150. The Family Resource Center is located in the main offices of Starfish Family Services at 30000 Hiveley Road in Inkster.

The classes are funded by a grant from the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency. The Starfish Family Resource Center, which opened in November, offers pregnant women and families with infants and young children an extensive library of educational books and DVDs; adult and children's support groups; family play groups; family activities; parent education; pre-natal education, infant massage groups and donated resources such as food, clothing and toys.

The Family Resource Center also links families to other Starfish services including early childhood programs, clinical services, after-school programs, and other support services to youth and their families.

The Starfish programs linked through the Resource Center include Infant Mental Health, Early Head Start, Head Start, Michigan School Readiness Program, "Great Parents, Great Start," "After Baby Comes" and "Family Success Model." There is no charge to qualifying families who participate in these programs.

Starfish Family Services is the largest private, non-profit human service agency in western Wayne County. The organization offers 12 specialized programs to help educate and empower vulnerable families and children in southeastern Michigan. The agency has served more than 8,300 children and their families at its 18 services sites last year. More information can be found at www.starfishonline.org.

MHS sponsors poster contest

The joy and happiness a person gets from sharing a life with a companion animal is, without a doubt, a wonderful feeling. But many animals don't have the opportunity to live their lives filled with love and compassion. They are victims of cruel, neglectful situations.

In celebration of all companion animals during Be Kind to Animals Week, the Michigan Humane Society is engaging children to creatively illustrate what compassion and kindness to animals really means - through a fun and educational poster contest.

"Teaching our children to have respect and compassion for all living things is essential, if we are to make measurable and consistent progress against the many companion animals issues we face today, including animal overpopulation and homelessness," said Michael Robbins,

director of marketing and communication for MHS. "And sometimes, we adults are best reminded of these simple truths through the actions, and in this instance, the illustrations of our children."

Posters should use artistic and creative talents to convey an important message as to why people should be kind to animals. The winning entry will receive a \$125 PETCO gift certificate and be featured in the summer issue of MichiganAnimals. The student's school will receive \$500 in art supplies from Main Street Art in Milford.

Additionally, the second-place winner will receive a \$75 PETCO gift card, with the third-place winner receiving a \$50 PETCO gift card, respectively.

Entries should be uplifting and creative, demonstrating the meaning of compassion

and kindness towards animals - a true celebration of our pets. Posters should be portrait size - 8 by 11/2 inches and include the artist's name, phone number, age, city of residence, school name and parent's e-mail address. Mail entries to Michigan Humane Society, c/o Be Kind to Animals Week Poster Contest, 30300 Telegraph Road, Suite 220, Bingham Farms, MI 48025. The deadline for entering is Tuesday, April 1.

Entries become property of MHS and cannot be returned.

Judging will take place in April, with the winning entry featured in the summer issue of MichiganAnimals, scheduled to arrive in thousands of metro Detroit homes in May.

For more contest information, contact the Michigan Humane Society at (248) 283-1000, Ext. 108, or visit the MHS Web site at www.michiganhumane.org.

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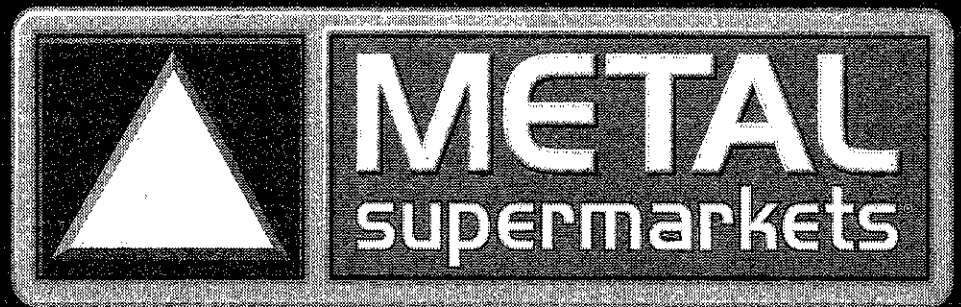


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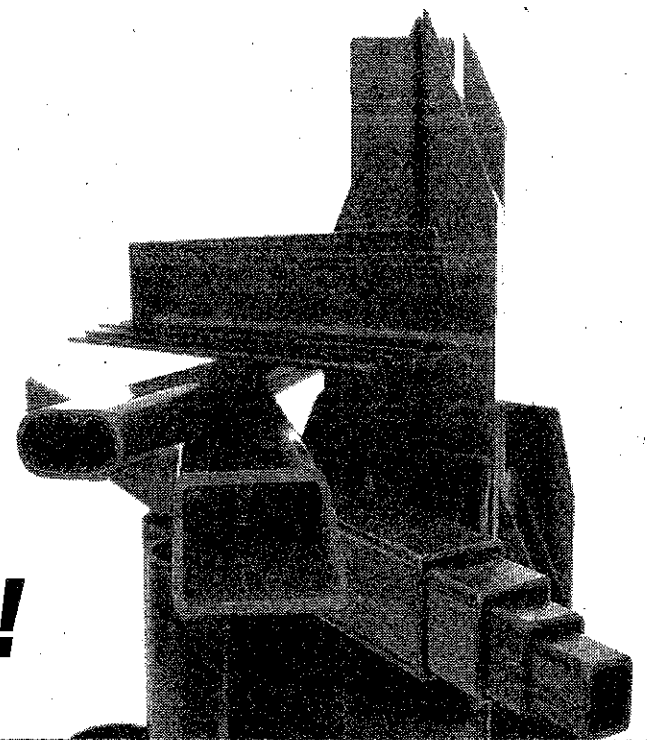


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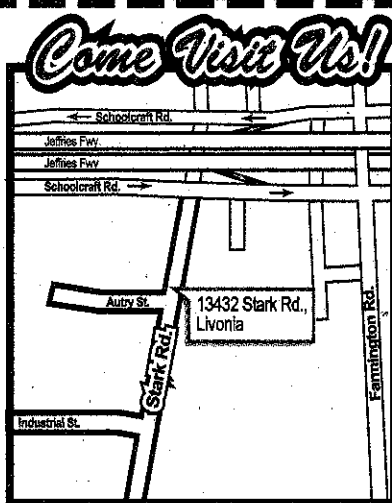
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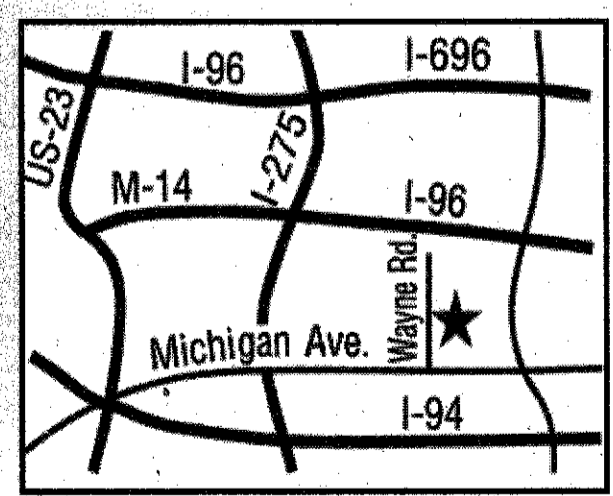
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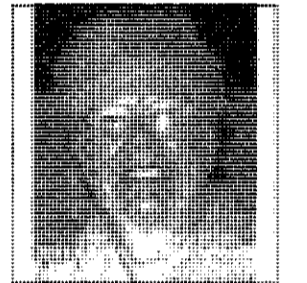
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FRASER E. "BUD" POMEROY

Of Waterford, formerly of Birmingham. March 3, 2008 at 99 years of age. Born June 9, 1908 in Detroit to the late David C. and Mary (Coulton) Pomeroy. He married Margaret Trout on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1932. She preceded him in death in 1997. He graduated from Detroit Northwestern High School in 1925. Then, in 1928 he graduated from Detroit Commercial College. He then began a career that spanned 68 years at New England Life. He became the longest tenured employee/agent in the history of the company. He was involved in numerous civic organizations including being past president of the Birmingham Community House, past president of the Old Newsboy Goodfellows, Trustee of Kalamazoo College and was a member of Orchard Lake Country Club. Dear father of Kay (Donald) Beaudry, Mary Lu (Mack) King, David (Bonita) Pomeroy and Robert (Peggy) Pomeroy; also survived by nine grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and his nephew Ralph; brother of the late Robert and Luna May Pomeroy. Memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, March 15, 2008 at the Chapel of Canterbury on the Lake, 5601 Hatchery Road, Waterford. Memorial contributions may be made to the Good Samaritan Fund at Canterbury-on-the-Lake. Envelopes will be available at the service. Arrangements were entrusted to Coats Funeral Home, Waterford. Send a private condolence: www.coatsfuneralhome.com and select Guestbook.



JEANNE TERRY SALSICCIOLI

Suddenly, February 28, 2008. Age 67. Longtime resident of Bloomfield Hills. Beloved wife of Dr. Gino for 45 years. Loving mother of Gino (Meg), Amy Ostidek (Eric) & Cara Penzoza (Andy). Dear grandmother of Michael, Julia, Owen, Parker, Zachary and Leo. Sister of Maureen Guerrero and Renee Harris. Aunt of Anthony, Brian, Tricia & Lori. Funeral services and burial have taken place. Memorial tributes to American Heart Association, Karmans Cancer Institute or Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. A.J. Desmond & Sons (248)362-2500 View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com



KATHLEEN H. FALLON

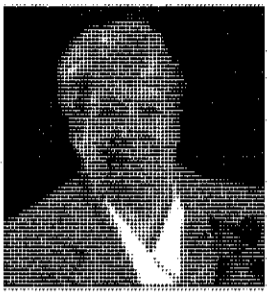
Age 76 went peacefully to be with her Lord and Savior on March 2, 2008 after a short struggle with pneumonia. Born in Detroit on 4-1-1931, she is preceded in death by her Mother and Father, Marion and Fredrick Close, her husband Eugene Fallon, her brother Fredrick Close II, her nephew Alex Brown, and her best friend Patricia Van Buren. She is survived by her 3 children Mary Fallon, Charles Fallon (Janice), Michael Fallon (Kathleen), as well as her grandchildren Jordan (Samantha), Joshua, Caleb, Gabriel, Christine, Micah, Elijah, Bridget (Eugene), Shannon, and April (Noah) and 7 great-grandchildren. Kathleen was a 1949 graduate of Immaculata High School in Detroit, and a graduate of the Providence Hospital Nursing program in 1952 where she became a registered nurse. She married Eugene Fallon in 1956 and lived in Lake Orion for 38 years. She was a devoted Mother, Grandmother, daughter, sister, and friend. Widowed for 32 years, she was faithful to the Catholic church and to her family. She loved to travel, have Sunday dinners with her family, walk the mall, go to her grandkids sporting events, and spend time with friends. She was lovingly known as "Mrs. Fallon" to the many patients she saw while working for Doctor White. She was well loved and will be missed by many. She had a good life. Services were held at the Sparks Griffin Funeral Home in Lake Orion on Wednesday March 5. Funeral services will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lake Orion on Thursday at 11am. Friends may visit at 10am until the time of the service. Dinner will be served at the church after the service. Contributions can be made to The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation which held special meaning to Kathleen. Memorial reflections can be sent to: www.sparksgriffin.com

LOIS E. EARNEST (nee Means)

Of Farmington Hills, died March 2, at age 84 under the loving care of her son, Rick (Ronna) Earnest, daughter Darlene Wolford, grandchildren Michael Wolford and Jordan Earnest, and son-in-law John Wolford. Predeceased by her beloved husband James, Nov. 1991. Dear sister of Rex (Betty) Means of Spring Hill, LA and the late Anna (Tom) Miller, and Rusty (Chris) Means both from her beloved state of Arkansas. She will be missed by many nieces, nephews, and friends. Born in Woodbury, Arkansas, on Sept 4, 1924, daughter of the late Huey and Abbie (Porter). She graduated from Hampton High School as valedictorian in May, 1943. As this was during World War II and the government was in great need of typists and stenographers, she accepted a war appointment to the Pentagon. After she and James were married in Dec. 1945, they moved to Odessa Texas where their two children were born. In May, 1954 her family moved to Detroit, and subsequently to Farmington, Southfield, and then to Farmington Hills in 1992. In Aug. 1987, Lois retired with 30 years from Ford Motor Company, Dearborn. Arrangements made by McCabe Funeral Home, 31950 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, with viewing Wednesday March 5 from 2-8pm. She will be flown to Hampton Arkansas, with viewing at Benton Funeral Home on Friday, March 7, from 2-8pm with a graveside service at Means Cemetery on Saturday March 8 at 10:00am. Her faith in the Lord was ever strong. Memorial Contributions may be made to Hospice of Michigan.

RUTH F. GRANDAHL

Age 78, February 29, 2008. Wife of the late Donald. Loving mother of Paul H. (Mary), Stephen T. (Joy) and Kirsten Grandahl-Wells. Dear grandmother of Angelica, Donald II, Neil (Zoe) Jones, John Jones, Courtney Wells and the late Donald Jones. Great grandmother of Olivia Jones. Arrangements entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Livonia. Burial at Parkview Memorial. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Emmanuel Lutheran Church or to the American Cancer Society in Ruth's honor. Condolences may be made to the family at harryjwillfuneralhome.com



SR. LOUISE HIRNER, FSM

Died March 1, 2008, at St. Mary of the Angels Convent, Richmond Heights, MO. She was 96 years of age. Sr. Louise was born Louise Caroline on September 28, 1911, in Hannibal, MO, the fifth of seven children born to Melchior and Angelique (Becker) Hirner. She entered the congregation now known as the Franciscan Sisters of Mary in 1936. Sr. Louise (also known as Sr. Bonaventure) professed her final vows in 1942. She earned her RN nursing certificate from St. Anthony School of Nursing, Oklahoma City, OK, her BS in Home Economics from Marymount College, Salina, KS, and her Master's in Dietetics from Saint Louis University. Sr. Louise ministered at St. Anthony Hospital, Oklahoma City, OK, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Hannibal, MO, and at St. Francis Hospital and Health Services, and Mount Alverno Convent, Maryville, MO. Sister was a member of RAPT, the Renewal and Process Team who worked with both the OSP and SSM traditions through the process of the congregations' reunification/refounding. Sr. Louise is survived by one sister, Rose White, of Livonia, MI, and two brothers, Herman Hirner, of Paris, MO, and Paul J. Hirner, of Lewisiston, MO. Visitation for Sr. Louise will be held Monday, March 3, 2008, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at St. Mary of the Angels Convent, 1100 Bellevue Avenue, Richmond Heights, MO. A wake service will be held at 7:00 p.m. The funeral mass will be held on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary of the Angels Convent, with burial to be held at Resurrection Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Franciscan Sisters of Mary Tribute Fund, 1100 Bellevue Avenue, St. Louis, MO. 63117.



MAJORIE H. HITCHCOCK

Age 89, of Livonia, Michigan, passed away on Monday, March 3, 2008 at the Wapello Nursing and Rehab Care Center. Funeral services will be held on Friday, March 7, 2008 at 10:00 A.M. at the Fred Wood Funeral Home in Livonia, Michigan. Rev. Mark Miller will officiate the services. Burial will be in Glen Eden Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the Strike Foundation in memory of Marjorie. Sympathy notes may be left for the Hitchcock family at www.lewisfuneralhomes.com. Arrangements by the Geo. M. Wittich-Lewis Home for Funeral and Cremation Services of Muscatine, Iowa and the Fred Wood Funeral Home of Livonia, Michigan. Marjorie Hilda Haight was born on August 9, 1918, in Cortland, New York, the daughter of Floyd and Vivian (Potter) Haight. On August 17, 1941, Marjorie was united in marriage to Donald S. Hitchcock. Marjorie was a school teacher in the Detroit Public Schools for thirty-five years, retiring in 1981. She enjoyed traveling, going on vacations to the cabin in Michigan and watching the Detroit Pistons on CNN. Marjorie will be deeply missed by her two sons, Donald S. Hitchcock, Jr. of Livonia, Michigan and Richard R. Hitchcock, Sr. and his wife, Louise, of Flint, Michigan; two grandchildren, Richard R. Hitchcock, Jr. and his wife, Audie, of Letts, Iowa and Jeffrey A. Hitchcock and special friend, Katie of Romulus, Michigan; four grandchildren, Alex, Olivia, Jeff, Jr. and Joey; and one sister, Betty Milliman of Walcott, New York. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and two brothers, Jim Haight and Ron Haight.

WILLIAM B. FLETCHER

Age 79, March 1, 2008. Beloved husband of Ruth. Loving father of Terry (Vivian) Fletcher and Dawn (Matthew) Black. Dear grandfather of Timothy and Tonya Fletcher. Brother-in-law of Lorna Hanenburg. Funeral Service at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Rd., Garden City, Saturday at 11 AM. Visitation Friday 1 - 8 PM.

Paying Tribute to the Life of Your Loved One

OBITUARY POLICY

The first five "billed" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$4 per line. You may place a picture of your loved one for an additional cost of only \$6. Symbolic emblems may be included at no cost (example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc.)

Deadlines:
Friday 4:15 PM for Sunday
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For more information call: Charlotte Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

RELIGION CALENDAR

If you want to submit an item for the religion calendar, fax it to (734) 591-7279 or write: Religion Calendar, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. Deadline for an announcement to appear in the Thursday edition is noon Monday.

MARCH

Lenten concert
Begin at 12:35 p.m. following Lenten Services of Holy Communion which begin at 12:10 p.m. Thursday, March 6, organist Kevin Bylsma perform music by Bach, Pachelbel and Vierne, at Mariner's Church, 170 E. Jefferson, in Detroit's Civic Center at the entrance to the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel. Free parking for services in the Ford Underground Garage with entrance on the median on Jefferson Avenue at Woodward. For more information, call (313) 259-2206.

Garage sale
Includes household items, tools, books, games, toys, electronic toys/games/equipment, clean, gently used children's clothing and baby items 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, March 7, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 8, Grab bag noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, at St. Aidan Activity Center, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Admission \$1 per person. Garage sale donations accepted before and after masses March 1-2 in parish garage. No furniture, adult clothing accepted. No strollers permitted during sale. For information, call Ruth McCarthy at (734) 464-5973.

Spring concert
The Calvin College Orchestra kicks off its Spring tour with a concert 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 7, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville. Conductor Robert Nordling leads the 80 piece ensemble in a program featuring works by Beethoven, Strauss and Wagner. Admission free; an offering will be received. Reception to follow concert. Call (248) 374-7400 for information.

Lenten fish dinner
5:30-7 p.m. Friday, March 7 and 14, in the activity center at St. Aidan's Church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Choice of baked cod or salmon with your meal. Cost is \$8 adults, \$4 children, under age 3 free. No dinner on Good Friday.

Fish fry
Our Lady of Loretto's Famous Fish Fry 4-7 p.m. all Fridays of Lent, in the family center, Six Mile and Beech Daly. Carry outs available.

Lenten fish dinners
St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia invites everyone to it's All You Can Eat Lenten Fish Dinners, 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, March 7 and 14, in the cafeteria of St. Michael School, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. The dinners feature a choice of hand-dipped fried or baked cod along with a large assortment of side dishes and beverages. Cost is \$8 adults, \$4 for children ages 3-11, free for age 3 and under. Carry-out orders available at \$7 each. For information, call (734) 261-1455, Ext. 200.

Single Place Ministry
Upcoming activities include dinner and movie 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at Grape Expectations Wine and Tapas Bar, Plymouth, call Bruce at (734) 459-7235. Single Place Ministry meets Thursdays 7:30-7:45 p.m. for social time, 7:45-8 p.m. opening, 8-9 p.m. program, at First Presbyterian Church, 200 East Main Street, Northville. Call (248) 349-0911 or visit www.singleplace.org. Cost is \$5 per person.

'Seven Last Words of Christ' sung
The St. Robert Bellarmine Choir presents "The Seven Last Words of Christ," a sacred cantata by Theodore Dubois at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 9, at the church, on the southeast corner of West Chicago and Inkster. Admission is free. For more information, call 313-937-1500.

Pancake breakfast
8:30-11 a.m. Sunday, March 9 and April 13, in the activity center at St. Aidan's Church, 17500 Farmington Road, north of Six Mile, Livonia. Cost is \$4 adults, \$4 children age 10 and under.

Bethany Suburban West
Lenten Mass 9 a.m. Sunday, March 9, at Madonna Chapel, Schoolcraft and Levan, Livonia. Please use the Newburgh entrance, breakfast to follow. Call Kathy for details, (734) 513-9479.

Game Night 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, March 14, at the St. Linus Activity Center at the school. Cost is \$5 or bring a snack or dessert for at least 10 people or a couple of large bottles of pop (regular and diet), and we will supply the paper products and coffee. Play cards or board games for the evening. There will be prizes. Call Kathy for details and directions (734) 513-9479 or Michele (313) 996-8644.

Daniel, Darius & DeLions
A musical drama by the Voices of Praise Chorus 9:30 a.m. Sunday, March 9, during the Sunday School hour at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. For information, call (734) 464-0211.

Blessing of the fleet
11 a.m. Sunday, March 9, at Mariners' Church, 170 E. Jefferson, Detroit. Free parking in Ford Auditorium Underground Garage (entrance on the median strip of Jefferson at Woodward). For more information, call (313) 259-2206.

A guide to your spiritual journey

Discover the Seven Aspects of Spiritual Awakening 4-5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 9, at St. Irenaeus Church in Rochester. No charge. For information, call the church at (248) 651-9595 or Creative Books and Music at (586) 996-8660, or visit www.CreativeBooksAndMusic.com.

Concert
An evening with the Blackwoods 5 p.m. Sunday, March 9, at New Life Metro Church, 20320 Superior, Taylor. Cost \$10 advance, \$15 at door. Paid child care available. Pre-registration requested. Call (734) 287-8838.

Lenten services
Continue at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel every Wednesday through March 13, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, (313) 534-7730. Maundy Thursday service will be 7:30 p.m. March 20, the Easter Worship Service at 10 a.m. March 23 in the sanctuary.

Prince of Peace Church
Recovery, Inc., meets at 10 a.m., every Wednesday at the church, Walnut Lake Road and Green, West Bloomfield. Recovery, Inc., is an international, non-profit, self-help community based service organization that helps people with nervous and emotional disorders reduce their suffering and improve their quality of life. Call Martha Paul at (248) 682-9362 or e-mail her at marthapaul@sbcbglobal.net.

Divorce recovery
The winter/spring workshop meets 7-9:30 p.m. every Thursday until March 13, at Ward Church, Northville. Cost is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door and includes materials and refreshments. Free childcare provided and financial help is available if needed. Deadline for registration for current session is Feb. 7, call (248) 374-5920.

World religions
Have you ever wondered why there are so many different religions? How should Christians view other religions? How is God at work in other religions? What is the fate of those who earnestly pursue God through other religions? Farmington First United Methodist Church offers a six-week, video-based study on Christianity and Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism. Classes began 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday Feb. 7, and 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5, at the church, 33112 Grand River, Farmington. Call (248) 474-6573 for details.

Lenten programming
Soup and salad bar 5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 9 (\$5 donation to cover cost of dinner), followed by inspirational music by David Berriman at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 422-6038. Childcare available 6:30-7 p.m. A grand opening and dedication of the church's new Fellowship Hall is 5-8 p.m. Saturday, March 15. The community is invited.

Lenten services
Noon and 7:30 p.m. March 12, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. The Pulpit Theme is The Places of Passion. Holy Week services 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday, March 16 with Confirmation; 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday, March 20; noon and 7:30 p.m. Good Friday, March 21 and Easter Sunday, March 23.

Wednesday Lenten services
7 p.m. Wednesdays preceded by Lenten dinners 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Laverne, Redford. Call (313) 937-2424. Holy week services 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday, March 20; 7 p.m. Good Friday, March 21, and 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Resurrection Sunday, March 23. Holy Communion second, fourth and fifth Sundays of month. Regular worship services 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sundays. Bible study and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Lenten services
Mid-week Wednesday Lenten Services 7:30 p.m. March 12. Holy week services 10 a.m. Palm Sunday, March 16; 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday, March 20; Good Friday (March 21) Reflections on the Passion 12:30-2 p.m., Tenebrae Service at 7:30 p.m.; Easter Vigil 7:30-9 p.m. Saturday, March 22, and 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday, March 23, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. For information, call (734) 427-1414. Weekly worship services 10 a.m. Sundays with nursery, Adult Learning and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. No 6 p.m. Sunday services during Lent or Easter Sunday. All are welcome.

Mid-week worship
Continues 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211. Evening begins with worship followed by a simple meal of bread and soup, and concludes with fellowship and mission projects.

Workshop
Liturgy of the Hours Workshop, learn about the manner in which the passage of time has been made sacred by Christianity, evening prayer experience takes place 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, at Bixman Hall (church building) at St. Aidan Parish, 17500 Farmington, north of Six Mile, Livonia. No charge. To register, call (734) 425-5950.

Special night of worship
With Men of Grace 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 46250 Ann Arbor Road, one block east of Beck at McClumpha, Plymouth. For more information or a map visit www.risenchrist.info. This free event offers an evening of spirituals, hymns, traditional and contemporary.

rary, original music, and arrangements performed by Men of Grace from Grace Centers of Hope (Pontiac). Free will offering will be taken. They are a living example of how a life can be transformed from addiction, abuse and violence to one filled with meaning, hope and faith. The group has been honored to sing for President Bush, the Detroit Tigers, Gov. Jennifer Granholm, and featured at hundreds of civic, corporate, church and school events.

Vegetarian seminar
Nutrition and cooking seminar 2:30-5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at Plymouth Seventh-day Adventist Church Fellowship room, 4295 Napier, between Ann Arbor and Warren roads. Lectures by a physician and nutritionist will be followed by cooking demonstrations with recipes and menu plans. Suggested donation is \$10 per person. To register, call (248) 349-5683 or (313) 531-2179.

Easter season worship
9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Palm Sunday, March 16; 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday, March 20, and 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday, March 23, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia; noon Good Friday, March 21, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile, Livonia and 7 p.m. Good Friday, at Clarenceville United Methodist Church, 20300 Middlebelt, Livonia (contemporary service), and 7 a.m. Easter Sunday at Greenmead Historical Park on Newburgh, north of Eight Mile, Livonia. For information, call (734) 422-0149.

Holy Week services
10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday, March 16; 7 p.m. Thursday, March 20 The Last Supper, and noon Good Friday, March 21, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 422-6038. Easter services are 7 a.m. Sunday, March 23, at Greenmead Historical Park on Newburgh, north of Eight Mile, Livonia, and 10:30 a.m. at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church.

Holy Week schedule
The Last Supper, Revelation Along the Way 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday, March 20; Expiration Along the Way Good Friday service at noon and 7 p.m. Tenebrae Worship March 21; Easter Vigil 7:30 p.m. Holy Saturday, March 22, and Sunrise Service Celebration Along the Way at 7 a.m., and 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Festival worship with Holy Communion and special music of Holy Trinity's various choirs and instrumentalists Easter Sunday, March 23, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0211.

Easter week services
7 p.m. Maundy Thursday, March 20, and Good Friday, March 21, and 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday, March 22, at Historic Cherry Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. For information, call (734) 495-0035.

Clothing bank
Canton Christian Fellowship Clothing Bank is open 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 22, and the fourth Saturday of every month, at the church, 8775 Ronda Drive, south of Joy, between Haggerty and Lilley. The Clothing Bank is open to everyone in the community who is in need of new or like-new clothing. Donations are also accepted. For more information, call (734) 404-2480 or visit www.CantonCF.org.

Bethany Suburban West
Monthly breakfast 9:30 a.m. Saturday, March 22, at Leon's Family Dining 30149 Ford Road, south side (next to Tim Horton's), Garden City. All separated, divorced and singles welcome. For details, call Kathy (734) 513-9479.

Monthly dance 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 5, at St. Robert Bellarmine, 27101 W. Chicago at Inkster Rd., Redford. Cost is \$10, refreshments included. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. DJ is Dick Gerathy. Call Diane for information (734) 261-5716.

Game Night 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, March 14, at the St. Linus Activity Center at the school. Cost is \$5 or bring a snack or dessert for at least 10 people or a couple of large bottles of pop (regular and diet), and we will supply the paper products and coffee. Play cards or board games for the evening. There will be prizes. Call Kathy for details and directions (734) 513-9479 or Michele (313) 996-8644.

Spiritual healing
Free lecture on spiritual healing based on the teachings of Bruno Groening 7 p.m. Monday, March 31, at Church of Today West, 32500 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills. No charge. For information, call Arsen Barnay at (313) 882-7946 or Sabine Goltz at (248) 593-9091. To learn about Groening, visit www.bruno-groening.org/english.

UPCOMING
Blended family workshop
7:8:15 p.m. Wednesdays through April 2, at Ward Church, 40000 6 Mile Rd., Northville. Call (248) 374-5912. The Step-Family Doctor, Pastor Paul Clough, facilitates the group focusing on the issues pertaining to the blended family. Registration best but last minute

Please see RELIGION, A7

RELIGION

FROM PAGE A6

walk-ins welcome.
Sisters in Christ
Women's conference 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, east of Beech Daly, Redford. Cost is \$40 pre-conference registration, \$50 at door. Call (313) 534-7730. This is an interdenominational conference to help women connect their Christian life to one another. Speakers are Brenda Josee who's been active in Christian publishing 25 years, and Nancy Moser who's published 17 inspirational novels.
Day of Reflection
Bethany Central Board is offering a Day of Reflection hosted by the Rochester Bethany II a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 19, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church. This Mini Conference will have two topics: Social Security Benefits for Divorced People and the Catholic Annulment Process. There

is no cost for conference and lunch will be served. For details, call Audrey (248) 613-5461.

ONGOING

Reformed Protestant services
A new series of sermons on the Doctrines of Grace is being preached by Rev. Sean Humby 3:30 p.m. Sundays at the Detroit Preaching Station of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), at Cherry Hill School, 50440 Cherry Hill, corner of Ridge Road, Canton. For more information, call Richard Waldecker at (734) 664-1815, visit www.westminsterconfession.org, or e-mail Humby at sean.humby@fuse.net.

Sunday services
Come to hear about the love of Jesus Christ for you 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sundays at Faith Lutheran Church, 30000 Five Mile, west of Middlebelt, Livonia. For information, visit www.livonfaith.org.

Tai chi and strength classes
Orchard United Methodist Church is hosting a Tai Chi class 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays in the Mac at the church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington

Hills. The cost per class is \$10 or \$40 prepaid for five classes. The strength class takes place 9:30-10:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday. Cost is \$5 per class. Drops in welcome. For information, call (248) 626-3620 or visit www.orchardumc.org.

Church offerings
Riverside Park Church of God, Sunday worship is at 10 a.m., Wednesday bible classes (child through adult) at 7 p.m. Youth outings held monthly. The senior group (age 50 plus) has lunch together every month. The men get together for breakfast the first Saturday of the month plus we offer choir practice for all singers. All visitors welcome. The church is at 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth Road, Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for details.

Church services
Want a unique church experience? Join in Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. for a service that will lift your entire family, but be prepared for what will happen after just one service at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh (corner of Plymouth Road), Livonia. Call (734) 464-0990 for information.

Thursday fellowship dinner
All are welcome, 6 p.m. dinners catered by The Cookie Lady, Susan Navarro, at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Cost is \$6. Call (313) 534-7730.

Thrift store
Open Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford. Call (313) 534-7730.

Tai Chi class
Orchard United Methodist Church (30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills) is hosting a Tai Chi Class by Sam Purdy, Wu Style Tai Chi. This meditative form of Martial Arts is great for reducing stress and is great for over-all health memory and balance. Everyone is welcome from beginning to experienced participants at any time. Classes began 7-8:30 p.m. Jan. 14, and continue every Monday thereafter. Cost per class depends on number of participants. For information or to reserve your space, call (248) 701-1587 or (248) 626-3620. Visit www.orchardumc.org for updates.

Living Water series
Mark McGilvrey leads a 10-week video

series called H2O starting 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, at Memorial Church of Christ, 35475 Five Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 464-6722. The group is open to men and women who would like to review the basic teachings of Jesus who claimed to be living water.

Couple prayer series
St. Colette Church, 17600 Newburgh, Livonia, is offering a Couple Prayer Series (www.coupleprayer.org) for married or engaged couple, began 7-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, in the Activity Center Hall. For registration information, call Mary Ellen at (734) 464-4435.

ENDOW
St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Livonia hosts two different sessions of the Archdiocese of Detroit's ENDOW program, a continuing women's study group focused on the dignity of women of all ages and faiths. Based on Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women, the group meets 9:30 a.m. Thursdays (began Jan. 10). The second session is called Different Times, Abiding Dignity and deals with a woman's inherent dignity at all stages

of her life from 0 to 100. The group meets 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays (began Jan. 8). Both groups meet in the convent basement meeting room. Women of all ages and faiths welcome. There is a \$60 charge for materials, but no woman will be turned away because of inability to pay. Register by calling (734) 261-1455, Ext. 207 or online at www.endowonline.com. St. Michael's complex is at 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia.

ENDOW
Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women sessions 7-9 p.m. Thursdays, to March 6, (explores Pope John Paul II's Muller's Dignitatem - On the Dignity and Vocation of Women), in Bixmal Hall church building at St. Aidan Catholic Church, 17500 Farmington Rd., Livonia. Second session is 7-9 p.m. Mondays to March 3, (explores Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women), in conference room in parish office. Registration required for both sessions. \$60 for materials for each session. Contact Michele Schmidt at (734) 367-0353 or send e-mail to mtschmidt@sbcglobal.net.

Your Invitation To Worship

Grid of church advertisements including: BAPTIST (New Hope Baptist Church), UNITED METHODIST (Clareville United Methodist, Redford Aldersgate United Methodist), LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD (Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grace Lutheran Church Missouri Synod), CATHOLIC (St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church), EVANGELICAL COVENANT (Faith Covenant Church), SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST (Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church), NON-DENOMINATIONAL (Bell Creek Community Church), PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.) (Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, St. James Presbyterian Church), EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN (Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church), CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE (Plymouth Church of the Nazarene), CHRISTIAN SCIENCE (First Church of Christ, Scientist), LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD (St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School), EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (Timothy Lutheran Church), and Fellowship Presbyterian Church.

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

Garage, eBay sales can have tax consequences

As tax deadline gets closer, more people are focusing on completing their 2007 return in order to qualify for the rebate that comes in May.



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

I recently had a conversation with an individual in regards to a variety of issues. One issue dealt with yard sales and the tax consequences.

Items sold less the cost of those items are considered profit and subject to income tax. The individual did not question me on whether technically the sale was subject to tax but rather how the government would ever find out.

Yes, the IRS does have mechanisms to make sure that certain information is reported accurately, such as requiring employers to complete W-2 forms or banks and brokerage houses requiring that dividend and income be reported on a year-by-year basis. However, most of our tax laws are self-enforcing. For example, when you make a charitable contribution even though you may receive some documentation from the charity, the IRS has no clue of your contributions unless of course you are audited and only then are you

required to provide backup documentation.

Even on stock transactions, it is up to you to properly report the cost basis on the sale of stock and the only time you are required to verify that number is if you were audited.

Even though the IRS has increased the number of audits, the chance of being audited is small. According to the IRS, in 2007 it increased audits on individuals by 7 percent. That was the highest number of audits on personal returns since 1998. However, the total number of returns audited in 2007 was approximately 1.3 million which is a fraction of the number of taxpayers.

I believe that the law is the law and the issue is not whether you will get caught, but how to comply with the law. The consequences of failing to report income can be substantial. Not only does it increase the risk of an audit but it can cost a substantial amount in interest and penalties.

Holding a garage sale is a taxable event and the taxpayer should report the income.

Although garage sales are not as popular as they used to be, one thing that has gained in popularity is the sale of merchandise on eBay. Individuals who sell on eBay also have to include profits on their tax returns.

The issue many people

struggle with when it comes to selling on eBay is whether you are a business. The tax consequences are different for the casual seller vs. a business. Unfortunately, there are no set rules that define the difference, but a couple of factors the IRS does consider are the amount of time spent selling and whether you advertise your products.

A business can deduct a variety of expenses such as internet cost and even a home office expense. The downside of being treated as a business is profits are generally taxed at ordinary income not at the more favorable capital gain rate that a casual seller would be able to use. In addition, because you are a business, your income would be subject to the self-employment tax in addition to the income tax.

The bottom line, whether you are selling at a garage sale or on eBay, is there are tax consequences.

The standard is not if the IRS will find out about the transaction, but rather what is the law.

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



PHOTO BY BROOKE BRENNAN

All dressed up and ready for the show, Miss Wayne County Ashlee Baracy (left) and Miss America Kirsten Haglund, at the Homecoming events over the weekend in Muskegon.

Local pageant women greet Miss America at homecoming

BY STACY JENKINS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It was "a once in a lifetime experience" for Ashlee Baracy to be on stage with the reigning Miss America.

Baracy, of Westland, who is Miss Wayne County, was part of the Miss America Homecoming event in Muskegon over the weekend to honor Miss America Kirsten Haglund, of Farmington Hills.

Performing a jazz dance number, Baracy was one of the performers at Friday's show at the Frauenthal Center for Performing Arts in Muskegon, the home of the Miss Michigan Scholarship Program, an affiliate of the Miss America Scholarship Program. The

show featured performances by the Top 10 Miss Michigan contestants and Top 10 Miss America contestants.

The highlight of the evening, for Baracy, was watching Haglund sing a duet with her brother, Lars, as they sang *The Prayer* while kids from the Children's Miracle Network watched from the stage.

"It was very emotional," said Baracy. "I'm just very excited to have been a part of the show — it was a once in a lifetime experience."

Haglund, 19, has been traveling since being crowned Miss America on Jan. 23 in Las Vegas.

"This was my first time seeing Kirsten since she won," said Baracy.

Miss Oakland County Samantha Steckloff attended the weekend festivities and said it was great to see her friend, Kirsten Haglund.

"I saw her on the red carpet," said Steckloff, of Farmington Hills. "She had a glow — she was so glad to be back, you could see it on her face."

Steckloff wasn't able to spend time with Haglund, but that's the way it goes these days for Miss America.

"I was able to get a hug, though!" said Steckloff.

The new Miss Michigan, Gina Valo of Ann Arbor, was crowned by former Miss Michigan Kirsten Haglund during the weekend festivities in Muskegon.

ACHIEVERS

Graduates of the fall 2007 term at Madonna University in Livonia included Westland residents

Whitney Balas, merchandising management, Richard Dearing, nursing, Kelli Gibbs, dietetics, Ashley Honkanen, nursing, Jessica Kelly, merchandising management, John Kenger, sport management, Young Kwon, case management certificate of achievement, Lindsey Litwinczuk, nursing, Meghan Oliver, professional technical writing, Bradley Poremba, business administration, and Kara Wisniewsk, biology.

Garden City graduates include Kathryn Bellows, social studies, Lisa Hay, human resources management, Joseph Murray, nursing, and Debora Wilamowski, English.

Garden City resident Kayla Robertson has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2006 semester at Lake Superior State University. Robertson had to achieve a 3.5 grade point average for the semester on a 4.0 scale.

Named to the Dean's List in recognition for superior academic achievement during the fall 2007 term at Madonna University in Livonia were Westland residents:

Miranda Acbu, Howard Ashford, Whitney Balas, Yola Barchini, Jacqueline Bonnett, Tiffany Borchardt,

Anthony Borowski, Carrie Boven, Kristen Boven, Andrea Burston, Corey Chase, Amanda Christensen, Shannon Clarke, Emily Coombs, Christopher Cosselmon, Darcy Dauphin, Richard Dearing, Elizabeth Dempsey, Lindsay Dixon, Elizabeth Fenner, Sandra Forslund, Nicole Gansley, Lorraine Getkin, Kelli Gibbs, Timothy Girard, alan Hagedon, Kimberly Hagelthorn, Christina Haley, Amy Handshaw, Chrisonia Hendrix.

Katherine High, Megan Hogue, Ashley Honkanen, Joseph Horka, Jacqueline Hubert, Shane Hughley, Nicholas Jentz, Matthew Kaczor, Lisa Kaluzny, Jill Luedtke Kapp, Kristin Kelley, Amanda Knight, Lauren Leese, Amy Lipan, Lindsey Litwinczuk, Monica Lowry, Edjola Merdani, Charles Meyers, Mariel Meyers, Amanda Morrill, Jill Nabozny, Kassandra Nedock, Meghan Oliver, Robert Oliver, Emil Pando, Jeong-Eun Park, Samantha Paul, Christopher Peplinski, Erica Progar, Jaclyn Puhlman, Tyrona Reed, Pamela Richmond.

Daniel Rickenback, Rund Rihani, Catherine Rivera, Ramana Roberson, Linda Rodriguez, Natalie Rodriguez, Summar Ronning, Brenda Rupp, Nicole Sebefsky, Sean Sciba, Lauren Seppanen, Megan

Sergeichik, Ryan Silsbee, Kristen Slade, Laura Smith, Oligens Sulo, Emilee Thren, Lyndsi Trafelet, Jessica Vaughan, Dwiti Ved, Hope Wade, Devan Walley, Jody White, Melissa Wilson, Luvenia Wright and Katherine Xuereb.

Garden City residents named to the Dean's list included Kathryn Bellows, Jennifer Carr, Paul Cundiff, Dana Domanski-Nielsen, Samantha Domingue, Kristen Forster, Danielle Gotsbaw, Richard Hammer, Lisa Hay, Clint LaFountaine, Marie Leirstein, Kellie Meyers, Joseph Murray, Ericka Oppican, Kevin Schwartz, Ashley Shay, Kelli Siwik, Cara Skiver, Candice Songalewski, Carrie Spears, Cassandra Spencer, Shelley Stanek, Nicholas Vorhoff, Deobra Wilamonowski and Amanda Williams.

Frances D. Ancona of Westland has been named to the Dean's List for the 2007 fall semester Newberry College. A junior, she had to achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale during the semester.

Thomas Reilly-King of Westland and a graduate of Livonia Franklin High School, has been named to the fall 2007 semester Dean's List at Michigan State University. He is majoring in English at MSU.

It's time for a little mom talk.



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I think I can: Conference for girls Saturday at Schoolcraft

BY JULIE BROWN
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you're a girl age 9-17, or a parent of such a daughter, a Saturday conference is for you. "Be the Girl You Wanna Be!" will be held this Saturday, March 8, at the VisTaTech Center of Schoolcraft College in Livonia. It will be held 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. for girls 9-17, moms, dads and professionals.

There will be a keynote speaker, two workshops, continental breakfast and lunch. Mistress of ceremonies is Fox 2's Fanchon Stinger. Keynote speaker is Gail Perry-Mason, first vice president of Investments, Oppenheimer & Co.

The conference is presented by Girls Matter, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that provides the annual conference for girls, their parents and professionals working with girls.

'I think there's something powerful in bringing that many girls together. It also reaches a lot of girls who otherwise wouldn't have an opportunity to come to something like this.'

KIMBER BISHOP-YANKE, co-chair

Kimber Bishop-Yanke of Birmingham is co-chair of the March 8 conference and president of Girls Empowered, an organization that provides program for girls on issues like self-esteem and communication. She's looking forward to the program.

"This is our eighth year," Bishop-Yanke said. "Last year, we had 900 parents, girls and professionals."

"I think there's something powerful in bringing that many girls together," she added. "It also reaches a lot of girls who otherwise wouldn't

have an opportunity to come to something like this."

The cost is \$25 for online registration, \$30 for walk-in per person. You can pay online with a credit card.

Girls will choose from a number of workshops, such as "Civilized Assertiveness," "How To Create the Life You Want" and "Managing Conflict."

"There's a leadership panel," Bishop-Yanke said, with women from different career tracks speaking to girls.

For parents, topics will include a session for fathers on daughters, along with "Turning Your Daughter Into a Solution-Seeker" and "Developing an Attitude of Gratitude."

"Basically it meets the mission of what I do," she said of the community outreach effort.

"We're expecting to get a record turnout again. It's just

a fun event for girls to learn about being themselves," Bishop-Yanke said.

To register online, go to www.girlsmatter.us. For questions, call (248) 593-9911.

In addition to her position as first vice president of

Investments at Oppenheimer & Co. Inc., keynote speaker Gail Perry-Mason is the founder of two financial programs for youth: Money Matters Financial Summer Camps and the financial literacy after-school programs in

Detroit Public Schools. She is a native Detroit and has written two books: *Money Matters for Families and Girls, Make Your Money Grow!* Schoolcraft College is on Haggerty between Six Mile and Seven Mile in Livonia.

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OUR VIEWS

Beard: Dedicated to district, county

It's hard to imagine a meeting of the Wayne County Commission without Kay Beard, but that is what happens today, following her announcement Tuesday that she is resigning due to health concerns.

Beard has been one of the few constants in Wayne County government. Popular with western Wayne County voters since she was first appointed to the commission in April 1978, Beard leaves 10 months shy of completing her 15th term.

She has devoted her time and talent to county government and is the longest serving county commissioner ever. During her tenure with the commission, she has served as its vice chair for terms and has represented the county in the Michigan Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties. She has held numerous positions with those two organizations, including serving on their respective boards of directors.

The Wayne County Commission has been a big part of Beard's life and her departure leaves big shoes to fill. We hope her fellow commissioners will keep in mind her ability to connect with residents when they select a new 12th District commissioner.

It would take more than two hands to count off the things Beard has been involved in over the years. On the short list is serving on the National Advisory Council for School-to-Work Opportunities and a variety of civic and community organizations, including the Senior Advisory Council of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan, United Way Community Services Board of Directors and

founding member of Hospices of Michigan.

Her efforts have not gone unnoticed. The Michigan Democratic Women's Caucus presented her with its highest honor, the Eleanor Roosevelt Award, and she also is a recipient of the Westland ATHENA Award. And in honor of her record of service and involvement, "D" building on the grounds of the Eloise complex is named the Kay Beard Building.

But Beard is best known for her involvement in her district. No event was too small for Beard, who was always on hand to acknowledge her constituents' successes. For most of her county career, she represented Westland, Garden City and Inkster where she's greeted by name by her constituents. She, in turn, always has a warm smile and kind words for those she speaks with.

The Wayne County Commission has been a big part of Beard's life and her departure leaves big shoes to fill. We hope her fellow commissioners will keep in mind her ability to connect with residents when they select a new 12th District commissioner.

We wish Kay Beard well in her retirement. While we know she is giving up her political life, we are sure she will remain involved in the communities that have come to know her as simply Kay.

Proposal A has actually helped more than hurt

Area homeowners should have received their 2008 residential property assessments by now, and are no doubt scratching their heads over the information.

How in the world, many are asking, can their property taxes increase when their property values are decreasing?

Before throngs of homeowners storm their town halls demanding to be heard by their local Board of Review, it is important to understand how property taxes are calculated.

Seems hard to believe, but it's a quirk of the state's tax system, which voters approved as Proposal A back in 1994. That system, which also altered our school funding system, set up a taxable value alongside an assessed value for every residential homestead property.

While assessments can continue to go up and down based around half of a home's market value, the taxable value can only increase 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. The idea was to cap property tax increases to a reasonable level from year to year, and thus keep people (especially senior citizens) from being forced out of their homes by exorbitant tax hikes in high-inflation areas. When a home sells, the two values reset back to the same level.

If you've been in your home several years, your taxable value — the part by which they multiply your tax rate to set your tax bill — is probably lower than your assessed value. Thus, the inflation rate of 2.3 percent is pushing your taxable value and taxes you pay up by about that much, despite losing real value on your home.

As hard as it is for many to accept, homeowners experiencing this phenomenon actually should be pleased. Without Proposal A, they would have paid much more in property taxes over the past 13 years than they are this year. And that's the real bottom line.



Geoff Brooks

3.6.08 OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

LETTERS

Health care is an issue

I'd like to comment regarding the current list of political issues facing our presidential candidates. Though there are many serious concerns, my number one issue this election year is health care.

Job loss? Yes, that's very important. Three in our immediate family have gone through that trial in the last four years. We feel for so many of our friends and neighbors trying to cope with serious financial difficulties.

But health care — that to me is the most basic of our human rights. When someone in your family is hurting, dealing with serious illness or facing rising medical bills, because they lack health care coverage or are inadequately covered, the worry can be devastating. Statistics even show that a patient's level of worry can negatively impact their ability to heal.

On a personal note, one of my daughters has suffered off and on this past year with gallbladder- and pancreas-related issues. Over seven-eight separate trips to the ER since May of 2007 for pain episodes, post surgery complications or pancreatic attacks. We love St. Joseph Mercy in Ypsi, her main source of treatment. The care is great, the staff professional, the new addition is state-of-the-art, but the ER ... wow. Our average wait to be seen after triage has never been less than six LONG hours! She has insurance, it doesn't cover everything, but at least they don't turn her away. We truly are grateful for that fact.

It is quite an eye-opening experience to sit for hours and hours with a room full of sick people, many in visual pain. Your mind has a lot of time to think things over. What is going to happen when the baby boomers face increased needs for medical care? Something needs to be done, and I believe it is possible. If other countries can provide health care and find a way to pay for it, why can't we?

I remind myself and my family, that there are others worse off and we pray for endurance to deal with what's before us. But, boy it's hard on a mom when one of her kids hurt and she can't make it go away (for good).

Even before my daughter got sick and had surgery, I donated time to a local group working to promote universal health care. Although my family had good insurance, made possible by my husband's UAW membership, I began to worry about what happens to our girls and other young people once they are off a parent's coverage.

The group is called the Michigan Coalition for Health Care Now! and by hosting events, we try to raise awareness and promote federal legislation, House Resolution 676 (HR676), introduced in Washington by Rep. John Conyers Jr.

A recent letter writer commented on having heard a local speaker talk about HR676, but the writer credited Congressman John Dingell as the author. While John Dingell supports universal health care and has been trying to get health care for all Americans

since his first year in office, HR676 was sponsored by Rep. John Conyers Jr.

I encourage others to visit www.healthcare-now.org to learn more about this issue. With different health care proposals on the table, the topic can be somewhat overwhelming. Just remember the slogan, "Everybody In, Nobody Out." Now that's something to give any mom piece of mind!

Cheryl Graunstadt
Westland

A person of character

Last Saturday night (Feb. 16) I attended the fourth annual Westland ATHENA Award Chocolate Fantasy Ball, a tradition in Westland that I look forward to each year. The attendees included local dignitaries, past winners, the hard-working Women of Westland, women from First Step, and nominees for the current year and their guests. And, of course, the press.

It was no surprise to see Sue Mason at the event. She covers it every year along with the hundreds of other events that an editor at the *Observer & Eccentric* needs to attend. Only this year was different. Sue was accompanied by her husband and her two children and was being honored as a nominee for the ATHENA Award.

Before the night was over, Sue Mason was chosen from a field of seven outstanding women in the community as the 2008 ATHENA Award recipient from Westland. Sue embodies all the characteristics of an ATHENA recipient. She has demonstrated excellence, creativity and initiative in her profession; she has contributed time and talent to help improve the quality of life for others; and she has assisted women in realizing their full leadership potential.

I have marveled at Sue's ability to cover events objectively and honestly, while living in the community that she must critique and assess. And did I mention she must always perform her craft quickly and efficiently to meet press deadlines? This alone would distinguish Sue as an outstanding example for young women eager to pursue a career in journalism.

But it is not what I must admire about her. Hands down, Sue's greatest quality is her character. When called to the podium to receive her award, she immediately asked her family to join her. She acknowledged how understanding they were of her commitment to her profession and her community. What was exceedingly apparent was her commitment to them as well. First and foremost, Sue is a proud mother and loving wife. With the help of her family, Sue is an outstanding example of a working woman who has achieved a healthy balance in her life — integrity in her profession, respect within her community, and love from her family.

Westland is a better place because of Sue Mason. She has enriched our city and she has touched so many of our

lives. As a lifelong educator, I cannot think of a better model for young students who want to achieve the rewards of leadership within a respected profession without giving up the quality of life one receives from family and friends. Thomas Edison once said "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

Thank you, Sue, for rolling up your sleeves and showing all of us the right way to gain those opportunities we all aspire to achieve!

Charlotte Sherman
deputy superintendent
Wayne-Westland Schools

Sad to see theater close

We read in the paper that our Westland Showcase theater on Wayne Road is closing its doors. That's a shame and a testimony to our culture and trend to stay home to see DVDs. As a senior citizen, it has been enjoyable to meet friends there for a matinee and see old classic movies (with a drink and popcorn free). But no more now. We can see them on DVD in the privacy of our own homes, but it was like dating again.

I went to the Emagine to see *Mr. Bean's Holiday* alone. The theater was empty and I had the choice of where I wanted to sit. I enjoyed the funny antics of Mr. Bean and it was "G." It has a good story and no vulgarity or sex. Just clean fun.

I remember taking our children to the drive-in theaters, too, while my husband worked the late shift. That, too, has gone the way of family viewing. I don't like the modern movies and the violence with vulgarity and sex that's offered to families. You can't find a "G" Disney either. Only the old ones.

I feel sorry for movie goers with families today. Life changes and not always for the better. Something has to go to make way for something else. Now Westland will have to fill another empty building.

Edna Venturino
Westland

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"We are so looking forward to curbside recycling in Westland. Before we go to the land of glory, we want to see it."

- Resident Mary Murphy about waiting for the city to start a workable curbside program

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

Granholt's latest budget again squanders a golden opportunity

The good news is that it doesn't look like we are going to have a knockdown, dragged-out, controversial fight over this year's state budget. But in a way, that's bad news, too.

I'll explain in a minute. But first of all — have you noticed a monotonous "hum" coming from Lansing? That sound is the Legislature chewing on the budget Gov. Jennifer Granholm sent it a few weeks ago. It covers the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

That's a ways off, true, but it would be nice for once not to have to put off finishing the budget until the last possible moment. Unlike the previous budgets the governor has sent to our divided Legislature, this one was greeted by mild approval. Most experts praised it for avoiding partisan conflict by being "rational" and "structurally sound."

What the Legislature's priorities are was best expressed by state Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee: "We like no new fees and no new taxes."

The total budget, including federal aid and non-discretionary spending, comes to \$44.8 billion. That's up about \$1.1 billion, or 2.5 percent, from last year. It relies on \$1.4 billion in increased tax revenue, the product of the new Michigan Business Tax and income tax hikes that were passed last year after months of fierce partisan warfare.

That's how much money the system will produce, in theory, anyway. (If there is a shortfall, look for more cuts to come.)

Budgets are much more than totting up expenses and income; they are statements of our government's priorities. Ideally, these should arise from an overall vision of the future. And, true enough, there are some things to like about Granholm's budget. But as a shaped and disciplined expression of a vision for Michigan's future, it falls sadly short.

Michiganers are increasingly realizing that much of our future depends on our willingness to invest in human capital, whether in our schools or our colleges and universities. The budget calls for increased spending on education, including a 3-percent increase in spending for higher education.

That's fine, as far as it goes. But Michigan has been leading the nation in the dismal and counterproductive exercise of cutting support for higher education. Even after the governor's proposed increases this year for our 15 public colleges and universities, we still are spending \$120 million less than we did in 2001, the year before she was elected.

Her fiscal 2009 budget proposes a \$50 million reduction in spending for state prisons, to be achieved by "reforms and efficiencies," though it isn't clear what those might be. Corrections spending has gobbled up ever-increasing slices of state spending.

This budget ought to focus our attention on

one of our tragic disconnects in priorities: We are spending more these days on putting felons in the slam than on educating young minds. Indeed, Michigan spends nearly 40 percent more on prisons than our neighboring states, even though our crime rate is just about the same. Isn't it time for a series of public hearings on corrections costs and results, complete with testimony from other states? I'd bet we have a lot to learn.

Most of us who understand this state also believe strongly in the distinctive competitive advantages Michigan has. We are, in fact, the country's "North Coast," a place of wondrous natural resources and a magnificent (and affordable) quality of life.

For the first time in years, Granholm's budget proposes to increase funding for the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality. That's OK, especially given that the DEQ is virtually out of money, but it's hardly the compelling or bold step we need to assure our future.

But perhaps the worst consequence of this "non-controversial" budget is that it puts off serious action on the kinds of far-reaching structural reforms that were proposed by the Emergency Financial Advisory Panel the governor convened more than a year ago. That panel included some of Michigan's most distinguished citizens, including two previous governors.

Their report was among the best of its kind. It pointed to a long-term financial crisis facing state and local government. It called for reforms in the tax system, but concluded that we should not just tax our way to responsible state spending. It urged structural reforms in the ways government is organized. That included changes in the fringe benefits of public employees, and suggested benchmarking what we spend — and what the state raises — against what happens in other states.

This report was disgracefully ignored while the governor and Legislature faced a budget crisis last fall. Serious reforms usually require a crisis to concentrate political will. We didn't have that will last year; in ducking the crisis then, our political leaders in Lansing missed a once-in-a-generation opportunity for big-time reform.

The EFAP's conclusions are still a valid recipe for financial survival: We need serious reforms in the ways we manage our state. Without these, we'll face a steady stream of enormous, long-term structural deficits.

Yet financial survival, important as it might be, is not enough. We still need a compelling common vision for Michigan's future that can shape and discipline the workings of our state. This year's budget may offer a few baby steps in the right direction. But we need to see a big picture.

And this budget doesn't even pretend to offer that.

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

Candidate finds little enthusiasm for campaign against McCotter

Tom Spencer is frustrated.

Despite an unpopular war, a crumbling economy and a national trend favoring Democrats, Spencer is finding it hard to get support for his campaign against incumbent Republican Thaddeus McCotter in the 11th Congressional District race.



Hugh Gallagher

Spencer, 55, a Methodist minister and veteran of 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, briefly suspended his campaign to resolve questions over his pension from the United Methodist Church. He recently restarted his campaign, but is finding little enthusiasm.

"I'm not sure how it's going," he said Tuesday. "The feeling I'm getting in the 11th District is that McCotter is so entrenched that people are not willing to provide the funding to fight him. Money is going to judges and county commission candidates."

He said he has been frustrated to read that Gary Peters has raised \$400,000 and Nancy Skinner \$300,000 in their campaigns to unseat 9th District Republican incumbent Joe Knollenberg. (Skinner recently withdrew from that race.)

"I'm at zero. It makes it tough. I don't know how long it will last," he said.

In November, Spencer was the first candidate to announce against McCotter. Former Novi City Manager Ed Kriewall, 66, announced his candidacy two weeks later. Spencer said he doesn't think there is a strong support building for Kriewall, either.

Kriewall is, however, more upbeat about his prospects.

"It's going well. I have my Web site up, I've been meeting with Democratic clubs in the area," he said Tuesday.

Spencer and Kriewall both entered the race because of their opposition to the war in Iraq. McCotter has been a supporter of the war in principle, though he has been critical of how the Bush administration handled the aftermath of the initial invasion.

"Everyone wants a change," Kriewall said. "It's good to make a change and I'm in tune with that."

Spencer said he has been "plugging along," going door-to-door for petition signatures, but getting little response. He said he doesn't even have a staff.

"At this point I should have a staff and more money than I have," he said.

Still, Spencer thinks McCotter is beatable, despite the district's history of voting Republican, especially with many conservatives unhappy about Sen. John McCain's nomination.

"I think a lot of Republicans will just stay home," he said.

Still, Spencer thinks McCotter is beatable, despite the district's history of voting Republican, especially with many conservatives unhappy about Sen. John McCain's nomination.

He said there is a strong feeling that McCotter "doesn't represent the people."

McCotter has been criticized for his aloof manner, his staunch conservative ideology, his strong support of the war, his vote against expanding the state Children's Health Insurance Plan and yet he has never been seriously challenged. He has "voted his district" on trade issues and auto industry issues. He has moved to a leadership position in the GOP House caucus and has national party support and frequent national media exposure.

The first time he ran, some pundits said he was running in a district that he helped carve for his benefit as a member of the Michigan Senate. It's a claim he vigorously denies.

Still, the demographics have certainly been good for him over three elections. The first election was the only time he faced a well-known public official, then Redford Township Supervisor Kevin Kelley. In the last two elections, he has faced political novices, union leader Phil Truran and radio talk show host Tony Trupiano.

Certainly if there is a year when McCotter might be vulnerable, this is it. So why so little enthusiasm in the Democratic Party for taking him on?

Kriewall mentioned that he finally has his Web site up and running, kriewall4congress.com. Spencer has had a Web site for a while, tom Spencer4congress.com. McCotter has both a campaign Web site and a congressional Web site, mccotter.house.gov and mccotterforcongress.com.

In the blogosphere, where apparently many people spend their time, two sites are devoted full time to "exposing" McCotter, madatthad.blogspot.com and mccottermonitor.blogspot.com. McCotter has his own blog site, repmccotter.blogspot.com.

It's a brand new world when it comes to politics, political discourse and even media coverage. Voters have an opportunity to surf the Web for every sort of fact and opinion on candidates. Project Vote Smart and the Washington Post both provide detailed accounts on how each member of Congress voted.

Check them out.

Hugh Gallagher is the managing editor of the Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by e-mail at hgallagher@hometownlife.com or by phone at (734) 953-2149.



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Thursday, March 6, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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

www.hometownlife.com

Grosse Pointe North stuns No. 1 Spartans in OT

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Stevenson's bid for a Division 1 hockey state title was derailed by an all-too-familiar opponent Saturday night at the St. Clair Shores Civic Arena. Grosse Pointe North, which ousted No. 1-ranked Livonia Churchill in last year's state quarterfinal, did it again to another top-rated team for the second consecutive year with a 2-1 overtime victory over the Spartans in the regional final. North, coached by former Stevenson assistant Scott

PREP HOCKEY
Lock, got the game-winning goal from Tim Tibaldo just 1:26 into the first OT to earn the win and catapult the Norsemen, a modest 15-10-2 overall, into Wednesday's quarterfinal matchup against Macomb Dakota at St. Clair Shores. Stevenson ends its season at 23-2-2 overall. "It was an up-and-down hockey game and we had definite chances to score," said Stevenson first-year coach

David Mitchell, whose team outshot North 30-24. "But it's the state playoffs, it's a tie game and things like that happen. "We had multiple chances, in fact, up close and out, but their goalie (Eric Rohrkemper) played well. Give him credit." The game-winning goal came off a scramble in front Spartans goaltender Pat McHugh, who made the initial save, but couldn't corral the rebound in front of a melee of players. Kevin Gibson and John Neveux earned assists on the goal. North tallied the game-win-

ner after fighting off a two-minute penalty to Neveux, who was called for roughing with only 48.2 seconds remaining in regulation. "We've been 0-4-2 in overtime this year and it's good finally to get an overtime win," Lock said. "Our penalty killing was pretty good tonight. Just before the last one (with 7:57 left in regulation) we blocked two shots, one to the head and another off the chest. We had guys sacrificing their bodies. "And our goaltender really played well. He's been pretty solid lately. He's seeing the puck

well and playing with a lot of confidence." Despite being outshot 14-4 in the opening period, North was able to walk into the dressing room after 15 minutes tied at 1-1. Defenseman Brandon Davenport's shot from the point, which hugged the ice, caromed off the inside post for a power-play goal just 1:36 into the game to give the Norseman a 1-0 lead. Mike Voran, who had 12 of Stevenson's 30 shots on goal, Please see **HOCKEY, B3**

Sidelines

Mitera saluted
University of Michigan junior defenseman Mark Mitera (Livonia) was named Central Collegiate Hockey Association Defensesman of the Week for the second time this season after tallying four assists with a plus-four rating in last weekend's series against Ferris State. In 36 games this season for the CCHA regular season champions, the assistant captain has one goal and 14 assists with a plus-24 rating for the 27-5-4 Wolverines.

Swimmer of Year
Livonia Stevenson's Brynn Marecki and Carla McNamara were recently honored by the Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association. Marecki, the 2007 Division 1 state champion in the 200-yard individual medley and 100 breaststroke, was named MISCA Swimmer of the Year for Zone 3. The senior is headed to the University of Buffalo. McNamara, a sophomore, was named MISCA Zone 3 Diver of the year after placing 10th in the 2007 state finals.

Inman All-WHAC
Madonna University's 6-foot-1 senior forward Caryn Inman, who is averaging 13.3 points and 7.9 rebounds per game, recently earned first-team All-Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference honors in women's basketball. Teammate Christie Carrico, a junior guard-forward, earned second-team honors, while freshman Tabatha Wydryck, who is averaging 10.5 points per game, took third-team honors. Also named to the WHAC's All-Newcomer team was Rebecca Ruffi.

Blazers iced, 3-2
On Saturday, host Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood edged Livonia Ladywood in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League playoffs, 3-2. Ladywood ends its season at 13-9-2 overall and 12-6 in the league. Anna Brown scored all three goals for the victorious Cranes. After a scoreless opening period, Ashley Ballarin scored for the Blazers on an assist from Heather Sartorius while Brown countered for Kingswood. In the third period, Julie Bushart tallied a goal from Maria Rotondo, while Brown scored twice for the Cranes, who advanced to play Grosse Pointe South. Ladywood netminder Michelle Wyniemi stopped 24 shots. The Blazers had a total of 23 shots.

2's company

Regional champ Blue off to 'state' with Red

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Blue gymnastics coach Lisa Fierk was all smiles Saturday following the Plymouth regional title conquest with a team-high 145.625 points. Also automatically qualifying for this weekend's state finals from the Plymouth regional are runner-up Canton (143.70), Northville (141.975) and Livonia Red (141.15), which earned the 13th and final team spot as an at-large. The state team finals return Friday to Plymouth High School, followed by the individual competition Saturday. Livonia Blue, the Western Lakes Activities Association champion, was led by Emily Quint and Meghan Powers, who finished second and third, respectively, in the all-around behind Livonia Red's Paula Guzik in Division 1. Meanwhile, Laura Nomura and Kelly Tapella bolstered Livonia Blue's effort in Division 2 with second- and fourth-place all-around finishes, respectively. "I'm so proud of the girls today," Fierk said. "They went all out and had a great time. Each gymnast did their best today and that's all I can ask for. This is the girls' highest score all season and they earned it. 'States' is on Friday and we're looking to have a great meet." Quint captured the floor exercise (9.625). She also added a second in vault (9.4), a third on balance beam (9.55); and a fifth on the uneven bars (9.075). Powers' best finish was runner-up on beam (9.625). She also took fifth on both vault (9.1) and floor exercise (9.425). "Emily really stepped up today," Fierk said. "She was last up on three events and

Please see **GYMNASTICS, B2**



Livonia Blue's Kelly Tapella was runner-up in the Division 2 uneven bars and fourth in the all-around during last Saturday's regional at Plymouth.

New era begins as Rockets hire Hardin as coach

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland John Glenn didn't have to veer far off the launching pad to find its newest Rocket. Glenn grad Tim Hardin, who served as a varsity assistant for 19 years and most recently as the Rockets' JV coach, was named varsity football coach last week to succeed Todd DeLuca, who was dismissed in December after four seasons. The 39-year-old Hardin was among six candidates interviewed for the job, according to the school's athletic director Brian Swinehart. "First and foremost, Tim has the character with a great set of values," the Glenn AD said. "He's a hard worker. He understands the tradition and knows where we need to get to as far as football." DeLuca, a former Glenn quarterback and longtime assistant under Chuck Gordon, posted a 17-20 record in four seasons, including a 5-4 mark in 2007. The Rockets made one playoff appearance (2004) during his stint as head coach. Hardin served three years as DeLuca's offensive coordinator (2004-06) and two seasons a co-offensive coordinator under Gordon. He coached the JV team to a 6-3 record in 2007 and plans to "bring a physical style to the table." "My philosophy and style are based on fundamental teaching values, developing skills and being good at what we do, not necessarily as far as innovation, but to be better as far as execution," Hardin added. "We have a storied tradition. I want to maintain the motto to continue the tradi-

Please see **HARDIN, B3**

Shaw reflects about rookie NFL season

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Livonia Clarenceville High School standout Tim Shaw recently completed his rookie season with the Carolina Panthers of the National Football League. The former Penn State linebacker and defensive end was used exclusively on special teams, where he finished with a total of 14 tackles, including 12 solo (three against Dallas). He practiced primarily as a reserve middle linebacker as the Panthers finished 7-9 and missed the playoffs. The fifth-round draft pick started the exhibition season wearing No. 49 (he was No. 20 at Penn State and No. 8 at Clarenceville), but switched to No. 97 during the regular season. Following the season, Shaw returned home and spent time with family and friends. He was a frequent front-row fan for Clarenceville boys basketball

Please see **SHAW, B2**



Christie Carrico (24) scored 30 points in Saturday's WHAC semifinal win at Davenport and 22 points in Tuesday night's 84-80 setback to host Aquinas College in the championship game.

Aquinas edges MU for WHAC crown

Giving it a gallant effort against a team with a far superior record, the Madonna University women's basketball team pushed host Aquinas College as far as possible in Tuesday night's Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference championship game before falling 84-80. The Crusaders (14-17) trailed just 42-41 at halftime against the Saints, and managed to hang around despite being outrebounded 39-31 and scoring just 28 points in the paint, while giving up 44. Hot shooting from outside the 3-point arc helped MU stay close. The Crusaders connected on 10-of-21 3-point tries (Aquinas hit just 7-of-23), with junior forward Christie Carrico nailing 3-of-4 attempts. Carrico finished with 22 points and eight rebounds, followed by freshman forward Tabatha Wydryck's 17 points. Also in double figures were two seniors in their Madonna swan song: forward Caryn Inman (13 points) and guard Cali Crawford (10 points). Junior forward Alyssa Guerin (Plymouth Salem) chipped in with 10 points. For Aquinas (25-7, 9-5), Alicia McCarthy and Joslyn Narber scored 22 and 20 points, respectively. Adding 15 was Carrie Abdo. **MU upsets Davenport** Despite a sub-.500 record, the Crusaders earned a crack at the WHAC playoff title thanks to Carrico's game-high 30 points in a stunning 67-64 triumph Saturday over host Davenport, the WHAC regular season co-champion, at Duncan Lake Middle School in Caledonia. Carrico played all 40 minutes in the victory and got help from first-team all-WHAC senior forward Inman, who finished with 13 points and 13 rebounds for MU (14-16). Lauhna Waybrant came off the bench to score eight points and grab five rebounds for the Crusaders, who held a 37-29 half-time lead. Kallie Benike led Davenport (27-5) with 20 points and 11 rebounds. Jeanette Woodberry finished with 10 points, while Sara Haverdink scored 11 off the bench.



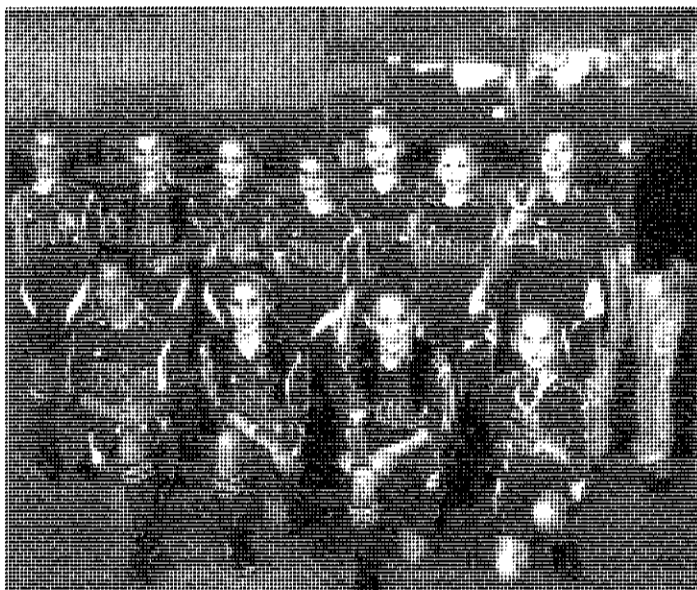
Put up your dukers

Westland's Dynamic Boxing Club captured two of three bouts on a sanctioned boxing card held Feb. 2 that was hosted by the Unity Boxing Club of Pontiac. Ryan Chavis (front row, center) made his amateur debut with a crowd-pleasing, second-round TKO over Ismael Delgado of Unity. Dynamic teammate Dustin Brewer (front row, far right) also won by decision over Renald Monzo of Unity in an action-packed bout. Meanwhile, main event fighter Paul Soucy (front row, far left) lost a decision to Mike Richer of host Unity. The two have met three times with Soucy winning the first time. Also pictured are Dynamic coaches Spencer Chavis (back row, left) and Roger Coon (back row, right). Dynamic will sent a team to the third annual Arnold USA Boxing Invitational Championships in Columbus, Ohio.



Romping Rams

The Horny Rams adult co-ed soccer team, comprised mostly of men and women from Redford and Livonia, won their division title Oct. 20 with a 10-1 win over the Flaming Chickens at High Velocity Sports in Canton. With the win, the Horny Rams finished 8-0-0, outscoring opponents by a whopping 80-22. Team members are (back row, from left): Roger Sacks, Livonia; Jim Michael, Livonia; Chris Jackett, Redford; Pablo Benavidez, Livonia; Pat Lamar, Livonia and Bryan Stephens, Redford. In the front row are (from left): Stacie Perkins, Livonia; Jen Perkins, Livonia; Karen Jackett, Redford; and Stefanie Stephens, Redford. Not pictured are Redford's Dan Cline, Melanie LaDuke, Dan Sporer and Kelly Yancho of Monroe.



Indoor champ

The under-9 Livonia Meteors posted a 7-2 indoor soccer record to place first during the Winter Session at High Velocity Sports in Canton. Members of the Meteors include (back row, from left): Diane Senkowski, Laura Hall, Alyssa Benvenuti, Brianna Rogers, Elizabeth Rubenson, Hannah Damico, Katilyn Pence; (front row, from left) Courtney Knoeri, Madison Mirabitur, Sylvia Cervantes and Gabriele Lochrie.

Spartan baseball clinics

The Livonia Stevenson baseball program will stage a pair of clinics for grades 3-6 including a session for young pitchers from 10 a.m. to noon, along with a hitting and fielding session, 1-3 p.m., both on Saturday, March 8, at the high school fieldhouse.

Enrollment for the young pitchers clinic is limited to 40, while the hitting and fielding is limited to 60. The cost is \$40 for each clinic session.

For more information, call Stevenson head coach Rick Berryman at (734) 455-8623; or e-mail him at Berry3724@aol.com.

C'ville spring tryouts

Livonia Clarenceville High School has set its spring 2008 athletic tryout dates for the following sports all on Monday, March 10:

Boys baseball - 3:15 p.m. at the gymnasium (contact Dan Miller at dmiller@clarenceville.k12.mi.us; boys track and field - 2:45 p.m. at the gymnasium (contact Dean Bergeron at dbergeron@clarenceville.k12.mi.us; girls track and field - 2:45 p.m. at the gymnasium (contact Brady Gustafson at bgustafson@clarenceville.k12.mi.us; girls softball - 5 p.m. at the gymnasium (contact Joe DeCaire at kmurphy@clarenceville.k12.mi.us; girls soccer - 2:45 p.m. at the gymnasium (contact Trevor Johnson at tjohnson@clarenceville.k12.mi.us; girls tennis - 2:45 p.m. at Bicentennial Park (contact John Kanyo at ljanyo@earthlink.net).

All athletes must have a valid physical on file (conducted after April 15, 2007) in order to try out.

For more information, call the Clarenceville athletic office at (248) 919-0480, Ext. 217.

Devon-Aire softball

The Devon-Aire Softball League will stage registration from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 6, at the McKinley Elementary School lobby, 9191 Hillcrest (located north of Joy between Henry Road and Merriman roads).

Registration is for Junior Boys League (ages 7-12), Junior Girls league (7-12) and Seniors Coed League (13-18). Ages must be as of June 1, 2008. (Bring a birth certificate if new to the league).

The cost is \$40 for the first child (\$35 for each additional child in the same family).

For more information, call Tom or Becky Wood at (734) 427-3095.

On July 26 at Devon-Aire Park, the league will mark its 50th anniversary with its all-star game and picnic. Former managers and coaches, along with any players, are urged to be a part of the special celebration.

For more information, e-mail mistergraphics@yahoo.com; or call Tony Perez at (734) 890-1586.

CYO football sign-up

Registration for fall 2008 Catholic Youth Organization football (grades 4-8) will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 18 at the St. Michael's Grade School gym, located at 114-41 Hubbard (between Merriman and Farmington roads just south of Plymouth Road).

Registration is open to members of the following parishes or schools: St. Michael, St. Maurice, St. Genevieve, St. Aidan, St. Damian, St. Robert Bellarmine, St. Sabina, St. Thomas A'Becket, Divine Savior, St. Theodore, St. Bernadine and St. John Bosco.

For more information, call John Widmer at (248) 471-6767, Ext. 11; or e-mail jwidmer@frohnmwidmer.com.

LBSA registration

The Livonia Baseball and Softball Association will stage 2008 summer baseball registration from 10 a.m. until noon Saturday, March 29 and April 5 at the Livonia Civic Center Library.

Eligible players must reside in the Livonia or Clarenceville school districts.

The cost is \$160. Two separate divisions will be offered including high school age (15-16) and high school/collegiate (17-19).

Within each division two levels of competitive play will be formed including a highly competitive select division for those players currently playing on their respective high school or collegiate baseball team; and a non-select division for youths currently not playing for their respective high school or collegiate baseball team.

Rosters are limited, so register early. Coaches are also wanted for both divisions.

Registration forms are available at the sign-up.

For more information, call George Coram at (248) 478-5071 or Curt Kreutzfeld at (734) 522-5413.

the new LBSA Web Site, www.livoniabsa.com, will be available shortly.

LJAL needs umpires

The Livonia Junior Athletic League needs experience and non-experienced umpires for the upcoming baseball and softball season.

Games begin Monday, April 28 and run through mid-July.

The LJAL will also stage a mandatory umpires clinic from 9 a.m. until noon Saturday, March 8 at Frost Middle School.

Those interested should contact Dave Carlson at eaglesball@sbcglobal.net; or Bill Rowlett at lj_al_basball@yahoo.com.

HOCKEY

FROM PAGE B1

countered at the 6:04 mark of the same period when he ripped a slap shot just outside the blue line that eluded Rohrkemper. Mark Bekkala assisted on the play to make it 1-1.

"The first period, they (Stevenson) came at us hard and it carried over from an emotional game (a 4-1 pre-regional win Thursday over Churchill) the other night," Lock said. "They're a good team and when you give them chances, they know how to score."

"But we just kept rolling four lines and by the third period I think conditioning took over because they (Stevenson) were just using two lines and two sets of defensemen. I could see them struggling in the third period getting on and off the

ice on line changes."

The Spartans, meanwhile, could not solve the North net-minder the rest of the night, hitting two posts and being robbed on a Voran breakaway with 7:04 remaining.

Stevenson also had a pair of third-period power-play chances, including one late and into the OT, but couldn't convert.

"We just wanted to get the puck on the net," Mitchell said of his overtime strategy. "We tried a couple of things to get pressure on their end, but we really did not get set up at all."

Despite the loss, Mitchell could not fault his team's effort this season.

"Even though it didn't end the way we wanted, it was a dream season for our program and looking back it was a heck of a year for us," he said. "All these guys were all special to me, each in their own way."

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HARDIN

FROM PAGE B1

tion. But I don't just want to continue it, I want to improve upon it."

Hardin said he has formed a coaching staff which will be announced on Friday.

"I've met with the players and laid a foundation as far as where we want to go as a team," he said. "I'll try assemble a quality coaching staff. We'll have 17 guys from top-to-bottom, seven or eight on the varsity staff."

Hardin played offensive guard on Glenn's first playoff team (1985), which finished 9-0 during the regular season.

Following graduation from high school in 1986, Hardin spent two years at Eastern Michigan University before enlisting in the Army where he logged three years (1989-91).

During his military stint, Hardin served in Desert Storm in an artillery unit

based out of Oklahoma. During the conflict, he was stationed in Saudi Arabia and participated ground invasion both in northern Kuwait and western Iraq.

He returned home to complete his studies at EMU with a degree in English literature and began his career in the Wayne-Westland Schools in 1998 where he currently teaches history at Glenn.

Hardin and his wife of 10 years, Traci, have two daughters, Abby, 7, and Ally, 3.

Practice, meanwhile, starts in 159 days and Glenn opens its 2008 season against Waterford Mott.

"We're a little behind right now, so we're trying to get things organized as far as fund-raisers, off-season workouts, our liftathon and our middle school orientation night," said Hardin, who spent two hours Tuesday night meeting with the John Glenn Football Boosters.

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PREP WRESTLING

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING FINALS AREA 1ST-ROUND PAIRINGS March 6 at Palace of Auburn Hills DIVISION 1

285 pounds: Adam Love, Sr., Garden City (40-5) vs. Jared Cowan, Sr., Davison (36-8).
103: Anthony Pavlich, Soph., Westland John Glenn (48-3) vs. Zack Worthing, Sr., Utica Ford (37-12); Waleed Faraj, Soph., Canton (35-17) vs. Gary Cicotte, Soph., L'Anse Creuse North (50-4).
112: Jarek Plekniek, Sr., Livonia Franklin (48-8) vs. Cody Robins, Soph., Davison (41-7); Justin Flesoon, Sr., Belleville (44-2) vs. Devin Boria, Soph., Millford (40-12); Michael Fobar, Sr., Livonia Stevenson (34-17) vs. Terrance Frank, Sr., Grand Blanc (47-7).
125: Jeremiah Austin, Sr., John Glenn (50-1) vs. Michael Dibble, Jr., Rochester Hills Stoney Creek (44-13); Donnie Watkins, Soph., Canton (40-9) vs. Tyler Bunting, Jr., Rochester Adams (39-15).
130: Jared Stephens, Jr., John Glenn (43-7) vs. Alex Popp, Jr., Clarkston (38-3); Kevin Hayter, Sr., Salem (38-8) vs. Josh Heuldsworth, Soph., Holly (54-2).

135: Andrew Murray, Sr., Livonia Churchill (29-9) vs. John Houseman, Sr., Grand Haven (33-0).
140: Brent Winekoff, Soph., Canton (46-4) vs. Richard Newbill, Sr., Utica Ford (36-21); J.P. Gaffke, Sr., Churchill (33-10) vs. Robert Nash, Jr., Roseville (46-7).
145: Steve Cook, Sr., Belleville (33-3) vs. Evan King, Soph., Clarkston (32-25); Raz Markosian, Jr., Stevenson (38-14) vs. Jeremy Bommarito, Sr., Hartland (55-2).
160: Jeremy Epley, Sr., Salem (41-4) vs. Mike Wranosky, Jr., Macomb Dakota (29-8); Ziad Kharbush, Sr., Stevenson (43-2) vs. Fadi Moosa, Sr., Sterling Heights (48-9).
171: Rodger Kropp, Sr., Canton (35-18) vs. Kyle Summerfield, Jr., Hartland (35-7); Dan Woodall, Sr., Franklin (54-2) vs. Max McGoldrick, Sr., Holly (43-10).
189: Emanuel Onwumene, Sr., Stevenson (31-1) vs. Seth Holt, Sr., Grand Haven (44-1).
215: Dan Wanshon, Sr., Canton (38-12) vs. Jarrett Lintz, Sr., L'Anse Creuse (54-2).
DIVISION 4
152: Stephen Kemp, Jr., Lutheran High Westland (47-3) vs. Casey Rickli, Sr., Martin (46-18).

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AAA ACCELERATING U.

Glenn's O'Hara ousted in D-1 semifinal match

Westland John Glenn's Justin O'Hara and Livonia Clarenceville's Jason Bertera were the area's only two match-play qualifiers during last Saturday's MHSAA boys bowling finals.

O'Hara, a senior, reached the semifinals in Division 1 singles tournament at Norway Lanes before being eliminated by eventual state champion Joel Klaas of Port Huron Northern, 248-194, 230-224.

In the quarterfinals, O'Hara downed John Cardoso of Portage Center, 211-2067, 279-246, and Seth Bouwman of Hudsonville in the round of 16, 203-200, 223-177.

In the qualifying block, O'Hara took seventh with a total of 1,352 on games of 203-

PREP BOWLING

244-214-188-258-246.

Wayne Memorial's Cory Harden finished 30th in qualifying and missed the cut with a 1,222. He finished his six-game set with games of 246-168-214-201-235-158.

Bertera, a sophomore, was fifth in the qualifying block at the Division 2 finals at Sunnybrook Lanes in Sterling Heights and reached the quarterfinals in match play before losing to state runner-up Burton Juengel of Almont, 248-176, 211-192. (Juengel fell to Gordie Stene, Jr. of Belding in the finals, 224-210, 237-214.)

In the round of 16, Bertera ousted Travis Valentine of Mason,

236-189, 246-162. Bertera had a total of 1,348 on scores of 258-213-221-213-216-227 in the six-game qualifying block.

Clarenceville teammate Cody Kissandi was 27th in qualifying with a total of 1,207 on games of 191-170-202-266-180-198.

In the Division 2 singles at Sunnybrook, Clarenceville's two qualifiers Sara Brown and

Danielle Maples, placed 24th and 44th, respectively.

Brown rolled a six-game set of 1,106 on scores of 184-166-171-212-214-159, while Maples finished with a 1,034 on scores of 183-173-166-187-152-173.

Livonia Ladywood's Jessica Stamper finished 52nd overall with a 971 on games of 174-133-157-156-185-166.



Soccer champs

The Livonia Meteors Blue under-14 boys soccer team recently captured first place in the Bronze Division of the Capital Area Soccer Tournament. Members of the Meteors Blue include (front row, from left): Vincent Allen, John Lynch, Austin Henson, Bastian Busch, Derek Ralls; (middle row, from left) Joe Hage, Brian Baumgartner, Cameron Freisen, Sam Tracey, Andrew Mira, Allen Woodruff; (back row, from left) coach Brad Ralls, Nick Atwood, Matthew Szuba, Bryan Bartig, Connor Ehr, Jeremy Kozler and coach Craig Hearn.

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Wings vs. Blackhawks
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Wings vs. Stars
Thursday, March 13, 7:30 pm
Ladies night and \$1 soft pretzels for all fans.

Wings vs. Predators
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Show spurs thoughts



Rainbow roses will be arranged by J Schwanke during seminars at the Home & Garden Show.

of flowers and gardens

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK STAFF WRITER

MICHIGAN HOME & GARDEN SHOW

When: March 7-9
Where: Ford Field
Hours: Noon to 9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.
Admission: \$9; \$4 for children 6-14; children 5 and under admitted free.
More details: Saturday, March 8 is Family Day where children 6-14 are admitted free from 10 a.m. to noon and special activities are available all day.
For information: visit www.FordFieldHomeShow.com or call (800) 328-6550.

Think flowers. Think landscaping. Think color. Homeowners can get ideas for the spring, summer and beyond at the Michigan Home & Garden Show, March 7-9 at Ford Field. Gardeners can learn about plant care and garden maintenance at more than 20 free educational garden specific programs by Janet Macunovich, Nancy Szerlag, Jeff Ball and the staff of PracticalGardening.com. J Schwanke will demonstrate imaginative and creative flower designs for home and entertaining using rainbow roses. Over 15 landscaped flowering garden displays, perfect for any home, will feature the use of lighting, brick walkways, retaining walls and patios. Water features will be in abundance, from reflecting ponds and fountains to waterfalls. **OUTDOOR ROOMS UNFOLD** Michael Southgate, senior landscape designer with English Gardens, expects homeowners will look at creating patio spaces as "outdoor rooms" in time for the warm



Water features will be in abundance at the Home & Garden Show, from reflecting ponds and fountains to waterfalls.

weather months, using shows like the Home & Garden Show as a reference point. "When it comes to furniture, you see more lounges, benches, chaise lounges and small

Please see **GARDENS, D3**

Luciano Del Signore had a big truck built to help with his catering business out of Bacco Ristorante in Southfield. The truck features commercial refrigeration and induction burners.



Going mobile

Restaurateur's new truck caters to customers

Luciano Del Signore thought his Bacco Ristorante was too small for catering, so he expanded it last fall to include Bacco Saletta, a private dining facility. Still, that wasn't enough. Del Signore wanted more flexibility and a personal touch for himself, while catering meals at customers' homes. So he decided to build a catering truck. A big catering truck. He ordered a truck from Mercedes Benz, then had ABS Refrigeration in Detroit work on it after he developed a design. "It took six months to build it," Del Signore said. Today Del Signore has a mobile on-site catering service, a "kitchen on wheels" in his new 20-foot-long Mercedes Benz truck, complete with work tables, assembly space, a commercially refrigerated section and climate-controlled areas. Del Signore said about 48 square feet of area is dedicated to refrigeration. Another 8 by 6 foot area devoted to kitchen operations includes four double induction burners, warming units and countertop space. The burners allow for sauce preparation, critical to any Italian pasta dish. The truck can cater

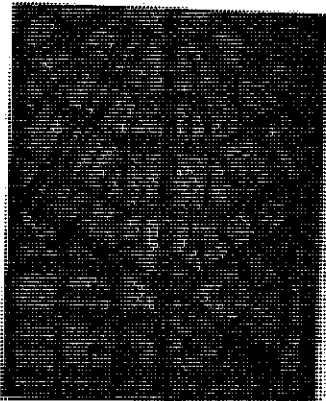
any size soiree, from a dinner party of 12 at a home, to 200-300 in a larger facility. Black is the color symbolic of Bacco, so the truck was ordered in black. Bacco means the god of wine, Del Signore said. "With the catering we were doing, you need different ingredients," Del Signore said. "In July and August, you can't just ice (food) down. That refrigeration unit will allow foods to arrive in perfect condition. We get the product in perfect condition and we want it to arrive at the home in perfect condition. That's because of the commercial refrigeration." "We also do retail wine sales. If it has to be delivered at 55 degrees, (the truck) does it." Bacco catering is able to accommodate smaller, intimate meals to large parties of up to 500 people. "We do everything from casual barbecues to elaborate, large-scale parties complete with flowers and decorations. We can prepare signature eight-course Italian dinners with matching wines," Del Signore said. Bacco Ristorante is located at 29410 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield. For information, call (248) 356-6600.

-Ken Abramczyk



This customized Mercedes Benz truck is a 'kitchen on wheels' for Bacco Ristorante in Southfield. The truck features commercial refrigeration and induction burners.

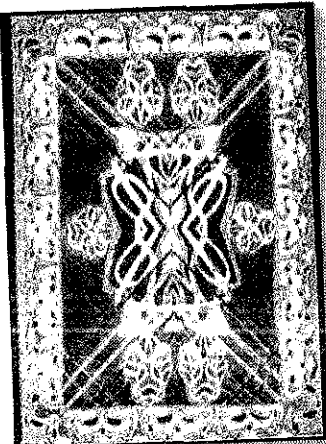
Accents



CCS Senior Lauren Moyer's first place rug design.

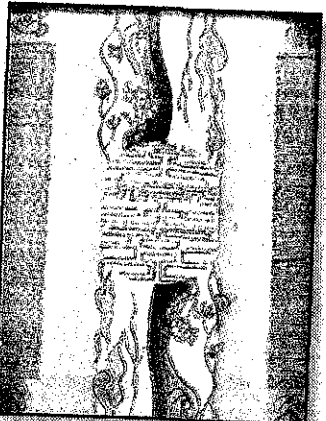
HAGOPIAN ANNOUNCES RUG CONTEST WINNERS

Hagopian World of Rugs recently staged its 19th annual Student Rug Design Competition with Detroit's College for Creative Studies. The competition provides an opportunity for students to earn scholarship money and see their work translated into a finished textile. This year's judges were John Wohl, TVI Designs, Birmingham; Shirley



Second place in the Hagopian rug contest went to Virginia Peckenpaugh for this design.

Maddalena Edson, Maddalena Design, Birmingham; John Amato, Interior Design, Huntington Woods; Patti Kommel, Homework Interiors, Birmingham; Suzanne Hagopian, Exec. VP., Hagopian World of Rugs; and Edgar Hagopian, Chairman, Hagopian Family of Companies.



CCS Senior Anh (Nicole) Phan's third place rug design.

Senior Lauren Moyer took both first place and honorable mention with her designs inspired respectively by the City of Detroit and autumn colors. Second place was awarded to Freshman Virginia Peckenpaugh for her design inspired by Persian rugs. Third place was awarded to Senior Anh (Nicole) Phan for her design called "Trail of Earth."



Moyer took honorable mention for this design as well.

HOME CALENDAR

Art Van Seminars

Steve Piersall and Michael Kirby of Huntington House will share how to update a single room or entire house with the latest colors, styles and fabrics, 6 p.m. March 11 at the Warren store; and 6 p.m. March 12 in Royal Oak. Amelia Ellenstein, Art Van Furniture's Director of Visual Merchandising, will share trend information and design solutions for the season at 6 p.m. March 13 at the Novi store; and 6 p.m. March 27 in Westland. Refreshments will be served, and The Kids Castle will offer a free, supervised play area. Call (888) 619-2199 for a free reservation or visit www.artvan.com.

Cranbrook Seeks Docents

Historic Cranbrook House seeks docents to conduct tours of the 1908 home. Choose eight-week training sessions Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings beginning March 4. Separate sessions will be held for Garden docents only. The tour season runs from May through October. Cranbrook House and Gardens Auxiliary also welcomes vol-



Amelia Ellenstein

unteers for estate gardening, greenhouse management, the Wildflower Rescue Program and Gatehouse admissions center. Call (248) 645-3149.

GARDEN CALENDAR

If you have an item for the garden calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Wendy Von Buskirk at wvob@hometownlife.com.

Vendors Sought

Vendors who sell fruits, vegetables, flowers, plants, herbs, organic produce, honey, maple syrup, candles, soaps and other natural products are being sought for this year's Southfield Farmers' Market, open 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursdays June 5- late October outside the Millennium Centre, 15600 J.L. Hudson Drive. Call (248) 796-5196 to apply.

Floral Photography

Paul Colombo will present a program on floral photography at The Metropolitan Rose Society's next meeting, 7:15 p.m. March 7 at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center, 3500 Marais. Free. (248) 689-9529.

Garden Design Course

Waterford School District Continuing Education will offer the 3-week course Garden Design Made Simple, 7-9 p.m. March 6, 13 & 20 at Waterford Kettering High School. Layer your garden as if you were accessorizing your home to design a personalized extension of your living space. \$125. (248) 682-1088. www.waterford.k12.mi.us.

Passion for Spring

Spring will be in full bloom through March 31 in the Conservatory at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. In the lobby, visitors can view displays created by Runciman Landscapes and receive a coupon for 10 free tulip bulbs from Downtown Home & Garden. Open Daily, except Mondays, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., \$3 suggested admission, free for MBGNA members.

Tropical Breezes

Tropical Breezes is the theme for the annual Flower Show Competition to be held within the Michigan Home and Garden Show at Ford Field in Detroit March 7-9. The Livonia Garden Club is one of 43 Michigan garden clubs participating in the competition. Admission to the show is \$9, adults; \$4 children 6-14; free, 5 and under, 1-800-328-6550. www.FordFieldHomeShow.com.

Cranbrook Greenhouse Sale

Cranbrook Greenhouse, 380 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, will host a sale

of indoor plants 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, March 8. Find begonias, peace lilies, sanseveria, Boston ferns, orchids, cacti, succulents and more. Sales help support the facility. (248) 645-3149. www.cranbrook.edu/homegardens.

Monster Plants

The Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society will host Monsters, Crests and other Bizarre & Ugly Plants! at 1:30 p.m. March 9 in the Commons Room of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Free. (248) 790-9089.

Hostas 101

The Royal Oak Garden Club will present Hostas 101 at 7 p.m. March 10 at the Royal Oak Public Library. A Royal Oak gardener who has turned his backyard into a successful nursery business will explain how to propagate and cultivate hostas. Free. (313) 861-6579.

Orchid Show

The Michigan Orchid Society will host its 54th Annual Palm Sunday Show March 15-16. Formerly at Laurel Park Place in Livonia, the show will move to the MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy. Programs for beginner, intermediate and casual growers of orchids; 30 vendors selling orchids, supplies and related items. Free. Hours, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Visit www.miorchids.com.

Designing with Plants

The St. Clair County Master Gardener Association will present Designing with Great Plants, 9 a.m. March 15 at Cornerstone Church, 4025 North Road, Clyde (just outside Port Huron). Noted author and lecturer Tracy DiSabato-Aust, will sign copies of her books, and three instructors from the Michigan School of Gardening will also speak. Tickets, \$70 by March 1, \$80 after March 1 and at the door. Include lunch and Garden Bazaar. (810) 367-6667.

Winter Moths

The Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association will present Winter Moths at 7 p.m., March 19, at Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland, S3. A field trip to Cherry Hill Preserve to look for moths will follow. Dress for the weather. (734) 326-0578. www.sembutterfly.org.

Don't be confused about digital TV conversion

Question: I've heard that Congress plans to pull the plug on analog television broadcasts starting in February, 2009. Will I have to buy a new TV?

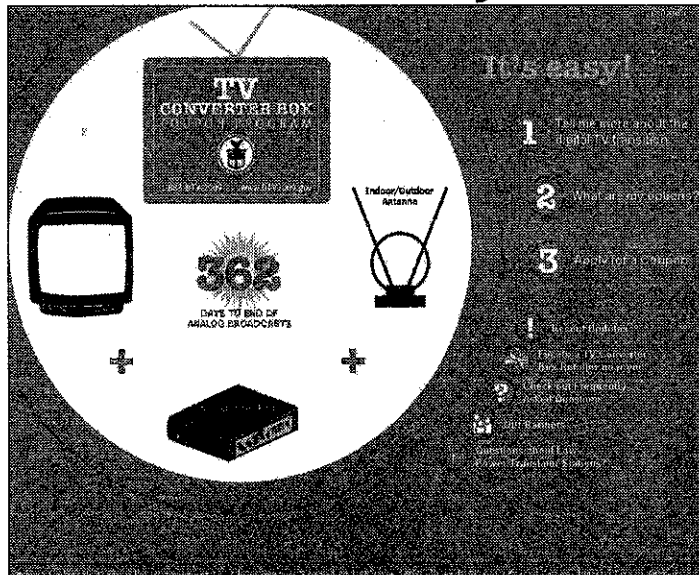
Answer: This subject confuses the heck out of most people, but there's good news: It probably won't affect you in the slightest. If you're a cable or satellite subscriber, you're all set: The signal coming into your TV is already in a digital format. (The exception is if you have basic cable without a set-top box, but even then you should be fine.)

If you have an HDTV and use an antenna to receive digital channels, you're all set: Your TV already has the necessary digital tuner. However, if you have an older TV and use an antenna to receive programming, you'll need to take action. Two choices: buy a special digital tuner box or buy a new TV (one that has the tuner built in).

If you decide to go the box route, you can get a \$40 coupon from our very own government, enough to cover some or all of the cost. The boxes run between \$40-70; CircuitCity sells one for \$60, while Wal-Mart gets you out the door for around \$50.

Need two boxes? You can apply for up to two coupons. Learn more at the TV Converter Box Coupon Program Web site (dtv2009.gov).

WIRELESS PRINTING
Question: I'm sick of all the wires on my desk. How can I eliminate some?
Answer: If you're in the market for a new printer, check out the Brother HL-2170w (brother-usa.com). This monochrome laser printer connects to your Wi-Fi network for wireless printing, meaning you can stick it just about anywhere: a corner, a closet, or even another room. Though extremely compact,



The government-sponsored TV Converter Box Coupon Program Web site (dtv2009.org) lets you apply for a \$40 digital-tuner coupon and answers questions about the upcoming digital-TV switch.

that does good work?

Answer: Head to Google Maps (maps.google.com), click Find Businesses, and type "computer repair" in the first field and your ZIP code in the second.

You should see a number of listings; click the "more info" link next to any of them for contact information, directions, and so on.

Now it's time to pick up the phone and call around. As with auto repair, you should insist on a written estimate and complete description of the work that needs to be done.

If possible, make sure you have a current backup of your data before delivering your PC to a repair shop. And be prepared for a bit of sticker shock: You'll probably pay a minimum of \$50 for basic repairs and upwards of several hundred dollars for more extensive work.

Thanks to reader Sharon McGladdery of Farmington Hills for this question.

Rick Broida writes about computers and technology for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Broida, of Commerce Township, is the co-author of numerous books, including How to Do Everything with Your Palm Powered Device, Sixth Edition. He welcomes questions sent to rick.broida@gmail.com.

it's a very quick printer, capable of spitting out pages at a rate of 23 per minute. It's compatible with Windows and Mac systems and has a list price of \$149.99 — though it's currently on sale at Best Buy for \$99.99. I've been really pleased with my demo unit.

Want to print in color? Try the Lexmark Z1480 (lexmark.com), a wireless inkjet. It retails for around \$70, though you can probably find a better deal online.

COMPUTER REPAIRS

Question: My computer needs repairs. How can I find a local shop

Viewpoints change with time on front load washers

I received e-mail from Joel, which starts out, "We were told by a friend that you would not recommend front load washing machines." And so, because of this note from someone who may not read this column or listen to my weekend radio talk show I go back to my original thinking on front load washers, which I have been repeating for the past 10 years.

You can't say that I don't recommend them because we have a newer model of the Maytag Neptune front loader in our very own basement laundry room. My darling Valorie seems to get along with it with only the occasional comment on its performance. So after a year and half of

twice a week operation it hasn't suffered any type of breakdown. It still looks brand-new and all the fancy lights still shine like a spaceship. Suits Val just fine.

Some 10 years ago I wrote my first column on this washer subject and gave readers the viewpoint of an old appliance repairman. Let me reiterate some of those thoughts. The front loader was jammed onto the consumer by an industry working with our government energy department that wanted to reduce water consumption and save on energy costs. This washer certainly does all of that.

With that said, I can still not believe that this front loader can wash clothes as well as a top loader. How can you wash your dirty hands in a teacup of water, it just won't do the job. But then again, as I argue within my own mind, the clothes washed may not be dirty enough to argue the point. This train of thought has not done much in changing the habits

of American consumers. Front load washers have been sold by the millions.

The most irritating part of washer sales today is the huge increase in price. It's no problem for those who can afford it, but what about the average guy who has just gone through a severe pay cut. A young couple just getting started in life may very well not be in the market for a front load washer and so I continue with my negative impulses. Buy a top loader for a lot less money!

The top loader is going to wash your clothes and in my way of thinking, do a better job. It may last as long or longer than a fancy front loader and cost a lot less for repairs when that time may surely come.

But, if money is no object and you are concerned about water and energy consumption, go for the front loader.

Now for the last issue on front loaders that it seems everyone across America knows about — the mold. It was a big prob-

lem for millions of homeowners when the first models were made back around 10 years ago.

This created a class action lawsuit, which more or less settled the issue. The problem no longer exists, even though I still hear complaints about odors every once in a while. Whirlpool sells a tablet to take care of odors or you can order a product on the Internet from smellywasher.com.

I trust that you can now shop for a washer and whatever you purchase, front or top, I wish you long life and dependability. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can be heard on Talk Radio WAAM 1600 at 8 a.m. Saturdays. He is a board member of Spectrum Human Services and the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals (SOCAP). His phone number is (734) 971-1600, Ext. 28. Do you have a question about an appliance or a problem you have with an appliance? E-mail your question to wvob@hometownlife.com and it will be forwarded to Joe Gagnon.

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I haven't traveled since a November trip to London (and it was too cold, so that doesn't count, I've justified), so I'm scouring for deals for a March getaway.

My first choice was a quick trip to Vegas. The only flight under \$400 that I found was a 7 a.m. departure with a long layover in Phoenix that would've resulted in an 11-hour flight. Forget it.

For \$989, on American Airlines I found a seven-hour flight to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic and that includes seven days hotel, food, drinks and non-motorized water sports at the Tropical Alisios Bavaro Club All-Inclusive. This was a March 11 through March 18 trip.

I've stayed at the Bavaro Club hotels in Punta Cana with no complaints. Food is authentic, local musicians entertained us at night and the beaches are some of the best in the world. Punta Cana's waters are emerald green and calm. The sands are white and soft and this eastern tip of Dominican Republic, where coconut groves are abundant, is known for its constant, soft breeze.

Find Dominican Republic deals on Travelocity.com. Be willing to leave mid-week for lower rates.

In Punta Cana, beaches are the highlights. (Golfers like it too, but I never set foot on a course). As on all islands, tours are available to hike the forests, swim the rivers and see historical sites. But, if you want more action, and still a great beach, try the other side of the island at Juan Dolio beach just outside Santo Domingo.

I found a seven-day trip leaving on March 25 that included it all: air, hotel, transfers, all meals, all drinks and snorkeling (\$1,206 through Expedia.com). The hotel is Barcelo Talanquera Beach Resort All-Inclusive. It's a clean, efficient resort. You can relax all day by the ocean and then take a 40-minute cab ride into the city for shopping, jumping nightclubs with live music and merengue, and a great art scene.

Or how about this — A week's vacation in the hap-

piest country in the world: Denmark.

Studies repeatedly reveal the people of Denmark are the happiest on Earth.

A flight on Thursday, March 13, plus seven nights at the Clarion Hotel in Copenhagen, is \$1,191 through Travelocity.com.

The study, through the University of Leicester, compiled data from 178 countries and found Denmark is happiest. Zimbabwe and Burundi are the most unhappy. USA didn't rank very well, we're toward the bottom at 131.

We'll talk more about happiness and satisfaction in an upcoming column. Until then, let me know if you find hot deals to get us through winter. Happy travels.

Contact Lana Mini at imini@hometownlife.com.

STEFEK'S
Coming Soon!
Stefek's, Ltd., Auctioneers & Appraisers of Antiques and Fine Art, is currently seeking consignments for their new auction house opening early 2008 in Grosse Pointe Farms. The following are just some of the items Stefek's is interested in:
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Chef cooks at home, garden show

Heart healthy and locally grown produce will be spotlighted in the salad creations at the Michigan Home & Garden Show at Ford Field, March 7-9, prepared by Chef Angus Campbell of the Secchia Institute for Culinary Education at the Grand Rapids Community College.

Campbell's guidelines will satisfy showgoers' need for healthier food and provide a low carbon footprint with food grown closer to markets.

Local sourcing is important to reduce the distance food travels as represented by "locavore," the 2007 word of the year by The New Oxford America Dictionary. Locavores try to build more locally based, self-reliant food economies to enhance economic, environmental and social health.

Free recipe cards will be handed out at each presentation.

Campbell was a senior lecturer at the Glasgow College of Food Technology and department chair of Food and Beverage Management at the Bahamas Hotel Training College. Campbell, also host of the PBS television show, "Cooking with Angus," has led students on international culinary study tours to over 20 countries on six continents, and co-wrote "Modern Garden Manger," a bestselling textbook on the culinary arts and 2007 IACP Technical Reference Category Award Winner.

Cooking stage presentations are scheduled Friday and Saturday at 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. with an additional morning show Saturday at 11:30 a.m.; and on Sunday at noon, 2 and 4 p.m.

CAESAR SALAD WITH SHRIMP

- 1 garlic clove* (or 1 teaspoon finely chopped garlic)
- Pinch kosher salt
- Black pepper, freshly ground, to taste
- 1 anchovy fillet, crushed with a fork (optional)
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- 3 drops Worcestershire sauce
- 1 coddled egg* (or 1 pasteurized egg yolk)

- 6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 4 tablespoons Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, freshly grated
- 1/2 cup bread croutons, crisp
- 1 head romaine lettuce, torn
- 24 medium shrimp, cooked and peeled

Combine the chopped garlic with the anchovy, lemon juice and Worcestershire sauce, and whisk briskly until combined.

Whisk in the desired type of egg, and add the olive oil gradually to form a thickened dressing.

Season with the salt and fresh ground pepper.

Add half the cheese, and combine well.

Toss the croutons in half the dressing

Add the lettuce and the remaining dressing, and toss well.

Separate onto plates and top with the remaining cheese and the cooked shrimp.

**Coddling an egg is done by pouring boiling water over the egg, and allowing it to stand in the water for 1 minute. This causes the yolk of the egg to slightly thicken and warms it for the salad.*

**Garlic cloves can be used to rub the interior of the wooden salad bowl that is being used for Caesar salad. This gives the entire salad a fragrance of garlic rather than a salad having a strong garlic taste.*

CALIFORNIA TOWER SALAD

- 1/2 cup garlic, roasted
- 1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper, fresh ground
- 1 tablespoon shallots, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon chive, finely chopped
- 4 slices daikon radish (or English cucumber), sliced long and thin
- 1/2 head romaine lettuce
- 1/2 head curly endive lettuce
- 1/2 head radicchio
- 1/2 head iceberg lettuce
- 2 grilled chicken breasts, cut in strips
- 1/2 cup almonds, toasted

Puree the garlic, along with the vinegar, in a food processor. Add the oil slowly to create a dressing.

Season with salt and freshly

ground black pepper, and add the finely chopped shallots and chive.

Wash the lettuce well, and dry thoroughly.

Lay the long slices of daikon together in a long strip, around three inches wide.

Arrange a few large leaves of romaine lettuce in a row on top of the daikon to form part of the structure for wrapping.

Place pieces of the other lettuces in the center of the romaine, being sure to fill its full length.

Place the chicken lengthwise on the romaine, and sprinkle with almonds.

Drizzle the dressing over the open salad.

Roll up the entire salad, using the structure of the romaine and the binding of the daikon to secure the tower. (Use toothpick if necessary).

Trim the bottom of the salad flat so it will stand up on its own (like a tower).

Stand or lay the bundle on the plate, and drizzle more of the dressing and chive.

FESTIVE FLAMING SPINACH SALAD

- 1 1/2 pounds spinach, rinsed and stemmed
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 6 ounces bacon, diced
- 1/2 pound onions, chopped
- 1/2 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/2 lemon, juiced
- 1 tablespoon prepared mustard
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 dashes Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 cup assorted olives
- 1/2 cup assorted spiced peppers
- 1 ounce ouzo

Dry spinach leaves and place in flameproof bowl.

Cook bacon in large sauté pan with oil until partially crisp.

Add onion to drippings in pan and cook until transparent. Add vinegar, lemon juice, mustard, sugar and Worcestershire, and blend well.

Add olives and spiced peppers, and blend well. Move ingredients to back of pan.

Add ouzo to front of pan, and carefully tilt pan towards flame to ignite the ouzo.

Quickly pour over spinach and toss lightly.

Divide salad between 4 plates, and serve.

GARDENS

FROM PAGE D1

tables, like coffee tables, for the outdoors," Southgate said. "It's casual entertaining, where you can sit down and relax."

The Michigan Garden Clubs, members of the National Garden Clubs, will present "Tropical Breezes." Over 150 creative displays, floral arrangements and designs in youth, horticulture and educational entries and exhibits are part of the 2008 Standard Flower Show.

The Flower Show is a juried competition. Entries will showcase creative usages of flowers in different and unusual artistic design interpretations including one themed "Voodoo Magic" staged in an 8-by-8-inch box; a buffet table setting named "Island Luau" and a designer choice award class called "Rain Forest." Other displays will be created in black lighted boxes, as miniatures, and on pedestals. The competition

also includes a broad range of educational exhibits from the National Garden Clubs' Blue Star Memorial Highway program to "What is a Rain Garden." The display will show how a garden can be designed to absorb storm water runoff from roofs and parking lots using perennial native plants.

SAGE ADVICE GROWS

Nationally renowned yard and garden expert Jeff Ball, garden columnist Nancy Szerlag, Janet Macunovich, co-founder of the Michigan School of Gardening and Practical Gardening Institute; and the staff from PracticalGardening.com will teach seminars with practical advice and instruction for planning, designing and growing gardens at the Garden Stage.

The show will be glowing with colorful displays.

SuperiorScape of Shelby Township will create the featured entrance garden filled with trees and spring flowers, new styles, textures, shapes and colors of brick

pavers, enhanced outdoor living spaces and pergola wood structures. TYME Landscape of Livonia highlights outdoor retreats using brick pavers, fireplaces and pergolas.

Other landscaped flowering garden displays, perfect for any home, will feature the use of landscape lighting, brick walkways, retaining walls and patios. Water features will be in abundance, from reflecting ponds and fountains to waterfalls.

Southgate expects to get a few new customers this year.

"Typically the people at this show may not go to a retail store," Southgate said. "The show is fairly successful in reaching and meeting those customers. I like the show, because I'm a people person and I can talk to them about their landscaping."

Visit www.FordFieldHomeShow.com for show information including complete schedule of gardening seminars, floral arrangement demonstrations and cooking stage times, downtown restaurant specials and ticket sales, etc.

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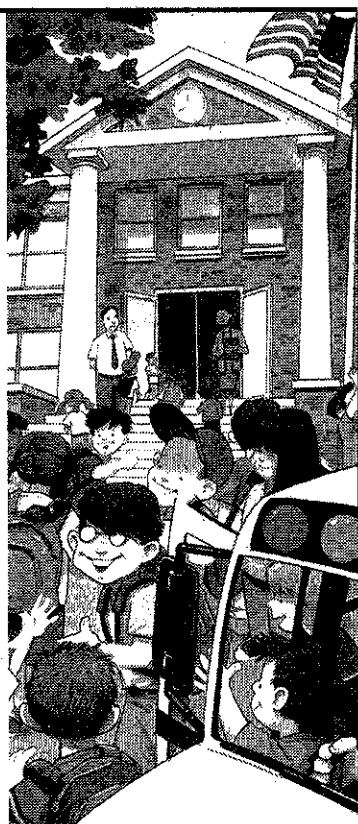
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pink

Metro Detroit women break bread for Gleaners

BY WENSY VON BUSKIRK
O&E STAFF WRITER

If breakfast is the most important meal of the day, the Gleaners Annual Women's Power Breakfast is the most important social event of the season.

That's according to longtime event supporter Mary Lou Zieve.

"I think without doubt this is one of major networking occasions in this city each year," said Zieve, of Bloomfield Hills.

This year's breakfast, set for 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 12 at the Detroit Institute of Arts, features Fox-2 anchor Sherry Margolis as emcee and Vicki Escarra, president and CEO of America's Second Harvest, as keynote speaker.

Honorary Co-Chairs include Governor Jennifer Granholm, Detroit's First Lady Carlita Kilpatrick, and Debbie Dingell, Vice Chairman of the General Motors Foundation.

Guests include Metro Detroit's top corporate, professional and civic women leaders.

"We get businesswomen. We get senators. We get local muck-a-mucks," Zieve said. "It has become a happening. It's



Rosenfeld

GLEANERS WOMEN'S POWER BREAKFAST

What: The 15th annual event raises awareness and funds to help feed local children, seniors and families.

When: Wednesday, March 12; networking begins with coffee and tea at 7:30 a.m.; breakfast served at 8 a.m.

Where: Detroit Institute of Arts
Tickets: \$100-\$1,000, with all proceeds benefiting Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan

Information: Call (313) 923-3535 ext. 260, or visit www.gcfb.org

usually sold out."

The Women's Power Breakfast was launched by Bloomfield Hills resident Dulcie Rosenfeld 15 years ago as a way to raise awareness and funds for the Gleaners Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

Rosenfeld had plenty of experience supporting causes and serving on non-profit boards, including the Detroit Historical Commission and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. At the time, she also helped organize the Detroit Institute of Arts' Under the Stars event.

"I came up with the idea for the power breakfast because men used to meet in New York and Detroit early in the morning to do business deals," she said. "Evidently breakfast is a good time to do that in the

business world."

Rosenfeld and her friends mined their Rolodexes and invited women of influence to The Detroit Club for the first breakfast. The event was a resounding success.

"I know about raising money from women from my involvement in Jewish community organizations," Rosenfeld said. "Women are a most powerful force because children learn not from what we say but what we do. Women hold up half the world. It's our responsibility to be a good example."

The Power Breakfast has been staged at different venues, including the Gem, Fox and Max M. Fisher theatres, as well as The Reserve in Birmingham. This year's event will give guests a glimpse of the newly-renovated DIA.

"The reason for having it in the morning is you have women who have to be somewhere," Rosenfeld said. "They can be out of there in time for their 9:30 meetings."

The morning starts with tea and coffee, and includes a light meal, but Rosenfeld insists the food itself isn't important.

"Guests are not paying \$100 for their oatmeal, they're paying it for Gleaners," she said.

Primary patron sponsorship from General Motors ensures that ticket sales directly benefit the food bank.

Founded in 1977, Gleaners works with more than 400 social service partners to distribute over 25 million pounds of food each year to the hungry. Children make up 51 percent of the people Gleaners feeds.

After 15 years of pouring her heart and soul into the Women's Power Breakfast, Rosenfeld is passing the baton to other organizers.

But she encourages everyone to continue their support of Gleaners.

"This is a cause I'm very passionate about," Rosenfeld said. "There's no reason a child should go hungry in this country."

pink picks

Wear It!

Gray — it's the new black

DON'T Wear It!

A ponytail to a fancy affair, unless you doll it up with hair jewelry

Face It!

Benefit Cosmetics Thrroob

See It!

Be Kind Rewind

DVD It!

The Darjeeling Limited

Hear It!

St. Vincent

TVO It!

Oprah's Big Give

Accessorize It!

Ed Hardy Vintage Tattoo Eyewear, new at Oakland Optometry in Rochester Hills

Eat It!

Irish Soda Bread and Hot Cross Buns special this month at Panera

Drink It!

Pineapple Stoli Dolis at Big Rock Chophouse in Birmingham

Try It!

Sudatonic Body Wraps at The New You in Utica (www.thenewyoubodywraps.com)

Click It!

www.ShopforMuseums.com — choose a local museum partner to benefit from your purchases

Malls & Mainstreets

If you have a news item for Malls & Mainstreets, please submit it to Wensy Von Buskirk at wvond@hometownlife.com. Calendar listings must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Locals Featured in Ski Ad

BIRMINGHAM — Don Thomas

Sporthaus, a premier retailer of ski and snowboard equipment and apparel, recently named Meshelle Melone of Warren and Nikki Sorgi of Shelby Township as Grand Prize Winners in the "New Face of Don Thomas" contest. As part of the company's grand opening/relocation celebration, Sorgi, 8, and Melone, 29, were selected from more than 50 applicants that donned Don Thomas apparel and posed for the camera at the shop this past fall. Ads featuring the young women are being shown through March at the Birmingham Palladium and Uptown 8 Theatre. Both are avid skiers.



Nikki Sorgi



Meshelle Melone

Visit Don Thomas Sporhaus on the Web at www.skis.com or call (248) 220-1999.

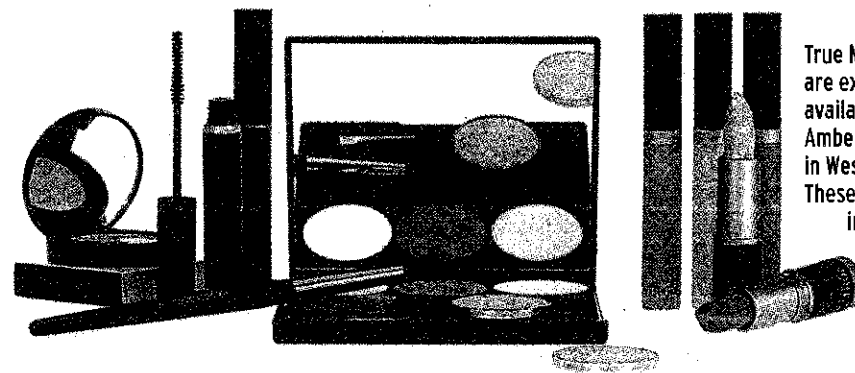
Astute Artistry Opens

LIVONIA — Makeup artist, national trainer and sales distributor Lisa Glickoff celebrated the grand opening of her newly renovated Livonia studio Astute Artistry with a party on March 1. Astute Artistry is a makeup training studio and boutique, where customers can shop, have their makeup done and take lessons or master classes in cosmetics application. Astute Artistry also incorporates a non-profit service where women with cancer, alopecia, visual impairment or disabilities can come in twice a year for free makeup lessons and discounts. Astute Artistry is located at 33033 Seven Mile Road. Call (248) 219-6286.

Want It! Trend Event

TROY — Saks Fifth Avenue and the Troy Chamber of Commerce Women's Business Forum will host a Want It! Trend Event on Thursday, March 13 in the Armani Collezioni On Two at Saks Fifth Avenue, Somerset Collection, Troy. Celebrate the season's fashion must-haves, and the newest looks in beauty from Chanel with a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception at 5 p.m., and a Want It! presentation at 6 p.m. \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door, includes a \$25 SFA Gift Card. Reservations required. Call (248) 641-8151 or e-mail TheTeam@TroyChamber.com by Monday, March 10.

Save face during winter 'doll'drums



True Mineral cosmetics are exclusively available at Blue Amber Medical Spa in West Bloomfield. These easy-to-use, interchangeable shades for lips and eyes, and powders for coverage, include anti-aging properties.

WEATHER THE WINTER CHILL

"The thermostat is turned up to keep winter's chill away, but the same heat that keeps you toasty dries out the air and, with it, your skin," said Marzena Hawkins, owner of Birmingham's Avalon Salon and Spa. She shared her top tips to weathering the coldest time of year.

Combat dry skin: "Facial skin is the thinnest of all, so it requires special care on a monthly basis," said Hawkins. She suggests moisturizing more frequently. Those with normal or oily skin can opt for a lotion, while those with drier skin should use a cream. She also recommends scheduling a Replenishing or Tourmaline facial.

Block out the sun: "Although you are usually bundled up from head-to-toe in the winter, it is important to use a sunscreen on areas of your body that are still exposed — your face being the most important," Hawkins said. "Choose a moisturizing sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor of at least 15. Also be sure to wear a lip balm containing sunscreen."

Rethink your regimen: If you use products like Retin A or Renova, be sure to use a high SPF sunscreen, Hawkins said, as your skin will be more sensitive to UV rays. And take care to exfoliate dry skin. Hawkins suggests a Caribbean Therapy Body Scrub.

Hands and Feet: Take special care to moisturize the thin skin on hands, which is prone to drying, and exfoliate dead skin from feet to keep them soft and supple. Spa manicures and pedicures will do just the trick.

Winter winds can wreak havoc on anyone's skin — no one knows that better than Dr. John Sosa, owner of West Bloomfield's Blue Amber Medical Spa and his staff. The cozy clean environment offers an array of services and products meant to seek out and treat skin damage and to ward off the effects of aging.

I stopped in last week to experience the Visia machine myself — with three close-up photos it mapped out areas of sun damage, broken blood vessels and, yes, wrinkles. It even replicates the potential aging process over the next five years.

Spa Director Laura LoCricchio noted that based on a person's skin type and results, a customized program can be crafted. The options range from photo-rejuvenation to laser skin resurfacing, microdermabrasion to laser hair removal. LoCricchio and Dawn Martin, both experienced medical aestheticians, named sun protection as the single most important aspect of skin care — in winter and any month of the year.

"Make it an important part of your morning routine," said LoCricchio. "(People) think 'if I'm not out in the sun, I'm fine.' But that's not the case.

"The sun is more intense and more reflective in snow," Martin added. Once the sun does its damage, the experts suggest microdermabra-

tion or a chemical peel, depending on skin type. Clients typically start seeking out such treatments around the age of 35 — when those new lines and spots begin to show up. Sosa said treating earlier can make a difference in maintaining a youthful, healthy appearance as you age.

To that end, Blue Amber is also an exclusive seller of True Mineral Cosmetics. The new line of powders, eye and lip colors is infused with anti-aging components called idebenone, and offers a sun protection factor of 17. That, combined with environmental protection in the form of antioxidants, Sosa said, "brings something more to protection."

He recommends always wearing sunscreen with at least an SPF of 30. Look for those with zinc and titanium oxide, Martin noted, which are better able to block out both forms of UV rays. And don't discount the importance of protective clothing like hats and sunglasses.

All the services offered at Blue Amber are non- or minimally-invasive. From Botox injections to Light Sheer hair removal to Intense Pulsed Light skin treatments that take about five days to heal, Sosa is always on hand. And all of the equipment is state-of-the-art, Martin said. For more, visit www.blueambermedical.com.

Stephanie Angefyn Casola happily obsesses over eye creams and sunscreen all year long. She writes Dollface each month covering fashion and beauty for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and can be reached at (248) 901-2567 or scasola@hometownlife.com.



Doll face

Stephanie Casola

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