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THURSDAY
March 13, 2008

WESTLAND Observer

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District investigates possible bond request

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Wayne-Westland school officials will begin researching the possibility of a bond proposal for next year after getting the go-ahead from the school board Monday evening to do due diligence.

The board resolution opens the door for Superintendent Greg Baracy to work with the district's architect, bond coun-

sel, construction manager, technology designer and financial adviser in preparing an application to submit to the state Department of the Treasury.

"The district is in the position of having a window of opportunity to replace a small part of the bonded debt and restructuring the 1998 bonds," Baracy told the board. "This resolution would let us continue to conduct further inquiries and

do due diligence. We could then come back with a proposal for replacement of the 1998 bond and the amount that fell off."

In question is .34 mill which will drop off this year as the amount needed to pay off the \$108 million bond decreases. The bond will be paid off by 2020, however, by refinancing that bond for a longer period of time and replacing the .34 mill, the district could issue a \$50 million bond at "almost no cost

to citizens," Baracy said.

According to Baracy, the impetus for the request comes from parents who have asked if the district can do more improvements at their schools. He added that air conditioning has been parents' No. 1 request.

"Many of our schools were built in the 1950s when air conditioning wasn't a priority," he said. "Air conditioning and parking are two issues we hear a lot about. Back then they didn't

make parking lots for 400 cars."

Baracy added that initially a citizens committee had recommended \$250 million in projects, which was pared down to the \$108 million bond request.

"Significant things were eliminated and air conditioning was one of them," he said. "That was 10 years ago."

"I remember being on the bond committee, we looked at the needs and found them overwhelming," said board

President Skip Monit. "There were real basic things we needed to deal with, we couldn't go for the extras."

Baracy said it will take a year to prepare a bond proposal and the request will depend on residents.

"If we're going to do anything, we're going to have to do it ourselves," he said. "The state will not fund these kinds of capital projects. They have to be funded by the district."



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Deputy City Clerk Nancy Bonaparte, who rose from the position of clerical worker to become the city's last appointed clerk, plans to retire Friday. "I wouldn't hesitate to do it all again," she said.

Bonaparte ends career on quiet note

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Nancy Bonaparte could never have predicted a career path that would lead her from a clerical job into the political spotlight as Westland's last appointed city clerk, before a public revolt that was no fault of hers made the job an elected position.

By all accounts, she handled her roller coaster ride with class, skill and a penchant for getting the job done despite seemingly impossible odds.

Bonaparte graciously stepped aside as the Westland City Council's appointed clerk in January 2004 after holding the job for two years. She accepted the second-ranking deputy clerk's job after local voters for the first time elected their own clerk, Eileen DeHart.

Bonaparte will retire as deputy clerk Friday, three days after celebrating her 60th birthday. She worked just over 11 years for the city, but she saw unprecedented upheaval in the clerk's office.

"I wouldn't hesitate to do it all again," she said Monday, reflecting on her career.

Bonaparte, a Canton resident, had worked as a United Auto Workers legal services office manager before she was hired as a clerical worker in Westland's finance department in January 1997. She became the council's secretary and then was chosen as deputy clerk in early 2000 by then-Clerk Joann Seaberg.

Seaberg and Bonaparte were suddenly thrust into their jobs after four council members in January 2000 fired City Clerk Patricia Gibbons, unleashing a public uproar that prompted voters to recall Councilmen David Cox and David James. Two other council members, Charles "Trav" Griffin and Sharon Scott, resigned.

HARD TIMES

Bonaparte, who knew and respected people on both sides of the turmoil, remembered how the controversy shocked the clerk's office and ripped apart the city.

"It was quite a trauma. It was heart-breaking, to a degree," she said.

While working to calm the clerk's office, Seaberg and Bonaparte also had to steer a record number of elections,

including the recall vote.

"There was a lot of missed time with family and a lot of work on holidays and weekends," Bonaparte said. "It was a difficult time, but the staff really came through. That's one of the outstanding things about this department. It's a team effort."

Bonaparte became the appointed clerk after Seaberg retired. But she rejected any thoughts of trying to become the city's first elected clerk after voters approved a ballot measure making the job an elected position. Her husband Charles, a retired Detroit Diesel engineer, was waging his successful battle against cancer, and Bonaparte said she couldn't just pull up roots, move to Westland and wage a political campaign.

"It would have been too much," she said.

But she certainly has local ties. She has a mother and a daughter who live in town, and she's more knowledgeable about Westland than she is of her hometown of Canton. She smiles as she readily admits that Westland gets a greater

Please see **BONAPARTE, A2**

Workshop helps residents deal with foreclosures

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Amid a mortgage meltdown that has forced hundreds of Westland residents from their foreclosed homes, city leaders have announced a seminar aimed at protecting others from a similar fate.

Mayor William Wild plans to host the seminar, "Keeping Your Home: A Workshop for Westland Residents," from 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, at the city's Friendship Center, on Newburgh south of Ford.

The seminar will follow Wild's pledge in January to form a task force to help educate homeown-

ers who may be on the brink of losing their houses. Some residents surviving the foreclosure crisis have told city leaders horror stories of once-proud families who simply walked away from their homes.

City officials hope to do whatever they can to avoid a deepening crisis that has not only swept through Westland but, indeed, the entire nation.

"It is imperative that our residents who are facing foreclosure have access to resources that may help them retain their homes," Wild said in a prepared statement. "Even if a homeowner is

Please see **WORKSHOP, B2**

Seminars educate vets on benefits

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

They may have fought in different wars and served in various branches of the military, but all veterans may be entitled to certain benefits and not even realize it.

A new veterans group and two Lansing legislators hope to change that.

The Westland Veterans Association, state Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland, and state Sen. Glenn Anderson, D-Westland, will sponsor a pair of informational seminars in April for area veterans, not just those from the sponsors' hometown.

"Our goal is to provide an avenue for veterans to learn what they're entitled to and the various types of benefits they can apply for," said Vietnam veteran Kenneth Mehl, who chairs the Westland Veterans Association. "We have reason to believe that a lot of veterans don't know what's entitled to them or what benefits may be available to them."

The sessions will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 19, at the Harris-Kehrer VFW Post 3323 on Wayne Road south of Cherry Hill, and at 1:30 p.m. on the same day at

the Stanley Romanowski VFW Post 6896 on Joy Road east of Middlebelt.

Seating will be limited. To sign up, call Mehl at (734) 261-5955, Tony Wager at (734) 637-7992 or Joe Tebor at (734) 377-8329. Veterans expect large crowds at both seminars.

"Other cities have sponsored these seminars and the seating has been full," Mehl said.

The Westland Veterans Association became an offshoot of a group that worked on bringing The Moving Wall — a smaller version of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. — to the Westland Summer Festival in 2006.

The group hopes to educate veterans about benefits they may receive.

"This might sound morbid, but some people don't know that every veteran (and spouse) can apply to be buried in a national cemetery," Mehl said, "and we have one in Holly."

If the April 19 seminars prove successful, he said, it's possible another one may be scheduled in the fall.

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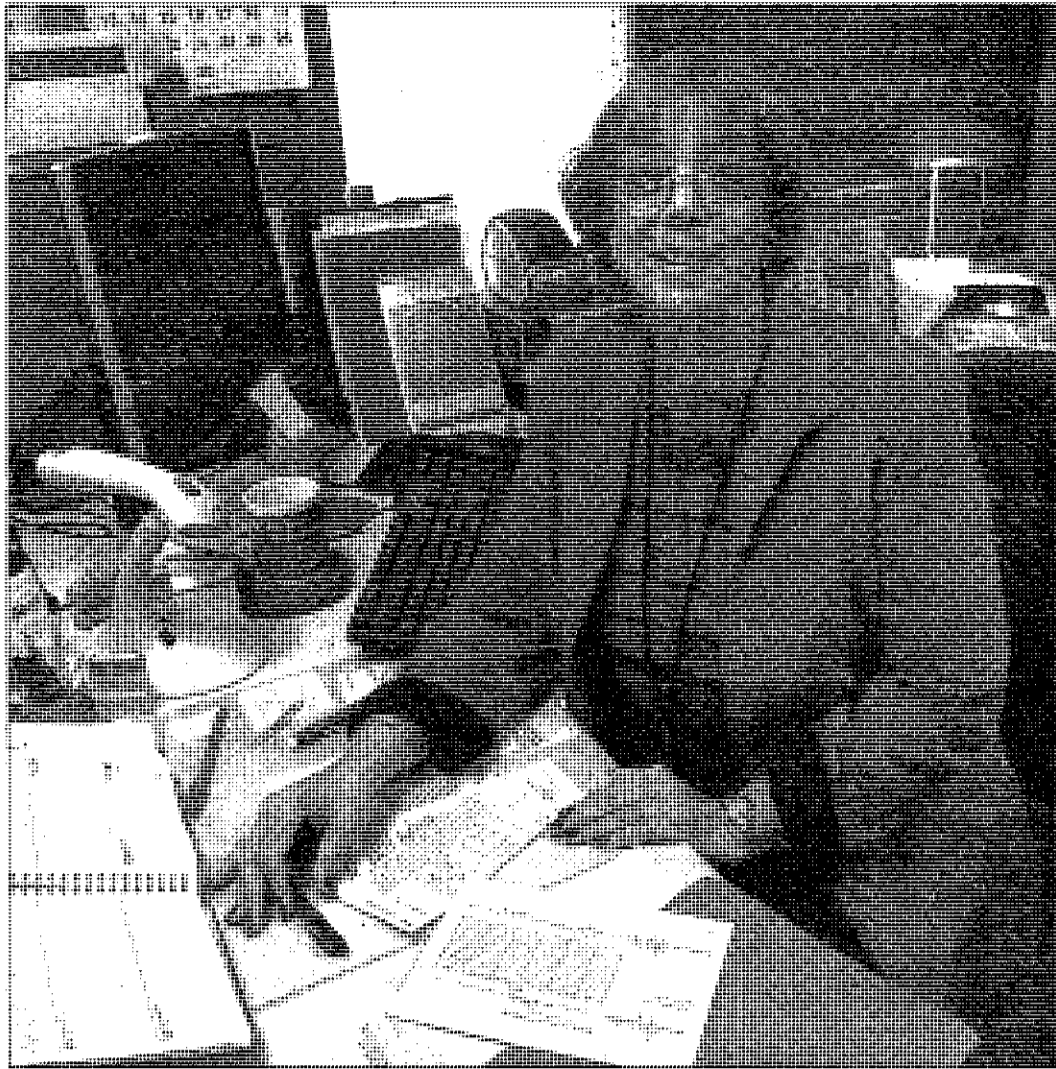
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Coming Sunday in Health



Psychotherapist looking to start support group for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Westland Deputy Clerk Nancy Bonaparte, who saw unprecedented changes in the clerk's office, is marking her last week with the city.

BONAPARTE

FROM PAGE A1

share of her shopping dollars.

VOLUNTEER WORK

She has volunteered her time, such as helping every year to plan to city's observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

"It really made me feel like I was honoring him," she said. It seems fitting for a woman who, as a teenager, joined King's 1963 civil rights march in Detroit.

Bonaparte has worked for the city under three mayors, Robert Thomas, Sandra Cicirelli and William Wild. Although she took a pay cut, she adapted to becoming deputy clerk when DeHart took

the helm of the department in January 2004. Bonaparte kept her promise to work as the deputy during DeHart's first four-year term.

"Nancy was a great teacher, and she really helped with the transition from appointed to elected clerk," DeHart said. "She was invaluable to me for all these years that I've been clerk, not only before I knew the job but after I knew the job. She always had a Plan B, and that's Nancy's persona. She's going to be greatly missed."

DeHart has strong confidence in Bonaparte's successor, Tina Stanke, but she will remember Bonaparte as the deputy clerk who helped her settle into her job.

"Nancy was a good co-worker and a good friend, and she will continue to be a good friend even though she will now

have the freedom to do what she wants to do whenever she wants to do it," DeHart said.

Bonaparte said she will miss the clerk's office, which is the keeper of city records. The office has five workers other than the clerk and the deputy. Bonaparte also said she will miss the camaraderie she had with the city's election workers.

Bonaparte, who has five children and seven grandchildren, will have more time for her family, including her 90-year-old mother. In coming years, she and her husband plan to move to Florida, but she will never forget her time in Westland.

"This is a great community," Bonaparte said, "and I really feel like I'm part of it."

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Celebrate with the Easter Bunny

Families can help welcome the Easter Bunny to town with a variety of activities offered This weekend.

Join the Westland Jaycees for their annual Easter Egg Scramble 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at Jaycee Park, Wildwood at Hunter.

Sponsored by Westland Jaycees in association with Westland Parks and Recreation, the event is open to youngsters up to age 14. For more information, call the Bailey Recreation Center at (734) 722-7620 or the Jaycees Hotline at (734) 226-0040.

If bowling is your forte, join the Grange No. 389 for Bowling with the Bunny at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 16.

All ages are welcome for the family friendly event that will be held at Town N Country Lanes at Avondale and Wayne Road, and there will be opportunities to snap a picture of the Easter Bunny as he hops his way down the lanes and visits with every child.

The cost is \$7 per person and includes one game of bowling, hot dog, soda and shoe rental. Extra snacks available for an additional fee. Registration form at the Bailey Recreation Center. For more information, call Jeff Goodfellow at (734) 722-8324.

And the Westland Civitans will be back in the kitchen for their annual Bunny Brunch 9 a.m. to noon C Saturday, March 15 Civitan Bunny Brunch.

Sponsored by Westland Civitan Club and Westland Parks and Recreation, brunch goers will enjoy homemade, hot-off-the-griddle pancakes with butter and syrup, breakfast sausage, juice, coffee, tea or milk. There will be a special visit by the Easter Bunny. Children are encouraged to make and wear an Easter bonnet or hat for their picture with the Easter Bunny. Polaroid pictures will be available for \$2 each or parents can bring their own cameras.

All ages welcome; children

must have adult supervision. The cost is \$3 for children and \$5 for those age 13 and older. Tickets are available at the Bailey Recreation Center. For more information call Donna Jensen at (734) 729-8075.

Kids ages 3-12 also are invited to go to the Bailey Recreation Center 4:30-6 p.m. Monday, March 17, and make Easter eggs and their own Easter baskets. Children under age 5 must be accompanied by an adult.

Participants will decorate a basket and then make different types of Easter eggs. All supplies included. The Westland Civitan Club has arranged for the Easter Bunny to visit briefly on his way to decorate his own eggs! Parents can bring a camera for pictures with the Easter Bunny.

The cost is \$5 per child, payable to City of Westland. There also is a \$2 supply fee paid to teacher at class. Preregister at the Bailey Center. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

AROUND WESTLAND

Senior Party

The John Glenn High School Senior Party is sponsoring a fund-raiser Wednesday, March 19, at Max & Erma's Restaurant at Warren Road and Newburgh. Participants must have a coupon with you for Max & Erma's to donate 20 percent of their bill to the Senior Party. Call Sue at (734) 427-0927 to obtain a coupon.

St. Patrick's Day Feast

Westland Parks and Recreation and Grange No. 389 is sponsoring a family friendly celebration of St. Patrick's Day 6-9:30 p.m. Sunday, March 16, with an Irish-style meal of corned beef and cabbage as

ON THE WEB

For expanded version of Around Westland as well as the honor rolls for Wayne-Westland's middle and high schools, see our online edition at www.hometownlife.com and click on Westland.

well as other Irish style dishes.

The meal served from 6-7:30 p.m., with the concert at 7:45 p.m., which includes a dessert break. Eire America - Kitty Donohoe and David Mosher will perform Irish and American music.

The feast will be held at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford. Pre-registration

encouraged, but not required. A maximum of 150 tickets are available. The cost is \$7 for children and \$15 for adults. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

Pancake breakfast

Westland's Senior Resources Department will host its monthly pancake breakfast at the Friendship Center 8:30-11 a.m. Thursday, March 13. The community is invited to enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes with a choice of buttermilk or multi-grain and regular or sugar free syrup. Breakfast also includes bacon, sausage and choice of beverage, all for \$4. The Friendship Center is located at 1119 N. Newburgh, just south of Ford Road.

WORKSHOP

FROM PAGE B1

current with their payments but foresees a change in income, we hope to encourage them to be proactive before they actually fall behind."

The workshop will delve into topics like budgeting, credit repair and choosing the best refinancing option. Seminar speakers also will explain the foreclosure process and offer advice on how to slow it or stop it.

Wild's decision to form a task force came after he

attended a November foreclosure summit hosted by Detroit and organized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. At that time, Westland already had recorded 424 mortgage-related foreclosures for 2007.

Even some long-standing institutions, such as the nonprofit Wayne-Ford Civic League, have narrowly averted foreclosure for falling behind on bills they owe. League President Vic Barra said the organization, which sponsors youth athletics and senior citizen programs, paid \$11,000 in back taxes this month as it continues to try to erase its debts.

Meanwhile, Wild said the April 2 seminar will be sponsored by his foreclosure task force and Lighthouse Community Development. It will be the first major public meeting arranged by the task force, which includes Westland City Council James Godbout, Deputy Mayor Courtney Conover, city Assessor James Elrod, Planning Commissioner Adam Hammons, Purchasing Director Jade Smith, Chamber of Commerce President Brookellen Swope and community leader Barb Moracco.

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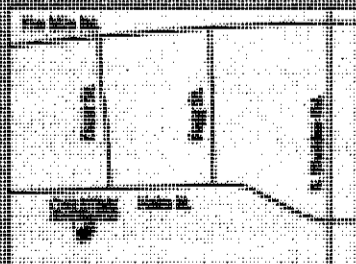
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Judge orders trial for man charged with crime spree

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Westland man accused in a north-end crime spree will face trial on multiple felony charges, including armed robbery, home invasion, stealing a neighbor's property, felony firearms and identity theft.

However, 21-year-old Deidre Carrell Scott will not face trial for earlier charges of attempted kidnapping and assault with intent to rob while armed — charges that have been dropped because a woman couldn't identify him as her assailant.

If convicted in Wayne County Circuit Court, Scott could face penalties ranging up to life in prison. A not-guilty plea has been placed on record for him, and he remains jailed in lieu of a \$750,000 cash bond.

Scott was ordered to stand trial after he was implicated in testimony last week in front of Westland 18th District Judge C. Charles Bokos. His live-in girlfriend, 19-year-old Tyesha Tarnay Thomas, already was facing trial for identity theft due to statements made against her during an earlier preliminary hearing.

The pair lived at Warris Farms Apartments, on Newburgh south of Joy, when a crime spree occurred that led to criminal charges against them, Westland police Sgt. Brian Miller said.

On Jan. 8 at the Warris Farms complex, Scott is accused of breaking into a neighbor's apartment and stealing a computer, a camera, a bed and other belongings.

On Jan. 30, Scott is charged

with robbing a woman at gunpoint as she was going to her residence at Scotsdale Apartments, on Newburgh south of Joy. The victim told police her assailant took her purse and fled on foot, trailed by an apparent getaway car that had been idling in the parking lot.

In that case, Miller has said in court that he was able to trace credit cards used at a Detroit gas station. He obtained a store video that ultimately led him to Scott and Thomas, resulting in nine counts of identity theft against them.

Earlier, Scott had been charged with attempted kidnapping and assault with intent to rob while armed for a Jan. 28 incident involving a woman at Parkcrest Apartments, on Warren east of Newburgh. But Miller said those charges were dropped because the victim couldn't identify Scott as her attacker.

In all, Scott is facing trial on charges of armed robbery, second-degree home invasion, felony firearms, receiving and concealing stolen property, and nine counts of identity theft. Thomas is facing trial only for the ID theft charges.

Scott already was on probation for a carjacking incident, Miller has said. Thomas has said in court that she had been attending Wayne County Community College.

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Brother, sister plead to charges in assault case

BY DARRELL CLEM
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A Taylor woman and her brother have been placed on probation for attacking her boyfriend — the father of her 6-year-old child — during an incident on Westland's south side.

Amanda Pugh, 25, and Nicholas Pugh, 20, received two-year probationary sentences in February after entering pleas in Wayne County Circuit Court, according to

the Michigan Department of Corrections.

The Pughs were charged following an attack last October at Westland Meadows, a mobile home park near Van Born and Merriman. The assault initially left the victim paralyzed from the waist down, but police Sgt. Michael Harhold said the man regained use of his body.

Amanda Pugh's plea to assault with a dangerous weapon stemmed from allegations she drove a van into the

victim after he grabbed onto the vehicle and then stood in front of it.

Nicholas Pugh's plea to assault with intent to do great bodily harm (less than murder) arose from accusations he got out of the van and beat the victim with a metal object.

The Pughs had gone to Westland Meadows to pick up Amanda Pugh's son when the incident unfolded. Amanda Pugh could have faced a four-year prison term, while her brother could have received up

to 10 years behind bars.

Their pleas averted a trial and potential prison sentences. Both of them have been ordered not to violate any laws; not to leave the state without permission; to be subject to drug testing; to receive outpatient substance abuse treatment; to report for monthly probation appointments; to participate in adult education programs; and to pay certain costs associated with the case.

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WAYNE-WESTLAND STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Name: Asha Smith, 11
Grade/School: Fifth-grade at Elliott Elementary, Westland
Parents: Micky and Leah Smith
Nominated by: Principal Johnnie Summerville
Reason for nomination: Asha is an extraordinary young lady. She is an all-round student - compassionate, trustworthy and academically above grade level. She is a member of the Student Council, is



Asha Smith

an honor roll student each card making and most recently the 2008 school spelling bee winner. She volunteers in the cafeteria and is always ready to help any of her friends or younger students with their assignments.

Future plans: I'd love to be a lot of things, but mostly an author and an illustrator of children's books.

What do you like about school: Everything. I like to work lunch, I love math, reading - I love to write. All of it is just great!

Favorite subject: My favorite subjects, I would have to say, are writing and math. Math because it is very challenging and writing, because I get to express my

feelings.
Role models: My role models are Eleanor Estes because she writes great children's books and my big brother Todd, because he is a really good person and he's great in math. When he was in middle school and high school people used to call him "The Human Calculator" because he could multiply three-digit numbers in his head.

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OC08080704

Good dining experience is restaurant's goal

BY SUE MASON
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

There's no reserved sign on the table, but according to Gus Sherwin, Bill Madden and Gary Howard, booth 29 at Leo's Coney Island is "reserved" for them.

Friends for more than 40 years, the three men can be found there around 8:30 a.m. most mornings, drinking coffee and talking.

"The food is good, the service is good, it's a great place," said Sherwin, a Westland resident. "It has pleasant people."

"And they give you a lot of coffee," added Madden of Dearborn Heights. "Although they could meet me at the door with my coffee."

Their comments are music to the ears of Martin George, who owns Leo's Coney Island along with Mike Kasira.

"We listen to what the customers want to make their dining experience good," said George. "We want customers to come here, so we listen to them. If we don't know what they want, we're not doing our job."

This is George's first venture into the food industry after 25 years in construction. He changed careers because of the state's lagging economy. Kasira has been in the business since coming to the United States from the Middle East 20 years ago.

"I started in Leo's and I'm still here," he said. "I love the connection with the people."

BETTER THAN GREEKTOWN

Kasira handles the cooking, serving up food from his native Lebanon as well as Greek dishes. His favorite is spinach pie and he beams with pride when customers tell him the food is better than



Owners Mike Kasira (left) and Martin George say good food, good service and reasonable prices are bringing in customers to Leo's Coney Island.



Leo's Coney Island waitress Darleen Hubbard takes the order for Kim Murray and her children Chad, 8, Katelynn, 13 months, and Brenden Miller, 5, during their first visit to the restaurant.

LEO'S CONEY ISLAND

What: Leo's Coney Island
Where: 36595 Warren Road, Westland
What: Restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. The menu features munchies like mozzarella cheese sticks and jalapeno poppers to soups, salads, pitas and coney specials. There are also traditional

American dishes like burgers and fried chicken as well as Greek dishes like saganaki, gyros, spinach and cheese pie and moussaka. Dine in or carry out available.
Who: Owned by Martin George and Mike Kasira, the restaurant has 30 employees.
Information: Call (734) 721-6400

what's served in Detroit's Greektown.

"It's hard, it's a lot of work, but I'm not afraid of hard work," Kasira said, adding that he doesn't cook at home. "I need to watch my sports," he said.

Leo's is a franchise business that George hooked up with it because he liked the concept and the food.

"Breakfast, lunch, dinner, there's a lot

of choices on the menu, very reasonably priced," he said. "You can feed a whole family for \$25-\$30 bucks. That cost is excellent in this economy."

Leo's shares space with Starbuck's and Qdoba Mexican Grill at Warren Road and Central City Parkway. Its corner location allows for 138 seats inside and up to 36 diners on a covered patio

in warmer weather. George had "good feeling" when he first saw the building. It was inviting and the patio was "attractive."

Inside is an open floor space with walls feature hand-painted murals of food — feta cheese, olive oil, tomatoes, lemons and eggplants. There are also festive holiday touches, provided by George's wife Monica.

"She brings a lot of flair to the restaurant, she does a good job," he said.

ON THE INCREASE

Business has slowly increased for the restaurant. Weekends are busy and breakfast is getting busier. And the restaurant has developed a cadre of regulars like Sherwin, Madden and Howard. George believes it's because of

the good food and the fact that the restaurant is 100 percent nonsmoking.

"We're here to be successful, make money and do a good job," said George. "We want our employees to be happy and enjoy their work. We want the customers to feel like family."

The three men agree about the friendliness. They discovered the restaurant shortly after it opened in February 2007 and have been coming there ever since. They know the wait staff and George and share jokes with them like having their coffee ready for them at the door.

And there's something more. "My wife really likes it," said Howard, who lives in Plymouth. "She doesn't have to cook and she can hang out with people she likes."

Don't forget EIT credits when filing your income taxes

Residents should take advantage of a special tax benefit designed for working families, the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, according to State Rep. Richard LeBlanc, D-Westland.

According to LeBlanc, the EITC is a tax break for workers with moderate or low incomes.

"Tax time is here and it's important that our working families know about all the opportunities they have to get back the money they deserve," LeBlanc said. "We need to

ensure that our hardworking men and women who are fighting to pay higher mortgages and put food on the table know about tax breaks like the Earned Income Tax Credit. The more money we can get flowing in to the local economy, the better it is for everyone for creating good paying jobs for our workers and increasing our quality of life."

About 665,000 EITC returns were filed in Michigan in 2006. But about \$300 million in federal Earned Income Tax Credits

went unclaimed. Residents who meet one of the following guidelines can qualify for the tax credit:

- Families with one child that earned less than \$33,241 in 2007 (or less than \$35,241 for married workers) are eligible for a credit of up to \$2,853.

- Families with two or more children that earned less than \$37,783 in 2007 (or less than \$39,783 for married workers) are eligible for a credit of up to \$4,716.

- Workers without a qualifying child who earned less than \$12,590 in 2007 (or less than \$14,590 for married workers) are eligible for a credit of up to \$428.

Residents can learn more about the EITC and other important tax information, such as the federal tax rebates scheduled to be mailed out starting in May, by logging on to www.housedems.com. Residents must

file their 2007 taxes so they can receive the federal tax rebate.

Michigan will debut its own state EITC starting with the 2008 tax year. Workers who qualify will be able to receive a percentage of the federal EITC from the state on next year's tax return, in addition to what they get from the federal credit. To learn more about the EITC, and to use a free e-filing system for taxpayers with a household

income of less than \$50,000, go online to www.MichiganEIC.org.

"This is a tax credit designed to make a difference for our working families," LeBlanc said. "Many families are living paycheck to paycheck, and as Westland's state representative, I encourage everyone to call to see if they are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. It will not only help our families, it will boost local economies."



LIBERTY TAX SERVICE
www.libertytax.com

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March 17th Only!

Have your taxes prepared for only

\$17.00

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ATTENTION LOW INCOME SENIORS!

If you normally don't file a federal return, you will lose the Federal Stimulus Rebate Check. You MUST file to be eligible!

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Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

"The Passion of Jesus"
March 16, 2008 at 10:00

Thursday Evening Service

"Love One Another"
March 20, 2008 at 7:00 pm


Good Friday Service

Community Gathering
March 21, 2008 at 12:15 pm

Service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
26701 Joy Road • Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

Easter Sunday Service

Celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord
March 23, 2008 at 10:00 am



Pastor Herschel L. Ele — Associate Pastor Ron Vanderbeek



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FLORAL

Premium Michigan **Easter Lilies** \$7.99 6" pot | Michigan Crown **Tulips** \$7.99 bunch | English **Daffodils** \$2.99 bunch

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Sugar Sweet Golden Ripe **Pineapple** \$2.99 Whole or Cored | Sugar Sweet **Jumbo Cantaloupe** 2/\$4.00

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Dole Bagged **Italian Salad** 2 for \$3.00

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Boar's Head **SWEET SLICE HAM** \$4.99 lb. Whole or Sliced at Deli

Boar's Head **OVEN GOLD TURKEY** \$5.89 lb.

Boar's Head **HARD SALAMI** \$5.59 lb.

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PREPARED FOODS

Colorful **ROASTED VEGGIES** \$4.99 lb. Reg. \$5.99 lb.

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STROH'S ICE CREAM 2/\$6.00 All Flavors including Sanders

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CHEESECAKE from CHEESECAKE SHOP \$10.99 Large Size

Freshlike FROZEN VEGETABLES 99¢ 16 oz. your choice *Cut Golden Corn *Mixed Vegetable *Garden Pea *French Style Green Bean

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PURE FRUIT SHERBET 2/\$6.00 qt. All Flavors

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al dente ENRICHED NOODLES 2/\$5.00 12 oz. Bag Not including squid ink, wild mushroom. Made in Michigan

Grade AA BUTTER \$2.29 1 lb. 1/2's your choice *Lightly Salted *Unsalted

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OVEN FIRED FLATBREAD 2/\$7.00 15 oz. pkg.

BUTCHER

GROUND SIRLOIN \$2.99 lb.

Grade A **BONE-IN TURKEY BREAST** \$1.99 lb.

Choice **BONELESS CHUCK ROAST** \$2.99 lb.

BUTTERFLY PORK CHOPS \$2.99 lb.

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Special Easter Weekend Hours
Fri. 3/21 - 8-8
Sat. 3/22 - 8-8
Easter Sun. 3/23 - 8-4

Prices Valid March 13th through March 23rd

Homeowner's insurance protects your biggest asset

The winter has been long and tough for those living in southeast Michigan. As we look forward to the spring, don't forget Mother Nature has a tendency to make her presence known and the result sometimes is substantial damage.

Since a home is generally one's single largest purchase, it is important to protect it with homeowner's insurance. Unfortunately, the majority of people buy homeowner's insurance when they buy their house and then generally forget about the policy until they have a claim.

It pays to be proactive to protect yourself. So before spring storms arrive, it is important to review your homeowner's policy to make sure it is up to date.

Unfortunately, a homeowner's policy can be difficult to understand. They tend to be written by lawyers for lawyers. That is why in most cases it is important to deal with a home-



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

owner's insurance agent who is more than just a salesperson. A good agent should be able to explain the terms of your present policy and look at your present situation to make sure you are properly insured. A good agent also should be your advocate if you ever have a problem in dealing with the insurance company. One of the keys is to find someone who you can communicate with and with whom you feel comfortable asking questions. In addition to insurance, other ways to protect your home and its contents is to have a videotaped inventory. It's inexpensive and the benefits are invaluable in case of a natural disaster.

A videotape will help you remember what you have and

provide some documentation. Once it's complete, store the videotape either in a safety deposit box or some sort of fireproof box.

If you own collectibles such as artwork, make sure you videotape the artwork and also any appraisals or receipts that you may have. Talk your way through the video. Remember, the purpose is to remind you of what you have and to provide proof to the insurance company in case of a disaster. Therefore, the more information you have on your videotape, the better it will be.

For individuals unhappy with their current homeowner's policy it pays to receive competitive bids. Make sure you ask about discounts. In addition, if you belong to a credit union ask for a competitive bid. Credit unions offer very good discount programs.

How often should you shop around for a homeowner's policy. Although, there are no hard fast rules, I generally

recommend at least every two to three years. We live in a very competitive society and you'd be surprised how fast homeowner's policies change. You may find that shopping around gets you a better policy for less money.

Don't assume that the cheapest bid is the best bid. That is not always the case. In addition, just because one policy may be good for your neighbor does not necessarily mean it's good for you. The key is to take your time and find the right policy that's priced appropriately and matches your individual situation. Good luck!

Remember, the few minutes that you spend with your homeowner's policy may literally save you thousands of dollars down the road.

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

Dick Purtan Radiothon raises over \$2,310,070

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit, Oldies 104.3 WOMC, Dick Purtan and Purtan's People joined forces for the annual Dick Purtan Radiothon on Friday, Feb. 29, live from Oakland Mall. The 16-hour event raised \$2,310,070 to benefit the Army's Bed and Bread Program.

The Bed and Bread program brings food, shelter and services to countless destitute people within our community, providing them with their basic needs and assisting them to get back on their feet.

More than 4,900 meals are served each day to the hungry by the program, which includes Bed & Bread trucks that make stops in metro Detroit's most depressed areas every day of the year. In addition, the Bed & Bread program shelters 565 men, women and children each

day. The need this year has been greater than ever with Michigan's economic state and with recent bitter cold temperatures.

"We are grateful for the outpouring of kindness and support metro Detroit has shown the Dick Purtan Radiothon and, in turn, The Salvation Army over the last 21 years," said Major Norman Marshall, divisional commander of The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division. "The need is great and growing in our community. The funds raised will help us to provide daily bread for those who are hungry and a place to sleep for those without shelter."

Donations to The Salvation Army's Bed and Bread Club program can still be made by calling (248) 307-1043 or by visiting: www.salmich.org.

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Wednesday, March 19, 2008
7 p.m.
Madonna University Kresge Hall
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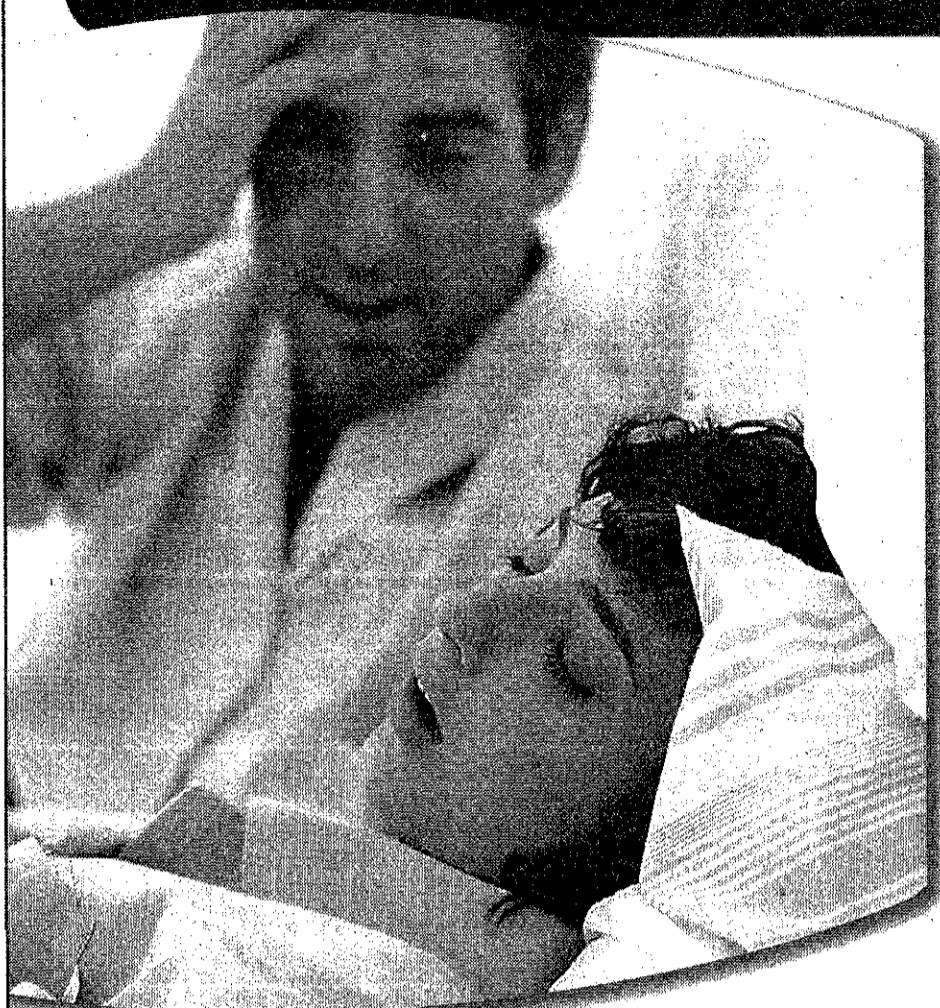
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You're invited...



Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan

TO CELEBRATE THE
GRAND OPENING OF THE

WESTLAND SPECIALTY CENTER

Affiliated with Garden City Hospital

Saturday, March 15

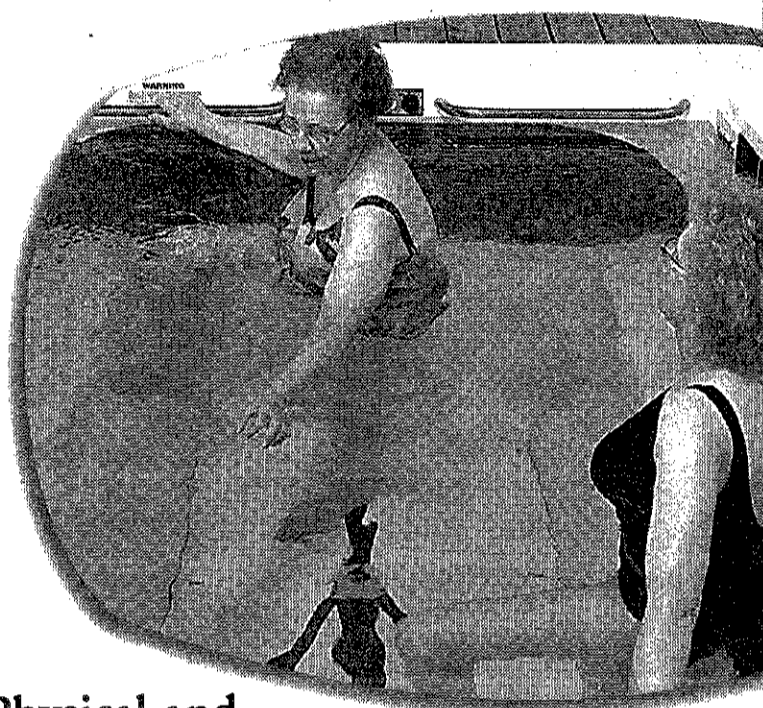
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting at 11 a.m.

Tour the facility, which is across from Westland Mall, meet the staff and learn more about the available services.

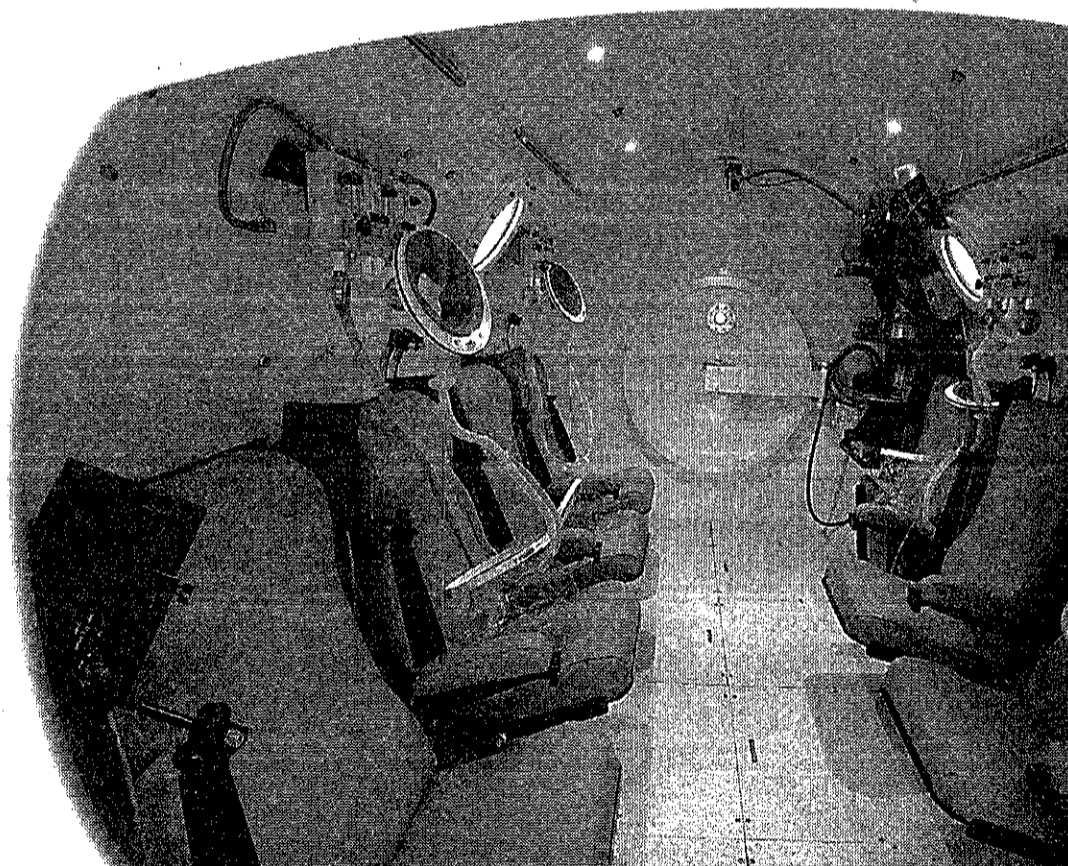
- View the \$1 million hyperbaric chamber that promotes wound healing in a luxurious atmosphere.
- See where sleep studies are conducted and learn about sleep disorders. CPAP users can take part in a mask fitting clinic.
- Talk with a wound care vascular surgeon.
- Receive a blood sugar and cholesterol screening at Laboratory Services.
- Enjoy a massage provided by the Rehabilitation staff.
- And, visit the Home Medical Equipment Store.

Refreshments and gifts will be provided.



Physical and
Aquatic Rehabilitation Center

Wound Healing and
Hyperbaric Center of Michigan



WESTLAND SPECIALTY CENTER

Good Health for Generations.

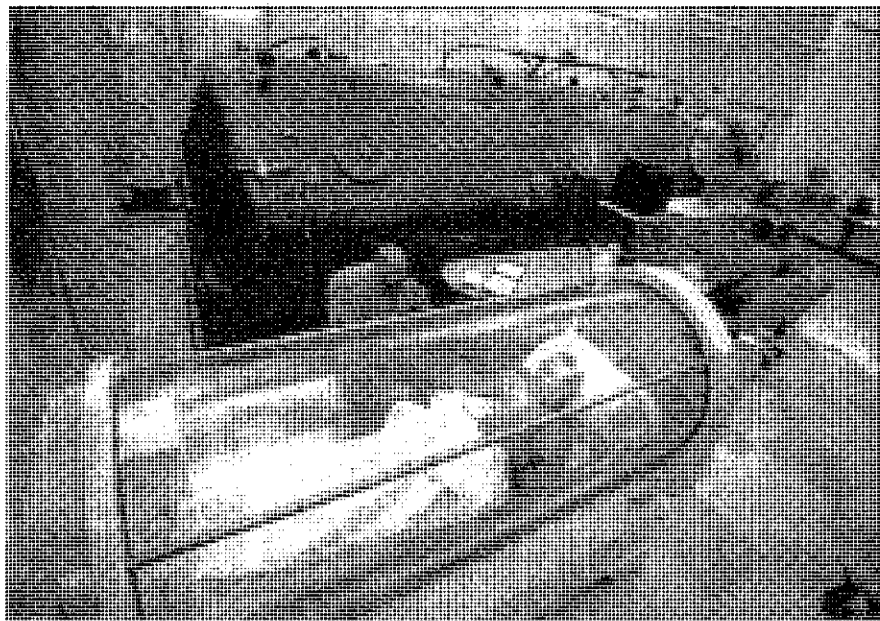
35600 Central City Parkway

Across from Westland Mall

Westland, MI 48185

Call 877-717-WELL
for more information.

The \$1 million eight-person hyperbaric chamber, acquired by the Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Center of Michigan, offers spacious seating and individual televisions for patients to enjoy while receiving treatment. The multi-person chamber, along with the private chamber, promotes wound healing on an outpatient basis.



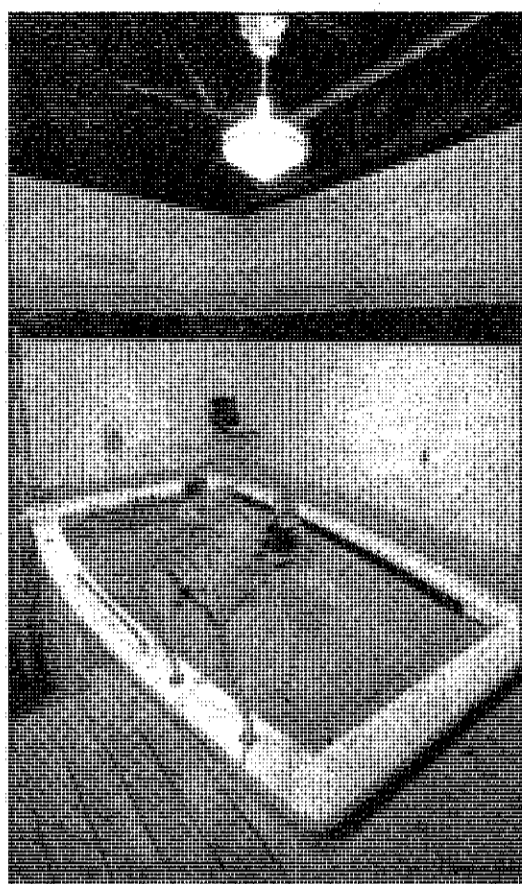
Open house showcases specialty center

If you've never seen the inside of a custom-made hyperbaric chamber where pure oxygen promotes healing, uncovered the mystery of exactly how and where sleep studies are conducted, or enjoyed a mini-massage, attend a very special open house 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at the Westland Specialty Center at 35600 Central City Parkway across from Westland Shopping Center in Westland. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m.

Affiliated with Garden City Hospital, the event celebrates the grand opening of the newly remodeled facility, which brings together the Sleep Disorders Center of Michigan, the Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Center of Michigan and the Garden City Hospital Sports Rehabilitation Center.

Guests can tour the facility, meet the staff, and enjoy complimentary refreshments and gifts. In addition, participants will have the chance to:

- View the \$1 million hyperbaric chamber that promotes wound healing in a luxurious environment.
 - Tour the sleep lab where sleep studies are conducted and find out about common sleep problems that affect millions of Americans. CPAP users can take part in a mask-fitting clinic.
 - Talk one-on-one with a physician.
 - Receive a blood sugar screening to detect diabetes.
 - Enjoy a massage by the Sports Rehabilitation staff.
 - Shop at the Home Medical Equipment store.
- For more information about the open house or the Westland Specialty Center, call Garden City Hospital at (877) 717-WELL. Located in Garden City, Michigan, Garden



Patients enjoy an aquatic therapy session in the Sports Rehabilitation Center pool.

City Hospital provides comprehensive health care services, osteopathic medical education, and health care related programs to the community at large. For more information about Garden City Hospital, call (734) 458-3300 or visit its Web site at www.gchosp.org.

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 downt@comcast.net. All proceeds will benefit the 2008 Michigan 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk.

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.

Wrestling Club
Westland Bottle Rockets is a wrestling club for ages 5-14. The club meets on Monday and Wednesdays from

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Irish Fest

The Gavins will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with two festivals of Irish music. At 7 p.m. Saturday, Mick Gavin and Friends will perform with Irish dancers at Finnish Cultural Center, 35200 W. Eight Mile, Farmington Hills. A dinner and a cash bar will be available. Tickets are \$10, \$15 at the door. On Monday, March 17, Mick and Friends will accompany the Heinzman School of Dance beginning at 2 p.m. at the Hellenic Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Food will include corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew and Dublin style fish and chips. A cash bar will feature Irish beers and whiskey. Pictured are Michael Gavin on banjo, Sean Gavin on pipes and Mick Gavin on fiddle.

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 judyawl12@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.tl.

com or call (734) 722-3660.
Free workshops
Dr. Carol Ann Fischer, a holistic physician, wellness consultant and clinical nutritionist, is presenting a free workshop "Eat Your Way Thin" will be presented 7-9 p.m. Wednesday March 19, at the Livonia Civic Center Library on Five Mile east of Farmington. 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. Reservations required for the workshop, call (734) 756-6904 or go online to www.TLCHolisticWellness.com. Seating limited to 15 guests.

CITY OF WESTLAND
INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan 48185, on or before **April 7, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.** (no exceptions) for the following:

LAWN FERTILIZATION AND WEED CONTROL

Proposals must be submitted by the time stated above or they will be returned. Please direct questions pertaining to specifications to Purchasing Division at 734-467-3204. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids

Jade M. Smith
Controller

Publish: March 13, 2008

ACADEMY OF INKSTER
2008-2009 OPEN ENROLLMENT

April 14, 2008 - April 28, 2008

Applications available at, and must be submitted to, Academy of Inkster
28612 Avondale, Inkster, MI 48141
Lottery, if necessary, May 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at Charter School Administration Services
20755 Greenfield Road, Suite 300, Southfield, Michigan 48075

Publish: March 13, 2008

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

On Thursday, March 20, 2008, various items of the City of Westland Police Department will be sold at public auction. The auction will be held at Insurance Auto Auction, 8251 Rawsonville Road, County of Wayne, at 10:30 a.m. The following items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Stock	Year	Make	Model	VIN
3903350	1995	CADILLAC	DEVILLE	1G6KD52B2SU214656

Vehicles are sold in "as is" condition.

The referenced vehicles, as well as many others, may be previewed by perspective buyers on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction. Terms and Conditions will be applicable to any item sold.

Publish: March 13, 2008

INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by Wayne Westland Community Schools, 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185 for:

MEDIA CENTER FURNISHINGS - EDISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SCHWEITZER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PATCHIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Proposals are to be submitted in accordance with contract documents prepared by TMP Associates, Inc. 1191 W. Square Lake Road, P.O. Box 289, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303-0289 dated March 7, 2008.

- DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY**
 - Bidding Documents will be available for examination and distribution on/or after March 7, 2008. Examination may be made at the Office of the Architect, TMP ASSOCIATES, INC. Documents can be shipped to Bidders at their expense.
 - Qualified Bidders may obtain bidding documents from the Architect's office, consisting of one (1) set of Drawings and Specifications.
 - Bidding documents are available for review at the following plan rooms:
 - McGraw-Hill Construction Dodge
36060 Industrial Road
Livonia, MI 48150
 - Construction Association of Michigan
43636 Woodward Ave., Suite 100
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302-3204
- DUE DATE**
 - Bid Proposals will be received until the time and the place, as follows, where and when they will be publicly opened and read aloud.
 - Date and Time: April 4, 2008, at 1:00 P.M. EST
 - Place: Wayne Westland Community Schools, 36745 Marquette, Westland, MI 48185
- GENERAL INFORMATION**
 - Bidder shall agree not to withdraw Bid Proposal for a period of ninety (90) days after date for receipt of bids. A 5% bid bond is required in accordance with the Section 00100-F - Instructions to Bidders (See Page 00100-F-1, Paragraph 2.G.).
 - Accepted Bidder shall be required to enter into a contract with Wayne-Westland Community Schools and furnish satisfactory Performance Bond in accordance with the Section 00100-F - Instructions to Bidders. (See Page 00100-F-2, Paragraph 2.L.).
 - The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids in whole or in part, or to waive any informalities therein. If in the Owner's opinion it is in their best interest, the contract may be awarded to other than the lowest bidder, for reasons of establishing uniformity, delivery time, etc

Publish: March 13 & 16, 2008

Notice of Public Sale of Personal Property.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 4 of the Self Service Storage Facility Act, State of Michigan, **PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgard TRS, Inc.** will conduct sale(s) at Public Storage (formerly Shurgard) located at 36001 Warren Rd Westland, MI 48185-6591 (734)729-7095 on 3/28/08 at 10:30 am. Sales are for cash only. Removal within 24 hours. For sale and storage units in which rent and fees are past due.

Personal property described below in the matter of:

- 1086 - Yolanda Charleston - 1086 - TV, Microwave, Portable Stereo
- 1298 - Kimberly Mathews - Loveseat, TV, Treadmill,
- 2054 - Norman Witkowski - Cherry picker, 2 Tool Cabinets, Shop-vac
- 2056 - Norman Witkowski - Refrigerator, Oven, Dresser
- 3050 - Marian Minor - Leather Couch, Chair, Table
- 3158 - Samuel Hamman - Kids Toys, 5 Bags, Misc Items
- 3200 - Charles W. Abner - TV, Stereo, 10 Boxes
- 4014 - Jessica Burton - Chair, Microwave, 5 Totes
- 5048 - Maureen Shepard - Bookcase, Dresser, 5 Totes
- 5166 - Catrina Fitch - Couch, 4 Pillows, Ottoman

Publish: March 13 & 20, 2008

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF MEETING

A petition has been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #1922A - Public Hearing for Special Land Use Approval for Proposed Used Car Shipping and Repair Facility, 6380 Commerce Drive, Parcel #027-02-0013-000, East Side of Commerce Drive, West of Hix Road, Nemr Karnib (Frank Forest)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held at City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 1, 2008.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: March 13, 2008

CITY OF WESTLAND
SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES
MTG. 5-3/3/08

Presiding: President Godbout
Present: Graunstadt, Johnson, Kehr, Pickering, Reeves, Stottlemeyer

56-Approved minutes of 3/3/08.

- Approved req. to hold Sr. Olympics Walk on 8/18-22/08.
- Approved req. from American Legion, Post 251 to sell poppies 5/12-18/08.
- Adopted Budget Amend. 2008-11; Gen. Fund \$60,000.00.
- Renewed Storage Tank Liability Ins. w/Zurich Amer. Ins. Co.
- 57-Introduced Budget Amend. 2008-12; Gen. Fund \$260,000.00.
- 60-Approved new Deputy Clerk's salary at 100% wage scale.
- 61-Approved Site Plan for Fitness Center, 7420 N. Wayne Rd., e. side of Wayne Rd., n. of Warren Rd.
- 63-Appointed D. Walker as ZBA Commissioner.
- 65-Appointed G. Bulson as ZBA Alt. Commissioner.
- 66-Approved Checklist Activity: \$1,047,427.76 and Prepaid: \$4,710,881.48.
- Meeting Adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Minutes available at the Clerk's office.

James R. Godbout
Council President

Eileen DeHart
City Clerk

Publish: March 13, 2008

CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF MEETING

The following petitions have been presented to the Planning Commission of the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan:

Case #178A - Site Plan Approval for Proposed Commercial Center, Parcel #047-99-0001-001, Northeast Corner of Cherry Hill Road and Newburgh Road, Marwan Taleb

Case #421A - Site Plan Approval for Proposed Addition to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 37775 Palmer Road, Parcel #078-99-0007-002, South Side of Palmer Road, West of Newburgh Road, Patricia M. Nicolai (Luan M. Purcell)

Case #2159B - Final Site Plan Approval for Proposed Chestnut Village Planned Unit Development, Parcels #018-99-0014-000 and -0015-703, East Side of Newburgh, South of Joy, Paul D'Orazio

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public meeting of the City of Westland Planning Commission will be held in the City Hall, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday April 1, 2008.

Written comments must be submitted to the Planning Commission before 5:00 p.m. one (1) day prior to the scheduled meeting.

Kenneth B. Sharp, Chairman
WESTLAND PLANNING COMMISSION

Publish: March 13, 2008

Here's another chance to 'Dine with the Stars'

Buddy's Pizza and the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* are back for a second season of Dining with the Stars.

This month's lucky winner will have lunch or dinner with Trudi Daniels, the popular news host of the *Drew & Mike* show on WRIF-FM (101.1).

To enter the contest, tell us in 100 words or less why you want to dine at Buddy's with Trudi Daniels. E-mail your entry to BuddysDiningStars@gmail.com by midnight Sunday, March 16.

Daniels, the recipient of *Hour* magazine's Sexiest Voice Contest and the recent host



Daniels

of the WRIF Rock Girl Competition, describes herself as a wife and mom who enjoys inline skating and scuba diving. She's a certified open water scuba diver just back from sunny Mexico.

Her favorite music? "I still love Stevie Ray (Vaughan) — he's immortal — the (Red Hot) Chili Peppers and, of course, my iPod is crammed with AC/DC! Favorite new album is *Stadium Arcadium*

and best new song, *Worldwide Suicide*," Daniels said.

This month's lucky winner will be treated to a limo ride to Buddy's by All Class Transportation & Limousine Services, a \$100 gift certificate to the Reaver Diamond Co. in Southfield, a makeover by Utopia Salon in Northville and a dance exhibition courtesy of Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Bloomfield Hills.

Buddy's Pizza reviews all entries for "Dining With The Stars" and selects the top four to five "fan" letters. The star featured for the month makes the final selection.

'Raccoon Tune' named Michigan Reads book for kids

The Library of Michigan today announced that it has selected *Raccoon Tune* by Michigan author Nancy Shaw as the featured title for the 2008 Michigan Reads! program. Michigan Reads! is a one-state, one-children's-book program devoted to increasing early childhood literacy, with programming, events and author visits slated to take place throughout September 2008.

"With the tremendous success of last year's Michigan Reads! and the program's continued growth each year, we

expect hundreds of thousands of Michigan children to take part in sharing *Raccoon Tune*," said State Librarian Nancy Robertson. "It's a wonderful book, the kind that can jumpstart young imaginations and the interest in reading that's so key to lifelong learning success."

For the second year in a row, Target is the sole sponsor of Michigan Reads! Thanks to Target's support, the Library of Michigan will provide a copy of the book and programming materials to public libraries, elementary schools, Head Start

and Michigan School Readiness programs across the state.

Raccoon Tune — written by Ann Arbor resident Nancy Shaw and illustrated by Howard Fine — tells the story of a family of mischievous raccoons on a rollicking night outing, rifling through sleeping people's trash in search of treats.

More information about Michigan Reads! 2008, including dates and locations of author visits, will be posted on the program's Web site at www.michigan.gov/michigan-reads in the coming months.

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OUR VIEWS

Flag ceremonies are good policy

It's a custom for the two elected bodies in Westland to invite youngsters to their meetings to lead the gathering in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. It's a custom we think is great experience for the youngsters who stand there and recite the pledge as well as for the people watching them.

It's been a practice of the Wayne-Westland school board since 1983 to have students conduct the pledge ceremony, and it speaks volumes to the district's commitment of being for and about children.

Likewise, the Westland City Council has been inviting youngsters to participate in its meetings for many years.

The youngsters attend elementary schools in the district and the city and provide biographies about themselves. While they talk about their families, their teachers and their favorite subjects, it is hearing what they want to be when they grow up that brings smiles to the adult faces. You cannot help but smile when you hear a second-grader tell you he wants to be a doctor, "the kind that makes you feel better."

The courtesy and the attention afforded the young guests is as fresh and inviting as the first time the council and school board had students to come to the meetings. And who knows how the chance to say the pledge can affect the child. Bill Clinton was 16 years old when he shook the hand of then President John F. Kennedy and said the encounter inspired him to get into politics and eventually become president of the United States.

Will any of those young children who do the flag ceremony go on to be president of the United States? None of them have expressed such

an interest in their biographies, but the contact with a member of the school board or the city council may inspire them to become involved in their communities as adults.

We're glad to see the school board and council involve youngsters in the governmental process and hope they will continue to do so. Participating in the ceremony fits nicely with the core democratic values youngsters must study in elementary school. It also gives the two bodies an opportunity to showcase today's youth who may grow up to be the school superintendent, the mayor or even president of the United States.

Northwest, Delta merger could be a boon to area

In February, talks began about a merger between Delta and Northwest Airlines. Pilots from the two airlines are currently in negotiations on merging their contracts and ironing out ticklish seniority issues.

Delta and Northwest are two old, "legacy" airlines. They have both emerged from bankruptcy, but continue to face serious cost issues, especially as oil prices continue to rise. The large pre-deregulation airlines have had a difficult time competing against more nimble, smaller carriers like Spirit and Southwest.

The airlines hope to streamline their operations, eliminate duplicate service and build on their different strengths. Delta flies trans-Atlantic, while Northwest flies trans-Pacific.

As a hub for Northwest, Detroit Metro might hope to capitalize on the merger, especially as Wayne County continues to emphasize the development of an airport city. The strong international schedules could make Detroit a hub for both passenger and freight service from all corners of the world.

While all of that may be good news for the emerging "aerotropolis," the proposed merger has raised some serious concerns. How will it affect air rates? Will the merged airline, the largest in the country, drive out its smaller competitors? Will streamlining service eliminate routes to some areas that are now served? Will the merger result in large job losses at a time when unemployment is high?

These are questions that the U.S. Justice Department needs to examine.

We support the airport city concept and believe that a strong Delta-Northwest could play a key role in that development if those questions can be answered.



LETTERS

Disappointed about vote

I am writing in response to the news article that was posted in the *Westland Observer* Thursday, March 6, 2008 — "Council gives OK to fitness center."

I guess you can say I have a couple of issues.

I am sad and disappointed that Westland City Council has yet approved another fitness center in Westland, not to mention that this new proposed fitness center will be directly across the street from another fitness center. Patrons will get their exercise walking back and forth to the fitness centers.

I am also disappointed that Westland did not announce the City Council meeting for this proposed demolition of the Quo Vadis movie theater/approval of the fitness center. It was not mentioned in the *Westland Observer*, *Free Press* or *The Detroit News*. Had it been published, teens, Zachery Gizicki and Don Gurka from Churchill High School would have attended this meeting, probably bringing more supporters with them, trying to convince the proposed developer to save some of this historic building or using this building not for a fitness center but perhaps a performing arts theater. (These boys had a lot of ideas).

I was at the Westland Planning Commission meeting when these young men got up to speak in front of the commissioners, stating their concerns. These teens had done a lot of research on this building and the history behind it. (They have created a Web site www.savethequv.org and also a MySpace page "Quo Vadis Preservation Foundation"). One city commissioner asked where these boys were when the Quo Vadis was being closed. I will tell you where these boys were. These boys were only 9 years old then. What could they do?

I thought Zachery Gizicki and Don Gurka did an excellent job presenting their viewpoints about the Quo Vadis.

The news of the approval to demolish the Quo Vadis to build a fitness center is especially disheartening since the announcement of Westland Showcase theatre in Westland being closed. This was the only movie theatre that was now left in Westland.

The City of Westland wants to keep people here in the city, doing business, but where are residents of Westland now going to see movies? I guess we will have to go to Canton to see movies (Canton has a lot of movie theaters), and while we are there we can go get our exercise, too, and walk across the street to their fitness centers!

Rena Gizicki
Westland

Kilpatrick must go

"I saved them \$3 million" is what Kwame Kilpatrick said to reporters about the almost \$9 million settlement to the police officers.

What a shame. He has pretty much ruined that city. The City Council makes a resolution, then tables it, until after

Kym Worthy makes her ruling as to the possible prosecution. The mayor's people talked to the council members and then they show they have no backbone. This goes to show that nothing will be done. He will walk away scot-free and so will Beatty. They lied on the stand, they perjured themselves. The entire city of Detroit is in the worst possible situation ever because of the crimes they committed. Now they want to sell dozens of parks to make up the nearly \$9 million they lost to the officers who were doing their jobs.

With the stuff this guy has done since his first day in office — spending of public money, the Navigator and having the chief of police lie about it, the nearly \$300,000 he put on the credit card, buying family members tickets for vacations — the sad thing is, the people of Detroit are just too blind to see any of this.

The Wayne County prosecutor will not do anything, the City Council will back down and life will go back to the way it was. It's time for the U.S. government to step in and clean up the entire mess before Detroit goes down the drain any further. Recall everyone in office, they all have to go. They're a cancer that is growing daily.

I lived in Detroit, I love going down there. I have met Kwame on several occasions. I told him to his face pretty much exactly what I said here. He was smug. He's for Kwame and nobody else. He is a thug and always will be. The sad part is, they say justice is blind and they're absolutely correct. The people and officials are blind and will turn their heads and look away.

At a time when the city is being built up, it's being torn down due to the thug mayor. Get rid of them before it is too late. Maybe all the people who go down for sporting events, concerts and casinos should stop going until something is done. Maybe that will show them that someone cares.

Bud Somerville
Westland

Something wrong with case

I read, with great interest, the recent article regarding Alex Letkemann, and the fact that he took (and passed) a polygraph test that refutes the ACO manager's testimony. She has said that she saw Alex in her store two days before the murder, looking at hatchets and blow torches.

I cannot understand why the prosecutor is not interested in this polygraph. If the goal is to seek the truth and ultimately find justice, why would they not want to consider a polygraph? Is it because it does not fit their original theory on this crime? I understand that Alex even offered to take a police polygraph on the issue.

I have to believe that the detectives involved would want to know everything related to this case, especially if a key witness is mistaken. Does anyone remember the Duke lacrosse player that

was on TV screaming that he took a polygraph showing his innocence, but the prosecutor was too arrogant to care?

It seems to me that the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office should want to look at all aspects of this case and not ignore things that may tell a different story.

Something is wrong here and I don't know how anyone could read that story and not feel the same way.

Donna Bowman
Garden City

Hollywood hurts UAW

A message to the UAW: Why aren't we protesting the advertising voice-overs Hollywood stars make for foreign cars and other products? I keep hearing Kevin Spacey shilling foreign cars as well as many others and I don't hear a peep from the UAW leadership or rank and file.

While the Hollywood types are big Democrats and UAW leadership pushes millions toward the Democrats, the Hollywood crew is busy swinging a wrecking ball at U.S. car manufacturing sales — not only through advertisements but by the cars they choose to "promote" when filming and the companies they choose to support in their advertising endorsements.

Yes, they have the right to sell their voices to anyone they please. However, we have the right and should expect that the UAW sit down with the Democratic National Committee and have someone encourage the Hollywood crowd to not help our major competitors sell their foreign cars. In the end it is in their interest too because by putting us out of business, who is going to pay \$9 to go to see a movie here in America?

Certainly the workers at GM, Ford and Delphi are going to struggle at being able to do that in the near future without a little help from Hollywood as well as others. Perhaps we should vote against Hollywood with our feet by not seeing the films of back-stabbing Hollywood stars who promote foreign cars.

Ed Johnson
Royal Oak

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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Fax:
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smason@hometownlife.com

QUOTABLE

"I'm excited and very happy about it. I'm humbled that Commissioner Beard and the other commissioners have the confidence in me to appoint me, and I'm up to the challenges."

Ronaele Bowman about being appointed to represent the Wayne County Commission's 12th District following Kay Beard's resignation.

WESTLAND
Observer

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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.

Ushering at Showcase Cinema: A job that never felt like work

Everyone has a favorite job, a rollicking, freewheeling workplace that never really felt like "work." It was a place where lasting friendships were forged and fond memories of being young and (relatively) responsibility-free were formed. For me, that job was toiling for years as an usher at Showcase Cinemas Westland.

On Sunday, March 2, Showcase showed its final film and closed its doors for good. My wife and I visited the theater on that day to take a final look around, snap some pictures, and say our good-byes. As we walked up to the front glass doors we passed the marquee proudly facing Wayne Road; I had spent many a warm summer night and frigid winter snowfall perched precariously off a ladder, hanging from the upper reaches of that marquee, struggling to replace the letters for the week's departing films with the new incoming titles. It was always nice when drivers would pass by and honk as I worked; I would try to wave back, if I dared release a hand to do so. Being terrified of heights, I was reluctant to do this much.

My wife and I approached the front doors and as we entered, I stole a glance back to the large circular globe lights that lined the sidewalk up to the entrance; the old usher's trick was that if a globe light burned out, a solid whack with a broom to its lightpost would usually cause them to blink back on. How many times had I done that? How many times had I shoved that walkway in thick, blowing snowstorms?

The large lobby had not changed much; some new paint on the walls in places, but otherwise the same. No familiar faces at the box office or behind the bold white concession stand anymore. We sat on a bench and looked around. I had patrolled this space for years with broom and dustpan, struggling to keep up with the popcorn that seemed to be endlessly strewn about the carpet. I must say I took great pride in the appearance of the lobby and the theaters I cleaned; to a movie lover like me the theaters were like cathedrals and demanded the utmost respect and cleanliness.

I remembered the lobby during the holidays when staff Christmas decorating parties would take place: the tree would go up, the trim and bows would be hung and the managers would spring for pizza. The lobby would be absolutely abuzz during that time of year; the mixture of holiday excitement (and holiday movies) along with the genuine camaraderie amongst the staff made working holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year a joy. I never really minded it at all.

We stood up, wandered over to the cashier and asked if a manager we knew, Mr. Erickson, happened to be working that afternoon. He was

not, but he would be in later that evening. We wouldn't be able to make it back that night, but we thought it fitting that he would be here as the final movie played. He had been here for years, and I fondly remembered him as one of the place's finest managers and one of the best bosses I ever had.

My wife and I had a newborn at home; we knew we couldn't stay long. I wished I could see one more movie here. A man was removing the video games from the lobby's gaming areas. I smiled to myself as I recalled when there was down time between movies, a certain manager would retreat to the game room to play *Mortal Kombat* alone. We couldn't stop cracking up when we would hear a fist pound and a quick flurry of loud profanity from around the corner; our poor manager had been executed in gruesome fashion yet again.

We had one more stop to make before we left the theater for the last time; I dragged my wife over to one of the lobby's box offices and we took a quick self-portrait in front of it. We had both started working here at Showcase back in 1992. We had spent countless hours talking in this lobby; I would be circling the floor picking up popcorn and she would be sitting prettily in her box office and we would exchange pleasantries and talk movies. Ten years after we met at Showcase, we were married. She is the greatest gift the place gave me, along with the years of memories I have of working there.

We made our way out the front doors and back to the car. I made one final circle around the back of the theater building; the outer reaches of the parking lot had not been plowed and were snow-covered. They probably had not needed to use that lot space for years as business had not been good. We recalled how the entire lot used to be packed for summer and holiday busy seasons. For me, the ultimate Showcase movie was *Jurassic Park*, which opened in June of 1993 and played there all summer long, unheard of when compared to today's here-and-gone blockbusters. The projectionists cranked up the volume in the auditoriums that played the film so the staff could hear the roar of the T-rex out in the lobby. The parking lot was packed all summer long for that one.

And that was all. We turned out of the lot and pulled away, leaving a vital chapter of our younger years behind. It's a shame it ended as it did, with the inability of corporate management to adequately upgrade the theater to remain competitive along with paranoid governmental red tape derailing last-ditch plans for renovation. I dread the day the place is torn down. But even if that day comes, I will try to be here, watching and remembering the people I met and the memories that were made here, and doing so with much gratitude.

Jeff Lelek is a Dearborn Heights resident and former Showcase Cinema employee.



Jeff Lelek

AAUW show 'good for the soul' for kids, performers

There was a little bit of magic this past weekend at Garden City High School. Members of the Plymouth-Canton Branch, American Association of University Women, took to the stage for performances of *Snow White*, a proud tradition dating back to 1959.

The cast kept busy with five performances, Thursday and Friday nights, and three daytime shows Saturday. Rehearsals started in January.

Elaine Bain of Plymouth Township recalled getting involved years back when asked to handle publicity, which included stacks of fliers throughout her house. "I worked my way up to being the house manager, and I liked that," said Bain, a retired English teacher from East Middle School in the Plymouth-Canton district.

Bain was then asked about taking on the role of the dog in *Peter Pan* (AAUW members rotate a series of plays to keep things fresh from year to year, rewriting dialogue to appeal to today's youngsters).

"I thought 'You know, that might be fun' and I was hooked," she said.

"When we come together and do the play it's almost like we're a family," she noted. Bain's been ill in recent years, but determined to continue with the annual children's play.

"I often don't feel good and I have to go out because of the play. I've discovered once I get there after about half an hour I don't feel sick anymore. It's good for the soul."

She and other cast members like to get into their characters. Many of the women are local educators, and it's fun for their students to spot them on stage in costume.

Bain was pleased with the 780, near capacity crowd at Garden City High for opening night, Girl Scout Night. "Of course, being an English teacher one likes to do this kind of thing," she said. Her topic for the Scouts was speaking clearly, with other women covering body language, costumes and other theater-related topics.

"We had them up and down in their seats doing different things," Bain said.

"You can be the antithesis of who you are," she added. "It's fun to go up there and be a goofball." Her *Snow White* character fit that description, Sir Dandiprat Bombas.

A major contributor to the play's success is co-director Becky Copenhaver of Canton,

a third-grade teacher at Hoover Elementary School in the Livonia district. "This is my 28th year" of being involved, said Copenhaver, who shared directing duties with Shirley Zaetta, Kay Paupore and Diana Wilcox. She saw *Cinderella* done by AAUW when her own boys were 3 and 5, and thought she'd like to get involved.

"A lot of children haven't even been to a live performance before," Copenhaver said, noting the branch values being able to bring live theater to area families each year. "You can't beat the price," she added — \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door, with proceeds for scholarships.

The organizers do a lot of interactive efforts with children at each show. "Afterwards, of course, meeting everybody is just so exciting," the co-director said. The cast lines up outside the auditorium after each show, with eager youngsters meeting the performers. Some girls Saturday arrived in costumes, such as Snow White, and were thrilled to have photos taken.

Copenhaver recalled when she played the White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland* a child said "I have your movie." This year, the Canton resident took to the stage as the Skunk. After the show, she asked children, "Who was your favorite character other than the Skunk?"

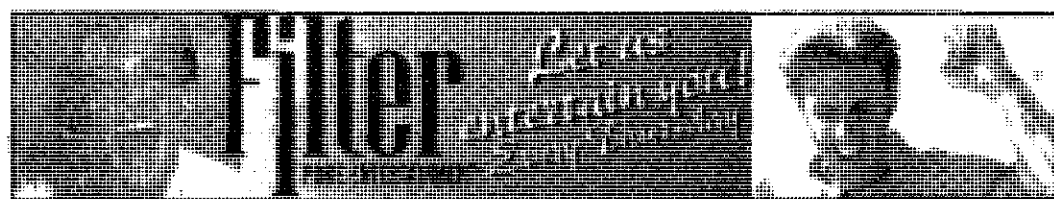
My role in *Snow White* this year was minor and offstage, baking banana bread for the Saturday cast lunch and ushering that morning. Even so, I shared in the camaraderie that's kept these women going strong all these years. This and many other community projects, some in the arts and in other fields, make our communities better places to live for the young and old alike.

A highlight Saturday was the cast lunch, coordinated by hard-working Sue Sayers. The group shared some laughs and applauded all the work that went into making *Snow White* a success.

"That's a great way to catch up with everybody," said Copenhaver, Plymouth-Canton branch president. "These friendships are special. You see their kids grow up, too."

These days, kids spend so much time in front of computers and TVs, and the educators and others in AAUW like to take this time every year to balance that with live performances. I don't like to sound like a Luddite, but I agree with the play's organizers that it's a great idea for kids to see live theater — and I'm grateful to those who provide it year after year.

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



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Sponsored by the Schoolcraft College International Institute
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6:30 p.m.
Presentation Room Inside the VisTaTech Center
Admission: Free
Information: 734-462-4400, ext. 5271

Wednesday, March 19
Ralph Votapek, piano
Presented by the Schoolcraft College Music Department
The internationally acclaimed pianist and recently retired artist-in-residence at Michigan State University offers a free recital featuring works by Mozart, Chopin, Kapustin and Debussy.
Noon
Presentation Room Inside the VisTaTech Center
Admission: Free
Information: 734-462-4403.

Thursday, March 20
7th Annual Multicultural Fair
Presented by the Schoolcraft College International Institute
Experience the language, music, dance and food of more than two dozen cultures as Schoolcraft College students showcase their ethnic and cultural diversity.
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
DiPonio Room inside the VisTaTech Center
Admission: Free
Information: 734-462-4400, ext. 5271

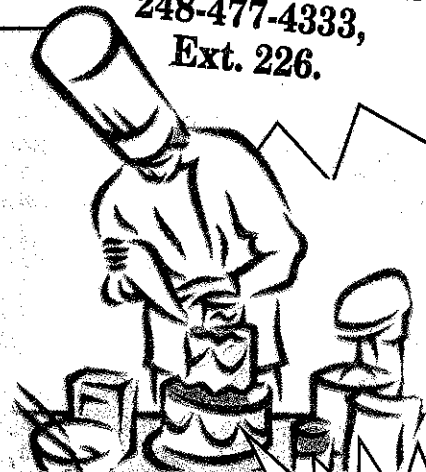
Friday, March 21 – Saturday, April 5
Peter Weiss' drama Marat/Sade
Presented by the Schoolcraft College Department of Theatre and Drama
In this play within a play that critics have called "total theatre," the Marquis de Sade stages plays with his fellow inmates in the asylum.
Friday and Saturday, March 21-22 and March 28-29, dinner theatre
6:30 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. curtain
Admission: \$24
Friday and Saturday, April 4-5, theatre performance only
8 p.m. curtain
Admission: \$12
Tickets: 734-462-4596
CAUTION: This play is not for children.
Unless otherwise noted, events are at the Livonia campus
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SPORTS



Thursday, March 13, 2008

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

www.hometownlife.com

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

Glenn grappler Austin earns state runner-up honors

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

PREP WRESTLING

Individually, no area team had a better weekend than Westland John Glenn. The Rockets, led by 125-pound state runner-up Jeremiah Austin, also got a third from Anthony Pavlich (103) and a fifth from Jared Stephens (130) during the MHSAA Division 1 state championships held at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Austin, a senior, finished the year with a glittering 53-2 record, his only two losses coming against eventual state

champion Zac Stevens of Monroe.

Not bad for a district qualifier from a year ago.

Austin reached Saturday's championship match with a 6-5 decision Friday over Zach Davis of Davison after winning by a 21-6 technical fall over Dan Sabin of Grand Haven and an 18-7 major decision over Michael Dibble of Rochester Stoney Creek on Thursday.

"Jeremiah is the most talented athlete I've ever coached," Glenn's Bill Polk said. "He's an

example to his entire team as a student and leader. He has been a positive influence on and off the mat to all of our guys.

"Jeremiah was one our captains this year because he was often the biggest cheerleader on the sidelines for everyone from the JV to the other captains. It has been a pleasure coaching him and watching him become a young man."

Pavlich, a sophomore, ended the year 52-4.

He reached the semifinals Friday before losing to eventual state champion Andrew Brackins of Waterford Kettering, 7-5. Pavlich bounced

back to win the consolation final over Jon Rangel of Lansing Everett with a pin in 2:31.

"He was very close to being a state champion and I'm sure his third-place finish will fuel him to work even harder to accomplish his goals," Polk said. "He arguably had the best sophomore season in the history of John Glenn. He has been very dedicated to his sport for several years and this year his hard work paid off."

Stephens, who finished 47-9 overall, earned fifth place with a 3-2 decision over Nick Bara of Romeo.

Holt's Grant Ankney decided the Glenn junior in the second round, 10-7. Stephens then decided Kevin Hayter of Salem, 9-5, and Steve Sattler of New Baltimore Anchor Bay, 3-2, before losing to Josh Houldsworth of Holly on a major decision, 9-0.

"Jared wrestled outstanding at the state tournament," Polk said. "He was arguably in the toughest weight class in the state from top to bottom. He showed us that he has the potential to become a state champion his senior year."

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Signlines

Kemp spurs Lions

Neal Kemp (Lutheran High Westland) captured a pair of matches as Lindenwood (Mo.) University repeated last weekend as NAIA wrestling team champion at the Iyson Events Center in Sioux City Iowa.

Kemp, a senior who hails from Melvindale, is transfer from Triton (Ill.) Community College. He finished 17-14 on the year.

Teammate Lance Shunia (Southfield), a junior and Walled Lake Central High School placed sixth in the heavyweight division to finish 27-5 overall.

Rogowski returned

Livonia native and former Catholic Central High standout Casey Rogowski was reassigned Monday to the Oakland As minor league development camp.

The non-roster invitee, an infielder, went 2-for-11 in his spring training stint at the plate and will likely be assigned to AAA Sacramento of the Pacific Coast League.

Richardson hailed

Madonna University junior catcher Danielle Richardson (Lapeer West), who hit .600 (12-for-20), was selected the first Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference women's softball Player of the Week (ending March 9).

Against ninth-ranked Dickinson State (N.D.), Richardson went 4-for-4 with a walk and two doubles. For the week, she collected seven RBI, three doubles and scored four times, while throwing out 60 percent of base stealers. Richardson is hitting .487 overall with five doubles and 13 RBI for the 8-4 Crusaders.

MU duo hailed

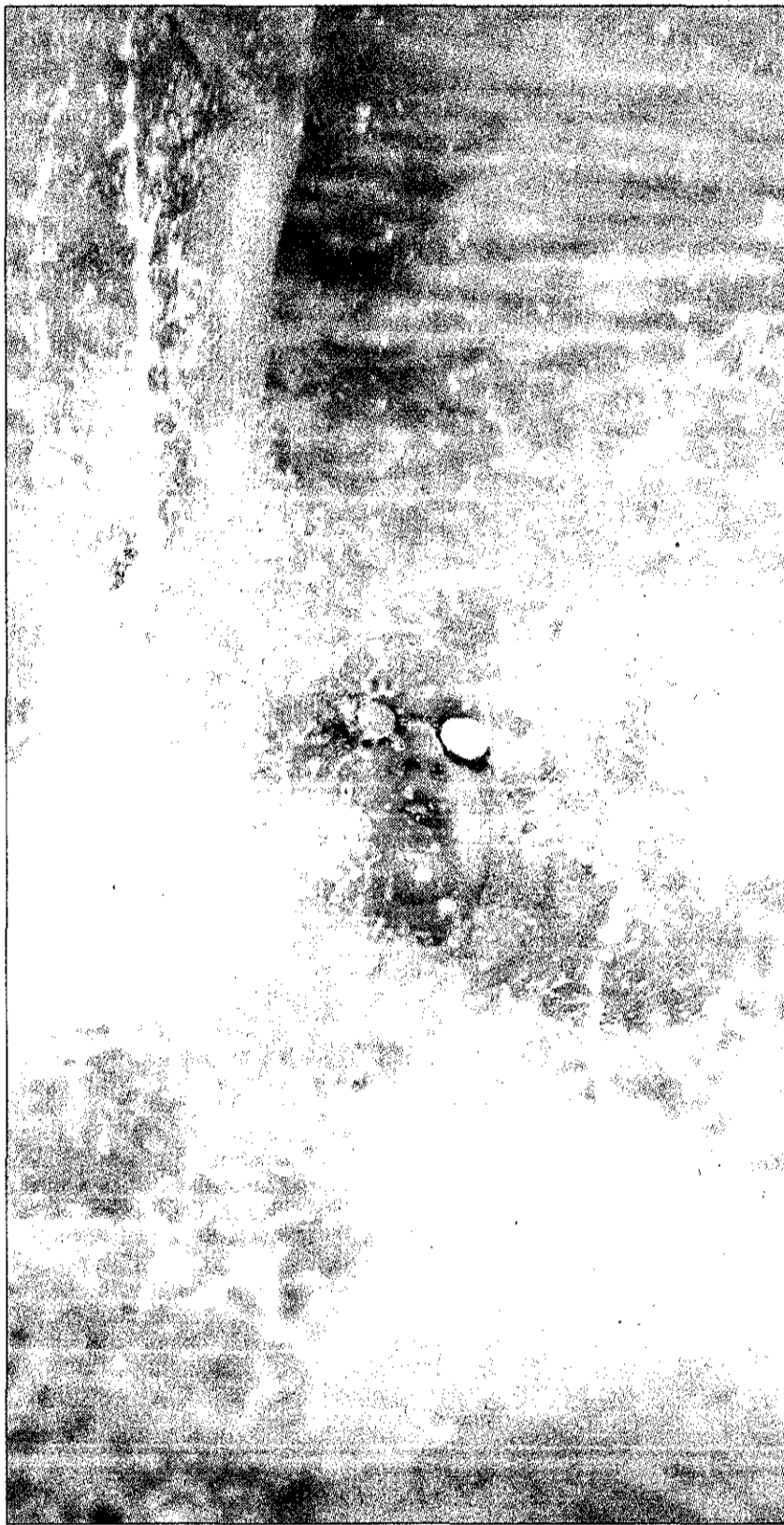
Madonna University teammates Kevin Zerbo (Farmington Hills Harrison) and Will Kennedy (Westland John Glenn) were named Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Player and Pitcher of the Week, respectively, in the first week of honors for the 2008 season.

Zerbo was MU's leading hitter over a 10-game stretch as the Crusaders posted a 7-3 record, including seven straight wins in the RussMatt Collegiate Tournament in Arizona. He is hitting .394 (13-for-33) with two homers and eight RBI. He has a career-best 12-game hitting streak.

Kennedy, 1-1 on the mound, went 1-0 for the week, including a 1-0 no decision. He fanned 15 over eight innings, including a career-best 12 in a complete-game shutout over Montana State-Billings while allowing only two hits. He fanned three of four batters in a relied outing vs. SIU-Edwardsville.

Luke sparkles at state meet, Spartans 11th

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stevenson's Robert Luke took fifth in the 100-yard backstroke during Saturday's MHSAA Division 1 boys swimming and diving finals held at Oakland University.

A top-10 finish eluded Livonia Stevenson in Saturday's MHSAA Division 1 boys swimming and diving championships held at Oakland University. The Spartans, Western Lakes Activities Association champions, placed 11th overall with 68 points.

Ann Arbor Huron edged rival Ann Arbor Pioneer for the team title, 279-260. Grand Haven was third with 188, while rounding out the top 10 were Birmingham Brother Rice (170), Grand Rapids Forest Hills Unified (161), Northville (153), Hartland (128), East Kentwood (123), Saline (113) and Grandville (109).

A disqualification for two infractions in the 200-yard medley relay, where Stevenson was seeded tied for fourth, got the Spartans off on the wrong foot.

"We took an extra stroke in the backstroke and we left early in the breaststroke," Stevenson coach Jeff Shoemaker said. "It was big because we probably would have been fourth. It kind of hurt us for dang sure."

The Spartans didn't earn their first points until the sixth event, the 100 butterfly, as senior Robert Luke placed seventh (52.55) and junior teammate Mike Cruce finished 10th (53.67).

The Spartans' foursome of junior Chris Behler, sophomore Aaren Marecki, junior Ryan Scott and senior Kyle Hermann added an 11th in the 200 freestyle relay (1:30.53).

Luke garnered Stevenson's best finish on the day with a fifth in the 100 backstroke (53.44), while junior Joey Wingett contributed an eighth in the 100 breaststroke (1:01.27).

Stevenson also lowered its time in the 400 freestyle relay as Behler, Marecki, Hermann and Cruce took 11th in 3:18.55.

In Friday's prelims, Behler earned an alternate spot with an 18th in the 50 freestyle (22.62). Hermann was 21st in 22.75.

Behler added a 21st in the 100 freestyle (50.57), while Cruce was 21st in the 500 freestyle (5:00.05).

Please see **SPARTANS, B3**

Quint, Guzik lead individual places at D-1 state meet

Livonia Blue's Emily Quint and Livonia Red's Paula Guzik each turned in a solid all-around performance in Saturday's MHSAA Division 1 individual gymnastics meet held at Plymouth High School.

Quint, a sophomore, finished third overall with a score of 37.65, tied with Karen Verbrugge of Forest Hills and only behind the Grand Ledge duo of Meaghan McWhorter (38.60) and Alexis Byington (38.40).

Quint's best finishes included runner-up on floor exercise (9.55); third on vault (9.6); and a tie for fourth on balance beam (9.475), earning All-State recognition in three of four events. She also added 9.025 on the uneven parallel bars.

Guzik, a senior, capped her outstanding career by taking sixth overall with 36.90 thanks to fourth on vault (9.575) and floor exercise (9.5). She also scored 9.075 on the balance beam and 8.75 on the uneven bars.

Livonia Blue junior Meghan Powers also earned All-State honors by tying for eighth on floor exercise with 9.35. Teammate Brittany Janis, also a junior, took 12th on the uneven bars (9.05).

In Division 2, Livonia Blue's Kelly Tapella and Laura Nomura placed 11th and 12th, respectively, in the all-around with scores of 35.30 and 35.05.

Tapella, a senior, tied for seventh on floor (9.175) and added an eighth on bars (8.775). Her other scores included 8.9 (vault) and 8.775 (beam).

Nomura, a junior, placed third on floor (9.325) and tied for fourth on vault (9.15). She also added 8.45 on the uneven bars and 8.125 on beam.

Despite losing tourney bid, Adrian hockey team shines

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

This wasn't the way the season was supposed to end for the Cinderella story of the NCAA Division III hockey season. Winners of 20 straight with a 26-3 overall record, first-year program Adrian College awaited the call that never came Sunday night.

The Bulldogs, hopeful for one of the four at-large bids in the 10-team NCAA field, had their bubble burst in a cruel and unusual manner.

The NCAA selection committee extended the bids to Elmira, Hobart, Manhattanville and Wisconsin-Stout, while the Bulldogs were left wondering.

"I guess the clock did strike midnight," said Livonia native and Churchill High grad Adam Krug, Bulldogs' leading scorer. "It's awful, my stomach is in knots not to get invited."

"I have a 100 theories and I won't pinpoint one wrong thing. I just think some people did not want to see us get in. We put more pressure on the committee. We made them feel uncomfortable."



Krug



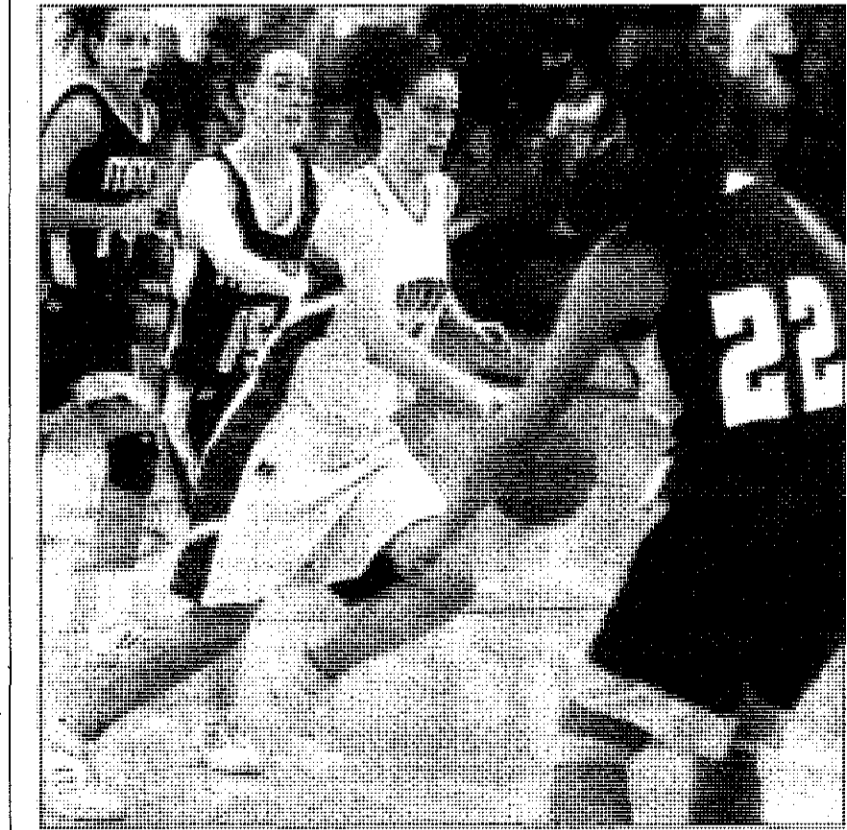
Stansik

Detroit Free Press sports columnist Mitch Albom campaigned vigorously for the Bulldogs to get their shot on Sunday's ESPN Sports Reporters.

He called it a "Miracle on Ice" and made reference to the nationals being playing in Lake Placid, N.Y., site of the infamous 1980 Olympics when the U.S. upset the Russians.

"It's kind of disappointing not making the tourney, we had a great season and it's a shame they did not take us," said

Please see **ADRIAN, B2**



All-Area girls hoops

Ladywood senior guard-forward Alison Szczpka earned second-team All-Observer honors this season. For more on this year's squad, see page B5.

Spartans' Kharbush gets 4th in 160-pound Division 1 class

BY BRAD EMONS
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Taking fourth-place was nothing to sneeze at last weekend for Livonia Stevenson's Ziad Kharbush at the MHSAA Division 1 state individual wrestling championships held last weekend at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Kharbush, who finished 4-6 overall, fell to an all-time family opponent, Jeremy Epley of Salem, in the consolation final at 160 pounds, 1-0.

Epley beat Kharbush twice this season, including a 4-2 overtime win in the district. Kharbush won the first encounter in the Western Lakes Activities Association final, 7-6.

Kharbush lost a 7-3 decision to state runner-up Jake Bohn in the semifinals and then beat Jason Bonham of Grandville, 5-1, to reach the consolation final.

"Ziad wrestled very well at the Palace," Stevenson coach Dan Vaughan said. "He earned a fourth-place in what I think was one of the toughest weight classes in the state this year."

"Both of his losses could have gone either way and both came down to the last seconds in the third period."

Kharbush, whose older brother Imad was a former prep state champ and two-time NCAA national qualifier from Stanford, will continue his wrestling career at Brown University.

"Ziad is a wonderful student

and will make an excellent college wrestler," Vaughan said.

Patriots place pair

Livonia Franklin sent two wrestlers - seniors Dan Woodall (171) and Jared Pieknik (112) - to the Palace and came away with two medals.

Woodall finished 4-2 on the weekend to up his record to 60-4, which puts him first all-time for wins in a season by a Patriot.

Woodall pinned Josh Meinzer of Jenison in 3:23 for fifth after losing to Kyle Summerfield of Hartland on a 9-6 decision. Woodall bounced back from a 19-13 second-round loss to beat Rodger Kropp of Canton, 9-2, and Devin Duncan of Monroe, 4-2.

"There are so many kids in the sport that start at a young age, but it's also nice to know that kids that join their ninth-grade year can still have success," Franklin coach Dave Chiola said. "Dan was cut from the basketball team, so we got him late and he was behind some very tough kids. He just kept taking his lumps and eventually got used to his height and took off from there. He came real close to qualifying last year and I think he used that as motivation in the off-season."

Pieknik, meanwhile, wound up 50-11 overall.

He was pinned in 29 seconds by Davison's Cody Robins in the opener, but clawed back with decisions over Jeremy Stoian of Troy Athens,

10-4; Gerald Parker of Flint Carman-Ainsworth, fall in 4:55; before losing to Jake Byers of Rockford, 10-4. He then lost to Wyandotte's Leon Shannon for seventh place, 11-3.

"Jared joined as a freshman because I had my team scour the halls for a back-up 103-pounder," Chiola said. "They came back with this skinny kid that would just get beat up in practice, but eventually he became a technician and was one of the guys we relied on for wins."

Both Woodall and Pieknik will be missed.

"They always put the teams' goal first, never complained, taught the young wrestler and are team leaders," Chiola said. "They are definitely proof that hard work and off-season dedication will help you achieve your goals."

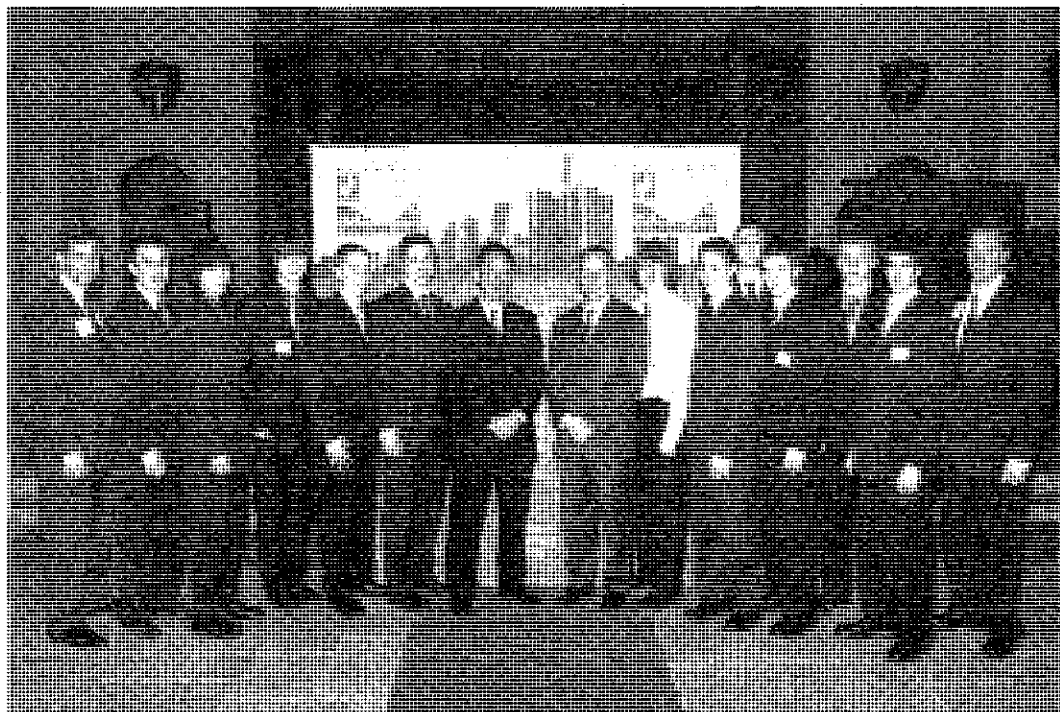
Kemp finishes 5th

In the Division 4 draw, Lutheran High Westland junior Stephen Kemp, the Observerland Invitational champion, decisioned Cody Eyer of St. Louis, 4-2, to finish 50-5 overall.

Kemp reached the semifinals of the winner's bracket before losing to eventual state champion Dan Yates of Hesperia, 14-2.

Kemp then fell 4-3 in overtime to Payden Armstrong of Jonesville before rebounding to beat Eyer.

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Students and members of the Livonia Stevenson High hockey team were guests of Bank America last Friday at the Economic Club of Detroit luncheon which featured the Detroit Red Wings.

Hockey economics

Stevenson students meet with Red Wing brass

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

It's not every day you get to rub elbows with the Detroit Red Wings players and management, while also making it a classroom experience.

But that's what 10 students from Livonia Stevenson High, including five members of the varsity hockey team, experienced last Friday at the Economic Club of Detroit's luncheon at the Masonic Temple.

They were guests courtesy of Bank of America, which sponsored the group which included Stevenson coach David Mitchell.

"It's a great opportunity for these kids," said Mitchell, who sat at a table with Red Wing defenseman Chris Chelios. "It's a great experience for the students because they're able to see it more than just a game, but also from a business side. They were able to see how it

translates from the rink, to the coaches, to the classroom."

The Stevenson contingent, along with other sponsored high school groups, were part of an invitation-only reception which featured question-and-answer session with Red Wings general manager Ken Holland and team vice-president Christopher Ilitch prior to the luncheon.

"Know your business, work hard and do it with passion," Holland advised the career-minded students.

Among the Stevenson students in attendance included R.J. Kierdorf, John Vella, Sean Lerg, Alex Soave and Jake Wilson, all members of the varsity hockey team. They were joined by Adam Kleven, Tim Pruchnik, Cam Humitz, Jake Vert and Jake Poynter.

Marshall Kleven, from Bank of America, and Livonia Chamber of Commerce president Dan West served as the team

chaperones, along with Mitchell.

"It was good to see how an organization runs," said Vella, a junior forward on the Spartans' hockey team. "And it's little things that go on. You appreciate them more often."

"I wanted to know how does he spend a typical day and how much time he spends on the phone."

Following the luncheon, both Holland and Red Wing coach Mike Babcock gave packed room their state-of-the-team address. Each team member and assistant coach was then introduced.

Vella counts Pavel Datsyuk as his favorite player, but he was also pleased recently reacquired Red Wing Darren McCarty, stationed just a table away, was among the luncheon audience of 750.

"I'm glad to see him back," Vella said.

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PREP WRESTLING RESULTS

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS (March 6-8 at the Palace of Auburn Hills)
TOP AREA PLACERS
DIVISION 1
Jeremiah Austin, 125 pounds, Westland John Glenn (runner-up): won by major decision over Michael Dibble (Rochester Stoney Creek), 18-7; won by technical fall over Dan Sabin (Grand Haven), 21-6; dec. Zach Davis (Davison), 6-5; lost by dec. to Zach Stevens (Monroe), 7-3. Final record: 53-2.
Anthony Pavlich, 103, John Glenn (third): won by major dec. over Zack Worthing (Utica Ford), 9-0; dec. Travis Rife (Howell), 7-0; lost to Andrew Brackins (Waterford Kettering), 7-5; pinned Jon Rangel (Lansing Everett), 23; dec. Ben Mathisen (Holt), 2-1. Final record: 52-4.

Ziad Kharbush, 160, Livonia Stevenson (fourth): p. Fadl Moosa (Sterling Heights), 2:33; dec. Stefan Gatt (Novi-Detroit Catholic Central), 6-3; dec. by Jake Bohn (East Kentwood), 7-3; dec. Jason Bonham (Grandville), 5-1; dec. by Jeremy Epley (Salem), 1-0. Final record: 46-4.
Dan Woodall, 171, Livonia Franklin: dec. Max McGoldrick (Holly), 9-5; dec. by Josh Meinzer (Jenison), 19-13; dec. Rodger Kropp (Canton), 9-2; dec. Devin Duncan (Monroe), 4-2; dec. by Kyle Summerfield (Hartland), 9-6; p. Meinzer (Jenison), 5-0 (overtime). Final record: 58-4.
Jared Stephens, 130, John Glenn (fifth): dec. Alex Popp (Clarkston), 7-5; dec. by Grant Ankeny (Holt), 10-7; dec. Kevin Hayter (Salem), 9-5; dec. Steve Sattler (Anchor Bay), 3-2; lost

by major dec. to Josh Houldsworth (Holly), 9-0; dec. Nick Bara (Romeo), 3-2. Final record: 47-9.
Jarek Pieknik, 112, Franklin (eighth): p. by Cody Robins (Davison), 0:29; dec. Jeremy Stoian (Troy Athens), 10-4; p. Gerald Parker (Flint Carman-Ainsworth), 4:55; dec. by Jake Byers (Rockford), 10-4; lost by major dec. to Leon Shannon (Belleville), 11-3. Final record: 50-11.
DIVISION 4
Stephen Kemp, 152, Lutheran Westland (fifth): dec. Casey Rickli (Martin), 7-2; won by major dec. over Bill Krusch (Pine River), 11-2; lost by major dec. to Dan Yates (Hesperia), 14-2; lost by 4-3 dec. to Payden Armstrong (Jonesville), 4-3 (OT); dec. Cody Eyer (St. Louis), 4-2. Final record: 50-5.

ADRIAN

FROM PAGE B1

Livonia native and Stevenson High grad Chris Stansik, a freshman defenseman who earned All-Midwest Collegiate Hockey Association honors.

"Right now it's more of a disappointment than anger."

The 24-year-old Krug, who played two years at Wayne State before transferring to Adrian for his junior year, scored 30 goals and added 47 assists in 29 games. The Adrian captain's 77 points led all players in Division III and he was featured last week in *Sports Illustrated's* Faces in the Crowd.

"This is a once in a lifetime thing to set records at the Division III level," Krug said. "It's an incredible feat and it's really special what we accomplished. We got our rings from winning the MCHA. And we'll look at those right before the finals."

A year ago, Adrian didn't have a team or even an arena. But when the \$2.4 million Arrington Arena opened last fall, the Bulldogs became the talk of the town and the 500-seat complex was packed on a regular basis.

It all culminated with a 1-0 overtime win March 2 in Milwaukee over Finlandia (Mich.) for the Harris Cup.

Stansik, who played two seasons in for the Lincoln (Neb.) Stars of the USHL, was recruited originally by Bowling

Green State University assistant coach Ron Fogarty, who later took the Adrian job.

Prior to going to Nebraska, Stansik played for the Victoria Honda, an 18-under AAA Midget Major program, which is owned and run by his father John. (Chris also has a younger brother Kyle in the program.)

"I did not pass the NCAA Clearinghouse (on academic standards), so I began to look at other options," Stansik said. "I was 13 hours away (in Lincoln) and now I'm 55 minutes from home. I wanted to be near my family."

The 22-year-old Stansik, one of 22 freshmen on the Adrian squad, adapted quickly. He finished with 11 goals and 23 assists in 29 games, including a plus-rating of 43.

And he was pleasantly surprised by the caliber of play.

"I had a great time," said Stansik, who like Krug is majoring in business. "I had to learn to play with the guys, but I'd say there's more competition (than the USHL). It's a higher level because it's different when you have to balance out school. In Lincoln, I just played hockey and took a class here and there."

Also expected to rejoin the Adrian team next year is freshman forward Justin Stadler, a former Churchill High standout who played most recently for the Junior Alpena Ice Diggers of the NAHL.

Stadler, dealing with a concussion issue, appeared in just two games.

"He's hopeful to play next year," Krug said. "And he said to me that even though he hasn't played, he loves being a part of this team."

Meanwhile, with the entire team returning, Krug said the Bulldogs will be more determined than ever entering the 2008-09 season. Next year Adrian won't have to wonder because the MCHA will receive an automatic bid.

"The guys talked about it yesterday (Monday) and today (Tuesday)," he said. "We want to make it 50 in a row."

BURNS IN THE DANCE

Although the Adrian College hockey team did not get an at-large invitation in the NCAA Division III tournament, Trinity College (Conn.) made the cut as the New England Small College Athletic Association champion following a 3-2 overtime win Sunday over Middlebury (Conn.).

Trinity, 16-10-2 overall, features junior defenseman Bill Burns, who anchors the blueline at 6 feet, 4 inches, 200 pounds. The Livonia native, who has two assists, played for Catholic Central High and the Green Mountain (Vt.) Glades of the Eastern Junior Hockey League.

Trinity opened first-round NCAA Division III tournament action Wednesday night against Massachusetts-Dartmouth (18-8-1), which gained an automatic bid by winning the ECAC Northeast Hockey League.

ADULT HOCKEY STANDINGS

LIVONIA OVER 30 MEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYOFF DIVISION STANDINGS (as of March 9)
(Fairman/Fitzpatrick/Fogliatti)
Zaschak Enterprises 7-2-1/15 points
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PREP BOYS SWIM RESULTS

MHSAA DIVISION 1 BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING FINALS
March 7-8 at Oakland University
TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Ann Arbor Huron, 279 points; 2. Ann Arbor Pioneer, 260; 3. Grand Haven, 188; 4. Birmingham Brother Rice, 170; 5. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Unified, 161; 6. Northville, 153; 7. Hartland, 128.5; 8. East Kentwood, 123; 9. Saline, 113; 10. Grandville, 109; 11. Livonia Stevenson, 68, 12. (tie) Romeo, 59; Holt, 59; 14. South Lyon, 45; 15. Holland West Ottawa, 39; 16. Monroe, 35; 17. Utica Eisenhower, 32; 18. Grand Blanc, 28; 19. Flint Kearsley/Davison Unified, 27; 20. Byron Center/Caledonia Unified, 26.5; 21. (tie) Rockford, 26; Howell, 26; 23. (tie) Troy, 18; Eaton Rapids/Charlotte Unified, 18; 25. Plymouth Salem, 17; 26. Jackson, 16; 27. (tie) West Bloomfield, 14; Kalamazoo Central, 14; 29. Farmington, 13; 30. Plymouth, 12; 31. Novi, 10; 32. Brighton, 6; 33. New Baltimore Anchor Bay, 5; 34. Grand Ledge, 2; 35. (tie) Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, 1; Utica Ford, 1.

FINAL HEAT RESULTS
200-yard medley relay: 1. Grand Haven (Erik Johnson, Jason Lintjer, Aaron Beebe, Jake Heyblom) 1:34.40; 2. Huron, 1:36.75; 3. Pioneer, 1:37.02; 4. Saline, 1:38.80; 5. Forest Hills Unified, 1:39.27; 6. Hartland, 1:39.29; 7. South Lyon, 1:39.92; 8. disqualification; 9. Romeo, 1:40.39; 10. E. Kentwood, 1:40.91; 11. Holt, 1:42.02; 12. W. Bloomfield, 1:42.11; 13. Howell, 1:42.46; 14. Novi, 1:42.70; 15. Northville, 1:42.88; 16. Rockford, 1:43.25.

200 freestyle: 1. Dan Thurston (Huron) 1:41.89; 2. Mark Schramm (Monroe) 1:42.43; 3. Jon Bardsley (Northville) 1:44.09; 4. Derek Mead (Forest Hills Unified) 1:44.51; 5. Matt Gauthier (Pioneer) 1:44.69; 6. Andrew Rose (Grandville) 1:45.04; 7. Derek Raska (Romeo) 1:45.11; 8. Kevin Konkle (Hartland) 1:45.98; 9. AJ Berlin (E. Kentwood) 1:45.55; 10. Alex Blanzly (Eisenhower) 1:46.89; 11. Jeff Snade (Kearsley/Davison) 1:47.00; 12. Jeff Cole (Grandville) 1:47.14; 13. Kevin Naud (Pioneer) 1:47.20; 14. Jim Hinkson (Troy) 1:48.15; 15. Jordan Jackson (E. Kentwood) 1:48.31; 16. Dan Forhan (W. Bloomfield) 1:49.15.

200 individual medley: 1. Michael Zennedjian (Brother Rice) 1:52.20; 2. Brody Bickie (Northville) 1:54.68; 3. Chris Berloth (Huron) 1:54.92; 4. Taylor Harris (Forest Hills Unified) 1:56.22; 5. Michael Swain (Huron) 1:56.41; 6. Peter Keeler (Pioneer) 1:57.20; 7. Kurt VonEhr (Forest Hills Unified) 1:59.13; 8. Kevin Galerneau (Eisenhower) 1:59.73; 9. Mike Conger (Novi) 1:59.86; 10. Adam Seroka (Plymouth Salem) 2:00.40; 11. Sam Wittig (Saline) 2:01.31; 12. Brian Gregora (Pioneer) 2:01.47; 13. A.J. Yunker (Grand Blanc) 2:01.54; 14. Derek Champin (Hartland) 2:01.78; 15. Brian Deaver (Brother Rice) 2:01.79; 16. Brent Showerman (S. Lyon) 2:06.08.

50 freestyle: 1. Sam Hoekstra (Grandville) 21.27; 2. Jake Heyblom (Grand Haven) 21.52; 3. Jason Lintjer (Grand Haven) 21.64; 4. Kyle Helzer (E. Kentwood) 21.99; 5. Grant Cole (Pioneer) 22.01; 6. Kyle Adams (Northville) 22.02; 7. Nik Mrdalj (Pioneer) 22.11; 8. Pat Richardson (Huron) 22.33; 9. Ken Humberstone (West Ottawa) 22.00; 10. (tie) Matt Sysma (Byron Center) 22.26; Kyle Smith (Hartland) 22.26; 12. Aaron Shields (Anchor Bay) 22.33; 13. Alex Wu (Saline) 22.38; 14. Thomas Wagner (Pioneer) 22.65; 15. Garrett Greenland (Eaton Rapids/Charlotte Unified) 22.71; 16. Matt Lederer (Farmington) 22.72.

1-meter diving: 1. Joe Smith (Byron Center) 403.00; 2. Kevin Douglas (E. Kentwood) 355.80; 3. Joel Chambers (Saline) 351.00; 4. Cody Schwem (Holt) 350.70; 5. Brian Akers (E. Kentwood) 347.90; 6. Nathan Day (Grand Blanc) 341.10; 7. Michael Elliott (Romeo) 331.10; 8. Jeff Camalo (Huron) 323.25; 9. David Craycraft (Grand Haven) 322.15; 10. Nick Nemetz (Pioneer) 320.35; 11. Darrin Driesenga (West Ottawa) 319.70; 12. Aaron Fuller (Rockford) 314.10; 13. Janssen Smith (Kearsley/Davison) 311.50; 14. Kelsey Goode (Kalamazoo Central) 311.45; 15. Hank Remenapp (Saline) 307.50; 16. Jon Denys (S. Lyon) 306.95.

100 butterfly: 1. Chris Berloth (Huron)

50.68; 2. Aaron Beebe (Grand Haven) 50.97; 3. Brody Bickie (Northville) 50.98; 4. Taylor Harris (Forest Hills Unified) 51.10; 5. Kevin Galerneau (Eisenhower) 51.83; 6. Jim Brabbins (Brother Rice) 52.43; 7. Robert Luke (Livonia Stevenson) 52.55; 8. Justin Rauhoff (Kalamazoo Central) 53.50; 9. Dylan Wood (Huron) 53.67; 10. Mike Cruce (Stevenson) 53.67; 11. A.J. Yunker (Grand Blanc) 53.76; 12. Andrew Anderson (Pioneer) 53.90; 13. Jacob Garner (E. Kentwood) 54.17; 14. Noah Eubanks (W. Bloomfield) 54.53; 15. Chet Jankowski (S. Lyon) 54.64; 16. Joe Kargula (Northville) 54.96.

100 freestyle: 1. Sam Hoekstra (Grandville) 46.07; 2. Jake Heyblom (Grand Haven) 47.36; 3. M.J. Barczak (Brother Rice) 47.69; 4. Robert Nichols (Pioneer) 47.75; 5. Nik Mrdalj (Pioneer) 48.17; 6. John Gorline (Huron) 48.51; 7. Matt Lederer (Farmington) 48.62; 8. Kevin Konkle (Hartland) 49.38; 9. Grant Cole (Pioneer) 49.57; 10. Kyle Adams (Northville) 49.62; 11. Kyle Lucas (Holt) 49.82; 12. Brian Ault (Troy) 49.95; 13. Chase Plank (Rockford) 49.13; 14. Brett Chapman (Howell) 49.20; 15. Zach Burgess (Holt) 49.84.

500 freestyle: 1. Dan Thurston (Huron) 4:37.18; 2. Jeff Snade (Kearsley/Davison) 4:41.94; 3. Mark Schramm (Monroe) 4:42.07; 4. Aaron Beebe (Grand Haven) 4:44.57; 5. Derek Mead (Forest Hills Unified) 4:44.69; 6. Derek Raska (Romeo) 4:48.35; 7. Andrew Rose (Grandville) 4:48.71; 8. Matt Gauthier (Pioneer) 4:53.81; 9. Jon Bardsley (Northville) 4:47.41; 10. Adam Seroka (Saline) 4:48.05; 11. Jim Hinkson (Troy) 4:51.20; 12. Josh Grabljas (Howell) 4:51.22; 13. Jeff Cole (Grandville) 4:52.16; 14. Kyle Anderson (Pioneer) 4:55.45; 15. John Fitzgerald (Grand Ledge) 4:59.08; 16. Bill Woods (Utica Ford) 4:59.58.

200 freestyle relay: 1. Northville (Brody Bickie, Joe Kargula, Jon Bradsley, Kyle Adams) 1:26.57; 2. Grand Haven, 1:26.88; 3. Pioneer, 1:27.88; 4. Brother Rice, 1:28.59; 5. Hartland, 1:28.86; 6. Huron, 1:29.10; 7. E. Kentwood, 1:29.19; 8. Saline, 1:30.16; 9. Forest Hills Unified, 1:29.71; 10. West Ottawa, 1:29.96; 11. Stevenson (Chris Behler, Aaren Marecki, Ryan Scott, Kyle Hermann), 1:30.53; 12. Holt, 1:30.62; 13. Howell, 1:31.25; 14. Brighton, 1:31.52; 15. Romeo, 1:33.15; 16. Monroe, 1:33.27.

100 backstroke: 1. Robert Nichols (Pioneer) 52.18; 2. M.J. Barczak (Brother Rice) 52.37; 3. Nathan Heschke (Pioneer) 52.50; 4. Peter Keeler (Pioneer) 52.84; 5. Robert Luke (Stevenson) 53.44; 6. John Gorline (Huron) 53.56; 7. Jim Brabbins (Brother Rice) 54.41; 8. Pat Richardson (Huron) 54.82; 9. Justin Duong (Saline) 54.38; 10. Mike Wynalda (Grandville) 54.39; 11. Michael Toner (Huron) 54.98; 12. Chet Jankowski (S. Lyon) 55.34; 13. Alex Numbers (Forest Hills Unified) 55.93; 14. Mike Conger (Novi) 56.11; 15. Jonathon Havenhill (Hartland) 56.25; 16. Jesse Elliott (Hartland) 57.41.

100 breaststroke: 1. Michael Zennedjian (Brother Rice) 57.86; 2. Jason Lintjer (Grand Haven) 58.21; 3. Garrett Greenland (Eaton Rapids/Charlotte) 58.56; 4. Michael Swain (Huron) 59.60; 5. Kurt VonEhr (Grand Rapids Forest Hills Unified) 1:00.36; 6. Ben Chodos (Hartland) 1:00.61; 7. Adam Oxner (South Lyon) 1:00.65; 8. Joey Wingett (Stevenson) 1:01.27; 9. Will Chodos (Hartland) 1:00.59; 10. Brian Ginebaugh (Rockford) 1:01.18; 11. Kenny Stetson (Brother Rice) 1:01.56; 12. Michael Kirbitz (Grand Blanc) 1:01.94; 13. Joon Chung (Novi) 1:02.09; 14. Sida Chen (Saline) 1:02.59; 15. Matt DeFauw (Saline) 1:02.66; 16. Josh Radtke (Novi-Detroit CC) 1:02.26.

400 freestyle relay: 1. Huron (Dan Thurston, John Gorline, Michael Swain, Chris Berloth) 3:09.85; 2. Brother Rice, 3:10.17; 3. Pioneer, 3:10.30; 4. Northville, 3:11.11; 5. Grandville, 3:12.39; 6. Forest Hills Unified, 3:14.33; 7. E. Kentwood, 3:16.81; 8. Saline, 3:19.40; 9. Hartland, 3:17.03; 10. Holt, 3:17.14; 11. Stevenson (Chris Behler, Aaren Marecki, Kyle Hermann, Mike Cruce), 3:18.55; 12. West Ottawa, 3:19.21; 13. Rockford, 3:19.76; 14. Grand Haven, 3:19.90; 15. Troy, 3:20.79; 16. Howell, 3:21.56.

Collegiate women's teams, prep girls featured in Lakes Showcase

The sixth annual Lakes Area Showcase Carrie Saxton-Woods Soccer Invitational kicks off the girls high school soccer season this Friday and Saturday, with 75 preseason scrimmage games featuring more than 1,100 players from 32 high school varsity teams, 18 junior varsity teams and six women's college teams, all from Michigan.

Scrimmage games will be played on five high school turf fields and stadium venues located at Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake Western, West Bloomfield and Lakeland High Schools. All five fields are less than a 15-minute drive from one another.

SOCCER

During the two-day event most high school varsity teams will play three 50-minute scrimmage games. Each high school JV and freshman team will play two 50-minute scrimmage games.

On Saturday, collegiate squads will be paired up for a pair of 70-minute scrimmage games each.

The event begins at 4 p.m. on Friday with 25 high school matches across all five fields.

On Saturday, kick-off time is 9 a.m. with 50 high school and college matches scheduled on all the five fields throughout the day. Saturday's scrimmage games should wrap up around

8 p.m.

High school girls soccer programs from local hosts Walled Lake Northern, Walled Lake Central, Walled Lake Western, West Bloomfield and Lakeland will face area soccer teams including Troy Athens, Bloomfield Hills Lahser, Royal Oak, Birmingham Seaholm, Birmingham Groves, Farmington Mercy, Livonia Ladywood, Rochester Hills Stoney Creek, North Farmington, Birmingham Marian, Plymouth Salem, Auburn Hills Avondale, Livonia Stevenson and Livonia Churchill.

Women's college teams include Central Michigan, Ferris State, Grand Valley State, Michigan State, Oakland University and the

University of Michigan. The Invitational is dedicated to Carrie Saxton-Woods, who passed away a few years ago after a courageous battle with cancer.

Saxton-Woods worked tirelessly setting up and promoting both girls and women's soccer programs. Her efforts helped make it possible for many young women to not just play but to flourish in Michigan's soccer community.

For more information, visit the Showcase website at www.LakesAreaShowcase.com or e-mail to Info@lakesareashowcase.com.

In case of bad weather, the make-up date is April 5. The event is sponsored by Shuman Chrysler Jeep of Walled Lake.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS RESULTS

2008 GIRLS GYMNASTICS INDIVIDUAL STATE MEET RESULTS MARCH 8 AT PLYMOUTH H.S.

DIVISION 1

ALL-AROUND: 1. Meaghan McWhorter (Grand Ledge), 38.600; 2. Alexis Byington (GL), 38.400; 3. Emily Quint (Livonia Blue) and Karen Verbrugge (Forest Hills), 37.650; 5. Katiin Abbas (Sturgis), 37.575; 6. Paula Guzik (Livonia Red), 36.900; 7. Elana Cocke (Farmington), 36.850; 8. Michelle Mather (Troy Athens), 36.750; 9. Jessie Murray (Canton), 36.700; 10. Robyn Piwowar (C) and Katie Koetting (Salem), 36.650.

VAULT: 1. McWhorter (GL), 9.900; 2. Byington (GL), 9.700; 3. Quint (LB), 9.600; 4. Guzik (LR), 9.575; 5. Piwowar (C), 9.550; 6. (tie) Koetting (SA), Carleigh Felstead (GL) and Kristin Nagle (F), 9.525; 9. Alexis Johnson (Howell), 9.500; 10. (tie) Chelsea Dukiper (Ludington) and Taylor Meredith (Walled Lake Central), 9.450.

UNEVEN PARALLEL BARS: 1. McWhorter

(GL), 9.650; 2. Katiin Abbas (ST), 9.525; 3. Nagle (F), 9.500; 4. Chelsea Dukiper (L), 9.400; 5. Byington (GL), 9.375; 6. Brittany Wilson (Mona Shores), 9.350; 7. (tie) Verbrugge (FH) and Johnson (H), 9.300; 9. Felstead (GL), 9.275; 10. Cocke (F), 9.057.

BALANCE BEAM: 1. McWhorter (GL), 9.625; 2. Byington (GL), 9.600; 3. Chelsea Dukiper (L), 9.525; 4. (tie) Verbrugge (FH), 9.475 and Quint (LB), 9.475; 6. (tie) Michelle Mather (TA) and Murray (C), 9.450; 8. Naomi Cherup (T), 9.425; 9. Danielle Bresso (F), 9.400; 10. Kallie Strazdas (Portage), 9.375.

FLOOR EXERCISE: 1. Byington (GL), 9.725; 2. Quint (LB), 9.550; 3. McWhorter (GL), 9.525; 4. (tie) Guzik (LR) and Elizabeth Sommer (Walled Lake Northern), 9.500; 6. Verbrugge (FH), 9.475; 7. Brooke Madzia (TA), 9.450; 8. (tie) Cocke (F) and Meghan Powers (LB), 9.350; 10. Abbas (ST), 9.285.

DIVISION 2

ALL-AROUND: 1. Maddie Burman (GL), 36.475; 2. Brittany Romatowski (Dearborn Edsel Ford), 36.450; 3. Jill Haapaniemi (F), 36.300; 4. McKyleigh Geddert (GL), 36.050; 5. Neena Zwier (Kenowa Hills), 35.975; 6. Chelsea Umlauf (Freeland), 35.775; 7. Kelsey Pierce (GL), 35.750; 8. Mary Boyd (ST), 35.550; 9. Brianna Maroukis (Portage), 35.525; 10. Nichole Wood (Holt), 35.425.

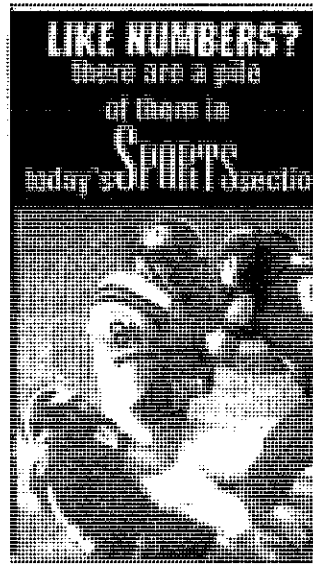
VAULT: 1. Zwier (KH), 9.650; 2. Maroukis (P), 9.300; 3. Burman (GL), 9.250; 4. (tie) Laura Nomura (LB) and Allison Kemp (Northville), 9.150; 6. (tie) Lauren Tedhams (FH), Hannah Saarenen (HLN) and Lena Schneewind (F), 9.100; 9. Amy Ancona (F), 9.025; 10. (tie) Haapaniemi (F), Pierce (GL) and Wood (Holt), 9.000.

UNEVEN PARALLEL BARS: 1. Romatowski (EF), 9.650; 2. Haapaniemi (F), 9.450; 3. Gedert

(GL), 9.050; 4. Jackie Stewart (TA), 9.000; 5. Umlauf (Freeland), 8.975; 6. Jordan Brodehl (Plymouth), 8.900; 7. Nicole Olwean (Portage), 8.825; 8. Kelly Tapella (LB), 8.775; 9. (tie) Mary Boyd (ST), Wood and Brittany Young (Salem), 8.700.

BALANCE BEAM: 1. Pierce (GL), 9.525; 2. Haapaniemi (F), 9.400; 3. Madzia (TA), 9.350; 4. Boyd (ST), 9.325; 5. Maroukis (Portage), 9.275; 6. Burman (GL), 9.150; 7. (tie) Geddert (GL) and Umlauf (Freeland), 9.125; 9. Haley Hoard (Portage), 9.100; 10. (tie) Ancona (F) and Karen Guo (TA), 9.000.

FLOOR EXERCISE: 1. Geddert (GL), 9.525; 2. Burman (GL), 9.500; 3. Nomura (LB), 9.325; 4. Paige Pennycook (T), 9.300; 5. Jill Vanbelkum (Rockford), 9.250; 6. Umlauf (Freeland), 9.225; 7. (tie) Tapella (LB) and Schneewind (Farm.), 9.175; 9. Romatowski (EF), 9.150; 10. Erika Dwyer (FH), 9.125.



SPARTANS
 FROM PAGE B1

Sophomore Bryan Bielicki wound up 28th in the 100 backstroke (57.78). "They switched the format of the meet — there were less qualifiers — and the meet ran faster," Shoemaker said. "Mike Cruce was swimming two events — the butterfly and the 500 free — that were close together and he probably didn't have enough time in between. "But he did well on Saturday." Stevenson loses only two key seniors — Luke and Hermann — to graduation. "We'll have 18 seniors, so we look pretty deep," Shoemaker said. "It depends what we do in the off-season. If we put in the time and want it, we look pretty good."

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Crusaders end Arizona road trip with 8-4 mark

The Madonna University baseball team wrapped up a successful Arizona trip with a weekend split at Snidegar Field in Chandler, a suburb of Phoenix.

On Saturday, the Crusaders slugged their way to a 8-2 triumph over Bemidji State (Minn.), but gave up an early lead Sunday to Southern Illinois-Edwardsville and wound up falling, 6-4.

MU improved to 10-5 on the season, with all but two of those games taking place at the RussMatt Invitational.

In the win over Bemidji State (2-3), a two-run triple in the seventh by sophomore outfielder Rikco Rhoades (2-4) broke the game wide open.

Also going 2-for-4 was junior first baseman Kevin Zerbo (Farmington Hills Harrison), who earned Wolverine-Hoosier Player of the Week honors. (Westland John Glenn alum Will Kennedy was also named

COLLEGE BASEBALL

WHAC Pitcher of the Week.)

Going seven strong innings for the victory was senior pitcher Richard Lindquist (one earned run), while Garden City native Richard Hammer, a junior, pitched the final two innings giving up one run but striking out three.

In the loss to SIU-Edwardsville (4-3), a four-run sixth against MU senior starter Ryan Bardon and two more in the eighth against reliever Carl McDevitt (Canton) put the Crusaders into an inescapable hole.

The bright spot for Crusaders head coach Greg Haeger had to be a 4-for-5 day by senior third baseman Pat Kenny, who doubled twice among his hits.

Next up for MU are four games in three days, beginning Thursday, in Louisville (Ky.) against host Spalding.

Local lanes getting ready for USBC national tournaments



Ten Pin Alley

Al Harrison

sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights and Century Bowl in Waterford.

The USBC Pepsi Tournament will be July 14-16 at Sunnybrook, while the Adult/Youth tournament is slated for July 7-10 at Taylor Lanes in Taylor.

Attendance numbers are not yet available, but the events will draw youth bowlers from all over the USA.

The Pepsi tourney also draws bowlers from many other countries. Many of the competitors will be here with their families and the numbers of total visitors combined with the women's tournament will be huge and the economic impact on this area will be like a much needed shot in the arm.

The women will be going for

cash prizes, while the kids will be shooting for scholarship money only.

For local bowlers, these tournaments present an opportunity to bowl in top level competition without the added cost of travel.

The Detroit area certainly has enough talent in great numbers to enjoy the thrill of victory as many of our local bowlers, both women and youth are going to give it their best shot.

The regular Men's USBC Open championships are currently underway in Albuquerque, N.M. with the Detroit-area Lodge Lanes squad, led by Mitch Jabczynski, currently in first place in the team category with a total of 3,172 pins.

Mitch's teammates are Bob Jawor, Keith Runyan, Steve Szabina and John Gaines. They will have to wait it out until the tournament ends in July.

Of course, they were also

lucky enough to be in a warm and sunny place while the rest of us enjoy this wintry weather.

I wonder if they make any of those bowling bags with ski runners instead of wheels, or at least interchangeable.

■ Oak Lanes in Westland was a perfect condition for Jerry Krupinski of Dearborn Heights as he recorded a series of 696, which is not bad for a 185 average bowler.

Mathematically speaking, he was 140 over average for the three games of 243-229-224 and that also adds up to an award from USBC for a 140 over-average series.

Nice going, Jerry, keep it up and the higher your average goes, the harder it will get to do it again.

Al Harrison is a resident of Southfield and a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America. He can be reached by email at: tenpinalley@sbcglobal.net.

SC signs Glenn spiker Kirk

A Rocket will get a chance to launch her collegiate volleyball career at Schoolcraft.

Westland John Glenn senior Kirstin Kirk recently signed her national letter of intent to play for the Lady Ocelots beginning this fall.

The 5-foot-7 outside hitter and 2007 second-team All-Observer selection brings excellent defensive and leadership skills as well as solid ability in the front row, according to Schoolcraft College head coach Rich Lamb.

"Kirstin is known around the area as a defensive player," Lamb said. "But what sometimes goes unnoticed is her ability in the front row. She has high vertical jump and we are looking to enhance that with our training programs. We're going to look at her as an outside hitter as well as a defensive specialist."

According to Lamb, the fact Kirk -- team captain her senior year at John Glenn -- is

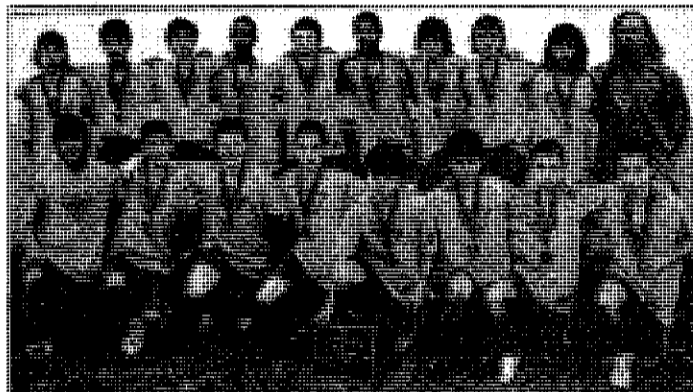
COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

"battle tested" in the tough Western Lakes Activities Association could be a big plus as she makes the adjustment to junior college.

"This experience will help her fit into our program seamlessly and hopefully (help her) contribute during her freshman year," Lamb said. "We expect big things from her and anticipate she will have a great career at Schoolcraft."

Kirk, who carried a 3.6 grade-point average at Glenn and was an Academic All-Region as a sophomore, averaged nearly 11 defensive digs per game with only 102 errors in 1,183 attempts -- good enough to be voted the team's best defensive player.

Other accolades include being a two-time member of the WLAA All-Lakes Division and Division I All-Region teams.



Waza FC 2nd in nation

The Waza FC under-13 boys soccer team finished second in the 2008 National Indoor Soccer Championship tournament Feb. 16-17 in Sterling, Va. Waza FC won all three preliminary games against Virginia opponents: 5-3 over Fairfax, 8-2 over Virginia Beach and 5-4 over Reston. In the championship game, Waza FC went down 5-1 to a team from Annadale (Va.) but stormed back to take a 6-5 lead. With 45 seconds left in the game, Waza FC gave up the tying goal and lost in overtime, 7-6. The Waza FC team members are (front row, from left) Brent Winkler, Farmington Hills; Matt Wilson, Novi; Tommy O'Connor, Farmington Hills; Ronnie Basin, Farmington Hills; Aaron Krupa, Ann Arbor; George Pollak, Washington Township; Colin Warner, Northville; Allen Karris, Lake Orion; (back row, from left) Trevor Nessel, Novi; Matt McAuliffe, Livonia; Aleksandar Isaevski, Westland; Donald Payne, Ypsilanti; Alex Arlin, Farmington Hills; Dominique Hajdu, Brownstown Township; Rickie Carter, Commerce Township; Connaugh McLaughlin, Bloomfield; Jonathan Hanna, Shelby Township; and coach Mario Scicluna.



JV cage champs

The Irish of the Livonia Junior Basketball League (grades 5-6) finished 10-0 for the second consecutive year in the JV division. Team members include (front row, from left) Tyler Guzowski, Luke Daoust, Matt Hassa, Alex Lee, Zack Hodge; (back row, from left) Malek Salameh, coach Gary Hassa, Nate Guzowski, Nick Armbruster, Brett Bonarek, coach Dale Lee, Ryan Posh, Logan Barber and coach Mike Daoust. (Not pictured is Jason Casorso and Andrew Joslyn.)

SPORTS ROUNDUP

LJAL football signup

Registration on a first-come, first-serve basis for Livonia Junior Athletic League football and cheerleading will be from 9-11 a.m. Saturday,

March 15 at the Frost Middle School cafeteria.

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

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

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

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

WYAA registration

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

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

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

CYO football signup

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 11441 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@frohmwidmer.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 signup.

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 eaglesbball@sbcglobal.net; or Bill Rowlett at lj_al_baseball@yahoo.com.

Youth baseball signup

The Wayne-Ford Civic League will begin baseball registration for youths ages 4-10 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. each Saturday at the Civic League hall, located at 1645 N. Wayne Road, Westland.

Registration fees are \$65 for T-ball and Coach-Pitch leagues; \$80 for Mustang League.

Registration will continue each Saturday until teams are full.

For more information, call (734) 728-5010; or e-mail Vic Barra at vbarra@comcast.net.

Livonia adult softball

Registration for the City of Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation 2008 adult softball season (April through July) on opens at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 28 for all divisions.

The entry fee is \$375 per team.

For more information, call (734) 466-2410.

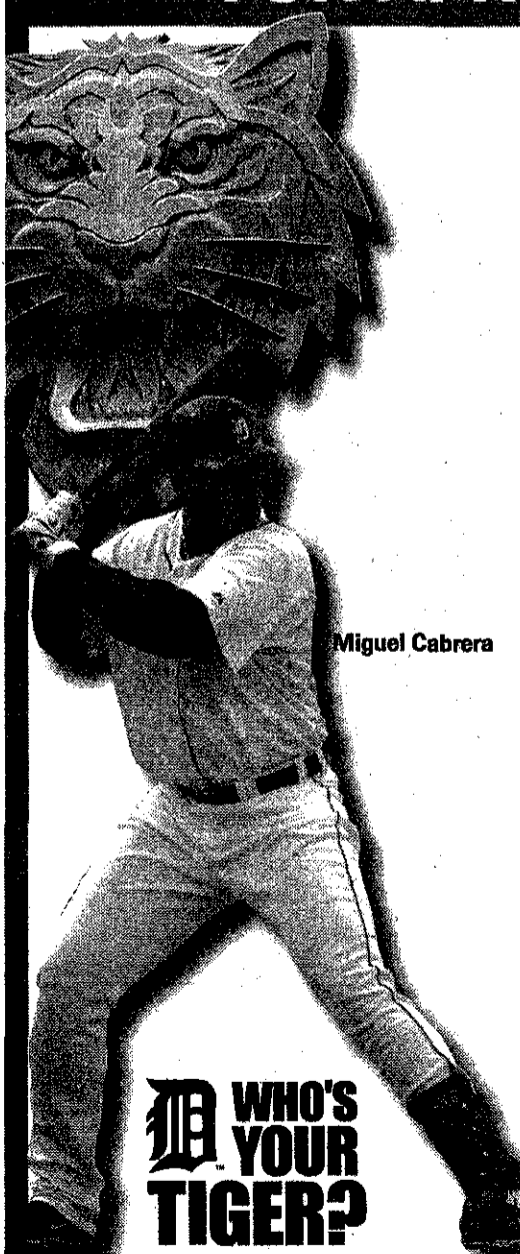
Stevenson needs coaches

Livonia Stevenson is seeking coaches for the following sports: girls assistant swimming and diving (experience necessary to coach diving); boys assistant swimming and diving (experience necessary to coach diving); JV cheerleading head coach for fall sideline and winter competitive seasons (experience necessary to coach at the high school-level MHSAA format).

For more information, e-mail Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman at lhyman@livonia.k12.mi.us



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Miguel Cabrera

Tigers vs Royals
Wednesday, April 2, 1:05
FREE Magnet Schedule to first 10,000 fans, courtesy of Comerica Bank.

Thursday, April 3, 1:05
FREE Magnet Schedule to first 10,000 fans, courtesy of McDonald's.

Tigers vs White Sox
Friday, April 4, 1:05
FREE Magnet Schedule to first 10,000 fans, courtesy of McDonald's.

Saturday, April 5, 3:55
FREE Tigers Calendar to first 10,000 fans, courtesy of Red Robin.

Sunday, April 6, 6:05
Sunday Kids Days

Tigers vs Twins
Monday, April 14, 7:05
FREE Ordoñez Batting Title Mini-Bat to first 10,000 fans, courtesy of Little Caesars.

Tuesday, April 15, 7:05
FREE Verlander No-Hitter DVD to first 10,000 fans, courtesy of Chevrolet.

Tigers vs Rangers
Tuesday, April 22, 7:05
Wednesday, April 23, 7:05
Motown Night
Thursday, April 24, 1:05

Tigers vs Angels
Friday, April 25, 7:05
Saturday, April 26, 3:55
FREE On-Field Pre-Game Clinic (weather permitting) courtesy of Red Robin.
Sunday, April 27, 8:05
Sunday Kids Days

CALL 866-66-TIGER OR VISIT TIGERS.COM

All-Observer cagers net well-deserved honors

FIRST-TEAM

ALAYA MITCHELL, SR. G, SALEM: The senior guard, headed to Marshall University with a full-ride scholarship, was honored by the Associated Press as one of the top 10 players in Michigan for the 2007-08 season. She was a multi-threat, averaging 14.9 points, 2.4 assists, 2.0 steals and 4.6 rebounds. Among her season highlights were two buzzer-beating game-winners: one in an early-season game against Farmington Mercy and one in the WLAAs title game against Walled Lake Western.

"Alaya was the driving force of this year's team," said Salem coach Fred Thomann. "As the only senior, she really did a great job of leading the young players. She figured out what she had to do to be successful and her experience made a ton of difference."

ALEX SEROWOKY, SR. C, LIV. LADYWOOD: The 6-1 senior center averaged 10 points, 6.5 rebounds, 2.6 assists and almost two blocks per game.

"Alex was our main inside threat offensively and provided a big defensive presence in the paint," Ladywood coach Andrea Gorski said. "Her ability to score in multiple ways make her hard to defend. She's a great passer for a post player and can handle the ball as well."

Serowoky, who earned All-Catholic honors, is bound for Lafayette (Pa.) College.

BRIAUNA TAYLOR, JR. G, LIV. FRANKLIN: The 5-9 junior point-guard averaged 18 points and 13 rebounds per game, while shooting 46 percent from the floor (including 35 percent beyond the arc) and 68 percent from the foul line.

"She was our go-to girl," Franklin coach Dave McCall said. "Whenever we need to get momentum back, we got the ball in her hands. She can do everything, but she really got better defensively this season."

Taylor was an All-WLAA selection.

CHELSEA CARRADINE, SO. F, RED, THURSTON: The 5-8 sophomore forward played much bigger than her size, with team-leading averages of 16 points, 14 rebounds and four blocks as the Eagles finished 15-6 and made a strong push for the Mega Blue championship.

The All-Mega Blue first-teamer capped off her season in the district semifinals against Livonia Franklin,

ALL-AREA GIRLS HOOPS

2007-08 ALL-OBSERVER GIRLS BASKETBALL

FIRST-TEAM
Alaya Mitchell, Sr. G, Salem
Alex Serowoky, Sr. C, Liv. Ladywood
Briauna Taylor, Jr. G, Liv. Franklin
Chelsea Carradine, So. F, Red, Thurston

SECOND-TEAM
Brittany Taylor, Jr. F, Liv. Franklin
Baylee Hollowell, Sr. C, Canton
Trenia Barbee, Sr. G, Wayne
Shaakira Haywood, Jr. C, Plymouth
Becca Refenes, Jr. C, Luth. Westland
Alison Szczypka, Sr. G, Liv. Ladywood

THIRD-TEAM
Allison Yankee, Jr. G, Luth. Westland
Rennica Lee Merida, Jr. C, Red, Thurston
Sara Stone, So. F, Salem
Brittany Holbrook, Jr. C, Westland
Glenn
Stacey Klonowski, So. F, Plymouth
Stacey Gavin, Sr. G, Redford Union

FOURTH-TEAM
Victoria Brotz, Sr. F, Salem
Kaylee McGrath, Jr. F, Liv. Stevenson
Ashley Wheeler, So. G, Red, Thurston
Karen Greficz, Sr. G, Garden City
Amanda Moody, Sr. G, Liv. Clarenceville

COACH OF THE YEAR
Dave McCall, Liv. Franklin

HONORABLE MENTION
Churchill: Lindsey Graclak; Franklin: Ashley Price; Stevenson: Becca Bartek; Sarah Smith; Clarenceville: Chenay Kemp, Amber O'Halloran; Ladywood: Mary Fitzgerald; Lutheran Westland: Kaley Ramihun, Abi Gieschen; Huron Valley Lutheran: Lauren Adlof, Katie Kipmiller, Nicole Schaffer; John Glenn: Brittany Brown, Chanel Payne, Shantique Baker; Wayne: Nastassia Goines, Wende Foster; Thurston: Brittany McKnight; Ashley Bagazinski; Redford Union: Jasmine Johnson, Shaheda Greeley; Brittany Dupree; Karen Jaccett; Garden City: Katie Torok, Anna Barikmo; Canton: Kaylie Martin, Kayla Bridges; Plymouth: Kelsi Robinson; Salem: Brett deBear; Plymouth Christian: Sara Ross, Megan Greve, Megan Polera; Canton Agape: Ayanna Martin, Brooke Purcell.

tallying 24 points and 24 boards as she nearly lifted Thurston to an upset victory.

"She's been playing fantastic ball," said Eagles head coach Bob Ostrowski late in the season. "She really understands the game and plays well."

JENNA ANASTOS, SR. F, LIV. LADYWOOD: The 5-10 senior played both guard and forward for the 20-4 Blazers averaging 9.2 points and five rebounds per game.

"Jenna was our do-everything player," Gorski said. "She could score from the inside-and-out, as well as defend from the perimeter and post. We counted on her to provide a little bit of everything for our team."

"She would often guard the other team's bet offensive threat and provided leadership and energy on both sides of the court."

The All-Catholic selection signed with Northwood University.

CHELSEA DAVIS, JR. F, SALEM: The forward enjoyed a stellar junior season, averaging 10.8 points, 8.0 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 1.6 blocked shots. Davis's efforts earned a first-team All-WLAA nod.

"Chelsea was clearly our top inside scoring presence," said Thomann. "She was also second on our team in assists and her shot-blocking and rebounding ability triggered a lot of our fast breaks."

SECOND-TEAM
BRITTANY TAYLOR, JR. F, LIV. FRANKLIN: The 5-9 junior forward averaged 12 points and 11 rebounds per game for the Class A district champions.

The All-Western Division pick shot 42 percent from the floor and 55 percent from the foul line.

"Brittany really got better the last five games, the light bulb went on," McCall said. "She was our go-to girls inside. She likes to post-up and bang around. And like her sister (Briauna), she got better on defense."

BAYLEE HOLLOWELL, SR. C, CANTON: The senior center was the bright spot of the Chiefs' season as she averaged a double-double (14.2 points and 12.4 rebounds) despite drawing double and triple teams. The 6-footer's efforts earned her a scholarship at Siena Heights University.

"Baylee had a great senior season, she worked extremely hard her four years at Canton High School and experienced a lot of success," said Canton coach Brian Samulski. "Her dedication and work ethic will help take her game to a new level at Siena Heights."

TRENIA BARBEE, SR. G, WAYNE: The 5-8 senior guard averaged an area-best 22.1 points per game, while shooting 44.7 percent from the field and 70 percent from the foul line.

Barbee, who missed four games because of minor knee surgery, made All-Western Division in the WLAA and has signed with NCAA Division II Henderson State (Ark.).

"Trenia's a scorer, a rebounder and aggressive on defense," Wayne coach Leslie Williams said. "She often put the team on her back. She did well and we expected a lot from her. She just needed some help."

SHAAKIRA HAYWOOD, JR. C, PLYMOUTH: The junior center was a force at both ends of the court for the Wildcats, averaging 14 points, nine rebounds and three blocked shots. Haywood promises to be among the WLAA's top performers in 2008-09.

"Shaakira brought a lot to our team both offensively and defensively," said Plymouth coach Richelle Reilly. "On the defensive end, she blocked a lot of shots and altered a lot more. A lot of her scoring came as a result of offensive rebounds when we couldn't get her the ball. She stays after it and is focused."

BECCA REFENES, JR. C, LUTH. WESTLAND: The 6-2 junior center averaged 14.5 points, 10.8 rebounds and shot 48.7 percent from the floor en route to All-Metro Conference honors.

Refenes already ranks as the school's all-time leading rebounder for a season and career. She is one of only three players to score 300 points in a season.

"Becca is a tremendous athlete," Lutheran Westland coach Kevin Wade said. "Her height and athleticism inside is very difficult to defend. She gave us a severe threat inside that forced people to double and sometimes triple-team her, but even with that, she was able to produce and get her teammates involved."

"She knew when to shoot and when to kick it out; she was very unselfish."

ALISON SZCZYPKA, SR. G, LIV. LADYWOOD: The 5-10 senior guard-forward averaged 9.6 points and 5.5 rebounds for the Central Division champions.

"Alison added the toughness factor to our team," Gorski said of the All-League selection. "She also improved greatly as an offensive threat this season. She was one of our top three-point shooters and often was vital in breaking the other team's press."

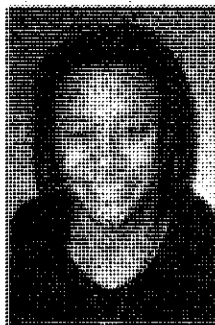
"Her ruggedness under the basket and passing ability made her extremely versatile. She played every position except center for us."

COACH OF THE YEAR
DAVE MCCALL, LIV. FRANKLIN: The first-year varsity coach guided the Patriots to an 18-5 record and their first Class A district championship since 1993.

"It's a great honor, but I did not do the conditioning or score the baskets, the girls just worked their tails off," said McCall, who previously served as Franklin's JV girls coach for four seasons. "And once they started to believe in themselves, things started clicking. They realized what their capabilities were and they realized what hard work can accomplish."

The 49-year-old McCall, a self-employed contractor, is a 1997 Garden City East High grad who played basketball, football, baseball and ran track.

McCall and his wife Lana have



Alaya Mitchell Salem



Alex Serowoky Ladywood



Briauna Taylor Franklin



Chelsea Carradine Thurston



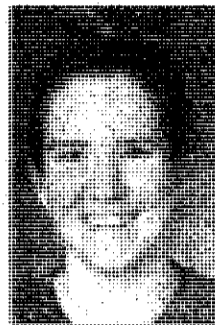
Jenna Anastos Ladywood



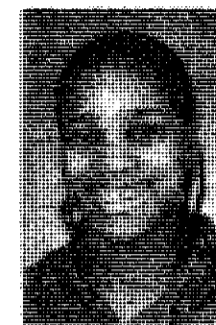
Shaakira Haywood Salem



Brittany Taylor Franklin



Baylee Hollowell Canton



Trenia Barbee Wayne Memorial



Shaakira Haywood Plymouth



Becca Refenes Lutheran Westland



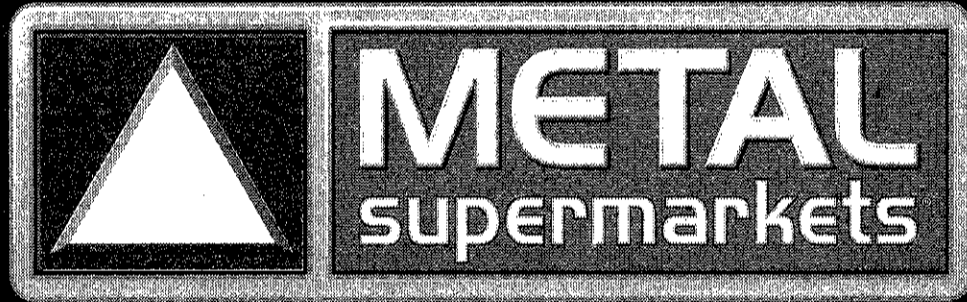
Alison Szczypka Ladywood

two daughters, Ashley and Andrea, both whom played basketball, volleyball and ran track at Franklin, while his son David played hockey, football and ran track for the Patriots.

The future, meanwhile, looks bright for the Patriots with the return of the three starters, including Taylor twins, and some key reserves.

"We also have a couple of girls who did a great job on the JV and they'll be coming up," McCall said. "It looks good."

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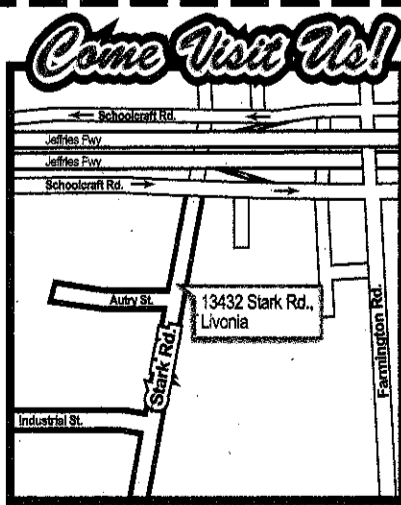
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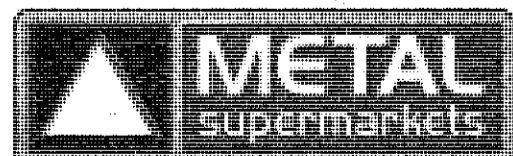
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BIG RAPIDS

Lawrence Bourke, National Little Britches Rodeo Association of Michigan

BYRON CENTER

Laura Brown, Wyoming Public Schools Educational Foundation

CANTON

Alfred Cianter, Salem High School

CARLETON

Gary Breitner, Monroe County Library System

Kristine Durkin, St. Patrick's Church

Virginia Oliver, River Raisin Centre for the Arts

CASS CITY

James Heiser, United Way of Tuscola County

CLAWSON

Joseph Bedford, City of Clawson

CLINTON TWP.

Brian Thomas, Boy Scouts of America - Clinton Valley Council

DEARBORN

Korin Sharp, Looking for My Sister

DETROIT

Leon Burke, Community Service Community Development Corporation

Cornelia Butler, Wings of Truth Gospel Church

Karla Hall, Michigan Nonprofit Association; Motown Historical Museum, Inc.

Donald McSwain, Optimist Club Foundation of Central Detroit

Leslie Nolan, Detroit Institute for Children

Esther Porter, City of River Rouge

Mitchell Shamsud-Din, Community Service Community Development Corporation

DUNDEE

Michael Drummond, Monroe County Library System

Tim Sampson, American Cancer Society

E. TAWAS

Tim Kolnits, Tawas Area Schools

ECORSE

Cassandra Marbury, Great Faith Ministries, Inc.

ERIE

William Dempsey, Mason Consolidated Schools

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Keith Abbott, Boy Scouts of America - Clinton Valley Council

Marc Zupmore, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion

FLAT ROCK

Bonnie Fitzgerald, American Cancer Society, Inc.

FORT GRATIOT

Terry Hall, Port Huron Scholarship Assistance Program of St. Clair County

Mark VanderHeuvel, March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation

GRAND RAPIDS

Kellee Alcock, Boxer Haven Rescue

Niurka Diaz, Down Syndrome Association of Western Michigan

GRANDVILLE

Mary Conner, Wyoming Public Schools Educational Foundation

GREENWOOD

David Asselin, Pheasants Forever-St. Clair County

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LIVONIA

Don Bramlett, Boy Scouts of America - Detroit Area Council

William Clemens, Livonia Public Schools - Stevenson High

Charlotte Mahoney, YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit

Winom Mahoney, Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County

Doyle McKay, Boy Scouts of America - Detroit Area Council

Joseph Robach, Accounting Aid Society

Reed Romain, National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Matthew Shackelford, Friends of the Detroit River

MARYSVILLE

Steven Down, Marysville Viking Regiment Boosters Club, Inc.

John Goulet, Marysville Viking Regiment Boosters Club, Inc.

MONROE

Dennis Bergmooser, Pheasants Forever - Monroe

Peter Burkit, Monroe Hockey Association, Inc.

Doug Diraff, Monroe Hockey Association, Inc.

Jeffery Hensley, Monroe Public Schools; Arthur Lesow Community Center

Rodney Johnson, Monroe County Intermediate School District

Kathleen LeCompte, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; International Wildlife Refuge Alliance

Linda Schmidt, Monroe County 4-H Council

Myron Smolinski, YMCA of Monroe County

Edward Stehulak, Monroe Public Schools - Monroe High School

Kathleen Stiefel, Airport Community Schools

William Terresi, Foundation at Monroe County Community College

Nancy Williams, The Education Foundation of the Monroe Public Schools

Mersha Wilson, Monroe Public Schools - Raisinville Elementary School

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George Terbery, Jefferson Schools - Jefferson High School

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ROCHESTER HILLS

Ron May, Warren/Conner Development Coalition

ROCKWOOD

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Joseph Robach, Accounting Aid Society

ROGERS CITY

Dennis Meredith, Little League Baseball, Inc.

SALINE

Molly Luempert-Coy, Community Foundation of Monroe County; March of Dimes; Monroe County Chamber of Commerce Foundation; Bureau Foundation; YMCA of Monroe County; Foundation at Monroe County Community College; Michigan Duck Hunters Tournament, Inc.; American Red Cross - Monroe County Chapter; Mercy Memorial Hospital Corporation; First Step - Western Wayne County on Domestic Assault.

SOUTH ROCKWOOD

Timothy Welsh, Village of South Rockwood

SOUTHFIELD

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Mark Jubas, Akiva Hebrew Day School - Yeshivat Akiva

Henrietta Robinson, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Ray Parker, Amateur Athletic Union of the U.S., Inc.

SPRING LAKE

Vince Duca, West Michigan Society for Protection and Care of Animals

Janie Duca, West Michigan Society for Protection and Care of Animals

ST. CLAIR SHORES

Sharon Cloud, Boy Scouts of America - Detroit Area Council

Charles Jackson, Boy Scouts of America - Detroit Area Council

STERLING HEIGHTS

Shelley Murphy-Wolocko, American Cancer Society, Inc.

William Schrodt, Boy Scouts of America - Clinton Valley Council

TEMPERANCE

Kimberly Harsley, American Heart Association

Barry Thomas, Bedford Public Schools

TRENTON

William Jassman, Trenton Rotary Foundation, Inc.; St. Timothy's Church-Trenton Food Pantry

TROY

Satyendra Basu, Troy Community Foundation

Bichitra Pathbbaban, Troy Community Foundation

Jim Cyulewski, Troy Community Foundation

Ignatius Fadanelli, American Heart Association

Michael Paichosko, Rebuilding Together Oakland County, Inc.

WARREN

LaToya Billingsley, Cass Tech High School Alumni Association

Mary Catherine Robinson, The Parade Company

WATERFORD

Fred Bond, Boy Scouts of America - Clinton Valley Council

WAYNE

Angela Acosta, Accounting Aid Society

WEIDMAN

Deak Snyder, Chippewa Hills High School

WEST BLOOMFIELD

Anthony Targan, American Lung Association of Michigan

WYANDOTTE

Thomas Wilson, Female Alumni Athletic Boosters

WYOMING

Mary Jo Rozek, Crash's Landing

YALE

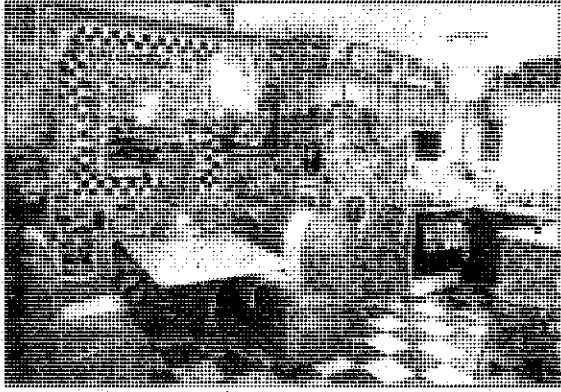
Raymond Bolleert, Michigan 4-H Foundation

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House of Fun



The kitchen and dining room were not left out of the design as they too are covered in '60s and '70s era pop culture colors and items.

Artist enhances his house with pop collectibles

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

"It's all about color contrast," Livonia resident Daniel Moran said about the jaw-dropping, wild decor inside his home.

"And it's about waking up in the morning and smiling at everything you see. You're home should make you happy."

From the outside of Moran's normal suburban house, it seems difficult to guess that inside is a pop-culture lover's fantasy. Trinkets, posters, lunchboxes, automobile and motorcycle art, retro furniture and surfboards from the '60s and '70s all make up Moran's decor.

Part of what turns Moran from a collector to an artist is the presentation of his valued items.

His collections aren't just lined up in rows on shelves. Rather, Moran has designed and painted the house, walls, doors and trimmings to keep with his retro theme.

Pink, purple, green and orange psychedelic shapes are painted as a wall backdrop to display the statue of a *Munsters* car, original lava lamp and Frankenstein miniatures of the same colors.

Pale turquoise walls, trimmed with violet accents and a black and white zebra-striped door provide a clean, yet fun contrast to the vinyl record 45s attached to the walls.

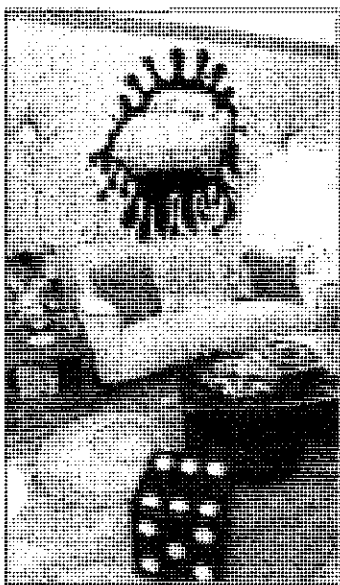
And why have a regular, brown wooden coffee table when you can use a magenta and hot pink vintage surfboard on a yellow base as a place for

your drinks? Surrounding that conversation piece is a red vinyl '70s sofa and a pale blue and orange Charger automobile advertisement.

"There's something about the '60s and '70s items that really turns me on," Moran said.

When asked about the painted animations on his walls and other artistic endeavors

Please see **FUN, D2**



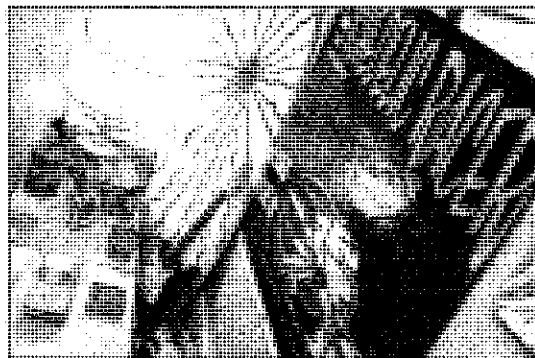
The living room of Daniel Moran's pop culture home.



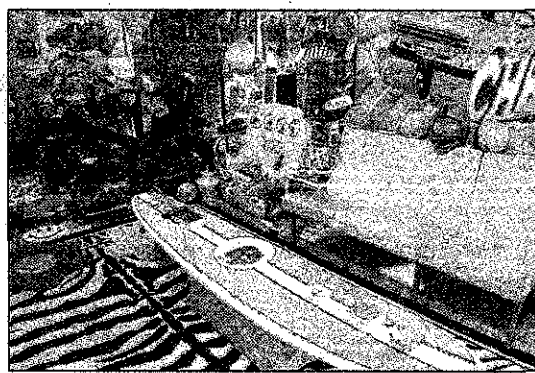
Daniel Moran relaxes on the bean bags in the family room of his Livonia home which is decorated floor to ceiling in '60s and '70s era pop culture items.



Hanging on one of the posts in the basement is some of Daniel Moran's lunch box collection.



Daniel Moran of Livonia has tried to fill his house with the fun things he remembers and loves from growing up in the '60s and '70s.



Along with one of his old motorcycles, Daniel Moran uses an old surf board he found as a coffee table in the basement of Livonia home.

ACCENTS

ORCHARD LAKE ST. MARY HOSTS CHILI COOKOFF

Winter is the perfect season for chili. And March is the perfect time for a chili cookoff.

Orchard Lake St. Mary's and 99.5 FM will host OLSM's first Chili Cookoff and Spring Show noon-6 p.m. March 15 on the school's campus at Commerce and Orchard Lake roads.

The event will be sanctioned by the International Chili Society. First prize wins \$300, second wins \$100 and third takes home \$50. Pete Skwiers, national runner-up at the 2007 World Championship, will be cooking.

Over 20 chili cooks will provide samples to the public.

The Spring Show features vendors, includes Triumph motorcycles, Smart cars, Victory motorcycles, bicycles, landscaping, health and fitness and others. A Kids Fun Zone will be sponsored by Inflatable Planet, which includes face painting and other kids activities. Food and beverages will be sold. Ice skating will be available 1-2:30 p.m. Raffles will include hundreds of dollars in prizes and other entertainment.

All proceeds will benefit Orchard Lake schools. For information on the cookoff, call (248) 683-0520.

GREATEST BABY SHOWER ON EARTH

Expectant families and families with young children are invited to the Greatest Baby Shower on Earth, noon-3 p.m. Sunday, March 16 at Congregation Beth Shalom, 14601 Lincoln Ave. in Oak Park. The event includes inflatables, crafts, characters, games, baby boutique and fashions, infant-toddler fashion show with MC Robin Schwartz, raffles, prizes, silent auction, food health professionals, Babies R Us registry, product specialists, plaster belly casting, family photo shoots and almost new baby items. Admission, \$5 in advance; \$10 or a pack of diapers at the door, benefit the Baby Pantry in Pontiac. Call (248) 547-7970.

HANSON'S HOSTS SING A JING CONTEST

Brian Elias, owner of 1 800 Hansons is inviting elementary school children ages 5-11 to enter his "Sing A Jing" contest, by submitting video performances of their rendition of the famous 1 800 Hansons "Get it Done" jingle. The first prize winner will receive a U.S. savings bond, gift certificate to Toys R Us, and a cash gift to their elementary school, totaling \$14,000. Their performance will be included in TV, radio and Internet marketing efforts. To enter by May 10, visit www.hansons.com. All entries will be posted on the Web site, and the community will be invited to vote for their favorites by logging on.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with emerald foods



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRUITANDVEGGIEGURU.COM

Try a key lime pie for a green St. Patrick's Day.

We stumbled upon a fun web site to make St. Patrick's Day a little different this year.

When you think of green, think fruits and veggies. Just for fun make an emerald green buffet.

At the web site fruitandveggieguru.com we discovered suggestions like hummus guacamole — just mix guacamole with hummus and top with cilantro. Or, wasabi-pear-lettuce-wraps that blend pears, mushrooms, radishes and wasabi in green butter lettuce leaves.

And for dessert a key lime pie made with regular lime juice to brighten then green. Here are some recipes to try this holiday.

KEY LIME PIE

3 cans sweetened condensed milk
1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs

6 tbsp. unsalted butter
7 large eggs
12 oz. key lime juice
Key lime slices (to garnish)
Whip cream on top, optional

Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Melt butter. Mix together graham cracker crumbs and butter in bowl. Press mixture into bottom of 12-inch springform pan. Bake at 350 for six minutes. In large bowl, combine milk and eggs using mixer on low speed. Add lime juice and continue mixing. Place whipped mixture into pan. Bake for about 2 hours and 15 minutes. Cool before slicing. Garnish with fresh key lime slices.

EASY SPICY WASABI PEAR LETTUCE WRAP

Makes 15
1/2 cup Mayonnaise
3 tbsp. rice wine vinegar or white wine

vinegar
1/4 tsp. Wasabi paste
2 pears
1 head butter lettuce leaves, washed, trimmed
2 cups mushrooms, thinly sliced
2 cups radish sprouts
1/4 cups carrots, peeled and grated
4 teaspoons sesame seeds, toasted

Whisk mayonnaise, vinegar and wasabi paste in medium bowl until blended. Slice pear stem side up into 12 vertical planks about one-quarter inch wide. Cut pieces into thin julienne slices. Place in bowl with wasabi dressing and toss until coated.

Place lettuce leaves on plate and top with mushrooms, sprouts, carrots and pears. Drizzle any remaining dressing in bowl over pears. Sprinkle with sesame seeds and serve.

Source: fruitandveggieguru.com

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 wvonb@hometownlife.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, \$80, include lunch and Garden Bazaar. (810) 367-6667.

Orchid Show

The Michigan Orchid Society will host its

54th Annual Palm Sunday Show March 15-16 at the MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road, Troy (formerly at Laurel Park Place). 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.

Color and Design

The Community House Garden Club will present "Gardening with Color and Design" 7 p.m. Monday, March 17 at The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, featuring Michael Saint from Good Earth Landscape and Design in Clarkston. Public is welcome. \$5 donation requested. Call (248) 594-6410.

FUN

FROM PAGE D1

ors in his home, Moran shrugs off the idea that he's an artist. Moran, who also collects cars and motorcycles, won't even say how many he owns — "a lot," he said.

"If I call myself an artist, there will be someone out there who says 'that's not art.' If I call myself a biker, someone out there will say I'm not, even though I'm on my bikes constantly. I'm not here to prove anything to anybody. I just do this because it makes me happy. And because I hope the people who see my home are also happy."

He's modest about certain questions, but does proudly talk about his 1966 427 Corvette, as well as his vintage and newer

Harleys, including a 1998 Softail Springer.

"I'm a retired engineer and I have promised myself that I am going to give myself what I want in life — and also for my son," he said.

So how does he find his toys? "Ebay has really leveled the playing field for collectors."

Years ago he scoured flea markets and garage sales in search of random items or specific goods that he craved, then he would price compare. It was big work.

"Today, if I want a Beatles lunch box, I can go on ebay and compare. And it's leveled the costs too."

If your home or the home of someone you know would make a good "Artist in Residence" feature, contact Lana Mini at lmini@hometownlife.com.

The fear of 'pitbulls' comes from bad press

In an animal rescuer, but never wanted a pitbull because he might snap and eat me alive. I'm embarrassed to admit until recently that's how I felt.

Flash forward to last night: I fell asleep with my arm around a pitbull — her head resting on a pillow next to me. Her body warmly tucked under the same comforter as mine. Sometimes in the middle of the

night she'll stretch, glance up at me, lick my nose to say hello and fall back to sleep nuzzled under my hands. My pitbull's name is Macy, her former owner — a military man — couldn't keep her anymore. When first asked to foster her, I

said no, out of fear. Now I'm grateful to have opened my mind to research these amazing dogs. She loves kids, they climb all over her. She loves my other dogs too and lays all over them. She's lived with me almost a year now.

I'm discussing pitbulls because of the "vicious dog" issue in Plymouth. One question there is whether the animals should be allowed to live in the city. City commission officials, I'm sure, are sophisticated enough to avoid a witch-hunt mentality against a whole breed. City-after-city nationwide, as people become more educated, are now welcoming the animals.

People are realizing it's time to punish the deed of dog-fighting,

rather than ban an entire breed of dog. Irresponsible media has helped create paranoia.

"First it was the Bloodhound, sensationalized in the dramatizations of Uncle Tom's Cabin. Then it was the Doberman Pinscher, symbol of the Nazi menace for a nation at war. Today, it is the pitbull that is vilified for the depravity of his master," author Karen Delise writes in her well-documented book, *The Media, Myths and Politics of Canine Aggression*.

Her studies reveal three factors play a role in canine aggression toward humans:

■ Owner responsibility: Was the dog trained to fight or be a junkyard guard dog?

■ Owner responsibility: Does the dog roam loose and therefore become confused? Is the dog left unsupervised with kids who don't understand boundaries (when I was a kid I knew not to take away our beagle's bone or I might get bit)? Is the dog encouraged to be protective?

■ Owner responsibility: Does the dog have puppies and is in protection mode? Is the male dog un-neutered?

Remember there are millions of pitbulls in the U.S.

Dog attacks are rare and that's why they make news.

From 1965 to 2001, there have been at least 36 different breeds of dog involved in fatal attacks in the United States. Delise says there's hysteria, without actual fact, placed upon pitbulls.

A pitbull isn't even a breed of dog. It's actually a term to describe the American Pit Bull terrier and American Staffordshire terrier. My dog is a Staffordshire.

Here's more on what I've



One World, Many Beings

Lana Mini

Pet of the Week

Here's a plea for a gentle dog who needs a home immediately. Paco was found frightened and wandering the streets of Garden City — severely underweight and thirsty. He's extremely sensitive, friendly, gentle and affectionate. Rescuers say he's easy-going and wants to be a lap dog even though he's a 1-year-old St. Bernard/Great Dane mix. This smart boy adores women — and is still uncertain about men, but wants to trust them. He's neutered, healthy, well-behaved and likes to be hugged. He would do best in a home without cats and he will snuggle on the couch with you. For more information, call Metro Area Animal Adoption Association at (313) 571-2985; e-mail metroaaaa@aol.com, or fill out an online application at www.metroaaaa.petfinder.com. P.S. Stevie, the beige lab seen here two weeks ago was saved. He was adopted by an Observer & Eccentric reader. Let's hope the same for Paco. Time is ticking.



— by Lana Mini

learned about these smart animals.

The American Pitbull Terrier is the most unfairly discriminated against dog in history — because of fools who choose to make a few of them violent.

Dog-to-human aggression isn't a natural characteristic of the pitbull. Loyalty and a desire to please are.

PETEY FROM LITTLE RASCALS, A PITBULL

Helen Keller's dog was a pitbull. Fred Astaire, President Theodore Roosevelt General George Patton and Michael J. Fox had them too.

Last year in Alaska, a pitbull saved a 6-year old from a house fire. He literally grabbed her by the shirt with his teeth and moved her to safety. They serve as police/armed services dogs, search and rescuers and therapy animals.

They don't have powerful locking jaws.

"To the best of our knowledge, there are no published scientific studies that would allow any meaningful comparison to be made of the biting power of various breeds of dogs," said Dr. I Lehr Brisbin of the University of Georgia on www.nyxnet.com. "All figures describing biting power in such terms can be traced to either

unfounded rumor or, in some cases, to newspaper articles with no foundation in factual data."

The dogs are very loyal and eager to please. They become aggressive if their owners encourage it.

Dogs don't just "snap" and kill. Just as normal humans don't just snap ... do we?

A pitbull may be aggressive toward another animal, just like any dog. We know that dogs may kill squirrels. Cats may kill mice, etc. Sometimes animals get into scraps. Dogs are aggressive when their irresponsible owners encourage it. Remember pitbulls want to be loyal.

In Plymouth, there's a family who has a pitbull and neighbors are afraid. It's become quite heated. The fence is too low, they say. That issue can be solved with a higher fence. But after that, to prevent bad blood between the humans who are now fighting, well, let's be more like dogs.

Forgive, forget, ignore ego, and be the first to show kindness.

Lana Mini is a staff writer for Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers. Look for her column, One World, Many Beings in Hometownlife and her entertainment stories each week in FILTER.

KITCHEN REFACING advertisement for cabinet clinic. Includes text: Complete your Laminate Project! \$500 CounterTop* Includes installation 50% SAVINGS OR MORE! FREE ESTIMATES. cabinet clinic. The Leader in Cabinet Refacing West 734-421-8151 North-East 586-751-1848. www.cabinetclinic.com. Limited time offer \$0.99 sq. ft. min.

The Senior Alliance, Area Agency on Aging 1-C will have a public hearing on Thursday, March 27, 2008 @ 9:30 a.m. for input regarding proposed transfer of service dollars from Title III-C1 funding to Title III B. The meeting will be held at 3850 Second Street, Suite 201, Wayne, MI 48184. Publish: March 13, 2008

HearUSA advertisement. Special Offers: \$1,000 OFF a pair of Siemens Open Fit ACURIS™, ARTIS™, or CENTRA™ Life Digital Hearing Aids. Open House Event March 18th-20th. Having trouble hearing? It may be wax. Attend our upcoming Open House and let the professionals at HearUSA conduct a free precision screening. We'll assess your hearing abilities, clean & check your current aids (if you have them) and look inside your ears with our video otoscope. You'll receive a detailed analysis of your hearing health — and we'll explain some remarkable options now available to improve it. HearUSA. It's clear we care. www.hearusa.com. Your insurance plan may provide full or partial payment for hearing aids. Call today to inquire about coverage.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday
March 16th
1 p.m.

At our
Community Alliance
Credit Union
Livonia Branch

37401 Plymouth Road
(SW Corner of
Newburgh
& Plymouth)

**Everyone is welcome-
so bring your family, friends and
neighbors, too!**

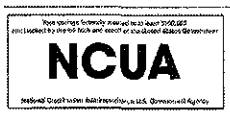
- Different Egg Hunts for different ages- 0-3, 4-6, 7-9, 11-12
- Eggs are filled with candy or tags for special prizes-Easter baskets, gift certificates, and more!



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seeing you there!*



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

Scriptural reflection

St. Michael the Archangel Parish holds Scriptural Reflection on Holy Week 7 p.m. Thursday, March 13, in the school cafeteria, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Rd., Livonia. Rev. Jerry Pilius, associate pastor of St. Michael's, will lead an in-depth discussion of various Lenten scriptures. For information, call (734) 261-1455, ext. 200.

Lenten fish dinner

5:30-7 p.m. Friday, March 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 its All You Can Eat Lenten Fish Dinners, 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, March 14, in the cafeteria of St. Michael School, 11441 Hubbard, south of Plymouth Road, Livonia. 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.

Bethany Suburban West

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. There will be prizes. Call Kathy for details and directions (734) 513-9479 or Michele (313) 996-8644.

Prepare for Easter

St. Matthew Lutheran in Westland will be having an Easter Egg Hunt 10 a.m. Saturday, March 15 on Venoy, north or Ford. There will be light snacks and a craft for the children. Holy Week services are 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. Palm Sunday March 16; 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday March 20; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Good Friday March 21, and 6:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Easter Sunday March 23. Breakfast will be served between the two earlier services; cost will be a free will donation.

MAMA's coffeehouse

Singer/songwriter Michael Smith performs Saturday, March 15, at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 N. Woodward near Lone Pine Rd. Bloomfield Hills. Open mic at 7:15

p.m., show at 8 p.m. Admission \$12, \$10 seniors and age 16 and under. Call (248) 569-0965 for information. Call (248) 626-4650 to reserve a slot for open mic.

Easter week services

Palm Sunday March 16, at 9 a.m. (Chapel) and 10:30 a.m. (traditional worship with Cantata); Maundy Thursday Candlelight Communion service 7:30 p.m. March 20, and Good Friday Tenebrae 7:30 p.m. March 21 (nursery care provided), and Easter Sunday, March 23 at 9 a.m. (Chapel) and 10:30 a.m. (traditional), at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia. Call (734) 422-0494 for information.

Open house

4 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at Hosanna-Tabor Church and School, 9600 Leverage, Redford. Hosanna-Tabor offers infant day care, preschool for 3- and 4-year olds, full day kindergarten, and 1-8th grades. Meet with principal and teachers. For information, call (313) 937-2233.

Holy Week

8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Palm Sunday, March 16, includes the traditional Processional of Palms. The Christ Our Savior Festival Choir, the Jubellation Handbell Choir, and the Sunday School Children's Choir along with a variety of instrumentalists will be featured at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Rd., north of I-96, Livonia. Services continue 7:30 p.m. Maundy (Holy) Thursday, March 20 with the celebration of Holy Communion and traditional Stripping of the Altar (The Festival Choir and Jubellation Handbell Choir perform at the worship service). 12:30 p.m. Good Friday, March 21, meditative worship service centers on The Passion of our Lord, and 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae. Featured will be the Christ Our Savior Festival Choir and soloists. Children's Easter Fair 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 22. A parent must accompany their children. Call (734) 522-6830 to register. Easter Sunday services 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. March 23, with various choirs of Christ Our Savior accompanied by brass and timpani and the celebration of Holy Communion.

Lenten services

Maundy Thursday service 7:30 p.m. March 20, Easter Worship Service at 10 a.m. March 23 in the sanctuary at St. James Presbyterian Church, 25350 W. Six Mile, Redford, (313) 534-7730.

Hall grand opening

A grand opening and dedication of the church's new Fellowship Hall is 5-8 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 422-6038. The community is invited.

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, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights.

Holy Week services

7 p.m. Wednesdays preceded by Lenten dinners 5:30-6:30 p.m., at Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, 9600 Leverage, 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

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.

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.

Holy Week activities

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville holds its annual Easter Concert. Hosanna featuring the Ward Chancel Choir and Orchestra, Teen Choir, Children's Choir Ensembles, Soloists and Handbells 7 p.m. Palm Sunday, March 16 in the Sanctuary. No charge. Worship takes place 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday, March 20, and noon to 3 p.m. Good Friday, March 21. Come when you can and leave when you must. Childcare provided through age 4 for concert and services. For information, call (248) 374-7400.

Cantata

A Bouquet of Praise, a musical cantata, 10 a.m. Sunday, March 16, at Riverside Park Church of God, 11771 Newburgh at Plymouth Rd., Livonia. There is no charge and everyone is welcome. Call (734) 464-0990 for more information.

Easter exhibit

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Plymouth will host an exhibit on The Shroud of Turin (replica) 8-10 a.m. and 4-8 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, March 17-19; 9 a.m. to noon and 4-7 p.m.

and 9-11:30 p.m. Holy Thursday, March 20; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Good Friday, March 21; noon to 8 p.m. Holy Saturday, March 22, and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Easter Sunday, March 23 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 47650 N. Territorial a Beck, one block south of Beck Road exit on M-14. For directions and map, visit www.olgparish.net. The exhibit will be held in the parish social hall on the lower level. For more information, call (734) 453-0326 or (734) 459-9893. Due to subject matter, children under age 15 must be accompanied by adult.

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 Newburgh 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 Church Hill United Methodist Church, 321 S. Ridge, south of Cherry Hill, Canton. For information, call (734) 495-0035.

Single Place Ministry

Upcoming activities include Maundy Thursday worship service 7:30 p.m. March 20, at First Presbyterian Church. There will be no Single Place but Single Place Ministry continues to meet the following 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.

Good Friday service

8 p.m. Friday, March 21, at 8:00 p.m., Old St. Mary's Church (Greek town) a service of music and readings featuring a performance of The Crucifixion by John Stainer. Performing will be baritone Davis Gloff, tenor David Carle, Old St. Mary's Festival Choir and orchestra. Ample free guarded parking. Free will offering will be taken. For information, call (313) 961-8711.

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 Ronca 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. Monthly breakfast 9:30 a.m. Saturday April 19, 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.

Polish church pilgrimage/Easter dinner

Deadline for ticket reservations is March 27 for the West Side Detroit Polish American Historical Society's Historic Polish Church Pilgrimage and traditional Polish Easter Dinner (Swienconka) Saturday, April 5. The pilgrimage starts at 10 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of Angels, 4200 Martin,

south of Michigan Ave., and includes St. Hedwig, St. Francis d'Assisi (5400 Wesson at Buchanan), St. Andrew (7060 McGraw), and St. Cunegunda (5866 St. Lawrence), with stops at the former Baptist church on Martin north of Michigan Ave. and the former Our Savior Polish National Catholic Church, 5272 Chopin. Parking will be secure in the parish social hall on the lower level. For more information, call (734) 453-0326 or (734) 459-9893. Due to subject matter, children under age 15 must be accompanied by adult.

Mother and unborn baby

7:30 p.m. Friday, March 28, in the Social Hall at St. Aidan's, Michelle Yax shares her personal story. Yax has been active in the pro-life movement for more than 20 years, and now is Executive Director of Mother and Unborn Baby Care. Find out more about what abortion really means. Those who attend receive a free copy of Life Institute's interactive computer CD-ROM, Truth Unmasked-Abortion Information for Today's Youth. To RSVP, call Julie at (734) 464-7677.

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 Darnay at (313) 882-7946 or Sabine Goltz at (248) 593-9091. To learn about Groening, visit www.bruno-groening.org/englisch.

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 Sleep-Family Doctor, Pastor Paul Clough, facilitates the group focusing on the issues pertaining to the blended family. Registration best but last minute walk-ins welcome.

Spaghetti dinner

PBJ Outreach Inc. (www.pbjoutreach.org) is sponsoring a Super Siammin' Spaghetti Jam 5-8 p.m. Saturday April 5, following 4 p.m. mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Social Hall, 47650 N. Territorial, Plymouth. Fun family night includes spaghetti dinner, cash bar, activities for kids, and raffle/door prizes. All proceeds go to the Peanut Butter and Jelly Ministry which provides food on a weekly basis to our brothers and sisters in Detroit's Cass Corridor. Tickets \$7 adults, \$3 ages 3-12, under age 3 eat free. For tickets, call Linda Barterian at (734) 459-0771.

Mom to Mom sale

Connection Church (formerly Tri-City Christian) is having their Spring Mom to Mom Sale 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 5, at 3855 Sheldon, north of Michigan Ave., Canton. For details, send e-mail to mom2mom-sale@yahoo.com. Table rentals are sold to capacity with over 75 moms selling their kids' clothes, toys, baby equipment, etc. Admission is \$1.

Men's conference

Put Out into the Deep: Brothers in Christ Standing Together Saturday, April 12, at University of Detroit Mercy's Cihan Hall, Detroit. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit, the conference doors open at 7 a.m. followed by a day of speakers and Eucharistic celebration, concludes at 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.christschosen.com.

Mom-to-Mom sale

9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 12, in the church gym and classrooms at St. Thomas a Becket, 555 South Lilley, Canton, phone (734) 981-1333. Check web site for details, kirstemoline.com/mom2mom.html. Over 70 tables and racks full of great finds for babies, toddlers and kids. Several Large Item Rooms full of strollers, cribs, car seats, exercisers, large toys, etc. Admission is \$1. Those shopping with strollers will be admitted after 10:00 a.m.

Pancake breakfast

8:30-11 a.m. Sunday, 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.

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 11 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

The doctrines and teachings of solid, Reformed Protestantism are 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 Waldecke at (734) 664-1815, visit www.westminsterconfession.org, or e-mail Humby at sean.humby@att.net.

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@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday services

Come to reflect 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 7:30-8:30 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.

Please see RELIGION, D5

Passages Obituaries, Memorials, Remembrances 1-800-579-7355 fax: 734-953-2232 e-mail: ceobits@hometownlife.com View Obit On-line@www.hometownlife.com

BETTY ANNE WHITE Age 88, March 9, 2008. Beloved of Plymouth. Betty was a volunteer at the V.A. Medical Center in Allen Park and with Angela Hospice for many years. She worked for various pharmacies in the Detroit area and was a former member of St. Gemma Parish in Detroit before moving to Plymouth. She was the wife of William Sr. for 48 years. Mother of William (Joy) Jr., Richard, Karen (Robert) Lewis, Gayle Badowsky, Cheryl (Ted) Wasik and the late Lawrence. Also leaves twelve grandchildren, many great grandchildren, one brother and two sisters. A Mass of the Resurrection was held today at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church with interment following at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Contributions are suggested to Angela Hospice. Share memories at schrader-howell.com

JOHN HORNYAK Age 60, March 8, 2008. Beloved husband of Marlene. Loving father of Eric, Sheri (John) Leleniewski. Grandfather of Cassie, Alex, Devin, and Brooke. Funeral service on Friday 11am at the R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, 31551 Ford Road, Garden City. Visitation Thursday 2-9pm. Please sign John's online guestbook at: www.rgrharris.com

May You Find Comfort in Family & Friends

GENEVIEVE M. HOLM Age 86, March 9, 2008. Registered nurse for 34 years at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital, Pontiac. Predeceased by husband, Robert. Dear mother of Robert, Jr., James E. (Marsha), and Cynthia L. Grandmother of Heather, Holly, Katherine and Robert James. Funeral Service Thursday 10:30 AM at A.J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Home, 2600 Crooks Road (between Maple and Big Beaver). Family will receive friends Tuesday 5-9 PM, and Wednesday 2-5, 6-9 PM. Interment Grand Lawn Cemetery. Memorial Tributes American Heart Association. View obituary and share memories at: www.DesmondFuneralHome.com

TERRY JEANNE SALCICCIOLI 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 Ostidiek (Eric) & Cara Penozza (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



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 Wednesday 9:45 AM for Thursday

Obituaries received after these deadlines will be placed in the next available issue.

e-mail your obit to ceobits@hometownlife.com or fax to: Attn: Obit's c/o Charolette Wilson 734-953-2232 For more information call: Charolette Wilson 734-953-2070 or Liz Keiser 734-953-2067 or toll free 866-818-7653 ask for Char or Liz

St. Matthew's holds grand opening for Fellowship Hall

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 Six Mile Road (between Merriman and Middlebelt) will hold a grand opening 5-8 p.m. Saturday for the renovation of the church's Fellowship Hall.

The public is invited. Food and entertainment will be provided.

The renovation provides improved space for sports (volleyball and basketball) as well as a dining space. Bedzyk Brothers, a Livonia-based construction company, managed the building project, which began in July 2007.

The church expects to use the new Fellowship Hall for expanded ministries with children, youth and adults. The hall is also used by Scouts and the Little Guys and Dolls Nursery School and will be available for rent to the public.



A renovated fellowship Hall at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church will allow room for volleyball and basketball. In the new hall are, back row left to right, Don Squires, Drew Doty, Teresa Brodie, Frank Neal, Joe Black, Bill Marken and Greg Harrison; front row, Jennifer Knight and Bill Wagner.

RELIGION

FROM PAGE D4

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 *Mulier'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 mtschi@sbccglobal.net.

Day of service

Began in January, a Day of Service and Spirituality will be made available by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Solanus Casey Center. The purpose of the day is to serve, to meet, and to have one's faith grow. The day allows groups to help at the Capuchin Services Center and dine with guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. A tour of the Earth Works urban garden, which provides six tons of produce each season, will also be made available. The day concludes with a self-guided tour of the Solanus Casey Center, a spirituality center dedicated to the Capuchin friar who is credited with miraculous cures and valued for his wise and compassionate counsel. The minimum age is 7th grade and the maximum size of the group is 30. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. There is no cost. Lunch included. For information, send e-mail

to crcrane@thecapuchins.org. To learn more about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

New schedule

9 a.m. Sunday school for all ages and Faith Forum, 10 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and nursery, at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. All visitors welcome. For more information, call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org.

Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Adult Bible Class at 9:30 a.m., Children's Sunday School during worship at 10:30 a.m., at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 27035 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call (313) 278-5755.

Worship

Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service with nursery, 9 a.m. Sunday School for tots through high school and Adult Faith Forum at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA), 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. Call (734) 427-1414 or visit www.holycrosslivonia.org. Visitors welcome.

Your Invitation To Worship

<p>BAPTIST</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD</p>
<p>NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH 33640 Michigan Ave. • Wayne, MI (between Wayne Rd. & Merriman Rd.) (734) 728-2180 <i>Virgil Humes, Pastor</i> Saturday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m. Sunday Worship 7:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. • Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Prayer Service 9:00 a.m. • Wednesday Child, Youth and Adult Bible Study 7:00-8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Clarenceville United Methodist 20300 Middlebelt Rd. • Livonia 248-473-3444 Pastor Beth Librande Worship Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Nursery Provided</p>	<p>Redford Aldersgate United Methodist 2 blocks South of Plymouth 10000 Beech Daly 9:30 - Trad. Worship & Sun. Sch. 313-937-3170 11:00 - Contemp. Family Worship www.redfordaldersgate.org</p>
<p>CATHOLIC</p> <p>ST. ANNE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH Immemorial Latin Mass Approved by Pope St. Pius V in 1570 St. Anne's Academy - Grades K-8 23310 Joy Road • Redford, Michigan 5 Blocks E. of Telegraph • (313) 534-2121 Mass Schedule: First Fri. 7:00 p.m. Sat. 11:00 a.m. Sun. Masses 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Confessions Heard Prior to Each Mass Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M.</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL COVENANT</p> <p>FAITH COVENANT CHURCH 14 Mile Road and Drake, Farmington Hills (248) 661-9191 Sunday Worship and Children's Church 9:15 a.m. Contemporary 11:00 a.m. Traditional Child Care provided for all services Youth Groups • Adult Small Groups</p>	<p>More than Sunday Services Worship Services 9:00 & 11:15 a.m. • Dynamic Youth and Children's Programs • Excellent Music Ministries • Small Groups For Every Age • Outreach Opportunities Pastor: Dr. John Grenfell III Associate Pastor: Rev. David Wichert First United Methodist Church of Plymouth 45201 North Territorial Road (West of Sheldon Road) (734) 453-5280 www.pfumc.org</p>
<p>St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church St. Genevieve School - PreK-8 29015 Jamison • Livonia • 734-427-5220 (East of Middlebelt, between 5 Mile & Jeffries) MASS: Tues. 7 p., Wed., Thurs. 9 a. Sat. 4 p., Sun 11a</p> <p>St. Maurice Roman Catholic Church 32765 Lyndon • Livonia • 734-522-1816 (between Merriman & Farmington Roads) MASS: Mon. 8:30 a., Fri. 8:30 a. Sat. 6 p., Sun 9a</p>	<p>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</p> <p>Cherry Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church 33144 Cherry Hill, Garden City, MI 48135 (1 block west of Veno) Phone: 734-524-0880 Pastor: Eddie Petrea Meetings on Saturdays for: Early Morning Bible & Health Class-8 a.m. Worship Service-English-9:30 a.m. Bible Studies English & Spanish (All Ages) 11:00 a.m. Wednesdays: Prayer Meeting-7 p.m.</p>	<p>NON DENOMINATIONAL</p> <p>BELL CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH Casual, Contemporary, Excellent Children's Program Meets at Franklin H.S. in Livonia on Joy Road (Between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads) at 10:00 a.m. 734-425-1174 Join us for coffee, bagels and donuts after the service!</p>
<p>CHURCHES OF THE NAZARENE</p> <p>PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 45801 W. Ann Arbor Road • (734) 453-1565 Sunday School - 9:45 A.M. Sunday Worship - 11:00 A.M. Sunday Evening - 6:00 P.M. Family Night - Wed. 7:00 P.M. NEW HORIZONS FOR CHILDREN LEARNING CENTER (734) 455-3198</p>	<p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>Fellowship Presbyterian Church Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. • Worship: 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Dr. Jimmy McGuire Services held at: Madonna University's Kresge Hall 36600 Schoolcraft Road • Livonia Parking lot is on N.W. corner of Levan & Schoolcraft • Nursery provided</p>	<p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) 9801 Hubbard at W. Chicago, Livonia, MI (between Merriman & Farmington Rds.) (734) 422-0494 www.rosedalegardens.org Chapel Worship Service 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am WE WELCOME YOU TO A FULL SERVICE CHURCH</p>
<p>EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>WARD Evangelical Presbyterian Church 40000 Six Mile Road "Just west of I-275" Northville, MI 248-374-7400 Traditional Worship 9:00 & 10:20 A.M. Contemporary Worship 9:00 A.M. Nursery & Sunday School During All Morning Worship Services Evening Service • 7:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 11:00 A.M. Sunday WRDZ-AM 590 The WMLUZ Word Station For additional information visit www.wardchurch.org</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</p> <p>First Church of Christ, Scientist, Plymouth 1100 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI 734-453-0970 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Wed. Evening Testimony Meeting 7:30 p.m. Reading Room located at church Saturday 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 734-453-0970</p>	<p>St. James Presbyterian Church, USA 25350 West Six Mile Rd. Redford (313) 534-7730 Sunday Worship Service - 10:00 A.M., Sunday School - 10:15 A.M., Thursday Dinners - 6:00 P.M., Thrift Store every Sat. 10am-2pm Nursery Care Provided • Handicapped Accessible Rev. Paul S. Bousquette</p>
<p>Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia Just north of I-96 734-522-6830 Sunday Worship 8:30 & 11:00 am - Traditional Staffed Nursery Available Sunday/Bible Class 9:45 am Early Childhood Center Phone 734-513-8413 Making disciples who share the love of Jesus Christ Pastors: Robert F. Bayer and Anthony M. Creeden</p>	<p>GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD 25630 GRAND RIVER at BEECH DALY 313-532-2266 REDFORD TWP. Worship Service 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:15 & 11:00 A.M. Nursery Provided The Rev. Timothy R. Halboth, Senior Pastor The Rev. Dr. Victor F. Halboth, Assistant Pastor</p>	<p>HOSANNA-TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 9800 Leverage • So. Redford • 313-937-2424 "Vacancy Pastor - Rev. Carl Rockstroff" Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Education Hour 9:45 a.m. Christian School Pre-Kindergarten-8th Grade For more information call 313-937-2233</p>
<p>Risen Christ Lutheran David W. Martin, Pastor 46250 Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth (1 Mile W. of Sheldon) (734) 453-5252 Worship 8:15 & 10:45 am Sunday School 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Nursery Care Available www.risenchrist.info</p>	<p>LUTHERAN CHURCH WISCONSIN SYNOD</p> <p>ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL 17810 FARMINGTON ROAD LIVONIA (734) 261-1380 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. website: www.stpaulslivonia.org</p>	<p>EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA</p> <p>Timothy Lutheran Church A Reconciling in Christ Congregation 8820 Wayne Rd. (Between Ann Arbor Trail & Joy Road) Livonia • 427-2290 Jill Hegdal, Pastor 10:00 a.m. Family Worship (Nursery Available)</p>

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

pink

Celtic shops set to paint the town green

With St. Patrick's Day upon us, it starts to feel like — no matter your actual heritage — everyone is at least a little bit Irish March 17. Or at least that's the scene at area shops with a Celtic twist.

Whether you're getting together some green gear to wear while you run the Corktown Races in Detroit, or you're just looking forward to the parade in your own community, places like Ferndale's Twisted Shamrock and Livonia-based Colleen's Gaelic Gifts have got you covered. "I opened The Twisted Shamrock in June of 2005," said Jim Monahan. "I wanted the store to be somewhere in southeast Oakland County and I found great space in downtown Ferndale."

He sells everything from the expected to the unexpected at his shop at 276 W. Nine Mile Road. Even men's and women's wool sweaters and capes carry the traditional appeal with a modern twist.

"Of course this time of year I'm stocked and ready to paint Detroit green," Monahan said. "We have all of your fun St. Paddy's Day wear including green boas, elf shoes, sequin hats and vests just to name a few." Every year around this time he sells a slew of themed tee shirts, hats, and Irish trinkets — but one of the most meaningful gifts for a family member or friend has to be the Claddagh icon. A symbol of friendship, loyalty and love, it's replicated in jewelry and home decor.

The Twisted Shamrock also offers high-end goods, including Nicholas Mosse Pottery, Jerpoint hand-blown glass and Belleek Parian China. "I am always on the hunt for new Irish artists and unique things from or about Ireland," said Monahan.

The same might be said of Colleen Haggerty, owner of Colleen's Gaelic Gifts in Livonia. For the past four years her shop has been located at 15373 Farmington Road, just north of Five Mile.

"There is a wonderful mix of customers that come in here," said Haggerty. From her "huge following of Irish-born" to plenty of curious passersby, she welcomes them all to browse and enjoy a cup of tea and biscuits.

"St. Patrick's Day is my second largest season, with Christmas outranking it," she said. And simply everything sells this time of year, she added, "from food and music to crazy hats to sweaters and so on — you name it."

If online shopping is more convenient, visit Ann Arbor-based Out of Ireland at www.realirish.com. Owned and operated by husband-and-wife team Meredith McGehee and Stuart Marley, the site sells



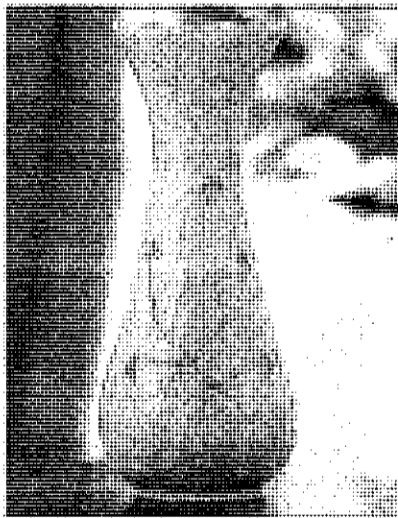
This Barbarian Ireland rugby shirt is \$69.95 at www.thetwistedshamrock.com.

everything from wool caps to Celtic pendants, music to hand-crafted home goods.

"We've been in business for about 10 years, selling mainly at the larger Irish music festivals across the U.S. as well as our Web-based store," said McGehee. She said this time of year the best-selling items include handwoven tweed caps, Irish cologne and Irish team jerseys.

Whatever your preference, wherever you shop, Irish heritage isn't required to browse or buy. For a comprehensive list of St. Patrick's Day events and Irish organizations, visit www.detroitirish.com.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola is a self-confessed shopaholic. She writes about beauty, fashion and pop culture for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. Have an idea suitable for Shop Around the Corner? Contact her at (248) 901-2567 or scasola@hometownlife.com.



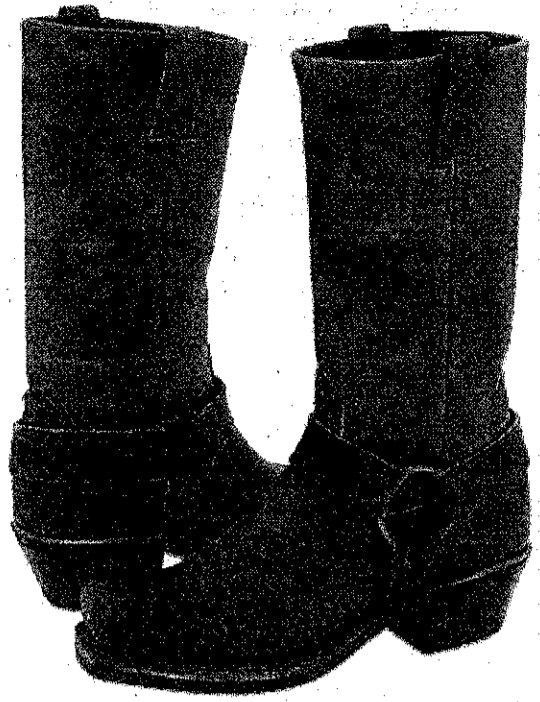
This tall vase from the Belleek Daisy Collection is \$70 at www.thetwistedshamrock.com.

pink picks

Wear It!
Lululemon workout wear — coming to Somerset this spring!

DON'T Wear It!
Fake Chinatown handbags

Tote It!
Kate Spade
Melrose Noel
Jocelyn



Kick It!
Frye Harness Boots

Do It!
Quit Smoking

Mane It!
Kerastase Ciment
Thirmique for weakened hair
(every four-five washings)

Face It!
Cle de Peau Beauté touche
sublime brilliant enhancer
at Saks Fifth Avenue

Use It!
A tongue cleaner to eliminate
bacteria and freshen breath
(available at health food stores
like Zerbo's in Livonia)

Drink It!
Voga Italia Pinot
Grigio at Kroger

TIVO It!
Top Chef Chicago

See It!
Penelope

DVD It!
Into the Wild

Eat It!
A traditional Irish Meal
for St. Paddy's Day

Experience It!
Baby Loves Disco



Malls & Mainstreets

If you have an item for the Malls & Main Streets calendar, please submit it at least two weeks prior to the event to Wendy Von Buskirk at wvnb@hometownlife.com.

Billups Holds Court at Parisian LIVONIA — Perry Ellis and Parisian invite you to meet Detroit basketball celebrity Chauncey Billups, 6:30-8 p.m. tonight at Parisian Laurel Park Place's Men's Perry Ellis Department. Purchase \$50 or more of Perry Ellis merchandise and receive a basketball for Billups to sign. Call (734) 953-7500.

Bella Mia Fashion Show PLYMOUTH — Bella Mia, a trendy boutique in downtown Plymouth, will host its annual Spring Fashion Show at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 15 at E.G. Nicks, 500 Forest Ave., Plymouth. The show will feature the latest in fashions from Bella Mia, along with hair and makeup by Vanity Salon. Tickets, \$24, include a full lunch, 20 percent off your total bill at Bella Mia after the show and lots of fun surprises. Call (734) 656-0057 or visit Bella Mia at 535 Forest Ave. Group seating is available.

Macy's Monograms Frango Cheggs TROY — Customers who purchase 8 oz. Frango Cheggs at Macy's Somerset can get them personalized for free March 15, 18, 19 and 22. Cheggs — signature chocolates in the shape of Easter eggs — are available in Mint, Double Chocolate, Caramel and Peanut Butter. Macy's Somerset is located at 2752 West Big Beaver Road. Visit www.macys.com/events for more information.



Scarf Madness at the BBAC ROCHESTER — During the month of March, all handmade fiber scarves will be 20 percent off at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center Gallery Shop. Other one-of-a-kind fiber art is also on sale during March, including handmade concertinas (photo portfolios) and jewelry boxes by Ruth Heginbottom of Bellaboxes in Troy (starting at \$14). Proceeds from each sale go the artist who created the piece. The Gallery Shop is located at 1516 S. Cranbrook between 14 and 15 Mile Roads. Hours are 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Call (248) 644-0866 or visit www.BBACenter.org.

Glitz Salon Donates Funds ROCHESTER — Glitz of Rochester continues to raise money for Shelby Johnson, the sister of Glitz stylist Shari Sibb, who was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. The salon raised \$5,000 last month during a party that featured a silent auction, "Bring Your Old Gold" event, and hair styling, eye-brow waxing and makeup applications donated by the Glitz professionals. Glitz Salons in Rochester, Lake Orion, Clarkston and Orion Township are still collecting money to help with Johnson's medical expenses. Call (248) 299-9110 or visit www.glitzsalons.com.

Fashion Unleashed

WEST BLOOMFIELD — B'nai B'rith Youth Organization's 2008 Fashion Unleashed benefit will be held Saturday, March 15, at The Orchard Mall. BBYO members (like Geoff Horowitz of West Bloomfield, in 2007, at right) will model the newest outdoor clothes, casual attire and dressy fashions for spring, all provided by local stores. The fashion show and tribute to BBYO Senior Executive Director Arnold Weiner will begin at 9 p.m., followed by a dessert reception at 10:30 p.m. Tickets, \$10, students; \$20, adults, benefit BBYO programs for Jewish teens from all backgrounds. Call (248) 788-0700.




pinklist

The Pink List focuses on events especially for women. Submit items at least two weeks in advance to Wendy Von Buskirk, wvnb@hometownlife.com.

Laughter Lifts you Up LIVONIA — Angela Hospice will host Laughter Lifts You Up 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 13 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The evening includes appetizers, a barbershop quartet, a plated dinner, a fruit and dessert bar, and keynote speaker Maureen Burns, who will discuss how laughter and humor can improve your life. Tickets, \$40 per person, benefit ALS patients at Angela Hospice. Call (734) 953-6014 or visit www.angelahospice.org.

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